

Command Summary of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN

Nimitz "Graybook"

7 December 1941 – 31 August 1945

Volume 5 of 8

Running Estimate and Summary

maintained by CINCPAC staff

covering the period 1 January 1944 to 31 December 1944

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The 8 volumes are paginated as follows:

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Volume 8 (Selected dispatches concerning the period 30 December 1941 – 30 April 1942 and pertaining to the Battle of Midway): pages are not sequentially numbered. Note: Volume 8 contains dispatch copies, many of which were poorly reproduced at the time of compilation. Some portions are illegible.

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**United States Naval War College, Newport, RI
2013**

~~TOP SECRET~~

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HQ USEUCOM

Vol. V.

GRAYBOOK SUMMARY

1 January 1944 - 31 December 1944



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HQ USEUCOM

1 January (Oahu date) 1944

The Central Pacific was generally quiet. Photographic coverage was completed of BIKINI, WOTJE, UJAE and LAE Atolls. Nine hundred pounds of bombs was dropped on ENYU I., BIKINI Atoll.

HERRING reports sinking one DD at end of old year and one freighter passenger ship of 9,000 tons and probably sinking one freighter 5,500 tons in New Year.

CTF 57 010851 gives progress report of construction in GILBERTS.

CTF 57 290750 describes details of airfield construction at MAKIN which is considered inadequate for use by heavy bombers.

In the North SOLOMONS our carrier search planes located 2 CAs, 2 DDs outside KAVIENG at 0830 L 1 January. At 1100 L carrier planes attacked this force reporting following hits: 4 heavy bomb hits plus at least one torpedo hit on 1 CA, 2 heavy bomb hits and at least 2 torpedo hits on 2nd CA, both were left burning, one heavily. One DD is believed to have been sunk and one heavily damaged. Shore based bombers were directed to make air attack on cripples to complete their destruction.

CominCh 012335 permanently allocates 2 full squadrons of destroyers to 7th Fleet effective at once. At least 1 squadron to be 2100 or 2200 ton class to be provided from PacFlt.

In the Southwest Pacific our forces were landed at SAIDOR, NEW GUINEA from APDs and LCIs without opposition. This point is about 90 miles beyond to the NW from our previous position at the BLUCHER Area.

Cum *m* *W*

2 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, usual searches were carried out over the MARSHALLS. One small AK was attacked and was left settling and listing. Planes over JALUIT saw seven 200-ton craft and two 4,000 ton AKs.

Photographic coverage of UJELANG ATOLL was completed. A near miss was scored by 300 pound bomb on possible radio installation on UJELANG ISLAND. Return fire from light machine guns.

Air raid alarms were sounded last night at TARAWA, APAMANA, and MAKIN. No details were given.

In the South Pacific, Task Group 37.2 (Carrier Group) was directed to make an air attack on KAVIENG on 4 January, East Longitude Date, with a primary target cruisers which on good indications are expected to be there on that date. Heavy bombers of TF 33 are also directed to hit KAVIENG on the 4th.

Cum *m* *W*

3 January (Oahu date)

Army bombers in the Central Pacific continued their attacks on MARSHALL Island bases.

On 2 January 16 B-24's from ELLICE bases and 6 from CANTON took off for attack on WOTJE. CANTON planes were turned back by weather and 2 others by mechanical trouble. Five B-24's bombed WOTJE with results unobserved. Thirty Zekes intercepted of which 8 were destroyed and 5 probables.

Nine B-24's bombed alternate target TAROA and dropped 27 tons from 17000 feet. Hits were observed in NW area. Thirty Zekes also intercepted this flight of which 2 were destroyed and 2 probables.

Our losses both strikes were 3 B-24's. One exploded, 1 spun in on return flight and 1 water landed. Dumbo rescue mission sent 3rd. Four planes were severely damaged and 3 had minor damage.

At noon the 3rd, 9 B-25's attacked JALUIT installations with 75mm. and strafing. No shipping was seen. Fires were started. One B-25 was lost over target.

At APAMAMA on night of 3 January ten enemy planes attacked. One PB4Y was destroyed, 2 damaged, 2 men killed. Air raid warnings were sounded at MAKIN and TARAWA same night with no details given.

In the South Pacific, our carrier air strike on KAVIENG was carried out but no combatant ships were found in harbor. Two destroyers were attacked north of KAVIENG and hit by bombs and torpedoes. Reports state 1 was surely sunk and the other probably sunk. Search planes reported other enemy shipping north of KAVIENG including 2 CLs escorting small convoys. One CL was reported as hit with bombs. Our carrier and battleship force are retiring at high speed.

While covering landing at SAIDOR January 2nd, E. Long. date, DDs SMITH and HUTCHINS collided. SMITH has damage to side plating but speed is not reduced. HUTCHINS bow is bent over requiring docking.

CinCPac 040120 directs BatDiv 7 (RADM Hustvedt) and DesDiv 38 to proceed best speed of advance to FUNAFUTI and report Com 5th Fleet for duty.

Cur *mf*

4 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, 18 Liberators from PHILISTINE dropped 22 tons on alternate target, JALUIT instead KWAJALEIN because of weather. Results were not observed. There was no interception, AA moderate. Four planes received minor damage.

Ventura's from TARAWA attacked 2 medium AKs at JABOR (JALUIT) with 20 250 pound bombs. One AK was sunk, other not observed because of weather.

Twenty-four Army Dauntless with 24 Aircobras as escort dropped 17 tons on MILLE. No air opposition or shipping. One Aircobra was lost over target.

4 January (Oahu date) -Continued-

Photographic mission over KWAJALEIN obtained low obliques of NW point of Atoll. Intercepted by 12 Zekes and 1 Liberator was shot down. Three small vessels were seen anchored off ROI.

Enemy bombers were over GILBERTS evening of 3 January as follows: One over TARAWA dropped 6 bombs, 1 over MAKIN 8 bombs, 8 over APAMAMA. Two over TARAWA dropped 8 bombs evening 4th. Minor damage at APAMAMA only.

TAUTOG reports sinking 2 ships on the 3rd and hitting 1 or 2 ships on 27 December. Results of latter hits unknown.

In the north SOLOMONS our aircraft remain very active.

Reports indicate that due to logistic difficulties the enemy will attempt gradual evacuation of his forces from south BOUGAINVILLE. ComSoPac had directed TF 38 and 33 to attack the area by bombardment and bombing. TF 38 composed of 2 CLs and 5 DDs will bombard the SHORTLAND-BUIN Area about midnight 8 January.

Com 10th Fleet 042052 Z defines new median line for Russian traffic in the North Pacific.

5 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, no surface or air activities were reported.

CTF 57, 052113 gives the progress summary of airfield and base development which is progressing favorably.

In the South Pacific our air forces are very active doing considerable damage to the enemy.

In the Southwest Pacific, air forces are active in support of our troops at ARAWE, CAPE GLOUCESTER and SAIDOR. Consolidation of our positions in these areas are progressing favorably.

6 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, MALOELAP strike by B-25s and MILLE fighter sweep were turned back by weather north of MAKIN. Close reconnaissance of MAJURO Atoll disclosed no gun or defense positions.

Photographs of ENIWETOK Atoll disclosed that the defenses were minor and in general the Atoll undeveloped. The airstrip is in use but at present appears to be used as a staging field.

In the South Pacific, our air forces continue their operations with no major actions.

Admiral Nimitz and members of his staff returned from conference with CominCh and ComS

7 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, six B-24's from NUKUFETAU via TARAWA dropped 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs on TAROA and 8 B-24's dropped 15 tons on WOTJE at midnight the 6th. Large fires were started at both targets. There was no interception and AA was weak. Our planes were not damaged.

Photographic coverage of RONGELAP and AILINGINAE Atolls were completed. No enemy activity or installations were observed.

At NAURU, reconnaissance plane saw only one Betty 20 miles NE of island and reported that new airfield was not operational.

Air raid alarms were sounded at TARAWA and APAMAMA last night with no details given.

There were no major developments in the South or Southwest Pacific.

Cum

8 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, twenty-two Army Dauntless and eleven Hellcats dropped 9 tons of bombs and strafed EMIDJ ISLAND (JALUIT) morning of the 7th. Fires were started. There was no air opposition but AA was heavy. Three Dauntless were damaged.

At TARAWA, three enemy planes evening of the 8th dropped 18 bombs but caused no damage.

MUSKALLUNGE reports making 2 hits in one tanker apparently damaging it only on 6 January and sinking 1 ship similar to MURATO on 28 December. Also, she made a probable hit in 7000 ton AK on 22 December. SILVERSIDES is still tracking tankers which passed through MUSKALUNGE's position.

In the South Pacific preliminary reports state that our cruiser and destroyer force completed a successful bombardment of SHORTLAND, FAISI, POPERANG area at 2219 local time, 8 January. Fires were started with small amount of opposing fire from shore batteries.

In the Southwest Pacific intelligence reports indicate that our landing at SAIDOR (NEW GUINEA) has cut off about 14,000 Jap troops between SIO and GALI who are short of supplies and ammunition and with no other way of obtaining replenishments except via supply submarines. It is expected that the troops will try to break through to MADANG prior 11 February.

Cum

9 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, 17 Liberators from NANOMEA via TARAWA took off for strike on WOTJE night 10 January. All but two B-24s were turned back by weather. Two bombed target results were not observed.

The same night 7 VP and 7 PB4Y carried out mining project WOTJE successfully. Eight planes flew over Island at 150 ft. and strafed planes, installations and vessels. Large fires were started and 1 plane destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, 1 small tanker and 1 patrol vessel were destroyed. Our forces suffered no losses or casualties.

Two Photron 3 planes covered by 4 PB4Y completed photographic coverage of KWAJALEIN Island. They encountered no interception and light to medium AA. All planes returned safely. About 10 medium ships 14 small vessels were sighted in KWAJALEIN anchorage.

SEAWOLF reports attacking a 9 ship convoy on the 10th of January. One freighter was sunk. Another attack on vessel under tow is planned for next day.

FLYING FISH reported sinking 1 freighter, 1 tanker in December for 15,000 tons.

10 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific our planes made no strikes at enemy bases in the MARSHALLS. At TARAWA and APAMAMA air-raid alarms were sounded but no details were given.

CTF 57 (RADm Hoover) 100555 gives status of special mining project in the MARSHALLS.

Accumulating evidence indicates that the enemy BB MUTSU was sunk by an internal explosion about July 1943 in Empire waters.

11 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, sixteen B-24s from ELLICE bases via TARAWA on night 11th dropped 31 tons, 100 lb. bombs, on TAROA starting many fires and explosions.

Nine B-24s took off from BAKER for TAROA. Three were turned back by weather and one jettisoned its bombs. The remaining 5 planes bombed MILLE, night of 11th with 5 tons. Results were not observed. We suffered no losses or casualties.

Ten PB4Ys including 2 photographic planes in a special low level strike KWAJALEIN Island against shipping and to obtain oblique photographs, hit at 1300 local time. Two small AKs were sunk and 4 damaged. Bomb hits were made on gun positions on each end of island and docks, headquarters, radio station, ENUBUJ I. store houses burned. All planes returned with no damage or casualties.

One enemy bomber over TARAWA 10th dropped 4 bombs in lagoon causing no damage. On the night 11 January 2 light bombs were dropped in water near MAKIN causing no damage and enemy planes over APAMAMA dropped bombs in area SW of strip with no damage.

11 January (Oahu date) - continued -

SEAWOLF reported sinking crippled ship and towing ship for 16,000 tons from convoy previously attacked.

STURGEON reported obtaining 1 hit in 7,000 ton tanker in a 7 ship escorted convoy on January 11th.

CominCh 112148 quotes JCS approved policy that no action will be taken by them which could be construed as a basis for any nation other than U.S. obtaining sovereignty in Japanese Mandated Islands.

Cum

12 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific nine B-25s from TARAWA carried out a low altitude attack on shipping and installations at MALOELAP at dusk 11 January. Results of strike are: one 500 ton AK probably sunk, 1 DD or CL damaged, installations on several islands of atoll damaged. Of 5 to 7 intercepting Zekes 2 probably damaged. All of our planes returned with two slightly damaged.

Eight PB4Ys from APAMAMA with PhotRon 3 completed low altitude strike on shipping at KWAJALEIN and photographic coverage of several landing beaches on KWAJALEIN ISLAND and adjacent islets. Four medium cargo vessels and two 150 ft. vessels were hit and left burning. Bomb hits were also made on installations at KWAJALEIN ISLAND, ENUBUJ, ENNYLABEGAN and GEA. All planes returned, one slightly damaged.

TARAWA was attacked last night by 12-15 high altitude bombers. Damage was caused as follows: At Hawkins Field 1 dead 2 wounded, 1 PV severely damaged, 6 PV and 1 LB-30 received minor damage. At Mullinix Field, CB machine shop was destroyed. Three minor casualties on USS SUMNER from bomb fragments.

Four P-39s were over MILLE on reconnaissance missions 10th and 11th Jan. Bombs were dropped on target and installations strafed. One P-39 was shot down on 10th but pilot was rescued by PBY.

CinCPOA 120503 (pink) to CTF 57 directs that Army heavy bombardment units be placed in rest status until 20 January in order to insure adequate effectiveness later.

CTF 57 130213 replies to above in affirmative and states that 3 medium and 4 heavy squadrons are being flown into GILBERT bases on the 15th.

Cum

13 January (Oahu date)

An air strike composed of 21 Dauntless and 20 Aircobras from APAMAMA dropped 6 tons on North end of MILLE Islands in the storage area on the afternoon of 12 January. A small fire was started. There was no interception but AA was heavy. Two Dauntless were slightly damaged. No shipping was sighted.

Photographs taken of the B-25 strike on MALOELAP made on the 11th reveal a 3,000 ton AK on fire and sinking and a destroyer on fire.

ComSoPac 140202 (pink) states SoPac Aircraft ~~are~~ ready to strike NAURU as situation dictates and requests designation of days on which strikes should be made.

SEAWOLF reports blowing up medium freighter loaded with gasoline on 14 January. All torpedoes are expended but SEAWOLF is trailing remainder of convoy of 3 Marus and 2 escorts.

Cum

14 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific our aircraft made several strikes:

Twelve Liberators bombed ROI and NAMUR Islands night of 14 January with 12 tons of one hundred pound bombs and some incendiaries. Judging from explosions and large fires great damage must have been inflicted. There was no interception and no losses or casualties in our force.

Three B-25s attacked shipping in WOTJE daylight the 14th. One medium AK was sunk and 2 possibly damaged. All of our planes returned with one plane damaged.

Nine B-25s from TARAUA bombed and strafed installations on WOTJE at dusk of 13 Jan. Several small vessels were hit. Our planes suffered no damage.

Sixteen P-39s and 21 Dauntless midmorning 13th dropped 14 tons on MILLE. Fires were started in southern barracks area and 4 twin engine fighters strafed. All planes returned with slight damage to 1 Dauntless.

CTF 57 Dis. 150321 gives further details on mining in MARSHALLS stating that the 2nd Phase of the mining operations there was completed.

CinCPac 141953 (pink) to ComSoPac outline tentative plans for use of carrier divisions in support of SoPac operations.

Cum

15 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific our air activity was limited to search patrols.

Air raid alarms were sounded last night at MAKIN, TARAWA and APAMAMA with no details given.

The SEAHORSE reports sinking a loaded medium transport escorted by 2 PCs and 2 Trawler type escorts last night in area north of TRUK. Number of escorts and persistent depth charging frustrated daylight attack but indicated valuable target.

ComSoPac reports the following results from a damaging air strike on ships in SIMPSON HARBOR 15 January: Direct hits on 7 AKs with 9 bombs and 16 damaging misses on same ships, one direct hit plus 4 damaging misses on possible DD, one direct hit on possible CL. Our aircraft encountered 30 Zekes over NEW IRELAND - DUKE OF YORK area and 60-70 Zeros, Oscars and Tony's during attack. Our aircraft destroyed 29 fighters 16 probables, while our losses were 2 F6Fs, 6 F4Us, 1 SBD and 1 TBF, but 4 pilots were rescued.

16 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific several bombing strikes on MARSHALL ISLAND bases were carried out.

Twenty five Army Dauntless, 16 Aircobras, 8 Warhawks dropped 90 percent of 21 tons on MILLE noon of the 16th and all planes strafed. One Aircobra was lost over target and pilot of another bailed out on return flight. Four planes received minor damage.

Four MAKIN Aircobras using intruder tactics shot down 2 Bettys that were circling the field at MILLE dawn the 16th.

Nine B-25s from TARAWA dropped 8 tons of bombs on shipping and installations at MALOELAP from 50 ft. afternoon of 16th. One medium AK and one small AK were possibly sunk. Damage was also done to ground installations. Of 40 to 50 intercepting fighters 2 were probably destroyed. One B-25 was shot down, 1 received major and 7 minor damage.

Search planes destroyed small AK at LIKIEP Atoll and left a small AK sinking near JALUIT.

Enemy air raids were carried out on our bases in the GILBERTS by flights of 8 planes each from 25,000 ft. on nights of 15-16 January. Three flights over MAKIN and two over TARAWA resulted in a total of 46 casualties. At MAKIN 5 are dead 7 seriously injured. There was no material damage. One enemy plane shot down by MAKIN night fighter. Marine night fighters from TARAWA had negative results.

Airfield conditions permitting PBY and PV PARAMUSHIRU bombing and photo flight will be undertaken night of 16-17 January.

CTF 57 120120 gives progress report of developments on GILBERTS bases.

In the South and Southwest Pacific the consolidation of our positions at EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, SAIDOR, NEW GUINEA and ARAWE and CAPE GLOUCESTER, NEW BRITAIN are progressing favorably.

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16 January (Oahu date) -continued-

Intelligence reports indicate that the enemy surface forces at TRUK on the target date of FLINTLOCK will be considerably below the average strength.

17 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, one search plane hit a small freighter 15 miles NE of KWAJALEIN ISLAND and was attacked by 4 Zekes. One Zeke was probably destroyed.

Air raid alarms were sounded at TARAWA and MAKIN last night but no details were reported.

FLASHER reports sinking a 6000 ton freighter with 2 hits on the 18th, E. Long. date, NW of MARCUS ISLAND.

SEAWOLF reports that she watched WHALE sink the third ship of a convoy that SEAWOLF had attacked previously and trailed after all her torpedoes had been expended.

In the North Pacific the flight to PARAMUSHIRU was postponed one day due to weather.

ComAirSoPac 172246 delineates the boundary between SoPac and SoWesPac aerial responsibilities in the Northern SOLOMONS and BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO.

CinCPac 180330 (pink) is a directive to ComSoPac and JTF 57 for conducting pre-FLINTLOCK strikes on NAURU.

18 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, nine B-25's bombed MILE after noon 17 Jan. causing damage to installations and starting explosions and 2 large fires. No aircraft were seen but medium AA fire was accurate and damaged 3 Mitchells.

Six Photolon 3 planes escorted by 12 PB4Y's obtained vertical photographic of KUSAIE and bombed installations at LELE HARBOR. Our planes encountered no aircraft or AA fire and saw no shipping in harbor. One twin engine plane was seen about 35 miles east of KUSAIE. Airfield was not operational.

Three enemy planes over HAWKINS and two over MULLINIX Fields early evening 17 January dropped 29 bombs into TARAWA lagoon from high altitude causing no damage. There was no interception.

HADDOCK reports sighting 2 CV, 1 CL and several DD Southeast of GUAM on a NW course and obtaining 2 hits possibly 3 or 4 on one CV which intelligence states was the UNYO.

In the North Pacific, the flight to PARAMUSHIRU was again postponed due to weather.

19 January 1944 (Oahu Date)

In the Central Pacific our medium bombers and fighters concentrated on MILLE and JALUIT. Fifteen Army Dauntless and 8 Warhawks dropped 16 tons on JABOR I. (JALUIT) on 18 January. Fires were started. Intense AA fire shot down 2 Dauntless but one crew was rescued by Dumbo 10 mi. south of JALUIT.

Also on the 18th twelve B-25s dropped 9 tons of bombs and strafed MILLE from low altitude. Nine B-25s received minor damage and 3 men were injured. There was no interception.

On 19 January 17 B-25s from TARAWA dropped 11 tons of bombs from 100 ft. on MILLE. Good fires were started and 5 planes of 6 on ground were damaged. There was no interception but AA was intense and accurate. Two B-25s were shot down, 3 received major damage and 4 minor.

The same morning 9 Warhawks from MAKIN strafed JALUIT and left a small corvette burning and probably sank a small sailing vessel. There was no interception or AA fire.

BATFISH reports sinking 1 Maru and probably another of a 4 ship convoy with two escorts south of HONSHU. BATFISH is making sure that the 2nd ship sinks.

ComNorPac 090020 corrects previously announced (on 4 Jan.) Russian shipping route in North Pacific.

CTF 16 200034 states anti-submarine attack restrictions during the FLINT-LOCK operations.

20 January 1944 (Oahu Date)

In the Central Pacific our heavy bombers again started the bombing of enemy MARSHALL Island bases.

On 20 January air strikes were made as follows: Thirteen B-24s dropped 25 tons of bombs on WOTJE from 4 to 10,000 ft. There was no interception and AA fire was weak. One plane was lost but there were no other damages or casualties.

Twelve PVs dropped 11 tons from low altitude on EMIDJ (JALUIT). Results were unobserved. One plane was lost and 2 damaged by AA fire.

Eighteen B-25s took off for TAROA but were turned back by weather. Results believed to be negative.

Six B-25s on special attack on AKs reported NW of JALUIT were turned back by weather.

Search planes bombed 2 small cargo ships damaging them and obtained one direct hit on a 4,000 ton AK.

There is no change in the conditions of the submarine FLIER and rescue ship MACAW aground in channel at MIDWAY. Salvage officer and craft are working to re-float them when weather improves. Ships suffered no serious damage so far.

21 January (Oahu date)

Air strikes from the GILBERTS on enemy bases in the MARSHALLS consisted of the following:

Fifteen B-24s dropped 30 tons on ROI and KWAJALEIN Islands in early morning. There was no interception and AA fire was light which caused slight damage to one plane. Two planes crashed on midnight take-off at HAWKINS FIELD killing 17.

Nine B-25s bombed MILLE at noon from low altitude with 8 tons and strafed installations. No interception, but intense AA fire. Three planes were damaged.

Twenty-three Army Dauntless with 11 Warhawks bombed JALUIT with 12 tons and strafed EMIDJ and TINIET Islands morning 21st; two Dauntless were damaged.

Twelve B-25s did not find the target, TAROA and several jettisoned bombs on AUR Atoll.

SEAHORSE reports sinking both freighters of 2 ship convoy on 21 January with 3 escorts in Lat 3-19 N, 137-02 E. Two hits were made by electric torpedoes.

In the North Pacific, air strikes were made on two successive nights 19-20 January and 20-21 January on the PARAMUSHIRU Area. The first attack was made by 4 Catalinas. Two PBYS bombed the KASHIWABARA and MUSASHI WAN areas. Each dropping two 500 lb. bombs, eight 100 pounders, 14-15 20 lb. fragmentation bombs. AA fire was encountered from several batteries. The other 2 PBYS failed to find target and jettisoned bombs. All planes returned safely to ATTU.

Three Venturas the same night bombed the KASHIWABARA area and took photographs. All planes returned safely with good pictures.

The night of 20-21 January 3 PBYS and 3 Venturas bombed the PARAMUSHIRU area all but one plane found the target. AA fire was encountered from various batteries. Bomb loads were 2-250 lb. by PBYS and 3-250 lb. by PV-1. Both types carried 14 to 20 fragmentation bombs per plane.

Several reports of enemy submarines during the past week were made southwest of OAHU but no positive sightings. The last reported contact was of a possible periscope bearing 208°, distance 12 miles from BARBERS POINT LIGHT.

Am *AS*

22 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, air searches were carried out from GILBERT Island bases. One plane attacked two ships and left one burning. No details were given.

At MIDWAY, the submarine FLIER was refloated. Work is going ahead to free the MACAW.

Am *AS*

23 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, air strikes were carried out on enemy bases in the MARSHALLS on 22 January as follows:

Ten B-24's dropped 20 tons of bombs on ROI. Damage was caused to ground installations and to some 20-25 two engined bombers on ground. Of 12-15 intercepting Zekes 1 was shot down, 4 probables, 3 damaged. Three Liberators received minor damage from AA fire.

Seven B-24's and 5 Ventura's bombed EMIDJ (JALUIT) with 21 tons from 10,000 feet and 4 tons at low level in late afternoon. Hits were obtained on installations and fires were started. There was no interception and no damage to our planes.

Nine B-25's bombed WOTJE at noon from low level with 9 tons and strafed with 75mm cannon. Ground installations were damaged and one medium AK probably sunk. Three of our planes received minor damage.

Twelve B-25's dropped 24 tons on KAVEN I. (MALOELAP) by mistake for TAROA at noon. Twenty-five to thirty Zekes and Hamps intercepted of which 2 were destroyed and 1 damaged. Three B-25's were lost, one crew being rescued by Dumbo.

One B-24 dropped 2 tons on MILE in barracks area.

On 23 January 21 B-25's dropped 14 tons and strafed TAROA in two waves. Damage was caused and 3 intercepting Zekes shot down and 2 probably shot down.

Searchplanes on 22 January damaged 2 small AKs at AILINGLAPALAP and left one burning. Light AA fire was encountered.

No activity was seen at EBON and NAMORIK Atolls. On the 23rd, search plane bombed and left a 8000 ton AK sinking 35 miles SE of KWAJALEIN.

ARCHERFISH reports sinking of one large AK from a convoy of 4 ships with 3 escorts off CHINA Coast on 22 January.

An enemy submarine was attacked by 2 fighters from one of our carrier groups (58.2) about midway between BAKER and APAMAMA. There are no indications that any reports have been made of the possibility that our carriers are in the area.

The FLIER under tow of the FLORIKAN for PEARL encountered a heavy storm but is apparently riding it out well.

In the North Pacific, a night air attack on 22-23 January was made in the PARAMUSHIRU Area by 3 Catalina's and 3 Ventura's. Areas on which bombs were dropped were KASHIWABARA, KAKUMABETSU, KATAOKA, ARAHATA ZAKI and SHIMUSHU. Sporadic AA fire was encountered. Photographs were taken.

Joint Chiefs of Staff to CincSoWesPac 231510 (pink) is a directive for operations in the South and Southwest Pacific and the support required from the Pacific Fleet.

Joint Chiefs of Staff to CincPOA 231515 (pink) is a directive to CincPOA for support of operations in the South and Southwest Pacific.

23 January (Oahu date) - Continued -

JCS 231520 (pink) directs that the conference to be held on 27 January at PEARL take up question of Naval Support and Assault shipping required for BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO Operations.

St Cum

24 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, twenty-four B-24's dropped 48 tons on WOTJE evening of 23rd from 8 to 11 thousand feet. Fires were started. There was no interception and AA fire was moderate. Our planes were not damaged.

STURGEON returning from patrol reports sinking 2 unknown ships of a 3 ship escorted convoy during the night of 24th. On 16 Jan. the STURGEON sank a 7000 ton freighter and made a "bulls eye" on a large single stack destroyer. In addition she got a hit on a tanker which was previously reported.

All task groups are proceeding towards their initial stations for FLINTLOCK. Except for the attack by two fighters on an enemy submarine about midway between BAKER I. and APAMAMA no incidents or contacts with the enemy have been reported.

ComNorPac 250653 reports that three 8500 ft. airfields are under construction in the Aleutians. One each on SHEMA, AMCHITKA and UMNAK which can be finished by 1 March.

Cum

25 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, the following air strikes were made on enemy bases in the MARSHALLS on 24 January.

24 Army Dauntless, 12 Aircobras, 7 Warhawks bombed and strafed MILLE with 17 tons. There was no interception but 3 Dauntless were damaged by AA fire.

8 B-25s bombed WOTJE with 7 tons and strafed installations. Large fires were started. There was no interception but 5 planes were damaged by AA fire.

9 B-25s hit TAROA and small craft in harbor with 9 tons and strafed installations. Fires and explosions were started. Of 30 intercepting Zekes one was shot down and one probably destroyed. One B-25 crashed north of ARNO and one was damaged.

13 B-24s, night of 24th, dropped 24 tons on TAROA. Many fires were started and damage was estimated as severe. No interception or damage to our planes. One B-24 at MILLE and one at WOTJE each dropped 2 tons of bombs.

Search planes sighted 2 DDs and 1 PC in AILINGLAPALAP afternoon 24th. A special air strike dawn 25th failed to locate this force. Other search planes on the 24th attacked small freighters, one to westward of UJAE Atoll and one in UJELANG Atoll. The latter was probably damaged.

The STURGEON reports a probable hit on 1 AK of 2 ship convoy under 1 escort on 25 Jan. SKIPJACK is working on a 2 AK convoy apparently heading for ENIWETOK.

Our forces proceeding to FLINTLOCK are still apparently undetected. *1843*

26 January (Oahu Date)

In the Central Pacific the following air strikes were made on enemy bases in MARSHALL ISLANDS on 25 Jan.

Eighteen B-24s dropped 36 tons at dusk on KWAJALEIN from 10,000 ft. Target area was in flames. There was no interception but 1 plane was damaged. Planes sighted 1 to 3 warships numerous AKs and small craft in harbor.

Nine B-25s dropped 5 tons on TAROA from low level mid afternoon. Airfield and installations were hit and fires started. One grounded Betty was destroyed. Of 30-35 intercepting Zekes and Hamps 1 was destroyed 3 probables and 5 damaged. Four of our planes were damaged.

23 Dauntless 12 Aircobras bombed MILLE in forenoon with 14 tons starting 4 fires and explosions. There was no interception but 4 Dauntless received slight damage.

At 2230 GCT on the 25th Marine Fighting Squadron 422 took off from TARAWA in formation for FUNAFUTI via NANOMEA. One arrived FUNAFUTI one landed safely at NIUTOA I. and a number parachuted near NUI I. when gas gave out. An intensive search of 2 Desdivs and many planes is underway. No plausible explanation can be made according to CTF 57.

ComNorPac 262045 quotes American Consul Vladivostok 250010 in regard to Russian wishes for operation of whalers in Bering sea north of 63°.

27 January (Oahu Date)

In the Central Pacific, Air strikes from GILBERT Island bases were carried out on Jan. 26th as follows:

Nine B-25s bombed and strafed TAROA from low altitude dropping 4 tons of bombs and using 75mm canon. Large fires were started. Of 20 intercepting Zekes, 6 were destroyed in the air, 5 on taking off and 1 probable. Zekes followed B-25s to 50 miles to southward where they were met by ¹²MAKIN P-40s in accordance with plan, who destroyed 4 Zekes, 1 Tony, 1 Kate and probably destroyed 4 Zekes, 1 Kate. We had no losses and slight damage.

Nine B-25s dropped 7 tons and strafed with 75mm EMIDJ I. (JALUIT) from low altitude. AA intense results unobserved. We had no losses or casualties. Weather prevented strike on ROI Island.

Regular searches were carried out by GILBERT planes who sighted only 1 small AK near KWAJALEIN.

SWORDFISH reports sinking the following ships: 7000 ton AK on the 13th, 6000 ton AK or AP on the 15th and 9000 ton AK the 17th.

Results of search conducted for pilots of MarFitRon 422 as reported 2100 - 27 January were 1 pilot rescued, 12 pilots located 100 mi. WSW FUNAFUTI; 1 body recovered. Sixteen pilots are accounted for and 7 still missing. Search is continuing.

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27 January (Oahu date) -continued-

ComCenPac 270615 reports that MAKIN Lagoon will be available for use by all types of ships during FLINTLOCK. There is ample anchorage area and least depth in a fairly straight 500 ft. wide channel is 43 feet.

28 January (Oahu date)

Air strikes by land based aircraft on enemy bases in the MARSHALLS was intensified.

MILLE was hit by 23 Army Dauntless, 10 Aircobras with 14 tons on gun positions and radio tower. One Dauntless was lost over target and 6 were damaged. There was no interception or shipping.

WOTJE was struck with 6 tons from 9 B-25s. Large fires were started but no interception. One B-25 was brought down with crew in raft 10 miles N of WOTJE.

NAURU was bombed with 5 tons morning 27th by 6 B-25s. Results not observed.

TAROA barracks area received 21 tons in early part of night from 7 B-24s. Fires were started. TAROA was again hit by 7 B-25s at 1600 local 28th, with 4½ tons and strafing. Damage to barracks and hangars was observed. One B-25 was lost over target.

Night strikes on ROI, KWAJALEIN, WOTJE and TAROA by land based aircraft are reported in progress in accordance with plan.

Search planes on 27 Jan. saw no shipping in WOTJE, MALOELAP, JALUIT, MILLE, AILINGLAPALAP, EBON, NAMORIK, AUR or MAJURO. At MAJURO no increase in enemy activity was observed since 10 December.

A special search of 10 Venturas for enemy picket boats produced negative results.

ANGLER returning from patrol reports sinking 1 large tanker, 1 medium tanker, 1 patrol boat from which they got 1 Nip prisoner and damaging 1 medium freighter.

FINBACK returning home reports having sunk 1 large tanker on 2 January with 5 hits out of 6 shots.

Our forces proceeding to FLINTLOCK operations are still apparently undetected.

29 January (Oahu date)

The night strikes by shore based air which were scheduled to precede our carrier air strikes were carried out night 28-29 Jan. as follows:

ROI was bombed by 5 B-24s with 13 tons.

KWAJALEIN I. received 12 tons from 4 B-24s.

WOTJE was hit with 27 tons from 9 Liberators.

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29 January (Oahu date)

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by USEUCOM

JALUIT was bombed by 2 B-24s with 3 tons.

TAROA was hit with 2 tons from 1 Mariner. There was no AA fire or interception but one B-24 was missing as a result of these strikes.

A Mitchell mission to WOTJE was attacked by carrier F6Fs at dusk on 29th and 1 Mitchell was shot down others damaged. Similar scheduled strikes were cancelled.

Three photo planes got pictures and dropped bombs on TAROA afternoon of the 28th. Good recent oblique photographs of MAJURO were also obtained.

Search planes in the MARSHALLS reported a convoy composed of 3 AKs, 2 DES, 2 small escorts and 2 fighters covering 70 miles west of ROI on course 300 speed 8.

THRESHER reports sinking 3 AKs and 1 AO for 25000 tons and damaging a 10000 ton AO with one hit.

SEAHORSE reports sinking an additional AK for 7500 tons.

While no reports from our forces have been received, intelligence reports indicate that our carrier strikes on TAROA, WOTJE, KWAJALEIN and ROI preliminary to FLINTLOCK have been carried out as planned at dawn 29 Jan. west longitude date.

30 January (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, shore based air carried out attacks in the MARSHALLS in support of FLINTLOCK.

Flights of B-25s composed of nine planes each bombed outlying islands in MALOELAP Atoll with 4 tons and 75mm canon and WOTJE where large fires were started.

EMIDJ I. (JALUIT) was attacked by 18 Dauntless and P-40s with 9 tons of bombs and strafing.

Air strikes by shore based air in GILBERTS night 29-30 Jan. were carried out as follows: 7-B24s dropped 21 tons on ROI, eight Liberators bombed KWAJALEIN with 24 tons, four B-24s hit WOTJE with 9 tons, five B-24s and 3 Venturas dropped 20 tons on MILLE, 2 Catalinas hit TAROA with 1 ton, one B-24 dropped 3 tons on JALUIT.

Five members of B-25 crew shot down by F6F were rescued immediately but one went down with plane. Seven pilots from VMF 422 are still missing.

Fleet Air Wing 2 in a flight of 18 Coronados bombed WAKE night 30-31 Jan. All bombs landed on or near field. All planes returned to MIDWAY safely.

The limited reports received from TFC engaged in FLINTLOCK indicate that operations are satisfactorily proceeding in accordance with plan.

The only damage to ships reported so far was one shell hit in CIC of the ANDERSON during the bombardment of WOTJE which killed the Commanding Officer, 2 other officers, 3 enlisted men and injured 8.

-continued-

1846

30 January (Oahu date)

CTG 58.1 reported losing 6 VF and 4 VT in D-2 days operations.

There have been no reports, so far, of any enemy air attacks or submarine attacks on our forces. No enemy combatant ships have been sighted in the MARSHALL area.

31 January (Oahu date)

FLINTLOCK operations in the MARSHALLS are proceeding very satisfactorily, so far, and in accordance with plan.

Reports indicate that our air attacks both by shore based and carrier based planes have been very effective and that enemy aircraft in the area have been destroyed or shot down. Bombing by aircraft and surface ship bombardment have caused heavy destruction on all enemy air bases in the area and airfields are being kept not operational.

The Channel Islands near ROI and KWAJALEIN Islands have been captured shortly after dawn, as planned, and artillery mounted thereon to provide close supporting fire for the main assault tomorrow. Losses were reported as light.

MAJURO Atoll was found free of the enemy and its occupation provided immediately a large and deep anchorage.

Complete detailed photographic coverage of ENIWETOK Atoll is being obtained which indicates that consideration is being given by Com5thPhibFor to the possibility of executing CATCHPOLE immediately after FLINTLOCK should conditions permit.

Two more pilots of VMF 422 have been rescued leaving 5 still unaccounted for.

APOGON reports sinking 1 large AP or tender and another unidentified ship night 31st.

SEAHORSE reports sinking a 7000 ton AK carrying gas. Total sunk for this patrol 5 ships for 31000 tons.

CinCPac 312259 is a reply to Marshall's 120107 in regard to reduction of Army forces in rear areas in CentPac and SoPac and the possibility of supplying CentPac needs from SoPac bases.

1 February (Oahu date)

Heavy naval and shore battery bombardment and bombing and strafing by carrier aircraft from dawn until hour of landing permitted troops at ROI-NAMUR and KWAJALEIN to land without opposition. By dark ROI was completely in our hands and all but 1/3 of northern part of NAMUR as well. At PORCELAIN troops encountered resistance at western end of air strip but continued advance. A secondary landing near wharf advanced toward northern end of island. No reports of casualties were received but for the initial stages of occupation are believed to be light.

It appears probable that all objectives will have been captured by D+2 day with mopping up to be done on outlying islands of atoll.

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1 February (Oahu date) -continued-

The WASHINGTON and INDIANA which were in collision at 0430 local time are proceeding under escort to MAJURO where repair ships will assist in initial repairs.

Effective neutralization is being carried out of WOTJE, MALOELAP airfields by a cruiser group and of MILLE and JALUIT by shore-based air from GILBERTS.

While no report was received from the carrier aircraft strike on ENIWETOK it is believed to have been successful and reinforcement planes destroyed on the ground.

MAJURO lagoon is being used as an anchorage for oilers, ammunition ships and repair ships.

There have been no air or submarine attacks on our surface forces so far.

CominCh 011810 advises that a Russian Convoy Officer stated that beginning 31 January Russian ships will not use TSUSHIMA STRAITS this winter and that confirmation was being obtained from MOSCOW.

The seizure and occupation of KWAJALEIN is progressing favorably. *cm*

2 February (Oahu date)

The seizure and occupation of KWAJALEIN is progressing favorably.

At 1400Y February 2nd all organized resistance on CAMOUFLAGE and BURLESQUE was overcome.

ComGen 4thMarDiv assumed command ashore at 0925Y (/12). The seizure of other islands in Atoll is started with ALTON, ALVIN, ANDREW and ANTHONY ~~were~~ occupied without resistance. Unloading is underway and defenses being organized. Preliminary estimated casualties of 4th MarDiv to date are less than 100 killed and 400 wounded.

At KWAJALEIN I. the 7th Army Division has taken the southern 2/3 of the island up to 1800Y 2 February. Resistance has stiffened but is being reduced by ship's guns and artillery. Enemy dead are 1250 and 43 prisoners. Army dead 27, wounded 190, missing 9. The estimated strength enemy troops is placed at 2000. Unloading is proceeding. The seizure of BURTON I., a fortified island north of KWAJALEIN started at 0930(/12) 3 February. Other small islands are being occupied.

CTG 58.3 (RAdm Sherman) reports effective neutralization and destruction of ENIWETOK airfield and installations commencing dawn D-1 day until dark 2 February. Great destruction with no worthwhile air targets is reported. Complete photographic coverage of ENIWETOK and UJELANG was obtained.

BURNS (DD) returning from search encountered 1 medium AO, 1 medium AK, 2 smaller ships at 0100(/12) 30 January near UJAE and sank all four with gunfire.

Airfields on WOTJE, TAROA and MILLE continue to be kept neutralized. *cm*

3 February (Oahu date)

The seizure and occupation of the remaining islands in the KWAJALEIN Atoll is proceeding. Considerable progress in this regard has been made in the ROI-NAMUR Area but no report has been received from the PORCELAIN Area. The Task Groups of TF 58 are being assembled at MAJURO for fueling and replacement of ammunition and aircraft in preparation for a carrier aircraft strike on ships in TRUK about 9 February.

Plans are being made by TF Commanders for an early seizure of ENIWETOK Atoll as soon as forces can be organized. The seizure of many secret and confidential Jap charts of most of the Mandate Island Areas including ENIWETOK and TRUK will expedite planning for the above tasks.

ComAirSoPac has been directed to obtain photographic coverage of TRUK and PONAPE which he will do on 4 February (E. Long. date).

The neutralization of airfields and facilities on ENIWETOK, WOTJE, TAROA, MILLE and JALUIT by carrier, shore based air and cruiser and DD bombardment is being continued.

So far there have been no enemy air attacks and one enemy sub was sighted and attacked with good results to the NW of JALUIT.

The WASHINGTON and INDIANA rather severely damaged in collision have arrived at MAJURO where temporary repairs are being made prior to their departure for PEARL. It is hoped that a speed of 12 and perhaps 15 knots may be maintained. Both require drydocking.

In the North Pacific, FlairWing 4 sent 3 land Catalinas from ATTU for attacks on PARAMUSHIRU Area 2-3 February. One returned due mechanical trouble. The other two dropped bombs on SURIBACHI WAN - OKOMAYE WAN Area with doubtful results.

CTG 94 reports bombardment of MUSASHI Area, PARAMUSHIRU completed with no damage to the 2 OCL and 7 DD composing the force. Inaccurate but rapid fire from shore batteries was encountered.

Cwn

4 February (Oahu date)

The capture of KWAJALEIN, BURTON, BURNET, and BLANKENSHIP Islands by the 7th Division was completed today. Our losses to date in the Southern Attack Force is reported as 32 killed, 239 wounded, none missing. The enemy lost 1240 killed and 51 prisoners.

There was no report from the Northern Force but the occupation of the remaining small islands in the atoll is proceeding.

The capture and occupation of MAJURO is completed and Commander Advance Base MAJURO assumed command, 1600 local time 4 Feb. RAdm Jones is proceeding MAJURO to act as CTF 57 Sub-Commander.

ENIWETOK was bombed by aircraft of carrier group 4 Feb. with 35 tons on runways and fuel storage. Two concealed Kates were strafed and destroyed. Report states no effort is being made to repair runways. Carrier group will make strikes as necessary to keep field inoperative.

Cwn
1849

4 February (Oahu date) - continued -

WAKE was bombed by 18 Coronados from MIDWAY night 4-5 Feb. All planes returned to MIDWAY.

Initial reports from ROI I. state that enemy runways are poorly constructed and need major rebuilding with coral. Source of coral is not visible in preliminary inspection.

2 Photo-Liberators carried out reconnaissance of TRUK 4 Feb. and report from pilot interrogation states that probably 2 CV, 3 BB, 6 CA, 20-25 CL and DD are anchored west of DUBLON Island and 19-22 AKs and APs east of DUBLON Island. There appear to be 2 bomber fields and 3 fighter fields with the possibility of two others. ComAirSoPac 050623 (pink). *Cum*

5 February (Oahu date)

At KWAJALEIN, all islands except GODFREY I. in the NW corner and a few adjacent islets to the SE are in our hands. Offensive operations in the south part of the Atoll have ceased. Reembarkation of troops and departure of ships is proceeding.

The neutralization of enemy airfields in the MARSHALL Islands is continuing with carrier aircraft attacking ENIWETOK and land based air bombing WOTJE, MALOELAP, MILLE on 4 Feb. and JALUIT on 5 February.

ComFltAirWing 2 will strike WAKE Island on 9 and 10 February with 9 Coronados on each strike.

Admiral Nimitz and party departed for the MARSHALL Islands on 4 February and are due at KWAJALEIN at noon 6 February.

Preparations and plans are being made for early seizure of ENIWETOK and a carrier air strike on TRUK but no target date has as yet been set for either.

Photographic interpretation of TRUK photographs show only 1 BB in harbor and a reduced number of cruisers and destroyers. The two carriers reported present are apparently 2 CVE. There is a possibility that a force composed of cruisers and destroyers are at sea.

In the North Pacific, 6 Catalinas and 3 Venturas of FlAirWing 4 conducted armed photo-reconnaissance mission over PARAMUSHIRU night 3-4 February. One Landcat turned back but 3 over NW coast SHIMUSHU encountered light AA. One Landcat crossed central SHIMUSHU and one over KURABUZAKI. Three Venturas over KURABUZAKI. All planes dropped bombs causing some damage.

Another photo-reconnaissance was carried out night 4-5 Feb. by 2 Catalinas and 2 Venturas. Bombs were dropped by radar thru solid overcast. All planes returned. *Cum*

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6 February (Oahu date)

At KWAJALEIN Atoll, the preparation for withdrawal of assault troops is proceeding rapidly and defense deployments are well in hand.

Apparently a good coral bed on ROI-NAMUR has been discovered from which coral for repairs to poor airfields on ROI can be obtained.

Final figures for casualties subject to minor changes: Southern Attack Force own killed 157 own wounded 712 own missing 17, enemy prisoners Japanese 48 Korean 125, enemy dead 4650; Northern Attack Force own killed 129 own wounded 436 own missing 65, enemy prisoners Japanese 51 Koreans 40 dead 3472.

Visual reconnaissance of PONAPE was carried out Feb. 6, E. long. date. Our planes encountered no interception or AA fire. One AK was sighted in harbor plus several small craft.

An airfield was seen on JOKAJ Island composed of 2 strips intersecting at 45 degrees, which is serviceable. No aircraft were sighted.

7 February (Oahu date)

The capture and occupation of KWAJALEIN Atoll having been completed, at 2000 GCT 8 February, Comdr. KWAJALEIN Atoll, Island Comdr. ROI and Island Comdr. KWAJALEIN I. will assume command of their respective assignments. Until further orders of ComCenPac, Comdr. KWAJALEIN Atoll will remain responsible to CTF 51 in regard to defensive measures in the Atoll area.

Searches in the MARSHALLS Island were carried out and small craft destroyed at TAONGI Atoll and JALUIT. Sporadic AA fire was encountered at ENIWETOK but no planes or ships were sighted there. A Ventura over NAURU received intense AA fire and reports runways looked usable.

Interpretation of photo. coverage of PONAPE revealed airfield of 2 intersecting runways each 2500 by 300 ft. located on TITIENSARAU south of JOKAJ Island. No aircraft were seen on field. Planes sighted 2 large AKs, 4 PC south LANGARS I., 75 barges PONAPE town, numerous buildings on LANGAR I. and possible seaplane base on west side. Several batteries of coast defense and heavy AA guns.

The bombardment and bombing of airfields on WOTJE and TAROA continues daily but intelligence reports state that fields are reported operative shortly after each shelling or bombing. The land based planes continue to keep MILLE and JALUIT well pounded in addition to strikes on TAROA and WOTJE.

Preparations for early operations against ENIWETOK and an early carrier strike against TRUK continue. No target date has been set for either as yet. Apparently difficulty is being experienced in replenishing combatant ships with ammunition from AEs at MAJURO.

Due to the relatively small number of enemy combatant ships sighted in TRUK 4 February, Com7thFleet reports that he interprets this fact together with enemy's reaction to GALVANIC as indicating a substantial enemy force at sea to the north eastward of TRUK composed of possibly 3 BBs, 5-6 CA, 2 CLs about 12 DDs.

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8 February (Oahu date)

The neutralization of enemy bases on WOTJE, TAROA, JALUIT and MILLE by land based air is being continued. In addition cruiser and destroyers bombarded TAROA afternoon of the 8th. Antiaircraft fire encountered at all places but reported as light and inaccurate.

One CVE maintained A/S and Cap over MAJURO while another patrolled over WOTJE and MALOELAP and dropped 9 tons on TAROA. One fighter was shot down in MALOELAP lagoon but pilot was rescued by sea plane from SALT LAKE CITY.

On Feb. 6th, carrier group 58.4 attacked ENIWETOK runway and fuel dumps. Report stated planes saw no aircraft and very little signs of life on any island except ENGEBI. Attempt was made to repair runway damaged by previous bombings.

Nine Coronadoes from MIDWAY successfully bombed WAKE night 8-9 Feb. Eight planes were returning to MIDWAY and one with one engine disabled to KWAJALEIN.

Admiral Nimitz and members of staff returned from inspection of newly captured bases in the MARSHALL ISLANDS.

9 February (Oahu date)

In the Central Pacific, nineteen GILBERT based B-24s dropped 42 tons on TAROA and 15 tons on MILLE evening 8 Feb. WOTJE was not reached due to weather.

SALT LAKE CITY and destroyers shelled WOTJE with 100 rounds 8" HC noon 9 Feb. One destroyer patrolled and bombarded each night 7th and 8th with no enemy activity observed.

Search planes in the MARSHALLS saw no ships or planes at KUSAIE and no activity at ENIWETOK. One plane strafed buildings UJAE and UJELANG. No activity was seen at NAURU but MILLE runways were being repaired.

All Coronados participating in the WAKE strike 8-9 Feb. arrived safely at their destinations. The strike on WAKE scheduled for tonight is postponed due to weather and is now set for tomorrow night.

Aircraft from carrier group at ENIWETOK are scheduled to strike that atoll on 11 and 12 February, E. long. date.

TRIGGER operating to westward of TRUK reports sinking 1 large transport and 1 destroyer in 2 night surface attacks on 16 knot convoy bound for TRUK composed of 3 APs and 2 DDs.

A POW statement obtained from civilian air corps employee on ROI I. reports new air base NW of PONAPE and near OROLUK on an island named by the Japanese as BARAGUN. The air base there is reported to have huge stores of gasoline, bombs and ammunition but only 7 planes based there now. Japanese propose to use this base for raids against our bases in the future. This island could not be identified on the charts.

10 February (Oahu date)

The land based aircraft in the GILBERTS are keeping the enemy airfields and bases in the MARSHALLS neutralized. In addition the Neutralization Force of cruisers and destroyers have a schedule of bombardment whereby the cruisers bombard WOTJE and TAROA in the daytime and destroyers do so at night.

CTF 57 plans to strike PONAPE at noon local 12 February with about 5 squadrons of heavy bombers.

The PERMIT operating NW of TRUK reports 2 MOGAMI 4 SHIGURE class ships night 10th 8-19N 149-29E course 300 speed 19. PERMIT reports 1 or 2 hits in cruiser. Later, same night in 8-11N 149-44E PERMIT sighted large CV 2DD course 110 speed 17 and reports 3 probable hits at extreme range in carrier which continued on course.

The SPEARFISH reports sinking 2 freighters 1 passenger freighter 1 escort and 2 freighters damaged south of FORMOSA.

ComCenPac has set 17 February as the tentative D-day for CATCHPOLE with an early HALLSTONE probably preceeding that by one day. These dates to be anticipated if practicable.

ComSoPac has directed that the seizure and occupation of GREEN ISLAND will start on 15 February.

A further report in regard to the new enemy airbase referred to yesterday as named BARAGUN states that reference is probably made to GARAGUN ISLAND which is near the PALAUS.

11 February (Oahu date)

Additional bombing strikes were made on WOTJE, TAROA and MILLE by land based air. No details were reported.

C.T.G. 58.4 reported that runway on ENGEBI I., ENIWETOK was thoroughly covered with craters but there were some indications that few repairs had been made. No new installations or signs of activity were observed on any island of ENIWETOK. No AA fire was observed and few if any targets remain.

The 2nd Echelon of F1AirWing 2 bombed WAKE 0040 (12) time 11th. Two Coronados were turned back by engine trouble, 7 planes bombed target thoroughly. No AA fire was observed. All planes returned safely.

The first enemy air raid on KWAJALEIN was made by about 12 enemy planes at 0330Y 12 Feb. ROI I. only was attacked. Fires were observed from other islands. No details of attack were received. Planes apparently came from PONAPE.

Island Commander of ROI I. reports that by 14 February a fighter strip 150 ft. by 4000 will be available for limited operations of 1 VMF squadron.

The five squadron plane strike on PONAPE planned for 12 February has been postponed to ~~night~~ 14-~~15~~ February.

11 February (Oahu date) - continued -

JCS 081621 approves CinCPOA's allocations of naval vessels to the 3rd and 7th Fleets for the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO operations as given in serial 00014 of 30 January.

CinCPac 120505 calls attention to the fact that the views expressed in recent conference with representatives of SoPac and SoWesPac were informative views of individuals only.

CominCh 102212 states definition of operational control as agreed to by British Admiralty and Air Ministry.

12 February (Oahu date)

Commander KWAJALEIN Atoll reports assuming the Military Governorship of the atoll as the representative of CinCPOA.

ROI airfield is 15% complete and it is estimated that it will be ready for 1 fighter squadron 14 Feb. KWAJALEIN I. is 10% complete and will be ready for 1 fighter squadron 20 February.

Eight night fighters of VMF 532 will proceed from TARAWA to ROI on 13 Feb. An Avenger from Coral Sea made a successful forced landing on KWAJALEIN Island airfield at 0725 (✓12) 12 Feb.

Intelligence reports indicate that the attack on ROI at 0230Y (✓12) Feb. 12th was carried out by 12 to 14 seaplanes probably from PONAPE. The attack was deliberate and accurate and resulted in killing 25 and wounding 130. Material damage was estimated as 80% supplies and 20% construction equipment. Two LCTs were burned but believed salvageable.

There have been no recent indications of the location of enemy surface forces which reports state ~~are~~^{are} at sea in the vicinity of TRUK.

13 February (Oahu date)

Enemy airfields on TAROA, WOTJE and MILLE continue to be kept inoperative by land based aircraft from GILBERTS. In addition, cruisers and destroyers are continuing their bombardment of TAROA and WOTJE.

Further reports from CTF 51 state that the enemy seaplanes which bombed ROI ISLAND on 12 Feb. came from ENIWETOK, but one plane appeared to retire towards PONAPE. Extensive use was made of radar counter measures which gave saturation pips on scopes.

Photographic reconnaissance of PONAPE on 11 and 12 Feb. show runways are rough and appear unserviceable. No aircraft were seen. Four coastal defense guns were seen on JAPUTIK ISLAND, 3 on JOKAJ I. and 2 heavy and 3 light AA guns on LANGAI I. No shipping was sighted in anchorage but one small ship off PONAPE HARBOR ENTRANCE and 85 barges at PONAPE TOWN.

An unidentified submarine was sighted by eastbound clipper and ship between HAWAII and SAN FRANCISCO. The clipper reported a position of 25-54N 151-18W, and the ship 20-35N 134-56W on 13 February.

- Continued -

13 February (Continued)

C.T.G. 58.4 bombed ENIWETOK on the 10th, 11th and 12th of February and states that runway is unusable at least for 48 hours. All visible installations have been destroyed and no profitable targets remain. This force also bombed UJAE on 12 February and reported destruction of installations.

GUDGEON reports sinking a large AP in 27-38N 121-15E. on 11 February (E. long. date).

The MACAW, which was aground on the east edge of channel to MIDWAY, slid off the reef and sank with masts only showing. Salvage officer reports further salvage impracticable, but clearance of channel is practicable. Present estimates are that the Commanding Officer and 4 men from MACAW and 3 men from NOB are missing.

ComCenPacFor 130013 states that during absence of this Commander on CATCHPOLE CTF 57 will assume duties of ComCenPacFor in GILBERTS-MARSHALLS Area.

Cwn ~~...~~

14 February (Oahu date)

Dog day for the assault on ENIWETOK is definitely set for 17 February with carrier air strike on TRUK on D minus 1 day. Transports carrying the assault troops and other units depart KWAJALEIN anchorage on 15 February.

The neutralization of WOTJE, TAROA and MILLE is being continued. The MARYLAND enroute PEARL HARBOR will bombard WOTJE assisted by 2 DD early morning 16 February.

A total of 10 enemy mines have been swept to date at KWAJALEIN in AMBO CHANNEL. They are all of the horned moored type.

The usual searches were carried out over the MARSHALL ISLANDS with no important sightings.

In the Southern Pacific Area reports state that the assault on GREEN ISLAND commenced as scheduled on 15 February (E. Long. date). No details were given.

ComAir MUNDA reports that enemy base on ANT ISLAND, close and to westward of PONAPE, will be bombed daily from MUNDA between 12 to 19 February.

With the early execution of CATCHPOLE it will be possible to speed up the operations in plan GRANITE. Planning and initial implementation towards this end are now underway.

Intelligence reports indicate that our carrier strike will find enemy combatant ships in addition to cargo craft in TRUK although some of the enemy units appear to be at sea.

Cwn ~~...~~

15 February (Oahu date)

C.T.G. 50.15 has bombarded TAROA daily from 13 Feb. and WOTJE from 14 Feb. WOTJE and TAROA airstrips are intermittently operational. Enemy flying boats are probably touching at these bases. The General Plan is to bombard WOTJE and TAROA aircraft facilities from sea and air to prevent their use and to deny enemy entrance and exit to those lagoons.

Air Strikes against MILLE are continuing.

Forty-two liberators from T.F. 57 dropped 56 tons on PONAPE on 15 Feb.(L).

CinCPac 150220 establishes the Central Pacific Forward Area.

PLUNGER reports 3 AK's (tonnage total 15,000) believed sunk in 33-00 N. 136-00 E on 15 Feb. (E. long. date).

ComSoPac reports occupation of GREEN ISLAND on Feb. 15 (E. long date) according to plan, and without opposition.

Intelligence reports indicate the possibility that CinC combined is at PALAU and that the BB MUSASHI is tentatively located there.

Intelligence indicates torpedoing of light cruiser AGANO afternoon of 16th in 10-10 N, 151-40 E, by USS SKATE left AGANO in sinking condition.

16 February (Oahu date)

Land-based air strikes (under TF 57) continued against MILLE, JALUIT, MALOELAP, and WOTJE. A search plane attacked AK and DD off PONAPE, leaving the AK damaged and possibly grounded outside harbor.

SEAHORSE summarizes results of patrol, as follows: Sank one AP (6,500 ton) and 4 AK (total 24,350).

There has been a recent heavy influx of Jap shipping in RABAU. Both RABAU and KAVIENG are receiving severe poundings by air forces from the SOUTH and SOUTHWEST PACIFIC Areas; their claims of vessels sunk and/or damaged are considerable.

Intelligence reports indicate that CinC Combined is now in or approaching EMPIRE waters.

Although no reports have been received from our forces, preliminary intelligence indicates that Carrier Task Forces hit TRUK on schedule, approximately 100 fighters attacking between 0800-0900. One of our Task Groups was sighted by an enemy plane in the morning bearing 048°, 92 miles from TRUK. The enemy ordered a dusk search and attack (using 4 reconnaissance planes and 9 medium bombers from TINIAN) and preparations for night landings at TRUK. Strikes by our Carrier Task Force continued and part of our surface forces (reported as two BB and two CA) closed TRUK Atoll and took some enemy units under gunfire. Enemy planes maintained contact with our Carrier Task Group northeast of TRUK, and night torpedo attack by planes based in the RABAU-KAVIENG area also was ordered. Japanese submarines in the area were to expedite attacks, particularly on Battleships and Cruisers close in to the northeast of TRUK. It appears that a convoy departing TRUK was hit by our Carrier planes with good results. Damage indicated thus far:

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16 February (Oahu date) -continued-

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Training Cruiser KATORI afire
Three MARUS sunk by bombing
Five Destroyers damaged; two seriously

No violent reaction other than air reinforcement, has been noted to the HAILSTONE strike, surface reinforcement indications being conspicuous by their absence. It is believed that the search planes for the night torpedo attack made contact, and that the attack was initiated - results unknown.

17 February (Oahu date)

The PENSACOLA (from TF 50.15) hit REUTER, satellite island of TAROA, with 8 and 5 inch at minimum range of 5400 yards; bombardment caused 19 explosions; flames reached 2855 feet; fires were burning 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours later. No apparent enemy activity, except attempts to repair runway ABLE.

Dog-Day operations against ENIWETOK Atoll progressed according to plan. Artillery was landed on RUJIYORU and the adjacent island to the north. Heavy naval bombardment and air strikes continued throughout the day; there was no return fire. BODON ISLAND will be occupied after dark February 17. Captured natives stated that Jap forces on the 3 main islands of the atoll were reinforced last month. DEEP entrance was easy to negotiate, and is well marked; the lagoon anchorage is ample. Moored mines were encountered in the South Channel; sweeping continues in the Anchorage. W-Hour for PHASE II (DOG plus 1) is 0845Y 18 February.

During the operations of air task groups against TRUK, the INTREPID was struck by one torpedo on 17 Feb.; speed reduced to 20 knots; steering room flooded, requiring that ship be steered by main engines. Torpedo hit in starboard quarter. 5 known dead; 1- seriously injured; 6 missing. The INTREPID is returning to PEARL.

No reports on the results of the TRUK strikes have been received. The SEARAVEN rescued 3 aviators close to the TRUK Northeast Passage on the morning of 17 February.

CTF 57 plans to strike PONAPE with 3 squadrons of Liberators at noon 17 Feb., and again with same force at noon 19 Feb.

On 16 Feb. Vice Admiral Raymond A. Spruance appointed Admiral; to rank from 4 February.

CinCPac 180538 directs organization of 1st Group Fleet Air Wing 2 in forward area.

Although reports from our Task Force are lacking, intelligence sources indicate that the carrier air strikes on TRUK were continuing on the 17th according to schedule. Considerably less reaction on the enemy's part was noted, suggesting the probable expenditure of the majority of his air strength in the area, including available trained reinforcements. Enemy air reconnaissance and possible tracking of our Task Force was noted: one position giving 07-07N, 153-23E at 12 hours plus 12. Some, or all of this air reconnaissance is from TINIAN.

Enemy submarines were again ordered to attack our surface units to the northeast of TRUK.

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18 February (Oahu date)

Following intense naval and air bombardment, the D-1 assault on ENGEBI proceeded according to plan, RCT 22 meeting only weak opposition at the beaches; the assault troops moved rapidly inland completing capture of the Island by 1600Y 18 February, except for mopping up operations which are continuing. Our casualties, though undetermined, are believed light. Equipment losses are negligible. All Islands in the atoll are now secure from BOGALLUA Island to the unnamed island immediately north of AOMON Island, inclusive. The attack against ENIWETOK Island will be launched at 0900Y 19 February. Sweeping operations in the southern lagoon continue.

On 18 February land-based air strikes (under TF 57) were directed against PONAPE Town where warehouses and docks were effectively bombed; against KUSAIE where the airfield area, LELA Harbor, and Port LOCTIN were bombed with moderate success; and against JALUIT where results were unobserved.

SNOOK reports sinking one 6000 ton APK and one 1500 AK on 14 and 15 Feb. 30 miles SW of TSUSHIMA; and damaging two 6000 ton AK's in a southbound convoy 8 February GCT.

Upon arrival PEARL, GUARDFISH reports having sunk 1 large DD of the AMIGIRI class on 1 February, and 1 large tanker on 14 January in the area between NEW GUINEA and the CAROLINES.

ComGen SAMOA 182120 announces transfer of command to Commandant Naval Station on March 1.

Significant is the bombardment of the RABAUL and KAVIENG areas conducted on 17 February by destroyers from TG 38.4 and TG 39.4. This follows a series of successful and sustained air strikes against those bases, and appears to indicate quite definitely the waning of Japanese sea and air power in the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO.

Intelligence sources indicate that CinC FOURTH FLEET at TRUK anticipated further attacks by our carrier task force yesterday, the 18th, and at least 6 and probably 9 torpedo bombers of Air Group 582 were flown into TRUK from TINIAN. The withdrawal of certain service forces, including the Repair Ship AKASHI to the PALAU area from TRUK was noted yesterday. CinC SECOND and ComDesRon TWO at PALAU are intimately concerned with these movements. CinC SECOND is definitely established in the PALAU area with a faint suggestion he might be located at ULITHI, KOSSOL PASSAGE (PALAU), or NGULU.

Other than the ordering of submarines in the area to attack, there is still no indication that the enemy intends to use surface forces to intercept our Task Force, or to reinforce the TRUK area. Withdrawal of certain convoys to the SAIPAN area as a result of our TRUK strike has been noted.

At 190455 (plus 12 zone) an enemy plane sent a contact giving a position, presumably of our carrier task force, at 9-30 N, 160-10 E. This report has been widely recirculated and sent to submarines.

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19 February (Oahu date)

Followed by heavy naval and air bombardment the D plus 2 (19 Feb.) assault on ENIWETOK Island was launched as planned at 0900Y, the 2 Assault Battalions of RCT 106 meeting only weak opposition at the beaches. Enemy opposition in deep fox-holes with considerable mortar and machine gun fire slowed the progress of the attacking forces. The reserve battalion (22nd Marines) was committed at 1330Y. At 2000Y the western half of the island was in our possession except for a pocket of resistance on the western tip of the island. One battery of the 104th Field Artillery was landed, and continues to support the attack. Complete capture of the island is expected on 20 Feb. All islands in the atoll are now secure except ENIWETOK and PARRY. The assault against PARRY will be launched on 21 Feb. with 2 battalions of the 22nd Marines in the assault and the 3d in regimental reserve; one battalion of RCT 106 will be in group reserve; this assault will be supported by the 75 mm. Pack-Howitzer Bn. from positions on JAPTAN Island. Casualties so far reported are 64 dead, 180 wounded on ENGEBI, and 14 dead 58 wounded on ENIWETOK. The death of Mr. John Bushemi of Yank Magazine was reported.

Preliminary reports on results of TRUK air strikes give the following estimate of ships sunk: 2 CL, 1 AE, 1 AV, 3 DD, 2 AO, 2 PC, and 8 AK; and the following estimate of ships probably sunk: 1 CL or large DD, 2 AO, and 4 AK. A total of 272 aircraft was observed. Of these 127 were shot down in the air, and 74 were destroyed on the ground or water. 71 other aircraft of various types were observed on the ground and of this number an estimated 50 to 70% were unserviceable. On the 2nd day of the strike no hostile aircraft were observed in the air over the target. Our losses were 8 VF, 6 VT, and 3 VB; 14 pilots and 12 crewmen were missing; 3 crewmen were killed. CTF 50 went after cripples with the NEW JERSEY, IOWA, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS, and 4 DD's, making a counter-clockwise swing around the atoll; this force sank 1 crippled Katory class CA, 1 crippled Shiguri class DD, and 2 PC; 6 prisoners were taken from one PC. None of our ships, other than the INTREPID, sustained any damage. In addition to the damage inflicted upon the enemy's ships and aircraft, considerable damage was done to the ETEN, MOEN, and PRAN fields and the DUBLON seaplane base; fuel oil tanks and an ammunition dump were also destroyed.

Land based air strikes (under TF 57) were made against KUSAIE Harbor, WOTJE, JALUIT, and MILE. Light AA was received from KUSAIE and MILE; no AA from WOTJE; intense AA from JALUIT.

ComCenPacFor reports that task group 58.2 and 58.3, under RAdm. Mitscher, are proceeding to strike SAIPAN and TINIAN.

Intelligence reports indicate that a major reshuffling of air groups in the Japanese Naval Air Force is taking place. There is a strong suggestion that CinC First Air Fleet has assumed tactical command of all air units in the MANDATES area. It appears that the MANDATES are being reinforced by drawing upon EMPIRE, SOUTHEASTERN and SOUTHWESTERN air resources.

The Japanese strength in the SAIPAN-TINIAN area is estimated as 25 fighters, 18 medium bombers, 15 dive bombers, 15 torpedo bombers, 5 float planes, and 6 float fighters; 6 large Maru's, 8 medium Maru's, 12 small Maru's, 30 picket patrol boats, 3 sub-chasers, 3 coast defense vessels, 3 destroyers, and 4 mine layers; 1 carrier and 1 destroyer are enroute, probably with convoy arriving SAIPAN 221100 (Y).

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20 February (Oahu date)

D plus 3 (20 Feb) operations against ENIWETOK Island resulted in the island being over-run by our assault forces who are now engaged in unearthing the Japanese from numerous well concealed and interconnecting foxholes. The combined estimated Japanese strength on ENGEBI and ENIWETOK Islands is 1000 (open to interpretations of wording); indications are that PARRY Island is somewhat more heavily garrisoned than ENIWETOK. The assault against PARRY Island has been deferred until 22 Feb. A revised report of casualties estimate 76 dead, 173 wounded, and 2 missing on ENGEBI; estimate for ENIWETOK Island is approximately the same. 25 prisoners have been taken. Performances of troops reported as outstanding. Some difficulty has been experienced in getting LST's on the beach at ENGEBI, but blasting operations are now in progress. (Command of) ENIWETOK passed to Colonel Jones, USA, on 20 Feb. Aerial and naval bombardment of PARRY Island continues.

POGY reports sinking one 6000 ton AK and damaging one 5000 ton AK off the East coast of FORMOSA.

SEARAVERN reports that 17 AK's and 1 DD were bottlenecked trying to escape from TRUK South Pass on the morning of 17 Feb. but few escaped; TRUK North Pass did not appear to be in use; glow of fires was visible over TRUK during the nights of 17 and 18 February.

BatDiv 3 completed its bombardment of TAROA on 20 February. All firing was at minimum range with top and plane spot. Targets were well covered, but only one very small fire started, due it was reported, to the efficacy of previous bombardments.

Land based air strikes (from CTF 57) were again directed against MILLE, TAROA, and WOTJE on 20 Feb.; these blows were directed against runways and aircraft installations.

ANPB 191307 refers to non-availability of Navy special fuel oil for loading at California ports after 1 April '44.

Intelligence reports indicate that a Japanese offensive may be brewing in the SINGAPORE Area. There are various indications that the Japanese are massing important naval commands and fleet units in the SINGAPORE Area. It is estimated that the following commands and fleet units are probably enroute to or in the SINGAPORE Area as of 20 Feb.: Commanders 1st and 3rd Fleets, ComBatDiv 2, ComCruDiv 7, ComCruDiv 16; carriers ZUIKAKU and possibly SHOKAKU; battleships NAGATO, ISE, YAMASHIRO, and possibly FUSO; heavy cruisers KUMANO, SUZUYA, TONE, ASHIGARA, AOBA; light cruisers KUMA, OI, KINU, KITAGAMI (damaged); and an unknown number of DD's. It is believed that the Commander 1st Fleet is Vice Admiral Nagumo, who commanded the carrier striking force from PEARL HARBOR to MIDWAY including the BENGAL BAY attack in April 1942. It is estimated that the enemy is preparing for offensive surface and air operations possibly in the BENGAL BAY Area in the near future.

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21 February (Oahu Date)

On D/4 (21 Feb) final mopping up of remaining Japs on ENIWETOK Island was in progress. The battalion of RCT 22 was withdrawn on 20 Feb to rest, reorganize, and repair equipment preparatory to the assault on PARRY Island; the 10th Marine Defense Bn. will constitute the Group Reserve in this assault. Unloading of LSTs at ENGEBI is practically complete; unloading has started at ENIWETOK. Throughout the day and night of 21 Feb PARRY Island was pounded by air, naval, and field artillery bombardments. 35 Japs and 13 Koreans have been captured; this was facilitated by the use of loud speaker system installed on the island.

On 21 Feb BatDiv 3 completed bombardment of WOTJE without casualties, using own plane spot; ranges 8 to 14,000. Numerous buildings were hit and a fuel dump was fired. The island was reported as a poor target due to previous effective bombardments; in view of this, the scheduled bombardment of WOTJE on 22 Feb has been cancelled.

SPEARFISH reports sinking a Maru in the CHINA SEA; 4 electric torpedoes were fired, two of which were hits. Her total is now 5 sunk and 2 damaged for a total of 40,000 tons.

ASPRO reports sinking an I-9 class sub north of TRUK after a chase on 15 Feb; she obtained 2 hits out of 4 torpedoes fired.

Single searchers were over JALUIT, RONGELAP, and KUSAIE on 20 Feb. Large fires were observed on JALUIT; 2 quarter ton bombs destroyed a building at RONGELAP; and the radio station KUSAIE was damaged.

A report from the SUNFISH indicates damage to the CHITOSE (CVE); report states carrier believed stopped, course 290°, distance 35 miles from SAIPAN.

In the South Pacific DesDiv 45 and DesDiv 46 carried out effective bombardment missions in the STEFFAN STRAIT and KAVIENG areas. DesRon 23 pursued and sank the CLAUDIA (?) MARU in 08-54 N, 148-38 E. The Maru was loaded with aircraft personnel totalling about 400; 73 of 100 survivors were captured.

Intelligence reports indicate that Task Groups 58.2 and 58.3, in their approach toward SAIPAN-TINIAN, were sighted on 21 Feb and were shadowed during the night. As yet there are no reports on the results of the strike scheduled for 22 Feb.

22 February (Oahu Date)

Complete capture of ENIWETOK Atoll was completed at 1930Y 22 February with the fall of PARRY ISLAND. Major General Nishuda and his crack 1st Seaborne Mobile Brigade went to their death. The Japanese troops were strongly entrenched and were well trained; the total number of Japs on the Atoll is estimated in excess of 3,000.

Land based air strikes (from TF 57) were made on 21 February against PONAPE, KUSAIE, WOTJE, TAROA and MILLE; 30 tons considerably damaged PONAPE waterfront and town; remaining places hit with less tonnage and with only moderate damage reported. Single searchers strafed and bombed RONGELAP and UTIRIK; a searcher reports trenches and barb wire in vicinity of SOUTH POINT at OCEAN.

22 February (Continued)

Rear Admiral Mitscher reports approximately 8 of our fliers down in rubber boats off the western coasts of SAIPAN-TINIAN but we have no report on the results of that strike.

ALBACORE upon returning from the Southwest reports adding one freighter and one destroyer to her pouch; not previously reported.

PLUNGER reports sinking the largest ship of a southbound convoy in EMPIRE waters between the BONINS and the EMPIRE.

Cominch 011230/05 establishes rules for assessing enemy aircraft losses.

The capture of BARAHUN ISLAND on 21 February completes the capture of GREEN ISLAND.

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23 February (Oahu Date)

T.G. 58.1 (SARATOGA, PRINCETON, LANGLEY) struck JALUIT twice on 20 Feb, concentrating on the main islands in the SE of the atoll; a total of 60,550 pounds of bombs was dropped. EMIDJ was the most heavily hit; direct hits were obtained on both the N and S hangers, on the radio station, and on the barracks and on munition buildings. The storage area at ENYBOR, the power plant and boat yard area at JABOR, and the radio station S of SYDNEY PIER were bombed. Heavy accurate AA damaged 4 planes; we suffered no losses.

SUNFISH reports that in addition to damaging a carrier on 21 Feb, she sank one medium AK. She reports that Mitscher's strike caused many fires; and that the TENIAN air area was in operation at 1600 K(-10) at which time the Japs started flying in bombers. As yet we have no report from Rear Admiral Mitscher on the results of his strike.

GRAYBACK reports maru (believed TATUTA) burned and sank on 23 Feb; another, identified as TARAYASU, was sunk on 19 Feb. She reports damaging a large AK and an AO on 23 Feb.

SNOOK reports sinking on 23 Feb. in the BONINS area a 6000-ton AK with two hits.

24 February (Oahu Date)

Task Groups 58.2 (ESSEX, YORKTOWN, BELLEAU WOOD) and 58.3 (BUNKER HILL, MONTEREY, COWPENS) of Rear Admiral Mitscher's Task Force (58) made two air strikes against SAIPAN-TINIAN on 22 Feb and, concurrently, a 12-plane fighter strike on GUAM. The task force, having been sighted during its approach on the afternoon of 21 Feb, received almost continuous air attacks throughout the night of 21 Feb and during the forenoon of 22 Feb; the force relentlessly pushed its attack against the opposing defense, and bombed and strafed aircraft and radio

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24 February (Continued)

installations, fuel oil storage, and shipping in the harbors. Reports give the following estimate of ships sunk: 4 AK and 1 PC; 2 tugs and 5 small escorts were damaged. A total of 136 aircraft was reported destroyed. Of these, 87 were destroyed on the ground; of the remaining 48, 29 were shot down in combat over the target, 14 were shot down by ships' gunfire, and 5 were shot down by CAP. Our losses were 1 VF(N), 4 VF, and 1 TBF. The force started its retirement at 1600, 22 Feb. Our ships suffered no combat damage; however, the ALABAMA's 5-inch Mount 9 fired into the back of Mount 5; this accident resulted in 5 being killed and 11 wounded, 2 seriously. Rear Admiral Mitscher states: "This battle is historic for courage and determination of purpose."

Land based air strikes (under TF 57) on 24 Feb were directed against KUSAIE, WOTJE, TAROA, MILLE, and EMIDJ. 19 tons of bombs were dropped in the barrack, radio station, and wharf areas of KUSAIE, resulting in large explosions; 25 tons fired the barrack area of EMIDJ; the remaining bombings were of moderate intensity and produced moderate damage; no plane loss was reported. A searcher over NAURU received heavy A/A and reports runways 1 and 2 operational.

TAMBOR reports sinking 3 AKs for a total of 20,500 tons and 1 9500-ton AO during the period 29 Jan to 3 Feb on the route between JAPAN and the PHILIPPINES.

GRAYBACK reports two more MARUs sunk on 24 Feb in the same general area as that of the TAMBOR.

In the South Pacific, bombardment by destroyers continued in the KAVIENG-RABAU-DUKE OF YORK ISLAND areas.

CW *J.S.*

25 February (Oahu date)

Land based air strikes (under TF 57) continued against the enemy occupied islands of the MARSHALLS.

During their bombardment of the KAVIENG Area on 24 February the destroyers FARENHOLT and BUCHANAN each received one hit from shore artillery; minor damage was sustained.

HAKE, operating in the southwest during the period 12 January to 1 February reports sinking 1 AP, 1 AK and 1 large sampan; and damaging 1 AO and 1 AK.

CW *J.S.*

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26 February (Oahu Date)

Based on photographs, CTF 58 revises his estimate of results of TRUK strikes as tabulated below:

SUNK		PROBABLY SUNK	
1st Estimate	Revision	1st Estimate	Revision
2 CL	: 2 CL	1 CL	: 1 CL
1 AE	: 1 AE	2 AO	: 1 AO
1 AV	: 0 AV	4 AK	: 4 AK
3 DD	: 3 DD		
2 AO	: 7 AO(4L, 1M, 2S)		
2 PC	: 2 PC		
8 AK	: 8 AK		
<u>19</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

In addition to the above, 2 large AOs and 1 large AP were burning furiously; 3 AKs were burning; burning and beached were 2 AKs and 1 small AO; 2 AKs were beached. This gives a grand total of 40 ships sunk, probably sunk, or badly damaged (if dispatch is properly interpreted).

Land-based air strikes (under TF 57) continued against the enemy occupied islands of the MARSHALLS.

24 Liberators hit PONAPE with 30 tons, effectively concentrating on the dock area, seaplane base hangar, and fuel storage area. One Liberator hit KUSAIE with $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons, results unobserved. A single searcher dropped $\frac{3}{4}$ ton on the NAURU runway.

PRESIDENT GRANT, enroute from San Francisco to MILNE BAY, grounded on ULUMA reef at 11-07S, 150-58E early morning 26 February. Ship reports double bottom forward half of ship punctured; damage to inner bottom undetermined. Salvage vessel and tugs standing by; ships standing by to remove troops if necessary.

TANG, operating northwest of SAIPAN, reports sinking 1 large naval tanker, 1 ammunition ship, and 3 freighters, for an estimated 40,000 tons.

27 February (Oahu Date)

Daily reports from the South Pacific indicate that construction of the runway on DUKE OF YORK ISLAND is continuing.

ComNorPac reports that a daylight bombardment of Southern PARAMUSHIRU (MUSHASHI-SURABACHI Area) with 5 DDs and the RICHMOND is planned for 3-5 March.

28 February (Oahu date)

On 27 Feb land based air strikes under CTF 57 were resumed against the enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS; moderate AA fire was encountered; 4 planes were damaged, but none lost. Single searchers each dropped about 1 ton of bombs on RONGELAP, UTIRIK, and MEJIT. 20 Liberators hit PONAPE with 30 tons; observed results showed large fires accompanied by two heavy explosions; AA fire was intense; 2 planes were damaged, none lost.

SS CAPE UGAT (AK) enroute from the West Coast to the South Pacific, suffered heavy engine room damage from an explosion; 2 men badly burned; she proceeds to HONOLULU on 1 engine.

ComSoPac reports that all personnel, except 1 company of troops and the ship's complement have been removed from the PRESIDENT GRANT; cargo is being discharged to LCMs; assistance is standing by; salvage is problematical.

CERO, operating in the Southwest, reports sinking one 6100 ton Maru on 16 Feb; and heavily damaging one 8600 ton freighter on 21 Feb.

29 February (Oahu date)

Following a naval and air bombardment elements of the 1st U.S. Cav.Div. landed on LOS NEGROS ISLAND (ADMIRALTYS) at HAYNE HARBOR at 0815 (L) 29 Feb; 9 DDs and 3 APDs participated. Concurrently 2 CLs and 4 DDs bombarded enemy installations on MANUS ISLAND. The landing was unopposed; MOMOTE air strip and the dispersal areas were captured with light opposition; our casualties were 1 killed, 4 wounded. Participating naval forces have returned to CRETIN; a second echelon, enroute from CRETIN, is due at HAYNE HARBOR 1 March (L).

Land based air strikes (under CTF 57) hit WOTJE and MILLE on 28 Feb, concentrating on runways and aircraft installations. 7 Liberators photographed, strafed, and hit WAKE on 28 Feb; all buildings and installations were well revetted and sand-covered; many types of AA artillery and many troops were seen.

Rear Admiral Hill reports that occupation phase of ENIWETOK will be completed on 2 March; he recommends that command pass to Commander ENIWETOK Garrison Force as of 0800 that date.

INTREPID, enroute to the West Coast, became unmanageable believed due to loss of fin area as a result of complete removal of rudder. She has returned to PEARL.

SARGO operating off West Coast of PALAU reports sinking 1 7,000 ton AK, and damaging 2 AKs for 21,000 tons.

ROCK reports both periscopes damaged by a shell hit in the shears, on 28 Feb, while attacking a fast south bound convoy on the route between JAPAN and the PHILIPPINES.

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1 March (Oahu date)

After leaving further units of the 1st U.S. Cav and USN SeaBees, the second echelon (6LSTs, 3 DDs), is returning from HAYNE HARBOR; it is due at SUDEST late 3 March (L). Our reported casualties to date: 5 killed (3 USA, 2 USN); 6(?) wounded (4(?) USA, 2 USN). Early on the morning of 1 March (L) the Japs attacked our MOMOTE position; the attack was repulsed, and 60 Japs killed.

The fighter strip on GREEN ISLAND has been completed to 5,000 feet. To date, 14,200 personnel and 22,800 tons of cargo have been delivered to GREEN ISLAND.

Reports of the past few days show an absence of shipping in KAVIENG; also an absence of Jap interception over RABAU Area.

On 1 Mar (L) 2 DDs (PRINGLE, CONWAY) reconnoitered and shelled the SW coast of BOUGAINVILLE; return shore battery fire caused minor damage to the superstructure of both ships, and slightly wounded 1 officer.

2 March (Oahu Date)

More complete reports state that 2d. Squadron, 5th Cavalry, made the initial landing on LOS NEGROS; the ground situation remains unchanged. Additional forces will be landed on 3 March from 9 DDs and 3 APDs. A covering force of 1 CA, 2 CLs, and 4 DDs takes position to North of MANUS. 4 DDs stand off HAYNE to render close fire support or to bombard, if required.

Land based air strikes (under CTF 57) hit TAROA, JALUIT, and MILLE on 1 March, concentrating on runways and aircraft installations; excellent results were reported.

Definite sub contact at 10-22 N, 177-23 E (Eastern MARSHALLS) at 1752(Y) 2 March caused rerouting of convoys in that general area.

Admiral Nimitz, Rear Admiral Sherman, and other staff members, departed for WASHINGTON, D.C., on afternoon of 2 March.

JCS 022941 (pink) establishes strategical objectives in our war against JAPAN, and directs planning for all probable operations.

SANDLANCE, operating in KURILES reports sinking 1 AK on 28 Feb, and 2 on 2 March.

5 Venturas from FAIRWING 4 made an armed reconnaissance of PARAMUSHIRO-SHIMUSHU on night of 1-2 March. Owing to solid overcast over target area the mission was generally ineffective; no pictures were taken. 9 Liberators from 11th AF, attempting strike against KURILES on 2 March, were forced back on account of bad weather.

CREVALLE, operating in the Southwest, reports sinking with torpedoes 3 AKs for 19,646 tons; sinking by gunfire 1 5-ton sailboat and 1 150-ton patrol tug; probably sinking 2 6000-ton AKs; and damaging 2 4000-ton AKs; a grand total of 39,801 tons sunk, probably sunk, or damaged.

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3 March (Oahu date)

There are no additional reports on the land action on LOS NEGROS. On the afternoon of 1 March 8 squadrons of attack bombers struck enemy positions outside our MOMOTE perimeter.

On 2 March moderate land based air strikes were made against WOTJE, TAROA, KUSAIE and PONAPE. The damage inflicted upon PONAPE during recent raids is assessed as follows: Over half of PONAPE TOWN, including radio station and one-third of the dock area, destroyed; LANGAR IS. seaplane hangar and shop destroyed, ramp apron and other buildings damaged, with huge fires indicating probable heavy additional damage; 2 buildings destroyed on JAPUTIK IS.

ASPRO reports 1 hit on large tender enroute TRUK on 3 March; damage unobserved.

CominCh 031655 directs category of defense for ALASKA and the ALEUTIANS.

4 March (Oahu date)

Our troops are still engaged with Jap forces in the MOMOTE area; however, the situation appears to be well in hand. To include the evening of 3 March we have lost 61 killed, 244 wounded; the Japs have lost 700 killed. We landed additional troops in the MOMOTE area (probably one squadron) on the morning of 3 March. No air opposition has been encountered since 2 March, when 4 enemy planes ineffectively bombed 4 DDs patrolling NW of LOS NEGROS. B-25's and 4 DD's continue to support our ground forces. The covering force bombarded enemy gun emplacements near the entrance to SEADLER HARBOR, on 4 March, and then retired to take station to the N of MANUS. An echelon (5 LSTs, 4 DDs, 1 APD), enroute from CRETIN, is due at HAYNE HARBOR early on 5 March.

Moderate land based air strikes continued against WOTJE, TAROA, PONAPE, and KUSAIE. As on the previous day, the greatest weight (23 tons) was directed at PONAPE where the harbor and warehouse areas were bombed effectively.

FLASHER, on its first war patrol, operating in the southwest from middle of January to end of February, reports sinking 3 AKs (17,442), 1 AO (7,269), and 1 Sampan (40), for a total of 24,751 tons; and damaging one Sampan (40).

Tentative itinerary SARATOGA and escort (E Long. dates)

<u>Depart</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Arrive</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
MARSHALLS	5	ESPIRITU	8	
ESPIRITU	9	PORT PHILIP	14	Fuel
PORT PHILIP	15	FREEMANTLE	20	Fuel, Avgas, Provision
FREEMANTLE	22	TRINCOMALEE	30	

5 March (Oahu date)

There are no additional reports on the situation in the ADMIRALTYS.

Moderate land based air strikes continued against WOTJE, EMIDJ, and TAROA, concentrating on air fields and aircraft installations. CTF 57 reports that constant repair of damaged fields is in progress, and that usually one strip on each field is operational.

The planned bombardment of Southern PARAMUSHIRU by 5 DDs and the RICHMOND (Summary, 27 Feb) was attempted, but weather conditions reduced visibility to zero; the task force returned to base.

CTM *Cum*

6 March (Oahu date)

The ADMIRALTIES situation remains well in hand. Latest reports announce occupation of SALAMI PLANTATION (northern LOS NEGROS) and PORIAKA VILLAGE (MOMOTE area) on 5 March; also destruction, by a patrol, of 2 concrete-installed 12-cm coast defense guns on SE shore of LOS NEGROS. 1000 known enemy dead reported. The Japs unsuccessfully attacked in the MOMOTE area on 4 March. Enemy engaged estimated as 3 battalions, with machine guns and light tanks, a large force being located in the SALAMI PLANTATION area. Casualties to SeaBees reported as 13 killed, 95 wounded. The NICHOLSON (DD) while bombarding a shore battery near the entrance to SEADLER HARBOR sustained 1 hit in No. 2 Handling Room, killing 3 and wounding 2. 4 DDs continue to render close support night and day. The 2nd Sq, 5th Cav, and the 2d Sq, 7th Cav, are on LOS NEGROS.

The PICUDA, operating NW of TRUK, reports sinking a 10,000-ton AP on 2 March (4 Mk 18 hits).

GREEN ISLAND air strip was reported in use on 5 March, with 35 planes landing.

CTF 57 040228 reports construction progress on airfield and other installations on KWAJALEIN (PORCELAIN), and MAJURO.

Land based air strikes continued against WOTJE, EMIDJ, and TAROA; MILLE was also hit. 13 Liberators placed 30 tons on the airfield and dock areas of PONAPE; huge explosions were observed in the airdrome area. We lost 2 Hellcats (F6F) in these operations. 3 search planes dropped $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons on NAURU with unobserved results.

In NEW GUINEA the 1st Bn, 126th Inf, completed an unopposed landing at YALAU (29 miles W of SAIDOR).

In the North Pacific an armed reconnaissance over PARAMUSHIRU on night of 5-6 March was mostly ineffective owing to solid overcast.

CTM *Cum*

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: EO 12958, as amended

HQ USEUCOM

7 March (Oahu date)

The only report on the ADMIRALTYS announces the occupation by our ground forces of the PAPITALAI MISSION area on evening of 6 March; occupation was preceded by bombardment of enemy shore installations near SEADLER HARBOR entrance by the Covering Force (1 CA, 2 CLs, 4 DDs).

On 5 March elements of 1st MarDiv landed on WILLAUMEZ PENINSULA at VOLUPAI(?) PLANTATION (Near TALASEA, NEW BRITAIN); opposition is stiff.

Land-based air strikes against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS continued.

From artillery positions NE of our TOROKINA perimeter the Japs heavily shelled the PIVA "Y" air strip on 7 March; 17 planes were damaged, and 6 personnel injured; aircraft have been evacuated from the field. The PIVA "U" strip and the TOROKINA strip remain undamaged; the shelling, though slackened, continues.

HOE, operating in the Southwest during February and early March, reports sinking 3 AKs (18,873), and 1 AO (10,526), for a total of 29,399 tons; and damaging 1 AO (10,052).

Cum CPTM

8 March (Oahu date)

CTF 57 reports that for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, commencing at 0410Y 8 March, ENIWETOK Atoll received a Jap bombing attack by several groups of planes. ENIWETOK ISLAND suffered no damage; ENGEBI ISLAND had a large fire and many explosions. Other details lacking.

Land based air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. A single Liberator hit KUSAIE with $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons. Single search planes dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ ton on RONGELAP and on PINGELAP.

Our ground troops occupied LOMBRUN POINT (1 mile W of PAPITALAI POINT, LOS NEGROS) on 7 March. Our total casualties to date reported as 104 killed, 444 wounded; 1231 dead Japs have been counted, with many more not counted. Without opposition, our ships swept the SEADLER HARBOR channel on 7 March; 4 magnetic mines were detonated.

Present indications, as interpreted by SoPac forces, are that a Jap attack against our TOROKINA perimeter is developing. SoPac air forces concentrate on Jap troop concentration areas and installations near our perimeter, as well as on other points on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner assumed additional duty as ComPhibsPac on 8 March in compliance with BuPers dispatch 071403.

Cum CPTM

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: EO 12958, as amended

HQ USEUCOM

9 March (Oahu date)

Assessed damage as a result of bombing of ENGEBI on 8 March by 8 BETTY's (VBM) dropping 24 500-pound bombs: Casualties - 1 enlisted man killed, 2 officers and 8 enlisted men seriously wounded, 13 enlisted men moderately wounded; property damage - 921,000 rounds 50 cal. and 98,000 rounds 30 cal., all air combat ammunition; 600 drums petroleum products; 4 2500 gallon distillation units; and some aircraft damage, but field undamaged.

Landbased air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. 7 Liberators dropped 10 tons on PONAPE, concentrating on airfield and dock installations. 4 Liberators hit KUSAIE with 6 tons.

In the TALASEA Area, the Marines advanced southward on 8 March and occupied the "old airstrip" (presumably, the TALASEA Airdrome).

In the ADMIRALTYs, reports indicate that 2nd Sq., 7th Cav, by shore-to-shore movement, landed at LOMBRUN POINT, LOS NEGROS on 7 March. On 8 March an echelon of 6 LSTs, 6 DDs, 1 AK and 12 LCIs entered SEADLER HARBOR without opposition, and departed the following day.

SoPac air forces made 117 sorties on 8 March, striking Jap gun positions near our TOROKINA Perimeter.

Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner appointed Vice Admiral, to rank from 4 February 1944. Brigadier General Edmund H. Leavey appointed Major General, to rank from 29 February 1944. Colonel Joseph J. Twitty appointed Brigadier General, to rank from 22 February 1944.

MARSHALL 100126 (pink) discusses use of NEW ZEALAND armed forces to alleviate manpower shortage on farms of NEW ZEALAND, and the employment of NEW ZEALAND forces in the PACIFIC Theater.

cwn CDM is

10 March (Oahu date)

NAUTILUS, operating in BONINS-MARIANAS area reports that on 5 March she obtained 2 hits on an 8000 ton AO, and 2 hits on a 6000 ton AP; the AP believed sunk; all shots were with MK 18, with excellent performance.

Land based air strikes continued against PONAPE, KUSAIE, and enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS.

The situation in the ADMIRALTY'S continues favorable. On 9 March medium and heavy bombers heavily pounded the LORENGAU area (MANUS ISLAND), where buildings and supplies were destroyed. Another echelon (6 LSTs, 2 DDs) is due at LOS NEGROS on 12 March.

Com 7th Fleet reports capture of TALASEA VILLAGE, NEW BRITAIN, on 8 March. Enemy barge activity in that area indicates probable evacuation.

On BOUGAINVILLE, night of 7-8 March, the Japs made a shallow penetration of our East perimeter (TOROKINA), but our position was reestablished on the 8th.

cwn 1870

10 March (Oahu date) continued

Our casualties were 5 killed, 93 wounded; the Japs lost 100 killed. Heavy air support of our ground forces continues.

ROBALO, operating in the Southwest from latter part of January to early March, reports damaging a JOHORE type Maru (6,182) with 1 hit.

11 March (Oahu date)

Land based air strikes continued against enemy-occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. Searcher reports air strip on TA ISLAND, SATAWAN Atoll; heavy AA fire badly damaged the plane. Searcher over ORULUK LAGOON received heavy AA fire. Searcher destroyed PINGELAP radio station with one bomb hit.

On 9 March a detachment, 22nd Marines, occupied WOTH0 Atoll; flag-raising ceremony proclaimed establishment of military government under Admiral Nimitz. During occupation a crashed BETTY crew of 12 committed suicide.

Reports indicate that mopping up of LOS NEGROS is nearly completed.

During 9-10 March considerable action took place in the E sector of TOROKINA perimeter. On the 9th the 182nd Inf. clashed with an estimated 250 Japs; in this engagement we lost 14 killed, 118 wounded. Early on the 10th a Jap attack in force was repulsed by the 145th Inf, and our counter attack restored the line; our casualties are unreported. In these actions the Japs lost many killed. Sporadic Jap artillery firing obtained a few hits on the PIVA airfield; no damage or casualties resulted.

12 March (Oahu date)

Land based air strikes continued against TAROA and WOTJE. 22 liberators hit WAKE with 51 tons on 11 March; 80% of bombs in target area started large fires; AA fire was moderate, inaccurate. 5 liberators hit NAURU same date with 11 tons; all bombs in target area; AA fire heavy; moderately accurate.

A reconnaissance unit occupied LIB Island on 11 March without opposition; no Japs were present; flag raising ceremony proclaimed establishment of military government under Admiral Nimitz. UJAE was also occupied same date; of 6 cornered Japs 5 committed suicide and 1 was captured.

Following artillery, air, and surface ship bombardment, our ground forces occupied west half of HAUWEI Island, SEADLER HARBOR, on 11 March. To date 1432 Japs have been buried on LOS NEGROS where only patrol activity is reported. 4 DDs in close support of the landing on HAUWEI shelled the east end of the island.

The situation on WILLAUMEZ PENINSULA progresses favorably. On 11 March our troops landed at ELEONORA BAY, NEW BRITAIN, against light opposition.

- Continued -

12 March (Oahu date)

In the TOROKINA area SoPac air forces continued to heavily bomb enemy gun positions in the vicinity of our perimeter. Intermittent shelling of PIVA airfield continued throughout the day and night of 11 March; the shelling resulted in the destruction of one CUB plane, 50 rifles, and a metalsmith shop; a radar shop was damaged and the runways sustained 12 hits; casualties 1 killed, 14 wounded.

JCS 122319 (pink) directs procedure for the conduct of the war in POA against JAPAN.

Marshall 120110 outlines status of 33rd and 38th Inf Divs, and refers to training policy for jungle and amphibious training prior to utilization outside CPA.

CinCSWPA (Via Com 7th Flt) 131107 (pink) cancels FOREARM, and directs seizure, occupation, and defense of BEEFSTEAK.

13 March (Oahu date)

Moderate land based^{air} strikes were made on 12 March against enemy occupied Atolls of the MARSHALLS, the heaviest blows being directed at JALUIT (12 tons) and TAROA (10 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons). Three Mitchells hit KUSAIE with 3 tons.

Occupation of BUTJU LUO ISLAND (in SEADLER BAY near MANUS IS.) is reported. Com7thFleet reports that the SEADLER Coast from MOKERAN Village (northern tip of LOS NEGROS) to BEAR POINT (north coast of MANUS IS. near BUTJU LUO) has been occupied.

During 11 - 12 March 226 light bombers supported our ground action in repelling the Japs from the east TOROKINA Perimeter where liquidation of occupied Jap pillboxes within our perimeter accounted for 349 dead Japs. During this phase of Japanese offensive action, they made 3 major assaults against our eastern perimeter. Enemy casualties were estimated to be in excess of 1,000 dead. Our losses on 10 March were reported as 22 killed, 187 wounded; this brings our total reported casualties for 9 - 10 March to 36 killed, 305 wounded.

In the Southwest Pacific Area our air forces have concentrated heavily on the WEWAK, NEW GUINEA, Area.

JCS 132147 (pink) directs transfer from SoPac Area to control of CinCPOA certain Marine Units assigned for the FOREARM-MERCANTILE Operations.

CinCPOA 140144 (pink) outlines carrier-attack plan in support of HOLLANDIA and operations in BISMARCK Area; requests concurrence of CinCSWPA for employment of CarDiv 22; requests cooperation of air forces in SWPA.

CinCSWPA (via Com7thFlt) 140941 (pink) replies to the foregoing dispatch.

14 March (Oahu date)

On 12 March land based air strikes (under CTF 57 operating from MAJURO and the GILBERTS) were directed against JALUIT, WOTJE and MILLE; the heaviest tonnage (24½ tons) was dropped on MILLE. 15 Liberators operating from the GILBERTS dropped 22 tons on PONAPE concentrating on the air field area and on the ore plant. 2 Liberators from the GILBERTS hit KUSAIE with 3 tons. Searchers harassed OROLUK and NAURU.

SANDLANCE, operating south of YOKOHAMA, reports 1 AK sunk, 1 AK probably sunk, and 1 CL damaged; this is in addition to score reported 2 March.

Army reports states that Jap troops are now evacuating GASMATA and TALASEA areas by overland routes. In the action following the ELEONORA BAY area landing 55 Japs were killed and 12 were captured; our casualties were unreported.

Following a 2 hour bombardment by 4 destroyers in close support, an Army Task Force of 2000 men landed at LORENGAU from LOS NEGROS on 14 March. The first echelon, led by YM's sweeping, consisted of 1 LST, 1 LCT, 6 LCV's, 10 LCM's, 6 LVT's. By 1100 (L) our troops were half-way to LORENGAU airstrip. Reports indicate "Perfect cooperation between Army, Navy and Air". 1473 dead Japs had been counted by the evening of 12 March, with more dead still uncounted. Army forces estimate 2831 enemy combat troops remain in the area. Another echelon of 1 AK, 7 LST's, 6 DD's is due to arrive LOS NEGROS on 15 March.

On 11 March the Japs launched an attack in force against the northeast sector of the TOROKINA perimeter. After a slight penetration of our defenses the attack was halted, and by 12 March the position was completely reestablished and wired; restoration was effected by launching 3 counter attacks with tanks. Following the defeat of the enemy's attempt on 9-10 March to penetrate our east perimeter our forces were busy on 11 March mopping up that sector, with many Japs reported killed during this phase.

Our casualties during 11-12 March were reported as 72 killed, 359 wounded, 20 missing. Our total casualties for the period 9-12 March are 108 killed, 664 wounded, 20 missing; during the same period the Japs lost at least 1173 killed, with this estimate not including those killed beyond visual range of our front lines.

SoPac air forces continue heavily hammering Jap positions near our perimeter. Jap artillery continued its intermittent shelling of the PIVA air field on 11-12 March, but its effectiveness was reported as being considerably reduced by artillery counter battery fire and by bombing. However, ComAirSols reports that on 14 March the hostile artillery resumed its shelling of the PIVA air field area, placing 14 shells on the PIVA "Y" area, and 30 on the unit area causing slight damage to the matting; this was quickly repaired.

MacArthur 140845 request D-day for RECKLESS operation be postponed to 22 April.

ComSoPac AdVon 150538 (pink) announces 20 March (east longitude date) as D-day for seizure of BEEFSTEAK.

CincPOA 150306 (pink) queries re aircraft search operations in support of FULLCRY.

14 March (Oahu date) - continued -

CinCPOA 150525 (pink) points out that movement of 5 Army Divisions to and from Hawaiian Area during March, April, May and June presents certainties of conflict with and hazard to mounting dates of CentPac.

CDM cum

15 March (Oahu date)

Admiral Nimitz and members of his staff returned to PEARL 15 March.

Prior to daylight on 15 March, 11 Liberators operating from KWAJALEIN hit TRUK Atoll with 66 500-pound bombs, attacking the islands of DUBLON and ETEN for 50 minutes. The enemy was caught completely by surprise and was not blacked out. Generally excellent results were obtained; seaplane base hangers, ammunition dumps, and oil storage areas were hit; large fires resulted. 11 other Liberators belonging to the same group intended to hit TRUK, but owing to weather conditions, hit alternate targets, PONAPE and OROLUK; results unreported. During the above operation, there were no losses or casualties. In the TRUK area, our planes encountered intense AA fire from ship and ground batteries with possibly 1 fighter intercepting. The enemy operated searchlights.

On 14 March, 10 Dauntless bombers hit JALUIT with $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons, and 12 Mitchell bombers dropped 10 tons on WOTJE, concentrating on barracks, aircraft installations, and the magazine area. The bombers probably operated from bases in the GILBERTS.

CTF 57 reports that photos of PONAPE reveal construction of a new runway 3 miles SW of present field; grading in progress; length estimated over 3000 feet.

There are no additional reports on the tactical situation in the SoPac and SWPac areas.

CominCh 142030 announces agreement between British Admiralty and CominCh for assessment of coordinated attacks in which U.S. forces are involved with other United Nations forces.

CinCSWPA (via Com 7th Flt) 160614 (pink) comments on utilization of SoPac search planes on SWPac airdromes, replying to our 150306 (pink), March.

ComAirSoPac 161051 (pink) comments on capabilities of searchers from ADMIRALTY'S, replying to our 150306 (pink), March.

JS cum

16 March (Oahu date)

Landbased airstrikes operating under CTF 57 from bases in the GILBERTS, continued against TAROA, WOTJE, and MILLE; WOTJE received the heaviest tonnage (15 tons). Single searchers over PINGELAP and ORULUK dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons on each place; ORULUK appeared deserted, it was reported.

SILVERSIDES, operating south of the PALAUS, reports sinking 1 ship of a 4 ship convoy on 15 March.

TAUTOG, operating in the KURILES, reports 1 AK (TAGU MARU class) sunk on 13 March, and a sister ship left burning and sinking; obtained 2 torpedo and about 15 shell hits. On night of 16 March, she attacked a 7 ship convoy, and believes that she sank 3 ships, damaged one, all unidentified.

Reports from the South Pacific disclose that Jap offensive action continues against the east and northeast TOROKINA sectors of our perimeter. After a 3-day lull in the east sector, the Japs attacked in that area on 14 March, making a slight penetration; positions were restored by a tank counter attack. During the 13th and 14th, the Japs were reported entrenching themselves opposite our northeast sector; at noon on the 15th they made a light attack in that area, but were repulsed after losing 125 killed. Our casualties during the period 13-14 March are reported as 29 killed, 262 wounded; our total casualties during the period 9 - 14 March are 137 killed, 926 wounded, 20 missing; Jap losses are estimated in excess of 1325 killed. Sporadic shelling by Jap artillery of our runways continues. SoPac airforces are directing heavy counter blows against the Jap offensive measures.

Both the RABAU and KAVIENG areas are being heavily beaten down by poundings by SoPac airforces. On 14 March large numbers of heavy, medium, light, and fighter bombers concentrated on the airfields and harbors in the RABAU area, inflicting severe damage; few Jap planes were in evidence. On the 15th, 65 dive and torpedo bombers, staging through GREEN ISLAND, hit the KAVIENG area.

The ADMIRALTY'S situation progresses favorably with LORANGAU airdrome now in our hands. It is disclosed that the unit making the landing in the LORANGAU area on 14 March was the 2d Brigade, 1st Cavalry.

CominCh and CNO 151548 establishes the 17th Naval District, effective 15 April 1944.

17 March (Oahu date)

Landbased air strikes (under CTF 57) continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS .

JACK, operating west of PHILIPPINES during Feb and early Mar reports sinking on 19 Feb 4 large new-type gasoline loaded AOs which exploded when hit, and 1 small Maru; and reports sinking on 1 Mar 2 AKs; total tonnage sunk estimated as 57,500.

COD, operating north of MALAY BARRIER, reports sinking one XAO (7,350) on 23 Feb, 1 AK (2,473) on 27 Feb, and 1 Sampan (30)(by gunfire), date not given; total tonnage sunk estimated as 9,853.

17 March (Oahu date) - continued -

On 16 March the Japs attacked in force against our north perimeter, ~~TOROKINA~~, effecting a slight penetration, but a counterattack restored the position; 195 dead Japs were counted; our losses unreported. Our casualties on 15 March are reported as 15 killed, 76 wounded; our total casualties during the period 9-15 March are 152 killed, 1002 wounded, 20 missing. ComAirSols reports that Jap artillery shelling of our perimeter airfields was much reduced during the 24-hour period ending 17 March; however, 1 shell hit a small bomb dump east of the PIVA "U" strip, the dump being 15% destroyed. Heavy air support of our ground forces continues.

In the ADMIRALTY's our ground forces were reported to be closing in on LORANGAU VILLAGE.

In the SWPac our planes struck WEWAK on 16 March without meeting fighter interception. Com 7th Fleet reports that enemy air activity indicates that army bomber and fighter reinforcements have been steadily moved into the HOLLANDIA area.

In the North Pacific, Fleet Air Wing 4 made an armed reconnaissance flight over PARAMUSHIRU-SHIMUSHU area on night of 16-17 March. No pictures were taken owing to a solid overcast, and a few bombs were dropped with unobserved damage. 3 Liberators from 11th Air Force dropped 18 100-pound bombs on SHIMUSHU with unobserved results.

JCS 170809 (pink) approves delay in RECKLESS target date to 22 April.

18 March (Oahu date)

Landbased air strikes (under CTF 57) continued against EMIDJ and TAROA. 11 Liberators operating from KWAJALEIN hit PONAPE on 17 March with 8 tons, plus incendiaries; many fires were observed. 6 Liberators started fires and explosions by dropping 5 tons on KUSAIE.

LAPON, operating south of HONG KONG reports sinking on 17 March 1 AO, and obtaining 3 hits on a loaded AK.

CTF 57 122200 reports progress of construction on KWAJALEIN IS, ROI IS, ENGEBI IS, ENIWETOK IS, and MAJURO.

In the TOROKINA area there was intensive patrol activity around our perimeter, continuation of our counter-battery fires, and air and surface bombardment of hostile positions on 17 March; considerable activity along our north perimeter indicates that the enemy is reorganizing to continue the attack which was launched on 16 March. Our casualties for 16 March are reported as 5 killed, 117 wounded; this brings our total casualties during the period 9-16 March to 157 killed, 1119 wounded, 20 missing.

ComAirSols reports that the Japs continue intermittent artillery shelling of our TOROKINA fields; on 18 March 65 shells dropped in the PIVA area; only minor damage was sustained.

18 March (Oahu date) - continued -

In the ADMIRALTY's our ground forces completed occupation of LORANGAU Township.

In the Southwest Pacific 12 Liberators on the night of 16-17 March dropped bombs on the naval base and factory area of SOERABAJA, large fires and explosions were observed. A reconnaissance party at GASMATA reports finding numerous land mines, but states that the enemy apparently evacuated the area one week ago. Heavy and medium bombers continued to concentrate on the WEWAK area.

In the North Pacific 3 Venturas of Fleet Air Wing 4 completed successful armed reconnaissance of PARAMUSHIRU on 17 March; pictures were obtained, and bombs and incendiaries were dropped.

19 March (Oahu date)

Landbased air strikes (under CTF 57) continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. 2 Mitchells hit PONAPE with 2 tons on 17 March reporting the sinking of a small AK and starting large fires on JAPOTIK Island.

On 18 March BatDiv 7 escorted by DesDiv 1 bombarded, and LEXINGTON escorted by DesDiv 28 made 2 carrier group attacks on MILLE; results appeared satisfactory; IOWA received two hits, estimated to be 6" caliber, at about 15,000 yards range, suffering moderate damage; 3 men were wounded, none seriously.

CTF 57 reports first landing on the ENIWETOK 4,000 ft. airstrip on 19 March; beginning 28 March it is expected that 2 or 3 heavy squadrons will be operating therefrom.

ComSoPac ADVON (pink) 180836 recommends certain dispositions in support of FULLCRY operation. CinCSOWesPac (Via Com 7thFlt) 200331 (pink) replies to foregoing dispatch.

CTF 31 reports that on 17 March our forces landed on EMIRAU Island without opposition. ELO MUSAO seized with slight opposition. No casualties were reported. Unloading is proceeding, but beaches are difficult.

ComAirSols reports that during the night 17-18 March several Jap artillery shells fell in the TOROKINA area inflicting only minor damage.

On 19 March BatDiv 3 (plus TENNESSEE) with DesRon 25, covered by TG 36.3 (NATOMA BAY, MANILA BAY, DesRon 25) bombarded KAVIENG for $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. No shipping was present in the harbor; however, heavy damage was inflicted on shore installations. A premature 5" 51 Cal. burst just outside muzzle wounded 2 seriously and 2 slightly on the MISSISSIPPI; a second similar accident slightly wounded 2 on the NEW MEXICO. Enemy fire was reported as ineffective during the approach and none existed thereafter, except for occasional AA fire. 1080 rounds of 14" HC and 12,275 rounds of 5" were expended.

19 March (Oahu date) - continued -

The situation in the ADMIRALTIES progresses favorably although our ground forces were still meeting resistance southeast of LORANGAU. The close support group of 4 DDs continues to support our ground forces. As of 17 March the total Jap dead in the ADMIRALTIES is reported as 2000 counted, with estimated 500 more dead. It is estimated that the total Jap forces remaining in the area is 1518, of which 600 are combat troops.

There are no additional reports of land action in the NEW BRITAIN area. Natives report that the Japs remain in the JACQUINOT BAY area but are withdrawing from areas further west. They also report that Jap subs are using JACQUINOT BAY area as a hideout during daylight.

5 DDs conducted a strike against shipping along the north NEW GUINEA Coast in the vicinity of WEWAK. They destroyed a small AK, a large barge and numerous small craft, and started numerous fires in the WEWAK area which were visible for 30 miles.

20 March (Oahu date)

The usual air strikes were made against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. Liberators operating from GILBERTS bases dropped 40 tons on WAKE on 19 March; owing to an overcast, most of the bombs landed in the water.

BONEFISH, operating in SOUTH CHINA SEA reports sinking a medium AK and damaging a very large AO on 6 Feb; and sinking a large XAO on 9 Feb. Estimate total tonnage sunk, 21,272; damaged, 19,425.

The only report on the EMIRAU ISLAND states, "Situation on shore satisfactory, with no opposition reported".

MOMOTE airstrip on LOS NEGROS is now usable without landing mat for all types of aircraft. Our ground troops continue mopping-up operations in the ADMIRALTIES, supported by close-support group of 4 DD's and by air forces.

On 18 March a merchant ship, the S.S. ORIENTAL, struck a mine just off East ESPIRITU SANTO; she made port safely.

There are no additional reports of land action in the TOROKINA area.

Cominch; CNO 201301 concerns NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT request for release of 17,500 men from her armed forces to relieve manpower shortage for production of essential war materials.

Com 10th Flt C&R 181541 establishes the ALASKAN SEA FRONTIER Merchant Ship Control Area to replace NORTHWEST SEA FRONTIER Merchant Ship Control Area, effective 15 April 1944.

21 March (Oahu date)

Air strikes continued against enemy - occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS.

CTF 57 reports completion of occupation of LAE Atoll on 17 March. A reconnaissance force departs for AILINGLAPALAP Atoll same date.

PICUDA operating in YAP-PALAU Area reports sinking 1 6500 ton AP on 20 March with 2 hits, and obtaining 4 hits on 1 empty 7500 ton AO on 18 March, with unobserved results. No landing field, construction work, or aircraft were sighted at YAP.

CinCPac 220356 (Pink) proposes that target date for STALEMATE be tentatively set for 8 September 1944.

CincPOA 220352 relieves Com5thFleet of all responsibilities for administration of the Forward Area Central Pacific, but he retains certain operational control.

when directed by CinCPac
Rear Admiral John M. Hoover[^] detached as ComAirCenPac, and detailed Commander Forward Area Central Pacific.

In the TOROKINA area there was no Jap artillery shelling of our perimeter airfields during 18-19 March. Cleaning up operations continued along the east perimeter on the 18th, with 90 Japs reported killed; our casualties were 17 killed, 95 wounded, 2 missing. We suffered no casualties on the 17th; our total casualties for the period 9-18 March reported as 174 killed, 1214 wounded, 22 missing; Jap dead for the same period estimated in excess of 1610.

Occupation of the ADMIRALTIES progresses favorably though resistance continues south of LORANGAU. Parties from PTs went ashore at LONLU (MANUS) and recovered many naval documents.

Following our occupation of EMIRAU Island, natives report that the Japs evacuated the area about two months ago.

Reliable native reports indicate certain Jap installations on MUSSAU and ELOAUE Islands; these include 2 gasoline dumps, manned radio station, 2 dual mount guns, and a bomb dump. Two DDs from DesRon 47 will destroy these installations by bombardment commencing at 1200 L 23 March.

Southwest Pacific air forces continue heavy bombing of the WEWAK Area.

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority: EO 12958, as amended
HQ USEUCOM

22 March (Oahu date)

Air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. Fifteen Army and four Navy Liberators dropped 15 tons on PONAPE on 21 March; large fires were started in the barracks area. Two Liberators hit KUSAIE as an alternate target; 2 tons dropped in the warehouse area starting large fire.

The airfield at ENIWETOK ISLAND is named STICKELL FIELD in honor of the late Lieutenant John Harlan Stickell, A-V(N), USNR, 281816. Lt. Stickell was an outstanding pilot and naval officer whose performance of duty in repeated fearless attacks against the enemy was an inspiration to personnel of his squadron and of the U. S. Naval Service.

CinCPOA 230126 announces intention of establishing the Shore Based Air Force Forward Area as a joint task force, effective 1 May; nomination of Major General Hale as TF Commander approved.

CinCPac 222315 designates Rear Admiral M.A. Mitscher as Commander Fast Carrier Task Forces Pacific.

Operations on EMIRAU ISLAND proceed satisfactorily. All ships of the Attack Group returned to GUADALCANAL without incident. The Second Echelon is expected to depart EMIRAU for GUADALCANAL on 24 March. The Third Echelon will depart GUADALCANAL on 24 March and proceed to EMIRAU.

The bombardment by destroyers of Jap installations reported on MUSSAU and ELOAUE (summary 21 Mar.) was carried out on 23 March (L) as scheduled. Target areas on ELOAUE were thoroughly covered at ranges from 3500 to 4000 yards; 500 rounds were expended; owing to dense vegetation, no evidence of destruction was visible from ships or spotting plane. On MUSSAU ISLAND it was estimated that 150 drums of gasoline were destroyed; 166 rounds were expended.

In the TOROKINA Perimeter Area there is no report to indicate that the ground situation has changed. SoPac air forces continue to heavily pound Jap installations near our perimeter.

In the Southwest Pacific, there are no reports to indicate change in the tactical situation. Total enemy casualties in the ADMIRALTIES Operation reported as 2,076 dead. Report of ^{enemy} casualties to include March 20 in the NEW BRITAIN Area is as follows: GLOUCESTER-REIN BAY - 3,686 dead, 75 prisoners; ELEANORA BAY - 149 killed, 38 prisoners; TALASEA - 141 dead, 13 prisoners; ARAWA - 371 dead, 3 prisoners, 100 found dead. In the SAIDOR Area of NEW GUINEA, a patrol found 200 enemy dead south of SAIDOR.

Cum *CTM*

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23 March (Oahu date)

Air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS, dropping from 6 to 8 tons each on WOTJE, TAROA, and EMIDJ; 8 Corsairs and 2 Mitchells performed two missions each, rearming at MAJURO, and dropped a total of 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons on MILLE, where for the 3rd straight day no AA fire was encountered.

TUNNY operating west of the PALAUS reports 2 Mark 14 hits on an I-Class sub on 23 March. Prior to this action she obtained 1 and 3 hits respectively in two large Marus, probably AO's. 3 out of 4 Mark 18's found their target in a MINEKAZE Type DD; after the attack she received 87 depth charges and 8 bombs.

The President has designated Rear Admirals Willis A. Lee Jr. and Mark A. Mitscher as Commander Battleships, Pacific Fleet and as a Task Force Commander, Pacific Fleet respectively, with rank of Vice Admiral effective 21 March (Quotes BuPers 222132).

CominCh 141800 authorizes special arrangements for the exchange of planning information between the Joint Staff Planners (Wash. D.C.) and the U.S. Members of the planning staffs of theater and area commanders.

In the TOROKINA area Japanese offensive action during the period 19-21 March has slackened considerably. During this period action was limited to extensive patrol activity and to patrol clashes. No Jap artillery fire has been received since 18 March. There are some indications that the enemy again masses his forces along our north perimeter in preparation for a resumption of his attack. SoPac air and surface forces continue to concentrate on hostile installations around the perimeter. Our casualties during the period 19-21 March are reported as 16 killed, 112 wounded, 2 missing. This brings the total casualties during the period 9-21 March to 190 killed, 1326 wounded, 24 missing.

In the ADMIRALTIES the situation progresses most favorably. It is reported that all known resistance on LOS NEGROS has been surrounded by the 1st Cavalry Brigade. On MANUS the enemy resorts only to defensive actions except for light infiltration by suicide squads.

Southwest Pacific air forces continue to concentrate heavily against installations in the WEWAK area. An air sweep along the coast started at WEWAK and carried as far as AITAPE; along the route barges and other traffic were attacked. On 21 March 7 Liberators without bombs executed a search mission extending to, and including, the HALMAHERA-CERAM area.

Admiral Nimitz, Rear Admiral Sherman, and other staff members departed PEARL for BRISBANE, ~~Atah~~ *Am*

24 March (Oahu date)

Air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls in the MARSHALLS. 18 Army Liberators staging from KWAJALEIN dropped 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons on WAKE on 23 March; barracks and oil storage areas were the objectives of the attack; AA fire was intense; one crewman was killed; 5 planes were damaged, though all returned to base. 7 Mitchells operating from bases in the GILBERTS dropped 6 tons on the barracks area of PONAPE. 3 Mitchells dropped 3 tons on alternate target, ANT ISLAND.

On 23 March 2 dead, 12 seriously wounded and numerous minor injuries resulted from an explosion on ENIWETOK ISLAND. This explosion of approximately 150 tons of ammunition resulted from a fire of unknown origin aboard LCT 315 which was unloading at the beach.

In the TOROKINA area during the period 23-24 March the Jap artillery placed one shell on the PIVA "Y" strip and 12 northeast of TOROKINA strip; no damage or casualties resulted. There is no report of land action; air and surface bombardment of enemy installations continues.

During air operations over RABAU and KAVIENG areas on 23 March, all air strips in those areas reported unserviceable except one at KAVIENG. Planes over the RABAU area encountered small white parachutes with dangling wires; one nicked the propeller of a plane. Also observed were 2 blue parachutes with suspended objects resembling buckets; these were reported to have been dropped from planes although the dropping planes were not sighted.

25 March (Oahu date)

The usual air strikes were conducted against the enemy occupied atolls of WOTJE, MALOELAP, and JALUIT; from 6 to 10 tons were dropped on each place. The airfield at PONAPE received 7 tons from 13 Mitchells operating from the GILBERTS; this force also destroyed a building on ANT ISLAND.

POLLACK operating against a large convoy enroute from the EMPIRE to the MARIANAS reports sinking 1 medium AK and 1 DD; probably sinking 2 large AK's; and damaging 1 unidentified ship. At 2000 GCT 24 March both the POLLACK and the WHALE were attacking the convoy; the WHALE results are as yet unreported.

A delayed report from ComSoPac states that in the TOROKINA area during 22-23 March a Jap infantry battalion made a determined attack against our north perimeter; they succeeded in making a shallow penetration of our lines, but the attack was repulsed and our positions restored by counterattack. An estimated 300 dead Japs were left inside our lines. Our casualties on 22 March reported as 4 killed, 47 wounded, 1 missing; total for period 9-22 March now stands at 194 killed, 1373 wounded, 25 missing. Our ground forces continue to be supported by air and surface bombardment.

The situation in the ADMIRALTIES appears well in hand, although the Japs continue to occupy a defensive position south of LORANGAU. To date, 2323 dead Japs have been counted; it is estimated that about 1000 effectives remain.

25 March (Oahu date)

Southwest Pacific Air Forces continue to hammer the WEWAK area, and are meeting no fighter interception and but meager AA fire in that area. Reports place 274 Jap aircraft in the HOLLANDIA area; they are listed as 132 fighters, 45 medium bombers, and 97 light bombers.

In the North Pacific 3 B-24's and 5 PV's executed an armed reconnaissance over PARAMUSHIRU; results were unobserved and rather ineffective owing to adverse weather conditions. Of the 5 PV's participating, 1 crashed on take off, 2 turned back on account of weather, and 1 failed to return. The B-24's returned safely.

26 March (Oahu date)

Air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. On 25 March 13 Mitchells (VBM) from TARAWA staged through ENIWETOK, and struck PONAPE with fragmentation and incendiary bombs. 16 Marine fighters from ENGEBI escorted the Mitchells. Of 15 intercepting Jap fighters 4 were destroyed and 1 probably destroyed; 1 Mitchell was damaged. Barracks and other buildings pertaining to both the old and the new airfields were attacked and set afire; fighters strafed both fields. The new field is inoperative. Heavy AA fire was intense though inaccurate. Our returning planes strafed UJELANG, where new tent activity was noted; there was no AA fire. All planes returned.

On 21 March a reconnaissance force visited ALINGLAPALAP; 38 Japs were killed, 3 prisoners taken; our casualties were 3 wounded. Occupation of EBON on 24 March resulted in death of 16 Japs, including 1 woman; 1 man and 2 children were taken prisoners; we lost 2 killed, 8 wounded. At NAMU which was occupied also on 24 March, 2 adults and 4 children were taken prisoners.

HERRING operating off KYUSHU reports damaging a DD with 1 hit for 3 torpedoes fired. Also reports 6 misses on 2 23-knot DDs owing to low power performance of Mk 14 torpedoes.

In the TOROKINA area there has been no Jap offensive action since 22-23 March. Our casualties for 23 and 24 March are reported as 35 killed, 151 wounded; total for period 9-24 March stands at 229 killed, 1524 wounded, 25 missing. Jap dead for the same period estimated at 2384.

27 March (Oahu date)

Air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. 20 Marine dive bombers, escorted by 23 fighters, took off from ROI and MAJURO on 26 March, and hit WOTJE with 13 tons; we lost one fighter plane, but the pilot was rescued.

12 Mitchells covered by 18 Corsairs staging from ENIWETOK and ENGEBI again hit PONAPE on the 26th dropping 12 tons; of 15 intercepting Jap fighters 9 were shot down, and 3 others probably destroyed; we lost one Mitchell.

Marshall 262235 (pink) summarizes conclusions and recommendations for redeployment of SoPac combat and service forces following RECKLESS Operation.

In the TOROKINA area only patrol clashes were reported. Our casualties on the 25th were 8 killed, 43 wounded; our total casualties during the period 9-25 March are 237 killed, 1567 wounded, 25 missing. Because of washouts caused by heavy rains, the PIVA "Y" air strip will be unserviceable for about 48 hours from 0800 L 28 March.

28 March (Oahu date)

There was a continuation of air strikes against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS.

CTF 57 reports that on 24 March DDs and DEs operating about 40 miles south of WOTJE on anti-sub operations attacked and badly damaged or sunk one enemy submarine; although no wreckage was obtained, a 5 mile fresh oil slick was observed.

~~During the occupation of EBON on 24 March the Japs, after raising a white flag as token of surrender, fired without warning upon our forces, killing 2 Marines and wounding 8. [CTF, SEC 022207 APRIL: Report found to be false]~~

2 PB5's operating from a NEW GUINEA base executed a bombing mission against WOLEAI on 28 March. Intense light inaccurate AA fire was recieved from WOLEAI and from an estimated 15 boats in the east lagoon; each of the 2 planes dropped 2 half ton and 2 quarter ton GP bombs and 3 clusters of incendiaries; several large explosive fires were started; the conflagration and explosions were still continuing one half hour later when the planes left the area.

CominCh and CNO 282109 dissolves CarDivs 21 and 23 and assigns ships to transport and training duty.

In the TOROKINA area there is still an absence of Japanese offensive action against our perimeter; however, our patrols continue to make hostile contact in all areas around our perimeter.

SoPac Air Forces continue to support the TOROKINA ground forces and to heavily pound the RABAU and KAVIENG areas. All airfields in the RABAU and KAVIENG areas are reported as unserviceable, except the concrete runway at VUNAKANAU.

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28 March (Cont'd)

Reports indicate that the situation in the ADMIRALTIES progresses favorably; an estimated 890 effective Jap troops remain.

Southwest Pacific air forces heavily bombed the WEWAK and HANSA BAY areas. The blow at HANSA BAY and the nearby island of KAIRIRU was severely curtailed because of adverse weather; however, 3 heavy squadrons reached the target and hit personnel and stores in the area. On 27 March 4 Liberators struck airdromes in the HOLLANDIA Area and attempted to take pictures; the photographic results were unsatisfactory owing to adverse weather.

29 March (Oahu date)

Air strikes continued against the enemy occupied Atolls of the MARSHALLS. 15 Mitchell's from TARAWA, after dropping 15 tons on JALUIT, rearmed at MAJURO and hit TAROA and MILLE, respectively, with 10 tons and 4 tons; at TAROA large oil fires were started. 3 Mitchell's also hit EMIDJ with 3 1/3 tons. 20 Marine Dauntless bombers from MAJURO, escorted by 23 Corsairs and Hellcats, dropped 10 tons on WOTJE, concentrating on heavy AA positions and radar stations. Again no AA fire was encountered at MILLE; none was encountered at EMIDJ. AA fire from TAROA and WOTJE was moderate; from JALUIT meager. No plane loss was reported; two were damaged.

17 Liberators (under CTF 57) hit TRUK on 28 March. 6 planes dropped 9 tons on MOEN ISLAND starting 1 large fire and several smaller ones. 6 planes dropped 8 tons on ETEN, results being unobserved owing to overcast. The remaining 5 planes have not reported results. AA fire from each target was intense, but inaccurate. Our force incurred no damage or casualties.

ComAirSols reports a very effective raid on ETEN ISLAND (TRUK) on 28 March by 20 Liberators from PIVA (TOROKINA Area) dropping 20-30 tons. 200 direct hits were obtained, the majority being in the shop and hangar area; others on aprons and runway. 49 aircraft (35 fighters, 4 medium bombers, 10 dive bombers) on runway believed destroyed. Photos showed 16 exploding. Large fires were observed in hangar and building areas. AA fire was received from ships and islands. 90 Jap fighters intercepted with aggressive persistence, and pursued to a point 90 miles south of TRUK. Uncoordinated reports claimed 5 to 20 enemy fighters shot down. One Liberator was downed, possibly by an aerial bomb 90 miles west of NOMOE. 2 Liberators crash landed GREEN ISLAND; 4 crewmen were killed 5 wounded. On 29 March two B-24s hit DUBLON (TRUK) concentrating on oil storage areas; large fires which resulted were visible for 50 miles with smoke rising to 8,000 feet.

A single searcher made a low-level attack against PONAPE with two 500-lb. and three 100-lb. bombs, and 4 incendiary clusters; fires were started in the hangar, radio station, and town areas.

TUNNY reports attacking a BB leaving TOAGEL PASS (PALAU) at 290840 GCT, and obtaining 2 probable hits. Base course of BB was 330, speed 16; it was accompanied by 1 KUMA CL and 2 DD's. A large convoy of 19 miscellaneous AKs departed PELAU at 290030 GCT on course 310, speed 9.

STINGRAY reports sinking GINYO MARU type ship northwest of PAGAN.

- continued -

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29 March (Continued)

PICUDA operating in the MARIANAS Area, reports 1 empty 7000 ton AK sunk on 29 March with 2 sure, possibly 3, hits.

FLYING FISH, operating in the FORMOSA-NAHA Area, reports at 301113 GCT that 6 hits sank a 2000 ton AK, probably sank a 5000 ton AK, and damaged a 7000 ton AK.

GAR, operating SE of PALAU, reports picking up on 29 March 4 crew members of a plane forced down in the TF 58 strike; 1 member went down with the plane.

BARB, operating east of FORMOSA, reports 2 Mk 14 hits sank a SYOWA Class Q-ship at RASA ISLAND at 1430 GCT 28 March.

RAY, operating in CHINA SEA, reports 1 hit on 3 March on a large tanker, part of a convoy of 9 ships with 3 escorts. On 18 March obtained 1, possibly 2, hits on a CHIDORI type TB.

A reconnaissance force occupied without opposition the Atolls of NAMORIK and KILA on about 27 March.

ComDesDiv 94 reports bombarding KAPINGAMARANGI Atoll on 28 March, expending 572 rounds 5-inch and 430 rounds 40-mm.

In the TOROKINA Area our ground forces report that hostile forces have been cleared from the east sector with numerous dead Japs being found in the area. Reconnaissance patrols operating north of the perimeter encountered many dead Japs. There are indications that the enemy has broken close contact and may be withdrawing to KIETA (East Central BOUGAINVILLE). Our casualties on 26 March reported as 8 killed, 44 wounded; total for the period 9-26 March 245 killed, 1611 wounded, 25 missing.

SoPac air forces continue their air operations against the RABAU and KAVIENG areas, and in support of the TOROKINA ground forces.

Southwest Pacific air forces were directed against WEWAK and HOLLANDIA on the north New Guinea Coast and also against JACQUINOT BAY south NEW BRITAIN and against GAROVE ISLAND, north NEW BRITAIN Coast; 7 B-24's constituted the force directed against HOLLANDIA. Reports indicate 264 planes (125 fighters, 96 light bombers, 43 medium bombers) in the HOLLANDIA Area.

Han Kunitz + staff returned PEARL.

30 March (Oahu date)

Usual air strikes continued against the enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS.

Three Mitchell's, escorted by 16 Marine Corsair's, made a low-level attack against PONAPE with 28 100-lb. bombs at 292130 GCT; large fires were started in the warehouse area; no hostile planes were encountered; AA fire was moderate; neither our planes nor personnel incurred damage.

30 March (Oahu date) (Cont'd)

On 28 March 4 Liberators struck ETEN (TRUK) with unobserved results; heavy AA fire was meager; light AA fire intense; neither planes nor personnel incurred damage. On 29 March, 19 Liberators hit TRUK with 32 tons concentrating on the islands of DUBLON, MOEN, FEFAN, PARAN, UMAN; explosions and fires were observed at DUBLON; large fires were observed on MOEN and UMAN; AA fire from all targets was reported as moderate and inaccurate.

GAR, operating southeast of PALAU, reports making a second rescue on 30 March; 4 plane crew members were picked up; 2 others went down with the plane.

In the TOROKINA Area all reports tend to substantiate previous deductions that the enemy has abandoned his offensive tactics against our perimeter and withdraws toward east central BOUGAINVILLE.

The situation in the ADMIRALTIES progresses most favorably, with no contact with organized enemy forces of which less than 600 effectives survive. The count of enemy dead in the area stands at 2,628.

SoPac air and surface forces continue to harass Japanese concentrations in the BOUGAINVILLE Area and the air forces continue their heavy pounding of the RABAU and KAVIENG Areas.

SoWesPac air forces continue their heavy air strikes against HOLLANDIA. On the night of 28-29 March, 4 Liberators hit HOLLANDIA dropping 960 20-lb. fragmentation bombs; 16 planes were believed destroyed or damaged. On 29 March, 65 Liberators hit the area with 15,600 free-falling 20-lb. fragmentation bombs. Conservative estimates list 25 enemy planes destroyed, 67 damaged. Of 40 intercepting fighters, 10 were definitely shot down, with 7 others probably shot down. We had no losses on this strike. On 30 March, 68 Liberators again struck HOLLANDIA and CYCLOPS Areas with 140 tons of various types of bombs, including incendiaries which were carried by all planes. A summary of the strikes on 29 and 30 March lists 162 planes destroyed on the ground (determined by photo) and 23 definitely destroyed in the air, with 12 other probables. Our loss for the two strikes was one fighter.

On 29 March, 23 medium bombers struck TEDJI dropping 34 tons of 500-lb. bombs; the airstrip was rendered unserviceable.

On the night of 29-30 March, 1 Liberator and 3 Catalina's struck WOLEAI dropping 6½ tons on the runway and other areas. This strike follows one made the previous night by 2 B-24's and 2 PBV's which was reported as very effective.

[Handwritten signature] *[Red stamp]*

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31 March (Oahu date)

The usual land based air strikes continued on 29 March against JALUIT, WOTJE and MILLE. 12 Mitchells hit JALUIT with 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons, starting small fires. WOTJE was struck by 21 Marine Corsairs which silenced AA positions; 20 Marine Dauntless bombers dropped 9 tons with unreported results, accompanied by 4 Hellcats which strafed the airfield; 1 Dauntless was downed by AA fire, the crew being rescued by a DD. 6 Marine Corsairs placed 3 tons on MILLE.

On 30 March 21 Liberators, staged from ENIWETOK, dropped 42 tons on TRUK targets including the MOEN airstrip and barracks, ETEN and DUBLON; heavy AA fire was weak and inaccurate; large fires accompanied by delayed explosions were observed in all target areas; 2 planes were slightly damaged.

In the South Pacific air forces continued to bomb Japanese installations on BOUGAINVILLE, concentrating on the TOROKINA and NUMANUMA areas and the SHORTLANDS area; 68 SBD and TBFs hit RABAU on 30 March.

Adverse weather conditions reduced the scope of Southwest Pacific air strikes in support of RECKLESS on 31 March. HOLLANDIA area was not hit; however, 44 B-25's struck TADJI and AITAPE areas, dropping 50 tons of quarter-tonners on storage and personnel areas; fires were started, and 2 large buildings were demolished. 2 PBV's attacked WOLEAI during the night of 31 March, dropping 4 half tonners and 4 500-pounders on supply and personnel areas; results unreported. Not previously reported was a strike on 30 March against WEWAK and TADJI areas by 99 B-25's and A-20's, with unreported results.

Photos of WAKDE on 30 March show 58 planes (24 fighters, 13 light and 21 medium bombers). At SEWAR air strip (18 mi. W of WAKDE) there were 7 fighters and 1 light bomber.

1 April (Oahu date)

First report on results DESECRATE states that TF 58 hit PALAU on 29 March and WOLEAI on 31 March; TG 58.2 and 58.3 hit PALAU on 30 March; TG 58.1 hit YAP on 30 March. Complete reports of our aircraft losses have not been received; losses thus far reported are 8 VF, 11 VB and 8 VT. No damage from enemy air attacks was sustained on the nights of 28 March and 29 March. Reports also indicate that many enemy aircraft were destroyed and that all ships present in anchorages were sunk or damaged. Three small ^{enemy} ships were sunk at sea; 1 near PALAU and 2 near WOLEAI.

Land based air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. Effectiveness of bombing by B-25's from TARAWA is greatly increased owing to their practice of re-arming at MAJURO.

11 Mitchell's and 14 Marine Corsair's hit PONAPE on 31 March; 8 tons were dropped with unobserved results.

Shore based aircraft continue to concentrate against TRUK. On 31 March 14 Liberator's (CTF 57) hit DUBLON with 24 500-lb. GP bombs and 54 500-lb. incendiaries; large fires were started; antiaircraft fire was inaccurate, the light AA fire being intense and the heavy AA fire being meager. Four squadrons of

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1 April (Cont'd)

Liberator's from SoPac hit DUBLON on 1 April with 54 tons of incendiary clusters and 18 tons of high explosive; results unreported.

On 30 March CTF⁶⁴ reports occupation of BIKINI Atoll; 5 Japs were killed.

ComAirSols reports that all enemy airfields in the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO are now unserviceable. South Pacific air forces continue their heavy attacks against the RABAU Area. VUNAPOPE and RATAVAL supply areas were heavily hit.

In the ADMIRALTIES the Islands of NDRILO and KORUNIAT (immediately west of the northwest tip of LOS NEGROS ISLAND) were occupied on 1 April by our ground troops; the successful landings were supported by a squadron of PT boats in company with 1 AGP and 1 ASS. Complete occupation of PITYILU was also reported.

2 April (Oahu date)

Land based air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS with forces being directed against MILLE, EMIDJ, TAROA and WOTJE; 9 Mitchells from TARAWA hit TAROA, then rearmed at MAJURO, and struck EMIDJ.

On 1 April 6 Mitchells and 8 Marine Corsairs made a low level attack (500 ft.) against PONAPE; 4 tons were dropped in the barracks and service areas where fires were started; AA fire was meager.

Strikes against TRUK were made by air forces from both the Central Pacific area and South Pacific area. 22 Liberators (under CTF 57) hit DUBLON^{Town} and warehouses on the island with 144 500 lb. GP bombs and 10 500 lb. incendiaries; large and small fires were started in the area; 3 fighters intercepted; AA fire was meager and inaccurate. 31 Liberators (SoPac) dropped 46 tons of high explosive and incendiary bombs on DUBLON, concentrating in the area DUBLON TOWN-TURATINA BEACH (Southern DUBLON); considerable damage was inflicted on warehouses, piers, and barges; one large shop building was also reported destroyed. 20 serviceable fighters were reported on ETEN; 20 dive bombers, 3 float planes, 2 fighters and one flying boat were reported on DUBLON assembly area. The striking force was intercepted by from 40 to 60 enemy fighters which pressed their attack for 45 minutes and were reported to have dropped many phosphorous bombs in an effort to destroy our bombers. Of the intercepting fighters, 7 were destroyed, with 2 other probables. Our losses were 4 Liberators; the crew of one was rescued north of GREEN ISLAND.

POLLACK, operating in EMPIRE Waters reports one large AK probably sunk from a very large convoy apparently proceeding toward the MARIANAS.

There is no report of land action to indicate any change in the tactical situation previously reported.

SoPac air forces continued their support of our ground forces on BOUGAINVILLE, and their concentrated attacks against the RABAU and KAVIENG areas.

2 April (Oahu date) - continued -

Southwest Pacific air forces were again prevented by adverse weather from making large scale strikes in support of DESECRATE. KAIRIRU ISLAND was hit with 12 tons; 13 barges were destroyed, and oil dumps and supplies were destroyed. 128 tons were dropped on HANSA BAY with unreported results. A SoWesPac summary states that of 288 enemy planes present in the HOLLANDIA area on the morning of 29 March practically all have been destroyed or permanently damaged; the 3 air-dromes in the area have been rendered temporarily unserviceable.

3 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued their strikes against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS and against PONAPE. After hitting JALUIT, 7 Mitchells rearmed at MAJURO and then struck TAROA. The strike against PONAPE was conducted by 6 Mitchells which dropped 36 120-lb fragmentation clusters, 36 100-lb bombs and 59 rounds of 75mm ammunition; attack was made at an altitude of 200 to 500 feet and was directed against both the new and the old airfields; AA fire was moderate and accurate, there was no interception, no planes or ships were sighted; 3 of our planes were slightly damaged.

CTF 57 reports completion of reconnaissance of islet AILUK Atoll. He now labels as false his report of Japanese firing from under white flag of surrender upon our occupation forces at EBON (summary 28 March).

20 Liberators (under CTF 57) hit TRUK on the night of 2-3 April. Bombs were dropped on ETEN airfield and on the DUBLON seaplane base; owing to overcast, results were unobserved. Several large ships in the Harbor were reported to have been observed through the clouds.

The air strike against HOLLANDIA, which was planned by Southwest Pacific air forces for 3 April, was turned back because of adverse weather; instead, 52 heavy bombers concentrated against storage and personnel areas at WEWAK, with generally excellent results; no AA fire was encountered, there was no Jap interception, and we suffered no losses.

4 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued their strikes against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS and against PONAPE. 15 Mitchells, after dropping 15 tons on JALUIT, rearmed at MAJURO and struck TAROA with 15 tons. 6 Mitchells making a 500-foot low level attack against PONAPE, dropped 3½ tons on the new airstrip; 3 planes were damaged and 1 crewman injured.

SWORDFISH, operating NNW of the MARIANAS, reports damaging two Maru's of a homeward bound 5-ship Jap convoy.

BOWFIN, operating in the Southwest Pacific Area, reports sinking one Maru and damaging one during the period 10-14 March.

Blue reconnaissance forces which returned to EMIRAU from MUSSAU report the capture of many enemy documents, 800 pounds of radio gear and 3 machine guns; they also report the destruction of 8 buildings, a quantity of bombs

4 April (Oahu date) (Cont'd)

and 243 drums of gasoline.

In the BOUGAINVILLE Area, our ground forces report the continued withdrawal of the Japs from our north and east sectors of the TOROKINA Perimeter; they are being pursued by our forces; our losses during the past 2 days are reported as 15 killed, 35 wounded.

Covered by PT boats, our forces from the ADMIRALTIES occupied without opposition the Island of RAMBUTYO (30 miles east of LOS NEGROS). The hostile strength in the ADMIRALTIES is now estimated as 400-450 effectives; estimated Jap losses total 2,810 dead.

5 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) again struck enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS.

Six Mitchell's, escorted by 7 Marine Corsair's, dropped 6 tons from 500 feet on PONAPE; hits were obtained on hangar, runways and installations of the old airfield; AA fire was moderate; 1 Mitchell sustained minor damage.

On 4 April 20 Liberators (under CTF 57), striking in two waves, dropped 84 500-lb. and 220 100-lb. incendiaries on the tank farm on DUBLON ISLAND and MOEN ISLAND; numerous fires were observed. Two Navy Liberators on a reconnaissance mission over TRUK dropped 4 1000-lb. bombs which straddled a tanker near MOEN IS.; tanker was believed sunk.

HALL (DD 583), while searching for and rescuing a Marine fighter pilot shot down over WOTJE, received fire from at least 5 shore batteries for a period of twenty minutes; ship sustained two 6-inch shell hits.

HADDO, operating in SOUTH CHINA SEA, reports damaging 2 small coastal freighters and 1 large unidentified ship.

BOWFIN (additional to report summary 4 April) reports attacking 5 cargo ships escorted by 2 DD's in the area south of MINDANAO; with 7 torpedoes she sank 1 large AK with 3 hits and a medium AK with 2 hits, damaging a 3rd AK with 2 hits. A summary of her first 4 patrols shows sunk and damaged 158,110 tons; fired 113 torpedoes for 56 hits; executed 3 special missions.

Adverse weather restricted SoPac air forces to the BOUGAINVILLE Area where targets in the southern part of the island and around our TOROKINA Perimeter were hit. Photos of the RABAU Area show 1 VF runway at LAKUNAI and 1 VLB concrete runway at VUNAKANA to be in serviceable condition.

In the Southwest Pacific bad weather cancelled all daylight strikes for 5 April. On the night of 4 April 11 heavy bombers and 4 Catalina's bombed the WAKDE Area; results were reported as excellent with hits in the plane parking areas at each end of the runway, in personnel areas, and on AA positions. During the day of 4 April an unspecified number of heavy and attack bombers hit targets in the

5 April (Cont'd)

HOLLANDIA Area; reports indicate heavy damage to many buildings, AA positions, possible coast defense gun positions and to storage and fuel dump areas; under cover of this strike, complete excellent low-level oblique photo coverage of the shore and terrain in the areas of TANAHMERAH BAY and southwest portion of HUMBOLDT BAY was obtained.

Am
[Signature]

6 April (Oahu date)

Results of DESECRATE Summarized:

1. Enemy Losses.

a. Planes - 160 destroyed; 29 probably destroyed; 25 damaged.

b. Combatant Ships-- 3 DD destroyed; 1 DD damaged.

c. Other Ships

(1) Sunk: 2 large AK, 6 medium AK, 9 small AK; 3 large AO; 1 medium AO; 1 small AO; 1 APC; 1 PC; 2 100'-200' boats; miscellaneous small craft.

(2) Damaged: (Beached and burning; burning; beached) - 1 large AK; 2 medium AK; 9 small AK; 1 medium AO; 2 small AO; 1 large AR.

d. Ground Installations Destroyed - 45 large buildings, 9 hangars; 13 fuel dumps; 33 warehouses; 3 barracks; 1 ammunition dump; 2 radio stations; 1 meteorological station; 2 loading piers; wharfage; numerous small buildings.

2. Our Losses.

a. Planes

(1) Lost in Combat - 10 VF, 1 VFN, 9 VB, 5 VT; 8 pilots, 10 air crewmen.

(2) Lost Operationally - 8 VF, 4 VB, 6 VT; 5 pilots, 3 air crewmen.

b. Ships - No loss or damage.

3. Miscellaneous - PALAU is reported to be a vast supply base.

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued to strike enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. No AA fire was encountered at WOTJE; that from TAROA and EMIDJ was meager.

On 5 April, PONAPE was again hit by 6 Mitchells; 80 500-lb. and 6 100-lb. incendiaries were dropped on the new airfield from an altitude of 500 feet; large fires resulted; AA fire was weak.

On the night of 5-6 April 20 Liberators (under CTF 57) in two waves struck WAKE with 44 tons of bombs which were concentrated in the storage, maintenance and repair areas; fires were started accompanied by large explosions; AA fire was meager; we suffered no casualties.

6 April (Cont'd)

CTF 57 reports that LIKIEP ATOLL was reconnoitered without opposition. The occupation of UTERIK was also announced; 14 Japs were killed and 1 Marine wounded. This completes clean-up operations of the islands.

FLYING FISH reports sinking on 1 April 1 3500 ton AK north of BORODINO ISLAND (26 N, 131 E).

LAPON operating in SoWesPac (S. CHINA SEA) reports sinking 1 large AO (10,000), 1 XAO (10,020), 1 AP-AK (8,360), 1 small AK (4,000) for a total of 32,380 tons; damaging 1 AK (7,390) and 2 Jap fishing vessels by gunfire for a total of 7,490 tons.

On 5 April 24 Liberators (from SoPac) hit DUBLON with 51 tons of quarter-ton incendiaries and GP's; results were reported as excellent resulting in fires and explosions; later arrivals found observation of target area difficult owing to the great amount of smoke from numerous fires; one of our Liberator's was believed shot down over the target.

SoPac air forces continued their strikes in support of our TOROKINA ground forces and against the RABAU-KAVIENG Areas.

7 April (Oahu date)

The usual air strikes continued against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS.

8 Mitchell's hit PONAPE on 6 April dropping 8 tons on the airfields and on the Bauxite Plant; results were unobserved.

SoPac air forces continued heavy strikes against the RABAU-KAVIENG Areas.

RASHER, operating in Southwest Pacific, reports results of third war patrol: fired 38 torpedoes, obtained 13 hits; sank 1 AP (6,893), 1 AP-AK (6,484), 1 AP-AK (4,797), 1 AK (5,860) and 1 AP-AK (4,468) for a total of 28,502; damaged 1 AK (7,064) - grand total 35,566 sunk or damaged.

On 6 April a two-engine bomber arrived undetected over SAIDOR and dropped 3 bombs killing 16, wounding 34.

Admiral Nimitz, Rear Admiral Sherman, and other staff members departed PEARL for MAJURO.

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~~SECRET~~
8 April (Oahu Date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued strikes against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS, against PONAPE, and against TRUK. 4 Mitchells escorted by 8 Marine Corsairs dropped 16 500 lb bombs on the old airfield at PONAPE and strafed the runway; AA fire was moderate; we lost 2 corsairs. 12 Army Liberators dropped 12 tons on DUBLON TOWN, concentrating on wharf and fuel storage areas; 2 explosions resulted. 1 Liberator dropped 3 tons on the airstrip at MOEN.

At 1200 GCT April 6 CTF 57 formed TG 57.8 (EVANS, HALLIGAN, HARADEN, NEWCOMB, HALL). This TG will blockade the atolls of MILLE, JALUIT, WOTJE and MALOELAP during darkness, retiring during daylight. It will continue "Hunter-killer" operations against enemy submarines, and will execute bombardment missions if directed; it will base on MAJURO.

SoPac air forces continued their strikes against hostile installations on BOUGAINVILLE and against the RABAU-KAVIENG areas.

PUFFER operating in the Southwest Pacific (SINGAPORE Area) reports sinking on 22 ~~March~~^{Feb}, 1 troop laden AP (15,105 tons); 4 hits were obtained with 6 torpedoes fired.

SoWesPac air forces struck the HOLLANDIA area with 24 Liberators dropping 152 tons on storage and fuel areas; there was no enemy interception. Lesser strikes were directed against WEWAK and HANSA BAY areas. Single PBX searchers covered WOLEAI.

CinCSWPA states that relief of the 1st Marine Division by the 40th Infantry Division will be undertaken without delay, utilizing shipping from the South Pacific and under the direction of Commander South Pacific.

9 April (Oahu Date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued to strike enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS and PONAPE.

TRIGGER reports obtaining 2 hits in a large loaded tanker at 071500 GCT in 19-06N, 142-31E (Northwest MARIANAS).

SCAMP reports 2 CAs, 4 CLs, 4 DDs on course 055, speed 22 at 070000 GCT in 05-18N, 125-50E (South of DAVAO). The force was covered by a large air umbrella which forced the submarine down. A later report states that the SCAMP was badly damaged by a bomb hit (dropped by a float plane) on a ballast tank.

In the BOUGAINVILLE area ComSoPac reports that during the period 6-7 April our ground forces encountered only scattered resistance east of the TOROKINA RIVER, with some Japs dug in on a hill in this area; only stragglers were reported in the hills northeast of the perimeter. ComAirSols reports that for 10 minutes on the morning of 10 April (L) Jap artillery dropped 12 shells on the PIVA "U" landing strip damaging 11 fighters, 4 being seriously damaged. SoPac air forces continued their strikes against hostile installations on BOUGAINVILLE and against the RABAU-KAVIENG areas.

(continued)

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9 April (Oahu Date)

Com 7th Fleet reports that our troops made an unopposed landing on 8 April on PAK ISLAND east of LOS NEGROS. SoWesPac air forces report an effective strike in the HANSA BAY, WEWAK, and TADJI areas.

Admiral Nimitz, Rear Admiral Sherman and other staff members returned to PEARL.

10 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued to strike enemy occupied Atolls of the MARSHALLS and PONAPE.

PAMPANITO reports damaging 1 AK with 2 hits at 101500 GCT in 09-40 N, 143-28 E (WOLEAI-GUAM Area). Damaged AK was part of convoy consisting of 2 large AK's, 3 DD's, 1 small escort on course 125. The sub sustained damage by depth charges and was forced to pull clear to effect repairs.

On the night of 8-9 April a reconnaissance party visited MUSSAU ISLAND and found no Jap activity.

An intelligence party landed on NUGARIA ISLAND (60 miles NNE GREEN IS.) on 8 April. Friendly natives stated that no Japs have been on the Island for several months.

ComSoPac reports total count of dead Japs in the TOROKINA Area for the period 8 March - 8 April to be 5,370. While report does not summarize our casualties during the same period, our records indicate that our dead numbered less than 300.

SoPac air forces continue their attacks against enemy installations on BOUGAINVILLE and against the RABAU-KAVIENG Areas. One Liberator snooper started fires in the DUBLON warehouse area; a night fighter was evaded.

On 9 April 3 DD's bombarded the HANSA BAY Area, and upon retirement the UDIGAN and MADANG Areas; no shipping or enemy planes were encountered. Withdrawal was covered by 61 Liberator's which pounded the areas previously bombarded by the destroyers. Two Catalina's attacked WOLEAI with unobserved results.

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11 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued to strike enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS.

23 Army Liberator's (under CTF 57) hit TRUK on 10 April dropping 230 500-lb. GP bombs on DUBLON TOWN, MOEN airstrip, on PARAM and on several small islands on southeast side of Atoll: 1 large explosion and fires were reported at DUBLON TOWN, and an explosion at MOEN. 2 Liberator's were lost after leaving the target; cause unknown. 1 Liberator hit alternate target PONAPE with 2½ tons.

SEAHORSE reports sinking 2 large freighters off GUAM enroute WOLEAI on the morning of 7 April; sinking another west of and enroute SAIPAN on afternoon of April 8. Since the latter date, sub has been kept down by night patrols and radar equipped destroyers.

On 10 and 11 April, Jap artillery shells fired from positions east of TOROKINA RIVER fell in the TOROKINA Area; 1 plane was slightly damaged and 1 man was slightly wounded.

ComSoPac reports considerable enemy activity in the area north of SAUA RIVER (3 miles east of TOROKINA RIVER); trench systems and shelters had been established.

SoPac air forces continued operations in support of TOROKINA ground forces and continued strikes against RABAU-KAVIENG Areas.

ANGLER reports successful evacuation from PANAY on night of 20 March (East longitude date) of 48 civilians (men, women and children) and 10 service personnel. Condition of evacuees was reported as poor; they were debarked at FREMANTLE.

SILVERSIDES operating from Southwest Pacific Area reports sinking 1 AK (4500) on 16 March west of the MARIANAS; sinking 1 AO or AK (3000) off north NEW GUINEA Coast on 28 March.

Com7th Fleet 050623 reports U.S. Naval Base, MANUS ISLAND established 4 April, SEADLER HARBOR, ADMIRALTY ISLANDS.

On 10 April Southwest Pacific air forces hit the HANSA BAY Area with 54 heavy bombers; a total of 421 1000-lb. bombs were dropped on AA artillery positions and on storage areas. 36 attack bombers bombed and strafed AA artillery positions and personnel areas at WEWAK-BOLAM; this attack was followed by strike of 46 medium bombers. Fighters making a sweep along the north NEW GUINEA Coast sank 10 barges.

In the North Pacific 3 Liberator's from the 11th Air Force executed an armed reconnaissance over PARAMUSHIRO on 10 April; 13 photos were taken; bomb loads were dropped through overcast with unobserved results.

12 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued to strike enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS and PONAPE.

FINBACK reports attack on enemy convoy north of MCLAUGHLIN BANK; hits obtained in at least 2 ships; sub was forced to submerge and was held down for 2.5 hours.

Approx. 200 Mi.
NNW of TRUK.

In the South Pacific, PT boats operating near the BOUGAINVILLE Coast are encountering fire from enemy shore batteries.

SoPac air forces continued operations in support of our ground forces on BOUGAINVILLE and continued to attack the RABAU-KAVIENG Areas.

Southwest Pacific air forces heavily attacked HOLLANDIA Area on 11 April with 142 bombers escorted by 67 fighters. 322 tons of bombs were dropped and 89,000 rounds of caliber .50 ammunition were expended; quantities of stores including fuel, buildings, shipping and AA positions were destroyed; 1 damaged freighter was sunk, another burned and exploded, and two others were damaged. Of 20 intercepting fighters, 7 were definitely destroyed with 10 probables; we lost one heavy bomber. Diversionary attacks were made against personnel areas in the vicinity of WEWAK and HANSA BAY.

In the North Pacific, armed reconnaissance missions were flown over the PARAMUSHIRO Area on 11 April and 12 April. On 11 April 3 B-24's and 3 PV's participated; on the 12th, 3 B-24's and 4 PV's. Several good photographs were taken and fires resulted when bombs were dropped in the area.

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13 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued to strike enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS and PONAPE.

On April 13, 21 Liberator's (CenPac) and 23 Liberator's (SoPac) struck TRUK, concentrating on the Islands of DUBLON, ETEN, MOEN, FEFAN, UMAN and PARAM; there was no report of damage or casualties to our force.

SoPac air forces continued operations in support of ground forces and again concentrated on the RABAU-KAVIENG Areas.

Southwest Pacific air forces executed a diversionary attack against the WEWAK Area on April 12; 63 heavy bombers concentrated on the BUT and DAGUA Areas dropping 503 1,000-lb. bombs on personnel areas and AA artillery positions. Personnel areas were 75% destroyed; 4 AA artillery positions were destroyed or heavily damaged, 2 ammunition dumps were blown up; fires which were started included a probable fuel dump. 33 light bombers dropped 126 500-lb. bombs on TADJI and strafed with 58,000 rounds of caliber .50 ammunition. On the night of 12-13 April, 6 heavy bombers attacked WAKDE obtaining hits in the personnel area and on the runway; 1 large explosion resulted.

Cum

14 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued to strike enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS; PONAPE and KUSAIE were also hit. At PONAPE 10 Mitchells escorted by 8 Marine Corsairs dropped 9 tons on workers camp near the old airfield, starting fires in the area; 1 fighter pilot was rescued after being forced down. Piers, gun positions and warehouses were attacked at KUSAIE; at JALUIT 12 Mitchells with 12 tons caused a large explosion in the magazine area.

From 141210 GCT to 141500 GCT 8 to 10 Jap bombers flying at 20,000 feet attacked ENIWETOK. Four night fighters intercepted and claimed 2 enemy bombers destroyed, with one probably destroyed; we lost 2 fighters. The hostile group came from and retired to the southwest. All bombs missed the island.

On 14 April 18 SoPac Liberators each armed with 6 quarter ton bombs hit TRUK. 42 bombs were dropped on ETEN and 18 on PARAM and 2 smaller islands; the remainder were dropped through clouds on dead reckoning; results were unobserved.

In the BOUGAINVILLE area reports continue to indicate Jap activity in the areas to the east and to the northeast of our TOROKINA perimeter, with the enemy still managing to employ his artillery against our airfields. At about midnight on 12 April (L), 25 Jap artillery shells fired a fuel dump north of the TOROKINA strip; other shells badly damaged 4 VLBS and lightly damaged 5 other planes; one man was injured.

SoPac air forces continued operations in support of our ground forces on BOUGAINVILLE, and also continued with their bombing of the RABAU area.

In the North Pacific 3 PVs and 3 B-24s made an armed reconnaissance of PARAMUSHIRU on 13 April; results of bombing were unobserved; photos were partially obscured by clouds. Again on 14 April an armed reconnaissance of the same area was carried out by the same forces; results were unobserved. No planes were lost on either day.

In the Southwest Pacific area air strikes against HOLLANDIA were cancelled because of adverse weather. A Navy Liberator attacked shipping 250 miles northwest of HOLLANDIA and reported sinking a 350 ton fuel ship and a 150 ton freighter; another 150 ton freighter was left beached and burning.

Advance Echelon GHQ SWPA opens at PORT MORESBY at 1800K(-10) on 21 April; Rear Echelon opens at BRISBANE same hour, same date.

BLUEFISH, operating in SOUTH CHINA SEA reports sinking one medium AO on 4 March, AO was sunk with 3 hits from 3 torpedoes in the area northwest of BORNEO.

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15 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued to strike enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS and PONAPE. At the latter place, 6 Mitchell's dropped 6 tons on the old and new airfields. Mitchell's attacked and sank a small AO near PONAPE; 2 escorts which accompanied the AO were beached on ANT ISLAND.

Single search planes hit NAURU, PAKIN, OROLUK and ULUL.

In the North Pacific, one 11th Air Force Liberator on 15 April dropped 6 100-lb. bombs and 10 photo flash bombs on MATSUWA. Two other planes dropped bombs by radar through solid overcast with unreported results.

SoPac air forces continued operations in support of our ground forces in the TOROKINA Area and continued to strike the RABAU-KAVIENG Areas. On 15 April, a Liberator snooper hit DUBLON with 6 500-lb. magnesium incendiaries; a terrific explosion and numerous fires were reported.

In the Southwest Pacific, 121 bombers executed a very successful and destructive attack against TADJI and against the offshore islands in that area. 284 tons of assorted bombs including 332 one-thousand pounders were dropped on stores and personnel areas; the areas were also strafed.

16 April (Oahu date)

Neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS by shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued with strikes against WOTJE, MILLE, MALOELAP and JALUIT.

16 Army Liberators (under CTF 57) hit TRUK on 16 April with 32 tons GP bombs and 6 tons incendiaries concentrated on MOEN, DUBLON and FEFAN; explosions and fires resulted. 2 Liberators dropped 5½ tons of bombs and incendiaries on PONAPE, concentrating on PONAPE TOWN and the old airfield; explosions were observed; one Liberator was reported missing. 15 heavy bombers from South Pacific hit SATAWAN with 136 500lb bombs. Cloud conditions hampered the bombing; however, 30 hits were reported across the center of the dispersal area and in the personnel area and several on the runway, which was rendered unserviceable; there was neither interception nor AA fire.

SoPac air forces continued to support our ground forces in the TOROKINA area. Heavy bombing of the RABAU area continued with 193 sorties. Bombing of less intensity was directed at KAVIENG, BUKA and North CHOISEUL.

On 15 April 28 squadrons of bombers (SoWesPac) hit the HOLLANDIA area; although complete reports are lacking, there is evidence to indicate that the result of the bombing by approximately 300 planes was most effective; buildings, jetties, and 9 store dumps were hit and one small AK was left burning in the harbor. On the night of 14-15 April WAKDE was hit by 5 heavy bombers which dropped 40 instantaneous demolition 500 lb bombs in personnel and storage areas and on the runway; fires and one heavy explosion reported. In the two above operations there was no interception and AA fire was slight. WAKDE was again bombed on 15 April by 6 Liberators which dropped their bombs on the airdrome; one large explosion resulted.

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16 April (Oahu date) - continued

At dawn 15 April 12 medium bombers escorted by 11 fighters struck the KOEPANG area; large fires resulted.

Naval Liaison Officer at BOMBAY, INDIA 150645 reports damage resulting from explosions on ammunition ships in the BOMBAY area.

17 April (Oahu date)

Neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS (under CTF 57) continued on 16 April with strikes against WOTJE, MILLE, JALUIT and TAROA. A single searcher strafed radio tower on PINGELAP. Single searchers bombed PAKIN and ANT Islands, and bombed and strafed the radio tower on ULUL Island.

SEARAVEN reports sinking one medium AK on 16 April in area just south of the BONINS.

THRESHER bombarded OROLUK on 16 April with 30 rounds; also obtained good photo coverage of the area at ranges of less than 1000 yards; she struck a reef of SATAWAN with no apparent damage.

BARB and STEELHEAD report that they coordinated to bombard RASA Island (midway between FORMOSA and the BONINS) on 16 April.

On 16 April 20 B-24s (SoPac) bombed SATAWAN Island dropping 109 500 lb bombs; 20-25 hits were observed on the runway and in the personnel areas. Other SoPac air forces continued operations in support of the TOROKINA ground forces and continued to strike the RABAU-BUKA areas; single snoopers hit KAVIENG. ~~ALL~~ NEW IRELAND airfields are reported unserviceable.

Of 50 Japanese troops reported entrenched in the area to the east of the TOROKINA Perimeter, 43 were eliminated on 16 April; our casualties were 6 killed, 8 wounded.

Air strikes scheduled by SoWesPac air forces on 17 April were cancelled owing to adverse weather conditions; a single search plane hit WOLEAI dropping bombs on runway and supply area causing explosions and fires; one Tony was sighted on the runway; 20 Zeros were airborne. On 16 April 24 Liberators attacked stores and personnel areas on KAI Island; fires resulted.

Australian and American land forces have joined at BOGADJIM. Patrols have operated to a point midway between BOGADJIM and MADANG without making enemy contact; natives report that since 10 April the Japs have been withdrawing to the westward.

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18 April (Oahu date)

Neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS by shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued on 17 April with strikes against WOTJE, MILLE, and TAROA. Six Mitchell's struck PONAPE with 6 tons concentrated on the old airfield area. Two Ventura's made a close photo reconnaissance of TAONGI ATOLL (300 miles southeast of WAKE); two tons were dropped in the radio station area of the most southerly island. Single searchers bombed PAKIN and ULUL.

On 17 April STURGEON reports capture of 2 Japanese prisoners hiding in a motorboat 1 mile from a small Japanese craft which had been thoroughly shot up, was awash and had been abandoned. (160 mi N of WAKE)

At 1246 on 18 April 14 B-24's (SoPac) hit SATAWAN ISLAND; 135 500-lb. bombs were dropped on the runway and revetment area; a large oil fire was started west of the runway. Partial photo coverage was obtained. Air strikes by SoPac forces against RABAU were cancelled owing to adverse weather; instead, 37 dive bombers escorted by 24 fighters hit personnel and supply areas along the NEW BRITAIN Coast to the east of RABAU. Other SoPac air forces continued support of ground forces in the TOROKINA Area.

In the Southwest Pacific, scheduled air strikes by 5th Air Force were cancelled owing to adverse weather. Heavy bombers from the 13th Air Force (operating from the ADMIRALTIES) hit WOLEAI on 17 April; explosions and fires were observed on the runway and in the supply areas.

19 April (Oahu date)

Land based air strikes (under CTF 57) continued with strikes on 18 April against MILLE, JALUIT, WOTJE and TAROA. PONAPE was also hit by 6 Mitchell's which dropped 6 tons on the new and old airfields, and sank 1 75-foot boat; by 3 Liberator's which dropped 3 tons of GP bombs and 6 tons of incendiaries; and by 1 search plane which dropped 3 500-lb. bombs on buildings, and strafed gun positions. One Liberator hit the runway area of WAKE with 3 tons.

Early on the morning of 19 April, 17 Liberator's dropped 19 tons of GP bombs and 27 tons of incendiaries on MOEN barracks and airstrip, and on DUBLON TOWN and OANKO Areas; large fires were observed on DUBLON, as well as numerous small fires and explosions; heavy AA fire was meager and inaccurate.

HARDER, operating WOLEAI-SATAWAN Area, reports sinking 1 FUBUKI Class destroyer on 13 April. On 17 April, she reports one hit on another FUBUKI destroyer and sinking one AK.

On 19 April 21 SoPac Liberator's struck SATAWAN ISLAND with 198 500-lb. bombs; bombing was described as excellent with an estimated 20 to 30 hits on the runway which was already well cratered; 2 fires were started.

Other SoPac air forces continued to support our TOROKINA ground forces, and to bomb the RABAU-NEW IRELAND areas; the largest concentrated bombing against RABAU was carried out by 56 TBF's and SBD's operating from GREEN ISLAND.

(Continued)

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1901

19 April (Continued)

Adverse weather on 19 April again prevented scheduled strikes by 5th Air Force against WAKDE-HOLLANDIA Areas. An unspecified number of B-24's hit MANOK-WARI and UTEROM airdrome with unobserved results. An unspecified number of B-25's hit SOR VILLAGE (TIMOR) causing large fires.

Heavy bombers from 13th Air Force (from MANUS) hit WOLEAI on 19 April for the second successive day; large fires resulted; neither AA fire nor fighter interception was encountered.

In the North Pacific, 3 11th Air Force Liberator's made an armed reconnaissance flight over PARAMUSHIRU-SHIMUSHU Area; only 1 plane was able to drop its bombs, and results were unobserved; no photos were taken.

20 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued on 19 April to neutralize enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS by striking WOTJE, MILLE, JALUIT and TAROA. PONAPE was also hit by 6 Mitchell's which dropped 5 tons on the new airfield and revetments. Twelve B-24's dropped 12 tons on WAKE; reporting 60% of bombs in target area; also a special search B-24 dropped 12 500-lb. incendiary clusters in the fuel area on PEALE ISLAND starting fires. A single searcher dropped two 500-lb. incendiary clusters each on UJELANG ATOLL and ANT and PAKIN ISLANDS.

TAMBOR reports small Jap craft, encountered northwest of WAKE, was shelled, boarded and searched. The craft was left afire and with pilothouse awash. The second officer was taken prisoner; all other personnel found were killed. A package of mail and a green covered book were recovered. This craft is the same one referred to in the SURGEON's report contained in summary 18 April.

FINBACK reports shelling OROLUK on 16 April.

On 19 April, SoPac air forces concentrated 52 SBD's and TBF's against RABAU, dropping 35 tons on supply areas and gun positions; photos showed the entire supply areas covered with smoke from many fires. 22 B-25's also hit the RABAU area with 132 500-lb. bombs, claiming destruction of 25 buildings in burning out 4 areas. 17 dive bombers supported by 4 fighters patrolled the TOROKINA Perimeter.

ComSoPac reports indicate that some Japs still remain in the areas to the north and east of our TOROKINA Perimeter, with patrols clashing in those areas on 18 April. We landed tanks at MAVAVIA (East sector) to support action against an unestimated number of Japs in that area.

Scheduled strikes by Southwest Pacific air forces on April 20 were again prevented by poor weather; only diversionary strafing attacks were made along the north NEW GUINEA Coast. The 13th Air Force (from MANUS) sent 3 squadrons of heavy bombers against WOLEAI, reporting destruction of parked planes, damage to runway and starting several fires.

21 April (Oahu date)

Landings by 24th and 41st Infantry Divisions at TANAHMERAH BAY, HUMBOLDT BAY and AITAPE were completely successful and on schedule on 22 April (K). No opposition was encountered at TANAHMERAH and HUMBOLDT BAY; only slight opposition was encountered at AITAPE. All LST's were on the beach by 0806 (K). Our casualties to 0900 (K) were 1 killed, 4 wounded; 15 Japs were killed and 100 NEI natives were captured. By 1000 (K) both sides of the entrance to JOTEFA BAY had been captured. The air cover and naval bombardment of all beaches was reported as excellent; convoys arrived off-shore without incident. No enemy air reaction had been noted up to noon 22 April (K).

Neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS continued on 20 April with strikes (under CTF 57) against WOTJE, TAROA and JALUIT. WOTJE was severely pounded by 11 B-24's and 20 Dauntlesses, escorted by 25 fighters, with 39½ tons causing large explosions and several fires in the magazine areas; one fighter was lost. PONAPE was also hit by 6 Mitchell's which dropped 6 tons on the old and new airfields; large fires resulted.

The atolls of ERIKUB and AUR have been reconnoitered without Jap opposition. Reconnaissance of UJELANG is now in progress.

At 180045 GCT, 5 Army Liberator's and 5 Navy PB4Y's, under CTF 57, executed an armed reconnaissance over the MARIANAS; pictures were taken and 21 100-lb. bombs were dropped on TINIAN and SAIPAN. Numerous planes were seen on the airfield; a new field was under construction on SAIPAN. 8 to 10 ships (2 possible warships) were in TANAPAG HARBOR at SAIPAN. Of 25 intercepting fighters, 1 was shot down with 1 other probable. Enemy radar picked up the group 65 miles out and tracked during the last 25 miles. One Liberator was missing, 1 PB4Y was damaged.

From 181600 GCT to 181830 GCT, 9 Liberator's (under CTF 57) bombed TRUK, dropping 9 tons on MOEN, ETEN and DUBLON; 75% of the bombs were reported in the target area.

In the South Pacific, 24 B-25's struck MATUPI ISLAND on 20 April, dropping 144 500-lb. bombs; large fires and heavy smoke resulted. 41 SBD's and TBF's (from GREEN IS.) hit supply and personnel areas in KABANGA BAY; good coverage was reported. Poor weather frustrated other strikes.

The 5th Air Force successfully hit objectives in NEW GUINEA on 20 April dropping ~~584~~ tons. All four WEWAK airstrips were rendered unserviceable by 54 heavy bombers. The TADJI-AITAPE areas were thoroughly bombed and strafed by 31 heavy, 47 medium and 71 attack bombers.

The 13th Air Force (from MANUS ISLAND) successfully hit WOLEAI on 20 April; details are not available.

An unspecified number of heavy bombers operating from DARWIN attacked the airstrip on NOEMFOOR ISLAND; 4 fighters unsuccessfully intercepted.

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22 April (Oahu date)

The RECKLESS Operation progresses satisfactorily. By 1242 on 22 April (K), the TANAHMERAH Forces had reached a point 3 miles south of DERAPRE; our casualties were 2 wounded. By 1500, same date, the HUMBOLDT BAY Force had occupied the east, west and north sides of JAUTEFA BAY; our losses were 5 killed; the Japs lost 25 killed. The AITAPE Force had captured half of the TADJI airdrome by early afternoon of 22 April (K); our losses were 3 killed, 14 wounded; the Japs lost 25 killed and 15 captured. On 22 April (K) support of the TADJI landing was furnished by attack bombers; diversionary attacks were made by heavy, medium and attack bombers in the WEWAK-HANSA BAY areas. On 23 April (K) heavy bombers hit the WEWAK airdromes; 3 squadrons of B-24s, 4 squadrons of B-25s, and 4 squadrons of A-20s hit the HANSA BAY area; 3 squadrons of fighters provided air cover.

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued on 21 April to strike enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS; those hit were MILLE, MALOELAP, JALUIT and WOTJE. PONAPE was also hit by 5 Mitchells which dropped 4 tons of bombs on the runways of both airfields, and damaging installations at the old airfield.

TRUK was hit on 21 April by 6 B-24's (under CTF 57) and by 21 B-24's from GREEN ISLAND (SoPac). Bombs were dropped on the Islands of DUBLON, ETEN and MOEN. Hits were obtained on runway and dispersal areas of MOEN causing large fires and several explosions. Results of damage to DUBLON and ETEN had not been determined at time of report.

A search plane (under CTF 57) destroyed 3 small AKs and damaged 2 at RUO ISLAND (HALL ISLAND Group); another search plane destroyed a small AK and damaged a small AK and a 175 ton patrol vessel at MURILU ISLAND (HALL ISLAND Group).

SoPac air forces continued to strike RABAU-~~East~~ NEW IRELAND Areas; and to operate in support of our TOROKINA ground forces; 48 TBFs and SBDs concentrated against KAVIENG.

Other action of SoWesPac air forces included a strike on 21 April by 7 PBYS against BALIKPAPAN, and a strike, same date, by 15 B-24s against NOEMFOOR.

The MOKERANG airstrip on LOS NEGROS Island will be complete to 8,000 ft. by 21 April, and will be ready to receive the 307th Bombardment Group on 25 April.

At 191242 GCT the liberty ship JOHN STRAUB (operated by Alaska Steamship Company for the account of WSA and allocated to the Army), after a violent explosion, sank in 54-15 N, 163-30 W (100 miles east of DUTCH HARBOR). Cargo included 9,000 drums of 80 octane gasoline stowed below decks, plus 25,000 drums of diesel fuel. The disaster was believed not due to enemy action. 15 survivors were picked up by the USS ALBUQUERQUE, which arrived on the scene approximately 10 hours after the ship sank.

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23 April (Oahu date)

Reports indicate that the RECKLESS Operation continues to progress most favorably and entirely according to schedule with only minor opposition being encountered and with only few casualties being suffered by our forces. The TANAHMERAH BAY force has advanced past PAIPAU Village (about 3 miles inland) on the road toward the airfield areas; this force is being supported by artillery. In the HUMBOLDT and AITAPE areas the land force commanders have assumed command. The HUMBOLDT BAY force had no difficulty in reaching its first objective phaseline which extended approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland. The AITAPE force has completed the seizure of the landing strips, one of which has been reported ready for operation. To support the attack in the AITAPE Area, the outlying islands of TUMLEO and SELEO were occupied without opposition. TF 58 continued to support the operation; however, owing to negligible enemy resistance and to the absence of suitable targets, planes were on a standby status on Dog plus one day. The force executed intermittent strikes against WAKDE and SAWAR. A close reconnaissance indicates that the HOLLANDIA airfields have been abandoned; many wrecked planes were on the 3 fields. Coordinating its efforts with those of TF 58, the Fifth Air Force continued heavy diversionary attacks against the WEWAK and HANSA BAY Areas; a total of 193 bombers dropped 348 tons of bombs and expended 150,000 rounds of 50 caliber ammunition and 135 75mm shells; all four WEWAK airstrips were kept unserviceable; all escape routes from the two areas were heavily bombed.

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS by striking WOTJE, MILLE and TAROA. PONAPE was hit by 6 Mitchell's which dropped $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons on the LANGAR ISLAND barracks area and on the old airfield; fires and explosions resulted. Two B-24's having been diverted from the TRUK strike hit PONAPE.

From 231319 GCT to 231619 GCT 19 B-24's (under CTF 57) were over TRUK bombing the airfields on ETEN, MOEN and PARAM ISLANDS; explosions and fires were observed in all areas. From 221607 to 221741 GCT 17 B-24's (from SoPac) were over TRUK concentrating on the seaplane base, tank farm area and the west and central part of the town on ETEN; damage was also inflicted on DUBLON and PARAM.

A Central Pacific search plane bombed the radio station on ULUL ISLAND. Another sighted 10 men in 4 rafts about 300 miles NNE of TRUK; these are thought to be the crew members of a missing B-24; rescue operations are underway.

In the South Pacific adverse weather again restricted air operations; major activity was restricted to the bombing of TALILI by 21 dive bombers (operating from GREEN ISLAND) escorted by 9 fighters and to a strike by 24 B-25's against the island of MATUPI. A minor strike was made against the TOBERA airfield.

Ground activity in the TOROKINA area was restricted to patrol contacts in the sector NE of the perimeter where Jap mortar and rifle fire was encountered.

Other activity of Southwest Pacific air forces included a strike against the 2 airstrips on NOEMFOOR on 22 April by 22 B-24's; and to a strike same date against WOLEAI by an unspecified number of B-24's.

24 April (Oahu date)

The RECKLESS Operation continues to progress favorably and according to schedule. The TANAHMERAH BAY Force continuing its advance, reached a point 5 miles from the airdrome area; artillery which supports this force is shelling CYCLOPS airdrome, easternmost of the 3 fields. The HUMBOLDT BAY Force has advanced to within 2 miles of the east end of SENTANI LAKE. The AITAPE Force having seized the landing strips, proceeds towards the village of AITAPE. The island of ALI which lies off AITAPE has been occupied. 5th Air Force continued their diversionary attacks in support of RECKLESS by heavy strikes against WEWAK airdromes, and against personnel and storage areas in the HANSA BAY region. A PB4Y attacked 3 small AKs and small craft on 23 April killing many Japs and leaving 2 freighters badly damaged.

At 1940(K) 23 April a single Jap plane bombed the landing beach in the HUMBOLDT BAY area; serious fires which resulted were not under control until 24 hours after the bombing.

Owing to adverse beaching conditions at TANAHMERAH BAY, 3 supply echelons for that area have been diverted to HUMBOLDT BAY.

P-38s and P-47s commenced operating from TADJI airdrome on 23 April.

Delayed report of operations of TF 58 on D-1 states that scheduled strikes against HOLLANDIA, WAKDE and SAWAR neutralized all airfields in those areas. 101 enemy planes were destroyed and 17 damaged. Fuel, ammunition, and supplies were destroyed; 2 AKs, several barges, and small craft were sunk.

WHALE, operating in the EAST CHINA SEA reports sinking 1 medium AK.

Reconnaissance of UJELANG was carried out on 22-23 April; during the operation 18 Japs were killed.

The destroyers BENHAM and UHLMANN, while operating with the ESSEX 80 miles southwest of PEARL, collided at 2150 24 April; the UHLMANN had both fire-rooms and #1 engine room flooded; casualties were 2 dead, 3 slightly injured.

Night of 23-24 April, 17 B-24s (SoPac) hit TRUK; results unreported. Weather continued to hamper operations of SoPac air forces; all scheduled strikes were cancelled except for 2 fighter-bomber strikes against RABAU.

At noon 23 April, 23 Liberators (SWPac) attacked WOLEAI. Of 25 to 30 intercepting planes 17 were destroyed; one B-24 was lost. A pre-dawn strike on 23 April by 17 B-24s against TRUK caused many fires and explosions on the islands of ETEN and PARAM.

25 April (Oahu date)

RECKLESS Operation continues to progress most favorably. The AITAPE Force having seized the airstrips continued their advance and occupied TADJI VILLAGE on 24 April; up to that time the Japs had lost 102 killed and 17 captured; 1 squadron of P-40's is now based at the TADJI Airdrome and is furnishing air cover for the HOLLANDIA Operations. The HUMBOLDT BAY Force has continued its advance against medium opposition centered at the northeast tip of SENTANI LAKE; utilizing amphibious craft a force crossed the lake and seized CYCLOPS Airdrome at 1430 (K) 25 April; during this advance 100 Japs were killed. The TANAHMERAH BAY Force continues its advance to the southeast and expects to occupy the HOLLANDIA Airdrome by April 25 (K). Scheduled air strikes in support of RECKLESS were weathered out on 24 April except for a strike by 12 Mitchells against the suspected escape route leading westward from the southwest edge of SENTANI LAKE. The only enemy air action reported was an attack by 12 torpedo bombers at 2045 (K) 25 April against a DD in position 20 miles north of HUMBOLDT BAY; the ship sustained no damage.

Australian forces occupied MADANG on the afternoon of 24 April (K) after defeating small rear guard forces south of the town.

A delayed report from CTF 57 announces continuation of strikes on 23 April against MILE, JALUIT, TAROA, WOTJE and PONAPE; in addition TAONGI Atoll was bombed and strafed by 3 Venturas. On the following day strikes of greater intensity continued against the same objectives; the heaviest strike was directed at WOTJE by 23 B-24's, 11 B-25's and 23 Marine Corsairs which dropped a total of 99 tons and strafed with 23,000 rounds of ammunition.

ComPhotRon 3 reports to CTF 57 at 252235 (K) that photo coverage of GUAM was accomplished. Airfields were observed on OROTE PENINSULA and east of AGANA (a field not previously reported). Planes were observed on both fields; fighters took off from OROTE, but did not intercept.

DRUM, operating in the Southwest Pacific Area (SOUTH CHINA SEA), during March and April reports obtaining 3 hits from 24 torpedoes fired, and damaging one large AK and 2 small AK's for a total of 11,000 tons.

On 24 April, 15 B-24's (SoPac) hit TRUK with 90 500-lb. GP and incendiary bombs, concentrating against the Islands of DUBLON, MOEN, FEFAN, UMAN and FALO; results were unobserved owing to undercast. Other SoPac air forces continued strikes against the RABAU Area and against the BORPOP Airdrome, NEW IRELAND.

TOROKINA ground forces clashed with an enemy force in the sector 3 miles east of our Perimeter; 46 Japs were killed; our losses were 3 killed, 3 wounded.

In the North Pacific an armed reconnaissance by 4 PV's and 1 B-24 was made over PARAMUSHIRU on 24 April; bombs were dropped and photographing was accomplished; results were unobserved.

26 April (Oahu date)

From 250941 to 251712 GCT 16 B-24's (under CTF 57) were over TRUK, concentrating 37 tons of fragmentation clusters against the islands of PARAM, ETEN, MOEN, and DUBLON; explosions occurred on PARAM and DUBLON. During the same period 3 B-24's dropped 6½ tons of fragmentation clusters on the old air strip and the town at PONAPE. A single searcher bombed the new airfield on ALET ISLAND, PULUWAT ATOLL, starting fires.

TRIGGER reports attacking a northbound 5-ship, 5-escort convoy east of PALAU on night 25-26 April; sank 4 Marus and 1 DD; remnants of convoy headed back toward MALAKAL PASS.

SEAHORSE reports attacking a 4-ship, 4-escort convoy at 161515 GCT SW of TINIAN; sank 1 large AK. Also reports sinking 1 RO Clas submarine on 20 April.

BLUEGILL, operating in Southwest Pacific Area, reports 1 positive hit and 1 probable hit in a MOGAMI Class cruiser at SONSOROL ISLANDS (190 miles SW of PALAU) at 270100 GCT. *later summary lists sunk (see June 13)*

On the night of 25-26 April, 19 B-24's (SoPac), staged from GREEN ISLAND, bombed TRUK ATOLL; details are unreported. Other SoPac air activities included 176 sorties against landing fields in the RABAU Area, 10 sorties against the KAVIENG Area, and 28 sorties against the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA Area.

On 25 April, in the North Pacific Area, 4 PV's and 3 B-24's made an armed reconnaissance over the KURILES; results were unobserved.

No late reports on progress of RECKLESS have been received; AITAPE force reports capturing (on D-day) a radio station, 13 trucks, and many stores at TADJI. While TIMLEO ISLAND was occupied without opposition, Com7thFleet reports that a patrol met some opposition. A report states that 25 destroyed planes were found on the TADJI air strips. The main air strikes scheduled for support of RECKLESS were cancelled owing to poor weather; however, 8 squadrons of A-20's bombed and strafed the 4 WEWAK airdromes, spreading destruction and causing fires among apparently repairable planes on the runways; 60 tons of 500-lb. bombs and 100,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition were expended. The 13th Air Force attacked WOLEAI, but results were unreported.

Australian land patrols found the MADANG air strip badly cratered and free of Japs on 23 April. Investigation indicates that the enemy evacuated the MADANG Area over a month ago.

A search plane, operating on 24 April 10 miles east of SORONG, sank 1 SC, beached another and destroyed 10 troop-laden barges.

TF 58 completed direct support missions on D plus 2 Day. WAKDE was neutralized each day by daily bombing and by maintenance of fighter patrol over the area. All bombings by planes of TF 58 were directed by control parties ashore. The Task Force has refueled, and stands by in the general vicinity of Equator-150 E. Until further directed, the force will attempt interception of enemy flights toward our forces, and will provide cover against enemy surface forces. Thus far, our ships have suffered no damage.

27 April (Oahu date)

Task Force 58 announces plans for strikes against TRUK, PONAPE, and SATAWAN during its return trip to the MARSHALLS (West longitude dates). The force will strike TRUK from the southwest for 2 days starting at dawn 29 April. It will bombard with cruisers and strike SATAWAN on 30 April. It will bombard with battleships and strike PONAPE on 1 May.

No activity by CenPac air forces was reported.

On 27 April 16 B-24s (SoPac) hit TRUK concentrating on the islands of DUBLON and ETEN. The DUBLON seaplane base and the central part of the town were bombed effectively, with fires and explosions being observed. A large fuel fire was started near the ETEN air strip. Other SoPac air force operations included strikes against the RABAU-KAVIENG areas and a fighter sweep in the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA area.

A SoPac searcher bombed SATAWAN runway; the runway was observed to be unserviceable with over 30 unrepaired craters.

CinCSWPac considers RECKLESS Operation to have been virtually completed. The HOLLANDIA and TADJI airfields are now in our hands. An estimated 1800 Japs remain scattered throughout the area with an effort being made to escape to the southwest. Enemy air action continues to remain negligible.

Australian troops announced occupation of ALEXISHAFEN.

28 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued on 26 April and on 27 April the neutralizing air strikes against enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS and against PONAPE.

On the night of 26-27 April 20 B-24's (under CTF 57) bombed the important islands of TRUK Atoll, dropping 30 tons of GP bombs and 24 tons of incendiaries. Two B-24's which did not reach TRUK bombed PONAPE.

In the South Pacific unfavorable weather again curtailed air operations on 28 April. The only activities reported were strikes by 2 squadrons of B-25's against RAPOPO and VUNAPOPE airfields in the RABAU Area.

On the night of 27 April the ETAMIN (AK 93) was seriously damaged at AITAPE when 1 of 3 attacking enemy planes dropped 1 medium bomb on the number 5 hatch; 1 of the attacking planes was shot down; we suffered 8 known personnel casualties. Com7thFleet reports that on May 3rd the HOLLANDIA airstrip (4500 feet long) will be ready for fighters.

On the night of 27-28 April and during the day of 28 April, 5th Air Force bombers conducted extensive and effective air strikes against WAKDE, SAWAR, BIAK, and WOLEAI. 11 B-24's and 21 B-25's caused large explosions and started fires on WAKDE; many planes were destroyed on the ground. 35 B-25's and 36 B-24's heavily hit AA positions and personnel and storage areas on SAWAR. 47 B-24's started many fires and explosions on BIAK where many grounded planes were reported destroyed; of 8-10 fighters, 3 were shot down with 2 other probables. 23 B-24's bombed

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28 April (Continued)

the runway and dispersal areas on WOLEAI. Other air activity included fighter sweeps along the NEW GUINEA Coast from CAPE CROISILLES to WEWAK; P-38's and P-47's participated.

Thus far, effective bombing of the WEWAK Area has forestalled any enemy attempt to land planes in that area; all four airfields remain unserviceable.

The only ground activity reported in the HOLLANDIA Area consisted of sniper fire which our patrols encountered from scattered enemy groups. Missionaries report that on 22 March 2800 Japs passed AITAPE headed toward WEWAK.

29 April (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 57) continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS by strikes against JALUIT and TAROA. Strikes were also made against PONAPE and against TAONGI.

18 B-24's (under CTF 57) bombed the important islands of TRUK ATOLL on the night of 28-29 April.

In the South Pacific all air strikes against the ~~PONAPE~~ ^{RABAU} area were cancelled because of adverse weather on 28 April. The only air activity reported consisted of strikes in the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE Area and the usual fighter sweeps along the coast of BOUGAINVILLE. A single searcher hit KAVIENG.

On 29 April, 6 B-24's and 18 B-25's bombed the WAKDE Area and 16 B-25's hit SARAMI just to the westward of WAKDE. A-20's struck the WEWAK Area and reported the 4 airfields in that area as still unserviceable. A-20's also attacked the SEPIK RIVER Area (60 miles east of WEWAK). B-25's bombed TIMOR. On 28 April 7 B-25's bombed JAPAN ISLAND (northwest NEW GUINEA) where 16 enemy planes were destroyed on the ground; 10 Jap planes attempted interception but were unsuccessful.

Com7thFleet reports that early on the morning of 26 April a blue sub attacked a southbound convoy of 7 AK's and 8 escorts off northwest tip of LUZON and sank 4 AK's and damaged 1; on the following 2 days the sub sank 2 trawlers. CTG 17.15 (Wolfpack) reports an attack at 300000 GCT against a ten-ship convoy in position 18-30 N, 119-20 E (SOUTH CHINA SEA) and sinking 2 ships and damaging 3; the remainder of the convoy was believed enroute MANILA.

On 28 April planes from the South Pacific attacked 2 friendly PT boats off the northeast coast of NEW BRITAIN; the boats were sunk and 2 of the attacking planes were shot down; several boat personnel were reported as killed or missing; a Dumbo plane rescued 13 survivors of the 2 PT boats.

In the HOLLANDIA Area our ground forces are encountering no opposition except from scattered remnants of Japanese forces which have taken to the nearby mountains. Much war material has been captured; this includes aircraft engines, and gasoline. A blue force landed at DAMTA (10-15 miles west of TANEHMERAH BAY). The purpose of this landing was to intercept Japanese forces which are believed to be retreating from the HOLLANDIA Area via the trail which leads from the southwest tip of SENTANI LAKE to the westward, thence northward to DAMTA.

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29 April (continued)

Intelligence estimates indicate that the enemy force intends to withdraw ~~from~~^{to} SARMI.

Reports state that the Jap forces have evacuated the 60-mile coastal region which borders on JACQUINOT BAY. The total enemy casualties in the ADMIRALTIES is reported as 3,088 killed. Our patrols are operating to the north of ALEXISHAFEN and have made no enemy contacts.

30 April (Oahu date)

Central Pacific shore-based aircraft continued on 29 April the neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS, and PONAPE. A search plane reported damaging a probable CL anchored NE of ETEN ISLAND (TRUK); 3 1000-lb GP bombs were dropped.

On 29 April SoPac air forces concentrated with 151 sorties against air fields and supply areas in the RABAU sector; SBD's, TBF's and B-25's participated. Fighter sweeps were conducted along the coasts of BOUGAINVILLE, BUKA and NEW IRELAND. 12 SBD's patrolled the TOROKINA perimeter.

BLUEGILL reports attacking 3 ship, 2 escort convoy in area about 250 miles W of PALAU on 30 April; 2 or 3 hits were obtained; one ship was left sinking and blazing furiously. *later Summary List Sink Lee (30 Apr)*

Being again hampered by poor weather, the only major air strike in the SWPac area on 30 April (K) was executed by 23 B-24's of the 13th Air Force against WOLEAI. Other air activity included strikes by B-25's and A-20's against the WENAK area, by P-47's and P-38's against the HANSA BAY area, and by 7 B-24's against NOEMFOOR. 3 PB4Y's, reconnoitering GEELVINK BAY area, were intercepted by 15-18 enemy fighters who attacked with aerial bombs; 6 attacking planes were shot down; 2 of our bombers were damaged.

Ground action in the HOLLANDIA-AITAPE area continues on a small scale. Of 200 Japs encountered, 7 miles SW of TADJI, 59 were killed, and the remainder retreated. An enemy strong point NE of HOLLANDIA Airdrome has been reduced; 79 of 150 Japs were killed. The known Jap dead, to include 29 April, totals 970. Our air transports are landing on the CYCLOPS Airdrome.

On 29 April an Australian land patrol reached REMPI RIVER (7 miles north of ALEXISHAFEN), no enemy contact was reported.

Advance echelon of GHQ, SWPA, closed at PORT MORESBY 1800 K 1 May; opened same hour same date at BRISBANE.

3 PV's and 1 B-24 on 29 April carried out armed reconnaissance over the KURILES; results were unobserved.

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1 May (Oahu Date)

TF 58's strike on TRUK on 29 and 30 April resulted in 66 enemy planes being downed and 60 destroyed on the ground; of these, 5 were shot down by ships gunfire. Only one Jap plane was encountered on the second day. Operating against intense AA fire, and under a low ceiling, our forces dropped 800 tons of bombs which caused extensive damage to shore installations; much shipping will be required to reestablish the base. No important ships were encountered. One submarine was believed definitely sunk by the MACDONOUGH (DD). Cruisers bombarded SATAWAN for two hours on 30 April; except for statement that bombardment "caused havoc", details are lacking. Battleships bombarded and our carriers hit PONAPE on 1 May; results are unreported. Our losses were about 20 pilots and 15 crewmen, some of whom were recovered by the "courageous and efficient TANG to whom we are most grateful"; our ships suffered no damage. On the last day off HOLLANDIA (26 April), at the convergence of Jap search areas from 3 bases, the force shot down 5 enemy search planes; Jap aviation personnel with some important papers were recovered.

On 30 April shore-base aircraft (under CTF 57) continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. 42 B-24's hit WAKE with 94 tons, causing a large explosion on the north end of the island; there was no interception; two of our planes were slightly damaged by AA fire.

On 30 April SoPac air forces flew 139 sorties against gun positions and supply areas in the RABAU sector; SBD's, TBF's, and fighter bombers participated. 62 sorties (B-25's and P-39's) were flown against BORPOP, and other NEW IRELAND targets. Fighter sweeps were also conducted along the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE coasts.

BLUEGILL reports sinking an additional AK from the convoy previously reported (Summary, 30 April) W of PALAU.

HAKE, operating in SWPac (S China Sea) during latter part of March, and April, reports sinking 2 AO's for a total of 20,405 tons, and damaging 1 6000-ton AK.

The 5th Air Force on 30 April continued aggressive sweeps in the HANSA BAY-WEWAK areas, attacking bridges, stores, and personnel areas. On 29 April a PB4Y search plane obtained a 500-lb bomb hit on a large AK off GEELVINK BAY; the plane was later forced down at sea.

Com 7th Flt reports that increased fighter interception N of GEELVINK BAY indicates arrival of numerous enemy air reinforcements at Western NEW GUINEA airfields.

Our ground forces in the HOLLANDIA - AITAPE areas are reported to be operating against almost no opposition. The HOLLANDIA airfield will be operational on 2 May.

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2 May (Oahu date)

SoPac air forces, employing SBD's and TBF's flew 113 sorties against the RABAU area on 1 May, concentrating against gun positions, runways and buildings on TOBERA airdrome; 2 of our planes were lost, and 7 damaged. 12 SBD's attacked gun positions on the BUKA coast. 24 P-39's and 8 P-40's conducted fighter sweeps along the SE coast of BOUGAINVILLE.

Heavy strikes by SWPac air forces were prevented by adverse weather on 1 May. Activity was limited to coastal shipping strikes by 8 B-25's in the SARMI-TAKAR area, the bombing of MOKMER airdrome (BIAK IS) by 2 B-24's, and to bombing and strafing attacks in the WEWAK-HANSA BAY area by medium and attack bombers, and fighters; there was no enemy interception over any of the targets, and we suffered no loss of planes or casualties.

JCS 012144Z (pink) establishes a basis for uniform understanding by all concerned of the command relationships involved in staging, mounting, and operating forces in one theater from bases in an adjacent theater.

JCS 030237Z (pink) directs Stillwell to prepare plans for employment of air forces under his command to operate in support of our advance to FORMOSA from the MARIANAS-PALAU-MINDANAO line in February 1945, by neutralizing enemy air action against that advance; and to furnish such indirect support as is practicable for the attack on MINDANAO in November 1944; plans to be coordinated with CinCPOA and CinCSWPA.

CinCPOA 302317/54(April) announces establishment MARSHALL ISLANDS Sub-Area, and CinCPOA serial 00039 effective 1 May; assigns Rear Admiral Alva Bernhard as Sub-Area Commander.

3 May (Oahu date)

Central Pacific shore based aircraft continued on 1-2 May neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. On 1 May 18 B-24s hit the major islands of TRUK Atoll with 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs. On the same date 1 B-24 hit PONAPE dropping 3 tons in the town area.

CTF 57 reports that daily reconnaissance of NAURU for ships and planes has been negative; photo of 4 April showed construction at northern airfield to have been abandoned; the 2 southern fields appear to be operational; moderate heavy and intense medium AA fire has been encountered. The reconnaissance of OCEAN on 7 March was negative; no activity was noted and no AA fire was encountered; search planes will continue to cover OCEAN periodically.

Peterson Wolfpack (PARCHE, BANG, TINOSA) operating south of FORMOSA reports at 041315 GCT the annihilation of a northbound convoy in a coordinated attack which sank 1 AO, 5 AKs, and 1 DD and damaged 2 AKs; PARCHE has 10 torpedoes remaining; BANG and TINOSA have expended all torpedoes and are departing from the area.

SKATE, operating SE of KYUSHU reports attacking an 8500 ton Maru at 030822 GCT, course 342, speed 14; sound results indicated at least 2 hits and the Maru was believed to have been sunk, though results were unobserved; 1 large Maru with 2 escorts remain in the convoy.

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3 May (Oahu date) Cont'd

GUAVINA, operating in the BONINS area reports destroying 1 trawler by gunfire on 22 April, sinking with 3 hits one large AK on 25 April, and sinking on 26 April with 5 hits 2 medium Marus. Submarine was depth charged without damage. At 040953 GCT sighted well lighted hospital ship heading NW, posit 26-45N, 142-30E also sighted across CHICHISHIMA smoke from at least 3 ships which approached from the northward and were believed to have entered the harbor at 040100 GCT.

HALIBUT, operating NE of FORMOSA reports sinking 1 medium AK, 1 coastal mine layer, and 1 sampan; and damaging 2 medium Marus; KUMESHIMA was bombarded. Action with fleet of cargo sampans wounded 3 men, 1 with possible intestinal wound; commanding officer suggests rendezvous with surgeon from MIDWAY.

On 2 May SoPac air forces flew 160 sorties (92 SBDs and TBFs, 24 B-25s, 44 fighter-bombers) against the airfields and supply areas in the RABAU sector. 38 sorties (11 SBDs, 27 P-39s) were flown against targets in the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA area. A fighter sweep was also made along the east coast of NEW IRELAND. 8 SBDs patrolled the TOROKINA perimeter.

On 2 May SWPac air forces maintained unserviceable the WEWAK and BORAM airdromes by a strike employing 23 B-24s which dropped 184 1000-lb bombs; 45 A-20s lead by 4 B-25s bombed dispersal areas at these airdromes dropping 253 500-lb bombs; supply dumps were hit and several small fires started. Bivouac and supply dumps on KAIRIRU ISLAND were bombed and strafed by 31 A-20s which expended 27½ tons of 500-lb bombs and 2400 rounds of ammunition; many buildings and huts were hit and 2 large fires were started. No enemy opposition was encountered in the WEWAK area. 21 A-20s bombed and strafed personnel and supply areas in the HANSA BAY sector. WAKDE and MAFFIN were bombed and strafed by 8 B-25s. P-47s and P-39s continued to patrol over the WEWAK area; they attacked targets of opportunity from HANSA BAY to ULIGAN HARBOR; huts, motor trucks and buildings were damaged and small fires were started.

Adm NIMITZ, Adm SHERMAN, and other staff members departed
PEARL for SAN FRANCISCO.
4 May (Oahu date)

Central Pacific shore based aircraft continued on 3 May with neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS and PONAPE. 8 Navy medium bombers hit the southern airfields on NAURU dropping 8 3/4 tons of bombs on runways and barracks areas.

ComBomRon109 (Commander Miller) entered TRUK Lagoon on 29 April and dropped 2 1000-pound bombs within 15 feet of a light cruiser anchored northeast of ETEN; the cruiser was blown from the water, turned 90° from its original position, and listed badly to the starboard; the ship is believed to have been sunk.

At 050822 GCT HADDOCK reports witnessing destruction by TUNA of Jap sampan which was enroute to WAKE on morning of 4 May; the craft blew up immediately. The HADDOCK and TUNA made a thorough coordinated search of the floating wreckage which yielded numerous books and documents, some of which are red covered. Of prisoners now aboard the HADDOCK, 1 badly wounded may be an officer. The TUNA suffered one casualty by drowning. Prisoners state that the craft was the WAOTIKIMA MARU (87 tons) enroute from the BONINS to an unknown destination. It is reasonably certain that the craft was unable to get out a radio transmission before sinking. No survivors were left unaccounted for.

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4 May (Oahu date) - Continued -

On 3 May SoPac air forces hit the BORPOP airdrome with 26 SBDs. MATUPI Island was struck by 24 SBDs and 17 TBFs. 69 sorties (24 B-25s, 43 Fighter-bombers and 2 B-24s) were flown against airfields and supply installations in the RABAU area. 47 sorties (6 SBDs, 3 B-24s, 38 P-39s) were flown against targets throughout BOUGAINVILLE. 12 SBDs patrolled the TOROKINA perimeter.

REDFIN, operating in SWP area (SULU SEA) during April reports obtaining 12 hits from 20 torpedoes fired. The following ships were sunk: 1 FUBUKI class DD (1700), 1 large AO (10,000), 1 medium AK (4000), 1 large AK (7500), and 1 large AK (7190); total tonnage sunk, 30,390.

HARDER, operating in SWP area (GUAM-WOLEAI) during April reports sinking 1 FUBUKI class DD and 1 medium AK for a total of 5,260 tons. Another FUBUKI class DD was reported damaged and probably sunk.

On 3 May SWP air forces continued to maintain unserviceable the BORAM airdrome by an attack by 17 B-24s which dropped 136 1000-lb bombs. An unspecified number of A-20s started very large fires with resulting explosions on WOM POINT in the WEWAK area. 6 medium bombers fired many hits at the seaplane base on KAIRIRU ISLAND. B-24s from the 13th Air Force bombed the airfield on BIAK ISLAND causing large fires and destroying airplanes in the dispersal area; 12 enemy fighters intercepted without damage to either side. A reconnaissance squadron bombed and strafed storage and personnel areas near the TOR RIVER mouth and in HAFFIN VILLAGE (WADKE Area). The usual fighter sweeps were conducted along the north NEW GUINEA Coast.

In the North Pacific, 3 PV's from Fleet Air Wing 4 bombed PARAMUSHIRU through broken clouds at 041245 GCT; large fires and explosions were observed.

5 May (Oahu date)

Central Pacific shore based aircraft continued on 4 May with neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. On the afternoon of 4 May an unusually heavy strike by 39 B-24's dropped 87½ tons of bombs, the majority of which were concentrated on PONAPE TOWN and in the adjacent dock area; fires and explosions resulted; 1 B-24 is missing. Early morning of 5 May 10 B-24's hit TRUK dropping 30 tons on the major islands of the Atoll; 1 B-24 is missing.

TANG, operating on lifeguard station off TRUK, on 29-30 April reports having rescued, during those two days of operations by TF 58, 22 downed airmen; 11 were officers and 11 were enlisted men.

SoPac PT boats operating along the coast of BOUGAINVILLE encountered enemy armed barges; 1 PT boat was destroyed and 1 was damaged.

ComThirdFleet reports completion of laying a two-row minefield west of TAI OF ISLAND (west BUKA PASSAGE). On 4 May SoPac air forces flew 92 sorties against the airfields of TOBERA and LAKUNAI in the RABAU Area; 39 SBD's and TBF's, 6 B-25's and 47 fighter bombers participated; we lost 1 B-25, shot down by AA fire and had 4 P-38's damaged. 24 SBD's were directed against BORPOP in the

5 May (Cont'd)

KAVIENG Area. In the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE Area, 110 sorties were flown against enemy installations; 24 B-25's, 18 SBD's, 49 P-39's, and 19 P-40's participated; no plane loss was reported.

Unfavorable weather hampered operations of SWP air forces on 4 May; an unspecified number of B-24's from the 13th Air Force struck BIAK ISLAND; 12 to 15 enemy fighters intercepted. During the night of 3-4 May, 2 B-24's bombed the SARMI Area. An unspecified number of A-20's and night fighters made coastal sweeps in the vicinity of MANAM ISLAND to BUT, strafing targets of opportunity along the NEW GUINEA Coast.

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6 May (Oahu date)

On 5 May a total of 78 sorties were flown by shore based aircraft (under CTF 59) against PONAPE and enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. PONAPE was hit by 8 B-25's which dropped 8 tons on the seaplane base and both airfields. WOTJE was hit by 9 B-24's, 1 B-25 and 1 PV; JALUIT by 10 B-25's and 4 F6F's; MALOELAP by 16 SBD's and 10 F6F's; MILLE by 19 F4U's.

ComForwardArea, Central Pacific, reports that 2 native scouts who were stranded on JALUIT for 3 days were recovered on 4 May. They report that they visited relatives who were employed on EMIDJ ISLAND; that the Jap strength is 2,030 of which 1200 are military, 800 are laborers and 30 are civilians; that all are located on the SE part of the lagoon. They also stated that food had been rationed, that water was adequate and that supplies and ammunition were still available though none had arrived since January. They reported health conditions to be good, that the combat forces were not downhearted and that they still possessed a will to resist. Underground shelters have been constructed and all personnel lived in them. The natives had not been told of our occupation of the MARSHALLS. They stated that our raids had caused many casualties.

On 5 May SoPac air forces flew a total of 209 sorties. 38 (24 B-25's, 12 P-39's, 2 P-38's) were directed against the TALILI supply area; 3 B-24's against the TOBERA Airfield; 45 SBD's and TBF's against the RATAVAL supply area; 48 SBD's against the BORPOP (KAVIENG) Airfield; 36 (14 SBD's and TBF's, 1 B-24, 12 P-39's, 9 P-40's) against enemy installations in the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE Area. 28 P-39's conducted fighter sweeps along the BUKA, BOUGAINVILLE and NEW IRELAND Coasts. 14 SBD's patrolled the TOROKINA Perimeter.

CREVALLE, operating in the Southwest Pacific Area (NW of BORNEO) during April and early May, reports sinking 1 TONAN MARU number 2 on 6 April, 1 large Maru on 25 April, and a medium AO on 3 May; a total of 34,000 tons sunk.

Unfavorable weather again restricted operations of Southwest Pacific air forces on 5 May. An unspecified number of B-24's from the 13th Air Force hit BIAK ISLAND where a large fire and explosion, and several small fires resulted. 71 A-20's struck the WEWAK Area with more than 50 tons of bombs and thoroughly strafed the area; buildings were destroyed and fires were started. 13 B-24's bombed TIMOR. 8 B-25's hit airfields on the KAI ISLANDS. 107 troop carrier planes negotiated difficult weather to bring in supplies for troops which participated in the HOLLANDIA Operation.

(Continued)

6 May (Cont'd)

In the North Pacific, 3 of 5 starting PV's from Fleet Air Wing 4 executed an armed reconnaissance over PARAMUSHIRU on the night of 5 May. The mission was reported as successful; SURIBACHI and a previously undetected airfield in central SHIMUSHU were bombed, as was KURABU ZAKI; photographs were taken; all planes returned safely.

7 May (Oahu date)

Central Pacific shore based aircraft continued on 6 May with neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS; 34 sorties (12 B-25s, 2 PVs, 23 F4Us) were flown against WOTJE, 12 (B-25s) against JALUIT, 18 (10 SBDs, 8 F6Fs) against TAROA, 6 (F4Us) against MILLE. 6 photo planes of Fleet Air Wing TWO, accompanied by 10 7th Air Force Liberators, photographed and harassed GUAM; cloud cover was .5 with vital areas clear; of 25 intercepting Jap fighters, 7 were destroyed, 3 probably destroyed and 2 damaged; enemy plane strength on the island was estimated as 25 single engine and 15 twin-engine planes. 14 B-24s hit TRUK on the night of 6-7 May dropping over 400 fragmentation clusters on the major islands of the atoll. On 6 May 6 B-25s struck PONAPE dropping 8 tons of bombs on the 2 airfields. PONAPE was again hit on the night of 6-7 May by 5 B-24s diverted from the TRUK strike.

SILVERSIDES reports that on 7 May there were 11 APA or AKAs in APRA HARBOR (GUAM); of these 4 arrived during the day of the 7th. She obtained 1 hit from 4 mark 18 torpedoes fired on 1 ship type unstated.

On 6 May unfavorable weather caused cancellation of all strikes^{against RABAU} by SoPac air forces. 24 SBDs bombed shore battery positions along the coast of CAPE MAMARODU (west coast south central NEW IRELAND). 42 P-39 and 2 P-38s conducted the usual harassing strikes along the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE coast. 3 snoopers bombed the KAVIENG area. 15 B-25s dropped 157 100-lb bombs on reported coastal gun areas at CAPE FRIENDSHIP and on the BOUGAINVILLE coast west of RANTAN ISLAND.

HOE, operating in SWP area reports sighting at 072200 GCT a large convoy at 19-12N, 120-18E (north of LUZON), course 170, speed 12 (1 small CVE accompanied the convoy); the HOE damaged 1 AK.

On the night of 5-6 May an unspecified number of B-24s from 13th Air Force hit BIAK ISLAND; fighters from HOLLANDIA fields covered the formation; heavy explosions occurred and several fires were started in the revetments and dispersal areas of MOKMER Airdrome; of 12 intercepting fighters, 9 were shot down; we lost no planes. 62 B-24s, preceded by 37 B-25s attacked personnel and supply areas in the MAFFIN BAY area; 43 A-20s hit the bivouac areas in the vicinity of BUT. P-47s and P-39s conducted the usual fighter sweeps along the northern coast of NEW GUINEA.

On 6 May in the North Pacific Area 15 PVs and 1 PB5A bombed KASHIWABARA, SURIBACHI, and central PARAMUSHIRU; bombs and incendiary clusters were dropped; 1 plane is missing.

8 May (Oahu date)

Neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the Central Pacific Area was limited to strikes by B-25s against WOTJE, JALUIT and PONAPE; 12 planes each hit the former two, while 6 were directed against the latter.

A search plane over NAURU dropped two 500-lb bombs in the barracks area; the #2 runway contained unfilled craters. A reconnaissance of WAKE and OCEAN was negative.

Commander Sub-Area MARSHALLS 060145 announces assumption by Rear Admiral Alva D. Bernhard of the military governorship of the MARSHALL ISLANDS.

In the South Pacific 77 sorties (29 SBDs and TBFs, 1 B-24, 47 fighter bombers) were flown against the RABAU area on 7 May, concentrating on the TOBERA and VUNAKANAU airfields, with the B-24 concentrating against the town. 46 SBDs hit shore battery positions in the vicinity of MAMARODU (west coast south central NEW IRELAND) and BORPOP. A total of 80 sorties (24 B-25s, 18 SBDs and TBFs, 35 P-39s, 3 P-40s) were flown against enemy installations in the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE area.

In the SWP Area the 13th Air Force continued on the night of 6-7 May and during the day of 7 May the bombing of MOKMER Airdrome on BIAK ISLAND. Unfavorable weather continued to hamper air strikes by SWP air forces; however, 18 British Beauforts got through and hit the WEWAK area where fires were started in storage areas. Air observers reported 4 planes remaining on BIAK. 12 B-24s hit WOLEAI dropping 35 tons on the runway and dispersal area; 2 Betty's were reported destroyed on the ground.

Admiral Nimitz, Rear Admiral Sherman and other staff members arrived PEARL from SAN FRANCISCO.

9 May (Oahu date)

Neutralization by Central Pacific shore based aircraft of PONAPE and enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS continued on 8 and 9 May. On each of the two days Army Liberators enroute from and returning to the ADMIRALTIES also bombed PONAPE.

TAMBOR, operating NW of MARIANAS, reports 2 hits in a 6000-ton AK at 100900 GCT; ship was part of an 8 ship, 5 DD, 2 or more other escort convoy on a southeasterly course; TAMBOR continues the pursuit.

SARGO, operating SE of YOKOHAMA, reports sinking a medium AK and possibly sinking another; she missed with 4 electrics on 4 AK 5 escort convoy proceeding on a southerly course at 082000 GCT.

In the South Pacific unfavorable weather again restricted air operations against the RABAU Area, the only strike being made by 33 fighter bombers against the LAKUNAI Airdrome. 47 SBD's and TBF's hit NEW IRELAND targets. 101 sorties (30 SBD's and TBF's, 26 B-25's, 33 P-39's, 12 P-38's) were flown against enemy installations in the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE Area.

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9 May (Cont'd)

In the SWP Area bombers from the 13th Air Force again on the night of 7-8 May bombed the MOKMER Airdrome on BIAK ISLAND. On the 8th over 100 A-20's and 17 British Beauforts dropped 100 tons of bombs and strafed storage and supply areas along north coast of NEW GUINEA, concentrating in the WEWAK Area. 97 transport planes flew supplies into the HOLLANDIA Area. The usual fighter sweeps were made along the N. NEW GUINEA Coast. On forenoon 8th, 12 B-24's hit the LANGGOER and FAAN airstrips on KAI ISLANDS.

10 May (Oahu date)

Neutralization by CenPac shore based aircraft of PONAPE and enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS continued on the evening of 9 May. 14 B-24's hit the major islands of TRUK ATOLL, concentrating on the airfields; 1 possible cruiser and 3 other vessels were sighted in the lagoon. One B-24 hit OROLUK ATOLL. On the night of 9-10 May 3 B-24's dropped 6 tons on WAKE; results were unobserved.

ComForwardArea, CenPac, 072020 summarizes operations for the period 1-5 May, inclusive.

TINOSA returning from patrol enroute MAJURO from FORMOSA Area reports sinking a trawler with gunfire on 8 May; 1 wounded prisoner was picked up; all others were unwilling to surrender.

SoPac air forces flew 82 sorties against the RABAU Area. 30 SBD's and TBF's and 41 fighter bombers concentrated against the airdromes at LAKUNAI and TOBERA; from the former field our planes encountered intense, accurate, heavy and automatic AA fire which shot down 1 SBD and 1 TBF; 6 others were damaged; this AA fire was described as the heaviest of any received in recent weeks. 11 B-25's bombed enemy installations on MATUPI ISLAND. 42 SBD's attacked the landing field at KAVIENG; AA fire was intense and accurate; 7 of our planes were damaged. Enemy gun positions along CAPE NAMARODU (west coast of south central NEW IRELAND) were attacked by 24 SBD's. Enemy installations in the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA Area were hit by 16 B-25's; 61 P-39's and 12 P-40's conducted fighter bomber sweeps over the same area.

On 9 May the Fifth Air Force made its first strike against TRUK when an unspecified number of B-24's hit MOEN ISLAND; 20 enemy fighters intercepted; 1 of our planes was damaged and forced down at sea on the return route. On the night of 9 May, BIAK ISLAND was bombed by 8 B-24's which started fires on both airstrips. On 10 May 45 A-20's bombed and strafed the WEWAK Area; they were followed by 20 B-24's. Usual fighter sweeps were made along the NEW GUINEA North Coast by P-39's and P-47's. The major strikes and supply missions were prevented by unfavorable weather.

A summary of land activities in the HOLLANDIA-AITAPE Area states that the enemy losses in the HOLLANDIA Area total 977 killed, 259 captured; in the AITAPE Area 525 killed and 31 captured. In the HOLLANDIA Area 621 former prisoners of the enemy have been recaptured; these included 462 SIKHS, and the remainder, Americans, Australians, Dutch, Chinese, Filipinos, Poles and Czechoslovaks. In the AITAPE Area 86 former prisoners of the enemy (nationalities unstated) have been recaptured.

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10 May (Contd.)

CINCPAC 070355 (pink) announces completion of conferences with representatives of the 20th A.F. on VLR program CenPac Area; mentions requirements Army service troops to support the program.

CINCPAC 050123 (pink) confirms verbal statement of representatives at conferences with representatives of the 20th A.F. designating ComGenCentPac as theater agency to furnish all necessary support for 20th A.F. in CenPac Area, with certain exceptions.

11 May (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft continued on 10 May with neutralization of PONAPE and enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS.

SoPac air forces on 10 May flew 144 sorties (99 SBD's and TBF's, 12 B-25's, 3 B-24's, 8 P-38's, 10 P-39's, 12 P-40's) against airfields, supply installations, and gun positions in the RABAU Area; effectiveness was lessened by inability to hit pre-selected targets because of unfavorable weather. 26 SBD's and TBF's bombed Coast guns in the BORPOP Area of NEW IRELAND. Fighter sweeps over the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE Area were made by 61 P-39's, 14 P-40's, and 3 P-38's.

On 10 May SWP air forces concentrated mainly against WAKDE and BIAK ISLANDS, and against the WEWAK Area. 61 B-25's and 22 B-24's hit WAKDE; 27 B-24's struck the WEWAK Area; and B-24's from the 5th AF and 13th AF bombed MOKMER Airdrome on BIAK. 4 squadrons of A-20's made low level attacks along the N. Coast of NEW GUINEA from SEPIK RIVER (about 30 miles W. of HANSA BAY) to WOM POINT (WEWAK Area). 17 British Beauforts, P-47's and P-39's conducted fighter sweeps along the N. NEW GUINEA Coast in the general area from HANSA BAY to AITAPE.

COD, operating in SWP Area (NW of MANILA), reports attacking a MANILA-bound convoy of 10 AK's and 10 escorts at 100600 GCT, and sinking a KAMIKAZE Class DD; hits were scored on 3 AK's.

CREVALLE (SWP Area) reports at 111600 GCT the successful evacuation of 40 persons from W. Coast of MINDANAO.

12 May (Oahu date)

21 B-24's of the 7th AF were over TRUK from 111219 GCT to 111619 GCT in two flights. 29 2000-lb. bombs and 66 1000-lb. bombs were dropped on the airfields of MOEN, PARAM and ETEN and on DUBLON; fires and explosions resulted; 2 planes were damaged. 1 B-24 bombed the old airfield on PONAPE. A searcher reports NAURU runways possibly operational. Another searcher dropped 2 bombs on the KUSAIE airstrip. All other searches were negative.

TAUTOG, operating in the KURILES and EMPIRE waters, reports 1 Maru on bottom in shallow water at MATSUWA with 2 hits. 3 other Maru's were sunk with 2 hits each at the following places: east of URUPPU ISLAND; at ESAN SAKI, HOKKAIDO; and at KURO SAKI, HONSHU. Shipping was remaining close inshore making attacks difficult.

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12 May (Continued)

In the South Pacific on 11 May coordinated air strikes were made against AA positions ringing RABOUL, and barges in west SIMPSON HARBOR and KERA VIA BAY; 64 SBD's and TBF's hit the AA positions while 5 SBD's (rocket equipped), escorted by 12 P-39's concentrated against barges, 30 to 40 of which were sunk. 74 sorties (12 B-25's, 36 SBD's, 6 P-38's, 20 P-39) were flown against the TOBERA airfield. Enemy installations in the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA Area were attacked by 45 SBD's and TBF's and 47 P-39's. 3 snoopers bombed KAVIENG.

JACK, operating in the SW Pacific (west of LUZON), reports sinking two trawlers (2000); probably sinking 1 AK (7500) and 3 AK's (4000 each); damaging 1 AK (4000).

On 11 May, major air strikes by 5th AF were again cancelled because of unfavorable weather. On the night of 10-11 May and during the day of 11 May an unspecified number of B-24's hit BIAK; cover was provided by P-40's operating from HOLLANDIA; the crew of 1 B-24 which was forced down in the water was rescued. 13 British Beauforts and 6 B-25's bombed BORAM on 11 May. Fighter sweeps were again made along the north coast of NEW GUINEA between SEPIK RIVER and WOM POINT. Small strikes by B-24's were made against TIMOR, AMBON and NAMELA; TIMOR was also hit by 9 B-25's escorted by 7 British Beauforts. A new radio station located near LAKE PANIAI (western NEW GUINEA) was destroyed by 6 B-25's.

On 11 May, 3 DD's bombarded 29 gun positions in the WEWAK Area; some 3-inch fire was received from shore batteries at DAGUA and BUT; we suffered no damage or casualties.

13 May (Oahu date)

On 11 May and night of 11-12 May Central Pacific shore based aircraft continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. PONAPE was also bombed by 3 B-25's.

From 122115 GCT to 130040 GCT 22 B-25's of 7th AF dropped 12 2000-lb. bombs and 180 100-lb. bombs on NAURU, concentrating against the SW runway, phosphate buildings, power plant and ammunition storage; 1 explosion and 1 fire were observed; 2 planes received minor damage.

BOWFIN reports sinking 1 large AK at 132100 GCT in a position approximately 120 miles NNW PALAU; the submarine is pursuing the remaining AK plus 2 escorts which are on course 320, speed 9 at 141325 GCT.

In the South Pacific a total of 88 sorties were flown against the RATAVAL and TALILI supply areas in the RABOUL Sector; 24 SBD's, 21 B-25's and 43 fighter bombers participated. In the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA Area, 35 light bomber sorties were flown against enemy installations.

PADDLE, operating in the SWP Area (HALMAHERA-CERAM-SULU Area) during April and early May, reports sinking 1 AP-AK (9419) and 1 DD (HATSU HARU Class - 1368); damaging 1 XAO (7300).

In the SWP Area an unspecified number of B-24's dropped 200 tons of bombs on WAKDE ISLAND on 13 May; gun positions on the southern peninsula were struck and large fires were started. 39 B-24's attacked personnel and storage areas west of MAFFIN airstrip with 134 tons of bombs. 10 B-24's struck the NAMBER airstrip on

13 May (Cont'd)

NOEMFOOR ISLAND with ineffective results. 8 B-24's successfully bombed MOMEI Airdrome (west coast GEELVINK BAY); observers report clearing on NOEMFOOR to accommodate a 5200 foot airstrip. Light bombers struck the WEWAK-HANSA BAY Area. P-47's made the usual fighter sweeps along the north coast of NEW GUINEA. Reconnaissance over the PHILIPPINES on 12 May report at MANILA 1 possible ACV and 9 merchantmen totalling 73,000 tons; at CAVITE 16 seaplanes and 2 small vessels were observed.

14 May (Oahu date)

Prior to daylight 13 May and during the day and night of 13 May Central Pacific shore based aircraft continued to strike enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. Late on the 13th 6 B-25s and 3 B-24s hit PONAPE. Early on the 13th 15 B-24s bombed the major islands of TRUK Atoll.

ComForwardArea CenPac 120050 summarizes operations 6-10 May.

STURGEON reports sinking on 10 May 3 medium AKs totalling 13,700 tons in area about 170 miles NNW of the BONINS.

SEADRAGON operating on rotating patrol in EMPIRE waters reports damaging a 3000 ton AK with one mark 14 hit on 23 April, and probably sinking a medium AK with one mark 18 hit on 27 April.

On 13 May SoPac air forces hit VUNAKANAU airfield and vicinity with 42 SBDs and TBFs, and 44 fighter bombers. Enemy installations in the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA area were hit by 12 SBDs and TBFs; 44 P-39s and 4 P-40s.

BONEFISH (SWP area) reports sinking at 131900 GCT 1 of 3 large southbound AO's escorted by 3 DDs in area NE of BORNEO. She reports sighting at 140500 GCT 3 BBs, 1 CV, 3 CAs and 1 CL, plus a DD escort, in position 5-30 N, 119-40 E (off NE tip of BORNEO); headed south for SIBUTU PASSAGE; heavy DD patrol near that passage indicates that the force anchored in TAWITAWI BAY.

RAY (SWP area) reports sighting off DAVAO at 140800 GCT 1 NACHI CA, 1 TENRYU CL, 3 HATSU HARU DDs, and 1 HOSHO CV.

On the night of 13-14 May and early on 14 May SWP air forces exerted their maximum effort against BIAK ISLAND, WAKDE AREA, MAFFIN BAY area, WEWAK area, and HANSA BAY area. During the day and night of 13 May an unspecified number of bombers hit the SORIDO and BOSNEK airdromes on BIAK; the bombing caused explosions and 4 large fires. In the WAKDE area 23 B-25s escorted by an unspecified number of P-40s bombed the airfield on WAKDE ISLAND; 23 B-24s and 29 B-25s hit shore positions opposite WAKDE. In the MAFFIN BAY area 37 B-24s hit AA positions and storage and personnel areas. In the WEWAK area 1 squadron of B-24s escorted by 2 squadrons of British Beauforts hit BORAM airfield; an unspecified number of B-24s bombed BANDI Plantation road and storage areas south of CAPE MOEM; 1 group of A-20s struck dumps and bridges between BUT and DAGUA (west of WEWAK). Another group of A-20s struck the HANSA BAY area. C-47s flew 88 missions to HOLLANDIA.

14 May (Oahu date) - Continued -

In the North Pacific area on 13 May 7 PVs from Fleet Air Wing 4 undertook an armed reconnaissance mission over PARAMUSHIRU. Of the 7 starting planes 2 reached the objective; 4 turned back and 1 was lost. The 2 planes dropped 4 500 pound GP bombs and incendiary clusters over central SHIMUSHU; pictures were also taken; several small fires were started around the airfield. 14 B-25s from 11th Air Force strafed 2 picket boats 100 miles off the east coast of SHIMUSHU; results are unknown.

15 May (Oahu date)

The heaviest concentration of shore based air power in the Central Pacific was staged against JALUIT from 142055 GCT to 151800 GCT by Army, Navy and Marine planes; 284 sorties were flown, and 240 tons of bombs were dropped; B-24's, B-25's, F4U's, SBD's and F6F's participated; CTF 59 estimated bombing results as 60% effective; we lost no planes, though 1 B-24, 5 SBD's, and 3 F4U's received minor damage. During the same period moderate strikes (4 - 10 planes) were made against MILLE, WOTJE, and TAROA. A single searcher over TRUK dropped 4 1000-lb. bombs on a 5000-ton AK, with unobserved results; 8-12 vessels were anchored W of DUBLON, and same number W of UMAN. The same searcher dropped 5 100-lb. bombs on PULUWAT air strip, and strafed the field and lighthouse area; the airfield appeared operational, though no planes were present.

* TILEFISH, operating in EMPIRE waters, reports damaging 1 NITTA Maru and 1 WAKATAKE DD; other details lacking; the submarine was attacked and damaged, and was departing from the area.

CREVALLE, operating E of CELEBES, reports having been depth charged and severely damaged, with destruction of radars and both periscopes, and leaks on deep dives; submarine returns for repairs.

Com5thPhib 152122 gives details of loss of 3 LCT's from LST in ALENUHAHA Channel on night of 15 May.

SoPac air power was concentrated against the KAHILI Area (S. BOUGAINVILLE) on 14 May when, in a little over one-half hour, 110 planes dropped 606 bombs (95 tons) on supply and personnel areas, and on gun positions; 41 SBD's and TBF's, 24 B-25's, and 45 fighter bombers participated. The usual BOUGAINVILLE fighter sweeps were made by 47 fighters, and 11 SBD's hit enemy installations along MATCHIN BAY. KAVIENG was hit by 17 SBD's escorted by 4 fighters. Fighter sweeps and patrols were made over the RABAU Area; 13 barges in KERA VIA BAY were strafed.

SEAHORSE (SWP Area), operating in MARIANAS Area during April and early May, reports sinking 4 Maru's for a total of 25,667 tons, and damaging an RO Class submarine.

SWP air forces sent 60 B-24's and 24 B-25's against enemy installations in the SARMI-MAFFIN BAY Area on 15 May, destroying Jap headquarters, demolishing several large buildings, and causing explosions and large fires throughout storage and personnel areas; 200 tons of bombs were dropped; B-24's also attacked gun positions near the MAFFIN airstrip. An unspecified number of B-25's attacked dumps and storage areas on WAKDE ISLAND. On the night of 13-14 May, 4 B-24's struck storage areas along the south of SORIDO Airdrome on BIAK ISLAND; on the 15th,

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15 May (Cont'd)

14 P-40's which were escorting a B-25 photo mission over BIAK were attacked by 15-20 enemy fighters, 5 of which were definitely destroyed, while we suffered no loss. One group of A-20's, with an unspecified number of B-24's, again hit BORAM airfield. A-20's also attacked in the BUT-DAGUA Area.

Land activity in the AITAPE-HOLLANDIA Area was restricted to patrol activity. Jap casualties in the AITAPE Area now total 625 killed, 27 captured; in the HOLLANDIA Area, 1162 killed and 360 captured.

In the North Pacific Area 1 of 4 starting PV's reached the E Coast of SHIMUSHU on 14 May, and dropped 2 500-lb. bombs and 1 incendiary cluster; results were unobserved. On the preceding day 1 B-24 bombed and photographed MATSUWA.

16 May (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft continued on day and night of 15 May with neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS; PV's, F6F's, SBD's and F4U's participated, with from 15 to 20 planes each hitting JALUIT, MILLE, WOTJE and TAROA.

BONEFISH reports that at 171023 GCT the 3 BB's, 1 CV, 3 CA's, 1 CL, plus DD's, previously reported (summary 14 May) were still anchored in TAWI TAWI BAY.

Final report of casualties resulting from loss of 3 LCT's (summary 15 May) lists 2 dead, 16 injured, 17 missing; of the 3 LCT's involved, 1 is being salvaged.

COLORADO, engaged in training activities, reported aground off west end of KAHOO LAWE ISLAND at 1403 16 May; re-floated at 0231 17 May.

SoPac air forces flew over 100 sorties against the RABAU Area on 15 May; 22 SBD's and TBF's, and an unspecified number of training B-24's attacked the TOBERA Airfield; 48 fighter bombers hit installations in the vicinity of VUNAKANAU; an unspecified number of bombers from GREEN ISLAND hit the RATAVAL supply area; fighter patrols operated over RABAU and JACQUINOT BAY. In the NEW IRELAND Area 27 SBD's and TBF's, escorted by 4 fighters, attacked gun positions and ammunition dumps. In the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA Area, 30 SBD's and TBF's attacked enemy installations, concentrating against BONIS Airfield; fighter sweeps over the area were flown by 34 fighter bombers; as on the two previous days, SBD's continued to spray with diesel oil gardens being cultivated by Japanese troops.

The only report of land activity in the BOUGAINVILLE Area states that TOROKINA patrols operating east of the perimeter located on 14 May 2 Jap hospital areas containing an estimated 200-250 Jap bodies.

First phases of the WAKDE ISLAND Operation were completed without opposition and without casualties on 16 May with simultaneous landings on INSOEMANA ISLAND ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile S. of WAKDE) and at ARARA (on coast of NEW GUINEA opposite WAKDE). The landing at ARARA was preceded by bombardment by 5 cruisers and by 10 DD's. Elements of the supporting air forces hit SAWAR and SARMI. Command has passed from Attack Force to Landing Force Commander.

16 May (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On the night of 15-16 May and during 16 May, SWP air forces continued heavy strikes in those areas which have received severe pounding for the past several days. 34 B-24's concentrated against the 2 airfields and enemy installations on BIAK ISLAND. 16 P-38's encountered 3 Oscar's over NOEMFOOR; the 3 Jap fighters were shot down. 18 B-24's and 21 B-25's bombed the MAFFIN airstrip and gun positions in that vicinity. 25 B-24's with 23 B-25's hit WAKDE ISLAND resulting in many fires; targets at ISOEMANI ISLAND were also hit during the same strike. A-20's attacked bridges and coastal roads from BUT to WEWAK. 45 C-47's flew supplies to HOLLANDIA and 11 were routed to TADJI. On 15 May heavy units of the 5th Air Force bombed enemy installations on WOLEAI starting many fires; there was no interception.

17 May (Oahu date)

During the day and night of 16 May CenPac shore based aircraft continued neutralization of enemy occupied Atolls of the MARSHALLS and also delivered strikes against NAURU, PONAPE and WAKE. 12 B-25's of 7th AF hit NAURU with 12 tons of bombs which were concentrated against AA positions, the east phosphate plant, dispersal areas and against the power station; a large explosion and fire resulted. 9 B-25's and 5 Navy photo Liberators bombed PONAPE; both airfields, dock installations and PONAPE TOWN were hit; both airfields appeared operational; the Navy Liberators hit buildings and the ramp in the seaplane base area. WAKE was visited by 23 B-24's which dropped 54 tons on WILKES ISLAND and PEACOCK POINT; large fires were observed.

A PB4Y search plane over TRUK on 16 May dropped 3 500-lb. bombs on a 500 ton AK; a direct hit and a straddle were obtained. 3 500-lb. bombs were dropped on a 10,000 ton AO; 1 direct hit was obtained. 12 ships were observed in the harbor. The searcher continued to PULUWAT where 2 500-lb. bombs were dropped on the radio station. Both pilots were wounded, though they returned safely to their base in the MARSHALLS.

SPEARFISH reports sinking 1 large AK and 1 medium AK with 5 torpedoes in the area about 320 miles northeast of the BONINS.

SANDLANCE, operating off SAIPAN, reports sinking 5 Marus for a total of 29,000 tons.

POGY, operating south of HONSHU, reports sinking a Jap submarine on the night of 29 April, outbound from FUKA SHIMA on course 135. She also damaged and probably sank 2 medium Marus, 1 of which carried gasoline. She has aboard 5 prisoners taken from a sampan.

STEELHEAD, operating in EMPIRE waters, reports 1 trawler sunk with gunfire.

In the South Pacific, on 16 May, much air activity was reported, most of which was concentrated against the RABAU Area. 42 SBD's in conjunction with 43 fighter bombers attacked the runway and gun positions of VUNAKANAU Airfield and other installations in the vicinity. 35 SBD's (6 equipped with rockets) and 12 TBF's struck LAKUNAI runway and attacked with rockets oil barges on the east side of SIMPSON HARBOR. P-38's which strafed along ST. GEORGE CHANNEL received intense and accurate automatic fire. TOBERA airfield was hit by 25 B-25's and RAPOPO by 3 training B-24's. Fighters and light bombers patrolled the RABAU Area. In the above operations we lost 1 SBD and had 2 P-38's damaged.

17 May (Oahu date - Cont'd)

The KAVIENG Airfield was hit by 18 SBD's and 7 TBF's; gun positions in the area were also attacked. One heavy AA gun was destroyed by a direct hit.

A PB4Y search plane over LAMOTREK ISLAND (120 miles E. WOLEAI) reports destroying 6 float planes and damaging 3 others and setting fire to an oil dump. One engine of the plane was shot out by AA fire.

Com3rdFleet reports laying a two-row minefield at the eastern entrance to BUKA PASSAGE.

GURNARD, operating south of MINDANAO, reports an encounter with 2 DD's and 1 cruiser at 180010 GCT during a rain squall. Two hits were obtained on the cruiser. Speed of convoy at time of attack was 23 knots; after the attack, the ships departed at speed of 15 knots, course 180.

In the SWP Area on 17 May, 5 groups of heavy bombers struck BIAK ISLAND leaving stores and personnel areas along the shore from MOKMER Airdrome to BOSNEK in flames with tremendous explosions. An unspecified number of B-24's and A-20's bombed and strafed WAKDE ISLAND in support of landing forces. Two groups of B-25's attacked personnel areas at MAFFIN BAY; other B-24's, escorted by 15 British Beaufort's, heavily hit BORAM Airdrome. An unspecified number of A-20's attacked AA positions at the DAGUA Airdrome, and hit AA positions, stores and personnel areas at HANSA BAY. Usual fighter sweeps by P-39's and P-47's were made along the north coast of NEW GUINEA.

The second day of the HOLLANDIA Operation proceeded according to schedule with landings on the Island being made by a shore-to-shore movement from TOEM, directly south on the NEW GUINEA Coast. Opposition was encountered. LCI gunboats closed the beach and delivered effective rocket fire support. Our troops are progressing across the Island airstrip, but are receiving enemy mortar fire and some sniper fire. Total casualties thus far reported are 2 dead, 28 wounded.

Australian troops have reached a point 33 miles north of MADANG without encountering opposition.

18 May (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft continued on 17 May the neutralization of enemy occupied Atolls of the MARSHALLS with strikes against WOTJE, JALUIT and TAROA; the weight of these strikes was directed against WOTJE. 5 B-25's hit PONAPE on the 17th dropping 5 tons of bombs on JOKAJ ISLAND and on the new airfield. 18 B-24's of the 7th Air Force struck WAKE on the 17th dropping 106 500-lb. bombs on PEALE and 240 100-lb. bombs on HEEL POINT with 80% effectiveness; 1 Liberator with 11 men aboard was shot down over the target in flames; 2 others received minor damage.

⁵⁷
CTFA170350 summarizes operations for the period 11-15 May.

BILLFISH, while operating in vicinity of WOLEAI, reports having been narrowly missed by bombs dropped from planes on a dark night; indications are that attacking planes used radar. An investigation is underway to determine if the planes were hostile.

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18 May (Oahu date - Cont'd)

In the South Pacific, air strikes on 17 May against the RABAU Area were cancelled owing to unfavorable weather. Enemy installations on NEW IRELAND were attacked by 28 SBD's and 3 TBF's, concentrated mainly along the southeast coast. 43 fighter bombers, 17 TBF's and 12 SBD's bombed enemy installations in southern and southeastern BOUGAINVILLE. 10 F4U's conducted fighter sweeps along the BOUGAINVILLE Coast.

ENGLAND (DE) reports almost certain kill in attack on enemy submarine at 190238 GCT, 150 miles east of BUKA PASSAGE; 3 hits in hedgehog attacks were made on the second run at 100 feet and 1 hit on the fourth run at 270 feet; a terrific explosion followed the last hit. Certain debris came to the surface; this included a rubber bag of rice, a life jacket, a prayer mat, chopsticks and much wood and cork.

ComSoPac reports that on 16 May our land patrols operating north of the TOROKINA Perimeter encountered 50 Japs; rifle and 90-mm mortar fire wounded 3 of our patrol, which withdrew as artillery fire was placed on Jap positions.

In the SWP Area, air forces continued heavy strikes against important objectives. Heavy bombers of the 13th AF struck BOSNEK, storage areas on BIAK ISLAND, while B-24's from NEW GUINEA hit SORIDO VILLAGE on the same island; neither interception nor AA fire was encountered. A-20's supported the WAKDE ISLAND landing with bombing and strafing attacks against assigned targets. One squadron of B-24's, escorted by 2 squadrons of British Beauforts, rendered the BORAM airstrip unserviceable. 24 B-25's and 36 A-20's bombed and strafed the coastal areas west of WEWAK, hitting OREP VILLAGE and coastal roads and bridges in the area. A-20's also attacked gun positions and storage areas at HANSA BAY. The usual fighter sweeps were made along the north coast of NEW GUINEA.

7 Liberator's made a pre-dawn strike against SURABAYA on 18 May (L) starting fires and explosions; 1 enemy fighter was encountered in the air; 2 fires were observed still burning from the carrier strike on the previous day (no despatch has yet been received, but the carrier strike mentioned refers to one made by a striking force from the Eastern Fleet comprising the SARATOGA and ILLUSTRIOUS and other warships).

On 17 May, enemy aircraft dropped 15 bombs in the HOLLANDIA Area between the CYCLOPS and the SENTANI Airfields; 2 men were wounded and slight material damage resulted.

The third day of the WAKDE Operation progressed according to schedule. Landings were made at LIKI and NIROEMOAR ISLANDS (25 miles NW of WAKDE ISLAND); no enemy opposition was encountered and we suffered no casualties. Considerable gunfire is still being encountered from the vicinity of the WAKDE Airstrip, the edge of which is still held by the enemy. Supply echelons are arriving WAKDE Area on schedule.

CinCSWPA reports total of enemy known casualties to date in the AITAPE-HOLLANDIA Area to be 2,120 killed and 441 captured. A total of 720 Japanese prisoners have been recaptured.

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19 May (Oahu date)

On 18 May CenPac shore based aircraft continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. 36 F4Us, 18 PVs and 3 PB2Ys dropped 20 tons on WOTJE; 23 B-25s, 20 SBDs and 16 F6Fs hit TAROA with 40 tons; 14 tons were dropped on MILLE by 6 PVs and 12 P-39s; JALUIT was hit by 2 PVs, 7 SBDs and 3 F6Fs which dropped $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

SEADRAGON returning from patrol and enroute MIDWAY from EMPIRE Waters reports sinking with gunfire an armed trawler NE of BONINS.

SoPac air forces on 18 May attacked targets in the RABAU area and in NEW IRELAND and BOUGAINVILLE. 18 SBDs and TBF, and 19 B-25s harassed the airfields in the RABAU vicinity and attacked gun positions and supply area at TALILI; 44 fighter bombers struck enemy installations on MAKADA ISLAND (DUKE OF YORK Group); 8 New Zealand P-39s strafed along the north GAZELLE coast. In NEW IRELAND 28 SBDs bombed coastal roads along the eastern coast and in the KAVIENG area; P-39s conducted fighter sweeps along the coast. In the BOUGAINVILLE area 70 fighter bombers and 5 SBDs attacked enemy installations; 2 TBFs continued to spray cultivated areas.

In SWP area on 18 May 12 A-20s escorted by 14 P-38s attacked shipping and aircraft in the MANOKWARI area; 1 large AK and 2 small AKs were sunk and 6 enemy planes were destroyed. 174 sorties (27 B-25s, 70 A-20s, 59 P-38s, 18 Beauforts) hit targets in the BOSNEK area of BIAK; bombing and strafing demolished buildings and caused destruction throughout bivouac area including enemy headquarters. During the night of 17-18 May an unspecified number of B-24s attacked targets on BIAK ISLAND causing fires and explosions among storage areas along the shore. TRUK was hit by an unspecified number of B-24s from the 13th Air Force operating from MANUS. The usual fighter sweeps were conducted along the north coast of NEW GUINEA.

HOE, operating in SWP area reports damaging 2 AKs on 8 May, obtaining 2 hits on 2 others on 18 May and sinking 2 on 19 May.

The 4th day of the WAKDE operation proceeded favorably and according to schedule. The enemy force on WAKDE has been mopped up; landings of personnel and equipment on LIKI and MIROEMOAR ISLANDS have been completed without encountering opposition or suffering casualties. Supply echelons continued to operate on schedule.

CinC SWPA summarizes results of PT boat operations during the period 7-8 May through 17-18 May; these boats which operated from AITAPE and SAIDOR destroyed 18 barges.

Results of the carrier strike against SURABAYA by the combined American-British carrier force (Eastern Fleet) at dawn on 17 May (L) were highly effective, with the enemy being taken by surprise. Nine merchant ships and possibly one DD were reported hit for a total of 35,000 tons; 2 floating drydocks were badly damaged; the refinery at WONOKROMO and the BRAAT naval engineering works were completely destroyed; 19 enemy planes were destroyed on the ground and 2 in the air; we lost 3 planes.

Pictures taken over HALMAHERA on 17 May show a total of 170 enemy aircraft on 3 airfields.

- continued -

1928

19 May (Oahu date) - continued -

In the North Pacific on 18 May 6 PVs from Fleet Air Wing FOUR executed an armed reconnaissance mission over PARAMUSHIRU; large fires were started at SURIBACHI and KURABU ZAKI airfields, and on TOMARI ZAKI; 10 photographs of enemy installations were obtained; all planes returned safely.

20 May (Oahu date)

On 19 May CenPac shore based aircraft continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS; strikes were also made against NAURU and PONAPE. 5 PVs and 24 F4Us hit WOTJE with 9 tons; 21 tons were dropped on TAROA by 5 PVs, 12 F6Fs and 5 PB5As; 6 SBDs and 12 F4Us hit MILLE with 3 tons; 2 PVs, 7 SBDs and 4 F6Fs dropped 4 1/2 tons on JALUIT.

Nine B-25s bombed PONAPE on 19 May dropping 36 500 lb bombs on the new airfield.

Twelve B-25s hit NAURU on 19 May with 144 100 lb bombs being concentrated against the power and phosphate plant areas; an explosion and several fires resulted; AA fire was reported as accurate and intense and inflicted minor damage to 4 planes.

STURGEON on lifeguard station off MARCUS reports at 210848 GCT 3 downed airmen aboard; 1 officer and 2 enlisted men.

SoPac Air Forces on 19 May operated against the RABAUL and NEW IRELAND areas, but with much less intensity than on previous operations. Except for bombing of TOBERA by 3 B-24s and harassing strikes by an unspecified number of B-25s against LAKUNAI, activity in the RABAUL area was limited to patrolling. In NEW IRELAND, bridges and other installations were hit by 36 SBDs and TBFs escorted by 8 F4Us; other activity was limited to patrolling.

19 May SWP Air Forces sent 11 B-24s against the KAMIRI Airdrome on NOEMFOOR ISLAND; the runway and dispersal areas were bombed. Both airfields on BIAK ISLAND were hit by 12 A-20s. The heaviest attack in the area was directed against enemy concentrations at WEWAK and in the area west thereof; 2 groups of B-25s and 95 A-20s bombed and strafed. P-40s operated in close support of our ground troops in repelling a hostile ground attack against the TOR RIVER beach head (WAKDE Area) P-39s conducted fighter sweeps along the north coast of NEW GUINEA. C-47s flew 90 missions to HOLLANDIA. The airfield on WAKDE will be usable on 20 May.

BONEFISH reports that at 0700 21 May H(-8) the enemy force previously reported was still anchored at TAWI TAWI in the channel east of SIMUNUL ISLAND; the CV previously reported could not be positively identified. Also observed at anchor were 2 fleet oilers and 3 DDs which entered the bay from the south on 19 May. Additional small craft were observed to be present.

Preliminary estimate of casualties in the WAKDE Operation lists 676 Japs killed; our casualties: 16 killed, 2 missing, 83 wounded.

20 May (Oahu date) - continued -

In the North Pacific area on 19 May 7 PVs from Fleet Air Wing FOUR and one B-24 from 11th Air Force bombed the central SHIMUSHU airport and HIGASHI TAKI; large fires were observed. 8 photos of enemy installations were obtained.

21 May (Oahu date)

At about 1518 (VW) 21 May, while handling ammunition in a nested LST in WEST LOCH, an explosion occurred in LST 353 resulting in fire and total loss of 6 LST's; complete details are lacking. A preliminary survey indicates that approximately 442 persons, including 21 civilians, were hospitalized.

CenPac shore based aircraft continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS on 20 May with strikes against WOTJE (19 tons by 4 PV's, 30 F4U's and 3 PB2Y's) and against TAROA (21 tons by 7 PV's, 13 F6F's and 4 PBY5A's). PONAPE was also hit by 6 B-25's which dropped 6 tons.

The weight of SoPac air force strikes on 20 May was concentrated against southern and southeastern BOUGAINVILLE; 30 B-25's, 31 SBD's and TBF's and 74 fighter bombers attacked AA positions and bivouac and storage areas. 2 SBD's continued to spray cultivated areas. In the RABAU Area 3 B-24's, 44 SBD's and TBF's and 36 fighter bombers bombed VUNAKANAU Airfield and the vicinity thereof. 4 B-25's heckled KAVIENG.

On 20 May, SWP air forces continued to hit the KAMIRI Airdrome on NOEMFOOR ISLAND and the airfields on BIAK ISLAND. 12 A-20's, escorted by P-38's, strafed the KAMIRI Airdrome, destroying 7 enemy planes and damaging 6 to 8 others, and firing fuel dumps. 34 B-24's dropped 34 tons on BIAK ISLAND. Two groups of B-25's with 55 A-20's, escorted by 2 squadrons of Beauforts and 1 group of P-38's, attacked troop concentrations in the BUT and WEWAK Area.

An unspecified number of B-24's from 13th AF struck PARAM and MOEN ISLANDS of TRUK ATOLL; 35 to 40 enemy planes intercepted; we lost 1 bomber.

22 May (Oahu date)

On 21 May CenPac shore based aircraft made a coordinated concentrated aerial assault by Army, Navy and Marine aircraft against WOTJE ATOLL. 217 sorties were flown during the period 211924 GCT to 220230 GCT. A total of 230 tons of bombs were dropped and observations by members of TF 59 staff indicate results as 70% effective. Heavy AA fire was reported as meager and inaccurate; automatic fire was meager with varied accuracy. 10 planes received minor damage and two crewmen were injured. Enroute to the staging base, 16 F4U's hit MILLE with 8 tons, concentrated against the radio station area with unobserved results.

Four photo planes from Fleet Air Wing TWO, with an escort of 9 B-24's, completed a special photographic mission of ROTA ISLAND. Bombs were dropped on the runway. No enemy aircraft were observed and no AA fire was received.

CINCPOA 230321 summarizes report after preliminary investigation damage resulting from explosions of LST's at WEST LOCH on 21 May.

- Continued -

1930

22 May (Oahu date - Cont'd)

SAWFISH, operating in EMPIRE waters, reports at 220847 GCT sinking a medium AK with 2 Mk. 14 hits; two cases of chicken pox are aboard.

POLLACK, operating in the BONINS Area, reports sinking 1 DD and damaging 1 AK on 22 May; Ensign Holland reported as sick aboard since 19 May with symptoms indicative of spinal meningitis.

FENNO Wolfpack (PICUDA, PETO, PERCH) operating east of FORMOSA, reports sinking a passenger freighter on 21 May.

SoPac air forces on night of 20-21 May harassed the RABAU Airfields with 4 B-25's, and during the day of 21 May patrolled the same area with 4 F4U's. 24 SBD's and TBF's, accompanied by 44 fighter bombers, pounded gun positions and supply areas at TALILI dropping 12 tons of bombs and 45 incendiary clusters. The northern tip of NEW IRELAND was bombed by 30 SBD's and TBF's escorted by 14 F4U's. 1 TBF and 44 P-39's hit the BONIS supply area and bridges in the vicinity of KIETA.

Com3rdFleet reports probable sinking by a destroyer of enemy submarine in the area about 180 miles northeast of MANUS.

On 21 May, SWP air forces attacked personnel and storage areas at MANOKWARI, employing 11 B-24's in a pre-dawn attack.

A heavy attack against the airfields on BIAK ISLAND was made by 56 B-24's; SORIDO VILLAGE and storage areas along the south shore were also hit; 150 tons of bombs left the areas covered with smoke and dust and a fuel dump burning. Intensive strafing and low level bombing attacks continued against enemy troop concentrations in the WEWAK, BUT and DAGUA Areas; B-25's, A-20's, P-38's and P-47's participated. Enemy installations in the SEPIK RIVER area were also attacked by A-20's. C-47's flew a total of 93 missions and supplied our forces in the HOLLANDIA and WEWAK Areas. A bomber strike was made against BABO, but reports of the strike have not yet been received.

23 May (Oahu date)

Major strikes of CenPac shore based aircraft on 22 May were cancelled because of unfavorable weather. Activity was limited to the strike on PONAPE by 8 B-25s which dropped 16 500-lb bombs on JOKAJ ISLAND gun positions. 5 photo Liberators of Fleet Air Wing TWO photographed both airfields on PONAPE; good photo coverage was obtained and 45 100-lb bombs were dropped on the airfields. A single search plane dropped 3 1000-lb and 2 100-lb bombs on the radio weather station at PULUWAT ISLAND; direct hits were obtained and the housing area destroyed.

BURRFISH, operating in EMPIRE Waters reports at 231437 GCT one medium AO sunk with 3 hits.

SKATE, operating in BONINS area reports at 241333 GCT one sampan sunk and 3 prisoners recovered.

23 May (Oahu date) - continued -

SoPac air forces on 22 May flew 131 sorties against the RABAU area concentrating against TOBERA airfield and against enemy installations and gun positions in the RABAU area; fighter-bombers, light and medium bombers, and 2 B-24s participated. P-39s conducted barge sweeps and 4 B-25s harassed RABAU during the night. Enemy installations in BOUGAINVILLE were attacked by 59 fighter bombers. 2 TBFs and 2 P-39s bombed a small island off KAVIENG.

Operations of SWP air forces were hampered on 22 May by unfavorable weather. An unspecified number of A-20s bombed and strafed both airfields on BIAK ISLAND. 3 B-24s from 13th Air Force bombed MANOKWARI. 2 B-24s and three squadrons of A-20s bombed personnel and storage areas at HANSA BAY. P-40s attacked enemy bivouac areas at ARZO Village (South of HOLLANDIA).

RATON (SWP area) operating east of SINGAPORE reports attacking on 22 May a convoy consisting of 3 large APs and 4 large DDs; 1 DD was sunk and 1 AP was damaged.

In the North Pacific on 23 May 5 PVs from Fleet Air Wing FOUR took off for the KURILES; 1 plane crashed and exploded after take off; 3 failed to reach the target; the remaining plane dropped 2 500-lb bombs and 1 incendiary cluster over Central SHIMUSHU. 2 B-25s from 11th Air Force sank a 140-ft picket boat in position about 75 miles east of PARAMUSHIRU. A delayed report states that on 22 May 3 of 6 starting PVs from Fleet Air Wing FOUR bombed Central SHIMUSHU and PARAMUSHIRU by radar through overcast with unobserved results. Each plane dropped 2 500-lb bombs and 1 incendiary cluster; 3 planes failed to reach the target, though all planes returned safely.

24 May (Oahu date)

Results MARCUS strike on 19 and 20 May by TG 58.6 (ESSEX, WASP, SAN JACINTO with BALTIMORE, CANBERRA and BOSTON, DesRon 52 and DesDiv 92): 373 sorties over target dropped 148 tons, destroying an estimated 15% of the buildings, including possible water distillation plant; 1 AA position and 1 ammunition dump were destroyed, and loose stores and 3 revetments were damaged. One Betty was shot down and 1 inoperational twin motored plane was damaged on the ground; no other enemy aircraft were seen. One armed AK was left burning and sinking 56 miles north of MARCUS; 1 armed patrol boat was left sinking 375 miles north of MARCUS. Our combat losses were 2 F6F's and 2 SB2C's, and 2 pilots and 1 crewman. Low clouds and poor visibility affected bombing performance and in some cases prevented aircraft from reaching target.

Results WAKE strike 23 May by TG 58.6: 354 sorties over target dropped 148 tons, burning out a fuel tank, destroying 20 buildings, and damaging 12 buildings and 2 revetments; an observation tower was knocked over; 4 to 6 earth covered dumps were hit without visible damage. No enemy aircraft were seen. We had no combat losses; our operational losses were 1 SB2C and 1 VFN, and 1 pilot.

On 23 May CenPac shore based aircraft continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS with strikes against WOTJE (43 sorties, 11 tons) and against JALUIT (23 sorties, 22½ tons). PONAPE was also hit by 3 B-24's and 5 F6F's which dropped 5½ tons on the ore plant and radio station.

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24 May (Oahu date) - Cont'd -

FENNO Wolfpack (PICUDA, PERCH, PETO) reports PERCH scored 4 hits on unidentified ship on night of 23 May. Also reports PICUDA sank the passenger freighter previously reported (summary 22 May).

On 23 May South Pacific air forces hit gun positions and other enemy installations in the RABAU Area with 66 tons employing 41 SBD's and TBF's, 22 B-25's and 19 fighter bombers. 24 F4U's blockaded RABAU during the day; pilots reported repairs being made to runways at TOBERA and VUNAKANAU. 51 fighter bombers hit targets in the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA Area, including the airfield at BUKA.

Our ground patrols operating north of the TOROKINA Perimeter on 23 May destroyed a large enemy ammunition dump; 70 enemy bodies were found and the bodies of 500 others interred.

BASHAW (SWP Area), operating southeast of PALAU, reports sinking 1 60-ton trawler and damaging 1 Maru and 3 trawlers.

On 23 May, SWP air forces hit NOEMFOOR airfields with an unspecified number of A-20's, escorted by P-38's; 11 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 4 others damaged; 3 fuel dumps were fired and 1 barge and 3 motor vehicles destroyed. For the second successive day unfavorable weather caused cancellation of scheduled strikes against BIAK ISLAND. Our ground force operations in the NEW GUINEA Area south of WAKDE were supported by P-40's and 100 medium and attack bombers and 47 P-38's. The HANSA BAY Area was attacked by P-39's which started a large fire. C-47's completed 43 missions to WAKDE ISLAND and 46 to HOLLANDIA. 4 B-25's hit the east coast of SOEMBA ISLAND and the northeast coast of TANIMBAR ISLAND.

CinCSWPA reports that our ground forces operating in the WADKE-SARMI Area have crossed the TOR RIVER and are advancing toward a partially constructed airfield in the MAFFIN BAY Area. In the HOLLANDIA Area only demoralized enemy remnants have been contacted; patrols have found many dead bodies and natives report that other trails are littered with dead bodies; cause of death is apparently starvation. In the WEWAK-HANSA BAY Area our ground patrols report sharp clashes with enemy units west of the DANDRIWAD RIVER (25 miles east of AITAPE).

25 May (Oahu date)

CominCh and CNO 251326 (pink) states shipping requirements to mount and support STALEMATE based on target date of 8 September will be met.

CTF 57 220300 summarizes operations 16-21 May.

SoPac air forces on 24 May hit LAKUNAI and RAPOPO Areas with 3 B-24's and 8 P-38's, dropping 18 tons. 12 B-25's hit the TALILI supply area with 144 100-lb. bombs. The KAVIENG airfield and gun positions in the vicinity were hit by 30 SBD's and 4 TBF's which placed 19 bombs on the runway; a total of 19 tons were dropped. In the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA Areas, gun positions and other enemy installations were hit by 30 SBD's, 10 TBF's and 36 fighter bombers. Photos show all enemy airfields in the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO to be unserviceable, except VUNAKANAU, TOBERA and LAKUNAI (RABAU Area).

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25 May (Oahu date -Cont'd-)

SWP air force's major strikes were again cancelled on 24 May because of unfavorable weather. B-24's from 13th AF (MANUS) bombed the BOSNEK Airfield on BIAK ISLAND. 3 B-24's from the same force hit MANOKWARI during the night, and 2 B-24's hit the MAFFIN BAY Area. Gun positions, and personnel and storage areas in the BUT-BORAM Sector were attacked by 24 B-25's, 68 A-20's and 48 fighters. C-47's flew 30 missions to WAKDE ISLAND, and 50 to HOLLANDIA.

Observer's report on 23 May shows in TAWI TAWI Anchorage 40 warships and medium AK's, plus 6 CV's (probably including 1 CVL); 10 BB's/CA's (probably 3 BB's, 7 CA's); 1 large AO present.

CinCSWPA reports total enemy casualties in the AITAPE-HOLLANDIA Area to be 3,222 dead.

In the North Pacific, 4 of 6 starting PV's from Fleet Air Wing FOUR bombed Central SHIMUSHU on 24 May; 1 large and several small fires were observed; photographs were obtained; all planes returned safely.

26 May (Oahu date)

On 24 May CenPac shore based aircraft made strikes against MILLE (6 tons by 12 F4Us), JALUIT (16½ tons by 10 B-25s, 7 SBDs, 3 F6Fs, 2 PVs), WOTJE (30 tons by 38 F4Us, 7 PVs, 7 SBDs, 11 B-25s), and PONAPE (7.6 tons by 9 B-25s). On 25 May the above objectives, with the exception of MILLE were again hit with approximately the same force and tonnage.

PERMIT reports sinking 1 of 2 enemy submarines leaving OTTA PASS (TRUK) with mark 14 torpedo. Also reports finding Japanese rubber raft with chart showing search sectors from TRUK along medians 070 and 110 for 350 miles.

(PINK)
Marshall 242030Z discusses command situation of Army Forces in the Pacific Ocean Areas.

During practice firing the THATCHER (DD 514) #3 gun fired into 40-mm mount killing 5 and seriously injuring 9. The materiel damage will be repaired by the CASCADE (AD 16). In progress is an investigation which was ordered by ComBatPac. A preliminary and incomplete report indicates firing cut-outs function at 008 and 310 instead of 030 and 330.

On the night of 24-25 May four pairs of Marine Mitchells continued to harass RABAU. On the 25th unfavorable weather restricted air activities in RABAU area, the activities being limited to a strike by 12 B-25s against the TALILI supply areas; 144 100-lb bombs started 1 large and many smaller fires. 12 other Mitchells and 34 fighters, being unable to penetrate the weather front blocking RABAU, bombed BUGAINVILLE targets. Fighter sweeps were made along the coasts of NEW IRELAND, BUKA and BUGAINVILLE.

ComCortDiv 40 reports that at 2323 L(-11) 26 May the ENGLAND (DE 635) assisted by the GEORGE (DE 697) sank a Japanese submarine in position 00-36 S, 148-24 E (NE of MANUS).

26 May (Oahu date) - continued -

SWP Air Forces continued heavy attacks against enemy forces in the BUT-BORAM area; 1 group of B-25s, 2 groups of A-20s and 8 P-47s bombed and strafed storage and personnel areas and roads. B-24s from 13th Air Force bombed SORIDO airfield on BIAK ISLAND and hit installations along the south shore; explosions and fires resulted. 3 British Beauforts made a night attack against the WEWAK airstrip starting fires. An unspecified number of B-25s bombed enemy installations at MIOBO in AROE Islands on 26 May; Allied air forces supported the landing on BIAK ISLAND and report no enemy air reaction.

LAPON reports sinking 2 large AKs and damaging 1 large AK due north of NATUNA ISLANDS (N.E.I.).

The assault by SWP Amphibious Forces against BIAK ISLAND was initiated early 27 May (East longitude date) and at midday the operation was proceeding according to schedule. The landing was accomplished in the face of enemy mortar fire. The LCTs made wet landings 200 yards from the beach. DUKWs and vehicles were discharged from the LSTs at 0715 K(-10). CG Landing Force assumed command at 0930 K. During the initial bombardment the HUTCHINS sustained a 5" shell hit; the foremast was cut half through and the shell penetrated 4 feet of the main deck; radars were decommissioned; 3 men were injured.

In the North Pacific on 25 May 1 PV from Fleet Air Wing FOUR flew an armed reconnaissance mission over central SHIMUSHU; 5 planes took off, but 2 returned due to mechanical difficulty, and 2 due to unfavorable weather; all returned safely. One of 2 starting B-24s of 11th AF bombed MATSUWA, 1 Liberator turned back because of engine trouble; both returned safely.

27 May (Oahu date)

ASPRO, operating northwest of PALAU, reports sinking 2 AK's on 14-15 May.

CominCh 251859 (pink) raises 3 major points with respect to possible fleet engagements during FORAGER.

CinCPac 272136 (pink) replies to foregoing despatch.

CominCh and CNO 251156 (pink) assumes submarine deployment in TAWI TAWI Area sufficient to exploit any sorties attempted by Japanese Fleet during FORAGER.

CinCSWPA via Com7thFleet 280121 (pink) replies to the foregoing despatch.

On 26 May the weight of strikes by SoPac air forces was directed against the RABAU Area with 207 sorties dropping 92 tons of 100-lb. and 1000-lb. bombs on AA positions and other enemy installations; TOBERA Airfield was also hit with 13 tons by 4 B-24's which obtained 4 hits on the runway. 66 fighter bombers bombed enemy installations in the BOUGAINVILLE Area. Night patrols continued to harass RABAU; they also operated over NEW IRELAND and northern BOUGAINVILLE.

On 26 May, 81 B-24's escorted by 2 squadrons of P-38's, dropped 238 tons of bombs on enemy installations and gun positions during the landing operations at BIAK ISLAND. Targets on the Island were also bombed by B-24's from the 13th AF prior to the landings. As our ground troops on BIAK moved westward along the

- Continued -

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27 May (Oahu date - Cont'd)

south shore, several squadrons of A-20's attacked enemy gun positions at the MOKMER Airdrome and the nearby jetty. As our landing craft moved in to the beach, an umbrella cover was provided by P-47's. Of several intercepting Jap fighters, 4 were definitely destroyed. During the afternoon of the initial landing, 12 Helen's attacked our shipping off BIAK; 4 were shot down; 1 crashed on SC 699 setting the ship on fire; the ship was abandoned but at last report was still afloat; casualties on the SC were 9 burned, 4 seriously. The BUT-BORAM Area was again pounded heavily by a strike executed by 18 B-25's and 56 A-20's; P-47's also strafed the BUT and WEWAK Areas. The A-20's returning from BIAK bombed targets along the MOEWAR RIVER west of MAFFIN BAY; several villages in the same area were also hit. 12 Mitchell's attacked villages in north central TIMOR and 10 other Mitchell's hit BABO.

PARGO (SWP Area), operating west of the PHILIPPINES, reports sinking 1 AK (2101) and damaging 1 AK (3168) and 1 AO (10,052).

CABRILLA (SWP Area), operating in CELEBES SEA, east of BORNEO, reports damaging 1 airplane tender with 1 hit for 6 fired, and sinking 1 DD. *Eraser?*

Latest reports indicate that the BIAK Operation progresses satisfactorily and according to schedule. In the WAKDE Area our forces advanced to the westward through MAFFIN VILLAGE; during this advance 225 Japs were killed; total Jap casualties in this area stand at 1135 killed and 6 captured.

28 May (Oahu date)

GenPac shore based aircraft continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS with strikes against WOTJE (7 tons by 7 F4U's, 4 F6F's, 7 SBD's), JALUIT (45 tons by 45 B-25's), and MILLE (5 tons by 4 F6F's, 8 SBD's). 9 B-25's also strafed enemy installations on PONAPE and PAKIN ISLANDS.

Richardson 280842Z (pink) replies to Marshall 242030Z (pink); subject pertains to command situation of Army forces in the Pacific Ocean Areas.

On 27 May SoPac air forces employing heavy, medium, and light bombers, and fighters made 143 sorties against targets in the RABAU Area dropping a total of 123 tons of bombs; the weight of the strikes was directed against the LAKUNAI and TOBERA Areas with a lesser weight being directed against the VANUKANAU Area; our losses were 1 TBF and 1 SBD destroyed, and 1 F4U and 1 TBF damaged. An unspecified number of fighter bombers hit enemy installations on BOUGAINVILLE.

On 27 May SWP air forces continued to pound enemy concentrations in the WEWAK Area and to the west thereof, employing B-25's, A-20's and P-47's; and to hit personnel and storage areas at SARMI with A-20's. Fighter sweeps were made in the HANSA BAY Area. Fighters and A-20's provided close support for our ground forces on BIAK ISLAND, and B-25's closely supported our ground forces in the MAFFIN BAY Area. Heavy bombers hit enemy buildings on JAPEN ISLAND, and bombed the RANSIKI Airfield on VOGELKOP, and the two airfields on NOEMFOOR ISLAND. B-24's from the 13th AF harassed WOLEAI and 3 islands of the TRUK ATOLL. 9 B-24's staged from DARWIN bombed BOELA on CERAM ISLAND. C-47's flew 50 supply missions to HOLLANDIA, 186 to WAKDE, 8 to MARAUKE.

On D plus 1 two DD's rendered close fire support to our ground forces on BIAK ISLAND, who were overcoming Jap resistance at the eastern edge of MOKMER

28 May (Oahu date - Cont'd)

Airdrome. Three DD's bombarded BIAK early morning of D plus 2. The STOCKTON (DD 646) received 1 4-inch or 5-inch shell hit causing slight material damage, with casualties of 1 killed and 1 wounded; PT 339 beached and was destroyed by our own gunfire without casualties. On the evening of 26 May 1 Jap plane dropped bombs on WAKDE killing 6 and seriously wounding 5.

The initial landing on BIAK ISLAND was made at BOSNEK by the 162 Infantry and 186th Infantry Regiments of the 41st Division. The movement westward toward MOKMER Airdrome proceeded with slight opposition. At BOSNEK the Landing Force captured two 6-inch guns, four 5-inch guns, and two 3-inch guns. Numerous reports from natives indicate that the Japanese position in the HOLLANDIA-WEWAK Area is desperate, that the enemy's morale is severely shaken, that the force is disintegrating into small detachments, and that all are critically short of food. In the area approximately 5 miles southwest of the exit from LAKE SENTANI our ground patrols found 300 dead Japs who apparently had suffered death from starvation.

29 May (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft on 27 May continued with strikes against PONAPE where hangar, barracks, and warehouse areas, and both airfields, were severely pounded by 24 B-24's and 52 B-25's which dropped 101 tons of bombs and incendiaries; against WOTJE where 50½ tons of bombs were dropped on the major islands of the atoll by 46 SBD's, 107 F4U's, 7 F6F's, and 1 PV; against JALUIT where 7 PV's dropped 7½ tons on EMIDJ; and against MILLE where 15 F4U's dropped 7½ tons of bombs in the barracks area. Two F4U's returning to MAJURO collided in mid-air in the traffic circle; both pilots were presumably lost. On the following day (28 May) strikes were continued against WOTJE (by 12 SBD's, 23 F4U's, 2 PV's), JALUIT (29 B-25's), MILLE (13 B-25's, 6 TBF's, 12 F4U's), and TAROA (6 SBD's, 4 F6F's).

8 photographic planes accompanied by 14 B-24's staged from ENIWETOK completed a successful photographic mission of SAIPAN on 28 May. Of 12 intercepting fighters 2 were probably destroyed and 2 damaged. Sighted in TANAPAG HARBOR were one possible BB, 2 CL's, 8 AK's, and 6 seaplanes; at ALISTO Field were 25 VF's, and 12 VB(M)'s. One B-24 was shot down 40 miles east of SAIPAN with the loss of 4 officers and 6 enlisted men; 2 parachuting crew members were strafed by an enemy fighter.

CTF 57 270320 summarizes operations 22-26 May.

SILVERSIDES, operating in the MARIANAS, gives results previously unreported: 4 ships sunk, one probably sunk, and 2 damaged (types unstated). At 300600 GCT she was chasing a convoy at 16-10 N, 144-45 E (NW of SAIPAN), course 310, speed 8.

PERCH, operating east of FORMOSA, reports at 301036 GCT obtaining 4 probable hits from 6 Mark 14's fired at target that appeared to be a diesel tanker.

CADRILLA *Cadrilla*
~~Unknown originator (HARDER ?)~~ reports at 301122 GCT one each NAGATO, FUSO, KONGO Class BB's and 3 other BB's, plus smaller craft, departed southern SIBUTU STRAIT ~~the --- (sighted)~~ *1400H-20 May*, course 160, high speed; no carriers were sighted, but were believed to be present. Originator is searching toward DAVAO; both periscopes are damaged.

(Continued)

1937

29 May (Oahu date - Cont'd.)

On 28 May SoPac air forces made 101 sorties against gun positions and other enemy installations in the RABAU Area. 40 sorties hit enemy targets on BOUGAINVILLE. 6 TBF's continued destruction of enemy's cultivated areas.

On 28 May (D plus 2) our ground forces on BIAK were held up by enemy opposition east of MOKMER Airdrome; 29 B-24's dropped 80 tons of bombs on enemy positions in the MOKMER Area; A-20's and B-25's rendered continuous support. Enemy air action in the area was limited to attacks by groups of 2 to 3 fighters; 2 were shot down by ships' gunfire, one by ground AA fire, and 3 by our fighters.

One group of B-25's again struck BABO, burning one fuel dump and starting other fires. Medium bombers and fighters struck Jap gun positions in the WEWAK Area. B-24's from 13th AF bombed SATAWAN ISLAND; details are unreported. 23 B-24's on 27 May hit WOLEAI; 2 large oil fires were started and 2 enemy planes were destroyed. Fighter sweeps were made against the HANSA BAY Area.

In the North Pacific on 27 May 5 PV's from Fleet Air Wing FOUR made an armed reconnaissance over the KURILES; solid overcast prevented observation of results.

30 May (Oahu date)

CTF 57 reports that native scouts were landed on MALOELAP and interviewed natives. They report Jap garrison strength to be 2000 (mostly navy) and 500 Koreans; these were concentrated at TAROA and REUTER ISLANDS. The air bombing and surface bombardment have inflicted an estimated 2500 casualties; all above ground installations except mobile artillery have been destroyed. They report native food only available and scarce; water is adequate. The natives did not know of our occupation of the MARSHALLS. Jap morale was reported as still good and that they are expecting help.

TAMBOR reports sinking 1 6500-ton diesel freighter with two hits NW of the MARIANAS; she states that a radar equipped DD and radar equipped planes foiled a night attack on 2 Maru's on 27 May. Air patrols were active in the vicinity of the MARIANAS.

Additional submarine reports of sightings of Japanese Warships have been received, and are summarized chronologically as follows (all times H(-8)):

- (1) 1400, 30 May, by CABRILLA: 1 each KONGO, NAGATO, FUSO, and possibly 3 other BB's, departed S SIBUTU (near TAWI TAWI), course 160, high speed.
- (2) 1500, 30 May, by BLUEFISH: 1 BB, 4 CA's, 3 DD's posit 04-40 N, 120-08 E (43 miles E of S SIBUTU, 33 miles S of E TAWI TAWI), course 090, speed 19.
- (3) Dawn, 31 May, by BLUEFISH: In TAWI TAWI BAY were 3 CV's, 2 BB's, 2 CA's, 2 large unidentified warships, and other smaller craft; believes 1 additional carrier possibly present.
- (4) 1025, 31 May, by GURNARD: 3 BB's with unidentified screen posit 5-19 N, 125-40E (15 miles SE of SARANGANI) course 050, speed 18.
- (5) 1200, 31 May, by RAY: 1 YAMASHIRO BB, 3 DD's, 2 CL's (unidentified, but not YUBARI or KATORI Class) passing 10 miles S of SARANGANI, course 060, speed 19.
- (6) 1200-1600, 31 May, by PUFFER: Over 100 carrier aircraft forming up in vicinity of TAWI TAWI; indicates sortie by at least 3 CV's.

- Continued -

30 May (Oahu date - Cont'd)

CominCh & CNO 292206 redesignates amphibious forces of the Pacific Fleet and assigns commanders.

On 29 May SBD's and TBF's dropped 31 tons of bombs on the KAVIENG runway, rendering the field unserviceable; intense, accurate AA fire shot down 3 SBD's and damaged 1 TBF; 2 pilots and 1 gunner were rescued. 23 B-25's hit TOBERA with 276 100-lb. bombs; results were unobserved. 43 fighter bombers started fires in TALILI supply area with 54 500-lb. bombs. 41 fighter bombers struck enemy installations along the northern and eastern coasts of BOUGAINVILLE and bombed the BUKA airstrip. During the night 3 B-25's heckled RABAU, though major strikes against the town were weathered out.

ComSoPac reports the landing of a reconnaissance party on TINGWON ISLAND (W of NEW HANOVER ISLAND). The party recovered several machine guns, and destroyed Jap mortar ammunition and 20 drums of gasoline; no enemy were encountered.

Unfavorable weather on 29 May prevented air support of our ground forces on BIAK ISLAND. On the night of 28-29 May TRUK and WOLEAI were bombed by B-24's from the 13th AF. Neither interception nor AA fire was encountered. B-24's, A-20's and B-25's hit the WEWAK Area bombing enemy installations and gun positions. The SARMI and MAFFIN BAY Areas were attacked by A-20's and B-25's. P-39's made fighter sweeps over the HANSA BAY Area. C-47's flew 69 missions to HOLLANDIA and 13 to WAKDE. 11 B-25's bombed TIMOEKA airstrip (SW NEW GUINEA), silencing AA fire; the strip was believed to be serviceable.

Our ground forces continued to meet resistance along the eastern edge of MOKMER Airdrome which is covered by enemy shore defensive guns and mortars. The 162nd Infantry on the west flank was still heavily engaged with a force estimated as 1 Infantry Battalion reinforced with tanks and naval guns.

In the MAFFIN BAY Area fighting continues against an enemy force SE of the MAFFIN airstrip. 75 of the enemy attacked our perimeter near TOEM; 53 were killed. Total enemy casualties in the MAFFIN BAY-SARMI Area stands at 1,329 killed 6 captured; an estimated 2000-3000 enemy remain in the area.

Enemy movements continue westward from WEWAK.

In the North Pacific on 29 May 2 B-24's from the 11th AF and 5 PV's from Fleet Air Wing FOUR made an armed reconnaissance over MATSUWA, SHIMUSHU, and HASHIWABARA; bombs were dropped but results were unobserved owing to the overcast.

31 May (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft continued on 29 May with strikes against MALOELAP (10 ton by 8 F6F's, 14 SBD's), MILLE (4 tons by 7 F4U's, 7 SBD), WOTJE (3 tons by 24 F4U's, 12 SBD's, 3 PV's). Two B-24's obtained partial photographic coverage of WOTJE, MILLE and JALUIT.

The airfield on ENGEBI ISLAND (ENIWETOK) is named WIGLEY FIELD in honor of the late Lieutenant Colonel Ray Clark Wigley, O-337221, AUS. Lt. Col. Wigley was former Commanding Officer, 531st Fighter Bombardment Squadron; he was killed in action 18 January 1944 while leading his squadron on a combat mission over JALUIT ATOLL.

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31 May (Oahu date - Cont'd)

The SS HENRY BERGH, enroute from PEARL to SAN FRANCISCO, encountered fog and grounded SE of FARALLON ISLANDS at 1205 GCT 31 May. 1,216 passengers were aboard. Rescue and salvage operations are in progress. All crewmen and passengers have been removed except the Captain and 14 men.

A South Pacific search plane reports 3 DD's in position 05-10 N, 152-42 E, course 170, speed 20 (150 miles SSW of TRUK). DesDiv 41 (4 DD) has been despatched to intercepting position on Equator at 154 E.

A summary of results of South Pacific anti-submarine operations in the area generally NE of MANUS during the period 20-26 May lists 3 enemy submarines as probably destroyed, 1 damaged, and 1 attacked. On 30 May an additional enemy submarine was believed to have been sunk.

SOPAC air forces on 30 May made 100 sorties against the RABAU Sector concentrating against supply areas; fighter bombers, TBF's, SBD's, PV's, and Army and Marine Mitchell's participated; 1 TEF was shot down by AA fire over TALILI; pilots reported observing several small parachutes released by bursting AA shell at 4,000 feet. F4U's continued to harass KAVIENG. 36 F4U's returning from RABAU attacked barges along the BOUGAINVILLE Coast.

On 29 May 1 of our Infantry Battalions landed on the north bank of the TEKESSI RIVER (15 miles SE of TOROKINA RIVER); they secured a position in which one of our artillery battalions emplaced their guns.

RAY reports sighting 1 CA (AOBA Class) and 1 CL (NATORI Class) at 1300 H(-8) 1 June in position 5-40 N, 125-49 E, course 020, speed 18, (S of DAVAO GULF).

On 30 May SWP air forces bombed and strafed BABO with 3 squadrons of B-25's; fires were started among buildings on taxiways and in fuel dumps; 15 enemy fighters intercepted, but results of interception were unreported. An unspecified number of B-24's bombed CAPE MOEN. B-25's and A-20's continued to give close support to our ground forces on BIAK, and medium bombers closely supported our forces in the MAFFIN BAY Area. P-39's and Beauforts bombed and strafed WIEWAK and HANSA BAY Areas. On 29 and 30 May B-24's from the 13th AF hit WOLEAI; neither interception nor AA fire was encountered. On the night of 29-30 May 1 enemy plane bombed WAKDE without inflicting damage. A-20's and P-38's attacked RANSIKI, south of MANIKWORI.

In the North Pacific on 30 May 4 PV's from Fleet Air Wing FOUR carried out an armed reconnaissance over SHIMUSHU; solid overcast obscured results and prevented photographing. Two B-25's attacked picket boats about 150 miles ESE of PARAMUSHIRU; 1 picket boat was sunk and 1 damaged; 1 B-25 was seriously damaged.

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1 June (Oahu date)

Activities of CenPac shore based aircraft on 30 May included strikes against PONAPE, TRUK, WAKE and enemy occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS. 10 B-25s hit PONAPE with 8 tons concentrated against the new airfield, and gun positions on JOKAJ ISLAND. 7 B-24s dropped 12 tons on 3 islands of the TRUK Atoll. 18 B-24s hit WAKE with 42 tons concentrated on WILKES ISLAND, PEACOCK and HEEL POINT. The other objectives included WOTJE (4 F6Fs, 32 F4Us, 19 SBDs, 2 PVs) and TAROA (8 F6F 14 SBDs). 1 PV reconnoitered TONGI Atoll; no enemy activity was observed.

14 B-24s escorted several PB4Y photographic planes (from SoPac) in a photographic mission over GUAM at 290130 GCT May. Of several enemy fighters which intercepted, one is believed to have been destroyed. 15 to 20 single and twin motored planes were observed on the OROTE Airfield. 4 AKs were observed in OROTE Harbor.

During the night of 30-31 May SoPac air forces continued to heckle RABAU. On the 31st operations were conducted in unfavorable weather with results being generally unobserved. 94 sorties of various types of aircraft hit TOBERA, VUNAPOPE, TALILI, DUKE OF YORK ISLAND and RABAU TOWN. 3 SBDs bombed SOHANA ISLAND and the BONIS area.

72 P-39 sorties were flown in the BOUGAINVILLE area hitting the coast opposite the NE tip of SOHANA ISLAND.

Two infantry battalions which have been landed on the north bank of the TEKESSI RIVER (15 miles SE of TOROKINA RIVER) advanced to the northward without making enemy contact.

FLASHER (SWP area) operating in N.E.I. and PHILIPPINES area reports sinking 1 large AK (7500), 1 medium AK (4000), 2 small AKs (1065 ea) for a total of 12,565 tons; and damaging 1 7500-ton AK.

CREVALLE (SWP area) operating north of MALAY BARRIER reports sinking one large AO (16,764), 1 AK (6989) for a total of 23,753 tons; and probably sinking 1 7499-ton AO.

ANGLER (SWP area) operating SOENDA STRAIT reports sinking one 5704-ton AK; owing to 75% of the crew suffering with sickness, the patrol was terminated.

On 31 May SWP air forces supported our ground forces on BIAK ISLAND by hitting the MOKMER area with 33 B-24s which dropped 80 tons of bombs and with medium bombers directed against gun positions and other enemy installations; fighters also patrolled the area without encountering enemy interception. RANSIKI (south of MANOKWARI) was hit by 2 squadrons of A-20s escorted by P-38s. Our ground forces in MAFFIN BAY area were given close support by B-25s and P-47s which strafed armored vehicles and bombed bivouac and supply areas. 2 groups of A-20s and 12 Beauforts bombed and strafed villages south of DAGUA and at WEWAK. Fighter sweeps were made in the HANSA BAY area and along other portions of the North Coast of NEW GUINEA. Targets on PULUWAT and WOLEAI were bombed by 4 B-24s from 13th Air Force; results were unobserved. C-47s flew 65 supply missions to HOLLANDIA and 26 to WAKDE.

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1 June (Oahu date) - continued -

6 DDs remained at BIAK to furnish close supporting fires for our ground forces. An echelon of 8 LCTs, 1 AK and 5 DDs arrived BOSNEK from HOLLANDIA; it is scheduled to return to HOLLANDIA on 4 June.

Report of land activity on BIAK ISLAND indicates no change in the situation. Total force on the Island consists of the 41st Division and 1 RCT of the 40th Division. 3 enemy counter-attacks against the forward elements of the 162nd Inf. Regiment in the MOKMER area forced our troops to withdraw to a defensive position. Total enemy casualties in the BIAK area are reported as 679 killed, 2 captured; our casualties are unreported.

In the MAFFIN BAY area the 158th Infantry Regiment ~~was~~ forced to withdraw to MAFFIN VILLAGE where it established a perimeter defense. Enemy parties continue to infiltrate through our lines. Enemy mortar fire continues against our forces.

In the HOLLANDIA area the total enemy casualties stand at 2561 killed, 550 captured.

On 31 May 4 PVs from Fleet Air Wing FOUR executed an armed reconnaissance over SHIMUSHU; bombs were dropped and photographs were taken. All planes returned safely.

2 June (Oahu date)

A MARSHALLS search plane over TRUK reports sinking 1 7000-ton AK; the seaplane base at MOEN was strafed; two small AK's were set ablaze and an ammunition dump on the west side of DUBLON was set afire. TRUK was also hit by an unspecified number of B-24's from the 13th AF; 8 fires and explosions resulted in the fuel storage areas; 15 enemy fighters intercepted, but results of interception are unreported.

BARB reports sinking 2 AK's with 3 Mk. 14 hits each on 31 May in the OKHOTSK SEA; 1 petty officer was taken prisoner and used as pilot; information on minefields and anti-submarine defenses was obtained from the prisoner.

GUITARRO reports sinking 1 large AK on 30 May and 1 10,000-ton AO on 1 June off the southeast coast of FORMOSA.

PICUDA, operating with the GUITARRO (FENNO Wolfpack), reports damaging 1 large AK with 2 hits, and a small AK with 1 hit on 1 June in the area SE of FORMOSA.

BALAO reports 1 5,000-ton AO sunk with 2 Mk. 14 hits on 1 June in the area 180 miles NE of HALMAHERA.

Information received from the American Red Cross states that 13 men from the SCULPIN are prisoners of war in JAPAN.

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2 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On 1 June SoPac air forces flew 68 sorties which concentrated against RABAU TOWN, TOBERA and VUNAKANAU; 4 B-25's, 16 SBD's, 48 fighter bombers participated. 24 B-25's hit enemy installations in the BORPOP Area of NEW IRELAND. 38 fighter bombers attacked enemy installations in the BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA Area. Planes continued to heckle RABAU and KAVIENG during the night. Destruction of cultivated areas on BOUGAINVILLE continued.

CREVALLE (SWP Area), operating N. of BORNEO, reports sinking 1 AK with two hits from 6 torpedoes fired.

ROBALO (SWP), operating off FRENCH INDO CHINA Coast, reports probably sinking 1 7,500-ton AO.

Following reports of sightings of enemy surface ships are listed chronologically (all times K(-10)):

- (1) 0300, 2 June, by plane:- Enemy DD (5 ships) posit 03-15 N, 130-45 E (155 miles NE of HALMAHERA), course 240, no speed given.
- (2) 0130, 3 June, by plane:- 15 ships, types unstated (in 4 groups), mean posit 05-39 N, 126-15 E (just S. of DAVAO GULF), course 150, speed 15.
- (3) 0440, 3 June, by RASHER:- 2 CA's, 4 DD's posit 04-27 N, 126-57 E (10 miles E of N. Central TALAUD IS.), course 150, speed 22.
- (4) 1424, 3 June, by plane:- 2 BB's, 3 CA's, 1 CL, 9 DD's posit 04-18 N, 128-30 E (90 miles E of Central TALAUD IS.), ~~course 150, speed 20.~~
- (5) 2020, 3 June, by plane:- 3 large AK's, 7 armed auxiliaries, course 300, speed 10, posit 7-10 N, 150-10 E (90 miles W of TRUK).
- (6) 2330, 3 June, by plane:- Attack completed on 1 DD posit 00-40 S, 133-47E (off NEW GUINEA Coast, NW of MANOKWARI).
- (7) 0003, 4 June, by plane:- 10 ships (types unstated) posit 01-50 N, 130-00 E (110 miles ENE of HALMAHERA), course 115, no speed given.
- (8) 0138, 4 June, by plane:- 2 DD's posit 04-00 N, 129-45 E (180 miles E of S TALAUD IS.); 1 direct hit and 2 near misses left DD in sinking condition.
- (9) 0243, 4 June, by plane:- Bombed DD sank.
- (10) 0300, 4 June, by plane:- 8 ships (types unstated) posit 02-10 N, 130-00 E (110 ENE of HALMAHERA), no course or speed given.

SWP air forces on 1 June attacked enemy targets on BIAK ISLAND with 1 squadron of B-24's; medium bombers closely supported our ground forces on BIAK ISLAND and assisted our MAFFIN BAY forces by bombing and strafing bivouac areas in rear of enemy in the MAFFIN BAY Area. An unspecified number of B-25's, escorted by P-47's, attacked NOEMFOOR ISLAND. 23 B-25's, turned back from BABO because of unfavorable weather, attacked the airdrome and nearby villages at TIMOFKA (SW NEW GUINEA), fuel dumps were fired and buildings destroyed; accurate AA fire damaged 1 plane; there was no enemy interception. Air operations in the BUT-BORAM Area were cancelled because of unfavorable weather. C-47's flew 24 supply missions to HOLLANDIA and 4 to WAKDE; 44 others were cancelled because of bad weather. Enemy fliers bombed and strafed the BIAK Area causing only slight damage; 7 planes were reported definitely shot down by AA fire with 3 probably shot down.

In the North Pacific on 1 June 2 11th AF Liberator's executed an armed reconnaissance over SHIMUSHIRU with unobserved results. 4 PV's from Fleet Air Wing FOUR made an armed reconnaissance over SHIMUSHU and KASHIWABARA. All planes from both of the above missions returned safely.

3 June (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft struck WOTJE on 31 May (4 1/3 tons by 28 F4U's, 12 SBD's, 2 PV's), on 1 June (7 tons by 12 SBD's, 3 PV's, 22 F4U's), and on 2 June (3.3 tons by 2 PV's, 25 F4U's); TAROA on 31 May (6 1/2 tons by 21 SBD's, 12 F6F's), on 1 June (7 tons by 15 SBD's, 12 F6F's), and on 2 June (2 1/2 tons by 6 SBD, 4 F6F's); REUTER (MALOELAP ATOLL) on 31 May (2 1/2 tons by 6 SBD's, 4 F6F's); JALUIT on 31 May (3 tons by 2 PV's); MILLE on 1 June (8 1/2 tons by 9 SBD's, 8 F4U's); NAURU on 2 June (11 tons by 11 B-25's). Two PV's made a photo reconnaissance over NAURU and OCEAN ISLANDS on 2 June; heavy AA fire at NAURU was moderate; at OCEAN, intense.

On 2 June 17 B-24's from 7th AF dropped 40 1/2 tons on 3 islands of TRUK ATOLL, hitting warehouse and dispersal areas, and runways. TRUK was also hit on 1 June by 16 B-24's from 13th AF; of 20-40 intercepting fighters, 10 were shot down; 10 B-24's sustained damage; 3 crewmen were killed and 4 wounded.

CTF 59 reports search plane sighted 7 armed auxiliaries, 1 DD, 2 medium AKs and 1 large AK at 030840 GCT in position 07-10 N, 150-10 E (90 miles W. of TRUK), course 270, speed 10. A large AK was reported as probably sunk and all auxiliaries were severely strafed.

BLAIR Wolfpack (PINTADO, SHARK, PILOTFISH), operating NW MARIANAS, reports at 031716 GCT sinking of 1 large Maru with 5 hits from 6 torpedoes fired by the PINTADO, and the damaging of 2 AK's with 2 hits in each by the SHARK.

CominCh 031330 gives locations of echelons of ComGen USAF CHINA-BURMA-INDIA and of ComGen 14th AF; clarifies situations such as that delineated in ComNavUnit 14th AAF and related despatches (pertains to operations projected from one area into another without the prior concurrence of and coordination with the Area Commander concerned).

All SoPac air strikes against RABAU were cancelled on 2 June owing to unfavorable weather. 4 Marine Mitchell's continued to heckle RABAU during the night of 1-2 June; fighter planes also continued to heckle KAVIENG during the night. 48 fighter bombers hit enemy installations in BOUGAINVILLE, with unreported results.

Our ground forces on BIAK ISLAND are engaged in dislodging the enemy from defended positions, and have occupied the open ground to the N. of BOSNEK; an enemy counter attack was repulsed and 81 of the enemy killed; an additional 100 dead Japs were found in 1 of the captured caves overlooking the coastal road. Attack and fighter bombers continue close support of our ground forces. Elements of our ground forces landed on OWI and WOEDI ISLANDS (S. of BOSNEK). At 1100 K (-10) 3 June, 13 to 20 Japanese fighters and dive bombers strafed and bombed beach positions and shipping off BOSNEK; the REID (DD) received several near misses and machine gun hits resulting in 1 being killed and 5 being wounded; there was minor structural damage to the ship; there was no damage to other ships, though the BACHE and MUSTIN (DD's) were attacked. Our intercepting P-40's shot down 7 of the enemy attacking planes.

The covering force off BIAK during the night of 3 June (K) consisted of 1 CA, 3 CL, and 10 DD. Close support was provided by 4 DD and 1 PF (Frigate). An echelon of 10 LST's, 1 AK, 5 DD, and 1 PF is due at BOSNEK 4 June (K).

3 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On 2 June an unspecified number of A-20's bombed and strafed RANSIKI (S. of MANIKWORI) where 4 unidentified enemy planes were destroyed on the ground; A-20's also struck KAMIRI. P-38's on an escort mission with B-25's enroute to BABO were intercepted by 15 to 20 Jap fighters; 11 of the enemy planes were shot down; we lost 1 P-38. A-20's provided close support of our ground forces in the MAFFIN BAY Area, and B-24's and B-25's hit enemy targets in the same area. 55 A-20's and 8 Beauforts bombed and strafed personnel and storage areas at BORAM, DAGUA and WEWAK. P-47's hit the HANSA BAY Area. 9 B-24's bombed the LIANG Airstrip on AMBON; large fires resulted. C-47's flew 86 supply missions to HOLLANDIA and 14 to WEWAK.

In the North Pacific on 2 June 2 11th AF Liberator's bombed MATSUWA after being turned back by bad weather from an attack against SHIMUSHU; results were unobserved owing to overcast. 4 PV's from Fleet Air Wing FOUR dropped bombs and incendiaries on SHIMUSHU and KASHIWABARA; 2 large fires were observed on SHIMUSHU. From the above missions all planes returned safely.

4 June (Oahu date)

CTF 59 reports a search plane sighted 1 AK, 1 possible DD and 6 naval auxiliaries in position 07-25 N, 148-28 E (210 mi. W of TRUK) at 040945 GCT, course 260, speed 10; searcher attacked and sank 1 auxiliary and seriously damaged another (apparently the same convoy reported in the summary 3 June).

CTF 57 010730 summarizes operations 27-31 May.

TUNNY, operating in rotating patrol MARIANAS Area, reports 1 5000-ton AK sunk on 17 May.

FLIER (SS 250) reports attacking convoy on 3 June position 22-55 N, 136-44 E (360 mi. SW of BONINS), and obtaining 3 hits in 2 medium AK's, sinking one and damaging the other.

Intelligence indicates that:

- (1) The enemy believes that we have a striking force, including two carriers, operating northwest of HOLLANDIA,
- (2) The enemy considers it possible that another striking force sortied from MAJURO during the night 4-5 June,
- (3) The enemy still intends to reinforce BIAK using CruDiv 16,
- (4) An oiler group left TAWI TAWI 3 June for the SURIGAD STRAITS Area,
- (5) The CinC Combined Fleet has issued an urgent order to the Striking Force and to FUSO plus CruDiv 5,
- (6) This order may involve movement of the Striking Force to sea to the eastward of MINDANAO.

Intelligence also indicates that enemy air strength is being rushed to western NEW GUINEA. BABO and SARONG are the principal bases for air attacks on our forces at BIAK, and are being directed by ComAirFlot 23 at SARONG.

For the second successive day all scheduled air strikes on the RABAU Area were cancelled on 3 June owing to unfavorable weather. 4 Marine Mitchell's continued to heckle RABAU during the night of 2-3 June. 58 fighter bombers strafed and bombed enemy installations on BOUGAINVILLE, concentrating mainly on the southern portion of the Island.

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4 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

BONEFISH (SWP Area), operating in the SULU SEA, reports sinking 1 AK (4,124), 1 AK (4468), 1 AP (8,812), and 1 AO (10,020) for a total of 27,424 tons; probably sinking 1 500-ton AK.

RASHER reports sighting a TAKAO Class cruiser entering DAVAO GULF at 1000 K (-10) 4 June, and 2 destroyers departing at 1800 K (-10) 4 June, speed 22.

A night search plane reports sighting at 0110 K (-10) 5 June 15 ships (types unstated) in position 00-31 N, 129-05 E, course 360, speed not given; searcher attacked and damaged 1 ship.

Com7thFleet reports situation of Jap southbound surface force HALMAHERA Area remains unclarified.

Our ground forces on BIAK continue to meet strong enemy resistance, but report some advancement to the westward toward MOKMER Airdrome. At 1735 K (-10) 4 June, our force covering BIAK from a position 50 miles NE of BOSNEK was attacked by 10 Jap planes; a near bomb miss slightly damaged the NASHVILLE, but she remains with the force; the PHOENIX received only superficial damage. At 0115 K (-10) 5 June the same force was attacked by an unknown number of Jap torpedo planes; no damage was sustained by the force.

On 3 June 1 group of A-20's struck MANOKWARI firing fuel dumps; the returning A-20's also strafed the KAMIRI Airfield on NOEMFOOR. P-47's, while escorting shipping E of BIAK, shot down 4 Jap fighters. 6 B-24's bombed supply areas at MAFFIN BAY. P-47's and P-39's bombed the WETWAK and HANSA BAY Area. On the night of 2-3 June, an unspecified number of B-24's from MANUS bombed TRUK with unannounced results.

Two 11th AF Liberator's made an armed reconnaissance on 4 June over the Central KURILES; results were unobserved owing to overcast. 1 PV from Fleet Air Wing FOUR bombed KASHIWABARA through overcast with unobserved results.

5 June (Oahu date)

On 3 June CenPac shore based aircraft continued strikes against WOTJE, MILLE, and TAROA; a special strike, made on 5 June against JALUIT, destroyed 4 single engine seaplanes on the water. 13 B-24's hit 3 islands of TRUK ATOLL with 37½ tons of bombs. 2 B-24's hit PONAPE with 11½ tons.

BILLFISH, operating SW of GUAM, reports sinking 1 passenger freighter on 21 May.

BLAIR Wolfpack (PINTADO, SHARK, PILOTFISH) reports at 051028 GCT SHARK sank 1 AP and 2 AK's from convoy position 17-39N, 140-51 E, course 120, speed 8; 5 AK's and 7 escorts remain. A 5th convoy consisting of 3 ships and 4 escorts arrived at the same position, course 235, speed 7; the Wolfpack is after them.

CominCh & CNO 051300 designated commanders of Fleet Marine Ground Forces, POA.

5 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

SoPac air forces on 4 June directed 85-100 sorties against the RABAU Area; SBD's, TBF's, B-25's, and fighter bombers participated. Of 28 SBD's and TBF's which hit VUNAPOPE supply areas, 1 TBF was shot down, and 2 SBD's and 3 TBF's were damaged. 1 of 23 B-25's which hit RABAU TOWN was lost. 5 NEW ZEALAND PV's attacked targets along the NEW IRELAND Coast. 38 fighter bombers, 6 SBD's and TBF's, and 1 PV hit enemy installations on BOUGAINVILLE.

On successive days elements of a FIJI Battalion on BOUGAINVILLE have made landings at TEKESSI RIVER, JABA RIVER, and MUPEKA RIVER; patrols advanced as far south as MAWARAKA (S. end of EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY); only sporadic enemy artillery fire was encountered.

PUFFER (SWP Area), operating N. of TAWI TAWI, reports sinking 1 large unidentified AO, leaving 1 sinking when last seen, and damaging a 3rd.

COD (SWP Area), operating N. of MALAY BARRIER, reports sinking 1 DD KAMIZAZE Class (1,270) and 1 AP-AK (8,812) for a total of 10,082 tons; probably sinking 1 AP (6,003) and 1 AP-AK (5,423) for a total of 11,426 tons.

Our ground forces at ATIAPE report increased enemy pressure against the east perimeter.

Our ground forces on BIAK on the morning of 5 June (K) reached a position NE of MOKMER Airdrome; strong opposition still held up the advance westward along the coast. Air support of ground operations on BIAK continued; 18 B-24's bombed Jap positions.

BABO Airfield was bombed by 1 group of A-20's; several enemy planes were destroyed on the ground; escorting fighters made no contacts. B-24's, A-20's, and Beaufort's bombed the WEWAK Area. 7 B-25's bombed TOEAL Airfield on KAI ISLAND.

On the afternoon of the 5th (K), 2 Jap planes bombed and strafed BIAK without damage.

At dawn on 5 June BLUEFISH reports 3 CV's, 6 CA's, and 10 medium and small unidentified ships, plus 2 probable BB's, at TAWI TAWI.

Intelligence indicates that:

(1) At 042210 CinC Combined sent a most urgent message to Commander Striking Force.

(2) Enemy has ascertained that we have no carriers in forces northwest of HOLLANDIA, but shipping in the CAROLINES, NEW GUINEA, and HALMAHERA Areas remains alerted.

(3) Enemy plans air attack on U.S. force 500 miles bearing 145° from WOLEAI, aircraft from GUAM to stage through WOLEAI.

Com7thFleet estimates Jap Fleet disposition to be near his area on the morning of 6 June (K); this estimate is based on recent sightings as follows:

(1) 2 BB, 5 CV, 6 CA, 1 CL, 10 DD in vicinity of TAWI TAWI.

(2) 1 BB, 2 CA, 5 DD in DAVAO GULF.

(3) 4 DD at HALMAHERA.

(4) 1 CA, 1 CL, 5-6 DD in vicinity SORONG-CERAM.

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6 June (Oahu date)

One Army and 3 Navy photo Liberator's, escorted by 5 Army Liberator's (under CTF 59), photographed GUAM at 060140 GCT; good results were believed to have been obtained with vertical/oblique coverage; 10 to 15 planes of various types were observed on OROTE Airfield and 4 to 5 medium AK's were present in the harbor. CenPac shore based aircraft also attacked MILLE, NAURU, and PONAPE. A MARSHALLS search plane sighted at 060145 GCT 2 AO's, 3 AK's, and 5 armed auxiliaries in position 12-20 N, 147-14 E (140 mi. SE GUAM), course 330, speed 10; 1 trailing AK believed damaged by 4 500-lb. bombs.

BLAIR Wolfpack summarizes results of operations for the past week; this summary includes, adds to, and amplifies the 2 previous reports contained in CenPac summaries 3 June and 5 June. SHARK sank 1 AO, 1 AP, 2 AK's, and damaged 1 AK. PINTADO sank 3 AK's. Minimum total tonnage sunk 46,000; damaged 6,000 tons.

GUIARRO, operating E. of FORMOSA, reports sinking a MINEKAZE Class DD on night of 2 June (intelligence reports indicate this to have been a frigate).

TUNA reports bombarding FAIS ISLAND (E. of ULITHI ATOLL) on 14 May with 24 HC shells.

Though hampered by bad weather, SoPac air forces on 5 June made 45 sorties (11 B-25's, 22 SBD & TBF, 5 PV's, 7 P-38's) against targets in the RABAU Area. BOUGAINVILLE targets were hit by 37 P-39's and 2 TBF's which concentrated against artillery (estimated as about 6 pieces with prime movers) moving north at HARI (SW BOUGAINVILLE, midway between MOILA PT. and S. edge EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY). F4U's conducted fighter sweeps in the BOUGAINVILLE Area.

In the AITAPE Area the enemy continues to exert strong pressure against our east flank. The ground situation on BIAK ISLAND remains unchanged; B-24's and B-25's continue to support the ground forces.

On 5 June, SWP air forces hit MANOKWARI with 43 A-20's, concentrating against shipping supplies, and the harbor and jetties; the returning planes strafed KAMIRI Airdrome on NOEMFOOR ISLAND. Fighter bombers hit enemy installations in the BUTBORAM and WEWAK Areas. B-25's made an armed reconnaissance of the MAPIA ISLAND GROUP (N. of WEWAK). C-47's flew a total of 78 supply missions to HOLLANDIA, 10 to TADJI, and 5 to WAKDE. B-24's from the 13th AF bombed TRUK with unreported results. B-25's which made a shipping strike against WAIGEO ISLAND on the evening of the 6th (K) report 1 possible hit on the bow of an AOBA Class CA.

Com7thFleet reports that damage to the PHOENIX and NASHVILLE will require docking for repairs for periods of 8 days and 5 days respectively.

Marshall 062045Z (pink) directs command of U.S. Army Forces in the South and Central Pacific Areas will pass to Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas at such time as mutually agreed by Harmon and Richardson.

CinCSWPA 210747 May (pink). General MacArthur and Admiral Halsey recommend that assumption of command of forces west of 159 E. pass CinCSWPA effective at 0001 L(-11) 15 June.

(Pink)
CominCh & CNO 071240 replies to the foregoing despatch, approved.

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7 June (Oahu date)

MARSHALLS search plane reports sighting at 070900 GCT 3 AKs with 2 escorts position 07-56 N, 147-32 E (50 miles east of PULUWAT ISLAND) course 090°, speed 10.

RASHER operating CELEBES SEA reports at 080900 GCT sinking one large AP with 5 hits.

In the SoPac area on 6 June unfavorable weather cancelled all bombing missions except for 2 B-25s which heckled RABAU on the night of 5-6 June. Air activity was limited to fighter patrols over the RABAU and KAVIENG areas, and over BOUGAINVILLE. During the above operations 1 B-25 and 1 F4U were lost.

HOE (SWP area) operating CHINA SEA reports sinking one 4000 ton AK and damaging 4 AKs totalling 19,500 tons.

HAKE (SWP area) reports sighting at the entrance to DAVAO GULF at 0230H (-8) 8 June 2 CAs and 2 DDs, course 170°, speed 18; the submarine sank 1 DD.

Com 7th Fleet reports searcher sighted at 0245K (-10) two 7000 ton AKs and one 1000 ton AK, position 03-30 N, 127-30 E (60 miles SE TALAUD ISLAND), course 140°, speed not given; 1 DD at 0030K position 00-16 N, 128-48 E (off east coast HALMAHERA), course 340, speed 23; 7 APs loaded with troops in DAVAO GULF on 7 June (K).

CinC SWPA reports capture of MOKMER Airdrome on BIAK ISLAND; however, Com 7th Fleet reports enemy strongly entrenched around the airfield. B-25s continued to support our advancing ground troops by bombing and strafing assigned targets. Unfavorable weather greatly curtailed SWP air activities. Strikes by the 5th Air Force included, in addition to the B-25s at BIAK, A-20s and Beauforts against WEWAK area, and fighter bombers along the north coast of NEW GUINEA from WEWAK to HANSA BAY. B-24s from 13th AF bombed TRUK through bad weather on the 6th with unreported results. C-47s flew 50 supply missions to HOLLANDIA and 42 to WAKDE.

8 June (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft on 7 June conducted strikes against MILLE, TAROA, WOTJE, PONAPE, and NAURU; a photo reconnaissance was made of PAKIN ISLAND. On the 8th strikes were made against MILLE and TRUK; 4 Liberator's which did not get through to TRUK bombed PONAPE TOWN.

CTF 57 060400 summarizes operations 1-5 June.

FLYING FISH, operating SW PALAU, reports 4 hits sank 1 6,000-ton AK and damaged another at 250100 GCT.

Unfavorable weather prevented operations of hecklers over RABAU on the night of 6 June. On the 7th, 51 sorties were made against airfields and supply areas in the RABAU Area. 38 fighter bombers attacked enemy occupied positions in the BOUGAINVILLE Area. Two Avengers struck in the DUKE OF YORK GROUP.

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8 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

The following summary is given of enemy surface activity in the area north and northwest of BIAK (All times are K(-10)):

(1) At 1330, 8 June, 10 B-25's attacked an enemy task force of 2 CL's (these may have been minelayers) and 5 DD's; report sinking 4 DD's and damaging a 5th; when last seen the force was on a northwesterly course; escorting P-38's shot down 5 of 10 attacking enemy fighters. (Com7thFleet assesses above damage to DD's as 1 sunk, 1 left in sinking condition, 1 burning heavily, and 1 with a small fire).

(2) At 2330, 8 June, the above force was engaged by one of ours consisting of 1 CA, 2 CL, 14 DD.

(3) At 0100, 9 June, being unable to close the range, our cruisers and 6 DD's abandoned the pursuit, while the 8 remaining DD's continued the chase.

(4) At 0230, 9 June, the 8 DD's abandoned the pursuit.

(5) At 1000, 9th, our force assembled and returned toward HOLLANDIA.

(6) At 2029, 9th, a search plane reports 3-5 ships about 85 miles NW of BIAK, proceeding to the SE at 20 knots.

Our ground forces on BIAK continued on 7 June mopping up the enemy force in the vicinity of MCKMER Airdrome and consolidating positions. 25 B-25's and 22 A-20's continue close support of our ground troops; they also bombed SORIDO Airfield.

On 7 June, 24 A-20's bombed the airfield on NOEMFOOR ISLAND and hit enemy gun positions. A-20's and Beauforts attacked targets in the BUT-BORAM and WEWAK Areas. Fighter bombers continued sweeps along the north coast of NEW GUINEA, concentrating on the MAFFIN BAY and WEWAK Areas. C-47's flew 38 supply missions to HOLLANDIA, 36 to WAKDE, and 19 to TADJI. During the past 2 days several raids by 1 or 2 planes each have been made by the enemy against our positions on BIAK and WAKDE; no damage to our forces resulted.

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9 June (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft on 8 June struck TAROA, WOTJE, MILLE, JALUIT, and NAURU. Early on the morning of the 9th 1 squadron of B-24's from 7th AF bombed TRUK ATOLL. A single B-24 bombed PONAPE. A search plane bombed installations on FULUWAT reporting radio station demolished and gun positions knocked out east POINT ALET; observed increased AA positions and new taxistrip parallel to runway; Heavy, medium, and light AA fire was intense and accurate; the plane sustained damage.

SNAPPER, operating off TRUK, was strafed by a Jap fighter; 1 man was killed and the Commanding Officer and 2 men were seriously wounded; bad oil leaks and minor damage required SNAPPER to retire to MAJURO.

On night 7-8 June Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAU. On the 8th 64 sorties were made against enemy installations in the RABAU Area, concentrated mainly against supply areas in the vicinity of RABAU and TALILI; SBD's, TBF's, B-25's, and P-38's participated.

9 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

48 fighter bomber sorties were made against enemy occupied positions in the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE Areas.

On the night of 9-10 June (K) our surface forces searched for the enemy force reported proceeding south from a position about 85 miles NW of BIAK; no contacts were made.

HARDER reports an enemy force of 3 BB's, 4 CA's, plus DD's heading south from SIBUTU at 1800 H(-8) 10 June. Also reports sinking two more DD's at 2130 H(-8) on 9 June while proceeding southward through SIBUTU PASSAGE (based on a report from Com7thFleet, this submarine apparently reported sinking 2 DD's on the 7th).

DARTER (SWP Area), operating E. of HALMAHERA, reports sinking a 5900-ton AK on 13 May.

On the night of 8-9 June (K) 3 B-24's hit PALAU; on the following morning PALAU was again hit by at least 2 squadrons of B-24's; 15 to 20 Jap fighters intercepted. B-24's from 13th AF hit TRUK and SATAWAN on the 9th(K); 15 to 20 fighters intercepted. On the night of 8-9 June (K), an unspecified number of B-25's damaged 47 enemy planes in revetments at BABO Airdrome. On the morning of the 9th (K), 17 A-20's attacked 3 AK's (under 1000 tons) at MANOKWARI; 1 was sunk, 1 left sinking, and a 3rd left burning. B-24's and B-25's heavily hit the WEWAK and HANSA BAY Areas.

The ground situation on BIAK remains substantially the same as previously reported. Medium and heavy bombers continue to support our ground forces.

A pre-dawn strike on 9 June (K) by 2 Jap planes against our airfield on WAKDE destroyed and damaged several planes.

10 June (Oahu date)

Intelligence reports indicate that TF 58 struck MARIANAS on the afternoon of 11 June (E. Long. date); and that our force has been under enemy air attack since about 0200 12 June (E. Long. date).

BANGUST (DE 739) reports destroying Jap submarine 10-00 N, 168-20 E (75 miles NE of ROI) at 101300 GCT after sight contact; hedgehog explosions were followed 1 minute later by a heavy explosion with a large area of oil on the surface.

In the SoPac area Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAU during the night of 8-9 June. On 9 June 78 sorties were made against supply areas in the vicinity of RABAU; the weight of the attacks was directed against RATAVAL, VUNA-POPE, and KERAIVIA; SBD's, TBF's, B-25's, and P-39's participated; in addition to the above sorties, 12 fighter bombers assisted by hitting AA positions. 6 fighters bombed and strafed KAVIENG. 60 fighter bombers attacked enemy occupied positions in the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE Areas. P-38's skip-bombed underground storage areas along KERAIVIA BAY.

SANDLANCE (SWP Area), operating off SAIPAN, reports sinking 3 AK's for a total of 14,200 tons, and damaging 2 AK's for a total of 10,500 tons.

10 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

SWP air forces on 9 June sent 10 B-25's against MANOKWARI which hit the town and shipping in the harbor; 1 small freighter (500-1,000 tons), 6 luggers, and 1 barge were sunk; 3 buildings in the town were destroyed and fires were started. For the fourth consecutive day B-24's from 13th AF bombed TRUK; for the first time in recent attacks, enemy interception was not encountered. An unspecified number of B-24's hit barracks and the operations building on PELELIU Airdrome; this was a night attack which followed a heavy daylight bombardment. A-20's bombed and strafed BABO starting fuel fires and damaging installations. Coastal installations and stores in the BUT-BORAM Area were attacked by 2 groups of A-20's. The usual fighter sweeps were made along the north coast of NEW GUINEA in the WEWAK and HANSA BAY Areas. Reports state that the bombing of WAKDE by 2 Jap planes (summary 9 June) destroyed 10 of our planes.

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11 June (Oahu date)

CTG 58.1 120037 summarizes results of D-4 operations over GUAM and ROTA. A total of 160 sorties were flown. Enemy damage was assessed as 41 planes downed in the air with 1 probable; 6 planes destroyed on ground and 5 probably destroyed; 1 large AK, 1 large AO, 1 medium AK, 2 trawlers, and 1 barge were damaged by strafing. The revetments and dispersal areas at AGANA were strafed as were several trucks on ROTA.

CTF 58 reports air opposition against our force to have been reduced to such an extent as to be negligible; approximately 130 enemy planes have been destroyed. Report also states that on purple beaches (MAGICIENNE BAY) there is moderate surf; on western beaches there is practically no surf. The only discovered changes in known enemy installations are 4 additional automatic AA guns and 2 occupied dual purpose gun positions. Cane fields have been fired and were burning nicely. A search plane from the YORKTOWN sighted a convoy of 3 DD's and 3 1,000-ton AK's 130 miles due west of OROTE POINT (GUAM) at 0900 K (-10) 12 June, course 180, speed 10.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 9 June hit JALUIT, WOTJE, and TAROA. On 9 and 10 June OCEAN, NAURU, and MILLE were attacked. On 10 June 2 Liberators, diverted from TRUK strike, hit PONAPE. On 10 and 11 June, B-24's bombed major islands of TRUK ATOLL.

While handling Torpex warheads at about 111430 VW (plus 9 $\frac{1}{2}$) an explosion occurred involving loading platform and 1 tunnel at WAIKELE GULCH Annex. A total of 78 warheads exploded while they were being unloaded from a truck onto a platform for transfer to an underground tunnel. Two enlisted men and 1 civilian are known to have been killed; 1 warrant officer and 3 enlisted men and 3 civilians are missing. Investigation is in progress.

Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAUl during the night of 9-10 June. On 10 June 136 sorties were made against AA gun positions S and SW of RAPOPO in the RABAUl Area; SBD's, TBF's, B-25's, P-39's, and P-38's participated in the dropping of 87 tons of bombs. 8 fighter patrols bombed the KAVIENG runway while 5 PV's hit other targets in the NEW IRELAND Area. 6 B-24's, during a training exercise, bombed RAPOPO Airfield with 22 tons of bombs. 44 A-20's bombed enemy occupied positions in southern and eastern BOUGAINVILLE. The usual fighter sweeps were made along the coast of BUKA and BOUGAINVILLE.

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11 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

HARDER reports sighting anchored in TAWI TAWI BAY on 11 June (K) the tops of 3 or 4 FUSO type BB's, about 6 CA's, and several DD's. She definitely identified 1 BB southbound on 10 June (K) as MUSASHI Class and believes the other 2 are the same class. No carrier based planes were seen in the area.

HAKE, on the morning of 11 June, reports sighting 1 KUMA type CL, 2 DD's, and 1 XCVS with a deckload of planes entering DAVAO GULF.

LAPON (SWP Area), operating in SOUTH CHINA SEA, reports sinking two 7,500 ton AK's and damaging one 7,500-ton AK.

A search plane from SWP Area reports sighting on 11 June (K) 1 CL and 2 DD off PELELIU ISLAND (PALAU). Another searcher reports that 1 CA and 2 DD were sighted in the TRUK Area at mid-day 12 June (K).

Intelligence indicates that:

- (1) There is as yet no enemy reaction involving movement of major fleet units.
- (2) Reaction thus far involves principally shore based aircraft and submarines.
- (3) BatDiv ONE is still involved in operations connected with the MENADO-HALMAHERA-WESTERN NEW GUINEA Area.
- (4) CinC First Mobile Fleet is still at TAWI TAWI.

Our ground forces on BIAK report that Japanese artillery fire has been placed upon MOKMER Airfield; our troops are advancing to the west in an effort to eliminate this threat. The covering force of 1 CA, 2 CL, and 14 DD has departed from the BIAK Area and is due to arrive MANUS on 12 June.

The KALK (DD) was attacked by 4 Zekes at 121045 K (-10) while escorting a barge tow into BOSNEK; 1 engine room and fire room were placed out of commission; main power was regained after 6 hours. The ship is proceeding in convoy to HOLLANDIA; personnel casualties were believed light.

On 10 June 24 B-24's heavily attacked PELELIU Airdrome at PALAU; many explosions resulted, fires were started, and an ammunition dump was blown up; 40 to 50 enemy fighters intercepted, but details of interception are unreported; 2 of our planes were lost and several were damaged. During the preceding night PALAU was also raided by an unspecified number of B-24's; neither interception nor AA fire was encountered. During the night of 10-11 June B-24's from 13th AF bombed DUBLON ISLAND (TRUK ATOLL); 1 B-24 was lost. B-24's continued to bomb concentrations of enemy troops and the SORIDO and BORAKOE Airfields on BIAK. A-20's made a shipping strike in the GEELVINK BAY Area. Coastal positions on BIAK were attacked by A-20's. Fighter bombers attacked enemy positions in the BUT-BORAM Area; other fighter bombers hit the HANSA and NIGHTINGALE BAY Areas. C-47's flew a total of 33 supply missions to HOLLANDIA, 33 to TADJI, and 21 to WAKDE.

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12 June (Oahu date)

CTG 58.1 130615 summarizes results of D-3 operations over GUAM and ROTA. A total of 543 sorties were flown. Enemy damage was assessed as 18 planes downed in the air with 3 probably downed, and 1 damaged; 23 planes were destroyed on the ground and 14 damaged; 1 medium AK was probably sunk, and 1 medium AK and 1 sampan and 1 60-ft. ship were damaged by strafing. The Group's combat losses were 4 F6F's and 1 TBF; operational losses were 3 SB2C's and 1 TBF; 5 pilots and 2 crews were lost in combat, and 1 pilot operationally; 1 crewman was seriously injured.

CTG 58.1 121230 contains information concerning enemy installations on GUAM.

CTG 58.1 reports results of air attack against 6-ship convoy reported yesterday 245 mi. W of GUAM. 20 VF's loaded with 500-lb. bombs, plus 1 VFN and 1 SB2C for navigation and rescue, made the attack. 2 AK's, 1 Large DD, 2 medium DD's, and 1 DE were heavily strafed; 2 near misses left a 5,000-ton AK burning fiercely. 1 large DD was fired by a direct hit; a near miss on a medium DD caused fire and trailing oil; position of convoy 11-30 N, 140-00 E (290 mi. WSW of GUAM).

CTG 58.4 130410 summarizes results of D-4 operations over SAIPAN. A total of 105 sorties were flown. Enemy damage was assessed as 15 planes downed in the air with 1 probably downed, and 1 damaged; 10 planes were destroyed on the ground and 7 were probably destroyed on the ground; 1 small AK was probably sunk. Our combat losses were 4 VF's and 3 pilots; operational losses were not given.

CTG 58.4 reports results of 2 strikes on a large convoy approximately 175 miles W. of PAGAN ISLAND. Reported sunk: 1 large AK, 1 medium AK, 3 small AK's, 1 large AO, 1 new type DD, 3 Corvettes; 2 medium AK's were left burning; 3 medium AK's were dead in the water, 1 of which was listing badly and 1 was down by the stern; 1 AK was making 3 knots, but no damage was apparent; 5 Corvettes were left smoking and dead in the water. On the following day remnants of this convoy were again attacked; 1 small AK, after being bombed again, was a complete wreck though still afloat; 1 AK dead in the water was apparently abandoned; another AK previously damaged was sunk.

CTG 58.4 reports sighting and attacking another convoy of 3 small AK's and 2 escorts, position 16-48 N, 143-17 E (170 mi. SW of PAGAN), course 315, speed 10; 1 medium AK was upset and left burning and was being abandoned by the crew and a small AK was strafed and sustained a direct bomb hit and was being abandoned.

Com5thFleet reports that estimated air strength in the MARIANAS, extent of enemy air searches, and advisability of change in pattern of attack on enemy bases caused change in plan of initial carrier strikes which resulted in launching fighters on D-4 instead of D-3.

While results of TG 58.3 operations are lacking, this group lost in combat 1 F6F, 2 SBD's, 1 TBF, and 3 pilots and 3 crewmen; operational losses were 1 F6F and 1 SBD, and 1 pilot. Also reports sinking of 1 AO 15 miles NW of SAIPAN, and at least 2 AK's in TANAPAG HARBOR. The D-2 day bombardment commenced on schedule; no enemy air opposition was encountered.

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Authority: EO 12958, as amended

HQ USEUCOM

- Continued -

1954

12 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

Com5thFleet 130615 contains intelligence information obtained by Commander W. I. Martin, Com VT-10 (ENTERPRISE), who landed by parachute in water 300 yards off SAIPAN beach.

CTF 58 130520 contains intelligence information.

Harmon 290127 (pink) pertains to disposition of personnel becoming excess in the South Pacific and discusses the command setup.

BATFISH, operating in Empire waters, reports sunk to date 1 medium Maru off BUNGO STRAIT (32 N, 133 E).

BARB, operating in SEA of OKHOTSK, reports on 11 June gunned and sank 2 trawlers, and fired 9 Mk. 14's to sink 1 large AP and 1 medium AP with 2 and 4 hits respectively.

ComForwardArea, CenPac 110400 summarizes operations 6-10 June.

CenPac shore based aircraft on the night of 9-10 June maintained heckling patrols over MILLE and TAROA. On 10 June MILLE was attacked and on both days of 10 and 11 June strikes were made against MAURU and OCEAN. On 11 June MALOELAP, WOTJE and PONAPE were bombed. Early on the morning of the 11th and early on the morning of the 12th, B-24's bombed major islands of TRUK ATOLL.

Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAU during the night of 10-11 June. On 11 June 91 sorties were made against enemy installations, principally supply areas, in the RABAU Area. 44 fighter bomber sorties hit enemy occupied positions in the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE Areas.

A SoPac Catalina on a navigational training flight reports sighting at 131235 L (-11) 9 ships believed by pilot to be 2 BB's, 4 CA's, and 3 DD's in position 04-50 S, 161-38 E (80 miles SW of KUSAIE), course 320, speed not given; immediate diversion of searches has been made in order to verify sighting. (NOT ENEMY)
COMAIR 2004
140239

SoPac reports destruction of enemy sub by TAYLOR (DD 468) on 10 June in the area N. of EMIRAU; identified as I-Class.

REDFIN reports that 4 BB's, 6 CV's with planes on deck, 8 CA's, and about 6 DD's sortied at 130100 GCT through north SIBUTU PASSAGE, course 320, speed 18.

SWP air forces on 11 June sent an unspecified number of A-20's, escorted by P-38's, against NOEMFOOR Airfield; large fires resulted; escorts encountered no enemy interception. B-25's hit shipping along the NEW GUINEA Coast 60 miles W. of MANOKWARI, sinking 1 large lugger and damaging 1 2,000-ton AK. On the night of 10-11 June B-24's heavily bombed PELELIU Airdrome concentrating against dispersal areas; explosions and large fires resulted. B-24's from 13th AF also attacked PALAU during the night starting fires, 1 of which was in a fuel dump. B-24's from 13th AF also hit TRUK on 11 June starting fires and large explosions. Our fighters intercepted 6 enemy planes which were bombing BIAK, and destroyed 3 of them with 2 others probably destroyed. A-20's attacked enemy personnel areas and gun positions in the vicinity of BORAM; other A-20's bombed and strafed targets in the WEWAK Area. Usual fighter sweeps were made along the north coast of NEW GUINEA, concentrating in the WEWAK and HANSA BAY Areas. Our ground forces in the MAFFIN BAY Area were supported by P-47's. Medium and attack bombers and

12 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

fighters continued to support our ground forces on BIAK where the land situation is substantially the same as previously reported. C-47's completed 31 supply missions to HOLLANDIA, 15 to WAKDE despite unfavorable weather which caused cancellation of 50 missions to HOLLANDIA. On the night of 11-12 June 22 B-24's bombed the airfield on AMBON.

13 June (Oahu date)

CTG 50.1 131212 reports on beach defenses GUAM at end of D-2 day.

CTG 58.2 130358 summarizes results of D-3 operations against TINIAN. A total of 505 sorties were flown. *Cum*

Enemy damage was assessed as 2 planes downed in the air, 1 destroyed on the ground, 1 probably destroyed on the ground and 6 damaged on the ground. The groups combat losses were 2 TBFs and 1 F6F, and 3 pilots and 4 crewmen; 1 TBF was lost operationally.

CTF 58 140048 summarizes results of operations of CTG 58.3 on D-2 against SAIPAN. A total of 405 sorties were flown. Enemy damage was assessed as 1 plane destroyed on the ground, one probably destroyed on the ground and 1 damaged on the ground; one 60 ft trawler was probably sunk; 5 trawlers and 3 luggers were damaged. The groups combat losses were 3 VTs, and 2 pilots, 1 observer and 5 crewmen.

CTG 58.4 130412 summarizes results of D-3 operations over SAIPAN and PAGAN. A total of 197 sorties were flown. Enemy damage was assessed as 3 planes destroyed on the ground and 1 probably destroyed on the ground; damage to enemy shipping as previously reported (summary 12 June). The groups combat losses were 3 VFs, 2 VTs and 1 VB, and 2 pilots, 2 crewmen; operational losses were 1 VB and 1 VT, and 1 pilot.

CTG 58.7 (via CTF 58) 132313 gives results of naval bombardment on D-2.

Com5thFleet reports 66 prisoners recovered from NICHOO MARU which was sunk 15 miles NW of SAIPAN. One Jap enlisted aviator who was shot down on 13 June was also recovered.

Com5thFleet 140526 estimates capabilities of enemy fleet; directs TG 58.1 and TG 58.4 to proceed toward IWO JIMA to carry out scheduled strikes; directs refueling and replacement of aircraft of TG 58.2 and TG 58.3 on D-1.

ComSubsPac 141001 and 141004 (Ultra--not copied into book) issued by ComSubsPac in conformity with verbal instructions of Cincpac, redispenses submarines in positions to intercept Jap Fleet units moving from the PHILIPPINES to the MARIANAS.

Reports indicate that the work of the underwater demolition teams off the beaches of western SAIPAN was very successful. Reefs were reported as flat on top two to four feet underwater which would permit Dukws to cross at certain places. No mines were discovered and no underwater obstacles.

13 June (Oahu date)-continued-

BANG reports at 140848 GCT damaging 1 AO with 1 hit north of MARIANAS; AO was northbound and apparently fleeing from the striking forces. Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAU during the night of 11-12 June. On 12 June 111 sorties were made against enemy installations in the RABAU area, weight of the attacks was directed against AA positions. 43 fighter bombers hit enemy targets in the BUKA and BOUGAINVILLE area.

BLUEGILL (SWP area) operating north of HALMAHERA reports sinking 1 2900-ton cruiser and 2 AKs for a total of 13,600 tons (summary of 30 April reported the AK as sinking and burning furiously; summary of 26 April reported 1 positive and 1 probable hit in the cruiser).

CABRILLA (SWP area) operating NE of BORNEO reports sinking 1 XCVS, ¹8360-ton AK, 2 60-ton schooners and 1 5500-ton obsolete converted cruiser (summary of 27 May reports the obsolete converted cruiser as an airplane tender, and credits 1 hit for 6 fired; summary same date apparently erroneously reports the sinking of 1 DD).

On 12 June B-24s from 13th AF bombed TRUK; 20-25 enemy fighters intercepted but results of interception are unreported. On the 11th-12th of June an unspecified number of B-24s hit PALAU where fires were started on the PELELIU Airdrome. 2 squadrons of A-20s attacked gun positions along BOROKOE RIDGE in close support of our BIAK ground forces. Fighter bombers set fire to enemy supply and fuel dumps near MAFFIN BAY. Enemy patrol planes harmlessly raided WAKDE under cover of darkness. Medium attack and fighter bombers struck enemy installations in the WEWAK area starting fires and scoring hits on gun positions. Air patrols harassed enemy bivouac area west of BUT, while others swept coastal sectors eastward to HANSA BAY.

In the North Pacific on 12 June 5 PVs carried out an armed reconnaissance over PARAMUSHIRU and SHIMUSHU.

CTF 94 reports bombardment of MATSUWA completed and retirement begun according to plan.

14 June (Oahu date)

Successful landings were made on red, green, blue, and yellow beaches on western SAIPAN from 0843 K(-10) to 0910 K(-10) 15 June against opposition from machine guns and mortars; a few shore batteries fired at ships and approach areas but were generally ineffective; supporting fire by ships and planes was excellent; there was considerable opposition on shore but by 1000 the advance elements advanced halfway to the first phase line, though heavy fighting continued in isolated areas. Troops continued the advance and by 1800 had reached the first phase line except the left center just east of LAKE SUSUPE. All assault infantry except 1 BLT and part of the artillery of both MarDivs landed by 1800 getting a total of about 20,000 troops ashore; advance of assault troops was supported by naval and air bombardment. Practically all coast defense guns and nearly all AA guns on SAIPAN and north TINIAN seemed destroyed though considerable field artillery was still in evidence. Mortar and machine gun fire caused heavy casualties

14 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

in some units and retarded landings, and some beach areas are still receiving artillery and mortar fire. Several enemy counter attacks with tanks were repelled. Several enemy boats which were anchored off shore as strongpoints were silenced. There have been some casualties on the LCI's and the TENNESSEE sustained 4 hits from a 4.7 shore battery on TINIAN. Losses of LVT's and tanks have been light. Enemy troops have been identified as belonging to units of the 13th and 296th Divisions. Prisoners rescued at sea include 126 naval personnel, 5 Koreans, and 5 children. CVE fighters shot down 5 of 12 approaching Jap dive bombers. TF 51, during retirement for the night, was attacked at 1846 by 4 enemy VF's; this suggests possibility of airfields on ROTA or GUAM still operational. TG's 58.2 and 58.3 were seen under attack at about the same time. BLACK reported at 1735 that she was being attacked by several torpedo planes. During the afternoon of D-day the enemy set fire to several beached ships in TANAPAG HARBOR. The channel between SAIPAN and TINIAN was swept during the day with negative results.

Com5thFleet directs landings on GUAM be effected 18 June K; this is W-day. Air and gun bombardment will begin 16 June. CTF 51 has requested that air strikes on 16 June by CTG 58.2 and CTG 58.3 be alternated as far as possible between SAIPAN and GUAM with first strike on SAIPAN.

Sightings of enemy surface forces are enumerated chronologically as follows (all times are K(-10)):

- (1) 140800:- HADDO reports anchorage at TAWI TAWI completely empty.
- (2) 141100:- Com7thFleet reports 2 AO's, 4 large AP's, 4 DD's heading SE position 06-05 N, 126-05 E (at mouth of DAVAO GULF).
- (3) 151900:- FLYING FISH reports large task force slipped past her at SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT; closest range 22,000 yards, but definitely identified 1 NAGATO BB and escorts with more BB's plus 3 carriers plus several CA's and DD's; course 080, speed 20.
- (4) 152330:- SEAHORSE reports enemy task force in position 10-11 N, 129-35E (200 mi. E of SIARGAO IS.), course 045, speed 16.5. The radar indicates 6 ships at ranges from 28,000 to 39,000 yards; believes CA's and DD's probably could not be detected at those ranges.

As result of sightings, ComSoPac has disposed submarines to intercept and attack.

PAMPANITO (SS 383) at 151050 GCT from position 29-58 N, 140-42 E (192 mi. NNW of CHICHI JIMA) reports barometer dropping rapidly with strong indication of typhoon.

Com5thFleet at 142355 GCT directed CTG 58.4 and CTG 58.1 to limit air strikes on IWO JIMA to D plus 1 Day only; all ships of both task groups to proceed toward MARIANAS on completion, and to be prepared for action against enemy forces on D plus 2 Day; Groups ordered to report fuel and bomb situation during Dplus 1 Day strikes.

At 150712 GCT CTF 58 recommends to Com5thFleet that TG 58.4 and TG 58.1 rendezvous with oilers at 1100 K(-10) 17 June in position 18-00 N, 144-00 E (105 mi. W of PAGAN) and fuel as situation permits; estimates TF 58 will have following percentages of bombs available night 16 June: 100% AP; 85% SAP; 45% large caliber GP; 25% small caliber GP; adds, "It's plenty for a battle or so".

- Continued -

1958

14 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

CTG 58.4 142243 summarizes results of D-2 operations against SAIPAN and PAGAN. A total of 217 sorties were flown. Enemy damage was assessed as 5 planes downed in the air; 2 small AK's (1 previously damaged) were sunk; 2 coastal vessels were sunk by the THATCHER and AUSBURNE while on rescue mission. 2 small AK's and 1 small vessel were probably sunk and 6 other small vessels were damaged. The Group's losses were not reported.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 12 and 13 June continued strikes against WOTJE, MALOELAP, JALUIT, PONAPE, OCEAN and NAURU. On 12 June 19 B-24's hit TRUK. On 13 June MILLE was bombed.

Marine Mitchell's continued to heckle RABAU during the night of 12-13 June. On 13 June 87 sorties were made against supply areas in the vicinity of RABAU TOWN and VUNAPOPE; SBD's, TBF's, B-25's, P-38's, and P-39's participated. 28 fighter bombers made harassing strikes over the BOUGAINVILLE Area.

CNB MANUS reports at 140511 GCT that the PITYLLU ISLAND carrier field is now ready with facilities for carrier planes; the 4,500-foot landing strip and parking areas will accommodate 2 CV Groups; there is a tower control, and field lighting and mooring facilities are available; a CASU and an Acorn are operating.

On night of 12-13 June B-24's from 13th AF bombed the YAP Airdrome starting large fires. On 13 June B-24's from 13th AF hit TRUK where 8 explosions and 3 large fires were observed in the target area; 10-15 Jap planes intercepted. A-20's fired 1 fuel dump, several buildings, and several grounded planes at BABO. 2 squadrons of B-24's started fires and explosions on KAMIRI Airdrome, NOEMFOOR IS. Jap concentrations in the vicinity of AITAPE were attacked by 70 A-20's escorted by P-39's and Beauforts. Fighter bombers were active in the WEWAK Area. 12 B-25's staged from DARWIN bombed the LAUTEM Airdrome on TIMOR. On the night of 12-13 June 8 B-24's bombed the HALONG seaplane base at AMBON. Fuel and supply dumps in the MAFFIN BAY Area were hit by P-40's. C-47's completed 96 supply missions to HOLLANDIA and 14 to WAKDE.

15 June (Oahu date)

No additional reports have been received concerning progress of our ground forces on SAIPAN, nor have there been any additional reports of sightings of the 2 enemy task forces previously reported heading toward the MARIANAS. The general effect of the typhoon reported forming in the CHICHI JIMA Area points toward the forming of an equatorial front with a 150-mile band of showers with variable visibility, mostly below 2 miles and with SW force 2 wind, lying between YAP and PALAU, and extending NW to FORMOSA; west of this front weather will be overcast, 1,000-foot ceilings, visibility 5 to 8 miles, wind SW force 4; east of this front partly cloudy to cloudy skies, 2,000-foot ceiling, visibility 10-12 miles, wind SE force 4; equatorial front expected to move slowly westward on 18 or 19 June and shower activity to weaken.

In view of the enemy situation W-Day, previously set for 18 June, has been indefinitely postponed. Upon recommendation of CTF 58, Com5thFleet has detached from TF 51 and attached to TG's of TF 58 the following units:

- Continued -

1959

15 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

(1) To TG 58.2: CruDiv 6, DesDiv 1, DesDiv 106 less WEDDERBURN (DD 684) plus MONSSEN (DD 798).

(2) To TG 58.3: CruDiv 12 less COLUMBIA (CL 56) and DENVER (CL 58) plus BIRMINGHAM (CL 62), DesDiv 12 plus SELFRIDGE (DD 357), DesRon 45. These units are directed to rendezvous with TG 58.2 and TG 58.3 in vicinity of 15-00 N, 144-30 E (60 mi. W of TINIAN) at 1600 K (-10) 17 June. ComDesDiv 12 will designate 2 DD's to report to INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35) at SAIPAN at 1200 K (-10) 17 June as escort to same rendezvous.

The above redistribution of forces augments TG 58.2 by 4 CA's and 4 DD's; TG 58.3 is augmented by 1 CA, 3 CL's, and 13 DD's. The total battleline then becomes 7 CV's, 8 CVL's, 7 BB's, 8 CA's, 9 CL's, 4 CL(AA), and 78 DD's; estimates place strength of opposing Jap fleet to approximate 9 CV's, 5 BB's, 11 CA's, 2 CL's, 2 OCL's, and 27 DD's.

Arrangements have been made to extend search areas to the maximum. ~~Trans-~~
Support groups have retired to the eastward under cover of CenPac shore based aircraft.

CTG 58.1 150109 summarizes results of D-2 operations. A total of 240 sorties were flown. Enemy damage was assessed as 1 enemy plane destroyed on the ground; 1 sampan sunk. The Group lost in combat 1 F6F, the pilot being rescued; lost operationally were 1 F6F and 4 SB2C's.

CTG 58.1 160628 summarizes results of D-Day operations. A total of 237 sorties were flown. Enemy damage was assessed as 33 planes downed in the air, 2 probably downed in the air, 14 planes destroyed on the ground (these may have been hit also by TG 58.4), and 4 planes probably destroyed on the ground. The Group's combat losses were 1 SB2C, 1 TBF, and 2 F6F's, and 3 pilots and 1 crewman plus 1 pilot and 2 crewmen missing (last seen in a rubber boat); lost operationally were 2 TBF, 1 F6F, and 1 SB2C. The HORNET has aboard 112 Jap survivors from a medium AK which was sunk; reported damaged were 6 luggers and 6 small AK's.

CTF 58 152314 summarizes operations of TG 58.3 on D-1. A total of 327 sorties were flown. Damage to enemy was assessed as 1 plane downed in the air and 3 planes destroyed on the ground, with 1 other damaged on the ground; 1 small AK was sunk and 1 landing barge and 1 small AK damaged. The Group lost 8 planes in combat; operational losses were not reported.

SWORDFISH, operating east of the BONINS, reports 1 FUBUKI DD destroyed at 081900 GCT and 1 4,800-ton AK sunk at 141600 GCT.

STINGRAY, on lifeguard station off GUAM, reports at 160150 GCT having rescued 5 downed airmen (4 officers and 1 enlisted man).

CTF 57 reports destruction by HASTINGS (DE 19) of an enemy submarine in position 11-10 N, 164-25 E (120 miles E of ENIWETOK) at 151516 GCT.

Chief of Air Corps reports force of 67 B-29's bombed YAWATA at 151555 GCT; further details will be passed as they become available.

CTF 94 151807 GCT summarizes results of bombardment of MATSUWA between 1513 and 1543 GCT 13 June.

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Authority: EO 12958, as amended
HQ USEUCOM

- Continued -

1960

15 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

Marine Mitchells during the night of 13-14 June heckled RABAU and KAVIENG. 120 SBD's, TBF's, B-25's, P-38's, and P-39's attacked AA positions between RAPOPO and TOBERA on 14 June; results were generally unobserved; 1 SBD was lost. NEW IRELAND targets were hit by 3 NEW ZEALAND PV's. An unspecified number of fighter bombers hit enemy occupied areas in BUKA and BOUGAINVILLE Areas. SBD's continued their daily task of spraying diesel oil on Jap gardens.

A search plane (SWP Area) reports at 161325 GCT sighting 3 warships and unknown number of 4,000-5,000-ton AK's in JEFMAN HARBOR (just west of the VOGEL-KOP).

Another searcher reports 1 large AK with 3 escorts in position 07-00 N, 129-00 E (160 mi. E of MINDANAO) course 220, speed 12.

CERO (SWP Area), operating E of HALMAHERA, reports damaging 3 AK's for a total of 15,500 tons.

SWP air forces on 14 June attacked MANOKWARI shipping with A-20's, escorted by P-38's; 1 lugger and 1 barge were sunk; 1 small AK and several luggers were damaged; there was no interception. B-24's hit NOEMFOOR starting fires in a number of storage areas. A-20's, B-25's, and P-39's pounded enemy concentrations and supply areas from AITAPE to WEWAK. C-47's flew a total of 109 supply missions to HOLLANDIA.

The airstrip on OWI ISLAND (S of BIAK) is ready for daytime emergency landings. The MOKMER Airdrome is serviceable, but awaits mopping up of enemy artillery located on the ridge NW of the drome.

16 June (Oahu date)

Late afternoon and night of 15 June (K) front lines previously established by 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions were withdrawn to the west to facilitate defense and because of continued severe enemy artillery and mortar fire. During the night of 15-16 June strong naval harassing and interdiction fires continued. By noon 16 June enemy pockets of resistance along Beach Green 3 and the pier ~~were~~ largely overcome; however, casualties continued to mount from artillery fire which prevented the landing of equipment and supplies. By 1230 16 June the beaches, pier and lagoon were open for traffic. By the end of 16 June the 4th MarDiv had advanced 800 yards beyond the first phase line; the advance was halted by enemy artillery and mortar fire. The 2nd MarDiv made only slight gains. One RCT of 27th Div landed at 1915K 16 June; 12 battalions of artillery were ashore. On 14 June the CALIFORNIA was hit on the fire control platform by one enemy minor calibre projectile which killed 1 enlisted man, and wounded 1 officer and 9 enlisted men; considerable damage was inflicted to radio and fire control apparatus. 20,000 enemy troops were estimated to be on SAIPAN.

During the night of 16-17 June (K) enemy mortar and artillery fire continued climaxed by a heavy counterattack on our north flank beginning at 0300K; our troops held their positions and destroyed 30 enemy tanks and inflicted many personnel casualties. On the morning of 17 June our assault forces pushed their attack forward steadily in spite of strong artillery fire and several counterattacks on the center and south. At 1800 17 June (D/2) elements of the 4th Div front advanced to a distance of about 3000 yards from the beach; only slight gains were made along the front of the 2nd Div. Strong Naval gunfire continued during the day and air support groups continued to bomb and strafe enemy occupied areas;

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16 June (Oahu date)-continued-

our artillery provided strong support for the infantry. While beaches are completely free from enemy artillery fire, this fire continues to be heavy against the 4th MarDiv and the 27th Div. Bad beaches slowed debarkation of troops, equipment and supplies. 27th Div (less 1 RCT) is now ashore and occupies a sector to the south of the 4th MarDiv. As of 1700K 17 June 2426 casualties were in transports (of these 34 died and 929 were ambulatory). Preliminary estimates of our casualties are 1500 killed, 4000 wounded; enemy killed estimated at 3000; these figures are admittedly unreliable.

On 16 June GILMER (APD 11) sank 5 small AKs north of and headed for SAIPAN; 29 prisoners were recovered. MELVIN (DD 680) and WADLEIGH (DD 689) claimed probable sinking of submarine during early darkness 17th in position 15-00N, 144-17 E (60 miles W of TINIAN); several other submarine contacts have been reported. Several enemy planes bombed and strafed LST groups and PBMs on the water; LST 84 was set on fire (final damage not known); these planes are believed to have landed in the MARIANAS to support operations of enemy fleet. Most of the APs and LSTs, with 4 CVEs are withdrawing temporarily to the eastward.

TG 53.16 underwent enemy aerial torpedo attack at 1800K 17 June position 13-35 N, 148-07 E (170 miles ESE of TINIAN); 4 Kates attacked, 3 were downed; LCI 68 was torpedoed, and in tow but will not be available for operations on W-Day.

CTF 52 170452 is OpOrder A20-44 of CTF 52; the force will support Northern Landing Force, retire temporarily to eastward transports not required at SAIPAN, and cover SAIPAN and retirement groups against enemy surface and air attacks.

One large AO, 1 unidentified ship, and 3 escorts (believed DDs) sighted at 0510K 17 June position 13-29 N, 130-45 E (440 miles NE of SIARGAO IS.) course 120°, speed 15.

CAVALIA reports sighting at 2155K 17 June 15 or more ships (looked like large combatant ships) position 12-23 N, 132-26 E (810 miles due W of GUAM; 314 miles NNW of BABELTHUAP) zig-zag course estimated 090°, speed 19.

Reports from the PHILIPPINES coast watchers substantiate submarine sightings previously reported.

CenPac Shore based aircraft on 14-15 June bombed MILLE, WOTJE, TAROA and JALUIT. On 14 June they bombed TRUK, PONAPE, NAURU and OCEAN. On the 14th the pilot of a downed PV was rescued from the ^{WOTJE} lagoon by a Navy Catalina.

Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAUl during the night 14-15 June. On 15 June 73 SBDs, TBFs, B-25s, P-39s, P-38s and B-24s bombed warehouses and buildings in the RABAUl area. 22 New Zealand fighters continued sweeps over the RABAUl area. Fighter patrols from EMIRAU operated over KAVIENG. 14 fighter bombers attacked enemy occupied positions in the BUKA-BOUGAINVILLE area.

SWP air forces on 15 June struck JEFMAN and SAMATE airdromes in NW NEW GUINEA with 2 groups of B-25s; 40 to 50 enemy planes were destroyed; fires were started and explosions resulted which covered both areas with smoke from burning planes and dumps; much shipping was observed in the harbor; escorting P-38s

16 June (Oahu date) - continued -

accounted for most of the enemy planes downed in the air. A-20s hit enemy shipping in MACCLUER GULF and off KAKOS.

3 B-24s hit YAP during the night bombing the airdrome; 1 B-24 attacked the PELELIU airdrome. Fighter bombers and A-20s hit enemy occupied positions in the DAGUA, WEWAK and HANSA BAY areas. The usual fighter sweeps were made along the North coast of NEW GUINEA.

In the North Pacific on 15 June 4 B-24s from 11th AF made an armed reconnaissance of MATSUWA and PARAMUSHIRU; 19 enemy fighters were sighted over PARAMUSHIRU and several made attacks; all planes returned safely though one was damaged. 7 PVs from Fleet Air Wing 4 bombed PARAMUSHIRU and SHIMUSHU on 15 June; 1 plane was lost and another indicated that it had landed on RUSSIAN territory; 5 planes returned safely though 3 suffered damage. 2 B-24s from 11th AF made an armed reconnaissance over SHIMUSHIRU; both planes returned safely.

Joint Chiefs of Staff 141935 (pink) modifies JCS 713/5.

HANSELL signed ARNOLD 160854 summarizes results B-29 strike against JAPAN.

17 June (Oahu date)

There are no additional reports of progress of operations of our ground forces on SAIPAN. CTG 52.2 reports that prior to daylight 18 June (K) the enemy attempted an amphibious attack just south of GARAPAN; this attack was repulsed by LCI's and LVT's which destroyed 13 enemy barges. During the action 1 LCI was damaged; the PHELPS (DD 360) was struck by 2 8-inch hits which damaged the number 3 boiler, repairs to which are underway and will require an estimated 2 days. Beaches White 1 and 2 (SW SAIPAN) were swept with negative results.

CTF 51 reports at 180134 (GCT) FANSHAW BAY (CVE 70), operating with the Northern Attack Force, was hit by a bomb; she is proceeding to ENIWETOK.

TG 50.17 (fueling group) was attacked in position 14-45 N, 146-10 E (28 mi. ESE of TINIAN) receiving air attacks by 2 waves of enemy bombers from 1655 (K) to 1942 (K) 18th. The number of attacking planes has not been established owing to conflicting reports. The NESHANIC (AO 71) sustained superficial cargo deck and gear damage; no structural damage and spare gear is available; 3 men missing, probably overboard from blast. SARANAC (AO 74) had main steam line ruptured, the sick bay, wardroom, and galley wrecked. Estimate repairs will require 8 hours; 1 officer killed, and 1 officer and 25 men injured. SAUGATUCK (AO 75) reports numerous small holes about 3-inch diameter in crew's compartment and number 4 tank on port side; after port fueling hose out of commission; all holes above waterline; 1 man killed, 1 man injured. Planes attacking this group did not hit escorts.

POMPON reports 1 small AP sunk on 13 June position 32-00 N, 141-00 E (180 miles S. of HONSHU).

17 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

CAVALLA makes further report at 0645 (K) 18 June on enemy force previously reported by her at 2155 (K) 17 June. The submarine was in submerged position under the force position 12-29 N, 134-30 E (590 mi. W. of GUAM). Course varied between 060 and 100 with speed 19. Formation believed led by CV on starboard flank; 2 units of 3 ships in column were believed to be BB's or CA's or both on port flank; other units astern not identified.

Probable CinC 1st Mobile Fleet was DF'd (grade N) in position 13 N, 136 E (500 mi. W. of GUAM) at 2023 (K) 18 June; he sent a most urgent despatch addressed to all commanders Combined Fleet, all commanders Central Pacific Fleet, and Commander 5th Base Air Force; Imperial Headquarters was information addressee.

FINBACK at 2010 (K) 18 June reports sighting searchlights at approximately 14-25 N, 135-45 E. (vicinity of DF'd position); searched at full speed for 4 hours with no results; she is returning to station; reports numerous unidentified planes during the day.

ComGenCenPac 180900 (pink) directs preparation of 1 RCT, 77th Division, for immediate movement to MARIANAS Area for possible employment in FORAGER Operation.

TF 58 has been withdrawn by Com5thFleet from support aircraft missions. Has refueled and received replacement aircraft from transport CVEs. 4 combat CVEs with Northern Group furnishing support aircraft at SAIPAN with 2 others conducting C.A.P. and A.S.P. for tractor groups. 2 CVEs conducting C.A.P. and A.S.P. for Southern Tractor Group. 3 others conducting fighter sweeps GUAM, ROTA, TINIAN. 6 PBM's basing on U.S.S. BALLARD at SAIPAN ordered to conduct night radar search sectors 235 to 295 to 600 miles. 2 damaged 17th by enemy a/c strafing.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 16 June hit PONAPE, JALUIT and MILLE.

Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAU during the night of 15-16 June. On 16 June 110 SBD's, TBF's, B-25's, and P-38's dropped 90 tons of bombs in the RAPOPO and TOBERA Areas. EMIRAU F4U's operated over KAVIENG.

Air operations over BOUGAINVILLE were confined to routine garden oiling and patrolling.

SWP air forces on 16 June again struck the JEFMAN-SAMATE Area, concentrating on SORONG HARBOR shipping; 2 groups of B-25's bombed and strafed; results reported as 3,000 tons sunk, 3,000 tons left afire, 1,000 tons damaged, 500 tons bombed and strafed, 1 unidentified ship destroyed, 2 other cargo ships left sinking, and other small craft and shore installations damaged; there was no enemy interception. 2 groups of A-20's heavily attacked the WEWAK-HANSA BAY Area including DAGUA, BORAM and MUSCHU ISLAND. Fighter bombers made sweeps along the north coast of NEW GUINEA. B-24's from 13th AF dropped 89 tons of bombs on DUBLON ISLAND; a fuel storage tank was destroyed, direct hits were made on installations and buildings, and many fires and explosions occurred in the target areas; 20 enemy fighters ineffectively intercepted and dropped ^{air groups} on our formation destroying 1 of their own planes by accident.

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1964

18 June (Oahu date)

By 1200 (K) 19 June our ground forces had captured ASLITO Airfield and CB's were working on it. Our forces hold a general line extending from AGAAN ENE to a point approximately 4,000 yards N. of NAFUTAN POINT, thence NW along MAGICIENNE BAY for a distance of about 2,500 yards, thence NW to a 1,000-yard E-W line (1600 yards S. of GARAGAN); in the center of our zone of action the enemy holds a pocket of resistance the center of which is about 2,000 yards E. of CHARAN KANAO. Upon recommendation of CTF 56 the 106th RCT (remaining Regiment, 27th Division) will be committed; the 1st Bn. (less artillery) will land on RED 3 Beach which is 2,000 yards N. of CHARAN KANAO and in zone of 2nd MarDiv; remainder of RCT (less artillery) will land on BLUE Beaches which are west of CHARAN KANAO and in sector of 4th MarDiv; the artillery will be landed on YELLOW Beaches which extend from AGINGAN POINT 2,100 yards to the northward. Several hostile counter attacks were reported as ineffective; morning and evening hostile air attacks have occurred daily until 19 June without particular effect, with many enemy planes being destroyed in the air and on the ground after landing on MARIANAS airfields. 1 PBM returning from night patrol was shot down by F6F's W. of SAIPAN on morning of 19 June. ASLITO Airfield is expected to be ready for 1 VF squadron on 21 June and 1 Squadron has been directed to land on that date. CTF 56 recommends that TF 53 return to ENIWETOK in view of the delay in operations of that force against GUAM.

At 0115 (K) 19 June a PBM search plane sighted a large enemy force of about 30 ships headed east position 13-40 N, 136-48 E (about 520 mi. W. of GUAM); another group of 10 ships was about 10 miles further westward. Unfortunately, this sighting was not received by Com5thFleet until 0915 (K) 19 June. A Navy Liberator sighted 2 enemy CV's, 2 CA's, and numerous destroyers at 1120 (K) 19 June position 12-50 N, 137-00 E (about 500 mi. W. of GUAM) course 170, speed 25. At 0530 (K) 19 June TF 58 made a 325-mile night search from 185° to 345° with no contacts.

Commencing at 1045 19 June enemy air attacks were made on TF 58, the planes coming in initially from the westward; the attack was continued for several hours. Some enemy planes landed at GUAM and ROTA but these fields were hit by TF 58 planes several times to prevent use of airfields by hostile aircraft. Over 300 enemy planes are reported destroyed by our planes and AA fire; our own aircraft losses are not yet reported. The only known damage to our ships was 1 bomb hit in the SOUTH DAKOTA; bomb damage does not affect her fighting efficiency. Com5th-Flt reports that enemy may have made long strikes depending on ROTA and GUAM fields for reservicing; if so, his plane losses may be greater than reported. When the attack started TG 58.3 sent out a searching and striking force to locate and attack enemy carriers; no force was encountered.

CAVALLA reports 3 hits from 6 torpedoes fired in a SHOKAKU Class carrier at 1215 (K) 19 June position 11-50 N, 137-52 E (about 500 miles W. of GUAM). The CV was accompanied by 2 ATAGO Class cruisers, and at least 3 DD's; course 115, speed 25. CAVALLA reports hearing 4 terrific explosions in direction of attack 2½ hours later; believes CV was sunk.

There is strong evidence to indicate that enemy fleet is retiring toward DAVAO GULF.

TG 58.4 will fuel at 0600 (K) 20 June; 1 carrier group will fuel each day thereafter in designated fueling area; the carrier group fueling will deny GUAM and ROTA to enemy aircraft.

18 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

CTF 57 161020 summarizes operations for period 11 - 15 June.

CTF 57 has ordered remainder PatRon 16 to SAIPAN to conduct night radar searches to a distance of 700 miles.

On night of 16-17 June Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAU. Fighter bombers, staged from EMIRAU, operated over the KAVIENG Area. 75 B-25's, SBD's, TBF's, B-24's, P-39's, and P-38's attacked enemy targets in the RABAU Area. 5 PV's bombed targets in NEW IRELAND. Fighter sweeps were conducted over BOUGAINVILLE.

8 B-24 squadrons from 13th AF bombed TRUK at 1122 (K) 19 June; results of strike were unreported; there was no interception though 4 enemy planes were observed in the air.

58 A-20's attacked coastal installations along the NEW GUINEA Coast in the WEWAK, DAGUA, and HANSA BAY Areas. Effective fighter sweeps were also made along the NEW GUINEA Coast. C-47's flew a total of 123 supply missions to HOLLANDIA, TADJI, and WAKDE; 111 were to HOLLANDIA.

A single PV from Fleet Air Wing FOUR bombed SURIBACHI on 18 June; bombing was by radar and results were unobserved.

19 June (Oahu date)

Progress of land operations on SAIPAN continued satisfactorily on 20 June (K). The 106th RCT was landed according to plan. Supported by continuous air, ground and naval bombardment our troops advanced to a new line which now includes all of Southern SAIPAN except the NAFUTAN PENINSULA on the SE tip of the island; thence north along the shore of MAGICIENNE BAY to a point at about the center of the bay; thence generally northwest to the west shore at a point approximately 4000 yards north of CHARANKANAO. The pocket of resistance in the center of the zone of action was well organized and put up severe resistance. The ASLITO and CHARAN KANAO air strips are both available for emergency landings and it is expected that fighters will be flown in on 22 June. Our losses are estimated as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA*</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2nd MarDiv	278	1526	488	2292
4th MarDiv	291	2271	714	3276
27th InfDiv	15	78	0	93
Total	584	3875	1202	5661

(*The figures on missing in action are unreliable owing to difficulty in checking personnel on board ships at sea)

WHITE BEACH (Southern shore of SAIPAN) was heavily mined with anti-boat and beach mines; these are now being removed. The supply situation ashore is satisfactory; distillation units are in operation. The damage sustained by LST 84 on 16 June (bomb hit) reported as non-vital; 10 were wounded.

While a report has not been received from Com5thFleet covering operations 20 June, there are several indications that groups of TF 58 struck major units

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1966

19 June (Oahu date) -continued-

of the enemy fleet during the day of 20 June. Several DF locations from 1756K to 2150K 20 June, and 2 sightings from search planes at 1005K and 2330K on 20 June locate the center of the hostile force approximately 850 miles west of SAIPAN. A report from Com5thFleet at 2330K 20 June reports many pilots down in the water from gas shortage approximately 420 miles west of SAIPAN; Dumbo search and rescue was requested for 21 June; 1 DesDiv from each TG has been directed to remain in the area for rescue purposes. ComSubsPac has redispensed submarines to effect rescue and to intercept and attack the hostile force.

ComAF 5 reports sighting by search plane a 15 ship convoy of unidentified ships at 0015K 21 June position 08-11N, 134-45E (just north of PALAUS), course 250°, speed not given; one ship was reported as sunk. On 18 June CenPac shore based aircraft made strikes against TAROA, WOTJE, MILLE, PONAPE and NAURU. 14 B-24s bombed TRUK.

Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAU during the night 17-18 June. On 18 June 87 SBDs, B-25s and P-38s bombed supply areas in the vicinity of RABAU concentrating against VUNAPOPE, RALUM and PRAED POINT. Two flights of 7 New Zealand Pvs hit enemy occupied areas along eastern coast of BOUGAINVILLE. EMIRAU fighters operated over KAVIENG.

NARWHAL (SS 167) (SWP area) operating off east coast of MINDANAO reports damaging 1, possibly two, unidentified 4000-ton ships on 21 May.

On 18 June A-20s again attacked MANOKWARI shipping and coastal areas to the south, the airdrome at MANOKWARI was also strafed. Other A-20's struck the airfields on NOEMFOOR ISLAND. A-20s bombed personnel areas at DAGUA; other targets in the WEWAK area were hit by P-47s, P-39s and Beauforts. C-47s flew a total of 107 supply missions to HOLLANDIA, TADJI and WAKDE. 15 B-25s bombed northeast TIMOR.

20 June (Oahu date)

At 201540 (K) carrier search planes made contact with enemy fleet position 15-35 N, 134-30 E (645 mi. W of TINIAN). At 201553 (K) TF 58 launched full deck load for attack from position 13-55 N, 139-06 E (385 mi. W by S from TINIAN); attack was delivered against hostile force at 201842 (K) in position 15-30 N, 133-55 E (about 30 mi. W of Jap position given above); there were 6 CVs, 6 CAs, 4 BBs present. As result of the long flight and night recovery many planes landed in the water; some pilots were recovered during the night; the search and recovery continues.

Our carrier search planes were again over the enemy fleet at 210700 (K), but strike was launched at dawn from position 15-20 N, 136-55 E (545 mi. W of TINIAN); this strike failed to reach the target which was in position 17-30 N, 131-50 E (about 170 mi. NW of Jap position previously reported on the 20th, and about 300 mi. to west of our force's launching point); our force continued to the westward during the day searching for cripples but with negative results. In the absence of a report from CTF 58, results of the force's strike against the enemy fleet are unknown.

20 June (Oahu date) Cont'd)

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The last reported position of enemy fleet was 17-34 N, 131-40 E at 200650 (K) course 300, speed not over 20; reported position is about 655 miles SE of FORMOSA. The reported composition was 3 medium carriers (1 leaving oil slick) escorted by 3 DD's; 11 CAS and 8 DDs were to the northward of the carrier force; 15 miles to the south of the carrier force were 4 BBs (2 of which were YAMATO Class); 6 DDs were 35 miles astern of BBs. 3 CVs and 2 fleet oilers which were sighted during the attack night of 20 June were unlocated.

Progress of land operations on SAIPAN on 21 June (K) was satisfactory though slow, with heavy fighting continuing during the day on all Division fronts. The pocket of resistance in the center of the zone of action was eliminated; the 27th Division extended their line on NAFUTAN PENINSULA to the south for a distance varying from 200 to 1,000 yards; the line to the north was extended about 1,000 yards. At 0600 (K) 22 June the 2nd and 4th MarDivs will launch a coordinated attack to seize the high ground overlooking MAGICIENNE BAY. No additional reports of casualties have been received.

1 Army VF squadron will land on ASLITO Airfield on 22 June; 2 additional squadrons will land on the 23rd. 12 artillery observation planes have been operating daily from CHARAN KANOA Airstrip. CTF 51 has directed CTF 53 to send 1 CVE plus screen to strike PAGAN airfields early morning 22 June; on completion this strike to rejoin own force. Combatant ships attached to TF 58 during threat of Fleet engagement have been returned to TF 51. Fifth Fleet is returning from pursuit of enemy fleet which is believed to be retiring toward FORMOSA. TransDivs 18 and 28 will depart for PEARL before dark 22 June (K).

On 19 June CenPac shore based aircraft bombed TRUK, PONAPE, MILLE, WOTJE, and TAROA.

Weather restricted the number of Marine hecklers over RABAU to 1 plane on the night of 18-19 June. On 19 June 97 B-25's, SBD's, TBF's, and P-38's attacked AA gun positions S and SW of RAPOPO; 4 B-24's bombed VUNAKANAU Airfield. EMIRAU P-39 patrols operated over the KAVIENG Area. Fighter bombers made sweeps over BOUGAINVILLE, attacking targets of opportunity.

Com7thFleet reports sighting by observer of 1 possible CV, 1 DD, and 3 medium AP's anchored NW of SURIGAO PROVINCE, MINDANAO; approximate position 09-35 N, 125-44 E; sighting reported early morning 21 June.

GURNARD (SWP Area), operating CELEBES SEA, reports sinking 1 large AK, 2 medium AK's, and 1 large AO for a total of 26,900 tons; damaging 1 BB, believed NAGATO Class, and 1 medium AK for a total of 36,700 tons.

SWP air forces on 19 June sent 22 B-24's against KAMIRI Airdrome and dispersal and bivouac areas on NOEMFOOR ISLAND; the areas were heavily bombed, 40 tons being dropped, and a large fire started. A-20's attacked shipping along N coast of VOGELKOP; other A-20's conducted a barge sweep along the north coast of JAPEN IS. Pressure was maintained on enemy troop concentrations E. of AITAPE by light bombers which attacked LUAIN and SUAIN Villages; CAPE MOEM and DAGUA storage areas were also bombed by A-20's. Usual fighter sweeps were made along N coast of NEW GUINEA, including the Islands of MUSCHU and KAIRIRU. C-47's flew a total of 93 supply missions to HOLLANDIA, 14 to TADJI, and 9 to WAKDE.

In the North Pacific on 19 June 2 B-24's from 11th AF bombed SURIBACHI with unobserved results. 3 PV's from Fleet Air Wing FOUR bombed PARAMUSHIRO with unobserved results. A delayed report states that on 17 June 3 PV's from Fleet Air Wing FOUR bombed SHIMUSHU by radar; 2 fires were observed.

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21 June (Oahu Date)

CTF 58 summarizes operations during 19 and 20 June (K). On 19 June ³⁵³356 enemy planes were shot down, 18 by gunfire. We lost 21 planes in combat and 4 operationally; 13 pilots and 6 crewmen were lost in combat, and 1 pilot and 1 crewman were lost operationally. The BUNKER HILL and the WASP received near misses resulting in 1 officer and 2 enlisted men killed, 4 officers and 81 enlisted men wounded; the SOUTH DAKOTA received a bomb hit (previously reported). On 20 June 15-20 enemy planes were shot down; our losses were 49 pilots and 59 crewmen killed or missing in combat, 2 pilots and 6 crewmen lost operationally. Enemy ship damage reported as follows; sunk; 1 CV (HITAKA Class), 3 AO's; probably sunk: 1 CV (HITAKA Class), 1 DD; badly damaged: 1 CV (SHOKAKU Class); damaged by at least 1 hit: 1 CVL, 1 BB (KONGO Class), 1 CA, 2 DD, 2 AO's.

At 1955 (K) 22 June MARYLAND was hit by torpedo or skip bomb; damage is believed not excessive.

Indications continue to point toward retirement of enemy fleet to EMPIRE.

Com5thFleet at 220525 GCT directed CTG 58.4 to proceed with his group as now constituted to vicinity SAIPAN; to deny GUAM, ROTA, and PAGAN to enemy aircraft; to assist in air defense and air support of SAIPAN. Directed that 2 carrier TG's with CA and DD screen be sent to ENIWETOK; the 3rd carrier group with fast BB's to remain in covering position in SAIPAN Area with restricted air operations. Com5thFleet will proceed with TG 58.4 to SAIPAN.

TU 52.17.7, Rear Admiral Kingman in TENNESSEE with CALIFORNIA, escorted by 2 DD's and 1 DE ordered to depart SAIPAN for ENIWETOK 221800 (K) where unit will fuel, provision, and take on ammunition preparatory to returning to SAIPAN.

CTF 58 at 220634 GCT directed CTG 58.2 in BUNKER HILL with CV's, CA's, and DD's of TG 58.1 and 58.2 to depart MARIANAS upon completion of fueling about 23 June (K), and to proceed to ENIWETOK. Enroute each TG to make 1 heavy air strike on PAGAN to put runways and air facilities out of commission, using heavy GP bombs with long delay fuzes. Upon completion of the strike TG 58.1 to fly replacement planes to TG 58.3.

Shipping has been made available to move 1 RCT of 77th Division to ENIWETOK on about 2 July.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 20 June conducted strikes against PONAPE, TRUK, WOTJE, and TAROA.

On 20 June bad weather caused cancellation of major strikes against the RABAU Area, air operations being restricted to strikes by 4 PV's against DUKE OF YORK ISLAND and 5 B-24's against VUNAKANAU and vicinity.

ASPRO (SWP Area), operating off PALAUS, reports sinking 2 AK's for a total of 11,500 tons.

FLIER (SWP Area), operating west of LUZON, reports 2 hits in a 10,000-ton tanker at 131500 (H).

On 20 June 5 squadrons of B-24's heavily attacked NOEMFOOR ISLAND bombing enemy stores and personnel areas near KAMIRI and KORMASOREN Airdromes; though heavy cloud cover prevented observation, smoke from fires and explosions rose

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1969

21 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

above 5,000 feet. B-25's and fighter bombers continued air operations against enemy occupied positions along north NEW GUINEA Coast; unfavorable weather restricted operations. 8 B-24's bombed WOLEAI on 19 June with unobserved results. On 20 June 4 B-25's made a shipping sweep off TIMOR.

The 3 airfields on southern BIAK are reported in our possession.

22 June (Oahu date)

Land operations on SAIPAN on 22 June (K) continued against strong opposition. On the south, an advance varying from 200 to 1,000 yards was made; our forces hold all of NAFUTAN PENINSULA except the last mile. On the north, our forces advanced approximately 1 mile along the entire front which extends generally from southern edge of GARAPAN-TAPOTCHAN (exclusive)-LAULAU on MAGICIENNE BAY; this line is believed to closely parallel the enemy main line of defense. A considerable quantity of enemy materiel has been captured; this includes 41 75-mm guns and various other calibers. Among captured documents are those indicating strength of enemy to be about 23,000; plans for the defense of GUAM (dated 25 March) were also captured. CTF 51 believes 1 submarine was sunk by the BENHAM (DD796) and the CHANDLER (DMS 9) position 15-50 N, 147-05 E.

CTG 58.1 230458 supplements summary of 20 June (K) to CTF 58. Reports 3 of our planes shot down in combat and 2 still unaccounted for; 3 pilots and 6 crewmen were lost in combat with 2 crewmen still missing. Lost operationally were 40 planes; 1 deck officer and 1 crewman were lost operationally. 1 enemy plane was destroyed in the air and 2 others were probably destroyed.

The YORKTOWN claims 2 sure torpedo hits on an unidentified small carrier and 1 DD sunk by a stray torpedo. A BELLEAU WOOD survivor just returned reports CV, HAYATAKA Class, burning and listing from internal explosions as she passed him. The previously reported torpedo hit on an ATAGO Class cruiser by the HORNET group is now believed to be CHOKAI or MAYA Class.

CTG 58.1 222337 summarizes operations 21 June (K). A total of 79 sorties were flown over the target area, but the enemy fleet was not found. The group lost 1 F6F and 1 pilot operationally. 9 men were rescued by rescue planes.

At 231230 (K) TG 58.1 launched a strike against PAGAN reporting no air targets; plans to make a long range fighter sweep against IWO JIMA at daylight 24 June.

At 231205 (K) the MANILA BAY was attacked by 4 hostile fighter bombers about 60 miles E. of TINIAN; no damage was incurred.

ARCHERFISH (SS 311) reports counting on IWO JIMA on 23 June 47 medium bombers and 36 fighters on the ground; 7 500-ton craft were off the west shore.

CTF 51 reports at 231612 (K) that enemy AP and 2 DE's were unloading troops at ROTA; CTG 52.14 was directed to attack during the afternoon. (Report was originated by ASP plane).

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1970

22 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

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CTF 57 210520 summarizes operations 16-20 June.

GenPac shore based aircraft on 21 June conducted strikes against WOTJE, TAROA, PONAPE, and TRUK; in the strike on TRUK the PARAM Airstrip was believed to have been extensively damaged by 13 B-24's which dropped 114 500-lb. bombs.

On 21 June B-25's, escorted by P-38's, attacked enemy shipping off SORONG; other B-25's hit shipping in SELE STRAITS. During the night, an unspecified number of B-24's bombed PALAU with unobserved results. A-20's bombed and strafed KAMIRI and NAMBER Airdromes on NOEMFOOR; other A-20's bombed enemy positions in the vicinity of SARMI. 2 groups of A-20's heavily attacked enemy targets between AITAPE and BORAM, hitting LUAIN VILLAGE and storage areas at WEWAK. the usual fighter sweeps were made along the north coast of NEW GUINEA. C-47's flew a total of 73 supply missions to advance bases. The airfield on YAP ISLAND was heavily bombed by B-24's from 13th AF; a total of 12 enemy planes was definitely destroyed. 4 B-24's from the same force bombed SOROL ISLAND.

CTF 53 230832 (pink) outlines plan for landing on GUAM.

23 June (Oahu date)

On 23 June (K) the 27th Inf. Div. (less 1 RCT) went into the front line between the 2nd and 4th MarDivs; the RCT remains in the NAFUTAN PENINSULA with the mission of cleaning up that area. At 231005 (K) after a 30-minute preparation consisting of an artillery barrage and supporting fires from ships and planes, a coordinated attack was launched directed toward the envelopment of TAPOTCHAU MT. The enemy resisted stubbornly and progress of our forces was impeded by enemy mines and booby traps. By 1500 our front lines had been extended approximately 700 yards on each side of TAPOTCHAU MT. An enemy battery on TINIAN came into action during the night and dropped shells intermittently among transports and on the beach; LST 115 sustained a hit which decommissioned the power steering though the vessel can move under its own power. On 18 June YMS 323 was hit by 6 enemy shells with considerable damage; temporary repairs are now near completion. 3 aviation POWs, who were shot down while trying to land on TINIAN, are now enroute PEARL; they state the following carriers were in the enemy fleet: SHOKAKU, ZUIKAKU, HITAKA, HAYATAKA, RYUHO, and ZUIHO.

CTG 58.1 240153 summarizes operations 23 June against PAGAN. A total of 101 sorties were flown over PAGAN. Enemy damage was assessed as 6 planes downed in the air, 4 destroyed on the ground, and 2 probably destroyed on the ground; 1 sampan and 4 small AKs were sunk; 2 small AKs and 12 sampans were damaged by strafing. The group lost 1 F6F and 1 pilot.

CTG 58.4 reports considerable fighter opposition at GUAM on 23 June; we lost 2 planes and shot down 3 enemy planes.

ComBatPac describes air attack against TG 58.7 on 19 June. Action began at 0608 when a diving enemy plane was shot down by YARNALL (DD 541). At 1002 ALABAMA reported large bogies approaching from 265 distance 130 miles; TG formed in circular disposition with heavy ships and destroyers alternating on circle 6; INDIANA was at center; DesDiv 106 as pickets circle 16 to westward. Raiding planes were intercepted by fighters, but remnants made a determined strafing and bombing attack at 1045 (K) followed by a torpedo attack. Well executed attacks continued

- Continued -

1971

23 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

until about 1500 (K); most attacks were stopped beyond the screen but some penetrated and were destroyed. DesDiv 106 was effective in breaking up approaches. The INDIANA which was repeatedly attacked with bombs and torpedoes shot down 9 enemy planes. MINNEAPOLIS was damaged by a 10-ft. near miss; the INDIANA was dented on the side by a crashing enemy plane; the HUDSON (DD 475) was hit by a 5-inch shell.

On 24 June (K) TG 58.1 made a 240-mile fighter sweep over IWO JIMA. 60 enemy planes, mostly fighters, were shot down; 10 to 20 others which were on the field were not destroyed because of enemy interception. The HORNET CAP shot down 11 of 12 KATES attempting to attack the force and the 12th was shot down by BELLEAU WOOD CAP. We lost 4 fighters.

CTF 51 reports that at 241925 (K) 3 enemy planes dropped bombs on the beach at SAIPAN; planes apparently came from GUAM or ROTA; planes retired on course 200. At 242040 (K) about 10 enemy planes were picked up by radar bearing 210 distance 60 miles; a direct approach was made and flares were dropped over the ships which were covered by a smoke screen. So far as known, planes did not drop bombs or torpedoes; they circled southern TINIAN airfields but apparently did not land (these fields were heavily bombed and shelled during the afternoon and were probably not usable). Planes finally retired at 2140 (K) on course 245.

CTG 52.14 reports completion of photographic mission over GUAM; strong AA fire was encountered. Photographic flight leader estimates that operations over GUAM will be difficult until the area has been neutralized by bombardment.

CTG 52.14 reports sinking by bombing a 4 to 5,000-ton AK at ROTA.

Com5thFleet at 240100 GCT authorized and directed Commander Northern Troops and Landing Force to relieve Major General Ralph Smith from command of the 27th U.S. Army Division and to place Major General Jarman in command of the Division; this action taken in order that the offensive on SAIPAN may proceed in accordance with the plans and orders of the Commander Northern Troops and Landing Force.

Major General Jarman at 240426 GCT requested of CinCPOA that Brigadier General Edgar B. Calliday be sent to SAIPAN by first available air transportation with highest class air travel priority.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 22 June conducted strikes against WOTJE, TAROA, PONAPE, and TRUK; MOEN ISLAND airfield and dispersal areas were hit by 14 B-24's which dropped 140 500-lb. bombs.

Marine Mitchells continued heckling of RABAU during the nights 20-21 June and 21-22 June. On 21 June 64 B-25's, SBD's, TBF's, and P-38's concentrated against supply areas at NORDUP and RALUM. On the following day 79 planes hit AA positions south and southwest of RAPOPO, and 6 B-24's bombed TOBERA. On 21 and 22 June fighter sweeps were conducted over KAVIENG and the usual fighter sweeps were made over BUKA and BOUGAINVILLE.

On 22 June severe fighter activity over GEELVINK BAY and over north central NEW GUINEA coast interrupted 5th AF operations in those areas. A-20's bombed dispersal areas and gun positions on KAMIRI and KORNASOREN Airfields on NOEMFOOR IS.; other A-20's closely supported our ground forces in the SARMI Area. Usual fighter sweeps were made along north coast of NEW GUINEA. 4 C-47's landed on the MOKMER

- Continued -

1972

23 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

airdrome to complete the first missions to BIAK ISLAND, while 33 other missions were completed to HOLLANDIA, TADJI, and WAKDE.

In the North Pacific on 22 June, 3 PV's from FAW 4 bombed KATOAKA; 3 large and several small fires were observed; all planes returned safely.

Richardson 230950 (pink) covers recommendations of Richardson and Harmon that command of U.S. Army Forces in South and Central Pacific Areas pass to command of ComGen USAFPOA; discusses other command relationships.

CinCPOA 240929 (pink) announces decision to employ 96th Infantry Division in STALEMATE in preference to use of 38th Division.

CinCPOA 240514 (pink) discusses and makes recommendation pertaining to employment of 96th Infantry Division in STALEMATE.

CTF 51 232020 (pink) explains reason for delay in estimation of W date for landing on GUAM.

24 June (Oahu date)

The coordinated attack launched by 2nd and 4th MarDivs and 27th Inf. Div. on 23 June (K) continued on 24 June with ~~double~~ envelopment of TAPOTCHAU MOUNTAIN; progress was slow and stubbornly contested by the enemy over terrain which was rough and precipitous. The second day of the attack saw our forces under way at 0800 and by 1400 a general advance of about 800 yards had been made along the front with pronounced salients being developed on either side of the objective. At 240030 (K) 2 small groups of enemy planes approached from the northward and from high altitude dropped sticks of bombs in the inner transport area; naval casualties were 10 killed, 22 wounded on LST 222, LCT 998, PCS 1402, PCS 1461, and PHAON (ARB 3); there was minor material damage. At 241935 3 enemy planes approached apparently from GUAM and dropped sticks of bombs on shore; no report of damage has been received.

CTF 58 reports final results of air operations on 19 and 20 June. Final report for 19th credits an additional 49 enemy planes destroyed of which 15 were destroyed on the ground. Our plane combat losses for the 19th were 27 (increase of 6), and our pilot combat losses were 18 (increase of 5); loss of crewmen remains at 6. On the 20th, 26 enemy planes were downed (increase of 6); we lost 22 pilots in combat (decrease of 25); 27 crewmen were lost in combat (decrease of 32); a total of 95 planes was lost. Revised estimate of damage to enemy ships is considerably heavier than that previously reported, now listing as sunk, probably sunk, badly damaged, or damaged the following: 1 BB, 3 CV, 3 CVL, 2 CA, 4 DD, and 5 AO.

CTG 58.2 241018 summarizes operations for 24 June against PAGAN. A total of 128 sorties were flown over the target. The group lost 2 planes and destroyed 3 enemy planes. Shipping damage was assessed as 3 small AK's sunk, 2 probably sunk, and 3 luggers damaged.

Final report by CTG 58.1 on results of strike against IWO JIMA on 24 June (K) increases to 116 number of enemy planes downed in the air (increase of 56) and 11 others probably downed in the air; we lost 5 planes instead of 4.

24 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

CTG 58.4 250047 summarizes operations against GUAM on 24 June. 151 sorties were flown over the target. Enemy damage was assessed as 2 planes downed in the air and 6 destroyed on the ground; a landing barge loaded with 40-50 soldiers was left burning and sinking. We lost 1 plane.

Com5thFlt 240622 (pink) announces conference with Turner and Holland Smith concludes that situation ashore does not permit withdrawal of any troops now committed, nor can date for such withdrawal now be set; additional reserves may be required and 1st Marine Provisional Brigade will be kept afloat in the area for that purpose; ships of TF 53 not required in current operations on SAIPAN to be sent to ENIWETOK; etc.

PINTADO, operating NW of MARIANAS, reports total score during this patrol 5 loaded AK's sunk for a total tonnage of 37,000; this includes 3 AK's previously reported in summary 6 June.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 23 June bombed WOTJE, TAROA, PONAPE, and TRUK; MOEN Airfield was hit by 15 B-24's which dropped 37½ tons on strips and dispersal areas.

Search plane reports sighting 3 small AK's with 3 auxiliaries at 242300 GCT position 19 N, 143 E (170 miles WNW of PAGAN), course 350, speed 8. ComNavGroup CHINA reports that on 23 June an Army reconnaissance unit observed in TAKAO HARBOR 28 vessels (200-250 feet), 1 BB (600-700 feet), and 1 AO (500 feet). A coast watcher reports in ZAMBOANGA HARBOR on 22 June 1 BB, 2 CA's, 2 DD's, numerous AK's, and many seaplanes including 11 4-engine flying boats.

On 23 June unfavorable weather handicapped air operations over RABAU and BOUGAINVILLE. During the night of 22-23 June 2 Marine Mitchells operated in bad weather to heckle RABAU. Fighter bombers patrolled the RABAU Area on 23 June and bombed VUNAKANAU. Fighter bombers from EMIRAU operated over KAVIENG.

On 23 June 19 B-24's from 13th AF dropped 55 1,000-lb. bombs on YAP; the airfield was accurately and heavily bombed as were buildings and installations near the field.

An unspecified number of B-24's attacked JEFMAN Airdrome on 23 June starting fires and explosions in the dispersal areas; there was no interception. 31 A-20's attacked targets on NOEMFOOR bombing and strafing the 2 airfields and hitting stores and personnel areas. 12 B-25's closely supported our ground forces on BIAK, and A-20's hit enemy occupied positions in the SARMI-MAFFIN BAY Area. 2 B-24's struck PELELIU Airdrome during the night. Fighter bombers attacked bridges and storage areas in the vicinity of WEWAK. C-47's continued supply missions to BIAK, completing 106 missions to HOLLANDIA and other forward bases and 3 to MOKMER Airdrome.

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25 June (Oahu Date)

The 3 division attack against TAPATCHAU Mountain was resumed at 0730 25 June (K). 2nd MarDiv advancing northward about 500 yards and inland to a distance of 1200 yards entered southern part of GARAPAN Village; other elements of the division reached and occupied the peak of the mountain. 27th InfDiv (in the center) met severe resistance from a very strong point 1000 yds SE of the mountain; within the strong point the enemy occupied caves on the sides of cliffs; the strong point is now surrounded and being subjected to point blank artillery fire. 4th MarDiv attacking on the right (East) wing met only light opposition and has now occupied the entire KAGMAN PENINSULA. A small amount of ground was taken on NAFUTAN PENINSULA where one RCT of 27th Div is operating. Few prisoners have been taken though numerous civilians are in our custody. A total of 36 enemy tanks have been destroyed and 40 have been captured; 3 coastal defense guns have also been captured. Our artillery maintains heavy harassing fire in SAIPAN sectors, particularly in GARAPAN. An enemy air attack at 241935 (K) caused no damage as bombs fell in the water.

There is no further estimate on number of enemy dead. The estimate of our casualties follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2nd MarDiv	350	1804	516	2670
4th MarDiv	536	3041	662	4239
27th InfDiv	81	364*	22	467*
Total	967	5209	1200	7376

*Includes 2 from Corps Troops.

CTG 58.1 260114 gives complete summary of strike against IWO JIMA on 24 June. Task Group Commander states that complete surprise was effected and believes that strike broke up a large enemy raid which was assembled and was in the process of hitting southward. Many planes were loaded with torpedoes, had fighter escort and were airborne, on arrival of our fighter sweep.

In order to conduct anti-shipping strikes in GUAM and ROTA, and in southwestern approaches thereto, CTF 58 directs formation of TU 58.4.5 Rear Admiral Baker in MIAMI with CruDiv 14 and DesRon 23; this unit to depart TG 58.4 at 0600 (K) 27 June. If practicable the unit will attack coastal defense batteries and AA batteries on western end of OROTE FIELD. Unit rejoins TG 58.4 by 0800 (K) 28 June.

CTG 58.4 252325 summarizes operations on 25 June against GUAM and ROTA. A total of 102 sorties was flown over the target. Enemy damage was assessed as 8 planes destroyed on the ground, and 11-12 probably destroyed on the ground; one large AK in APRA HARBOR was damaged for the 2nd time. The group lost 2 planes operationally.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 24 June bombed WOTJE and TAROA.

BARB (SS 220) reports on 13 June fired 2 torpedoes to slowly sink one large AP with 2 hits; submarine was operating OKHOTSK SEA.

25 June (Oahu date)-continued-

On the night of 23-24 June 4 Marine Mitchells continued to heckle RABAU. GREEN ISLAND and EMIRAU Corsairs patrolled the RABAU and KAVIENG areas. 68 TBFs, SBDs, B-25s and P-38s bombed targets in the RABAU area concentrating the weight against VUNAPOPE. 16 fighter bombers made sweeps over BOUGAINVILLE.

RAY (SS 271)(SWP area) operating CELEBES SEA reports sinking 1 AO (10,200), 1 AK (5850), 1 AK (8150), 1 AP (8570), 1 AP (8360) and 1 CM (1345) for a total of 42,475 tons.

A coastal observer reports 3 CAs and 2 AOs position 11-09 N, 123-10 E (north of SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT) at 250930 (K), course SW, speed not given.

On 24 June 45 B-24s bombed gun positions, stores, and personnel areas on NOEMFOOR ISLAND from KAMIRI to KORNASOREN airfields; a total of 80 tons of 250 and 300-lb bombs was dropped; explosions resulted in gun positions and fires started throughout the area. 31 A-20s and 12 B-25s strafed enemy bivouacs for 20 miles along the TOR RIVER, and bombed division quarters and villages in the MAFFIN BAY area. Fighter-bombers attacked enemy westward troop movements east of AITAPE. A-20s bombed enemy installations in the vicinity of DAGUA and SUAIN. Fighter-bombers hit enemy positions in the BUT and BORAM areas.

In the North Pacific 3 B-24s from 11th AF attacked KAURABU ZAKI early morning 24 June; results were unobserved; all planes returned safely. 4 PVs from Fleet Air Wing 4 attacked KASHIWABARA-KATAOKA early on morning of 24 June; fires visible for 80 miles from the target; all planes returned safely

26 June (Oahu date)

Com5thFleet 260207 (Pink) comments upon impressions gained upon visiting ashore with Lt.Gen. Holland Smith.

CTF 51 270400 summarizes air operations and enemy air attacks during the last two days.

CTU 58.4.5 reports results of ROTA-GUAM anti-shipping strike which was made on 27 June (K) in accordance with instructions from CTF 58 (summary 25 June). 1 small tug and 2 sampans were destroyed in APRA HARBOR; 1 medium AK was observed on the bottom. Coastal defense guns on OROTE POINT were heavily shelled without receiving return fire. All fuel tanks on south shore of APRA HARBOR were blown up, and the ones inshore at the end of the breakwater were left burning. The CAP reported 10-12 planes on the ground at OROTE Airfield were destroyed and a large fire was started on the field; there was no AA and no air opposition. No shipping was observed at ROTA; a sugar mill there was set afire and 1 large metal building on the south shore was damaged.

Com5thFleet concludes that IWO JIMA is being filled with aircraft from the Empire and that these are staging through ROTA and GUAM to attack our forces; directs CTF 58 to make strike on IWO JIMA, leaving enough strength to deny ROTA and GUAM fields to enemy aircraft.

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26 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

CTG 52.14 (CVE Group) organizes 3 task units; 2 with 3 CVEs each, and 1 with 2 CVEs, with screen, as anti-submarine patrol to cover our forces at SAIPAN.

CTF 51 reports that enemy planes took off from ROTA at 271854 (K) and raided our forces at SAIPAN; these planes began landing again at ROTA at 272020 (K). Com5thFleet has directed CTF 51 that beginning 28 June and until further orders he will make late afternoon strikes on ROTA Airfield with P-47's.

Laying of torpedo net to protect TANAPAG HARBOR was begun at daylight 28 June (K).

SEAHORSE (SS 304), operating between FORMOSA and LUZON, reports attacking a 10-ship convoy at dawn 27 June (K) position 21-19 N, 120-25 E, course 340, speed 9; 1 large AO and 1 medium AK were sunk, and 1 medium AK was damaged.

GenPac shore based aircraft on 25 June, bombed WOTJE, MILLE, TAROA, and TRUK; 10 B-25's hit PARAM Airfield with 20 1,000-lb. bombs with unobserved results; 1 of 5 Zekes which intercepted aggressively was destroyed.

Com7thFleet reports an observer sighted at 260910 (K) in SARANGANI BAY (S. MINDANAO) 7 AP, 3 PG, and 7 launches.

Land operations on BIAK ISLAND were limited to patrol activity. Enemy casualties there reported as 2,370 killed in action and 11 captured. 2 enemy planes bombed MOKMER Airdrome at 252137 (K), injuring 6 men but inflicted little material damage.

21 B-24's successfully bombed YAP at noon 25 June (K); 8 of 26 interceptors were shot down; 1 B-24 was lost. Concurrently with strike against YAP 2 B-24's bombed SOROL ISLAND. 4 B-25's bombed CAPE CHATER Airstrip on TIMOR while 9 Beaufort's hit TIMOEKA (W. NEW GUINEA). 12 P-38's badly damaged a medium AK in the SORONG Area while 12 B-25's attacked a small AK and several luggers at MANOKWARI. B-25's hit enemy installations on NOEMFOOR. Our ground forces on BIAK and in the MAFFIN BAY Area were closely supported by A-20's. Usual fighter sweeps were made along north coast of NEW GUINEA, concentrating mainly in the WEWAK Area.

CTF 94 announces completion of surface bombardment of KURABU SAKI At 0432 (W) 26 June.

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27 June (Oahu date)

Our 3 Divisions on SAIPAN continued to attack during 26 and 27 June (K). The 4th MarDiv (on the east) advanced rapidly to the northward reaching a point on the east coast about 2300 yards north of an east-west line through MOUNT TAPOTCHAU. 27th Inf. Div. (in the center) bypassed the strong point which was holding up their advance, but they continue to meet heavy resistance and have made slow progress. 2nd MarDiv (on the west) advanced further into GARAPAN VILLAGE and now controls MOUNT TAPOTCHAU. The 3 Divisions now hold a "U"-shaped front, commencing on the west coast at a point in the lower third of GARAPAN VILLAGE, advancing generally eastward to include MOUNT TAPOTCHAU, thence southward to a point opposite the southern slopes of MOUNT TAPOTCHAU, thence eastward 2,000 yards, thence to the northward 2300 yards, thence to the east coast. The RCT of the 27th Inf. Div. has occupied all of NAFUTAN PENNINSULA, except the last 250 yards. During the

27 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

night of 27 June about 400 enemy broke through our lines on NAFUTAN PENINSULA and pushed northward to attack Hill 500 ($4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of NAFUTAN POINT); 200 of the enemy were killed with the remainder being dispersed in our rear areas. On night of 27 June a party of enemy snipers attacked ASLITO Airfield and succeeded in burning 1 P-47 plane and damaging 2 others; 13 of the enemy were killed. On night of 25 June our LCI's engaged in action against enemy barges south of TANAPAG HARBOR sinking 1 barge; we lost 1 killed, 4 wounded, and some material damage to LCI's 438 and 456. On the afternoon of 27 June 41 P-47's made a thorough fighter sweep on ROTA without finding enemy planes; however, during the night beginning at 1845 planes were seen by radar to be circling ROTA and appeared to be taking off. Enemy air attacks harrassed our transports during the entire night of 27 June, except for a 45-minute lull; some bombs were dropped in the water, others were dropped ashore; 1 bomb hit close aboard the CAMBRIA wounding 1 man but causing no material damage to the ship. Early morning 27 June enemy planes dropped 8 bombs on the living quarters on ASLITO Field killing 1 and wounding 4. MINRON FOUR is sweeping MAGICIENNE BAY; about 20 moored mines have been swept thus far; some of the mines were found near the shore in 5 feet of water.

Our forces report 1943 enemy dead have been buried; 135 prisoners of war and 3710 civilians are in custody. Our casualties to include 1600 26 June;

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
2nd MarDiv	556	2639	455	3650
4th MarDiv	560	2893	421	3874
27th Inf.Div.	129	697	39	865
Corps Troops	7	47	6	60
Totals	<u>1252</u>	<u>6276</u>	<u>921</u>	<u>8449</u>

There is evidence to indicate that enemy planes have been carefully concealed on GUAM and ROTA and are continuing to operate from those places. Instructions have been issued to photograph both GUAM and ROTA for the purpose of locating camouflaged aircraft. The PAGAN Airfield is reported as still unserviceable with many unfilled craters and no evidence of efforts to repair it.

TG 58.4 struck ROTA and GUAM on ²⁷29 June, flying a total of 50 sorties over the target areas; airfields were bombed and strafed. 10 VF's (only 2 possibly operational) were observed on the ground. A large barrack and 2 fuel dumps were destroyed.

CominCh 271845 discusses movement of 96th Inf. Div. to PEARL about 15 July.

BATFISH (SS 310) reports sighting convoy of 2 AK's, 2 or 3 LST's, and 3 DDs at 280258 GCT position 3 miles bearing 205 from MIYAKE-SHIMA, course SE speed 10; also reports sinking 2 more small AKs.

RATON (SS 270) (SWP Area), operating west of BORNEO, reports sinking 2 large escort vessels, 1 AK, and 3 small craft for a total tonnage of 7,238; damaging 1 large 10,000-ton AP.

Unfavorable weather greatly restricted air operations over NEW BRITAIN on 25 June and considerably handicapped operations on 26 June. On the 25th, 10 P-39's and 24 B-25's bombed targets in the WARABU RIVER Area (near RABAU); results were unobserved. 16 P-39's and 24 SBD's hit the RABAU Area. 32 P-39's made fighter

27 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

sweeps over BOUGAINVILLE. On the 26th 93 B-25's, SBD's, TBF's, P-39's, and P-38's bombed with unobserved results AA positions south of RALUM. 24 P-39's bombed warehouses at KARAVAT and TALILI, and bombed the revetment area at VUNAKANAU. 39 P-39's conducted fighter sweeps over BOUGAINVILLE. On 26 June 1 group of B-24's bombed JEFMAN Airdrome starting several fires in dispersal areas and causing large explosions; there was no interception. A-20's hit KAMIRI storage areas and gun positions. P-40's supported our ground forces on BIAK. Strikes continued to concentrate against enemy occupied positions in the vicinity of MAFFIN BAY, WAKDE, DAUGA, BUT, and CAPE MOEN; MUSCHU and KAIRIRU ISLANDS were also hit. On the preceding day 27 B-24's heavily bombed KAMIRI, NAMBER, and KORNASOREN Airstrips; medium and attack bombers bombed and strafed NOEMFOOR targets. 3 bombers from the 13th AF ineffectively hit WOLEAI on 26 June.

Philippine observers report considerable shipping west of PANAY on 25 June (K) sightings included 3 cruisers, 11 AP's, 4 loaded AO's, and 7 unidentified warships; there exists the possibility of duplication in the report. ComNavGroup CHINA reports 4 convoys of 9, 12, 6, and 3 ships respectively in the area between FORMOSA and the CHINA COAST; sightings made morning 28 June GCT.

In the North Pacific on 25 June 2 B-24's from 11th AF bombed by radar KURABU ZAKI; fires were observed through the overcast.

On the 26th, 4 PV's from FAW 4 bombed KASHIWABARA and SHIMUSHU; fires were observed through the overcast. 1 plane photographed KAKUMABETSU Airfield (PARAMUSHIRU); this plane was attacked by 11 Hamp's, 2 of which were damaged; pictures show rapid construction on the airfield.

28 June (Oahu date)

Our ground forces on SAIPAN made slight advances on 28 June; enemy resistance continues strong. NAFUTAN PENINSULA is now in our hands and organized resistance has ceased. Vigorous anti-sniper patrols are active throughout the garrison area in eliminating isolated enemy resistance. Our total casualties to date stand at 1363 killed in action, 6806 wounded in action, and 843 missing in action. Our troops report burying approximately 4040 enemy dead. Sweeping of MAGICIENNE BAY continues; mines are 4-horned moored type recently laid; BROWN Beaches north of KAGMAN POINT reported mined. Our planes which struck airfields on TINIAN found several well concealed planes in a cane field some distance from the airfield. The airfield at ROTA was believed to be unserviceable on night of 28 June.

From 2040 to 2137 28 June 3 groups of enemy planes coming from SSW attacked SAIPAN; bombs were dropped but damage is not known; 1 enemy plane was shot down and 1 other was probably shot down; planes are believed to have been seaplanes. One of our planes carrying 4th MarDiv observer mistook mortar flash for marker bomb and fired rockets into our troops killing and wounding several. Air and surface units continued to support our ground forces.

TG 58.3 hit GUAM with 37 tons on 27 June (K) concentrating against runways. The TG picked up 4 groups of Bogies (estimated total 8 planes) all apparently enroute YAP to GUAM, course 050, altitude 12,000 ft.

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28 June (Oahu date)-continued-

Between 2300 (K) 26 June and 0010 (K) 27 June TG 52.14 was attacked by two enemy planes believed to be multi-engined flying boats or Bettys. Two torpedoes were dropped. CVEs sustained no damage; one enemy plane was shot down. TG's 58.1 and 58.2 will sortie from ENIWETOK on 30 June and will proceed to the MARIANAS area. Enroute thereto they will conduct strikes on IWO JIMA and CHICHI JIMA until aircraft facilities thereat are wrecked.

TG 58.3 will strike GUAM from the east on afternoon 29 June; group will operate south of GUAM early evening, retiring SE during night. TG 58.4 operating west of MARIANAS will strike ROTA afternoon 29 June, and will keep night fighters over ROTA until 2300.

CTG 58.4 290450 summarizes operations on 28 June.

At about 2305 (K) 22 June LST 119, while beached on SAIPAN and unloading, received one medium caliber hit from an enemy battery on TINIAN; damage to hull and wiring sustained has been repaired and the vessel is now seaworthy.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 26 June bombed MILLE, TAROA, WOTJE, PONAPE, and NAURU; AA positions at the later place were hit by 16 B-25s, 4 of which received minor damage and a 5th was forced down in the water; crew was rescued. On the 27th MILLE, JALUIT, WOTJE and TRUK were hit; at the later place 16 B-24s dropped 45 tons on both MOEN airfields.

BANG (SS 385) reports attacking a large convoy consisting of 10 Marus with 5 escorts, plus 1 possible CVS at 290600 GCT, position 17-15 N, 118-20 E (120 miles west of LUZON) course 205, speed 14. 2 large AKs were sunk with 2 and 3 hits respectively; 3 more hits probably sank another; 125 depth charges inflicted no damage.

GROUPE (SS 214) operating Empire Waters reports ^{at} night surface attack 24 June believes 3500 ton AK sunk with 2 hits; possibly one or two smaller ships also hit.

PUFFER (SS 268)(SWP area) operating north of MALAY BARRIER reports sinking 1 large AK and 2 AOs for a total tonnage of 24,336; and damaging 1 AO and 1 CV (best identified as similar to KAGA class) 26,900 tons for a total tonnage of 34,209.

On 27 June 59 B-25s, P-38s and P-39s dropped 60 tons of bombs on AA positions east of TOBERA airfield. 39 SBDs, TBFs and B-25s dropped 30 tons on supply areas SE of VUNAPOPE. 4 PVs started fires in the KABUNGA BAY area. During the night 26-27 June, 3 Marine Mitchells dropped 39 100-lb bombs on RABAU targets. 16 P-38s and 22 B-25s on the afternoon of 27 June hit ERVENTA ISLAND (off south coast of BOUGAINVILLE) with 49 tons of bombs. 7 P-39s attacked KAVIENG. 18 P-39s harassed BOUGAINVILLE.

Photos indicate that on 27 June TOBERA, VUNAKANAU, KAVIENG and PANAPAI runways were all serviceable. RAPOPO runway was unserviceable. 24 heavy guns had been removed from VUNAKANAU.

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28 June (Oahu date)-continued-

Photos of SOERABAJA on 25 June showed 1 DD, 1 CM, 1 PG, 1 SC and 1 MTB apparently under repair; 3 DDs and 3 SS were in drydock. Merchant shipping totaled 65,000 tons including 1 AO. 3 burned out merchant ships totalling 13,000 tons were observed. Extensive damage had been inflicted on a refinery and engineering works. 9 float planes, 15 bombers and 10 fighters were in the area.

Submarine reports sighting one TENRYU class CA and 2 DDs westbound through SALAJAR STRAIT (SW CELEBES) at 1000 (K) 27 June.

SWP Air Forces on 25 June hit YAP through clouds with 19 B-24s; 7 of 25-30 interceptors were shot down; 4 of our planes were damaged. Also on the 25th, 10 B-24s bombed TRUK, shooting down 1 of 4-5 interceptors.

On 27 June SAMATE airdrome (SORONG area) was bombed by a group of B-24s; on the preceding night 2 B-24s bombed PALAU. 9 A-20s with P-38 escorts bombed KOKAS Village, fighter-bombers hit KAMIRI and NAMBER airfields. Fighter-bombers supported our ground forces on BIAK and in the MAFFIN BAY area. 36 A-20s and 3 B-25s bombed personnel areas near WEWAK. Other fighter sweeps were made along the north coast of NEW GUINEA. C-47s completed a total of 108 supply missions to forward bases.

29 June (Oahu date)

Our ground forces resumed the attack on SAIPAN at 0730 (K) 29 June; the attack was pushed forward against strong resistance for an advance of 1,000 yards on the front of 27th Inf. Div (center of line); enemy resistance reported stronger than during 2 previous days. The terrain is extremely rough and vegetation is dense. The occupation of Hill 774 (3,300 yards NE of MT. TAPOTCHAU) by 4th MarDiv gives us commanding observation to the north and to the east; as a consequence of this conditions for our advance on 30 June are very favorable. The attack on the 30th will be launched at 0700 and will be supported by heavy air and ship bombardment of strong points in TANAPAG HARBOR. The enemy troops which infiltrated from NAFUTAN POINT have been mopped up. 200 enemy dead, including 100 civilians, were found on NAFUTAN POINT. During enemy air attacks 27 June (K) bombs were dropped near our front lines and in ASLITO Airfield Area, and in the corps artillery area; no casualties resulted. On night of 28-29 June, bombs were dropped on shore near ASLITO; 2 were wounded, but no material damage resulted. 75 land mines were found on Purple Beaches (MAGICIENNE BAY); there were also numerous shallow water anti boat mines in MAGICIENNE BAY. Enemy heavy AA was very active for a short period on 29 June (K), shooting down 1 TBM and badly holing another; guns were silenced and did not fire during remainder of the day.

CTG 52.14 (CVE Covering Group) reports that an enemy submarine torpedo passed close aboard during forenoon 29 June; ASP plane reports dropping special bomb which exploded after 1 minute. At 2045 (K) 29 June same TG reports that 3 torpedoes passed through the formation. Gunfire against TINIAN continues. Dawn and evening sweeps were made by P-47's against TINIAN airfields and against MARPI POINT (N shore of SAIPAN). TINIAN fields are still cratered; the enemy is making fresh attempts to repair MARPI POINT Field. VF's and VT's hit 8 3-inch or 5-inch guns on TINIAN. A noticeable decrease in AA fire over southern TINIAN has been noted.

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29 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

Total enemy dead buried by our troops reported as 4949; our casualties to include 1800 (K) 29 June:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2nd MarDiv	653	3154	360	4167
4th MarDiv	625	3171	462	4258
27th Inf. Div.	185	1023	51	1259
Corps Troops	<u>11</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>68</u>
TOTAL	1474	7400	878	9752

CTF 52 announces that beginning 26 June (K) TINIAN will be bombarded daily by air and naval gunfire and shore artillery with the object of destroying all shore batteries, AA guns, artillery, and known defenses. Coordination between air and naval gunfire will be effected by providing 2 sectors of operation.

On 29 June (K) TG 58.4 flew a total of 50 sorties against ROTA. P-47's also made fighter sweeps over the island.

After strike against PAGAN on 28 June (K) CTG 58.4 reports the airfield badly damaged with no efforts to repair being made; few worthwhile targets remain and the Island appears virtually deserted.

CTF 57 262300 summarizes operations 21-25 June.

GenPac shore based aircraft on 29 June bombed TAROA, WOTJE, MILLE, and JOKAJ (PONAPE).

The airdrome at ASLITO on SAIPAN ISLAND has been designated "ISLEY FIELD" in honor of Commander Robert H. Isley, late commander of Torpedo Squadron 16, who on 13 June gave his life gallantly leading an attack on that airdrome, then in the hands of the enemy; during this action he was shot down by AA fire.

STURGEON (SS 187) reports large convoy with many escorts including air cover at 282225 GCT position 27-44 N, 129-05 E (just E of OKUNA SHIMA, AMAMI Group), course 220, speed 8; after sinking a 9,000-ton AK with 4 hits, she received 137 depth charges with minor damage.

SWORDFISH (SS 193), operating in BONINS Area, reports at 292347 GCT destroyed by gunfire a 300-ton trawler and slightly damaged another.

GROWLER (SS 215) reports 3 hits disintegrated and sank 1 large AO at 281731 GCT position 19-10 N, 120-37 E (40 miles N of LUZON).

On the night of 27-28 June 6 Marine Mitchells continued heckling blockade of RABAU and bombed LAKUNAI; 1 B-25 crashed and burned with no survivors. EMIRAU Corsairs patrolled over KAVIENG. 108 B-25's, SBD's, TBF's, P-38's, P-39's heavily bombed AA positions south of RALUM. 34 P-39's and 6 TBF's bombed and strafed BOUGAINVILLE targets.

On 26 June PRESIDENT TYLER grounded while departing TOROKINA; bottom was damaged in numbers 10 and 11 deep fresh water tanks, fracturing shell and salting water; vessel expected to be docked ESPIRITU SANTO early July if inspection determines docking necessary.

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29 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

SWP air forces flew in excess of 200 sorties against enemy positions and installations; weight of strikes was directed against enemy occupied villages west of SARMI, against enemy troop concentrations E. of AITAPE, and against the WEWAK and HANSA BAY Areas. C-47's flew a total of 82 supply missions to forward bases.

CTF 94 reports more completely on bombardment of KURABU ZAKI between 1400 and 1420 GCT 26 June. The approach and firing were made by radar, firing range being 13,000 yards at speed 20. Heavy fog greatly reduced visibility. Enemy shore battery return fire was entirely ineffective; we suffered no casualties to ships or personnel. No shipping was present in the harbor, but 5 fishing craft were reported as probably destroyed.

30 June (Oahu date)

There was little enemy activity on SAIPAN during night of 29-30 June (K). The attack which was launched morning 30 June met strong resistance on the fronts of the 2nd MarDiv and 27th Inf. Div.; advance was slow and at the end of the day our front line remained approximately the same as that at the end of 29 June, though 2 pockets of resistance were eliminated. A TBF's on observation mission ~~was~~ shot down by enemy AA fire and crashed among our own troops causing 7 casualties.

There were no air alerts on night of 29-30 June (K). During the night of 30 June - 1 July several bogies appeared and dropped several bombs on shore. 1 enemy plane was shot down by a night fighter. There were strong air and ship gunfire attacks throughout the day against TINIAN. Fighter sweeps at ROTA were made during the morning and evening. TG 53.2 (TransDivs 4 and 6, and DesDiv 30) and TG 53.17 (Tractor Group) were ordered to ENIWETOK to await further orders. Mine-sweeping of MAGICIENNE BAY was completed.

Our own dead buried totals 1624; incomplete reports show 5692 enemy buried, including civilians. 220 prisoners of war have been taken.

ComDesDiv 46 reports 2 AA batteries on AGANA Field were shelled on 30 June; extent of damage was not observed; firing commenced at sunset and continued at intervals during the night.

23 Zeke's and 1 Kate have been captured at SAIPAN; all planes are in good condition and the Kate is radar equipped.

CTG 58.4 302342 summarizes operations for 30 June (K).

Com5thFleet directs CTG 58.2 to mine CHICHI JIMA at discretion; group is ordered to remain long enough to give IWO JIMA a good "going over". Photos just received show small craft used for unloading at IWO JIMA as valuable target.

PLAICE (SS 390) reports firing 4 torpedoes at convoy of 2 AK's escorted by 1 trawler position 28-22 N, 141-17 E (90 miles NW of CHICHI JIMA), course 220, speed 10 at 300730 GCT; 2 hits in 1 AK and 1 hit in the other are believed to have sunk both AK's.

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30 June (Oahu date - Cont'd)

ALBACORE (SS 218) reports shelling phosphate works on FAIS ISLAND on 30 June; 57 rounds 4-inch fired at dawn and 24 at sunset at average range of 1500 yards; several buildings were deroofed and fires were started; there was no opposition.

FLOUNDER (SS 251) (SWP Area) reports 4 hits in a large AP on 17 June.

CERO (SS 225) (SWP Area) reports sighting at 010430 GCT July 1 BB with several unidentified ships position 5-00 N, 125-20 E (S. of MINDANAO), course 270, speed 20.

On 29 June unfavorable weather greatly restricted scheduled air strikes against the RABAU Area; only 36 sorties were flown and results were generally ineffective. 10 P-39's operated over KAVIENG, and 24 SBD's and 13 P-39's bombed LAKURAFANGE (NEW IRELAND). 9 B-25's and 14 P-38's again bombed ERVENTA ISLAND (off S. coast of BOUGAINVILLE). 27 SBD's, 17 PV's, and 20 fighter bombers hit enemy targets on BOUGAINVILLE.

On 29 June 1 group of B-24's from 5th AF and an unspecified number of B-24's from 13th AF bombed the airfields on NOEMFOOR ISLAND. Fighter bombers conducted fighter sweeps along the north coast of NEW GUINEA and hit several small islands including BIAK and MAPIA. Other attacks made against targets in the WEWAK and SARMI Areas. C-47's flew a total of 33 supply missions to forward bases. On 28 June 40 B-24's hit YAP; of 20 intercepting fighters 8 were shot down, with 1 probable.

In the North Pacific on 29 June 3 PV's from Fleet Air Wing FOUR bombed KASHIWABARA-KATAOKA with unobserved results; all planes returned safely.

1 July (Oahu date)

Our ground forces on SAIPAN resumed the attack at 0730 (K) 1 July, employing 2nd MarDiv and 27th InfDiv, while 4th MarDiv consolidated lines and patrolled to the northward. Opposition continued strong, the only advance recorded being a 500 yd extension forward of the center of our line. Patrols of the 4th MarDiv advanced 1800 yds to the north without making enemy contact. 6015 enemy dead have been buried, and 227 prisoners have been taken. 80 enemy tanks have been captured or destroyed. During the last 2 days naval gunfire and aircraft have strongly supported our troops by bombarding troop concentrations and defenses, particularly in GARAPAN and TANAPAG where buildings and installations are now nearly all destroyed and heavy oil fires are continuous. The usual early and late sweeps of ROTA were made. Gunfire and bombs against TINIAN appear to have destroyed several guns.

Aviation engineers have begun work on KAGMAN POINT fighter strip; preliminary report indicates site favorable for bomber field. All roads are very heavy with fine dust and have poor foundation; road reconstruction is being undertaken but will require a very large amount of work. Garrison forces have taken over shore party and port functions.

TG 58.4 hit ROTA on 1 and 2 July (K); on the 3rd it departs for ENIWETOK. A preliminary report of ROTA strike states that eastern end of runway has been repaired. A narrow gauge railway appears to run north from the field.

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1 July (Oahu date)-continued-

SWORDFISH (SS 193) reports destroying by gunfire on night of 30 June 1 out of 3 100-ton trawlers at 28-02 N, 153-24 E (northeast of BONINS); other trawlers escaped.

CenPac shore based aircraft continued neutralization of enemy occupied atolls in the Central Pacific area on 29 and 30 June. On the 29th strikes were made against NAURU, PONAPE, WOTJE, TAROA, MILLE and TRUK; JALUIT, TAROA and WOTJE were harassed during the night. On the 30th strikes were made against TAROA, MILLE, JALUIT, WOTJE and TRUK.

On 30 June a total of 121 sorties was flown against supply areas and AA positions at and in the vicinity of RABAU; B-25s, SBDs, TBFs, and fighter-bombers participated. Heckling of RABAU during the night was continued by 7 Marine Mitchells. EMIRAU Corsairs continued fighter patrols over KAVIENG. 18 fighter-bombers hit enemy targets in the BOUGAINVILLE area.

PIPEFISH (SS 388) stationed SURIGAO STRAIT reports that to date the only traffic observed using the STRAIT was a convoy that arrived at 010300 GCT; submarine was unable to close the convoy. At 020000 ROBALO (SS 273) reports sighting a FUSO class BB with 2 escorts and air cover, position 03-29 N, 119-26 E (CELEBES SEA, east of BORNEO) course 250, speed 18. At 302230 GCT June, 1 large AO (heavily loaded) and 1 CA were reported eastbound off north end DENAGAT ISLAND SURIGAO STRAIT.

Com7thFleet reports assault forces from SWP area landed on NOEMFOOR ISLAND on 2 July (K) without opposition. Heavy bomber strikes against NOEMFOOR had been made on 30 June and 1 July. On 30 June 130 tons of bombs were dropped. On 1 July an extremely heavy bombing was delivered by 47 B-24s, 47 A-20s, 12 B-25s, 14 P-38s and an unspecified number of B-24s from 13th AF.

B-24s bombed PELELIU airdrome on the night of 30 June--1 July (K). 35 A-20s supported our ground forces at AITAPE by bombing enemy concentrations at CHAROV Village; 35 other A-20s hit YAKAMUL area with 30 tons. Fighter-bombers attacked storage areas and gun positions in the WEWAK and CAPE MOEM areas. The usual fighter sweeps were made along the north coast of NEW GUINEA. C-47s flew a total of 83 supply missions to forward bases.

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2 July (Oahu date)

All 3 divisions on SAIPAN resumed the attack at 0830 (K) 2 July and pushed forward under cover of air, ship, and shore artillery bombardment; the objective is the seizure of the enemy line through MUTCHO POINT-GARAPAN-TANAPAG within the next two days. Offensive was pressed hard and satisfactory advances were made along the entire front, all elements advancing in accordance with the pre-arranged plan. By nightfall the front of the 4th MarDiv had been advanced 1,500 yards; that of the 2nd MarDiv and 27th Inf.Div. had been advanced from 2 to 500 yards. Much enemy material and supplies have been captured in enemy evacuated caves in the rear areas. A few low flying enemy planes molested our forces, but caused no material damage. Considerable annoyance and interference has been caused by radio jamming by the enemy.

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2 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

While details are lacking, CTF 51 reports that on 3 July (K) all divisions made good advances. Morale is high and our troops expect to complete occupation of SAIPAN in the near future. The enemy appears disorganized.

ARCHERFISH (SS 311), operating in BONINS Area, reports attacking 5-ship, 5-escort southbound convoy at 020200 GCT position 27-10 N, 142-05 E, speed 8. 4 timed hits were made in a large AP and 1 hit in a small AK. The convoy continued south inside the 100 fathom curve of BONINS.

BATFISH (SS 310), operating Empire waters, reports at 021200 GCT additional sinkings by gunfire of 1 trawler and 1 patrol boat.

GUAVINA (SS 362) reports 1 AK, 4 DD's position 07-50 N, 131-53 E, (W of PALAU), at 030700 GCT, course 100, speed 9; submarine maneuvers to attack.

Heckling of RABAUUL continued by Marine Mitchells on night of 30 June - 1 July. On 1 July 116 sorties were directed against AA positions and supply areas northeast of TOBERA and at RALUM; B-25's, SBD's, TBF's, P-38's, and P-39's participated. ERVENTA ISLAND was again hit by 14 P-38's. 23 fighter bombers operated over BOUGAINVILLE and over KAVIENG. KAVIENG was also heckled by Marine Mitchells during the night.

Amplifying report on the operation against NOEMFOOR states that the landing of the 158th Infantry Regiment was successfully effected at 0800 (K) 2 July; landing was covered by 1 CA, 2 CL's, and 10 DD's; extremely heavy air support was provided before, during, and after the landing by numerous heavy medium and attack bombers and fighters. The first troops landed without opposition other than enemy mortar fire from the interior. The landing force commander assumed control at 1025. CA's are now retiring to HOLLANDIA to replenish; 5 DD's stand by for close fire support. KAMIRI Airdrome has been occupied south to the river. Our casualties have been very light, reported as 2 killed, 22 wounded. Thus far there has been no enemy air reaction to the operation.

Com7thFleet reports continued indications of enemy intention to launch offensive operations in the AITAPE Area.

In addition to the heavy strikes in support of the NOEMFOOR Operation, SWP air forces attacked VOGELKOP supply lines with 11 B-25's, and sent 61 A-20's against enemy installations in the areas between WEWAK and AITAPE. Fighter sweeps were also made along the north coast of NEW GUINEA. C-47's flew 83 supply missions to forward bases including BIAK and OWI ISLANDS.

3 July (Oahu date)

On 4 July (K) our ground forces captured GARAPAN and TANAPAG, and advanced to a new line north of TANAPAG and about 4 miles from the northern edge of the island. During the night 100 Japs in the rear area attacked the 165th Infantry but inflicted no casualties; 25 Japs were killed, including commander of 135th Jap Infantry Regiment. 23rd Marine Regiment (4th MarDiv) reported counting 1,000 enemy dead in a ravine to the north which had been heavily strafed by our P-47's. On the high lands just captured, have been discovered several caves which contained huge quantities of ammunition and supplies; 1 cave contained an estimated 1,000 tons of food.

3 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

Total enemy troops buried to date stands at 7312. Our revised casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2nd MarDiv	836	3794	315	4945
4th MarDiv	696	3565	341	4602
27 Inf.Div.	322	1682	47	2051
Corps Troops	<u>16</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>71</u>
Totals	1870	9093	706	11669

Large numbers of enemy troops and civilians are reported to be gathering in an area 1500 yards SE of MARPI POINT.

Sweeping operations of TANAPAG HARBOR will begin 5 July (K).

1 LVT moving near the dock at GARAPAN HARBOR was blown up by a shallow water mine; apparently there are many others in the vicinity. During the night 3-4 July (K) there were no air alerts. The usual attacks against ROTA and TINIAN were made. Our troops were effectively supported by air and ship bombardment.

TG 58.4 is now enroute ENIWETOK after striking ROTA. TG 58.3 takes over strike missions and will hit daily ROTA and GUAM. TG 58.1 sighted at 040745 (K) 12 AK's position 250 miles N. of CHICHI JIMA, course north.

TG 58.1 made a successful strike against IWO JIMA on 3 July (K). A total of 63 sorties was flown over the target, the attack came as a complete surprise to the enemy. Their losses were assessed as 39 planes destroyed in the air and 16 others probably destroyed; 24 planes destroyed on the ground; 1 small vessel and 1 barge were strafed. The enemy made no effort to attack our force. An estimated 40 serviceable enemy planes remained on the ground.

In the strikes against ROTA by TG 58.4 on 1, 2, and 3 July, no AA or interception was encountered. These strikes were supplemented by others made by our land based P-47's. ROTA was also hit by TG 58.3 on 2 July, and the same group hit ROTA and GUAM on 3 July.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 1 July bombed MILLE, TAROA, WOTJE, and TRUK. On 2 July WOTJE, TAROA, JALUIT, and TRUK were bombed.

GAR (SS 206), operating BONINS Area, reports destroying a 1,000-ton vessel and damaging a 500-ton vessel by gunfire.

PARCHE (SS 384) reports a 300-ton patrol vessel sunk by gunfire E. of BONINS.

ALBACORE (SS 218) reports at 030130 GCT, position 08-21 N, 136-15 E (100 mi. NE of BABELTHUAP), destroyed with gunfire an inter island diesel powered steamer and took 5 prisoners aboard, 1 badly wounded.

JACK (SS 259) reports 6 hits sank 1 AO and 1 AK at 241900 GCT June, position 16-07 N, 119-44 E (just W. of LUZON); with 18 torpedoes sank 3 AK's and damaged 2 AK's from convoy at 291900 GCT June position 14-25 N, 119-47 E (just W. MANILA BAY).

3 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

At 031600 GCT PARCHE reported 3 unidentified ships, probably 2 CA's with 1 DD, at 19-50 N, 120-36 E (N. of LUZON), course 215, speed 24.

On 2 July 120 B-25's, SBD's, P-38's, and P-39's bombed AA positions SW of TOBERA. 28 other sorties hit targets in the RABAU Area, and the usual heckling of RABAU during the night by Marine Mitchells was continued. 37 TBF's and fighter bombers attacked BOUGAINVILLE targets. EMIRAU Corsairs continued to patrol over the KAVIENG Area.

On 2 July C-47's dropped paratroopers near KAMIRI Airdrome on NOEMFOOR IS.; landing was made behind smoke screen laid by A-20's; during the operation 12 B-25's bombed KORNASOREN, covering the area by bombing and strafing. 1 group of B-24's bombed SAMATE Airdrome (western end of NEW GUINEA); many fires were started and numerous explosions resulted in dispersal areas. Fighter bombers concentrated against storage areas and enemy concentrations at WEWAK and DAGUA; other targets were hit along the north coast of NEW GUINEA between AITAPE and WEWAK. C-47's flew a total of 83 supply missions to BIAK and HOLLANDIA bases.

4 July (Oahu date)

4th MarDiv and 27th Inf. Div. on 5 July (K) launched a coordinated attack at 1300; 2nd MarDiv was placed in reserve with mission of mopping up enemy forces in the area reported as occupied by our forces on 4 July. The attack advanced about 500 yards. 4th MarDiv encountered only mediocre resistance; 27th Inf. Div. met strong resistance from pillboxes along the beach. Night of 4-5 July (K) was quiet except for continuous fighting in 1 pocket of resistance in 4th MarDiv area; pocket reduced after 50 Japs had been killed. Minesweeping and hydrographic units are engaged in operations in the GARAPAN and TANAPAG HARBORS and approaches thereto. The usual air and ship bombardment continued against SAIPAN and TINIAN.

Strike by TG 58.2 against IWO JIMA on 4 July (K) reported as highly effective. Island reported as wrecked by machine guns, rockets, bombs, and cruiser and destroyer bombardment; warehouse and harbor installation areas were heavily hit and set afire. Damage to enemy was assessed as 3 DD's sunk or beached, and another stopped and burning; a large AK and a medium AO sunk; several small AK's were sunk or damaged; 25 enemy planes were shot down and many on the ground were damaged. Our ships suffered no damage; we lost 6 planes in combat and 1 operationally.

TG 58.3 on 4 July (K) supported photo Liberators, hit GUAM AA positions, and the ROTA, AGANA, and OROTE Airstrips; AA fire at GUAM shot down 2 SBD's; 4 crewmembers were rescued, 2 of them amidst heavy gunfire by daring rescue plane. On 5 July (K) TG 58.3 will strike GUAM and ROTA and retire to NW of ROTA to rendezvous on morning of 6 July (K) with TG's 58.1 and 58.2.

Com5thFleet directs CTF 58 to refrain from bombarding GUAM objectives by CA's and DD's except for such night harassment of airfields as may be required to keep them inoperative; prevention of reinforcements from CAROLINES to GUAM is desired.

GUAVINA (SS 362), operating W. of PALAU, reports 3 hits sank medium AK on 4 July.

4 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

SUNFISH (SS 281) reports on 5 July GCT sank small anchored AP loading from sampans position 51-34 N, 156-24 E (SW of KAMCHATKA). Also sank unidentified AK in fog position 52-12 N, 154-30 E (W. of KAMCHATKA).

SEAHORSE (SS 304) reports 1 large AK and 1 medium AK sunk at 031600 GCT position 19-27 N, 115-41 E (190 miles S. of HONGKONG). Also sank 1 large AP and 1 medium AP, both loaded with troops at 040400 GCT position 20-19 N, 114-54 E (130 miles S. of HONGKONG).

ALBACORE (SS 218) amplifies report contained in CenPac summary 3 July; states steamer destroyed was carrying 80 passengers from YAP to PALAU.

RASHER (SS 269)(SWP AREA), operating SULU SEA and CELEBES SEA, during May and June reports sinking 1 obsolete CA and 4 AK's for a total tonnage of 24,455; and damaging 2 AK's, 1 AP, and 1 minelayer for a total tonnage of 20,931 (in summary 7 June RASHER reported at 080900 GCT sinking 1 large AP with 5 hits).

CenPac shore based aircraft on 3 July conducted strikes against TAROA, WOTJE, MILLE, and JALUIT.

Operations of our ground forces on NOEMFOOR continue to progress satisfactorily; KORNASOREN Airdrome was occupied at 041300 (K), as was peninsula south KAMIRI RIVER with negligible opposition. 2 DD's fired harassing fire during the night, and after dawn 3 DD's fired 300 rounds each on special targets preliminary to the Infantry attack. During night 4-5 July (K) 3-5 enemy planes reconnoitered NOEMFOOR, but dropped no bombs.

SWP air forces on 3 July (K) hit YAP with 23 B-24's; YAP was again hit on 4 July (K) by 15 B-24's; on each occasion from 15-20 Jap planes intercepted. On 4 July 5 B-24's bombed WOLEAI at 1341 (K). 2 B-24's bombed SOROL ISLAND with unobserved results.

JCS 131545^{JUNE}(pink) considers the possibility of expediting the Pacific Campaign by any or all of three courses; directs presentation of views and directs submission of recommendations.

CinCSowesPac 180935^{JUNE}(pink) contains MacArthur's reply to JCS 131545, which refers to possibilities of expediting the Pacific Campaign.

CominCh & CNO 232002^{JUNE}(pink) requests comment on following proposal as a possible means of meeting requirements CinCSWPac as stated in his 160218 without unduly interfering with lift for STALEMATE.

CinCPOA 252246^{JUNE}(pink) replies to foregoing dispatch.

CominCh & CNO 291746^{JUNE}(pink) requests an interim reply to JCS 131545.

CinCPOA 020504 (pink) relates to desirability of air strikes against PALAU ISLANDS and YAP ISLAND when such will not interfere with more urgent requirements.

Com5thFleet 030601 (pink) recommends 25 July as W-day for assault against GUAM.

4 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

CinCPOA 032109 (pink) replies to foregoing, stating selection of 25 July as W-day for assault against GUAM is unacceptable and directs re-examination with the view to finding ways and means of meeting earlier date.

CinCPOA 040400 (pink) replies to JCS 131545.

Com5thFleet 051425 (pink) replies to CinCPOA 032109 after re-examination of the feasibility of speeding up date of W-day for assault against GUAM.

5 July (Oahu date)

No additional reports have been received from our ground forces on SAIPAN.

On 4 July (K) TG 58.1 effectively struck in the BONINS, sending a total of 371 sorties over the target area and dropping a total of 176 tons of bombs. The Group lost 7 planes in combat and 3 operationally, and 5 pilots and 4 crewmen. Enemy damage was assessed as 9 planes shot down in the air, 1 destroyed on the ground, and 2 damaged on the ground; damage assessment to shipping:

(1) At CHICHI JIMA:

Sunk	Probably Sunk	Damaged
1 small AO	1 DM	1 large AK beached
1 med AK	1 Trawler	2 small AK's beached
1 med AE	4 Luggers	3 med AK's beached
2 DE's		1 DM
		1 DD
		2 Small AO's

(2) At HAHA JIMA:

3 small AK's and 9 Luggers were damaged.

At CHICHI JIMA a large seaplane hangar was destroyed and buildings and a radio station were damaged; at HAHA JIMA, buildings and a fuel dump were damaged.

On 5 July (K) TG 58.1 made a minor strike against PAGAN, dropping 7 tons of bombs on runway and buildings; no ships were seen and only 1 parked plane was observed.

TG 58.3 on 5 July bombed supply and troop housing areas at GUAM with incendiaries and small bombs. Some fires were started, and 1 of our fighters (from PRINCETON) was shot down by AA fire; pilot was lost.

CTG 50.17 reports enemy submarine believed sunk at 041800 (K) position 15-25 N, 147-40 E (110 miles E. of SAIPAN); BIDDLE (DE 185) and D.W. TAYLOR (DD-551) made the attack.

TG 58.1 will strike assigned targets on GUAM on odd days, TG 58.2 will strike on even days. ROTA will be neutralized by the group not hitting GUAM.

PLAICE (SS 390) reports sinking a 9,500-ton AK at 041700 GCT; the ship, which was in the BONINS Area, blew up as though loaded with ammunition.

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5 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

S-28 (SS 133), while training near OAHU, was lost on 4 July at 1730 (VW) in 21-20 N, 158-20 W; all hands are considered lost.

CTG 57 010950 GCT summarizes operations 26-30 June.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 4 July bombed MILLE, TAROA, WOTJE, and TRUK.

On 3 July 20 fighter bombers bombed KAVIENG; and BOUGAINVILLE targets received 106 tons of bombs from planes which concentrated against ERVENTA ISLAND and CAPE FRIENDSHIP coastal guns.

Operations on NOEMFOOR continue to progress satisfactorily. Our forces there report 307 enemy dead; our forces lost 1 killed, 6 wounded. On 5 July (K), following naval bombardment, our troops occupied MANIM ISLAND; 8 Japs were killed while we lost 1 wounded (MANIM ISLAND is SW of NOEMFOOR ISLAND). Engineers estimate KAMIRI Airstrip (NOEMFOOR) will be ready for transport planes on afternoon 5 July. There were no Jap air attacks during the 5th (K). 6 DD's continued close fire support of our NOEMFOOR ground forces; they are also supported by attack and fighter bombers from 5th AF.

On 5 July (K) YAP was attacked by 2 flights of 8 and 11 B-24's; 409 frag clusters were dropped on runways, taxiways, and revetments; results were unobserved. Of 25-30 enemy interceptors, 2 were shot down; 1 B-24 was shot down by enemy fighters about 180 miles E. of MINDANAO; 5 parachutes were seen to open, and 3 rafts were seen in the area. 3 B-24's bombed SOROL ISLAND. 3 other B-24's hit WOLEAI. Minor strikes were also made against AMAHAI Airdrome (CERAM), PELELIU Airdrome (PALAU), and LIANG Airdrome (AMBON). Fighter bombers operated along the N. coast of NEW GUINEA attacking enemy installations in the WEWAK, DAGUA, and BUT Areas.

CinCPOA 060236 (pink) authorizes delay of W-Day for assault on GUAM until arrival of 77th Division in the combat zone.

CinCPac 060252 (pink) expresses intention of issuing on 7 July Warning Order for occupation MARIANAS-PALAU Line in accordance concept indicated in previous despatch (040400).

6 July (Oahu date)

As of 1800 (K) 6 July (D/21) our ground forces on SAIPAN had advanced to the general line: Point 1,000 yards N of TANAPAG VILLAGE, thence E 1,000 yards, thence paralleling the N shore line to a point approximately 2 miles from end of island, thence E to shore line. This represents an advance for 4th MarDiv during the past two days of about 2 miles; for the 27th Inf. Div. from 100 to 1,000 yards. 27th Inf. Div. met stiff resistance on left flank from beach defenses consisting of pillboxes, caves, and strong points in difficult terrain. Approximately 200 troops and civilians reported on NW Coast loading into barges; barge groups were dispersed by artillery fire. 27th Div. now has mission of clearing out resistance from the enemy occupied corridor along NW Coast to a point 2,000 yards beyond present front line. 2nd MarDiv takes position on left of 4th MarDiv.

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6 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

There were several air alerts during night 5-6 July by enemy planes raiding singly or in pairs. 2 planes dropped bombs on ISLEY FIELD without damage. Our night fighters shot down 2 enemy planes, while an attack bomber accounted for another. Most of TANAPAG HARBOR has been swept; 2 mines were found. The harbor is not badly congested by hulks which are mostly on reefs. Survey inside reefs S of GARAPAN completed; good boat channels found.

8914 enemy troops buried to date and 409 prisoners taken; 6901 civilians interned. Our casualties as of 1800 (K) 5 July:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2nd MarDiv	888	3950	301	5139
4th MarDiv	742	3950	343	5035
27th Inf. Div.	361	1771	45	2177
Corps Troops	<u>17</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>75</u>
TOTALS	2008	9726	692	12426

CTG 58.2, amplifying previous report on results of strike against IWO JIMA on 4 July (K), states that a total of 142 enemy aircraft were on the ground; 53 were twin engine, 89 single engine. Of this number 19 twin engine and 13 single engine were definitely destroyed; 34 twin engine and 62 single engine were left inoperational; only 14 serviceable planes remained.

On 6 July (K) TG 58.2 attacked ROTA and GUAM. On 7 July (K) the group hit ROTA.

Rear Admiral Reeves in ENTERPRISE with LEXINGTON, PRINCETON, SAN JACINTO, ALABAMA, NORTH CAROLINA, RENO, and DesRon 50 departed MARIANAS 6 July (K) enroute ENIWETOK to replenish; ETA daylight 9 July (K).

CenPac shore based aircraft on 5 July made strikes against WOTJE, TAROA, MILLE, JALUIT, and TRUK.

SUNFISH (SS 281) reports at 070630 GCT caught sampan convoy position 47-28 N, 152-29 E (KURILES); after 3-hour gun fight sank 12 and left 2 wrecked.

SKATE (SS 305), operating KURILES, reports at 071226 GCT 1 FUBUKI DD sunk and 1 AK probably damaged. Reports 2 FUBUKI DD's, about 4 Maru's enroute PARAMUSHIRU.

WHALE (SS 239), operating NE of BONINS, reports at 061413 GCT 1 AP and 1 AK damaged.

GUITARRO (SS 363)(SWP Area), operating E. of FORMOSA, reports sinking 1 9,500-ton AK, 1 10,500-ton AO, 1 MINEKAZE DD for a total tonnage of 21,200.

BLUEFISH (SS 222)(SWP Area), operating N of MALAY BARRIER, reports sinking 2 AK's for a total tonnage of 7,000 tons.

MINGO (SS 261)(SWP Area), operating W of MANILA BAY, reports sinking with 3 hits 1 FUBUKI DD that sighted and attacked the submarine.

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6 July (Oahu date) Cont'd)

Com7thFleet reports that by 1330 (K) 6 July all 3 NOEMFOOR ISLAND airdromes were in our hands, and that only mopping up operations remain.

On 6 July (K) 16 B-24's, 18 A-20's, and 3 A-26's, escorted by P-38's, heavily bombed SAGAN Airfield, concentrating against runways and dispersal areas; several enemy planes were destroyed on the ground; there was no interception. At the same time A-20's bombed OTAWIRI Airfield to the E of SAGAN. Several strikes in support of our ground troops were carried out against MAFFIN BAY and WEWAK Areas and against NOEMFOOR. At mid-day 6 July (K) 24 B-24's bombed YAP; fires were started and the radio station was damaged; 10 interceptors failed to press the attack; 8 enemy planes were observed on the ground. On 5 and 6 July (K) 3 B-24's bombed the airstrip on WOLEAI.

7 July (Oahu date)

At 0510 (K) 7 July (D/22) 3000 of the enemy on SAIPAN made a heavy counter-attack against the front of 27th InfDiv. The attack overran 1st and 2nd Battalions, 105th Inf to a depth of about 2000 yards; elements overrun included "H" and "Service" Companies, "H" Battery and 10th Marine Artillery. By 1100, 105th Inf had retired to vicinity TANAPAG POINT where some troops were forced to seek refuge on the reef after all ammunition had been expended; destroyers and boats rescued a considerable number. The attack was halted at 1130 by 3rd Battalion, 105th Inf, and elements of 106th Inf. By 1300 our troops were reorganized, and slight advances were made during the afternoon; by nightfall, while the situation was not good, the enemy offensive effort appeared broken. Our casualties, though unreported, are estimated as heavy; incomplete reports indicate 1500 enemy killed by 105th Inf. 4th MarDiv continued the advance to the N against light resistance. As of 1800 (K) our front line was generally as follows: On front 4th MarDiv about 1500 yards N of 6 July line; on front 2nd MarDiv a little S of 6 July line; on front 27th InfDiv left half generally along 4 July line, and right half generally along 6 July line.

ISLEY FIELD received about 15 shells from TINIAN batteries at 0045 (K) 7 July, damaging 2 planes and injuring 1 man; enemy guns were silenced by DD and artillery fire. During night 7-8 July (K) the enemy made 4 air raids by 9 groups 2 to 3 planes each; bombs were dropped on SAIPAN, and near our screen; no damage was reported. The raids lasted from 1945 to 0012; one raiding plane was shot down. CTF 51 attributes lack of damage to our ships to effectiveness of smoke screen.

On 7 July (K) TG 50.1 hit GUAM where the Governor's Palace (reportedly a Jap headquarters) was destroyed; AA positions, buildings, and other installations were bombed. Photos show extensive underwater barriers at AGAT BEACH and a noticeable increase in beach fortifications.

On 8 July (K) TG 58.1 hit GUAM and ROTA. A grass sodded runway not previously reported was observed on ROTA.

OBBs will bombard GUAM from 12 to 16 July (K).

CenPac shore based aircraft on 6 July conducted strikes against WOTJE, TAROA, NAURU and TRUK. 16 B-24s made the TRUK strike; 11-15 enemy fighters intercepted and 5 were shot down; 1 B-24 was lost on the return flight. The strike against NAURU was a heavy one made by 47 B-25s; 4 B-24s followed the strike on a photographic mission over the island.

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7 July (Oahu date)(continued)

At noon 7 July (K) 18 B-24s effectively bombed YAP Town and barrack areas. 3 B-24s hit SOROL ISLAND and 3 hit WOLEAI. Photos of both YAP and SOROL were taken. Airdromes of MOEMI, RANSIKI, and WARREN (VOGELKOP) were heavily hit by one group of B-24s. NABIRI airdrome in western NEW GUINEA was bombed and strafed by 24 A-20s. P-47s bombed and strafed enemy positions in the SARMI and SAWAR areas. At midday 7 July (K) 6 B-24s bombed MAOEMERE airdrome on FLORES ISLAND. Weather cancelled strikes against enemy concentrations in the WEWAK area, but fighter bombers hit barge traffic off shore from WEWAK. C-47s flew a total of 49 supply missions to BIAK and other forward bases. On night 6-7 July (K) B-25s heckled RABAU. On the 7th strikes against RABAU were weathered out, but 16 P-39s operated over KAVIENG.

Com7thFleet reports no further effective enemy resistance on NOEMFOOR. As of 7 July (K) our casualties were 6 killed, 46 wounded and 3 missing; the enemy had lost 363 killed and 6 captured.

CominCh & CNO 061840 (pink) approves issuance on 7 July of Warning Order for occupation MARIANAS-PALAU Line.

8 July (Oahu date)

All organized enemy resistance on SAIPAN ceased on afternoon 9 July (K). On night 7-8 July (K), following the Jap suicidal charge, our patrols moved forward all along the line to maintain enemy contact. On the 7th the 2nd MarDiv took over responsibility for the left of the line; 27th InfDiv (less 165th Inf) reverted to landing force reserve; 165th Inf was attached to 2nd MarDiv. Our attack on the 7th, initiated at 0630 (K), was a wheeling movement, with 4th MarDiv attacking to the W; opposition was cleared to the shore line. Hq Co, 105th Inf, and some anti-tank units, though surrounded by the enemy on the 7th, were found to have maintained a pocket of resistance; our attack on the 8th reached their position. Supported by naval and artillery bombardment, our forces were enabled to advance rapidly and mop up isolated strong points and clear troop concentrations from caves and cliffs. No information yet available on our or enemy's casualties during past 48 hours. CTF 51 at 2244 (K) 9 July: "To our brave troops who have captured SAIPAN, the naval forces who have strived to assist them make a bow of respect".

On night 7-8 July (K) enemy planes dropped about 25 bombs on SAIPAN apparently with little damage.

TG 58.2 hit GUAM on 8 July (K) dropping a total of 35 tons of bombs; buildings, gun emplacements and AA installations were attacked. 9 Zekes were downed by CAP at 0710 about 40 miles from ships on course from GUAM to YAP. Six enemy planes were destroyed on the ground, and 2 others probably destroyed on the ground; 4 others were damaged on the ground. We lost 1 F6F with pilot in combat; 1 SB2C was lost operationally but pilot and crewman were rescued.

TG 58.2 hit ROTA on 9 July (K) with 8 tons of bombs; several buildings were reported destroyed.

TG 58.1 hit GUAM on 9 July with a total of 21 tons of bombs and 76 rockets. Buildings, gun installations and AA positions were attacked. We lost in combat 1 TBF with pilot and 2 crewmen; 1 SB2C was lost operationally.

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8 July (Oahu date)(continued)

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TF 53 departs ENIWETOK 11 July.

CTF 57 060450 summarizes operations 1-5 July.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 7 July conducted strikes against TAROA, JALUIT, MILLE, WOTJE and TRUK.

SUNFISH (SS 281) reports 1 large AK sunk with 2 hits and one medium AK probably sunk with 2 timed hits at 090100 GCT, position 20 miles north of ARAIDO TO.

TANG (SS 306) operating EAST CHINA SEA reports sinking 8 ships for a total tonnage of 50,000; took one prisoner.

PARGO (SS 264)(SWPA) operating BASILAN STRAIT reports damaging one AK at 271400 (H) June; believes 1 AK sunk and 1 damaged at dawn 28 June.

FLIER (SS 250) operating west of the BONINS and later in the CHINA SEA reports sinking one large AK and 3 medium AKs for a total tonnage of 19,500; damaging 1 4000-ton AK and 1 9500-ton AO for a total tonnage of 13,500.

SWP air forces on 8 July (K) attacked MOEMI airdrome prior to dawn with 8 fighters; many enemy casualties were reported; at the same time many fires were started on PELELIU airdrome. At noon on the 8th 3 B-24s bombed WOLEAI with unobserved results. WEWAK stores and personnel areas were attacked by aircraft, type and number unspecified; one ammunition dump exploded.

9 July (Oahu date)

No additional reports on the situation at SAIPAN have been received. A captured chief petty officer states that he personally witnessed suicide of Vice Admiral NAGUMO and Rear Admiral YANO at 1030 (K) 7 July at temporary headquarters inland from MATONSA, SAIPAN; Admiral NAGUMO was Commander CenPac Area; Commanded the attack force which struck PEARL HARBOR on 7 Dec. 1941, and was in command at Battle of MIDWAY; prior to arrival SAIPAN on 8 March, he commanded SASEBO Naval Base.

TGs 58.3 and 58.4 depart ENIWETOK enroute MARIANAS on 15 July; ETA 19 July.

TG 53.16 (Tractor Group) departs ENIWETOK enroute MARIANAS on 15 July; ETA 21 July.

At 090630 GCT 15 B-24s (Under CTF 59) hit TRUK with 30 tons of bombs concentrated against AA positions and airfield installations on PARAM ISLAND.

SWP Air Forces on 9 July (K) sent B-24s with fighter escort against storage areas and shipping on S VOGELKOP. Night patrols operated in the SORONG Area and over PALAU. Fighter bombers hit the MOEMI airdrome. B-25s, A-20s and fighters dropped 58 tons of bombs in the AITAPE - WEWAK area. Airdrome and defense installations on WOLEAI were bombed.

In the RABAUL Area on the 8th medium and light bombers dropped 103 tons of bombs on defense and supply installations near VUNAPOPE, MATUPI, and LIGUAN BAY. Patrols swept BOUGAINVILLE and BUKA coast, 1 sectors. EMIRAU CORSAIRS operated over KAVIENG.

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10 July (Oahu date)

On 10 July (K) a formal flag raising ceremony was held at shore headquarters of Lt. General H. M. Smith. During the previous night small enemy groups made forays against our troops; they were killed or dispersed. Mopping-up continued during the day with many civilians and a number of prisoners being taken. A considerable number of Japs took refuge on hulks in TANAPAG HARBOR and on the reefs during the night 9-10 July (K); they were hunted down during the day of the 10th. Many swimmers were seen off MARPI POINT; some were rescued by our DDs.

On the 8th 24 P-47s which struck PAGAN received intense large and small calibre AA fire; taxiways were of such size and condition as to permit fighters to take off; the only enemy plane observed was one damaged seaplane. During the 10th our planes continued softening-up strikes against TINIAN. During night 11-12 July it is planned to land reconnaissance troops and one underwater demolition team on TINIAN to examine conditions and defenses of beaches. CruDiv 6 continued bombardment of GUAM which was initiated 9 July (K).

Our casualties reported as of 1800 9 July (K):

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2nd MarDiv	991	4126	186	5303
4th MarDiv	785	4280	318	5383
27th InfDiv	415	1957	46	2418
Corps Troops	21	81	5	107
Totals	2212	10444	555	13211

Figures do not include recent casualties of 105th Inf. Enemy troops buried as of 1800 9 July, 10,026; civilians interned, 8,430; prisoners of war, 631.

On 11 July (K) mopping-up continued. Reconnaissance of TINIAN beaches on night 10-11 July was not very successful and will be repeated on night 11-12 July; there were no casualties however. Bombardment of GUAM continues. Forward movement from ENIWETOK of forces assigned to the capture of TINIAN and GUAM got underway on the 11th. McCALL (DD 400) rescued from GUAM Chief Radioman G. R. Tweed who had been on the island since 1939.

Our casualties as of 1800 10 July (K) (includes estimates by 105th Inf): KIA: 2359; WIA: 11,481; MIA: 1213; Grand Total: 15,053. Total enemy buried as of 1800 10 July, 11,948; civilians interned, 9006; prisoners of war, 736. Considerable numbers of enemy dead remain to be buried.

ROTA was hit by TG 58.1 on 10 July (K) and by TG 58.2 on 11 July (K); during the 2 days 73 sorties were flown over the target area and 21 tons of bombs were dropped. Defense installations were attacked. None of our planes was reported lost.

GUAM was hit by TG 58.2 on 10 July (K) and by TG 58.1 on 11 July (K). A total of 175 sorties were flown over the target area; 42 tons of bombs were dropped and 72 rockets were fired. We lost 2 planes and one pilot operationally; none lost in combat.

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10 July (Oahu date)(continued)

Delayed report from CTF 59 states that on 8 July our shore based aircraft bombed JALUIT, TAROA, MILLE, WOTJE and TRUK. On 9 July the same objectives were again bombed.

BREAM (SS 243)(SWPA) operating near HALMAHERA reports damaging three 4000-ton AKs.

SWP air forces hit YAP on successive days 8, 9, and 10 July (K); a total of 66 B-24s participated; enemy defense and supply installations were hit; as were both airfields; a total of 18-25 fighters intercepted; 8 enemy planes were shot down; 5 B-24s were slightly damaged. During the same 3 day period B-24s bombed WOLEAI and PALAU (PELELIU and NGESIBUS). On the 9th and 10th 43 A-20s and 3 B-25s hit bivouac and supply areas in the WEWAK area; on the 10th Beauforts and P-39s strafed enemy stores in the same area. On the 9th 16 B-24s bombed NAMLEA airdrome (BOEROE ISLAND, west of CERAM). Other strikes on the 9th included 16 B-24s against JEFMAN airdrome, 23 A-20s against BABO, and 2 B-25s against SAGAN and MOEMI. On the 9th 6 enemy planes dropped 75 bombs on NOEMFOOR ISLAND; a gasoline dump was hit but no casualties resulted.

In the North Pacific on 10 July 5 PVs from FAW 4 flew an armed reconnaissance over KURABU ZAKI and SURIBACHI in southern PARAMUSHIRU; 2 fires were observed; all planes returned safely.

11 July (Oahu date)

On night 11-12 July (K) enemy activity on SAIPAN was limited to sniper activity. On the 12th mopping up continued, with many civilians and some prisoners being taken into custody; prisoners now total 1010. WHITE Beaches 1 and 2 (NW TINIAN) were successfully reconnoitered night 11-12 July. Decision has been made to effect main landing on TINIAN at WHITE Beaches 1 and 2; the beaches are small but can be improved rather quickly, and neither mines nor obstructions were found.

On 10 July (K) an enemy submarine, which was discovered beached in UMATAK BAY (GUAM), was destroyed by PALFORD (DD 480).

CenPac shore based aircraft on 10 July conducted strikes against WOTJE, TAROA, and TRUK.

TAUTOG (SS 199), operating EMPIRE waters, reports at 111304 GCT having sunk 1 small AK, and sinking with gunfire 1 trawler.

On night 10-11 July (K) B-25's bombed and strafed stores and barrack areas at MANOKWARI, WARREN, and MOEMI airdromes; during the same period 2 B-24's bombed NGESEBUS ISLAND (PALAU). On the 11th B-24's effectively dropped 33 tons on the BABA Drome, hitting revetments and gun positions. A-20's struck VOGELKOP targets, and fighter bombers attacked barge traffic in GEELVINK BAY Area. 6 B-25's hit HALMAHERA. 2 A-26's fired BIAK VILLAGE with 16 250-pounders. Heavy and attack bombers hit stores and hostile troop concentrations in the SARMI, SAWAR, and WEWAK Areas. Fighter sweeps were made along the N NEW GUINEA Coast. 3 B-24's attacked the WOLEAI Airfield. C-47's flew 87 supply missions to forward bases.

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12 July (Oahu date)

The situation on SAIPAN has been generally quiet during the past 24 hours. On 13 July (K) small enemy groups searching for food and water and harrassing our troops were being eliminated. Elements of the 2nd MarDiv landed on MANIAGASSA ISLAND at 1100 (K) 13 July. ISSANA was secured at 1145 with 16 enemy dead and 5 prisoners; 1 of our men is missing. Naval gunfire and Corps artillery continue bombardment of TINIAN. Survey parties from TF 51 have completed preliminary survey of TANAPAG HARBOR; entrance channel has been dragged to 25 feet; wrecks will not greatly hamper use of the harbor, though several must be removed; we have several pontoon causeways inside the harbor and in a few days our engineers hope to be able to dock 2 ships simultaneously.

At 1000 (K) 12 July, Major General Harry Schmidt, USMC, was assigned as CG 5th Amphibious Corps with additional duty as CG Northern Troops and Landing Force, relieving Lt. Gen. Holland Smith, USMC, who retains command of all expeditionary troops. Major General Clifton B. Cates, USMC, was assigned as CG 4th MarDiv.

15,978 enemy troops have been buried; many bodies still remain on land and at sea. 10,415 civilians have been interned, including: Japanese, 6,267; Koreans, 1,123; Chamorros, 249; Carolinians, 776; Spaniards, 8. Our casualties as of 1800 (K) 12 July:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2nd MarDiv	1,076	4,530	169	5,775
4th MarDiv	854	4,658	316	5,828
27th Inf.Div.	574	2,286	535	3,395
Corps Troops	21	81	5	107
TOTAL	2,525	11,555	1,025	15,105

On 10 July (K), in addition to the strike by TG 58.2, 4 VF and 4 VT from the CORREGIDOR bombed and strafed AGAT (GUAM). On the 11th planes from CarDiv 24 dropped 14 tons on GUAM, hitting the pier, buildings, AA emplacements, and construction equipment; 4 parked planes at AGANA and an equipment dump were strafed.

On the 12th GUAM was hit by TG 58.2 and on the 13th by TG 58.1; 139 sorties were flown and 57 tons of bombs were dropped; we lost 2 planes; 1 enemy plane was shot down. ROTA was hit by TG 58.1 on the 12th, and on the 13th by TG 58.2; a total of 65 sorties were flown and 5 tons of bombs were dropped; unfavorable weather cancelled scheduled strikes on afternoon of the 13th.

On 10 and 11 July (K) CruDiv 6 effectively bombarded hostile defense installations on GUAM.

On the night of 11-12 July 8 B-24's (under CTF 59) bombed major islands of TRUK ATOLL; 78 500-lb. bombs were dropped with unobserved results.

COBIA (SS 245), operating BONINS Area, reports 1 medium AK sunk with 2 hits at 122230 GCT. A 400-ton patrol vessel was sunk by gunfire N. of MARCUS ISLAND.

APOGON (SS 308), operating N. of LUZON, reports at 121550 GCT fired 6 torpedoes at large convoy in night periscope attack; 3 timed hits were obtained though results are unknown; during this attack the submarine was rammed by an AK resulting in damage which requires return of submarine to PEARL.

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12 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

8 B-24's from SWP air forces bombed LAHA Drome on AMBON on night 10-11 July (K) on the 12th 16 B-24's silenced 6 AA batteries at MANOKWARI, while 7 B-24's fired the CERAM Airdrome. On the 12th AITAPE was hit by 12 B-24's which dropped 555 100-lb. bombs; 10 to 15 enemy fighters aggressively intercepted; 3 enemy planes were shot down and 5 others were probably destroyed; our planes returned safely. Enemy concentrations in the AITPAE-WEWAK Areas were attacked on the 12th by 22 A-20's, 2 B-25's and an unspecified number of fighter bombers. Heckling strikes continued against WOLEAI and PELELIU. Minor strikes were made against NAMLEA (BOERE IS.), TIMOR, TANIMBAR, ASIA ISLANDS (HALMAHERA Area), and KAIRIRU and MUSCHU ISLANDS.

CinC SWPA reports that reconnaissance of the AITPAE-WEWAK Area indicates the 18th Japanese Army, Commanded by General Adachi, which is trapped on the north coast of NEW GUINEA between WEWAK and AITAPE, is concentrating for battle in a desperate effort to break our of the net to the west. The original strength of this Army was reported as 60,000; attrition is believed to have reduced this number to 45,000. Opening skirmishes with our outposts and reconnaissance groups are now taking place.

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13 July (Oahu date)

There are no additional reports from our ground forces on SAIPAN. On July 14 (K) TG 53.1.13 (NEW MEXICO, PENNSYLVANIA, IDAHO) bombarded GUAM. TG 53.1.14 (2 DDs, 1 APD, 4 LCIs) reconnoitered along west shore of GUAM. Night harassment by DDs continued. TG 58.2 has been directed to deny ROTA and GUAM to the enemy, and to strike GUAM as requested.

On the 14th TG 58.1 attacked ROTA; a total of 46 sorties were flown over the target area and 14 tons of bombs were dropped.

On 11 July CenPac shore based aircraft bombed MILLE, TAROA, WOTJE and TRUK. On the 12th JALUIT, TAROA and TRUK were bombed.

NARWHAL (SS 167)(SWPA) operating north of MALAY BARRIER reports damaging one 7300-ton AO and one 100-ton unidentified vessel; with gunfire damaged fuel storage center at BULA, CERAM.

On 13 July (K) 20 B-24s effectively bombed YAP. 12 B-24s hit gun positions and revetment areas at BABO. 5 A-20s using rocket bombs for the first time attacked MANOKWARI gun positions. 12 B-25s bombed and strafed KOKAS VILLAGE (S. GEELVINK BAY); storage areas and gun positions were hit. Enemy concentrations from AITAPE to WEWAK were heavily hit by 2 squadrons of A-20s and 11 fighter-bombers. 3 B-24s heckled WOLEAI. C-47s flew a total of 89 supply missions to forward bases, including 67 to BIAK.

CinCSWPA reports that our outposts inflicted heavy casualties in a preliminary engagement with an enemy force moving westward apparently to attack our AITAPE position.

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14 July (Oahu date),

There are no additional reports from our ground forces on SAIPAN. Naval bombardment of shore installations on GUAM continues. Clearance sweep for mines has been completed in the entire area surrounding SAIPAN which lies inside 200-fathom curve. Reconnaissance by LCI was made 1,000 yards off East and West shores of TINIAN. TG 58.2 hit GUAM on 14 July (K) with 85 sorties which dropped 25 tons on buildings, gun positions, and ammunition and gasoline storage areas.

CenPac shore based aircraft on night of 13 July bombed NAURU, PONAPE, TAROA, WOTJE, and TRUK.

SEALION (SS 315), operating YELLOW SEA, reports at 131533 GCT 4 AK's sunk for total tonnage of 20,000.

POMFRET (SS 391) reports 3 timed hits in FUSO BB at 131830 GCT position 31-52 N, 133-02 E (S. of BUNGO CHANNEL).

GUAVERA (SS 362) reports 4 downed airmen rescued at 140520 GCT position 08-43 N, 138-39 E (60 miles SE YAP).

HARDER (SS 257)(SWP Area), operating SULU and CELEBES SEAS, reports sinking 5 fleet type 1700-ton DD's.

75 A-20's bombed and strafed BOELA (CERAM) oil storage tanks, installations, and derricks; large tanks were blown up and entire target area was left covered with huge fires; burning oil flowed from hill storage area through buildings and installations; 1200 100-lb. bombs were dropped; we lost 1 plane. Night fighters on 13 and 14 July bombed and strafed the VOGELKOP Airfields and AA positions at MANOKWARI, MOENI, WARREN, and SAGAN. A-20's and P-39's bombed enemy concentrations in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area. B-24's hit YAP on the 14th with 223 500-lb. bombs; of 15 interceptors, 2 were shot down, 3 were probably destroyed, and 1 was damaged. C-47's flew a total of 95 supply missions to forward bases including 57 to BIAK. On the 12th over 200 sorties were flown against targets in the RABAU Area.

Our ground patrols have overrun the SAWAR Airfield without opposition and enemy resistance in this area has practically collapsed. Our seizure of NOEMFOOR to the west, following that of BIAK, cut the line of supply of the enemy's forces in the SARMI-MAFFIN BAY Area and with our frontal pressure made his position untenable. He is apparently trying to withdraw the remnants of his forces overland to the west, a hazardous movement of doubtful success due to the difficulties of jungle and swamp. The fierce resistance of our outpost in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area, the continuous harassment of his rear areas by our naval and air forces and the natural obstructions of the terrain are making it increasingly difficult for the enemy to dispose his forces to launch an attack in force. The initial effort of his advance elements in the DRINIUMOR RIVER VALLEY, failing of surprise, has dwindled and he is already being forced to reorganize and readjust his dispositions. 268 of his abandoned dead have been buried by our outpost troops.

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15 July (Oahu date)

On 16 July (K) OBB's effectively bombarded the western part of GUAM to the north and south of OROTE PENINSULA. Bombardment will continue on the 17th of western shore beaches with heavy concentrations against beach defenses. Commencing night 17-18 July (K) and continuing until 20 July underwater demolition teams will reconnoiter landing beaches and destroy underwater obstructions.

On 15 July (K) TG 58.1 hit GUAM with 74 sorties over the target area, expending 21 tons of bombs and 80 rockets; the group lost operationally 2 planes and 2 pilots. ROTA was hit on the 15th by TG 58.2 and on the 16th by TG 58.1; 59 sorties over the target area dropped 12 tons of bombs and fired 64 rockets; we lost in combat 1 plane, and 1 pilot and 2 crewmen; 1 plane, and 1 pilot and 1 crewman were lost operationally.

On 14 July (K) 2 search planes (PB4Y's from FAW 2) over IWO JIMA at low level reported successful bombing of shipping; explosion and fire on 1 6,000-ton AK; fired by strafing, 1 3,000-ton AK; 1 direct hit on DD with 500-lb. bomb; strafed 1 DE, 1 coastal vessel, and 12 small craft starting 5 fires. 30 to 40 operational single and twin engine aircraft were observed on the south field; estimate 3 destroyed and 10 damaged by strafing.

CTF 57 110450 summarizes operations 6-10 July inclusive.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 14 July bombed TAROA and WOTJE.

On 15 July (K) 17 B-24's struck JEFMAN Airdrome dropping 28 tons on runway and along sides of strip. 12 B-25's bombed enemy concentrations at KARIBO BAY (SW BIAK). A-20's attacked gun positions on MANSIMAN ISLAND off MANOKWARI. 18 A-20's and 2 B-25's attacked enemy concentrations in the WEWAK Area. Fighter bombers operated along north NEW GUINEA Coast between AITAPE and WEWAK bombing personnel and storage areas. C-47's flew a total of 86 supply missions to forward bases including 62 to BIAK.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area the enemy has not renewed his unsuccessful attempts to thrust forward with his advance elements in the DRINIUMOR RIVER VALLEY and appears to be regrouping his main forces. Our medium units and fighters hit concentrations and bivouac areas in close support of our ground forces, while attack planes and naval units bombarded coastal targets and harassed enemy barge traffic.

16 July (Oahu date)

CTF 53 reports continued air strikes and ship bombardment of GUAM has produced excellent results; opposition from shore batteries is negligible. Afternoon reconnaissance on 15 July (K) of reef edge at southern beaches (GUAM) provoked considerable fire of up to 5 or 6-inch caliber; 1 officer was killed and 5 enlisted men were slightly wounded; resulting disclosure of enemy emplacements enabled BB gunfire at 3,000 yards to demolish battery on BANGI POINT, while ships plus LCI's with rockets and automatic weapons beat down fire from beaches. Reconnaissance showed coral heads obstructing approach to Yellow and White beaches (immediately south of OROTE PENINSULA), especially the latter; reef edge is irregular; coral heads can probably be cleared successfully to provide approach for LCM's and LCT's.

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16 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On 16 July (K) TG 58.2 flew 74 sorties over GUAM target areas dropping 28 tons plus 24 rockets and 20 incendiary clusters; we lost 1 plane but pilot and crew were saved.

Com5thFleet reports airstrip on KAGMAN PENINSULA expected to be available for use by 20 July.

W.C. MILLER (DE) reports enemy submarine definitely destroyed on morning 14 July (K) at 15-17 N, 144-20 E (65 miles W of SAIPAN).

CenPac shore based aircraft on 15 July bombed WOTJE, MILLE, and TRUK.

MICKEY FINN WOLFPACK (GUARDFISH (SS 217), THRESHER (SS 200), and PIRANHA (SS 389)), operating NW LUZON, reports heavy damage to enemy on night 16 July. GUARDFISH sank 4 ships for total tonnage 29,000; 1 probably sunk and 1 damaged for 7,500 tons; all from a 9-ship convoy. THRESHER wiped out 6-ship convoy by sinking 3 AK's, 1 AO, and 1 escort; 1 remaining escort damaged. PIRANHA sank 1 AO. Total score: Sunk: 7 AK's, 2 AO's, 1 escort; Probably sunk: 1 AK, 1 escort; Damaged: 1 AK. All attacks in general vicinity 18-45 N, 119-45 E (50 miles W of NW tip of LUZON).

SKATE (SS 305), operating in KURILES, reports 2 AK's sunk 15 July.

PLAICE (SS 390), operating BONINS Area, reports 1 of 4 radar-equipped escorts sunk at 171500 GCT.

PAMPANITO (SS 383), operating EMPIRE waters, reports a 5,000-ton AK probably sunk with 1 hit on 6 July.

YAP TOWN was heavily bombed by B-24's on 15 and 16 July (K). On the 15th an unspecified number of B-24's dropped 235 250-lb. bombs and 12 500-lb. bombs, 60% being in the target area; large explosions and fires resulted; 14 to 17 enemy planes intercepted aggressively; 2 B-24's collided and crashed 8 miles S of YAP; 1 other, crippled by fighters, made a water landing 200 miles off N NEW GUINEA Coast; 8 enemy fighters were shot down. On the 16th 20 B-24's dropped 50% of their bombs in the target area; 10 enemy planes weakly intercepted, 1 being shot down; one of our planes was damaged. 2 other B-24's bombed the YAP runway with 20 250-lb. bombs; results unobserved.

Bombing of WOLEAI was continued on 15 July (K) by 3 B-24's, and on the 16th by 4 B-24's. Night heckling of PALAU also continued on the 15th and 16th. A single B-24 hit SOROL ISLAND on the 15th. MANOKWARI AA positions were heavily hit on the 16th by 18 B-24's which dropped 480 100-lb. bombs; targets were covered and buildings were demolished. Minor strikes were made along W shore GEELVINK BAY and against BABO shipping. 23 A-20's and 13 fighter bombers attacked hostile troop concentrations in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area. Usual fighter sweeps were made along N NEW GUINEA Coast. C-47's flew 81 supply missions to forward bases, including 56 to BIAK. On the 15th 11 B-24's and 3 B-25's bombed the LAUTEM west drome on TIMOR. Meager reports indicate that air forces continue their active role of neutralization of NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area, our ground forces report a further 344 enemy dead. We have moved supporting troops up and have established line of battle along the DRINIUMOR RIVER. This movement cut off advance elements of the enemy which were attempting to operate to the west of the river. Enemy prisoners have been taken

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16 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

and 2 enemy divisions, the 41st and 20th, have been identified forward with a third, the 51st, in support. Our naval forces have gone into action on our coastal flank and are shelling enemy concentrations and targets. Our air forces are operating in close support of the ground troops.

17 July (Oahu date)

Mopping up and anti sniper activity continued on SAIPAN during 17 July (K). All Divisions are now in the rehabilitation areas preparing for TINIAN assault. DD gunfire was conducted during the day against selected TINIAN targets; during the night harassing fire was delivered on SUNHARON TOWN. 13 battalions of artillery (156 guns) emplaced on southern SAIPAN are concentrating their fire against TINIAN. Air strikes against TINIAN are being conducted by SAIPAN based planes. 18,011 enemy troops have been buried to date. 13,822 civilians have been interned; nationalities are: Japanese 9,624, Koreans 1,159, Chamorros 2,257, Carolinians 782. 1,620 prisoners have been taken; 809 are Japanese, 811 are Korean.

During 16 and 17 July (K) ship bombardment of GUAM was effectively conducted. CTF 53 considers that damage to coast defense and dual purpose guns is now sufficient to permit uninterrupted approach to landing beaches when supported by counter battery fire. On the 17th bombardment was directed against defensive works on and close behind the beaches; coast defense and dual purpose guns were not neglected. Removal of underwater obstacles is underway. During the nights of 18 and 19 July 1 CA and 3 DD's will take station off GUAM landing beaches to interdict repairs to beach defenses and reef obstructions; 3 DD's in each area will combine screening duty with support of night demolition operations as required.

On 17 July (K) TG 58.1 hit GUAM; 71 sorties were flown over the target area and 38 tons of bombs plus 37 rockets were dropped; the group lost 2 planes with pilots and crewmen. On the same day ROTA was hit by TG 58.2; 46 sorties were flown over the target area and 12 tons of bombs were dropped; no plane losses were reported.

On 16 July CenPac shore based aircraft bombed MILLE, WOTJE, and TAROA.

GUARDFISH (SS 217) sank 1 9,800-ton naval auxiliary out of a large convoy at 180922 GCT in position 20-25 N, 119-12 E (135 miles NW of NW tip of LUZON); course 215, speed 15; convoy was composed of 2 CV's, 2 AO's, several AP's and naval auxiliaries. No chase was possible owing to 30-foot seas.

REDFIN (SS 272)(SWPA), operating CELEBES SEA and off SIARGAO STRAIT, summarizes 3rd war patrol; 1 large AO and 1 AP were sunk for a total tonnage of 16,100; 1 9,300-ton AP was damaged.

FLYING FISH (SS 229)(SWPA), operating W of PALAU and off SAN BERNADINO STRAIT, summarizes 10th war patrol; sank 1 4,000-ton AK and damaged 1 4,000-ton AK.

FLOUNDER (SS 251)(SWPA), operating vicinity HALMAHERA, summarizes 2nd war patrol; sank 1 4,000-ton AK.

HAKE (SS 256)(SWPA), operating CELEBES SEA, summarizes 5th war patrol; sank 1 1,500-ton DD and 1 5,500-ton AK, 1 7,500-ton AP and 1 10-ton craft for a total tonnage of 14,510; damaged 1 10,000-ton XAV.

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17 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On 17 July (K) MANOKWARI gun positions were again bombed by 2 squadrons of B-24's, while 8 other B-24's attacked the MOEMI Airdrome. 3 B-25's attacked shipping off southern VOGELKOP. 18 A-20's, and 3 B-25's hit enemy concentrations E of TADJI. Fighter bombers continued heavy bombing and strafing attacks against enemy positions and installations between AITAPE and WEWAK. C-47's flew 98 supply missions to forward bases, including 73 to BIAK. Night harassment by 3 B-24's continued against WOLEAI and PALAU.

In the ATIAPPE-WEWAK Area the enemy made weak attempts to penetrate our positions along the DRUNIUMOR RIVER; these attempts which were made at night were repulsed; our naval units in support shelled enemy installations along the coast. On NOEMFOOR vigorous patrolling continues.

18 July (Oahu date)

On 18 July (K) dawn and afternoon air strikes were made against PAGAN by SAI-PAN land based planes; 1 enemy plane was destroyed on the ground; the field was reported inoperational. Systematic naval and artillery gunfire and air strikes continue against known installations on TINIAN. As of the 18th 19,793 enemy troops had been buried.

CTF 53 reports good progress being made on clearance of obstacles on reefs off all landing beaches on GUAM. The landing beaches and adjacent areas have been thoroughly covered by naval and air bombardment. Opposition to all operations still is negligible. Clearance of reef obstacles and intensive bombing and gunfire on all beach defenses ~~are~~ continuing.

On 18 July (K) all TG's of TF 58 concentrated against GUAM; 1,020 sorties were flown over the target area, and 400 tons of bombs and 140 rockets were dropped; we lost 5 planes and 3 crews. On the 19th strikes by TF 58 continued against GUAM; reports from TG's 58.2 and 58.3 show 535 sorties over the target area expending 225 tons of bombs; no plane loss was reported.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 17 July bombed WOTJE, TAROA and PONAPE.

CominCh 061900 directs that in the event of an attack having been made upon a hospital ship the theater commander concerned will convene a Board of Investigation to obtain the circumstances in the case.

COD (SS 224) reports sighting at 172240 (H) 2 heavy units plus 5 DD's position 12-24 N, 116-27 E (off SE coast of MINDORO), course 270, speed 19.

COBIA (SS 245), operating BONINS Area, reports at 181229 GCT sank 1 large and 1 medium AK.

PLAICE (SS 390), operating BONINS Area, reports at 181546 GCT sank 1 DD in southbound convoy.

WILKINS WOLFPACK (SAWFISH (SS 276), ROCK (SS 274), TILEFISH (SS 307)), operating LUZON STRAIT, reports at 171845 GCT convoy in position 22-23 N, 119-02 E (65 miles W of TAKAO, FORMOSA), course 180, speed 14. At dawn the following ships were sighted: 2 small carriers, 1 heavy cruiser, 6 AP's, 6 AO's, 1 DD, and 1 PC; ships were in 2 columns with CA on center ahead and 1 carrier in each column; escorts were patrolling on the flanks. In a submerged attack the SAWFISH got 2 hits

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18 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

in a 10,000-ton AO for 9 torpedoes fired. ROCK got 5 timed hits for 10 fired; 1 in AK, 2 in AP, and 2 in AO. TILEFISH, with 2 hits for 7 torpedoes fired, sank 1 DD.

FLASHER (SS 249)(SWPA), operating SOUTH CHINA SEA, reports 1 medium Maru sunk off CAPE VARELLA, FRENCH INDO CHINA, on night of 7 July with 2 hits. At 191130 GCT she reports 2 hits in KUMA Class cruiser; knocking her mainmast off but believes CA departed from position 12-45 N, 114-20 E (300 miles E of CAPE VARELLA) at about 191030 GCT, course 245, speed 17.

RAY (SS 271)(SWPA) reports at 181300 GCT sank large AO in position 05-20 S, 112-22 E (midway between BORNEO and JAVA).

On 16 and 17 July (K) minor air strikes were made against YAP; on the 18th a heavy strike was made by 19 B-24's. On the 18th and 19th SOROL and WOLEAI were hit by 3-5 B-24's. Medium, attack, and fighter bombers continue heavy attacks against enemy concentrations and installations in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area.

Our ground forces in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area are mopping up isolated enemy parties west of the DRINIUMOR RIVER; an additional 175 Japs have been killed and 25 taken prisoners. 2 CA's and 4 DD's are furnishing close support.

19 July (Oahu date)

Task Force 53 commences landing operations against GUAM at 0830 (K) 21 July. 1st Marine Division lands regiments abreast on beaches at ASAN with immediate objective of securing APRA HARBOR. 1st Marine Provisional Brigade (4th and 22nd Marine Regiments) with one RCT (305th) of 77th Inf Div will land on beaches at AGAT with ~~primary~~ objective of seizing OROTE PENINSULA. 77th Inf Div (less one RCT), remaining as floating reserve, is scheduled to land on 23 July (K).

CTF 53 reports excellent progress being made on obstruction clearance and preparation of reefs. Heavy interdiction fire has continued day and night to prevent replacement of obstacles. Destruction of shore defenses has proceeded as scheduled with heavy close range gunfire and powerful air strikes. Opposition to our operations continues negligible and CTF 53 believes that very few fixed defenses remain in the vicinity of the landing beaches; the most serious opposition is expected to be from mobile artillery which has not fired and which has not been located.

With reports from TG 58.1 and 58.4, TF 58 sent a total of 1008 sorties against GUAM on 19 July (K); over 400-tons of bombs were dropped; we lost one plane. TF 58 continued its strikes against GUAM on the 20th; the only group thus far reported is TG 58.3 which flew 341 sorties over the target area and dropped over 300-tons of bombs and 83 rockets; we lost 1 plane with crew.

CTG 12.2 (HOGGATT BAY with 4 DEs) reports enemy submarine believed definitely destroyed at about 182310 (K) in the MARIANAS area.

CTF 57 162330 summarizes operations 11-15 July inclusive.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 18 July bombed MILLE, WOTJE, and TRUK. The TRUK strike was executed by 22 B-24s; weather obstructed observation of results.

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19 July (Oahu date) - continued -

On 19 July (K) 3 PB4Ys from SAIPAN bombed CHICHI JIMA and HAHA JIMA. At CHICHI JIMA a 5000-ton AK was bombed and 3 of 6-8 coastal vessels were fired by strafing; no other ships were present; barracks, naval installations, radio station and seaplane base were damaged by bombing and strafing; one direct hit (1000-lb bomb) was observed on hangar at SE corner of airfield. At HAHA JIMA a 200-ton AK was sunk and 4 of 19 coastal vessels were left ablaze; several fires were started among buildings and installations by strafing; 11 of 26 enemy planes were damaged. The 3 planes returned safely.

ComSoPac 140227 (pink) lists air squadrons of RNZAF which can be made available for transfer to SWPA; lists type squadron available date, and present location.

Richardson 170205 (pink) announces that 24th Army Corps with attached units, and 81st Division with attached units, pass to operational control CTF 36.

CincPOA 190519 (pink) requests ComSoPac to arrange directly with CinCSWPA transfer of RNZAF aircraft units to SWPA; relates to ComSoPac 140227.

GUARDFISH (SS 217) reports sinking 1 6100-ton AK and damaging 1 4000-ton AK in 6-ship northbound convoy at 182243 GCT position 20-05 N, 118-23 E (150 mi NW of NW tip of LUZON).

TINOSA (SS 283) operating YELLOW SEA reports at 191235 GCT sank 1 large AP and 1 AK; with gunfire sank 1 schooner, 1 trawler, and 1 sampan.

ASPRO (SS 309)(SWPA) reports attacking escorted convoy of 4 AKs on 19 July (E long.date) in position 02-40 S, 127-05 E (25 mi N of BOEROE IS). 2 observed and 4 timed hits obtained on 2 AKs.

JACK (SS 259)(SWPA) operating N of MALAY BARRIER summarizes 5th War Patrol. Sank 1 10,000-ton AO, 1 7000-ton AK, and 2 4000-ton unidentified ships, for total tonnage 25,000; damaged 3 4000-ton unidentified ships.

GUAVINA (SS 362) during 18 and 19 July picked up 8 downed airmen near YAP.

On 19 July (K) 2 waves of B-24s heavily bombed YAP; 15 to 18 enemy planes aggressively intercepted for a period of 20 minutes and accurately dropped from 10 to 14 phosphorous bombs; 2 enemy planes were shot down and we lost 1 B-24, the crew of which was seen to parachute into the water. SOROL ISLAND was hit by 7 B-24s which dropped 120 100-lb bombs and 60 fragmentation clusters with unobserved results. Heckling of PALAU and WOLEAI continued. 11 B-24s attacked enemy shipping in the TAWITAWI area.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK area the enemy, having been frustrated in his initial frontal attempt at infiltration of the DRINIUMOR RIVER sector, is now attempting to by-pass our right flank through the foothills of the TORRICELI MOUNTAINS. Our ground forces report an additional 582 killed. Our medium bombers and fighters harrassed the enemy's rear areas while naval units shelled coastal traffic. Adverse weather conditions hindered air operations in all sectors.

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20 July (Oahu Date)

Landings on GUAM took place on all beaches according to schedule commencing at 0830 (K) 21 July. Landings were made against light opposition only and mostly on southern beaches. CTF 53 in a despatch to CTF 58 stated that air strikes during the past four days had left nothing to be desired. On 20 July (K) TF 58 sent 1302 sorties over GUAM target areas, dropping 894 tons of bombs and 115 rockets; we lost 2 planes with crews in combat and 3 planes operationally. On the 21st TG's 58.1, 58.3, and 58.4 flew 582 sorties over GUAM target areas and dropped 215 tons of bombs and 67 rockets; 1 plane with crew was lost in combat and 3 planes (2 with crew) were lost operationally. TG 58.2 stands by for call strikes.

Bombardment of TINIAN has been intensified.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 19 July bombed TAROA and WOTJE.

On 20 July (K) 4 PB4Y's, operating from SAIPAN, bombed IWO JIMA and CHICHI JIMA from 1950 to 2045; details are lacking.

WILKINS (in TILEFISH) reports at 210800 GCT 1 AO, 2 to 4 AP's, and 4 DD's in position 21-00 N, 123-06 E (180 mi. NNE of APARRI) course 210, speed 14. In submerged attack ROCK (SS 274) got 3 timed hits for 4 fired, 2 in AO and 1 in AP.

GUAVINA (SS 364) reports that she has a total of 12 downed airmen who were picked up near YAP; 4 were rescued on 12 July and 8 on the 18th and 19th.

HADDO (SS 255)(SWPA), operating CELEBES SEA, summarizes 6th war patrol; sank with gunfire 2 small 250-ton craft and 1 landing barge; fired no torpedoes.

On 20 July (K) 12 B-25's maintained air blockade of the VOGELKOP by attacking barges near SORONG and bombing buildings, jetty, and oil tanks on KASIM ISLAND in SELE STRAITS. Fighter bombers destroyed a barge and several canoes loaded with supplies on the GEELVINK BAY Coast. 23 B-24's heavily hit MANOKWARI on the 20th (K) dropping over 60 tons of bombs on the airdrome and gun positions; several large fires were started and an ammunition dump exploded. 2 B-24's bombed gun positions at MOEMI. Heckling attacks were made against YAP, WOLEAI, and PALAU. Heavy bombers dropped 19 tons of bombs on NAMLEA Airdrome (SW NEW GUINEA), while fighter bombers operated over TANIMBAR.

Our ground forces in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area continue to counter enemy attempts to probe our southern flank. Medium and light bombers dropped 20 tons on enemy installations while air patrols harassed the enemy on inland trails and in coastal sectors. Shore positions were bombarded by naval units.

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21 July (Oahu date)

CTF 53 reports that our assault forces have landed on GUAM with absolute precision and according to schedule; all assault units and their weapons, including tanks and artillery, had been landed by 1800 (K) 21 July. Initial opposition was nominal but stiffened as troops advanced. Initial waves at southern beaches received some mortar fire prior to the landing; on the northern beaches such fire was not received until after several waves had landed. Casualties are unreported but believed moderate. Gunfire and air support which preceded the landings was reported by CTF 53 as being unsurpassed. TG 58.2 which supported the landing did much to keep enemy artillery fire to the minimum; during the day this group dropped 90-tons of bombs and expended 248 rockets. Called fires from fire support ships have been used freely; illumination and harassing gunfire will be furnished during the night 21-22 July (K). Good beach heads have been secured, though it is expected that enemy artillery fire on the beach heads may be troublesome during the night. Unloading of essential supplies will continue to capacity of beaches. RCT 305 (77th Inf Div) was landed afternoon 21 July (K) over southern beaches; it is planned to land remaining 2 RCTs of 77th Inf Div over the same beaches on 22 July (K) if beach conditions and the tactical situation permit.

On 22 July (K) TG 58.2 continued to support the landing force; 180 sorties operated over the target areas and dropped 63-tons of bombs plus 80 rockets. Night fighters patrolled over SAIPAN, TINIAN and GUAM.

On 24 July (K) the Northern Landing Force will assault TINIAN; landings will be made on the WHITE Beaches on the NW tip of the island approximately 3 miles SW of USHI POINT. Initial landings will be made by 4th Mar Div, to be followed by 2nd Mar Div; 27th Inf Div will remain on SAIPAN prepared to embark on 4 hours notice, and to land on the 2 WHITE Beaches or such other beaches as the situation may dictate. The artillery of the 24th Corps (less 75mm guns) remains on southern SAIPAN to support the landings; 75mm guns will accompany the assaulting forces. Softening-up of TINIAN continues with heavy artillery bombardment by the shore based artillery on SAIPAN and by the air units based on SAIPAN.

On 20 July 12 B-25s of 7th AAF bombed PONAPE hitting gun positions on JOKAJ Island.

STURGEON (SS 187) reports sinking a 9200-ton AP in an Empire bound convoy north of AMAMI O SHIMA on 3 July with 3 hits out of 4 electric torpedoes fired. COBIA (SS 245) operating BONINS area reports at 221202 GCT one 600-ton patrol vessel and 2 trawlers sunk by gunfire.

On 21 July (K) 20 B-25s bombed YAP Island, dropping 460 100-lb bombs on the runway and dispersal areas; of 11 enemy interceptors, 6 were shot down and one was probably shot down; 3 of our planes were damaged. Heckling strikes continued against WOLEAI, PALAU and SOROL. 2 B-25s attacked shipping along south coast of VOGELKOP while 4 others hit shipping in SELE STRAITS. 25 B-24s bombed MANOKWARI airdrome and AA gun positions. 6 A-20s destroyed barracks at NABIRE while two fighter-bombers destroyed a large oil barge off CAPE MOEM. P-39s bombed caves and barge centers along north BIAK coast.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK area our ground forces repulsed a small scale probing attack at night on the southern flank DRINIUMOR RIVER line; an additional 105

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21 July (Oahu date)-continued-

enemy dead are reported. B-25s, A-20s and fighter-bombers expended 41-tons on troop concentrations, lines of communication and supply areas from YAKAMUL (east of AITAPE) to WEWAK. Our naval units (2 CAs and 4 DDs) in support of our ground forces bombarded enemy positions and blockaded coastal traffic.

CinCSWPA 210801Z July contains warning order for operations against MOROTAI.

22 July (Oahu date)

The GUAM operation is proceeding satisfactorily. As of 1800 (K) 23 July. 2 RCTs of 77th Inf. Div. and all of corps artillery had been landed. In the south our beachhead extends from a point on the shore line 600 yards north of AGAT and from a point on the shore line 4200 yards south of AGAT thence extending eastward to form a perimeter averaging 3,000 to 4,000 yards in depth. In the north our beachhead extends from a point on the shore line 4400 yards northeast of PITI and from a point on the shore line 200 yards south of PITI thence eastward forming a perimeter averaging 1,000-2,000 yards in depth. Occupation of CAERAS ISLAND was completed on evening 22 July (K). During the night 21-22 July (K) both beach areas received intermittent rifle and mortar fire; on night 22-23 July (K) this fire continued to harass the northern area. Early morning 22 July (K) the enemy counter attacked the southern force with 1 infantry company supported by several tanks; 5 enemy tanks were destroyed and 268 enemy dead were left within our lines. Early morning 22 July (K) a heavy enemy counter attack against the eastern part of our northern beachhead caused a critical situation for a brief period, but was repulsed after daylight with effective air, naval gunfire, and artillery support. Our beachhead on the south includes MT. ALIFAN; in the north CTF 53 reports that we control the road leading from AGANA to PITI, and the road leading to MT. TENJO. Our casualties as of 231600 (K) are: killed in action, 348; wounded in action 1,500; missing in action, 110; these figures are possibly incomplete. Enemy known dead, 948; undoubtedly there are many more. Naval gunfire and air strikes continue strongly in close support of our troops, and continue to harass the enemy rear areas and to interdict movements therein.

CTF 52 reports that assault troops of 4th MarDiv would be loaded on 23 July (K) in preparation for the assault against TINIAN. The continued destruction of enemy gun and troop positions on TINIAN has been greatly intensified by naval, artillery gunfire, and aerial bombardment.

During the nights of 21 and 22 July (K) night fighters operated over GUAM, SAIPAN, and TINIAN. On the 22nd SAIPAN based P-47's flew 52 sorties against TINIAN. P-47's struck PAGAN without meeting opposition. On the 23rd a plane on A/S patrol strafed ROTA; the enemy were observed repairing the airfield and there was evidence that a plane had recently landed on it.

On 26 July (East Longitude Date) TF 58 (less TG 58.4) will make photographic strikes against YAP, PALAU, and ULITHI.

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22 July (Oahu date)(Cont'd)

CTG 56.1 reports revised list of casualties to date for the SAIPAN Operation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2nd MarDiv	1,142	4,917	106	6,165
4th MarDiv	966	5,456	141	6,563
27th Inf. Div.	901	2,485	112	3,498
Corps Artillery	7	17		24
Corps Troops	18	130	4	152
Totals	<u>3,034</u>	<u>13,005</u>	<u>363</u>	<u>16,402</u>

The SAIPAN Garrison Force have lost 15 killed in action, 44 wounded in action, and 2 missing in action for a total of 61 casualties; the combined total of Garrison and Combat Troops casualties is 16,463. Enemy buried to date: 20,720; our burials to date: 2nd MarDiv, 1,168; 4th MarDiv, 1,027; 27th Inf. Div., 1,007 for a total of 3,202. Of the total hospitalized, 5,016 have been returned to duty. Civilians interned: Japanese 10,009; Koreans 1144; Chamorros 2261; Carolinians 778; grand total 14,192. Interned civilians sick and wounded: Japanese 1381, Korean 286, Chamorros 133, Carolinians 75; grand total 1,875. Prisoners of war to date: Japanese 879; Korean 828; for a total of 1,707.

At 221000 (K) 27th Inf. Div. assumed control of the area formerly occupied by 4th MarDiv on SAIPAN. 1st Battalion, 29th Marines, (less Company C) moved into the area formerly occupied by 2nd MarDiv on SAIPAN, and assumed responsibility for patrols and security of that area.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 21 July bombed the major islands of TRUK ATOLL; 27 participating B-24's dropped 75 tons of bombs concentrated against airfields, warehouses, and docks; 2 airborne fighters made no attempt to intercept.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area our ground forces report only patrol activity. 1 CA and 5 DD's continue to furnish close support. Medium, attack, and fighter bombers continue to hit enemy troop concentrations and supply installations in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area.

On 22 July (K) 22 B-24's heavily bombed YAP Airdrome with reportedly excellent results; of 4-5 intercepting fighters, 1 was shot down and 2 were damaged; 2 of our planes were damaged; the enemy fighters inaccurately dropped 8 phosphorous bombs.

On the 22nd 4 B-24's bombed WOLEAI. On the night of 21-22 July (K) heckling snoopers continued their operations against YAP and PALAU. B-24's bombed installations and shipping in the VOGELKOP Area. 15 B-24's heavily bombed BABO Airdrome while others hit the RANSIKI Drome. 8 B-24's effectively bombed AA gun positions at MANOKWARI. B-25's attacked enemy shipping off east coast of MOROTAI. C-47's flew a total of 74 supply missions to BIAK airfields. *Am*

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23 July (Oahu date)

Operations of our ground forces on GUAM proceeded rather slowly on 24 July (K). Resistance continued to be heavy on the eastern flank of the northern area, and though many enemy were killed both by troops and by intensive naval gunfire and naval bombing, progress was slow. Better progress was made in the southern area where OROTE PENINSULA was completely cut off despite considerable opposition. Front lines as defined on the preceding day remain substantially the same, except that in the north our line has been pushed forward approximately 1,000 yards along the NE perimeter; in the south the perimeter was extended approximately 400 yards in the NW portion to close off OROTE PENINSULA. The area between our north and south beachheads has been almost entirely covered by patrols operating along the shore line; very few of the enemy were found remaining in that area. 77th Inf. Div. proceeded with relief of Marines in the southern area in order to permit 1st Provisional Brigade to reorganize and prepare for a concentrated attack on OROTE on 26 July (K). RCT 307 (77th Inf. Div.) which constituted the Corps Reserve is being landed over southern beaches. Unloading progresses satisfactorily.

Commencing at 0750(K) 24 July, our assault forces landed on white beaches, (NW tip of TINIAN about 3 miles SW of USHI POINT), against light opposition; by 0930 (K) our forces had advanced 600 yards inland. Progress ashore is satisfactory. During the bombardment of SW TINIAN the COLORADO (BB 45) and the NORMAN SCOTT (DD 690) sustained damage from enemy shore batteries. The COLORADO received about 15 hits believed to be from 6-inch caliber; 2 officers and 35 enlisted men were killed, and 1 officer and 77 enlisted men were wounded; material damage to ship is considerable. The hit on the NORMAN SCOTT killed the Captain and caused heavy casualties.

BUSH (DD 529) while training in local area (KAHOOLAWE ISLAND) sustained serious gun casualties during AA phase of shore bombardment when gun number 3 exploded over after starboard 40-mm director; probably caused by hitting starboard radio antenna suspension arm on after stack, or by possible premature explosion; 5 are dead, 1 is fatally injured, 2 are seriously injured, and several others suffered minor injuries; vessel will require tender or yard availability.

TF 58 (less TG 58.4) is now enroute to conduct photo strike against YAP, PALAU, and ULITHI. TG 58.4 remains to support our assault forces on GUAM and TINIAN.

On 23 July (K) TG 58.4, in support of our forces assaulting TINIAN, dropped 80 tons of bombs and fired 80 rockets. On the 24th the Group continued this support, expending 56 tons of bombs and 27 rockets; the Group also hit GUAM with 18 tons of bombs and ROTA with 8 tons. CTF 51 has directed that neutralization of ROTA by air strikes and surface bombardment be assigned CTF 53.

Night fighter patrols from SAIPAN continued to operate over GUAM and SAIPAN. On 23 July (K) P-47's from SAIPAN flew 96 sorties in executing call missions over TINIAN; enemy concentrations and installations were attacked with bombs and rockets and were strafed; support was reported as very effective.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 22 July bombed PONAPE; 12 B-25's attacked gun positions on JOKAJ ISLAND, and strafed PONAPE TOWN and harbor installations with 50 caliber and 75-mm cannon.

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23 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

SHARK (SS 314), operating BONINS Area, reports at 231105 GCT probably sinking 1 AK in a convoy previously attacked by the COBIA and the PLAICE.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area our ground forces repulsed small scale enemy reconnaissance attacks on our DRINUIMOR RIVER line where the enemy is apparently still trying to effect a large scale concentration of forces. B-25's, A-20's, and fighter bombers dropped 27 tons of bombs on bivouac and supply areas in support of our ground forces. Air patrols and naval units shelled supply area near BUT and the coastal roads.

On 23 July (K) YAP was again heavily attacked by 23 B-24's; of 8 enemy interceptors 2 were shot down; 3 of our planes were damaged. Heckling of PALAU and WOLEAI continued.

On 23 July (K) BABO taxiway and revetments were hit by 3 B-24's, while 3 others struck the MOEMI runway. A small number of B-25's conducted shipping strikes along west VOGELKOP and south shore of GEELVINK BAY. 2 B-24's heckled YAP airdrome on night of 22-23 July (K). C-47's flew 48 troop carrier missions to BIAK.

Recent photographs reveal that on 22 July (K) the airfields at KAVIENG, PANAPAI, LAKUNAI, TOBERA, and VUNAKANAU were serviceable.

In the North Pacific on 22 July 4 PV's from FAW 4 bombed northern KURILES; 8 enemy fighters intercepted; 1 PV with engine shot out reported intention to land on KAMCHATKA.

CominCh 021631 (pink) contains planning message from Joint Staff Planners to CinCPOA Planners requesting certain information reference CAUSEWAY Joint Staff Study.

CinCPOA 240957 (pink) replies to foregoing despatch.

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24 July (Oahu date)

On 25 July (K) operations of our ground forces on GUAM proceeded satisfactorily. In the northern area the enemy resistance inland from ADELUP POINT is being overcome and our progress there has accelerated. Near the base of OROTE PENINSULA the enemy has organized a center of resistance to oppose its occupation; the forces comprising this resistance are isolated from the remainder of enemy forces. Our troops in the extreme south are meeting little resistance and their advance is limited by considerations of over extension rather than by opposition. Naval gunfire and bombing continue active in close support of our troops. 1st Provisional Marine Brigade will launch a coordinated attack against the hostile forces on OROTE PENINSULA on 26 July (K).

The left flank of our northern perimeter rests on the shore line at ADELUP POINT; the right flank at a point 2,000 yards south of PITI; the depth of the perimeter averages about 2,000 yards. The left flank of our southern perimeter at a point on the shore line 1,800 yards NNW of AGAT; it then extends across the base of OROTE PENINSULA, follows the shore line to the north, resting at a point 2,600 yards NNE of AGAT. Right flank of the perimeter rests at a point on the shore line 4,000 yards S of AGAT; the deepest point of penetration of the perimeter is 4,600 yards

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2012

24 July (Oahu date) Cont'd)

E of AGAT. Between the two perimeters our patrols operating from both areas have made contact.

Our GUAM casualties as of 241600 (K): killed in action, 443; wounded in action, 2,366; missing in action, 209. There are 2,399 enemy known dead, and there are undoubtedly many more.

At the end of the second day of operation of our forces against TINIAN, the situation was developing most favorably. 4th MarDiv, which led the assault, has been landed with 4 battalions of 75-mm Howitzers which are furnishing direct support; most of the 2nd MarDiv has been landed (second and eighth RCT's plus 1 battalion of sixth RCT). At about 0430 (K) on 25 July the enemy strongly counter attacked. The effort was repulsed, with many Japs and 5 tanks being destroyed. Thus far opposition has been generally light. The left flank of our perimeter rests at a point on the shore line 1,600 yards SW of USHI POINT, right flank rests at a point on the shore line 8,000 yards SW of USHI POINT, deepest point of penetration of our perimeter is 2,800 yards in the center. Our casualties as of 251600 (K): killed in action, 15; wounded in action, 225; missing in action, not reported. As of 251200 (K) there were 1,324 known Jap dead.

TG 58.4 supported the TINIAN action on 25 July (K) with 137 sorties over the target area; 69 tons of bombs were dropped; we lost 1 plane operationally. Night fighters from SAIPAN operated over GUAM and SAIPAN during the hours of darkness. P-47's from SAIPAN flew 55 sorties in support of the TINIAN action strafing AA and machine gun positions and dropping 500-lb. bombs on mortar positions. P-47's also bombed and strafed ROTA airstrip scoring 11 well spaced hits on the runway.

CTF 57 210430 summarizes operations 16-20 July inclusive.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 23 July bombed WOTJE, MILLE, NAURU, and TRUK.

CAVALLA (SS 244) reports at 251245 GCT no shipping except a few sampans along E coast LUZON; sank 1 Jap sampan with gunfire.

CTF 52 241658 defines status of KOREAN laborers captured during SAIPAN operation.

D-day for operation against CAPE SANSAPOR will be 30 July (E. Longitude Date).

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area the enemy made another attempt to breach the DRINIUMOR RIVER line, in frontal assaults, combined with flank envelopment from the south. The main attacks broke down under our artillery fire; footholds gained by the infiltration of isolated detachments are being liquidated in local counter attacks now in progress; the fighting is sharp. In these successive assaults on narrow frontages, in column of companies, over a period of days, the enemy shows an apparent inability to deliver a concentrated effort with his combined forces. His piece-meal attacks result in localized combats in which he is rapidly dissipating his strength. In his rear, every bivouac and supply point has been pounded by air bombardment and his carrier lines, absorbing the bulk of his service elements, have been strafed incessantly. The relentless interdiction of our light naval forces has destroyed the bulk of his barges and reduced his truck traffic along the coastal road to inappreciable volume. Prisoners of war give a vivid picture of deterioration on the line of communications to WEWAK and the starvation level of his supplies forward. His casualties already run into the thousands and his fight for survival is becoming more acute.

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24 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On night 23-24 July (K) 2 B-24's heckled PALAU by striking both the PELELIU and BABELTHUAP airfields. Support of our ground forces in the AITAPE Area was carried out by 18 A-20's, 1 B-25, and an unspecified number of P-47's, P-39's, and Beauforts. C-47's flew 95 supply missions to forward bases including 83 to BIAK and 1 to NOEMFOOR. Heavy strikes were conducted against eastern NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND; enemy installations in southern BOUGAINVILLE were also hit.

In the North Pacific on 24 July 8 PV's from FAW 4 conducted an armed reconnaissance over the northern KURILES; enemy fighters aggressively intercepted, preventing 1 plane from executing its bombing mission and extensively damaged another. 1 picket boat was reported sunk.

25 July (Oahu date)

On 26 July (K) operations on GUAM proceeded satisfactorily; 1st Marine Provisional Brigade launched its attack against the enemy occupying OROTE PENINSULA early on morning 26 July (K). Prior to this attack the enemy during the night made an attempt to escape from the peninsula by heavily attacking to the south along the harbor side; this attempt was largely broken up by artillery fire which left 400 enemy dead. Our attack progressed up the peninsula and as of 1800 (K) 26 July our line extended across the peninsula in an east-west direction bordering on southern edge of the landing field. Elsewhere our troops consolidated their lines and strengthened their defenses; therefore the front lines previously reported remained substantially the same except that the front lines of the Northern and Southern Forces have now joined along the west shore. Our casualties to date: KIA 587; WIA, 2798; MIA, 191. 2783 enemy are known dead. Unloading continues to be excellent; an average of 10,000 tons of cargo was unloaded during each of the first 4 days.

Operations on TINIAN proceeded satisfactorily on 26 July (K). Remainder of 2nd Mar Div landed at dawn and took over left flank of the line. Our troops launched a general assault at 0800 (K) and advanced rapidly against light opposition during the day. Our front line extends from a point on the west shore line 1000 yds south of FAIBUS SAN HILO POINT thence through MT. LASSO, thence to the east shore line at ASIGA. Our casualties as of 1700 (K) 25 July (all 4th Mar Div): KIA, 98; WIA, 356; MIA, 27. Corrected figures for casualties on the COLORADO list: KIA, 39; WIA, 109; MIA, 4. 1958 enemy dead have been counted thus far; 3 prisoners have been taken; 43 civilians have been interned. Unloading of 7000 tons of preloaded food and water and ammunition is practically completed, together with most organizational equipment of both divisions.

TG 58.4 on 26 July hit GUAM and ROTA; 41 sorties over GUAM target area; 18 over ROTA target area. 25 tons were dropped on GUAM, 6 on ROTA. No plane loss was reported.

Night fighter patrols (based on SAIPAN) operated over SAIPAN and GUAM during hours of darkness. On 25 July (K) P-47s actively supported our ground forces on TINIAN. P-47s from SAIPAN also bombed airfields at ROTA and PAGAN where no operational aircraft were observed.

Major General Geiger assumed command on shore at GUAM at 1300 (K) 26 July.

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25 July (Oahu date)-continued-

CenPac shore based aircraft on 24 July bombed PONAPE, JALUIT and TAROA. MILLE, JALUIT, TAROA and WOTJE were harassed during the night 23-24 July. One PV on reconnaissance mission heckled NAURU.

STERLET (SS 392) reports at 251330 GCT observed 21 enemy planes on IWO JIMA, also reports probably sinking a coastal vessel off IWO JIMA with gunfire.

HOE (SS 258) reports firing 6 torpedoes at northbound enemy submarine at 242330 GCT position 13-38 N, 115-39 E (315 miles west of MANILA); all were misses.

SAWFISH (SS 276) reports sinking enemy submarine at 260755 GCT position 20-12 N, 121-55 E (112 miles north of APARRI). The position of this sinking is 477 miles distant from position of attack by HOE; time lapse is 32 hours and 55 minutes; possibility exists that SAWFISH sank the enemy sub that had been unsuccessfully attacked by the HOE.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK area the enemy has recoiled from the DRINIUMOR RIVER line and is apparently trying to reform his shattered units south of AFUA. Our medium, attack and fighter bombers dropped 54 tons and heavily strafed in enemy rear areas, starting many fires. Naval units bombarded shore positions and, with air patrols, riaded enemy supply lines wrecking 5 barges and traffic on the coastal road.

On 25 July 24 B-24s heavily attacked WOLEAI where supply areas, installations, and the airfield were hit. 18 B-24s bombed the airfield at NAMLEA. B-25s attacked barge shipping east of KAI ISLANDS. Unfavorable weather cancelled scheduled strikes against the VOGELKOP and the long range reconnaissance missions. Despite unfavorable weather, C-47s flew 48 supply missions to BIAK and one to HOLLANDIA.

26 July (Oahu date)

During night 26-27 July (K) our troops on TINIAN had a quiet and uneventful night. At 0700 (K) 27 July the attack to the southward was resumed. The advance was rapid against light opposition and the objective was reached early in the afternoon. Right flank of our perimeter rests on a point at shore line 1200 yards south of FAIBUS SAN HILO POINT, thence ESE to a point 2200 yards SSE of MT. LASSO, thence eastward to a point on the shore line 3900 yards south of ASIGA. Our casualties as of 261800 (K): KIA, 159; WIA, 441; MIA, 32. As of the same date there were 2,089 known enemy dead; 62 prisoners had been taken; 80 civilians had been interned, many of whom surrendered using surrender tickets. Enemy captured document indicates that Commander 31st Army (Lt.Gen. Obata) arrived GUAM 24 June.

CTF 58 reports that it is anticipated that photo missions being executed by TF 58 (less TG 58.4) against PALAU, YAP, and ULITHI will be completed on 27 July. CTG 58.1 reported at 271351 (K) completion of mission assigned his Group. The TF made an afternoon fighter sweep on Y-1 Day (25 July (K)) which netted 5 airborne enemy planes; no enemy airborne craft have been encountered since that time. 21 enemy planes were burned on the ground and many others were damaged by strafing but did not burn. The following shipping was reported sunk: 1 DD, 1 DE or DM, 1 small AO, and 7 small AK's. The force lost 5 planes and 1 pilot in combat and lost 10 planes and 1 pilot operationally.

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26 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

TG 58.4 continues close support of our ground forces on TINIAN. Night fighters (based on SAIPAN) patrolled over SAIPAN and GUAM night 25-26 July (K). P-47's from SAIPAN sent 124 sorties over TINIAN targets in execution of call strikes; AA guns, coast defense guns, enemy troop concentrations, and defense installations were hit.

CTF 53 270136 reorganizes support units to coordinate all gunfire support and air support.

CTF 57 reports at 270421 that BomGroup 30 with Headquarters Bomber Command 59.2 is moving to SAIPAN in preparation for prospective STALEMATE operations.

CTG 59.3 reports that daily seaplane service from SAIPAN to GUAM and return will start 27 July (K). Schedule follows: leave SAIPAN 1300, arrive GUAM 1400; leave GUAM 1500, arrive SAIPAN 1600. 10 passengers and 2,000 pounds of mail can be carried.

IsCom SAIPAN announces that 1,249 POW's are scheduled to depart SAIPAN for PEARL on 28 July (K); of this number 723 are Koreans, impressed into Japanese military service. IsCom SAIPAN recommends that these Koreans be considered civilians and left at SAIPAN for employment on that Island; CTF 51, CTF 56, and CTG 51.1 concur in this recommendation.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 25 July hit WOTJE with 31 fighter bombers which dropped 73 500-lb. bombs on gun positions. TRUK was hit by 24 B-24's which concentrated against DUBLON Naval Base with 288 500-lb. bombs. 1 Navy landcat harassed JALUIT and MILLE. 1 PV harassed NAURU.

Submarine Wolfpack from SWPA (ANGLER (SS 240), CREVALLE (SS 291), FLASHER (SS 249)) attacked enemy convoy in LUZON STRAIT on night of 26 July (K). ANGLER reported 2 hits on large merchantman. CREVALLE reported sinking 3 large AK's. FLASHER reported sinking 1 large AO and damaging 2 AK's.

COD (SS 224)(SWPA) reports 1 hit in a ship (type not stated) in MOLUKKA SEA.

Rear Admiral Sherman (via Com7thFleet) 270245 (pink) announces target dates for operations against SARANGANI and LEYTE as 15 November and 20 December respectively; recommends CominCh be informed as target date for CAUSEWAY is somewhat affected.

Com7thFleet 260609 summarizes Japanese surface, ground, and air strength in certain areas in SWP Area; believes there will be no enemy naval reaction to operation against CAPE SANSAPOR.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area the enemy continues to probe the southern flank of our DRINIUMOR RIVER line in several places. Medium and light bombers and fighters attacked enemy concentrations south of YAKAMUL and lines of communication eastward to WEWAK. Naval patrols swept the coastlines disrupting barge and coastal road traffic.

On 26 July (K) 22 B-24's heavily bombed with 40 tons the runway and revetment area of BABO Airdrome. 7 B-24's hit the MOEMI Airstrip with 20 tons and 8 B-24's dropped 25 tons on the RANSIKI runway. 9 A-20's hit enemy stores at NABIRE with 36 250-lb. bombs. C-47's flew 45 supply missions to forward bases; adverse weather cancelled 18 other missions. Eastern NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE were hit by bombers and fighter bombers in continuation of air neutralization and blockade of those areas.

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27 July (Oahu date)

A delayed report from our ground forces on GUAM tells of heavy fighting on morning 26 July (K) in vicinity of northern beaches resulting from JAP infiltrations with at least 6 battalions during the previous night. Though our lines held, infiltration reached the Division CP (3rd MarDiv) and within 100 yards of Red Beach (east beach of the 3 on which we landed on northern shore). During this counter-attack the enemy attempted to roll TNT charges downhill onto our artillery emplacements. The attack was repulsed after dawn on the 26th and our lines were reinforced by employment of all rear area troops; an estimated 2,000 of the enemy were killed. On 27 July (K) our troops advanced slowly in the northern area against stubborn and strongly emplaced opposition. By the end of the day our northern perimeter remained substantially the same as on the preceding day though the right flank was withdrawn about 1800 yards and contact was apparently lost between the northern and southern areas. The southern perimeter remained unchanged. The attack on OROTE PENINSULA continues very slowly in the face of many pillboxes, dugouts, mines, and an estimated 2,300 defenders who are supported with many artillery, mortar and automatic weapons. Location of our front line on OROTE PENINSULA on the 26th was erroneously reported along southern edge of the OROTE Airfield; on the evening of the 27th the corrected location of our front line was approximately 700 yards S of the airfield and extending across the Peninsula. Harbor clearance proceeded on the 27th in advance of capture of OROTE, particularly on the N side where PITI CHANNEL and PITI HARBOR are now clear, and removal of a sunken ship at the oil dock is well underway. Carrier based planes further cratered ROTA and AGANA Airfields on the 27th, while gunfire, including rockets, from LCI gunboats close inshore continued to support our troops. Formal flag raising ceremony took place on afternoon 27 July (K) at the Corps CP. Our casualties as of 271800 (K): KIA, 996; WIA, 3640; MIA, 309.

On 28 July (K) our GUAM forces pushed aggressively forward and reached the final beachhead line except in the extreme southern area. Our front line now includes MTs. CHACHAO, ALUTAM, TENJO, and ALIFAN; it is anchored on north shore line at a point 600 yards W of AGANA, and on the west shoreline as previously reported (4,000 yards S of AGAT). Operations on OROTE PENINSULA continue to move slowly; our troops have advanced to a line just south of the airfield. CTF 53 believes that many of the enemy are concentrated in the general area MT. CHACHAO-FONTE VILLAGE (3,000 yards SW of AGANA). An estimated 4,700 of the enemy have been killed on GUAM and 27 prisoners taken. DADI BEACH (W of AGAT) is now prepared and in use at major unloading point for airfield and garrison supplies. Practically all assault shipping has been unloaded; 77th Inf. Div. shipping 85% unloaded.

Our TINIAN forces on 28 July (K) resumed the attack at 0700. Pivoted on the left (E flank), the advance was rapid against continuing light opposition, and the airfield N of GURGUAN POINT was overrun early in the afternoon. By 1730 (K) the advance had carried southward to a point on the shore line 1,300 yards S of eastern edge of GURGUAN Airfield. From this point the line extended in a general NE direction to the original left flank of our line. There are no additional reports of our own or enemy casualties. CTF 52 states that 2 of the coastal guns south of TINIAN TOWN have been definitely destroyed. Unloading progressed satisfactorily during the past 24 hours but a swell developed on the unloading beaches which compelled temporary cessation of unloading operations at 1800 (K) on the 28th.

As of 271800 (K) a total of 21,036 Japanese had been buried on SAIPAN. Of our casualties on SAIPAN 5,434 have been returned to duty.

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27 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

No additional reports on results of photo strikes against PALAU, YAP, and ULITHI have been received from CTF 58; Com7thFleet reports that as a result of the fighter sweep by TF 58 on 25 July (K) over PALAU, 54 float planes and 21 land planes were destroyed, and that only 6 enemy aircraft got into the air.

Com5thFleet 271127 reorganizes TF 58.

On 28 July (K) TG 58.4 bombed GUAM and ROTA. CTF 53 has requested TG 58.4 to strongly support the GUAM action on morning 29 July (K) from 0600 to 0730 with maximum number of aircraft.

At 281400 (K) 3,000 feet of the USHI POINT Airstrip (TINIAN) was useable.

CTG 12.2 (HOGGATT BAY with 4 DE's) reports another enemy submarine definitely sunk in the MARIANAS Area.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 26 July bombed PONAPE, WOTJE, and JALUIT. 1 reconnaissance Ventura bombed NAURU while 1 Navy Liberator flew low over TRUK LAGOON claiming 2 1,000-lb. bomb hits on an AK and 3 1,000-lb. bombs dropped on a group of LCT's.

BALAO (SS 285) reports at 271430 GCT 2 downed airmen from the BUNKER HILL rescued off PALAU.

CABRILLA (SS 288)(SWPA) reports attacking a convoy in the SULU SEA on 16 and 17 July (K); 1 medium AP believed sunk with 2 hits at 1700 on the 16th; at 0130 on the 17th a medium AO and a large AK were sunk and a large AK was damaged.

CincPOA authorizes IsCom SAIPAN to retain 723 Koreans at SAIPAN. Status of these prisoners to be determined after consultation with higher authority.

CINCEP 270603 (pink) summarizes results of bombardment of SABANG on 25 July.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area the enemy is continuing his attempt to envelop our right flank near AFUA; elsewhere only active patrol activity is reported. Our medium attack and fighter bombers dropped 37 tons in support, striking troop concentrations near the DRINIUMOR and HARECH RIVERS and installations at WEWAK where fires were started in supply areas.

On 27 July (K) 24 B-24's from 13th AF bombed WOLEAI. 37 B-24's operated in the HALMAHERA Area where the LOLOBATA, MITI, and the GALELA Airdromes were hit. 6 B-25's attacked AA positions in southern VOGELKOP. P-39's strafed villages in the GEELVINK BAY Area. C-47's flew 76 supply missions to BIAK, 4 to NOEMFOOR, and 25 to other bases. Air neutralization of eastern NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE continued.

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28 July (Oahu date)

No additional reports have been received of land action on GUAM or TINIAN.

TG's 58.2 and 58.4 will rendezvous west of SAIPAN and refuel on 30 July (K); other two TG's will refuel on 31 July (K).

During night 27-28 July (K) night fighters (based on SAIPAN) patrolled over GUAM and SAIPAN. On the 28th P-47's (based on SAIPAN) made 129 sorties over TINIAN, bombing and strafing enemy troops, coastal gun positions, and ammunition and supply dumps.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 27 July bombed JALUIT, WOTJE, and TRUK. One reconnaissance Ventura heckled NAURU.

DRUM (SS 228) and BALAO (SS 285), operating off PALAU, in coordinated gun attack on 29 July GCT, each sank one motor sampan; both were loaded with Jap Marines.

PERCH (SS 313) reports 1 small trawler sunk with gunfire on 29 July GCT in vicinity of 10-40 N, 125-51 E (E of SIARGAO STRAIT).

CERO (SS 225) reports sighting NATURI Class CL at 290830 GCT off CAPE SAN AUGUSTIN, course 080, speed 27.

CREVALLE (SS 291)(SWPA) reports 2 hits in naval auxiliary in northbound convoy off CAPE BOLINAO (W Coast LUZON) at 280930 GCT.

Joint Staff Planners (Washington, D.C.) 271956 (pink) requests views on meeting target date 15 November for LEYTE ISLAND by by-passing objectives or by compressing intervals between presently contemplated operations. Expresses belief that 1 December is latest acceptable target date for LEYTE ISLAND.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area there was active patrolling only by our ground troops in the DRINIUMOR RIVER VALLEY. Medium bombers dropped 44 tons of bombs on enemy positions S of YAKAMUL, while air and naval patrols attacked supply and defense areas eastward to WEWAK.

On 28 July (K) B-24's from 13th AF bombed WOLEAI; 600 100-lb. bombs were dropped on the runway and revetment areas, on taxiways, and on supply areas. 35 B-24's on the 28th hit MANOKWARI Airdrome with 32 tons. 24 A-20's attacked enemy bivouac areas in the vicinity of BABO; other A-20's conducted a shipping strike along S. VOGELKOP. Fighter bombers strafed villages along the GEELVINK BAY shore. C-47's flew 71 supply missions to forward bases including 60 to BIAK.

150 sorties were flown in continuing air neutralization and blockade of eastern NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE. Minor strikes were made against AMBON and TIMOR.

29 July 1944 (Oahu date)

On GUAM, capture of OROTE PENINSULA was completed on afternoon 29 July (K); a naval patrol roamed the harbor on night 28-29 July, preventing Japs swimming across harbor to the mainland. The port and airfield programs are now in full swing. Elsewhere on GUAM, our front lines remain unchanged, activity being limited to patrolling; patrols are reaching out to a distance of 2500 yards along the entire front and are meeting few enemy. One patrol reached the E central shore without encountering the enemy. Much enemy material has been captured or destroyed; this includes 37 75-mm

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29 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

guns, 20 5 or 6-inch guns, and 15 8-inch guns; 28 Jap tanks have been destroyed, with 6 others probably destroyed. Captured motor vehicles are being put to good use, assisted by 50,000 gallons of captured gasoline. Our casualties as of 291600 (K) (probably incomplete): KIA, 918; WIA, 4380; MIA, 324. No count yet of additional enemy dead.

On 30 July (K) our GUAM ground forces limited their activity to patrolling, mopping up, and preparing for resumption of the attack at 0630 (K) 31 July; this attack starts the second phase of the GUAM Operation. The attack will be launched from present positions with 3rd MarDiv on left (N), and 77th Inf. Div. on right (S); direction of attack will be to the E. 1st Mar. Prov. Brig. will relieve 77th Inf. Div. of defense of Final Beachhead Line in southern area. Patrols which reached the E shore at TOGCHA BAY and YLIG BAY reported no enemy contacts.

Our GUAM casualties to date (probably as of 1800 (K) 29 July):

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
3rd MarDiv	556	2650	138	3343
77th Inf.Div.	51	277	1	329
1st Prov.Brig.	331	1739	150	2220
Corps Arty	4	16		20
Garrison Trps	7	27	1	35
TOTAL	<u>948</u>	<u>4709</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>5947</u>

4543 enemy dead have been counted; 44 prisoners have been taken. 100 Chamorros entered our lines during the day; their condition was good.

1 TBF landed on the OROTE Airfield on the afternoon of 30 July (K), and took off. Pilot reported field satisfactory, except that heavily loaded planes might have difficulty in taking off.

Our ground troops on TINIAN resumed the attack at 290700 (K), with rapid progress on right flank, and somewhat slower progress on left flank; opposition is increasing. Indications are that the enemy main strength has been withdrawn to southern end of the island. As of 1800 (K) on the 29th, our line extended from W shore to E shore, averaging 1500 to 2000 yards in advance of line established on the 28th; the right (west) flank is now 1300 yards N of TINIAN TOWN. Our casualties as of 281800 (K): KIA, 163; WIA, 512; MIA, 37. There is no recent report on enemy casualties. Swells prevented all unloading on the 29th except by DUKWs and LCMs. 1 LST, attempting to dock, broached; salvage operations are in progress.

At 0745 (K) 30 July our TINIAN forces resumed the attack and advanced rapidly against increasing opposition, with 4th MarDiv capturing TINIAN TOWN during the afternoon. Prisoner of war reports southern tip of TINIAN cluttered by enemy dead. Our front line was advanced approximately 2500 yards all along the front; it extends from a point on the W shore 400 yards S of TINIAN TOWN, thence NE to a point on the E shore line 2800 yards S of MASALOG POINT. Heavy swell on landing beaches still hinders unloading, but despite this, good progress with DUKWs and LVTs has prevented supply situation from becoming critical. Casualty evacuation by aircraft from USHI POINT is underway. Minesweeping continues in ASIGA BAY where 16 moored mines have been destroyed. Salvage operations on LST 340 (broached on 29th) are continuing, but prospects are not good. Our casualties as of 1800 (K) 29 July: KIA, 124; WIA, 594; MIA, 33. POW's as of same time and date: 181; 494 civilians have been interned. There is no recent report on enemy casualties. The attack on 31 July (K) will be supported by heavy naval gunfire, aircraft, and artillery support.

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29 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

TG 58.2, having refueled on 30 July (K), proceeds to ENIWETOK on 31 July (K). TG 58.4 returns to the MARIANAS Area to continue support of our land operations on GUAM and TINIAN. TGs 58.1 and 58.3 which refuel on 31 July (K) will proceed on 1 August (K) to conduct strikes against IWO JIMA and CHICHI JIMA on the 4th, 5th, and 6th.

On 29 July (K) TG 58.4 dropped 18 tons of bombs in support of our ground troops on GUAM. A squadron of B-25's (which arrived at SAIPAN a few days ago) operated against TINIAN in support of our ground forces; P-47's also supported the TINIAN operation.

As yet no report on the SANSAPOR Operation has been received.

CTF 57 260240 summarizes operations 21-25 July.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 28 July bombed WOTJE and JALUIT. Heckling strikes were made by 2 Navy Landcats against TAROA and MILLE. Two Navy Liberators conducted a shipping strike in the TRUK LAGOON where 4 small craft were strafed.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area the situation in the DRINIUMOR VALLEY is generally quiet with our patrols and artillery continuing to inflict casualties upon the enemy. The count of enemy dead in the AFUA TRACK Area is steadily mounting. Our medium and light bombers in support of ground forces attacked supply dumps and communication routes from the HARECH RIVER to WEWAK expending over 37 tons of bombs. Air and naval patrols along the coast destroyed 2 fuel-laden barges and damaged others.

On 28 July (K) 10 B-24's struck BOELA where fires were started among installations and in dispersal areas. Also on the 28th, 7 B-24's bombed MOEMI drome, and 4 others hit the AAOAN and OTAWARI dromes. On the 29th (K) 24 B-24's heavily attacked WOLEAI, while 6 others bombed PINGELAP. On the 30th, B-24's again hit WOLEAI, dropping 110 100-lb. bombs on supply areas. Heavy bombers struck the UTAROM (W NEW GUINEA) dispersal area, starting several large fires. 4 B-25's bombed and strafed villages along E coast of MOROTAI ISLAND; 4 others destroyed buildings and an oil derrick at CAPE KARAKRA (McCLUER GULF); 9 others made shipping strikes in the VOGELKOP Area. C-47's flew 68 supply missions to BIAK, 4 to NOEMFOOR, and 6 to other forward bases. There was a continuation of air neutralization and blockade of E NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE.

30 July (Oahu date)

There are no additional reports on the MARIANAS Operation.

Com7thFlt reports that SWP forces made unopposed landing at SANSAPOR on 30 July (E Longitude date) and that operation is proceeding according to plan.

The OROTE Airfield will be ready for operation on 4 August (K).

On 29 July 25 B-24's (under CTF 59) hit ETAN airfield, and bombed the town and waterfront areas on DUBLON ISLAND; 74½ tons were dropped; of 4 to 7 Jap interceptors, 1 was destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, and 2 damaged; 4 of our planes were damaged, 3 by AA fire, and 1 by enemy fighter.

HAMMERHEAD (SS 364), operating LUZON STRAIT, reports sinking 8600-ton passenger freighter and damaging or sinking 2 small AK's. Sank with gunfire 80-ton Sampan patrol craft.

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30 July (Oahu date - Cont'd)

BASHAW (SS 241)(SWPA) summarizes 2nd war patrol; 1 medium AP damaged by 1 hit, possibly 2 others, at 250224 GCT June in vicinity of TALAUD ISLAND.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area active patrolling continues along the DRINIUMOR Line. Ground forces continue to mop up scattered enemy parties west of the river. Cumulative reports from front line units list a further 1,385 known enemy dead in the area; total enemy casualties to date are 3,951 killed and 54 captured. Medium units, attack planes, and fighter bombers in support of ground troops dropped 55 tons on enemy concentrations south of YAKAMUL and supply lines eastward to WEWAK. Air and naval patrols damaged two barges and wrecked several motor vehicles.

On 30 July (K) B-24's hit BOELA (CERAM) for the third straight day, with results unreported. 12 P-39's hit barge traffic and bombed IDORE VILLAGE in GEELVINK BAY area; other P-39's strafed enemy concentrations at SAORI VILLAGE on E coast of BIAK ISLAND. 6 A-20's, 1 B-25, and 10 P-47's hit targets in the VOGELKOP Area. Air neutralization and blockade of E NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE continued.

On 29 July 2 PV's from FAW 4 made an armed reconnaissance over the KURILES; 1 PV over S PARAMUSHIRU, the other over SHIMUSHU.

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31 July (Oahu date)

Our GUAM assault forces on 31 July (K) carried out their attack as planned, and by 1800(K) had cut completely across the island to PAGO POINT, meeting practically no opposition; our line extends from PAGO POINT, thence NW and N to the N shore line at a point about 1400 yards E of AGANA. Patrols operating through southern half of the island have encountered only small scattered enemy patrols or stragglers. Naval gunfire support groups are now operating on both sides of the island. No recent report of our casualties has been received. 6,205 enemy dead have been counted. 701 civilians entered our lines during the day; 775 are now being cared for.

At 0700(K) 1 August our GUAM assault forces resumed the attack toward the north, with no opposition. As of 1200 our line had advanced all along the front; the left (N) flank was advanced 300 yards, and the right (E) flank 1000 yards. Our patrols operate well to the front. 77th Div artillery (less 1 bn.) will move to PAGO BAY area during the afternoon. Unloading in APRA HARBOR was begun; PITI BEACH was being used.

By 1800(K) 1 August our lines had made a further advance; the left (N) flank advanced 900 yards, and the right (E) flank advanced 4200 yards; the total advance for the day was 1200 yards on the left (N) and 5200 yards on the right (E). Mopping up on OROTE PENINSULA was completed, and is now in progress in the southern part of the island. 6773 enemy dead have been buried. 1900 additional Chamorros sought safety within our lines. Large concentrations of enemy reported and observed in the SANTA ROSA area (NE section of island). Chamorro report indicates from 10,000 to 12,000 enemy in that area and badly demoralized. They are being hit by naval gunfire and naval bombing.

Our TINIAN assault forces resumed the attack at 0830 (K) 31 July; the attack was preceded by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of naval gunfire and air preparation; the advance was slow

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31 July (Oahu date)-continued-

against moderate opposition and extremely difficult terrain. By 1800(K) a general advance of about 2000 yards had been made. Enemy troops (estimated by a POW as 2600 effectives remaining) are reported dug in along the high ground which faces our front line, and are possibly preparing for a counterattack. Unloading difficulty continues, owing to the swell condition. Sweeping of close approaches to TINIAN HARBOR found no mines. There are many mines on landing beaches. As of 1800(K) 31 July our casualties: KIA, 140; WIA, 632; MIA, 31. Enemy casualties reported as 2800 killed. 909 civilians have been interned.

On TINIAN during night 31 July--1 August (K) the enemy made numerous small counterattacks along the left (E) of our lines; an estimated 300 Japs were killed. Progress throughout the day was satisfactory against light to moderate resistance and difficult terrain. Weather forced stoppage of all unloading on the two northern beaches (original landing beaches), but the supply situation remains satisfactory. LCT's commenced unloading on beaches at pier and on beaches in TINIAN TOWN during the afternoon. General unloading of garrison force will start on the 2nd. Clearing of large number of hulks from beaches and piers inside harbor has been started. Minesweeping of harbor completed with negative results. Harbor provides excellent anchorage for small craft, including LCT's and probably LST's.

Our TINIAN front line extends from SW shoreline (900 yards NW of LALO POINT) to NE shoreline (2000 yards N of MARGO POINT), being from 200 to 300 yards from the S and SE shoreline. Our casualties: KIA, 172; WIA, 904; MIA, 31. 1980 of the enemy have been buried to date, with many remaining unburied. 2272 civilians have been interned.

Unfavorable weather has interfered with rearming of TG 58.1, and may delay the scheduled strikes against IWO JIMA ^{and other islands} on August 4, 5, and 6 (K).

TG 58.4 continued with support of GUAM forces on 1 August (K). 38 sorties were sent over target area on call strikes, and 9.5 tons of bombs and 28 rockets were expended.

13 C-47's are now available on ISLEY FIELD (SAIPAN) for supply missions. 2 trips will be made daily to TINIAN, and later to GUAM when the fields are operable.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 30 July sent 3 B-24's against TRUK Atoll. Heckling operations were directed against TAROA, JALUIT, and MILLE; weather hampered operations. JALUIT was also hit by 2 B-25's in a low-level attack. 12 other B-25's bombed PONAPE.

MINGO (SS 261)(SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol; sank fleet type 1700-ton DD on 3 July with 3 hits in area 120 miles WSW from MANILA BAY.

PERMIT (SS 178) reports at 010945 GCT August one 800-ton AK sunk off YAP with 1 torpedo set at 5 feet.

7500 troops of 1st U.S. Inf landed at SANSAPOR on morning 30 July (K). By H/3 hours all D-Day objectives had been attained; 20 minutes later the command post was established ashore. Close support was provided by 1 CA, 2 CL's, and 9 DDs. CinC SWPA comments on this operation:

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31 July (Oahu date)-continued-

"We have seized the coastal area of SANSAPOR, and the nearby islands of AMSTERDAM and MIDDLEBURG, at the western tip of DUTCH NEW GUINEA, nearly two hundred miles beyond NOEMFOOR and slightly more than six hundred miles southeast of the PHILIPPINES. The movement was undetected by the enemy and little opposition has as yet developed. The operation was an amphibious one, the ground troops acting in coordination with naval and air forces. The enemy base at MANOKWARI, the pivot of the defenses of the VOGELKOP PENINSULA is now bypassed and useless. Its garrison fifteen thousand strong, composed of elements of the 35 division, base and service troops, commanded by Lt. General Ikeda, is now isolated with its only possible escape route to the south over hazardous terrain of swamp and jungle. Our air bases are now established from MILNE BAY along the entire coast of NEW GUINEA. The enemy is no longer able to operate in this area, either by air or sea, beyond the HALMAHERA-PHILIPPINE line which is the main defense cover for his conquered empire in the southwest Pacific. Should this line go, all of his conquests south of CHINA will be imperiled and in grave danger of flank envelopment."

In the DRINIUMOR Valley the situation remains unchanged. Our attack planes and light bombers struck bivouacs and supply depots to the east starting fires. Air and naval patrols harassed coastal traffic destroying 3 barges, damaging others and wrecking trucks.

On 30 July (K) 2 enemy bombers attacked NOEMFOOR; damage was minor.

On 31 July (K) 11 B-24s from 13th AF hit WOLEAI with 84 500-lb bombs, and 20 100-lb bombs; 50% of bombs reported in target areas. Navy bombers struck GALELA dispersal areas, destroying several enemy planes and damaging others. P-39s bombed and strafed PEGUN VILLAGE on MAPIA ISLAND; others attacked MIOS wharf on GEELVINK BAY. 2 B-24s damaged the BOELA airfield. PB4Ys attacked shipping in the HALMAHERA-TALAUD ISLAND area. C-47s completed 27 supply missions, including 21 to BIAK and 1 to NOEMFOOR.

1 August (Oahu date)

On 2 August (K) our GUAM assault forces made a substantial advance all along the front, averaging about 2400 yards. Enemy resistance in the BARRIGADA Area was quickly overcome. Our line extends from E edge of TUMON (6000 yds. NE of AGANA), thence S and SE to the shore line at a point 2600 yards NE of FABIAN POINT; this places the TIYAN Airfield in our possession. CTF 53 considers that PHASE I (securing Final Beachhead Line) and PHASE III (occupation of southern part of the island) are now complete. Heavy swells continue to hinder unloading, but it goes forward in the harbor, the development of which is progressing according to schedule. Our casualties to date: KIA, 1022; WIA, 4946; MIA, 305. 7419 enemy dead have been counted.

CTF 52 announced that all organized resistance on TINIAN ceased at 1855 (K) 1 August, but that mopping up continues. On the 2nd our troops were engaged in mopping up enemy pockets, and cleaning out caves and ravines on southern tip of TINIAN. The public address system was proving effective in inducing civilians to come out of hiding; a captured census reveals 16,030 civilians on the island in April. Thus far, 2468 civilians have been interned. Total enemy dead, as of 1800(K) 1 August, estimated as 4858; 2075 have been buried. Our own casualties

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1 August (Oahu date - Cont'd)

as of 1800(K) 2 August: KIA, 208; WIA, 1121; MIA, 32. The weather continues unsatisfactory for unloading over exposed beaches. Minesweeping continues inside the 200-fathom curve; completion estimated by 2 August (K). 2000 garrison personnel put ashore from AP's off TINIAN TOWN by use of LCT's.

CTF 52 reports that mopping up of SAIPAN continues, and that during the past 24 hours (ending at 1800(K) 2 August) 147 Jap soldiers had been killed. Since the cessation of organized enemy resistance on 9 July (K) an average of 50 Japs had been killed each day. Intensive clean up operations are now in progress, and are expected to clear up all remnants of the ~~Army~~ enemy.

On 1 August (K) 50 planes were used to batter the enemy forces in the MT. SANTA ROSA Area. On the 2nd TG 58.4 flew 32 sorties against GUAM; 12 tons of bombs and 47 rockets were expended.

CTF 51 directs that beginning on 3 August (K) land planes (less heavy bomber groups) on SAIPAN under CTF 59 will: (A) Provide day fighter cover for forces at SAIPAN and TINIAN; (B) Provide night fighter cover for forces at SAIPAN, TINIAN, and GUAM; (C) Neutralize enemy air bases on PAGAN and ROTA as directed by CTF 59 (ADVON); (D) Support our troop operations and provide photo missions on GUAM under local control of CTF 53; (E) Provide logistic support and carriage of personnel and freight between SAIPAN, TINIAN, and GUAM.

The ROTA airfield remains inoperable.

TG 58.1 and TG 58.3 are enroute to BONINS; strikes will probably be one day later than originally scheduled.

OROTE airfield has 5000 feet of runway in usable condition.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 31 July heavily bombed TRUK and NAURU. 1 Navy landcat harassed MILLE and JALUIT. 4 PV's bombed MILLE, while 2 medium bombers hit WOTJE.

Lieutenant General RICHARDSON assumed duties of COMGENPOA on 1 August.

STEELHEAD (SS 280) and PARCHE (SS 384) made coordinated attack on S-bound convoy at 301912 GCT June in position 19-02 N, 120-56 E (off N Coast of LUZON). STEELHEAD sank 1 AK, and damaged 1 AO, 1 AP, and 1 AK. PARCHE sank 1 AP, 2 AO's, and 1 AP or 1 AK.

PADDLE (SS 263)(SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol. Operating CELEBES SEA - DAVAO GULF Area, sank 1 DD MINEKAZE Class and damaged 1 7500-ton AK.

Our forces are expanding their positions in the SANSAPOR Area where we now control 10 miles of coast line.

Our ground forces in the lower DRINIUMOR VALLEY have crossed the river on a two and a half mile front and are driving eastward through the jungle. An earlier night clash is reported in the AFUA Sector while an additional 409 enemy dead have been counted. Our medium, attack, and light bombers expended 35 tons on rear areas bombing troop concentrations and supply lines as far east as the SEPIK RIVER. Air patrols and light naval units destroyed 9 trucks.

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1 August (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On 1 August (K) 11 B-24's bombed WOLEAI. NAMLEA was hit by 15 B-24's. Strikes were made against CERAM (11 B-24's) and FLORES ISLAND (25 B-25's). 1 B-24 heckled PALAU. Medium bombers attacked targets in the VOGELKOP Area. C-47's flew 76 supply missions to forward bases, including 50 to BIAK. Air neutralization and blockade of E NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE continued.

On night 31 July - 1 August (K) 2 enemy bombers dropped 10 to 12 bombs on OWI ISLAND, killing 9 and wounding 15.

2 August (Oahu date)

On 3 August (K) our TINIAN troops conducted mopping up operations against scattered enemy groups in caves and ravines. Improved weather conditions permitted effective unloading operations. Formal flag-raising ceremony held at 1500 (K) 3 August. Reembarkation of assault units for return commences 4 August (K). Latest estimate of enemy dead is 5,334; 2,683 have been buried; increasing numbers are reported committing suicide. 53 Prisoners have been taken. Our troops report numerous cases of Jap military refusing to permit surrender of civilians, and several cases in which civilians have been killed by troops, rather than permit their surrender. 3,973 civilians have been interned. POW reports indicate that both Vice Admiral KAKUTA (Com 1st Air Flt) and Colonel OGATA (Regimental Commander) were killed by artillery fire on 24 July (K). As of 1800 (K) 3 August our casualties: KIA, 235; WIA, 1310; MIA, 27.

Our GUAM forces on 3 August (K) advanced nearly 2 miles all along the front, bringing the important road junction of FINEGAYAN within our lines. 3d MarDiv began to encounter resistance; 77th InfDiv advanced against increasing resistance. OROTE Airfield is now suitable for all type planes; land plane shuttle service with SAIPAN has been instituted. Swells are subsiding, and unloading has accelerated. Our casualties to date: KIA, 1058; WIA, 5066; MIA, 306. Enemy dead counted, 7,893; POW's, 68. 7,000 civilians now being cared for within our lines.

IsCom SAIPAN reports that successful mopping up operations continue on SAIPAN. The 27th InfDiv is sweeping the area NE of an E-W line through GARAPAN. For the 24-hour period ending 1800 (K) 2 August 145 Jap soldiers were killed (previously reported); during the same period 6 prisoners were taken, 40 civilians were killed and 51 were interned.

CTF 58 reports that strike against BONINS will adhere to original schedule (4,5,6 Aug. (K)).

On 2 August (K) shore based aircraft (from SAIPAN) hit PAGAN with unreported results. On the 3rd TG 58.4 hit GUAM in support of our ground troops; areas attacked were SW of MT. SANTA ROSA, and in the NE tip of the island; 19 tons of bombs and 77 rockets were expended.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 1 August attacked PONAPE, WOTJE, TAROA, and JALUIT.

TARPON (SS 175), operating off TRUK, reports at 030950 GCT 1 fishing boat probably sunk and 3 patrol boats damaged, all by gunfire.

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2 August (Oahu date - Cont'd)

BONEFISH (SS 223)(SWPA) operating SULU SEA reports 1 tanker sunk at 300100 GCT June.

Our ground forces at SANSAPOR are expanding and consolidating their positions. 12 enemy have been killed. Medium bombers attacked BIRA VILLAGE on the northern shore of MACCLUER GULF, and sank 2 coastal vessels at islands off the western coast.

Mopping up operations continue on BIAK and NOEMFOOR.

Another enemy attempt to turn our AFUA flank has been repulsed while our forces in the coastal sector cleared the area one mile east of the DRINIUMOR RIVER. Enemy casualties in all sectors were heavy. Medium and light bombers continue to disrupt the enemy lines of communication attacking bivouacs, supply dumps, and coastal installations. Light naval units shelled bivouacs and sank or damaged four barges.

On 2 August (K) 19 B-24's hit YAP Airdrome with 535 100-lb. bombs; excellent results were reported; 2 planes were believed destroyed on the runway and 2 in revetments; 20 unidentified planes were observed on the ground; there was no interception. 24 A-20's bombed NABIRE. 2 B-25's made a shipping strike at CERAM. C-47's flew 76 supply missions including 60 to BIAK.

3 August (Oahu date)

Our GUAM assault forces on 4 August (K) continued the attack to the north. Progress was slight on left (W) of line, but furthered our control of road junctions around FINEGAYAN. The right of our line advanced 1200 yards against light opposition. The farthest advance - 2800 yards - was made in the center of the zone of action. Garrison aircraft of Marine Air Group 21 landed on OROTE FIELD from the SANTEE (CVE) which then entered the harbor to discharge personnel and equipment. Unloading has accelerated owing to better sea conditions; the harbor is being worked to limit of its present capacity which is being expanded as rapidly as possible. Our casualties to date: KIA, 1091; WIA, 5211; MIA, 315. 7945 enemy dead have been counted; 71 prisoners have been taken.

Our troops on TINIAN on 4 August (K) were still engaged in mopping up operations. Enemy troops are reported changing into civilian clothing and mingling with civilians. Plans are progressing for withdrawal and rehabilitation of assault troops. Unloading was satisfactory during the day with a pontoon causeway being installed; an LST docked at the causeway during the afternoon. Our casualties to date: KIA, 262; WIA, 1399; MIA, 25. An estimated 5734 of the enemy have been killed. 7964 civilians have been interned.

On SAIPAN final mopping up continues with 168 enemy troops killed and an additional 91 captured during the 24-hour period ending at 1800 (K) 4 August.

TG 58.4 on 4 August (K) supported our ground forces on GUAM concentrating against targets in the northern part of the island. 33 sorties were flown and 10.6 tons of bombs and 76 rockets were expended; numerous targets were strafed.

CenPac Shore based aircraft on 2 August hit NAURU with 3 Venturas. 3 landcats harassed TAROA, WOTJE, and MILLE.

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3 August (Oahu date - Cont'd)

SHARK (SS 314) on lifeguard station N of IWO JIMA reports at 040741 GCT the rescue of pilot and radioman of LEXINGTON Air Group.

GATO (SS 212) reported 4 AK, 4 escort convoy position 27-40 N, 141-48 E (40 miles NW of CHICHI JIMA) course 300, speed 6, was being attacked by our planes at 040445 GCT; 1 damaged ship was streaming oil. At 041230 GCT GATO reported that this convoy was being well taken care of by our planes and surface force.

Our ground forces at SANSAPOR report an entire group surrender of 92 of the enemy, bringing the total number of prisoners to 126.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK Area 4 separate enemy attacks on our AFUA flank positions have failed. Point-blank artillery, mortar and machinegun fire was followed by consecutive waves of enemy in suicidal charges on a narrow front attempting to penetrate our position. Heavy casualties were inflicted with an additional 602 enemy dead buried by our troops and the entire battle area littered with abandoned and uncounted enemy bodies. Our medium and light bombers, continuing the daily destruction of enemy rear areas, dropped 46 tons of bombs on bivouacs, supply dumps and assembly sectors. Natives report enemy casualties and damage in his rear to be assuming alarming proportions.

CinC SWPA reports enemy killed to date: at NOEMFOOR, 970; at BIAK, 3851; at WAKDE, 3252; at HOLLANDIA, 3650. At the above places 1330 captives have been taken; this figure includes 400 Formosans taken at NOEMFOOR, but nationalities of other captives was not given.

On 3 August (K) 12 B-24's bombed WOLEAI. 13th AF raided YAP on 3 August (K) with 11 B-24's with unobserved results; single B-24's from this force hit SOROL and FALIK ISLANDS with unobserved results. All heavy strikes scheduled by 5th AF were cancelled owing to unfavorable weather. Despite poor weather C-47's flew 65 supply missions to forward bases. Air neutralization and blockade of E NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE continued.

4 August (Oahu date)

Our GUAM forces on 5 August (K) continued the attack to the north; 77th Inf Div advanced nearly 3 miles up the east coast on the extreme right of their line; the left of the line made a general advance averaging 1200 yards; no advance was reported in the center of the line. During night 4-5 August (K) an enemy platoon identified as naval counterattacked unsuccessfully; 11 enemy dead were left behind. Personnel and equipment for MAG 21 has been unloaded; this together with supplies and material already ashore completes basic elements needed for military air operations. Our casualties to date: KIA, 1107; WIA, 5286; MIA, 330. 22,000 civilians are now within our lines; 17,000 are in camps and 5,000 are at their former homes. 8,129 enemy dead have been counted.

TINIAN troops continued on 5 August (K) with mopping up operations, reorganizing, and reembarking assault elements of 4th MarDiv. Unloading of garrison shipping and reloading of assault troops are progressing satisfactorily. Our casualties to date: KIA, 277; WIA, 1491; MIA, 26. 5,124 enemy bodies have been buried to date; 178 prisoners have been taken. 8,491 civilians have been interned.

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4 August (Oahu date)-continued-

Our SAIPAN troops report that since 15 July a total of 1,748 Jap soldiers have been killed and 159 captured; 850 civilians have been killed or interned.

TG 58.4 on 5 August (K) continued to support our ground forces on GUAM. 79 sorties were flown, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs and 62 rockets were expended. On night 4-5 August (K) 4 PB4Ys harassed IWO JIMA, CHICHI JIMA and HAHAI JIMA; one plane was damaged and one is 5 hours overdue. A PB4Y from 13th AF heckled ANGAUR.

CTF 57 010320 summarizes operations 26-31 July inclusive.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 3 August hit WOTJE with 57 Corsairs and TRUK with 27 B-24s.

STERLET (SS392) operating north of BONINS reports at 051015 GCT with 3 hits disintegrated a small AK. Submarine has one prisoner aboard.

COPIA (SS245) operating north of BONINS reports at 042155 GCT with one hit sank a 500-ton patrol vessel loaded with marines.

BARBEL (SS316) operating EAST CHINA SEA reports at 051412 GCT sinking 1 AK.

TAUTOG (SS199) operating EMPIRE Waters reports sinking one 200 ton coastal vessel on 18 July and one small AK on 2 August.

CominCh & CNO 042050 establishes 1st Carrier Task Force Pacific and 2nd Carrier Task Force Pacific.

On morning 3 August (K) one of our Infantry Battalions landed on north coast of BIAK at KORIM BAY; landing was supported by PT boats and was made without opposition.

CinCSWPA reports that from MANOKWARI, from NABIRE, and from all his strongholds in GEELVINK BAY and the upper VOGELKOP, the enemy is in full retreat. He is apparently withdrawing towards the south and west in the hope of ultimate evacuation of his troops from Western NEW GUINEA. The natural difficulties of the movement are great and with the added hazards of our ground, naval and air activities his losses at best cannot fail to be calamitous. The practical effectiveness of the 2nd Japanese Army, commanded by General Teshima, which was charged with the defense of DUTCH NEW GUINEA, is rapidly approaching an end. Our losses continue to be negligible.

In the AITAPE-WEWAK area our ground forces are exploring to the south and east. Medium, attack and light bombers and light naval craft bombed and strafed assembly areas supply dumps and communication routes, expending over 30-tons of bombs.

On 4 August (K) 24 B-24s from 13th AF bombed YAP; there was no enemy interception. 2 groups of B-24s from 5th AF bombed BOELA (CERAM). 1 B-25 damaged 10 small boats and one lugger off AMBOINA. 4 B-25s bombed and strafed west VOGELKOP oil centers. 2 B-24s hit MITI airdrome on HALMAHERA. 12 A-20s bombed and strafed NABIRE airdrome. 3 P-39s strafed installations on MAPIA ISLAND while 5 B-25s bombed north BIAK. C-47s flew 66 supply missions to forward bases including 29 to NOEMFOOR and 21 to BIAK.

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5 August (Oahu date)

Results BONINS Strike by TG's 58.1 and 58.3, 4 and 5 August (K).(1) Damage to Enemy Shipping:-

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>By Air Forces</u>	<u>By Surface Forces</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Sunk</u>	4 AK's (4000-5000 T Ea.), 3 ODD'S (or DE's), 4 barges.	1 DD (New type), 1 AK (4000-5000 T), 1 ODD (or DE), 1 Sampan, 1 small AO, 5 barges, 2 small ships.	5 AK's (4000-5000 T Ea.), 4 ODD's (or DE's), 1 DD (New type), 1 Sampan, 1 small AO, 9 barges, 2 small ships.
<u>Probably Sunk</u>		3 Luggers, 2 small AK's	3 Luggers, 2 small AK's
<u>Possibly Sunk</u>		1 CL (3-stack)	1 CL (3-stack)
<u>Damaged</u>	1 ODD (or DE), 1 DE, 1 SC, 2 small AK's, 3 Sampans, 3 Luggers, 2 Landing Ships, 1 small inter-island steamer, 5 barges.	1 Landing Ship, 1 Lugger, 2 Sampans, 5 barges (2 loaded with personnel).	1 ODD (or DE), 1 DE, 1 SC, 2 small AK's, 5 Sampans, 4 Luggers, 3 Landing Ships, 1 small inter- island steamer, 10 Barges (2 loaded with personnel).

(2) Damage to Enemy Air Force:-

Planes destroyed airborne:	6
Planes destroyed on ground:	7
Planes damaged on ground:	5

(3) Damage to Our Force:-

Planes lost:	16
Pilots lost:	12
Air Crewmen lost:	7

Our GUAM assault forces on 6 August (K), pivoting on the right flank and executing a wheeling movement, made a substantial advance against stiffening opposition which centered mostly along roads where many strong defensive positions were encountered and reduced. Our line advanced 4500 yards on the west flank, and 2600 yards in the center. 2 enemy tanks and 9 field guns were destroyed by our ground forces. 1st Marine Provisional Brigade completed movement into assembly area preparatory to taking position on the left of the line (there is no statement to indicate that 3rd MarDiv is to be withdrawn; owing to the lengthening line, it may be contemplated that 1st Marine Provisional Brigade take position on left of 3rd MarDiv). Our casualties to date include 1,119 killed in action (wounded and missing not reported). 8,622 enemy dead have been counted.

A 6,000-foot runway is now available on ISLEY FIELD (SAIPAN).

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5 August (Oahu date - Cont'd)

TG 58.4 on 6 August (K) continued support of our GUAM assault forces; 95 sorties were flown and 18 tons of bombs and 205 rockets were expended.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 4 August bombed JALUIT, NAURU, WOTJE, and PONAPE. 2 landcats harassed WOTJE, TAROA, and MILLE. 1 Navy B-24 harassed WAKE.

GATO (SS 212), on lifeguard station off BONINS, reports at 061203 GCT rescued 3 downed pilots from TF 58.

CinC SWPA reports that in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area our forces east of the DRINIUMOR RIVER are pressing down from the north. 441 additional enemy dead were overrun in the movement. Medium, attack, and fighter bombers supporting our ground units dropped 52 tons of bombs on eastward assembly areas and supply dumps. Air and naval patrols blockaded the coast. The completely integrated teamwork of naval surface craft, aerial bombing and strafing attacks, over the past weeks, has resulted in a systematic destruction of the enemy's lines of communication. The sinking of a constantly shrinking number of barges, the destruction by direct hits of truck columns, roads, and bridges, the burning and firing of supply dumps have undoubtedly been contributing factors to his tactical failure to deliver a successful combined and coordinated attack. His main staging and bivouac areas from DAGUA to BUT, MATAPAU, MARUBIAN, and YAKAMUL present a picture of attrition and disaster in his rear. It is estimated that 20,000 of his force have been employed on this perilous line of communication, with heavy personnel losses.

On 5 August (K) 23 B-24's again heavily bombed YAP without enemy interception. On night 5-6 August (K) 2 enemy planes raided KORNASOREN Area on NOEMFOOR without damage; an enemy bomber which preceded these 2 was shot down over NOEMFOOR by our night fighters; on the same night 1 enemy plane unsuccessfully attacked south of BIAK a returning echelon; a single enemy plane bombed MOKMER without damage. In the strike by 2 groups of B-24's against BOELA, 1 of our B-24's was shot down by AA fire; 7 airborne fighters refused to attack. On morning 4 August (K) the RABAU Area was hit by 105 aircraft; 30 B-25's raided CHOISEUL BAY as fighters harassed BUKA and KAVIENG.

6 August (Oahu date)

Our GUAM assault forces on 7 August (K) continued their attack to the north. A substantial advance was made all along the front and the enemy occupied area was reduced by 1/3. YIGO which controls the road net in the north east part of the island was captured at 1300 (K); with it were captured stocks of food and ammunition and 23 pieces of transportation; most of the heavily fortified positions that were taken during the day were encountered in the vicinity of YIGO. Now included within our line is a large enemy grave yard showing evidence of recent mass burials. 1st MarProvBrig has taken position on the left of our line; both divisions and the brigade are abreast. On the extreme right (E) an advance of 1600 yards was made; in the center the advance was 6000 yards; on the left (W) flank of the line reported (the left of the line ended at a point 4000 yards from the west shore line; no report indicates front line held by 1st MarProvBrig) an advance of 4000 yards^{was} made. Our casualties to date: KIA, 1128; WIA, 5373; MIA, 331. 8833 enemy dead have been counted.

Reembarkation of assault elements of 4th MarDiv and transfer of units of 2nd MarDiv to SAIPAN continues; unloading of garrison troops and equipment proceeds concurrently. Loading of 4 transports with Corps and 4th MarDiv personnel has been

6 August (Oahu date)-continued-

completed. Our casualties on TINIAN as of 1800 (K) 7 August: KIA, 291; WIA, 1520¹⁵²⁰. MIA, 24. 5527 enemy have been buried. 9703 civilians have been interned. 178 prisoners have been taken.

TG 58.1 and 58.3 are now enroute ENIWETOK. TG 58.7 is refueling. TG 58.4 remains in support of our assault forces in the MARIANAS. TG 58.4 on 7 August (K) flew 46 sorties over the target area in support of our GUAM assault forces. 18 tons of bombs were dropped on enemy concentrations and defense installations in the northern part of the island.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 5 August executed a heavy photo reconnaissance over TRUK; 8 Navy and 3 Army photo Liberators, with 10 strike Liberators of Group 1, FAW 2, participated; 2 of 8-12 enemy interceptors were shot down; 2 of our planes were damaged. Harassing strikes were made against PONAPE and NAURU.

GABILAN (SS252) operating Empire waters reports sinking Jap DD early morning 17 July ten miles NW of ZENIZU with 1 hit.

Richardson 012336Z (pink) recommends category of defense for HAWAII, upon successful completion of MARIANAS operation, be set as Category B, in accordance with paragraph 31 B, "Joint Action of the Army and the Navy" with certain additional specifications.

ComSoPac 020435 (pink) recommends dates on which RNZAF squadrons will become available to report to CinCSWPA, and discusses logistic support.

Richardson 050457Z (pink) states that in view of ultimate necessity of completely occupying FORMOSA, there is a need in POA for one Army Corps Headquarters in addition to the XXIV Corps presently assigned.

GHQ SWPA 050910 (pink) opposes an establishment of arbitrary date of 1 Sept for termination of transfer of army troops from SoPac to SoWesPac.

CinCPOA 061023 (pink) answers queries as to contemplated employment of A and B divisions after arrival in POA.

CominCh & CNO 061447 (pink) approves ComSoPac 020435 (pink).

CinCPOA 070116 (pink) passes CinCPOA 240957 June (pink); requests that any divergent views concerning concept of GRANITE II operations for which CinCPOA is responsible be submitted to CinCPOA.

CinCSWPA reports that in the SANSAPOR area statements from prisoners of war and from friendly natives, substantiating our own air observations, emphasize the confusion and dislocation in the rear areas of the Second Japanese Army; the enemy apparently expected an attack at MANOKWARI and had thoroughly prepared an elaborate defense system. When the enemy's defenses were by-passed and enveloped by the unsuspected landing at SANSAPOR, his main coastal communications were cut and he has been thrown back upon the jungle. In his effort to extricate himself, his forces are reported in a state bordering on demoralization. This operation can now be regarded as completed.

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6 August (Oahu date)-continued-

In the AITAPE-WEWAK area our attack force east of the DRINIUMOR RIVER continued its advance southward and reached and cut the main AFUA-HARECH RIVER trail which has been the principal enemy supply route. Our maneuver threatens to isolate the enemy forces in the AFUA area and west thereof. The toll of enemy casualties is rising. The total of counted dead, largely from his combat infantry, is now 5935, and includes only those abandoned outside of his lines.

YAP was again hit on 6 August (K) by 23 B-24s; there was no enemy interception. 4 other B-24s bombed WOLEAI with unobserved results. The phosphate plant on FAIS ISLAND was bombed by 4 B-24s. The north coast of CERAM was attacked by 7 B-25s. B-24s made a shipping strike in the HALMAHERA area where one AK was sunk and one escort was strafed. On a shipping strike south of CERAM 4 B-25s sank one AK and one lugger. On 5 August (K) 63 RAAF P-40s operated in close support of our ground troops at SANSAPOR. The usual heavy strikes by medium, attack and fighter bombers were made in the AITAPE-WEWAK area. Heavy strikes were also made in continuation of the air neutralization and blockade of east NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND and BOUGAINVILLE.

7 August (Oahu date)

Our GUAM forces on 8 August (K) continued the attack to the north. By 1800 (K) the enemy had been driven into the extreme northeastern part of the island; a thrust by the center of our line has driven a wedge which practically divides the enemy remnants into 2 groups. MT. SANTA ROSA was taken in the day's advance and with it the enemy lost his main source of water. The right (E) flank of our line rests on the shore line at a point 6200 yards south of PATI POINT; the left (N) flank of our line rests on the northwest shore line at RITIDIAN POINT; the center of the line is 1400 yards from the northern shore line. Our casualties to date: KIA, 1154; WIA, 5497; MIA, 326. 10,100 enemy dead have been counted.

Capture and occupation phase of SAIPAN and TINIAN have been completed; all forces on these 2 islands pass to respective Island Commanders at 1200 (K) 10 August. Responsibility for the defense and development of SAIPAN and TINIAN will pass from CTF 51 to CTF 57 at 1200 (K) 12 August.

TG 58.4 on 8 August (K), in support of our GUAM assault forces, flew 32 sorties over targets in the northern part of the island expending 13.4 tons of bombs and 44 rockets. This group's duty with TF 51 will be completed at 1800 (K) 10 August at which time the group will proceed to ENIWETOK in accordance with orders of ComFifthFleet.

GenPac shore based aircraft on 6 August bombed MILLE, JALUIT, NAURU, WOTJE, and WAKE.

GUITARRO (SS 363)(SWPA) reports at 071303 GCT 1 FUBUKI Class DD sunk with 3 hits in night surface attack off MANILA.

On 7 August (K) 24 B-24's effectively bombed YAP TOWN and AA positions to the northeast; 530 100-lb. bombs and 18 500-lb. bombs were dropped. 2 B-24's hit WOLEAI with 40 fragmentation clusters and 30 100-lb. bombs. 19 B-24's bombed GALELA dispersal areas destroying 6 enemy aircraft and damaging many others; 7 enemy airborne fighters refused to intercept. 12 other B-24's bombed the LALOBATA

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7 August (Oahu date) Cont'd)

Airdrome destroying 7 grounded planes; there was no enemy interception. 2 B-24's bombed the naval airdrome at DAVAO. Minor strikes were made in the VOGELKOP Area. Heavy strikes continued in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area. C-47's flew 58 supply missions to forward bases, including 43 to BIAK.

In the North Pacific Area on night 4-5 August 8 PV's from FAW 4 struck the northern KURILES; 4 planes hit PARAMUSHIRU while the other 4 bombed picket boats 100 to 150 miles off the eastern coast of PARAMUSHIRU.

8 August (Oahu date)

On 9 August (K) resistance on GUAM rapidly approached its end as our forces covered without major opposition all remaining territory except a small section S and SE of TAEOPPE; our troops were approaching this area at sundown and intend to eliminate it on 10 August (K). A close patrol of enemy held coast from seaward has been maintained since early in the campaign, and it is believed by CTF 53 that very few enemy have escaped from GUAM; none escaped during the final phases. Large scale departure of combatant ships began during the 8th with virtual cessation of calls for fire support. Our casualties to date: KIA, 1184; WIA, 5627; MIA, 336. 10,793 enemy dead have been counted; 73 prisoners have been taken.

GenPac shore based aircraft on 7 August bombed WOTJE, JALUIT, and TAROA. Harassing raids were made against NAURU, PONAPE, TRUK, and WAKE.

CTF 59 announces that his headquarters close KWAJALEIN 111400 GCT and open SAIPAN same time.

SNOCK (SS 279) operating EMPIRE waters reports one timed hit in a 6500-ton AK off SHIOMI SAKI on 12 July.

CERO (SS 225) (SWPA) reports a medium AK or AO sunk by four hits on 5 August off BANOS POINT (S MINDANAO).

On 8 August (K) 24 B24's bombed UTAROM area with unreported results; 24 other B24's started fires at BABO airdrome. A single B25 strafed enemy personnel at DOROEBA (MOROTAI IS.). 21 B24's without interception again bombed YAP airdrome starting fires. 4 B24's destroyed buildings at MANOKWARI. Harassing strikes were made against WOLEAI and PALAU. Heavy strikes were made against SE BOUGAINVILLE on 7 and 8 August (K); 58 planes struck the area on the 7th while 81 attacked on the 8th. Fighter bombers heckled NEW IRELAND coast and northern GAZELLE PENINSULA. Heavy strikes were again made in the AITAPE-WEWAK area. C47's flew 46 supply missions to forward bases, including 31 to BIAK and 8 to NOEMFOOR.

Com7thFlt reports that on 7 August (K) our troops found 1003 dead Japs in the AITAPE area. At 0405 (K) on the 8th one enemy bomber hit NAMBER (NOEMFOOR) without damage.

Admiral Nimitz and party departed PEARL for MARIANAS.

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9 August (Oahu date)

CTF 52 announced at 101131 (K) that all enemy organized resistance on GUAM had been eliminated. Mopping up activities were proceeding.

CTF 57 060230 summarizes operations 1 - 5 August.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 8 August bombed NAURU, PONAPE, TAROA, MILLE, and TRUK. TRUK was heavily hit by 26 B24's.

On 8 - 9 August (K) a single B24 bombed LASANG airdrome at DAVAO with unobserved results. In a shipping strike into the HALMAHERA area one AK was sunk and five were damaged. On 9 August (K) 25 B25's attacked LANGGOER (KAI IS.) with unobserved results. 12 B24's bombed Old NAMLEA airdrome (BOEROE IS.) with good results. 12 B24's heavily hit BOELA tank area (CERAM IS.). 12 other B24's attacked LEANG airdrome (AMBOINA). 24 A20's hit enemy concentrations on ASAP ISLAND in the BABO area, while 18 others started fires at NABIRE. YAP airdrome was heavily hit by 23 B24's which started large fires. On 8 - 9 August (K) 2 B24's bombed MALAKAL (PALAU). The usual strikes were made in the GEELVINK BAY area and in the AITAPE-WEWAK area.

10 August (Oahu date)

Our GUAM forces are proceeding with aggressive combat patrol action to mop up enemy remnants and to prevent scattered groups from organizing. On 11 August (K) 300-400 dead Japs were found in a concrete cave structure in northeast tip of the island. Our casualties to date: KIA, 1219; WIA, 5726; MIA, 327. 11,121 enemy dead have been counted; 87 prisoners have been taken; 7 Jap civilians have been interned. 14,862 natives are now in camps; the others have returned to their homes.

CTF 52 reports in his final SAIPAN-TINIAN summary that our casualties as of 1200 (K) 10 August are: KIA, 190; WIA, 1515; MIA, 24. 5584 Japs have been buried; 404 prisoners have been taken, including 150 Koreans. 13,262 civilians have been interned. Reembarkation of 4th Division has been completed.

Recapitulation:

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
SAIPAN	3,049	13,049	365	16,463
TINIAN	190	1,515	24	1,729
GUAM	1,214	5,704	329	7,247
TOTALS	4,453	20,268	718	25,439

	<u>Enemy Buried</u>	<u>POW's Jap</u>	<u>POW's Korean</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
SAIPAN	20,720	879	828	22,427
TINIAN	5,544	254	150	5,948
GUAM*	11,121**	87	---	11,208
TOTALS	37,385	1,220	978	39,583

*The GUAM figures will doubtless change considerably as mopping up operations have just gotten underway.

**Total counted; no figures on burials. - Continued -

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10 August (Oahu date - Cont'd)

CenPac shore based aircraft on 9 August heavily bombed MILLE with 68 Corsairs and 57 Dauntlesses. 6 PV's hit both airstrips on NAURU. 3 Navy landcats conducted night harassment of JALUIT, MILLE, and WOTJE.

At noon on 10 August (K) 18 B-24's bombed airfields and installations on IWO JIMA dropping 440 120-lb. fragmentation bombs and 84 500-lb. bombs. 40 to 50 enemy aircraft were observed on the ground. 5-7 unaggressive fighters dropped phosphorous bombs. 3 of our planes received slight damage. 20 P-47's hit PAGAN Airfield with 40 500-lb. bombs. 3 P-47's assisted mopping up forces in southern TINIAN.

BALAO (SS 285) reports at 101100 GCT sinking a sampan loaded with 50 Marines in position 09-20 N, 133-18 E (off NW PALAU), course 320.

GUITARRO (SS 363)(SWPA), operating CHINA SEA west of LUZON, reports at 101620 GCT obtaining 1 hit, possibly 2, in KATORI Class cruiser; and 1 hit in a medium AK. Sank a DD with 2 hits and a 700-ton coastal vessel with gunfire.

On 10 August (K) 4 squadrons of B-24's bombed GALELA and LOLOBATA Airdromes on HALMAHERA with good results; there was no enemy interception. 16 B-24's hit LAHA Airdrome on AMBON. 29 B-24's bombed YAP TOWN, the YAP runway, and AA positions. UTAGAL ISLAND (WOLEAI Group) was bombed by 2 B-24's with unobserved results. On 9 - 10 August (K) 2 B-24's started large fires at MALAKAL (PALAU) and sighted a possible new airstrip at URUKTHAPEL. KOROR ISLAND (PALAU) was bombed by 2 B-24's on the 10th. Heavy strikes against enemy concentrations and installations continued in the AITAPE-WEWAK Area. Air neutralization and blockade of E. NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE continued.

Extensive patrolling continued in all occupied areas in DUTCH NEW GUINEA. In the AITAPE Area our forces report that major combat elements of the Jap 18th Army have been thoroughly defeated, and that survivors are scattering to the E. and toward TORRICELLI MOUNTAINS; they are making no attempt to oppose our forces. In the DRINIUMOR RIVER Area 6500 enemy dead have been counted and 50 prisoners have been taken.

Cum

11 August (Oahu date)

Our GUAM forces on 12 August (K) continued mopping up operations. Our total casualties to date: KIA, 1227; WIA, 5752; MIA, 327. 11,502 enemy dead have been counted; 102 prisoners have been taken; 8 Jap civilians have been interned. 14,532 civilians are now in camps; others have returned to their homes. Major General Geiger departed GUAM 0623 (K) 12 August. Major General Turnage assumed command Southern Landing Force that time.

CenPac shore based aircraft on 11 August sent 86 sorties against MILLE; no other action against the enemy-occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS was reported.

PUFFER (SS 268) (SWPA) operating NW of MINDORO reports on 12 August one large AK sunk and 2 large AO's damaged; the AO's were drifting helplessly toward the

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11 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

beach and it was believed the typhoon weather would make towing very improbable.

PARGO (SS 264) (SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol. Operating SULU and CELEBES SEAS reports sinking one 6600-ton AK and damaging two 4000-ton AK's.

Com7thFleet reports that pictures of ANGAUR ISLAND (PALAU group) taken on 5 August reveal 6500 feet of underwater obstacles along the SW and others along the SE end; SW tip of island has 600-foot anti-tank ditch.

On 11 August (K) 37 B25's on a shipping strike in the HALMAHERA area sank one 500-1000 ton AK, 2 luggers, 4 barges, and 10 seaplanes; damaged one 2000-4500 ton AK, 3 luggers, and several barges.

11 B25's bombed LANGGOER (KAI IS.) with unobserved results. 23 A20's in a shipping strike in vicinity of UTAROM sank two 500-1000 ton AK's and several barges; 20 other A20's hit enemy bivouac areas S of SAWAR. 24 P40's bombed the MANOKWARI airdrome while the coastal area from WEWAK to AITAPE was subjected to the usual low level attacks. On 10-11 August (K) single bombers harassed PALAU, FAIS ISLAND, and DAVAO. 125 sorties were flown against enemy installations in the RABAU area while 16 fighter bombers hit KAVIENG.

Cincpoa 100133 (pink) makes command assignment for planning purposes in connection with CAUSEWAY operation.

Cincpoa 100125 (pink) announces intention to continue the responsibility of Com5thFleet for the forward area including the MARIANAS until relieved thereof by Com3rdFleet at a time to be determined later by Cinpoa; now estimated as about 26 August.

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12 August (Oahu date)

Our GUAM forces on 12 August (K) continued mopping-up operations. All cave entrances were located and sealed; they will be investigated later. Our casualties to date: KIA, 1217; WIA, 5722; MIA, 327. 11,502 enemy dead have been counted.

CenPac shore based aircraft heavily bombed MILLE on 10 August (91 Corsairs and 65 Dauntless) and on 11 August (32 Corsairs and 36 Dauntless). WOTJE, TAROA, and JALUIT were also attacked on the 11th. ROTA and PAGAN were bombed on the 11th by 31 P-47's and 10 B-25's, respectively. 16 B-24's hit CHICHI JIMA shipping and the seaplane base.

FLASHER (SS 249) (SWPA) summarizes third war patrol. Operating SOUTH CHINA SEA sank 1 KUMA CLASS CL (10,000), 1 7500-ton AK, 1 4000-ton AK, and 1 10,000-ton AO, for total tonnage of 34,800; damaged 1 8800-ton AK and 1 6900-ton AK, for a total tonnage of 15,700.

RASHER (SS 269) (SWPA) reports at 121610 GCT sank 8000-ton AK in position 16-00 N, 119-30 E (off W LUZON coast).

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12 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

10 B-24's on 12 August (K) bombed BABO runway with 27 tons on strike from OWI ISLAND. On night 11-12 August (K) a single reconnaissance plane from OWI sank a freighter transport in S DAVAO GULF. Small night strikes were made in the HALMAHERA area. 6 B-25's and 3 P-39's bombed and strafed the NABIRE drome. Small strikes were made in the GEELVINK BAY and N VOGELKOP areas. 2 squadrons of A-20's bombed enemy concentrations in the SARMI area, while the usual heavy attacks were made in the AITAPE-WEWAK area. KOROR ISLAND (PALAU) was heckled during the night. C-47's flew 87 supply missions to forward areas, including 69 to BIAK. 11 B-24's started fires at LANGGOER (KAI IS.).

On night 11-12 August (K) 2 to 5 enemy bombers bombed OWI ISLAND, killing 1 and wounding 2; 1 P-38 was destroyed, and 11 other planes were damaged (6 P-38's, 5 B-24's).

In the North Pacific Area on 11 August 2 11th AF B-25's, in an attack on 2 picket boats, sank 1 and damaged one.

13 August (Oahu date)

At 140503 GCT Com5thFlt reported capture and occupation phase of GUAM completed. At 1200(K) 15 August Com5thPhibFor will pass command of all GUAM forces (except assault forces) to IsCom GUAM. CTF 51 will pass responsibility for defense and development of GUAM to CTF 57. CG 5thPhibCorps and CTF 51 will report to CTF 57 for duty. TF 51 is dissolved. ComPhibsPac will proceed PEARL in ROCKY MOUNT at his discretion. When released by CTF 57 (not later than 20 Aug.) TF 53 is dissolved. ComGroup 4 PhibFor will proceed PEARL in the GEORGE CLYMER. Com5thFlt will retain overall responsibility for defense of forward area CenPac, including MARIANAS, until relieved by Com3rdFlt.

At 132346 GCT Com5thFlt announced release of Lt. Gen. Holland Smith from command of expeditionary troops and dissolution of the task force as of 1600 (K) 14 August. CG 5thPhibCorps assigned command of all elements of 5th PhibCorps remaining in the MARIANAS Area, except those assigned to IsComs SAIPAN and TINIAN. CG 5thPhibCorps will retain responsibility for defense and development of GUAM until IsCom GUAM is directed to relieve him. Lt.Gen. Holland Smith is authorized to proceed PEARL by air.

BARBEL (SS 316), operating EMPIRE waters, reports sinking 1 AP, 3 AK's, and 1 whale factory ship for total tonnage 41,000.

PLUNGER (SS 179) reports at 140813 GCT 2 sure hits and 2 probables in empty 4,000-ton AK aground E side MINTO REEF (E of TRUK) while salvage operations were underway.

MUSKALLUNGE (SS 262)(SWPA), operating NW of MINDORO ISLAND, reports at 140930 GCT 1 hit believed to have sunk a DD that was trailing by 15 miles a 10-ship, 2 or more escort, convoy on course 215, speed 7.

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13 August (Oahu date - Cont'd)

A delayed report from CTF 59 announces bombing of NAURU on 11 August by 17 B-25's and 2 PV's. On 12 August 1 PB4Y on a special shipping strike NW of CHICHI JIMA bombed by radar 2 groups of 3 ships each on northern course; results were unobserved.

On night 12-13 August (K) 1 B-24 heckled KOROR ISLAND (PALAU); this was followed on the 13th by a strike by 2 B-24's, with unobserved results. Other strikes on the 13th included: 38 B-24's against personnel and supply areas at MANOKWARI; 12 B-25's against LANGGOER (KAI IS.); 6 B-25's against WASILE BAY; 9 B-24's against CAPE CHATER (TIMOR); and P-40's against W. coast of GEELVINK BAY. The usual heavy strikes were made in the ATIAPE-WEWAK Area. Air neutralization and blockade of E. NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE continued. C-47's flew 80 supply missions to forward bases.

14 August (Oahu date)

GenPac shore based aircraft on 12 August bombed MILLE gun positions with an unspecified number of Corsairs and Dauntlesses. 3 PV's hit runways on NAURU. On the 13th 4 PV's concentrated against the runways on NAURU.

Farther west TF 59 was active against IWO JIMA, ROTA, and PAGAN on 14 August (K). 22 B-24's, operating from SAIPAN, hit IWO JIMA with 147 500-lb. bombs and 360 100-lb. fragmentation clusters; several enemy fighters aggressively intercepted and dropped phosphorous bombs; 1 B-24 crashed 40 miles SE of IWO JIMA, and another crashed 16 miles short of SAIPAN; 10 of the crewmen parachuted; 4 were rescued off SAIPAN. 8 P-47's bombed and strafed AA positions on ROTA, while 12 B-25's pounded runways and gun positions on PAGAN.

TAUTOG (SS 199), operating EMPIRE waters (off S coast of HONSHU), reports being fired at by 4 torpedoes which missed. ComSubsPac reports that captured document gives sketches of enemy submarines on anti-submarine patrol in EMPIRE waters showing sails rigged forward to present the appearance of a sampan or sailing junk.

LAPON (SS 260)(SWPA) summarizes 5th war patrol. Operating in SOUTH CHINA SEA, sank 2 4,000-ton AK's, 1 10,000-ton AO, and damaged 1 19,400-ton AO and 1 4,000-ton AK.

CREVALLE (SS 291)(SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol. Operating SOUTH CHINA SEA and W. OF LUZON, sank 1 9,300-ton AK, 1 7,600-ton AK, 1 8,800-ton AK, and 1 6,700-ton AK for a total tonnage of 32,400.

Heckling of KOROR ISLAND (PALAU) continued on night 13-14 August (K) and on night 14-15 August (K). On the 14th 4 B-25's attacked shipping in TIMOR ISLAND BAY, NW of KAI ISLAND GROUP; during the same day 5 to 8 of 12 large enemy sailboats off western CERAM were sunk. Air neutralization and blockade of E. NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE continued; pictures taken on the 14th show VUNAKANAU and TOBERA runways serviceable.

On night 12-13 August 4 B-24's and 2 photographic planes conducted an armed reconnaissance over PARAMUSHIRU STRAIT and SURIBACHI airfield; of 15-20 intercepting fighters, 3 were shot down, 5 were probably shot down, and 2 were damaged; 2 B-24's received minor damage; all planes returned safely. 4 PV's from FAW 4 attacked enemy installations and patrol craft at ARAIDO ISLAND.

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14 August (Oahu date) Cont'd

CinCPOA 090400 (pink) outlines certain requirements for base development in the MARIANAS.

CinCPOA 150355 (pink) announces command setup for STALEMATE II.

Cum
[Signature]

15 August (Oahu date)

CenPac shore-based aircraft on 13 August bombed NAURU, PONAPE, TRUK, and an unidentified island N of SAIPAN. Harassing strikes were made against WOTJE and TAROA.

At 2226 (L) 9 August a PB4Y crashed on take-off at Stickell Field, ENIWETOK. 8 members of the plane were killed and 9 men were injured fighting fires that resulted. 110 of 340 parked carrier planes were destroyed or damaged.

On night 15-16 August (K) 2 B-24's continued heckling operations against KOROR ISLAND (PALAU), while another plane bombed wharves at DAVAO. On 14 August (K) 16 B-24's started fires and explosions along WASILE BAY personnel areas. 8 B-25's hit W HALMAHERA starting fires and explosions. 12 B-24's struck A/A positions at BABO. 32 B-24's destroyed 5 planes on the ground at LOLOBATA airfield (HALMAHERA) and started large fires and explosions. 12 B-25's destroyed 3 large warehouses and jetty at TERNATE (W HALMAHERA); 6 other B-25's sank a small AK and several luggers in the HALMAHERA area and 3 stores-laden sailboats on the N coast of CERAM. Air neutralization and blockade of E NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE continued. On 15 August (K) 2 B-24's bombed MANOKWARI personnel and storage areas. Fighter bomber sweeps were made in the GEELVINK BAY and VOGELKOP areas. C-47's completed 77 supply missions to forward bases, including 65 to BIAK.

[Signature] *Cum*

16 August (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 59) on 15 August bombed TAROA and NAURU. Further west, the force hit CHICHI JIMA with 17 B-24's, and made minor strikes against PAGAN and MAUG ISLANDS.

On night 15-16 August (K) a snooper bomber sank a 500-1000 ton AK in DAVAO GULF. On the 16th 34 B-24's and 12 B-25's hit dispersal, personnel, and storage areas at MITI ISLAND. 4 B-24's and 6 B-25's which were turned back from the HALMAHERA strike bombed enemy installations on AJOE ISLAND. Enemy concentrations in the SARMI area were heavily attacked by 63 A-20's from HOLLANDIA. Enemy positions on BIAK were hit by 8 P-39's and 16 P-40's, while other P-39's struck in the WEWAK area.

Com5thFlt 170217 reports that on 17 August (K) CTF 59 assumes responsibility for bombing YAP and WOLEAI.

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17 August (Oahu date)

CTF 57 130500 summarizes operations 6-11 August.

On 16 August 25 B-24's (under CTF 59) caused large fires and explosions in the DUBLON (TRUK) warehouse and storage areas; of 6 intercepting fighters, 1 was shot down and 3 were damaged; 2 B-24's sustained minor damage. A search plane dropped 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons on PONAPE TOWN with unobserved results. 3 PV's cratered the NAURU airstrip. Marine Corsairs and Dauntlesses hit coastal defense positions on MILLE.

On 17 August (K) 19 B-24's pounded buildings, storage areas, and airfield installations at IWO JIMA; our planes suffered no damage from 4 uneager enemy fighters. On the preceding day IWO JIMA was hit by 1 B-24. 24 Marine Corsairs strafed ROTA airstrip and gun positions on 16 August (K). On the 17th 20 P-47's hit PAGAN.

HARDHEAD (SS 365) reports at 172045 GCT 10 possible hits out of 15 torpedoes fired in BB at 12-23N, 129-49E (240 miles E of SAMAR). The damaged BB was proceeding at speed 03. A clarifying dispatch at 180955 GCT states that in two surface attacks 5 Mk 23's and 4 Mk 18's were fired at a 10-foot setting, and 6 Mk 23's at 6 feet. Corrected position of attack given as 12-23N, 129-59E. During a daylight approach against the BB, it disappeared at a range of 6000 yards while periscope was housed for 6 minutes; breaking up noises were heard.

BILLFISH (SS 286) operating W of LUZON with GREENLING (SS 213) and SAILFISH (SS 192) reports at 171600 GCT sight CA or BB with 2 escorts position 18-57N, 116-10E (252 miles W of NW tip of LUZON) course 220, speed 20. At 181245 BILLFISH reports SAILFISH sank 1 CM and 1 escort (probably DD of heavy cruiser group); GREENLING sank 1 trawler.

BONEFISH (SS 223) (SWPA) summarizes 5th war patrol. Operating SULU SEA sank 1 10,000-ton AK, 1 10,000-ton AO, and 5 miscellaneous craft totalling 800 tons, for a total tonnage of 20,800; damaged 1 7500-ton AK.

RASHER (SS 269) (SWPA) reports many damaged vessels remain at 18-10N, 119-55E (30 miles off NW coast of LUZON.)

JCS 152100 (pink) requests recent intelligence, maps, and photographic coverage concerning Japanese inner zone, especially BONIN and IZU ISLAND chains, RYUKYUS, and JAPAN proper.

Cincpoa 180437 (pink) recommends that Joint Chiefs of Staff issue a directive now for the progressive advance of SWPA forces into the Central PHILIPPINES to be followed by the establishment of POA forces in the FORMOSA STRAIT region, with a target date of 15 February (1945).

MacArthur 180849Z (pink) is warning order for GOSSIPMONGER.

B-24's operating from OWI and BIAK ISLANDS struck in the CERAM ISLAND area on 17 August (K). 26 B-24's attacked HAROEKOE, dropping fragmentation clusters which destroyed an undetermined number of enemy planes, and started many fires

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17 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

and explosions. 20 other B-24's bombed LIANG, dropping 1000-lb. bombs in revetments and on the airstrip. 15 enemy fighters were airborne over AMBOINA, but refused to intercept; they were pursued by escorting P-38's which shot down 7, probably shot down another, and damaged another. An airborne SALLY (twin-engine bomber) was shot down, and a flying boat was strafed and damaged.

23 B-25's (from BIAK) hit the town and dispersal areas at NAMLEA on 17 August (K). Fighter bombers made strikes in the MANOKWARI area, and along McCLUER GULF. 33 P-40's operated in close support of our BIAK forces. The usual strikes continued in the TADJI-WEWAK areas. 1 B-24 obtained 3 hits on an unidentified ship in DAVAO GULF.

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18 August (Oahu date)

On 18 August (K) P-47's from SAIPAN hit heavy AA positions on PAGAN with 8 tons. 4 PV's hit dispersal areas at NAURU.

At about sunrise on 19 August (K) a second accident occurred at STICKELL FIELD (ENIWETOK). A Corsair making emergency down-wind landing crashed into Navy Liberators parked clear of runway. 1 Corsair and 3 Liberators were destroyed; 1 Liberator was extensively damaged; 3 others received minor damage. Pilot and Field Operations Officer were killed; 2 men were badly injured; 8 others received minor injuries.

STERLIT (SS 392) operating BONINS area reports at 191227 GCT sank large AK with 4 hits and probably sank medium AK with 2 hits.

Com5thFlt 170252 (pink) conveys proposal of CTF 59 that CVE be provided to furnish fighter escort for B-24's striking in the BONINS area.

Cincpoa 182112 (pink) replies to foregoing dispatch.

Heckling of KOROR ISLAND (PALAU) continued on night 17-18 August (K) and 18-19 August (K). On 18 August (K) 23 B-25's and 18 B-24's (from DARWIN) attacked dispersal areas at NAMLEA airfield; several enemy planes were destroyed on the ground; 3 airborne enemy fighters refused to intercept. 52 A-20's bombed and strafed enemy concentrations and installations S of SARMI. Minor strikes were made against HALMAHERA, DAVAO, the VOGELKOP, and KAI ISLANDS.

CinCSWPA reports that 1st Bn, 186th Inf supported by naval and air bombardment landed near WARDU (W BIAK) against light opposition; 15 enemy were killed. Total enemy casualties on BIAK to date: 4,468 killed; 290 Japs and 597 Indoneses captured.

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19 August (Oahu date)

Shore based aircraft (under CTF 59) on 18 August (K) bombed ROTA, MILLE and NAURU. On 19 August (K) MILLE, NAURU, and WOTJE were bombed. P-47's dropped fire bombs to aid mopping-up operations on TINIAN; other P-47's bombed installations on ANATAHAN ISLAND (60 mi. N of SAIPAN).

PINTADO (SS 387), operating S of KOREA, reports at 191346 GCT sank 2 AK's.

Marshall 112110Z (Pink) states policy of War Department on assignment of air service units to POA.

Heckling of KOROR ISLAND (PALAU) continued on night 19-20 August (K). Heavy strikes (120 sorties) were made against the RABAU Area on 18 August (K); enemy installations at KAVIENG and S BOUGAINVILLE were also hit. Elsewhere in the SWP Area, reports indicate that activity was limited to searches.

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20 August (Oahu date)

CTF 57 200905 summarizes MARIANAS ground operations 12-18 August (K).

CTF 57 171110 summarizes air operations 12-16 August inclusive.

CenPac shore-based aircraft on 20 August (K) bombed NAURU, MILLE, and WOTJE. On the same day in the MARIANAS P-47's bombed the dock and AA positions, dropping 8 tons through intense AA fire. One B-24 bombed ALAMAGAN ISLAND (30 miles S of PAGAN). In the first 7th AAF raid on YAP 20 B-24's on the 20th dropped 40 tons of 100 pounders on air installations and barracks W of the airfield; AA fire was meager and there was no interception.

On 20 August (K) 41 B-24's attacked stores and personnel center of TOBELO (5 miles S of MITI, HALMAHERA); warehouses and other buildings were demolished; 3 airborne enemy fighters refused to intercept. Heckling of KOROR ISLAND (PALAU) was continued by 4 SB-24's; there was no AA and no interception. TALAUD was hit on the 20th by 23 B-25's which attacked KARAKELONG ISLAND in the TALAUD group; warehouses and other installations were hit and a small AK was set afire in BEO BAY. Minor strikes were made against CERAM, BOEROE, and CELEBES. 12 B-25's hit KAI ISLAND concentrating against LANGGOER airfield, while 9 Beauforts started fires in the barracks at SOE (TIMOR). Beaufighters destroyed an AK and damaged 2 others on a shipping strike E of UTAROM, while 4 P-39's made fighter sweep along McCLUER GULF. The WEWAK area was heavily hit on the 19th and 20th by medium attack and fighter bombers. MANOKWARI was also hit on the 20th by 19 P-47's and 7 P-40's which concentrated against personnel areas and villages.

RAY (SS 271) (SWPA) operating S CHINA SEA during the period 4-20 August reports sinking one medium AP, 2 large AO's, 2 large AK's, and possibly sinking one medium AK.

CincSWPA 190733 (pink) requests carrier air support of operation against TALAUD.

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20 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

Cincpoa 210237 (pink) states that it is planned to leave 6 CVE's with 7th Fleet through the TALAUD operation, as requested by CinCSWPA in the foregoing dispatch.

Cincpoa 210816 (pink) makes further reply to CinCSWPA's 190733.

Com7thFlt 200533 (pink) requests carrier strikes against ~~MEDANO~~^{MAKAPU}, CELEBES during operation against MOROTAI ISLAND.

Cincpac 210741 (pink) replies to foregoing dispatch.

21 August (Oahu date)

CenPac shore-based aircraft on 20 August heavily bombed DUBLON and MOEN with 27 B-24's which concentrated against warehouses, AA positions, and communication facilities. Search planes bombed WAKE and PONAPE; the latter place was also hit by B-25's which bombed the airfields. MILLE was heavily bombed by SBD's and TBF's, while PV's bombed runways at NAURU. Landcats harassed TAROA and WOTJE. 2 PB4Y's attacked a 2000-ton and a 700-ton ship 120 miles NW of MARCUS en route to MARCUS; the larger ship was left afire, listing and dead in the water; the smaller ship was left smoking.

Further west CenPac shore-based aircraft on 21 August (K) heavily bombed barracks and air installations at YAP with 20 B-24's. 19 P-47's hit AA positions on PAGAN. An unspecified number of Corsairs bombed and strafed ROTA.

CROAKER (SS 246) operating S of KOREA reports at 221203 GCT all torpedoes expended. Sank a KUMA class cruiser, one small AK, one large ore ship (or AO), and one PC. At 220200 GCT sighted 10 AK's with 4 escorts at 29-30N, 129-27E (110 miles SSW of KYUSHU).

TAMBOR (SS 198) reports missing a tanker with 4 torpedoes at 150440 GCT, position 48-29N, 147-49E (OKHOTSK SEA). The AO was inspected at range 2000 but no identifying marks were observed on her. On other attacks the submarine sank one AK and reports 2 hits in an unseen Jap ship.

SANDLANCE (SS 381) (SWPA) summarizes 3rd war patrol. Operating N of MALAY BARRIER sank one 7500-ton AK and damaged 2 4000-ton AK's.

DARTER (SS 227) (SWPA) summarizes 3rd war patrol. Operating off HALMAHERA and southern MINDANAO sank one 4400-ton CM.

GUITARRO (SS 363) (SWPA) reports at 211400 GCT sank one large AK with 2 hits off CALAVITE (NW extremity of MINDORO ISLAND).

HAMMERHEAD (SS 364) (SWPA) summarizes first war patrol. Operating S of FORMOSA sank one 8600-ton AK and one 100-ton craft; damaged 2 6200-ton AK's.

SWP air forces on 21 August heavily bombed HALMAHERA; 52 B-24's attacked stores, personnel areas, and AA positions along WASILE BAY; 23 B-25's attacked KAOE airdrome and town by strafing and dropping parachute fragmentation bombs; an estimated 8 enemy planes were damaged or destroyed; KAOE was also hit on night 20-21 August (K) by one B-24.

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21 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

2 A-20's on a shipping strike E of CERAM set afire 2 sailing vessels and damaged 2 barges. Beauforts operating in the VOGELKOP S of UTAROM sank one AK and 2 coastal vessels and damaged 6 barges. On night 20-21 August heckling of DAVAO and KOROR (PALAU) was continued. Heavy attacks by medium attack and fighter bombers continued along the N coast of NEW GUINEA with strikes against enemy stores on SARMI POINT, personnel areas and fuel dumps in the WEWAK area, and AA positions at MARIPI village. 4 P-39's bombed and strafed the WARREN airdrome while 21 P-47's bombed and strafed buildings and stores in the MANOKWARI area. On the 19th 8 Beauforts bombed fuel dumps at BORAM starting a large fire. Air neutralization and blockade continued against E NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE.

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22 August (Oahu date)

On 22 August (K) an unspecified number of B-24's (under CTF 59) bombed barracks and air installations W of the YAP airfield. On the same day one B-24 hit ASOR ISLAND on ULITHI. On 23 August (K) 2 Navy Liberators (from TF 59) attacked a convoy of 2 DD's, one large AK, and 2 small AK's off W coast of CHICHI JIMA; bombing at masthead height, one large AK and one small AK were sunk, and a small AK was left smoking; one Liberator crashed and sank 2000 yards north of the convoy with no survivors observed.

HARDER (SS 257) and HADDO (SS 255) (both from SWPA) report at 221230 GCT results of attack against convoy W of LUZON. HADDO obtained 5 hits in 3 AO's on 21 August. At dawn on the following day the HADDO and the HARDER wiped out 3 ships remaining in a convoy; HARDER sank one DD and one loaded AP; HADDO sank one DD.

ASPRO (SS 309) (SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol. Operating CELEBES area sank 2 4000-ton AK's, one 4000-ton AP, and one 7500-ton AK; damaged one 4000-ton AK and one 2000-ton AK.

CTF 57 230125 reports commencement of systematic neutralization by air and small surface vessels of military installations on AGUIJAN ISLAND, MARIANAS; this with view to capture if found possible without undue losses.

Cincpoa 230227 directs Com3rdFlt to assume responsibility for forward area and all forces except INDIANAPOLIS then under control of Com5thFlt at 2130 GCT 26 August.

Weather seriously curtailed scheduled strikes by SWP air forces on 22 August (K); the only sizeable strike being one by 19 B-24's against CERAM. Single bombers on search missions concentrated mainly against shipping. A PB4Y reports a seriously damaged DD unloading at PALAU; this plane strafed a 160-foot tender in that area. Another PB4Y sank a 100-foot AK N of MINDANAO. Hecklers operated over DAVAO and PALAU during the night 21-22 August (K). Search planes operating in the CELEBES area on 22 August (K) report sinking one 2500-ton AK, one 100-foot AK, and beaching another AK; 3 60-foot schooners were bombed and strafed. On 21 August 60 P-47's heavily bombed and strafed all day long in the VOGELKOP. Strikes were made along the N NEW GUINEA coast in support of our ground forces. Attacks were reported in southern BOUGAINVILLE in the vicinity of KAHILI.

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23 August (Oahu date)

CenPac shore-based aircraft on 22 and 23 August (K) bombed PAGAN, ROTA, NAURU, and WOTJE. TAROA was harassed on 22 August by Navy Landcats and on the same day coast defense positions on MILLE were hit by Corsairs and Dauntlesses. On 23 August (K) 19 B-24's heavily bombed personnel and air installation areas on YAP. P-47's bombed enemy command post on AGUIJAN ISLAND (S of TINIAN).

RONQUIL (SS 396) operating N of FORMOSA reports completed at 232200 GCT 30-hour attack on 16 lightly loaded AK convoy from EMPIRE with 8 PC and DD radar equipped escorts. Results of 2 night attacks included 5 probable hits with 6 torpedoes in low visibility with unknown damage; following this attack 3 torpedoes missed a DD while one hit was obtained in an AK. A dawn attack sank one large AK with one hit, while a DD and an AK were missed by 3 torpedoes fired at each.

HADD0 (SS 255) (SWPA) operating W of LUZON reports an attack on an enemy DD on morning 23 August (I); at a range of 600 yards the bow of the DD was blown off; damaged DD was in tow at last report.

Cincpoa 232108 (pink) requests issuance now of a directive for the CAUSEWAY operation.

On night 23-24 August (K) heckling of KOROR ISLAND (PALAU) was continued. On the 23rd a photo plane operating over PALAU took 100 pictures; 2 intercepting fighters prevented a second photo run. On 23 August (K) 53 B-24's heavily bombed GALELA (HALMAHERA); results were excellent; there was no interception; AA fire was heavy but inaccurate. 93 sorties were flown against the NABIRE runway and dispersal areas; dive bombing was reported as effective and rendered the runway unserviceable. P-40's from NOEMFOOR, in dive bombing attacks against the BABO airdrome, left all 3 runways unserviceable. 6 bombers hit personnel areas at MANOKWARI; damage was unassessed. Medium attack and fighter bombers gave close support to our ground forces in the SARMI and WEWAK areas. A PB4Y strafed a heavy shipping concentration at LEMBEH STRAIT (N CELEBES).

On 20 August 4 of 9 starting PV's from FAW-4 attacked southern PARAMUSHIRU; direct hits were obtained in storage areas at MASUGAWA, and one 50-foot picket boat was sunk and one 75-foot picket boat was damaged. 5 PV's failed to reach the target, 3 due to mechanical difficulties and 2 due to errors in navigation; all planes returned safely.

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24 August (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft on 23 and 24 August (K) heavily bombed MILLE, concentrating against gun positions, bivouac areas and the radio station; Marine Corsairs and Dauntlesses participated on the 23rd while Marine Corsairs executed the missions on the 24th. On the 23rd search planes bombed the airfields at WAKE and PONAPE. On 24 August (K) 12 B-25's bombed the new airfield and AA positions on PONAPE. On the same day 18 P-47's demolished buildings on AGUIJAN ISLAND (S of SAIPAN) scoring several near misses on gun positions and starting small fires in storage areas. 2 B-24's hit IWO JIMA on the 24th with 20 500-pound bombs.

POMPON (SS 267) operating OKHOTSK reports at 251225 GCT attacked Jap convoy at 50 degrees North SAKOALIN coast. Sank AK with 2 hits and damaged AO with 2 hits. Gunned one trawler.

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24 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

PICUDA (SS 387) operating LUZON STRAIT with SPADEFISH (SS 411) and REDFISH (SS 395) reports at 232348 GCT SPADEFISH sank one large AP, probably sank one large AO, and damaged another large AO now resting in PASALANG BAY, LUZON, guarded by MUTSUKI DD. Has one prisoner from REDFISH and one PICUDA aboard. REDFISH damaged one AO with 2 hits and got one probable hit in 13-ship convoy.

CTF 71 reports score of HADDO (SS 255), which operated off MANILA BAY, as one AO and one DD sunk, one AO probably sunk, and one DD damaged.

Cincpac 242034 (pink) delineates command relationships and responsibilities in sub-areas and islands, with particular reference to control of shore-based air forces; emphasizes noncontravention of inherent right of senior naval or military official on the spot to employ all forces in his vicinity to meet a serious emergency.

CominCh 241736 (pink) announces approval by Joint Chiefs of Staff of changing the category of defense for the Hawaiian area to Category B, plus certain specifications.

Rear Admiral Sherman, with other staff members, departed PEARL for WASHINGTON, D.C., at 1700 (V-W).

On night 24-25 August (K) 2 SB-24's continued heckling of KOROR ISLAND (PALAU) without opposition. On night 22-23 August (K) Black Cats bombed unidentified ship in DAVAO GULF with unobserved results. On 24 August (K) approximately 50 B-24's effectively bombed LALOBATE airfield (HALMAHERA); many buildings were destroyed, fuel fires were started, and explosions resulted. In LEMBEH STRAIT (NE CELEBES) 18 B-25's attacked enemy shipping; 5 merchant vessels were sunk, one light cruiser which was left burning was probably sunk, 2 merchant vessels were damaged, and many luggers and barges were damaged by strafing. UTAROM airfield was dive bombed by 32 P-40's which left the runway unserviceable; other GEELVINK BAY airdromes were consistently dive bombed by fighters with good results. One SB-24 damaged and left burning a freighter transport in the CELEBES area. A coastal sweep by P-39's west of BUT caused an estimated 17 enemy casualties. 18 B-24's bombed KAI ISLAND concentrating against LANGGOER town and airdrome.

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25 August (Oahu date)

CTF 57 222350 summarizes operations 17 to 21 August inclusive.

GenPac shore based aircraft on 24 and 25 August (K) bombed NAURU and PAGAN. On 24 August (K) ROTA was bombed. On 25 August (K) MILLE, IWO JIMA, and AGUIJAN were attacked. One B-24 hit YAP barracks with 40 100-lb. bombs on the 25th; the same plane passing over WOLEAI observed the runway there to be inoperational.

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25 August (Oahu date - Cont'd)

SAILFISH (SS 192), operating W. of LUZON, reports at 251345 GCT sank 2 AK's.

PICUDA (SS 387), operating with REDFISH (SS 395) in LUZON STRAIT, reports intercepting convoy of 10 merchantmen and about 5 escorts to westward of BABUYAN CHANNEL at 250130 GCT; sank 1 AK. REDFISH hit the same convoy off CAPE BOJEADOR at 250400 GCT, and sank 2 AK's.

CABRILLA (SS 288)(SWPA) summarizes 5th war patrol. Operating SULU SEA sank 1 10,000-ton AO and 2 4,000-ton AK's, and damaged 1 9,900-ton AP.

13th AF continued the heckling of KOROR TOWN (PALAU) on night 25-26 August (K). During the day of the 25th 36 B-24's bombed the PALAUS, 24 planes hitting KOROR TOWN, and 12 attacking MALAKAL HARBOR. Of 8 intercepting enemy fighters, 2 were damaged. 1 of our B-24's was shot down by fighters 25 miles south of the target; 3 parachutes were seen to open, but were strafed. 30 miles south of the target 2 B-24's collided and crashed; 1 parachute was seen to open; cause of the collision was unknown.

On 25 August (K) 17 B-24's from OWI ISLAND struck dispersal areas at the HAROEKOE Airdrome (S of CERAM), while 11 other B-24's from OWI bombed the LIANG Airdrome (AMBOINA). 38 fighter bombers from NOEMFOOR continued bombing of the VOGELKOP runways, dropping 19 500-lb. bombs at JEFMAN, 12 at SAMATE, 10 at MANOKWARI, 8 at MOEMI, and 6 at WAREN. The BABO runway was also bombed with 8 tons by 35 RAAF P-40's from NOEMFOOR. 8 RAAF A-20's bombed and strafed the SAGAN Airdrome. 10 P-39's attacked west VOGELKOP buildings, destroying buildings, and causing a large explosion. Medium, attack, and fighter bombers attacked enemy troop concentrations and installations along the N NEW GUINEA Coast; attacks were made against SARMI, WEWAK, DAGUA, and BUT Areas.

26 August (Oahu date)

On 25 August (K) 29 B-24's from KWAJALEIN hit TRUK with 64 tons; of 7 to 9 interceptors, 1 was damaged; 5 B-24's were damaged, 3 by enemy fighters and 2 by AA fire. On the same day 20 F4U's bombed gun positions on WOTJE, while 86 SBD's and TBF's dropped 32 tons in MILLE building areas. On night 25-26 August (K) WOTJE, MALOELAP, JALUIT, and MILLE were harassed.

On 26 August (K) 19 B-24's from SAIPAN hit the airfield and other installations on IWO JIMA with 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons; of 8 to 10 enemy interceptors, 2 were shot down, 2 damaged, and 1 probably shot down; AA fire was reported as intense and accurate; 12 B-24's were damaged. On the same day 11 B-25's from ENGEBI dropped 11 tons on the two PONAPE airfields, and AA positions on JOKAJ ISLAND. P-47's continued bombing and strafing of AGUIJAN ISLAND. F4U's hit MILLE and MALOELAP, while PV's bombed runways and personnel areas on NAURU.

13th AF continued the heckling of KOROR TOWN (PALAU) on night 26-27 August (K). During the day of the 26th the PALAUS were again bombed by B-24's; 22 planes concentrated against KOROR TOWN, while the remaining 11 attacked the PELELIU airdrome; there was no enemy interception, and no plane loss was reported.

On 26 August (K) 23 B-24's hit LIANG (AMBOINA) runway and dispersal areas, while fighter bombers continued neutralization of the VOGELKOP airfields. 16 P-38's started a large fuel fire at MITI, HALMAHERA, meeting no interception. Fighter

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26 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

bombers again operated against gun positions and fuel dumps in the WEWAK area. On night 25-26 August, a single Liberator bombed DAVAO without opposition. On the 25th, 70 F4U's and 17 SBD's hit RABAUl barges and installations; other planes damaged 5 piers at TONOLEI HARBOR (BOUGAINVILLE).

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27 August (Oahu date)

CenPac shore-based aircraft on 26 and 27 August (K) heavily attacked MILLE with SBD's and TBF's, while PV's bombed runways and gun positions on NAURU. JALUIT was harassed during night 26-27 August (K). On 27 August (K) P-47's attacked PAGAN while one B-24 on reconnaissance bombed WOLEAI and YAP.

TANG (SS 306) operating south of HONSHU reports at 271052 GCT sank 1 naval transport, 1 diesel tanker, 1 gunboat, 1 medium freighter, and 1 escort vessel; damaged 1 freighter and 1 patrol yacht.

RONQUIL (SS 396) reports at 271912 GCT in attack off east shore FORMOSA missed Maru with 4 torpedoes and missed trawler with one. 2 of the torpedoes hit in waterfront causing some damage.

BLUEGILL (SS 242) (SWPA) summarizes 2nd war patrol. Operating CELEBES SEA sank 2 4000-ton AK's, 1 500-ton TB, and 1 100-ton craft.

Heckling of KOROR ISLAND (PALAU) was continued on night 27-28 August (K) by 2 SB-24's from 13th AF.

5th AF on 27 August (K) continued with the bombing of VOGELKOP airdromes and villages, while fighter sweeps were made along McCLUER GULF. Medium attack and fighter bombers also continued their strikes along north NEW GUINEA coast concentrating against enemy troops and installations in the WEWAK and SARMI areas. Single PB4Y search planes continued to attack enemy shipping in the vicinity of CELEBES, MANADO, MORO GULF, DAVAO, and TAWI TAWI. Air neutralization and blockade of east NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE was continued on the 26th.

On 26 August 3 B-24's from 11th AF executed an armed reconnaissance of KASHIWABARA; all planes returned safely. On 27 August 4 of 12 starting PV's from FAW-4 bombed shore installations on PARAMUSHIRU and attacked small cargo boats off the island; all planes returned safely. On the same day 6 B-24's from 11th AF also attacked shore installations on PARAMUSHIRU; all planes returned safely. 2 B-25's from 11th AF sank one Jap picket boat.

Clear *Clear*

28 August (Oahu date)

On 28 August (K) B-24's from SAIPAN bombed during daylight IWO JIMA (13 B-24's) and PAGAN (3 B-24's); 1 B-24 harassed IWO JIMA on night 27-28 August; 1 B-24 made a photo reconnaissance of YAP and WOLEAI. PAGAN was also hit on the 28th by 16 P-47's from SAIPAN, while 3 other P-47's bombed ALAMAGAN IS (S of PAGAN). In the MARSHALLS, MILLE was attacked by SBD's and TBF's, and WOTJE by F4U's.

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28 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

CominCh & CNO 261545 (pink) approved establishment of PHILIPPINE Sea Frontier.

CERO (SS 225) (SWPA) summarizes 5th war patrol. Operating S MINDANAO sank 1 8000-ton AO.

PERMIT (SS 178) (SWPA) summarizes 13th war patrol. Operating on lifeguard station off YAP and WOLEAI sank 1 800-ton craft.

ANGLER (SS 240) (SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol. Operating off LUZON sank 1 8800-ton AK.

RAYTON (SS 270) (SWPA) operating W of LUZON reports damaging large AO with one hit on 4 August.

28 B-24's from 13th AF heavily attacked the PALAUS on 28 August (K); 18 planes hit KOROR TOWN, while the remaining 10 bombed PELELIU, EIL MALK, MALAKAL, and ARAKABESAN. There was no interception. AA fire damaged 5 planes and shot one down over KOROR TOWN.

On 28 August (K) 5th AF conducted heavy and widely scattered strikes. 62 B-24's and 27 P-38 fighter bombers bombed barracks and other installations along S perimeter of AMBON, and the seaplane base. 48 fighter bombers hit the airdrome and runways at UTAROM. 2 SB-24's heckled DAVAO. Search planes continued to attack shipping in the vicinity of CERAM, HALMAHERA, and LAMBEH STRAIT. Strikes continued along N NEW GUINEA coast, mainly concentrated in the WEWAK area. Strikes also continued in E NEW BRITAIN, N NEW IRELAND, and S BOUGAINVILLE.

29 August (Oahu date)

On 28 August (K) 7 7th AF B-24's bombed IWO JIMA airfield with fragmentation clusters, while 4 other B-24's hit air installations on PAGAN. On the same day Navy Landcats harassed TAROA and WOTJE by bombing personnel areas, while SBD's and F4U's heavily bombed gun positions on MILLE, and PV's continued pounding NAURU runways.

On 29 August (K) 16 P-47's from SAIPAN strafed AA positions on PAGAN, meeting no return fire. TRUK was hit heavily by 21 B-24's which concentrated against both MOEN airfields. SBD's and F4U's attacked gun emplacements on TAROA and MILLE, while Army B-25's bombed PONAPE airfields.

COD (SS 224) (SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol. Operating north of MALAY BARRIER sank 1 4000-ton AK, 1 2000-ton AK, 1 2000-ton naval auxiliary vessel, and 1 1000-ton auxiliary transport; damaged 1 4000-ton AK.

JCS 262156 discusses confinement of Japanese POW's and civilians in American captured territory; also discusses use of Koreans for labor purposes.

On 29 August (K) 2 SB-24's from 5th AF continued heckling of DAVAO. 39

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29 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

B-24's and 23 B-25's from OWI ISLAND heavily bombed storage and personnel areas, and AA positions along WASILE BAY, and at KAOE TOWN (HALMAHERA). 31 P-38's (loaded with 1000-lb. bombs) attacked barracks and oil tanks at BOELA (CERAM). 23 P-47's from NOEMFOOR ISLAND bombed the UTAROM runway and MANOKWARI storage areas; 30 other fighter bombers (from BIAK) hit the BABO and RANSIKI airdromes. Other fighter sweeps were made along west GEELVINK BAY and south VOGELKOP. Attacks continued in the AITAPE-WEWAK area. Search planes continued to attack shipping east of MINDANAO, and in vicinity of KAI ISLANDS, MANADO, TIMOR, and CELEBES. Strikes also continued against E NEW BRITAIN, N NEW IRELAND, and S BOUGAINVILLE.

On 28 August 5 of 6 starting PV's from FAW-4 bombed shore installations (by 2 PV's) and shipping (by 3 PV's) at PARAMUSHIRU and SHIMUSHU. 2 B-25's attacked picket boats 10 miles N of SHIMUSHU. One PV landed in KAMCHATKA after being damaged by enemy fighters. On the 29th PARAMUSHIRU was again bombed by 3 11th AF B-24's and 4 PV's from FAW-4.

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30 August (Oahu date)

CenPac shore-based aircraft on 29 August (K) hit the PAGAN airfield, meeting neither interception nor AA fire. A reconnaissance B-24 operated over WOLEAI and YAP, encountering only meager AA fire. On night 29-30 August (K) 2 B-24's bombed IWO JIMA with unobserved results.

On 30 August (K) P-47's (from SAIPAN) strafed PAGAN automatic weapons and storage areas. A single B-24 reconnaissance plane again operated over WOLEAI and YAP on the 30th; moderate AA fire was received. MILLE was heavily hit on the 30th by 65 F4U's and 43 SBD's which concentrated against gun positions; the only opposition was meager AA fire. On night 29-30 August (K) 1 Catalina harassed NAURU, while on the following day 36 Army B-25's heavily attacked gun positions and air strips on that island.

GHQ SWPA 290911 states plans for reduction of U.S. forces at EMIRAU and other stations on SOLOMONS-EMIRAU axis; requests consideration be given to continuation of SoPac logistic support pending readjustment of these forces.

In the SWPA on 30 August (K) heavy frontal activity cancelled 5th AF long range strikes, and hampered VOGELKOP and WEWAK area operations. On night 29-30 August (K) heckling of DAVAO was continued by 3 SB-24's; during the same period, 2 PBV's on a MANADO shipping strike destroyed 2 SC's, sank a small AO, and possibly sank a small AK or AO. In the LEMBEH STRAITS a damaged minelayer was bombed by a PBV and left sinking after a direct hit and several near misses. 12 NOEMFOOR-based RAAF P-40's bombed IDORE VILLAGE on GEELVINK BAY. 5 P-47's bombed storage areas at SARMI POINT.

SEALION (SS315) operating north LUZON reports at 311235 GCT sank 1 AP and 1 unidentified DD. Probably sank AO with 2 hits.

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30 August (Oahu date - cont'd)

BOWFIN (SS 287) operating RYUKYU-CHINA coast area reports at 301101 GCT sank 2 MINEKAZE DD's, 2 large AK's, and destroyed a trawler by gunfire. Damaged a large AP or AK in night surface attack. Demolished new concrete pier and 1 auto bus at 25-50N, 131-12E (S BORODINO) with 6 torpedoes.

13th AF on 29 August (K) sent 3 squadrons of P-38's (32 planes) to dive bomb both NAMLEA airdromes. On the same day 12 RAAF P-40's bombed the BABO airstrip, while 3 other RAAF P-40's bombed NOEM VILLAGE on McCLUER GULF.

13th AF on 30 August (K) struck PALAU with 33 B-24's; KOROR TOWN and MALAKAL HARBOR were hit; there was no interception. 10 B-25's hit 2 villages in the northern TANIMBAR group. On the 29th 147 F4U's, B-25's, and SBD's hit personnel areas on west GAZELLE PENINSULA.

CinCSWPA reports only minor patrol contacts in the BOUGAINVILLE, WAKDE, and AITAPE areas; in the latter area 160 Jap bodies were found; starvation had caused death.

31 August (Oahu Date)

On 31 August (K) 8 P-47's (from SAIPAN) used 48 rockets on automatic weapon positions on PAGAN, while other P-47's strafed enemy defenses on PAGAN; meager AA fire damaged 1 plane. A single B-24 dropped 40 125-lb. fragmentation bombs on AA positions and the radio station on PAGAN. MILLE gun positions were hit on the 31st by F4U's and SBD's while a single Navy landcat bombed NAURU. A single PBV operating between HABA JIMA and IWO JIMA on the 31st, reported sinking 1 small AK and 3 powered sampans, and badly damaging another small AK.

ComFwdArea CenPac 272310 summarizes operations 22-26 August inclusive.

On evening 31 August (E. Long. Date) large Jap convoy northwest LUZON intercepted and attacked simultaneously by wolfpack BARB (SS 220), QUEENFISH (SS 393), and TUNNY (SS 282) and wolfpack GROWLER (SS 215), SEALION (SS 315), and PAMPANITO (SS 383). BARB sank 1 6500-ton AK and 1 2,500-ton AK. QUEENFISH sank 1 AO with 2 hits and got 2 hits in AK with results unobserved. TUNNY unable attack. GROWLER sank 1 fleet DD and 1 AO and damaged 2 AK's. SEALION (reported in yesterday's summary) sank 1 AP and 1 unidentified DD and probably sank AO with 2 hits. PAMPANITO results unknown.

BATFISH (SS 310) operating NW PALAU reports at 311200 GCT August sank 1 MINEKAZE DD with 3 hits.

REDFIN (SS 272)(SWPA) reports picking up on 30 August Commander J.D. Crowley and 16 other crew members of the FLIER (SS 250) which sank in BALABAC STRAITS (N. of BORNEO) after hitting a mine on 23 August.

On 31 August (K) 24 B-24's (from DARWIN) hit the LIANG airfield, and an airstrip on TIMOR. 3 SB-24's bombed the MATINA airdrome (S. MINDANAO) and dispersal areas, starting large fires. 48 A-20's and B-25's, from HOLLANDIA, and 16 P-47's, from NOEMFOOR, heavily hit AA positions and other installations at UTAROM. 12 P-47's attacked JEFMAN and RANSIKI airfields in the VOGELKOP. 18 Beauforts and 4 P-39's, from TADJI, bombed villages and fuel dumps on KAIRIRU and MUSCHU ISLANDS.

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31 August (Oahu date - Cont'd)

12 RAAF P-40's, from NOEMFOOR, bombed KOKAS with 5 tons, causing a fire and large explosion near a jetty. 6 other RAAF P-40's strafed shipping in MACCLUER GULF, while 4 fighter bombers hit enemy stores on SE CERAM. 42 F4U's hit the RABAU supply Areas; usual strikes continued against KAVIENG, and against S. NEW IRELAND and S. BOUGAINVILLE. A single PBV search plane in a night strike in the CELEBES Area reported sinking 1 freighter transport in MINADO BAY, a large schooner off CAPE KALAPA, and destroying several of 30 barges nested at AMOERANG wharf.

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1 September (Oahu date)

GenPac shore-based aircraft on 31 August (K) hit building areas and gun positions on MILLE with 69 tons; an unspecified number of F4U's and SBD's, and 2 B-25's participated. On the same day one B-24 dropped six tons on PAGAN against no opposition, while one reconnaissance B-24 operated over YAP and WOLEAI. On 1 September (K) an unspecified number of P-47's strafed and fired 30 rockets at PAGAN AA positions against meager light AA fire. A reconnaissance B-24 again operated over YAP and WOLEAI.

BATFISH (SS 310) on 31 August (E Long. date) destroyed a beached FUBUKE DD with 2 hits on NW PALAU.

DACE (SS 247) (SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol. Operating CELEBES SEA sank one 2000-ton AK and one 1200-ton vessel; damaged one large AP.

On 31 August (K) 33 B-24's from 13th AF bombed the PALAUS concentrating against KOROR TOWN (9 B-24's), PELELIU airdrome (22 B-24's), ANGAUR ISLAND (1 B-24), and BABELTHUAP airdrome (1 B-24); heavy AA was intense and accurate over KOROR TOWN; 4 of our planes were damaged. On 1 September (K) B-24's from 13th AF again bombed the PALAUS; the 34 planes which participated concentrated against KOROR TOWN; there was no interception, but AA fire was intense and generally accurate; one plane was shot down and crashed in KOROR TOWN; 2 parachutes were seen to open.

On 31 August (K) 24 P-38's bombed runways at both NAMLEA airdromes with 34 500-lb bombs; 12 other P-38's attacked SAMATE runway and strafed JEFMAN airstrip. 12 RAAF P-40's from NOEMFOOR again bombed KOKAS, striking the saw-mill area and destroying buildings; 10 other RAAF P-40's bombed BABO hitting the airstrip with 18 500-lb and 250-lb bombs. Fighter bombers hit enemy installations in TADJI, WOM, and WEWAK areas. On night 31 August - 1 September (K) 3 B-24's bombed LICANAN, SASSA, and MATINA airfields in the vicinity of DAVAO.

On 1 September (K) the first heavy strike was made against DAVAO airdromes with 57 B-24's from the 5th AF bombing LICANAN, SASSA, and MATINA, destroying an estimated 22 planes on the ground and blowing up installations and starting fires. Of 9 enemy fighters which intercepted at LICANAN, one was probably destroyed; our losses to interception were none; intense, accurate, heavy AA fire over MATINA shot down two of our B-24's. MATINA was attacked by 19 planes which dropped 34 tons and destroyed 4 planes on the ground. 16 planes hit LICANAN with 39 tons; explosions resulted and 4 planes were destroyed on the ground. SASSA was attacked by 22 planes which dropped 37 tons and destroyed an estimated 14 planes on the ground. 5 B-24's which were unable to strike the DAVAO airdromes bombed BEO on TALAUD ISLAND.

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1 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

On 1 September (K) 32 P-47's from NOEMFOOR attack BOELA, dropping 8 tons and starting 7 fires. BOELA was also attacked by 11 P-38's from OWI; the dive bombing planes dropped 1000-lb bombs. 10 P-40's from BIAK dive bombed NAMLEA hitting runways and barracks areas in the old drome area, while UTAROM runways were again hit by A-20's. 47 A-20's and B-25's operating from HOLLANDIA cratered the BABO runway with 26 500-lb bombs. The S NEW GUINEA coast from ETNA BAY to WAJDOE was attacked by P-39's from BIAK.

2 September (Oahu date)

CenPac shore based aircraft on 1 Sept. (K) sent an unspecified number of F4U's to bomb gun positions and housing areas on ROTA with 1,000-lb bombs. On 2 Sept. (K) 16 P-47's and an unspecified number of B-24's bombed and strafed AA positions on PAGAN; AA fire was meager. YAP and WOLEAI were again reconnoitered by 1 B-24.

IsCom GUAM reports at 020910 GCT Captain Yamaga Moriji, Japanese Navy, was made POW; he was in charge of Weather Bureau, Central Pacific.

RAY (SS 271)(SWPA) summarizes 5th war patrol. Operating N of MALAY BARRIER, mainly W of LUZON, sank 3 10,000-ton AO's and 1 6,400-ton AP; damaged 1 7,500-ton AK, 1 4,000-ton AK, and 1 6,900-ton AK.

STINGRAY (SS 186)(SWPA) reports picking up on 31 August 1 officer and 3 enlisted men who are apparently survivors from the Jap cruiser NATORI which was sunk on 18 August.

In the North Pacific on 1 Sept. 3 B-24's from 11th AF and 6 PV's from FAW 4 flew a bombardment mission against northern KURILES; only 1 plane of each type reached the objective and bombed with unobserved results; all planes returned safely.

On 2 Sept. (K) 33 B-24's from 13th AF bombed KOROR TOWN (PALAU); 2 planes were damaged and 1 failed to return; 1 small AK, 2 medium AK's, and 2 large AK's were observed in the PALAUS.

The only operations reported by 5th AF were activities of search planes which continued their daily strikes against enemy shipping. A PB4Y sank an oil barge 100 miles N of PALAU. A small AK was damaged near CELEBES. A small AK was sunk off W CERAM. At DAVAO a small unidentified vessel was bombed and left in a sinking condition. A PB4Y attacked 12 small AK's SE of MINDANAO driving several of them toward the beach.

3 September (Oahu date)

CTG 12.5 040738 reports results of training strike against WAKE. Group consisted of cruisers CHESTER, PENSACOLA, and SALT LAKE CITY, CVE MONTEREY, and 3 DD's.

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3 September (Oahu date) (Cont'd)

CTG 38.4 031229 summarizes results of strikes against the BONINS during the period 31 August-2 September (E. Long. date). Group consisted of 2 CV's (FRANKLIN, ENTERPRISE), 2 CVL's (BELLEAU WOOD, SAN JACINTO), 1 CA (NEW ORLEANS), 1 CL (BILOXI), and 12 DD's (DesRon 6, DesDiv 12, DesDiv 24). 633 sorties were flown over target areas. We lost 5 planes in combat and 4 operational; 1 pilot and 3 crewmen were lost in combat. Damage to enemy shipping was assessed as 8 ships sunk, 3 probably sunk, 4 damaged, and 6 oil barges sunk. 11 enemy planes were shot down in combat, 35 were destroyed on the ground, 19 were probably destroyed on the ground, and 12 were damaged on the ground.

CenPac shore-based aircraft on 2 September (K) bombed MILLE with 33 tons, WOTJE with 22½ tons, MALOELAP with 8 tons, TRUK with 55 tons (27 B-24's), and PONAPE with 11 tons. On 3 September (K) 40 B-24's from SAIPAN hit IWO JIMA with 96 tons; 1 B-24 crashed but all crew members bailed out and were believed to have been picked up by TG 38.4; 3 other B-24's were damaged. Other strikes on the 3rd were made against NAURU runways and gun positions by B-25's which dropped 15 tons; P-47's fired rockets at enemy installations on PAGAN and MAUG while F4U's bombed ROTA.

PINTADO (SS 387) operating S of KOREA reports sinking 2 large AO's and 1 large whale factory (this submarine on 19 August reported sinking 2 AK's).

RASHER (SS 269) returning from patrol SOUTH CHINA SEA reports having sunk 5 ships for 45,000 tons and damaging 4 others for 22,000 tons.

In the North Pacific at 012305 one B-25 from 11th AF sank one 90-foot Jap vessel moored to dock at KAPARI ZAKI (SW tip of PARAMUSHIRU). A building alongside the dock was also destroyed.

Heavy strikes were made on 3 September (K) by 5th AF against enemy air installations and shipping along northeastern CELEBES, with 60 B-24's dropping 150 tons. At LANGOAN 22 B-24's destroyed 15 planes in revetments with 100 1000-lb bombs; 1 B-24 was lost in this operation while one enemy interceptor was shot down and another was probably shot down. 38 B-24's hit LEMBEH with 100 tons, destroying warehouses and other buildings. A small freighter transport was destroyed. Of 8-10 enemy interceptors 2 were destroyed and 3 were probably destroyed; no B-24's were damaged.

On night 2-3 September (K) MATINA (airfield near DAVAO) was hit by one B-24 which damaged the taxiway with 5 500-lb bombs. On the same night another B-24 damaged one small AK (300-700 ton) at DAVAO. On the 3rd a second heavy strike was made on DAVAO when 58 B-24's struck with 130 tons; P-38's provided escort; 3 enemy planes were shot down; all of our planes returned safely. Also on the 3rd one PB4Y search plane sank a small AK (150-ton) N of MINDANAO; and set fire to another in SARANGANI BAY.

In attacks by single search planes in the N. E. I. area, 4-5 small AK's and schooners were sunk and at least six were damaged. 9 P-38's bombed oil tanks and the radio station at BOELA (CERAM) with 9 1000-lb bombs. On night 1-2 September (K) B-24's from AUSTRALIA attacked stores and dispersal areas on TIMOR; fires and explosions resulted.

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3 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

In the NEW GUINEA area on 2 September (K) KOKAS was heavily attacked by 121 P-40's armed with 102 500-lb and 250-lb bombs. On the 3rd 42 A-20's and B-25's hit the airfield at NABIRE.

Air neutralization in the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area continued on 1 September with 65 SBD's and F4U's hitting NEW IRELAND, and 30 F4U's attacking KAHILI in southern BOUGAINVILLE.

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4 September (Oahu date)

On 4 September (K) 16 P-47's from 7th AF launched rockets and strafed gun positions on PAGAN. On night 3-4 September (K) a single Navy search plane heckled NAURU. On the 3rd and 4th a single B-24 continued reconnaissance of YAP and WOLEAI.

On 3 September (K) 11 B-25's strafed gun positions near PITOE airdrome (MOROTAI); on the same day 11 other B-25's made a shipping strike in LEMBEH STRAITS where 2 of the B-25's were shot down.

On night 3-4 September (K) search planes attacked shipping at DAVAO, AMBON, WEST HALMAHERA, and AMOERANG BAY. At DAVAO a 1500-ton AK was fired, later exploding and sinking; of 8 barges sighted in the gulf 3 were sunk and 3 were damaged. At AMBON a medium AK was bombed and beached. Off WEST HALMAHERA a 4000-ton AK or AP was sunk. In AMOERANG BAY 5 of 12 craft (80-100 foot) were destroyed.

On 4 September (K) 35 B-24's from 13th AF bombed the PALAUS concentrating against KOROR TOWN, MALAKAL HARBOR, and the BABELTHUAP airdrome. On the same day a PB4Y sank 3 and damaged 5 personnel barges off north tip of CELEBES.

Air neutralization in the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area continued on 2 September with 93 F4U's and SBD's hitting supplies and buildings in the RABAU area; 100 other planes swept the east coast of NEW IRELAND hitting stores, bridges, and bivouac areas.

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5 September (Oahu date)

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On the 4th MARCUS was bombed by 2 B-24's, ROTA by 8 F4U's, PAGAN by 1 B-24, and IWO JIMA by 1 B-24. On the 5th MARCUS was heckled by 1 B-24; PAGAN was bombed and strafed by 17 P-47's, and IWO JIMA was bombed by 19 B-24's. Reconnaissance of YAP and WOLEAI was continued on the 5th by 1 B-24. Neutralization of enemy-occupied atolls of the MARSHALLS continued on the 5th with strikes against WOTJE, TAROA, and MILLE.

BOWFIN (SS 287) reports sinking 1 small armed gasoline loaded AK at 050200 GCT in position 31-54N, 152-01E (540 miles NNW of MARCUS).

BARB (SS 220) operating NW of LUZON reports encountering considerable difficulty with enemy aircraft on anti-submarine patrol. Reports additional sinking of 1 Jap sampan.

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5 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

HAKE (SS 256) (SWPA) operating off west coast of LUZON reports 1 hit in an ASASHIO DD with unobserved results at 060300 GCT; DD was escorting a southbound convoy of AK's.

On 5 September (K) heavy strikes were made against NE and S CELEBES. 55 B-24's, escorted by P-38's hit revetment areas at LANGOAN against minor opposition. 23 other B-24's attacked the KENDARI airfield. 3 B-24's struck in LEMBEH STRAITS, scoring near misses on a freighter transport. On the preceding day a PB4Y off NE CELEBES obtained hits on 3 small AK's, and sank 1 of 4 barges.

Single search planes continued to attack shipping on night 4-5 September (K). At ZAMBOANGO 2 minelayers were hit by bombs, with resulting fires and explosions. 2 SC's were sunk in SARANGANI BAY. An SB-24 heckled shipping in DAVAO GULF, while another sank a 3000-ton AO 80-miles SW of BOEROE ISLAND.

99 sorties were flown by B-25's and fighter bombers on 5 September (K) against HALMAHERA targets. 16 B-25's bombed and strafed DJAILOLO airdrome, starting many fires and explosions in the target area. 54 P-38's hit GALELA airdrome with 23 tons, while 14 P-47's attacked the KAOE drome. 15 B-25's hit several luggers in S KAOE BAY, and attacked building areas in KAOE TOWN, starting large fires.

Heavy strikes were also made on the 4th and 5th against targets in the VOGEL-KOP, concentrating against the JEFMAN, SAMATE, WARREN, and MOEMI airfields. On the 4th 12 P-47's hit oil tanks and other installations at BOELA (CERAM).

Minor strikes were made on the 5th by 2 A-20's and 9 P-39's against enemy installations and bivouac areas in the vicinity of SARMI and WEWAK.

6 September (Oahu date)

CTF 38 070336 summarizes results of strikes against PALAUS on 6 and 7 September (K) by TG's 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3.

Operations TF 59 (E. Long. dates): NAURU and PONAPE were bombed on the 5th by B-25's. On the 6th 17 B-24's hit IWO JIMA, while 3 B-24's fired rockets at PAGAN AA positions on the 6th.

FLUSSER (DD 368) was taken under fire by a shore battery on southern tip of WOTJE ISLAND at 062250 TCT, suffering minor damage that will require tender availability.

In the North Pacific 4 of 6 starting PV's from FAW 4 bombed SE PARAMUSHIRU on 4 September with unobserved results.

GHQ SWPA 020803 (pink) issues general instructions to minimize destruction of life and property of Filipinos residing in metropolitan areas.

Com3rdFlt 032208 (pink) recommends dawn D-Day fighter sweep on KITCHENMAID (MANADO, CELEBES) from position between INTERLUDE (MOROTAI) and GOSSIPMONGER (TALAUD) by TG 38.1.

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6 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

CincPOA 042339 (pink) approves foregoing recommendation.

CincPOA 050314 (pink) replies to ComGenAAFFPOA's request that he be furnished (A) Objectives and target dates for conceived operations following CAUSEWAY, and (B) Acceptability by CinCPOA of a total of 25 air combat groups by December 1944 increasing to 76 such groups including supporting air force ground units by September 1945.

On 6 September (K) 44 B-24's from 5th AF bombed SANTA CRUZ in DAVAO GULF without opposition; 200 1000-lb bombs destroyed several warehouses, starting large fires and explosions; all planes returned safely. 11 B-25's, with fighter escort, bombed the airfield at BUAYAN on DAVAO GULF; there was no interception, though AA fire from all calibers was intense; one enemy transport plane was shot down by the P-38 cover. One SB-24 heckled the LICANAN airfield (near DAVAO).

39 B-25's and P-38's, loaded with 1000-lb bombs, hit HALMAHERA on 6 September (K). The B-25's hit personnel areas at GALELA, while the P-38's attacked the runway at DJAILOLO. 6 other B-25's bombed and strafed S MOROTAI coastal villages. 15 B-24's bombed RAINIS on the east coast of VARAKELLANG ISLAND (TALAUD group).

The VOGELKOP airdromes at MOEMI, RANSIKI, and WARREN were bombed and strafed by 15 P-39's on the 6th. 30 A-20's and B-25's attacked personnel and storage areas at NABIRE. On the preceding day 32 RAAF P-40's cratered the JEFMAN and SAMATE airstrips and fired the SAMATE drome. Strikes continued against enemy concentrations in the WEWAK and SARMI areas.

A delayed report announces the bombing of NGESEBUS drome (PALAUS) on 4 September (K) by 34 B-24's; on the same day 33 B-25's bombed the UTAROM runways. On the 3rd and 4th air neutralization of the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area was continued.

CincPOA 210123 (pink) expresses desire that personnel replacements for Army units to be employed in Phase 2 STALEMATE II be organized and prepared for transfer to YAP.

RICHARDSON (ComGenPOA) 290901 (pink) replies to foregoing dispatch.

CincPOA 020200 (pink) cancels CinCPOA's directive for replacements for Phase 2 of STALEMATE II.

Tim *SV*

7 September (Oahu date)

CTG 38.4 071245 summarizes operations against YAP and ULITHI on 6 and 7 September (K). 252 sorties were flown over the target area. The group lost 3 planes in combat and one operationally; 3 pilots were lost in combat and one crewman was lost operationally.

CTG 38.4 081135 summarizes operations against YAP and ULITHI on 8 September (K). 152 sorties were flown over the target area. The group lost one plane

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7 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

in combat; pilot was observed in a raft. During the 3-day strike by this group no enemy interception was encountered, no enemy airborne planes were observed; no operational aircraft were on the ground, and the 2 damaged airfields at YAP had not been repaired. The last 2 missions scheduled by the group were cancelled owing to absence of suitable targets; in view of this, the group intends to hit PALAU one day earlier than previously scheduled.

ComFwdAreaCentPac 022350 summarizes operations 27-31 August, inclusive.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 7 September MILLE was attacked by 12 F4U's and 20 SBD's, WOTJE by 40 F4U's, AGULJAN by 8 P-47's, and PAGAN by 8 P-47's. Reconnaissance of MARCUS was continued by 3 B-24's.

ALBACORE (SS 218) operating EMPIRE waters reports at 081208 GCT sank 1 AO and 1 AK-type patrol vessel; destroyed a floating horn-type mine with 20-mm gunfire.

On 7 September, 8 survivors from a crashed PBM were rescued by the S. S. JAMES D. DOTY between CANTON and NANOMEA; survivors were not identified and purpose of flight was not clear; search continues for other possible survivors.

In the western CAROLINES 36 B-24's on 5 September (K) bombed runways on PELELIU and started fires in a town on ANGAUR. On the 7th one PB4Y strafed an SC 180 miles NW of YAP.

On 7 September (K) a PB4Y made 6 strafing runs on a lugger and 2 small AK's (300-700 tons) outside SARANGANI BAY; the vessels were left burning and listing.

On night 5-6 September (K) a search plane sank 2 luggers and damaged one sailboat in the vicinity of CERAM. On the 6th 5 A-20's bombed BOELA runway and strafed SAGAN on their return. 8 P-40's on a shipping strike in the KAI ISLANDS on the 6th damaged one coastal vessel, 12 barges, and other small craft. On the same date 27 P-40's bombed and strafed the airstrips at JEFMAN and SAMATE. Air neutralization of the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area continued on the 5th and 6th.

R Adm SHERMAN returned from WASHINGTON.

J.S. Chun

8 September (Oahu date)

CTF 38 080209 summarizes results of bombardment of PALAUS on 7 September (K) by CruDiv 14 and DesDiv 100.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 7 September both airfields on MOEN were effectively bombed by 26 B-24's, while 1 SB-24 harassed the airfield on IWO JIMA. On 8 September IWO JIMA was bombed by 9 B-24's, CHICHI JIMA by 6 B-24's, PAGAN by an unspecified number of P-47's. NAURU was harassed by 1 search plane, while an unspecified number of F4U's bombed WOTJE and JALUIT.

SEAL (SS 183) operating OKHOTSK SEA reports at 080735 the sinking of 1 small vessel.

GURNARD (SS 254) (SWPA) summarizes 6th war patrol. Operating north of MALAY BARRIER reports damaging 1 4000-ton AK.

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8 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

Com7thFlt reports that on 6 September (K) a reliable report indicates that 40 enemy ships were in the harbor at MANILA BAY; included were 2 BB's, 4 CA's, 5 CL's, 9 DD's, 8 patrol craft; the remainder were cargo vessels. On night 6-7 September (K) a night search plane attacked shipping in SARANGANI BAY; 1 500-ton AK and 1 barge were sunk, 3 500-ton AK's and 4 barges were damaged. On the 7th a PB4Y sank a SHINONOMI-class DD 180 miles E of LEXTE ISLAND.

Com7thFlt reports that 34 B-24's bombed PALAU on 6 September (K) concentrating against PELELIU airdrome; there was no interception although 6 planes were sighted on the ground. On night 6-7 September (K) a night search plane on a shipping strike near CERAM reports probably sinking 1 2000-ton AK and 2 smaller vessels.

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9 September (Oahu date)

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 8 and 9 September an unspecified number of F4U's and SBD's attacked gun positions on MILLE. On the 9th WOTJE was bombed by 3 B-24's, PONAPE by 12 B-25's, and JALUIT by an unspecified number of F4U's and SBD's. 3 B-24's were turned back from a reconnaissance flight over MARCUS owing to weather on the 9th; one of the planes bombed PAGAN with no interception. On the 10th a PB4Y search plane attacked and left sinking a medium AO 75 miles N of IWO JIMA.

SPADEFISH (SS 411) chased 8 AK's with 4 escorts from SAMUCHO KAKU (NE FORMOSA) for 17 hours; sank 4 AK's and damaged 1 AK in 2 night surface attacks. Remainder of convoy entered bay at 24-24N, 124-03E (130 miles E of FORMOSA) at 081900 GCT.

BANG (SS 385) attacked a convoy of 2 AK's, 1 AO, and 2 or more escorts at 090630 GCT, position 28-53N, 137-42E (240 miles W of BONINS), course 180, speed 8; sank 1 medium AK and 1 medium AO with 2 hits each.

PLAICE (SS 390) reports 1 timed hit in KONGO MARU converted to auxiliary cruiser at 090140 GCT, position 27-26N, 126-54E (300 miles E of north tip of FORMOSA), course 020, speed 16.

GROUPE (SS 214) on lifeguard station off PALAUS reports at 091400 GCT has 6 downed aviators aboard; all are in good shape; these were from the only 3 crashes reported to her.

BARB (SS 220) reports convoy with large continual air coverage, with inner and outer anti-submarine escorts, position 19-30N, 121-05E (50 miles N of LUZON) at 082000 GCT, course 135 to 210, speed 8.

In the North Pacific on 7 September 2 of 11 starting PV's succeeded in bombing KAKUMABETSU; results were unobserved. On the 10th a B-25, attacking a 4-ship convoy near PARAMUSHIRU, hit the mast of a ship and crashed; the crew was reported in a raft 15 miles SW of SURIBACHI WAN; rescue measures were underway.

On 8 September (K) 53 B-24's attacked buildings, docks, and warehouses at MANADO (CELEBES); oil fires and explosions resulted; there was no interception. On night 6-7 September (K) 2 SB-24's hit the MANADO waterfront, starting fires.

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9 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

On 8 September (K) 24 B-25's hit stores and strafed gun positions along S WASILE shores (HAIMAHERA). On the 9th a group of B-24's bombed airfields at GALELA VILLAGE (HAIMAHERA). On night 7-8 September (K) 3 SB-24's bombed revetments on NGESEBUS (PALAU).

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10 September (Oahu date)

CTF 57 080410 summarizes operations 1-5 September, inclusive.

CTG 38.4 101221 summarizes operations of TG 38.4 against PALAU on 10 September (K). 254 combat sorties were flown, and 80 tons of bombs and 48 rockets were expended. The group lost 4 planes, all from AA fire; 4 pilots and 3 air crewmen were lost.

MINDANAO was hit on 9 September (K) by TG's 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3 which concentrated against enemy airfields. Only 6 enemy planes were observed airborne and they were shot down; 60 planes on the ground were destroyed or damaged. There were but few installations on most of the airfields; scattered barracks and warehouses and a few trucks were destroyed. Shipping sunk: 9 AK's (700-1300 tons), 1 medium AK, 7 small AK's, 1 patrol craft, 32 loaded SC's (300-700 ton AK's), and 20 sampans. Ships damaged by being set afire: 1 AK (700-1300 ton), 1 AK (1500-2500 ton), and at least 17 luggers and sampans.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On night 9-10 September an SB-24 heckled IWO JIMA by dropping 40 100-lb bombs on runways; on the following day 16 B-24's hit airfields and adjacent installations on IWO JIMA; of 7-10 interceptors, 5-6 were shot down, 1 was probably shot down, and 1 was damaged; 2 of our crewmen were killed and 5 were wounded; 3 B-24's were damaged, one of which crash-landed at the base. On 9 September NAURU was bombed by 7 B-25's and WOTJE by 36 F4U's. ROTA was hit on the 10th by an unspecified number of F4U's which concentrated against the airstrips; at the same time 3 B-24's bombed 2 AK's and 1 DD W of CHICHI JIMA with ineffective results.

SEAL (SS 183) operating OKHOTSK SEA reports at 101530 GCT the sinking of 1 DD and 1 AK. 1 AK was probably sunk; when last seen it was burning and exploding. 1 AK and 1 AP were damaged.

GROUPE (SS 214) reports at 110945 GCT picking up another downed airman off PALAU.

Com3rdFlt 091830 (pink) is warning order for modification of OpPlan 14-44 if information and results of first MINDANAO strikes make modification desirable.

Cincpoa 101955 (pink) replies to foregoing dispatch.

Cincpac 062136 (pink) outlines plan to leave CruDiv 5 in TF 57, at least until after STALEMATE.

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10 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

Com3rdFlt 100705 (pink) in conformity with foregoing dispatch issues instructions re employment of CruDiv 5.

Cincpoa 102333 (pink) requests comment or concurrence in Cincpoa Joint Staff Study of INSURGENT operation as basis for detailed planning of Pacific Fleet cover and strategic support of SWPA operations to occupy the SARANGANI BAY and LEYTE-SURIGAO STRAIT areas.

In the North Pacific on 9 September 2 photographic Liberators, escorted by 4 B-24's, carried out an armed reconnaissance mission of KARABU ZAKI; 1 of 6 intercepting fighters was probably damaged; all planes returned safely after a successful photographic mission. KASHIWABARI was bombed on the 10th by an unspecified number of Navy planes; fires and explosions resulted.

On 9 September (K) 59 B-24's bombed MAPANGET airdrome in NE CELEBES, hit personnel areas and AA positions with 150 tons of 500-pound and 250-lb bombs; there was no enemy interception; all planes returned safely. On night 7-8 September (K) a PBY left 1 small AK listing. HALMAHERA was heavily bombed on 8 and 9 September (K); on the 9th 27 B-24's bombed the LOLOBATA dromes, while on the preceding GALELA, KAOE, DJAILOLO, and LOLOBATA were attacked by 22 B-24's, 38 B-25's, and 12 P-47's. GALELA was bombed on the 9th by 20 B-24's. 24 P-38's bombed the HAROEKOE drome (S of CERAM), while 6 A-20's attack BOELA and 71 fighter bombers hit the LIANG airstrips in AMPON. 23 B-25's cratered an unidentified runway in the KAI ISLANDS group on the 8th, while 9 Beauforts bombed barracks areas on TIMOR.

Search planes continued to attack shipping in the PHILIPPINE areas. On 7 September (K) 2 PB4Y's attacked 2 small AK's and 1 lugger in SARANGANI BAY; 1 vessel was left afire. On night 8-9 September (K) a PBY probably sank 1 10,000-ton AO in MALUSO BAY on the west coast of BASILAN. On the same night just S of BASILAN, a 1500-2500 ton AK was left burning from 2 hits by a PBY.

On night 8-9 September (K) several Jap bombers attacked the BOROKOE airstrip on BIAK; 2 men were killed and 12 wounded; our night fighters shot down 1 enemy bomber and a second enemy bomber was apparently shot down by other Jap planes.

Airfields in the VOGELKOP area were attacked on 8 September (K) by B-25's, A-20's, and fighter bombers. BABO was hit by 4 squadrons of B-25's, UTAROM by an unspecified number of A-20's, and RANSIKI and MANOKWARI by an unspecified number of fighter bombers. Air neutralization of the SOLOMONS-BISMARCKS area continued on 7 and 8 September (K).

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11 September (Oahu date)

CTG 38.4 111332 summarizes results of air strikes against PALAUS on 11 September (K). 249 sorties were flown over the target area. The group lost one plane operationally. 1 SC was sunk and one was damaged.

CTG 38.4 121245 summarizes results of strikes against PALAUS on 12 September (K). 270 sorties were flown over the target area. One plane with pilot was lost operationally.

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11 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 11 September 29 B-24's bombed TRUK concentrating against ETEN ISLAND and the seaplane base; of 5-6 aggressive interceptors, 1 was destroyed and 1 was damaged; 3 B-24's were slightly damaged. On night 10-11 September IWO JIMA was heckled by 1 SB-24. MALOELAP and JALUIT were bombed by an unspecified number of F4U's, while F4U's and SBD's hit MILLE. Attacks against PAGAN continued on the 11th by P-47's from SAIPAN.

CTG 32.5 reports that operations on 12 September (K) went according to plan, except for a collision between the FULLAM (DD 474) and the NOA (APD 24) which resulted in the sinking of the latter ship without loss of life. The group encountered no return fire from shore except that from light machine guns and rifles. The waters around PELELIU and ANGAUR have been swept; 12 chemical horn mines were swept from the area S of ANGAUR; 2 mines were observed just outside the reef to the W of PELELIU.

ALBACORE (SS 218) operating E of KYUSHU reports at 110950 GCT in night submerged radar approach sank an unidentified escorted AK.

On 10 September (K) SWP Air Forces heavily attacked the CELEBES with 58 B-24's; there was no interception and the only AA fire encountered was at MANADO. 24 B-24's hit headquarters and barracks buildings at NONAPAN with 84 tons of 1000-lb bombs. LANGOAN airdrome was hit by 16 B-24's which dropped 56 tons of 1000-lb and 2000-lb bombs. 13 B-24's bombed the runway at MAPANGET with 45 tons of 1000-lb and 2000-lb bombs. 5 B-24's dropped 17 tons of bombs on the MANADO waterfront; on the preceding night the waterfront was heckled by 1 SB-24. The revetment areas at KENDARI were heavily hit on night 8-9 September (K) by 20 B-24's.

Heavy strikes were also made against HALMAHERA on 10 September (K) by 4 squadrons of B-24's; there was no enemy interception, though heavy AA fire was intense. LOLOBATA was hit by 2 squadrons, HATETABAKO by one squadron, and WASILE BAY by one squadron. On the same day a single photographic plane operated over MITI.

On 10 September (K) both NAMLEA airdromes were attacked by 42 B-25's which concentrated against personnel areas; 1 B-25 was shot down by AA fire. On the same day 11 P-38's bombed and strafed NAMLEA TOWN airdrome and revetment areas.

CERAM was attacked on 10 September (K) by A-20's and P-38's. 1 group of A-20's hit the airdrome at AMAHAI; there was no interception, though 2 planes were shot down by AA fire. 12 P-38's fired oil tanks at BOELA.

On night 9-10 September (K) 1 SB-24 harassed NGESEBUS airdrome, while 1 PBV attacked 2 freighter transports off ZAMBOANGA inflicting damage to one.

Attacks continued against airfields in the VOGELKOP and against enemy troop concentrations and installations along the north coast of NEW GUINEA.

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12 September (Oahu date)

Operations of TF 59 (E. Longitude dates): On 11 September 15 B-25's bombed TWO JIMA airfields dropping 40 500-lb. and 420 100-lb. bombs; large fires resulted; 1 of 4 intercepting fighters was destroyed; 2 B-24's were damaged. On the 12th storage and magazine areas on JALUIT were hit by an unspecified number of F4U's, while 1 PBV bombed an ammunition dump on NAURU. P-47's from SAIPAN continued to attack PAGAN on the 12th.

An Underwater Demolition Team cleared large boulders from 2 DUKW lanes over ORANGE THREE BEACH (SW PELELIU). On night 13-14 September (K) obstacles will be removed from ORANGE BEACH TWO. Obstacles will be cleared from WHITE BEACHES (N of ORANGE BEACHES) on night 14-15 September (K).

GROWLER (SS 215), operating CHINA SEA, attacked a 9-ship 5-escort convoy at 111654 GCT. 1 unidentified DD was sunk and 2 large AK's were damaged; 5 hours later a FUBUKI DD was sunk.

PIPEFISH (SS 388), operating EMPIRE waters, reports at 131331 GCT 1 medium AK probably sunk and 1 AGS damaged.

GUITARRO (SS 363)(SWPA) summarizes second war patrol. Operating N of MALAY BARRIER (mostly W of LUZON) sank 1 AMIGARI DD, 1 HIBIKI DD, 1 4,000-ton AK, 1 2,000-ton AK, and 1 700-ton miscellaneous craft; damaged 1 KATORI CL and 1 4,000-ton AK.

CinCSowestPac 111637 (Pink) refers to CinCPOA 210816 (Pink) August relating to fast carrier strikes in support of the TALAUD Operation.

CinCPOA 130131 (Pink) replies to the foregoing dispatch.

Com3rdFlt 130230 (Pink) reports results of carrier strikes against CENTRAL PHILIPPINES by TG's 38.1, 38.2, 38.3 on 12 September (E.L.T.). 50 airborne planes shot down, and over 150 planes destroyed on the ground; several AK's and many small vessels sunk. Downed carrier pilot rescued from LEYTE informed by natives that there are no enemy on LEYTE, BOHOL, APIT, or small islands in the vicinity.

Com3rdFlt 130300 (Pink) believes that PALAUS not now needed to support occupation of PHILIPPINES, and that Western CAROLINES, except ULITHI, not essential to our operations; believes LEYTE fleet base can be seized immediately.

CinCPAC 130747 (Pink) replies to foregoing dispatch.

CinCPOA 130813 (Pink) announces that forces for STALEMATE II will sail as planned, that if occupation of YAP is eliminated, 24th Corps (including 7th, 77th, and 96th Divs.), plus corps troops and garrison forces for YAP, would be potentially available to exploit favorable developments in the PHILIPPINES.

In the North Pacific on 11 September 6 PV's from FAW 4 bombed coastal positions and picket boats along SE coast of PARAMUSHIRU. On the 12th 4 PV's from FAW 4 bombed NW and SW PARAMUSHIRU. 2 B-25's from 11th AF attacked shipping off SHIMUSHU; 1 medium AK and 4 small cargo vessels were sunk and 2 other small ships were damaged.

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12 September (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On 11 September (K) HALMAHERA was again heavily attacked by 25 B-24's. 13 B-24's hit the GALELA runway with 37 tons; there was no interception though 2 planes were damaged by AA fire. 12 B-24's bombed MITI runway with 30 tons; there was neither interception nor AA fire.

On 11 September (K) a PB4Y on a shipping strike near CELEBES hit a lugger with a 100-lb. incendiary bomb; another PB4Y sank a 100-ft. schooner. On the same day 22 B-25's attacked the KAIROTOE airfield on CERAM, while 34 P-38's cratered the AMAHAI runway; fighter bombers destroyed buildings at BOELA and left a small AK sinking near HAROEKOE. On night 10-11 September (K) 2 PB4Y's destroyed a large barge off western CERAM, probably destroyed 1 AK (300-700 tons), damaged 2 similar AK's, and drove a medium AK onto a reef. Heckling of PALAU continued on night 10-11 September (K), with 4 B-24's bombing the 2 PALAU airstrips.

13 September (Oahu date)

CTG 32.5 reports that operations for 14 September (K) proceeded according to plan. Despite efforts of our flamethrowers and gunfire, efforts to uncover the enemy's heavy defenses have failed. Underwater demolition teams have done an excellent job on clearing reefs and approaches to beaches at PELELIU and ANGAUR. Many tank obstructions were observed back of the beaches. Minesweeping of KOSSOL PASSAGE proceeds satisfactorily. The PERRY (DMS 17) while sweeping off SE coast of ANGAUR hit a mine and sank; there were 11 casualties including 2 seriously wounded.

Com3rdFlt 140800 summarizes results of 3-day carrier strikes on PANAY, NEGROS, CEBU, LEYTE, SAMAR, southern LUZON, and smaller islands around the VISAYAN SEA. 156 enemy planes were shot down and 272 were reported destroyed on the ground (probably high); photos indicate 150-175 planes destroyed on the ground. 40 enemy ships were reported sunk, including 2 large AK's, 1 medium AP, 2 DE's, and 35 smaller ships; 38 were reported damaged and possibly sunk, including 5 AK's, 1 medium AO, 30 small ships, 2 MTB's, and many sampans; 5 small ships were reported damaged. Our plane losses were described as relatively very light; no figures were given. Enemy air reaction was weak. Considerable damage was inflicted upon ground installations.

CTF 57 110020 summarizes operations 6-10 September, inclusive.

CTG 38.4 131248 summarizes operations of TG 38.4 against PALAU on 13 September (K). 90 tons of bombs, 164 rockets, and 14 Napalm fire bombs were placed in the target areas. The group lost 1 plane with crew in combat, and 5 planes operationally.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 12 September an unspecified number of F4U's bombed WOTJE gun positions and radio station, while SBD's hit MILLE bivouac areas; both strikes met only meager AA fire. A single B-24 bombed a building area on MARCUS on the 12th. On the 13th MARCUS was hit by 2 B-24's, WOTJE by an unspecified number of F4U's, NAURU by an unspecified number of B-25's, and PAGAN by an unspecified number of P-47's.

OPD-WDGS Amer Theater 121816 outlines mission of the Alaskan Department with respect to forthcoming operations in the Pacific.

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13 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

CinCSWPA 140316 (pink) replies to Com3rdFlt 130300 (pink) and Cincpoa 130813 (pink).

Cincpac 140835 (pink) requests copy OCTAGON 24.

Cinpoa 141000 (pink) replies to CinCSWPA 140316 (pink) requesting clarification and amplification of dispatch.

On 12 September (K) 48 B-24's cratered runways on 3 NE CELEBES airdromes (unnamed), meeting neither AA fire nor enemy interception; at the same time P-38's damaged 12 small AK's in MANADO BAY. HALMAHERA airdromes were heavily attacked on the 12th by 4 squadrons of B-24's which hit LOLOBATA and HATETABAKO, while other B-24's with P-38 escorts struck KAOE and GALELA. An unspecified number of B-25's attacked MOROTAI on the 12th, hit radar installations and destroyed a number of buildings. 15 P-38's against struck the NAMLEA runways on the 12th, and a PB4Y sank 3 supply-laden small boats off the north coast of BOEROE. On 11 September (K) 24 B-24's struck LAHA (AMBON) dispersal areas, runways, and barracks; 3 large fires which resulted caused extremely heavy explosions. On night 11-12 September (K) PALAU was heckled by 2 B-24's which hit the PELELIU and NGESEBUS airdromes. Air neutralization of the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area was continued on the 10th.

14 September (Oahu date)

1st MarDiv on 15 September (K) landed on beaches SW PELELIU according to schedule at 0830. As of 1800 the division had advanced to base of high ground at northern limits of airfield; elements fought their way across the southern limits of the airfield; other elements were forging ahead to the southern tip of the island where strong opposition has developed. The depth of the perimeter is shallow, being generally from 200 to 600 yards with deepest penetration of 1300 yards. Beaches were under intermittent artillery and mortar fire all of D day. Enemy opposition was stiff on all beaches, with loss of a number of LVT's after landing. Tanks were ashore within 2 hours after the leading wave landed. Enemy made several counter-attacks during the day but all were repulsed. Our casualties are reported as 27 KIA and 422 WIA. Sweeping of KOSSOL PASSAGE has been completed to a depth of 30 feet; 100 mines have been swept up.

CinCSWPA reports that landings were effected on MOROTAI according to plan on 15 September (K); assault forces which landed to the N and S of the airfield advanced to the northern and southern edges of the field without encountering enemy opposition. Low flying aircraft circled the island at 100 feet, reporting no sign of enemy activity.

TG 38.2 has aboard 46 enemy POW's taken during operations off the PHILIPPINES (details unknown); POW's were transferred by DD to CTF 32.

CTG 38.4 141415 summarizes operations against PALAU on 14 September (K). 262 sorties were flown over the target area; 87 tons of bombs, 272 rockets, and 12 Napalm fire bombs were expended. No plane losses were reported.

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14 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

CTG 38.4 151349 summarizes operations of TG 38.4 against PALAU on 15 September (K). 220 sorties were flown over the target areas; 65 tons of bombs, 307 rockets, and 16 Napalm fire bombs were expended. The group lost one plane with crew in combat.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): MILLE was bombed on 13 September by 13 F4U's and SBD's and again on the following day by an unspecified number of same type planes. An SB-24 heckled IWO JIMA on the 13th; on the following day IWO JIMA was heavily bombed by 28 B-24's. On the 14th strikes were made against gun positions at JALUIT and personnel shelters at WOTJE; 2 B-24's bombed MARCUS. Neutralization of ROTA and PAGAN was continued on the 14th by P-47's from SAIPAN.

SUNFISH (SS 281) operating YELLOW SEA reports at 141120 GCT sank 1 AO and 1 AK; probably sank 1 AO and 1 AK; damaged 1 AO.

PAMPANITO (SS 383), SEALION (SS 315), and GROWLER (SS 215) made coordinated attacks against a large Jap convoy on nights 11-12 and 12-13 September (E. Long. dates) in the CHINA SEA. PAMPANITO sank 1 large AP and 1 medium AK; damaged 1 medium AK. GROWLER results reported in CenPac summary 12 September as 2 DD's sunk and 2 AK's sunk should be changed to 2 DD's sunk and 2 AK's damaged. SEALION sank 1 large AO and 1 AP; 1200 Australian and British POW's were in the water after the AP sank; PAMPANITO has rescued at least 60 Australian British POW's, and is still picking up survivors; SEALION has rescued 53 others and reports all are infected with malaria, beri beri, and pallegra; BARB (SS 220) and QUEENFISH (SS 393) have been ordered to the scene to assist in rescue.

GUAVINA (SS 362) (SWPA) attacked KATORI CL anchored at PAGUBAS (S MINDANAO, SARANGANI STRAIT) at 150326 GCT (3 hits) and at 150855 GCT (4 hits). Target was destroyed; the ship broke into three parts and the wreckage was burning fiercely.

RATON (SS 270) (SWPA) summarizes 5th war patrol. Operating CHINA SEA sank 1 large AO (9200 tons).

BLUEFISH (SS 222) returning PEARL from operations in SWPA under CTF 71 reports sinking 1 19,500-ton AK (believed to be converted seaplane tender), 1 10,000-ton AO, and was given 50 percent credit for sinking another 10,000-ton AO (PUFFER received 50 percent credit for damaging the AO and forcing it aground on MINDANO ISLAND).

JCS 090314 (pink) directs Cincpoa and CinCSWPA, in furtherance of strategic concept set forth in JCS 713/4, to conduct certain operations and to submit plans for the operations which are directed.

Cincpoa 132100 (pink) outlines purpose of occupation of PALAU and ULITHI.

Cincpoa 140101 (pink) states that to exploit fully the favorable developments to date, it now appears feasible to use the YAP force to assist in an early movement into LEYTE; or if MacArthur should not desire to move, it may be feasible to take IWO JIMA in mid-October, using the YAP force.

Cominch 141325 (pink) states that Joint Chiefs of Staff are of the opinion that elimination of the occupation of YAP and the utilization of that force to occupy LEYTE are highly desirable.

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14 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

CinCSWPA 142359 (pink) states that CinCSWPA is prepared to move immediately to the execution of K-2, with target date 20 October.

JCS 150258 (pink) authorizes MacArthur to execute the LEYTE operation, with target date of 20 October.

In the North Pacific on 13 September (K) 2 of 6 starting PV's from FAW-4 bombed east-central SHIMUSHU; the other 4 PV's were forced back by enemy fighters; all planes returned safely. On the following day 3 B-24's from 11th AF bombed KURABU ZAKI (S PARAMUSHIRU); results were unobserved; all planes returned safely.

TG 38.1, operating in support of the landings on MOROTAI on 15 September (K), bombed the 4 HALMAHERA airfields; no results have as yet been reported. On the preceding day the HALMAHERA airfields of LOLOBATA and HATETAKOBO were hit by 8 squadrons of B-24's; 6 squadrons hit the former field and 2 squadrons the latter; weather turned back other heavy strikes directed at MOROTAI and GALELA.

Heavy attacks were made against the CELEBES on 14 September (K) by 57 B-24's which hit the MAPANGET airdrome with 185 tons of 2000-lb and 1000-lb bombs; there was neither AA fire nor interception. On the preceding night 3 SB-24's started large fires at AMOERANG BAY; at the same time PBY's bombed and damaged an AK (2000-4500 ton) at MANADO.

On 14 September (K) 8 fighter bombers attacked the BOELA airfields on CERAM. On night 13-14 September (K) 3 SB-24's bombed the airdromes at PELELIU and NGESEBUS.

Attacks were made against BABO, VOGELKOP, and WEWAK on 14 September (K). The BABO runways were hit by 25 A-20's and 3 B-25's. 31 P-40's attacked SAMATE, JEFMAN, and MOEMI airdromes in the VOGELKOP; near SORONG P-40's fired 5 of 9 sailing vessels. The WEWAK airdrome was hit by 19 fight bombers.

On 11 and 12 September (K) air neutralization of the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area continued. 156 sorties hit bivouac and supply areas on W GAZELLE PENINSULA, while minor strikes were made in BOUGAINVILLE and NEW IRELAND.

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15 September (Oahu date)

At 0800 on 16 September (I) 1st MarDiv resumed the attack, capturing the airfield. The enemy made several counterattacks between 0300 and dawn; one was heavy, but all were repulsed. As of noon on the 16th the front line extended from beach NW of the airfield thence along northern border of the field to the swamp, thence southward along edge of swamp and beach to necks of both southern peninsulas.

On 16 September (I) TG 38.4 continued its support of assault forces on PELELIU, making full use of rockets and Napalm fire bombs; 1 plane was lost operationally.

F-day for assault operations against ANGAUR will be 17 September (I).

The MOROTAI operation continues without enemy opposition; landing force commander assumed command of forces ashore at 1000 16 September (I).

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Authority: EO 12958, as amended
HQ USEUGOM

15 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 15 September TRUK was heavily hit by 29 B-24's which concentrated against DUBLON and MOEN; 5 unaggressive interceptors were encountered, one of which was damaged; 1 B-24 was damaged. PONAPE was attacked on the 15th by B-25's and WOTJE by F4U's. P-47's from SAIPAN continued attacks on PAGAN AA positions.

FINBACK (SS 230) operating off BONINS reports sinking 1 small MARU on 11 September. She has aboard 5 downed airmen (3 from FRANKLIN, 1 from SAN JACINTO, 1 from ENTERPRISE).

SEADEVIL (SS 400) operating E of HONSHU reports at 161136 GCT the sinking of 1 I-class submarine with 2 hits.

BATFISH (SS 310) (SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol. Operating NW PALAU sank 1 MINEKAZE DD and 1 FUBUKI DD (previously reported).

CASE (DD 370) has been directed to rendezvous with the PAMPANITO and the SEALION at 16-00N, 140-00E (330 miles W of MARIANAS) to effect transfer of Australian and British POW's aboard the 2 submarines. The CASE will proceed to SAIPAN.

Cincpoa 152044 (pink) modifies OpPlan 6-44 to delete YAP from positions to be captured; orders governing employment of troops and garrison forces heretofore intended for YAP will follow.

CincSWPA 160125 (pink) replies to Cinpoa 102333 (pink) which requested comment or concurrence of Joint Staff Study of INSURGENT Operation.

Cincpoa 160346 (pink) gives information of forces to be made available to Com7thFleet for support of LEYTE Operation (to comply with directive of OCTAGON 31A; see JCS 150258 pink). Cinpoa 160535 and 161119 also relate.

Cinc SWPA

Cincpoa 160410 (pink) assumes that ships and troops employed (in support of LEYTE Operation) will be returned to operational control of Cinpoa as soon as situation permits.

In the North Pacific on 13 September 3 B-24's from 11th AF bombed SURIBACHI with unobserved results. On the following day 2 PV's from FAW-4 bombed southern PARAMUSHIRU; several fighters ineffectively intercepted; all planes returned safely.

On 15 September (I) SWP air forces bombed the VOGELKOP airfields; other reports of activity have not been received.

Com7thFleet states that reliable reports indicate that our guerrilla forces on MINDANAO have occupied main enemy positions at MAUGPO (50 kilometers north of DAVAO CITY) and GARGTO. They have established a main line of resistance E from TAGUM RIVER at BINCONGAN to MADAUM. They have requested no bombing north of this line and east of TAGUM RIVER.

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16 September (Oahu date)

An additional report from CTF 31 states that 1st MarDiv continued the attack on PELELIU against strongly prepared defenses organized in depth along the entire front and including many pill boxes; in the advance the infantry used flame throwers and were supported by tanks, artillery, and naval and air bombardment. 16 to 20 enemy tanks were reported destroyed. Enemy known killed: 1458. Our casualties (incomplete): KIA 84; WIA 1519; MIA 9. CG1stMarDiv moved ashore at 0815(I) 16 Sept. Preliminary reports for operations on 17 Sept (I) indicates satisfactory progress; the attack was resumed at 0800 and material gains were made on the north, and advances were made on the south within the southern peninsula.

After heavy preparatory naval gunfire and air strikes on 17 Sept (I), 81st Infantry Division landed at 0830 on beaches on NE and E coasts of ANGUAR against light opposition. Landing was effected by LVTs followed by boats; tanks have landed also. Troops have advanced to approximately the first phase line 400 yards inland; contact between elements from the respective beaches is expected to be made shortly. TG 38.2 supported the ANGUAR landing.

TG 38.1 has been released from its assigned mission of supporting the MOROTAI operation; all task groups of TF 38 are now in the PALAU area.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 15 Sept IWO JIMA was heckled by a SB-24; on the following day IWO JIMA was heavily attacked by 15 B-24s which hit the airfield with 147 500 lb bombs; fires and large explosions resulted. An unspecified number of F4Us attacked ROTA gun positions on the 15th; on the following day 32 F4Us bombed the ROTA runway and gun positions. On the 16th PAGAN was bombed by two B24s and P47s, while WOTJE was attacked by an unspecified number of F4Us.

The submarines PAMPANITO and SEALION will reach the rendezvous area with the CHASE (DD370) at 1300(I) 18 Sept. PAMPANITO carries 72 survivors all of whom are in extremely poor physical condition after enduring many months of Jap atrocities; there are 15 stretcher cases, two of whom are in critical condition; one survivor died. SEALION reports that 3 survivors have died and that 6 others are in critical condition; the remaining ones are improving.

SEAHORSE (SS304) operating east of PHILIPPINES as part of submarine screen reports that she has aboard one Jap POW who was picked up from the water on 14 Sept. east of LEYTE; POW was radio operator of a crashed Betty.

CTG 59.3 reports that facilities for seaplane and ASW searches will be ready on 18 Sept (I) in KOSOL PASSAGE.

At MOROTAI on 15 Sept (I) 6 B25s sprayed the landing area with insecticide, in coordination with beach head operations; on the following day two of our planes were shot down, one by a Jap fighter and one by AA over HALMAHARA. The runway at KAOE and the town and jetty were bombed and strafed on 14 Sept (I) by 14 B24s and 31 A20s. MANADO town (CELEBES) was hit on the 14th by two B24s; on the previous night search planes obtained a probable hit on a medium AK in MANADO harbor. 10 fighter bombers and attack planes bombed the BOELA airfield (CERAM) on the 15th. Fighter bombers in a shipping strike in the vicinity of KAI islands sank 1 barge and damaged 5 smaller craft.

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16 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

Strikes were continued against enemy installations and concentrations in the WEWAK area on the 14th and 15th. On the 15th 26 fighter bombers attacked airfields and gun positions in the VOGELKOP, concentrating against MOEMI, MANOKWARI, and SAMATE.

Air neutralization of the SOLOMONS - BISMARCK area was continued on 14 Sept with 212 sorties against the usual targets.

^{SWPA}
GHQ 150419 (pink) issues warning instructions (designated as Number 5/1) governing operations against LEYTE.

^{SWPA}
GHQ 150707 (pink) refers to CinCPOA 141000 (pink); outlines plans for employment of 24th Corps (less 77th Div) and a corps of 2 divs from SWPA for conduct of operations against LEYTE.

CTF 31 161515 (pink) announces preparations made, if and when tactical situation at PELELIU and ANGAUR permits diversion of RCT of 81st Div from PALAU area, to take ULITHI, and to meet 77th Div date in CinCPOA 160346 (pink), with certain provisos.

Com3rdFleet 170135 (pink) directs that arrangements be made for transport and movement of TF 31 units to SWPA, keeping Com3rdFleet informed.

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17 September (Oahu date)

On 17 and 18 September (I) operations on PELELIU by 1st MarDiv continued against strong enemy opposition. There was light activity during the night 16-17 September, while during the night 17-18 there was mortar and artillery fire on our left flank throughout the night. As of 1800 on the 18th all resistance had been overcome on the southern part of the island and our lines had been advanced to the N to a general east-west line extending from west edge of NGARDOLOLOK to the west shore. A battalion of the Corps Artillery is in position on PELELIU and supporting the ANGAUR attack. A TBF made a successful emergency landing on the PELELIU airfield which is expected to be in operation within 3 days. TG 38.4 continued support of our assault forces on PELELIU. At 1920 on the 18th 2 enemy planes dropped bombs in 1st MarDiv area; there were no casualties. KOSSOL PASSAGE is now 3/4 swept and completion is expected shortly; 56 additional mines were swept up.

Operations on ANGAUR by 81st InfDiv proceeded satisfactorily on 17 and 18 September (I). During night 17-18 there was intermittent mortar fire on the N beach and early on morning 18th the enemy launched 2 counterattacks against the S flanks of our 2 RCT's; these counterattacks were repulsed. TG's 38.2 and 38.3 provided air bombardment as preparation for the landings. As of 1800 on the 18th the division had seized nearly half the island and had penetrated within 200 yards of the west-central shoreline.

Casualties as of 1800 (I) 18 September:

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17 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	343	2231	266	2840
81st InfDiv	10	120	9	139
Total	353	2351	275	2979

5495 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU and 48 on ANGAUR; 3 POW's have been taken.

WADLIEGH (DD 689) while engaged in detonating mines in E KOSSOL PASSAGE hit an uncut mine incurring serious damage; damage is under control.

TG 33.13.1, augmented by additional minesweepers, will depart KOSSOL PASSAGE on the 19th and will arrive off ULITHI on the 21st.

CTF 31 has directed CTG 32.2 to proceed at discretion and on approval of CTF 32 with forces assigned to seize ULITHI on 23 September (E. Long. date).

A delayed report has been received from CTG 38.1 covering operation of the group on 15 September (I) in support of the MOROTAI operation. The group which operated against the CELEBES reports shooting down one enemy bomber and destroying 30 enemy planes on the ground.

QUEENFISH (SS 393) and BARB (SS 220) operating CHINA SEA report results. QUEENFISH on 9 September sank 1 DD and 1 large AP with 3 hits and probably sank 1 AO with 2 hits; on night of 16th damaged 1 large unidentified ship. BARB on night of 16th got 2 hits in a heavily loaded AK and 3 hits in a probable OTAKA CVE. BARB picked up 31 British Australian survivors from the AP sunk by the SEALION on night 12-13 September. Survivors state that an enemy DD rescued Japanese; a 30-knot wind and high seas scattered rafts; many corpses and empty rafts were observed. Spirits of survivors appear to be high but their strength is low.

PICUDA (SS 382) operating BASHI CHANNEL (S FORMOSA) reports sinking 3 medium AK's of an 8-ship convoy at 0432 on 16 September.

REDFISH (SS 395) on the 16th damaged 1 AO with 2 hits in a 4-ship convoy off SE FORMOSA.

PIPEFISH (SS 388) reports at 171842 GCT damaged 1 AK with 1 hit approximately 500 miles N of MARCUS.

CINCSWPA 170308 (pink) refers to Cincpoa 160346 (pink), discusses utilization by SWPA of shipping originally set up to mount 77th InfDiv and further discusses disposition of 1st MarDiv.

CinCSWPA 170550 (pink) replies to Cincpoa 160410 (pink).

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): WOTJE was bombed on 16 September by an unspecified number of SBD's and on the following day by 37 F4U's. On night 16-17 September (I) a single Catalina harassed NAURU.

RAdm SHERMAN and Staff Members departed Pearl for HOLLANDIA.

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17 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

On 16 September (I) planes from a CVE group operating in support of the MOROTAI operation attacked HALMAHERA airdromes; 1 enemy plane was shot down and 2 were destroyed on the ground; 1 large barge was sunk and 10 to 12 others were damaged; direct hits were obtained on buildings, AA positions, and a fuel dump; 6 of our fighters were lost. On the same day the HOPEWELL (DD 681) was attacked while en route MOROTAI by 2 dive bombers, one of which was shot down; DD was undamaged.

KENDARI repair buildings and other shops were heavily hit on the 16th by 15 B-24's; 2 intercepting fighters were shot down; it was estimated that 2/3 of the buildings in the area were destroyed or damaged. 13 B-25's hit NE CELEBES on the same day, destroying a large warehouse and starting fires. Single search planes on shipping strikes in the CELEBES area on night 15-16 and night 16-17 sank a 3000-ton freighter transport and damaged or destroyed a 7000-8000 ton AK. Small strikes were made on the 15th and 16th against the BOELA oil tanks, and on the 16th against KAI and AROE ISLANDS where 7 barges and several smaller craft were damaged.

On the 16th the usual strikes continued in the WEWAK area and against airdromes in the VOGELKOP. Routine raids continued in the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area on the 15th.

In the North Pacific on 17 September 1 of 8 starting PV's from FAW-4 bombed SHIMUSHU. 3 B-24's from 11th AF bombed western SHIMUSHU with unobserved results.

18 September (Oahu date)

1st MarDiv resumed its attack on PELELIU on morning 19 September (I). The enemy continued to resist stubbornly from trenches and pillboxes. Steady progress was made to the north securing the east coast except for an isolated finger to the northeast. Activity during the night 18-19 was confined to sporadic mortar and small arms fire. Count of enemy planes found on PELELIU Airfield: 28 T/E medium bombers, 8 T/E light bombers, 77 S/E fighters, and 4 transports; all were badly damaged except 5 fighters.

81st Inf. Div. resumed its attack on ANGAUR on morning 19 September (I). The advance was made against continued light resistance consisting mostly of scattered pillboxes and mortar fire. By early afternoon MIDDLE VILLAGE and SAIPAN TOWN were captured. The advance on the left flank was retarded by beach defenses on the east coast, but approximately two-thirds of the island is now in our possession with NW and S tips isolated. CG 81st Inf. Div. assumed command ashore at 181200 (I). A POW states that there are 1,000 Army troops on ANGAUR and no Navy personnel present.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1st MarDiv	423	2622	302	3347
81st InfDiv	22	167	0	189
Total	445	2789	302	3536

No change has been reported in the number of enemy killed on PELELIU; 173 have been killed on ANGAUR, making a total of enemy reported dead of 5,668.

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18 September (Oahu date - Cont'd)

LCI(G) 459, while gallantly furnishing close fire support at 1220 on the 19th, struck a mine off the reef edge W of PELELIU and sank 20 minutes later in about 30 fathoms, casualties were reported as 2 wounded.

64 additional mines were swept at KOSSOL ROADS on the 18th making a total there to date of 249.

TG's 38.1, 38.2 and 38.3 are enroute to launching area off E LUZON preparatory to striking that island at 0600 on the 21st. 38.4 is enroute to MANUS for rehabilitation.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): WOTJE was bombed on the 17th and 18th by SBD's. B-24's hit JALUIT on the 17th while an SB-24 heckled IWO JIMA. On the 18th MARCUS was bombed by 4 B-24's on armed reconnaissance, and NAURU was bombed by an unspecified number of B-25's.

BANG (SS 385) attacked an 8 AK, 5 escort convoy at 182315 GCT off NE tip of FORMOSA; 1 AK was sunk and another probably sunk with 2 hits each.

TANTIVY (British sub under CTF 71), operating off JAVA, sank 1 4,000-ton AK.

No reports of activities of SWP air forces have been received.

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19 September (Oahu date)

On 20 September (I) 1st MarDiv resumed the attack on PELELIU. 5th Regt on the right was cleaning up remaining resistance on eastern coast including small island south of NGABAD ISLAND. 1st Regt on the left continued slow but relentless struggle to drive enemy from hill pass to its front. This rugged terrain is honey-combed with reinforced caves, pillboxes, and dugouts from which the enemy continues to resist with grim determination. In one regimental sector 11 guns (70 - 120-mm), 73 machine guns, and 23 mortars have been captured. Effective counterbattery fire has destroyed several enemy guns and is succeeding in reducing enemy artillery fire.

On 20 September (I) 81st InfDiv resumed its attack against light resistance and our troops rapidly gained the southern beaches. The island contained many defensive positions on the beaches but most of them were unmanned. All organized resistance ceased at 1034 and the island was secured at that hour. The division is now engaged in mopping up remnants of the enemy.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	445	2728	323	3496
81st InfDiv	46	491	0	537
Totals	491	3219	323	4033

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19 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

6445 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU and 600 on ANGAUR; POW's remain at 3.

The A/S net at east entrance KOSSOL PASSAGE was carried away by tidal current on the 19th. KECKUK (AKN 4) is laying floats without net across entrance as a deceptive measure pending replacement of the net.

Survivors rescued by PAMPANITO and SEALION are now in the SAIPAN Army hospital. Of the total (122) 53 are British Army, 66 Australian Army, 2 Australian Navy, and 1 Australian Air Force; all are enlisted. None of the survivors is critically ill. Survivors report that next convoy coming from SINGAPORE was scheduled to bring prisoners from the U. S. S. HOUSTON.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): WOTJE was bombed on 18 and 19 September by an unspecified number of F4U's and SBD's. On the 19th PONAPE was attacked by 13 B-25's, PAGAN by 2 formations of P-47's, MARCUS by 2 B-24's, and CHICHI JIMA by 29 B-24's.

ComFwdAreaCenPac 160100 summarizes operations 11-15 September, inclusive.

SCABBARDFISH (SS 397) at 190100 GCT in position 27-35N, 127-07E (off NW OKINAWA) probably sank a southbound 5100-ton submarine tender with 2 hits.

CinCSWPA reports at 180835 GCT that landings at MOROTAI are now fully established. On the 18th enemy planes raided the landing beaches and harbor area; a near miss on the MOBJACK (AGP 7, Auxiliary MTB Tender) wounded 1 man; there was no other damage.

On 17 September (I) 45 B-24's with P-38 escort bombed and strafed LANGOAN runway, destroying 3 parked planes; at AMBESIA drome, near KENDARI, 21 DARWIN-based B-24's cratered the airstrip and destroyed 1 parked plane. On the preceding day the CERAM-AMBON area was attacked by 2 squadrons of B-24's which hit LIANG and by 1 squadron of B-24's which hit LAHA; 1 group of B-24's started large fires on the airfield at HAROEKOE, while 39 P-38's bombed KAIRATOE drome and village; 14 P-38's hit an ammunition dump in eastern AMBON. TIMOR and KAI ISLANDS were bombed on the 17th by 8 B-25's and 9 P-40's. A delayed report states that on the 16th 24 B-25's and 8 P-38's attacked the NAMLEA airdrome on BOEROE ISLAND.

SAMATE (western VOGELKOP) was hit on the 17th by 66 fighter bombers which dropped $23\frac{1}{2}$ tons on the airfield.

MacArthur 201302 (pink) outlines plan for effective reduction of enemy air on LUZON in support of an attack on FORMOSA by POA forces, if conducted prior to occupation of central LUZON.

Handwritten signature/initials in red ink.

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20 September (Oahu date)

On 21 September (I) 1st MarDiv resumed the attack on PELELIU. 1st and 7th Regts attacked abreast along western arm of island, while 5th Regt continued the attack up eastern arm and on nearby islands (NGABAD ISLAND and the island just south thereof). The attempted advance on the west was halted by heavy enemy resistance located on precipitous cliffs and in deep ravines which prohibited maneuver of our forces. 5th Regt was successful in occupying remainder of east coast including NGABAD ISLAND. Enemy weapons captured included 6 15-cm trench mortars and 31 machine guns; an additional 10 destroyed enemy planes were found. A captured map indicates entire W coast ridge line to be honeycombed with caves and pillboxes. Sporadic artillery and mortar fire was received on 1st MarDiv front during night 20-21. Enemy float planes, believed to have been operated from KOROR, bombed PELELIU night of 18th and KOSSOL PASSAGE night of 19th; the airstrip is reported unserviceable; planes from CVE's will endeavor to locate concealed float planes and destroy them.

81st InfDiv on 21 September (I) continued mopping-up operations on ANGAUR. Captured or destroyed enemy weapons included 1 75-mm AA gun and 3 machine guns.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	505	2975	340	3820
81st InfDiv*	46	491	0	537
Total	551	3466	340	4357

* Old figures; new report not received.

6792 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU and 850 on ANGAUR; POW's 4.

TG's 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3 struck MANILA on the 21st (I); no report from CTF 38 has been received. The 3 groups will move to the south and hit in central PHILIPPINES on the 22nd (I). Minesweeping group (33.13.1, as augmented) arrived ULITHI on the 21st (I). The fire support group will arrive ULITHI on the 22nd (I). The CVE group has departed PELELIU and is en route ULITHI.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 19 September TRUK was heavily hit by 28 B-24's which concentrated against the north MOEN airfields and installations; 4 timid interceptors slightly damaged 3 planes. On the same date 1 SB-24 bombed IWO JIMA. On the 19th and 20th neutralization of ROTA was maintained by an unspecified number of F4U's and SBD's. On the 20th WOTJE was attacked by F4U's and SBD's, while PAGAN continued to be hit by P-47's.

BANG (SS 385) at 201415 GCT position 25-30N, 124-00E (115 miles E of NE tip of FORMOSA) attacked a 6-ship, 3-escort convoy on course 070, speed 8. Sank 1 large AO and 1 AK; damaged 1 unidentified ship.

CinCSWPA 191442 (pink) requests approval of certain arrangements in connection with LEYTE operation, including non-employment of 77th InfDiv, use of assault shipping from PHASE I of STALEMATE, and evacuation of 1st MarDiv from PELELIU.

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20 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

CincSWPA 201330 (pink) requests all forces listed as available in Cincpoa 160346 (pink) and 161119 (pink), with certain exceptions.

MacARTHUR (CincSWPA) 211042 (pink) outlines plans for proceeding directly from LEYTE to the main assault against LUZON, leaving the APPARRI area to be secured at a later date.

On 18 September (I) 30 B-25's with P-38 cover bombed LANGOAN personnel areas and destroyed 4 grounded planes. An SB-24 sank a small AK off NE tip CELEBES. CVE planes pounded HAIMAHERA fields, destroying 6 planes on the ground and damaging oil dumps and bivouacs. A group of B-24's met no opposition on the 18th while attacking the AMBON airfields of HAROKOE and LAHA. In a shipping sweep off CERAM P-40's damaged several small craft. 66 P-40's bombed MOEMI gun positions, while other planes heckled SAMATE and MANOKWARI. Air neutralization of the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area continued on the 18th. 10 B-25's operating SE of PULUWAT attacked 2 AK's and 1 trawler; 1 AK was left dead in the water and another was believed damaged.

21 September (Oahu date)

Results of strikes against LUZON on 21 September (I) by TG's 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3 which, in a surprise attack, hit CLARK FIELD Area, NICHOLS FIELD Area, CAVITE, MANILA BAY shipping, SUBIC BAY shipping, convoys, and swept N and S:

(1) Enemy planes destroyed:- 205; 110 in the air, 95 on the ground.

(2) Damage to Enemy Shipping:-

<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged (includes probably sunk)</u>
1 large DD	1 unidentified DD
4 large AO's	2 large AO's
1 small AO	1 large AP
2 large AK's	10 large AK's
1 medium AK	12 medium AK's
2 small AK's	2 luggers
1 unidentified DD(by HADDO)	1 floating drydock

(3) Other damage:- Many hits were obtained on the airfield, and on buildings and other installations.

(4) Our Losses:- 15 planes, from which several of the flight personnel were recovered.

TF 38 has planned to repeat the strike against LUZON on the 22nd (I), to refuel on the 23rd (I), and to strike again in the VISAYAS on the 24th (I).

On 22 Sept. (I) 1st MarDiv continued the attack on PELELIU against heavily fortified positions; no appreciable gains were made although patrols probed well to the front on both flanks of the mountain range on the W of the island. RCT 321 (81st InfDiv) was ordered moved from ANGAUR to PELELIU to reinforce 1st MarDiv; regrouping of our forces for continuation of the attack has been initiated. Enemy equipment captured during the day included 5 5-inch guns.

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21 September (Oahu date - Cont'd)

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81st Inf. Div. continued mopping up enemy remnants on ANGAUR. Enemy resistance is confined to opposition by scattered elements in caves along NW tip of the island.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1st MarDiv	524	3075	341	3940
81st Inf.Div.	74	566	0	640
Total	<u>598</u>	<u>3641</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>4580</u>

Five POW's have been taken; there are no new figures on enemy dead.

A single Jap floatplane alerted our forces at PELELIU but made no attack. 1 CA, screened by 2 DD's, bombarded a seaplane hangar located on ARAKABESAN ISLAND. Planes from CVE group attacked suspected hiding places of enemy floatplanes.

CTU 33.19.10 reports that on 22 Sept. (I) SORLEN and FASSARAI ISLANDS of ULITHI ATOLL were secured without opposition. The minesweeping group is now proceeding with occupation of MOGMOG. PAG is still unoccupied. Sweeping and demolition is proceeding on schedule.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): MARCUS was hit on 20 Sept. by 1 B-24 and on the 21st by 3 B-24's. On the 21st NAURU was bombed by B-25's, JALUIT by B-24's, ROTA by F4U's and PAGAN by B-24's.

PICUDA (SS 382) and REDFISH (SS 395) at 202200 GCT overtook a Jap convoy of 3 AK's, 2 AP's, 1 AO and 6 escorts; this convoy was first spotted by PICUDA W of BASHI CHANNEL (S. FORMOSA) at 190300 GCT. PICUDA, off PASABENG BAY, sank 1 medium AK and damaged 1 medium AP with 2 hits in each. REDFISH, off CAPE BOJEADOR, sank the other AP, and damaged the AO and 1 of the 2 remaining AK's.

PARGO (SS 264)(SWPA) reports sinking 1 AK on 10 Sept. N of BORNEO. On the 22nd in the JAVA SEA obtained 3 hits on a southbound convoy of 8-10 ships.

GHQ SWPA (MacArthur) 220220 (Pink) summarizes plan for K-2 operation, occupation of LEYTE GULF-SURIGAO STRAIT Area, providing for major amphibious assault from NEW GUINEA bases supported by 3rd Fleet, target date 20 October 1944, with 10th Corps (1st Cav. and 24th Inf. Divs.) and 24th Corps (7th Inf. Div. and 96th Inf. Div.) and 98th Ranger Battalion.

MARSHALL 201833 defines combat zone of new campaign entitled "Air Offensive, JAPAN".

In the North Pacific on 19 Sept. 7 PV's from FAW 4 bombed SE coast of PARAMUSHIRU. On the same day 1 B-25 from 11th AF attacked TOMARI ZAKI (NE PARAMUSHIRU).

Single search planes on night 19-20 Sept. (I) and night 20-21 Sept. (I) made shipping strikes in the PHILIPPINES Area. 1 AK (300-700 ton) and 1 AO (1500-2500 ton) were sunk. 1 AK (2000-4500 ton) was attacked with unobserved results.

Heavy attacks were made in the CELEBES Area on 19 and 20 Sept. (I) by B-24's, B-25's, and P-38's which made heavy raids on personnel areas, fuel dumps, gun positions, and small craft in NE CELEBES; there was no interception. Bivouac areas and gun positions in the MANADO Area were attacked by 43 B-25's. LANGQAN Airdrome and LEMBEH STRAITS were attacked by 22 B-25's and 31 P-38's. On night 20-21 a PBV sank 1 large AK and 1 medium AK in CELEBES SEA.

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21 September (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On 20 Sept. (I) B-24's, A-20's, and P-47's hit DJAILOLO and KAOE, on HALMAHERA damaging airfields and stores. On the preceding day CVE planes flew 108 sorties over northern HALMAHERA, destroying 3 planes at GALELA, 1 at MITI, and probably 1 at LOLOBATA; 16 other planes of unknown serviceability were damaged on the ground.

On MOROTAI on nights of 19-20 and 20-21 Sept. (I) small Jap raids took place without damage. On the 19th and 20th CERAM was heavily attacked; AMAHAI was hit by 20 B-24's on the 19th; on the 20th 15 attack and fighter bombers hit BOELA, while B-24's bombed LAHA, LIANG, and AMAHAI. TIMOR was hit on the 20th by 12 B-24's and BOEROE by an unspecified number of medium and fighter bombers.

Reconnaissance reports from SWPA covering the last two weeks indicate that enemy shipping, other than small freighters and luggers, has been effectively cleared from the BANDA, CERAM, and MOLUKKA SEAS, and from east part of CELEBES SEA probably as far west as longitude 120 east.

22 September (Oahu date)

On 23 Sept (I) 1st MarDiv maintained pressure against enemy on PELELIU and by late afternoon GAREKORU VILLAGE and the unnamed island 800 yards north of ANGABAD ISLAND were occupied. Regrouping of our forces continued and RCT 321 (81st InfDiv) relieved 1st MarReg on left. Under cover of rain squalls 7 Japanese barges, heading south, were sighted in boat channel north of PELELIU at dawn; when fired upon by our patrol vessels they dispersed to NGESEBUS and PELELIU; 1 barge was sunk and the remaining 6 were later destroyed on PELELIU beaches by bombing and strafing and by ship's gunfire. A total of 323 mines have been swept from KOSSOL PASSAGE. The net at west entrance of the Passage has been completed. A PB4Y landed on the PELELIU airfield, effected repairs, and took off.

Elements of 81st InfDiv continued mopping up enemy remnants on ANGAUR on the 23rd.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1st MarDiv	547	3170	344	4061
81st InfDiv	74	566	0	640
Total	621	3736	344	4701

7,020 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU and 950 on ANGAUR, making a total dead of 7,970. A captured document indicates a total of 10,138 Japs on PELELIU; this includes all arms and services.

ULITHI ATOLL was occupied on 23 Sept (I) without enemy opposition; the small enemy force previously reported on the Atoll had been evacuated. TG 33.19 (Sweeping Group) on the 21st and 22nd had landed forces on PASSARAI, MANGEJANG, and SORLEN ISLANDS to obtain information from natives. Troops which arrived on the 23rd occupied ASOR, SORLEN, MOGMOG and POTANGERAS ISLANDS. The MUBAI entrance channel and the northern anchorage were swept and buoyed, and are ready to receive ships. Minefields were located according to previous intelligence; 99 mines have been swept up. TG 33.12.2 (ULITHI CVE Group) made a fighter sweep over YAP while enroute ULITHI; no planes or shipping were observed; the main airfield was full of holes; the new airfield was inactive but appeared to be in fair shape.

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22 September
Cont'd.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 22 Sept 15 B-24's struck CHICHI JIMA, sinking a barge and scoring near misses on an AK; explosions were observed in the harbor area. On the same day strikes were made against MARCUS by 2 B-24's, PAGAN by 4 P-47's, ROTA by F4U's, PONAPE by B-25's, and JALUIT by F4U's.

ComGenPOA 230030 (pink) comments on CinCSWPA 201330 (pink) in accordance with CinCPOA 211048.

JCS 222230 (pink) outlines plans for the provision of land-based air support from CHINA.

SEARAVEN (SS 196), operating KURILES, attacked an enemy convoy on night 15 Sept; sank 1 AK and obtained 2 possible hits out of 4 torpedoes fired at an AK and 1 DD escort; 1 fishing trawler was sunk by gunfire on the 4th.

HADDO (SS 255) reports rescuing 1 downed aviator from LANGLEY (CVL 27) on morning 22 Sept; pilot was uninjured.

Only search plane activity was reported by SWP air forces on 21st and on night 21-22. On the 22nd 62 F4U's and SBD's attacked and destroyed a number of huts in the RABAU Area.

R Adm Sherman and staff members returned PEARL from Hollandia.

23 September (Oahu date)

At 0245 (I) on 24 September the enemy, using 13 barges and 1 motor sampan, attempted resupply and reinforcement (700 men of 2nd Bn, 15th Inf Regt) of PELELIU from KOROR ISLAND. The barges were sighted NE of PELELIU, and were engaged by the H. L. EDWARDS (DD), 4 LCI(G)'s, and LVT(A)'s stationed on the reef. 8 barges were observed to explode; 10 wrecked barges were observed after dawn on the reefs NE of PELELIU, and some enemy stragglers who were on the reefs were strafed. All barges were believed destroyed, though some stragglers probably reached shore without equipment. 1st MarDiv continued its attack maintaining pressure on right front and pushing forward on left front to include GAREKORU VILLAGE and the western section of the mountain range extending southward therefrom.

On ANGAUR 81st InfDiv continued mopping-up operations, and initiated the base development plan.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	544	3497	397	4438
81st InfDiv	82	699	2	783
Totals	626	4196	399	5221

7148 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU, 865 on ANGAUR, for a total of 8013. 9 prisoners have been taken (4 on PELELIU, 5 on ANGAUR).

8 planes of VMF-541(N) plus 3 transport planes, 1 TBF, and 4 PBV-5A's arrived PELELIU and are now based on the airfield. The NW-SE runway is available.

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23 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

for takeoff and landing; limited gas is available; NE runway is 5 percent completed. 25 mines have been swept up off ANGAUR during the past 2 days. YMS-19, while sweeping along E coast of ANGAUR struck a mine and sank; casualties were 9 missing.

Com3rdFlt 240124 summarizes results of strikes by TG's 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3 against LUZON on 21 and 22 September (I); gives total box score of 3rd Fleet damage inflicted on the enemy during the period 31 August (I) to 22 September (I), inclusive.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 22 and 23 September MILLE was attacked by F4U's and MALOELAP by SBD's. On the 23rd strikes were made against NAURU, JALUIT, WOTJE, PAGAN, and IWO JIMA. 10 B-24's hit CHICHI JIMA on the 23rd, with some of the effort being directed against AMI JIMA and HAHAI JIMA.

SHAD (SS 235) operating S HONSHU reports in 7 attacks sank 1 medium AP, 1 CHIDORI DD, and 1 SAGA-type PG; damaged 1 small AK, 1 medium AK, and 1 unseen medium ship. SHAD was missed by 2 torpedoes which passed very close to the bow; this attack took place N of HACHIJO JIMA.

APOGON (SS 308) sank by gunfire 1 trawler-type patrol vessel 640 miles N of MARCUS on 23 September.

PLAICE (SS 390) at 232240 GCT position 29-12N, 129-40E (185 miles NE of OKINAWA) attacked enemy force of 2 FUSO-class BB's and 4 DD's on course 230 speed 16; obtained 4 hits in one of the BB's.

PLUNGER (SS 179) (SWPA) summarizes 12th war patrol. Operating on lifeguard station off TRUK sank 1 5000-ton AK on morning 13 August which was aground on MINTO REEF (E of TRUK).

RICHARDSON 231022 (pink) submits remarks and recommendations on memorandum to CINCSWPA and CINCPAC dated 21 September 1944, subject: "Coordination of Operations."

No recent reports of SWP air force activities have been received.

24 September (Oahu date)

1st MarDiv resumed the attack on PELELIU on 25 Sept (I) with 321st InfReg (on the left) attacking to the eastward. Only light enemy resistance was encountered. The ridge line was secured to the north as far as GAREKORU VILLAGE. Our line was then extended 2600 yards to the north following the road which parallels the coast, being 200-400 yards inland.

Our casualties to date:

Unit	KIA	WIA	MIA	Total
1st MarDiv	562	3558	398	4518
81st InfDiv	98	737	3	838
Total	660	4295	401	5356

7313 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU, 975 on ANGAUR for a total of 8288. 11 prisoners have been taken (6 on PELELIU, 5 on ANGAUR).

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24 September (Oahu date - Cont'd)

CTG 3349 reports that evidence from natives and general appearance of islands indicate Japs evacuated ULITHI several months ago. Unloading is practically complete. Six mines have been swept up. CTG 3349 expects to turn the command of ULITHI over to CTG 10.15 on the 25th.

CTF 57 210330 summarizes operations 16-20 September inclusive.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On night 23-24 Sept NAURU was heckled by 1 Navy Landcat. MARCUS was bombed on the 23rd and 24th by 2 B-25's. On the 24th strikes were made against ROTA, WOTJE, and JALUIT.

BARBERO (SS 317) reports neutralization by bombardment of radar station on BATAG ISLAND (N. SAMAR) on nights 23 and 24 Sept.

NAUTILUS (SS 168)(SWPA) reports that she is aground in MINDANAO DEEP. An attempt will be made to refloat at 0300 on the 26th; if unsuccessful the submarine will be destroyed.

SULTAN 241225 (pink) discusses employment of aircraft of 14th AF and 20th Bomber Command October, 1944 - February, 1945.

GHQ, SWPA (MacArthur) 241551 (pink) discusses air attacks in support of operations against the PHILIPPINES.

CinCPac 250131 (pink) directs breaking up present submarine "Zoo" (screen established off LUZON prior to and during STALEMATE).

CinCPOA 250856 (pink) assigns tasks to forces of MARSHALLS-GILBERTS Area, effective 1 October.

CinCPOA 250919 (pink) furnishes information re rehabilitation of 24th Corps, disposition and future employment of 81st InfDiv and 77th InfDiv.

Shipping strikes were the only reported activities of SWP air forces on the 22nd. A 700-ton vessel was probably sunk in DARVEL BAY, NE BORNEO. 1 2,000-ton vessel and 1 700-ton vessel were sunk near west shore DAVAO GULF. A 3,000-ton vessel was damaged by strafing off NW coast of LEYTE ISLAND. 5 sailing boats (80-90 feet) were damaged off N coast BOEROE ISLAND and 1 was sunk. On the 21st 1 700-ton vessel was sunk off N coast of BORNEO.

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25 September (Oahu date)

On 26 September (I) 5th Mar Regt completed its movement to west arm of PELE-LIU, and by nightfall had completed seizure of the radio station, cutting off all communication from the N to enemy forces resisting on UMURBROGOL MT. During the night heavy caliber mortar fire from NGESEBUS fell in the 5th Mar Regt perimeter, causing some casualties. 5th Mar Regt succeeded in widening its position to a depth of 600 yards, extending S from the radio station to a distance of 1500 yards; the enemy from positions on the high ground offered heavy resistance, employing artillery and many automatic weapons. Further south the 321st Inf continued to eliminate enemy pill-boxes on the main ridge, and captured two prominent peaks. Still further south, 7th Mar Regt continues its effort to encircle UMBROGOL MT where our advance has been impeded for four straight days.

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25 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

PELELIU fighter strip and parking area for 50 planes have been completed. The bomber strip is 20 percent complete. The ANGAUR site is suitable for a 6200-foot runway which will require 15 days to complete.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	580	3639	401	4620
81st InfDiv	<u>106</u>	<u>769</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>880</u>
Total	686	4408	406	5500

7313 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU, 979 on ANGAUR, for a total of 8292.

McCOY REYNOLDS (DE) reports at 252130 GCT sank enemy submarine NE of PALAU, position 09-14N, 136-40E.

Merchant ships MISSIONARY RIDGE and DON MARQUIS collided on the 26th in position 02-25S, 147-15E (SE of MANUS); the latter ship was afire; a rescue vessel (BURDEKIN) at 261136 GCT was picking up survivors, reporting ship on fire forward of bridge; requested salvage tugs be sent immediately.

Merchant ship ELIHU THOMPSON, en route EFATE to NOUMEA ran into minefield S of PORCUPINE ISLAND (SE coast NEW CALEDONIA) at about 252130, striking two mines. ComSoPac at 260557 GCT reported that ship was successfully towed into GREAT ROADS, and beached. Casualties were undetermined, but believed to be light.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. date): On 24 September 16 B-24's bombed harbor facilities and small shipping at CHICHI JIMA, while 1 B-24 hit HABA JIMA. On the same day MILLE and JALUIT were attacked by SBD's.

Cincpac 242346 establishes procedure governing the use of surface escorts in the POA; effective on receipt and cancels all previous directives.

Cincpoa 250421 directs ComFwdArea to establish a command designated "Naval Air Bases GUAM", about 15 October.

GHQ SWPA 250715 approves agreements Memorandum No. 21, September 1944, signed by Rear Admiral Sherman and Major General Chamberlain.

Cincpoa 251705 merges the MARSHALLS and GILBERTS sub-areas, effective 1 October, and to be designated the MARSHALLS-GILBERTS Area; defines limits; establishes TF 96.

In the CELEBES on 23 September (I) an unspecified number of B-24's and B-25's dropped 56 tons on MAPANGAT and SIDATE; 3 ineffective fighters intercepted. CERAM-BOEROE area was hit on the 23rd and 24th. B-25's attacked AMAHAI on both days and the NAMLEA airdromes were hit on the 24th. B-24's dropped 66 tons on LIANG. BOELA and small shipping off SE CERAM were hit by 4 B-25's and 6 Beau-fighters; 3 barges were destroyed. 12 P-47's cratered the KAOE runway on HALMA-HERA on the 23rd, while 1 B-24 hit TANIMBAR. Attacks continued on the 23rd against

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25 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

the VOGELKOP airdromes; 60 fighter bombers participated in the attacks. 3 PBV search planes attacking in the PHILIPPINE area on night 23-24 September (I) report sinking 2 DE's, 1 seaplane tender, and firing 1 lugger.

26 September (Oahu date)

Assault forces on PELELIU continued the attack on 27 September (I), and by 1800 had completed occupation of the island except for a small portion in the NE tip and UMURBROGOL MT. Enemy remnants on ANGAUR attempted infiltration of our lines without success. Unloading is being hampered by rough seas.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	599	3793	369	4761
81st InfDiv	130	912	7	1049
Total	729	4705	376	5810

7517 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU, 1020 on ANGAUR, for a total of 8537.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. Dates): On 25 September TRUK was heavily attacked by 26 B-24's which concentrated against ETEN and shipping in the harbor; results were unreported. On the same day 13 B-24's hit IWO JIMA, encountering intense AA fire and 4 aggressive fighters; one enemy fighter was shot down; 3 B-24's were damaged. On 26 September reconnaissance strikes were made against PONAPE, MARCUS, and WAKE. F4U's attacked MILE on the 26th, while neutralization of PAGAN and ROTA was continued.

THRESHER (SS 200) operating SW of KYUSHU reports results. Sank one submarine tender, one medium AK, and one medium AO; damaged one AO.

PARGO (SS 264) (SWPA) operating off N tip BORNEO reports 3 hits in 1 plane-loaded AV at 252000 GCT.

MUSKALLUNGE (SS 262) (SWPA) summarizes 4th war patrol. Operating S CHINA SEA sank 1 WAKATAKE DD; damaged 1 7500-ton AK and 1 10,000-ton AP.

In the North Pacific on 25 September 8 B-24's bombed PARAMUSHIRU; 13 enemy fighters intercepted, of which 1 was shot down and 7 were damaged; 1 B-24 landed on KAMCHATKA while the remaining 7 returned to base. 1 of 4 starting PV's bombed SURIBACHI; 3 planes were forced back by fighters; all planes returned safely.

CincSWPA (MacARTHUR) 260523 (pink) discusses capabilities of 14th Air Force and employment of 20th Air Force; suggests that CG of U.S. forces in CHINA-BURMA-INDIA be authorized by CG USAAF to coordinate strikes by 14th and 20th AF in support of SWPA and 3rd Fleet operations in the FORMOSA area; coordination of land-based and carrier-based aviation to be arranged directly between Cincpoa and CG of US Forces in CHINA-BURMA-INDIA.

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SEPTEMBER (GCT)

Cincpoa 262316 (pink) outlines employment of submarines in support of K2 operations.

On 24 September (I) 11 P-40's bombed and strafed a small craft and village along SE coast of CERAM, while 1 B-24 fired an oil dump at KENDARI (CELEBES). On the same day 21 P-40's bombed runways in UTAROM; on the preceding day 8 barges on the N coast of BATANTA ISLAND (W VOGELKOP) were attacked with unreported results. Air neutralization of the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area continued on the 23rd with attacks against BOUGAINVILLE by 100 planes and against RABAU by 7 planes.

Com3rdFlt 230424 (Pink) outlines plans for employment of TF 38 prior to and during LEYTE Operation.

27 September (Oahu date)

Com3rdFlt 272330 summarizes results of strikes by TG's 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3 on 24 Sept (I) against the VISAYAS.

The NW-SE airstrip on PELELIU is now operational for 3900 feet; estimated date of completion of runway and dispersal area required by Base Development Plan is 5 Oct. The AGANA Field, south strip, will be asphalt surfaced 150 feet by 6,000 feet with completion date 15 Oct; north strip will be reconstructed to 7,000 feet coral surface following completion of south strip.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On night 26-27 Sept 2 B-24's heckled WAKE, dropping 5 tons with unobserved results. On the 27th single planes heckled IWO JIMA and YAP. Neutralization of PAGAN and ROTA was continued on the 27th. On the same day, strikes were conducted against NAURU, JALUIT, WOTJE and MILLE.

GUARDFISH (SS 217), Operating YELLOW SEA, reports at 281015 GCT destroyed 2 floating mines and sank 1 small AO.

PLAICE (SS 390), operating NANSEI SHOTO, reports sinking 1 large AP and 1 escort with 5 hits at 261650 GCT.

In the North Pacific on 27 Sept 4 B-24's from 11th AF bombed SURIBACHI without opposition with unobserved results.

CincPOA 271520 (Pink) outlines program of VLR construction at TINIAN.

DepCom Air Force 271946 (Pink) discusses VLR construction at TINIAN.

Com3rdFlt 272150 (Pink) concurs in MacArthur's recommendations for support by CHINA based aircraft (refers to MacArthur 260523 Sept).

CincPOA 280150 (Pink) requests operational completion dates of VLR strips on TINIAN.

On 25 Sept (I) LANGOAN (CELEBES) runways were hit by 16 B-25's, escorted by 11 P-38's. The KENDARI airfields and bivouac areas were attacked by 20 B-24's with P-38 escort. In these two strikes 8 enemy fighters intercepted; 3 were shot down; 1 P-38 was lost. The bombers sank 1 small AK. On the following day 2 B-24's bombed the KENDARI Airdrome.

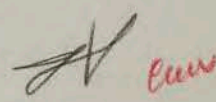
27 September (Oahu date - Cont'd)

On the 24th and 25th 11 B-24's bombed LAUTEM (TIMOR), causing fires in the town and among defensive positions. CAPE CHATER was hit by 3 B-24's. On the 25th the LOLOBATA (HALMAHERA) Airfield, and storage and bivouac areas in west KAOE BAY were attacked by 32 A-20's and 15 P-38's; at the same time 3 sea trucks in WASILE BAY were destroyed.

On the 24th BOELA (CERAM) fuel tanks, waterfront, and jetty were bombed by 26 B-25's and 12 P-38's. 16 P-38's dive bombed the KAIRATOE Airfield on the 24th, while 5 B-24's hit HAROEKOE. On the following day 5 P-40's conducted a shipping strike off SW coast of CERAM, while 18 B-24's cratered the old NAMLEA (BOEROE) airstrips. On the 26th 6 B-25's bombed LIANG, 9 P-40's attacked 11 small craft S of CERAM, and 4 fighters and 2 B-24's hit other AMBON targets.

On the 24th and 26th medium, attack, and fighter bombers hit enemy installations along north coast of NEW GUINEA, concentrating against WEWAK and UTEROM. Small strikes were continued against VOGELKOP targets. Neutralization of the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS Area continued on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th.

Admiral Nimitz, Rear Admiral Sherman, and other staff members departed PEARL for SAN FRANCISCO.

28 September (Oahu date)

Preceded by heavy naval and air bombardment, and artillery preparation, 5th Mar Regt on 28 September (I) landed on NGESEBUS ISLAND in a shore-to-shore movement. Leading waves were preceded by amphibious tanks and were supported by General Sherman tanks. The attack proceeded against light opposition and by 1800 all of the islands of NGESEBUS and KONGARU had been taken except a small portion of NE tip of KONGARU where remnants of the enemy were being mopped up. Other elements of 5th Mar Regt continued operations on PELELIU to seize the northern portion of PELELIU; by 1800 all but one peak and a small adjacent area in the northern part of PELELIU had been secured. 321st Inf Regt continued its advance S against UMURBROGOL MT where the enemy continues to resist. 81st InfDiv on ANGAUR continued reduction of enemy pocket on NW tip of island where enemy continues to fight with automatic weapons from caves and pillboxes. Heavy rain squalls with westerly winds stopped unloading on western beaches, and unloading on eastern beaches has been retarded. PELELIU bomber strip is 35 percent complete, east taxiway 30 percent complete, 2nd south taxiway 75 percent complete, and first south taxiway is complete; space is available for 96 fighters.

Our casualties as of 1800 28 September (I):

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	633	3935	369	4937
81st InfDiv	143	1061	10	1214
Total	776	4996	379	6151

8450 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU, 1030 on ANGAUR, for a total of 9480; 126 prisoners have been taken on PELELIU, 5 on ANGAUR, for a total of 131.

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28 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

On 29 September (I) 5th Mar Regt completed capture of KONGARU ISLAND and occupied the small unnamed island to the east of KONGARU ISLAND. On PELELIU some of the enemy are still hiding out in caves in the northern portion where cleaning up operations by 5th Mar Regt are underway. Enemy positions on UMURBROGOL MT continue to resist stubbornly and but little progress was made during the day. During the night 28-29 September (I) infiltrating enemy carrying grenades caused some casualties to 7th Mar Regt (7th Mar Regt was operating against S slopes of UMURBROGOL MT). Operations to clean up caves and pillboxes in NW lake region ANGAUR are progressing slowly. Bad weather continues and unloading is difficult. 10 mines were swept during the past two days off S and SE coast of ANGAUR. 16 F4U's cratered the BABELTHUAP airstrip with 11 hits. PELELIU bomber strip is 40 percent complete.

Our casualties as of 1800 29 September (I):

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st Mar Div	656	4035	364	5055
81st Inf Div	165	1176	10	1351
Total	821	5211	374	6406

8717 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU, 1055 on ANGAUR, for a total of 9772; 158 prisoners have been taken on PELELIU, 5 on ANGAUR, for a total of 163.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 27 September 2 B-24's dropped 5 tons on WAKE. On the 28th PAGAN was struck by 22 P-47's, while 18 B-24's hit naval installations on CHICHI JIMA.

SKATE (SS 305) operating off E coast of OKINAWA reports at 291429 GCT obtained 1 hit in a 5-ship, 7-escort convoy on course 010.

FLASHER (SS 249) reports that she was unable to close 2 BB's at 270530 (H) position 15-50N, 117-00E (100 miles W of LUZON) course 195, speed unknown.

On 27 September (I) MANADO and MAPANGET, CELEBES, were attacked by 23 B-24's, starting fires in building areas; there was no interception. On the same day 18 B-24's bombed HAROEKOE (CERAM), cratering the runway and destroying 2 grounded planes. 9 B-25's bombed the OLD NAMLEA (BOEROE) airdrome, while 17 B-25's fired oil tanks at BOELA (CERAM). Enemy installations on AMBON and small shipping in the AMBON area were attacked by 2 B-24's, 6 B-25's, and 18 P-38's. Single search planes continued to attack shipping in the PHILIPPINES area, near BORNEO, and in the CELEBES area.

29 September (Oahu date)

CTF 36 (Major General Julian Smith) reports at 300132 GCT that all objectives assigned his force have been occupied except that isolated enemy groups continue stubborn and fanatical resistance from caves on UMURBROGOL MT on PELELIU, and in a small area near the lake region in NW ANGAUR; assault forces are clearing these caves; base development has been initiated and can proceed without local enemy interference.

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29 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

CTF 57 260740 summarizes operations 21-25 September, inclusive.

Operations of TF 59 (E. Long. dates): On 28 September TRUK was hit by 14 B-24's which concentrated 33 tons against the airfield and installations on PARAM. SBD's hit TAROA gun positions on the 28th, and a single reconnaissance plane heckled NAURU on the preceding night. On the 29th strikes were made against WOTJE and MARCUS, and neutralization of PAGAN continued.

On 1 October (I) Rear Admiral Alva D. Bernard assumed command of MARSHALLS-GILBERTS Area and command of TF 96.

GHQ SWPA (MacARTHUR) 280238 (pink) outlines plans for LEYTE operation.

MARSHALL 281252 (pink) discusses provisions for bases for eventual British Fleet operations in the PACIFIC.

War Department 290357 (pink) discusses operations of 20th Air Force; confirmation paraphrase of 36341 passed by HARMON to Admiral McMorris for NIMITZ in original form by hand.

ARNOLD 292317 (pink) announces that operations of 20th Bomber Command in support of PACIFIC operations will be directed by Hq 20th AF, in same manner as strategic operations are directed.

On 28 September (I) minor strikes against shipping were made at ILLANA BAY (PHILIPPINES), SW HAIMAHERA, and CERAM; a 1000-ton AK and 1 barge were sunk; a 1000-ton AK and an 80-foot vessel were damaged; 4 small craft were sunk. 12 B-25's and 1 PBV caused a large explosion and silenced a gun position at MAOEMERI (FLORES ISLANDS), while 2 fighter bombers strafed enemy troops at CAPE LILI (NE HAIMAHERA). Minor strikes were made against LANGGOER (KAI ISLANDS) and against SAUMLAKKI (TANIMBAR ISLAND). On the 26th and 27th 32 sorties were flown against VOGELKOP airdromes and against the MANOKWARI area. On the 28th 8 fighter bombers hit CAPE MOEM in the WEWAK area. On 26th and 27th neutralization of the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area continued with strikes against KAVIENG, RABAU, and BOUGAINVILLE.

30 September (Oahu date)

CTF 32 (R. Adm. Fort) report of 1800 30 Sept states that PELELIU, ANGAUR, NGESEBUS and KONGARU have been captured and occupied. 1st Marines commenced loading for evacuation of PELELIU.

Our casualties as of 1800 30 September:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1st MarDiv	669	4019	356	5044
81st InfDiv	181	1282	10	1473
Total	850	5301	366	6517

Enemy killed: 9076 (PELELIU), 1070 (ANGAUR) - 10,146
POW's: 180 (PELELIU), 5 (ANGAUR) - 185

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30 September (Oahu date - cont'd)

TREPANG (SS 412) reports at 301815 GCT attacking a 3-ship, 3-escort convoy in position 30-32N, 138-17E (NW of BONINS), course 210, speed 7.9. Reports sinking 1 large AO.

SNAPPER (SS 185) reports 1 hit in AK at 010013 GCT Oct in convoy position 28-22N, 139-30E (W of BONINS), course 160.

MacARTHUR 301127 (pink) confirms conference SWP Area and 3rd Fleet, 29 Sept, re coordination of air operations for K-2 operation.

GHQ SWPA (MacARTHUR) 301315 (pink) leaves further coordination to Cincpoa, DepCom 20th AF, and ComGen CBI, as suggested in ARNOLD 292317 (pink); re operations of 20th Bomber Command in support of Pacific operations.

On the 30th at PELELIU F4U's attacked Jap caves on UMURBROGOL MT with 500 and 1,000-lb bombs. On the night of 1st - 2nd an ASP plane reported attacking a positive submarine 60 miles NW of PELELIU with no results from special armament.

Friendly forces through Com7thFleet report destruction from the VISAYAN attack by planes of TF 38 on the 13th and 14th of September; on NEGROS ISLAND 137-147 planes were destroyed on the ground; extensive oil and gas dumps were also destroyed. On PANAY ISLAND 23 planes and 2,000 drums of gas were destroyed. On LEYTE ISLAND 4 planes were shot down and 35 hit on the ground; 9 merchant vessels were sunk, burned, or beached, and 1,000 drums of gas destroyed.

On the 29th a PBV destroyed a schooner off the N coast of MINDANAO.

On the 29th 1 PBV off NE BORNEO reports destruction of a 4,000-ton freighter-transport, 3 small AK's, and 6 heavily laden cargo barges. On the 28th a B-24 attacked a DD off the SE CELEBES and on the 29th a PBV attacked a large AP off NW CELEBES.

In NEW GUINEA, air strikes continued against enemy fields at VOGELKOP and WEWAK.

In the Central Pacific Area on the 29th a B-24 snooper dropped 1 ton on the airfield at IWO JIMA. 9 tons of bombs were dropped on the island of PAGAN on the 30th. On the same day VF dropped 15 tons on JALUIT and WOTJE, and VB dropped 25 tons on MILE and MALOELAP.

In the North Pacific 2 B-24's from 11th AF bombed SHIMUSHU with unobserved results.

1 October (Oahu date)

CTF 32 (Rear Admiral Fort) report of 1800 1 October states that it is a slow and difficult process reducing caves on both islands, with slight progress being made.

Our casualties to date:

2089

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1 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	692	4151	358	5201
81st InfDiv	<u>210</u>	<u>1357</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1580</u>
Total	902	5508	371	6781

9076 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU, 1075 on ANGAUR, for a total of 10,151; 180 prisoners have been taken on PELELIU, 7 on ANGAUR, for a total of 187.

Weather is moderating but surf still hinders unloading. Estimated date of completion of the runways and taxiways on ANGAUR airfield is 20 October. Establishment of military government on ANGAUR took place in the presence of Com3rdFlt.

The attack and occupation phase at ULITHI officially terminated at 0800 (I) 3 October. ComTaskFor 57 assumes responsibility under Com3rdFlt for its development in conformity with Cincpoa directives.

ASPRO (SS 309) reports at 300430 GCT September obtained 2 hits in a large MARU of a 7-ship southbound convoy off the W coast of LUZON.

BAILEY (DD 492) reports being severely strafed in 3 successive attacks at 2045 (I) 1 October at PALAU; 3 officers and 6 men were killed.

Com3rdFlt 021612 (pink) indicates practicability of striking entire FORMOSA area with carrier planes during attacks of 12 and 13 October and desires 14th and 20th Air Forces concentrate on CHINA coast.

DepCom 20th AF 012138 ^(pink) outlines dates for completion of VLR strips on TINIAN.

Cincpoa 020035 ^(pink) outlines scheduled fast carrier strikes in October and requests coordination by strikes with the 14th and 20th Air Forces on appropriate targets other than those under attack by the fast carrier forces.

SULTAN 011017Z (pink) refers to land-based support of MacArthur's operations by the 14th AF.

A B-24 strike of 9 planes was directed against IWO JIMA on the 1st; 7½ tons were dropped on the airfield; 8 enemy fighters intercepted. One B-24 was destroyed prior to reaching the target, and 4 officers plus 6 air crewmen are missing. Each of the remaining eight planes was slightly damaged; one officer killed and one wounded. A PB4Y bombed and strafed a small AK 330 miles W of CHICHI JIMA on the 2nd; results negative. In the ZAMBOANGA area (W of MINDANAO) a PBY on the 30th probably sank a 10,000-ton oiler.

Rear Admiral C. H. McMorris appointed to temporary rank of Vice Admiral, USN, to rank from 23 September 1944.

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2 October (Oahu date)

CTF 32 (R. Adm. Fort) report of 1800 2 October states that there was a two-hour red alert commencing at 1956 (I), caused by a single enemy float plane. 2 bombs were dropped causing no damage. The enemy attempted to infiltrate during the night but was repulsed with considerable casualties. The enemy is continuing the refusal to surrender on both islands. Unloading ceased due to sudden severe squalls and winds from the SW. 3 LST's and 1 LCT were caught while beached and are reported to be in serious difficulty.

The PELELIU bomber strip is reported to be 63 percent complete.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	716	4345	270	5331
81st InfDiv	228	1378	13	1619
Total	944	5723	283	6950

9363 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU, 1075 on ANGAUR, for a total of 10,438; 193 prisoners have been taken on PELELIU, 7 on ANGAUR, for a total of 200.

HAMMERHEAD (SS 364) reports contacting 5 MARU's plus escorts off NW BORNEO coast, resulting in the sinking of 4 ships.

YMS 385 struck a mine while engaged in minesweeping operations at ULITHI. Casualties are reported as medium.

One submarine was attacked 75 miles ENE of PELELIU by the CAPERTON (DD 650) with unknown results.

Com3rdFleet dispatch states that the typhoon in the ULITHI area has necessitated fleet units putting to sea.

46 B-24's attacked BALIKPAPAN (BORNEO) shipping, runway, and paraffin refineries; 25-30 Japanese planes intercepted, 3 enemy fighters being shot down. 3 B-24's were likewise destroyed.

3 October (Oahu date)

CTF 32 (R. Adm. Fort) summary as of 1800 (I) 3 October indicates that there was little change in the situation on PELELIU. The casualties as of this date are:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	724	4413	269	5406
81st InfDiv	239	1408	13	1660
Total	963	5821	282	7066

Enemy killed to date: PELELIU 9542, ANGAUR 1101, total 10,643. POW's: PELELIU 213, ANGAUR 7, total 220. Interned civilians: 6 on ANGAUR.

3 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

Heavy weather continued and prevented unloading. Estimated completion date of the PELELIU bomber strip is 6 October.

SHELTON (DE 407) was torpedoed by a submarine at about 0830 (I) 3 October in the vicinity of MOROTAI. Casualties are reported unknown but the survivors are aboard the ROWELL (DE 403).

Cincpoa 040305 (pink) requests 20th Air Force attack on OKAYAMA (FORMOSA) either prior to or after the fast carrier attacks on that target.

Cincpoa 040309 (pink) requests 14th Air Force to make no attacks on FORMOSA while fast carriers are attacking target.

ARNOLD WARX 40740 (032220Z) (pink) outlines schedule of 20th Bomber Command strikes in support of forthcoming fast carrier attacks.

Photographic coverage by B-29's of OKINAWA JIMA on the 1st showed a total of 101 enemy planes.

Supplementary reports of the raid on BALIKPAPAN (BORNEO) outlined in 2 October summary indicate 70 B-24's took part in this strike, instead of 46.

Admiral Nimitz, together with staff members, returned from a conference on the West Coast.

*Cum*4 October (Oahu date)

CTF 32 (R. Adm. Fort) summary as of 1800 (I) 4 October reports continuance of mopping-up operations on PELELIU. Wind and sea conditions continue to prevent unloading. An LST (579) struck a floating mine off the NE coast of ANGAUR and sank.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	749	4563	267	5579
81st InfDiv	247	1421	13	1681
Total	996	5984	280	7260

Enemy killed: PELELIU 9878, ANGAUR 1109, total 10,987. POW's: PELELIU 213, ANGAUR 7, total 220.

POMFRET (SS 391) reports sinking 1 medium AK and 2 hits in a large AK in a southbound convoy S of FORMOSA on the night of 2 October.

Supplemental report received on the torpedoing of the SHELTON (DE 407) off MOROTAI states that she sank with a loss of 11 dead or missing.

Cincpoa 050543 (pink) refers to advisability of inflicting lasting damage on facilities at FORMOSA in view of the change in objectives for future operations.

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4 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

Cincpoa 050644 (pink) advises that CAUSEWAY operation is deferred and gives target dates for IWO JIMA and OKINAWA operations.

5 October (Oahu date)

CTF 32 (R. Adm. Fort) summary as of 1800 5 October (I) states that reduction of enemy pockets on PELELIU continues with slow progress being made. Unloading resumed on both PELELIU and ANGAUR although the surf still interferes. Rations were carried to PELELIU by both plane and LCT and the shortage is reported to be no longer critical. VF dropped 8 tons of bombs on the BABELTHUAP airfield and reported no evidence of repair to the airstrip on which are 18 craters.

A report on storm damage at ULITHI indicates that 65 LCVP were lost and 14 LCM were on the beach, probably not salvagable. An LCT (1052) was sunk and 2 additional LCT's are on the beach but may be salvaged.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	771	4650	267	5688
81st InfDiv	251	1465	13	1729
Total	1022	6115	280	7417

9931 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU, 1112 on ANGAUR, for a total of 11,043; 214 prisoners have been taken on PELELIU, 7 on ANGAUR, for a total of 221. Interned civilians, ANGAUR 6.

Cincpoa 052014 directs ComAirPac to keep CarDiv 11 (SARATOGA, RANGER) potentially available for combat duty.

ComFwdArea 052243 outlines his recommendations for infantry defenses in the MARIANAS.

Cincpoa 060202 (pink) states that his submarine dispositions are such as to cover movements of enemy carriers believed to be in the EMPIRE and requests information from CinCSWPA as to location of his submarines for interception of fleet movements from LINGGA and BRUNEI BAY.

Cominch 031655 outlines proposed modification of defense in ALASKA.

ComAlSeaFron 052357 indicates concurrence in proposed modification of defense in ALASKA.

Heavy air strikes were again carried out in the AMBON-CERAM area and another strike was directed on BALIKPAPAN. In this latter mission 40 B-24's attacked the refineries and were attacked by 40 intercepting fighters. 19 enemy fighters were shot down; 7 B-24's were lost.

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6 October (Oahu date)

CTF 32 (R. Adm. Fort) summary as of 1800 October 7 (I) reports continued attacks on UMURBROGOL MT. from both the north and south. Attack was supported by artillery and tanks; some progress being made. PELELIU bomber strip is completed and useable (6,000 feet).

Our casualties to date (1800 Oct. 7):

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1st MarDiv	779	4685	265	5729
81st InfDiv	262	1518	13	1793
Total	<u>1041</u>	<u>6203</u>	<u>278</u>	<u>7522</u>

POW's to date: PELELIU 214, ANGAUR 10, total 224. Interned civilians: ANGAUR 6. Enemy killed to date: PELELIU 10,083, ANGAUR 1,128, total 11,211.

ASPRO (SS 309) reports sinking 3 AK's and possibly 1 large tanker in the past four days off the west coast of LUZON.

WHALE (SS 239) on the 6th put 5 torpedoes in a large tanker south of FORMOSA (confirmation of this sinking follows).

SEAHORSE (SS 304) on the 6th sank a DD engaged in picking up survivors from the WHALE's victim in the area south of FORMOSA.

CincPOA 070433 outlines the decision to entrust air defense of groups of islands to a single Air Defense Command.

CincPOA 071125 (pink) covers the Warning Order on the strike against the Japanese homeland.

CincPOA 070650 outlines the establishment of the Naval Operating Base, GUAM as a subordinate command of the Island Commander, GUAM.

CincPOA 070236 (pink) requests recommendations from ComNorPac as to objectives to be seized in the operations against the KURILES.

7 October (Oahu date)

CTF 32 (R. Adm. Fort) summary of 1800 8 October (I) indicates that the 1st MarDiv is continuing a coordinated attack on UMURBROGOL MT supported by VF (Corsairs) carrying 1000-lb bombs. The 81st Div continues mopping up ANGAUR. The flow of supplies coming ashore has improved. Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	830	4775	249	5854
81st InfDiv	<u>263</u>	<u>1580</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1856</u>
Total	1093	6355	262	7710

Enemy killed: PELELIU 10,083, ANGAUR 1150, total 11,233; prisoners: PELELIU 214, ANGAUR 11, total 225. Interned civilians, ANGAUR 93.

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7 October (Oahu date - continued)

CABRILLA (SS 288) reports sinking in the past week off the W coast of LUZON 1 medium cargo transport, 1 medium freighter, and hits in 2 tankers.

SAWFISH (SS 276) reports sinking 1 large unescorted AO at 1630 GCT 8 Oct off the W coast of LUZON.

Cincpoa 080645 (pink) directs the assignment of officers for planning the ICEBERG operation (OKINAWA).

Cincpoa 080719 (pink) requests information from CinCSOWesPac as to the logistic facilities CinCSOWesPac plans to establish in WHITEWASH (LUZON) and suggests a conference at SWP headquarters between staff members on this subject.

Cincpoa 080519 requests nomination for Army Air Corps general as Island Commander, TINIAN, and deals with disposition of certain units (Army and Marine) in the MARIANAS.

Cincpoa 080635 concurs in category of defense for KODIAK-SITKA-UNALASKA sector as proposed by War Department.

Com7thFlt estimates that there are 223 combat planes plus more than 600 single and twin-engine trainers on FORMOSA.

Cincpoa 080642 (pink) directs the assignment of officers for planning the DETACHMENT operation (IWO JIMA).

8 October (Oahu date)

CTF 32 (R.Adm. Fort) summary as of 1800 9 October (I) reports that one company from 321st Infantry landed on GARAKAYO ISLAND (about 2 miles north of NGESEBUS), patrolled perimeter, and proceeded inland meeting little opposition. Operations continued against enemy pockets on PELELIU and a number of caves were sealed. The 81st Division continued to mop up on ANGAUR. The food shortage is no longer critical on PELELIU and ANGAUR, rations being dropped by plane and being brought ashore by surface craft.

MARCUS ISLAND was bombarded on 9 October (I) by CTG 30.2 (R.Adm. Smith) (CHESTER, PENSACOLA, SALT LAKE CITY, plus supporting DD's). Hits were reported on the radio station, operations and administration buildings. Bombardment was completed one hour after dark. As of 090953 GCT, no damage to our own personnel or ships was suffered.

Two merchant vessels, the SS ANTIGUA and the SS E.A. CHRISTENSON, collided at 0015 9 October (VW) about 80 miles east of PEARL (final report has not been received).

Joint Chiefs of Staff 032255Z (pink) sets forth the Joint Chiefs of Staff directive for CinCSWPA and CinCPOA to conduct operations against LUZON, NANSEI SHOTO, and NANPO SHOTO.

ComNorPac 072155 (pink) recommends the seizure of ETOROFU (NE of HOKKAIDO) and MATSUWA (Central KURILES).

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9 October (Oahu date)

Aircraft from TF 38 made 4 strikes and a fighter sweep on OKINAWA on 10 October (I). A preliminary report of the results of this operation are outlined in Com3rdFlt 100930. A more complete report will follow.

Operations summary from CTF 32 (R. Adm. Fort) as of 1800 (I) 10 October indicates that GARAKAYO (N of NGESEBUS) was completely cleared of the enemy and is now being organized as an outpost.

Our casualties to date:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st MarDiv	850	4884	227	5961
81st InfDiv	<u>221</u>	<u>1609</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1843</u>
Total	1071	6493	240	7804

Enemy killed: PELELIU 10,256, ANGAUR 1165, total 11,421. POW's: PELELIU 234, ANGAUR 11, total 245. Interned civilians - ANGAUR 184.

A further report on the SS ANTIGUA indicates that she was unable to make port and was beached at KEAHI POINT, NW of channel entrance (PEARL).

Cincpoa 092200 (pink) covers the warning order directing initiation of preparations for the IWO JIMA operation (20 Jan).

Cincpoa 092300 (pink) covers preliminary warning order to initiate preparations for the OKINAWA operation (1 March).

Arnold 101523Z (pink) states that 20th Bomber Command strike against FORMOSA on 11 October has been postponed because of weather and that they plan to attack on 14 and 16 October against same targets.

Cincpoa 100330 (pink) requests further information from ComNorPac as to prospective objectives ETOROFU and MATSUWA.

10 October (Oahu date)

Report of CTF 32 (R. Adm. Fort) states that landing was made without opposition on BAIRAKASERU ISLAND (2 miles N of NGESEBUS).

Unloading at PELELIU continues to improve; however, loading conditions at ANGAUR have been somewhat retarded due to beach conditions. Report indicates that there are hardstands at the PELELIU airfield with finished surface for 59 fighters and a temporary surface for an additional 50 fighters.

HADDO (SS 255) summarizes 7th war patrol. Left FREMANTLE 8 Aug and returned to FREMANTLE 3 Oct from 57-day patrol. This report indicates that the HADDO sank 6 ships for a total of 17,100 tons.

11 October (Oahu date)

CTF 38 strikes were carried out against FORMOSA on the 12th and 13th (I) but no details as yet have been received.

TREPANG (SS 412) operating in waters S of HONSHU sighted 2 BB's and 2 DD's at 1230 GCT 12 October. 2 hits were made, 1 in a BB and 1 in a DD; the BB was slowed down from 23 to 16 knots and the DD sank. TREPANG stated that she was out of torpedoes but was tracking the force.

DARTER (SS 227) sighted a 10-ship convoy on the 12th (I) in BALABAC STRAIT (N of BORNEO) and made 3 hits in 2 tankers.

ComGenAAFPOA 111957 (pink) outlines the disposition of the VLR wings (313 and 314) to be set up on TINIAN and GUAM.

TF 36 will be disbanded effective 14 October.

MacArthur 041340 directs ComGen 6th Army and Commander Allied Naval Forces to clear the N tip of SURIGAO PENINSULA and DINAGAT ISLAND in order to open SURIGAO STRAITS to shipping.

A heavy B-24 strike was carried out on BALIKPAPAN the morning of 10 October (I) on the oil refineries in that area; huge fires were reported. 4 B-24's were destroyed by 35 to 45 enemy fighters.

12 October (Oahu date)

Com3rdFlt 130955 outlines the results of the strikes on FORMOSA on 12 and 13 October (I). 396 aircraft were destroyed both on the ground and in the air. Considerable shipping was sunk including 14 AK's and numerous small craft. Our plane losses numbered 45. The entire FORMOSA-PESCADORES Area was thoroughly bombed with concentration on airfield installations, utilities, shipping facilities and oil dumps.

Preliminary report from Com3rdFlt on the fighter sweep at APARRI on 11 October (I) states that there was no airborne opposition, but 10 to 15 aircraft were destroyed on the ground; fires were started in buildings and installations.

Com3rdFlt 130048 outlines the results of the OKINAWA strike on 10 October (I). 93 planes were destroyed in the air and on the ground. Extensive damage was caused to shipping. Five pilots and 4 crewmen were lost in this operation.

A further report from Com3rdFlt states that beginning at dusk 12 October (I) snoopers were around the force from 1930 until 0200 the 13th (I). Attacks were made on the force by groups of from 2 to 6 planes using flares. Night fighters shot down 3 of these snoopers and AA guns of TG 38.2 destroyed 8. A report was received from Com3rdFlt (131137) stating that the CANBERRA (CA 70) had been torpedoed and was being taken in tow.

Three groups are attacking FORMOSA on 14 October (I). Another group will conduct a fighter sweep directed against the APARRI Area.

The attack and occupation phase at PALAU and ANGAUR terminated at 1200 14 Oct. (I). The command passes to CTF 57 (V. Adm. Hoover) at this time.

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12 October (Oahu date - Cont'd)

Com3rdFlt 120127 (pink) covers request for additional fighters to be assigned for the HOTFOOT Operation.

CinCPac 130348 (pink) answers Com3rdFlt's request for increased fighter strength.

Com3rdFlt 130338 (pink) outlines the Warning Order for the HOTFOOT Operation.

CinCSWPA 120632 (pink) outlines plans for the MIKE-ONE (CENTRAL PLAIN-MANILA Area of LUZON), MIKE-TWO (DINGALEN BAY Area of LUZON), and LOVE-THREE (SOUTHERN MINDANAO) Operations.

CinCPOA 130813 covers the proposed relationship between NatsPac and PAA.

Com3rdFlt indicates that he proposes to direct Admiral McCain to relieve Admiral Mitscher at ULITHI about 1 November.

13 October (Oahu date)

Dispatch received from CTG 38.1 (V. Adm. McCain) states that the HOUSTON (CL 81) was torpedoed Lat 22-31, Long 124-05 (about 180 miles E of FORMOSA) on 14 October (I). Dispatch stated that the BOSTON was taking her in tow and that they were under continuous attack. The forward engine room was reported flooded and the after engine room was abandoned. It was indicated that there was a 7 degree starboard list. The PAWNEE (ATF 74) was directed to relieve the BOSTON of tow and the BOSTON was to re-join TG 38.1.

CANBERRA (CA 70) was proceeding toward 17N, 130E, from 22-34N, 123-26E (position 14 October 0700 (I)) at a speed of advance of 4.5. She was being towed by the WICHITA (CA 45) and escorted by TG 30.3 consisting of CruDiv 13 (BIRMINGHAM, SANTA FE, MOBILE) plus CABOT (CVL 28) and 6 DD's. MUNSEE (ATF 107) is to intercept the task group at dawn 15 October and relieve the WICHITA of tow. TG 30.2 (CruDiv 5 and 6 DD's) has been ordered to position 18-55N, 127-40E to escort the damaged CANBERRA.

Com3rdFlt has directed CTG 38.4 (R. Adm. DAVISON) to proceed to striking position on the E coast of LUZON and launch strikes on central LUZON area during the daylight hours of 15 October.

Report received from the 20th Bomber raid carried out against FORMOSA on 14 October (I) indicates that the target was pulverized by about 125 B-29's. No fighters were encountered and AA was weak and ineffective.

AdComNorPac 132035 (pink) states that TF 94 (R. Adm. McCrea) (CONCORD, RICHMOND, TRENTON) will bombard MATSUWA at 1240 GCT 17 October.

At 0517 (V-W) in position Lat 20-39 Long 158-45 the HOWARD F. CLARK (DE 533) was in a collision with the SARATOGA. Considerable damage was caused to the HOWARD F. CLARK and minor damage to the port side of the SARATOGA above the waterline.

CinCPOA 140445 (pink) outlines the ships to be assigned to Com3rdFlt for duty during the HOTFOOT operation.

R. Adm. Reeves has been designated Commander Western Carolines Area, CTG 57.14, as of noon 14 October. Designation of CTG 10.15 has been terminated.

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14 October (Oahu date)

Incomplete reports from Com3rdFlt indicate that 20 Japanese aircraft were destroyed during the dusk attacks on the 13th (I). There was a dawn fighter sweep on the 14th (I) directed against FORMOSA and LUZON to cover the withdrawal of the CANBERRA. There was little air opposition over FORMOSA; 11 planes were shot down and 30 destroyed on the ground. No report of the LUZON sweep has been received. In an attack on the task force mid-afternoon of the 14th (I) 30 enemy planes were destroyed by TG 38.2. No reports have been received from other task groups; however, our plane losses are believed to have been light.

The HOUSTON, which was torpedoed at dusk on the 14th (I), is being towed by the BOSTON. It is reported that the PAWNEE (ATF 74) will relieve the BOSTON on 16 October (I). The CANBERRA is being towed by the MUNSEE (ATF 107) and both damaged ships together with their escorts are retiring toward ULITHI. Reports indicate that this force was under attack by snoopers for 5 hours on night of the 14th (I).

Cincpac 142219 (pink) outlines the possibilities and composition of expected enemy attack.

Com3rdFlt 150149 (pink) states that he is disposing all forces for a fleet action and that no fast carriers will be available for the KING TWO operation until further notice.

Com3rdFlt 150252 (pink) states that he intends to attack in strength and that upon completion of fueling the force will be concentrated at a reference point of 22N 128E (~~400 miles~~ 400 miles E of the southern tip of FORMOSA)

Com7thFlt 150542 states that the Central Philippines Attack Force will proceed with the scheduled KING TWO operation and requests assistance from the fast carriers as soon as possible, consistent with developments.

Dispatches relative to disposition of submarines and aircraft reconnaissance follow: Cincpoa 150932 (pink) outlines disposition of submarines to be made. Cincpac 150301 (pink) requests CinCSWPA to make maximum air reconnaissance covering the exits at SURIGAO and SAN BERNADINO STRAITS beginning daylight 16 October (I). Cincpac 151230 requests ComNavGroup CHINA to arrange for daily reconnaissance of the SOUTH CHINA SEA (N of CAMRANH-LINGAYEN line) by the China-based air force for the purpose of detecting possible enemy fleet movements toward area in which 3rd Fleet is operating. ComNavGroup CHINA 151755 (pink) states that the 14th AF will undertake this mission with 4 Liberators daily. Cincpac 150136 directs ComFairWingONE to extend the search from the MARIANAS to the maximum range in order to cover assumed enemy approach from BUNGO CHANNEL (between KYUSHU and SHIKOKU). CTG 30.5 151343 outlines search to be covered (1150 miles) to look for Jap fleet; Cincpoa 150651 (pink) requests Deputy Commander 20th AF to provide maximum action against enemy air forces in FORMOSA until the situation clarifies. DepCom 20th AF 150736 (pink) recommends to Com 20th AF that a minimum of one strike per day be carried out on FORMOSA, even at the expense of the striking force, rather than infrequent strikes of heavier forces.

BESUGO (SS 321) reports that at 2300 GCT 14 October 3 heavy cruisers and 1 light cruiser were sighted Lat 32-30N, 132-36E (SE of BUNGO CHANNEL) course 140, estimated speed 18 knots.

A report from ComNavGroup CHINA states that a photo mission plane reported 2 battleships plus 15 other vessels at TAKAO (0600 GCT 15 October).

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15 October (Oahu date)

On 16 October (I) there were various sightings of enemy surface forces. At 1730 (I) 16 October Com3rdFlt issued a report that forces consisting of 1 CV, 2 BB's, 1 CA, 2 CL's, and 8 DD's was located at 26-27N, 130-28E (about 140 miles E of N tip of OKINAWA), course 250, speed 20 knots. At 2050 (I) 16 October SKATE (SS 305) reported 3 large ships, 1 DD, and 2 DE's, course 010, position 28-01N, 130-45E (about 90 miles N of position of Com3rdFlt's report). At 2245 (I) 16 October the BESUGO (SS 321) sent out a contact report stating that 2 heavy cruisers had sortied from BUNGO SUIDO and that she had damaged one. Report stated that both cruisers were returning to port.

A report received from CTG 38.4 indicates that there was little action on the fighter sweep carried out the morning of the 14th. No airborne enemy aircraft were observed; they destroyed 5 planes on the ground. On the morning of the 15th a strike was carried out against the MANILA BAY airfields. It was estimated that 50 fighters intercepted this strike. An estimated 30-40 airborne enemy planes were destroyed and 15-20 planes were destroyed on the ground; our losses were 2 VF. The dispatch indicates that persistent attacks were made on TG 38.4 during the day of the 15th and prevented launching more than one strike. 30 Jap planes were reported shot down in the vicinity of the task group.

At 1422 (I) 16 October the HOUSTON was torpedoed in the stern at 20-45N, 125-24E (about 180 miles NE of the NE tip of LUZON). Report stated that she was being towed at a speed through the water of 3 knots. 9 Japanese aircraft were shot down by the CABOT (CVL 28) combat air patrol.

The following outlines the disposition of the 4 task groups: 38.1 is to proceed to 21-00N, 127-00E to arrive at 0500 (I) 17 October and search to the W and NW at dawn. TG's 38.2 and 38.3 are proceeding to 18-30N, 126-30E (about 250 miles E of NE tip of LUZON) to arrive 0600 (I) 17 October and will operate in that vicinity until further notice. 38.4 is scheduled to proceed to a position to strike the central LUZON area commencing at dawn on 17 October (I). They are also to strike LEGASPI and maintain a reconnaissance of SAN BERNADINO STRAIT. They will continue to strike the central LUZON area on the 18th and 19th.

A photographic interpretation report has been received covering the damage on the OKAYAMA aircraft assembly plant. Of the 34 major buildings, 26 were reported either destroyed or damaged.

B-29's are scheduled to attack EINANSHO airfield (FORMOSA) at 1300 (I) 17 October. This strike will be made by approximately 25 B-29's. Reports indicate that lack of gasoline and bombs will preclude further strikes by this command at the present time.

Commander Allied Air Forces 161125 (pink) outlines special reconnaissance orders relative to search of SURIGAO and SAN BERNADINO STRAITS.

ComNavGroup CHINA 160953 (pink) outlines search to be made of the SOUTH CHINA SEA area commencing 2000 (I) 16 October.

Cincpoa 160342 (pink) outlines allocation of shipping for the LUZON operation.

The airfield at ANGAUR is expected to be ready for operations on about 20 October.

Brig. Gen. H. D. Campbell, USMC, has been designated Island Commander PELELIU;

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15 October (Oahu date - continued)

designation CTU 10.15.3 terminates. Col. R. A. Dunn, USA, has been designated Island Commander ANGAUR; designation CTU 10.15.4 terminates.

16 October (Oahu date)

CTG 77.2 (R. Adm. Oldendorf) reports that landings were made on SULUAN without opposition on 17 October (I), D-3. ↑

A tropical disturbance of near-typhoon intensity made it impossible to carry out air operations and it was reported that carriers were retiring to the south.

A report was received from CTG 38.1 (X. Adm. McCain) stating that this group (while operating near 30.3) shot down 95 of 191 planes attacking both night and day (14-15 October). Our losses were 5 VF in combat and 2 VF lost operationally. On the 16th the CABOT and the COMPENS (covering the same group, 30.3) shot down 50 out of 60 planes attacking the cripples. Search planes and combat air patrol from TG's 38.2 and 38.3 shot down 15 enemy aircraft of various types on the 16th.

The two damaged cruisers, HOUSTON and CANBERRA, are proceeding under tow toward ULITHI.

TG'S 38.1 and 38.4 are scheduled to make strikes on LUZON on 18 and 19 October (I). TG 38.2 is scheduled to make a strike against the northern LUZON area on the morning of 18 October (I) and then proceed to join TG 38.4. TG 38.4 is to refuel and maintain a covering position on the 18th and 19th.

Photographs obtained on 15 October (I) by the 14th AF of the southwestern tip of FORMOSA reveal a total of 157 planes destroyed or damaged and 359 operational planes.

ComNorPac 170817 (pink) indicates that TF 94 has postponed the bombardment of MATSUWA until about 181240 GCT.

Report from CTF 57 indicates that NGULU ATOLL (60 miles SW of YAP) was secured without resistance on 16 October.

17 October (Oahu date)

Report was received from C.T.G. 77.2 (R. Adm. OLDENROF) stating that successful landings were made 3 islands, DINAGAT, HOMONHOU, and SULUAN on D-3, (17 October (I)).

Com3rdFlt reports that 565 enemy planes were destroyed by task force 38 during the period 10 October through 16 October. 296 planes were shot down in vicinity of the task force (256 by aircraft and 40 by gun fire).

Report from Com7thFlt indicates that the estimate of enemy air strength in the PHILIPPINES as of 16 October is as follows: 54 in the MINDANAO area, 103 in the VISAYAS area, 265 in the LUZON area making a total enemy air strength in the PHILIPPINES of 422 various types of planes. Com7thFlt estimates approximately 230 aircraft of all types in the FORMOSA area.

3 carrier task groups carried out strikes against LUZON on the 18th (I). No reports have been received as yet.

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17 October (Oahu date continued)

A total of 20 Aviation personnel have been rescued in the past 8 days by submarines.

STERLET (SS-392) reports sighting two heavy cruisers, one light cruiser and 6 DDs about 70 miles N. of OKINAWA at 1115 18 October (I). C.T.F. 71 report indicates that 3 large ships were sighted at 0300 18 October (I) in the MAKASSAR Straits on the course ~~035~~ 035, speed 23. ComNav Group CHINA states that a 17 ship convoy was sighted at 2120, 18 October (I) 60 miles W. of NE HAINAN, course 30°, speed 15 knots.

MONTGOMERY (DM-17) on 17 October struck an enemy moored mine in NGULU Lagoon causing considerable damage to the ship. One officer and 3 enlisted men were reported killed.

CINCPAC 171955 (pink) recommends assignment of an Army Corps Commander and staff to conduct preliminary plans and be available to command army troops for the KEELBLOCKS operation or similar operation.

COMNORPAC has cancelled the scheduled time of the MATUSWA bombardment for the present due to unfavorable weather conditions. Report indicates that the force is returning to base to await improved weather conditions.

Naval air base APAMAMA was decommissioned 16 October.

18 October (Oahu date)

A report has been received from CTG 77.2 (RADM Oldendorf) summarizing results of the LEYTE operations on 18 October. The weather was reported as being excellent, the sea moderate to smooth. Landings were made at DINAGAT ISLAND and HOMONHON. The bombardment and fire support groups entered LEYTE GULF at 0900 (I). Bombardment of the southern beaches of DULAG TOWN and the airfield was carried out from 1400 to 1745. The town was reported as being a wreck. Only 2 small enemy air attacks were reported; the first directed against a minesweeping group in the forenoon, and the last on a hydrographic group at dusk; no damage was sustained from either attack.

Guerillas came aboard the CHANDLER (DMS 9) conveying the message that nearly all the Japanese aircraft on LEYTE had been destroyed by recent blue raids and that the Japanese troops were concentrated at TACLOBAN and ABUYOG.

ROSS (DD 563) was reported to have struck 2 mines in the GULF of LEYTE on 19 October (I). The report indicated that prospects of salvage were good; however, they would beach the ship if necessary on the west side of HOMONHON.

TRIGGER (SS 237) reported sighting 4 heavy cruisers and 5 DD's east of FORMOSA; estimated course 270, speed 15 knots.

A report from ComNavGroup CHINA states that a plane sighted 1 carrier, 2 cruisers and 3 DD's east of HAINAN; speed 25 knots, course 330 at 1405 19 October GCT.

BESUGO (SS 321) sighted 1 heavy cruiser and 1 "larger ship" east of KYUSHU. Report indicates that these ships were returning to port.

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18 October (Oahu date - Cont'd)

BARBEL (SS 316) reports that on 25 September sank 1 AK and damaged another; on 13 October sank a destroyer and damaged an oiler.

Com3rdFlt 190540 outlines the basic plan for the increase in fighter complement for each large carrier. All CV's are to have a complement of 54 VF with the exception of the BUNKER HILL which will have a special group of 100 fighters.

ComNavGroup CHINA 191836 (pink) states that the DELAWARE strike is scheduled for 1500 25 October (I). The target is to be the Omura Aircraft Factory (KYUSHU).

CinCPOA 181851 (pink) states that target information will be available to the carriers prior to the INDUCTION Operation (support of M-1). Dispatch further states that entry of major forces into EAST CHINA SEA is not contemplated.

CTG 38.4 (RAdm Davison) reports the destruction on the 19th of 45 enemy planes in attacks on the airfields in the MANILA Area. In an attack on shipping in the MANILA HARBOR 1 floating drydock, 4 medium AK's and 1 AO were reported sunk. In this action we lost 15 planes, 9 pilots and 7 air crewmen (11 planes were lost operationally)

19 October (Oahu date)

A report received from General MacArthur states that all landings on LEYTE were made on schedule and with extremely light losses.

Com3rdFlt has cancelled all existing orders and TF 38 will be kept intact pending developments as a result of enemy surface contacts on the 19th (I). On 21 and 22 October (I) TG's 38.1 and 38.4, upon completion of fueling will proceed to 15-00N, 127-00E to arrive at 0600 (I) 22 October and will be joined by TG 38.2 upon completion of the strikes against the VISAYAS area on the 21st. TG 38.3, upon completion of the VISAYAS strike on 21 October (I) is scheduled to refuel.

CTF 77 (V. Adm. Kinkaid) has requested Com3rdFlt to retain one fast carrier group in the objective area after A-day in order to keep the western Visayan airfields neutralized.

At 1603 (I) 20 October the USS HONOLULU (CL 48) was hit by a torpedo (aircraft). Report indicated that the engineering installations were intact and the ship was on an even keel, though down 4 feet by the bow. The dispatch indicated that they were ready to proceed to the nearest repair base on the 21st (I).

Dispatch from Com3rdFlt states that if luck holds out the CANBERRA and HOUSTON can be brought into ULITHI about 27 or 28 October for emergency repairs prior to returning to PEARL.

A dispatch from Com3rdFlt states that submarine sightings on 19 October and DF on 18 October indicate the possibility of at least 3 subs approaching the present track of the "cripples" from the north.

A report from the 14th AF states that the gasoline difficulties have been overcome and that the scheduled search of the SOUTH CHINA SEA has been made and will

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19 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

continue to be made until orders are received from CinCSWPA to cease. (Prior report received indicated that scheduled search could not be made due to shortage of gasoline).

A report from Army sources estimates the Japanese monthly combat aircraft production at 2,000 planes as of 1 October 1944 (1200 fighters, 540 bombers, 260 reconnaissance planes).

Com7thFlt 140348 (pink) reports that the SEAWOLF (SS 197) on a special mission to eastern SAMAR has been overdue at rendezvous since 6 October and indicates that the circumstances are such that she must be presumed lost.

Cincpoa 201849 states that the Forward Area and TF 57 will revert to the direct control of Cinpoa as of 1500 GCT 23 October (Fleet Air Wing 1 and Seron 10 based in the MARIANAS and western CAROLINES will continue to operate as task groups of the 3rd Fleet).

Cincpoa 192215 (pink) outlines the facilities desirable in the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS to support future operations of POA forces.

Cincpoa 192225 (pink) outlines the tentative scheduled employment and rehabilitation of major Marine units.

GHQ SWPA Advanced Echelon opens at LEYTE at 1200 (I) 20 October. GHQ SWPA and Rear Echelon GHQ SWPA remain at HOLLANDIA and BRISBANE respectively.

20 October (Oahu date)

A report received on the LEYTE operation indicates that all operations are proceeding on schedule with extremely light losses. Minesweepers as of 20 Oct. (I) swept 186 mines. Heavy mortar fire was received, however no heavy shore guns have been located. The northern area was bombarded by 3 OBB, 2 CA, 2 CL and 19 DDs. The southern area was bombarded by 3 OBB, 2 CL, 3 CA and 13 DDs. The landing on PANAON ISLAND was effected without opposition. HMAS AUSTRALIA received a hit on the bridge during the dawn attack of 21 Oct. (I). 1 officer killed and 7 others seriously injured. No further details received.

The torpedo attack on the HONOLULU was carried out by a single plane. Reports indicate that 2 salvage tugs are alongside and that counter flooding is in progress.

A further report from the USS ROSS (DD 563) which struck 2 mines on the 18th of Oct. (I) states that 23 persons are either killed or missing.

An aircraft sighted 1 carrier, 4 DDs and 3 heavy cruisers at 210630 GCT west of FORMOSA (near the PESCADORES ISLANDS), course 0445 speed 15 knots.

A submarine reports 3 large unidentified ships estimated to be cruisers off NW coast of BORNEO, course 020 speed 21.

BARBEL (DD 316) reports sighting an enemy submarine position 22-46 N, 132-21 E. The submarine was painted black and smoking heavily. BARBEL reports that she was

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20 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

unable to close for gun battle prior to dark. This submarine has no torpedoes left at the present time.

Photographs of a HONKONG HARBOR as of 20 October (I) showed 31 ships, an estimated 127,000 tons. There were also reports that in drydock, at HONKONG, there were 11 naval craft and 22,150 tons of shipping.

Com7thFlt has requested Com3rdFlt to make fighter sweeps of all airfields in the PHILIPPINES (north of latitude 12°) and states that they Army is covering all airfields south of this line.

SULTAN 211130 (pink) proposed a conference to be held at either HOLLANDIA or HONOLULU for the purpose of determining assistance to be rendered by units of the CBI area.

Cincpac 211852 (pink) indicates to Admiral Halsey the general plan and tasks assigned by OpPlan 8-44 will continue in effect and further that movement of major units of the 3rdFlt through SURIGAO and SAN BERNADINO STRAITS will not be initiated without orders from Cincpac.

Commanding General 5th Army states that the CORON BAY area will be kept under close observation for enemy fleet units. Beginning night of 22 October (I) 1 B24 staging through MOROTAI will be employed in this mission. Strikes by B24 groups cannot be employed until planes are based at MOROTAI.

Com3rdFlt 210645 (pink) requests information from CinCSWPA regarding period when certain naval units can be withdrawn from the present operation.

Com3rdFlt 210454 (pink) requests information regarding the clearance of SURIGAO and MINDORO STRAITS for possible entry of naval units into SOUTH CHINA SEA.

A report from the Commander Eastern Fleet states that during the week commencing 17 October units of the Eastern Fleet, including BBs and carriers, carried out operations in the NICABOR area. Operations were directed against airfields and small harbors in the area.

Total enemy plane losses from 3rd Fleet operations, from 10 October to date, including those reported in this summary, are:

Shot down600
Destroyed on ground418
TOTAL DESTROYED 1018

Cur

21 October (Oahu date)

Reports indicate that the LEYTE operations continue in accordance with schedule. The majority of transports have been unloaded and are departing. The AK and LST unloading is proceeding satisfactorily. Report from CTF 77 (V. Adm. Kinkaid) indicates that bulldozers are working on the TACLOBAN airstrip. An early morning air raid on the 21st (I) took place with a small number of planes participating. Several casualties were reported on the HONOLULU (CL 48) as a result of 20-mm gunfire from our own ships which were under smoke cover. Low-flying planes under fire from many ships crashed into the forward stack of HMAS AUSTRALIA (CA). The SANGAMON (CVE 26) was

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21 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

slightly damaged by a small bomb. The HONOLULU and AUSTRALIA are to proceed to MANUS on 21 October (I).

TG 38.1 plus the HANCOCK and TG 38.4 plus the WASHINGTON, ALABAMA, and Des-Div 100 are to proceed to ULITHI to arrive at 0600 (I) 25 October and are to be ready for sea at dawn 29 October.

SEADragon (SS 194) reports one carrier and unidentified warships at 211435 GCT west of the south tip of FORMOSA, course 210, speed 18. Reports placing 2 timed hits in a carrier. Results were not observed due to the fact that they were forced down by escorts.

SEADOG (SS 401) reports a large convoy with numerous escorts SW of KYUSHU at 212230 GCT, course 210, speed 9. 2 hits were reported in one AK.

SHARK (SS 174) put 2 timed hits in a small carrier at 212130 GCT at 20-28N, 117-50E (SE of HONG KONG).

DARTER (SS 227) sighted 3 probable battleships at 0100 (I) 23 October SW of PALAWAN ISLAND, course 040, speed 18.

Com3rdFlt 220517 (pink) states that present intention is to send 2 carrier groups to ULITHI 25-29 October and 2 groups to ULITHI 29 October - 3 November, and that only the BUNKER HILL will be sent to MANUS.

MacArthur 212240 (pink) and Cominch 211535 (pink) concern Com3rdFlt's 210454 (relative to estimate for safe route to SOUTH CHINA SEA via SURIGAO and MINDORO STRAITS).

Com3rdFlt 220344 answers dispatches referred to above.

CinC Eastern Fleet 220537 outlines the current disposition of the Eastern Fleet.

Cincpoa 212240 (pink) indicates concurrence in conference proposed by Com-Gen Army Forces, CHINA-BURMA-INDIA Area relative to support from units of CBI theater.

Report from CTG 57.14 (R. Adm. Reeves) indicates that the runways of the airfield at PELELIU are completed and that the landing strip at ANGAUR is 80 percent complete.

Cincpoa 220100 authorizes ComGenFMFPac to establish Forward Echelon in SoPac.

J.S. Carr

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22 October (Oahu date)

An enemy task force of combatant ships probably consisting of 3 BB's, 2 possible carriers, plus an undetermined number of cruisers and DD's was contacted by the DACE (SS 247) and DARTER (SS 227) at 0600 H (-8) on the 23rd. The DACE placed 4 torpedo hits in a KONGO class battleship at 09-29N, 17-20E (W of central PALAWAN). The task force was on course 040, speed 15 knots. DACE reported hearing "breaking-up noises" and believes the BB was sunk. DARTER at 0530 (H) on the 23rd sank 1 ATAGO class heavy cruiser and placed 4 hits in another ATAGO class heavy cruiser at 09-24N, 117-11E. DARTER reports that this latter cruiser is stopped at this position. A report from the DACE states that the DARTER was aground on BOMBAY SHOAL and that she was discontinuing the attack to aid the DARTER. Report stated that the damaged ATAGO cruiser reported above, plus 2 DD's, was on course 210, speed 6 knots (09-18N, 117-02E).

GUIVARRO (SS 363) reports 3 definite battleships and 2 possible carriers headed south in MINDORO STRAIT at 0330 (I) on the 24th.

ICEFISH (SS 367) reports 2 heavy cruisers and 3 DD's position 19-44N, 118-00E at 220030 GCT, course 160, speed 16 (NW of northern LUZON). Report stated that the ICEFISH was unable to close.

APOGON (SS 308) operating NE of HOKKAIDO reports sinking 1 AK. Prisoners picked up identified the ship as the CHINA MARU (5870 tons).

CTF 77 (V. Adm. Kinkaid) requests that CruDiv 4 less INDIANAPOLIS plus MINNEAPOLIS be retained until local defense forces are firmly established at LEYTE. Cincpac has granted this request.

CTG 38.1 (V. Adm. McCain) has been directed to launch one deck-load strike on YAP on the way to ULITHI. TG's 38.2 and 38.4 are to launch strikes to the westward at dawn on the 24th and strike targets of opportunity. Planes from TG 38.2 are to search the CORON BAY area.

Arnold 211905 (pink) outlines targets for the first strike by the 21st Bomber Command on the EMPIRE from the MARIANAS. The primary target is to be the NAKAJIMA Aircraft Engine Factory (MUSASHINO plant, western TOKYO); the secondary target will be port facilities in the TOKYO area. This operation is called "SAN ANTONIO-1". The 20th Bomber Command is being directed to attack the OMURA Aircraft Factory, KYUSHU, on D plus 1 and D plus 3.

MacArthur 230511 (pink) states that the MINDORO operation will be conducted between 1 and 5 December. Land-based VF are expected to be installed 5 days later.

23 October (Oahu date)

At 0745 (I) 24 October a carrier search plane contacted 4 enemy BB's, 8 CA's, 2 CL's, and 13 DD's 13 miles S of MINDORO. Upon receipt of this report, TG 38.2 (R. Adm. Bogan) launched strikes on this group during the day. TG's 38.3 (R. Adm. Sherman) and 38.4 (R. Adm. Davison) struck the same force. Reports of damage are incomplete at the

23 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

present time. TG 38.3 was under heavy air attack during the morning of the 24th and this group alone is reported to have shot down about 150 planes. During these attacks the PRINCETON (CVL 23) was reported as being heavily damaged and dead in the water. The BIRMINGHAM (CL 62) was reported as being alongside the PRINCETON when a magazine explosion took place on the CVL; damage is reported as follows: No. 1 screw damaged and locked to prevent vibration; topside chewed up and 5 machine gun mounts out of commission. BIRMINGHAM reports indicate about 150 dead and 400 wounded; 134 officers and 1227 enlisted men are reported as survivors from the PRINCETON. DD's MORRISON and IRWIN were also damaged in this explosion. The 3 damaged ships are to proceed to ULITHI. Later report from CTF 38 states that the PRINCETON was sunk.

On 24 October TG 38.4 struck an enemy force SE of NEGROS, consisting of 2 BB's, 1 CA, and 4 DD's. Reports indicate that 2 bomb hits were made on each of the BB's and rocket hits on the CA and 2 DD's; one of the DD's was reported as sunk.

Report from CTF 77 indicates that an enemy air attack was carried out on our forces at LEYTE from 0750 to 0825 on 24 October (I). 50 of our fighters from CVE's intercepted approximately 40 enemy fighters and dive bombers, 15 to 20 of which were shot down. Our losses were 2 fighters and no pilots. Damage to shipping from this raid is as follows: SONOMA (AT 12) was hit by a bomb, LCI 1065 was hit and was subsequently abandoned and burned, FREMONT (APA 44) was strafed causing minor casualties. At 1120 (I) another raid on shipping in the LEYTE area was carried out. Approximately 40 shore-based planes attacked (no details of interception as yet). 1 Liberty ship was hit and severely damaged in this raid.

CVE strikes on the VISAYAN area on the 24th (I) resulted in 25 enemy planes being destroyed on the ground and an additional 30 being damaged. Our losses were 2 fighters.

CTG 77.2 (R. Adm. Oldendorf) reports that on the night of the 24th (I) a surface engagement took place in the SURIGAO STRAITS. The enemy force (as reported by the McGOWAN, DD 678) consisted of 2 battleships, 1 or 2 heavy cruisers, and 1 destroyer, plus a second group of 2 large and about 5 smaller craft. Final results of this engagement have not been received, but report indicates that about 8 craft were probably sunk.

DARTER (SS 227) went aground off western PALAWAN. DACE (SS 247) endeavored to demolish the DARTER without success and is standing by to attempt to board her the night of the 24th.

SNOOK (SS 279) sank 3 AK's on the 24th (I) off northwestern LUZON.

CROAKER (SS 246) reports hitting a large convoy on the 24th, sinking 1 AK and damaging 2 other AK's. Report indicates that the CROAKER had previously sunk 1 AK and 1 minesweeper.

23 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

ComNorPac states that the weather appears favorable and proposes the bombardment of MATSUWA with TF 94 at about 1200 27 October.

24 October (Oahu date)

There were 3 separate and distinct naval engagements in the PHILIPPINES area on 25 October; 2 in LEYTE area and one east of LUZON. Detailed information including damage inflicted and losses suffered is lacking at this time.

(All times -9)

The first engagement took place in SURIGAO STRAIT pre-dawn on the 25th. 2 groups of enemy warships, one consisting of 2 BBs, 1 or 2 CAs, and 1 DD and the other consisting of "2 large and about 5 smaller craft" these forces were engaged by those of the 7th Fleet.

The enemy was first sighted by PT boats stationed at the south end of the strait at about 0200. The enemy retired westward at about 0500 pursued by our light forces which "sank or repelled all enemy ships". TF 77 (VAdm Kinkaid) claims that at least 8 Jap ships were sunk, which is based upon sighting that number of ships ablaze, 7 of which sank as our ships approached. Survivors were picked up but the identity of the enemy ships in this force has ^{not} yet been revealed. The only casualty of our force thus far reported is the ALBERT W. GRANT (DD 649) which was reported as being damaged.

Another separate engagement east of LEYTE took place shortly after 0700 25th when TU 77.4.3 (RAdm Sprague) was attacked by a substantial Jap surface force consisting of estimated 3 BB, 2 CA and 9 DD. This force had apparently come through the SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT some time during the night. During the first encounter the enemy force apparently was firing upon CarDiv 25 (FANSHAW BAY, MIDWAY, WHITE PLAINS, KALININ BAY) and CarDiv 26 (KITKUN BAY, GAMBIER BAY)--RAdm Ofstie. This attack persisted for about 2½ hours at which time the enemy is reported on a northern course. Results of damage to our forces have not been received, however, a report at 1800 indicates that 5 LCIs and 2 PCs were dispatched from LEYTE to pick up survivors from DDs and a CVE.

About noon on the 25th CTF 77 (VAdm Kinkaid) sent 3 OBBs, 3 CAs and DDs to assist the CVEs which had retired into LEYTE GULF. CTF 77 reported that the expenditure of fuel and ammunition in repelling the attack through SURIGAO STRAIT the previous night and early morning had reduced the effectiveness of his supporting forces and that the attacks on the CVEs had disrupted his air support.

CTF 77 made repeated calls on Com3rdFlt for assistance but the latter's forces were engaged to the northward. TG 38.1 (VAdm McCain) which was fueling at the time was ordered by Com3rdFlt to aid the forces around LEYTE and at 1030 on the 25th launched its first strike from an undisclosed position.

24 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

TG 38.2 which had been operating with 38.3 and 38.4 east of LUZON morning of 25th joined TG 34.5 (NEW JERSEY, IOWA, VINCENNES, MIAMI, BILOXI, Desron 52) and headed toward the LEYTE area at about 1100. At 2140 a night snooper reported that an enemy force of 14 ships was entering the eastern entrance of SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT on a westerly course. TG 34.5 was expected to arrive off SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT at 0100 26th. TG 38.2 (RAdm Bogan) was expected to join TG 38.1 (VAdm McCain) east of SAMAR at 0600 morning of the 26th.

Com3rdFlt reported at 2024 on the 24th that he was proceeding north with 3 carrier groups to attack an enemy carrier force reported headed south off eastern LUZON and would attack this carrier force at dawn. At that time TF 34 had been formed under VAdm Lee which consisted of BatDiv 7 (IOWA and NEW JERSEY) plus the MIAMI, VINCENNES, BILOXI, Desron 52 less one DD plus the WASHINGTON, ALABAMA, WICHITA, NEW ORLEANS, DesDiv 100, DDs PATTERSON and BAGLEY. This combined force engaged the enemy carrier force at about 0900 some 200 miles east of LUZON. Reports are not complete as to the results, however, they indicate that one carrier was sunk and two other carriers left dead in the water. (enemy)

TF 38 other than those units detached to aid TF 77 were reported to be hunting the escaping ships and would continue to do so until 2000, at which time our subs would take over the task.

A report from CTF 38 indicates that at 2300 TGs 38.3 and 38.4 were on course 130 after having sunk 1 CVL and a large DD (or CL) and were returning to join the Oiler Group at 0900 on the 26th.

At 2303 JALLAO (SS 368) reports sinking a NATORI class light cruiser with 3 hits at 21-20N, 127-20E, PINTADO (SS 387) saw this target sink.

At 1843 on the 25th the HALIBUT (SS 232) placed 5 timed hits in a BB which was reported as possibly sinking at 20-35N, 126-30E. This submarine also reports at 0015 on the 26th he was trailing 2 large ships probably BBs, course 0°, speed 20, at 21-45N, 120-26E.

Com3rdFlt states at 0200 26 Oct position 15-12N, 125-52E the sinking of a CA or CL straggler.

CTG 38.1 and CTG 38.2 are to send a dawn strike to the MINDORO area in search of possible cripples or in search of ships possibly retiring through SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT.

25 October (Oahu date)

The Japanese carrier force which was located by TF 38 planes some 200 miles E of northern LUZON on the morning of the 25th is estimated by CTF 38 as consisting of either 16 or 17 ships. Planes from 3 task groups (38.2, R. Adm. Bogan; 38.3, R. Adm. Sherman; and 38.4, R. Adm. Davison) attacked this force in the morning. They found very

25 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

few planes on the carriers and shot down a few that were airborne. TG's 38.3 and 38.4 made additional strikes in the afternoon after 38.2 and TG 34.5 left for LEYTE GULF. A summary of the results of the strikes against this carrier force, as reported by CTF 38, is as follows: 1 SHOKAKU Class CV (identity revealed by photos) sunk by our planes. 2 CVL's (Photos show 1 was CHIYODA or ZUIKO Class) both sunk by our planes. One exploded and sank during the first strike. 1 CVL or CVE - sunk by cruisers and destroyers, after planes left her dead in the water. 2 BB's (photos show 1 FUSO Class; pilots report the other ISE with flight deck aft) - 1 BB heavily damaged by a minimum of 2 and probably 4 torpedoes plus many bombs, last seen heading north at 8 knots; the other BB seen heading north at 20 knots. 1 3-stack CL hit by torpedo, headed north alone at 5 knots. 1 DD sunk by planes and 1 other large DD or CL sunk by surface forces after the plane attack. No report has been received of our plane losses in effecting the above outlined destruction. No attacks were made on CTF 38 during this engagement.

In the LEYTE area the 7th Fleet CVE escort force was attacked during the day of the 25th by land-based planes. Planes from our CVE's shot down 46 enemy aircraft over the LEYTE beaches during the day. The enemy surface force that appeared off LEYTE on the morning of the 25th was under repeated air attack by planes of the CVE's and planes of TG 38.1 (V. Adm. McCain). Of the reported force of 4 BB's, 7 CA's, 2 CL's, and 12 DD's, CTG 38.1 estimates that 1 CA was sunk and 1 DD probably sunk. In addition, 3 BB's, 3 CA's, and 1 DD were damaged by bomb hits. Aircraft from the CVE's and from TG 38.1 made use of TACLOBAN and DULAG airfields during the day. The following summary of damage to ships in the LEYTE area during attacks on the 25th was announced by CTF 77: ST. LO (Ex-MIDWAY) - believed sunk; GAMBIER BAY - believed sunk; HOEL (DD 533), JOHNSTON (DD 557), and SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DE 413) believed sunk. SUWANEE - severe structural damage to the flight deck; bridge out of commission; 55 dead, "not including those lost in the attack just received." SANTEE - severe structural damage, including a torpedo hit, but in full operating condition; 9 dead. SANGAMON - 2 dead. Other vessels - only minor damage. Plane losses: About 130 planes are reported by CTF 77 as lost on the 25th, including crash landings on LEYTE fields. This is the "total for carrier groups now present."

CTF 77 made a request to TG 77.4 (R. Adm. Sprague) to retain 6 CVE's in the LEYTE area to provide fighter coverage. The remaining CVE's will be sent to MANUS. CTF 77 also made request to Com3rdFlt to provide a 12-VF combat air patrol to be maintained over the LEYTE area from dawn to dusk. He stated that an estimated 200 enemy planes were over the objective area during the 26th (I). CTF 77 made a request to CinCSWPA to send land-based fighters to LEYTE fields on 26 October. No reply to this dispatch has been received.

Com3rdFlt 261235 (pink) to MacArthur states that 2 carrier groups will furnish support at LEYTE on the 27th and requests information as to the date shore-based air will take over the defense of LEYTE.

TG 38.3 is scheduled to return to ULITHI on 28 October and be ready for sea on 4 November; TG 38.1 to proceed ULITHI 29 Oct and be

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25 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

ready for sea at dawn on 3 November.

A report has been received on the bombing of the OMURA Aircraft Factory in KYUSHU. 56 B-29's bombed OMURA visually, with good to excellent results; 2 bombed SHANGHAI storage areas; 1 hit HANKOW docks; 8 hit targets of opportunity, and 8 failed to bomb. The only loss reported is one plane which crashed immediately after take-off. Two other planes are missing, one of which may have crashed. The total bomb tonnage was 182. Over OMURA strike photos show 2 direct hits on the aiming point, with the bomb pattern centered thereon, and direct hits and near misses on numerous buildings. At OMURA the B-29's report 9 enemy interceptors destroyed, 5 probables, and 22 damaged.

SEADragon (SS 194) on the 24th sank 3 AK's between FORMOSA and northern LUZON.

BURRFISH (SS 312) probably sank 1 MARU SW of KYUSHU on the 26th.

DRUM (SS 228) sank 2 AK's in a night attack and damaged 2 more in a day attack on a large south-bound convoy just north of LUZON on the 26th.

SILVERSIDES (SS 236) reported TRIGGER (SS 237) in sight contact with 2 BB's at 260030 GCT, position 24-07N, 125-41E, course 040, speed 18; SILVERSIDES and SALMON (SS 182) chasing 30 and 60 miles astern. Additional report at 260145 GCT stated BB's had changed course to 310, speed 20, and TRIGGER had lost contact.

Marshall 252232 outlines the division of the CHINA-BURMA-INDIA theater into 2 separate theaters: The CHINA Theater and the INDIA-BURMA Theater.

Cincpac 251935 directs Com3rdFlt to include copies of all messages pertaining to combat operations along with the action reports for the period commencing 22 October and ending on next return to port.

MacArthur 260750 authorizes Allied Air Forces to attack hostile air and shipping in the VISAYAS west of 124-05 E Longitude.

Com3rdFlt 260814 (pink) recommends that target date for HOTFOOT be deferred from 11 November to 17 November. (E. Long)

26 October (Oahu date)

2 supplementary reports have been received from CTU 77.4.2 (RADm F. B. Stump) and CTU 77.4.3 (RADm C. A. F. Sprague). Each of these task units consisted of 6 CVE's plus escorts. RADm Stump's report follows:

26 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

Jap BB's and CA's began straddling the CVE's with gunfire from 15 miles at 0850 I (-9) 25 October. In subsequent attacks the CVE planes sank the following ships: 1 TONE Class CA, identified by pilots, sunk at 0905, 60 miles NE of SULUAN ISLAND. 1 TONE Class CA, identified by a photograph, sunk at 1440, 62 miles NNE of SULUAN ISLAND. 1 DD sunk near the second TONE CA. The following were damaged: 1 BB, with 1 torpedo and 2 bomb hits near the 2nd TONE CA, in the morning. 1 BB, by bomb hits south of PANAON ISLAND at 1530. 1 BB, hit by a torpedo. 1 CA, by bomb hits south of PANAON ISLAND at 1530. 1 MOGAMI Class CA and several DD's hit with rockets, .50 cal. strafing, and bombs as the force retired. During the day's fighting the CVE planes of TU 77.4.2 expended 48 tons of bombs, 49 torpedoes, and 104 rockets, and shot down 31 planes, with 4 others destroyed on the ground. Combat losses of these CVE's were 9 FM and 7 TBM with 14 pilots and 12 aircrewmen missing. Some of these may have been rescued. 3 FM and 1 TBM were lost operationally. RAdm Sprague's report follows: The main body of the enemy was sighted by an anti-sub patrol plane at 0653 I (-9). For over 2½ hours after that the group was subjected to enemy BB, CA, and DD gun and torpedo attacks, and numerous hits were scored. The GAMBIER BAY (CVE 73) had 1 engine put out of commission, dropped back, and must have been sunk by enemy gunfire. Similar fates met the HOEL (DD 533), JOHNSTON (DD 557), and the SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DE 413). The remaining 5 CVE's emerged from this ordeal damaged but able to maintain 16 knots. About 1 hour and 20 minutes later (about 1045) the ST. LO (CVE 63) was sunk by a 6-plane Jap suicide attack that "had to be seen to be believed." Three of the planes, hit by AA, narrowly missed the ships. The 4th plane hit the port catwalk of the KITKUN BAY (CVE 71). The 5th skidded the length of the KALININ BAY (CVE 68) flight deck and slid over the bow. The 6th went through the deck of the ST. LO, which shortly thereafter blew up. CTU 77.4.3 estimated the casualties on the ships remaining with him at 10 killed and 59 wounded. He reports having been informed that 800 survivors from the ST. LO were picked up.

On the morning of the 26th B-24's from MOROTAI attacked the retiring enemy force to the westward of PANAY. 14 B-24's bombed a YAMATO BB from 10,000 feet and reported 2 direct hits. 13 other B-24's reported scoring 2 direct hits on another BB in the same approximate location. These ships were in convoy with 5 CA or CL and 5 DD, course 150, speed 20. As the force retired southward 19 B-24's attacked a KUMA class CL and 1 DD 25 miles W of southern tip of NEGROS on course 030, speed 15-20 knots. It is reported that 4 direct hits were made on this CL.

The ALBERT W. GRANT (DD 649) reports damage caused by the Jap task force in SURIGAO STRAIT the early morning of 25 October (I). 12 direct hits from 6 and 8-inch caliber shells were made; however, the after engine room is reported in operation and a maximum available speed of 10 knots is reported when 6 of the waterline holes have been patched.

DENNIS (DE 405) in the same engagement (early morning 25 October) received 4 direct hits from 8-inch shells, all above the water

26 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

line. The hull damage is reported as being extensive; 5 men were killed during this action, but in spite of this they were able to rescue 435 survivors from the CVE's that were sunk.

WARHAWK (AP 168) while retiring from the transport area at LEYTE collided with the TENNESSEE on 21 October. The damage to the TENNESSEE has not been reported as yet, nor has a complete report as to the extent of the damage to the WARHAWK been received.

ICEFISH (SS 367) stated that on 27 October (I) she received severe depth-charging north of LUZON and suffered considerable damage. She reported 2 hits in a large AP loaded with troops and believed sunk.

TG's 38.2 (RAdm Bogan) and 38.4 (RAdm Davison) are scheduled to operate E of SAMAR on 28 and 29 October.

CarDiv 29 (RAdm Durgin) has been assigned Com7thFlt in lieu of original orders to 3rdFlt.

MacArthur 270652 announces that Commander Allied Air Forces will assume the mission of direct air support in the LEYTE area as of 1600 (I) 27 October; also that operational control of land-based naval aircraft in the LEYTE area will pass to Commander Allied Air Forces at the same time.

MacArthur 271329 states that effective upon receipt of this message attack of all land targets in the PHILIPPINE archipelago is allocated to the Allied Air Forces of the SWP area and that 3rd Fleet air forces, including the 7th AF will not attack land targets in the PHILIPPINES except after specific coordination with GHQ SWPA.

CTF 77 271045 requests from CTG 38.4 a 16-VF combat air patrol to be maintained over the LEYTE area from dawn to dusk. In addition, VAdm Kinkaid requests strikes on enemy airfields to reduce the air strength (see MacArthur 270652 and 271329).

Com3rdFleet 271640 refers to GHQ SWPA dispatches mentioned above and directs CTF 38 plus the 4 task groups to comply.

Cincpac 270649 refers to embarkation of CVG 81 and outlines the aircraft status as of 30 October in the Forward Area.

CTF 77 270221 states to Com3rdFlt that support of at least one and preferably two fast carrier groups is required until control of the air in the LEYTE area is established and further that on 28 October the remaining CVE's in the immediate area must refuel and can supply no planes. Report further states that Army air squadrons are moving into the fields on 27 October, but expresses doubt as to when their operation can become effective due to difficult field conditions.

Cincpoa 270353 summarizes the status of arrangements for replenishment at ULITHI.

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Com3rdFlt has directed CTF 57 to make maximum air effort against the BONINS commencing 16 October.

27 October (Oahu date)

Following is a recapitulation of the enemy striking forces in PHILIPPINES area 23-27 October:

9 BB, 1 CV, 3 CVL, 10 CA, 8 CL, 28 DD

Damage inflicted by our forces on those appearing above is estimated to be as follows:

Sunk: 1 CV, 3 CVL, 2 BB, 5 CA, 3 CL, 8 DD

Severely damaged and probably sunk:

1 BB, 3 CA, 2 CL, 7 DD

Damaged: 6 BB, 2 CA, 1 CL, 10 DD

From the above estimate, it would appear that practically every major combatant enemy ship was either sunk or damaged.

CL BIRMINGHAM arrived at ULITHI on 27 October (I). Report indicates that 236 were killed, 6 missing, and about 400 wounded. PRINCETON survivors arrived at ULITHI aboard the IRWIN (DD 794), the MORRISON (DD 560), and the GATLING (DD 671). 123 officers and 1189 enlisted men survived this sinking.

The damaged cruisers HOUSTON and CANBERRA arrived at ULITHI 27 October.

SEADOG (SS 401) sighted 2 battleships NE of OKINAWA on 28 October (I), but lost contact late in the afternoon.

STERLET (SS 392) reported at 0600 (I) 29th that the contact was lost with 2 battleships and 4 escorts at 30-34N, 133-33E, which presumably were the same 2 BB's that the SEADOG had sighted the day before.

KINGFISH (SS 234) sank a small freighter and a medium tanker near CHICHI JIMA on the 28th.

HOE (SS 258) summarizes 6th war patrol, which consisted of a 37-day patrol. The following damage was reported as being inflicted on the enemy: Sank 2 AK's of 7,500 tons each for a total of 15,000 tons; damaged 1 medium AK and 2 large AK's for a total damage of 12,500 tons.

CincSWPA 271856 directs Com3rdFlt and the 4 task groups not to attack land targets in the SWPA unless requested by CinCSWPA or on receipt of request which states specific concurrence of CinCSWPA.

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27 October (Oahu date)

14th Air Force indicates that it has only enough gasoline to conduct the SOUTH CHINA SEA search until 1 November.

VIRBURNUM (AN 57) struck a mine in a channel at ULITHI and reports the material damage. Casualties: 1 killed, 5 injured, and 2 missing.

CTF 77 (VAdm Kinkaid) 271147 outlines the action in the current SURIGAO STRAIT and LEYTE GULF engagement.

Com3rdFlt 271700 summarizes the results of the TG's in their actions E of LUZON.

CTF 38 (VAdm Mitscher) 280537 summarizes the results of their actions.

CTU 77.4.3 280001, 280006, 280012 summarizes their action during the engagement off LEYTE GULF and SAMAR.

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28 October (Oahu date)

In the LEYTE GULF area on the 28th (I) enemy air activity continued. CTF 77(VAdm Kinkaid) estimated that 50 planes were over the area during the day until 1700. Suicide attacks by enemy dive bombers and torpedo planes were reported. Dives were made on the USS LOUISVILLE (CA28), USS CALIFORNIA(BB44) and USS DENVER (CL58).

17 Enemy planes were shot down during the 28th (I) in the LEYTE area.

According to reports the ground situation at LEYTE is being carried out according to schedule.

CTG 77.2 (RAdm Qldendorf) reports that a Val (dive bomber) attempted a suicide dive on the DENVER and crashed about 25 yards off the starboard quarter. No personnel casualties resulted, however, preliminary investigation shows considerable damage to the DENVER.

2 Japanese prisoners were rescued and confirmed the sinking of 2 BB's (YAMASHIRO and FUSO) and 4 DD's (MICHISHIO, ASAGUMO, YAMAGUMO, NOWAKE). These sinkings took place in the southern LEYTE GULF during the early morning of 25 October (I).

GAMBIER BAY (CVE73) sank 65 miles east of BUNGA POINT (SAMAR) at 0900 on the 25th as a result of 20 hits from 8" guns from about 6 CA's at 2,000 yards range. 18 VF and 8 VTB from this CVE were airborne at the time and their present status is unknown (they may have landed on 1 of the 2 fields, DULAG or TACLOBAN. It was reported that about 650 officers and men have been rescued from the GAMBIER BAY. (It would appear that about 200 officers and men are missing from the ship, based on the October 1 ships roster).

The SUWANEE (CVE27) reports having been hit on the 25th by 3 bombs. Her flight deck and hangar deck are badly holed. Her catapults and its machinery are destroyed and the after elevator is demolished.

HELM (DD388) laid depth charges in 5 attacks on a Japanese submarine, (location not given). The 4th attack brought a heavy explosion followed by 2 smaller ones with oil and splintered planking rising to the surface. The GRIDLEY (DD380) also made 3 attacks but CTG 38.4 (RAdm Davison) credits the HELM with the kill.

The scheduled bombardment by TF 94 has been cancelled due to unfavorable weather and the Task Force is returning to ATTU. MATSUWA was the scheduled target for the bombardment on the 29th.

The 21st Bomber Command operating from the MARIANAS will carry out the 2nd shakedown mission of B-29's against TRUK 29 October, 2300 GCT.

28 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

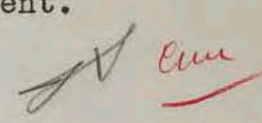
CincPOA 282242 (Pink) covers the advisability of the return of the Fast Carrier Task Forces to ULITHI in order to prepare for and conduct the HOTFOOT Operation and further authorizes Com3rdFleet to reduce the covering force to one carrier task group. Concurrence of CINCSWPA is also requested for withdrawal of TF 38.

CincSWPA 290844 (Pink) concurs in the terms of the despatch outlined above.

CincPOA 291828 (Pink) states that operation INSURGENT is completed and directs Com3rdFleet to retire carrier task groups to advanced bases at his discretion.

Effective 1 November proposed CTF 38^{and carrier} organization is as follows:

TF 38 VAdm MCCAIN in HANCOCK.
TG 38.1 RAdm MONTGOMERY in YORKTOWN with HORNET, WASP, COWPENS, MONTEREY.
TG 38.2 RAdm BOGAN in INTREPID with HANCOCK, BUNKER HILL, CABOT, INDEPENDENCE.
TG 38.3 RAdm SHERMAN in ESSEX with LEXINGTON, TICONDEROGA, LANGLEY.
TG 38.4 RAdm DAVISON in FRANKLIN with ENTERPRISE, BELLEAU WOOD, SAN JACINTO.
RAdm RADFORD will be in BUNKER HILL for present.



29 October (Oahu date)

CinCPac Official Communique No. 168, covering the PHILIPPINE engagement from 23 October through 27 October appears in the back of book.

3 Part summary of Com3rdFleet covering engagements in the PHILIPPINES from 24 through 26 October appears in back of book.

On the 29th (I) TG 38.2 (RAdm Bogan) directed strikes on the MARIANAS area and southern LUZON. Reports indicate that 65 Japanese planes were shot down. 12 Additional planes were destroyed on the ground at various LUZON airfields. TG 38.2 losses for the same day (29th) numbered 27, however, only 4 pilots and 2 air crewmen were reported as being lost. Most of the losses were due to operational causes.

Pilots from this same TG reported about 100 twin-engined planes at CLARK FIELD. Bombs started 5 fires on this field. 40 Other planes were observed on 2 other fields.

2 Vals made suicide dives on the INTREPID (CV-11), one of them striking a 20mm gallery killing 10 men and wounding 6 others.

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29 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

TG 38.4 (RAdm Davison) reports shooting down 8 Japanese planes on the 28th and 3 on the 29th. Combat losses of this group for the 2 days, 28th and 29th, were 2 VF planes and 3 VF pilots.

A report from CinCSWPA reports that the COMFORT (AH-6) has been sighted and is apparently undamaged. Prior reports indicated that the COMFORT was under air attack on the 24th (I).

A plane reported sighting 1 merchant ship exploding and another on fire midway between SAN FRANCISCO and the HAWAIIAN ISLANDS (30 N, 142 W). Fragmentary reports indicate that both ships were torpedoed by an enemy submarine. Further details will be reported upon receipt.

STERLET (SS-392) and TRIGGER (SS-237) put 8 torpedoes in a large AO SE of KYUSHU in the afternoon of the 30th (I).

The DULAG strip (LEYTE) is reported serviceable as of the 29th (2500 feet).

2 Kaiser class CVE's with air groups have been ordered from the Atlantic to the Pacific Fleet for duty.

VAdm McCain relieved VAdm Mitscher as CTF 38 on 30 Oct (I).

30 October (Oahu date)

Com3rdFlt reports that the FRANKLIN (CV-13) and the BELLEAU WOOD (CVL-24) have both sustained battle damage.

CTF 17 has ordered submarines to discontinue sweep for more enemy cripples and to resume normal patrols.

SARGO (SS-188) at 30 N 149 E on 25 October damaged 2 picket boats with gun fire.

STERLET (SS-392) reported at 302110 GCT the SALMON (SS-182) was badly damaged by enemy gun fire and could not dive. At 302000 GCT her position was 29-25 N 132-45 E, course 130, speed 12. 5 Submarines were standing by to assist her. At 302334 GCT CTF 17 directed SILVERSIDES (SS-236), TRIGGER (SS-237), STERLET (SS-392) and SALMON (SS-182) to proceed in close company to SAIPAN.

Further details of enemy submarine activity between HAWAII and the WEST COAST have been received. The ARGUS (PYC-14) acting as plane guard station reported SS JOHN A. JOHNSON of American Lines, complement 71 officers and men, enroute SAN FRANCISCO to PEARL, loaded with ammunition, was

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30 October (Oahu date - Cont'd)

torpedoed at 292105 (plus 8) in position 29-52 N 141-42 W. Resulting fire caused ammunition to explode. Enemy submarine surfaced and shelled ship and life boats; 13 men in one life boat were all killed by machine gun fire. The ARGUS has 58 survivors aboard. The attack caused re-routing of shipping.

In the LEYTE GULF area 3 OBB's, 1 CA, 3 CL's, and 12 DD's remain as covering force. Reports from friendly force on MINDORO state that at 311400 (minus 9) 3 enemy CV's were moving east at 25 knots through VERDE ISLAND passage. Also at 1430 (minus 9) 5 CL's, 5 DD's, and 5 AP's were reported at same position at slow speed.

CTG 38.2 amplifies previous report of results of strikes against the MANILA area on 29 October. 240 Sorties were flown. 65 Airborne enemy planes were shot down by CAP (45 over target area, 20 over the group); 18 airborne enemy planes were probably destroyed (17 were over the target area). Our plane losses were 11 in combat and 17 operationally. 13 Pilots and 6 air crewmen were lost.

A recapitulation of Japanese planes destroyed by carrier based aircraft during the period 9 Sept - 29 Oct shows a total of 1451 airborne planes destroyed, 1097 destroyed on the ground, and 195 probably destroyed or damaged.

Considerable enemy air activity continued in the LEYTE area during the period 28-30 Oct. Search planes continued to make shipping strikes NE of BORNEO. On the 28th 14 B-24's bombed MAKASSAR.

On 29 Oct 9 B-24's attacked barges in the harbor at HAHU JIMA with negative results. On the 31st 3 small AK's were sunk at IWO JIMA by a PB4Y. Neutralization of ROTA continued on the 29th and 30th by strikes by 34 F4U's. 14 P-47's attacked PAGAN on the 30th.

17 B-29's from the 21st BOMBER COMMAND at SAIPAN raided DUBLON IS (TRUK) on 30 Oct, dropping 41 tons of bombs. Reconnaissance flights continued against YAP on the 29th. On the 29th and 30th F4U's continued support of ground troops at PALAU.

Land operations against LEYTE proceed satisfactorily and according to schedule. CinCSWPA reports that all interior lines of communication are now in our hands. Our casualties to date are reported as 706 killed in action, 2245 wounded in action, and 270 missing in action. Enemy casualties are estimated as 24,000.

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31 October (Oahu date)

Considerable enemy surface activity was reported in the PHILIPPINE area on 31 October and 1 November (I). At 0230 on the 31st 4 CA's and 3 DD's were reported at 11-10N, 115-22E (240 miles W of N tip of PALAWAN IS). 35 minutes later 3 CA's were reported at 10-20 N, 117-35E (90 miles W of N PALAWAN IS), course 25, speed 25. At 1300 on the 31st 1 CA was reported at 11-05N, 119-00E (20 miles W of N tip of PALAWAN IS). LEYTE air base reported 2 BB's, 3 CA's with DD's at 1510 on the 1st in position 08-12N, 118-00E (40 miles SE of S PALAWAN IS). At 1840 on the 1st a guerilla reported 3 large ships proceeding at high speed W of LEYTE on southerly course. At 2245 on the 1st a badly garbled dispatch from an Army plane indicated 4 very large AP's, 3 DD's, and blank DE's at 10-blank N, 124-20E (W of LEYTE), course 120, speed 10.

At 1437 on the 1st CTG 77.1 reported his group under air attack. ABNER READ (DD 526), while screening the damaged CLAXTON (DD 571), was hit by an aerial torpedo, blew up, and sank. At 1603 CTF 77 reported our air situation in LEYTE GULF area to be deteriorating owing to constant enemy reinforcement and withdrawal of fast carrier task groups. Only 60 Army fighters were in the area. Resumption of carrier strikes in the MANILA and VISAYAN areas was requested. At 2057 CTF 77 reported that on the 1st 1 DD had been sunk by enemy air attacks, and at least 4 other DD's damaged.

As a result of the enemy activity outlined above, Com3rd Flt, commencing at 1830 on the 1st, directed return of TG 38.3 (en route ULITHI to MANUS) to proceed to point KEROSENE (11-15N, 130-20E); directed TG 38.1 at ULITHI to expedite logistic measures; directed TG 34.5 to arrive at 10-30N, 127-20E by 020800 (I), from which point to move to support TF 77 and TG 77.1, if enemy surface threat developed in the LEYTE GULF; directed TG 38.2 to proceed to center area KEROSENE, from which point to provide air cover for TG 34.5 during daylight on the 2nd; stated that he would provide morning and afternoon search over SAN BERNADINO on the 2nd; and requested SWP forces to keep him informed as to their coverage of SURIGAO STRAIT.

BESUGO (SS 321) reported sinking new type DE in convoy on 24 October at 30-00N, 134-00E.

CinCSWPA reports that 13 enemy planes were shot down on 29 October during harassing raids against shipping and shore installations in the LEYTE area. On the 30th TG 38.4 shot down 4 enemy planes over the group, while AA fire accounted for 6 others.

During the period 26-28 October, our PT boats, while operating off N MINDANAO and in JUANICO STRAIT were attacked by enemy planes. PT boats 132, 523, and 526 suffered damage and casualties (29 killed, 14 wounded).

An enemy submarine was reported sunk on the 28th 143 miles

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31 October (Oahu date - cont'd)

NE of SAMAR, and another sunk on the 29th 85 miles E of SIARGAO IS (off NE MINDANAO).

SAN ROQUE drome (LUZON) and BACOLOD drome (NEGROS) were bombed on the 30th by 12 B-25's and 7 P-47's (SAN ROQUE) and 2 groups of B-24's (BACOLOD).

Usual neutralization strikes were made in the MARSHALLS, CAROLINES, MARIANAS, and BONINS during the period 30 October - 1 November. Strikes also continued in the NEI, NEW GUINEA, and BISMARCKS - SOLOMONS areas.

Land operations on LEYTE continued satisfactorily. Our casualties to date: Total - 848 KIA, 2292 WIA, and 348 MIA.

In the North Pacific on 30 October photographic reconnaissance was made by B-24's over ONEKOTAN and MATSUWA. 4 B-25's attacked TOMARI ZAKI (PARAMUSHIRU). An enemy submarine was reported 200 miles W of DUTCH HARBOR.

Rear Admiral Sherman with other staff members departed PEARL for HOLLANDIA. *Clem*

1 November (Oahu date)

The flurry of enemy surface ship sightings in the PHILIPPINES area, as reported in the previous day's summary, has abated, and is an indication that the enemy may have been practicing deceptive measures. Only one sighting was reported during the past 24 hours; this was at 1053 on the 2nd, and stated that 2 CA's, 3 DD's and 2 AP's with landing barges were observed at 10-55N, 124-35E (W. of LEYTE). There are indications that the enemy is reinforcing LEYTE via ORMOC BAY.

The enemy appears to be heavily reinforcing his air strength in the MANILA area; as a result of this, CinCSWPA has requested early strikes in the PHILIPPINE area from other than TG 38.3, which remains to cover TG 77.1. CinCSWPA also stated that Army planes would provide CAP over the LEYTE area.

Com3rdFlt has directed TG's 38.1, 38.2, 38.3 and 34.5 to rendezvous at Point ALCOHOL (12-10N, 133-00E) at 031200 (I), and has issued Battle Plan "HALSEY" for dealing with the current situation.

Further information on enemy air strikes on the 1st reveals that AMMEN (DD 527) and CLAXTEN (DD 521) were hit by suicide dives, and the KILLEN (DD 593) by a dive bomber. AMMEN received only superficial damage, but the CLAXTEN and KILLEN were both flooded. ABNER READ (DD 526) was sunk by a VAL (suicide dive).

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1 November (Oahu date) - (Cont'd)

The SALMON (SS-182) and escorting submarines to arrive SAIPAN 4 November (I).

PILOTFISH (SS 386) at 302033 GCT October in position 28-03N, 141-34E (BONINS area) reports 2 timed hits in 1 AK.

CominCh 271806 (pink) contains directive to Commanding General, U.S. Forces China Theater, incident to abolishment of CBI Theater and substitution therefor of the CHINA Theater and the INDIA-BURMA Theater.

Neutralization air strikes continued in the MARSHALLS, CAROLINES, MARIANAS, and BONINS. Strikes also continued against HALMAHERA and RANSIKI.

In the North Pacific on 1 November 4 B-25's again bombed TOMARI ZAKI (PARAMUSHIRU). 5 attacking ZEKES damaged 1 B-25 which landed in Russian territory.

2 November (Oahu date)

On 2 November (I) 1 BB, 4 CA's, 1 CL and 2 DD's were reported proceeding from VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE into MANILA BAY, CTG 77.1 concludes that this force provided cover and support for the landing of reinforcements at ORMOC BAY (LEYTE)

At 030030 GCT Com3rdFleet issued directive for operation "Pulverize". Upon completion of fueling on 3 November TF 38, less TG 38.4 will proceed to arrive at 16-00 N 130-00 E at 041200 (I), when the force will commence high speed run to arrive vicinity 15-30 N 123-50 E at dawn 5 November. Sustained strikes will be made on LUZON Area during daylight 5th and 6th.

Com3rdFleet reported at 031452 GCT that RENO (CL 96) was torpedoed in position 13-46 N 131-27 E. ZUNI (ATF 95) was ordered to proceed immediately to her assistance.

ATULE (SS 403) reports 2 hits in a large AP in position 20-09 N 123-08 E (LUZON STRAIT)

SNOOK (SS 279) reports rescuing one downed pilot in position 16-18 N 125-28 E (E of LUZON)

TAMBOR (SS 198) operating BONINS Area reports probably sinking 1 patrol vessel with 2 timed hits on 19 October.

On 2 November (I) several hostile air attacks were made on ships of TG 77.1 in the LEYTE Area, but damage is unreported. On the 3rd several Bogeys were reported by CTG 77.1, but our CAP kept them away from the group.

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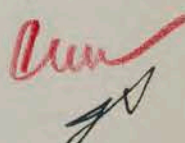
2 November (Oahu date) - (Cont'd)

On the 1st a PB4Y search plane reports sighting a NACHI CA anchored in ULUGAN BAY (W PALAWAN) apparently undergoing repairs.

On the 2nd B-24's from SWPA attacked airdromes and other installations on CEBU and on MINDANAO.

Neutralization air strikes continued in the MARIANAS, BONINS, and CAROLINES. Strikes were also made against the VOGELKOP and AMBON. 1 B-24 made photo reconnaissance over ONEKOTAN.

CinCSWPA reports that the enemy on LEYTE has been driven into the small and confined ORMOC sector, where they are enveloped on all three land sides by our ground forces. Enemy losses are estimated as 30,000. Completion of the LEYTE-SAMAR operation is believed by CinCSWPA to be near.



3 November (Oahu date)

At 1103 on 4 Nov (I) the tug ZUNI reached the RENO (CL-96) in position 13-49 N, 132-07 E. As the RENO was without power or steerage, Com3rdFlt directed CTG 30.9 to send another tug and a rescue vessel to assist her. TG 30.7 (Hunter-Killer group) was also ordered to the RENO position and to remain in the vicinity.

TG 38.4 departs ULITHI at 051600 (I) and proceeds to the PHILIPPINE area. TG's 38.1, 38.2 and 38.3 will arrive at 15-30 N, 123-50 E at dawn on 5 Nov (I), to commence 2 day strike in LUZON area.

Com7thFlt reports that 4 enemy ships unloaded at ORMOC BAY on the 2nd. CinCSWPA reports two AP's were sunk in ORMOC BAY on the 2nd.

RAY (SS-271) reports sighting 3 AP's with 3 escorts and 5-plane air cover at 1500 (H) on the 4th, position 16-25 N, 119-45 E (West of LUZON), course 185, speed 10.

STERLET (SS-392), operating north NANSEI SHOTO during period 25 Oct - 1 Nov, reports sinking one large loaded AO, one 1000-ton armed trawler, and one unidentified ship: Also sank a large AO previously damaged by TRIGGER (SS-237).

PINTADO (SS-387) operating west of LUZON reports sinking 1 DD with 4 hits from task force of 1 large CV, 1 CL and 2 or 3 DD's, course 180, speed 21.

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3 November (Oahu date) - (cont'd)

ComPhibGroup 8 reports on the 3rd that enemy air activity has seriously curtailed amphibious operations in the LEYTE area. He stated that fighter cover was needed for our reinforcement outside the immediate vicinity of the North and South beaches. The hostile force which landed at ORMOC BAY on the 2nd was attacked by our fighters. As previously reported 2 AP's were sunk during the landings; 30 enemy trucks and tanks were destroyed ashore, in addition to much of their equipment and supplies. On the same day 10 enemy planes were shot down, 5 by AA fire and 5 by our fighters.

Com7thFlt estimated enemy air strength on LUZON at 380 planes (188 VF, 88 VB-VTB, 77 VBM, 27 Misc). Most of these planes are reported to be concentrated in the CLARK and NICHOLS field areas. LEGASPI is still being used as a search base, and reports indicate at least 30 planes based there.

The enemy raid against SAIPAN and TINIAN on the 3rd was made by 9 or more Bettys and took place during the night. 3 C47's suffered minor damage as well as several PB4Y's. 4 Enemy planes were shot down and one other was probably shot down.

Neutralization air strikes continued in the MARIANAS, CAROLINES and MARSHALLS. MARCUS was bombed on the 2nd and 3rd by 6 B-24's. 17 B-29's were over TRUK at 020134 GCT; 121 500-lb GP bombs and 53 500-lb incendiary bombs were dropped; 2 airborne Zekes did not attack.

RANGOON was bombed on the 3rd by 45 B-29's which concentrated against the MAPAGAN Railroad Yards; several hits were observed in the target area.

In the North Pacific on 3 Nov 4 B-25's bombed PARAMUSHIRU, while 2 B-24's hit SURIBACHI.

4 November (Oahu date).

RENO (CL96) is reported at 050923 (I) to be in bad shape, and barely holding her own; she urgently requires an additional salvage tug, and gasoline for the salvage pumps. Her position at 051416 (I) was 13-13-45 N, 132-52-15 E (380 miles NNW of PELELIU); she was drifting slowly SW with the wind and current.

HAMMERHEAD (SS-364) summarizes 2nd war patrol. Operating north of MALAY BARRIER, sank 5 7500-ton AK's and 1 4000-ton AK; damaged 1 5000-ton AO.

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4 November (Oahu date)(cont'd).

CinCSWPA reports that through 2 Nov (inclusive dates not given) our fighters shot down 27 planes from Jap raids against our shipping.

During the period 1 - 4 Nov, SWP Air Forces were extremely active in the PHILIPPINE area, with widespread attacks against NEGROS, CEBU, MINDANAO, MASBATE, SULU ARCHIPELAGO, TAWI TAWI and ORMOC BAY. At the latter place a group of B-24's on the 2nd sank a 7000-ton AK, left a second burning, and scored near misses on a CA. Other ships damaged included a 10000-ton AP at JOLO and a small AK at TAWI TAWI. The weight of the attacks was directed at airdromes on NEGROS.

Other attacks by SWP Air Forces were made against MACASSAR (CELEBES) and BABO (NEW GUINEA) on the 3rd, and against WEWAK on the 2nd. On the 1st and 2nd 183 sorties were flown in the SOLOMONS - BISMARCKS area.

CenPac air forces continued neutralization of IWO JIMA, HAHAI JIMA, CHICHI JIMA, ROTA, PAGAN, YAP and PALAU.

On the 1st one B-29 photographed the TOKYO aircraft and electronic plants, with fair results. In YOKOHAMA HARBOR were seen 21 ships, including 1 CV.

ComNavGrp CHINA reports that KWEILIN is being taken by the Japanese, and LUICHOW is seriously threatened. Operations of 14th Air Force from LUICHOW have been suspended, and evacuation of the base is probable on the 5th or shortly thereafter. B-24 searches of the S CHINA SEA have been suspended.

The Japanese troops which landed at ORMOC BAY on the 2nd are endeavoring to move north to the CARIGARA BAY area. Our forces are hastily preparing defensive positions in the northern area in order to frustrate any enemy attempt to break through. Our casualties in the LEYTE area up to the 3rd are:

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
X Corps	257	1074	28	1359
XXIV Corps	583	2345	232	3160
	840	3419	260	4519

CTF 57 011100 summarizes operations 26-31 October.

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5 November 1944. (Oahu date)

Com3rdFlt 060216 contains the preliminary incomplete report of sweeps and strikes against LUZON on 5 Nov (I).

Com3rdFlt informed CinCSWPA that the 25 to 30 AKs observed in MANILA BAY on the 5th constituted an excellent target for land-based heavy bombers.

The RENO (CL-96) Group at 061535 (I) was ordered to change course to 060 owing to a possible typhoon in vicinity 09-00 N, 143-00 E; estimated westerly movement, to arrive at 10-30 N, 135-00 E (150 miles N of PALAU) by 8 Nov.

TF 38 (less TG 38.4) retires on completion of strikes on LUZON on 6 Nov to center of area MICK (14-35 N, 129-10 E), where it will rendezvous with oilers and TG 38.4 at 071200 (I). Upon completion of fueling on 7 Nov, CTF 38 in WASP, with 2 DD's and TG 38.2 proceeds to ULITHI, to arrive 090600 (I). TG's 38.1, 38.3, and 38.4 will operate at discretion in area DIESEL (16-35 N 130-20 E) with CTG 38.4 as OTC. These three groups fuel at point MICK at 100700 (I). CTF 38 in WASP, with 2 DD's proceeds to arrive GUAM at dawn 10 Nov.

TG 30.7 (Hunter-Killer Group) will leave the RENO Group at 080800 (I) and proceed to area ALCOHOL (12-10 N, 133 E) to protect the oiler group.

RATON (SS-270) reported 3 hits on a heavy cruiser at 060940(I). The cruiser was beached on RENA POINT (16-10 N 119-45 E), West LUZON coast.

SEACAT (SS-399) at 22-00 N 164-48 E (180 miles NW of WAKE) reported that a torpedo passed ahead of her and broke surface at 060615 (I).

CTG 77.1 (Fire Support Group) reported at 041915 (I) that ammunition and fuel replenishment of his force in LEYTE GULF was 50% completed, with no interruption from enemy aircraft.

ANDERSON (DD-411) was damaged on 1 Nov by a suicide Zeke, resulting in 12 killed, 17 wounded and 5 missing.

Preliminary report states that EVERSOLE (DE-404) was sunk by an enemy submarine at 0229 (I), 29 Oct in position 10-18 N 127-33 E (100 miles East of LEYTE GULF. There were 139 survivors; 75 are missing.

CTG 78.2 reports that night and early morning air operations from LEYTE have been transferred from TACLOBAN to the dry weather fields at BAYUG and BARI. On the night of 4-5 Nov (I) 10 Jap air raids did no damage to the TACLOBAN strip. One random bomb destroyed a PT Boat, with resulting heavy casualties.

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5 November (Oahu date) - (cont'd)

In the Central Pacific air strikes continued on the 5th against IWO JIMA, CHICHI JIMA, HAHAI JIMA, MARCUS, YAP, PALAU and MARSHALLS. Other activities of SWP air forces included strikes against HALMAHERA on the 3rd and WEWAK on the 4th.

In the North Pacific on the 5th, 4 PV's while strafing TORISHIMA RETTO, were attacked 10 miles E of TOMARI ZAKI (PARAMUSHIRU) by 11 Jap fighters. 1 PV was shot down, exploding when it hit the water. On the same day, 6 B-24's bombed KURABU SAKA; all returned safely.

The SINGAPORE area was attacked by B-29's on the 5th. 1 BB in drydock was hit by 2 1000-lb bombs; a third 1000-lb bomb hit the control house in the drydock area.

Three airdromes near KWEILIN were reported to be in Jap hands on 3rd Nov.

Land operations on LEYTE continue to progress favorably. In the CARIGARA BAY area the 24th Inf Div, after capturing PINAMOPOAN, moved south on the ORMOC road to intercept the enemy reported moving north along that road. Long range artillery has been displaced forward, and is shelling the ORMOC BAY area. The 7th Inf Div, after capturing BAYBAY (South ORMOC BAY), advanced several miles south without meeting enemy resistance. The division then moved north, and is reported to be midway between BAYBAY and ORMOC. 12,554 of the enemy were reported killed, and 109 captured.

Over

6 November (Oahu date)

At 071100 (I) RENO (CL-96) was proceeding on course 050, position 13-39-20 N 135-13-50 E (about 300 miles NW of ULITHI), making good 3 knots.

In the LEYTE area the 24th Inf Div advanced 4 miles south along the road to ORMOC. Long range artillery continues to pound enemy concentrations in the ORMOC area. 3 Counterattacks against the 24th Div were repulsed. The 96th Inf Div, operating near DAGAMI (East Central LEYTE), reports patrol clashes.

Preliminary report of results of the 2-day strike by TF 38 against LUZON on 5 and 6 Nov includes 440 enemy planes destroyed (113 in the air, 327 on the ground). 5 Ships were sunk (1 AO, 3 AK's and 1 sub chaser). 2 Were ^{Probably sunk} damaged (1 CA, 1 DD); 23 were damaged (1 CL, 5 DD, 2 DE, 1 trawler, 14 AK's). Considerable damage was inflicted on ground targets.

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6 November (Oahu date) - (cont'd)

LEXINGTON (CV-16) was hit on the signal bridge by a suicide divebomber on the 5th. There were heavy casualties among the ship's signal and gunnery personnel, requiring 170 personnel replacements.

SWP air forces continue strong air strikes against air-dromes on NEGROS and CEBU. Searchplanes attacked shipping at CORON BAY and off MINDORO. A searcher reported 1 CA, 1 CL, 1 DD and 1 AR on the 6th west of north tip of PALAWAN, on a northerly course.

On night 4-5 Nov in the LEYTE GULF heavy Jap air attacks hit one Liberty Ship, causing an ammunition explosion; details are unreported. One of the raiders was shot down.

On the 7th CTG 77.1 reports that there continues to be a lack of bogeys.

On the 5th 34 B-29's from SAIPAN attacked IWO JIMA. B-24's hit CHICHI JIMA on the 5th, and HAHAI JIMA and ANI JIMA on the 6th. Air strikes continued against ROTA, YAP, JALUIT, and MILLE.

In the North Pacific on the 6th 4 B-25's bombed TORISHIMA RETTO (10 miles North of PARAMUSHIRU), while 4 B-24's hit ONEKOTAN.

63 B-29's obtained excellent results in a bombing attack against SINGAPORE on the 5th.

On the 6th an unreported number of Jap planes bombed MOROTAI during the early morning. 4 PB4Y's were destroyed, 6 others damaged.

Cur

7 November (Oahu date) -

To avoid an approaching typhoon TG's 38.1, 38.3 and 38.4 were ordered to area COMFORT (18N 140E) to operate there 9 Nov. At 100700 (I) the groups will fuel in area COKE (19N 139E). TG 38.2 is at ULITHI. CTG 38.3 reports that a Jap CA was seen to break into two and sink in MANILA BAY on 5 November.

RENO (CL 96) proceeds to ULITHI. Position at 080800 (I): 14-02 N 136-20 E (about 300 miles NW of ULITHI). Her condition is improved; two tugs are towing in tandem; she is steaming slowly on one engine, with one boiler; she has no steering.

GABILIN (SS 252) reports sinking 1 medium AK on 31 Oct. in position 30N 138E (120 miles W of NANPO SHOTO).

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7 November (Oahu date) - (cont'd)


PADDLE (SS 263) returning from 5th War Patrol in SWP Area, reports sinking 1 5000-ton AO, and damaging 1 4000-ton AK.

At 081700 (I) 2 large freighter transports, 1 barge and 7 DD's were observed eastbound at 15 knots through VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE.

Activity in the LEYTE area continues with no appreciable change from that reported in yesterday's summary. The Japanese appear determined to continue reinforcement via ORMOC.

CenPac air forces on the 7th continued strikes against IWO JIMA, PAGAN, MARCUS, and the MARSHALLS. WAKE was hit on the 7th by 3 PV's.

SWP air forces continued the usual strikes against NEI and WEWAK.

Cum 

8 November (Oahu date)

CTG 73.4 reports that search planes at 091220 (I) sighted 4 BB's, 3 CA's, 3 CL's, and 3 DD's in BALABAC STRAIT, course 150, speed 20; at 1235 the course was changed to 320; at 1430 the position was given as 07-48N, 116-30 E, course 300, speed 10.

At 091400 (I) 4 AK's (or 4 AP's), 6 DD's, 2 DE's, and 1 possible tender were sighted off NW tip of LEYTE, and at 1500 this force was reported on southerly course, speed 6.

As a result of the sighting of enemy surface forces, Com3rdFlt at 092230 (I) directed TG's 38.1, 38.2, 38.3, and 38.4 to proceed to the east of LEYTE, vicinity of 11-00 N, 127-00 E, to arrive 110600 (I), prepared to strike if later directed. TG 38.5 (New group containing WASP) departs GUAM at dawn 11 Nov and proceeds to Point KEROSENE (11-15 N 130-20 E). TG's 30.7 (ASW) and 30.8 (tankers) proceed at best speed to area ALCOHOL (12-15 N 133-00 E).

RENO (CL-96) at 090300 (I) was in position 13-01 N 138-10 E (about 240 miles NW of ULITHI), course 140, speed 6.3. Weather was improving.

REDFIN (SS-272) on 2 Nov sank 1 AP off MACASSAR. On 8 Nov she sank 1 AO in the SULU SEA.

The ground situation on LEYTE presents about the same picture as reported during the previous two days. The reinforced Japanese are attempting to fight their way north along the ORMOC-PINAMPOAN road, while the 24th Inf Div opposes them, attempting to reach ORMOC, with little progress; as a result, heavy fighting is taking place along the ridges that flank the road. Further to the south,

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8 November (Oahu date) - (cont'd)

the 7th Div patrols have advanced to the north to a point within 12 miles of ORMOC without encountering the enemy. 96th Inf Div continues mopping up small enemy groups NW of DAGAMI. On the 7th our fighter bombers attacked the ORMOC BAY area, sinking 2 barges and damaging others with near misses. One lugger and 5 trucks were fired, and a Jap headquarters took fifteen bomb hits. Of 8 enemy fighters attacking DULAG airfield, 5 were shot down and 2 others were probably shot down.

Reports from SWP air forces covering the period 5-7 Nov indicate that widespread strikes continued against MINDANAO, CEBU, NEGROS, and PANAY, with the weight of the attacks again directed against airdromes on NEGROS; enemy shipping was attacked wherever found. During the same period strikes were made against NEI (weight of the attacks against CELEBES airfields), WEWAK, the VOGELKOP, and the SOLOMONS-BISMARCKS area.

CenPac airforces continued strikes against the BONIN and VOLCANO ISLANDS, PAGAN, and ROTA.

Cum

9 November (Oahu date)

Reports of sightings of enemy surface vessels in the VISAYAS on 10 Nov indicated that additional enemy reinforcements were landed on that date at ORMOC BAY. From 0630 to 0720 there were anchored in ORMOC BAY the following: 6 DD's, 2 possible CL's, 20-25 AP's (or AK's), and 50-60 barges. By 1430 all had departed.

At 1145 on the 10th a plane sighted 5 DD's, 4 AK's, and 1 escort vessel just north of BURIAS ISLAND, course 150, speed 12. At 2239 Com3rdFlt announced that TF 38 would strike this force on the 11th.

Additional sightings on the 10th included 1 CA, 5 CL's and 4 auxiliaries 70 miles SE of ISLAND BAY (PALAWAN), course 045, speed 15, though later the course was reversed. 2 DE's, 2 large AK's and 1 small AK were observed in CORON BAY, course 250.

There are no reports of activities of SWP air forces, other than search.

RENO (CL-96) at 101200(I) was approaching ULITHI, course 140, speed 7.3. She expects to arrive ULITHI night of the 10th.

At 100847(I) MOUNT HOOD (AE-11) exploded and sank at Berth 380, SEADLER HARBOR, MINDANAO (ARG-3) and 6 or 7 YM's, plus an indeterminate number of small boats, were severely damaged. All personnel of MOUNT HOOD were lost except a few men and one officer known to have been absent. There were numerous personnel casualties on vessels anchored nearby. The ARGONNE (AG-31) and RALPH TALBOT (DD-390) were also damaged.

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9 November (Oahu date) - (cont'd)

CTF 57 060040 contains progress report for ANGAUR and PELELIU for period 27 Oct - 2 Nov.

CTF 57 060810 summarizes operations 1 - 5 Nov.

On the 9th CenPac air forces continued neutralization of PAGAN and ROTA, reconnoitered MARCUS, heckled IWO JIMA, and planted 12 mines off CHICHI JIMA.

In the North Pacific on the 7th 8 PV's photographed the west coast of PARAMUSHIRU. 4 B-25's on an offensive photo mission along east coast of PARAMUSHIRU attacked 9 power-driven wooden barges, sinking two. Of 15-20 interceptors, 3 were shot down, with 1 probable and 1 was damaged; 1 B-25 was shot down, with no survivors.

CinCSWPA requests that, if practicable, 77th Inf Div be diverted to LEYTE.

AS Cum

10 November (Oahu date)

At 111730 (I) CTG 38.3 reported that his group caught and eliminated the enemy convoy reported in yesterdays summary as approaching ORMOC BAY. The convoy consisted of 3 large and 1 medium AP, 5 DD's, and 1 DE. The 4 AP's and 2 DD's and 1 DE were sunk; 2 DD's were badly damaged and believed sunk; 1 DD escaped in a damaged condition. The convoy was covered by 20 fighters; 13 were shot down, with 5 others probably shot down; 2 other enemy planes were shot down near the task group. Our losses were about 9 planes, with possibility of rescuing several pilots.

Com7thFlt reported at 100113 (I) that 2 PT boats attacked enemy shipping in ORMOC BAY, sinking 1 DD and 1 DE.

CinCSWPA reports that the enemy surface force that landed reinforcements at ORMOC, and departed on the 10th, was attacked by Army shore based aircraft. The retiring force of 15 DD's and 4 AP's was hit by dive-bombing and mast head attacks in the face of intense AA fire. 7 DD's and 3 AP's were sunk; 16 enemy interceptors were shot down, with 5 others probably shot down; we lost 4 bombers and 4 fighters. ~~As yet there is no report of attacks against the large enemy convoy that departed ORMOC BAY on afternoon of 11th.~~

Com3rdFlt has directed that TG's 38.1, 38.3, and 38.4 fuel on the 12th, then proceed to 15-30 N 123-30 E, and on 13th launch strikes against central and southern LUZON. The strikes will be repeated at 0600 on the 15th.

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10 November (Oahu date) - (cont'd)

SEALION (SS-315), operating EMPIRE waters, at 111400 (I) engaged one of two picket boats. She was forced down when one of the picket boats attempted to ram her.

LAPON (SS-260) summarizes 6th war patrol. Operating in CHINA SEA, sank 1 10,000-ton AO, 1 9500-ton AK, 1 5600-ton AK, and 1 500-ton escort vessel for a total tonnage of 25,600. Damaged 1 4000-ton unidentified ship and 1 5800-ton AK for a total tonnage of 9800.

SWP airforces continued anti-shipping strikes in the PHILIPPINE area, and near CELEBES. 5 Small AK's, 6 schooners, and 11 barges were sunk or damaged. On the 8th 24 B-24's attacked ALICANTE airdrome on NEGROS. Attacks were also continued against WEWAK and BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area.

On the 9th an enemy bomber over MOROTAI was shot down and crashed in a revetment area, destroying 1 B-25 and damaging 4 others.

CenPac air forces continued neutralization strikes against the BONIN and VOLCANO ISLANDS, ROTA, PALAU, YAP, JALUIT and NAURU.

There is very little change in the ground situation on LEYTE; the main battle area remains along the ORMOC-PINAMPOAN road. Our casualties as of 7 Nov are: KIA, 884; WIA, 3479; MIA, 263. The enemy's casualties as of 8 Nov are given as 15,324 killed.

CTF 57 reports that 200 Japs landed on NGEREGONG ISLAND (NE of PELELIU) during a storm 8-9 Nov, with machine guns and knee mortars. Our patrol evacuated under cover of LCI(G) support, without loss. A DD and 2 gunboats are keeping DENGES PASSAGE closed, and have shelled the island. Our planes bombed and strafed the island on the 10th, and will continue strikes until the island is reoccupied.

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11 November (Oahu date)

TF 38 less TG 38.2 is scheduled to strike LUZON targets on 13 Nov.

TG 30.2 (RAdm Smith) with CruDiv 5 and 7 DD's is scheduled to bombard IWO JIMA commencing 2400 (-9) 11 Nov.

CinCSWPA communique states that at ORMOC BAY on the 10th(I), medium bombers and fighters based at LEYTE attacked a convoy of 15 DD's and 4 large AP's in ORMOC BAY. Report indicates that 7 DD's and 3 of the AP's were sunk and that 16 enemy interceptors were shot down. Blue losses were 4 bombers and 4 fighters.

On the 11th (I), carrier planes from 3 TG's of TF 38 attacked an enemy convoy of 3 large and one medium AP, 5 DD's and one DE just prior to their entry into ORMOC BAY. All 4 AP's plus 2 DD's and one DE were observed to sink. 20 enemy fighters were providing air cover for this convoy; 13 of these were shot down. Our losses were 9 planes; some of whose pilots may have been rescued.

GUNNEL (SS-253) reports one YAMATO class BB and one TONE class CA, 180 miles west of northern LUZON, course 028, speed 19.

8 B-29's bombed TRUK on the 11th (I). AA and fighter opposition were meagre and a small number of ships were sighted in the harbor.

96 B-29's made an attack on the OMURA Aircraft Factory at KYUSHU. Poor weather conditions enabled only 30 planes to actually hit the OMURA target. 40 B-29's bombed the SHANGHAI and NANKING areas.

MOUNT HOOD (AE-11) is reported to have exploded while at anchor in SEEDLER HARBOR on 10 Nov (I). Preliminary estimates show 22 officers and 290 enlisted men were aboard and no survivors are reported. The cause of the explosion is believed to be unknown. The casualties on the nearby ships from the blast are reported to be 109 killed and about 600 injured with minor damage to about 29 ships anchored in the vicinity.

Rear Admiral Sherman with other staff members returned PEARL from HOLLANDIA.

12 November (Oahu date)

A report from CTG 78.2 states that 7 merchant ships, the EGERIA (ARL 8) and ACHILLES (ARL 41) were damaged by suicide attacks in the LEYTE Area between 1130 and 1830 (-9) 12 November.

ATULE (SS 403) on the morning of the 13th (I) sighted 1 carrier and a heavy cruiser north of LUZON. Course 40, speed 20. The submarine reported no planes were on deck.

GREENLING (SS 213) reports sinking 1 DD and 1 medium tanker upon departure from Empire waters.

Three task groups of Task Force 38 struck LUZON on the 13th.

B-24's bombed both airfields at IWO JIMA on the 11th and 12th.

Sherman 031241 (pink) outlines the results of consultation with Admiral Kinkaid and Generals Sutherland, Kenney and Chamberlain.

CinCPac 062241 (pink) passes to Cominch certain information received from Admiral Sherman relative to HOLLANDIA Conference.

American Legation U.S. Liaison Officer 021100 and 021155 (pink) outlines tentative scheduled operations in the Asiatic Theater.

Cominch 312149 (pink) outlines violations by American planes in attacking Soviet shipping.

CinCSWPA 100835 (pink) requests that the 77th Division be diverted to the TACLOBAN Area.

CinCPOA 102013 acknowledges the despatch appearing directly above in the affirmative.

CinCPOA 310032 (pink) outlines employment of fighter groups in the ICEBERG Operation.

ComGenPOA 010833 (pink) outlines employment of Army fighter groups in the DETACHMENT Operation.

CinCPOA 110233 (pink) directs CTF 57 (V. Adm. Hoover) to designate appropriate commander PALAU to arrange details with ComGen Far Eastern Air Force for employment of the 494th Heavy Bomb Group in the PHILIPPINES; remaining 2 squadrons of the 454th Bomb Group will depart OAHU to arrive PALAU 20 November.

ComGenPOA 112103 (pink) concurs in CinCSWPA request to divert 77th Division to TACLOBAN Area.

CinCPac 130901 to Cominch summarizes his estimate of the situation and outlines what action is being taken in regard thereto.

Cominch 131550 (pink) approves the despatch referred to above.

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12 November (Oahu date - Cont'd)

Com7thFleet 130113 (pink) states that Royal Australian Air Force intends to mine BRUNEI BAY on November 9th, 15th and 18th.

CinCSWPA 130248 (pink) states that strategic situation has changed and that it is now evident that the enemy will make a decisive stand in Western LEYTE in order to delay further advances in the PHILIPPINES, and that Army air strength in LEYTE is not at present sufficient to neutralize enemy bases and he requests 3rd Fleet to continue to strike LUZON.

CinCPOA 130918 (pink) cancels previous statement that BRUNEI BAY might be hit by 3rd Fleet.

CinCPOA 130343 (pink) requests CTF 57 (V. Adm. Hoover) to make strike as soon as practicable on WOLEAI.

First Sea Lord 121904 (pink) outlines arrangements for British Pacific Fleet.

Admiralty 121915 (pink) outlines flag appointments of British Pacific Fleet.

Com3rdFleet 130148 (pink) states that he does not foresee any immediate use of NGULU.

Com3rdFlt 100215 suggests carrier groups be authorized to strike enemy shipping in VISAYAS on Nov 11th.

MacArthur 101103 authorizes and concurs in above mentioned suggestion and requests strikes at discretion on any targets afloat in VISAYAN and LUZON waters.

Com3rdFlt 110249 outlines contemplated operations in the immediate future and recommends that HOTFOOT be postponed until after INDUCTION.

Cincpoa 120905 outlines his views on strike on BRUNEI BAY.

Com3rdFlt 110406 recommends carrier strike on BRUNEI BAY.

CinCSWPA 112307 requests strikes on LUZON airfields on 14 and 15 Nov.

Com3rdFlt 111329 requests authority to strike central and southern LUZON on 13 and 14 Nov.

Cincpoa 120411 defers HOTFOOT operation indefinitely.

Com3rdFlt 011248 states that fast BB's will be in position to support surface force at LEYTE as needed and that carrier groups will be available to support LEYTE operations.

Cincpoa 021937 directs Com3rdFlt to employ his forces so as most effectively to support LEYTE operations.

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12 November (Oahu date - cont'd)

Com3rdFlt 011335 advises MacArthur that the fast carriers must not be risked in close for defensive combat air patrol.

Com3rdFlt 110251 requests information from Cincpoa regarding future employment of FRANKLIN, ENTERPRISE, and BELLEAU WOOD, also requests information regarding expected arrival of new carriers.

Com3rdFlt 110258 requests BUNKER HILL yard overhaul be deferred until strength of TF 38 can be restored.

Cincpoa 010452 requests CinCSWPA to make photo reconnaissance of BRUNEI BAY.

Arnold's 312253 requests attack by 20th Bomber Command on SINGAPORE.

Cincpac 310151 outlines coordination of all forces to be employed HOTFOOT operation.

Cincpoa 100718 covers approval of SHERMAN, CHAMBERLIN, LEAVEY, and WHITLOCK agreements regarding logistical support in the PHILIPPINES.

CinCSWPA 070610 to Chief of Staff, Washington, outlines the approved Logistic Support of Pacific Ocean Areas support in the PHILIPPINES.

Cominch 311⁹045 outlines his views on temporary naval facilities for the immediate future at SAN PEDRO BAY and the LUZON area.

13 November (Oahu date)

Task Groups 38.1 (R.Adm. Montgomery) and 38.4 (R.Adm. Davison) will proceed to the fueling area on 16 November. Task Group 38.3 (R.Adm. Sherman) was directed to proceed to ULITHI to arrive morning of 17 November and be ready for sea at dawn 21 November. Task Group 38.2 (R.Adm. Bogan) will rendezvous with other groups at fueling area on the morning of the 16th.

Com7thFlt reports that reconnaissance of BRUNEI BAY on the morning of 12 November resulted ⁱⁿ sighting of no shipping in that port.

An enemy submarine was sunk by escort vessels at 31-48 N, 139-52 W (mid-way between Honolulu and San Francisco) after a two hour attack during which time many underwater explosions were heard. The submarine surfaced upside down and then sank. Many articles with Japanese inscriptions were picked up on the surface.

JALLAO (SS 368) made contact with HAYATAKA CV, 1 CA and 3 DD at 21-02 N, 118-38 E (SW of S tip of FORMOSA) in the early morning of 13 November. This submarine missed the carrier, expending six torpedoes.

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13 November (Oahu date - Cont'd)

BERGALL (SS 320) reports results of war patrol. Returned 8 November, sinking 1 small craft, 1 medium AK (4,000 tons), 1 large oiler (16,800 tons), for a total of 21,500 tons.

DACE (SS 247) summarizes war patrol, returning 6 November (I). Sunk 1 AO (10,000 tons), 1 AK (7,500 tons), 1 ATAGO Class heavy cruiser (9,900 tons).

Report received from PALAU states that 200 Japs landed at NGEREGONG ISLAND, PALAU (7 Miles NE of PELELIU) during a storm on 8-9 November (I). Our patrol was evacuated under cover of LCI's without loss.

Results of the fast carrier task force strikes on LUZON on 13 November (H) have been received. Evidently complete surprise was effected and resulted in the sinking of 2 DD and 11 medium to large AK's and AO's, damaged 1 NATORI Class CL, and scored 4 torpedo hits in a floating drydock. Port facilities were observed to be burning in the late afternoon. About 20 planes were air-borne over the land targets and 18 of these were shot down together with 10 others shot down near the task force. At MANILA 130 to 140 single and twin-engine planes were observed on the ground at Clark and Legaspi Fields. These were strafed but no signs were reported of their burning. Our losses were reported to be 6 planes as a result of AA fire.

Cominch 121737 (pink) outlines his views regarding the British Pacific Fleet and its method of employment.

MacArthur 140309 (pink) states approval of Philippine Base Report signed 4 November at HOLLANDIA by POA and SWPA representatives.

Cominch 131955 establishes the Philippine Sea Frontier under Com7thFlt and outlines limits of the frontier.

CinCPOA 141037 requests assent of CinCSWPA for ComServPac to communicate directly with Com7thFlt and ComSerFor 7th Fleet on matters pertaining to logistics.

CinCPOA 132107 to Com3rdFlt outlines regulation of operating forces regarding upkeep and overhaul. Also indicates that carriers FRANKLIN and BELLEAU WOOD will not be returned to service in forward areas before February.

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14 November (Oahu date)

An incomplete report of the strike on LUZON, 14 Nov (I), by CTF 38 indicates that 9 enemy VF were shot down plus 30 destroyed on the ground. In MINDORO STRAIT 2 AO's, apparently loaded with aviation gas, were left in flames. In MANILA HARBOR and CAVITE one large AK was sunk, a possible ammunition ship was blown up and 15 AK's, 1 AO, and one AP were hit and damaged. Sightings in the harbor on the 14th were estimated to total 25 ships ranging from three thousand to ten thousand tons each. The MANILA dock area was severely damaged, many large fires being reported. CAVITE oil tanks, CAVITE hangar and Navy Yard facilities were hit with a great number of bombs. No report of our losses has been received.

BARB(SS-220) scored one hit on a "AKAGI" class CV at 32-45 N 127-05 E (south of KOREA).

HALIBUT (SS-232) was severely damaged by heavy depth charging north of LUZON. Radio was put out of commission but she was reported to be able to dive. She is now enroute SAIPAN in company with the PINTADO.

CinCPac 150524 requests CominCh to take action in supplying Transport CVE's for Pacific Fleet, due to critical shortage of CVE lift during 1st quarter of 1945.

CinCSWPA 150235 suggested to Com3rdFlt that CLARK FIELD, as well as FORMOSA fields, will be profitable targets for future strikes.

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15 November (Oahu date)

3 Groups of TF 38 (38.1, 38.2, 38.3), after fueling on 16 Nov (I), will operate in an area northeast of LEYTE approximately 250 miles east of the mainland.

On the morning of 15 Nov forces under RAdm Barbey effected a landing on PEGUN ISLAND in the MAPIA group 160 miles northwest of BIAK. No opposition was encountered. The island was taken as a proposed Loran and weather station.

Supplemental report from TF 38 indicates that during the strike on LUZON, 13 Nov, Blue losses number 17 planes instead of 6 as originally reported.

SCABBARD FISH (SS-397) contacted 1 AK and 4 escorts night of 16 Nov (I) east of CHICHI JIMA. The AK was sunk with one hit being made out of four fired.

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15 November (Oahu date) (cont'd)

CTF 38 (VAdm McCain) shifted the Flag from the WASP to the HANCOCK on 17 Nov.

Effective 15 Nov TF 72 was abolished. All submarine facilities operating under the 7th Fleet have been incorporated into TF 71 with RAdm Christie as Task Force Commander.

CinCSWPA 160733 (pink) outlines the proposed cover plan for M-1 Operation.

ComGenPOA 150703 proposes to recommend to the War Department that the category of defenses for the Hawaiian Area will be modified.

CinCPac 160546 outlines changes in task force designations effective 20 Nov 1944.

CinCPOA 160042 recommends holding the 97th and 86th Infantry Divisions on the mainland until called for in view of the fact that facilities are overloaded in the Hawaiian Area.

Wedemeyer 151020 approves "Fivesome" agreement dated 5 Nov 1944, signed at HOLLANDIA, with the exceptions noted.

CinCSWPA 160101 (pink) indicates that he intends to adhere to the present dates for the L-3 and M-1 Operations and requests certain operations be carried out by fast carriers and also indicates desire for two new battleships to augment 7th Fleet forces covering landing areas.

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16 November (Oahu date)

All troops and stores were landed on PEGUN by 1700 (I) 15 Nov. 15 Japs committed suicide. About 200 moved to nearby BRAS ISLAND where they were subjected to air and surface bombardment on the 16th.

Chinese announced that the fall of KWEILIN and LIUCHOW took place on 11 Nov.

RONQUIL (SS-396) reported 2 holes in pressure hull after gun fight but is able to make an emergency dive.

SEAFOX (SS-402) reported that it took 11 torpedoes to sink one medium stack-aft vessel southwest of KYUSHU.

Photo evaluation of the force sighted in BRUNEI BAY 16 Nov is as follows: 1 possible Kongo class BB, 1 Nachi class CA, 1 probable CL, 6 DD, 2 large AO's, 1 large freighter transport, 5 AK's. No carriers were sighted.

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16 November (Oahu date) (Cont'd)

25 B-24's accompanied by 56 fighters bombed BACOLOD airfield (NEGROS), hits were concentrated on the air strip and revetment areas. Blue planes shot down 6 and damaged 3 of 13 airborne Jap fighters.

B-24's attacked shipping at HAHAI and CHICHI JIMA on the 15th and 16th; no results reported.

CinCSWPA 160017 (pink) requests Chief of Staff, War Department, to transfer certain Army forces in the South Pacific to the Southwest Pacific.

CinCPOA 170200 (pink) answers CinCSWPA's 160101 relative to employment of naval forces in the MINDORO and LUZON Operations.

CinCPOA 170240 (pink) outlines the reasons for delay in the DETACHMENT and ICEBERG Operations and announces a two week delay in target date for both operations.

ComGenPOA 170248 (pink) advises CinCPOA on matters pertaining to mounting areas for certain divisions.

CinCPOA 170220 (pink) states that a conference will be held by CinCPOA at an early date to determine the availability of Army service units for ICEBERG and that representatives of ComGenPOA, ComGenAAFP, and ComGen10thArmy attend.

ComGenPOA 170957 (pink) states that recommendations will be made regarding disposition of Army Divisions after the conference referred to in despatch above.

ComGenPOA 162121 (pink) advises that 2800 ground force replacements can be furnished for 24th Corps.

17 November (Oahu date)

Three groups of TF 38 are scheduled to strike LUZON on the 19th (38.1, 38.3, 38.4). TG 38.3 is at ULITHI at the present time.

Amplified report from Com3rdFlt gives the final score for TF 38 attacks on central LUZON targets 13th and 14th Nov (I).

	<u>Final report</u>	<u>First Rpt</u>
a. Airborne planes destroyed at target	34	25
b. Airborne planes destroyed at force	11	12
c. Grounded planes destroyed	39*	30
Total Planes destroyed	84	67

* 75 Other planes were strafed but did not burn.

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17 November (Oahu date (cont'd))

	<u>Final Rpt.</u>	<u>First Rpt.</u>
d. Ships sunk (1 CL, 4 DD, 3 AO, 9 AK)	17	16
e. Barges & small craft sunk	32	"many"
f. Ships damaged	at least 20	?
g. Small craft damaged	several	?
h. Own combat losses (including at least 20 by AA)	34	
i. Own operational losses	11	
Total our plane losses	<u>45</u>	
j. Our personnel losses	not reported.	

SPADEFISH (SS-411) sank an Otaka class CVE with 4 hits at 2230 (I) on the 17th. This CVE was sunk west of CHUSAN ARCHIPELAGO. In addition the SPADEFISH sank a large AK in the same area on the 13th.

QUEENFISH (SS-393) obtained 2 hits on a CVE west of KYUSHU on the 15th.

BARB (SS-220) damaged a large carrier west of KYUSHU on the 15th. In addition the BARB sank 1 large AP and 4 AK's and probably sunk another AK.

SAURY (SS-189) operating north of CHICHI JIMA reports one hit on a medium tanker on the 17th. The SAURY missed with 4 torpedoes at close range when the enemy twice attempted to ram her.

FLOUNDER (SS-251) reports sinking a NAZI submarine on the 10th south of BORNEO in the JAVA SEA. 2 Hits were made and the enemy submarine was observed to sink.

At CHICHI JIMA on the 17th mines were laid 2½ miles southwest of the Island by aircraft.

CinCPOA 160232 (pink) indicates to ComGenPOA that certain questions raised will be submitted to the JCS through prescribed channels and further states that CinCPac is inclined to recommend reduction of mobile unit defense forces in the Hawaiian Area even more than that proposed by ComGenPOA.

CominCh 171835 (pink) outlines concurrence by JCS in a delay in the target date for DETACHMENT and ICEBERG.

ARNOLD'S 172312 (pink) accepts the "FIVESOME" agreement with certain reservations.

Com3rdFlt 180105 (pink) states that unless otherwise directed by MacArthur three groups will strike LUZON Nov 19th and that a decision to strike again on the 20th will be reserved pending results of the first days strike.

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17 November (Oahu date (cont'd))

CinCPOA 180935 (pink) directs delay of DETACHMENT and ICEBERG operations until 3 February and 15 March respectively (East Longitude dates).

CinCPOA 180430 outlines to ComFwdArea that facilities be made available at AGANA by 1 January.

18 November (Oahu date)

Preliminary report on the IWO JIMA bombardment by CTG 30.2 (RAdm. Smith) consisting of the CA's CHESTER, PENSACOLA, SALT LAKE CITY plus 6 DD's, follows: Bombardment lasted from 2350 11 Nov (I) to 0103 12 Nov (I). Tactical surprise was achieved. Upon completion of bombardment large fires were observed. Shore batteries failed to commence firing for a period of 8 minutes after our bombardment commenced. Total of about 150 flashes were observed from enemy shore batteries. No enemy planes were sighted and no damage was inflicted on our ships, planes or personnel.

Assault forces from the 31st Division landed at BRAS ISLAND at 0800 16 Nov (I). This landing was preceded by heavy surface and air bombardment. Report states moderate resistance was encountered and that progress is satisfactory.

CTF 57 (VAdm Hoover) reported that NGEREGONG ISLAND, in the PALAU Group, was reoccupied 15 Nov by our troops. On 9 Nov about 200 Japs made a landing on this island and drove our patrols therefrom.

CTG 30.7 reports making seven hedgehog attacks on a submarine at 12-39 N 130-48 E (250 miles east of SAMAR). L.C. TAYLOR (DE-415) made these hedgehog attacks and on the third try three explosions resulted with considerable oil and debris coming to the surface. A large oil slick three miles long was observed twenty-four hours later.

CTG 77.2 (RAdm Weyler) reports that on the evening of the 18th the CAP had been secured due to weather. One bogey approached completely undetected and dived on the COLUMBIA (CL-56) dropping a bomb 300 yards from the ship. No mention is made of any damage, however, report states that no personnel casualties were reported.

Continued strikes were carried out by B-24's on CHICHI JIMA, IWO JIMA and HAHAI JIMA.

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19 November (Oahu date)

Strikes on LUZON were made by planes from TF 38 on 19 Nov (I). Com3rdFlt's preliminary report indicates that 10 Japanese planes were shot down over LUZON and more than 100 destroyed on the ground. Over 250 planes were observed on the various airfields, many of them appearing to have been previously damaged. An attack by 20 Japanese aircraft believed by Com3rdFlt to have come from FORMOSA was broken up without damage to the force, and 8 Japanese bombers were shot down.

2 large AK's and 1 large AO were burned in MANILA BAY by planes of this strike. Only 2 medium AK's and 1 small AK were observed to be fully surfaced and on an even keel in MANILA BAY. No shipping was sighted at CAVITE.

CTG 78.2 (RAdm FECHTLER) reports that Jap planes were overhead in the LEYTE area 8 different times on the 18th. At 0712 the ALPINE (APA 92) was holed 3 feet above the waterline as the result of an enemy plane exploding 50 feet off the port side. Report indicates that 16 were wounded on this ship and an LCM alongside was sunk; 4 of the crew are reported missing. On the 19th at LEYTE an enemy plane crashed into the bow of the ALCOA PIONEER, killing 4 and injuring 10.

On the 20th MISSISSINEWA (AO 59) was sunk by an enemy sub at ULITHI opposite MUGAI CHANNEL. Report indicates that many survivors were rescued but that the casualties were undetermined at the present time.

Three convoys were attacked by enemy fighters approximately 10-30N, 150-00E, about 200 miles north of TRUK. On the 19th an Army plane sighted a surfaced submarine trailing a Liberty ship between OAHU and SAN FRANCISCO. The plane circled for about ten minutes after the sub had submerged.

On the 17th B-29's photographed an 800-foot CV afloat and under construction at NAGASAKI. The flight deck appeared to be 175-feet completed.

Heavy air strikes were carried out on NEGROS, MINDANAO, and CEBU by B-24's and B-25's. Targets were the airfields.

A report from CinCSWPA covering our casualties in the LEYTE operation as of 17 Nov is as follows: K - 1,073; W - 4,277; M - 122. Enemy casualties to 16 Nov: 18,778 killed, 95 captured.

B-29's from the 21st Bomber Command took off to TOKYO area at 202032Z.

Cincpoa 200312 outlines to ComFwdArea that the island commands of SAIPAN, TINIAN, and GUAM are co-equal and are responsible only to ComFwdArea.

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19 November (Oahu date - cont'd)

Halsey 200720 (pink) outlines his estimate of the situation.

Cincpoa 200043 (pink) covers tour of duty of carrier air groups and further indicates to Com3rdFlt that ComNavAirBases GUAM is ComAirPac's forward representative.

Cincpoa 200113 (pink) refers to transfer of SoPacBaCom to SWPA.

20 November (Oahu date)

A report has been received giving further details of the submarine attack at ULITHI reported yesterday. CruDiv 5, while engaging in a sortie, was attacked by submarines about sunrise on the 20th (I). CASE (DD-370) rammed a midget sub at 0538 (-9) on 20 Nov. Reports received yesterday indicated that the MISSISSINEWA (AO-59) was torpedoed at anchor some 17 minutes later (0555). On the 20th reports indicate that three midget subs have been sunk and contacts were reported throughout the day.

TG 38.3 is at ULITHI; TG's 38.1 and 38.2 are operating off eastern PHILIPPINES and TG'38.4 is enroute to ULITHI and will attack YAP with 96 VF carrying Napalm bombs and rockets the morning of 22 Nov (I).

SEALION (SS-315) reported at 1800 (GCT) 20 Nov (0300 21st((-9) that she attacked an enemy TF 26 N 121-15 E (north of FORMOSA) course 050, speed 16. The composition of this force was reported to be 2 BB's, 2 cruisers, 3 DD's. Report stated that three definite hits were made on one battleship resulting in a violent explosion and flames; also one hit on a second battleship. At 0524 (-9) when about to make a second attack on the 1st battleship she blew up and sank. Heavy seas prevented the SEALION from further pursuit of this force.

CTF 94 (VAdm Hoover) reported that an enemy submarine was probably sunk the 19th near the west entrance of KOSSOL ROADS by 2 DE's the CONKLIN (DE-439) and MCCOY REYNOLDS (DE-440). Explosion and floating debris of Japanese characters were observed.

^{+r} GURNARD (SS-254) arrived FREMENTLE on 17 Nov from 7th war partol. Summary: Sank one large AO, 1 large AK (10,000 tons) and damaged one large AO and one large AK.

Supplemental report has been issued by TF 38 stating that total planes shot down on the 19th by TF 38 was 26 instead of 18.

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20 November (Oahu date)(cont'd)

On the morning of the 21st (I), east of central MINDANAO, ComCarDiv 29 (RAdm Durgin) reported an attack by 3 Japanese bombers. 2 Bombs were dropped on the convoy and one plane strafed a CVE; no damage resulted therefrom. One twin-engine bomber was shot down by automatic weapons.

Our ground forces have completed occupation of the entire MAPIA ISLANDS and have landed troops on the ASIA ISLANDS northwest of western NEW GUINEA.

CinCPOA 202255 (pink) states that after Com3rdFlt's plan of strikes preparatory to INDUCTION has been determined CinCPOA will inform ComGen20th Air Force of aid desired from the 20th Bomber Command.

21 November (Oahu date)

Admiral Nimitz, Rear Admiral Sherman, and other staff members departed Pearl for San Francisco.

TG 38.2 is now in area READY (13-55N 132-47 E), and TG 38.3 is enroute to that area from ULITHI. TG 38.4 is at ULITHI, and TG 38.1 is enroute thereto.

Personnel casualties due to loss of MISSISSINEWA (AO-59) on the 20th are reported as 10 enlisted men known dead; 30 officers, 47 enlisted men missing; 17 officers, 221 enlisted men rescued.

SCABBARDFISH (SS-397) at 33-46 N 141-35 E (S of HONSHU) sank one medium AO with 2 hits, and damaged one medium unidentified vessel with one hit.

SEAL (SS-183), operating SEA of OKHOTSK, reports sinking 2 AK's.

SAILFISH (SS-192) on 4 Nov in FORMOSA STRAIT sank 2 DD's out of a hunter-killer group of 7 ships.

Com3rdFlt's final report on the air strikes against LUZON on the 19th shows the following:

Planes shot down	28	(2 additional)
(16 over target, 12 over force)		
Planes destroyed on ground	110	(10 additional)
Ships sunk or burning	6	(3 additional)
(3 med.AK, 1 AO, 1 PC, 1 coastal AK)		
Ships hit	4	(no previous report)
Small craft burned or sunk	7	(no previous report)

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21 November (Oahu date) (cont'd)

There are no reports to indicate any change in the ground situation on LEYTE. Over the western part of the island on the 19th, 24 enemy fighters were attacked, 6 being shot down. 7 B-24's from BIAK, staged through LEYTE, bombed buildings and jetties at PALDMPON in W LEYTE. On night of 19-20 our PT boats sank 4 loaded barges S of ORMOC.

CenPac air forces continued strikes against ROTA, PALAU, YAP, and TRUK. At the latter place, land-based fighters for the first time escorted bombers.

Usual strikes by SWP air forces continued against BORNEO, CELEBES, and AMBON.

CTF 57 170140 summarizes operations during period 11-15 Nov.

22 November (Oahu date)

TG's 38.2 and 38.3 will fuel on 23 Nov in Area CONDOR (13-55 N 130-15 E); then proceed to strike LUZON on 25 and 26 Nov.

Com7thFlt reports that at 211415(I) 3 unidentified surface groups entered ORMOC BAY. At 1100 4 small AK's were observed N of LEYTE on northerly course. Between 1025 and 1530 one medium AK, 5 small AK's and 3 PC's were observed NE of PANAY, headed NE.

TF 92 (CruDiv 1, DesRon 57) at 220909 (GCT) completed bombardment of MATSUWA, with resulting heavy fires and explosions. There was no return fire.

SWP search planes continued to attack shipping, sinking or probably sinking 1 DE, 1 small AK, 1 coastal AK, and 1 lugger.

Com7thFlt reports that the midget submarine menace is increasing in and east of the PHILIPPINES. No details were given.

CenPac airforces continued strikes against the MARSHALLS, BONINS, and CAROLINES.

On the 21st China-based B-29's bombed OMURA (56 planes), SHANGHAI (10 planes), NANKING (5 planes) and targets of opportunity (10 planes). Average bomb load was 3.1 tons. Enemy interceptors were active; 20 were destroyed, 19 probably destroyed, and 26 damaged. 6 B-29's are missing. Personnel losses include 12 killed, 3 wounded and 78 missing.

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22 November (Oahu date) (cont'd)

NANNING, CHINA (22-40 N 108-05 E) was evacuated by U.S. personnel on the 20th, and all airdrome facilities were demolished.

Land operations on LEYTE remain as previously reported, with the enemy making a determined stand in the LIMON area. Our casualties through the 20th are: KIA, 1176; WIA, 4729; MIA, 131.

CNO announces that the PHILIPPINE SEA FRONTIER was established 13 Nov as a separate command under Com7thFlt.

23 November (Oahu date)

Com7thFlt reports that at 231515 (I) 3 BB's, 1 CV, and 7 small ships were anchored in KIRUN HARBOR, north FORMOSA. In the forenoon of the 23rd a heavy concentration of merchant and tanker shipping was observed in north BORNEO ports. ComNavGroup CHINA reports that at 231445 (I) a convoy of 9 AO's, 1 CA, and 6 escorts was sighted off east coast of INDO CHINA, course 350, speed 10. A British source reports that on 18 Nov, off ST. JACQUES (SAIGON), there were assembled 27 AP's with 12 escorts left for an unknown destination. ATULE (SS-403), at 241500 (I), reported 1 NATORI CL, 1 DD, 1 tender, and 1 PC northbound off CAPE BOJEADOR.

The wolfpack "Sandy's Sluggers" (BANG, REDFISH, and SHAD) eliminated a 7-ship convoy NE of FORMOSA. BANG (SS-385) sank 4, damaged 1. REDFISH (SS-395) sank 2, in addition to 2 sampans previously sunk by gunfire.

The land action on LEYTE has apparently turned in our favor with 32nd Inf Div breaking through the enemy's defense in the LIMON area and driving south to LEYTE RIVER (which is just south of LIMON). Our artillery is reported to have inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy, forced him to commit his forces in piecemeal attacks, and disrupted all attempts to make a coordinated counterattack. 11th Airborne Div has been landed on LEYTE (by surface ships) and is relieving 7th Inf Div. Our casualties to include the 21st are: KIA, 1214; WIA, 4730; MIA, 95.

CinCSWPA reports enemy casualties, as follows:

<u>AREA</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>POWS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MOROTAI	350	17	367
MAPIA	167	--	167
NOEMFOOR	1987	260	2247
BIAK	6805	501	7306
MAFFIN BAY	3995	56	4051

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23 November (Oahu date)(cont'd)

<u>AREA</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>POWS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HOLLANDIA	4500	651	5151
AITAPE	9132	153	9285
CAPE CLOUCESTER	4317	344	4661
TOTAL	<u>31253</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>33235</u>

SWP Airforces on the 21st and 22nd flew over 200 sorties in attacks against targets in the PHILIPPINE area concentrating against NEGROS and MINDANAO. B-24's also hit supply dumps and barracks south of ORMOC. Searchplanes sank 2 small AK's and damaged two others near PALAWAN and PANAY.

CenPac Airforces continued strikes against the BONINS, PAGAN, and CAROLINES.

On night of 22nd 9 enemy planes raided MOROTAI, destroying 15 planes (3 B-25, 4 B-24, 1 PV, 7 A-20), and damaging 34 (18 B-25's, 8 B-24's, 2 PV, 6 A-20's). 3 Men were killed and 8 wounded. 1 Enemy plane was destroyed and 1 probably destroyed. Another raid was reported before dawn on the 24th, but no details have been received.

SWP Airforces continued wide spread attacks against BORNEO, CELEBES, HALMAHERA, AMBON, TIMOR, and the VOGELKOP.

Preliminary report of the B-29 strike against the TOKYO Area on the 24th, from ISLEY FIELD, SAIPAN, states that 111 planes were airborne. 13 Returned early. 4 Squadrons hit the NAKAJIMA-MUSASHINO Aircraft factory; 2 Squadrons hit the TOKYO wharf area; 2 Squadrons hit the TOKYO urban area; and 1 Squadron bombed targets of opportunity. AA fire was moderate to inaccurate. Interception was slight to moderate. Reports indicate that all but three aircraft returned; that these three landed in the water off east coast HONSHU. Our submarines are attempting to effect rescue.

24 November (Oahu date)

On night 17-18 Nov (I) 200 Japs from KOROR using 20-man rafts and individual float bags attacked LCI's in SCHONIAN Harbor. All were killed except 1 POW. Damage to LCI's, if any, was unreported.

At 1920 on the 24th enemy bombers attacked shipping in LEYTE GULF. 1 merchant ship was slightly damaged, and PC1124 and LCI976 were badly damaged. At 1115 on the 24th a Jap suicide plane damaged the JAMES O'HARA (APA90) off E LEYTE Coast.

Com7thFlt reports several sightings: 2 CL's, 3 DD's, 3 DE's, 3 Auxiliaries, and 2 SC's were anchored at SANTA CRUZ (W MINDORO) at 250015 (I). At 241900 (I) 4 CL's were proceeding from MANILA

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24 November (Oahu date)(cont'd)

BAY into VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE. Near BRUNEI BAY at 250920 (I) 31 small AK's, 2 SC's and 2 DE's were on course 220, speed 10.

HADDOCK (SS231), NE of LUZON reports 1 AK probably sunk and 1 AK damaged, for a total of 11,000 tons.

The ground situation on LEYTE continues to progress favorably. 32d InfDiv has advanced south of LEYTE RIVER. A strong enemy counterattack was repulsed. Our casualties to include the 22d are: KIA, 1245; WIA, 4846; MIA, 100. Enemy casualties are: Killed, 20,259; captured, 175.

LEYTE based fighters were reported by CinCSWPA to have sunk 1 DD and 2 AP's, and fired and beached a 3rd AP off SW MASBATE. 4,500 of an estimated 6,000 troops were killed or drowned.

On the morning of the 25th there were two enemy air raids. 25-30 planes, some of them twin-engine bombers, dropped bombs and incendiaries on TACLOBAN strip and SAN PABLO BAY. There was no damage to shipping; damage to ground installations was unreported. The Army reports shooting down 27 of the planes, losing one in the process.

CTF 77.2 reports that there were numerous bogeys in the LEYTE area on the 23rd. 12 enemy planes were reported shot down.

SWP air forces continued wide-spread attacks against enemy installations on BORNEO, CELEBES, TIMOR, TALAUD, NEW GUINEA, and the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area.

CenPac air forces continued neutralization strikes in the CAROLINES, MARIANAS, BONINS, and MARSHALLS.

ComFwdArea 210920 gives progress report on ANGAUR and PELELIU 15-19 Nov.

ComFwdArea 210910 summarizes operations 16-20 Nov.

25 November (Oahu date)

TG 38.3 is at sea in vicinity of area READY (13-55 N 134-47E). TG 38.2 is enroute to ULITHI. TG's 38.1 and 38.4 are at ULITHI.

TG 38.2 and 38.3 in their strikes against LUZON on the 25th sustained a well coordinated attack by the enemy air force which combined low level simulated torpedo attacks with suicide dives. The INTREPID (CV 11) suffered considerably damage to the hangar and flight decks by 2 suicide crashes. The CABOT (CVL 28) received a near miss, with the plane bouncing off flight deck forward,

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25 November (Oahu date)(cont'd)

plus a second plane crash in the water close aboard. The ESSEX (CV 9) received a direct plane hit, with but little loss of battle efficiency. A suicide diver missed the HANCOCK (CV 19) with a bomb, and was shot down over the ship, throwing fragments over her; there was no loss of battle efficiency.

Results of Carrier strikes against LUZON on the 25th: 72 enemy planes destroyed (35 on the ground, 29 airborne by our fighters, 8 airborne by AA fire); 16 ships and 2 luggers sunk (including 1 KUMANO CA, 4 ODD or APD at MARINDAQUE, 1 DD, 9 assorted AK, 1 small AO); 4 assorted AK and 1 AO were damaged.

Com7thFlt reports that at 241430 (I) a Navy search plane attacked 4 troop-laden ships E of MASBATE, and left them burning and sinking. They included 1 large and 1 medium freighter-transport 1 DE and 1 unidentified.

CinCSWPA announces that at dusk on the 25th our fighter planes made masthead attacks against a Jap convoy of 4 AP's off N tip of CEBU, heading ~~from~~ LEYTE, and laden with troops and supplies. 3 of the ships were sunk, and the fourth was left blazing from stem to stern. All the cargo and an estimated 2,000 troops were lost. During the day 6 enemy planes were shot down over LEYTE.

CAVALLA (SS 244), early morning 25 Nov. made surface attack on a large CA (beleived NACHI class) in company with a CL, at 02-21N 107-20E (S CHINA SEA, W of BORNEO). 4 hits caused the CA to blow up and sink. The CL departed at high speed.

SPEARFISH (SS 190) enroute SAIPAN, at 211215 (I) in position 16-37N 142-42 E (about 180 mi NW of SAIPAN) sighted a periscope and avoided a torpedo wake.

HARDHEAD (SS 365) operating W of LUZON, reports 1 possible hit in large AK on the 25th, and 2 hits in NATORI class CL on the 19th.

SEALION (SS 315) reports at 261556 observed (by radar) several BB's and DD's in FORMOSA STRAIT, course 220, speed 20.

Wolfpack consisting of QUEENFISH, PICUDA, and BARB, operating off W KYUSHU, reported following results:

QUEENFISH

Sunk: 1 CVE, 20,000 tons (previously reported)
1 AK, 4,000 tons
1 AO, 10,000 tons
1 AP, 7,500 tons
41,500 tons

DAMAGED: 2 AK, 4,000 tons each.

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25 November (cont'd)

PICUDA

Sunk: 1 AK, 8,000 tons.
1 AO, 10,000 tons.
18,000 tons.

Damaged: 2 AO (tonnage not given)
1 AK (tonnage not given)

BARB

Sunk: 6 ships (previously reported)
Damaged: 2 ships, including 1 CVE (previously reported)

During the 23rd and 24th, SWP Airforces struck airfield installations on NEGROS and CEBU. Other attacks were made against BORNEO, HALMAHERA, CERAM, the VOGELKOP, and SOLOMONS-BISMARCKS area.

GenPac airforces continued neutralization strikes in the BONINS, MARSHALLS, and MARIANAS.

26 November (Oahu date)

At 271100 (I) ships of TG 77.2 while fueling in LEYTE GULF were heavily attacked by 15 to 25 suicide divers. All ships were clear of the tanker at time of attack. The COLORADO (BB-45) and the ST. LOUIS (CL-49) were hit, the latter by 2 planes. Casualties on the COLORADO were 19 killed, 26 wounded; on the ST LOUIS 10 killed, 25 wounded. 11 to 13 Enemy planes were shot down or crashed. Preliminary report indicates that the attacking planes were showing code 6 IFF.

On night of 25th - 26th there were 9 red air alerts at LEYTE. 2 Bettys bombed TACLOBAN, killing 8 and wounding others. 3 unidentified planes bombed the strip, with no damage. AA fire downed one plane and probably downed another. Amplification of results of TF 38's strikes against LUZON on the 25th states that 88 enemy planes, instead of 72 were destroyed and an additional 32 on the ground were strafed and probably damaged. 18 Ships, instead of 16, were sunk. There were 15 ships damaged or further damaged, plus damage to 3 landing craft and 10 luggers. Photographs taken on the 25th showed a total of 271 planes on LUZON fields with 244 of the total on CLARK and MABALACAT fields.

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26 November (Oahu date)(Cont'd)

CTG 78.2 reports that on the 26th 3 suicide divers missed the OYSTER BAY (AGP-6). As one protection against these attacks LCI smokers are being used during bright moonlight.

CTF 77 has directed DesRon 22 (4 DD's) to make an anti-shipping sweep in CAMOTES SEA on night of 27th-28th.

BREAM (SS-243) (SWPA) summarizes results of 3rd war patrol. Operating N of MALAY BARRIER, sank 1 10,000-ton AP; damaged 2 CA's, and 1 10,000-ton AP.

GUITARRO (SS-363)(SWPA) summarizes results of 3rd war patrol. Operating N of MALAY BARRIER, sank 3 large AK's, and received half credit for one 10,000-ton AP; received half credit for damaging 1 CA.

SWP Airforces on the 24th attacked air installations and shipping at NEGROS, and air installations on CEBU. Strikes also continued against BORNEO, AMBON, and NEW GUINEA. At 242039 (I) 5 enemy planes attacked MOROTAI; we had "lost or damaged" 1 A-20, 1 PBV, and 1 B-25; 4 men were severely wounded.

CenPac airforces continued neutralization strikes against the BONINS, CAROLINES, MARSHALLS and MARIANAS.

At SAIPAN on the 27th, the enemy made two surprise low-level air attacks against ISELEY FIELD, one shortly after midnight and one shortly after noon. During the night attack 1 B-29 was destroyed, 2 others seriously damaged, and 9 slightly damaged. In addition 3 trucks and 2 Quonset huts were burned. The enemy planes escaped. In the noon attack 15 planes strafed and destroyed 3 B-29's and damaged an unknown number. 6 Jap planes were destroyed by our fighters, and about 7 were shot down by AA fire. One P-47 was shot down by our own AA fire, and one man was killed.

On the 27th 71 B-29's attacked the TOKYO wharf area, using radar, with unobserved results.

CinCSWPA reports that enemy opposition on LEYTE is steadily decreasing under our pressure. Our casualties to include 24 Nov: KIA, 1306; WIA, 5081; MIA, 117. Enemy casualties: Killed, 21328; captured 178.

General Headquarters SWPA opens LEYTE at 27000L and closes HOLLANDIA same time.

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27 November (Oahu date)

The casualty report from the carriers hit by suicide dives indicate the following losses:

INTREPID (CV-11)	54 Killed	50 Wounded	15 Missing
CABOT (CVL-28)	5 "	25 "	27 "
ESSEX (CV-9)	14 "	39 "	
HANCOCK (CV-19)		3 "	

Supplementary report received from TF 38 covering LUZON strikes, 25 November show that 59 airborne planes were shot down and 29 were destroyed on the ground. In addition, 32 planes were strafed and probably damaged. The score in ships sunk as checked by photographs - 1 CA, 1 DD, 2 ODD, 3 LSM, 1 DE, 6 AK and 4 AO. (The preliminary report listed 1 CA, 4 ODD or APD, 1 DD, 9 AK, 1 AO). There were 15 ships damaged or further damaged, plus damage to 3 landing craft and 10 luggers. Of the 15, 3 were wrecked on the beach and 2 others were believed sunk.

ARCHERFISH (SS-311) at 2310 (I) 28 Nov reported contacting 1 CV together with 4 escorts (SW of TOKYO).

54 B-29's from INDIA bases bombed BANGKOK reporting the destruction of numerous installations.

Reports received on the SAN ANTONIO #2 mission stated that 55 B-29's bombed the TOKYO dock and urban areas which was the secondary target. The NAKAJIMA-MASASHINO Aircraft plant which was the primary objective was closed in. Bombing was made from 30,000 to 33,000 feet, results being generally unobserved but heavy black smoke was seen to break through the overcast at 21,000 feet. 1 B-29 was ditched S of HONSHU and 21 other B-29's scheduled to take part failed to reach the target for reasons unreported. Admiral Nimitz and Admiral Sherman returned from conference on Mainland.

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28 November (Oahu date)

Reports indicate that on the 27th at LEYTE, in addition to the COLORADO and ST. LOUIS, the MARYLAND (BB-46) and MONTPELIER (CL-57) were also hit by suicide planes. The extent of the damage is not presently clear. There are indications that the battle efficiency of the MARYLAND is somewhat impaired. The MONTPELIER appears to have been less seriously damaged. In this attack the radar screen showed nothing but friendly planes when three groups of enemy planes attacked. 13 Of these planes were shot down.

Enemy air activity was heavy in the LEYTE area during the 26th and 27th. 35 Enemy planes were over our ground positions and surface forces. One Japanese plane made a dive on a floating drydock (ARD-19) in which the ROSS (DD-563) was docked. The plane crashed and hit both the ARD and the DD. The estimate of the

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damage has not been fully reported; 3 men are missing and 14 injured.

During the raid mentioned above another enemy plane dived on an SC in the LEYTE GULF area.

ARCHER FISH (SS-311) reports sinking one large CV of the HAYATAKA class one hundred miles south of SASEBO. Earlier in the day the ARCHER FISH reports sinking an I-Class submarine 90 miles SE of TOKYO BAY with one torpedo (29 Nov (I)). One prisoner was picked up from this enemy submarine.

CinCPOA 292349 (pink) summarizes to CinCSWPA the formers estimate of the situation.

CTF 38 220615 outlines the policy for replenishing complements of air groups and squadrons.

BomCom 21 (Brig Gen Hansell((pink) outlines proposed B-29 strike on Empire for night of 29 Nov (I). "Brooklyn ONE". Despatch states that a maximum daylight strike will be made against the NAKAJIMA (OTU) Factory on 1 Dec. This will be mission "Montgomery ONE".

CTF 77 291431 (pink) outlines to CinCSWPA the increase of enemy air strength on MINDANAO.

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29 November (Oahu date)

Reports from CinCSWPA dated 30 Nov state that in a two day and night battle our fighters sank or destroyed 13 ships attempting to bring reinforcements to LEYTE. 3 AP's of 750 tons and 4 AP's of 1,000 tons - 2,000 tons loaded with an estimated 4,000 troops were sunk prior to their entry into ORMOC BAY. 2 of 3 Freighter Transports of 5,000 to 8,000 tons made port and partially unloaded before being destroyed. The other 3 vessels, DD's escorting the transports, were sunk at an undisclosed location.

A corrected report has been received relative to the suicide attack on the MARYLAND. It was reported that the MARYLAND was hit on the 29th but supplementary report indicates it was the 29th (I).

The AULICK (DD-569) was hit by a bomb in the bridge area on the 29th. The SAUFLEY (DD-465) sustained minor damage in an attack of the same kind. At least 5 planes were shot down or crashed into ships in this attack.

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29 November (Oahu date)(continued)

PAMPANITO (SS-383) reports sinking an AK and damaging another on 18 Nov. On 29 Nov this submarine fired 6 torpedoes at a convoy consisting of 2 AO's, 2 AK's and 4 DE's south of HAINAN.

Principal resistance was reported to have ceased at PELELIU on 27 Nov.

On the 30th 24 B-29's bombed the TOKYO industrial area by radar through a solid overcast. 66 Tons of bombs were dropped on the targets the results being unobserved in all cases. AA was meagre at 25,000 to 30,000 feet.

CominCh 261935 states that 7th Fleet should constitute a board to survey and recommend the estimate to which the LEYTE area can be developed.

CTF 95 220121 outlines the effort that has been made during Nov against targets in the MARIANAS NANPO-SHOTO area.

CinCSWPA 270831 (pink) sets forth agreement reached with 3rd Fleet representatives covering M-1 Operation.

Com3rdFlt 260700 (pink) outlines maximum number of days that can be expected at anchor if L-3 and M-1 are carried out as per schedule.

CinCSWPA 271312 (pink) sets forth plan for 3rd Fleet participation in L-3 Operation.

MACARTHUR 290842 (pink) summarizes his estimate of the situation and requests SubCom SEAC to strike the MALAY PENINSULA in coordination with the MINDORO Operation.

CominCh 291923 advises that War Department plans to assign Major Gen. Charles H. Corlett to conduct planning and be available to command Army troops in operations against the KURILES.

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30 November (Oahu date)

TG's 38.1, RAdm Montgomery; 38.2, RAdm Clark; 38.3 RAdm Sherman, have been ordered to ULITHI to be ready for sea 11 Dec (I). A new temporary TG has been formed, 38.5 with RAdm Bogan in the LEXINGTON as CTG. They have been ordered to operate N of ULITHI until further orders.

Destroyer Division 22 (4 DD's) made a second sweep of the CAMOTES SEA area on the night of 29-30 Nov. No important contacts were made at ORMOC BAY.

HAKE (SS-256) reported 1 CV, 3 DD's west of MANILA on the 30th.

CinCSWPA reports that on 1 Dec fighters and medium bombers sank 1 9,000 ton AP loaded with troops and three small freighter- transports also loaded with troops in the vicinity of ORMOC BAY. An 8,000 ton AK and 1 DD were also hit and prevented from unloading. These attacks were in the vicinity of MASBATE - CEBU.

IWO JIMA was hit on the 29th by 28 B-24's and again on the 30th by another group of 23 B-24's. On each strike from 2 to 4 enemy planes intercepted; no serious damage to Blue planes.

CinCSWPA 301311 (pink) sets forth the deferrment of the MINDORO Operation to 15 Dec and the LUZON Operation to 9 Jan.

CinCPOA 010230 (pink) assigns Photo Group 2 to temporary operational control of CTF 95.

CinCPOA 010309 (pink) outlines request directed to 20th Bomber Command for coordination prior to LUZON Operation.

Naval Base KWAJALEIN Atoll was established 1 December 1944.

1 December (Oahu date)

Activity in the LEYTE area appears to have been quiet. Reports indicate that several destroyers were attacked by torpedoes, but no damage was inflicted.

CTF 77 (VAdm Kinkaid) in his dispatch 011246 outlines his OpPlan 18-44 setting forth the landing at ORMOC scheduled for 7 December (D-day).

CinCPOA 020313 (pink) sets up TF 93, The Strategic Air Force POA, with Lieutenant General M. F. Harmon as CTF 93.

CinCSWPA 020900 (pink) outlines to CG USAF CHINA the M-1 and L-3 operations.

DepCom 20th AF 020205 (pink) outlines the support to be given by 20th Bomber Command and 21st Bomber Command in support of LUZON operation.

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1 December (Oahu date) - Continued -

ComAirPac 020254 states the proposed plan to implement employment of Marine VMF squadrons on CV's.

2 December (Oahu date)

On the night of 2/3 December ComDesDiv 120 in the ALLEN M. SUMNER (DD-692), together with the MOALE (DD-693) and COOPER (DD-695), made a sweep of the CAMOTES SEA against enemy supply vessels and transports. Our force was under continuous air attack from numerous planes throughout the night. The SUMNER claimed shooting down 6 planes plus 1 probable. About midnight off ORMOC TOWN this DesDiv picked up an enemy force of undetermined composition. 2 or 3 Ships, including 1 DE or APD, were taken under fire during which time our force was still under heavy air attack. One enemy ship was believed to have been sunk and another damaged. The COOPER (DD-695) was observed to have broken in two as a result of either a torpedo hit or a possible collision with a floating mine. When last seen the COOPER appeared to have broken in two with the bow and stern in the air and the bridge awash. There were no survivors. Heavy air attacks forced the other DD's to withdraw.

USS HOPE (AH-7) reported that at 1600 on the 3rd (I) she was attacked by an enemy plane 130 miles east of OSIARGAO ISLAND. A torpedo passed 300 yards astern and exploded at the end of its run. The plane departed after it made the run.

On the 3rd (I) 84 B-29's bombed the MUSASHINO Aircraft Plant just west of TOKYO. One Squadron reported medium fires and observed 25% of the bombs on the target. Two other Squadrons observed huge fires. Fighter opposition was reported as being slight by 2 squadrons, moderate by 2 and heavy by 2. Preliminary report indicates that 5 planes were missing.

CominCh 021258 states that requirements for carrier aircraft complements have been increased, which will necessitate assignment of VMF squadrons temporarily assigned to Com7thFlt.

CinCPOA 022024 (pink) requested all out air attack against IWO JIMA by the Strategic Air Force coupled with a surface daylight bombardment.

ComGenl4th Air Force 030735 (pink) outlines coordinated operations for the MINDORO Operation.

CinCPOA 030215 (pink) requests concurrence in announcing 19 Feb and 1 April as the new target dates for the IWO JIMA and OKINAWA Operations.

ARNOLDS 022158 (pink) states that the 20th and 21st Bomber Commands will support operations as outlined by CinCPOA's request therefore.

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3 December (Oahu date)

A report has been received from Com7thFlt that Dumbos (PEY's) with P-47 escorts picked up 5 officers and 92 enlisted men from the COOPER (DD-695) which was sunk in the CAMOTES SEA on the night of 2/3 December.

PAMPANITO (SS-383) reported the following results from 4 submarines:

SEARAVEN (SS-196) sank 1 large AP, 1 AO, damaged large AO.
SEACAT (SS-399) sank 1 large AO.
PIPEFISH (SS-388) 1 timed hit in large AK.
PAMPANITO (SS-383) 4 torpedoes fired at large AO, results not observed.

MacArthur 041230 (pink) covers a request for cover by Third Fleet during MINDORO Operation.

Admiral Fraser 030731 (pink) outlines future plans of Eastern Fleet and states that he will arrive Pearl Harbor about 18 Dec.

Com3rdFlt 010900 (pink) refers to immediate operations of 3rd Fleet.

4 December (Oahu date)

A further report from TF 77 indicates that Dumbos have picked up 8 officers and 130 enlisted men from the COOPER (DD695). The Commanding Officer was among those rescued.

BLUEGILL (SS-242) reports summary of patrol: Sunk 2 AK's, 7500 tons each; 1 AP, 4000 tons; 1 small craft 1500 tons.

An amplification of the 3rd TOYKO strike by B-29's has been received. 9 Enemy intercepting planes were destroyed, 14 probably destroyed and 13 damaged. There were approximately 220 fighter attacks on the B-29's. 2½% of the bombs dropped hit the primary target, the MUSASHINO Aircraft Factory west of TOKYO.

CTF 93 Gen Harmon 050722 (pink) outlines the plan for the all out attack on IWO JIMA scheduled for 7 Dec, east longitude date. Heavy air attacks will be carried out in the morning and early afternoon and bombardment by CruDiv 5 will commence shortly thereafter.

RICHARDSON's 051024 (pink) outlines tentative availability of certain units to be employed in DETACHMENT and ICEBERG Operations.

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5 December (Oahu date)

2 DD's were hit by suicide crashes in the LEYTE area on the 5th. MUGFORD (DD 389) was hit by either one or two attacking planes. The ship was hit amidships and left dead in the water. Later, however, she was able to proceed under her own power with the No. 2 fire room reported out of commission. DRAYTON (DD 366) was hit by a plane on the No. 1 5" gun, putting it out of commission. No. 1 magazine was flooded to stop the fire but was later reported to be dry.

Also on the 5th, one of our convoys of 33 ships and 5 escorts, 70 miles E of SIARGAO ISLAND was attacked by 3 enemy torpedo planes. 2 torpedo hits were reported by the SS ANTOINE SAURGRAINE, a 10,000-ton AK. The personnel were reported being removed and the ship abandoned. Another ship in the same convoy was reported to have been hit but the identity of this ship is not yet known.

Cincpoa 060049 (pink) addressed to Cominch, advises that withdrawal of VMF squadrons from SoWesPac was not contemplated for employment aboard fast carriers.

Cominch 052032 (pink) advises that Joint Chiefs of Staff have concurred in and authorized announcement of the deferred target dates for IWO JIMA and OKINAWA operations.

MacArthur 060159 (pink) outlines cover and support by 3rd Fleet desired for LUZON operation.

Com3rdFlt 060202 (pink) makes recommendations for employment of 3rd Fleet in support of LUZON operation.

War Dept 051521 (pink) outlines acceptance by War Dept of FILBAS Agreement.

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6 December (Oahu date)

Reports have been received that in the same action the DD's MUGFORD (DD-389) and DRAYTON (DD-366) were hit on the 5th, LCM 20 and LST 23 were also hit by suicide dives. The LSM was burned and later sank while the LST suffered extensive damage.

The number of officers and men rescued to date from the COOPER (DD-695) now totals 10 officers and 190 enlisted men with reports from guerillas indicating that there are 30 additional survivors on the west coast of LEYTE.

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6 December (Oahu date)(Cont'd)

At SAIPAN on the 7th in the early morning (0400 to 0540 minus 10) 10 Bettys made attacks on TANAPAG HARBOR and ISELY FIELD. 1 B-29 was destroyed and 2 badly damaged. 6 Planes were shot down by AA. The first warning of the low level attack came from a radar picket DD 100 miles north of SAIPAN.

DepCom20thAF 050048 (pink) outlines the Code Names for future missions.

ComGenAAFP OA 070335 (pink) outlines proposal of squadrons to be employed in reconnaissance.

CinCPOA 070638 (pink) covers instructions to 3rd Fleet relative to L-3 (MINDORO) Operation.

CinCPOA 070554 (pink) answers proposal of CinCSWPA relative to 3rd Fleet operations.

Arnold's 051411 outlines present plans for assignment of certain VLR units.

7 December (Oahu date)

In the CAMOTES and VISAYAN SEAS on the 7th two air-surface engagements took place. Our surface forces were landing troops 3 miles south of ORMOC and were heavily attacked by enemy planes. The damage inflicted on our forces was as follows:

WARD (APD 16): Seriously hit during a dive-bombing attack at 0950, abandoned and sunk by our gunfire.
MAHAN (DD 364): Badly damaged and sunk by our gunfire.
LIDDLE (APD 60): A suicide dive on the bridge structure killed and wounded an unknown number of men. Reported able to proceed under own power with emergency steering aft. Tug standing by.
WALKE (DD 723): Reported afire. Extent of damage unknown.
O'BRIEN (DD 725): " " " " "
LAMSON (DD 367): Fired from a hit on the bridge at 1630. The fire was apparently under control. Being towed back to LEYTE.
LST 737: Minor damage from a hit forward during the 1630 suicide and dive-bombing attack.

The LEYTE-bound Japanese convoy consisted of 13 ships (4 AK's, 2 AP's, and 7 DD's and DE's. These were sighted 10 miles W of the N tip of LEYTE at 0750 (I) 7 December by our search planes. Convoy had strong air cover. Reports indicate that our planes sank all 13 ships with a resultant loss of an estimated 4,000 enemy troops. Our search planes reported sighting

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7 December (Oahu date - cont'd)

the burning and sinking remnants of the convoy late in the day. On a final sweep 6 small craft loaded with troops were sunk by our planes off the NW coast of LEYTE. Our plane losses were reported to be 5, with all pilots being rescued. Enemy planes shot down during the day numbered 62 with 52 being shot down by our fighters and 10 by ships' AA.

Submarines TREPANG (SS 412), SEGUNDO (SS 398), and RAZORBACK (SS 394) were involved in a 3-hour running battle with a 7-ship enemy convoy en route to the PHILIPPINES (18-54N, 124-47E) resulting in the following:

TREPANG: Sank 1 large AO, 1 large AP, 2 large AK's.

SEGUNDO: Sank 1 large AK, 1 AE, damaged large AP, later sunk by RAZORBACK. 3 hits in 1 DD.

A corrected report has been received on the final casualties of the COOPER (DD 695): Survivors - 10 officers, 158 enlisted men; wounded - 3 officers, 27 enlisted; missing - 10 officers, 181 enlisted.

The land situation at LEYTE as a result of the ORMOC reinforcement is reported as follows: The 77th Division of the 24th Corps has landed in ORMOC HARBOR in the enemy's rear. In an amphibious operation with air and naval support, the troops went ashore 3 miles south of ORMOC and are rapidly advancing northward. The movement caught the enemy unawares on the west with his reserves already largely committed to meet our converging attacks from the north, east, and south. His ground resistance to the landing was in consequence negligible and we had practically no ground losses. By this maneuver we have seized the center of the YAMASHITA LINE from the rear and have split the enemy's forces in two, isolating those in the valley to the north from those along the coast to the south. Both segments are now caught between our columns which are pressing in from all fronts. In a desperate attempt at diversion, the enemy landed parachute troops during the night in the vicinity of SAN PABLO. Approximately 200 men were dropped, the majority of whom have been killed. Some sabotage damage was accomplished but the effort was a feeble one and promptly rendered abortive.

An all-out attack was made on IWO JIMA on the 8th, consisting of a fighter sweep, air bombardment, and surface bombardment. 28 P-38's, 82 B-29's, and 102 B-24's struck in the morning and early afternoon. Bombardment by cruisers and destroyers followed. The weather over the target was bad and the majority of the bombing was done by radar. Evaluation and assessment of bombardment and bombing results will be available when photo reconnaissance of the target is made.

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7 December (Oahu date - cont'd)

CTF 77 071156 (pink) discusses shore-based air cover for the CVE's during the MINDORO operation.

CTF 77 071038 summarizes landing operations at ORMOC BAY on 7 December.

Effective 10 December Rear Admiral C. T. Durgin has been nominated as Commander Escort Carrier Force (EsCarFor) which will comprise all Pacific Fleet CVE's less those assigned ComCarTransRonPac and those employed in training.

8 December (Oahu date)

TG's 38.1, RAdm Montgomery; 38.2, RAdm Bogan; 38.3, RAdm Sherman; are scheduled to depart ULITHI 10 December for the forthcoming operation.

MAHAN (DD-364) in an amplified report states that she was hit by 3 suicide dives and was abandoned because of uncontrolled fires and an exploding magazine. One officer and 5 enlisted men are reported missing. The ship was sunk by our gunfire.

SEA DEVIL (SS-400) on the morning of the 9th made two timed hits on a task force west of KYUSHU.

REDFISH (SS-395), about an hour and a half later, made 2 hits on a large carrier believed to be the same ship attacked by the SEA DEVIL approximately in the same location (west of KYUSHU).

BESUGO (SS-321) summarizes 2nd war patrol. Arrived FREMANTLE 4 Dec. Results observed: 1 AO, 5000 tons; 1 barge, 3000 tons; probably sunk: 1 large AK, 7500 tons.

BLACKFIN (SS-322) summarizes her first war patrol. Arrived FREMANTLE 4 Dec. Sunk: 1 AK, 4000 tons; damaged: 1 large AO.

An undetermined number of Japanese paratroopers landed on BAYUG airfield, LEYTE. They succeeded in destroying some Blue planes on BAYUG field.

Amplified reports from the IWO JIMA strike of 8 Dec indicate that 79 B-29's were airborne, 15 aborted and 62 dropped 620 tons of bombs on the targets. Photographs taken on the 8th show all IWO JIMA runways inoperative with 5 to 20 craters in each.

On the 6th, 7th and 8th a total of 107 B-24's from bases in the PALAUS attacked PHILIPPINE targets.

An amplified report has been received on the damage inflicted by a predawn raid on SAIPAN on the 7th. Report indicated that the 10 Bettys which attacked destroyed 3 B-29's, extensively

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8 December (Oahu date)

damaged 3 more and inflicted minor damage on 3 others. Probably 7 of the enemy planes were shot down.

On the 7th 20th Bomber Command carried out an attack on MUKDEN. 108 B-29's were airborne with 87 out of this group dropping 286 tons of bombs on the Manchuria Aircraft Company which was the primary target. 26 Enemy fighters are claimed to have been destroyed, 13 probably and 24 damaged. We lost 6 B-29's in this mission.

ARNOLD'S 072333 (pink) states that he is concerned regarding enemy raids on MARIANAS and requests that every effort be made to insure the most effective defense of B-29 bases.

MACARTHUR 090556 sets forth the missions and coordination of 3rdFlt carrier based aircraft and SWP aircraft for the L-3 Operation. (Mindoro).

SV *Ken*

9 December (Oahu date)

Final report has been received regarding the bomb tonnage dropped by aircraft on IWO JIMA on the 8th. 89 B-24's dropped a total of 194 tons and B-29's dropped a total of 596 tons making a total of 790 tons in all.

Heavy strikes were carried out against HALMAHERA on the 4th and 5th. On the 4th 100 B-25's made strikes against the airfields and again on the 5th 65 B-24's made a similar strike.

At the entrance to LEYTE GULF on the 10th, 8 Bettys attacked 2 CL's and accompanying DD's. No damage was done to the ships and one enemy plane was shot down.

An amplified report of the air engagement over the convoy in the CAMOTES SEA on the 7th indicates that a total of 65 enemy planes were shot down (37 VF, 14 VB, 1 FP and 13 unidentified planes). Our losses were one P-47 and 3 F4U's.

BomCom 24 082315 (pink) sets forth his plan for support of the MINDORO Operation. On 13 Dec. he plans to carry out a daylight bombing on the EMPIRE provided weather permits.

DepCom 20th Air Force 100918 (pink) answers ComGenArmy Air Forces despatch relative to defense of MARIANAS.

Joint Staff Planners, Washington, 091431 (pink) outlines objectives currently being studied regarding future operations.

SV *Ken*

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10 December (Oahu date)

On the 11th at 0840 ComDesRon 14 reported that the REID (DD-369), escorting a convoy enroute to ORMAC, was hit by a suicide dive bomber, one of 10 attacking planes, at 10 N 124-50 E. The REID was reported to have sunk in two minutes. Another suicide plane crashed 20 feet off the bow of the CALDWELL (DD-605), negligible damage was reported and the remainder of the convoy was undamaged. 152 Survivors of the REID were rescued including the Captain and 13 other officers.

Preliminary report of the bombardment of IWO JIMA on 8 Dec by CTG 94.9 (CruDiv 5 and DD's) indicate that firing commenced at 1347 K (-10) and ceased at 1457 K. 5 Fires were reported to have been started. No damage to our ships or personnel was inflicted by air or shore batteries. Only 4 splashes were observed near our ships.

SEA CAT (SS-399) sank a tanker off the coast of INDO CHINA. This tanker had been previously damaged by the SEARAVEN (SS-196).

SEA OWL (SS-405) at 0900 GCT on the 10th sank a large DE west of the northern tip of KYUSHU.

IWO JIMA was bombed on the 10th by 24 B-24's. Results were unobserved as there was a heavy overcast at 17,000 feet.

Single B-29's attacked the TOKYO dock and industrial areas on the 9th, 10th and 11th. No interception by enemy aircraft was reported although a number of airborne planes were detected by radar. The first plane over TOKYO (the 9th) reported that the target was only partly blacked out. On the 10th and 11th planes reported complete blackout. A number of fires were observed, some visible for a distance of 90 miles.

CominCh 091309 (pink) announces that Admiralty has authorized Admiral Fraser to make strikes on the SUMATRAN Oil Refineries, MALAY PENINSULA and SINGAPORE areas as desired by CinCPac and CinCSWPA.

MARSHALL'S 101436 outlines directive of the President that no political decisions may be made with French Military Mission attached to Southeast Asia Command.

Joint Chiefs of Staff 100345 outlines a memorandum from the President to the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding the congestion of shipping in the various theaters of war.

CinCSWPA 090557Z states that SWPA long range search planes will provide coverage of the FORMOSA area by S minus 15.

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11 December (Oahu date)

On 10 December while carrying out picket duty in SURIGAO STRAIT, the HUGHES (DD-410) was hit amidships by a suicide crash dive. The engine and fire rooms were flooded, however, the ship is being towed to SAN PEDRO Harbor. Reports indicate that 7 were killed and 15 wounded with 1 missing.

At 1650 on the 10th 4 PT Boats also in SURIGAO STRAIT, were attacked by 4 enemy fighters. 2 Of these planes made suicide dives hitting one PT Boat (#323) and barely missing another one (PT 528). PT Boat 323 was badly damaged but is still afloat. 1 Officer was killed, 1 missing and 11 men were wounded.

HARDHEAD (SS-365) arrived FREMANTLE on 5 December from war patrol reported having sunk 1 large tanker and 1 DE for a total of 9800 tons sunk and reported damaging one large AK of 7500 tons.

Our fighters on the 11th in the VISAYAN SEA attacked a 16 ship enemy convoy off the NW Coast of LEYTE. It was reported that this convoy consisted of 6 AK's, 5 DD's and 5 DE's. 2 AK's and 1 DD were reported damaged by near misses and further reports indicate that attacks on this force are continuing. The convoy was escorted by 20-30 enemy fighters of which 10 were definitely shot down and 3 probably destroyed.

On the 10th air activity was heavy in the LEYTE Area. At least 50 P-47's, P-40's and F4U's attacked enemy positions in and around the ORMOC Area. 12 Enemy aircraft plus 4 probables were shot down.

At IWO JIMA on the 11th photographs showed that all runways are operative except 1 strip on field #1. There were 16 operational aircraft observed on the island and 29 small-craft visible in the harbor. IWO JIMA was hit on this date (11th) by 28 B-24's. Reports indicate that the bombing altitude was 19,000 feet with 90% of the bombs hitting the target area.

14th Air Force photographs of 6 airfields in FORMOSA, taken on the 10th, show a total of 414 aircraft on these fields. The largest number of aircraft observed on any one field was at TAINAN, numbering 127.

14th Air Force, on 8 November, struck HONKONG with 14 P-51's. 4 Planes were destroyed on the ground near HONKONG and two ships were sunk and 5 or 6 other craft left burning.

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12 December (Oahu date)

On 13 December at 1513 the CL NASHVILLE was damaged by a suicide dive. The damage appears to have been inflicted at a position just south of NEGROS ISLAND. The NASHVILLE was the flagship of CTG 78.3 (RAdm Sturble). After the crash the NASHVILLE together with the STANLEY (DD-478) was directed to return to LEYTE. RAdm Sturble transferred his flag to the DASHIELL (DD-659). Preliminary reports of casualties indicate that Captain Abdill, Chief of Staff CTG 78.3 was killed. Further details will be reported when received.

CALDWELL (DD-605) was hit by another suicide plane crash on the morning of the 12th. This destroyer was escorting a supply echelon to ORMOC BAY at the time it was hit. Reports indicate that she was able to return to SAN PEDRO BAY under her own power.

Report from CinCSWPA indicates that on the 12th our planes sank 3 enemy AP's of 10,000, 5,000 and 4,000 tons plus 3 DD's off the northwest tip of LEYTE. One additional DD plus 2 medium AP's were observed dead in the water and left burning. 50 Jap planes were shot down on the same day (12th). Our losses numbered 8 VF.

Another report indicates that fighters attacked 2 large AP's and 2 DD's in the VISAYAN SEA just south of MASBATE.

A strike by the 21st Bomber Command was carried out on the 13th. The primary target was the Mitsubishi Aircraft Plant at NAGOYA in southern HONSHU. 90 B-29's took part in this attack with approximately 60 planes bombing the primary target and about 30 bombing the city of NAGOYA. The bombings took place between 1400 and 1500. Interception was only moderate and heavy explosions and huge fires were reported to have been observed.

CinCPOA's 102325 (pink) outlines redefined responsibilities of Commander Service Squadron TEN.

CTF 77 130420 sets forth the establishment of TG 77.14 (RAdm Chandler) and outlines employment thereof.

CinCPac 130650 outlines estimate of the situation just prior to the MINDORO Operation.

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13 December (Oahu date)

The strike on LUZON by planes from TF 38, in support of the MINDORO operation, was carried out the morning of the 14th (I). Complete tactical surprise was reported in their sweep of the LUZON airfields. Preliminary incomplete reports of the first 3 of 6 scheduled strikes indicate the following: 13 enemy aircraft (air borne) destroyed: 77 planes destroyed on the ground, 37 planes damaged by strafing. Partial photo coverage, supplemented by pilot sightings indicate 300 planes on the LUZON fields, with 45 operational at CLARK FIELD in the first strike.

A report has been received from the CALDWELL (DD 605) stating that 34 officers and men were killed and missing and 34 wounded.

Reports have been received amplifying those previously received stating that on the 10th in LEYTE GULF, suicide attacks sank W. LADD (XAK) and LCT 1075.

The HARADEN (DD 585) was damaged by an air attack the evening of the 13th 30 miles SW of NEGROS. The extent of the damage was not reported.

A corrected report indicates that 74 B-24's bombed the MITSUBISHI plant on the 13th instead of the previously reported 60 planes bombing that target.

Com3rdFlt 132305 (pink) answers Cincpac's estimate of the situation and advises that he will keep Cincpac fully informed.

CominCh 131253 and 131654 (pinks) refer to proposed conference with British Eastern Fleet representatives.

14 December (Oahu date)

Com3rdFlt reports that photo coverage and sightings indicate that 664 planes were in the LUZON area on the 14th. Many of these, however, may have been previously damaged. The continuous combat air patrol over LUZON, both night and day, was reported to have been especially effective.

Casualty report resulting from the suicide crash on the NASHVILLE numbered 141 killed, (16 officers and 125 men plus 191 wounded), (16 Officers and 175 enlisted). Of the officers killed on the ship 2 were ships company, 5 attached to the Amphibious Corps and 9 reported as being Staff members.

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14 December (Oahu date) Cont'd)

CTF 77 (VAdm Kinkaid) reports that during daylight on the 14th there were intermediate air attacks while enroute to MINDORO but there were no casualties resulting therefrom.


In SAN PEDRO Harbor on the 14th a plane (presumed to be friendly) approached low over SAMAR and crashed into the HMS BISHOPDALE an 8,000 ton AO while she was at anchor.

Com5th Air Force reports that preliminary results showed that between 90 and 100 enemy planes were destroyed in the VISAYAN area.

On the 14th the 20th Bomber command (Brig Gen LeMay) reports that 34 B-29's bombed BANGKOK and 13 bombed RANGOON. Results were recorded to have been excellent. There was very little fighter interception but 4 planes bombing the RANGOON area are missing.

Com3rdFlt 150215 (pink) Outlines preliminary results of 3rdFlt Operations on the 14th. Despatch further states that operations will continue against LUZON area on the 15th and again on the 16th unless General MacArthur states that further strikes will be unnecessary.

ARNOLD'S 132226 (pink) states that weather forecast over southern Japan until 19 December precludes operations by 20th Bomber Command in support of MINDORO Operation. At earliest date weather permits operations will be performed.

Am 

15 December (Oahu date)

Task Force 38, after 3 days of successful strikes on the LUZON area is retiring to fuel. After fueling they will operate east of LUZON and will make strikes on call.

Reports from 7thFlt indicate that the MINDORO attack force is retiring according to schedule. No further casualties are mentioned.

A partial count of enemy planes destroyed during the 3 day attack by the planes of TF 38 against LUZON Airfields totals 235; an additional 138 were damaged. 99 Enemy airfields were covered during the 3 day operation.

Attacks on shipping by planes of TF 38 resulted in the following claims: Sunk; 1 medium AO, 1 medium AK, 1 small AK. Burned and gutted - 3 or 4 small AK's. Fired - 5 small AK's. Beached and burning - 1 large AP and 1 medium AO. Damaged - 3 DD's, 1 DD or DE, 1 AP, 1 large AK, 1 small AK. Total Destroyed: 6 or 7 ships; Total Damaged - 15 ships.

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15 December (Oahu date) (Cont'd)


At IWO JIMA on the 15th 31 B-24's dropped 68 tons from 19,000 feet. The target was the airfield area. 1 of 4 intercepting fighters was shot down and moderate accurate AA caused minor damage to 7 B-24's.

The landing on MINDORO appears to have achieved complete tactical surprise. Only minor opposition was reported.

Wedemeyer 150514 (pink) outlines support by 14th Air Force during M-1 Operation.

Marshall 150009 (pink) concerns command relationship between British Fleet units and CinCSWPA.

CinCPOA 160003 outlines to ComGenPOA that the terms of the Filbas agreement shall be strictly adhered to.

Cur 

16 December (Oahu date)

Submarine reports have been received indicating that 2 BB's, 1 CA, 2 CL's and an undetermined number of DD's left CAMRANK BAY at 0800 on the 17th (I). The reports state that the course of this Task Force was 130°

TF 38 is operating east of LUZON.

Report from the 7thFlt indicates that naval forces returning from the MINDORO Operation suffered no further damage than that already reported. The last units of this force should clear SURAGAO STRAITS 18 December (I).

HOWERTH (DD-592) reports moderate damage suffered by 2 suicide plane crashes in MARGAIN BAY (MINDORO).

Photographs of the Mitsubishi Aircraft Plant at NAGOYA, which was bombed by 70 B-29's on the 13th show that substantial damage was inflicted on this target. The main assembly or machine shop was totally destroyed; another assembly plant was 20% damaged and minor assembly units 75% damaged.

FINBACK (SS-230) reported sinking a medium AK or AO early in the morning of the 16th 30 miles south of MUICO JIMA (BONINS).

ComGen 20th Air Force 140220 and BomCom 21 130520 sets forth various code words for specific targets.

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16 December (Oahu date) (Cont'd)

MARSHALL'S 152315 outlines subsequent redeployment of Army forces after the defeat of Germany, effective as of 31 March 45.

COMGENAAFPOA 170135 states that original plan for operation 4 VLR Groups from each occupied island in the MARIANAS will be adhered to unless hostile air operations necessitate the temporary dispersion of a portion of the 73rd Bombardment Wing. Also recommends that no change be made in present plans to provide facilities for a minimum of 4 VLR Groups on TINIAN and 4 VLR Groups on GUAM.

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17 December (Oahu date)

TF 38 is still operating to the east of LUZON but has been bothered considerably by bad weather which has prevented refueling.

CinCSWPA has requested that strikes be made by TF 38 on the 19th, 20th and 21st. Com3rdFlt replied that he would be unable to make strikes on the 19th because of unfavorable weather conditions.

Com3rdFlt has reported final results for the LUZON sweeps of the 14th and 15th, with a partial summary for the 16th:

Enemy planes destroyed in the air	61
(47 single-engine, 11 twin-engine, 3 float planes, 1 Emily near force).	

Enemy planes destroyed on the ground	208
(67 single-engine, 40 twin-engine, 23 float planes, 28 unidentified. Only planes seen or photographed as burning were counted. Of 138 operational planes photographed on Clarke Field, only 12 were seen to burn.)	

TOTAL DESTROYED

	269
Enemy planes damaged on the ground	192

TOTAL DESTROYED or DAMAGED

	461
Ships sunk or destroyed	16
(1 large AP, 3 medium AO, 10 AK, 3 LSM)	
Small vessels sunk or destroyed	12
Ships damaged	16
(4 DD, 2 DE, 10 AK).	
Small craft damaged	50
(25 small cargo vessels, 25 landing barges)	

Our losses totalled 20 planes in combat and 51 operationally (total 71 planes), with 23 pilots missing.

Com3rdFlt estimated that about 100 operational aircraft may remain hidden and well dispersed, but in a disorganized state for operations.

13th-17th: CTG 77.12 has reported the story of CVE air support enroute to and from the MINDORO landings. During the 5-day period from U-2 until U / 2 (13th-17th) CVE planes shot down 46 enemy planes and destroyed 20 on the ground. Ships AA

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17 December (Oahu date) (Cont'd)

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shot down 4, for a total of 70 Jap planes destroyed. 17 others were probably destroyed and 14 were damaged on the ground. Our losses were 1 fighter plus pilot in combat, and 6 fighters plus 1 torpedo plane operationally. There were no personnel lost operationally.

There were 5 definite suicide dives. Two hit near the MARCUS ISLAND, fragments from one of them killing 1 man and wounding 6 (at 0810 on the 15th). 1 landed near the NEW MEXICO, 1 near the WEST VIRGINIA, and 1 hit the HARADEN (DD585).

At NEGROS on the 14th land based fighter bombers destroyed 20 planes on SILAY airdromes in the morning and an estimated 40 enemy planes at the same strip in the afternoon.

At IWO JIMA on the 17th, 50 B-24's dropped 112 tons of bombs on airfield and installations; results were unobserved because of solid overcast. 3 Planes were reported to have intercepted but no damage was inflicted.

Com3rdFlt 130510 (pink) requests that increase in fighter pilots be made prior to 30 Dec. (up to 150%).

CNO 162045 (pink) outlines procedure to be carried out by our planes in the event that they land in Soviet Territory.

CinCSWPA (pink) 171101 sets forth a request for 3rdFlt to strike LUZON airfields on 19, 20 and 21 Dec in order to cover the reenforcement echelon scheduled to arrive at MINDORO on the 22nd.

Com3rdFlt 172318 (pink) answers the despatch appearing directly above by stating that he has been unable to dodge a storm and has therefore been unable to refuel. He also states that he is unable to strike on the 19th but will advise later as to the capabilities on the 20th.

Com3rdFlt 17233 (pink) gives his estimated noon position and states that the storm is still pursuing and that he is proceeding south seeking better weather and has not as yet refueled.

CinCPOA's 172352 (pink) outlines views concerning future operations.

CinCSWPA's 181220 (pink) states that in view of inability of the 3rdFlt to attack LUZON targets on the 19th the LUZON area will be open to the Allied Air Forces for bombing on that day.

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18 December (Oahu date)

Amplified reports have been received from Com3rdFlt regarding final totals for the strikes on LUZON on 14 15 and 16 December. His latest despatch adds 1 ship to the 17 previously reported sunk, 12 small vessels to the 12 previously reported sunk, and 3 ships to the 16 previously reported damaged. Our losses are increased by 7 planes in combat (vice 20), 6 pilots (vice 23), and 1 aircrewman (none reported before). Operational losses for the 3 days are 38 instead of 51. The final score follows:

	<u>Final</u>	<u>Prelim</u>	<u>Change</u>
Ships sunk or destroyed - - - - - (1 large AP, 1 large AO, 3 med. AO, 1 large AK, 1 med. AK, 7 small AK, 1 CM, 3 LSM)	18	17	/ 1
Small vessels sunk or destroyed -	24	12	/ 12
Ships damaged - - - - - (4 DD, 2 DE, 1 large AP, 1 med. AO, 1 small AO, 1 coast defense vessel, 9 AK)	19	16	/ 3
Small craft damaged - - - - - (17 small cargo vessels, 25 land- ing barges)	43	50	- 7
Our planes lost in combat - - - -	27	20	/ 7
Our planes lost operationally - -	38	51	- 13
Pilots lost - - - - -	29	23	/ 6
Aircrewmen lost - - - - -	1	0	/ 1

12 P-47's over NEGROS encountered 14 Twin-engine bombers and shot them all down in a 20 minute combat. In the same area at NEGROS 9 P-38's engaged 8 enemy fighters and likewise shot them all down. We suffered no losses.

A total of 81 B-24's bombed the PUERTO PRINCESA airdrome on the 15th and 16th. Fires were started and 4 planes were destroyed and 3 additional damaged.

HANGCHOW was bombed on the 18th by 84 B-29's. 540 tons were dropped on the docks and storage areas. Results were described as good to excellent. No B-29's were lost on this mission and 5 enemy fighters were claimed to have been destroyed.

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18 December (Oahu date) (Cont'd)

Com3rdFlt 190605 (pink) st states that TF 38 will sortie from ULITHI and will request early departure of ENTERPRISE and BATAAN from PEARL HARBOR in order to participate in forth coming operation.

Com3rdFlt 190933 (pink) states that entry of units of TF 38 into CHINA SEA will depend on the developments of a favorable situation. He also states that a ~~sortie~~ ^{photo} strike on OKINAWA will be made during the LUZON operation only if general situation warrents it otherwise photographs will be taken after release from M-1.

Com3rdFlt 190222 (pink) summarizes damage to fleet units as a result of the recent typhoon.

Com3rdFlt 190111 (pink) requests information regarding the use of MINDORO fields for planes of TF 38.

Cincpac 191006 (pink) requests information from Com7thFlt relative to basing BRITISH submarines in his area.

Com3rdFlt 190930 (pink) outlines schedule of strikes in support of M-1 operation.

CTF 94 191245 (pink) outlines bombardment of IWO JIMA on 24 and 27 December in coordination with bombing.

Cum

19 December (Oahu date)

The first resupply echelon left LEYTE at 1530 on the 19th and is estimated to arrive at MINDORO on the 22nd.

The RUDYERD BAY reported that the SWEARER (DE 186) picked up 5 survivors from the SPENCE (DD 512) at 0030 on the 20th (I). Statements from the survivors indicate that the SPENCE capsized suddenly and that very few survived.

Reports indicate that there is a possibility that the MONAGHAN (DD 354) may have met the same fate as the SPENCE in this typhoon. A number of destroyers and destroyer escorts reported severe damage as a result of this storm.

ComNavGrpCHINA reports that there are still 2 battleships, 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers in the vicinity of CAPE ST. JACQUES.

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19 December (Oahu date) (Cont'd)

MANILA BAY waters were mined by 20 RAAF PBYS. 54 mines were laid.

Reports indicate that one pursuit group is scheduled to operate from MINDORO.

8 enemy fighters were destroyed over MINDORO on the 18th and 13 additional enemy planes were shot down on the 19th.

52 B-24s attacked airfield installations at IWO JIMA on the 19th. Results were not observed as there was a solid over-cast over the target. 16 P-38s strafed the airfield areas the same day.

Arnold 192240 (pink) outlines the operations to be conducted by the 20th Air Forces in support with the LUZON operation.

ComGenAAFFOA 200257Z (pink) sets forth the coordination of bombardment and bombing against IWO JIMA on 24 and 27 December. It further states that participation of the 21st Bomber Command is not as yet determined.

Cominch 192036 (pink) sets forth data regarding exchange of messages by the planning staffs.

Cincpoa 190752 (pink) summarizes the results of conferences with Admiral Fraser.

Cominch 192205 (pink) outlines his views on negotiations outlined in above conferences.

Cincpoa 200049 (pink) requests Com5thFleet discuss possible employment of British Carrier Task Force in ICEBERG with Admiral Fraser prior to his departure from PEARL.

N J

20 December (Oahu date)

The scheduled strike for the 21st by planes from TF 38 on LUZON was cancelled.

REDFISH (SS 395) reports sinking a large enemy carrier with planes on deck. It is reported that this CV was on a southerly course and was sunk at 1700 (I) December 19th at 28 N, 124 E (SW of KYUSHU).

An explosion of undetermined origin was reported on the BOULDER VICTORY (XAKE) in KOSSOL ROADS. Damage was apparently confined to one of the holds but there was extensive damage thereto.

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20 December (Oahu date) (Continued)

Further reports from ships operating in the storm area east of LUZON disclose the following additional damage:

ALTAMAHA (CVE 18) lost all her planes, had many of her automatic weapons put out of action, and has her radar and most of her radios out of commission.

CAPE ESPERANCE (CVE 88) received considerable damage to her automatic weapons battery.

All oilers with the refuelling group at sea received some damage but all can still fuel.

M.R. NAWMAN (DE-416) and WATERMAN (DE-740), both formerly reported missing, are proceeding to ULITHI, extent of damage unknown.

CTF 93 210430 (pink) outlines operation order 3-44 covering two surface and air attacks to be made against IWO JIMA on the 24th and 27th of December (ROCKCRUSHER number 1 and number 2).

CinCPac 210248 (pink) outlines his understanding with CinCBPF relative to the fuel situation for British units.

~ J

21 December (Oahu date)

Com3rdFlt has ordered TF 38 to proceed to ULITHI to arrive there the forenoon of 24 December.

ComSevRon 10 reports the damage caused to some of the ships in the recent typhoon as being substantial but report indicates that majority of ships can be repaired in the forward areas with the exception of the MONTEREY (CVL-26) which is beyond repair at forward bases.

Gen. MacArthur announced on 22 December that the pincers along the ORMOC corridor from the north and south have now been inclosed and the 10th and 24th Corps are now in contact with each other.

IWO JIMA was hit again on the 21st by 23 B-24's. 48 Tons were dropped by radar results being unobserved.

163 Mines have been expended in harbors and anchorages at CHICHI and HAHAI JIMA. 80% are reported to be effective and sterilizers have been set for 1 March 1945.

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Authority: EO 12958, as amended
HQ USEUCOM

21 December (Oahu Date) (Continued)

Report of the strike by the 20th Bomber Command indicates that 32 B-29's bombed the Omura Aircraft Factory in KYUSHU and the SHANGHAI dock area. Results were largely unobserved. 2 B-29's are missing and 5 enemy planes claimed destroyed.

On the 22nd 78 B-29's of the 21st Bomber Command bombed the Mitsubishi Aircraft Plant in the Nagoya area. 2 B-29's are reported missing and the results of the bombing have not been received.

CTF 77 220406 (pink) covers the recommendation for basing British submarines in the SWP area.

ComNavGrp CHINA 211748 (pink) sets forth 20th Bomber Command operations in conjunction with M-1.

CinCSWPA 210833 approves Com3rdFlt's cover and support in M-1. Further stating that 3rdFlt is free to strike over the dividing line when worthwhile targets can be hit.

CinCPOA's 212105 (pink) requests 21st Bomber Command to carry out photo reconnaissance of OKINAWA S minus 10 to S day inclusive.

Fleet Admiral Nimitz and RAdm Sherman departed Pearl Harbor for ULITHI and LEYTE this date.

~ JV

December 22 (Oahu date)

TF 38 is enroute to ULITHI and is scheduled to arrive the evening of 24 December (I).

TILEFISH (SS-307) reports sinking a FURUTAKA Class CA 5 miles SW of OMAI SAKI at 220200 (Z).

A B-29 operating against the Empire reported sighting a carrier 700-800 feet long at 31-17 N 136-44 E at 1230 (I) on the 22nd; course 180, speed 30. The carrier appeared to have an island on the left side and no aircraft on deck.

The first MINDORO resupply echelon arrived at the beachhead early on the 22nd and departed that evening. 2 LST's were damaged enroute by fires after attacks on the evening of the 21st and were anchored near JARACANAO Island west of PANAY. Salvage will be attempted upon return of the convoy. Many survivors were recovered by escorting destroyers.

22 December (Oahu date) (Continued)

ComNavGroup CHINA reports that the 2 ISE Class BB's were still in the vicinity of CAPE ST. JACQUES on the 22nd and that the two CA's and 3 DD's previously reported at this location had departed to the south at 1900 (I) on the 22nd.

CinC EI 221214 and 221139Z (pink) summarizes strike on the Brandan Oil Refineries 18 December.

Arnold's 220104 directs 21st Bomber Command to carry out photo reconnaissance of OKINAWA from 25 December to 9 January inclusive and to carry out attacks on major aircraft engine plants on HONSHU during that period.

DepComAF 20 230115 outlines mining operations by 21st Bomber Command to be carried out about 1 April 1945.

23 December (Oahu date)

A force consisting of INDOMITABLE, (CV), ILLUSTRIOUS (CV), NEW CASTLE (CL), ARGONAUT (CL) BLACK PRINCE (CL) and 7 DD's made an air strike on harbor warehouses, railway yards and oil installations at BELAWAN-DELI on the 20th with 28 Avengers, 16 Hellcats and 16 Corsairs. Two oil tanks were set on fire but low cloud cover prevented further observation. In the afternoon, fighter planes attacked SABANG. There were no casualties to planes and the surface forces were not discovered by the enemy. The force returned to base on the 22nd.

Early afternoon of the 24th a search plane reported 2 groups of enemy surface vessels west of FORMOSA heading west. The first group was reported to have consisted of a carrier, 1 BB, 2 CA, 4 DD's. The second of 12 unidentified vessels. Position 22-50 N 119-40 E, course 280, speed 15.

KAMRANH BAY reports indicate that 2 cruisers, 3 DD's and 1 AO arrived there at 1100 (I) on the 23rd and departed the same day at 1700 direction unreported.

24 B-24's from PALAU and 63 P-47's (base unannounced) bombed Clark Field in the Manila area on the 22nd. Reports indicate that 50 planes were destroyed on the ground and 8 were shot down in the air.

The SLEDGE HAMMER Operation is scheduled for the 24th against IWO JIMA (coordinated bombardment and bombing attack) results have not been received as yet.

A total of 376 planes of various types hit HALMAHERA airdrome on the 22nd and 23rd. At least 250 tons of bombs were dropped and damage was reported as substantial. Our losses were only 1 B-25, however, a total of 46 planes were holed by antiaircraft.

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23 December (Oahu date) (Continued)

A large strike was carried out by the 14th Airforce in the vicinity of HANKOW on the 18th. Fighters and bombers attacked this area for 45 minutes after 84 B-29's from the 20th Bomber Command had dropped 540 tons on the same targets. 42 Jap planes were destroyed in this attack (21 airborne and 21 on the ground) in addition 24 more enemy aircraft were probably destroyed and 20 damaged. 4 P-51's are missing from this strike.

A strike by the 21st Bomber Command was carried out on the target of NAGOYA on the 22nd. 78 B-29's were airborne. 50 Attacked the target, 28 returned early due to mechanical failure. 2 of our B-29's are reported missing from this strike.

ARNOLD's 221837 (pink) discusses deployment of additional VLR groups in the MARIANAS.

CinCPOA's 232353 (pink) outlines to ComNavGroup CHINA the contemplated 3rd Fleet support in the M-1 (LUZON) operation.

ARNOLDS 231844 (pink) states that the 21st Bomber Command will carry out photo reconnaissance daily of OKINAWA airfields 31 December to 9 January inclusive.

N

24 December (Oahu date)

The combined attack on the BONINS on the 24th was carried out by CruDiv 5 (CHESTER, PENSACOLA, SALT LAKE CITY) and destroyers plus P-38's, B-29's and B-24's. CruDiv 5 approached from the west and circled around to the northeast of the island firing for more than an hour. Destroyers closed to 3,000 yards. 10 2-gun straddles on the destroyers and one straddle on the cruisers was the sole opposition encountered. None of the ships were hit. ROE (DD 418) and CASE (DD 370) sank a destroyer escort, a PC and a LSM during the day. 17 P-38's carried out a strafing mission against the beach defenses followed by 50 B-24's who dropped 105 tons of bombs on the island from 16,000-19,000 feet. Several enemy fighters intercepted causing minor damage to our planes.

21 B-24's dropped 27 tons with long delayed fuses on the airfield at CHICHI JIMA on the 24th. Bombing was by radar and results were unobserved.

FLASHER (SS 249) sank 3 oilers from a convoy of five ships off the coast of INDO-CHINA (15-04 N. 109-06 E.).

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24 December (Oahu date) (Continued)

Clark Field was once again bombed by B-24's based at PALAU. Enemy fighter interception was heavy, 50-60 Jap fighters being engaged. 18 of these were shot down by a P-47 escort (Philippine based). Our losses were one P-47 shot down and 10 P-47's unreported (believed to have landed at MINDORO).

Reports indicate that one group of fighters moved to the MINDORO strip on the 20th and one medium bomber squadron moved in on the 23rd.

Reports have been received indicating that the 48 B-29's which attacked NAGOYA met the strongest fighter opposition encountered to date. There were some 400 encounters with enemy interceptors, 50-60 of them being coordinated attacks. 17 of the B-29's were holed but only 2 were lost. Gunners claimed to have destroyed 11 enemy fighters plus 20 additional probably destroyed.

Com3rdFleet 232318 (pink) outlines the employment of Task Force 38 in the LUZON operation.

DepComAF 242205 (pink) discusses policy of releasing communiques relative to B-29 strikes.

Cincpoa 240648 (pink) discusses various commanders for OKINAWA.

ComGenAAFFOA 250006 (pink) summarizes results of a conference between Cincpoa, ComGenPOA and AAFFOA relative to VLR program in the MARIANAS. ✓

25 December (Oahu date)

The second coordinated attack on IWO JIMA is scheduled for 27 December. CruDiv 5 will duplicate the performance on the 24th and will bombard for a period of one hour and a half. No strikes will be made by the XXI Bomber Command.

Reports of an enemy surface force have been received indicating that one battleship, one CA and 6 destroyers have been sighted off the coast of MINDORO.

On the 25th SAIPAN was bombed by 16-25 enemy planes commencing at 1910. Isely Field was bombed from an estimated altitude of 25,000. Night fighters shot down 3 planes and AA claims one destroyed and one probably destroyed and one damaged. 4 B-29's were destroyed or seriously damaged and others suffered minor damage. The headquarters of the 1st Provisional Engineer Group was destroyed, and minor damage was inflicted on the planes at Isely Field #2. 6 men were reported injured as a result of this bombing.

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25 December (Oahu date) (Continued)

12 B-24's bombed the airfield at IWO JIMA on the 25th. 10 single-engine aircraft were observed on the field.

CTF 38 250550 (pink) recommends replacing by Helldivers with Hellcats for the ESSEX and WASP thereby making a complement of 91 fighters and 15 torpedo planes on each of these two ships.

CinCPac 252321 (pink) states that it is advisable for British submarines to operate from CEYLON until such time as a suitable base for operations in the Pacific is established.

26 December (Oahu date)

CTG 94.9 (RAdm Smith) reported results of second bombardment of IWO JIMA. The ships approached from north of east, rounded the south end of the island to the northwest. Bombardment for an hour and a half was directed chiefly at enemy shore batteries. For the last 15 minutes, cruiser "5" raked airfields. The destroyers, close inshore, set afire a DE and an LST, both of which eventually blew up. Shore battery fire was meagre, but there was intense minor calibre fire on a DD close to the beach. DUNLAP (DD-384) had her TBS antenna shot away. Otherwise there was no opposition. Army Spotting B-24's was reported very good. ROE (DD-418) suffered CO and 3 men wounded by shrapnel from enemy DE, earlier reported sunk 24 December.

Enemy force reported yesterday to have been approaching MINDORO was estimated by CTF 73 to consist of 1 YAMATO Class BB, NACHI Class CA, and 6 DD's, one of which was very large. Approach was made in heavy frontal weather which extended from 150 miles west of MINDORO. The plane that sighted this force landed at MINDORO, refuelled and loaded bombs, then picked up the force again and claimed 2-500 pound bomb hits on the battleship. At the same time and place, this plane reports seeing B-25's sink 1 DD and damage another. This damage report is consistent with subsequent sightings of the force as it retired.

The enemy force was reported shelling the airfield on MINDORO at midday on the 26th and then retired. Com7thFlt despatched a force of 2 CA, 2 CL and 10 DD from LEYTE at 1830 (I) but there were no indications of any PT action.

This Force was last reported at 12-30 N 114-25 E heading toward CAMRANH BAY at 2240 (I) the 27th.

A group of PALAU based B-24's hit LUZON on the 26th. LEYTE based P-38's provided cover and shot down 8 of 15 to 20 interceptors. 1 P-38 was lost in this action.

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26 December (Oahu date) (Continued)

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Total enemy planes shot down in actions in the LUZON area on the 24, 25th and 26th is 89 plus 8 probables.

The Dutch Merchant ship SOMIEL DICK was hit by a suicide plane carrying an aerial torpedo. The resulting explosion and fires caused extensive damage to the ship and 40 casualties were reported.

On the evening of the 26th enemy planes raided TINIAN. 1 PV and 1 PB4Y were destroyed and several other planes hit with minor damage.



CTF 93 260612 (pink) modifies strike against IWO JIMA during period 29 December to 10 January inclusive.

Com3rdFlt's 232254 (pink) covers OpPlan 25-44 (LUZON Operation).

CinCPOAs 270209 (pink) summarizes results of conferences held by CinCPOA, ComGenPOA and ComGenAAFFPOA regarding VLR program in the MARIANAS.

Com3rdFlt 250625 (pink) outlines search plan to be carried out during the LUZON Operation.

ARNOLD'S 261950 (pink) approves deployment of VLR Wings 315 and 316 to the MARIANAS.

CinCPac 262050 answers CTF 38's despatch relative to increase of VF complement on the ESSEX and WASP.  

27 December (Oahu date)

Preliminary reports of the air action against the enemy task force that bombarded MINDORO indicate that 2 DD's were sunk by our aircraft and hits were made on a cruiser and the Battleship. Reports also indicate that 2 transports were hit off ILIN STRAIT and 1 other transport hit off SAN JOSE, all 3 were claimed either afire or sunk. No damage appears to have been inflicted by this bombardment group on the air strip on MINDORO. The only landing report was at the South tip of MINDORO where B-25's reported several landing craft moving toward the beach.

TG 77.14, the cruiser and destroyer force ordered to MINDORO from LEYTE on the afternoon of the 26th, apparently operated off the west coast of MINDORO the night of the 27th. Reports indicate that this task force was ordered to retire to LEYTE the evening of the 28th.

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27 December (Oahu date)(Continued)

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An unknown number of enemy planes bombed MINDORO in coordination with the enemy task force that was bombarding our positions. No damage was reported as a result of this attack with the exception of one Liberty ship being hit and beached.

12 P-38's are to be ready to take off at 0300 (K-10) from SAIPAN for a dawn attack on IWO JIMA if there is another raid on the MARIANAS on the night of 28 - 29 December. This same plan will be carried out on future nights.

An enemy air attack was carried out on the 26th at SAIPAN on the GARAPAN area. 1 direct hit on a Quonset hut resulted in killing 3 men and wounding 40 others. 5 Planes participated in this raid from 2007 to 2130. Two additional planes came in about an hour later both of which were shot down no bombs being dropped. Night Fighters report these planes as being Bettys.

CINC WEST INDIES STATION 271230 (pink) states that he intends to strike targets west of 106 East for 3 days commencing 21 January and 28 January.

28 December (Oahu date)

A MINDORO resupply echelon was attacked south of BOHOL at 1030 (I) by 4 enemy suicide planes. One was shot down by ships AA; 3 hit ships in the convoy. U.S.S. PORCUPINE (IX-126) was damaged but able to continue. The merchant ship JOHN BURKE blew up and sank. The merchant ship WILLIAM SHARON was heavily damaged, abandoned and drifting when last observed. A tug and 2 DD's were despatched from LEYTE to assist.

A Prisoner of War from a Japanese DD which was sunk off MINDORO reports that the bombardment force that has been active at MINDORO for the past few days consisted of 1 CA, 1 CL and 6 DD's. He was a member of the crew of a DD that was sunk. He stated that no landing was contemplated. He also states that the UNRYU (CV) was sunk on 19 December and that the BB MUSASHI was sunk off LUZON the evening of 24 October after having received 18 torpedoes and 8 bomb hits.

At MINDORO on the night of 27-28 Dec 12 to 13 enemy planes attacked our positions six times during the night. No damage was inflicted on our positions; 3 enemy planes being shot down by our night fighters and a 4th by AA.

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28 December (Oahu date) (Continued)

PB4Y Search Planes flew over IWO JIMA on the 28th (the day after the second bombardment) and noted 12 planes on the South field. Both airfields were reported to be in good condition.

CinCPac 280648 (pink) outlines to CinCPBF that his forces will have the use of anchorages and airstrips at MANUS but will be supported by British resources only.

CinCPac 281408 (pink) outlines his estimate of the situation and states that 3rd Fleet will operate in the SOUTH CHINA SEA if any enemy force is located and attack and destroy same.

CinCPOA 281712 (pink) outlines to all TF Commanders the air-surface zones.

CinCPac 290331 (pink) outlines to CominCh the night carrier organization and states that the SARATOGA is assigned as a night carrier only as a temporary expedient for the IWO JIMA Operation.

CTG 30.5 290345 (pink) covers the anti-snooper barrier to be maintained between TF 38 and the oilers.

CinCPac 290513 (pink) states that if we are to supply fuel and gasoline to Allied forces it is requested that an early reply be given so as to obtain tankers, etc.

CTF 38 260036 authorizes temporary complement of 91 fighters and 15 Avengers for ESSEX and WASP. Cancellation of authorization to be effective upon completion of current operation.

COMINCH 272055 covers the report of the Board on the LEYTE Base. In general approval is indicated subject to some reductions.

CinCPac 282358 sets forth the complement of CarDivs 22 to 27 inclusive plus CarDivs 11, 12 and carrier transport squadrons.

29 December (Oahu date)

At dusk on the 28th the MINDORO resupply echelon was heavily attacked by enemy planes for a period of one hour and a half. LST 750 was torpedoed, badly damaged and sunk by our gunfire at 0830 on the 29th. The convoy was again under heavy air attack off PANAY. No damage is as yet reported. In the latter attack 8 planes were reported shot down by ships AA.

72 B-29's took off to attack the Musashino Aircraft Plant on the 27th. 38 Planes bombed the primary target with 100 tons of bombs, 7 others attacked TOKYO Urban area and 5 attacked the HONSHU area. 21 Planes returned early. Fighter opposition was generally heavy with approximately 300 attacks reported. 19 enemy fighters were claimed destroyed, 15 others probably

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29 December (Oahu date) (Continued)

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destroyed. 3 B-29's were lost.

26 B-24's dropped delayed fuse 500 pound bombs on the airfields on the 29th at IWO JIMA.

CinCPac's 290014 (pink) directs ComFwdArea to include Cruiser bombardment on BONINS in all future major attacks against IWO JIMA.

Com3rdFlt's 282114, 282137, 282150, 290045 (all pink) covers Com3rdFlt OpPlan for the LUZON Operation and also covers Appendix 1 and 2 of 3rdFlt OpPlan 25-44 (LUZON Operations).

Fleet Admiral Nimitz and RAdm Sherman returned to Pearl Harbor from LEYTE 30 December. (Oahu date).

30 December (Oahu date)

TF 38 is moving towards its fuelling rendezvous east of LUZON where on January 3rd they will carry out the first strike on FORMOSA.

Com7thFlt reports that the MINDORO resupply echelon arrived at the beachhead the morning of the 30th having been under frequent air attack until midnight. The only further casualty reported was LST 205 which was slightly damaged the cause not having been reported.

A photographic plane from the 20th Bomber Command reports sightings at CAP ST JACQUES as 2 BB's, 2 CA's and 4 DD's.

RAZORBACK (SS-394) reports a 9 hour running attack on a convoy of 2 tankers, 2 freighters and 2 escorts resulting in 1 DD definitely sunk and 1 AO probably sunk; this was on the evening of the 30th.

On the night of the 29th-30th 20 enemy planes were over MINDORO only 2 however attacked dropping bombs in the water and strafing beaches with no damage reported. Night Fighters shot down 1 enemy plane and AA a 2nd.

At IWO JIMA on the night of the 29th-30th 9 B-24's attacked individually at 45 minute intervals with fragmentation bombs. On the 30th 14 B-24's dropped 28 tons on the airfields with results being largely unobserved.

CINCPOA's 261950 (pink) designates 27th Inf Div as Floating Reserve rather than Area Reserve for ICEBERG.

CINC BPF 241216 (pink) outlines to the Admiralty that British Liaison Officers with CinCPac should become Liaison Officers for the British Pacific Fleet.

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30 December (Oahu Date) (Continued)

CINCPOA's 270440 (pink) covers the policy as to the availability of Service Units in the SoPac for movement to the SWP.

COM3RDFLT's 220608 (pink) states that Fleet Units must obtain earliest and best weather information in order to effectively carry out missions assigned.

MARSHALL's 301634 (pink) outlines certain units in the SoPac area that are excepted from the FILBAS Agreement and are released from SoPac to SWP.

31 December (Oahu date)

On the 30th, photo reconnaissance by the 20th BomCom disclosed following ships at CAPE ST. JACQUES:

- 2 ISE Class BB (KCV), both damaged
- 1 MOGAMI Class CA, damaged.
- 1 Seaplane tender
- 1 FUBUKI Class DD
- 1 unidentified DD
- 4 large DE
- 2 AO
- 1 AK
- 1 sunken AK

ComNavGroup CHINA reports that 2 BB, 2 CA, 2 DD departed CAPE ST. JACQUES night of December 30, leaving AK and 2 DD on the 31st. Absence of combatant ships confirmed by LEYTE search-plane.

Com7thFleet reports the MINDORO resupply echelon suffered a heavy air attack on the evening of the 31st. GANSEVOORT (DD 608) was seriously damaged when hit amidship by a suicide plane. After fireroom demolished, after engineroom flooded, maindeck demolished amidship. The ship was towed to the PT base at MINDORO, and all personnel removed. 22 men are missing. PRINGLE (DD 477) was hit but had only minor damage, and is now returning with the convoy. PORCUPINE (IX 126), the storage tanker hit earlier in the trip, was again hit and seems to be a total loss. ORESTES (AGP 10) was badly damaged by fires and explosions. 30 men killed or missing, 32 seriously wounded. MerShip HOBART BAKER was hit by bombs and sunk. (Total: 1 DD, 1 IX, 1 KAK, sunk: 1 AGP seriously damaged, 1 DD damaged).

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January (GCT)

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01 0851 CTF 57 to CINCPAC, COMCENPAC info COMSOPAC, COMAIRSOPAC.

TARAWA tank farm HAWKINS 75%. 49 hardstands 18 inch surfacing complete. MULLINIX fighter strip 1800 by 60 with 10 inch surfacing. APAMAMA LST jetty 45%. Bomber strip 75%. Taxiways 55%. MAKIN bomber strip and taxiways 75%.

01 2335 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC, COMSOWESPAC info COMAIRPAC, CINCOWESPAC, & COPS US ARMY.

This is CominCh and CNO number 13 effective at once permanent allocation of Destroyers to 7th Flt established as 2 full squadrons of which at least 1 squadron to be 2100 or 2200 tons class. CinCPac provide these Destroyers from PacFlt and arrange with Com 7thFlt for rotating them as necessary. Com 7thFlt consult with CinCPOA regarding provision of additional Destroyers for naval support of specific operations. This supersedes my 101546 October.

04 0120 CINCPAC to COMPANSEAFRON info COMINCH, COM 3RD FLEET, COM 5TH FLEET, CTF 68.

Direct TG 12.2. Rad Hustvedt. BatDiv 7. DesDiv 38 proceed at best SOA to FUNAFUTI. Arrival TG dissolved report Com5thFlt for duty. Advise ETA and maximum draft battleships.

04 2052Z COM10TH FLEET TO ALUSNA MOSCOW, AMCON VLADIVOSTOK infor CINCPAC, COMWESSEAFRON ADCOMNORWESSEAFRON, COMALSEC, COMNORPACFOR, HSHQ.

Approved by Commander 10th Fleet C and R and CNO following new median line for Russian traffic is established. From 55-00 North 166-30 West to 55-00 north 180-00 thence Rhumb line to DALNI POINT light and radio beacon north BIDVKN TRANCE AVACHA BAY. Vessels to proceed 10 to 15 miles to starboard of Median. This modifies ALUSNA MOSCOW dis 181818 November not to all addrees.

05 2113 CTF 47 to CINCPAC, COMCENPAC info COMSOPAC COMAIRSOPAC.

Progress summary. At TARAWA HAWKINS FIELD main runway exclusive of turning space, is now 5600 feet by 300 feet with 12 inch top surfacing. West taxiway is 2500 by 100 feet with 6 inch top surfacing. East taxiway is 1600 by 100 feet with 12 inch top surfacing. 43 hardstands completed with 18 inch top surfacing and average size 30 by 60 feet. A and R area is surfaced. Tank farm is 97% complete. MULLINX bomber taxiway is 3200 by 60 feet with 10 inch surfacing. Fighter taxiway rough grading is 20% done. Heavy AA emplacements of the 2nd defense battalion 87% sea coast 72% special weapons 85% and infantry 72% complete. MAKIN has bomber strip and bomber taxiway 78% complete. Ground defenses are about 82% operative. Communications 82% effective. APAMAMA reports lagoon road 20% done taxiways 60%. Permanent communications 20%. Hardstands 25%.

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January (GCT)

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10 0555 CTF 57 to CINCPAC info CNO, COMSERVRON 6.

~~Most Secret.~~ First phase project King MARSHALLS mining operation completed. In JALUIT ATOLL 10 mark 12 model 1 mines with M3 mechanism laid in Southeast pass and 9 mark 12 model 1 with M3 laid in anchorage within 1 mile of JABOR pier. 4 mark 12 model 1 with M3 jettisoned in deep water outside atoll. 1 mark 12 model 1 with M3 jettisoned 1.5 miles east northeast of Breakfast Island in lagoon. In MALOELAP atoll 11 mark 13 mines with M4 model 2 mechanism laid in INIJUN Channel and 20 mark 13 with M4 in TAROA anchorage within 1 mile of shore. 4 mark 13 with M4 laid in channel northwest of ENIJUN ISLAND. 5 mark 13 with M4-2 jettisoned in lagoon between ENIJUN and South opening and 4 outside lagoon east of KUMARU ISLAND. In WOTJE Atoll 4 mark 12-1 with M3 and 4 with M3-2 laid in SCHISCHMAROV Strait. 6 mark 12-1 with M3-2 mechanisms 4 M12 with M3 and 26 M13 with M4 laid in WOTJE anchorage within 1 mile of shore no planes lost no damage. One strike of 4 PB4Y-1 to mine ENIJUN Channel MALOELAP flew by day. All others at dusk or by moonlight. These minefields will be strengthened and alternate ship passages mined in 2nd phase of operation. Total mines expended 42 mark 12 70 mark 13.

11 2148 COMINCH to CINCPAC.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have approved the following as their policy "That no statements agreements or plans be made by them and no action be taken by forces under their control which directly or indirectly might be construed as a basis for any nation other than the United States obtaining sovereignty or any other territorial rights in the Japanese Mandated Islands during or after the present war."

15 0321 CTF 57 to CINCPAC info CNO, COMSERVRON 6.

~~Most Secret.~~ My dis 100555. Add 2 mark 13 mines jettisoned WOTJE lagoon. 1 about 2 miles east WOTJE Island. 1 in center of lagoon. All jettisoned mines armed. Following mark 12 mod 1 mines laid completing 2nd phase operation K. In Maloelap Atoll. 2 with M 3 mod 2 mechanisms in south opening. 2 with M 3 in channel northwest ENIJUN Island. 2 with M 3 and 2 with M 3 mod 2 in TORAPPU Channel. In WOTJE Atoll. 2 with M 3 mod 2 in LEGEDIAK Strait. 2 with M 3 mod 2 added to 8 already in SCHISCHMAROV Strait. 4 with M 3 mod 2 laid in channel southeast of MEICHEN Island. In MILLE Atoll 4 with M 3 in TOKAWA Channel. 1 of these possibly hit shallow water on reef. 1 PB4Y with 2 mark 12 mod 1 mines with M 3 Mod 2 for MILLE failed to return. These 2 may also have been laid TOKAWA. Total mines expended 40 mark 12 mod 1 with M 3 mechanisms and 24 with M 3 mod 2. 72 mark 13. Complete report follows by air mail.

~~SECRET~~

January (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

12 0120 CTF 57 to CINCPAC COMCENPAC Info COMSOPAC COMAIRSOPAC.

Progress summary. At TARAWA HAWKINS reports air strip and taxiways finished. Hardstands 85%, dock 25%, Housing 75%, incinerator 95%, CIC building 92% completed. Coral surfacing of roads 10% complete. Mobile shops 87% completed and are operating. 2 messes operating and officers mess 12% completed. Pipe line started pumping into Tank farm 10th January. Signal tower in operation. 431st BombRon camp area 50% completed and construction 5% completed. At HAWKINS chief problems are lack of buildings, lumber, wire, refrigeration, and generators. MULLINIX field reports bomber strip 6100 by 400 cleared and grubbed with rough grading 4100 by 250, fine grading 2500 by 250, and 27 hardstands completed except for extension. Bomber taxiway rough grading 90% completed and 10 inch layer 3100 by 60 with 9 hardstands finished. Fighter strip rough grading 90% done and 10 inch layer 3100 by 60 with 11 hardstands finished. Fighter taxiway cleared and grubbed and rough grading 80% completed. Buildings are 72% completed and ready tanks are complete together with 5 ready bomb storage pits and 5 tanks on small island tank farm. Submarine pipe line 90% complete. MAKIN says bomber airstrip 90% complete. Marston mat surface extends for 4720 feet. Will extend to 7000 feet when balance of mat arrives. Bomber taxiways, hardstands, and dispersal areas 95% complete. Mareng cell tanks complete. Tank farm 40% complete. Communications 85% satisfactory operation with JCC constructed and in use. Roads fair. Housing, tactical, good, administrative fair. Kitchens, mess halls, latrines built and screened and are 90% complete. Ground defenses 85% effective. Repair facilities, motor, adequate for only 2/3 demand, and only mobile repair units in operation for airplanes. Storage facilities restricted but sufficient. Cargo handling facilities in harbor limited and largely temporary. Principal shortages are heavy equipment, lumber, and information on future plans. APAMAMA reports mess halls and latrines for VB 47, VB48, and VF 45 nearing completion. Airstrip is 6000 feet. Return taxiway of 4000 feet in operation. Small loop taxiway to takeoff area in operation. Large loop taxiway 50%. 50 heavy bomber stands done. To handle heavy bombers satisfactorily need to widen strip taxiways and hardstands. Bottlenecks are lack of repair parts for Le Tourneau equipment. Lack of tanker moorings for tank farm. Lack of sufficient boat pool. LST jetty progress nil due to washaway and lack of manpower for riprapping, therefore will work on deeper boat channels and more unloading space instead.

17 2246 COMAIRSOPAC to COMAIRSOLS, COMFAIRWING 1 Info 13TH AIRFORCE, CO RNZAF GUADAL, CTF 72, COMSOPAC, COMCENPAC, COMAIRCENPAC.

Following division responsibility for recco and strikes both day and night between SoPac and SoWesPac became effective 1200 L (-11) 17 January. MacArthur 160053 not to all adees. SoPac forces the area north and east of line 153 degrees east north to 06 degrees south thence northwest to NEW BRITAIN coast at 152 degrees east 05 degrees south thence across NEW BRITAIN to CAPE LAMBERT at 151-30 east 04-12 south thence north to north coast NEW IRELAND at 151-30 East 02-58 south then northwest along north coast of NEW IRELAND extended indefinitely. Recco and bombing in SoWesPac Area by SoPac forces will be coordinated with forces and vice versa. KAVIENG remains SoWesPac responsibility.

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January (GCT)

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09 0020 COMNORPAC to NORPACFOR.

Make following addition ComNorPac Op Plan No. 1-44 Annex A Page 7. Under Russian shipping routes add new paragraph as follows: Until further orders new median line for RUSSIAN traffic is established as follows: From Lat 55 degrees North, Long 166-30 West to Lat 55 degrees North Long 180 degrees thence via rhumb line to DALNI POINT LIGHT and Radio Beacon North side entrance AVACHA BAY. Ships will proceed 10 to 15 miles to starboard this median. Correction NR 2 to ComNorPac OpPlan 1-44.

20 0034 CTF 16 to COMSERVRON 4, CTG 50.17, USS WILLIAM C MILLER (DE259).

CinCpac has imposed following anti-submarine attack restrictions on ships engaged in the FLINTLOCK Operations from D minus 5 day until changed or abolished by him: Attack no submarines North or West of rhumb line from PEARL to 14-00 North, 162-00 East, then to center of ENIWETOK Atoll to center of PONAPE to center of KUSAIE, nor within circles drawn from latter 3 points with a radius of 50 miles. Info to be passed by means other than radio in all cases.

25 0653 COMNORPAC to CINCPAC, COMALSEC, COMGEN 11TH AIRFORCE, COMGENALASDEPT.

ComNorPac replies CinCPOA 222329. Number 8500 foot landing strips completed. 0 fields under construction or construction authorized 3 (SHEMYA, AMCHITKA and UMNAK). Scheduled dates completion now indefinite but all 3 fields can be completed by March 1st. Number B29's each will accommodate. SHEMYA and AMCHITKA. 75. UMNAK 47. New subject. In addition, Army has authority to extend satellite field on UMNAK (BERRY FIELD) to 8500 feet to be completed by June 1st. ADAK has 7800 foot runway steel matted with accommodations for 40 planes. Considered suitable as major field repair station but not for operation B29 with full military loads.

26 2045 COMNORPAC to CNO Info CinCpac, ComGen 11th AF, ComGen Alaskan Dept., ComAlSec.

Soviet proposal contained in AMCONVLAD 250010 Quote They desire fishing craft especially whalers be permitted operate any where to east or west in Bering Sea North of Parallel 63 Territorial waters of the U.S.A. excepted Unquote Satisfactory to ComNorPac.

27 0615 COMCENPAC to CENPACFOR Info CINCPAC COMSERVPAC COMAIRPAC.

MAKIN Lagoon will be available for emergency use by all types of ships during FLINTLOCK. All ships pass to ships in company not holding this system, also pass to Army commands you are responsible for. Ample anchorage area. Entrance channel is 2 miles long width 500 feet. Least depth 43 feet fairly straight. Current normally sets from east to west with small component across axis of channel. Pilots with charts will be available off entrance for ships entering.

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January (GCT)

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31 2259 CINCPAC to C OF S US ARMY, Info COMSOPAC, COMGENCENTPAC, COMGENSOPAC

Nimitz to Marshall. Conferences with Richardson and Harmon showed it to be impracticable to supply Central Pacific needs from South Pacific since personnel from rear areas in the South Pacific will continue for sometime to be absorbed by own forward areas. Army garrisons at CHRISTMAS, CANTON and PALMYRA are being reduced to a minimum and BAKER is being virtually closed in order to make Army personnel available to relieve Marines in the GILBERTS. PARA. The latitude accorded CINCPAC in reallocation of Army personnel in the interests of efficient employment is appreciated and the need for economy in Army personnel will be borne in mind at all times. While I am unable now to recommend any specific economies not already initiated by Richardson and Harmon the question will be kept alive and I will rely on them to initiate or propose reductions of establishments whenever practicable. This answers your 120107.

February (GCT)

01 1810 COMINCH to CINCPAC Info COMSUBSPAC.

Roullard advised by Convoy Officer that beginning 31 January Red ships will not use TSUSHIMA STRAITS this winter. Your 242231 January. Now attempting obtain confirmation MOSCOW. Ice conditions VLAD area now reported very bad.

08 1621 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to CINCPAC CINCSOWESPAC info COMSOPAC COM 7TH FLT CHIEF OF STAFF US ARMY.

Most secret. Recommendations contained in paragraph 9 of CinCPOA's secret security serial 00014 of 30 January regarding specific allocations of naval vessels to the 3rd and 7th Fleets for the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO operations are approved by Joint Chiefs of Staff.

10 2212 COMINCH and CNO to COM 12TH FLEET CINCLANT CINCPAC COM 7TH FLEET COM 8TH FLEET info ADMIRALTY AIR MINISTRY COS ARMY.

British Admiralty and Air Ministry and CominCh have agreed upon following definition of operational control as to forces of the services concerned. Para. "Operational control comprises those functions of command involving composition of task forces or groups or units, assignments of tasks, designations of objectives and coordination necessary to accomplish the mission. It shall always be exercised where possible by making use of normal organization units assigned, through the responsible commanders. It does not include such matters as administration, discipline, internal organization and training of units. Para. US units assigned to the operational control of a British Commander or Vice versa operating without a combined staff shall normally be assigned a mission which sets forth the tasks for which the unit is assigned. It is recognized that the operational authority may in emergency or unusual situations employ assigned units on any task that he considers essential to effective execution of his operational responsibility" This is CominCh and CNO 16.

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February (GCT)

- 13 0013 COMCENPACFOR to ALL TFC's FLINTLOCK info CINCPAC, COMSERVPAC, COMAIRPAC, COMSERVRON 10, CTG 50.17

During absence ComCenPacFor on CATCHPOLE ^{ENIWETOK} CTF 57 will assume duties ComCenPacFor GILBERTS MARSHALL Area. TFC FLINTLOCK and CATCHPOLE make requests fuels lube oils and gasses to CTG 50.17. For ammunition provisions other stores to ComServRon 10. Address requests CTF 57 and CTF 57 SubCom for information.

- 15 0220 CINCPAC to COM5THPHIBFOR, CG CENTPAC, COMCENTPAC, COMAIRCENPAC, COMAIRPAC, COM5THPHIBCORPS, COMSERVPAC, info COMINCH, CNO, COMHAWSEAFRON, COMSOPAC,

The Central Pacific Forward Area is hereby established. Its forward limits are the positions held by the enemy. Its rearward limits are the forward limits of administrative sub areas including the Hawaiian Department and Hawaiian Sea Frontier. Initially the forward area includes the ELLICE, GILBERT and MARSHALL Islands. ComAirCenPac is designated also as Commander Forward Area. In that capacity he will act as a sub area commander of the Central Pacific Area. He will exercise command over all shore based air forces, Island commands and naval surface forces specifically assigned. Para. Commander Forward Area will normally be responsible directly to CinC POA except when other command arrangements are specifically prescribed. Now and until otherwise prescribed he will be responsible to ComCentPac.

- 18 0538 CINCPAC to COMAIRPAC Info COMAIRCENPAC, COMFAIR WING 2

My 242255. Cominch 261655 organize 1st Group Fleet Air Wing 2 in forward area as soon as practicable. Group Commander should exercise command in his own right and should have an adequate staff for purposes indicated in ComAirCenPac 160555.

- 18 2120 COMGEN SAMOA to MARCORPS Info CINCPAC, COMSOPAC, MARPAC.

Command passes to Commandant Naval Station March 1. Refer MarCorps serial 003All44 to simplify administration and control intend return headquarters company U.S. and disband after arrival. Advise.

- 19 1307 ANPB to CINCPAC, PETROLEUM BOARD Info COMSERVPAC, COMSOWESPAC, COMSERONSOPAC, COMSERVPAC SUBCOM.

As of approximately April 1944 no further navy special fuel oil will be available for loading at California ports for CenPac, SoPac and SoWesPac except such scheduled loadings as may from time to time be required from surplus mentioned herein. California production navy special fuel thereafter will be used for west coast bunkering and to supply North Pacific. Any resulting surplus west coast production will be used to build reserve to meet unforeseen contingencies. Exportable portion west coast avgas production will be used primarily to meet requirements of North Pacific and Central Pacific any portion remaining therefrom applicable to other Pacific theaters. Remaining Pacific Avgas requirements will be loaded in Caribbean or U. S. Gulf. After supplying coastwise and NorPac requirements west coast production will provide maximum 90,000 bbls monthly of bulk 80 octane motor gasoline for SoPac and CenPac and 300,000 bbls monthly bulk diesel fuel for these areas. Because of other theater demands

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February (GCT)

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tanker situation extremely tight and therefore probably necessary to draw on Pearl fuel oil stocks for next several weeks after which stocks will be rebuilt as rapidly as additional tankers available. It is planned to meet all drum product requirements on west coast.

March

011230/05 COMINCH to US FLEET

The following uniform definitions for reporting enemy aircraft losses have been adopted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and are forwarded for compliance: paragraph one aircraft in flight shall be considered destroyed when: (A) seen to crash. (B) Seen to disintegrate in the air or be enveloped in flames. (C) Seen to descend on friendly territory and be captured. (D) Pilot and entire crew seen to bail out. Paragraph two aircraft not in flight shall be considered destroyed when: (A) Seen by photograph to have been blown apart or burned out. (B) Seen by strike photo to have been within unobstructed lethal radius of a fragmentation bomb. (C) Seen to sink in deep water. (D) Known to have been aboard carrier or other ship at time of confirmed sinking. Paragraph three aircraft shall be considered probably destroyed when: (A) While in flight it is so damaged as to have less than an even chance of reaching its own territory safely. (B) So damaged by bombing or strafing as to have less than an even chance of being repaired.

03 1655 COMINCH to COMNORWESTSEAFRON, COM13, COMALSEC Info C OF S ARMY, COMSESSEAFRON, CINCPAC

Concerning category of defense for ALASKA and the ALEUTIANS the Joint Chiefs of Staff have directed that all Alaskan Territory east of the western boundary of present UNALASKA subsector be placed in category of defense A and that the ALEUTIANS west of the western boundary of the UNALASKA subsector remain in category of defense C. Foregoing is effective immediately. Take necessary action.

04 0228 CTF 57 to CINCPAC, CINCPAA, COMCENPAC Info COMSOPAC, COMAIRSOPAC.

Progress summary. ^{KWAJALEIN} PORCELAIN as of 29th. 1 squadron Corsairs present. Screened messes and kitchens. Pit latrines. Ready to receive additional fighters. Ready to receive bombers 7 March. Some messing and berthing facilities ready first on above date. Airfield operational but under construction. Runway 85% complete. Taxiways and hardstands 15%. Servicing facilities limited but adequate on above dates. MAJURO as of 27th. Sub-grade has been prepared for entire length of field. Runway is completed for a distance of 4000 feet. Shoulders are completed for a distance of 4000 feet on the south side. About 2000 feet of shoulder on the north side now useable. Excavation of taxiway and hardstands now in progress. Operation tower has been erected by housing for equipment has not been completed. Ready tanks are under construction. Temporary facilities for Casu and 1 VMSB squadron have been put into operation. 5 tanks of tank farm have been completed and pipe connections to these tanks have been made. Tanker connection is under construction. BURLESQUE report not received. ^{R01}

12 0110Z MARSHALL to RICHARDSON info CINCPAC.

972-11th now on HAWAII on training status are the 33rd and 38th divisions. These divisions are earmarked for movement to Southwest Pacific in April and May. Current War Department plans do not contemplate staging any additional divisions to HAWAII for jungle and amphibious training prior to utilization outside of Central Pacific area.

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March (GCT)

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14 0845
Q 6326-14th

MACARTHUR to COS WAR DEPT FOR JCS Info COMGENCENPAC, CINCPAC,
COMGENSOPAC, COM 3rd FLT

Local requirements make necessary D day ^{HOLLANDIA} RECKLESS operation be 22nd April reference JCS 5171 dated 12th March. This would necessitate ultimate date return Pacific Fleet vessels para 3 (2) directive be extended to 12th May. Request approval.

14 2030

COMINCH to US FLEET info ADMIRALTY HQCC.

It has been agreed between Admiralty and CominCh that coordinated attacks in which U.S. forces are involved with other United Nations forces occurring in British strategic area Atlantic and Indian Ocean will be assessed by Admiralty. Those occurring in U.S. strategic area Atlantic and Pacific Ocean will be assessed by CominCh. U.S. forces involved in cases where Admiralty assesses should forward original action report with track chart traces and or photographs to Admiralty and send copy of action report direct to CominCh.

15 1548

COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC COMNORWESSEAFRON COMWESSEAFRON Info MULTIPLE.

This CominCh & CNO No. 18. AlNav 61 established the 17th Naval Dist. effective 15 April 1944. Para 1. On 15 April 1944 following changes in Sea Frontier delimitation become effective. Refer CominCh & CNO serial 01158 of 19 June 1942. A. Alaska Sea Frontier established with same boundaries as 17th Naval District and previously designated Alaska Sector of Northwest Sea Frontier. Headquarters at ADAK. B. Abolish former Northwest Sea Frontier. C. Add to present Western Sea Frontier the area formerly designated as Northwestern Sector of Northwest Sea Frontier which is identical with revised 13th Naval District. Para 2. Former ComNorWesSeaFron designated ComAlasSeaFron. This does not change additional duties as ComNorPacArea and ComNorPac For assigned by CinCPac. ComAlasSeaFron will be wholly under the command of CinCPac same as now prescribed for ComHawSeaFron in General Order No. 174. Current ComAlSec will be ordered as Com 17. Para 3. Instructions regarding merchant ship control under revised organization will be issued separately.

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March (GCT)

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12 2200 CTF 57 to CINCPAC, CINCPAC, COMCENPAC Info COMSOPAC, COMAIRSOPAC.

Progress Summary. KWAJALEIN ISLAND. Airstrip 85%. Taxiways 30%. Hardstands 30%. Original Jap roads still being used. Road construction awaits availability of CB's. Housing less tent floors for 3 Army bombing squadrons 1 Navy bombing squadron 2 fighting squadrons and Marine Wing Headquarters completed. Assron operational buildings just started. Garrison troops equipped with screened kitchens. Permanent sanitary facilities 10% complete. Temporary sanitary facilities in temporary bivouac areas 100%. Defense armament 100%. Field fortifications 40%. Repair facilities 8%. Permanent communication facilities 25%. ROI ISLAND. Runway A operational. Tank farm under construction. Unscreened tents and cots available for present flying personnel and 1 additional Fitron. Engebi Island. Airstrip 100%. Taxiways 35%. Hardstands 10%. Defenses 90%. Roads 5%. Sanitation 80%. Communications. Wire 75%. Radio 60%. Visual 50%. Construction material not available. ENIWETOK ISLAND. Airstrip clearing 100%. Grading 80%. Surfacing 10%. Considerable difficulty in locating and excavating adequate amounts of satisfactory coral. Taxiway and hardstands 0%. Permanent roads 10%. Magazines and revetments 50%. Galleys and latrines 60%. Garbage disposal 90%. Screening 80%. Fly control 60%. Repair facilities. Mechanical equipment 60%. Boats 40%. Permanent telephone system 2%. Construction projects were delayed by late arrival of mobile equipment and rolling stock. Further delay was caused by unloading directives emphasizing unloading by ships to permit reduction in number of ships present irrespective of type cargo and insistence of unloading to beaches without regard for dispersal. MAJURO. As of 5 March. Runway surfaced with coral entire length. Shoulder completed. Ready tanks installed and tested. Pipe line being run between tank farm and ready tanks. 8 tanks of tank farm completed. Pumps are installed. Underwater concrete anchors have been constructed.

20 1301 COMINCH; CNO to COMSOPAC Info CINCPAC.

For your information NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT has requested through British Chiefs of Staff the release of 17500 men from NEW ZEALAND Armed Forces to relieve manpower shortage for production of essential war materials mainly food. They stress that of this number 7000 are urgently needed by 1 July. U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff concurred that some of the NEW ZEALAND Military Forces should be released from those now in SOUTH-SOUTHWEST PACIFIC Area subject to following:

- (a) NEW ZEALAND furnish definite figures of men to be withdrawn and purpose.
- (b) Withdrawals to be from NEW ZEALAND Forces as a whole rather than from 3rd NEW ZEALAND Division. Government should confer with ComSoPac to determine exact units.
- (c) Withdrawals not to be made until consolidation FOREARM-MERCANTILE.

You have been furnished copies of CCS 499, 499/1. Copies of 499/2 and 499/3 are being forwarded airmail.

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March (GCT)

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18 1541 COM 10TH FLT C&R to ALL R O WEST COAST US ALL REPORTING CENTERS PACIFIC AREA
Com 3RD FLT, COMVESSEAFRON, Info CINCPAC COMALSEC, NDHQ OTTAWA ADMIRALTY.

Part 1 of 3 of 181541. Reference CominCh 151548 not to all adees effective 15 April the Northwest Sea Frontier Merchant Ship Control Area is discontinued and replaced by the Alaskan Sea Frontier Merchant Ship Control Area with Headquarters at ADAK. Effective above date Commander Alaskan Sea Frontier will assume the responsibility for exercise of Merchant Ship Control in the below defined area. In the Pacific North and West of a line connecting the following points A NORTH AMERICAN Mainland at 45-45 North B 45-40 North 140-00 West C 42-00 North 146-00 West thence along 42nd parallel. That portion of the former Northwest Sea Frontier Area not included in the Alaskan Sea Frontier Area is incorporated in the Western Sea Frontier Merchant Ship Control Area. Commander Alaskan Sea Frontier shall be an addressee for all MerCo reports and route messages pertaining ships. Passing into or through his area. This can be accomplished by the inclusion of ultimate address in indicator code word LAPIN in such dispatches. Vessels proceeding into Alaskan Sea Frontier Area shall be chopped to ComAlasSeaFron at 1200 GCT on the date it is estimated the vessel will cross line into his area reporting centers pass to Routing and Reporting Officers Your area.

22 0352 CINCPA to COM5THFLEET, CTF 57 Info COMGENCENPAC, COMSERVPAC, COMAIRPAC,
COMSERON 10, COM GILBERTS.

Commander 5th Fleet hereby relieved of all responsibility for administration of the Forward Area Central Pacific but will continue to exercise such operational control as he deems necessary for the support of 5th Fleet operations and for the defense of the Area.

22 2315 CINCPAC to OPNAV, COMINCH, BUPERS Info CTF 58.

Rear Admiral M.A. Mitscher hereby designated Commander Fast Carrier Task Forces Pacific. Request this title be included in appropriate mail distribution lists.

23 0126 CINCPA to COMGENCENPAC Info CTF 57, COMGEN 7TH AF, COMINCH, COM5THFLT, AIRPAC

Your 181820. I intend to establish the shore based air force forward area as a joint task force effective 1 May. Your nomination of Major General Hale for duty as TF com approved. He should report to me for assignment about 15 April. Request he initiate the organization of a suitable joint staff submitting to me his requirements for Marine and Naval personnel for that purpose.

14 1800 COMINCH to CINCPA.

Difficulty has been experienced by planning staffs in exchanging information and views during the preparation of a plan without such information being interpreted as definite and binding. This arises, owing to there being no means of distinguishing between official dispatches which are definite and binding and those which are in fact discussions on paper. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have, therefore, authorized special arrangements for the exchange of planning information between the Joint Staff Planners and the U.S. members of the planning staffs of theater and area commanders. In order to allow freedom of expression of views to the planning staffs it is essential that their messages should be confined to the staff level of the planning team

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March (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

14 1800 COMINCH to CINCPAC.

- continued -

concerned and that their distribution should be strictly limited. All such messages will, therefore, be marked with the symbols listed below to indicate that the message is only to be passed to the Joint Planning Staff concerned: PLANPOA. Joint Staff Planners, Washington, to Pacific Ocean Areas. POAPLAN. Pacific Ocean Areas to Joint Staff Planners, Washington.

28 2109 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC Info COMAIRPAC COMFAIRWESTCOAST.

ComAirPac serial 00153 of 19 Feb. CarDivs 21 and 23 dissolved. These ships plus CVE's 84 to 92 inclusive when ready assigned exclusively transport and training duty. Authority granted temporarily employ CVE's 76 to 83 on transport duty until relieved by above ships at which time made recommendation regarding formation CarDivs 27 and 28. Decision reserved regarding permanent assignment CVE's 93 to 104. Authority granted adjust personnel complements CVE's assigned permanent transport duty. Designate training carriers by name to insure maintenance appropriate personnel these ships. Effective 15 April you are authorized establish in Air Force PacFlt command for administration and coordination CVE's engaged aircraft transport. Commander to be designated Commander Carrier Transport Squadron Pacific Fleet short title ComCarTransRonPac with rank rear admiral. Make nomination for this office. Para. Total 47 CompRons will be formed for PacFlt CVE's. Para. Bureaus and offices Navy Department take necessary action.

April

05 0623 COM7THFLT to COMINCH & CNO, CINCPAC, BUREAUS NAVY DEPT, COMSOPAC COMSERONSOPAC NAVBASE MANUS ACNE DIRPACDOCK SANFRAN DIRPACDOCK PEARL, TF COMDRS 7TH FLT

U.S. Naval Base MANUS established April 4 SEEADLER HARBOR ADMIRALTY ISLANDS. Approximate posit lat 02 degs South. Long 147-20 East. Commodore J. B. Boak USN Commanding. Request pertinent adees notify offices concerned.

15 0645 NAVAL LIASON OFFICER AT BOMBAY, INDIA to OPNAV Info JICNAV NEW DELHI, ALUSLOS COLOMBOS, AHACHI CALCUTTA, ALUSNAS MELBOURNE CAIRO, CSWPSF CINCPAC

This is Part 1 of my 150645. At 1300 14 April fire was reported on SS FORT STIKINE at NR 1 berth Victoria dock carrying 1000 tons TNT and other explosives. At 1620 this ship exploded causing heavy devastation and firing 10 other ships in Victoria later observed gutted at 1650 Brit hired transport JALAPADMA carrying munitions exploded at number 2 berth Victoria spreading further devastation and fire throughout Princes dock containing 11 ships. These 2 docks PLQX area bounded by line running from Carnac Basin West across Carnac bridge North along GIP Railway to Elphinstone bridge road East to Frere road North to Malet road East to Malet Basin completely gutted. Fire still spreading in tenement district West as far as 5 blocks from Gip railway North from Carnac bridge road to 1 block north of Masjid bridge road. Some areas still uncontrolled. Windows shattered 2 miles from explo. Alexandria dock undamaged except for This Part 2 of my 150645. BUNKERING and pumping facilities. HUGHES and

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April (GCT)

15 0645 NAV LIASON OFFICER AT BOMBAY INDIA to OPNAV - continued -

MEREWE at her dry docks undamaged. Most ships in Princes dock believed gutted. Estimated 2000 persons killed outright several thousand injured. American and Brit Armies patrolling and clearing area. SS HENRY J RAYMOND at NR 4 Alexandra dock undamaged and moved to open harbor at 1100 15 April. Panamanian ships NORSE TRADER and IOAN at Victoria docks gutted. SS CHUNGSHAN and EDWARD J OBRIEN sailed safely 20 minutes before explosion. Port not officially closed but badly crippled will take months to repair damage. Only damage to our building broken glass. Entire staff safe. All times local.

30 2317/54 CINCPOA to ALPAC info COMGENCENPAC

MARSHALL ISLANDS Sub Area established and my serial 00039 effective 1 May. Rear Admiral Alva Bernhard assigned duty as Sub Area Commander.

May (GCT)

06 0145 COMDR SUB-AREA MARSHALLS to CINCPOA info COMFORDAREA
ATCOM ENIWETOK, ATCOM MAJURO, ISCOM ENBEBI, ISCOM ROI,
ISCOM KWAJALEIN

In accordance paragraph three CinCPac and CincPOA serial 001110 and Paragraph three Com Forward Area Serial 00328 Commander Marshalls Sub Area, Rear Admiral Alva D. Bernhard, has assumed military governorship of Marshall Islands of 1 May as Representative of CincPOA.

07 2020 COMFWDAREACENTPAC to CINCPOA info CTF 59

Summary Operations period 1-5 May inclusive.
Tonnage of bombs dropped on enemy targets follows:
JALUIT 59, MILLE 31, WOTJE 88, MALOELAP 27, TAONGI 1, NAURU 9, PONAPE 94, TRUK 86, propaganda leaflets dropped. Anti-aircraft fire varied from none to moderate over most targets with intense light AA reported at NAURU and on 1 WOTJE strike. In April average percentage of aircraft hit by AA at MILLE, MALOELAP, WOTJE and JALUIT was 2.1 against 3.8 in March and 5.7 in February. Condition of enemy bases: Most installations on MILLE, WOTJE and MALOELAP destroyed. Native scouts and POW reports indicate profitable targets for dive bombers still on ENEYBOR and EMIDJ Islands at JALUIT. JABOR practically devoid of military installations and personnel. All lesser MARSHALL Atolls occupied except TAONGI and U.S. sovereignty proclaimed to natives. Bombing and strafing attacks on TAONGI have destroyed enemy installations. NAURU airfield appears inoperational; craters in both runways. WAKE airfield operational and AA intense and accurate. Old

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May (GCT)

07 2020 COMFWDAREA CENTPAC to CINCPAC info CTF 59 - continued.

PONAPE airfield reported inoperational but repairs nearly completed; new airfield emergency use only. Search reported 3 small vessels at WAKE on 4 May. ASW patrol attacked possible sub 13 miles SW ENIWETOK resulting in oil slick but no further contacts. Enemy sub campaign Marshalls appears discontinued.

12 0050 COMFWDAREA CENPAC to CINCPAC Info CTF 59

Summary operations period 6-10 May inclusive: Tonnage of bombs on enemy targets follows: WOTJE 71, JALUIT 66, TRUK 58, PONAPE 52, MILLE 24, TAROA 21, WAKE 6, GUAM 2, MURILO 2, TAONGI 1, NAURU 1/2 KUSAIE 1/2. Propaganda leaflets dropped. Strike planes got 7 enemy VF sure 3 probable at GUAM. Our planes 6 damaged none lost. Antiaircraft reported mostly meager occasionally moderate with intense light AA 1 strike each WOTJE and TAROA. Condition of enemy bases no substantial change from last report except 2 WOTJE magazines destroyed by low altitude bombing. Runways as follows: WOTJE and MALOELAP inoperational but some recent repairs, MILLE no recent repair but runway A might be used by VF, NAURU runway Number 1 probably operational Number 2 inoperational by few scattered craters, PONAPE old runway B operational A inoperational new airstrip emergency use only, KUSAIE inoperational. Searches negative except Navy Liberators destroyed MAVIS and attacked EMILY about 220 miles NW of TRUK also destroyed BETTY 65 miles SE TRUK. 2 other BETTYS sighted near outer limits of 7V411 and 4V413. Mitchells saw probable EMILY near W coast of PONAPE. Weight of attacks being increased on NAURU and WAKE and reduced on MARSHALLS bases with concentration on runways and pinpoint targets. Continuous night observation and harassment WOTJE, MALOELAP, and MILLE. Daily ASW patrols by VP and VB(M) discontinued.

15 2122 COM 5TH PHIB to CINCPAC info COM5THFLT, COMINCH, CHSF, COMGRP 2 & 2 5TH PHIB, COM 3RD PHIB, ADCOM5THPHIB, COM NYPH

During Heavy weather last night in ALENUIHAHA CHANNEL 3 LCT were lost overboard from LST as follows: LCT 999 from LST 71; LCT 988 from LST 485; LCT 984 from LST 390. Last 2 LCT were vessels carrying Mortars. 988 sunk; 984 water logged with YMS standing by. Only slight damage to LSTS. 1 Mortar LCT still on board. Apparently high loading caused by Mortars too great and the project to transporting Mortar LCT in LST will be abandoned. Crews were on board all recovered except 11. Continuing air and surface search for survivors. 999 is in tow of LST enroute LAHAINA. 2 AKA enroute to take over tows. Board of investigation being ordered

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May (GCT)

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17 0350 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59

Summary operation period 11-15 May inclusive. Tonnage of bombs on enemy targets follows: JALUIT 277, TRUK 104, TAROA 67, PONAPE 40, WOTJE 35, MILLE 26, NAURU 15, PULUWAT 1/4. Propaganda leaflets dropped. Night harassment conducted TAROA, WOTJE and MILLE 13th to 15th. Concentrated attack on JALUIT from forenoon 14th to dawn 15th summarized in CTF 59 dis 160230 results unknown. Our planes 1 Dauntless lost, crew rescued. 20 minor damage. Anti-aircraft mostly meager to nil with intense light AA reported by 1 fighter-bomber mission each at TINIAN and ENYBOR. Condition enemy runways: WOTJE and MALOELAP inoperational, but extensive repairs made recently to NE-SW strips both fields. MILLE inoperational. NAURU runways 1 and 2 appear operational. PONAPE limited operation. Searches negative except Coronado destroyed Betty 320 miles NE of TRUK and Navy Liberator bombed 5000 ton AK TRUK LAGOON with unobserved results. Saw 16 to 24 medium large AK's anchored west of DUBLON and UMAN.

23 0321 CINCPAC to COMINCH Info COMGECENPAC

My 220710. Losses were 6 LST's. Number of dead and missing not yet definite. Wounded in hospitals as of noon today 166 Navy, 203 Marines 17 Coast Guard 20 Army 4 civilians. Dead in hospitals 3 Navy 1 Marine 8 unidentified. 120 others released after treatment minor injuries. Principal material losses LST 69, 43, 179, 353, 39, 480. 3 LCT's. About 17 LVT's and 8 155-mm guns with other corps artillery equipment. Explosion originated in LST 353 in vicinity of truck being loaded with Army 4.2 mortar ammunition by detail from 91st Army Chemical Company of which approximately 83 men are still unaccounted for. Court of inquiry ordered members RADm Shafroth, RADm Schoeffel, Capt. Shumaker. Please inform War Dept. FORAGER target date will be delayed but little if at all. Will advise you before making press release.

22 0300 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59

Summary operations 16 May (West Longitude) to 21 May (East Longitude) inclusive: bomb tonnage on enemy targets: TAROA 104, WAKE 93, SOTJE 67, PONAPE 29, NAURU 24, JALUIT 22, MILLE 22, PULUWAT 1. Propaganda leaflet campaign slowed by weather but progressing. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases continued. AA fire weak or none except intense at WAKE, NAURU. Our losses 1 Liberator shot down by WAKE AA. 25 planes damaged total. Condition of enemy runways: MALOELAP 1 runway possibly operational. WOTJE inoperational under repair. MILLE 2 runways possibly operational. NAURU probably operational. PONAPE probably inoperational. CORONADO shot down eastbound BETTY 540 miles WNW ENIWETOK. Navy search Liberator probably sank 10,000 ton AO and 5000 ton AK at TRUK.

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MAY (GCT)

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27 0320 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59

Summary operations 22 May to 26 May inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy targets results generally unknown. WOTJE 227, including coordinated attack 22nd partially weathered out; JALUIT 66, MILLE 14, PONAPE 15, KUSAIE 1 3/4, ROTA 1 1/2, PULUWAT 3/4, RUO 1/4. Propaganda leaflet campaign continued. Weather curtailed operations 23rd and 24th. Plan to reduce weight of bombing attacks MARSHALLS due lack of definite targets and to conserve ammunition. Further bombing missions principally for training, surveillance, and targets of opportunity. AA mostly meager to nil. Our losses 2 F4U's by WOTJE AA, 1 pilot rescued; 1 B-25 down 20 miles from PONAPE, cause unknown, search for crew in progress. 16 other planes damaged. para. Condition enemy runways: generally inoperational. Para. Native scout spy mission to MILLE reports garrison now approximately 3000 military 2000 laborers after estimated 2000 casualties. Ammunition fuel very limited but food conditions fair due abundant native products. Para. Photos obtained ROTA and PAGAN. Tow plane of TG 58.6 reported sub 60 miles NW MAJURO 26th hunter killer in progress.

29 2206 COMINCH & CNO TO CINCPAC INFO CINCLANT, COM7THFLT, COM8THFLT, COM12THFLT, COMSOWESPAC, COMDT MARCORPS, COS ARMY, VICE CNO, BUPERS.

Modify mydis 111902 August. Amphibious forces Pacific Fleet hereby redesignated as follows. (A) Amphibious forces Pacific Vice Admiral Turner. (B) Third Amphibious Force Rear Admiral Wilkinson. (C) Fifth Amphibious Force Vice Admiral Turner. (D) Group 1 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Blandy. Group 2 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Hill. Group 3 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Conolly. Group 4 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Riefsnyder. Group 5 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Fort. Group 6 Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Royal. (E) Training Command Amphibious Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Davis. (F) Administrative Command Amphibious Forces Pacific Commodore Phillips. (G) Commander Amphibious Forces Pacific is type commander for all amphibious forces Pacific Fleet. The assignment of units to amphibious groups and assignment of amphibious groups to particular amphibious forces for particular operations will be as directed by CINCPAC. This is CominCh and CNO NUMBER 22.

JUNE (GCT)

03 1330 COMINCH to CINCPAC info COMNAVGROUP CHINA, COMSUBPAC, COM 7TH FLT, CTF 71.

CominCh reenciphers WARX 45291 2nd June. "From Joint Chiefs of Staff 71469 to CINCSOWESPAC area Brisbane Australia. ComGen USAF CHINA BURMA, INDIA REAR ECHELON NEW DELHI INDIA. ComGen USAF CHINA, BURMA AND INDIA FORWARD ECHELON CHUNGKING CHINA. ComGen 14th Air force KUNMING CHINA. ComNavGroup CHINA. Com SubPac. Com 7th Flt. CTF 71. To MacArthur and Stillwell for action. ComGen 14th Air Force for info. To clarify situations such as that delineated in ComNavUnit 14th AAF 120200 and related despatches and Joint Chiefs of Staff direct that air and naval (including Submarine) operations shall not be projected from one area into another or others without the prior concurrence of and coordination with the Area Commander or

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COMINCH to CINCPOA info COMNAVGROUP CHINA, COMSUBPAC,
COM 7TH FLT. CTF 71 - Continued

Commanders concerned except under exceptional circumstances wherein specific opportunity to damage the enemy would be lost through delay and then only when there is adequate assurance that friendly forces will not be jeopardized".

01 0730 CTF 57 to CINCPOA info CTF 59

Summary of operations 27 May to 31 May inclusive; bomb tonnage on enemy targets JALUIT 81, WOTJE 62, PONAPE 54, WAKE 42, MILLE 40, TAROA 23, TRUK 12, GUAM and SAIPAN 4 by photo planes. 1 B24 and crew lost to interceptors at SAIPAN and another damaged. 12 planes damaged by AA over all targets. MARSHALLS AA meager to nil. 2 Corsairs and pilots lost by mid air collision. 2 Zekes or Hamps destroyed sure and 2 probable SAIPAN and 1 probable GUAM. Native scout spy mission to MILLE reports 2000 bombing casualties. 3000 military and 2000 Korean laborers remain. Small radios operating underground. All big guns damaged but not definitely knocked out. 1 meal of rice per week but native foods are available in fair amount from islands accessible on foot from MILLE IS. at low tide. No shipping or boats in use. Ammunition supply limited and being conserved. Japs concentrated on MILLE IS. with few on TOKAWA IS. use underground shelters and disperse along reef during bombing. Natives number about 400 and are on ALU, ENAJET and LUKUNOR. Similar scout mission to MALOELAP reports garrison reduced from 5000 to 2500 including 500 Korean laborers. Commandant killed by bombing and flight commander now in charge. All shipping except 2 motor boats destroyed. Some mobile artillery units concealed underground. Minor stocks of ammunition and fuel still on hand. Japs concentrated on TAROA and REUTER IS. with a few on PIGEYAT and ENIBEN IS. food supply entirely exhausted except for native products. Natives totalling about 400 are on northern and western islands of Atoll and on AIRIK. Japs exerting pressure to make natives produce more food. Enemy runways generally inoperational except NAURU and WAKE

051300 COMINCH AND CNO to CINCPOA info COMSOPAC, COM7THPHIB,
COM7THFLT, COM3RDPHIB, COM5THFLT.

MarCorps Dis. (1) Effective immediately CG 5th PhibCorps designated type commander for all Fleet Marine Ground Forces Pacific Ocean Areas. (2) Effective on date to be announced by CinCPOA following organization established for Fleet Marine Ground Forces Pacific Ocean Areas: (A) Headquarters Fleet Marine Forces Pacific - Lt. Gen. H. M. Smith. (B) Present Marine Administrative Command 5th PhibCorps redesignated Administrative Command Fleet Marine Forces Pacific and to function as a subordinate

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COMINCH AND CNO to CINCPAC info COMSOPAC, COM7THPHIB,
COM7THFLT, COM3RDPHIB, COM5THFLT. - Continued

command of Headquarters Fleet Marine Forces Pacific. Major Gen. Julian Smith. (C) 3rd Amphibious Corps - Maj. Gen. R. S. Geiger. (D) 5th Amphibious Corps - Maj. Gen. Harry Schmidt. (E) Commanding General Fleet Marine Forces Pacific will be Type Commander for all Fleet Marine Forces Pacific. (3) MarCorps is authorized to deal directly with CinCPAC in regard to details of the above reorganization.

06 0400 CTF 57 to CINCPAC info CTF 59.

Summary of Operations 1 to 5 June inclusive. Bomb tonnage on enemy targets TRUK 78, MALOELAP 22, WOTJE 20, NAURU 19, PONAPE 18, MILLE 14, JALUIT 7. AA meager or none except intense at NAURU our damage 4 Mitchells, 3 Marine Dauntless, 1 Corsair. No losses or casualties. Propaganda leaflet drops Continued. Search planes damaged Nick 610 miles east of SAIPAN and attacked another 300 miles northeast of TRUK without results. Encountered convoy 50 miles east of PULUWAT including large AK, 2 medium AK's, 1 DD and 7 armed auxiliaries. Probably sank large AK and strafed auxiliaries. Following day sank 1 auxiliary and damaged another probably of same convoy 55 miles west of PULUWAT. SNOOPER approached MAJURO from south at 050116 GCT and retired to southwest at 27,000 feet. Hellcats unable to intercept due to bad weather. Combat air patrol established. Day and night air harassment and observation of MILLE, MALOELAP, JALUIT and WOTJE with surface blockade continuous.

12 0037 CTG 58.1 to COM 5TH FLT info CINCPAC

Daily Summary Report including D minus 4 Fighter Sweep. A 11 June. B 58. C 46 plus 23 over destroyer scout pickets. D 17 plus 16 anti SNOOPER. E 1 ton. F 1 F6F by AA fire. H 1 Pilot missing. L 1 large AK 501L, 1 large AO 501H strafed at GUAM, 1 Medium AK 115A, 2 trawlers and 1 barge 105 strafed at ROTA. M 27 ZEKES 4 TOJOS GUAM, 3 ZEKES 10 miles southwest of ROTA, 4 Emily 1 Betty 1 Irving 1 Fran force pilots and photo. N 1 ZEKE OROTE. Q 2VBM Agana, 3 unidentified OROTE. R 2 unidentified 1 ZEKE 1 single engine OROTE, 1 twin engine 1 single engine AGANA. V AGANA revetments and dispersal areas strafed several trucks striped at ROTA 207Y. Comments visibility poor in vicinity target. ZEKES appeared very new some with belly tanks. No planes seen on ground ROTA. No anti-aircraft fire at ROTA. Heavy AA at GUAM intense and inaccurate. No automatic AA observed.

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11 0400 COMMANDER FORWARD AREA CENTRAL PACIFIC to CINCPAC info
CTF 59

Summary of operations 6 to 10 June inclusive: Bomb Tonnage on enemy Targets: TRUK 29, TAROA 28, MILLE 21, PONAPE 21, NAURU 15, WOTJE 11, JALUIT 6, OCEAN 1 3/4, PULAWAT (BY SEARCHER) 1 1/8, GUAM (By Photo Mission) 1/8. Propaganda leaflet drops continued. AA mostly meager except intense at OCEAN and NAURU. Our casualties: 4 fighters, 1 Catalina lost, 16 planes damaged. 2 Pilots missing. Search planes encountered increased Jap air activity in CAROLINES. BETTY shot down by Coronado 500 miles NW ENIWETOK, another by Navy Liberator 400 miles N TRUK: Damaged 2-engined fighter 220 miles N TRUK, attacked KATE 50 miles E TRUK: also sighted BETTY 60 miles E TRUK, another 270 miles NWE TRUK, 2 KATES 80 miles E TRUK and unidentified plane 100 miles WSW PONAPE. Searcher strafed destroyed 50 foot fishing boat OROLUK. Sighted possible Sub 290 miles WE ENIWETOK. Fighter RECCO destroyed 4 single-engined float planes JALUIT LAGOON 6th. snoopers believed Hamp approached MAJURO from South 090020Z retiring to SW at 30,000 feet. Combat air patrol unable to close. Four Japs found BASCOME ISLAND KWAJALEIN ATOLL 10th. Evacuation of natives from outlying islands WOTJE ATOLL to ARNO underway.

12 1230 CTG 58.1 to CTF 51, CTF 53, CTG 52.17, CTG 52.10, CTF 58,
info CTF 57, COM 5TH FLEET.

Preliminary report on GUAM from CTG 58.1. Heavy concentration AA around OROTE FIELD. Both from Pilot reports and photos. Same applies to AGANA pilots reports only. Island beach defenses AGAT BAY and ASAN POINT to AGANA remain unchanged as shown PRISIC report 407 with following exceptions: New Pillbox and possible covered artillery replacements noted in 380 and 381, possible artillery positions in 600. Small gun emplacement on CABRAS ISLAND intersection. 578 and 556 seen in photos. Surf appears mild. Reef off beaches extremely shallow at low tide. Above based on limited photographic interpretation.

13 0410 CTG 58.4 to COM 5TH FLT info CINCPAC, CTF 58.

ComTaskFor 58 enciphers ComtaskGroup 58.4. 120331. 3637. A 11. B 41. C 48. D 16. E 1 1/4. F 4 VF. H 3 pilots. K 1 small AK. M 12 ZEKES 1 TOJO 1 EMILY 1 MAVIS. N 1 ZEKE. O 1 OSCAR. P 5 EMILY 4 JAKE 1 RUFE. Q 7 EMILY. V Seaplane Base Flores Point Dump Marpi Point. Heavy AA areas 216 217, 218, 225, 228, 236, 237, 247, 248, 255. PARPI POINT FIELD nil aircraft apparently inoperational

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13 0520 CTF 58 to CTF 51, CTF 53, CTG 52.17, CTG 52.10

Vehicle tracks extending onto reef from beach. Distance of from 650 to 900 feet in areas 208V, 200C, 191Z, 191P, and 170M. New fire trench in area 191P 160 feet long. Continuous fire trench along beach between 134Y and 126Item. 900 foot fire trench under construction in 126Y. Above are new installations noted SAIPAN on 12 June. Town GARAPAN has much anti-aircraft fire. Cover MANIAGASSA ISLAND with ship fire it is a fortress of small stuff. Keep coming Marines they will run like hell when you arrive.

13 0615 CTG 58.1 to Com5THFLT Info CINCPAC, CTF 58

CTG 58.1 Daily Summary Report. (A) 12 June. (B) 4 6 9 including 12 special search and 6 VFN Hecklers. (C) 42 including 2 VFN and 6 VFN and 6 special lifeguard sub cap. (D) 16 plus 16 anti snoop. (E) 170 tons. (F) 4 F6F, 1 TBF. (G) 3 SB2C, 1 TBF. (H) 4 pilots and 2 crew plus 1 pilot in water still missing. (I) 1 pilot (1 crew seriously injured). (K) 1 medium AK ROTA 127 U. (L) 1 medium AK ROTA 115 C, 1 sampan and 60 foot ship GUAM 378. (M) 10 ZEKES and 2 Tojos 2 IRVINGS, 1 SALLY, 1 NICK at targets, 2 JUDY force. (N) 3 ZEKES targets. (O) 1 twin engine target. (P) 12 single engine, 9 twin engine, OROTE photos, 2 single engine VF and 1 VM AGANA. (R) 3 twin engine, 2 single engine OROTE photos, 8 single engine AGANA, 1 single engine ROTA. Part 2. U at OROTE by grid location heavy AA posits 451, 472, 492, 412, 607-8 medium or light 474, 473, 452, 451, 450 barracks 474, 451, ships 474 buildings 473 all pilot reports, photo interpretation. (V) OROTE radio station 474, radar tower 427. AA 490, 296, 474, 451, 452 shops 474 control tower 473 runway dispersal areas 451, 452, 473, 474 AGANA AA posits 607 FGKL, 608 AFLMO, 609 GN, 622 WX, 593 BCH, 610 GM, workshop and hangar areas 609 MQ dispersal areas 608 RM PARRUCBS 569 UVQ buildings 590 J, runways 18 hits, ROTA 192 FKP all pilot reports. End. Heavy AA intense and accurate. Weather 43881033.

13 0615 COM5THFLT to CTF 51 Info CINCPAC, CTG 52.2, CTG 52.10, CTG 52.17, All TG COMMANDERS 5TH FLT.

Comdr. W. I. Martin Com VT 10 ENTERPRISE landed by parachute in water 300 yards off beach CHARAN KANOA airstrip SAIPAN sheet 3 B target area 158E at 0640 K (-10) 13th states water calm crossing reef about 0720 with depths 4 to six feet within lagoon clear sand bottom scattered coral heads 1 to 3 feet below surface. Reef submerged 18 to 24 inches about 20 yards wide. Length of reef marked every 300 yards with white or red pennants. Surf 2 to 3 feet on outer edge of reef and coral brittle and crumbly. No underwater construction observed. Beach appeared to be gradual sloping soft coral sand weather 0500 GCT 58821033.

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13 0358 CTG 58.2 to CTF 58, COM 5TH FLEET info CINCPAC.

Summary of operations. Summary report A 12 June B427 C58 D20 E148 tons 80 rockets F 2 TBF 1 F6F G 1 TBF H 3 pilots 4 crewman L barge TANAPAG strafed in SEOF defense photo run M 1 June force P 1 single twin engine GURGUAN Q 1 MAVIS TANGPAG R 6 twin engine USDI emily TANAPAG ALJNJMLON S 1 twin engine U buildings 641,526,527,520,621,554,564. Radio station 605. V buildings 566R and TENIAN town. Radio station 568. Radio RDF power stations USH1. Cane fields fired north and south TENIAN all pilot. Some 20 gun posits bombed but no photos to show gits. AA reported reduced. Have good photo of 4 engine Lix.

13 0412 CTG 58.4 to COM 5TH FLT info CINCPAC, CTF 58.

CTF 58 enciphers CTG 58.4. 121506. Report para 3637. A 12. B 22 RINE plus 12 special search. C 73. D 90. E 12 1/2. F 3 VF 2 VT OVP VB. G 1 VB 1 VT. H 2 pilots 2 crewmen. 1 I I pilot. J and L see my 121510. P 3 nells PAGAN. Q 1 VF PAGAN. U 3 hangars, Barracks, RDF, 50 percent field barracks PAGAN. VAA posits, buildings, installations, SAIPAN grid areas 112. 121. 122. PAGAN field heavily strafed.

13 1212 CTG 58.1 to CTF 51, CTG 52.17, CTF 53, CTG 52.10 info CTF 58, COM5THFLEET, CTG 58.2.

Report on beach defenses GUAM at end of D minus 2 day. Photos faapi point to west side TUMON bay show guns and beach defenses listed PRIEGC 407 unchanged except destruction following gun positions: 7 MG FP 759-125. 3 new auto AA FP 777-119. New pill boxes area 634 and 649. Pill box 557 L. 3 AA FP 775-116. 2 of 4 heavy AA FP 790-099. Following new defense: Mobile artillery FP 775-055. Pillbox FP 781-055. 3 auto AA FP 159-822. 3 to 5 MG and pillbox FP 153-818. Pillbox FP 158-830 TRENBEK square 580 R. Replacement FP 170-847. 2 MG and replacement square 580 D. Underwater barrier square 580 D. Boat barrier square 6 02M 60 yeoman double. Nets APRA HARBOR entrance. Pilots claim destruction pillbox FP 825-154. Auto AA FP 822-758. Heavily hit heavy AA square 412 A and B. Coast defense battery 649 HI fired on rescue sub. Guns set back in cliffs. Surf conditions still mild.

13 2313 CTG 58.7 via CTF 58 to CTF 51, CTF 58 info COMCRUDIV 4, CTF 52, CTG 52.18, CTF 56.

CTF 58 encyphers 131950 from CTG 58.7. Quote. 2432 of the largest caliber and 12544 5 inch projectiles were landed in assigned targets by this task group in addition to these ammunition expended by DesDiv 12 who reports separately. Guns in areas 152, 156 and 165 were not touched by bombardment but were worked on by air with unknow results. Areas 236, 225, 216, 117 and MANIAGASSA were thoroughly plastered. No fire received from beach except feeble 3 inch which soon ceased. Heavy fires and numerous explosions in towns and seaplane base. All know gun positions west coast SAIPAN and northwest coast TINIAN were targets of heavy fire. Sweepers not molested and reported negative mines. 2 large hulks and numerous small vessels TANAPAG harbor some of which mount guns. Air reported possible coast defense gun in area 181Y.

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14 0048 CTF 58 to COM 5TH FLEET info CINCPAC, CTF 51.

Report task group 58.3. A 13 June B 333 C 48 D 24 E 107 and 56 rockets-F3VTH 2 pilots 1 observer 5 aircrew K 1-60 foot trawler L 5 60 foot trawlers at grid GN 42. 3 burning 1 smoking 1 making 3 knots. 3 luggers 25 miles west AGINGAN point P 1 twin engine plane USHII Q 1 Emily on ramp at flores point R Tiss Alito U Barracks 108 GUYEN, buildings 131 AF, oil storage 148 FV guns 110 T, 118 MAA 106 E, 108 LMN, 111 FG, 117 E, 124, 126 J, 132, 147, 159, 100, 209, 217, 22 FURWYEDPECIWO 28, 236, 244 beach defenses 126 HN buildings 244. GARAPAN burned by incendiaries and phosphorous shells.

14 0526 COM 5TH FLT to CTF 58 info CTG'S 58.1, 58.2, 58.3, 58.4 ALL TFC 5TH FLT, CINCPAC.

Estimate separated enemy forces may assemble and be within striking distance MARIANAS on 17 June. Since enemy intentions are not clear desire TG 58.1 and TG 58.4 proceed toward IWO JIMA to carry out scheduled strikes. If further information indicates enemy advance toward MARIANAS these task groups will be recalled in time to coordinate air strikes on enemy force with other carrier task groups. Directive will be issued in separate dispatch. Refuel and replace aircraft TG 58.2 and 58.3 on D plus 1 day.

14 2243 CTG 58.4 to COMFIFTH FLEET info CINCPAC, CTF 58

3637 report. A 13. B 137 includes extended shipping strikes plus 14 special search. C 60. D 20. E 65. J 1 small AK previously damaged, 1 ditto west area 56, 2 coastal vessels by Ausburne and Thatcher on rescue mission, 18-16 145-40. K 2 small AK, 1 small vessel. L 6 small vessels. M 1 Betty over retains convoy, 2 Bettys force, 1 Betty 1 Helen on searches. V Gun posits MUTCHO POINT AREA barracks areas 50, 62, hangers 43 D 3, buildings 50 E 1-4 and 56. SAIPAN AQQS a areas 216, 217, 225, 236, 255, CD 165. From photos Pagan Radio Station Area 56 D 4, RD (Fox) area 50 E 3. Pilot reports gun posit SAIPAN appears to be in area 164 instead of 165. Thatcher reports 4 camouflaged buildings on crest of spur bearing northeast 1000 yards from observation spot HO chart 5358 ALAMAGAN ISLAND. Possible new MG posits north west part MAGICIENNE BAY. MARPI POINT STRIP appears serviceable. Number on tail of 1 Betty shot down was 08-326. Supplement report 12th. K 12 Sampans.

15 0109 CTG 58.1 to COMFIFTHFLEET info CTF 58, CINCPAC

Daily summary report. A 13 June. B 367 including 24 special search and 22 special shipping strike. C 33 plus 8 special scout pirket cap plus 9 special lifeguard sub cap RPT CAT. D 16 plus 16 anti snoop. E 132 tons. F 1 F6F at OROTE, pilot recovered safely by periscope method. G 1 F6F plus 4 SB2C's jettisoned when 1 landing on BATAAN dove for deck

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jumping barriers and wiping out other 3. J 1 SAMPAN ROTA 138 L. L special shipping strike as reported my 130957. R 1 single engine rota 208 CG. U GUAM pill box and gun positions 557, M building 75757, 474, 475, 451, AA 412, 557-8 fuel dump 451 radio station 474 CAUSEWAY to CABRAS 557 V GUAM AA555-6-7, 431, 496, 585 LOX, PITI naval base buildings 556-7, AGANA town buildings 604 U, 585 D J 586 A (CMHM) 585 EA K PQA 585 I J, 586 F 585 A 604 Y, 605 WX, AGANA AREA 606 SO, 607 AF, 600 VR, pill boxes at OCA POINT 634, 635, 649, 650, ROTA hit S factories 115 E and 138 U, fuel dump AL reported AA positions 138 H 1 JUT N T U. (UNCX) U and V all pilots. End. Comments: enemy air position Nil. Weather at targets excellent. Daily summary report. A 14 June. C 32. D 16 plus 16 anti snoop (XYMIKE) 1 BSTYSFOOCE. End. WX 46921345.

15 1807 CTF 94 to COMINCH, CINCPAC, COMNORPAC, info ALL TFC NORPAC.

This force 2 CA's 2 CL's 9 DD's in darkness and heavy fog approached and bombarded MATSUWA between 1513 and 1543 GCT 13th west longitude date. Approach and firing entirely by Radar. Mean firing range 14000 yards at speed 15. Ammunition expended 560 rounds 8 inch HC 846 inch HC 3841 5 inch AA common. Weather precluded observation results. No casualties ships or personnel. Search YAMATO WANA by DD's showed no shipping there and none encountered by main group. No return gunfire met vicinity of force. Some evidence splashes well clear and to rear. No evidence enemy detection EXOMOT by Radar at about 30 minutes prior opening fire. Para. Outward and return to base followed weather fronts. No enemy aircraft encountered at any time.

15 2314 CTF 58 to COMFIFTHFLEET info CINCPAC, CTF 51.

A report for TG 58.3 A 14 June B 249 C 48 D 30 E 81 D 8 J small abandoned AK 15-32 north - 145-35 East L landing barge ANTAHAN small AK ROTA mike betty 25 miles northwest of SAIPAN P 1 Tony ROTA 1 twin engine EHII and 1 twin engine TINAN R twin engine TINAN U building ROTA 138 U and 233 P JJOAEACKS 191 O 6 trucks fuel 236EV SAIPAN AA 143, 149, 128 D 1 large building 1479 GUAM building and dispersal area 609 ROTA AA 192 east 138 U SN P 193 barracks 192 row radio station 168 H boiler house 138 U. Leaflets dropped on SAIPAN. CABOT (CVL 28) VF pilot down by ZEKE on fighter sweep on 11 June picked up by CAPERTON (DD 650) AT 245 K 145 in good condition ready for duty. He reports numerous bettys flew west morning 14th.

16 0628 CTG 58.1 to COMFIFTH FLEET info CTF 58, CINCPAC

Daily summary. A 15 June B 172 including 6 on search. C 32 D 16, plus 17 anti snoop. E 58 tons. F 1 SB2C, 1 TBF, 2 F6F. G 2 TBF, 1 SB2C, 1 F6F. H 3 pilots and 1 crew plus 1 pilot and 2 crew missing last seen in rubber boat. J 1 medium AK CHICHIJIMA F 7, TATSUTA KAWAI MARU of 1900 tons

force, 112

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survivors aboard HORNET, left SAIPAN for YOKASUKA, bow of ship blown off by Anti Sub-Anti snoop prior arrival DD who finished her. L CHICHIJIMA 6 luggers At F 5, H 6, H 8, 4 small AK's M 8, M 13 HAHAJIMA 2 small AK's F 20 and 21. M 33 ZEKES. CUZOJIMA of which Lieut Lloyd G. Barnard of VF 2 got 5. N 2 ZEKES IWOJIMA. P 4 VF and 10 VBM IWOJIMA which may have been hit also by TG 58.4. R CHICHIJIMA 4 emilys G 7 and 8. U CHICHIJIMA AA posit G 9 and 5, 3 fuel dumps H 9 F 6, 2 radio stations G 9 F 6, buildings H 9. V CHICHIJIMA hits on airfield G 5 and 6, buildings G 5, 8, F 5, item 6, probable fuel dump G 5, probable oil tanks G 8. HAHAJIMA buildings F 20, G 19, H 12 and 13. End. Comments: achieved complete surprise both targets. Only 1 poor strip at CHICHI. Very heavy weather prevented strikes on morning 16th. FUELED DD's. Striking IWOJIMA afternoon. weather 55921263.

16 0854Z HANSELL SIGNED ARNOLD to DOUGLAS FOR THOMAS. COMGECENTPAC Pass to CINCPAC.

WAR-51561-16th. Fragmentary flash report on Mission No. 2. Bomber command which follows is not for publication. Communique being prepared by Wolfe for approval here for simultaneous release. Incoming data still being received. Aircraft forward bases at time of takeoff total 83 B-29. Airborne 67 takeoff 150918 GCT to 151128 GCT. In addition 1 B-29 crashed on takeoff. Crew safe. Received reports from 32 aircraft returned from mission advising 30 bombed primary target industrial center (steel coke ship center) YAWATA approximately 1555 GCT. 2 bombed secondary target part of LAOYAO. Abortive 6 for mechanical and other reasons. Returned safely. 2 known lost 1 on takeoff as reported above and 1 photo recon plane shortly after takeoff in which 10 of 11 crew members were killed. 1 reported lost 80 miles northeast of CHENG TU (not in enemy territory) unconfirmed. Remaining 3 unaccounted for of which 1 is not yet overdue because of late takeoff. Report of operation not yet received from additional 25 which returned safely. Weather scattered clouds 3/10's at primary target. Principally by radar was method of bombing. Each airplane carrier 8-500 lbs GP bombs. Planned altitude of bombing reported variable between 8,000 and 18,000 feet. Bombing result believed to be good with fires and explosions in target area. Believe no damage to our aircraft from enemy opposition. 2 groups P-47 fighters total 150 aircraft for defense of bases in CHENG TU area. More details later. All here join in congratulations to Cincpac and his command on current progress.

17 0452 CTF 52 to TF 52 TG 51.18 Info COM5THFLT, ALL TFC 5THFLT.

This my Op Order A 20-44 Task Organization (Units assigned separately) A. Covering Group 1 RAdm Kingman. B. Covering

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Group 2 RAdm Ainsworth. C. Retirement Group 1 Capt. Knowles. D. Retirement Group 2 VAdm Turner. E. Retirement Group 3 Capt. Robertson. F. Retirement Group 4 RAdm Blandy. G. TEARAWAY Group RAdm Hill. H. Carrier Support Groups 1 RAdm Bogan. I. Carrier Support Groups 2 RAdm Sallada. Para.

1. Info Enemy fleet appears assembling preparatory to counter attack probably supported by land based air in CAROLINES, BONINS possibly MARIANAS. Northern Landing Force established SAIPAN making progress forward from beachhead. Para.

2. This force will support the Northern Landing Force, retire temporarily to eastward transports not required TEARAWAY, and cover TEARAWAY and retirement groups against enemy surface and air attack. Para.

3. A and B Cover TEARAWAY and retirements groups from areas PATHE and ACME or from Eastward of TEARAWAY if directed. Para.

3. C to F By 1830 17 June clear transport area retire to east northeastward return TEARAWAY when directed. Para.

3. G Support Northern Landing Force Para 3 to cover retirement groups. Para.

3. Item From eastward TEARAWAY as directed by RAdm Hill cover TEARAWAY and covering groups. Support Northern Landing Force. Para.

3. X-ray This order effective on receipt.

16 1020 CTF 57 to CINCPOA info CTF 59

Summary of operations 11 to 15 June inclusive:

Bomb Tonnage on enemy targets: TRUK 112, NAURU 25, WOTJE 23, TAROA 19, PONAPE 18, MILLE 15, JALUIT 10, OCEAN 6. Propaganda leaflet drops continued. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases continued. AA mostly meager to moderate. Interception at TRUK minor except for 1 appearance of 7-12 interceptors of which army liberators got 1 sure 2 probable 4 damaged. Para. Our casualties: 1 corsar 1 mitchell lost, crews rescued. 22 planes damaged. 1 man killed. Para. Searches: Navy liberator destroyed probable irving 240 miles ENE GUAM, others saw KATE 20 miles SE TRUK, unidentified planes 180 miles NW TRUK, 310 miles NW TRUK, 58 miles SW PONAPE, and over ANT ISLAND. Ventura sank 50 foot motorboat KUSAIE. Submarine probably sunk by BANGUST 60 miles NE ROI, 1 sub damaged or sunk by HASTINGS 10 N 163 E. Evacuation of natives from

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WOTJE nearly complete, 700 removed to ARNO, 2 Jap men 1 woman prisoners taken, 1 Jap or KOREAN captured BAURAEABA ISLAND TARAWA. 4 Japs killed BASCOME ISLAND, KWAJALEIN.

21 0520 CTF 57 to Cincpoa info CTF 59.

Summary of operations 16 to 20 June inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy targets: TRUK 75, PONAPE 42, TAROA 29, NAURU 21, MILLE 20, JALUIT 10, WOTJE 8,. Propaganda leaflet drops completed at OCEAN and NAURU. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases continued. AA mostly meager. Our casualties: 1 Dauntless 1 Hellcat lost 1 Corsair missing. 1 Pilot lost 1 Pilot missing. 9 planes damaged. Searches: Jap subs active in outer limits of V412 sectors. Of total 7 sightings, 1 possible damaged, and 3 attacked without visible results. Navy liberators conducting special sub searches from ENIWETOK in addition to regular sectors. Navy Liberator strafed, set afire 80 foot motor schooner OROLUK. Searchers saw no enemy air activity except single Zeke near TRUK. Strike planes saw unidentified aircraft airborne near PONAPE and 2 at TRUK. No interception of daylight TRUK strike. Evacuation native population of WOTJE and ARMO completed, total number 727.

22 2337 CTG 58.1 to CTF 58 info COM 5TH FLEET.

Daily summary. This is my 220800.

A 21 June

B 79 none of which found Jap fleet, plus 6 special search, 8 Kingfisher rescue missions and 8 rescue cap

C 45

D 20

G 1 F6F

I 1 pilot

M 1 Betty force by BATAAN Victor E E Ams 1 Betty by BELLEAU WOOD VF returning from attack mission against fleet

X End. 9 men rescued by KINGFISHER.

23 0458 CTG 58.1 to CTF 58 info COM 5TH FLEET.

Supplementing my summary for 20th June further details available this task group for action against Jap fleet.

F 1 VF shot down by friendly VF and 2 VT known shot down by enemy ship gunfire plus 1 SB 2 C and 1 VF still unaccounted for.

G 12 VF, 9 VT, 19 SB 2 C caused by gas shortage and deck crashes during night landings.

H 3 pilots, 6 crew plus 2 pilots and 2 crew still missing.

I 1 deck officer and 1 aircrewman in deck crash.

L Add the following YORKTOWN claims of just returned survivors, 2 sure torpedo hits on unidentified small carrier not in the SHOKAKU formation and 1 DD sunk by stray torpedo.

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YORKTOWN group attacked individually. BELLEAU WOOD survivor just returned reports carrier HAYATAKA class burning and listing from 2 internal explosions as she passed him. Previously reported torpedo hit on cruiser ATAGO class by HORNET group now believed to be CA CHOKAI or MAYA class.

M Add 1 Zeke over enemy.

N Add 2 Zekes over Jap fleet. End.

Weather 84 91 11 33

24 0153 CTG 58.1 to COM 5TH FLEET info CINCPAC, CTF 58, COWPENS(CVL25)

DAILY SUMMARY X A 23 JUNE X B 101 on PAGAN including 4 VFN special search. C 32 plus EIGHTKDGEAELAJWELCVE CAP. D 16. E 38 tons. F 1 F6F. H 1 pilot. K 1 Sampan 11 item and 4 small AK 11 J. L 2 small AK 11 J, 12 sampans strafed 11 item, OBOE, J, 2 sampans confirmed by photos. M BATAAN CVL made grand slam shooting down all of flight of 1 Betty and 5 Zekes. These intercepted 75 miles from force heading toward SAIPAN. P 1 Topsay and 3 VBM. Q 2 CBM. U fuel dump photo and wharf 11 OBOE. V runways and Nipons heavily bombed, buildings 11 item, dock 11 J, AA posits 11 K and 10 J. End. Comment planes listed in P and Q possibly previously damaged. Lt Comdr Robert H Price, Air Group Comdr COWPENS picked up by destroyer PICKET after spending 11 days in life raft. Condition good. (WX 43801532)

24 1018 CTG 58.2 to COM5THFLT info CINCPAC, CTF 58.

Summary R Reak A 23 line C 24 Hog 12. Summary report (A) 24 June ultimatum strike (B) 128 (C) 3 Tow (D) 16 (E) Sy(F) 2 (J) 3 small AK(K) 2 small AK(L) 3 luggers on fire. All pilot at photos. R further damage to Berty. 2 damaged Zekes only other planes observed. Runway well plastered and temporarily inoperational. Hangar and barracks levelled. Photos. AA posits struck PICLT

25 0047 CTG 58.4 to COM 5TH FLEET info CINCPAC CTF 58.

Daily summary. (A) 24 (B) 151 (C) 60 (D) 19 (E) 47.5 (F) 1 VB (K) 1 landing barge loaded 40-50 soldiers 13-58 144-20 left burning sinking abandoned (L) 1 large AK APRA Harbor (M) 2 zekes ROTA (P) 1 VMB AGANA 5 VF OROTE from photos. (U) 1 steam roller ROTA field (V) fires south OROTE field runways dispersal areas AGANA and OROTE frags and at ends areas 452 A-0 451 B-0 450 H to 473 S. 115 hundreds on shops buildings areas 192 EQH 168 Cde ROTA. From photos 24th OROTE 98 planes of which 5 VB 16 VF possibly operational but only 1 Betty 2 VF have moved in 24 hours. AGANA 8 planes of which 3 possibly operational. tlta *7 of which 3 possibly operational

* probably "ROTA"

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25 2325 CTG 58.4 to COM 5TH FLEET info CTF 58, CINCPAC.

Daily Summary. A 25 B OROTE 48 ROTA 34 AGANA 20 C 60 D 20 E OROTE 12.5 ROTA 8.2 AGANA 4.5 G 1 VT 1 VF L large AK APRA Harbor for 2nd time P 6 single engine OROTE 450 E 474 M, N 1 twin engine ROTA revet northwest runway and direct hit nell 473 R. Q 2 single engine OROTE 1 same AGANA R 8-10 planes strafed bombed AGANA U taxi dispersal areas north east OROTE AGANA AA 608 St, buildings 609 FG 602 605 strafed, revets 608 nos TXY 609 GHIN covered by bombs, ROTA revets and bldgs 191 192 covered by frags incends leaving fires, buildings in 169 ADE 191 192 SXNAMED, bomb hits OROTE 450 EMG 451 ALF 473 YQ. Comments. ROTA field appeared deserted no operational planes no activity or ATCX END

26 0114 CTG 58.1 to COM 5TH FLEET info CINCPAC CTF 58 CTF 51.

Complete Summary for IWO JIMA supplementing by 241224. A 24 June. B 50 including 2 navigation rescue PDAFE BFC 84 including 52 scrambled VF. D 17 plus 18 anti snoop. F5F's. F. G 1 FOO SIXV, 5 pilots missing. M 57 Zekes, 9 Judy, 2 Jill at IWO JIMA, 16 Zekes, 26 Kates, 3 Judy, 1 Jill by CAP near force. Recapitulation shows total of 114 shot down rather than 116 previously reported. N 8 Zekes at target, 4 Zekes near force. O 2 Zekes target, 2 Zekes force. Complete surprise was effected. Believe we broke up large raid assembling and in process of heading south. Many planes loaded with torpedoes with fighter escort were airborne on arrival of our fighter sweep. Following our attack there were 3 large raids in this group. Our fighters were tracked back by 12 Kates carrying yellow nosed torpedoes under the fuselages and what appeared to be stud wing tanks under the right wings. As previously reported all in this 1st raid were shot down. BELLEAU WOOD fighter who got the last 1 dived through ships gunfire to get him. During late afternoon the 2 other raids were completely broken up by our fighters 60 to 75 miles away. During night retirement about 8 Bettys shadowed us closing to 10 miles dropping windows and flares but they appeared too timid to drive home an attack. Screen was clear at 2300 K (-10). Distance was too great to send another strike but considered IWO JIMA fruitful target.

27 0400 CTF 51 to COM5THFLEET info CINCPAC ALL TFC 5THFLEET MERCURY.

Round up of TF 51 air operations and enemy air attacks last 2 days. P 47's have been very active in troop support and in neutralization of enemy airfields SAIPAN and TINIAN. Are now working on a continuing program coordinated with ship and shore artillery gunfire of destroying TINIAN GUNS and generally softening up defenses. P 61's active every night against enemy attacking planes no interception yet. Last night when a kill seemed sure were foiled by enemy use of window regret report about 252005 K(-10) when 1 black widow taking off from ASLITO another plane landed on top

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of it both planes destroyed pilots killed. Now have only 5 P61's. Night of 26th enemy planes active from 1945 to 0030K. Bennion radar picket south of TINIAN picked up planes taking off from and landing on TINIAN. Several decoys drew our Black Widow to westward then attack planes came in east of SAIPAN. Total number of enemy planes in air about 10. Attack planes came in high altitude 14000 feet 2 attacked TG 52.4 for 1 hour dropping 2 torpedoes no hits 1 sure shot down. 2 attacked BENNION with torpedoes 1 probable shot down. At least 1 came over SAIPAN against transports. USS MERCURY credited with a kill without firing a shot: 1 Fran (probable) slid down through our smoke screen dropped torpedo which hit MERCURY before reaching water killing 1 man and penetrating into superstructure without exploding but with partial deflagration. BETTY collided with MERCURY's jumbo boom and crashed in water. Dead aviator and smashed gas tank recovered. Documents in pockets being translated will be forwarded. It is definite that GUAM and ROTA fields being used by enemy. Am sending 40 P47's to strike ROTA this afternoon.

27 1845 COMINCH to CINCPAC, COM 12 Info COMGENTPAC, COM3RDFLEET, COM3RDPHIBFOR

The 96th Division will be ready for movement to PEARL about July 15 with certain exceptions which the War Department has discussed with ComGenCentPac your 240514. Com12 is directed to lift the 96th Division as soon as ready about July 15 on priority number 3093.1A in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the July priority list for the 5th MarDiv which is hereby deleted.

20 0450 CTG 58.4 to COM5THFLT Info CTF 58, CINCPAC

PAGAN summary A28 B61 plus 12 Observation-shipping sweep C48D. D16E 8 plus 64 rockets R1 NELL probable inoperational STRAFECNHOCTOR rockets fired into 5-6 barges probably already unserviceable, 2 half tonners in 40E1, 3 in 40C5. 2 in 42E3, some hits in 50 56 57 59. From excellent photos airfield area present status as follows. Hangar 2 shops 43D2 and 3 destroyed (previously reported) 4 barracks 4 small buildings destroyed 1 barracks 2 small buildings damaged 50B2 and 3. Covered water reservoir damaged 50B4 APPENDEC-TOMYRABFHASS radio station 4 barracks destroyed 56D3. RDF destroyed 563B. 8 buildings destroyed 3 damaged in village 50 and 56. 25 unfilled no filled recent craters on runway. 29 craters in parking areas. 8 luggers on bottom, no other shipping visible in photos. Few worthwhile targets remain and island appears virtually deserted. Light AA or MG from 41E1 50 and 51B4. Pilots and oblique photos no military installations MEDINILLA SARIGAN ABATAHAN.

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26 2300 CTF 57 to CINCPOA info CTF 59.

Summary of operations 21 to 25 June inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy targets: TRUK 143, WOTJE 26, TAROA 24, PONAPE 23, JALUIT 6. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases continued. AA mostly meager except moderate to intense at TRUK where 4 daylight strikes intercepted by average of 5 fighters each. Army Liberators got 1 probable and damaged 6. Our casualties: 1 Corsair and pilot lost. 12 planes damaged. Searches: Navy Liberator shot down KATE 270 miles NNE TRUK, damaged another 100 miles NW TRUK. Submarine attacked 370 miles WNW ENIWETOK without results. Fishing boat sunk and probable RUFE on beach strafed at LOSAP.

30 2342 CTG 58.4 to COM5THFLEET info CTF 58, CINCPAC.

ROTA Summary. A 30 B 18 plus 2 VF(N) Hecklers plus 2 photo C 48 D 16 E 9.5 U3 buildings at 138 U. V 7 tonners, 1 quarter tonner on runway, oil fire 190 N, hits in 191 E 192 A 192 K 177 OM all verified from photos. Also from infra red photos total 12 craters in runway, 11 new since 27th. No camouflage evident. No change in aircraft, nons airborne. CO AA.

01 0950 CTF 57 to CINCPOA info CTF 59.

Summary operations 26 to 30 June inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: TRUK 104, MILLE 38, TAROA 30, NAURU 15, WOTJE 13, JALUIT 4, PONAPE 3½. Night harassment Marshalls bases continued. AA mostly meager except moderate to intense at TRUK and NAURU. Interception by average of 6 fighters on each of 3 daylight strikes not pressed, Army Liberators got 1 sure and 1 probable without being hit. Our casualties: 2 Mitchells and 1 crew lost NAURU. Corsairs and 1 pilot lost WOTJE. 10 planes damaged. Searches negative. Navy photo Liberator shot down BETTY south of HALL Island.

06 0450 CTF 57 to CINCPOA Info CTF 59.

Summary of operations 1 to 5 July inclusive: bomb tonnage on enemy bases: TRUK 125, MILLE 62, JALUIT 28, TAROA 27, WOTJE 16, PONAPE 2. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases continued. AA mostly meager. Interception at TRUK by 5 to 14 fighters on each of 2 daylight strikes not pressed Army Liberators damaging 2 while sustaining minor damage to 2 Liberators. Only 1 of 2 night strikes intercepted by 3 VF without results. Our casualties: 1 Dauntless lost at TAROA, crew rescued. 1 Liberator and crew missing from TRUK strike. Total 8 planes damaged. Searches: dropped half ton MARPI Field SAIPAN silencing AA, strafed 3 fields and guns TINIAN. Strafed 50-foot barge KUSAIE. Saw unidentified 2-engined plane westbound 230 miles west of ENIWETOK.

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11 0450 CTF 57 TO CINCPOA Info CTF 59.

Summary of operations 6 to 10 July inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: TRUK 120, NAURU 41, MILLE 41, TAROA 31, JALUIT 27, WOTJE 21. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases continued. AA mostly meager. Interception at TRUK by 11 to 14 VF on daylight strike 7th of which Army Liberators shot down 5. Only 3 to 4 Japs met next daylight strike. Our total casualties: 2 Corsairs and 2 pilots lost. 1 Liberator waterlanded near base as result damage by TRUK interceptors, 1 man killed. 16 planes damaged. Searches: no contacts except unidentified plane chased and lost 250 miles WSW ENIWETOK.

06 1900 COMINCH to CINCPOA, CINCLANT Info COMSOPAC, COMNORPAC, COMSOLANT

Joint Chiefs of Staff have approved the following directive in JCS 411/15 to all US Theater Commanders. Upon receipt of information from any ship or aircraft under your command of an attack having been made upon a hospital ship or upon a vessel believed likely to have been a hospital ship a board of investigation will be convened immediately. The board will gather and include in its record all information possible to obtain on the circumstances of the attack including photographs pertinent extracts from the log and sworn testimony of participants or witnesses. Upon completion of the investigation or inquiry a summary of the findings will be transmitted by despatch and a complete transcript of the record and copies of exhibits transmitted by first available courier to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. If the attacking ship or aircraft is of other than US nationality a complete transcript and copies of exhibits will be forwarded also to the government of the ship or aircraft.

16 2330 CTF 57 to CINCPOA info CTF 59

Summary of operations 11 to 15 July inclusive:

Bomb tonnage on Enemy Bases: TRUK 140, TAROA 72, WOTJE 58, NAURU 31, MILLE 18, JALUIT 10. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases conducted only one night this period due weather. Interception TRUK daylight strikes nil 11th, by 16 to 19 fighters 13th when Army liberators got 4 sure 4 probables 5 damaged, and by 9 fighters 14th when liberators damaged 1.

Our Casualties: 1 Corsair lost, pilot rescued. Army bombardier lost attempting Jettison bombs. 13 planes damaged.

Searches: Low-level Recco reports PULUWAT airstrip recently improved. Special WAKE snoopers got radar contact 2 seaplanes taking off DAWN 14th lost chase but will try again. Photos show 8 coastal vessels reported at WAKE in CTF 59' 111258 are same vessels, barges and dredge noted in lagoon since May.

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21 0801Z GHQ SWPA to CAAF, COMALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COM ALAMO FORCE,
CG USASOS info C/S WAR DEPT, CINCPAC, CTF 76.

CX15142 THERE FOLLOWS WARNING ORDER FOR INTERLUDE (MOROTAI ISLAND) X HOSTILE FORCES FEARSOME (HALMAHERA ISLAND) ESTIMATED 26,000, OF WHICH 18,000 ARE BASE AND SERVICE TROOPS. CONCENTRATION BELIEVED MOSTLY IN NORTHERN FEARSOME (HALMAHERA ISLAND) WITH SOME FORCES OF UNKNOWN STRENGTH AND COMPOSITION ON INTERLUDE (MOROTAI ISLAND). PARA. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC FORCES, COVERED BY 3RD FLEET AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS OPERATIONS AGAINST FULLCRY (PALAU ISLANDS) SEIZE OBJECTIVES IN SOUTHERN INTERLUDE (MOROTAI ISLAND) IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AIRFIELDS AND MINOR NAVAL FACILITIES. TARGET DATE, 15 SEPTEMBER. MAJOR TROOPS UNITS, 11TH CORPS WITH 31 DIVISION AND 1 COMBAT TEAM OF THE 32 DIVISION. OBJECTIVES FOR AIR GARRISON IN FOLLOWING PRIORITY: (1) 1 GROUP SHORT RANGE FIGHTERS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS ASSAULT (2) 2 GROUPS FIGHTERS LONG RANGE, 1 SQUADRON NIGHT FIGHTERS, 1 GROUP MEDIUM BOMBERS, 1 SQUADRON TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE, AND 1 LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON BY D PLUS 25 (3) SAME AS (2) PLUS 1 GROUP MEDIUMS, 1 GROUP HEAVIES, AND 1 SQUADRON LAB BY D PLUS 45. PARA. ALAMO FORCE BY OVERWATER OPERATION, WILL PREPARE TO SEIZE AND OCCUPY SOUTHERN INTERLUDE (MOROTAI ISLAND) CONSTRUCT NECESSARY AIR, PORT, AND MINOR NAVAL FACILITIES. ALLIED AIR FORCES WILL PREPARE TO SUPPORT, IN CONJUNCTION AND IN COORDINATION WITH CARRIER BASED AVIATION, THE OPERATION: PROVIDE NECESSARY GROUND ECHELONS FOR AIR GARRISON SQUADRONS * ABOVE. ALLIED NAVAL FORCES WILL SUPPORT THE OPERATION BY TRANSPORTING AND LANDING ELEMENT OF ASSAULT AND SUPPORTING TROOPS AND FURNISHING NAVAL PROTECTION THEREFOR; PROVIDE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMANDER ALLIED AIR FORCES, ESCORT CARRIER AVIATION SUPPORT OF OPERATION: AND ESTABLISH MINOR NAVAL FORCES ON INTERLUDE (MOROTAI ISLAND) AS REQUIRED. COORDINATION OF OPERATIONS BETWEEN PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC FORCES, INCLUDING COORDINATION OF AIR AND SURFACE OPERATIONS, WILL BE ARRANGED BY THIS HEADQUARTERS AND COMMUNICATED TO ALL CONCERNED AT A LATER DATE. TROOP MOVEMENT DIRECTIVES FOR CONCENTRATION FOLLOW. STAFF STUDIES* CONTAINING OUTLINE PLAN BEING FORWARDED THIS DATE. COMBAT INSTRUCTIONS TO AMPLIFY THE ABOVE ARE IN COURSE OF PREPARATION AND WILL BE FORWARDED AT EARLY DATE.

* AS BROKEN

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21 0430 CTF 57 to CINCPA Info CTF 59

Summary of Operations 16 to 20 July inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: TRUK 102, WOTJE 61, TAROA 34, PONAPE 28, MILLE 25. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases continued. Interception at TRUK by 8 to 12 fighters each of 2 daylight strikes; Army Liberators got 1 probable, 5 damaged. Our casualties: 3 Corsairs and pilots missing. 16 planes damaged. Searches: No contacts. DD WYMAN of ASW Task Group attacked sub early 19th lat 12; 58N Long 152-03 E; oil and debris indicates probable kill.

24 1658 CTF 52 to CINCPA Info CTF 56, CTF 51, CTG 56.1

Your 231715. In Jap Army units on SAIPAN Koreans were employed in construction units attached directly to battalions approximately 250 laborers to 750 troops. Most construction laborers are Koreans and do not bear arms. They are not employed tactically but merely assist in general military plans. They have no military training. Individual construction laborers are known to have participated in the 6-7 July counterattack in SAIPAN. Navy construction units are similar to those in the Army but are organized independently under naval officers. Some are known to have participated in the defense of ASLITO airfield. Construction laborers are regarded as military POWs because of their attachment to the military, their military work, and potential military assistance. After capture they have been used by American forces for non-military work.

26 0609 COM7THFLT to COM 1ST FLT, COM3RD FLEET, Info ALL TFC'S OF 3RD & 7TH FLTS.

Japanese naval strength DAVAO-PALAU-HALMAHARA Area estimated 2 CL, 3 DD, 6 SS. 1 additional SS believed north of BIAK on supply base evacuation duty, nil other fleet units NEW GUINEA Area. Ground troops estimate. MANOKWARI 4000 SARONG Area 4000 CAPE SANSAPOR nil Japs except possibly few barge personnel. Believe Jap air strength as follows. AMBON GRANT CERAM 50 VF 50 VB. CELEBES 40 VF 25/30 VB. HALMAHARA 85 VF 45 VB. PHILIPPINES 200 VF 210 VB largely concentrated MINDANAO. DUTCH NEW GUINEA 3 VF 4 VB. Consider there will be no enemy naval reaction to GLOBETROTTER Operation. Believe only reaction will be limited to air strikes by small number of planes diminishing in frequency after D Day although maximum capability estimated 50 VF 35/40 VB.

27 0136 CTF 53 to TF 53 Info CINCPAC, COM5THFLT, ALL TF & TG COMDR 5TH FLT, CTF 51 CTG 56.2.

Upon capture OROTE PENINSULA about 1800K(-10) 27 July all gunfire support and air support will be coordinated and directed by CTG 53 in accordance with requirements of CTG 56.2. Support units organized as follows: TG 53.5 REAR Admiral Ainsworth in HONOLULU. TU 53.5.1 Rear Admiral Weyler in NEW MEXICO IDAHO PENNSYLVANIA. TU 53.5.2 Rear Admiral Ainsworth in HONOLULU SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS. TU 53.5.3 Rear Admiral Joy in WICHITA MINNEAPOLIS ST LOUIS. TG 53.7 Rear Admiral Sprague in SANGAMON. TU 53.7.1 Rear Admiral Sprague in SANGAMON SUWANEE CHANANGO. TU 53.7.2 Rear Admiral Stump in CORREDOR KALININ BAY. Assigned screen included in each of above task units. Para. TG 53.1 dissolved and all naval forces not included in support units above are now under command CTG 53.2.

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271127 COM5THFLEET to CTF 58 Info CTF'S 51,52,53,57, ALL TGC'S of TF 58, CTG 50.17
COMSERON 10, CINCPAC, SCOPA, ALL TFC'S 5TH FLT, JANCC MAJURO.

Carry out following measure ASTXY snapshot. A. Reorganize TF 58 as follows. TG 58.1 HORNET, FRANKLIN, ABBOT CRUDIV 13 LESS BIRMINGHAM plus DENVER. OAKLAND, DesRon 46 less CONNER COWELL. DesDiv 11. TG 58.2 WASP YORKTOWN BOSTON CANBERRA SAN JUAN DesRon 23 less AULICK, CLAXTON, FOOTE. DesDiv 4 less STACK. TG 58.3 BUNKER HILL LEXINGTON SAN JACINTO CruDiv 14 less ASTORIA. RENO DesRon 50 MCCALLA CASE ELLET. TG 58.4 ESSEX LANGLEY PRINCETON SAN DIEGO FAST Battleships DesRon 52. B. Fuel and replenish bombs in Task Groups as required for C and D following. PART 2. C. TG 58.2 proceed ENIWETOK. TG 58.1 and TG 58.3 strike IWO JIMA and CHICHI JIMA for 2 days. TG 58.4 provide air support and cover MARIANAS Operation. D. On completion IWO JIMA CHICHI JIMA strikes TG 58.1 and 58.3 less CruDiv 13, 14 DENVER and DesRon 50 proceed ENIWETOK. Exempted units join TG 58.4 in MARIANAS. E. DDFO MGUWWKDUI CTG 58.7 composed of Fast BB, CruDiv 13, 14 DesRon 50 and 52. Form TG 58.4 composed of ESSEX, LANGLEY, PRINCETON, SAN DIEGO and 6 DD from TF 51. F. After 4 days exercises release CruDiv 13, 14 and DesRon 52 to proceed ENIWETOK. Retain TG 58.4 and TG 58.7 composed of fast BB and DesRon 50 in MARIANAS until situation permits their release. Part 3 Para. Rendezvous for reorganization TF 58 Lat 15-00 North long 144-00 East. Fleet oiler group and TG 58.4 will be in that position at 0700K (-10) 30 July and await arrival your TG's in that vicinity. Fuel TG 58.2 and TG 58.4 on arrival. Fuel TG 58.1 and TG 58.3 on following day. Rebomb TG 58.1 and TG 58.3 in SAIPAN 1 group at a time on succeeding 2 days. Para. About 600 tons bombs available SAIPAN on and after 1 August. Send representative report Com5thFleet to discuss bomb loading as soon as practicable.

26 0240 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59.

Summary of Operations 21 to 25 July. Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: TRUK 151, WOTJE, 50, PONAPE 25, NAURU 21, TAROA 12, MILLE 6, JALUIT 6. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases continued. Interception at TRUK nil on 22nd, by 4 to 8 un-aggressive fighters 24th, of which Army Liberators got 1 probably 3 damaged. Our casualties: 10 planes damaged/ Army 7th Bomber Command utility C-54 with 10 passengers and crew lost in operational crash in KWAJALEIN Lagoon after take off 23rd. Searches: No contacts.

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01 0320 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59.

Summary of operations 26 to 31 July inclusive:

Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: TRUK 217, JALUIT 64, WOTJE 44, MILLE 36, PONAPE 19, NAURU (by search Venturas) 4, TAROA $1\frac{1}{4}$. Night harassment MARSHALLS bases continued. Interception at TRUK by average of 6 fighters on each of 3 daylight strikes of which Army Liberators got total 3 sure 2 probable 5 damaged.

Our casualties: 1 Liberator and crew of 11 shot down by TRUK interceptors. 1 Corsair and pilot lost WOTJE. 22 planes damaged.

Searches: Lone Navy Liberator hit small AK with 1 ton and 10-12 landing craft with $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons TRUK LAGOON. 2 days later 2 Navy Liberators on ship hunt strafed 4 small coasters TRUK then dropped $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons PONAPE.

DE WYMAN in special ASW Task Group got probable sub kill approximately 330 miles east of SAIPAN evening 27th.

New subject. My 260240. C-54 under casualties should read C-47.

04 2050 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC Info CINCLANT, COM7THFLT, COM8THFLT, COM12THFLT, COMSOEASTPAC, MARCORPS, C OF S ARMY, BUPERS.

(A) Commands entitled 1st Carrier Task Force Pacific and 2nd Carrier Task Force Pacific are hereby established. The title Commander Fast Carrier Task Forces Pacific is discontinued. (B) These commands each consist essentially of a flag officer and his staff. Their establishment does not tie the carrier task forces to any numbered fleet nor imply permanence of composition. Assignments of carriers and other combat units to these forces and of the forces to fleets shall be as directed by CinCPac. When so assigned the carrier task forces shall be given task force numbers in the tactical organization as heretofore. (C) Initially Vice Adm M A Mitscher will command 1st CarTaskForPac and Vice Adm J S McCain 2nd CarTaskForPac. There is no change in existing type command which remains in ComAirPac. (D) BuPers modify orders to officers accordingly. (E) Administrative radio calls for Com1stCarTaskForPac and Com2ndCarTaskForPac will be promulgated by separate despatch. Mail address for both is Fleet Post Office San Francisco. This is Cominch & CNO Number 25 [added by correction].

06 0230 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59

Summary of Operations 1 to 5 August inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: TRUK 129, WOTJE 35, JALUIT 26, PONAPE 24, NAURU 18, MILLE 12, TAROA $4\frac{3}{4}$, WAKE (by search plane) $2\frac{1}{4}$. AA moderate to meager. Interception by 6-8 fighters 1 daylight TRUK strike of which Army Liberators got 3 sure and damaged 3. No interception dusk strike TRUK. Our casualties: 11 planes damaged. Searches: No contacts. Day and night heckling of WAKE and PONAPE plus night recco TRUK being conducted.

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17 0217 COM5THFLT to CINCPOA Info CTF 57, CTF 59

Your 100123 received 0252 GCT 16 August. CTF 59 assumes responsibility 17 August.

13 0500 CTF 57 to CINCPOA Info CTF 59

Summary of operations 6 to 11 August inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: MILLE 124, TRUK 81, NAURU 42, PONAPE 33, IWO JIMA 26, JALUIT 18, TAROA 18, WAKE 2 $\frac{1}{4}$. AA mostly meager to moderate except moderate to intense 1 strike each at IWO JIMA and NAURU. Interception at TRUK by 8-12 VF on each of 2 daylight strikes of which Army Liberators got 1 sure 2 damaged and Navy Liberators got 2 probables. Interception at IWO JIMA by 5-7 unaggressive VF 1 daylight strike. Our casualties: 1 Corsair and pilot lost JALUIT. 12 planes damaged. 1 PB4Y of VB-116 lost engine on take-off ENIWETOK 9th and crashed into parked carrier pool planes, several killed, about 50 planes destroyed. 1 Corsair and pilot lost operationally ROI. Searches: Negative contacts. Navy Liberators strafed 3 small craft WAKE left 1 afire. Day and night recco and harassment MARSHALLS, WAKE, PONAPE, and NAURU plus night ship recco TRUK continued, bombs included in totals above.

17 1110 CTF 57 to CINCPOA Info CTF 59

Summary of Operations 12-16 August Inclusive: Bomb tonnage of enemy bases: MILLE 202, TRUK 58, IWO JIMA 55, CHICHI JIMA 41, PONAPE 34, NAURU 33, PAGAN 22, WOTJE 14, WAKE 9, TAROA 8, MAUG 4 $\frac{1}{2}$, ROTA 4, JALUIT 3. AA mostly meager to moderate except occasionally intense at NAURU. Interception: At TRUK by 7-9 VF of which Army Liberators got 1 sure 3 damaged. At IWO JIMA by 3-8 aggressive VF. Our casualties: 2 Army Liberators lost result of IWO JIMA interceptors, 4 men rescued. 1 P-38 photo plane and pilot lost JALUIT. 9 planes damaged. Further report ENIWETOK take-off accident my 130500 shows 9 men killed 109 carrier pool planes plus Navy Liberator destroyed. Searches: Unidentified sub sighted 12th 95 miles west GUAM, Hunter Killer negative. Unidentified sub sighted 16th 30 miles east KUSAIE, Hunter Killer underway. Navy Liberator bombed 3 large ships by radar 115 miles WNW CHICHI JIMA unobserved results. Night Searcher had radar contact unidentified plane 70 miles SW WAKE. Day and night harassment MARSHALLS, WAKE, PONAPE and NAURU plus night recco TRUK continued, bombs included in totals above.

20 0905 CTF 57 to CINCPOA Info CGPOA, COMGENFMFPAC

12th-18th mopping up continues. GUAM own casualties 12 kia 61 wia. Japs killed 593 pow 14. Total for campaign 14067 killed 119 pow. SAIPAN own casualties 5 wia 1 mia. Japs killed 187 pow 15. Total buried thru 16th 25144. TINIAN own casualties 5 kia 11 wia. Japs killed 201 pow 15. Will report periodically with more complete data.

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AUGUST (GCT)

23 0125 CTF 57 to CINCPAC, COM5THFLT info COMGEN2NDMARDIV

Am commencing systematic neutralization principally by air and small surface vessels of military installations RAP-SCALLION (AGUIJAN ISLAND, MARIANAS). There are considerable number and apparently increasing. This with view to capture if found possible without undue losses.

23 0227 CINCPOA to COM3RDFLT, COM5THFLT info ALL TFC'S 5THFLT, COMINCH AND CNO, COMGENPOA, COMGENAAFPOA, COMGENFMFPAC, COMAIRPAC, COMFWDAREA, COMSERVPAC, COMDESPAC.

Com3rdFlt will assume responsibility for forward area and all forces except INDIANAPOLIS then under control of Com-5thFlt will pass to operational control of Com3rdFlt at 2130 GCT 26 August.

22 2350 CTF 57 to CINCPOA info CTF 59

Summary of operations 17 to 21 August inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: TRUK 118, MILLE 100, YAP 78, IWO JIMA 45, NAURU 37, PAGAN 28, WOTJE 16, PONAPE 16, WAKE 2 1/2, TAROA 1/2. AA mostly meager except intense at PAGAN and NAURU. Para. Interception: At TRUK by 6 to 9 VF each of 2 strikes of which B-24's destroyed 1 and damaged 5. 4 interceptors at IWO JIMA were unaggressive. Para. Our casualties: 1 B-25 lost crew rescued. 8 planes damaged. F4U crash landed ENIWETOK 19th destroying 3 PB4Y heavily damaging 1 and slightly damaging 5 others. 2 killed 2 seriously and 8 slightly injured. Recapitulation ENIWETOK accident my 171110 shows 84 carrier pool planes destroyed. Para. Special search to MARCUS on the 20th observed 4 twin engine bombers and 1 possible 4 engine seaplane. 2 Navy Liberators strafed and set afire a 2000 ton AK and slowed a 700 ton cargo ship west of MARCUS 21st. Special flight B-24's could not locate these vessels 22nd. Para. Mopping up of scattered Jap groups by ground forces 19 to 21 August inclusive. GUAM: Enemy killed 304 POW 20 Totals to date 14,480 killed POW 141. Our casualties 4 KIA 30 WIA. SAIPAN: Enemy killed 31 POW 8 total to date 25111 killed. Own casualties 2 KIA. TINIAN: Enemy killed 24 own casualties 1 KIA 3 WIA. Para. Commencing reduction of military installation AGUIJAN ISLAND by air and surface vessels.

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AUGUST (GCT)

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26 2156 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to NIMITZ

WAR 87274 Confinement of Japanese prisoners of war and civilians in American captured territory (WARX 66827, 18 July 1944) is the reference. Joint Chiefs of Staff have approved Secretary of State's proposal and the action taken thereon as indicated in your 040231 of 4 August to Cominch and 040108 of 4 August 1944 to ComFwdArea CentPac. Request you send to Navy Department for transmittal to Secretary of State, information as to number of civilians interned on SAIPAN and any other pertinent data which may be of aid to the Department of State in this matter. Para. New Subject: Reference your inquiry about Koreans. Whether Koreans are held as prisoners of war or as civilian internees, they must be treated in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War. If it is desired to use labor of Koreans for purposes prohibited by Geneva Conference, it will be necessary to release them from custody altogether. In that event they can volunteer for any type of labor, but they must be warned when they volunteer that they may become subject to punishment by Japanese in the event of their recapture. If this course is followed, recommend that it be ascertained in advance of release whether individuals in question will volunteer for unrestricted labor.

29 0911 GHQ SWPA to COMSOPAC info CINCPAC, COMGENSOPAC, COMSERVRONSOPACFOR.

C 16806 Reference your 210110 GCT. Present plans provide for the reduction of US forces at EMIRAU and other stations on SOLOMONS axis as follows:

- A. The 93rd division and the 37th division accompanied by supporting combat and service troops to be out by the middle of October and December respectively.
- B. The Marine Air Wing out by the middle of January.
- C. American Division by the middle of February, marking the practicable evacuation of American ground forces.
- D. Concurrently with the foregoing moved US naval units will be reduced proportionately.

The Australian ground forces which will be moved in to replace the US elements will be given logistic support from Australia. In view of the progressive reduction in strength of forces along the SOLOMONS-EMIRAU axis and the provision of logistic responsibility for Australian forces by the SWPA, is requested that consideration be given to continuation of SOPAC support pending readjustment of these forces.

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AUGUST (GCT)

27 2310 COMFWDAREACENTPAC to CINCPAC info CTF 59

Summary of operations 22 to 26 August inclusive. Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: MILLE 144, IWO JIMA 95, YAP 79, NAURU 68, TRUK 65, PONAPE 35, PAGAN 35, WOTJE 28, AGUIJAN 22, ROTA 11, TAROA 8, WAKE 3-1/2, ULITHI 1-1/2, WOLEAI 1/2. AA Mostly meager except moderate to intense at TRUK, PAGAN, IWO JIMA. Interception: at TRUK by 7 to 9 VF, 1 damaged; at IWO JIMA by 7 to 12 on each of 2 daylight strikes. Army B24s destroyed 5 sure 1 probable damaged 3. Our casualties: 1 P47 and pilot lost over PAGAN, 1 PB4Y shot down on shipping strike no survivors, 1 P47 and 1 F4U water landed pilots rescued, 3 P47s lost when 1 caught fire and bomb exploded while warming up East Field SAIPAN 23rd no personnel casualties. Total planes damaged by all causes 26. 2 Navy Liberators on special shipping strike 23 sank 1 large 1 small AK left small AK burning. Sighted 2 DD, 2 large AK 120 miles WSW CHICHI JIMA. Iwo JIMA strike 25th sighted 20 to 30 planes on ground. Saw 2 DD or CL 2 miles SE IWO JIMA. Results continued mopping up MARIANAS 22nd thru 25th August. SAIPAN 6 KIA 8 WIA 2 MIA. 73 Japs killed 25184 to date. 23 POW 443 to date. GUAM 8 KIA 43 WIA. 369 Japs killed 14925 to date. 29 POW 170 to date. TINIAN 3 KIA 3 WIA. 89 Japs killed NIL POW. Neutralization AGUIJAN progressing.

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SEPTEMBER (GCT)

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04 0738 CTG 12.5 to CINCPAC, CTF 57 Info COMINCH

Training completed. Damage to enemy reported by air strikes. Out of commission 2 8 inch guns TCKI POINT 1 8 inch PEACOCK POINT 2 5 inch dual purpose HEEL POINT 4 water tanks and 1 distilling plant. Probably damaged. 1 5 inch AA PEACOCK POINT 2 5 inch dual purpose center portion eastern side WAKE ISLAND 3 small vessels in lagoon. Heavily strafed all AA positions. No enemy aircraft. Encountered medium and heavy AA meager increasing to intense varied from inaccurate to accurate barrage type. Slight AA damage to 2 planes, no operational or combat losses. Surface 8 inch bombardment excellently controlled and considered effective. To be verified by photos. 1 PEALE ISLAND 8 inch accurate and dropped 3 rounds very close by countered by rockets and ships fire. No other score firing. No damage to ships. Both air and surface methodically accomplished plan. ETA ENIWETOK 2100 GCT 5 September.

03 1229 CTG 38.4 to Com3rdFlt, CTF 38 Info CINCPAC, CTF 57, CTF 59, COMINCH

Action report. A. 31 August Ø thru 2 September. B. 362 IWO and 271 CHICHI plus 16 search. C. 109. D. 51. E. 196 plus 490 rockets. F. 1 VF. 1 VT IWO, 2 VB 1 VT CHICHI Flak. G. 1 VT 2 VF 1 VB. H. 1 pilot VB 1 crewman VB 2 crewmen VT. J. 1 LSM and 3 small AK IWO area 1 small AK 50 miles north IWO reported afire and exploding from strafing prior attack by Liberator search plane, 1 small AK 140 miles northwest CHICHI OTMY RK FTU 5 QF JD TD* (*probably "hundred") tons 90 miles southwest HAHHA set afire and ultimately sunk by DD. 2 POWs captured will be delivered SAIPAN. 1 small tanker and 6 oil barges CHICHI. ~~K. 1 SC HAHHA 1 SC SAIPAN. 1 small tanker and 6 oil barges CHICHI.~~ K. 1 SC HAHHA 1 SC 50 miles north IWO 1 SC 60 miles southwest CHICHI. L. 2 SC IWO EHRIM SC 60 miles southwest CHICHI 1 sampan 7 miles east CHICHI. M. 1 unidentified 2 seater 1 Dinah, 8 Zekes IWO, 1 Emily force Lat. P. 2 Betty's 25 Zekes 2 Hamps 2 single engine 2 twin engine IWO 2 seaplanes CHICHI. Q. 6 Bettys 12 Zekes, 1 twin engine IWO F RONSER V 1 Zeke 8 single engine 1 twin engine IWO, 2 seaplanes CHICHI. U. Several flak positions IWO 1 large warehouse KITAMURA on HAHHA, seaplane hangar assembly and report building CHICHI photo, large warehouse WNI photo. V. Damaging hits area BOAG WHDS, ammo and fuel dump, radio and weather station, airfield, numerous flak positions IWO Photuocj 3 radio stations, naval warehouses and associated small buildings CHICH photos. Warehouse area KITAMURA on HAHHA. End. Comments: Fighter sweep 31st August destroyed all airborne enemy planes. None encountered airborne subsequently. Intense accurate flak of all types diminishing somewhat toward end. Number 3 airfield pot soty operational with large number of well camouflaged planes dispersed in vicinity. Special fighter sweep started numerous fires in this dispersal area from strafing and incendiary clusters. Bombardment carried out as scheduled all land targets and shipping well covered. Shares in Jocko JRIC development corporation selling at new high after brisk turnover in airfield and industrial sites.

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

070336 CTF 38 to COM3RDFLT Info CINCPAC

Fighter Sweeps, 6 September against PALAU found no airborne aircraft or shipping and meager AA. Few operational aircraft seen on ground. These destroyed by burning. 8 sampans 3 motor launches 6 barges burned by strafing. Ammo or fuel dump burned on BABELTHAUP. Early strikes on 7 September found AA still meager and inaccurate. Bombing AA positions, bivouac and supply areas. Photographs show following changes in defenses at PELELIU. 4 Automatic AA Target Area 125 M EMPTS. 1 automatic AA Target Area 125 L instead of 2. 5 automatic AA Target Area 125 I not present. All observations seem to indicate material reduction personnel since our last visit. Army bombing very effective. Weather 0001 GCT 7th position 05-57 North 134-14 East 43831153

071245 CTG 38.4 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38 Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, CTF 31

A 6 and 7 September. B. 252. C. 36. D. E. 60 Plus 144 Rockets. F. Flak 1 VF unknown probably flak 2 VF possibly flak but believed midair collision. G. 1 VB WH. 3 pilots VF. I. 1 crewman VB. U. Storage Dump YAP 136G, small building ULITHI 161M. V. YAP radio cable station 156T buildings 136H, 1 857, 1 38K, AA positions 155HRS, 1336JK, 1 390Q, 187VW, 174GH, 202JQ, 203FK, 148 ACD, 172NO. End. Comments YAP and GAXIL TORIL airfields not operational. Former cratered previous bombing with no attempt to repair. No airborne aircraft encountered. Few planes on ground all previously damaged. Town area in trambles from previous bombings. Results bombing and shelling TALANG ISLAND indicate no explosives stored there. AA meager to nil. In view absence suitable targets at YAP will deviate from schedule and strike PALAU D minus 5 unless otherwise instructed. Air reconnaissance NGULU revealed no installations. Only native villages observed ASOR and FALALOP ISLANDS ULITHI. Complete report NGULU and ULITHI withheld pending photo analysis. 2000 I Position 0809 North 138-51 East. WX 54880963.

08 1135 CTG 38.4 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38 Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, CTF 31.

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. A8. B 152 YAP. C 20. D 20. E 51. F 1VF Flak Pilot in raft. VAA positions 155RS, 136UW, 1350PU, 148CD, 174C, 187W, 202J, building 138K, 147DE G End. Comments. AA meager and intermittent. Only 2 strikes run HWE HAKK of suitable targets. Some isolated huts especially those adjacent for trenches on beach may possibly be camouflaged Jap installations. Photos confirm absence enemy positions NGULU and ULITHI. Padding through 06-28 North 137-58 East at 2400I enroute fueling rendezvous area FUDGE 0700I tomorrow.

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SEPTEMBER (GCT)

02 2350 COMFWDAREACENPAC to CINCPAC Info CTF 59

Summary of operations 27 thru 31 August inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: MILLE 323, TRUK 53, IWO JIMA 49, PAGAN 48, NAURU 43, PONAPE 15, YAP 14, JALUIT 12, TAROA 9 $\frac{1}{2}$, WOTJE 9, WOLEAI 7, WAKE $\frac{1}{2}$. AA meager except moderate to intense at IWO JIMA. Interception: At TRUK by 6 to 8 VF. 1 ZEKE destroyed on ground TRUK. 5 A/C destroyed or damaged on ground IWOJIMA. YAP reconnaissance sighted 26 A/C on ground 27th. 12 S/E 3 T/E on ground 29th. Our casualties: 1 P47 and pilot lost landing with hung up bomb. 1 F4U crashed on take off pilot uninjured. 9 planes damaged all causes. Searches: Unidentified sub sighted 28th 570 miles WNW ENIWETOK negative results. DD attacked sound contact possible sub 11 miles ESE MILLE 30th negative results hunter killer for 48 negative. Mopping up continues. SAIPAN 26 thru 31 own casualties 1 KIA 8 WIA. 179 Japs killed total 25387 to date. 28 POW total 477 to date. TINIAN 26 thru 30 own casualties 2 KIA 2 WIA. 108 Japs killed 4 POW. GUAM 26 thru 29 own casualties 2 KIA 14 WIA. 172 Japs killed total 15195 to date. 2 POW total 172 to date.

08 0209 CTF 38 to COM3RDFLT Info CINCPAC, CTF 31

On 7 September CruDiv 14 and DesDiv 100 bombardment thoroughly covered targets starting many fires particularly on ANGAUR. Planes meeting meagre to nil AA scored many hits supply areas. And 1 possibly 4 direct hits PELELIU radio station target area 129B. Large fires started KOROR and fuel dump and radio station ARAKABESAD destroyed. Many buildings destroyed and damaged on northern islands. Photographs show new beach defenses west coast PELELIU from target area 124C to 122S and great strengthening beach defenses on each shore from target area 123C through 123X to 122Y.

08 0410 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59

Summary of Operations 1 September to 5 September inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: IWO JIMA 130, TRUK 65, MILLE 49, WOTJE 42, NAURU 18, TAROA 13, YAP 12, PONAPE 11, MARCUS 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, PAGAN 2 plus 100 rockets. AA mostly meager except moderate at YAP and moderate to intense IWO JIMA and MARCUS. Interception: At TRUK by 1 VF on 1 Sept. 2 T/E A/C airborne same date. At IWO JIMA on 3rd 1 VF airborne did not intercept. 4 T/E and 3 S/E observed on ground. Night snoopers to IWO JIMA on 5th had 2 A/C on radar no interception. 4 T/E A/C observed YAP on 4th possible operational. Our casualties: 1 B-24 water landed south IWO JIMA on 3rd. 10 survivors picked up by blue task force 1 man missing. 1 F4U crashed on take off east field SAIPAN pilot seriously injured. 7 planes minor damage all causes. Searches: ATC plane sighted surfaced sub another surfacing 35 miles ESE ISLEY FIELD on 1st. PC made 4 mousetrap attacks negative results hunter killer negative. Search plane attacked convoy 2 small AK 3 powered sampans 60 miles north IWO JIMA on 1st. Sank 1 AK strafed others. Navy Liberator shot down TESS 45 miles north IWO JIMA on 5th. Results continued mopping up MARIANAS 1 Sept to 5 Sept inclusive: SAIPAN 3 KIA 3 WIA. 89 Japs killed total 25476 to date. 16 POWs total 493 to date. GUAM 3 KIA 16 WIA. 204 Japs killed total 15525 to date. 12 POW total 189 to date. TINIAN 62 Japs killed 10 POWs.

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10 1221 CTG 38.4 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38 Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, CTF 31, 32

Daily operational summary. A 10. B PALAU 222 plus 32 target CAP 8 sub cover 8 photo. C 32. D 16. E 80 plus 48 IBC 8 Napalm 88 rockets. F 2 VF 1 VB 1 VT flak. H Pilot 2 VF 1 VB 1 VT crew 1 VB 2 VT LDD 536-773 FA 537-735. Both previously damaged believed resting on bottom. V Numerous fires MALAKAL and KOROR TOWN accurate damage assessment impossibility AA positions ANGAUR target areas 111Y10 SKV CF10 9T NDF 05S PELELIU 129 G O 128 R VANCOJHTC TJFIAEYKTMFNGETJLGFEM 25 I 1220 136 BC NGESEBUS 161 IJNAUV 160 Y BABELTHUAP TX 663-845, 666-835. Radio station PELELIU 156 L. End. Comments downed pilot in liferaft YAP reported 8th rescued by DD following morning. Position 0530I (-9) tomorrow 08-50 north 134-00 east. WX 48720964.

11 1332 CTG 38.4 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38 Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, CTF 31, 32

Daily operational summary. A 11. B 249. C 32. D 16. E 74 plus 16 night rockets 36 IBC. G 1 VT. J 1 SC at TW 510-065. L 1 SC at TX 559-799. U buildings PELELIU 136 E ANGAUR 105 EJ. V BABALTHAUP Radio Station TX 657-828 Pier 562-805 buildings TW 700-130 fires started TX 655-825 Bauxite Plant AVXOO MLEDGS NGARDMAU strafed, CAXSAUVBNSPRISSET TX 547-799, PELELIU AA positions target areas 122 O 125 I KAT R 128 ENR 129 GI 134 JO, ANGAUR A ALOEER A and buildings target area 104 E. End. Comments 0500I (-9) rendezvous position 12th 08-15 north 133-42 east. Weather 38620855.

12 1245 CTG 38.4 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38 Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, CTF 31, 32

Daily operational summary. A 12. B 270. C 16. D 16. E 77 plus 164 rockets. G 1VF. I pilot 1VF. U PELELIEU buildings 133 LMRS photos, ANGAUR buildings 105 EJ. U PELELIEU gun positions 122 OTY 124 MNS 126 R PNENBOO 8 M, beach defenses strafed EBQ barbed target area 120 to 133. 0530/I (-9) rendezvous position 13 at 07-39 north 133-31 east. WX 4776 RECI 97 PPROX

14 0800 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info COMINCH, CINCOSWESPAC, COM7THFLT, ALL TFC'S 3RDFLT

Results VISAYAS strikes 12 to 14 September inclusive. First day damage: Enemy planes destroyed on ground 123 airborne 75. Sunk 2 large AK, 1 medium transport, 2 DE and 22 small ships. Damaged some possibly sunk 5 AK 1 medium AO, 30 small ships 2 MTB and many sampans. First night a few timid Bogies, no attack on surface forces. Enemy apparently reinforced VISAYAS during night. Second day: Planes destroyed on ground 139 shot down 81. 13 small ships sunk 6 damaged. Para. Total damage enemy installations 2 days: At CEBU destroyed many buildings, 3 ammunition storages burned, about 8 oil tanks many buildings destroyed at Shell and Texas plants. At Mactan burned 3 large oil tanks destroyed 7 barracks. Barracks and buildings at TACLOBAN and fuel storage at several airfields destroyed. Para. Preliminary estimate own losses relatively very light. Believe pilot estimates of planes destroyed on ground excessive but photo estimate total 150 to 175. Exploited enemy weakness by pressing close to coast with SAMAR in sight and extending air operations to PANAY and

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SEPTEMBER (GCT)

14 0800 (cont'd)

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fighter sweep to LEGASPI. Enemy air at objectives rose to fight but nil attempt to hit surface forces. Second night completely quiet. Enemy's non-aggressive attitude unbelievable and fantastic. Preliminary report third day: No air borne opposition and only meager AA encountered. Approximately 10 to 15 planes destroyed on ground. Few serviceable planes in this area left to Japs. Most of the bulk oil supplies destroyed. This area is wide open. All airfields ILO ILO and east thereof well hit. No shipping left to sink. Rescued pilot off SAN FRANCISCO ISLAND near northern CEBU reports well taken care of by guerrillas who are well organized and centered in hills in both LEYTE and CEBU. Am now enroute area COAL in company Task Group 38.2 and 38.3 in accordance original schedule Annex E my OpPlan. Task Group 38.1 struck MINDANAO 14th, will launch fighter sweep on MENADO area on 15th then support MOROTAI as necessary 16th.

11 0020 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59

Summary of operations 6 September to 10 September, inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: IWO JIMA 95, MILE 70, TRUK 69, WOTJE 42, NAURU 24, PONAPE 23, JALUIT 17, MARCUS 5, PAGAN 139 rockets. AA mostly meager to moderate except moderate to intense at IWO JIMA and intense on 1 strike to JALUIT. Interception: At IWO JIMA by 4 VF on 8 Sept 1 probably destroyed. By 7 to 10 VF on 10 Sept 5 to 6 destroyed 1 probable 1 damaged. At TRUK by 4 to 6 VF on 7 September. Our casualties: 1 F4U shot down over JALUIT. 1 F4U crash landed MAJURO. 1 B-24 crash landed ISLEY 2 crew killed 5 wounded by interceptors. 2 PB4Y destroyed TINIAN take off accidents. 19 planes damaged all causes. PB2Y destroyed seaplane anchorage early morning 10th by 2 Japs both killed no casualties plane guard. Searches: A convoy escort DD made fair sound contact with possible sub 120 miles east of GUAM 1 attack negative results search plane negative. Navy Liberator search planes sighted 2 DD 3 AK 125^{mi} WNW CHICHI JIMA, strafed burned 1 small AK 75 miles west CHICHI JIMA and sighted a 12000 ton hospital ship 950 miles NW SAIPAN on course 180 7 Sept. Sighted 1 DD 2 small AK 170 miles west CHICHI JIMA and 1 CL 200 miles WNW CHICHI JIMA. Attacks by B-24's so far negative results but continuing. 1 tanker strafed left burning and sinking 40 miles NW IWO JIMA on 10 Sept. Results continued mopping up MARIANAS: SAIPAN 6 thru 9 Sept 83 Japs killed total to date 25559 8 POWs total to date 501. TINIAN 6 thru 8 September 1 KIA 4 WIA 65 Japs killed. GUAM 6 thru 9 Sept 1 KIA total to date 1341 4 WIA total to date 5993 126 Japs killed total to date 15651 5 POWs total to date 194. On GUAM 9th 30 bodies Chamorros found in cave. Probable Jap atrocity. Persistent and varied efforts have failed to find way to land troops on AGUIJAN (RAPSCALLION) without almost certainty of heavy losses. Will continue to watch and neutralize. Parachute idea being studied.

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SEPTEMBER (GCT)

13 1248 CTG 38.4 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38 Info CINCPAC, CTF 31, CTF 32

Daily Operational Summary. A 13 September. B GVD66. C 16. D 16. E 90 plus 164 rockets plus 14 Napalm. F 1 V T. G 1 V T, night deck crash 12 September destroyed 1 Bat 2 V B 2 V GAWE. BGW pilot 1 V T crew 2 V T. U NGENHBUS coastal gun position 162 F. RJRtor ANGAUR light house 109 D rocked and blasted with 24 rockets 12 half tonners 12 quarter tonners but still standing at end. PELELIU extensive desolation renders specific damage assessment impossible. 6 Napalm hits enemy positions behind beaches L 24 C HOLJERAYNXNDYOYEWEO 2 D caused heavy smoke and flames. Heavily bombed reported pill boxes 141 K R S U V ATP enemy positions 134 I L M. Strafed rocketed bombed enemy positions 135 A C D destroying building from Napalm hit, buildings and gun positions QUY 36 FG MIB M. 0530 I (-9) YANWEXPCUS position 08-00 north 133-42 east. WX 43811044.

141415 CTG 38.4 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38 Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, CTF 31, CTF 32

Daily Operational Summary. A 14 September. B 262. C 16. D 16. E 87 plus 272 rockets plus 12 Napalm. U fired ammunition dums ANGAUR 115 C PELELIU 157 CH CUMDA 4 direct rocket hits on ANGAUR pillbox 102 R. V thoroughly bombed strafed Red, Blue, and Green beach areas ANGAUR with destructive fires from 6 Napalm hits behind green beaches. Enemy positions ANGAUR target area 119 heavily bombed. PELELIU Orange and White beach areas 124 to 133 well covered with bombs including 6 Napalms, rockets started good fires bivouac area 157 C. BABELTHUAP strafed piers buildings Bauxite plant, rocket fired radio station and building vicinity airstrip. End. Comments. AA fire from ANGAUR and PELELIU nil. Possible camouflaged bivouac area and activity noted PELELIU 149 TY. 0530 I (-9) rendezvous position at 08-00 north 133-30 east. WX 53801143.

15 1349 CTG 38.4 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38 Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, CTF 31, CTF 32

Daily Operational Summary. A 15 September. B 2204. C 16. D 12. E 65 plus 307 rockets plus 18 Napalms. F 1 VT. H Pilot 1 VT crewmen 2 VT. U W Flames smoke and disintegration Japs made damage assessments impossible. Supported landings by strafing rocketing and bombing enemy concentrations and positions in areas behind PELELIU landing beaches. Gun positions and installations northern tip PELELIU AND NGESEBUS well worked over. Highly recommend Napalm belly tanks for Japs with no stomach for fighting. 0500 I (-9) rendezvous position 07-50 north, 134-00 east. WX 54811151.

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SEPTEMBER (GCT)

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16 0100 COMFWDAREACENPAC to CINCPAC Info CTF 59.

Summary of operations 11 September thru 15 September inclusive: Bomb tonnage of enemy bases: TRUK 145, IWO JIMA 89, MILLE 75, WOTJE 20, TAROA 18, NAURU 15, PONAPE 12, MARCUS 9 $\frac{1}{2}$, JALUIT 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. PAGAN 167 rockets. AA mostly meager except meager to intense at TRIK, IWO JIMA, MARCUS JALUIT. Interception: At TRUK by 5 to 6 VF 1 destroyed 1 damaged on 11th. Un-aggressive by 4 S/E and 1 T/E 1 damaged on 15th. At IWO JIMA by 4 VF 1 destroyed on 11th. Our casualties: 1 Army Liberator failed to return from MARCUS recco on 11th special searches on 12th and 13th negative. 1 SBD crashed on take off ENGEI no injuries personnel. 11 planes damaged all causes. Searches: Navy Liberators on search sighted 2 DD 2 medium AK 130 miles NW CHICHI on 11th. Attacked strafed 2 landing craft carrying 40 men each 30 miles NW IWO JIMA on 13th. Sighted unidentified T/E A/C 60 miles SE CHICHI JIMA on 13th. Sighted 2 DD 1 large AK 1 small AK 90 miles NW CHICHI JIMA strafed 2 large landing craft probably firing 1 and shot down escorting ZEKE 55 miles NW IWO JIMA on 15th. Special B-24 shipping strikes on 11th and 15th negative. Landcat attacked unidentified sub 90 miles WSW ENIWETOK resulting in 2 small oil slicks on 12th hunter killer for 72 hours negative. NATS plane sighted feather wake 160 miles ESE SAIPAN on 12th hunter killer for 24 negative. PBM sighted periscope 20 miles NW SAIPAN on 14th hunter killer negative. All sub contacts doubtful. Progress mopping up: GUAM 10th thru 14th September own casualties 4 WIA. 179 Japs killed 15,827 total to date 36 POW 230 total to date. TINIAN 9 thru 13 own casualties 5 KIA 6 WIA 47 Japs killed 9 POW. SAIPAN 10 thru 14 own casualties 1 KIA 11 WIA 2 MIA. 138 Japs killed 25,697 total to date 19 POW 520 to date.

20 1833Z MARSHALL to STILLWELL, RICHARDSON, MACARTHUR: COMGENPOA passed to CINCPAC, COMGENAADPOA

WARX 33562-20th. A new campaign entitled "Air Offensive, JAPAN" is established and will be published in War Department General Orders. Combat zone will be "The Islands of HOKKAIDO, HONSHU, SHIKOKU, and KYUSHU, the enemy owned portion of KARUFUTO, and the KURILE, BONIN, and RYUKI ISLANDS, including the immediately adjacent waters". (Book message from MARSHALL to STILLWELL, RICHARDSON and MACARTHUR) opening date will be 17 April 1942 with final date to be announced later.

24 0124 COM3RDFLT to COMINCH, CINCPAC, COMSUBPAC, COM7THFLT, CINCSOWESPAC Info ALL TFC'S 3RDFLT.

Summary 21 and 22 September strikes on LUZON 169 enemy planes shot down 188 planes destroyed on ground 45 probably damaged on ground 3 planes damaged by ships gunfire. 40 classified ships and 6 small craft sunk. 11 classified ships (including 1 submarine) probably sunk. 35 classified ships (including 1 submarine) 11 small craft and 2 floating drydocks damaged (1 465 foot naval auxiliary in dry dock). Ground targets destroyed include buildings supplies box cars aircraft parts fuel dumps in airfield areas. Ground targets damaged include fuel tanks warehouses ship repair ships on waterfront and many hangars buildings shops fuel dumps and railroad yards in Clark Field and Nichols Field areas. Own losses 11 planes in combat 8 operational. 10 pilots 5 crewmen in combat 2 pilots operational. No loss or damage to surface force. The submarines

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24 0124 (continued)

hit were 2 of 3 at Earnshaw docks. Full analysis will be forwarded to Cincpac and CinCSWPA by airmail from SAIPAN 28 September including itemized damage and plane destruction at each field. CTF 38 will forward photos. Photos suitable for press release will be sent by air to Cincpac. New subject Total box score for 3rd Flt (TF 59 not included) now stands at 380 enemy planes shot down 598 destroyed on ground (probables not included). 122 classified ships and 61 small craft sunk. 137 classified ships and 109 small craft damaged including those probably sunk. Extensive damage to aviation and maritime facilities and installations. Plus 7970 good Nips and the destroyed and the destroyed aircraft and installations at PALAU. Own losses 51 planes in combat 31 operational. Total of 37 pilots 20 crewman lost from all causes less some possible rescues. No losses or damage to surface units of covering forces. Ship losses and other casualties as previously reported. Hope to pass the thousand plane mark and add some shipping after today's strike on the VISAYA.

21 0330 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59.

Summary of operations 16 Sept to 20 Sept inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases: WOTJE 145, TRUK 69, CHICHI JIMA 42, IWO JIMA 40, PAGAN 19, NAURU 12, PONAPE $10\frac{1}{2}$, MARCUS $9\frac{1}{2}$, JALUIT $3\frac{1}{2}$. AA mostly meager except moderate to intense IWO JIMA and MARCUS. Interception: At TRUK by 3-4 S/E and 1 T/E unaggressively on 19th. At IWO JIMA by 3 unaggressive VF on 16th. Our casualties: 1 SBD shot down off WOTJE crew rescued by Dumbo. Navy Liberator damaged by ships AA crash landed TINIAN Field no injuries to personnel. 4 planes damaged all causes. Searches: Navy Liberator destroyed Betty 950 miles NW SAIPAN on 16th. Sighted medium AK 21-20N 130-45E on 17th. Sighted Betty 180 miles west of CHICHI JIMA unable to intercept, 2 large landing craft 80 miles NW IWO JIMA small AK 900 miles NW SAIPAN on 19th bombed and strafed small AK 20 miles N CHICHI JIMA on 19th Liberator damaged by AA. Sighted 4 unidentified A/C 150 miles WNW IWO JIMA on 20th. Hunter killer negative for 2 unidentified subs 270 miles SW KWAJALEIN on 19th. Mopping up operations: Use of civilian volunteers SAIPAN 12 through 19 contributed to successful patrolling. 15 through 19 own casualties 2 KIA 3 WIA. Japs killed 153 total 25,850 to date. TINIAN 14-18 own casualties 1 KIA 1 WIA. Japs killed 15 total 6,785 to date. POW 10 total 290 to date.

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24 2346 CINCOPAC to COMWESSEAFRON, COMHAWSEAFRON, COMPASEAFRON, COMALSEAFRON, COMSOPAC, COMFWDAREACENPAC Info COMINCH, COM7THFLT, COMNAVBASE MANUS, SCOA.

Following procedure governing use of surface escorts in the Pacific Ocean Areas cancels all previous directives and shall be effective upon receipt. (I) Escort all ships carrying 500 or more passengers on voyages (A) Between HAWAIIAN ISLANDS and ports west of Longitude 180-00 and north of the equator plus MANUS (B) Between ports in the MARSHALL and GILBERT ISLAND (C) Between GUADALCANAL (TULAGI and RUSSELL ISLANDS) and the northern SOLOMONS or the ADMIRALTY ISLANDS or the MARSHALL-GILBERTS area (D) For that portion of the voyage between U S West Coast or BALBOA and ports west of Longitude 180-00 and north of the equator plus MANUS as prescribed by Cincpac (responsible routing authority shall make request to Cincpoa at least 48 hours prior to each sailing). (II) Escort all shipping when proceeding (A) On direct routes between the HAWAIIAN ISLANDS and ENIWETOK except those ships with sustained speeds of 14 knots or over (B) Between the following areas and ports: MARSHALL ISLANDS. MARIANAS. ULITHI. PALAU group. MANUS. (III) Shipping other than that designated in paragraphs I and II shall not be escorted unless specifically directed by Cincpac or the Frontier or Area Commander concerned. (IV) The carrying of passengers in the Pacific Ocean Areas shall be in accordance with condition (B) as prescribed in Article 1423 Giro-1944. (V) The number and type of surface escorts assigned for the protection of shipping shall be determined by the responsible Frontier or Area Commander under such general directives as may be issued by Cincpac.

25 0421 CINCPOA to COMAIRPAC, COMFWDAREA, COMMARSHALLSSUBAREA, COMCAROLINES SUB AREA, ISCOM GUAM.

Upon reporting of Captain V. F. Grant about 15 October Comdr Fwd Area will establish a command designated "Naval Air Bases GUAM" to include under the Island Commander the Naval Air Bases at AGANA and OROTE and such other naval air facilities as may be established at GUAM. Para. The Comdr Naval Air Bases GUAM will report to ComAirPac for additional duty as his representative for naval aviation logistic matters in the MARIANAS and CAROLINES. In the performance of these duties he will visit naval aviation facilities in the MARIANAS and CAROLINES. Para. The aviation logistic section heretofore intended for staff of Com Western CAROLINES will be assigned to staff of ComNavAir Bases GUAM. Para. This answers ComAirPac's 200142 not to all adees.

25 0715 GHQ SWPA to CINCPOA Info COM3RDEFLT, COMSOPAC, COMGEN 6TH ARMY, COM ALLIED AIR FORCES, COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COMGEN USAFFE, COMGEN USASOS.

CX 18333 Agreements memorandum 21 September 1944 signed Sherman and Chamberlin approved.

25 1705 CINCPOA to ALPOA Info COMINCH, CINCOWESPAC.

Effective one October the MARSHALLS and GILBERTS Sub Areas will be merged and designated as the MARSHALLS GILBERTS Area. It will comprise the area north of the equator and south of the twenty-fifth parallel and between the westward limits of the Hawaiian Sea Frontier and 155 East Longitude. Garrison forces naval local defense forces and shore

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25 1705 (continued)

based air forces in the MARSHALLS and GILBERTS Area will constitute Task Force 96. CTF 96 will be under the command of Cincpac. The area commander will be CTF 96 and also the representative of Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet for type command functions in connection with aviation personnel and logistics.

27 2330 COMTHIRDFLEET to CINCPAC, COMINCH, COMSEVENTHFLT, CINCSOWESPAC Info
ALL TASKFOR COMDRS THIRDFLT.

Following summary VISAYAS strike 24 September. Heavy strike CORON BAY Area hit several ships including 2 large tankers which exploded. No interception. Other strikes PANAY-CEBU-LEYTE waters. Results including CORON BAY. Sunk 1 large AP 3 large AO 2 large AK 6 medium AK 5 small AK 1 DD 3 DE 11 small craft. Damaged (including 18 ships probably sunk or destroyed) 1 small AP 2 large AO 1 medium AO 1 large AK 15 medium AK 21 small AK 10 small ships 100 tons each 2 DE and many small craft. Throughout the day only 3 planes encountered and shot down over islands. 4 snoopers shot down well clear of task force. 29 planes destroyed on ground NEGROS-CEBU-LEYTE fields. Bombed and strafed partly concealed planes LEGASPI results unobserved. Marine railway warehouse ILOILO burned. Barracks and fuel dumps burned near ORMOC BAY. Destroyed or damaged all 3 piers and adjoining storage area CEBU buildings and storage area south CEBU Field, SHOYSFXT TANPR, buildings SARAVIO and MACTAH Field, barracks ships and piers BACOLOD, buildings PHILIPPINE Refinery Company and Texas Marine Railway at JWCTAN and on SHELL ISLAND. Our losses 7 VF and 2 VB combat 1 VB operational. 5 pilots 3 crewmen. No men of war sighted larger than DD. No sign of diversion attack force has been observed during PHILIPPINE strikes. Enemy air in the PHILIPPINES is completely neutralized and the remaining planes are a conglomeration of types incapable of being formed into a very formidable tactical force even if adequate pilots and fuel available.

26 0740 CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTF 59

Summary of Operations 21 September to 25 September inclusive: Bomb tonnage on enemy bases and shipping: CHICHI JIMA 66, TRUK 55, TAROA 39, PONAPE 21, NAURU 21, IWO JIMA 20, MILLE 17, JALUIT 14, MARCUS 14, WOTJE 11, ROTA 4, PAGAN 4, YAP 1. AA mostly meager except moderate to intense at TRUK, IWO JIMA, MARCUS, JALUIT. Shipping results negative. Interception: At TRUK by 4 to 6 moderately aggressive ZEKES 1 damaged. At IWO JIMA by 4 aggressive VF 1 destroyed. Both on 25th. Our casualties: 13 planes minor damage from AA 1 officer killed 3 crew minor wounds. Searches: Navy Liberator search planes attacks 1 LSM 60 miles NNW CHICHI JIMA on 21st. Shot down BETTY 25 miles south IWO JIMA and FRANCES 980 miles NW SAIPAN on 22nd. Attacked 3 small coastal vessels 60 miles north IWO JIMA on 23rd and 24th. Sighted BETTY 800 miles NW SAIPAN on 25th unable to close. Mopping up operations: SAIPAN 20-24 September own casualties 6 WIA. 35 Japs killed total 25,885 to date. 10 POWS total 553 to date. TINIAN 19 thru 23 own casualties 1 KIA. 12 Japs killed total 6797 to date. GUAM 20 thru 23 own casualties 1 WIA. Japs killed 133 total 16,163 to date. 44 POW total 315 to date.

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05 2014 CINCPAC to COMAIRPAC, Info COMINCH, COMCARDIV 11

Although Cardiv 11 is employed primarily for training the SARATOGA and RANGER are both ships of great value for combat and are to be kept potentially available for combat duty. It is desired that their employment and state of training of air groups in Hawaiian area be so adjusted that on short notice either or both ships (SARATOGA in particular) can be dispatched to participate in combat.

05 2243 COMFWDAREA to CINCPAC Info COMGENMACPAC, COMGENPOA, ISCOMS: TINIAN, SAIPAN, GUAM

CinCPAC 240655. Upon removal of the infantry divisions rehabilitating in the MARIANA ISLANDS recommend the following infantry defenses. A. TINIAN 1 infantry battalions. B. SAIPAN 2 infantry battalions. C. GUAM 2 infantry battalions. Para. It is assumed that other organizations will rehabilitate in this area. For this reason large infantry defenses of a permanent nature are not considered necessary. Letter follows containing Island Commanders recommendations.

03 1655 COMINCH AND CNO to CINCPAC Info COMALASSEAFRON, COM 17

War Department proposes modification category of defense A in ALASKA as follows: (1) KODIAK and SITKA sectors-antiaircraft defenses air warning service and manning of harbor defenses (Army installations) will not be maintained. (2) UNALASKA sector-antiaircraft defenses and air warning service will not be maintained. Foregoing proposals based on present actual situation wherein necessity Army meeting defense requirements at Aleutian stations in category of defense C precludes meeting defense requirements at Alaskan stations now in category of defense A with the limited personnel imposed by ceiling strength for Alaskan Department. Para. Cominch prepared to concur but desires your comment before taking action.

05 2357 COMALSEAFRON to CINCPAC Info COM 17, COMGENALASKA DEPT

Reference Cominch and CNO 031655. Concur in proposed modification of defense

07 0433 CINCPAC to COMTASKFOR 57.

Your 291030. It is my decision to entrust the air defense of groups of islands such as the Main HAWAIIAN Group, the MARIANAS and the PALAUS to a single Air Defense Command. Divided responsibility on the ground in this matter would produce divided control in the air. I do not agree that each Island Commander should control the aircraft which take off from his island. Para. My views in this matter are the same as I gave you personally on board NEW JERSEY in April and I desire that they be carried out.

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07 0650 CINCPOA to COMFWDAREA Info COMINCH & CNO, COMSERVPAC, COM3RDFLT, COM5THFLT, ISCOM GUAM, COMAIRPAC.

Organize and establish quote Naval Operating Base GUAM unquote, As a subordinate command of IsCom GUAM. This command should include all activities relating to harbor operation and control cma maintenance and repair of ships and boats, and naval supplies including ammunition but excluding aviation supplies. Naval avitaion supplies and also boats and vehicles furnished for aviation purposes will be part of the Naval Air Bases Command. Decommission such existing units as required to accomplish organization of NOB. Capt A. E. Becker designated Commandant NOB when established. Advise date established and submit organization chart to CINCPOA.

08 0519 CINCPOA to COMFWDAREA, COMGENPOA, MARCORPS Info COMINCH, COMGENFIHPAC, ISCOM TINIAN, ISCOM SAIPAN, COMGEN2NDMARDIV, COMGEN AAFFOA.

In order to make 2dMarDiv more readily available for combat operations desire that (1) ComGenPoa provide 1 Inf Bn (with Regt attachments) at earliest practicable date for garrison duty TINIAN. (2) On arrival Army garrison Bn TINIAN the Marine RCT be transferred to SAIPAN to rejoin 2dMarDiv. (3) ComGenPoa provide 1 Inf Regt (less 1 Bn) as garrison force SAIPAN by mid-December at which time the 2dMarDiv will be relieved of all garrison duties in order to conduct intensive training. (4) ComGenPoa advise mounting point and date of availability above units. Para. In order to ensure closest possible coordination of air base development and Twentieth Air Force Operations desire also that a general officer of the Army Air Forces assume duties of Island Commander at approximately the same time as the Marine RCT is withdrawn from TINIAN. To accomplish the above ComGenPoa is requested to (1) Nominate an Army Air Corps General Officer for duty as Island Commander TINIAN (2) Organize an Island Command Headquarters. MarCorps requested to advise Cincpoa disposition desired of personnel and units of 2d Marine Base Hdqts Bn.

08 0635 CINCPOA to COMINCH, CNO Info COMALASKANSEAFRON, COM 17.

Concur in modification of Category of Defense A for FODIAK SITKA and UNALASKA sectors as proposed by War Department your 031655.

10 0930 COM3RDFLT to CINCPOA, COMINCH, ALL TFC 3RDFLT, COM7THFLT, CINCSWPA

Weather and alert antisnooper work permitted undetected approach on OKINAWA. Surprise complete. Recco, fighter sweep and 4 strikes. Fragmentary flash reports NANSEI SHOTO strikes. Sunk 1 sub tender 1 destroyer 1 AM 2 Medium AK 2 small AK 5 SD 9 luggers and some small craft. Probably sunk 2 medium AK 1 medium AO 4 small AK 7 SD and 9 little fellows. 1 destroyer beached damaged 3 medium AK's 6 small AK's 2 small AO's lots of small fellows. Shot down 14 planes. At least 75 burned on ground. Buildings all over OKINAWA and adjoining islands burning. There is an operational field on YORO SHIMA. Own aircraft losses light. Snooped this afternoon no damage to surface ships as yet. Now retiring. Further report on the 12th.

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04 1340 MACARTHUR to COMGEN 6TH ARMY, COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES Info COMALLIED AIR FORCES, CINCPOA, COM3RDFLT.

CX 18922 Conferences Commander 3rd Fleet have indicated immediate importance opening SURIGAO STRAITS for shipping. This radio will be considered as Operations Instructions 70/9. Commanding General 6th Army and Commander Allied Naval Forces will take prompt action to carry out following missions. Plans will be prepared and executed as required to clear the northern tip of the SURIGAO PENINSULA of MINDANAO and DINAGAT ISLAND. Refer to paragraph 3A(3) and 3D(2) (E).

13 0048 COM3RDFLT to CINCPOA, COMINCH, CINCSOWESPAC Info COM7THFLT, ALL TFC'S 3RDFLT

Revised report OKINAWA strike 10th. Planes shot down 23 including 3 snoopers. Incomplete photos show 59 (Estimate 70) destroyed and 37 damaged on ground. Sunk 1 JINGEI As, 1 DE, 4 Midget SS, 14 AK, 1 small AO, 25 small ships and 41 small craft and barges. Probably sunk 1 AM 10 small ships 9 small craft. Damaged 1 DM, 1 LSM, 8 AK, 10 small ships and many luggers barges sampans. Destroyed 3 hangers, 3 fuel dumps, 1 ammunition dump, many barracks warehouses and other buildings. Explosion and fires devastated northwest end INO ONO YAMA ISLAND and north shore NAHA inner harbor. Damaged 2 lighthouses 1 factory many buildings. Our losses 8 planes combat MT operational. 5 pilot 3 crewmen lost in combat 1 crewman operational.

13 0813 CINCPOA to CNO Info COMAIRPAC, COMNATSPAC.

Your 051825 to COMNATSPAC. I consider it of national interest that PAA be in a position to render commercial service to Southwest Pacific promptly on conclusion of hostilities. However it is necessary that interim contract service to Navy be completely satisfactory. Current PAA operating procedures do not result in the effective and economical utilization of personnel and equipment requisite for wartime service. I recommend prompt renegotiation of contract with definite assurance that PAA operating procedures conform to standard set by Navy and concentration of PAA Pacific operations with Boeing Clippers and PB2Y3 on service between mainland and HONOLULU. This will result in an organization of adequate strength to resume SW Pacific service when practicable. As an alternative to PAA timely acceptance of standard Navy operating procedures I concur in proposal of COMNATSPAC that (A) Contract be terminated (B) PAA be restricted to commercial operation of Boeing Clippers between San Francisco and HONOLULU (C) PB2Y3 now scheduled for PAA operation be reassigned to Navy squadrons and I further recommend that Naval Reserve officers on inactive duty, serving with PAA Pacific Division and who may be in excess of requirements of reduced scale of operations, be recalled to active duty. If it is necessary to terminate contract it is believed that lift previously contemplated to be handled by PAA can be satisfied first by assignment to NATS of PB2Y presently operated by PAA second by increased capacity of R5D2 over R5D1. I do not consider that PAA service to westward of HAWAII is justified at this time due to type of equipment available and necessity for duplication of personnel and Navy logistic support. Until the availability of R5D aircraft and particularly of their spares is greatly improved all should be manned by Naval crews and held available for operations in forward ares. It should be noted that in the near future NATS will be called on to serve bases within range of enemy air bases in the Empire and in CHINA.

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13 0955 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC, COMINCH, CINCOWESPAC Info COM7THFLT, ALLTFC'S 3RDFLT

Incomplete reports for VF sweeps and strikes FORMOSA 12 and 13 October. Enemy aircraft shot down 221 including 9 by ship gun fire, 3 Emilys by predawn Intruder mission TAKAO Area by 4 VF and 4 VT from INDEPENDENCE and 5 single engine found on BASCO FIELD BATAN ISLAND. Destroyed on the ground 175 with many others strafed but did not burn. Ships sunk 2 large 4 medium 9 small AK, 12 small craft, 8 SC (including BLUE sub heckler off SALTANG ISLAND). Probably sunk 1 large 3 medium 3 small AK, 1 AO 5 SC 1 AM 2 small escort. Damaged 1 large 6 medium 15 small AK, 1 large AP 11 SC and SD 25 small craft. FORMOSA and PESCADORES thoroughly bombed with concentration on aircraft installations, utilities, ship facilities, warehouses and oil dumps. Our losses 45 planes. New field 3 miles north-east KORYU another 2 miles northeast CHIKUNAN northwestern FORMOSA, planes in both.

15 0542 COM7THFLT to COM3RDFLT, ALL CTF 3RDFLT, ALL CTG 3RD FLT, ALL CTF 7TH FLT, ALL CTG 7THFLT, SUPREME COMMANDER SOWESPAC AREA, CINCPAC, COMINCH.

Com 3rd Flt 150149 not to all. Central PHILIPPINES attack force will proceed with scheduled operation K-2. Request assistance from fast carriers soonest practicable consistent with developments. New subject for CTG 77.4. Strike western VISAYAS A-3 A-2 and A-1. Primary mission destruction enemy aircraft and combatant ships. Adjust air support schedule as necessary. Upon breaking radio silence inform me your plans and strike results.

15 0136 CINCPAC to COMPAIRWING 1 Info COM 3RD FLT, ctf 38, CTF 57, CTF 59, COMINCH.

Suspicion exists enemy surface force may have departed EMPIRE area to mop up on Blue cripples withdrawing FORMOSA strikes. Extend search to maximum practicable to cover assumed enemy approach from BUNGO CHANNEL to approximate position 20 N 126 E.

15 1343 CTG 30.5 to CTU 30.5.3, CTU 30.5.1, WHITING Info COM 3RD FLT.

This imperative. Send 27, 2 and 9 V 223 to 1150 miles or as near as possible look for Jap fleet. Take off as soon as possible. WHITING launch Coronado with call 30 V 223 at dawn proceed 700 miles out sector 9 V 223 act as relay for contact reports from above Liberators. Acknowledge.

19 0540 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38, CTG'S 38.1, 38.2, 38.2, 38.4 Info CTG'S 30.8, 30.9, CTF 57, CTU 30.9.1, COMAIR7THFLT (LOGISTICS), CINCPAC, COMAIRPAC.

For near future operations it is the intention to increase fighter complement each large carrier to 54 except BUNKER HILL which is to take special complement of 100 VF. The following is the basic plan for the accomplishment of such: Task Group 38.1. HORNET and WASP will receive necessary VF by fly aboard delivery from GUAM about November 2nd. Task Group 38.2. BUNKER HILL will proceed MANUS with Task Group 38.3 and there leave VB and VT of CVG 8 for return to PEARL. VF to build complement to 100 will be from SAIPAN by fly aboard delivery about 4 November. INTREPID and HANCOCK get necessary VF from CVE's ULITHI Area after 29 October. Task Group 38.3. ESSEX and LEXINGTON get

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19 0540 (COM3RDFLT - Cont'd)

necessary VF during availability period in MANUS. Task Group 38.4. FRANKLIN and ENTERPRISE get necessary VF from CVE's ULITHI Area after 31 October. Para. Com3rdFleet will arrange for CVE's in ULITHI to cover requirements for Task Group 38.2, and Task Group 38.4. Will also issue necessary movement orders for replenishment of Task Group 38.1 and BUNKER HILL near SAIPAN-GUAM as indicated above. Para. It is intended that the resultant air groups each large carrier except BUNKER HILL and ENTERPRISE be approximately 54 VF 24 VB 18 VT. Task Force and Task Group Commanders take necessary action to facilitate the accomplishment of this plan all possible by redistribution of aircraft within Task Groups and by instituting liaison with replenishment sources indicated.

20 1849 CINCPOA to COM3RDFLT, COMFWDAREA Info COM WES CAROLINES, COMSERVPAC, COMAIRPAC, COMGENPOA, COMGENAAFPAC.

Effective 1500 GCT 23 October the Forward Area and Task Force 57 revert to the direct control of Cincpoa except for units of Fleet Air Wing 1 and Seron 10 based in the MARIANAS and western CAROLINES which will continue to operate as task groups of the 3rd Fleet.

22 0100 CINCPOA to COMGENFMFPAC Info COMINCH, MARCORPS, COMSOPAC.

In order to assist in implementation of Cincpoa directives affecting FMF in SoPac ComGenFMFPac authorized to establish Fwd Ech FMF Pac in SoPac under appropriate commander or representative who will report to ComSoPac for additional duty. Fwd Ech to consist of approx 15 officers and 40 enlisted. Para. Designation of above unit will be SoPac Ech FMFPac. Designation of similar unit in Forward Area CentPac Mydis 151726 will be Fwd Area Ech FMFPac.

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24 0314 COM 3RD FLEET to CINCPAC, CINCSOWESPAC Info COMINCH, CTF 77, COM 7TH FLEET, ALL TFC'S THIRD FLT.

On basis of sightings moved 38.3 38.2 38.4 on broad front toward PHILIPPINE Coast to launch reinforced searches at dawn 24th. 38.3 east of LUZON. 38.2 off SAN BERNADINO. 38.4 off SURIGAO. Carrier search sighted force 4 BB 8 CA 13 DD (also 2 CL not confirmed) south of MINDORO on north-easterly course. Reinforced search from 38.4 attacked 3 DD just west of PANAY heavily damaging and stopping one while other two stood by cripple. 38.3 38.2 immediately launched strikes on the enemy heavy forces near MINDORO. 38.4 38.3 ordered to concentrate toward 38.2. 38.3 ordered to keep area to north under observation and 38.1 recalled. Several bogies over 38.2 and 38.3. More later.

24 0315 CTF 77 to CTG 77.8, CTF 79, CTF 78, CTG 77.2, CTG 70.1, Info COM 3RD FLT, ALL TFC'S 7TH FLT, CINCPAC, ALL TGC'S 7TH FLT, ALL TFC'S 7TH FLT, COMAAF, CINC SWPA, COM3RDFLT, COMINCH.

Prepare for night engagement. Enemy force estimated 2 BB, 4 CA, 4 CL, 10 DD reported under attack by our carrier planes in eastern SULU SEA at 0910 I (-9) 24 Oct. Enemy can arrive LEYTE GULF tonight. Make all preparations for night engagement. TG 77.3 assigned to CTG 77.2 as reinforcement. CTG 70.1 station maximum number PT's lower SURIGAO STRAIT to remain south of 10-10 north during darkness.

24 0424 CTG 38.4 to COM 3RD FLT Info CTF 38, CTF 77, CINCSOWESPAC, COMADVON 5, COMADVON 13.

Contact report. At 0905 position 08-55 N 121-50 E 2 BB 1 CA 4 DD course 035 speed 15. Search group made 2 bomb hits on each BB good fire on 1. Rocket hits on CA and 2 DD's. DD's heavily strafed. Am closing on 38.2 which takes me out of range of this contact.

24 0612 COM 3RD FLEET to ALL TFC'S 3RD FLEET, ALL TGC'S OF TF 38 Info COMINCH, CINCPAC.

Battle plan. BatDiv 7 MIAMI VINCENNES BILOXI DesRon 52 less STEVEN POTTER from taskgroup 38.2 and WASHINGTON ALABAMA WICHITA NEW ORLEANS DesDiv 100 PATTERSON BAGLEY from task group 38.4 will be formed as task force 34 under VAdm Lee Commander Battle Line. Task Force 34 engage decisively at long ranges. CTG 38.4 conduct carriers of Taskgroup 38.2 and Taskgroup 38.4 clear of surface fighting. Instructions for Task Group 38.3 and Taskgroup 38.1 later. Halsey OTC in NEW JERSEY.

24 0942 CTF 38 to COM3RDFLT Info CTG 38.2, 38.4.

Results of searches to northeast. Pilots who got good looks

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24 0942 (continued)

report 2 SHOKAIU CV'S, 1 CVL, 3 CL, 3 DD course 270 speed 15 at 18-25 north 125-28 east at 1640I(-9). At 18-10 north 125-30 east were 4 BB's or CA's 5 cruisers 6 DD's course 210 speed 15 at 1540 I (-9). 1 of BB's flight deck aft. At 1600 I (-9) 2 DD's 19-40 north 123-00 east course 240 speed 12.

24 1057 CTF 77 to CINCSOWESPAC Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, COM3RDFLT AND COM 7THFLT, ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RD AND 7TH FLTS.

50 fighters from covering CVEs intercepted approximately 40 enemy shore based Zekes, Bettys, Vals attacking our forces LEYTE from 0750 to 0825. 15 to 20 shot down. Our losses 2 fighters no pilots. SONOMA hit by bomb. LCI 1065 hit by plane abandoned and burned. FREEMONT strafed minor casualties. At 1120 I (-9) approximately 40 shore based planes attacked. No details of interception. 1 Liberty ship hit severely damaged. CVE strikes HISAYA area. 25 planes destroyed on ground 30 damaged. 1 airborne SVL shot down. Our losses 2 fighters no AA. 1 pilot lost. 7 luggers 1 SC sunk. 5 luggers 4 barges 1 SC and 1 tug damaged. 190 sorties in support of ground troops. Cruisers and DD's continued day and night support of forces ashore. Resupply echelons including 20 Liberty ships arrived. Unloading assault echelons practically completed. All disposition made for possible raid by strong enemy surface force sighted western central PHILIPPINES by subs and air. Lieut General Krueger commanding 6th Army assumed command ashore at 1400 I (-9) today.

241100 CTF 77 to COM 3RD FLT, ALL TFC 3RD FLT, CINCPAC, COMINCH, CINC SOWESPAC.

Our surface forces are engaging enemy surface forces in SURIGAO STRAIT and southern LEYTE GULF.

24 1122 COM 3RD FLT to CTF 38, CTG 38.1 Info ALL TFC AND TGC 3RD FLT.

At 2300 I (-9) 24th Task Group 38.2 Task Group 38.4 pass through Lat 14-28 north Long 125-50 east course 000 speed 25. Upon joining CTF 38 take charge all 3 groups attack enemy carrier force. See my 241106. Keep ComTaskGroup 381 advised your movements. He is herewith directed to join you earliest. Guard 2642 Kcs. Use receipt method.

24 1124 COM3RDFLT to CTF 77, COM7THFLT Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, ALL TFC'S, ALL TGC'S OF THIRD FLEET.

Enemy force SIBUYAN SEA 1925 I (-9) position Latitude 12-45N Longitude 122-40E course 120 speed 12. Strike reports indicate enemy heavily damaged. Am proceeding north with three groups to attack enemy carrier force at dawn.

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24 1520 COM 3RD FLT to CTG 38.1 Info CTF 38, CTU 30.8.4, CTU 30.8.8, CTU 30.8.11, CTG 30.8.

Commence fueling at dawn and launch search. Your 241332. Expedite all possible. 9 oilers should be available.

24 1655 CTF 77, to CTG 77.4 Info TG 77, TG 78, TG 79, COM FEAF, COM3RDFLT, CTF 38.

At daybreak make following searches for enemy surface ships. 340 degrees to 030 degrees distance 135. Origin of above search SULUAN ISLAND. Also search MINDANAO SEA area distance 100 miles from SURIGAO STRAITS. CAMOTE SEA area. Clear above 2 areas by 0900 I. Friendly PT boats operating in these areas. Maintain 24 VT strike group with 12 torpedo loaded ready for launching with VF escort in event surface contact. Search and attack groups maintain contact with HALIFAX on 4915.

24 0817 CTF 38 to COM 3RD FLT Info CTG'S 38.2 CTG 38.4.

Results of strike on Jap fleet consisting of 4 battleships 3 heavy cruisers 4 light cruisers 12 destroyers east of MINDORO. 2 heavy cruisers and 1 battleship damaged. New contact afternoon search reports 3 CV's 4 to 6 heavy cruisers and 6 destroyers at Latitude 18-10 Longitude 125-30 E which is 180 miles east of APPARI 1 of CV is ISE CEPASBSE class. On course 210 speed 15 knots. No major air attack on us since 1430 I (-9). Princeton had heavy explosion about 1515 causing many casualties on BIRMINGHAM alongside. In view of our new Jap contact to north ComTaskGroup 38.3 is having PRINCETON sunk. No serious damage to other ships. Enemy planes showing intermittent IFF my position at 1630 I (-9) Latitude 15-32 N Longitude 124-23 E. Will close you after PRINCETON is sunk.

24 1104 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC, CINCSOWESPAC Info COMINCH, CTF 77, COM7THFLT, ALL TFC'S 3RD FLT.

On 24th launched strong dawn search teams from 3 groups across LUZON and VISAYAS. At 0745 search plane contacted enemy 4 BB's 8 CA 2 CL 13 DD 15 miles south of MINDORO. 38.2 launched strike immediately and repeated during day. 38.3 and 38.4 struck same force after initial strikes on other targets. 38.3 reported 1 CA 1 CL 1 DD at MANILA BAY all damaged (estimate some damaged by blue subs). After 1st strike 38.3 under heavy air attack and shot down about 150 planes. PRINCETON heavily damaged and dead in water, BIRMINGHAM had personnel casualties resulting from explosion on PRINCETON while along side her. 38.4 1st struck enemy force southeast of NEGROS consisting of 2 FUSO class 1 CA 4 DD making 2 bomb hits on each BB, rocket hits on CA and 2 DD,

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24 1104 (continued)

straffed 2 remaining DD OGQQWC of these seen to sink. Main body reversed course to 270 about 1400 when 30 miles east of TABLAS ISLAND and while again being attacked. Main body box score from incomplete reports. 1 YAMATO class bombed torpedoed left afire and down at bow. KONGO class 2 bomb hits left smoking and apparently badly damaged. Bomb hits on 1 or both remaining BB. 2 torpedo hits on 1 of these bombed BB. 1 CL torpedoed and capsized. Torpedo hits on 2 CA and bomb hit on another CA. At 1540 search plane from 38.3 sighted enemy force near 18-10 north 125-30 report evaluated as 2 ISE class 2 CA 1 CL 6 DD course 210 speed 15. At 1640 another group sighted 18-25 north 125-28 east 2 ZUIKAKU, 1 CVL 3 CL 3 DD course 270 speed 15. 2 DD 100 miles northeast this group course 240 planes from this force may have been attacking 38.3 prior to contact. ComTaskGroup 38.3 has scuttled PRINCETON and is closing 38.2 and 38.4 which are now concentrated off entrance to SAN BERNADINO STRAIT. Night air attack by enemy probable. More later.

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24 1912 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT info ALL TFC'S 3RDFLT, ALL TGC'S 7THFLT, CINCPAC, COMINCH, ALL TGC'S 3RDFLT.

Our surface forces now engaged enemy surface forces SURIGAO STRAIT entrance to LEYTE GULF. Enemy force sighted in STRAIT by PT Boats about 0200 1 (-9) arrived entrance GULF about 0300 1 (-9) consists of 2 battleships 3 cruisers and destroyers. Question. Is TF 34 guarding SAN BERNADINO STRAIT.

24 2207 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 34.

CTU 77.4.3 reports enemy battleships and cruiser 15 miles astern his unit and firing on him. Position is 80 miles bearing 060 from HOMONHAM ISLAND.

24 2225 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT

About 0700 CTU 77.4.3 reported under fire from enemy battleships and cruisers in position Lat 11-40 long 126-25. Evidently came through SAN BERNADINO during the night. Request immediate air strike. Also request support from heavy ships. My OBBs low in ammunition.

24 2235 CTU 77.4.3 to COM7THFLT, COM3RDFLT, CTG 77.4, CINCPAC.

Under attack. 0722 (minus-9) in Lat 11 degrees 44 min. Long 126 degrees 29 min. Enemy composed of 4 battleships 8 cruisers many destroyers split in two forces one bearing 286 degrees T 11 miles. Second bearing A 307 T 15 miles.

24 2239 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT info CTF 34.

Fast battleships are urgently needed immediately at LEYTE GULF.

24 2305 COM3RDFLT to CTG 38.1 info ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RDFLT.

Enemy force reported at Lat 18-37 north Long 126-45 East course 180 speed 20 at 0730 1 (-9) but now seems to be retiring to northward. 4 carriers in force. Strike as practicable.

24 2329 CTF 77 to COM3rdFLT

Your 242205. My situation is critical. Fast battleships and support by air strike may be able prevent enemy from destroying CVE'S and entering LEYTE.

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24 2337 CTU 77.4.3 to COM7THFLT, COM3RDFLT, CTG 77.4, CINCPAC.

Still under attack at 0830 (minus 9) in Lat 11 degrees 35 min Long 136 degrees 29 min.

24 2348 COM3RDFLT to CTG 38.1 info ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RD FLEET, CTF 77, COM7THFLT.

Proceed at best possible speed to Southwest strike earliest possible enemy force reported to be 4 BB'S 8 CA'S plus DD'S in vicinity 11-20 north 127-00 east at 0800.

24 2355 COM3RDFLT to CTF 77 info CTG 38.1.

My 242348. Task Group 38.1 estimated position at 0700 Lat 15-00 north Long 130 east. ComTaskGroup 38.1 advise ComTaskForce 77 and me earliest time of strike.

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25 1349 COM3RDFLEET to CTG 38.1 CTG 38.2 Info CTF 77, CINCPAC, COM7thFLEET, ALL TASK FORCE AND TASK GROUP COMMANDERS 3RDFLEET, ALL CONCERNED SOWESPAC OPERATIONS.

Refer my 250657. Night snooper reports enemy force 14 ships entering eastern entrance SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT on westerly course at 2140 I(-9). From 06-00 rendezvous position launch search attack and continue sustained strikes to destroy enemy force whose dawn position is expected to be just east MINDORO. Cancel searches specified in reference. Make fighter sweep visayas as practicable.

25 1358 CTF 77 to CTF 38, CTG 38.1, CTG 38.2, CTG 77.4 Info CTG 77.2, CTF 78, CTF 79, COM3RDFLT.
For tomorrow request fast carriers provide 36 VF combat air patrol for objective area from 0545 until 1845 I(-9). Upon launching cap proceed to HOMONHON ISLAND and report to PEPSICOLA BASE on channel 2. CTG 77.4 provide asp and air observers. Search sectors from 340 to 140 degrees to a distance of 200 miles from HOMONHON ISLAND for purpose detection enemy surface ships. Maintain maximum number of aircraft in readiness for attack missions.

25 1417 CTF 38 to COMSUBPAC, CTG 30.8, COMCRUDIV 13 info CINCPAC, COM3RDFLT.

Carriers and few destroyers of task groups 38.3 and 38.4 in latitude 18-07 north longitude 126-19 east at 23001 (-9) 25 October on course 130 speed 20 with the 4 cruisers and a dozen destroyers of our groups about 100 mile to the north rejoining at higher speed after sinking 1 CLV and 1 large DD or CL of enemy cripples. At 21001 enemy groups believed to consist of 1 or 2 BB, 2 cruisers and 3 or 4 DD at 21-15 north 126-20 east on course north speed 20. Expect to join task group 30.8 at 09001 26 October in center DIESEL area.

25 1439 COM3RD FLT to CINCPAC, CINCOWESPAC info COMINCH, CTF 77, COM7THFLT, CTF 38, ALL TFC3DFLT.

Continuing my 241104. 10 planes shot down on 24th by TG 38.2 CAP and search planes. 25th activities. 3 Groups concentrated for early morning attack on enemy carrier force near 18-25 north 125-30 east. Negligible air opposition at target and no strikes on own force. 1st Strike: 1 carrier type uncertain exploded and sank. 1 CV and 1 CVL hit with 1 torpedo and 3 bombs each and 1 CL badly damaged. Upon recovery of 2nd strike TF 34

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25 1439 (continued)

and TG 38.2 departed for LEYTE in response to TF UEXORTJTIIYXIFICRL situation. TG 38.3 and 38.4 continued afternoon air strikes and probable night surface attack on cripples. CTF 38 hereby directed to make sweep up of action against carrier force. TG 38.1 made morning strikes on enemy force east of SAMAR leaving 1 BB 1 CA and 1 DD dead in water. The CA apparently in sinking condition. 3 other heavy ships damaged. At 2140 search plane reported 14 ships SAN BERNADINO entrance course 270. This remainder of the 27 ships sighted east of MINDORO morning of 24th but conflicting reports prevent estimate of number which sortied from SAN BERNADINO.

25 1530 HALIBUT to COMSUBPAC info CINCPAC

1515 GCT 25th 2 large ships probably BB's 3 smaller ships course 0 speed 20 am trailing. 0943 GCT 25th 1 BB 1 cruiser 1 destroyer course 020 speed 13. 5 timed mark 18 hits in battleship possibly sinking 20-35 north 136-30 east. 18 fish left. My post 21-45 north 126-20 east. WX 02202 X 99786 X 32154.

25 1537 CTF 17 to CINCPAC.

At 1403 GCT 25th JALLAO sank NATORI TYPE light cruiser with 3 perfect hits in lat 21-20 long 127-20. PINTADO saw target sink. Cruiser had SJ radar. No other contacts. Crushers heading north to Lat 23 then reversing toward safety land WX 02301 X 18981 X 11183

25 1732 COM3RDFLT to CTF 77 info COMINCH, CINCPAC, ALL TFCS 3RDFLT, ALL TASK GROUP COMS 3RDFLT, ALL CONCERNED SOWESPAC OPERATIONS.

Task Group 34.2. 0200 I(-9) 26 October position Lat 15-12 NORTH -5 GROUPS MISSING-. Have just finished off 1 enemy estimated to be CA or CL straggler. Task Group is now proceeding southeast at 25 knots in search any and all cripples. Please acknowledge.

25 1950 COM 3RD FLT to CTF 77 info COM 7TH FLT, CTG 38.1, CTG 38.2, CTF 38.

Distance from LEYTE of launching area for strikes on retiring enemy force precludes possibility of maintaining CAP requested by your 251356. Will conduct fighter sweeps of VISAYAS.

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25 0027 COM3RDFLT to CTF 77 Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RD FLT, COM7THFLT

Your 242227. Am now engaging enemy carrier force. TG 38.1 with 5 carriers and 4 CA's has been ordered to assist you immediately. My position with other 3 carrier task groups Lat 17-18 North Long 126-11 East. Halsey.

25 0044 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH, CTF 77

Where is Task Force 34

25 0217 COM3RDFLT to CTF 77 Info COM7THFLT

Your 242329 Item (-9) am proceeding toward LEYTE with Task Group 38.2 and 6 fast BB's. My position course and speed later but do not expect arrive before 0800 tomorrow.

25 0146 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT, CTG 38.1

Situation looks better. Enemy forces that were attacking TG 77.4 are retiring to north eastward. They may return. I can handle SURIGAO STRAIT. Still need assistance cover SAN BERNADINO fine opportunity air strike TG 38.1 wipe out enemy surface ships and reduce threat to LEYTE.

25 0215 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC

Your 210044 Task Force 34 with me engaging enemy carrier force. Am now proceeding with Task Group 38.2 and all fast BB to reinforce Kinkaid. 1 enemy CV sunk. 2 CV's dead in water. No damage own force. Enemys airgroup flying out from LUZON arrived too late. See my 241122 and 241124. Task Group 38.1 already ordered assist Kinkaid immediately.

25 0231 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT Info CTG 38.1, CTF 34

Enemy surface forces returning to attack CVE's.

25 0342 COM3RDFLT to CTF 77, CTG 38.1 Info CINCPAC, ALL TF COMS AND TASK GROUP COMS 3RD FLEET

ComTaskForce 77 250231. Keep me informed of enemy position. If he retires to northward shadow if practicable.

25 0410 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38 Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, ALL TGC'S 3RD FLEET

Keeping in mind your fuel situation give consideration to a night surface attack against cripples. Delay fueling rendezvous tomorrow. My 250302. As necessary keeping me and CTG 30.8 advised.

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25 0115 CTG 77.2 to CTF 77, COM3RDFLT Info ALL TGC'S 7TH FLT, COMINCH, CINCPAC, CINCSOWESPAC

Met enemy force last night according to plan. Enemy stood UE SURIGAO STRAIT South in 2 groups. The 1st group consisted as reported by the MACGOWAN (DD678) of 2 battleships, 1 or 2 heavy cruisers, and 1 destroyer. The 2nd group consisted of 2 large and about 5 smaller craft. All craft were sunk or repelled. Number sunk not known but believed to be at least 8 of all sizes. Upon arrival this morning in lower end SURIGAO STRAIT found 8 units burning, 7 of which sank as we approached. Others had been sunk as we either sank them ourselves or picked up survivors. No opportunity yet for interrogating ships or Japanese survivors. Own casualties not known. Damaged ship ALBERT W GRANT (DD 649).

25 0125 CTG 38.1 to CTF 38, CTF 77 Info COM3RDFLT, CTU 77.4.3

Strike one launched at 1030 I (-9) against enemy BB's off SAMAR

25 0316 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT Info CTF 34, CTG 38.1

Since my 250146 situation LEYTE GULF has again become very serious. Enemy fast battleships and heavy cruisers returned to attack my CVE Groups off entrance and threatening convoys. Expenditure of fuel and ammunition have reduced effectiveness of my supporting forces. Attacks of CVE's has disrupted my air support. Have sent task force of 3 OBB, 3 CA and DD's to assist CVEs but your assistance badly needed. CVE Units forced to retire to LEYTE GULF.

25 0423 CTF 38 to COMSUBSPAC Info CINCPAC, COM3RDFLT

At 1300 I (-9) Task Force 38 is at Latitude 18 N Longitude 126-40 E. Chasing 2 unnamed CV's, 1 BB, 3 DD's at 19-25 N 126-30 E course 340 speed 22 also 1 good BB, 3 damaged cruisers and 1 badly damaged CV position 19-00 N 126-30 E course northerly speed 5 to 10 knots. You can help a lot but watch out for us too. We will knock off chase trip afternoon.

25 0441 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT

Withdrawing CVE's into LEYTE GULF. Requirements unknown but estimate they will need considerable replenishment. Avgas available. Request Fast Carriers take over covering mission until CVE's are again ready.

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25 0932Z MACARTHUR to COMGENPOA, COMGEN ARMY AIR FORCES POA,
COMGENSOPACBACOM, COMSOPAC, AMMDEL, AMMISCA, AQUILA,
20 BOMBER COMMAND info CINCPA.

CX-51009 PHILIPPINES: 1 enemy force indicated from reconnaissance reports to consist of 3 battleships with 11 cruisers and destroyers approaching SURIGAO STRAIT from west during October 24, engaged by LEYTE GULF surface forces during night, retired before dawn; another force estimated 2 battleships 3 cruisers plus destroyers rounded southern MINDORO approached SAN BERNADINO STRAIT under air attack evening October 24, some units apparently passing through STRAIT to attack 7th Fleet surface vessels northeast LEYTE GULF early morning October 25; 3rd Forces sighted 0740 GCT/24 200 miles east northern LUZON comprising 3 carriers 6 light cruisers and destroyers heading west and another group including 2 converted carriers "ISE and HYUGA" on course 210 degrees; off west coast PALAWAN 3 medium transports 3 medium freighter transports 4 escorts reported heading southwest afternoon October 24; 2 destroyers 1 damaged heavy cruiser reported same area night October 23. Naval: 7th Fleet surface vessels engaged enemy units SURIGAO STRAIT/LEYTE GULF night October 24, no details available. Paren. Air. Enemy action: 39 enemy bombers and 7 fighters shot down, 7 others probably destroyed, by 7th Fleet planes during attacks against allied beachheads and shipping in LEYTE GULF October 24. Operations October 20: (1) refer paragraph 13 report operations October 21: patrol B24's destroyed 4 additional floatplanes on water MINDORO ISLAND, central PHILIPPINES. Operations October 22: (2) 4 P38's believed destroyed seatruck near COTOBATO, southwestern MINDANAO. Operations report sowespac area period 1500 GCT/23 to 1500 GCT/24. Operations October 23: (3) 7 B24 hit ammunition dumps WEWAK. (4) 45 RAAF P40's and beaufighters attacked bivouacs, destroyed buildings and several small craft western NEW GUINEA and CERAM. (5) 13 P47's struck SAGAN AIRDROME, southern MACCLUER GULF. (6) 6 P38's shot down 7 enemy fighters taking off BOELA airdrome. (7) 2 B24's, 24 A20's, 12 P38's and 1 patrol B24 attacked BOELA waterfront and fuel installations, started large fires, destroyed grounded Betty on undetermined serviceability. (8) 12 A20's bombed runways and dispersals MAIRATOE; 16 P47's attacked HA OEKOE. (9) 11 P38's damaged buildings CAPE NOESANIVE, AMBON BAY entrance; 23 B25's caused fires and explosions AMBON town. (10) 1 B24 bombed old NAMLEA airdrome. (11) 1 B24 met 4 intercepting fighters over MAKASSAR; another B24 exploded and sank 1 small freighter, left Seatruck listing and strafed 2 other freighters same area; single B24 patrolling MAKASSAR STRAIT sank 2 seatrucks,

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OCTOBER (GCT) (Cont'd)

damaged small freighter and attacked 5 other seatrucks. (12) patrol B24 left seatruck listing off southwestern CELEBES; 7 P38's destroyed 1 grounded bomber, probably destroyed another and killed many personnel LIMBOENG airdrome MAKASSAR. Operations October 24: (13) 4 P40's fired fuel dumps and damaged buildings cooperating with PT Boats HALMAHERA. (14) 16 P40's bombed pillboxes and warehouses, strafed AMOERANG and LEMBEH STRAIT, northeastern CELEBES. (15) 4 B24's 18 B25's attacked airfield, bivouacs and harbor installations SANDAKAN, 13 P38's and 10 P47's escort strafed and set afire 11 seatrucks and 4 luggers. (16) 12 B25's strafed 3 schooners SARANGANI BAY, strafed personnel and motor trucks along inland roads; 18 B24's bombed BUAYAN airdrome bivouacs, southern MINDANAO. (17) 1 Darwin B24 attacked lugger in BANDA SEA; another left coastal vessel burning south SALAJAR ISLAND and bombed LAHAAE VILLAGE, TIMOR; 3rd B24 bombed gun positions LAUTEM. SOLOMONS forces. Naval: PT boats strafed and mortared targets northern CHOISEUL, NEW IRELAND and GAZELLE peninsula. (18) 3 TDR drones hit shipping HUXKS, KAHILI; 26 New Zealand Corsairs attacked bivouacs northern BOUGAINVILLE; 12 Corsairs, 4 B25's and 5 New Zealand Venturas bombed KAVIENG and NEW IRELAND plantations; single B25 harassed RABAU; weather reduced activity. Land. LEYTE, October 22: small enemy counter attacks western edge PALO (5751) and infiltration pawing area (5854) repulsed; minor counter attack at night south of DAGIDTAN RIVER MOUTH (6223) also repulsed. October 23: strong enemy defensive positions catmon hills area being by passed and enveloped; our advanced armored elements within 1 mile SAN PABLO airfield. Enemy casualties to 1800 I(-9)/23 October: northern sector: 1017 killed, 5 captured; southern sector 860 killed, 8 captured. October 24: northern sector: squadron 1st Cavalry landed unopposed BABATOGON, north coast LEYTE, patrols north from TACLOBAN reached points 5272 and 5067; 24th Division control hills 950515 and 571490, also reached SAN JOAQUIN. Southern sector, 96th Division holds line running southwest northeast 1000 yards south TABONTABON; 7th Division occupied BURAUEN and hold SAN PABLO airdromes numbers 1 and 2. MOROTAI: enemy attack on PILOWO outpost repulsed October 23, 37 enemy killed.

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25 0933 CTF 77 to CTG 34.5 Info CINCPAC, ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RD FLT, ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 7TH FLT, COM3RDFLT

At 1734 I (-9) 25 enemy force reported consisting of 4 BB, 2 CL, 7 DD in posit 12-35 North 125-32 East course 270 speed 10 apparently retiring towards SAN BERNARDINO STRAITS. Additional units including some cripples may be trailing behind above force.

25 0614 CTF 38 to COMSUBPAC Info CTG 30.8, CINCPAC, COM3RDFLT

Task Force 38 will be having surface action until about 252000 I (-9) as far north as 20-30 and between 126 and 127 east longitude. 6 or more pilots in water at 19-45 North 126-35 East and shadow possible escaping targets all damaged 2 BB, 1 CA, 2 CL, 2 DD position 19-20 North Lat 126-25 East Long course 330 speed 22 knots we hope to get them but if we don't we know you won't let them get back to JAPAN. Our searches found 14 AP's, 5 DE 19-30 North 121-30 East course 180 speed 10 at 250850 I (-9). 2 TERUBSUKI DD southwest CAMIGUIN.

25 0630 COM3RDFLT to CTF 77 Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RDFLT, ALL CONCERNED SOWESPAC OPERATIONS.

Task Group 34.5 ComBatDiv 7 with BatDiv 7 VINCENNES MIAMI BILOXI DesRon 52 proceeding from north to entrance SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT to arrive 0100 I (-9) 26 October. Plan to sweep approaches to STRAIT thence area east of SAMAR to LEYTE GULF destroying enemy encountered. Request all interested be advised as necessary. Halsey in NEW JERSEY with BatDiv 7.

25 0657 COM3RDFLT to CTG 38.1, CTG 38.2, CTG 34.5 Info CINCPAC, COMINCH, CTF 77, ALL TFC 3RD FLT, ALL TGC 3RD FLT

TG 38.2 and 38.1 rendezvous at 0600 I (-9) 26 October at 12-00 North 126-00 East. TG 34.5 will join you vicinity of rendezvous specified above dependent upon interim operations. CTG 38.1 take charge groups in company and direct VF sweep of VISAYAS Areas commencing at dawn. Search MINDORO MINDANAO and SIBUYAN Sea Areas for enemy forces.

25 0658 CINCPAC to CTF 38 Info COMSUBPAC, COM3RDFLT, COMINCH

2 submarine wolfpacks in 20-45 North at 126-00 East and 127-30 East available to attack crippled enemy carriers if you are clear and if informed of estimated position. Advise.

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25 0734 CINCPAC to CTF 57 Info CTF 59

At daylight have maximum heavy bomber strength ready to strike at long range in case enemy ships retire within range of your bases.

25 1110 CTF 77 to SUPCOM SOWESPAC AREA Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, COM3RDFLT, COM7THFLT, ALL TFC'S 3RD FLT, ALL TFC'S 7TH FLT, ALL TGC'S 3RD & 7TH FLTS

Strong enemy reaction to LEYTE Landing began on Monday afternoon with numerous but generally ineffective air raids on our forces. Sighting by PT of 2 large unidentified enemy ships and 3 destroyers at 2310 I (-9) 24th 10 miles off southeast tip of QUHOL Island heading toward SURIGAO STRAIT was OUXNIPW event of highly successful night engagement all details of which are not yet available. Enemy advanced in 2 groups. 1st group reported as 2 battleships 1 or 2 heavy cruisers 1 destroyer 2nd group 2 large and about 5 smaller ships. Number sunk undetermined but believed to be at least 8 of all sizes. At dawn 8 units seen burning. All sunk aided by gunfire and torpedoes. Such units as escaped retreated westward and have been under air attack. Our damage. ALBERT W GRANT (DD 649) damaged but able to proceed. Numerous PT's damaged. 1 sunk. Many air raids through out the day in LEYTE Area. 4 ships in harbor damaged. Personnel casualties undetermined. Through out the day covering CVEs have been under heavy shore base air attack. Mid morning enemy force watch apparently sortied through SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT estimated as 4 BB, 7 CA, 2 CL 12 DD joined in attacking CVEs but was turned back by repeated strikes from CVEs supported in afternoon by strikes from TG 38.1 which arrived in time to prevent what might have been a serious situation by late afternoon the enemy was in full retreat. Damage inflicted on enemy presently estimated as: 1 CA sunk. 1 DD probably sunk. 3 BB, 3 CA, 1 DD damaged. Own damage reports fragmentary but considerable damage has been suffered by 2 CVE group. Our carrier planes have been landing servicing and taking off from DULAG and TACLOBAN strips through out the day when their parent CVEs were under attack. CVE planes also accounted for 46 enemy aircraft over LEYTE beaches plus 7 probables.

25 1222 CTG 38.1 to CTF 38 Info COM3RDFLT, CTF 77

Strike 8 got at least 1 bomb hit on each of 2 BB, 2 CA, 1 CL or DD. 1 CA was straggler 20 miles south main force. 4 BB's, 5 CA's, 10-15 DD's in group now retiring toward SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT. Posit at 1600 was 12-30 North 125-52 East course northwest. 1 CA seen to sink strike A no others sunk. 24 planes missing. Some shot down some in water returning. Believe a group of VP landed at TACLOBAN. Details later.

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25 1226 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info ALL TGC'S 3RD FLT, COM7THFLT, COMINCH, CINCSOWESPAC, CTF 77, ALL TFC'S 3RD & 7TH FLTS

It can be announced with assurance that the Japanese Navy has been beaten routed and broken by the 3rd and 7th Fleets.

25 1230 COM3RDFLT to CTF 77, COM7THFLT Info CINCPAC

Your 250441 see my 250657. 2 groups will put dawn fighter sweep over VISAYAS. Strikes on retreating enemy preclude other commitments. For future planning it must be understood that fast carriers require rearming and air groups are exhausted after 16 days unprecedented fighting.

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OCTOBER (GCT)

25 2350 CTG 38.1 to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38, CTF 77

At 0800/1 (-9) 4 BB 3 CA 3 CL 10 DD in TABLAS STRAIT 11-47 N Long 121-43 E course 180 speed 15. My first strike attacking second strike underway.

25 2357 CTF 38 to COM3RDFLT, CINCPAC, CINCSOWESPAC info COMINCH CTF 77, COM7THFLT, ALL TGC'S 3RDFLT.

Flash report. Believe enemy force east of Northern LUZON originally consisted following 16 or 17 ships, 1 CV, 2 CVL, 1 CVL or CVE, 2 BB, 1 probable MOGAMI CA and 1 probably AGANO CL, 3 3 stack CL and 5 or 6 DD'S. Planes sank 1 CV, 2 CVL and 1 DD. Our cruisers and destroyers finished off CVL or CVE left dead in water by planes. Planes at sunset directed surface boys to damaged 3 stack CL and 2 DD'S at least 1 of them damaged. Cruisers got radar contact on 3 ships. 2 fled north and 1 CL or large DD was sunk. Planes reported following escaping ships 1 NATORI CL damaged by torpedo, heading north alone at 5 knots. 1 BB heavily damaged by minimum 2 probably 4 torpedoes and many bombs with 2 heavily strafed DD heading north speed about 8 knots. Another BB with 1 bomb damaged CA or new CL, 1 3 stack CL and possibly 1 DD headed north speed 20 knots. Photos show CV was SHOKAKU CLASS and 1 CVL either CHIYODA OR ZUIKO CLASS and 1 BB FUSO CLASS. Pilots report other BB was ISE CLASS with flight deck aft. Very few planes on enemy carriers. 1st Strike shot down small number planes. Our plane losses believed remarkably light. Force torpedo and bomb and food expenditures have reached point of almost complete exhaustion. Search on morning 26th in sector 290 to 020 distance 250 miles results negative.

26 0035 MACARTHUR VIA COM7THFLT to COMINCH info CNO, CINCPAC, COMSOPAC.

All times I (-9). Major air and surface engagement in progress LEYTE GULF area. Night 24-25 Jap force of 2 BB. 1 or 2 CA'S 8 or more other ships entering southern LEYTE GULF through SURIGAO STRAIT. Our Covering Force of OBB, CA'S, CL'S engaged this force. Enemy force retiring at 0500 pursued by our light forces. Another Jap force of at least 3 BB'S, 2 CA, 9 DD apparently passed through SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT night of 24-25 after attacks on 24th by Task Force 38 and at 0700 - 25 commenced attack on CVES off LEYTE. TF 38.1 launched 1st strike on this force at 1030 from southeast. Enemy heading for entrance LEYTE GULF at 1140. OBB in LEYTE

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26 0035 (continued)

GULF low on ammunition. 3 OBB, 3 CA'S and DD sent to assist CVE'S. Fast BB due 0800 - 26. Preliminary damage reports SOVOMA hit by bomb. 1 Liberty ship damaged and LCI 1065 destroyed LEYTE GULF. 3 CVE'S and 3 DE hit. Preliminary reports of 24th score 46 enemy planes shot down seven probably over beaches. COMFORT has not been heard from. MOROTAIE had air raid night 24 -25 dock damaged. Land Forces advancing on LEYTE.

26 0250 SILVERSIDES 1ST to COMSUBPAC info COM3RDFLT.

Latest dope on 2 battleships. 0030 GCT. Latitude 24-07 Longitude 125-41. Course 040 speed 16. TRIGGER in sight contact and making end around. SILVERSIDES and SALMON 30 and 60 miles astern TRIGER both chasing. Fuel 73. 24 Fish. 1 CHAMORRO. This only contact to date WX 09BTLABE01. 11888. 03251. New SKEDS fade at dawn. Much jamming. Additional dope at 0145 GCT. TRIGGER lost contact. BB'S changed course to 310 speed 20.

26 0316 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT info CTF 38, CTG 38.1, 38.2, 77.4,
(NPM- CTU 77.4.1, 77.4.2, CINCSOWESPAC, CG 6TH ARMY.
3287)

Your situation contained 251950 fully appreciated. My situation for your information is now as follows. Practically all my CVES have been damaged some seriously and are still undergoing heavy enemy air attacks. CVES have been doing splendidly in keeping planes in air but may shortly become inoperative. LEYTE GULF area without CAP except few carrier planes operating with difficulty from TACLOBAN and DULAG Fields. These fields not yet activated and subject to frequent air attacks. Until fields are activated 1 Fast Carrier Group intack urgently required for support and protection LEYTE GULF area and possibly CVES.

26 0357 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLEET.

Both remaining CVE groups report that they are now under air attack.

26 0341 CTF 77 to ALL CONCERNED SOWESPAC OPERATIONS.

This is my 1st report this force. ISE CLASS battleship converted to carrier bearing 300 degrees distance 80 miles from POINT MOLLY course 180 true speed 15 knots between NEGROS and CEBU (1 group garbled) 1140 ITTEM 26th

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26 0400 TRIGGER to COMSUBPAC

TRIGGER 3. Trailed 2 heavy tops 2 light tops until 0100 GCT 26th at 24-03N 125-42E. Last estimated course 320 speed 19. Fire control radar equipped.

26 0408 CTF 77 to CTF 38, COM3RDFLT, info CTG 38.1 and 38.2, ALL INTERESTED CURRENT OPERATIONS SOWESPAC.

Converted class ISE battleship, following position close by MEDELLIN ISLAND, which is west of northern tip of CEBU. 1st course 280 then shifted to 240. Last course southerly. Speed 12-15 knots. 1 damaged CA 1 DD 11-40 North 123-45 East MODLJNG. 2 DD 11-25 North 124-05 East Course 270 speed 25. Time of contacts 1140 and 11301.

26 0515 CTU 77.4.2 to CTG 77.4 info COM7THFLEET, COM3RDFLT.

Summary operations DKABDE 25th all times I (-9). B27 IV. C 39. D 19. E. 48 tons, 49 torpedoes. 104 rockets F9 FM, 7 TBM G 3 FM, 1 TBM, H 14 pilots 12 crewmen (Posits of down personnel all previously reported possibility some pilots at beach). 11 tone CA posit 11-25 N 126-45E pilots at 0905 another tone posit 11-40 N 126-31 E Photo at 1440 1 BB pilots same area (These ships plus 1 BB straddled my ships with salvos from 15 miles at 0850. L 1 BB FUXM LPTH torpedo and 2 bomb hits 11-40 N 126-35E in morning, 1 BB and 1 CA south of PANAON ISLAND at 0530 with bomb hits, 1 BB torpedo hit 1 MOGAMI CA and several DD'S hit with rockets 50 calibre and GP bombs as enemy force retired, 4 BB, 2 CA, 3 CL 7 DD last seen limping TGU BERNARDINO with 2 BB trailing oil and 3 ships lagging behind, in contact with this force all day at one time too close for comfort. M 1 JILL force 6 ZEKES 3 OSCAR 3 NUJOS 1 VAL 1 JAKE target. 0 4 single engine target, special additional at 1700 intercepted 20 to 30 attacking planes shot down 16 same. A big day for little fellows.

26 0710 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT info CINCPAC

Losses yesterday including crash landings on LEYTE fields amounted to about 130 planes total for carrier groups now present. 8 carriers and all escorts need fuel gasoline bombs and torpedoes. SUWANNEE has severe structural damage flight deck and bridge out of commission. SANTEE severe structural damage including torpedo hit but is in full operating condition. Other vessels have only minor damage. SANTEE has buried 9 dead SANGAMON 2 ROWELL 1 and SUWANNEE 55 not including those lost in attack just received. Many critically injured. Following vessels of Task Unit 77.4.3 believed sunk. SAINT LO (Ex-MIDWAY)

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26 0710 (continued)

GAMBIER BAY HOEL JOHNSTON and ROBERTS. HEERMAN and DENNIS enroute KOSSOL. J C BUTLER and RAYMOND at LEYTE. Due low availability aircraft and shortage fuel and supplies recommend escort carriers be withdrawn to MANUS today. Is approve request J C BUTLER RAYMOND HEERMAN and DENNIS be directed to rendezvous with me.

26 0838 COM3RDFLT to CTG 38.2, 38.3 info COMINCH, CINCPAC, ALL TFC'S & TGC'S 3RD FLEET, ATCOM ULITHI, ALL CONCERNED SOWESPAC OPERATIONS.

Task Group 38.2 after fueling on 27 October proceed to arrive northwest corner area CONDOR Lat 13-55 North Long 127-45 East at 0600 I(-9) 28 October. Para. Task Group 38.3 proceed after dark 27 October to arrive same position at same time. Para. ComBatPac in WASHINGTON with MASSACHUSETTS AND ALABAMA report to ComTaskGroup 38.3 for duty. Para. When directed on 28 October Task Group 38.3 proceed ULITHI to arrive prior dark 30 October. Fuel rearm provision. Grant availability all units as required. WIPLVMIOUK 38.3 RFS HATN 4 November. Para. Orders for movement Task Group 38.2 after rendezvous later.

26 1125 CINCSOWESPAC AREA vis COM7THFLT to COMINCH info CNO, CINCPAC, COMSOPAC.

Jap naval units now retiring under air attack. Of enemy force estimated to comprise at least 2 BB 3 Cruisers 7 DD which was engaged in SURIGAO STRAIT night 24/25 8 units reported sunk. Remaining units retiring westward reported on 25th and 26th. PT'S and ALBERT W GRANT. DD 649. Damaged but proceeding. Jap force of approximately 3 or 4 BB 9 Cruisers 12 DD which advanced through SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT to attack CVES OFF LEYTE RETIRED ON reverse route having lost 1 cruiser and probably 1 DD. Most remaining ships this force damaged and under repeated air attacks on 26th in SIBUYAN SEA and TABLAS STRAIT. Northern Jap carrier group disengaged. No complete report of damage inflicted. LEYTE beach and CVES subjected to heavy land based air attacks. 4 ships in harbor damaged. Damaged BLUE CVES proceeding MANUS. 6 BB 3 CA 2 CL 15 DD deployed in LEYTE GULF. Close cover group of 1 CA 1 CL 6 DD in area. Remaining CVES with escorts also in LEYTE GULF. TACLOBAN and DULAG strips being used emergency operations. No further information of damage to our forces.

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26 1327 CTF 77 to COM3RDFLT, CTG 38.2, CTG 38.4, CTF 38 info
CTG 77.4, CINCPAC, COMINCH.

For tomorrow request 12 VF aircraft for combat air patrol be maintained over objective area from 0545 I (-9) to dusk to augment target combat air patrol provided by CVES. Planes report to PEPSICOLA BASE on VHF 142.02 primary and 142.74 secondary. Estimate minimum of 200 enemy aircraft over objective area today not including large numbers over CVES. Due to losses and damage, CVES unable to provide adequate air cover or fighter sweeps. In addition request fighter sweeps on airfields in western VISAYAS with primary objective destruction enemy aircraft and aircraft facilities.

27 0033 COM3RDFLT to CTG 38.4 info COMINCH, CINCPAC, ALL TFC'S & TGC'S
3RD FLEET, ALL CONCERNED SOWESPAC OPERATIONS.

On 28 and 29 carrier task group 38.4 continue to operate east of SAMAR. MP VIIIX support for LEYTE operations as requested by ComTasFor 77 and strike shipping aircraft and air installations targets of opportunity within range XARM Operations. Task Group 38.2 will be directed join you about noon 28 October.

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26 1345 COM3rdFLT to CINCPAC, CINCSOWESPAC info COMINCH, ALL TFC'S 3RDFLT, CTF 77, COM7THFLT.

~~SECRET~~. I Cruiser or large DD sunk by Task Group 34.5 light forces at 0145 1 (-9) 25th posit 13-02 north 124-54 east. You have Task Force 38 report 252357. No word yet on today's strikes by Task Groups 38.1 and 38.2 on force retiring through Sibuyan Sea and towards Palawan. 2 POW survivors picked up off Samar state HARUNA and KONGO included in force which sortied San Bernadino. 1 states he is SUZUYA survivor and that KUMANO also sunk off Samar. Both POWs unreliable and tired.

26 1430 UNKNOWN PLANE VIA RADIO HOLLANDIA to ANY OR ALL US SHIPS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~. At 11 degrees north 130 east 3 battleships 3 heavy cruisers 6 destroyers heading 160 degrees.

26 1443 * CTF 77 to CINCSOWESPAC INFO ALL TGC'S 3RDFLT, COM7THFLT, COM3RDFLT, CINCPAC, COMINCH, ALL TFC'S 3RDFLT, ALL TGC'S 7THFLT, ALL TFC'S 7THFLT.

~~SECRET~~. Further details are now available concerning the battle fought yesterday between our CVE covering Group of 16 CVE's with accompanying escort of DD's and DE's to the eastward of Leyte Gulf and a strong enemy surface force now estimated as 4 BB's 8 CA's and CL's 7 or more DD's which sortied through San Bernadino Strait. In this action our CVE group turned back and defeated a heavy surface force which was supported by strong shore based air. The attacking enemy force was able to close our slower CVE force but was turned back by air attacks from CVE's only to return again and was driven off the 2nd time retreating through San Bernadino Straits. On the basis of incomplete reports the following damage was inflicted on the enemy. 4 torpedo hits in a BB and 1 CA stopped and burning while the enemy was in the Mindanao Sea. Off Samar at least 2 BB's were hit by torpedoes and 1 CA stopped dead. No report on enemy planes destroyed. This does not include damage inflicted on the enemy by many planes which were forced to land on Leyte fields. Our losses CVE SAINT LO (Former MIDWAY) sunk. CVE CAMBIER BAY, DD HALL and DD JOHNSTON plus DE ROBERTS missing since bombardment by enemy surface forces and presumed sunk. Damaged. CVE'S SANGAMON, SUWANEE and SANTEE all hit by suicide crash planes. SANTEE also hit by torpedo. FANSHAW and KITKUN BAY hit and fires started. Personnel casualties on sunk and missing ships undetermined. Known dead on damaged ships 67. Many injured. Our aircraft losses about 130 planes from all causes including crash landings on Leyte fields. Cap over Leyte Gulf. During morning sweep a KUMA class cruiser was hit with bombs amidships and on the stern and left circling in posit 11-25 north

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26 1443 (Continued)

124-05 east. Para. Some further information is also available on the surface action between our surface forces and those of the enemy in Suragao Strait night of 24-25 October. Force of 30 PT's operating in lower Suragao Strait report that visual and Radar contacts indicate the enemy force consisted of about 18 ships including 1 BB and 2 cruisers. Of 9 torpedoes fired by these PT's 2 hits were made. 1 on DD and 1 on DD dead in water alongside burning hulk. PT 493 was sunk 2 others heavily damaged plus minor damage to many others. PT personnel casualties 4 killed 20 wounded. On the basis of information now available believe that former report of at least 8 ships of all types sunk was conservative. para. Unloading of follow up echelon LST and Liberty ships progressing satisfactorily ships in Leyte Gulf have been under intermittent air attack throughout the day with no damage reported. Estimate 200 enemy planes over Leyte area today. This does not include plane attacking over CVE's.

26 2355 CTU 77.4.3 to CTF 77, CTG 77.4 info COMINCH, CINCPAC, COMAIR-PAC, CINCOWESPAC, COM7THFLT, COM3RDFLT.

~~SECRET~~. Main enemy body sighted by a SS as per my contact report at 06531 (-9) October 25. For over 2 and 1/2 hours this force was subjected to enemy BB CA and DD gun and torpedo attack. We were hit numerous times. GAMBIER BAY had 1 engine put out of commission dropped back and must have been sunk by enemy gunfire plus HOEL JOHNSTON and ROBERTS. Remaining 5 CVE emerged from this ordeal damaged but able to maintain 16 knots. About 1 hour 20 minutes later 6 enemy suicide dive bombers attacked. Attack had to be seen to be believed. 3 planes hit by AA narrowly missed ships. 1 hit port catwalk of KITKUN BAY. 1 skidded length of KALININ BAY flight deck over bow. 1 went thru deck of SAINT LO which shortly blew up. Preliminary reports from such of our men or pilots as are in company show following definite results by our planes. 1 CA seen to blow up and sink. 1 CA hit by 2 torpedoes and 2 near misses later observed on its side. 3 more CA torpedoed. 1 BB damaged. The rest got away from us. This unit together with planes of Task Units 77.4.1 and 77.4.2 turned back enemy fleet before any other of our forces could attack. The remaining ships of my division require extensive navy yard repairs before combat duty. Preliminary report of casualties of ships now with me. 10 killed 59 wounded. I understand 800 SAINT LO survivors have been picked up. Detailed report later.

27 0050 COM3RDFLT to CTG 38.2 Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, ALL TFC AND TGC 3RD FLT, ALL CONCERNED SOWESPAC OPERATIONS, COMBATDIV 9

After effecting rendezvous on 28 October. My 260838. And

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27 0050 (Continued)

when directed Task Group 38.2 proceed to join Task Group 38.4 as soon as practicable on 28 October in position east of SAMAR. After joining operate on 28 and 29 October as directed by CTG 38.4. See my 270033. Para. After joining direct ComBatDiv 9 in SOUTH DAKOTA report to CTG 38.4 for temporary duty.

27 0221 UNKNOWN to COM3RDFLT Info CINC SOWESPAC, CINCPAC, COMINCH, COM ALLIED AIRFOR, COM 5TH AIRFOR, CTG 38.4, 38.1, 38.3, 38.2, CTF 38, CTG 77.4

Present situation LEYTE GULF Area. Danger from further enemy surface attack considered remote unless enemy gains control of the air. Our control of air not satisfactory. Enemy air has been attacking in force for past 3 days disrupting our unloading, fueling and rearming operations. Activation flying fields delayed as result enemy air-raids. Heavy combat air patrol required and strikes at enemy air fields until enemy air strength is materially reduced. Support of at least 1 and preferably 2 fast carrier groups required until we have control of the air. On 28 Oct remaining CVE's must refuel and can supply no planes. Army air squadrons moving in to fields today but doubtful when their operations can become sufficiently effective due difficult field conditions. More later on this subject.

27 0630 COM AIRFORCE 13 to COM FAR EAST AIR FORCE Info CINCSOWESPAC, COMAIRFORCE 5, CINCPAC, COM5THFLT, COM3RDFLT, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIRFORCE NORTHWEST AREA, COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COM AIRNORSOLS, COM7THFLT, BOMCOM 13, 1ST TAC RAAF, 310 BOMBWING, FITCOM 13

Preliminary report 26 October all times Item. 47 Liberators of the 5th and 307 Groups attacked naval units in PHILIPPINES from 10000 fleet. Each aircraft dropped 3 half tonners or 2 half tonners and 1 quarter tonner. 14 planes bombed 1 BB identified from photos Yamato Class at 1056 scoring 2 direct hits, remainder of bombs bracketed vessel. 13 planes scored 2 direct hits and many near misses on BB Kongo Class. Ships in convoy with 5 CA's or CL's and 5 DD's. 10-45 North 121-35 East heading 150 degrees speed 20 knots. AA intense heavy medium and very accurate. 1 plane exploded over target and 1 Liberator missing believed to be down over PHILIPPINES. 19 planes attacked CL and DD at 09-00 North 122-35 East heading 30 degrees speed 15-20 knots. The CL Ema Class was crippled and set on fire with 4 direct hits, 1 fire and explosion on bridge, 2 explosions amid-ships, 1 explosion and fire

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27 0630 (Continued)

at stern. 1 plane bombed 1 CA at 11-30 North 120-06 East at 1120. No direct hits on vessel.

27 0650 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38 Info ALL TGC'S OF TF 38, CINCPOA, CINCOWESPAC

Refer to CINCOWESPAC CX 19459 (131320) and CINCPOA 152259. It is desired that the above and other un-completed and required photography of LUZON be accomplished as early as possible. Due to preparations for future operations it is expected that period 5-9 November is only time feasible. Desire you submit as soon as practical the amount of photography LUZON now completed and that yet to have completed latter to include requirements of above reference. By this despatch Task Group Comdrs Task Force 38 directed to submit their reports of photo completion LUZON to ComTaskForce 38 as soon as possible.

27 1200 TU 71.12.5 to COM3RDFLT, COMSUBPAC, ONE GARBLED ADEE

2 small groups ships moving east from CORON BAY this morning suggest use that spot refuel and train suggest reconnaissance plane GUITARRO

27 1625 CTG 38.4 to CTF 77 Info COMAAF FORWARD HDQTRS AT LEYTE, CTF 38, CTG 38.2, CTG 77.4, COM3RDFLT, CINCSWPA

Will have 4 VF-N on station at 0530 (I) (-9). Will have first TCAP of 20 VF on station at 0630 (I).

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25 2232 MARSHALL to CINCPAC, COMGENPOA, ALL THEATER AND BASE COMMANDERS.

W-52150-25TH Effective 24 October 1944 the CHINA BURMA INDIA Theater has been divided into 2 theaters: A. The CHINA Theater. B. The INDIA BURMA Theater. Para Major General A. C. WEDEMEYER is appointed Commanding General US Forces CHINA Theater. The CHINA Theater includes CHINA proper and INDO CHINA but excludes FORMOSA and HAINAN. Headquarters of the CHINA Theater is at CHUNGKING CHIAN. Para Lieut General Daniel I Sultan is appointed Commanding General US Forces INDIA BURMA Theater. The INDIA BURMA Theater includes INDIA, BURMA, THAILAND, the MALAY PENINSULA, and SUMATRA. Headquarters of the INDIA BURMA Theater are at NEW DELHI INDIA. Para Except for the former CHINA BURMA INDIA Theater (now the INDIA BURMA Theater and CHINA Theater) no theater boundaries are affected by this change.

25 1935 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38, CTG 38.1,38.2,38.3,38.4,CTF 34 CTG 34.5.

In submitting action reports for period commencing 22 October and ending on next return to port include copies of all messages sent and received which pertains to combat operations.

26 0750 MACARTHUR to COM ALLIED AIRFOR, COM 3RD FLT, COM ALLIED NAVFOR, Info COMAIRFOR 5, 310 BOMB WING, ALL TG'S TF 77, ALL TG'S TF 38, ALL TG'S TF 79, CTF 77, CTF 38, ALL TG'S TF 78, CTF'S 77, 78, 79.

CITE CX-51053 Reference ComAAFs number AX-0579, 26th and GHQ radio CX-19624, time group 170827, authorizes Allied Air Forces to attack hostile air and shipping in the VISAYAS west of a specified line. This area is extended to include all the SIBUYAN SEA west of 124-05 degrees east longitude. Commander Allied Naval Forces and Com 3rd Fleet are cautioned to notify Commander Allied Air Forces when friendly Naval surface units proceed west of this line.

27 0652 MACARTHUR to CMDR ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, CDR ALLIED AIR FORCES, COM 3RD FLT, CG 6TH US ARMY, CG 8TH US ARMY, 300 BOMBWING, CTF 77 Info GHQ SWPA.

CAX 11404 As provided in paragraph 3D(5) and paragraph 3E(1) (d), Operations Instructions Number 70, this headquarters, dated 21 September 1944, the Commander Allied Air Forces will assume the mission of direct air support in the LEYTE-SAMAR area at 1600 I(-9) 27 October. Operational control of land based naval aircraft remaining in the LEYTE area will pass to the Commander Allied Air Forces at 1600 I (-9) 27 October, and will continue as long as land based naval aircraft are present in the area.

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27 1329Z MACARTHUR to COM 3RD FLEET, COMDR ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COMDR ALLIED AIR FORCES, CINCPAC, CG 6TH ARMY, CG 8TH ARMY, COMAAF 5, COMAAF 13, COM 308 BOMBING, TASK FORCES AND TASK GROUPS OF TF 38, TF 77 AND ALL TASK GROUPS THEREOF, ADV ECHELON GHQ.

CX 51126 Effective upon receipt of this radio, the attack of all land targets in the PHILIPPINE archipelago is allocated to the Allied Air Forces Southwest Pacific Area. Air forces 3rd Fleet, including 7th Air Force, will not attack land targets in the PHILIPPINE archipelago or in the Southwest Pacific Area except after specific coordination with GHQ SWPA in each instance.

27 1045 CTF 77 to CTG 38.4 Info CTF 38, CTG 38.2, CTG 77.4, COM3RD FLT, CINCSOWESPAC, COM ARMY AIR FOR FWD HDQTS LEYTE.

For tomorrow request 16 VF aircraft for combat air patrol be maintained over objective area from 0545 I (-9) to dusk. Planes report to PEPSRDOLA base on VHF 142.02 primary and 142.74 secondary. In addition request strikes as practicable on enemy air fields to reduce their air strength Raids continued today but reduced in intensity believed due to fast carrier strikes.

27 1640 COM 3RD FLT to CTF 38, CTG 38.1, CTG 38.2, CTG 38.3, CTG 38.4.

Refer Gen Hdqts SoWesPA 271329 (HF 5265). Comply.

27 0649 CINCPAC to COM 3RD FLEET Info COMINCH & CNO, CTF 38, CTG 38.1, 38.2, 38.3, 38.4, COMAIRPAC, COMFWDAREA, COMAIR 7TH FLEET (LOGISTICS).

ComAirPac will sail COPAHEE from PEARL for GUAM departing 28 October with personnel CVG 81 embarked. This group will be kept intact and is available for relief such CVG as Com 3rd Fleet may direct retaining pilots of relieved group with less than 3 months combat to augment other CVG's. Para. Aircraft status of 30 October follows: In ENIWETOK-MAJURO pool none. In MANUS pool including loads enroute in CVE 98 and AKV 2 Hellcats 82, Avengers 94, Helldivers 56 and Wildcats 200. In GUAM pool none. Enroute GUAM in CVE 1, 12 and 23, Hellcats 60, Avengers 43, Helldivers 34 and Wildcats 22. Combat ready in CVE's 16, 20, 85, 86, 87 and 88, Hellcats 285 including 23 VFN, Avengers 78, Helldivers 47. Part 2 para. All available CarQual pilots have gone forward to MANUS. Since 1 September following have been made available to MANUS pool and replacement CVE's Hellcat 166, Wildcats 114, Helldivers 109, Avengers 119, present locations above not known due lack of information numbers on replacement CVE's and numbers already distributed to airgroups.

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27 0221 CTF 77 to COM 3RD FLT Info CINC SOWESPAC, CINCPAC, COMINCH, COM ALLIED AIRFOR, COM 5TH AIRFOR, CTG 38.4, 38.1, 38.3, 38.2, CTF 38, CTG 77.4.

Present situation LEYTE GULF area. Danger from further enemy surface attack considered remote unless enemy gains control of the air. Our control of the air not satisfactory. Enemy air has been attacking force for past 3 days disrupting our unloading, fueling and rearming operations. Activation flying fields delayed as result enemy airraids. Heavy combat air patrol required and strikes at enemy air fields until enemy air strength is materially reduced. Support of at least 1 and preferably 2 fast carrier groups required until we have control of the air. On 28 Oct remaining CVE's must refuel and can supply no planes. Army air squadrons moving in to fields today but doubtful when their operations can become sufficiently effective due difficult field conditions. More later on this subject.

27 0353 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLEET Info COMINCH, COMAIRPAC, COMSERVPAC, COMSERON 10, ALL TFC 3RD FLEET.

This summarizes status arrangements for replenishment at ULITHI. Para. Approximately 180,000 barrels avgas in tankers GULFPORT and SAN LUIS OBISPO ETA 27 October. 650,000 barrels fuel oil in floating storage and 2 commercial tankers with all fleet AO in port presumed full. 500,000 barrels fuel in convoy 5 tankers ETA 27 October. 98,000 barrels ETA 1 November 1 PAN AMOCO. 500,000 barrels in convoy departing ENIWETOK 28 October ETA ULITHI 2 November. Tanker convoys approximately 500,000 barrels each arriving every 5 days thereafter. 290,000 barrels in tank farm KWAJALEIN. NESHANIC CACAPON and NIOBRARA available at MANUS presumably with full standard loads plus 130,000 barrels in floating storage. Approximately 1,000,000 barrels emergency reserve TULAGI ESPIRITU SANTO available to your oilers. Para. Fresh provisions: BOREAS now at ULITHI and TRADEWIND ETA 29 Oct will provide estimated 21 days rations. Dry provisions: Vessels now at ULITHI plus AZIMECH ETA 1 Nov will provide estimated 36 days rations. GSK, including IC engine spares and class 16, regular clothing, ships store stock and medical stores in vessels now at ULITHI. Special winter clothing and flight clothing available in AMERICAN BUILDER ETA ULITHI 8 Nov. Aviation supply: GRUMIUM now at ULITHI completely stocked with necessary aviation spares, FORTUNE ETD ROI 4 Nov for ULITHI similarly loaded. Para. Ammunition including bombs for 4 groups available ships now at ULITHI and in MT HOOD at MANUS and RANIER ETA 3 November. In addition you may draw on shore stocks MARIANAS and ETHIOPIAN VICTORY which is loaded for PALAU for 2000 GP 1000 AP and SAP and .50 cal. 144 aircraft torpedoes available TERROR and HAMLIN. About 200 other forward area tenders. 24 enroute in COPAHEE. 50

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boxed and deck loaded in each of TALUGA and AUCILLA from PEARL and Coast. Other ammunition ships are enroute to maintain reserves in forward area. Aircraft and pilot situation in separate dispatch.

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27 1147 CTF 77 to COMINCH info CINCSWPA, CINCPAC, COM3RDFLEET, COM7THFLEET, ALL TFC AND TGC 3RD AND 7TH FLEETS.

On the 26th CVE covering group (TG 77.4) despite battle losses suffered on the preceeding day continued to cover our forces in the LEYTE GULF AREA and launched strikes in the CAMOTES SEA. 1 enemy CL was hit with 4-500 pound bombs and 1 torpedo and 1 DD confirmed sunk after strafing attack believe it or not. Other attacks as yet unreported. About 1100 our CVE'S were attacked by enemy planes. After combat patrol had shot down 4 of group 8 or 10 planes nips began a series of suicide dives. 3 shot down by ships gunfire. 1 landed on flight deck SUWANNEE among parked planes. Severe damage to ship and planes. Many personnel casualties number undetermined. DE ROWELL of CVE group about 0900 sighted periscope and attacked. Fuel oil and debris kept rising during the day. Claim WNP. Cruiser and Destroyer group having replenished fuel and ammunition after the SURIGAO STRAIT action is now with CVE covering group. Fast Carriers of 3rd Fleet are now providing close support of LEYTE area. Enemy air raids continued today but with reduced intensity attributed to the effectiveness 3rd Fleet Fast Carrier strikes against the enemy air fields. More accurate information is now available on the results of the night battle of SURIGAO STRAIT starting early morning of 25 October. As the enemy force which attempted to force entry into LEYTE GULF via the SURIGAO STRAIT 2 BB 2 CA 2 CL and 10 DD only 1 CA 1 CL and 4 DD got out the way they came in. 2 BB identified as YAMASHIRO and FUSO 1 CA 1 CL and 6 DD were definitely sunk by the combined torpedo attack of our PT's and Destroyers and the gunfire of our Battleships and Cruisers. The remaining CA CL and DD's were placed under heavy air attack the following morning and reported as being badly damaged and probably sunk. Cleared with MACARTHUR.

27 1700 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC, CINCSOWESPAC info COMINCH, ALL TFCS 3RDFLT, COM7THFLT, CTF 77.

Photos of force in SIBUYAN SEA at 241215 I (-9) show 2 YAMATO 2 KONGO 1 NAGATO. 2 MOGAMI 2 ACAGO 1 NACHI 1 unident CA. 1 AGANO 1 UNIDENT cruiser. 13 DDs reestimate 2 or 3 CL and several Destroyers not in the main body where operating in the SIBUYAN SEA from the 23rd. Para. 1st sighting morning of 26th enemy main body off east MINDORO consisted 4 BB 3 CA 3 CL 10 DDs. 1 damaged CA and 1 DD near masbate. 2 DDs off north CEBU. 1 damaged cruiser 13 north 122 east. TaskGroup 38.1 and TaskGroup 38.2 strikes thereafter sunk 1 AGANO. Probably sunk 1 MOGAMI off south MINDORO. Damaged 1 YAMATO 1 NAGATO 1 KONGO 1 NACHI 2 CL and 5 DDs. Also sunk 1 large CVS east of PANAY,

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believed to be ship reported as ISE class BB. 15 aircraft shot down and 16 destroyed on ground. Also MAVIS shot by 5 night VF. Own losses 10 planes combat 7 operational. Para. Task group 38.3 and Task Group 38.4 preliminary report for 27th. 1 CA off south MINDORO attacked by search planes while making 24 knots left dead in water and could not be found shortly later by VFB. 2 DDs damaged 1 beached. Task Force 38 LEYTE CAP shot down 1 of 7 ZEKES. 2 relay planes over MARINDUQUE waded into and splashed 5 of 40 to 50 OSCARS and ZEKES. Large transport and many AKS seen in MANILA. 3 CL and 2 DD heading towards MANILA BAY at 0830. Para. Following related by POW seaman 1st class from SUZUYA. Attack force under CinC 2nd Fleet composed YAMATO MUSASHI NAGATO HARUNA and KONGO. 10 CA CruDivs 4, 5 and 7. NOSHIRO and 13 DDs. Sortied LINGGA 22nd high speed. Night of 23d ATAGO and MAYA sunk TAKAO damaged dropped out of formation possibly sunk. CinC 2nd shifted flag ATAGO to YAMATO. 5 BB 7 CA 1 CL and 13 DDs entered SULU SEA. MUSASHI and 1 or 2 CA heavily damaged 24th and not again seen or heard of by POW. 4 BB included in force which sortied SAN BERNARDINO (photos of Task Group 38.1 confirm this). SUZUYA sank at 1330/I 25th. YAMASHIRO FUSO and AOBA transporting troops sailed from LINGGA 20th or 21st for unknown destination. MOGAMI has been converted to EC. Same as ISE and may have been in striking force sortie. CA IBUKI joined fleet last July but has not been south. End of POW statements.

28 0001 CTU 77.4.3 to CTF 77, CTG 77.4 info COMINCH, CINCPAC SUPREME COMMANDER SOWESPAC AREA, COM3RD AND 7TH FLEETS, COMAIRPAC.

This is part 1 of 3 parts. Part 2 is 280006. Part 3 is 280012. Report of CTU 77.4.3 for 25 October I (-9). At 0653 in position 50 miles east of SAMAR main enemy body sighted by ASP about 15 miles to westward. Almost immediately 1 salvo from enemy seen fired and fell short. Ordered carriers to launch all remaining planes to attack at retirement started east into wind at maximum speed. Local CAP and ASP and 1st support group for LEYTE had been launched. My force 6 CVE's ComCartDiv 25 in FANSHAW BAY with SAINT LO, KALININ BAY, WHITE PLAINS, ComCartDiv 26 in KITKUN BAY with GAMBIER BAY, 3 DD's and 4 DE's as screen, HOEL, JOHNSTON, HEERMANN, DENNIS, ROBERTS, RAYMOND, BUTLER. Enemy force 4 BB's 8 CA 4 CL 8 DDs. Para. All ships making smoke retiring and launching planes EKTEATS. Enemy Cruisers in VAN closed order 25,000 and 3 gun salvos struck among rear ships. 0740 ordered DD's and DE's attack with torpedoes and own force remaining carriers commenced firing 5 inch when range permitted. Planes later reported 1 DE sunk by enemy gunfire while making torpedo attack. Presum-

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OCTOBER (GCT) (Cont'd)

ably ROBERTS. Not heard from since. Moderate individual ship maneuvering toward and away from last salvos apparently prevented early heavy damage although many close straddles. Para. By 0730 with main enemy body advancing on northern side our retirement course changed to south and at 0815 to southwest. Enemy heavy ships directly astern at 22000 and 2 cruisers each working forward on port and starboard beams closing gradually to under 15000. Cruiser fire heavy from both 8 and 6 inch falling all around all ships with occasional big gun salvos. At 0820 GAMBIER BAY reported being heavily hit and lost 1 engine. Ship drifted aft under concentrated fire. Since she must have passed through entire Jap fleet assume GAMBIER BAY did not survive but was not afire when last seen. Plane later reported GAMBIER BAY being shelled by enemy destroyed at point blank range. Various other ships hit but remained in disposition. At 0900 DENNIS hit and badly damaged but stayed with us. At 0919 unidentified escort hit May have been JOHNSTON not heard from since. HOEL reported flooded forward and stopped to plug hole 6 feet in diameter below waterline. Much other damage. Not heard from since. Presumed sunk.

28 0006 CTU 77.4.3 to CTF 77, CTG 77.4 info COMINCH, CINCPAC, SUPREME COMMANDER SOWESPAC AREA, COM3RD AND 7TH FLEETS, COMAIRPAC

This is part two of 3 parts. Part 1 is 280001. Part 3 is 280012. At 0924 Jap main body and cruisers now at 12000 suddenly turned east to opposite course. It was unbelievable. Plane observer now reported many torpedoes approaching formation but stopping short. Apparently full salvos from cruisers or DD's to port. Para. In addition to loss of GAMBIER BAY, HOEL, JOHNSTON and ROBERTS to gunfire, SAINT LO, KALININ BAY, and FANSHAW BAY all badly hit causing structural damage and leaving KALININ BAY temporarily on 1 engine. DENNIS flooded forward. HEERMANN flooded to frame 42. Damage to BUTLER and RAYMOND unknown. Para. Enemy heavy cruisers used colored splash with 8 inch AG FYE BB's with their infrequent salvos. Both 8 and 6 inch salvos laddered in a straight line about 300 yards. Accurate in range but missing in deflection possibly due to maneuvering previously mentioned. Para. Impossible to understand why heavy cruisers failed to close in promptly or encircle force and polish off this entire outfit. Only deterrents were 5-inch fire falling around cruisers and dummy runs by torpedo planes and strafing by fighters. In any case main enemy force had enough of us and broke off action. Para. In position about 20 miles southeast of SAMAR this force came under air attack by suicide dive bombers beginning about 1045 and continuing until about 1130. No CAP was airborne over

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this force although help had been requested. Own planes long since departed due to absence gas and ammunition and our inability to land them for reservicing. At 1052 SAINT LO was heavily hit by suicide plane diving into deck and immediate large fire in hanger. Fires rapidly out of control followed by extremely heavy explosions probably torpedoes on hanger deck and magazines, continuing for several minutes and destroying RHBQ. Fire covered both stern and bow aft him drifted around in wide circle. When last seen personnel abandoning starboard side abreast bridge. All remaining escort vessels ordered to stand by SAINT LO to rescue survivors. Another suicide plane with small bomb dove through port catwalk forward on KITKUN BAY and third with heavy bomb came in exactly at bow throwing tons of water and considerable shrapnel on bridge and forward part of ship. Fourth dove at FANSHAW BAY. Shot down. Missed fantail by a few feet scattering shrapnel and debris over after end of ship. Two more suicides dove on KALININ BAY. One shot down and missed. Other skidded along flight deck in flames and over bow into water. It is conclusive that suicide dives were made in all these cases.

28 0012 CTU 77.4.3 to CTF 77, CTG 77.4 info COMINCH, CINCPAC, SUPREME COMMANDER SOWESPAC AREA, COM 3RD FLEET COM 7th FLEET, COMAIRPAC.

This is part 3 of 3 parts. Part 1 is 280001. Part 2 is 280006. After predawn attack retirement made to southeast while own planes conducted attacks on enemy fleet. Sustained surface speed now reduced to 15 knots. At 1950 remaining 4 carriers with no escorts observed surface radar contact closing from quarter at about 18 knots. Suspicions submarine since no answer to challenge and requested Task Unit 20 miles ahead to close me. Contact closed steadily until DD's making radar approach challenged and about to open fire when contact disappeared. DD's immediately closed and made sonar contact and attack on obvious submarine. 1 DD remained overnight holding down submarine. Para. From about 2130 until 2400 this force, now joined with TU 77.4.1, was under close reconnaissance by enemy planes but no attack developed. 1 plane shot down by DD working on a submarine. Para. Reports from such of our pilots as are ABXA L show following damage inflicted on enemy. By planes of this force from ships as follows. KITKUN BAY. Sank 1 MOGAMI class CA unassisted. Ship observed to blow up and sink after bombing attack. Probably sank TONI class CA with 2 torpedo hits and 2 hits or near misses on STARBOARD bow with 500's. Cruiser this class observed on its side 4 hours later same posit. Damaged 1 NACHI class CA with 1 torpedo hit. WHITE PLAINS probably sank 1 KONGO class BB 10 miles southeast of BOHOL ISLAND. Ship left dead in water burning

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fiercely with crew abandoning. Possibility this ship damaged previous night by TU 77.2. These planes were part of our 1st flight air support group. Damaged MOGAMI or TOAE class Cruiser with torpedo hit 8 miles east of SAMAR. Left ship dead in water. FANSHAW BAY. Probably sank CA at 11-43 north 126-42 east. Damage inflicted by other 3 ships unknown due to absence pilots.

28 0537 CTF 38 to CINCPAC, COM3RDFLEET.

Best estimate composition Japanese force attacked on 25 October east longitude date east of northern LUZON follows. 17 ships 4 carriers, 2 BB/XCV, 1 CA, 4 CL'S, 6 DD. Task Force 38 definitely sank all 4 carriers, 1 CL or DD, 1 DD. Planes alone accounted for 3 carriers, 1 DD. Cruisers polished off other carrier and CL or DD. 1 CL last seen in sinking condition, possibly sunk. Of remaining ships 1 NATORI CL damaged by torpedo last seen going north at 5 or 6 knots alone. Both BB/XCV damaged, 1 by at least 2 probably 4 torpedoes and many bombs. BB/XCV retired separately 1 escorted by a Cruiser and 1 DD the other by a Cruiser and probably 2 DD's. CA and 1 of remaining CL's each hit by several bombs. At least 2 of DD's had been heavily strafed. 2 ships, 1 DD and 1 CL or DD got away from our Cruisers at high speed after dark. No photos of carrier sunk on 1st strike but believed a CVE. Photos show large carrier, ZUIKAKU class, 1 CVL CHITOS class and 1 CVL probably ZUIHO although slight differenced from previous information. 1 BB/XCV definitely ISE class, 1 CL AGANO or OYODO CLASS and 1 CL NATORI class, some DD's probably 3, were TERUTSUKI class. In addition to above force 1 DD was damaged by search planes near PAMOCETAW ISLAND. 17 ZEKES were shot down over enemy force and 4 other planes around our force and by search planes. Our combat losses attacking this enemy force 10 planes 8 pilots and 10 aircrewmembers all to antiaircraft fire.

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET and PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
Communique No. 168 (For release at 1200 (HWT), Sunday, 29
October 1944.)

1. Amplifying reports on the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea, although still subject to revision as more information is received, indicate an overwhelming victory for the Third and Seventh United States Fleets. The Japanese Fleet has been decisively defeated and routed. The Second Battle of the Philippine Sea ranks as one of the major sea battles of World War II in the Pacific - together with the Battle of the Coral Sea, 4-8 May 1942; the Battle of Midway, 3-6 June, 1942; the Battle of Guadalcanal, 12-15 November, 1942; and the First Battle of the Philippine Sea, 19 June 1944.
2. Movements of major Japanese fleet units northward from the Singapore area were detected on 21 and 22 October (west longitude date). Submarine scouts sighted the enemy force, sank two ATAGO class heavy cruisers and severely damaged a third. Ships of the Third Fleet were moved into position to the eastward of the Philippines off Surigao Strait, San Bernardino Strait and the Polillo Islands. On 23 October carrier searches discovered two strong enemy naval forces moving eastward, one through the Sibuyan Sea and the other through the Sulu Sea.
3. Photographs by carrier aircraft showed that the force moving eastward through the Sibuyan Sea included five battleships, thought to be the YAMATO, MUSASHI, NAGATO, KONGO and HARUNA; eight cruisers, two MOGAMI, two TONE, two NACHI, one ATAGO, one NOSHIRO; and 13 destroyers. The force moving eastward through the Sulu Sea consisted of two battleships of the YAMASHIRO class, two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, and seven or eight destroyers.
4. As soon as the presence of the two enemy fleet forces in the Philippine Islands was discovered on 23 October, Hellcat fighters, Avenger torpedo planes and Helldiver dive bombers from the Third Fleet carriers were launched to attack both forces. In the Sibuyan Sea, one battleship and one cruiser were severely damaged and set afire and may have sunk. Three other battleships received bombs and torpedoes; three other heavy cruisers received bombs and torpedoes; and one light cruiser was torpedoed, capsized and sank. In the Sulu Sea bomb hits were made on both battleships. Cruisers and destroyers were strafed with rockets and machine guns.
5. Meanwhile, to the eastward of the Philippines, enemy shore-based aircraft were attacking our carriers. In the aerial battle that ensued, more than 150 enemy aircraft were shot down. Our losses, on which exact figures are not yet available, were light. In this attack, the carrier PRINCETON was hit by a bomb which caused a bad fire. Later the PRINCETON's magazine blew up and the ship was so badly damaged that she had to be sunk by our own forces.

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET and PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
Communique No. 168 (For release at 1200 (HWT), Sunday, 29
October 1944.) -(Cont'd)

6. Also on the afternoon of 23 October, a land-based Navy search plane discovered the presence of an enemy carrier force approximately 200 miles off Cape Engano on northern Luzon, heading south. This force consisted of 17 warships including a large carrier, believed to be of the ZUIKAKU class; three light carriers of the CHITOSE and ZUIHO classes; two battleships of the ISE class with flight decks aft; a heavy cruiser of the MOGAMI class; a light cruiser of the NOSHIO class; three cruisers of the KISO class; and six destroyers.

7. To meet this serious threat the Commander, Third Fleet, concentrated several of his carrier task groups and started northward at high speed for a dawn attack.

8. These units of the Third Fleet steamed north at full speed through the night and caught the enemy so completely by surprise on the morning of 24 October that there was no effective air opposition. Later in the forenoon enemy carrier aircraft which had been refueled ashore in the Philippines flew out to join their ships which had already met disaster. The enemy planes arrived too late to get into the fight and 21 were shot down by our combat patrols.

In this action, the following destruction was inflicted upon the enemy:

SUNK

One carrier of the ZUIKAKU class, sunk by carrier aircraft.
One light carrier of the ZUIHO class, crippled by carrier aircraft and later sunk by the gunfire of cruisers and destroyers.
Two light carriers of the CHITOSE class, sunk by carrier aircraft.
One light cruiser or large destroyer sunk by gunfire.
One destroyer sunk by carrier aircraft.
One cruiser was severely damaged by carrier aircraft and was sunk during the night by a submarine.

DAMAGED

One battleship hit by 2-4 torpedoes and many bombs.
One battleship hit by bombs.
Three cruisers damaged by bombs and gunfire.
Four destroyers bombed, strafed or hit by gunfire.

None of the Third Fleet ships engaged with the enemy carrier force were damaged. The Third Fleet in this phase of the action lost 10 planes, 8 pilots and 10 aircrewmen, all shot down by anti-aircraft fire. Before all the damaged enemy ships could be tracked down and destroyed the engagement was broken off to proceed to the assistance of Seventh Fleet carrier escort groups then under attack off Samar Island.

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET and PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
Communique No. 168 (For release at 1200 (HWT), Sunday, 29
October 1944.) - (Cont'd)

9. The enemy force of battleships, cruisers and destroyers which had been attacked in the Sibuyan Sea had sortied through the San Bernardino Strait in spite of the damage inflicted by our carrier aircraft, and had attacked units of the Seventh Fleet off Samar Island during the morning of 24 October. In the ensuing battle, most of the enemy's heavy ships were badly damaged by Seventh Fleet units assisted by carrier aircraft from the Third Fleet. One cruiser of the MOGAMI class was seen to sink and one destroyer was left dead in the water. The enemy force ran northwest from the scene of the action and during the early hours of darkness passed westward through the San Bernardino Strait. About 2 a.m. a straggling cruiser was sunk by gunfire of the Third Fleet.

10. Meanwhile the southern enemy force had crossed the Sulu Sea, the Mindanao Sea, had attempted to pass through the Surigao Strait, and met the Seventh Fleet in a night action 24-25 October. As announced by the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, all units of this enemy force were sunk or decisively defeated.

11. On 25 October, carrier aircraft of the Third Fleet were launched against the crippled and damaged enemy fleeing westward through the Sibuyan Sea. Damage done to the enemy during the retirement of the enemy forces from San Bernardino Strait by the combined efforts of the Third and Seventh Fleets and shore based aircraft of the Southwest Pacific Area included one MOGAMI class cruiser sunk off Mindoro Island, one NOSHIRO class cruiser sunk south of Mindoro Island, one battleship possibly sunk, and three other battleships and three other cruisers further damaged.

12. The total damage inflicted on the Japanese Fleet during the period 22-27 October, 1944 included:

SUNK

Two battleships
Four carriers
Six heavy cruisers
Three light cruisers
Three small cruisers or large destroyers
Six destroyers

SEVERELY DAMAGED AND MAY HAVE SUNK

One battleship
Three heavy cruisers
two light cruisers
Seven destroyers

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET and PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
Communique No. 168 (For release at 1200 (HWT), Sunday, 29
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12.(Cont')

ESCAPED IN A DAMAGED CONDITION

Six battleships
Four heavy cruisers
One light cruiser
Ten destroyers

13. During the same actions the losses sustained by United States naval forces were one light carrier (PRINCETON), two escort carriers, two destroyers, one destroyer escort and a few lesser craft.

14. The following battleships seriously damaged at Pearl Harbor took part in these actions: WEST VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, TENNESSEE, CALIFORNIA, and PENNSYLVANIA. The new carriers LEXINGTON, WASP and HORNET also participated.

15. In all these actions, United States submarines played a highly important part and are credited with sinking and damaging several enemy warships - both before and after the air and sea battles on 23, 24 and 25 October.

16. Much of the credit for the destruction inflicted on the Japanese Fleet goes to the naval airmen who gallantly and relentlessly pressed their attacks home with telling effect.

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COM3RDFLT 292353 TO CINCPAC and CINCSOWESPAC Info COMINCH;
COM7THFLT; CTF 77; ALL TFC's 3RDFLT:

This is part 1 of 3 parts my 292359. Part 2 which is 292356 follows. Action summary 24-26 October. Enemy carrier Force San Bernardino Force and Surigao Force hereafter called northern center and southern forces. Southern and center forces sighted by carrier search teams morning 24th. Morning 24th 38.4 attacked 1 group of southern force believed consisting of FUSO, YAMASKIUO, FSHIGAUN and 4 destroyers (prisoner of war states possibly carrying troops). 3 to 4 Bomb hits plus rockets both BB. 1 CA bomb hit and 4 DD damaged by rockets and strafing. Para. 38.2, 38.3 (and in afternoon 38.4) Attacked center force believed consisting NAGATO, YAMATO, MUSASHI, DONGO, HARUNA (5BB) CHAKAI, HAGURO, MYOKO, TONE, CHIKUMA, KUMANO and SAZUYA (7 CA) NOSHIRO and 13 DD. Reported damage. In addition to bomb hits there were at least 5 torpedo hits divided between the 2 YAMATOS 1 stopped burning down by head. Bomb hits in 2 possibly 3 remaining BB and torpedo hits on 1 or both KONGO. 1 KONGO slowed and appeared badly damaged. At 1600 observer saw 2 damaged BB of 4 in force northwest of Masabte. Many hits on CA's WTVLOORS Duplication 2 known badly damaged (1 of these probably sunk) at least 1 other damaged. 1 AGANO torpedoed and rolled over. 1 DD sunk. MUSASHI, KUMANO, HAGURO unable sortie from San Bernardino due damage according prisoner of war and apparently correct. Floatplane snooped at 2145 north of Masabte. Estimate confirmed by Photo 4 BB (2 seriously 2 slightly damaged) 5 CA (at least 1 damaged) 1 CL and 9 DD sortied from San Bernardino many ships trailing oil.

COM3RDFLT 292356 TO CINCPAC, CINCSWESPAC Info COMINCH;
COM7THFLT; CTF 77, ALL TFC's 3RDFLT:

Part 2 my 292359. Part 1 252353. Afternoon 24th northern force was sighted latitude 18-10 longitude 125-30. Based on estimate center force too heavily damaged to be major threat 38.2, 38.3, 38.4 made fast night run and on morning 25th attacked northern force consisting 4 carriers, 2 BB/ X CV, 1 CA, 4 CL and 6 DD. Definitely sank all 4 carriers 1 CL and 1 DD. Possibly sunk 1 CL last seen sinking condition. Damaged another CL by torpedo, 2 BB/X CV 1 of which hit by 2 to 4 torpedoes and JMOY bombs, 1 CA and 1 CL each hit by several bombs, 2 DD heavily strafed. See CTF 38 280537 for identification. Para. On urgent request from CTF 77 for assistance put strike on center force from TG 38.1 which was approaching battle area and proceeded south with TF 34 sending TG 34.5 in advance at high speed. 38.1 strike reported bomb ANEINVKPTLCLSSON NAGATO, 4 bomb hits on YAMATO, 4 on KONGO, at least 3 CA hit with 1 or more bombs, 3 on the CL and 4 DD 1 hit each. 7th Fleet forces had gallantly turned back enemy center force which reentered San Bernardino straits before TG 34.5 could intercept. TG 34.5 swept FNT BB, CA and DD reported dead in water east of Samar intercepting and sinking 1 ship (estimated cruiser or DD) and recovering survivors from SUZUYA which sank when her own torpedoes detonated as result of fires.

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COM3RDFLT 292359 TO CINCPAC and CINCSOWESPAC Info COMINCH;
COM7THFLT; CTF 77; ALL TFC's 3RDFLT:

Morning 26th TG's 38.3 and 38.4 were fueled TG's 38.1 and 38.2 resumed strikes on retreating enemy center force further damaging ships as follows: Heavys hit reported as NAGATO but estimated probable KUMANO 2 torpedoes many bomb hits observed out of control and believe sunk. COM3RDFLT SENDS PART 3 FINAL HIS 292359. SEE 292353 WHICH IS PART 1. PART 2 IS 292356. 1 KONGO 2 torpedoes. Same or other KONGO hit with rockets. NAGATO 1 torpedo YAMATO 1 bomb hit. CA estimate MYOKO 2 torpedoes also bomb hit seen dead in water with XCO ships alongside, not there later although 2 DD's seen so CA probably sunk. 1 CL torpedoed and bombed possibly sunk. 3 DD's damaged (1 bow blown off). 9000 ton CVS sunk. Para. MUSASHI not seen since 24th and believed sunk. Estimate following ships of center force reached China Sea. 4 BB's all damaged by torpedoes and bombs. 5 CA's (some damaged) and about 10 DD's possibly including 1 CL. CA situation not clear but it appears that TAKAO was torpedoed by Blue submarine north of Balabac Island on 23 October effected emergency repairs and by 2 sightings appeared to rejoin center force via east of Palawan 26th. Also possible that KUMANO or HAGURO effected repairs and escaped to China Sea HALSEY

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NOVEMBER (GCT)

01 1100 CTF 57 to CINCPOA Info CTF 59:

Summary of operations 26 October through 31 October:
Bomb tonnage on enemy bases and shipping: YAP 69, SONINS shipping 27, HAHHA JIMA 16, BABELTHUAP 12, IWO JIMA 4½, PAGAN 2. No interception X AA mostly meagre except intense 1 strike each YAP and BABELTHAUP. Photos taken on shipping strike to CHICHI JIMA 29th show 2 LSM, 1 DE, 6 PC, 12 PT, 5 small coastal cargo, 36 small craft, amny type "A" Landing Craft. No direct hits, damage unobserved. Our casualties: 1 F4U and pilot lost on YAP strike 31st. 6 Planes damaged all causes. Searches: Navy search Liberators sighted 3 medium AK, 1 DD, 1 LSM CHICHI JIMA HARBOR, 1 DE 170 miles NNW CHICHI JIMA, 1 SC and armed escort 15 Miles north IWO JIMA, attacked and damaged 5 barges at KITO IWO JIMA on 26th. Saw 2 DD 180 miles NW CHICHI JIMA, damaged KATE 60 miles NW IWO JIMA, destroyed Radio-Weather Station MUKO JIMA, Sighted 2 small AK 1 coastal vessel with 1 VF cover 15 miles SSW IWO JIMA, 1 large freighter anchored 4 miles off SW coast IWO on 27th. Attacked 5 coastal cargo vessels 10 miles NW KITO IWO JIMA results unobserved and PBM attacked IRVING 540 miles NW PALAU with negative results on 28th. Attacked 4 small coasters and a small AK anchored West Coast KITA IWO JIMA on 30th, sank 1, badly damaged 1, left 1 afire. Sank 3 of 7 coasters and smoked 1 of 5 nonaggressive Zekes off KITA IWO JIMA, sighted 2 LSM 40 miles west IMA JIMA, destroyed Emily 850 miles NW SAIPAN on 31st. Results continued mopping up: GUAM 25th thru 30th our casualties 1 KIA 12 WIA. 193 Japs killed total to date 17168. 23 POW total to date 425. TINIAN 24th thru 30th no enemy contacts. SAIPAN 25th thru 29th our casualties none. 16 Japs killed total to date 26063. 5 POW total to date 2052. PELELIU and ANGAUR 24th thru 29th our casualties 41 KIA 210 WIA 3 MIA. 370 Japs killed total to date 12523. 18 POW total to date 375.

06 0216 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC, CINCSWPA Info COM7THFLT; CTF 77; COMINCH; ALL TGC'S OF TF 38:

Preliminary incomplete report sweeps and strikes LUZON 5 Nov. At 0430 submarine contact made at 15-36 N, 123-19 E. JASADA tactics promptly commenced. Apparently sub had no chance to give alarm and surprise achieved over MANILA by VF sweep. 80 airborne planes met over Clark area 58 shot down. Airborne opposition over MANILA slight all day and over Clark diminished during day. Total shot down 83 over targets and 5 at force. Photos of 1st strike show 143 single 45 twin engine at Clark 84 Single 7 twin MABALACAT. Pilots report 40 planes mostly bomber west LIPA 15 LEGASPI 20 to 30 NIELSON 10 to 20 NICHOLS 15 CONCEPTION 2 LUCENA FNTF on field at LUBANG ISLAND. 4 Dummies GRACE PARK and many

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NOVEMBER (GCT)

06 0216

COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC, CINCSWPA Info COM7THFLT;
CTF 77; COMINCH; ALL TGC'S OF TF 38: - (Cont'd)

dummies BATANGAS. Over 100 destroyed on ground. SGT TJ sighted 1 CA, 1 CL, 2 AP, 3 or 4 DD, 25 to 30 AK MANILA BAY. 1 CA burning furiously in sinking condition from several bomb and torpedo hits. 1 CL, at least 3 DD's and several AK's damaged. 1 Sub Chaser sunk off LUBANG. At Clark fuel dump hangar and ships fired. Installations at BATANGAS, LIPA, LEGASPI and LUBANG damaged. At 1318 TG 38.3 attacked by small group of Bogeys. Few got past CAP through clouds. 2 Diving on LEXINGTON, ack ack got 1 and other crashed on signal bridge causing minor damage. A 3rd suicide missed TICONDEROGA. During night of 5/6 November ineffective air attacks against JASADA group, otherwise all quiet. Night hecklers knocked down 2 Topsy and 1 unidentified in MANILA-CLARK area. Clark not blacked out at any time. No ack ack or interception.

06 0040

CTF 57 to CINCPAC Info CTG 57.14:

Progress ANGUAR and PELELIU, 27 October through 2 November. Enemy continues night attempts infiltrate our lines without success. 5 Air strikes using NAPALM made during period. Patrols and demolition squadrons continue sealing off caves in isolated pockets. Our forces took high ground at TA 134 DE and made slight progress compressing lines from north. On 30th Jap plane dropped parachute. Basket containing grenades recovered. At 1930 1(-9) 1st Float Plane from north shot down by Night Fighter. Cargo chute with signal supplies recovered. Also dropped pamphlets transcribed exactly in enclosure (A). At 0830 1 29th surfaced submarine possibly midget reported east of ABAPPAOMOGAN ISLAND by mine sweep LCVP. ASP during daylight and surface craft patrol maintained SCHONIAN through 31st without further contact. Aircraft destroyed 2 barges by strafing on 26th, damaged 2 on 30th. Also cooperating with MPB's sweeping inner waters south of KOSSOL to 07-36 north destroyed 40 foot cutter and 2 barges on 26th and attacked 40mm or 3 inch shore battery on 1st at NW tip of BABELTHUAP. No mines found this patrol area and charts correct. Unloading hampered by heavy seas and swells 28th through 31st with beaches PELELIU and ANGUAR almost unusable. Daily averages unloading for period covered PELELIU 2134 MT. ANGAUR 858 MT. First Garrison Echelon 99.5% unloaded PELELIU. First completed and 2nd 7% unloaded ANGAUR. Construction PELELIU satisfactory with road system 30% complete and 12 tanks 1000 barrels capacity each south AVGAS farm completed on 28th. Channel to ORANGE BEACH to be

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CTF 57 to CINCPOA Info CTG 57.14: (Cont'd)

completed 3rd and available for use filling tanks. ANGAUR roads 35% complete 28th, 2 warm up platforms and taxiways completed, 69 hardstands rough graded 50 completed. 6 AVGAS tanks tested and filled from ship moored to bouys off Phosphate Plant. Casualties POWS and JAPS killed as in my 5 day summary.

(ENCLOSURE (A))

Poor reckless Yankee-Doodle. Do you know about the naval battle wone by the American 58th Fleet at the sea near TAIWAN (TOMOSA) and PHILIPPINE. Japanese powerful air firce had sank their 19 aeroplene carriers, 4 battleships, 10 several cruisers and destroyers along with sending 1,261 ship aeroplanes into the sea. From this result we think that you can imagine what shall happen next around PALAU upon you. The fraud Rousevelt, hanging the president election under his nose and from his policy ambition, worked not only poor Nimmit but also Maccasir like a robot. Like this, what is pity. Must be sacrifice you pay. Thanks for your advice notes of surrender. But we haven't any reason to surrender to those who are fated to be totally destroyed in a few days later. Add to you, against the manner of your attack paying no heed to humanity, your god shall make Japanese force to add retaliative attack upon you. Saying again, against the attack paying no heed to humanity contrary to the mutual military spirits, you shall get a very stern attack. We mean cruel attack. Japan Military.

06 0810

CTF 57 to CINCPOA Info CTF 59:

Summary of Operations 1 Nov through 5 Nov. Bomb tonnage on shipping and enemy bases: Army B-24's BONINS shipping 60, IWO JIMA 31, CHICHI JIMA 1½, HAH A JIMA 4, MARCUS 10. P-47's PAGAN 16. F4U's BABELTHAUP 22, YAP 6. AA meagre except moderate to intense from shipping, BABELTHAUP and IWO JIMA. Results shipping strike 2nd, 1 AK sunk, another left burning, 2 AK probably damaged. Results other shipping strikes negative or unobserved. Interception: At IWO JIMA by 6-8 unaggressive VF on 4th. 3 Damaged. Our casualties: 1 F4U shot down on BABELTHUAP strike 2nd, PB5A crashed and sank due rough water during Dumbo services, all personnel recovered no injuries. 19 Planes damaged all causes. Searches: Navy PB4Y's destroyed and Emily 750 miles NW SAIPAN, attacked 2 coasters east of KITA IWO JIMA with negative results on 1st. Bombed and strafed coaster same position with negative results and damaged 1 of 4 non-aggressive Zekes on 2nd. Attacked

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CTF 57 to CINCPOA Info CTF 59:

by 4 uneager Zekes 40 miles south IWO JIMA on 5th, 1 Zeke possibly damaged. On morning of 3 Nov P47's on PAGAN strike shot down Frances approaching runway. Photos that date show runway inoperational. Results continued mopping up: SAIPAN 31st through 3rd own casualties 7 KIA 3 WIA including 6 killed during air raid on 2nd. 145 Japs killed total 26,208 to date. 1 POW total 2,052 to date. Includes 95 killed 1st and 2nd in well organized position at TA 249. All known organized enemy groups now destroyed. Estimate 300 Jap military still at large. TINIAN 31st through 2nd no casualties. 3 Japs killed total 6,870 to date. GUAM 31st through 4th no casualties. After completing sweep of northern half of island 3rd MARDIV released by ISCOM GUAM Nov 1 to COMGENFMFPAC for training and rehabilitation. 60 Japs killed total 17,174 to date. 36 POW's total 457 to date. PELELIU and ANGAUR own casualties 16 KIA, 59 WIA. 176 Japs killed total 12,679 to date. 21 POW's total 390 to date.

13 2107

CINCPOA to COM3RDFLT Info COMAIRPAC, CTF 38, COMINCH:

Ur 110251 and 110258 carriers and other ships as well must be kept in state of material readiness not only for current operations but to carry on throughout the war. It is essential that there be periods for material upkeep by ships force and by tenders and that Navy Yard work be not unduly deferred. The capabilities of Yards are limited and it is necessary not only to regulate the work load there but to avoid a situation where too many ships will be withdrawn from the operating forces at a time. Para. Return BUNKER HILL accord mydis 080529 and ENTERPRISE to PEARL on completion LEXINGTON repairs. Do not anticipate FRANKLIN and BELLEAU WOOD will be returned to service in forward areas before February or that any new carriers will join before them. Para. 1 replacement CVG expected arrive ENIWETOK 7 Dec and additional 1 MANUS 20 Dec ENTERPRISE and BATAAN will probably rejoin TF 38 by late Dec and with INDEPENDENCE will then form night group in accordance previous plans.

14 1037

CINCPOA to CINCSWPAC Info COM7THFLT, COMSERVFOR 7TH FLEET:

In order expedite exchange information and to facilitate implementation agreements pertaining to logistic support of Pac Fleet units request your assent for ComServPac to communicate directly with Com 7th Fleet and ComServFor 7th Fleet on logistic matters.

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15 0703 COMGENPOA (RICHARDSON) to CINCPAC

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R-39588-13th With reference to War Department Radio 232350 GCT August copy of which has been furnished you it is proposed to recommend to the War Department that the Category of Defense for the HAWAIIAN Area as defined therein be modified by deleting specification (3) and substituting the following therefor "(3) Ground defense forces of islands in the main HAWAIIAN Group to be not less than 1 division or the equivalent in combat units". Request your concurrence. This change will permit maximum employment of available infantry divisions in future operations.

16 0042 CINCPAC to COMGENPOA

Until such time as the critical shortage in service and supporting troops in POA is alleviated it may be advisable not to bring additional divisions to this Area and thereby tax further the already overloaded service troops and facilities now available. Therefore it appears advisable to consider holding the 97th and 86th Infantry Divisions on Mainland until called. For planning purposes it is anticipated that these divisions would not be called prior to March 1945. A Staff conference will be held on this subject and questions raised in your serial 00043 of 12 November in light of Filbas agreement of 4 November as soon as Major General Leavey returns from SoPac.

16 0546/45 CINCPAC to ALPOA Info COMINCH, CINCLANT, CINCSWPA

Following changes effective 20 November 1944. Task force numbers 57 and 59 assigned use by 5th Fleet. Tactical organization numbers of 9th Fleet as follows. TF 90, 91, 92 assigned ComNorPac. TF 94 ComFwdAreaCentPac. TF 95 ComAirFwd. TF 96 ComMarGilsArea. TF 97 ComHawSeaFron. TF 98 Hawaiian Defense Sector. Others reserved for CinCPac.

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13 1955 COMINCH to COM7THFLT Info CINCSWPA, CINCPAO, COMWESSEAFRON, CINCLANT, CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY, COMDT US COAST GUARD.

Philippine Sea Frontier hereby established under Commander 7th Fleet in Area north of Equator within limits Southwest Pacific Area. Sea Frontier Forces as assigned by Commander 7th Fleet. By separate non classified correspondence other interested agencies advised of establishment of Philippine Sea Frontier Command.

15 0524 CINCPAC to COMINCH Info COMAIRPAC:

Cumulative effect of increased distances higher aircraft attrition recent battle damage to CVE's and necessity for moving Army Fighter Aircraft for future operations will create critical shortage of CVE lift during 1st quarter of 1945. Urge early action on my serial 003596 of 4 Nov regarding additional Transport CVE's for Pacific Fleet.

15 0438 CINCPAO to COMGENPOA Info CG AGF ULITHI, CG USAFFE:

Request you cancel your 120940Z (RJ-39259-12th) Secret. Accordance paragraph seven of agreement reached at HOLLANDIA conference on Logistic Support POA specified exemption of Army units or individuals will be only by mutual consent of CINCPAO and CINCSWPA. Request in ComGenPOA desp 100044Z to communicate direct with CINCSWPA Disapproved for the present.

17 0140 CTF 57 to CINCPAO Info CTF 59:

Summary of Operations 11 Nov thru 15 Nov:
Bomb tonnage on shipping and enemy bases: By Army B-24's, 122 tons on IWO JIMA, 24 on WOLEAI, 17 on BONINS shipping with 2 probable hits on medium AK HAHHA JIMA on 14th, other results negative. B-24's and MAG 11 squadrons put 53 tons on PALAU. Marine Fighters and TBF's dropped 34 on YAP. F4U's dropped 4 tons on ROTA. P-47's attacked PAGAN with 44 rockets. A Marine B-25 attacked shipping HAHHA JIMA with 7 rockets probably sinking sub, and 2 possible hits on medium AK on 14 Nov. AA mostly meagre occasionally moderate to intense at PALAU and IWO JIMA. Results mining operations BONINS: 16 Mark 26-1 dropped by 5 B-24's on 12th in OKIMURA KO HAHHA JIMA. 4 Additional within 300 yards in deeper water. 6 Mark 25 dropped by 6 B-24's in TAKINOURA WAN ANI JIMA on 15th. 2 additional 300 yards off west coast MUKO JIMA SW HAHHA JIMA (1 with broken static cord) and 2 jettisoned 10 miles north OTOTO JIMA in about 70 fathoms. Interception: At IWO JIMA by 6 VF, 1 damaged on 11th. By 1 T/E, 2 VF on 12th. Our casualties: 1 F4U lost on YAP strike due engine trouble on 12th pilot missing. 1 PB4Y water landed 30

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17 0140 CTF 57 to CINCPOA Info CTF 59: (cont'd)

miles west of SAIPAN on 12th, 7 survivors picked up on 13th, continuing search through 14th negative. 1 F4U and pilot lost on ROTA strike 13th. 21 Planes damaged all causes. Searches: Navy PB4Y's saw 3 7000 ton 2 4000 ton AK at CHICHI JIMA on 12th. Attacked DD 10 miles east HAHA JIMA by radar, 2 near misses observed. Attacked medium AK and DD by radar 15 miles northwest HAHA JIMA results unobserved on 14th. Results continued mopping up: GUAM 10th thru 14th our casualties 1 WIA. 45 Japs killed total to date 17238. 3 POW total to date 463. TINIAN 9th thru 13th our casualties 2 WIA. 11 Japs killed total to date 6893. 1 POW total to date 316. SAIPAN 8th thru 13th our casualties 2 WIA. 13 Japs killed total to date 26277. 6 POW total to date 2068. PELELIU and ANGAUR 9th thru 13th our casualties 14 KIA 54 WIA. Japs killed 99 total to date 12980. 3 POW total to date 420.

21 0920 COMFWDAREA to CINCPOA info CTG 94.14.

Progress ANGAUR and PELELIU 15 thru 19 November. Unloading PELELIU averaged 2086 MT daily with 2nd echelon 29% and 3rd 46% unloaded. ANGAUR averaged 1274 MT daily with 2nd echelon 59% and 3rd 19% unloaded. Delayed at PELELIU by slow progress boat channel and angaur by interference of work on boat channel and harbor, and by delay in repairs to small craft damaged by storm. Late report states 3 LCT seriously damaged other small craft minor damage in boat basin by waves breaking over reef barrier during typhoon. Construction PELELIU reported satisfactory, NE end of bomber strip 98% complete. Angaur satisfactory except for boat channel and harbor project. 82 hardstands completed. 1000 foot runway extension cleared. 300 feet NE end to be completed 5 December and 700 feet SW end 10 December. Japs continued night efforts to infiltrate our lines to escape pocket. Patrols with LVT flame throwers and tanks operated in main cave area. Several more sealed off or blown up. NGEREGONG reoccupied on 15th with no resistance encountered. Night 17-18 Japs using 20 man rafts and individual flotation bags attacked LCI's in SCHONIAN harbor. All killed except one pow who said party which left KOROR for islands vicinity of EIL MALK totaled 200. Ulithi arrangements to handle Garrison and Utility planes and up to 150 pool planes believed satisfactory. Boat pool organization satisfactory and will have 75% of boats in commission before end of month.

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November (GCT)

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21 0910 COMFORWARDAREA to CINCPOA Info CTG 95

Summary of operations 16 through 20 Nov inclusive:
Bomb Tonnage on shipping and enemy bases: By Army B 24s, 77 tons on BONINS with direct hit on coaster at CHICHI 16th, direct hits on 3 AKs HAHHA JIMA 18th with 1 reported sunk, and possible direct hit on DD at CHICHI JIMA 19th. 38 tons on LEGASPI. 1 1/4 tons on IWO JIMA. By B 25s and MAG 11 Squadrons, 35 tons on PALAU. By VMF, VMTB and Navy search ventures, 21 tons on YAP. By VMF and VMTB, 5 tons on ROTA. Marine B 25s with rockets got 3 hits on 2 AKs 20 miles east of CHICHI JIMA 17th and fired 6 rockets on 3 ships at CHICHI JIMA 20th undetermined results. Para. Results mining operations BONINS: 4 MK 26 dropped by 4 B 24s in Bay south of airfield CHICHI JIMA on 18th, 12 others within 600 yards to west of area. 8 MK 25 dropped by 5 B 24s in FUTAMI KO on 17th, 2 others 2 1/2 miles from SW corner of CHICHI JIMA. Para. Interception: At IWO JIMA, all non-aggressive, by 4 VF against photo mission on 18th discouraged by P-38 escort. By 4 VF same day using phosphorous bombs against 2 search Liberators. By 3 VF against photo mission 19th. By 1 reported Oscar using phosphorous bomb against lone search Liberators 20th. Para. Our casualties: 1 B 25 water landed 90 miles NW SAIPAN 16th, 4 survivors same day. 1 F4U lost at YAP 18th, pilot rescued by Dumbo. 18 planes damaged all causes. Para. Searches: Navy Liberators strafed and bombed 2 barges at KITA IO JIMA 19th negative results. Para. Enemy submarines active in Western CAROLINES. On 19th sub seen 3 times near West entrance KOSSOL PASSAGE after which sound contact made by 2 DEs with attack resulting in explosions, oil slick and debris. Early morning 20th DD Case rammed and sunk midget sub which surfaced as CruDiv 5 sortied from ULITHI. 2 POW captured said 2 other midgets in anchorage. About same timeao Mississinewa was torpedoed and sunk in anchorage. No report yet on casualties. 2 other midgets possible sunk inside anchorage. Hunter killer initiated same afternoon on contact 24 miles East FALALOP. Para. Other enemy activity: Emily sighted by Blue convoy 180 miles NNW TRUK dawn 20th. Followed by 2 fighter bomber attacks during day on East bound convoy. Damage if any not reported. Am hitting TRUK opportunity with maximum available P-38s. Para. Results continued mopping up: Nov 14-19 TINIAN 10 Japs killed total 6903 to date. GUAM 45 Japs killed total 17,283 to date. 7 POWs total 470 to date. 7 POWs total 470 to date no casualties own forces. SAIPAN 14-18 Nov 249 Japs killed total 26,526 to date. 47 POW total 2115 to date. Own casualties 9 KIA 41 WIA includes results intensive sweep my 172353. No known enemy concentrations remain on island. PELELIU and

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November (GCT) (Continued)

ANGUAR 15-19 Nov 136 Japs killed total 13,116 to
date 3 POW total 423 to date. Own casualties 12 KIA
54 WIA.

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25 1615 CINCPAC to CINC EAST FLEET Info CINCPAC ADMIN, COMINCH.

~~MOST SECRET~~. NIMITZ TO FRASER. I will be delighted to have you as my guest at Pearl Harbor in Mid December or whenever you are able to come. Concerning operations in the existing strategic situation I concur strongly in your idea that destructive operations of your forces against SUMATRA objectives this winter is more important than your early arrival in Pacific. Am now in conference with CominCh who fully supports above views and wishes to mention prospective operations to MALAY PENINSULA as probably requiring carrier and gun fire support.

26 0700 COM3RDFLT to NIMITZ, CINCPAC; KING, MCMORRIS CINCPAC ADMIN.

~~TOP SECRET~~. FOR NIMITZ INFO KING, MCMORRIS. Your 250015 acknowledged. Apparently some Com3rdFlt traffic was missed as supporting force at sea was reduced to 2 groups on 23 November. Para. With existing Target dates any ship participating both in U Plus 1 PHILIPPINE strike and S Minus 5 FORMOSA strike can have a maximum 3 days at anchor ULITHI. That is physically all that is possible. If 3 groups support L3 those 3 groups can be given 3 days at anchor before departing for INDUCTION and the 4th group can have a long uninterrupted overhaul weather permitting. Para. During November Groups will have had total (But not consecutive) time at anchor as follows 38.1, 7 days; 38.2, 8 days; 38.3, 6 days; 38.4, 11 days. Para. If task force 38 can be absolved of any support commitments for sufficient time to permit 10 uninterrupted days at anchor the operational prospects for INDUCTION, DETACHMENT and ICEBERG will be vastly improved. To do this will require at least 15 days without commitment and 1 of the 4 Groups will have to go elsewhere than ULITHI preferably MANUS. Para. I Fully share your concern in this matter of upkeep. I do not consider Task Force 38 has had adequate upkeep and further it will be physically impossible to meet your maintenance requirements and carry out my assigned combat tasks with existing target dates. Battle damage sustained 25 Nov has made this matter ever more critical. Your 241745 was also considered in preparing this despatch. Halsey.

27 1312 GEN HDQTRS SWPA (MACARTHUR) to COM3RDFLT Info COM7THFLT, CINCPAC

CX-54038. Following Plan for 3rd Fleet participation in L3 Operations arranged, subject to your approval, during conference with your representatives. 3rd Fleet neutralize hostile VMUGT Air Forces LUZON U minus 1 to U plus 1; Be prepared to strike LUZON targets in emergency during period U plus 3 to U plus 4; on above

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27 1312 GEN HDQTRS SWPA (MACARTHUR) to COM3RDFLT Info COM7THFLT, CINCPAC: (Cont'd)

dates be prepared to strike hostile Naval Forces in VISAYAN waters and westward thereof in range which may threaten our overwater movements. Southwest Pacific Air Forces neutralize hostile air forces in VISAYAS, MINDANAO, and SULU ARCHIPELAGO and VEQOT cover overwater movement and support landing. 7th Air Force, main coordination with Southwest Pacific Air Forces, neutralize air forces in the UVRKLL. First dividing line between responsibility 3rd Fleet and Southwest Pacific Air Forces, including 7th Air Force, will be: 14-30 North, 125-00 East; 14-30 North, 121-50 East; 13-35 North, 121-50 East; Thence Due West. 3rd Fleet and the Allied Air Forces will exchange information when either force strikes in the area OCBTHEX other. Notification should be given far in advance as practicable indicating the target to be attacked MA approximate scale of effort, in the time of attack. The 3rd Fleet May at discretion put fighter sweeps into the BIGOL UPON notification. Request your immediate concurrence or comments. Similar data for support of M1 follows in separate radiogram.

28 1100 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38 Info COMINCH, CINCPAC AND 3RD FLEET.

Following temporary Task Organization effective 1 December and until further notice. Para. Task Group 38.1 RAdm Montgomery in YORKTOWN, WASP, COWPENS, LANGLEY, BatDiv 8 less INDIANA, SAN FRANCISCO, BALTIMORE, SAN DIEGO, OAKLAND, DesRon 53, HOBBY, WELLS, BUCHANAN, FRANKS, THATCHER, DYSON, SPENCE. Para. Task Group 38.2 RAdm BOGAN in LEXINGTON, HANCOCK, TICONDEROGA, INDEPENDENCE, BatDiv 7, VINCENNES, MIAMI, PASADENA, DesRon 52, CAPPS, DAVID W. TAYLOR, EVANS, JOHN D HENLEY, BOYD, BROWN, POWELL. Para. Task Group 38.3 RAdm Sherman in ESSEX, HORNET, SAN JACINTO, MONTEREY, BatDiv 6, SANTA FE, BILOXI, ASTORIA, DesRon 50, DesRon 55 less IRWIN and MOSSIRON. Para. Following ships granted availability as necessary until 10 December CABOT, NEW ORLEANS, DesRon 61, MCCORD, TRATHEN, HAZELWOOD, HAGGARD now at ULITHI. MOBILE and HADLEY returning ULITHI about 3 December. BOSTON at MANUS as previously directed. Para. CTF 38 shifts units present ULITHI to conform this organization prior departure and complete reorganization upon rendezvous with Task Group 38.3 on 2 December. Task Group 38.4 temporary dissolved.

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28 2036 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH, COMAIRPAC, CTF 38.

The subject of your 280413 has been discussed with with CominCh and it is expected that carrier complements will soon be changed to 73 Fighters, 15 Scout Bombers and 15 Torpedoe Planes. However no change has yet been authorized and further increases in fighter strength must be made slowly as additional sources of pilots become effective. No radical change in numbers of aircraft and pilots actually carried will be made without reference to the type commander who is responsible for the flow of replacements and maintenance of strength for later operations. Since its directive is impracticable of accomplishment without critical disruption of type commanders planned flow of pilots please cancel your 280413. Para. The shortage of trained carrier pilots makes it necessary that as a matter of policy they be not used for combat operations from shore bases and those who are forced to land on shore in advanced areas should be recovered promptly.

28 2315 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info COMAIRPAC, COMINCH, CTF 38

Your 282036 urgently request you reconsider. Time is short and things are already moving. This is just as much a matter of arming properly for a task as is the use of HC instead of AP for shore bombardment. The suicide attack is a grave menace to our carriers and to your future operations if not countered. More fighters are needed to counter it and they cannot be found except by reducing number over target or adding to complement. Effectiveness over target and security of force makes immediate increase mandatory. Please advise by urgent despatch.

29 0316 CINCPAC to COM 3RD FLT Info COMINCH, COMAIRPAC, CTF 38

Your 282315. You are authorized to embark the approximately 100 fighter pilots now in the forward area and in the replacement escort carriers and such fighter aircraft as will not exceed the ratio of 4 fighters for 5 pilots. However there will be only approximately 40 additional fighter pilots available to you prior to M1 and it will not be possible to maintain the expanded fighter strength which you reach for L3. The conversion of bomber pilots to fighter pilots will take place in the Hawaiian area rather than the forward area. My 282036 modified accordingly.

22 0615 CTF 38 to CTG'S 38.1, 38.2, 38.3, 38.4 Info COM3RDFLT, CINCPAC, COMAIRPAC

Subject: Replenishment of complements of airgroups and squadrons policy concerning. 1. Each task group commander

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shall exercise full responsibility and initiative when dealing with sources in the forward area to replenish the complements of his airgroups and squadrons. The following instructions will elaborate on this function: A. Ship aircraft complements are controlled by directives from CNO ComAirPac or by special instructions from the fleet or force commander. B. Squadron pilot and air crew complements are controlled by the same directives as modified by necessity as follows: 1. Standard pilot and aircrew complement desired is 150% of standard plane complement. 2. This complement will be allowed to fall to 125% before active replacement measures need be taken. Priority of assignment of replacements should go to squadrons below this minimum figure. 3. Replacement pilots and their aircrews will soon be supplied as "combat replacement teams". These teams shall not be broken up to fill complements to exact figures. Replacement shall be made by whole team and by whole air crews pilot and his aircrewmembers and small variations over or under the exact complement is allowed to accommodate this method of replacement. 4. Leveling off complements by exchanging pilots between groups and squadrons is undesirable and shall not be done except in cases of grave inequality and then only when the military situation and the condition of the depleted squadron demands such measures. The squadron complement must be considered in assigning tasks so that pilots in depleted squadrons will not be exhausted carrying an unadjusted load. 2. Task Groups Commanders may deal directly with replacement sources afloat or ashore in the forward area to replenish the air groups. This function entails the preparation of a list of requirements. Finding out from the sources just what is available and handling the physical details of getting the replacements on board. Com TF 38 desires a copy of the task group requirements in advance of any replenishment period at which he will be present in order to prorate the supply should the demands of 2 or more task groups exceed the supply. In the absence of Com TF 38 the senior task group commander is authorized to perform the function. 3. This command needs up to date information on the combat status of the airgroups and directs that the task group commander forward by message drop after each replenishment period a status report showing by ships the pilot composition of each squadron listing separately the VF(N) and the VF(P). Also it is desired that this report show the numbers of planes by types on board indicating those fitted with special equipment such as APS-6, AIA, APS-3, APS-4, rocket, photographic, target towing, package guns and the like.

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22 0121 CTF 95 to CINCPOA Info COMGENAAFPOA, CTF 94

Your 192321. ComFwdArea 250233 October stated that "The principal worthwhile ground targets for your planes at present are shipping". My 280020 October outlined my most efficient plan to comply with this directive which was a daily shipping strike in the NANPO SHOTO by heavy bombers and stated that this was not considered profitable and efficient employment of heavy bombardment aviation but is the maximum effort that can be made against shipping under his directive. Dunkers Derby was changed to a blind bombing area effective 10 November and promising results were achieved with VMB 612 and B-24 snoopers blind bombing at night. Further experience, elimination of material bugs, and development of tactics would undoubtedly greatly increase efficiency of these attacks. Blind bombing restrictions were again placed in effect in this area on 16 November. However VMB 612 has and is being utilized at night against enemy shipping in harbors. B-24 snoopers are at present employed in mining operations. Daily shipping strikes have been conducted except when higher priority directives have taken precedence such as a maximum effort on 10, 11 and 12 November against IWO JIMA as directed by Com3rdFleet to support the surface force bombardment on nite 11-12 November, furnishing escort for photographic missions and mining operations. Shipping attacked has been in well protected harbors which make low level daylight attacks prohibitively dangerous with slow unmaneuverable liberators. The measures I consider practicable to improve the efficiency of our operations against shipping are (1) Remove blind bombing restrictions in dunkers derby under previously arranged conditions (2) Conduct nightly shipping search and attack by PBJ's and snoopers B-24's (3) Continue experiment and Development of nite tactics of PBJ's and B-24 snoopers (4) Bomb shipping by daylight from high level only when targets are particularly valuable or of large size.

26 1935 COMINCH and CNO to COM7THFLT, Info CINCPOA, CINCSWPA, COMSOPAC

Because of the necessity for establishing in the PHILIPPINES at the earliest practicable date the maximum proportion of the facilities needed to meet the pressing Fleet requirements of the current war it is desired that with the concurrence of CINCSWPA you constitute a board to survey and recommend the extent to which the LEYTE area can be developed as as Naval Base to meet the overall requirements set forth in your 181047. CinCP OA will furnish consulting

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26 1935 COMINCH and CNO to COM7THFLT, Info CINCPAC, CINCSWPA, COMSOPAC (Continued)

representative. Para. It is contemplated that installations and facilities comparable to MANUS will be provided for LEYTE area using for this purpose to the greatest practicable extent those which can be moved forward from ESPIRITU SANTO. Para. Survey should indicate maximum development practicable without regard to potential availability of MANILA. OLONGAPO. SUBIC area which I contemplate will be needed only to meet local Naval requirements.

01 1246 CTF 77 to ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 7TH FLEET, COM 7TH FLEET Info CINCSWPA, CINCPAC, COM 3RD FLEET, COMAAF, COMAF 5, COMGEN 6TH ARMY, COMDESRONS 21 60 5 22 54 51 6 23, COMINCH

This is my TSS OpPlan 18-44. Task Organization. A - ORMOC Attack Group RAdm Struble Forces Assigned MINDORO Attack Group TG 78.3 plus 12 additional LSM when available. Para 1 General Situation and Enemy Forces as in current intelligence summaries to be obtained from CTF 77 and ComGen 6th Army. Own forces and 6th Army will conduct amphibious operations to seize a beachhead in ORMOC BAY in enemy held territory. BUANO The 77th Division less 1 RCT to destroy Japanese forces opposing our advance on LEYTE. PT operations in LEYTE area as continued in daily PT intent dispatches. TAS-MANIA operations as directed from time to time by CTF 77. Allied Air Forces will furnish fighter cover and direct support within limits of capabilities. Special Black Cat night search of approaches to objective area. Night fighter cover at dusk and dawn weather permitting. Para 2 and 3 A This force will by amphibious operations transport protect and land elements of 6th Army in order to assist in occupation ORMOC BAY AROQRQTYDWFA CTG 78.3 arrange with CAAF for air protection to convoys and direct air support of the landing. Sweep for mines as necessary. Provide amphibious vessels for resupply. Protect advanced echelons. Xray Commanders ordering movements disseminate information to all concerned to prevent accidental engagement own forces. This OpPlan effective on receipt. CTG 78.3 report CG 6th Army coordination planning. Target date for D day 7 Dec. Para 4 Logistics at LEYTE. Para 5 Communication. Command relative to relations. Time in accordance Annex A my Op Plan 15-44. CANF Com7thFlt and Commander Central Phib Attack force in WASATFXO Pass to all holders CANF OpPlan.

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02 0254 COMAIRPAC to CINCPAC

Following overall plan proposed to implement employment Marine VMF squadrons on CVs. (A) Train and qualify VMFs-124, 213, 216, 217 at PEARL. (B) On West Coast train and qualify VMFs-123, 214, 221, 451, 452 plus 1 additional VMF nominated by ComMarCarAirGroups. (C) Complement each squadron to be 18 F4U-1D and 150 percent pilots. (D) Assign to each squadron personnel for aircraft maintenance while embarked. (E) Embark 2 Marine fitrons in each of 5 CVs with air group complement of 36 VMF; 31 VF; 4 VF(N); 2 VF(P); 15 VSB; 15 VTB. For planning Marine VMF embark VMF 124-213 to ESSEX; VMF 216-217 to WASP; VMF 123-214 to BENNINGTON; VMF 221-451 to BUNKER HILL; VMF 452-(nomination) to FRANKLIN. ComGenAirFMFPac concurs. Request approval.

02 1258 COMINCH and CNO to CINCSWPA Info CINCPAC; COM7THFLT, MARCORPS; CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY:

Recent carrier aircraft losses and the urgent requirement for carrier fighter aircraft complements to be increased has necessitated assigning Marine Fighter Squadrons to these ships. Marine Fighter Squadrons of MAW 1 temporarily assigned Com7thFlt by my 311330 May are needed for this purpose. Please recommend dates their transfer can be effected.

05 1411 ARNOLD, COMGENAAFP OA to RICHARDSON for HARMON, CINCP OA, Info COMGENBOMCOM 21, CINCSWPA, KENNY, COMGEN11TH AIR FORCE.

WARX 72670. Rerad Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas, 10026 dated 4 December 1944. Plans present call for assignment of 655 Bombardment Squadron Heavy (Long Range Weather Reconnaissance) B-24L weather modified for defensive combat only to 20 Air Force with 1 flight under operational control of each of following: Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas, Far East Air Force and 11 Air Force under this plan "A" flight consisting of Ground Echelon 2 officers 49 enlisted men, Air Echelon 1 officer and 21 enlisted men, Flight Echelon 16 officers and 24 enlisted men and 4 aircraft and minimum maintenance equipment will be ready to move to MARIANAS as follows: Ground Echelon enroute port, Air Echelon 1 January 45, Flight Echelon 1 January 45. "B" Flight consisting of approximately same should be ready for movement to Far East Air Force 1 March 45 and "C" Flight consisting of approximately same should be ready for movement to 11 Air Force 1 March 45. Consideration by this headquarters indicated there may be necessity for change 2296

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DECEMBER (GCT)

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05 1411 ARNOLD, COMGENAAFPPOA to RICHARDSON for HARMON, CINCPAA,
Info COMGENBOMCOM 21, CINCSWPA, KENNY, COMGEN11TH AIR
FORCE. (Continued)

in this plan for following reasons: Para A careful study of West Pacific Weather conditions indicates a minimum requirement for 2 flights to be flown daily from bases as designated by letter from Deputy Commander 20 Air Force 6 September 44 to headquarters 20 Air Force regarding aircraft for weather reconnaissance in order to assure minimum weather coverage necessary for tactical operations now being conducted Para B it is assumed that additional special weather flights will be necessary under varying meteorological conditions and tactical requirements para C 1 flight of above strength can provide only 1 Long Range weather mission (1 Aircraft) perday except that breakdown of equipment or sickness of personnel will make daily mission impossible. Para D maximum radius of 120 statute miles (deducting 150 miles for every APOB to MAX ceiling 25000). Therefore since 1 flight can not meet requirements the following plan is proposed: Para A Entire 655 Bombardment Squadron Heavy (12 aircraft unit equipment) be placed under operational control of COMGENAAFPPOA and based in MARIANAS for purpose of meeting requirements stated above. Para B Additional weather reconnaissance units to be provided for Southwest Pacific Areas and ALEUTIANS for supporting 20 Air Force operations. Para C Weather reconnaissance squadron to be assigned to 311 reconnaissance Wing under Headquarters Army Air Forces for administration and housekeeping. If you concur in proposed plan effort will be made to prepare "B" and "C" flights 655 Bombardment Squadron Heavy for movement to MARIANAS 1 March 45. This headquarters will propose appropriate action to provide necessary weather reconnaissance units for Southwest Pacific Area and ALEUTIANS. Request Comment.

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DECEMBER (GCT)

07 1038 CTF 77 to CINCSWPA Info COM 7TH FLT; COMINCH; COM
3RD FLT; CINCPAC

Summary 7 December. Landing operations ORMOC BAY carried out according plan with minor opposition encountered ashore. 4 LSM's and 1 LCI unable retract. Will attempt refloat at high water and retire to BAY BAY. Attack force departed objective area about 1130 I(-9) for return LEYTE GULF. Preliminary report damages sustained during numerous air attacks thru out the day. WARD APD 16 seriously hit during dive bombing attack at 0950 I(-9) and abandoned. MAHAN DD 364 also badly damaged by air attack. Both WARD and MAHAN ordered sunk by gunfire after removal personnel. LIDDLE (APD 60) was suicide crash dive on bridge structure. Estimate 8 officers and unknown number men killed or wounded. LIDDLE reported able proceed under own power with emergency steering aft. Tug standing by. Fires reported on WALKER (DD 723) and OBRIEN (DD 725). Extent damages unknown. Suicide dive and bombing attack at 1630 I(-9) caused minor damage with hit forward on LST 737. Fire on LAMSON DD 367 due to hit on bridge from same attack apparently under control. LAMSON under tow for return LEYTE. HOPE AH 7 reported under air attack about 1900 on 6 December position Lat 10-47 north Long 125-30 east while departing LEYTE. Ship was illuminated and observing full hospital ship procedure. 2 bombs missed starboard quarter. No reported damage to ship.

~~SECRET~~

DECEMBER (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

09 0556

MACARTHUR to COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES (CTF 77 WASATCH)
COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES (ADV ECH) Info CINCPAC, COM
3RDFLT, COMGEN 6TH ARMY, COMGEN 8TH ARMY, COM7THFLT,
CTG 78.3, CTG 77.12, CTU 77.12.7, COMAF 5, CTF 93.

CX-54574 Follows missions and coordination of 3rd Fleet carrier based and SWPA Air for L3 Operation. 3rd Fleet neutralizes hostile air and shipping in the LUZON area U minus 1 through U plus 1 Day; is prepared to strike hostile airfields and shipping in LUZON on U plus 4 through U plus 6 Day to cover movement of U plus 6 WABERVW echelon; on above days destroys hostile shipping on the west coast of LUZON south of LINGAYEN (Inclusive) to assist in preventing hostile surface reaction against objective area; is prepared to strike hostile naval forces in VISAYAN waters and westward thereof within range which threaten our overwater movements. Para. Allied Air Forces with 494 Bombardment Group (7th Air Force) under operational control will neutralize hostile air forces and shipping in the BICOLS-VISAYAS, MINDANAO, SULU ARCHIPELAGO and northeastern BORNEO; Provide cover for overwater movements as requested by Commander Allied Naval Forces: Relieve Allied Naval Forces of an provide day cover over objective area and for convoys, and protection against hostile surface and underwater forces beginning on U Day after the departure of escort carrier: Initiate neutralization hostile air and shipping in the LUZON area with range of MINDORO at earliest practicable date. Para. Allied Naval Forces (escort carriers) augmented as arranged with Commander Allied Air Forces will provide cover for the amphibious movement and protection against hostile air, surface and underwater forces to include U Day until relieved by Allied Air Forces of this responsibility; will cover and support landing on U Day until relieved by Allied Air Forces. Para. Dividing line between 3rd Fleet and Southwest Pacific Air Forces (including 7th Air Force) will be: 14-30 North, 125-00 East; 14-30 North, 121-50 East; 13-35 North, 121-50 East; Thence due west. 3rd Fleet and the Allied Air Forces will exchange information when either force strikes in the area of the other. Notification should be given as far in advance as practicable indicating the target to be attacked, approximate scale of effort, the time of attack. In emergency notification only is required. The 3rd Fleet may at discretion put fighter sweeps into the BICOL Area of LUZON without notification.

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DECEMBER (GCT)

13 0420 CTF 77 to COMCRUDIV 4 Info ALL TF & TG COMDRS 7TH FLEET;
CINCPAC; COM3RDFLT: COM ARMYAIRFORCE: COM5THAIRFORCE;
COM 308 BOMWING: COM5TH FIGHTER COMMAND; CINCSWPA.

Form Task Group 77.14. Rear Adm Chandler in LOUISVILLE
MINNEAPOLIS COMDESRON 23 in CHARLES AUSBURNE, CONVERSE,
FOOTE, STERETT, WILSON. Information accordance current
intelligence summaries. Task. Protect LEYTE GULF and
close approaches thereto from enemy surface raiding
forces. Remain at anchor SAN PEDRO on 1/2 hours
notice or underway in LEYTE GULF as circumstances
dictate. Be prepared to sortie on short notice.

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DECEMBER (GCT)

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16 0003 CINCPOA to COMGENPOA:

Your RJ-42999 (130900). In view of the terms of the Filbas Agreement concurred in by your 100044Z I prefer not to ask for the release of individual junior officers without including the reason for requesting the particular individual. Otherwise we may give CINCSWPA the impression that the agreement is not to be meticulously observed as a matter of routine procedure.

26 0612 CTF 93 to CTG 93.2 Info COMGEN ARMY AIRFOR POA, CTG 93.3, COVD-5 GUAM, CTU 93.1.1;94.4.1; 94.4.2; CO 318 FIGHTER GROUP, CTF 94, CG BOMBCOM 21.

My orders 2-44 and 4-44 modified during period 29 December to 10 January inclusive as follows:
CTG 93.2 with 2 squadrons heavy bombers strike IWO JIMA daily between 1530 and 1730 K(-10). With 1 Heavy Bomber harass IWO JIMA every three quarters of an hour from dark until 0200 K. Use frage at night.

26 2050 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38 Info CTG 38.1, 38.2, COMAIRPAC, COMAIRPAC (ADMIN).

CTF 38 250550. While appreciating requirements for all possible VF strenght in next operation and desirability of CTF 38 proposal the current and prospective availability of VF types indicates that further increases in fighter complements at this time may seriously jeopardize support of carriers in future important operations. In view of the above proposed increases in WASP and ESSEX are not approved. Com3rdFlt 220419 not received by ComAirPac or CinCPac.

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DECEMBER (GCT)

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26 0036 CTF 38 for COMAIRPAC to CINCPAC Info CTF 38, COM3RDFLT, COMAIRPAC (ADMIN).

Due to non availability INTREPID, FRANKLIN and routine overhaul BUNKER HILL for Musketeer Operations have authorized temporary complement 91 Fighters, 15 Avengers in ESSEX and WASP. This authorization cancelled upon completion current operation.

27 2055 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC Info COM7THFLT, CINCSWPA, COMSOPAC.

Report of Board on LEYTE Base and CinCSWPA endorsement received. In general approval appears indicated subject to some reductions. The required base components additional to those from ESPIRITU are available in U.S. except for construction and Medical. 18 CB Battalions 2 and 1/2 CB Specials and personnel for 6500 hospital beds must come from your resources. With reference to roll-up ESPIRITU consider that repair situation including that for merchant ships may require retention ESPIRITU Ship Repair Facilities until new facilities that can be provided from U.S. at LEYTE are operative and therefore action on para 3A URSER 004488 of 20 December should be withheld pending decision. Comment.

28 2358 CINCPAC to ALPAC Info COMINCH, COM7THFLEET, COMNESSEATRON

Effective 1 January 1945 (1) Escort Carrier Force Pacific organized as follows: Cardiv 22 SANGAMON 26 Flag SUWANEE 27 Relief Flag CHENANGO 28 SANTEE 29 para. CARDIV 23 KITKUN BAY 71 Flag HOGGATT BAY 75 Relief Flag WAKE ISLAND 65 NEHENTA BAY 74 SHAMROCK BAY 84 ANZIO 57 (ASW). Para. Cardiv 24 MARCUS ISLAND 77 Flag SHIPLEY BAY 85 Relief Flag SAVO ISLAND 78 OMMANEY BAY 79 STEAMER BAY 87 CORREGIDOR 58 (ASW). Para. CARDIV 25 SAGINAW BAY 82 Flag NATOMA BAY 62 Relief Flag PETROF BAY 80 RUDYERD BAY 81 SARGENT BAY 83 TULAGI 72 (ASW). Para. Cardiv 26 MAKIN ISLAND 93 Flag FANSHAW BAY 70 Relief Flag. MANILA BAY 61 LUNGA POINT 94 BISMARCK SEA 95 SALAMAUA 96 (ASW). Para. Cardiv 27 BLOCK ISLAND 106 Flag GILBERT ISLANDS 107 KULA GULF 108 CAPE GLOUCESTER 109 VELLA GULF 111 SIBONEY 112. (2) Carrier Training Squadron organized as follows: Cardiv 11 SARATOGA (CV-3) Flag TRIPOLI 64 KASAAN BAY 69 MAKASSAR STRAIT 91. Para. Cardiv 12 RANGER (CV-4) Flag TAKANIS BAY 89 MATANIKAU 101 COMMENCEMENT BAY 105. (3) Carrier Transport Squadron reorganized as follows: LONG ISLAND 1 COPAHEE 12 NASSAU 16 ALTAMAHA 18 BARNES 20 BRETON 23 CASA BLANCA 55 WHITE PLAINS 66 KALININ BAY 68 KADASHAN BAY 76 SITKOH BAY 86 CAPE ESPERANCE 88 THETIS BAY 90 WINDHAM BAY 92 HOLLANDIA 97 KWAJALEIN 98 ADMIRALTY ISLANDS 99 BOUGAINVILLE 100 ATTU 102 ROI 103 MUNDA 104. Para. HMS RAJAH HMS TRACKER and HMS ATHELING are assigned to 2302 operational control of ComCarTransRonPac upon reporting to CinCPac.

~~SECRET~~

DECEMBER (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

29 0158 CINCPAC ADMIN to COM3RDFLT, CTF 38, COMAIRPAC, info COMAIRPAC ADMIN, CTG 38.1, CTG 38.2.

Refer CinCPac 281005 which cancels my 262050.

30 0415 CINC EAST FLT to CINCPAC Info COMSOWESPAC COMCRU-
RON 4 COMDESDIV 48 CAPTS DD IN COMPANY USS DALY.

Request I may send a party to MANUS to investigate the facilities that we shall require to place there (2) the party would consist of RAdm Brind (Commanding Cruisers) in HMS SWIFTSURE, RAdm Fisher (Commanding Fleet FORMING) in HMS HOWE accompanied by 3 destroyers (3) an oiler will also be sent (4) the party would arrive at MANUS in mid January (5) information is also requested with regards the discharging at the airfield provisions for the British Pacific Fleet at MANUS.

31 2359 CINCPOA to COM 14, COMGEN10THARMY, COMFWDAREA CENTPAC, COMGENPOA, COMSOPAC, COMMARGILS AREA info CNO.

I hereby delegate to each action addressee my full authority and charge with responsibility to take, in the ports and areas under their respective control, whatever action is needed to carry out the full intent of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as expressed in JCS 100345 and my 202346. This confirms and makes of record the assignment of responsibility and authority described in my personal letters of 17 December to each addressee.

01 0949 CTG 94.9 to CTF 94 Info CTF 93; CINCPAC.

CINCPAC 010731. Am getting underway with CruDiv 5 and 5 or 6 destroyers at 2100 K(-10) 1 January. Will execute CTF 94 Operation Order 6-44 on January 4th instead of January 5th unless directed otherwise. Para. Could arrive ~~CHILHINN~~ time 0700 K(-10) January 3rd but no chance undetected approach with resultant escape of enemy ships. Para. Request early advise if not practicable CTF 93 to rearrange to 4th Flt 4 January.

01 0708 CINCPOA to CINCSWPA info COM7THFLT.

In order avoid confusion with the earlier battle of the Philippines Sea and to clearly establish uniform identity of the various main actions between Japanese and U.S. Naval Forces on 25 Oct., the following names are proposed: Battle of SURIGAO STRAIT, Battle of SAMAR, Battle of CAPE ENGANO. Your concurrence requested.

~~SECRET~~
January (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

06 1127 MACARTHUR Via COM7thFLT To COM3rdFLT CINCPAC Info COMINCH COS ARMY.

Southwest Pacific forces will be in readiness to execute either ABSTRACT (HANSA BAY) or MERCANTILE (MANUS IS) operation by about mid March, moon conditions dictating about 24 March reference Com 12's 050002 from Halsey. Availability of amphibious craft will not permit simultaneous execution these two operations. 2 possible plans based on availability of amphibious equipment are: Plan 1, MERCANTILE-FOREARM (KAVIENG) 24 March, ABSTRACT 22 April; Plan 2: ABSTRACT 24 March, MERCANTILE-FOREARM 22 May. Plan 1 favored as getting in with overall sequences for the Pacific theater and greater speed in the execution of both operations. (C-172) I desire to stabilize planning on Plan 1. Consequently ComSoPac's early concurrence desired. MERCANTILE operation under either plan will require coverage by ship based planes. Weather front conditions in WHIMSICAL area during the Northwest Monsoon which extends into May makes uncertain that land based aviation from BACKHANDER (CAPE GLOUCESTER) and MICHAELMAS (SAIDOR) can assure coverage of carriers operating in WHIMSICAL (BISMARCK SEA). There must be sufficient carrier based aviation to insure protection of the carriers as well as to cover the landing at MERCANTILE in case land based aviation is blocked off by weather front. CinCPac commitment of carriers required.

07 0521
(Dec)

CINCPAC to CINC SOWESPAC Info COMINCH COMSOPAC COM7thFLEET.

HICOM. Current plans contemplate strategic support of MERCANTILE FOREARM operation by strongest practicable carrier attack on Japanese fleet units at TRUK and operations by carriers fast battleships light forces and submarines to destroy or contain the enemy fleet. Concurrently it is intended to assign for direct support MERCANTILE FOREARM total of 8 escort carriers and not more than 1 fast carrier group. Your 061127. Suggest desirability staggering assaults 2 or 3 days sufficiently to permit shifting air support from FOREARM to MERCANTILE or vice versa and that weather conditions which interfere with land based aviation will likewise affect carrier borne aviation. In order that all operations concerned may be completely coordinated suggest conference at PEARL attended by your representative at time to be set by Admiral Halsey incident to his return from Washington. CominCh deliver to Halsey.

08 0113 CINCSOWESPAC to CINCPAC Info COMINCH, COM3rdFLT COM7thFLT.
(Jan)

HICOM. Concur fully in general program set forth in your 070521.
(XC-140)

12 0107Z MARSHALL to Admiral Nimitz Info Richardson Harmon.
(Jan)

9410 12th. Richardson has submitted request for increased personnel for his headquarters totaling an overall increase of 600 officers, 54 warrant officers and 1866 enlisted men. We are ready to approve immediately an increase of 58 officers 4 warrant officers and 302 enlisted men to meet part of his requirements. The remainder of the increase requested is under study.

~~SECRET~~
January (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

12 0107 Marshall to Nimitz --continued--

Physical availability of personnel has become a critical problem to the extent that most of our combat divisions are under strength. It is necessary to explore every source of personnel in order to provide those essential to the success of operations.

A superficial examination indicates that there are troops in rear areas in the Pacific considerably in excess of requirements. I would appreciate your views as to what reallocation of personnel and units, if any, can be effected to meet the requirements indicated by Richardson.

As Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas, it is the War Departments desire to afford you the maximum latitude in reallocation of Army forces and personnel to insure maximum efficiency in the employment of each individual man. I would greatly appreciate your frank comments and recommendations in this regard.

12 0351 CINCPAC to COMSOPAC.

This is HICOM. Request photographic reconnaissance of TRUK Atoll and outlying positions as practicable be completed in time to make objective data available for HAILSTONE operation in connection MERCANTILE-FOREARM.

18 0205 COM7thFLEET to COMINCH Info CINCPAC COM3rdFLT.

This is HICOM. The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board has informed me that advice has been received from the Admiralty that the following ships are to be ready to leave the Eastern Fleet about the end of March 1944 to form the British Pacific Force. RENOWN. ILLUSTRIOUS. VICTORIOUS. CAMBIA. CEYLON. PHOEBE. SPARTAN. 12 DD's. 10 Frigates. Depot ships WOOLWICH, UNICORN and RESOURCE. Also that further advice will be forthcoming concerning escort carriers and as to reinforcements to be sent at the end of 1944.

Above constituted official notice as required by agreement 077212 of 17 December 1942 relative logistic support.

23 1510 JCS to CINC SOWESPAC Info COMSOPAC CINCPAC.

UTMOST SECRET:

1. Task.

On completion of CARTWHEEL, operations will be undertaken for seizure or control of the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO with forces of the South and Southwest Pacific Areas. The advance along the north coast of NEW GUINEA will be continued in accordance with Sextant decisions.

2. Command.

These operations will be under the command of the Commander

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~~SECRET~~
January (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

23 1510 JCS to CINC SOWESPAC --continued--

in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area. South Pacific Forces, operating for the seizure or control of the KAVIENG area, will be employed under the direct command of ComSoPac.

3. Forces.

Additional naval support and assault shipping for the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO operation will be furnished by CINCPAC as directed by Joint Chiefs of Staff.

4. General cover for the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO operations will be furnished by CINCPAC as directed in 231515.

5. The target date for the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO operation is 1 April 1944.

23 1515 JCS to CINCPAC Info CINCSOWESPAC COMSOPAC WAR DEPARTMENT.

MOST SECRET. Kinkaid pass to MacArthur Nimitz pass to Richardson. Halsey give to Harmon.

1. Operations for seizure or control of BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO and for the advance along NEW GUINEA will be conducted under the command of the Commander Southwest Pacific Area, as directed in 231510.

2. You will provide cover for BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO operations by destroying or containing the Japanese Fleet. These covering operations will remain under your direct command.

3. You will furnish CinCSowPac additional assault shipping and Naval support forces for operations against the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO as directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Target date for the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO operations is 1 April 1944.

23 1520 JCS to CINCSOWESPAC CINCPAC Info COMSOPAC.

~~UTMOST SECRET~~. This refers to directive to CinCSowPac for action and to CINCPAC and ComSoPac for information 231510. It is desired that your or your designated representatives consider at the conference to be held at PEARL on 27 January the additional naval support and assault shipping required for BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO operations and submit your recommendations to the Joint Chiefs of Staff without delay.

25 1303 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC CINCSOWESPAC Info COMSOPAC WAR DEPT.

~~UTMOST SECRET~~. British propose that they send into Pacific about April A Task Force from Eastern Fleet consisting of 1 CC 2 CV 4 CL 12 DD 10 Frigates 1 AD 1 AR and 1 ARV. Total aircraft complement 42 TBR 56 VP. Antiaircraft batteries in addition to 4.5's include PomPom barrels CC 12 CV 24 CL 8 to 12 also OELIKONS from 16 to 6. British cannot provide shore based support to their aircraft. Your comments and recommendations desired on suitability for employment

2306

~~SECRET~~
January (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

25 1303 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC CINCSOWESPAC -- continued --

in your areas. If not considered suitable what modifications in armament do you recommend. If suitable recommended employment and date desired in area with comments on logistic implications. War Dept concurs in despatch this message.

26 2130 CINCPAC to COMINCH info CINCSOWESPAC COMSOPAC.

HiCom. Movements of carriers fast battleships and attached light forces will be governing factor. Your 242123. They should cover newly seized positions in MARSHALLS until shore installations permit effective operation of our aircraft then return to Central and South Pacific Bases for voyage and battle repairs and rehabilitation of air groups and preparations to make the HAILSTONE operations as effective as possible since it is the best opportunity now in prospect to bring enemy fleet to action. Movements of APA's and fire support ships can be adjusted as necessary to meet 20 March date. Consider estimate of April 1st more in accordance with probable developments but concur in earlier date for planning purposes in order to be ready to capitalize on more favorable developments. Much depends on extent of damage inflicted on enemy in all areas in next 2 months.

27 0541 CTF 57 to CinCPOA.

HiCom for Admiral Nimitz. Hale returns with report on planned early reorganization this force as follows. He is to command and operate all shore based air and plan execute and report on all offense air operations. I am to handle search, shore installations, etc. in fact a divided command in which he is responsible to you for the fighting and I do the housekeeping. He seems very sure of his statements. I cannot believe plan for such a radical change with its many angles both internal and for the war effort would be made without being referred here. Above same as proposal made by ComGenCentPac in your secret security letter 002452 October 26 ref. C Enclosure 2. Please enlighten me.

29 1755 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC.

HiCom. Your 222141 referred to War Department who state instructions clarifying issue have been sent Generals Richardson Ryan and Hale. Inform me if not satisfactory to you.

1944

~~SECRET~~

January (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

12 0503 CINCPAC to CTF 57 Info COMGENTPAC COMCENPACFOR.

This is HiCom. My 150433 December. To ensure adequate effectiveness Army heavy repeat heavy bombardment units later, desire they be placed in rest status until 20 January. Their routine strikes may be suspended except in emergency or in case vitally important targets are available.

13 0213 CTF 57 to CINCPAC.

HiCom. Your 120503 affirmative. Will explain as a period of consolidation incident moving from ELLICE to GILBERT Bases. Flying in 3 medium and 4 heavy squadrons on 15th. My 080135 things going nicely here under chief of staff Colonel Carr.

14 0202 COMSOPAC to CINCPAC Info COMCENPAC COMAIRCENPAC COMAIRSOPAC.

This is HiCom. Will be prepared. Your 130230. To strike NAURU as situation dictates. Request advise dates when these strikes will be most effective connection your operations.

14 1953 CINCPAC to COMSOPAC info COMINCH.

HiCom. Your 140550. Your representations will of course receive full consideration. However with total of only 4 to 5 carrier groups available assignment of more than 1 to direct support is inconsistent with concept of carrier attack on ANACONDA in maximum strength. Accordingly planning will proceed on basis given you in my 070521 for the present. Success of HAILSTONE operation and safety of forces engaged requires that enemy aircraft be primary objective first attack. Proposal your 140028 therefore unacceptable. Desire reconnaissance be conducted accordance my 120351.

18 0330 CINCPAC to CTF 57, COMSOPAC Info COMCENTPACFOR.

HiCom. Commencing D minus 10 FLINTLOCK ComSoPac report daily with info to other adees the presence or absence of enemy aircraft at NAURU. If planes are operating therefrom ComSoPac strike NAURU fields on D minus 7 and D minus 5 days. Para. Provided there are positive indications that planes from there are searching the area towards the GILBERTS CTF 57 strike NAURU on D minus 6 and D minus 4 days.

~~SECRET~~

January (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

23 1510 JCS to CINC SOWESPAC Info COMSOPAC CINCPAC.

~~Utmost secret.~~ Task. On completion of CARTWHEEL, operations will be undertaken for seizure or control of the BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO with forces of the South and Southwest Pacific Areas. The advance along the north coast of NEW GUINEA will be continued in accordance with Sextant decisions. Command. These operations will be under the command of the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area. South Pacific Forces, operating for the seizure or control of the KAVIENG Area, will be employed under the direct command of ComSoPac. Forces. Additional naval support and assault shipping for the BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO operation will be furnished by CinCPAC as directed by Joint Chiefs of Staff. General cover for the BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO operations will be furnished by CinCPAC as directed in 231515. The target date 00 for the BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO operation is 1 April 1944.

23 1515 JCS to CINCPAC Info CINC SOWESPAC COMSOPAC WAR DEPARTMENT.

~~Most secret.~~ Kinkaid pass to Mac Arthur Nimitz pass to Richardson. Halsey give to Harmon. Operations for seizure or control of BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO and for the advance along NEW GUINEA will be conducted under the command of the Commander Southwest Pacific Area, as directed in 231510. You will provide cover for BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO operations by destroying or containing the Japanese Fleet. These covering operations will remain under your direct command. You will furnish CinCSowespac additional assault shipping and naval support forces for operations against the BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO as directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Target date for the BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO operations is 1 April 1944.

23 1520 JCS to CINC SOWESPAC CINCPAC Info COMSOPAC.

~~Utmost secret.~~ This refers to directive to CinCSowespac for action and to CINCPAC and ComSoPac for information 231510. It is desired that you or your designated representatives consider at the conference to be held at PEARL on 27 January the additional naval support and assault shipping required for BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO operations and submit your recommendations to the Joint Chiefs of Staff without delay.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

February (GCT)

05 0623 COMAIRSOPAC to CINCPAC COMCENTPAC COMSOPAC.

This is HiCom. 2 Photo-Liberators over TRUK saw probably 2 CV 3 BB 6 CA 20-25 CL and DD, anchorage southwest DUBLON Island. 19-22 AK and AP East DUBLON Island. Airfields locate - Bomber North MOEN, Fighter Southwest MOEN, Fighter North DUBLON. Fighter and Bomber ETEN. Probable airfields Northeast FEFAN and Northwest UDOT. CL anchored Northeast MOEN 2 CA or CL at TOL Island fuel dock. Heavy gun positions UDOT Island, Western sections TOL Island. Hospital ship North SAND Island. Housing area Southeast DUBLON excessively large. Warehouse area South of Bomber strip MOEN large and complete. This based on pilot interrogation photo interpretation later.

12 0505 CINCPAC to COMSOPAC COMAIRPAC CG, CENTPAC COMSERVPAC info COMINCH COM 7TH FL

HiCom. All Officers who attended the recent conference at PEARL HARBOR should be reminded that the discussions with representatives of the CinC SWPA were informative of views of individuals only, that no decisions were reached and no commitments made. Except as provided by subsequent directives the GRANITE Campaign Plan will be used as a guide for long range planning, as a basis for acquiring and preparing forces and for providing means for their logistic support. Attention is particularly invited to the extracts from CCS 417 slant 2 quoted on page 3 of the GRANITE Plan.

MARCH (GCT)

✓ 02 2941 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to MACARTHUR & RICHARDSON pass to NIMITZ.

729-2ND In clarification paragraph 5 CCS 417/2 the Joint Chiefs of Staff have decided that our first major objective in the war against JAPAN will be the vital LUZON-FORMOSA-CHINA COAST Area. Strategy will be directed to attain this objective by the most direct and expeditious course possible. Direction of such strategy, including allocation of means, continues to be the function of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As indicated in paragraph 7F CCS 417/2 planning should be conducted on a basis which will permit flexibility in adjusting operations to the developing situation. To this end plans should be prepared for all probable operations. Timely recommendations regarding the adjustment of succeeding operations to the changing situation will be required by Chiefs of Staff.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

March (GCT)

10 0126 MARSHALL to MACARTHUR, RICHARDSON, HARMON info NIMITZ, HALSEY.

The Combined Chiefs of Staff have given consideration to a memorandum received by the British Chiefs of Staff from Mr. Nash on behalf of the New Zealand Government asking opinion and advise on the best way the British Commonwealth war effort can be served by New Zealand.

In CCS 499 dated 26 February 1944 the British Chiefs of Staff recommended that the immediate need for manpower in New Zealand should be met by temporary withdrawal of the 2 New Zealand brigade groups engaged in the Solomon Islands and when developments in the European Theater permits, part or all of the New Zealand division committed in Italy should be withdrawn to constitute a complete division for further operations in the Pacific in 1945. British conclude that if New Zealand output of meat and dairy products, required to meet the urgent demands of U.S. forces in South Pacific Area and of the United Kingdom, is to be maintained, New Zealand farms will require additional manpower by next August.

The U.S. Chiefs of Staff in CCS 499/1 dated 28 February 1944 concurred in the above recommendation by the British Chiefs of Staff subject to the following: (A) The New Zealand Government should be requested to furnish definite figures to the Combined Chiefs of Staff on the number of men required from the New Zealand armed forces for the purpose indicated. (B) Withdrawals made from New Zealand Army forces in South-Southwest Pacific should be considered as a whole rather than consideration being limited solely to the 3rd New Zealand division. The Commander, South Pacific Area and South Pacific Forces, should therefore confer with the New Zealand Government and jointly determine the units ~~for~~ ^{from} which these withdrawals will be made. (C) Withdrawals should not be made prior to completion of forearm and Mercantile and the consolidation of positions thereafter.

On 6 March the British Chiefs of Staff approved the above conditions stipulated by the U.S. Chiefs of Staff and informed the New Zealand Government.

Navy Department desired that Admirals Nimitz and Halsey be informed that copies of pertinent papers on this subject were dispatched by courier 6 March by Navy Department to CinCPOA and ComSoPac with information that New Zealand Government would probably approach Admiral Halsey reference arrangements New Zealand forces.

Additional copies of CCS 499 series are being ^{SENT} by War Department courier to cite SoPac and ComGenSoPac for information dispatched.

~~TOP-SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

March (GCT)

✓ 12 2319 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to MACARTHUR, RICHARDSON pass to NIMITZ, NIMITZ to 989-12th HALSEY.

1. With reference to our dispatch of 2 March ⁰²²⁹⁴¹ (4785 to CinCSWPac, 729 to ComGenCenPac) the Joint Chiefs of Staff have further decided that the most feasible approach to the FORMOSA-LUZON-CHINA area is by way of MARIANAS-CAROLINES-PALAU-MINDANAO area, and that the control of the MARIANAS-CAROLINE-PALAU area is essential to the projection of our forces into the former area, and their subsequent effective employment therefrom. Examination leads us to the decision that effective lodgment in the former area will be attained by the following main courses of action:

a. Cancellation of FOREARM. Complete the isolation of the RABUL-KAVIENG area with the minimum commitment of forces.

b. Early completion of MANUS occupation and development as an air and fleet base.

c. Occupation of HOLLANDIA by CinCSOWESPac, target date 15 April 1944. The objective is the establishment of heavy bombardment aircraft for preliminary air bombardment of the PALAUS and neutralization of WESTERN NEW GUINEA-HALMAHERA area.

d. Establish control of MARIANAS-CAROLINES-PALAU area by PETER OBOE ABLE Forces.

(1) By neutralization of TRUK.

(2) By occupation of the SOUTHERN MARIANAS, target date 15 June. The objective is to secure control of sea communications through the CENTRAL PACIFIC by isolating and neutralizing the CAROLINES and by the establishment of sea and air bases for operations against Japanese sea routes and long range air attacks against the Japanese HOMELAND.

(3) Occupation of the PALAUS by POA Forces, target date 15 September. The objective is to extend the control of the eastern approaches to the PHILIPPINES and FORMOSA, and to establish a fleet and air base and forward staging area for the support of operations against MINDANAO, FORMOSA and CHINA.

e. Occupation of MINDANAO by SOWESPAC Forces, supported by the Pacific Fleet, target date 15 November. The objective is establishment of air forces to reduce and contain Japanese Forces in the PHILIPPINES preparatory to a further advance to FORMOSA either directly or via LUZON, and to conduct air strikes against enemy installations in the N. E. I.

- Continued -

2312

~~TOP SECRET~~

March (GCT)

12 2319 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF - Continued -

DECLASSIFIED

f. Occupation of FORMOSA, target date 15 February 1945, or occupation of LUZON ^{should} such operations prove necessary prior to the move on FORMOSA, target date 15 February 1945. Planning responsibilities as follows: FORMOSA - CinCPOA; LUZON - CinCSOWESPAC.

2. Action addressees submit to Joint Chiefs of Staff and to each other at earliest practicable date outline operation plans to support the foregoing concept.
3. We direct that CinCSWPA:
 - (A) Cancel FOREARM operation and complete the isolation of the RABAU-
KAVIENG area with the minimum commitment of forces.
 - (B) Expedite occupation and development of the ADMIRALTIES as a base for:
 - (1) SWPA air forces to complete the neutralization of RABAU and KAVIENG and assist in the neutralization of TRUK and PALAU.
 - (2) POA air forces to assist in the neutralization of TRUK and PALAU.
 - (3) Units of the United States Fleet as required by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
 - (C) Should additional air base facilities be required, EMIRAU and MUSSAU should be occupied and developed for this purpose.
 - (D) Occupy HOLLANDIA, target date 15 April. Forces available are those assigned your area plus Pacific Ocean Area Forces allocated for FOREARM-MERCANTILE, excluding those Marine Units assigned for these operations, Fast carrier groups and old battleships. All Pacific Fleet APA, AKA, AGC, allocated for FOREARM-MERCANTILE-ABSTRACT will be returned to GUADALCANAL or other designated SOPAC ports and released to CinCPOA not later than 5 May. Pacific Fleet combatant vessels including CarDivs 20-2 and 20-4 with screens will be released by you and returned to CinCPOA control not later than 5 May.
 - (E) Following HOLLANDIA, with available forces conduct operations along NEW GUINEA Coast and such other operations as may be feasible in preparation for support of the PALAU operation and the assault on MINDANAO.

- Continued -

2313

~~TOP SECRET~~

March (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

12 2319 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF - Continued -

4. We direct that CinCPOA:

- (A) Institute and intensify to greatest practicable degree aerial bombardment of the CAROLINES from bases in MARSHALLS and ADMIRALTIES in order to hasten the neutralization of TRUK and the other islands of this group. Conduct carrier strikes against MARIANAS, PALAUS, CAROLINES, and other profitable targets.
- (B) Provide ^{cover} for the occupation of HOLLANDIA and other operations in the SOUTHWEST PACIFIC area.
- (C) Occupy the SOUTHERN MARIANAS target date 15 June, and establish land based aircraft, VLR bases and secondary naval facilities.
- (D) Occupy the MARIANAS-PALAU Line.

5. We direct that CinCPOA and CinCSWPA or their representatives confer and prepare plans for the coordinated and mutual support of the operations ordered in paragraphs 3 and 4.

6. With reference to the forces of the SOUTHWEST and PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS, a redeployment is now under way and completion will be expedited.

END

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

March (GCT)

✓ 13 1107 CINCSPWA (VIA COM7THFLT) to COM 3RD FLT info CINCPAC, COMINCH.

In accord with instructions from the Joint Chiefs of Staff carried in radiogram 5171-12th operations instructions number 44/3 for the seizure and occupation of the FOREARM Area are revoked. (XC-2038) you will seize, occupy and defend BEEFSTEAK, establish therein air and light naval forces to assist in the air and naval blockade of CARDIAC and in the neutralization of ANACONDA, continuing your present naval and air activities in neutralization of FOREARM and MEMSAHIB. The BEEFSTEAK operation will be conducted with minimum ground combat forces at the earliest practicable date. Advise when the attack may be initiated and your Outline Plan. MacArthur. Handle this as most secret.

✓ 13 2147 JCS to MACARTHUR, NIMITZ Info RICHARDSON, HALSEY.

1001-13th. It is the desire of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the following Marine units in the South Pacific Area assigned for the FOREARM-MERCANTILE Operations be released to the control of CINCPAC immediately, namely 3rd Marine Division, 4th Marine Regiment, and 9th and 14th Marine Defense Battalions. Nimitz pass to Halsey.

✓ 14 0144 CINCPAC to CINCSPWPAC, Info COMINCH, COMSOPAC, COM7THFLT.

HiCom. JCS 122319. In support of HOLLANDIA and operations in BISMARCK Area plan to launch all out simultaneous 2 day attacks on FULLCRY, VOCALIST and DOWNPOUR with all available fast carrier-battleship groups about 1 April followed by similar attacks about 6 days later on ANACONDA and ENRICH. Desire also to employ CarDiv 22 to augment carrier strength against FULLCRY if such employment will not interfere with your plans. If satisfactory to you will release this division in BISMARCK Area about 5 April. Request reply as early as possible as to your concurrence this plan and employment CarDiv 22. Para. Request your cooperation by (A) early establishment of long range search to cover sea area insofar as practicable RATTRAP-CENTRAL-FULLCRY-ANACONDA rectangle (B) intensifying to maximum degree aerial bombardment enemy air bases along line RATTRAP-NORTH COAST of CENTRAL during passage of fleet to and from FULLCRY Area (C) neutralization of DOWNPOUR by air bombardment during ANACONDA-ENRICH attacks. Will advise firm dates later.

✓ 14 0941 CINCSPWPAC VIA COM7THFLT to CINCPAC Info COMINCH, COM3RDFLT, C/S WAR DEPT.

HiCom. UR 140144. Success of RECKLESS Operation is definitely dependent upon strike by carrier based planes on enemy air dromes at RECKLESS and to westward which cannot be neutralized by shore based planes from present available bases. Plan employ CarDiv 22 and CarDiv 24 cover convoys enroute to and in landing areas. Simultaneous landings 1 hour after daylight will be made at PERSECUTION, LETTERPRESS and NOISELESS. Desire strike by 2 fast carrier groups on RECKLESS and STICKATNOUGHT air dromes on Dog minus 1, DOG Day and DOG plus 1. UNASSAILABLE should be hit if practicable. RECKLESS will have been partially neutralized by land based air but nothing to westward can be reached. Request your proposed plan for distant support be modified accordingly. Employment CarDiv 22 in FULLCRY operation as suggested is satisfactory, replacement of planes and logistics to be arranged later. (continued next page)

~~TOP SECRET~~

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March (GCT)

CINCSOWESPAC VIA COM7THFLT 140941 - Continued

Referring your specific requests (A) airfield in BREWER will be rushed to completion. Because of bombing missions by 5th air force it will be necessary employ search planes from SoPac to cover ocean areas. (B) Bombardment enemy air bases will be intensified as requested. (C) Will comply provided air strips and planes are available in BREWER. New subject. My present intention is to request delay target date to 22 April.

ADMIRALTY 13

✓ 15 0306 CINCPOA to CINCSOWESPAC info COM 7TH FLEET, COMSOPAC.

Your 140941. This is HiCom. Provision of adequate and through aircraft search ahead of the advance of fleet into this particular area is considered most important to success of FULLCRY^{PSLAD 13} operation. Are there any objections to moving forward to one of your advanced bases experienced search aircraft from SoPac for the duration of this operation. 2nd info addressee advise of the feasibility of such a move. As alternative is it feasible for patrol planes in SoPac to make the requisite searches.

15 0525 CINCPOA to COMINCH info COMGENCECENTPAC, COM 12, COMGEN SANFRAN POE.

Movements of 5 Army Divisions scheduled to and from Hawaiian Area during March, April, May and June present increasing certainties of conflict with and hazard to mounting dates of CentPac operations. It is imperative that following situation be known and action taken as indicated. 98th Division must arrive at OAHU and 33rd Division depart therefrom by end of April in acceleration of existing firm agreements for movement those Divisions. 81st Division cannot be accepted for arrival late May as desired by War Department but must be scheduled to reach OAHU not before 15 June with consequent delay in departure 38th Division for SoWesPac. Foregoing stipulations mandatory due to physical limitations of ports and facilities Hawaiian Area. Of corresponding concern is prospective freeze out of many other personnel units of all services from troop lift during March, April and June as result of priorities given to Army Divisions during those months. Assume that factor has been and will be given every possible consideration in making up joint priority lists. Desire Admiral Sherman and General Leavey acquainted foregoing and request War Department similarly informed. ComGenCenPac concurs.

✓ 15 0538 ComSoPac Advon to ALL TFC'S SOPAC info CINCSOWESPAC, CINCPAC, COMINCH, COM 7TH FLEET, COMGEN 5TH AIRFORCE.

D-Day for seizure BEEFSTEAK March 20th East longitude. Despatch operation plan later. Most Secret.

EMIRAH 13

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

March (GCT)

✓ 16 0614 CINCSWPA (Via COM 7TH FLT) to CINCPAC info COM3RDLT.

06595. "Believed excellent solution to utilize SoPac search planes on Southwest Pacific airdromes. (XC2127) reference your 150306. These planes will be based on ^{DO BOPUR} JUVENILE and operate from forward airdromes at AUTOMOBILE, REDHERRING, and MICHAELMAS. Searches will be supplemented as necessary by planes from 5th Air Force and PBYS. Estimated ^{NAZ 2 AB} MERCANTILE will be ready for heavy bombers about 7 April. It is feasible for PBYS to supplement searches during darkness PBYS not considered practicable as an alternate for day searches. 2 Catalina squadrons will begin operations from ^{FINCH HALL} MERCANTILE about 1 April to furnish night coverage sea areas to the north with operations by a limited number of planes in a few days from now. I desire to render all practicable assistance to the operations of the fleet. MacArthur."

✓ 16 1051 COMAIRSOPAC to COMSOPAC ADVON info CINCSOWESPAC CINCPAC.

Answering your HiCom 150306 without knowing substance of CinCSowesPac 140941. Assuming 7000 foot runway and essential fixed collateral facilities available in ADMIRALTIES it is feasible to operate a Mike sector search for 1000 miles radius for limited period with 1 full squadron PB4Y. This would cover sector between ULITHI and HELEN REEF on HO Chart 1500 but would probably require detour from close proximity enemy air bases. HOLLANDIA would furnish base for deeper penetration enemy waters if similar facilities were available. No other existing or anticipated bases considered practicable. This plan would require support Pats of approximately 400 men. Remaining PB4Y squadron if brought to full strength and assisted by Pats could maintain adequate search of northern sectors covering ^{TRUK} ANACONDA if ^{PELAYO} FULLCRY is scheduled after completion BEEFSTEAK fields. ^{EMIRAU IS}

17 0809 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to MACARTHUR Info NIMITZ.

1100-17th delay not beyond 22nd April acceptable to Joint Chiefs of Staff. This is in reply to your C-2852, 14 March. Desire every measure be taken to anticipate this date and that such naval forces and assault shipping as practicable be returned to CinCPOA control by 5 May and all prior to 12 May deadline. ~~This is MOST SECRET.~~ (GREEN) 140945 MARCH

18 0836 COMSOPAC ADVON to CINCPAC COMSOWESPAC Info CG SOPAC, COMSOPAC ADMIN.

HiCom. In view prospective conference between action addressees or their representatives regard coordinated and mutual support of operations as set forth in JCS 122319, suggest following for your consideration: mount ^{PELAYO} FULLCRY operation in South Pacific under ComSoPac utilizing 3rd Amphibious Force, 3rd MarDiv, 25th and 43rd InfDiv, required defense battalions, naval construction battalions, required service personnel (all available and now in South Pacific) augmented by necessary fleet units for supporting measures Para. The above plan will permit occupation of ^{PELAYO} FULLCRY with target date of 15 July and in addition, will result in early reduction of ground combatant, ground service and naval shorebased forces, now in SoPac. Para. After removal of these forces from SoPac additional drastic reduction can be effected at that time which is in line with CinCPac 232150 February.

~~TOP SECRET~~
March (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

20 0331 CINCSOWESPAC VIA COM 7TH FLT to COM 3RD FLEET ADVON Info CINCPAC,
COMGENSOPAC, COM 3RD FLEET ADMIN.

Quote. HICOM. Your 180836 would involve such changes in the operational program and in the projected employment of divisions under current Joint Chiefs of Staff directives that I do not believe it feasible at this late date. Unquote.

CinCPac to COMINCH.

22 0356 HICOM. After considerable streamlining of plans and on assumption that FORAGER operation will not be unduly protracted propose set target date of 8 Sept for STALEMATE at which time moon and tide will serve. However this advance is not yet sufficiently firm to warrant advancing subsequent target dates at this time.

26 2235 MARSHALL to MACARTHUR Info HARMON RICHARDSON CINCPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Short resume follows of conclusions and recommendations contained in 713/5 now enroute by courier extracted for your information reourad W14572 dated 26 March. Major ground forces now assigned to SoPac to be redeployed following RECKLESS. Army troops: (a) 14th Corps Headquarters and corps troops, 6 United States Divisions and 2 Filipino Regiments (less 2 battalions) to CinC SWPA. (B) 3 separate infantry regiments plus 102nd Infantry Regiment less 2 battalions and Fijian troops to SoPac for garrison purposes. (C) 3rd New Zealand division under ComSoPac pending outcome of negotiations regarding future employment. (D) 4 amphibian truck companies to CinC SWPA. All other combat and service troops to CinC SWPA when no longer required in SoPac PARA Marine: All Marine forces to CinCPOA PARA Navy: 7th Fleet constituted about 5 May following RECKLESS as follows: 3 CL, 27 DD (including 1 squadron 2100 ton), 30 SS, 18 DE (PF), 1 AGC, 1 APA, 1 AKA, 5 APD, 60 LCI, 40 LST plus miscellaneous auxiliaries in small craft and latter scheduled additions from United States. All major units excess of above to revert to CinCPOA. All PT boats, PT bases and PT tenders now operating under ComSoPac to be transferred to 7th Fleet on completion of ComSoPac's responsibility for operations in the SOLOMONS-BISMARCK Area and when and as no longer needed in the SoPac Area. As early as consistent with discharging responsibility of ComSoPac in the operations in the SOLOMONS-BISMARCK Area, all minor landing craft and coastal transports including LCT, LCM(3), LCV, LCVF, LCP(L), LCP(R) and APC now assigned SoPac force but in excess of those required in the SoPac Area, to be transferred to 7th Fleet. All Argus equipment assigned to SoPac Area should be turned over to the Army. CB units all elements not required in SoPac to be made available to VCNO for reassignment. Acorns and other Navy service forces to be made available to CinCPOA for reassignment. 13th Air Force should be transferred to the SWPA as soon as practicable consistent with ComSoPac's responsibility for the neutralization of the KAVIENG-RABAU area and combat operations in the SOLOMONS. Heavy bombers from SWPA to be used for support against CentPac targets. CinC SWPA and CinCPOA to make arrangements as to availability for transfer of command and assistance in physical movement of forces.

~~TOP SECRET~~
May (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

01 2144 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to MacARTHUR; NIMITZ thru RICHARDSON.

WARX-30441-1st ~~TOPSEC~~ In order to provide a basis for uniform understanding by all concerned of the command relationships involved in staging, mounting, and operating forces in 1 theater from bases in an adjacent theater, the following principles underlying these relationships will govern: Para A. The situation and the scope of operations may require forces of any category of 1 area, under their own commanders and retaining their normal command relationships to stage through, or mount from bases in another area in order to take maximum advantage of all available facilities and to employ forces most effectively. Para B. Fleet units in the Pacific, retaining their normal command relationships, must be free to operate from available bases in both the Southwest Pacific and Pacific Ocean Areas. Para C. Occasion may arise where it will be more expedient for a commander engaged in an operation in 1 area to employ temporarily a part of his own air force from bases in an adjacent area. In such cases, the air elements so operating should be given their missions by their own commander. The local coordination of their operations, including defense measures, with operations of the forces assigned to the area must then be the responsibility of the commander of the area from which they operate. This area commander is charged with the coordination of matters affecting the administration, maintenance, servicing, and supply of these units during the period of their operation. Except in a strategical or tactical emergency demanding such action, such air forces will not be utilized for purposes other than their assigned missions.

03 0237 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to STILWELL Info MacARTHUR, CG CENTPAC, NIMITZ.

~~Top Secret~~ X All available means must be employed to neutralize enemy air action against our advance to FORMOSA from the MARIANAS-PALAU-MINDANAO line in February 1940-5. Our carrier based aircraft must be augmented by land-based aircraft from CHINA. Para. You will be charged with responsibility for air support from CHINA by air forces under your command against such targets as FORMOSA, the RYUKYUS, the PHILIPPINES, and the CHINA coast prior to and during the advance on FORMOSA. Without prejudice to the FORMOSA support or to other operations of greater immediate strategic importance, such as the operations to seize MYTKYINA and operation MATTERHORN, you will also be charged with furnishing such indirect support as is practicable for the attack on MINDANAO in November 40-4. Para. It is therefore desired that you submit an estimate of the extent of the air effort that you will be able to furnish in support of the above operations in the Pacific. The estimate should consider that no reinforcements will be forthcoming for your command other than those currently scheduled. Your plans should take into consideration the coordinated employment of the 20th bomber command and you should submit recommendations to the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the Commanding General, 20th Air Force, for tactical support by VLR bombers. Your plan should also provide for such temporary reinforcement of the air forces in CHINA as you consider desirable from the 10th air force. At the appropriate time after receipt of your estimate, you will be directed to coordinate your plan with CinCPOA and Supreme Commander, Southwest Pacific area. Para. It is recognized that major curtailment of "hump" support to ground forces in CHINA and to such other activities

~~TOP SECRET~~
MAY (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

03 0237 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to STILWELL (cont'd)

as do not directly support an air effort will be required. Para. Pending submission and approval of your plans, the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider it necessary to commence immediately the progressive stock piling in CHINA of supplies for these supporting operations to be used.

05 0123 CINCPAC to COMGENCENTPAC info COMINCH

Confirming verbal statement of CINCPAC representatives at conference with representatives 20th AF, ComGenCentPac is designated as the theater agency to furnish all necessary support for 20th AF in Central Pacific Area except for such items and classes of supply as are specifically assigned to other agencies. Request you take necessary action to implement this support based on one VLR wing on each of STEVEDORE, TATTERSALLS, and TERAWAY.

07 0355 CINCPAC to COM 12 info COMGENCENTPAC PASSED TO COMINCH

~~Top Secret~~. For Admiral Nimitz Deputy CINCPAC sends. Conferences with representatives 20th AF on VLR program CentPac Area completed. Requirements in Army Service Troops to support VLR program will require bulk of available Army resources of the area and leave inadequate support for STALEMATE unless additional service troops are made available. ComGenCentPac is presenting this situation to the War Department in letter dated 3 May file AG 320.2/356 requesting additional service troops amounting to slightly over 8000 men. It is suggested that CominCh be informed and requested to take whatever action may be practicable to insure adequate support for STALEMATE as well as for the VLR program.

25 1326 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC info MARSHALL

~~Top Sec.~~ Your 222226 shipping requirements indicated in your secret serial 00043 of 12 April to mount and support STALEMATE based on target date of 8 September will be met.

✓ 24 2030Z MARSHALL to RICHARDSON info CINCPAC, HARMON

WARX-40903-24th. ~~TOP SECRET~~. Subject is command situation of Army Forces in the Pacific Ocean Areas. Marshall to Richardson, pass to and discuss with CINCPAC and submit comments or recommendations; information to Harmon. Para. It is contemplated: that the command of all U.S. Army Forces in the Pacific Ocean Areas, except those otherwise committed by JCS and those in the presently delineated Alaskan Department, will pass to you (Richardson) as Commanding General U.S. Army Forces in the Pacific Ocean Areas; that under you (Richardson) U.S. Army Forces in the South Pacific Area as now delineated will be commanded by a General Officer as Commanding General Communications Zone, South Pacific Area; and that likewise the Hawaiian area will be Commanded by a General Officer as Commanding General Communications Zone, Hawaiian Area, who in addition, will be appointed Military Governor of Hawaii. The above to free you (Richardson) in order that you may, under CINCPAC, exercise overall control of all army forces in the Areas cited above.

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~MAY (GCT)~~

DECLASSIFIED

MARSHALL to RICHARDSON info CINCPAC, HARMON (Cont'd)

The exercise of command under this arrangement would be in accordance with principles now in affect in Central and South Pacific Ocean Areas. Operational control of all Army units assigned to Task Forces under this arrangement would be direct from CINCPAC through the Task Force Commander to the Commander of the Army Units concerned. Para. Also being considered is an Army Headquarters in the Pacific Ocean Areas for operational employment in Major operations in the Western Pacific (General Buckner has been tentatively selected to Command this Army subject to CINCPAC'S concurrence). Para. It is further contemplated placing General Millard Harmon in command of all Army Air Forces now assigned to the Pacific Ocean Areas except those assigned to the Alaskan Department. In this capacity Harmon would service under the overall command of Richardson for Logistics and Administration but would be directly under operational command of CINCPAC. Para. In addition it is contemplated that Harmon would be assigned as Deputy to General Arnold in the exercise of Command of the 20th Air Force as set forth in JCS 74747/3. Serving in this capacity he would be in a position to integrate the theater logistics and Administrative responsibilities with the operational directives for this force. Para. Cominch is in general concurrence with these proposals.

25 1156 COMINCH & CNO to COMSOWESPAC Info COM7THFLT, CINCPAC, CINCSOWESPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~ Assume your plans contemplate deployment sufficient submarines in TAWI TAWI Area to exploit any sorties attempted by Japanese Fleets during FORAGER.

25 1859 COMINCH to CINCPAC

Part 1 of 2 Part 251905. ~~TOP SECRET~~. Consideration of Urdis 230640 in conjunction with Com 5th Fleet OpPlan Cen 10-44 and available intelligence raises 3 major points with respect possible fleet engagements. 1st. J Cen 10-44 assigns both fast and slow BB's to 1 battleline. I appreciate that such a major general action plan cannot go into details of tactical employment of types but do consider that only exceptional circumstances would justify limiting fast BB's to close battle formation with slow BB's and assume intent is to employ both types to limit of respective tactical capabilities. Comment. 2nd. I also consider that only exceptional circumstances would justify depriving transports of the protection of slow BB's and their support for pressing the assault despite all but major interference

25 1905 COMINCH to CINCPAC

Part 2 of 251905. Part 1 was 251859. ~~TOP SECRET~~ 3rd. Worst conditions under which fleet engagement could occur would be when only the fast battleship screened carrier task groups could concentrate, most likely to occur about D Plus 2 after cruiser screened carrier task groups have moved into BONINS, our own Northern and Southern Attack forces are fully committed and Japanese Fleet alerted by our opening strikes on D Minus 3, could have moved into position. Under these circumstances estimate opposing forces would be blue 4 CV 4 CVL 7 BB 3 CL 18 to 30 DD orange 4 CV 5 CVL 13 to 15 CA/CL 26 to 30 DD with embarked aircraft about equal numerically.

~~TOP SECRET~~
MAY (GCT)

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✓ 28 0842Z RICHARDSON to MARSHALL WDCSA info CINCPOA

Personal for Richardson. RJ 17505 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Para. 1. Following comments pertain to URAD WARX 490903 of 24 May. Communications zone commands to be designated Central Pacific Base Command, Communications Zone and South Pacific Base Command, Communications Zone. Each to be commanded by a general officer and the Commanding General Central Pacific Base Command Communications Zone to be appointed Military governor of the Territory of Hawaii. Para. 2. The Commanding General United States Army Forces in the Pacific Ocean Areas will be responsible for the administration and training of all United States Army Ground and Air Troops within the areas and subject to the Direction of CinCPOA, for the preparation and execution of plans for the employment of army forces in those areas. ComGenPOAs supply responsibilities with respect to Pacific Ocean Areas to be same as those now the responsibility of ComGenCentPac with respect to the Central Pacific Area. Para. 3. CinCPOA and I concur in selection of General Buckner to command the Field Army Headquarters in Pacific Ocean Areas for operational employment in Western Pacific. Para. 4. Concur in placing General Millard Harmon in command of Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas except those assigned to Alaskan Department and in his being assigned as Deputy to General Arnold in the exercise of command of the 20th Air Force. Para. 5. Just as other Army Unit Commanders are now under ComGenCentPac's command when not assigned to task forces under CinCPOA, General Buckners Field Army and General Harmons Air Forces should be under ComGenPOA RPT ComGenPOA when not assigned to task forces under CinCPOA. Para. 6. Operational control of all Army Ground Forces and Army Air Units assigned to task forces should be direct from CinCPOA through the Task Force Commander to the Commander NCE Army Units concerned. Upon relief of such units from CinCPOA task forces, sub units will revert to command CinCPOA. Para. 7. Following comments of CinCPOA are quoted "Proposals WARX 40903-24 concurred in subject to confirmation my assumption that operational control of Army Air Units assigned to Joint Task Forces in Pacific Ocean Areas would be direct from CinCPOA to the Task Force Commanders to the Commanders of the Army Air Units concerned as at present. The special arrangements proposed in connection with the 20th Air Force wherein Lieutenant General Harmon would function as Deputy to General Arnold would facilitate coordination and are considered highly advantageous" I concur in CinCPOA's remarks as supplemented by comments in the 1st 6 paragraphs of this Radiogram. Para. 8. Request confirmation of organization as herein outlined.

~~TOP SECRET~~
MAY (GCT)

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COMINCH to CINCPAC (Cont'd)

In such eventuality I would be concerned over disparity in cruiser strength particularly as regards our ability to stop a determined cruiser borne torpedo attack outside effective range even with BatDiv 7 operating as fast wing in support of light forces. Do you think suitable provisions against this possibility have been made. CTF 58 OpOrd not received but assume command arrangements and tactical concepts for major action similar to those annex D Cen 5-44.

27 2136 CINCPAC to COMINCH info COM5THFLT

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 251905 concerns questions to which both Spruance and I have continuously given extensive consideration. Destruction of the enemy fleet is always the primary objective of our Naval Forces. Attempts by enemy fleet units to interfere with amphibious operations are both hoped for and provided against even though the necessarily voluminous nature of plans and orders for amphibious operations may give an impression of overemphasis thereon as compared with purely Naval action which is handled by brief orders despatches and signals. Para. Following comment is submitted on specific points raised by your 251905. 1st. Fast and slow battleships will be used to limit of their capabilities as required by tactical situation. 2nd. It is not intended to deprive amphibious forces of their supporting cruisers and slow battleships unless this is best means of protecting amphibious forces. After TEARAWAY bombardment has been completed supporting ships there will be available with limited AP ammunition supply to assist in covering operations if needed. 3rd. If information of movement of enemy fleet indicates necessity for continued concentration of Task Force 58 to cover landing operations strike on ~~Seclusion~~ will be deferred or cancelled. CTF 58 plan will contain suitable provision for major action by that force acting as covering force along the lines of annex D Cen 5-44. Spruance left yesterday in indianapolis will see Mitscher and Lee in MAJURO and will ensure the best tactical preparations including rehearsals to destroy enemy fleet if it gives us this opportunity.

28 0121 CINCSWPA VIA COM 7TH FLEET to COMINCH info CINCPAC, CTF 71

~~TOP SECRET~~. Prior to and during FORAGER plan to maintain 3 submarines close approaches to TAWI TAWI 2 off DAVAO Gulf 1 North west HALMAHERA 1 off KAU BAY and 3 in area between Longitudes 127-00 East and 129-00 East from Equator to 07-30 North. Your 251156. This disposition should also afford CINCPAC Submarines from vicinity PALAU to further exploit contacts by our Submarines

~~TOP SECRET~~
MAY (GCT)

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21 0747 CINCSWPA to CINCPAC, COMINCH, COMSOPAC, WAR DEPARTMENT, COM 7TH FLEET

This is Top Secret. General MacArthur and Admiral Halsey recommend that the assumption of command of forces west of 159 East by CinCSWPA be effected at 0001L(-11) 15 June. Both are in full agreement as to principles and methods of effecting the change for all arms and services. Necessary orders and certain recommendations to higher authority will be initiated separately.

JUNE (GCT)

✓ 06 2045Z MARSHALL to RICHARDSON HARMON info CINCPAC

WARX 46867 ~~TopSec~~. Command of U.S. Army Forces in the South and in the Central Pacific Areas will pass to Commanding General U.S. Army Forces Pacific Ocean Areas at such time as mutually agreed by Harmon and Richardson. Richardson will notify War Department when this change is to take place at which time appropriate orders will be issued. Richardson, in addition to his assignment as Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department, will by direction of the President, assume command of U.S. Army Forces Pacific Ocean Areas under CINCPAC. Para. Instructions covering relationship of U.S. Army Air Forces to ComGenPOA will be held in abeyance pending final decision in this matter. It is desired that Harmon proceed at earliest convenience after 15th June 1944 to Central Pacific for personal exploratory conference with Admiral Nimitz and General Richardson on this matter. On completion of this conference Harmon will proceed to Washington to present proposals or agreed recommendations to the War Department. General Arnold also desires to discuss air problems particularly to clarify extent of authority to be exercised by Harmon as Deputy 20th Air Force.

07 1240 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC, COMSOPAC

This is Top Secret. Chief of Staff U.S. Army and CominCh approve CinCSWPAC 210747. MacArthur and Kinkaid informed.

✓ 29 0127Z HARMON to RICHARDSON info MARSHALL AND ARNOLD

~~TOP SECRET~~ H-128-29th May 44. Referring to my H 919 May 26 I invite your attention to my H 8288 May 27 to AGWAR for Marshall Info to Richardson. In view of request for agreed recommendations contained WARX 41510 you are informed as follows: The disposition of personnel becoming excess in the South Pacific cannot be determined until decision is made by the War Department as requested in my H 8288 to AGWAR for Marshall 27 May the command set up as proposed in WARX 40903 appears in general to be as good a solution as could be

~~TOP SECRET~~
JUNE (GCT)

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evolved under the circumstances. With the following exceptions I am in accord with the provisions of WARX 40903; 1st, with respect to jurisdiction over logistics and administration of Air Forces, it impresses me as unsound that Harmon while responsible to Nimitz for operations and to Arnold for overall matters concerning the 20th Air Force be at the same time responsible to Richardson for Administration and logistics. I strongly recommend that the terms of the final directive should be so stated as to provide that Richardson give Harmon necessary Logistic and administrative support for Army Air Forces. Such matters as ultimate courts Martial Jurisdiction to be covered by specific directives vesting appropriate authority in Richardson. 2nd, if the present SoPac Area Command is to remain in effect there should be no change in the General Organization of the Army Forces in the South Pacific other than consolidation of USAFISPA and SOS Headquarters. In the interest of simplicity and to facilitate the application of the principles of unity of command as enunciated in JCS 263/2/D, I recommend against designating this as a communication zone for Army matters while continuing to recognize it as an area for purpose of overall command.

14 1935Z JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF WASH. to NIMITZ, HALSEY, MACARTHUR

WARX 50615 X ~~TOP SECRET~~. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have modified the first sentence of (lower case underscored letters for paragraphs) paragraph 5D (page 40-3) of the enclosure to J.C.S. 713/5 (WARX 14572 is the reference) and the first sentence of paragraph 6A of Appendix "D" thereto, (page 60-1) to read: "Royal New Zealand Air Force air units in excess of the minimum number required for garrison and local defense of the South Pacific Area should be transferred to the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific."

18 0900 COMGECENTPAC to CG 24TH CORPS Info CINCPAC, REAR
ECHELON 5TH PHIBCORPS, CG 77TH DIVISION, AP AND SC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. RJ-19549 Reference Cincpac 180105 GCT June 44 not to all adees. Para. This confirms telephonic orders issued Chief of Staff 77th Division by Deputy Chief of Staff this headquarters about 172300 June 44. PRPXS Prepare 1 regimental combat team 77th Division for immediate movement to GATEWAY area for possible employment in FORAGER operation and have the Commanding Officer of this RCT report to the Rear Echelon 5thPhibCorps for planning and loading. Para. Acknowledge receipt of this dispatch and indicate RCT to be designated with the name of the commander and probable time of his reporting as per above instructions.

~~TOP SECRET~~

JUNE (GCT)

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13 1545Z JCS to CINCPAC, CINCSWPA

WARX 50007 ~~TOP SECRET~~ X THE Joint Chiefs of Staff (reference our 989 to ComGen-Pac action CINCPAC and 5171 to CinCSOWesPac) are considering the possibilities of expediting the Pacific Campaign by any or all of the following courses:

- A: By advancing the target dates for operations now scheduled through operations against FORMOSA.
- B: By by-passing presently selected objectives prior to operations against FORMOSA.
- C: By by-passing presently selected objectives and choosing new objectives, including JAPAN proper.

On basis of over-all situation which will obtain as result of FORAGER operation CINCPAC and CinCSOWesPac directed to present their views and recommendations.

18 0935 CINCSOWESTPAC to CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPARTMENT Info ADMIRAL NIMITZ.

CX-13891 ~~TOP SECRET~~ X ADMIRAL NIMITZ ONLY X Reference is made to Joint Chiefs of Staff directive contained in WARX 50007 received here at 172135 GCT X Due to logistic considerations it is not deemed feasible to advance target dates for scheduled operations. Our resources will be strained to the utmost to meet dates now fixed. The FORMOSAN Campaign differs radically from operations that have been executed thus far in the Pacific. It is my most earnest conviction that the proposal to bypass the PHILIPPINES and launch an attack across the Pacific directly against FORMOSA is unsound. That operation would have to be launched without appreciable support from land based aviation and NR based upon the HAWAIIAN ISLAND at a distance of 5000 miles. Assuming the success of the FORAGER there still will be no bases west of OAHU along this line of advance. Under these conditions and with the enemy solidly established in strength on FORMOSA, susceptible of rapid reinforcement from JAPAN or the Mainland and with his air bases in a flanking position at effective range in LUZON, I do not believe the campaign would succeed. The hazards of failure would be unjustifiable when a conservative and certain line of action the occupation of LUZON is essential in order to establish air forces and bases prior to the move in FORMOSA. Assault forces could then be launched at short range with effective air support and with every assurance of success. The proposal to bypass all other objectives and launch an attack directly on the mainland of JAPAN is in my opinion utterly unsound. There is available in the Pacific only enough shipping to lift about 7 divisions. That fact alone would preclude such an enterprise in the predictable future. Even with unlimited shipping I do not believe a direct assault without air support can possibly succeed. Since the initiation of our advance the enemy has executed delaying actions within his outpost positions. Our successes in these operations must not mislead us into a suicidal direct assault without all support and with inadequate shipping and bases against heavily defended bastions of the enemy's main position. It is my opinion that purely military considerations demand the reoccupation of the PHILIPPINES in order to cut the enemy's communications to the south and to secure a base for our further advance. Even if this were not the case and

18 0935 CINCOWESTPAC TO CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPARTMENT INFO ADMIRAL NIMITZ (Cont'd)

unless military factors demanded another line of action, it would in my opinion be necessary to reoccupy the PHILIPPINES. The PHILIPPINES is American territory where our unsupported forces were destroyed by the enemy. Practically all of the 17 million Filipinos remain loyal to the United States and are undergoing the greatest privation and suffering because we have not been able to support or succor them. We have a great national obligation to discharge. Moreover in the event the United States should deliberately bypass the PHILIPPINES, leaving our prisoners, Nationals and loyal Filipinos in enemy hands without an effort to retrieve them at earliest moment we would incur the gravest psychological reaction. We would admit the truth of Japanese propaganda to the effect that we had abandoned the Filipinos and would not shed American blood to redeem them; we would undoubtedly incur the open hostility of that people; we would probably suffer such loss of prestige among all the peoples of the Far East that it would adversely affect the United States for many years. I feel also that a decision to eliminate the campaign for the relief of the PHILIPPINES, even under appreciable military considerations, would cause extremely adverse reactions among the citizens of the United States. The American people I am sure would acknowledge this obligation. In this dispatch I have expressed my firm convictions with a bare outline of the military factors that enter into the problem. If serious consideration is being given to the plan of action indicated in paragraphs B and C of your radio, I request that I be accorded the opportunity of personally proceeding to Washington to present fully my views. MacArthur.

23 2002 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC. Info

~~Top Secret.~~ Request your comment on following proposal as a possible means of meeting requirements CinCSWPac as stated in his 160218Z without unduly interfering with lift for STALEMATE. CinCPac nominate 4 APA of which one will be an AGC for temporary assignment 7th Fleet as early as GATEWAY (MARIANAS IS.) operations permit. Any deficiencies in STALEMATE lift incurred thereby to be filled from additional AP made available from Pacific troop lift. APA so designated will be considered as component part of assault ship- ping to be supplied by you for MUSKETEEER.

25 2246 CINCPAC to COMINCH, CNO.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ The increases in strength of the enemy garrisons at FULLCRY (PALAU) indicate that resistance will be met on the order of that against which we are now contending at SAIPAN. The degree to which the FORAGER and STALEMATE shipping requirements will overlap, together with increased troop lift needed not only to send reinforcements to GATEWAY (MARIANAS) but also eventually to withdraw the additional units, and also the necessity that for STALEMATE a maximum force be afloat, make proposal your 232002 impracticable. If such action is taken it will in my opinion seriously jeopardize the STALEMATE operation and will certainly introduce a definite cause for delay in addition to others which I am making every effort to overcome.

29 1746 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC.

2327

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Refer to WARX 50007 of 12 June. While recognizing the impracticability of forecasting accurately at this time the over all situation which will obtain as a result of FORAGER, an interim reply to the reference would be most helpful in current stratetical planning for the Pacific Campaign. END

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~JUNE (GCT)~~

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23 0832 CTF 53 to CTF 51

~~TOP SECRET.~~ In order to make earliest W Day practicable propose landing 3rd MarDiv on ASAN beaches as originally planned with 1st Provisional Brigade in reserve. But making demonstration only on AGAT beaches to include bombardment and demolitions. Believe these troops adequate seize hold and develop that 1 beachhead and to continue operations for capture of OROTE PENINSULA and harbor with seizure of high ground around MOUNT ALIFAN to follow immediately thereafter. Above would eliminate necessity for waiting release of 106th Regiment which however would still be required when available. C G Southern Landing Force agrees and requests you pass to CTF 56 his strong recommendation.

23 0950 RICHARDSON to WDCSA Info CINCPOA

~~This is TOP SECRET.~~ RJ20048. Referring to your 46867 June 6th Harmon and I recommend that command of the United States Army Forces in the South and in the Central Pacific Areas pass to command of Commanding General, United States Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas on 1 August 1944. Para. Having discussed the command situation thoroughly with General Harmon I find nothing to warrant changing the views expressed in my radiogram RJ17505 May 28. Para. On 22 June General Harmon and I conferred with Admiral Nimitz. After a free discussion of the Army command Cincpoa stated that he preferred to deal with only 1 Army commander. This has been the procedure in the Central Pacific Area and I concur completely in his view. After the conference Cincpoa sent the following (paraphrased) to CominCh: Quote The conference which General Marshall desired has been held with General Harmon and General Richardson (WARX46867). I adhere to my concurrence in WARX40903-24 May as stated in General Richardson's RJ17505 of 28 May. It is my desire that Harmon feel free to present to the War Department his own views in the matter and I have so indicated to him. Unquote. General Harmon is leaving here 22nd June and will present his views as well as Cincpoa's and mine. Para. In your 40903 May 24 you state quote In this capacity Harmon would serve under the overall command of Richardson for logistics and administration but would be directly under operational command of Cincpoa. Unquote. The relation is not clear to me as only Task Forces are under operational command of Cincpoa and it is not believed that Harmon will command an air task force as all land air units in the operations of Forward Area are under immediate command of ComAirForward (now General Hale) serving under ComForward Area. Para. It is my understanding that the terms operational commander, or operational control, used by the War Department means command or control of tactical combat operations, and not

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~~TOP SECRET~~
~~JUNE (GCT)~~

administrative operations. Please confirm. Para. It is recommended that the command relationship between ComGenPOA and the Commanding General Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas be that which now exists between ComGenCentPac and the Commanding General, 7th Air Force.

23 2020 CTF 51 to CINCPAC Info Com5thFlt

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Your 231824 regret delay but nature of reply depends on outcome of present major land attack. Have been in consultation with Spruance and Smith. Further conference today may develop answer. Para. Attention invited to fact that operations are progressing at least as favorably as my oral forecast expressed to you on several occasions.

24 0514 CINCPOA to COMINCH & CNO Info COMGENCECENTPAC, COM3RDFLT, COM3RDPHIBFOR, COM12.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ The commitment of the 77th Division to FORAGER necessitates immediate preparation of another division for STALEMATE in order prevent unnecessary delay in that operation. Request transfer of 96th Division to OAHU by 1st shipping available after it completes amphibious training 29 June. For this purpose recommend 96th Division be placed at top of July priority list and 5th MarDiv be deleted.

24 0929 CINCPOA to CINCSWPA Info COMINCH, COMGENCECENTPAC

~~This is TOP SECRET.~~ Your cooperative offer of the 38th Division in exchange for the 96th Division is very much appreciated. However in view of the complications involved due to the separation of the 38th Division from its equipment much of which is either on the water on enroute SoWesPac and the sailing of certain elements in ships involved in other movements it now seems preferable to bring the 96th to OAHU and mount it here for STALEMATE and I have requested such action.

24 0622 COM 5TH FLT to CINCPAC info CTF 51, CTF 56, CTF 58, CTF 57.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Your 210440 to CTF 51. Following is result of conference with Turner and Holland Smith. First. Situation ashore SAIPAN does not permit withdrawal any troops now committed nor can any date for such withdrawal be set at present time. Additional reserves from first Provisional Marine Brigade reinforced may be required for SAIPAN and will be kept at sea in area waiting development. All other ships of task force 53 not required in current operations SAIPAN nor neutralization GUAM will be sent to ENIWETOK to await definite

~~TOP SECRET~~
JUNE (GCT)

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24 0622 COM 5TH FLT to CINCPAC - continued -

determination W day. W day cannot be set at present. Second. Attack on GUAM without adequate reserve troops might result in disaster and should not be made. Above is based on experience in SAIPAN and study of beach defenses terrain and enemy strength in GUAM. All concerned desire as early setting of W day as possible but experience gained in SAIPAN must be given due consideration. Very hard fighting has been continuously in progress with no end in sight until SAIPAN GUAM and TINIAN are captured.

26 0207 COM 5TH FLT to CINCPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Spent yesterday 25th ashore with Holland Smith. Visited General Schmidt Jarman Harper and Watson at their command posts. All cheerful and optimistic but unable to make any estimate as to date capture island will be completed. Fighting going much better now with Mount Tapotchau taken before noon. Remaining terrain very rugged. ASLITO airfield in excellent condition damage to buildings minor requiring mostly reroofing. Engineers extending runway to 4200 feet to eastward with Marston Mat. Full length extension appears require cut and fill operations. CHARAN KANOA strip has little development and only minor possibilities. Unloading proceeding well on beaches and over CHARAN KANOA pier and new pontoon dock east to southward. About 20 slightly damaged small type Jap aircraft plus spare engines and ordnance equipment will be ready for transfer to PEARL when road and beach facilities permit loading. Roads will be major problem during rainy season. No hard surfaced roads exist and all are badly cut up and deep in dust where our heavy traffic moves. Inspected camps and hospital for CHAMORRO KOREAN and Japanese civilians. All able bodied males are engaged in clean up work. Possibility of early setting of W day will depend upon conditions and availability of troops now fighting here who might be taken off as reserve for GUAM. In meantime necessary preparation of ships will be proceeding at ENIWETOK. Major General Ralph Smith departed for PEARL by air yesterday morning.

~~TOP SECRET~~
JULY (GCT)

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02 0504 CINCPOA to COMFIFTHFLT Info COMTHIRDFLT, CTF 58

~~TOP SECRET~~. At such time as a strike on FULLCRY (PALAU) and VOCALIST (YAP) will not interfere with more urgent requirements (or when it will be of value to your local tactical situation) desire it be made in order to obtain additional close photographic coverage accordance requirements my 242348.

03 0601 COM5THFLT to CINCPAC, ALL TFC'S 5TH FLT, CTF 51, CTF 56.

~~This is Top Secret~~. Conference held 3 July with Admirals Turner, Mitscher, Hill, Connolly SK Generals Holland Smith, Geiger and DelValle relating to determination W Day. Decision reached to employ 77th Army Division as Corps Reserve for GUAM assault. Tentative date W Day 25 July. Decision reached after full consideration time further capability of troops, campaign in SAIPAN and nature of defenses GUAM. Com5thFleet will designate date about 25 July as W Day at appropriate time. TINIAN operation will proceed with troops now engaged in SAIPAN with date to be determined by completion fighting here and necessary time for rehabilitating and reequipping.

03 2109 CINCPAC to COMFIFTHFLEET Info COMINCH.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 030601 delay in W Day unacceptable. Unless there are compelling reasons to contrary of which I am unaware it appears feasible to fix W Day about time of arrival first combat team from 77 Div in operating area. Remainder that Division should arrive about 24 July. Any delay slows up entire campaign not only for Pacific Ocean Area but for Southwest Pacific as well. Reexamine the question with a view of finding ways and means of meeting an earlier date and state controlling factors that necessitate delay.

04 0400 CINCPOA to COMINCH Info CINCSWPA.

Your 291746. The extent to which progress in the MARIANAS has been impeded by the extensive increases of enemy garrisons and the increase of the PALAU garrison since mid-March from 9,000 to approximately 40,000 with weapons in proportion make it unlikely that the timing directed by JCS 713/4 can be achieved. I am giving consideration to an extensive modification of STALEMATE in which time and expenditure of forces would be saved by seizing ANGAUR and PELELIU and with use of KOSSOL ROADS neutralizing BABELTHUAP and the KOROR HARBOR Area and seizing YAP and ULITHI in order to obtain air base and anchorage facilities which though not completely satisfactory may be obtained without excessive delay. Para. Representatives of CinCSWPA have informally discussed with my staff operations which involve occupation of MOROTAI ISLAND (HALMAHERAS) in early September, a limited occupation of SARANGANI BAY AREA primarily by short range aircraft in late October, a major occupation of LEYTE about 15 November to be followed by the occupation of LEGASPI and APARRI in mid-January, a minor movement into MINDORO in February and a major assault on LUZON through LINGAYEN about April 1st. Preliminary consideration indicates that this timing is optimistic. Carrier support would be required for MOROTAI and SARANGANI. The LEYTE operation would be of a critical and decisive character and if successful would give us air supremacy in the PHILIPPINES. It would require the employment of practically all available covering and striking forces, fire support forces, and all available assault shipping. The operations proposed appear feasible. Para. Although use of short cuts and prompt exploitation of favorable situations are prime considerations our operations should be so conducted as to ensure control of the sea and

- Continued -

2331

~~TOP SECRET~~

JULY (GCT)

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04 0400 CINCPAC to COMINCH Info CINCSWPA.

- Continued -

the air during major amphibious assaults. To the maximum extent practicable our amphibious operations should be conducted with the support of shore based aircraft. Tactical situations in which the fast carrier task forces are more or less immobilized in support of protracted fighting on shore should be avoided. Para. In my opinion the basic concept of operations proposed by CINCSWPA in which shore based air forces, ground troops and naval forces are advanced together is sound. Moreover, unless the rate of attrition inflicted on the enemy naval and air forces is accelerated, or we achieve a decisive victory at sea, movement into the FORMOSA STRAIT region will be dependent on neutralization of enemy air forces in LUZON by our own shore based air forces particularly if the current enemy campaign in CHINA limits the ability of air forces in CHINA to strike FORMOSA and the nearby CHINA Coast. Para. For the present no change in approved strategic concepts is recommended. The partial occupation of PALAU Plus YAP and ULITHI is considered to satisfy the directive of JCS 713/4. The inclusion of LEYTE with MINDANAO will expedite subsequent operations and is considered advisable. My preparations for the FORMOSA STRAIT operation should continue. The eventual feasibility ~~and~~ necessity of moving to the CHINA Coast without the use of LUZON as a naval and air base will depend on various developments including the extent to which interim attrition can be inflicted on enemy naval and air forces and the situation in CHINA.

05 1425 COMFIFTHFLEET to CINCPAC Info CTF 51 CTF 56 CTF 53.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Determination of earliest date for W Day started with arrival Conolly, Geiger on June 30 and continued until final conference July 3. Entire matter reconsidered again today as result your 040739. Holland Smith and Geiger affirm their previous judgment that entire 77th Division is required to conduct GUAM operation with assurance of success. If their views as to military forces needed are to be overruled and operation ordered to proceed with only 1 RCT of 77th immediately available believe this decision should be made by higher authority on basis of effect of delay on conduct of future operations. Only other troops available in area are those who have now been engaged in heavy fighting for 3 weeks on SAIPAN with end of fighting not determinable at present. These troops should have 10 days for rehabilitation and be reequipped on completion SAIPAN. They or other troops will be required for TINIAN. Personal letter to you in air mail this morning bears on subject. Movement of 77th Division to MARIANAS and delay in completion of FORAGER will require changes in CINCPAC plans for movements of vessels of amphibious forces transfer of troops additional military supplies and equipments all of which must be integrated with STALEMATE plans. Recommend representation from your staff come to SAIPAN to make determination of these matters.

~~TOP SECRET~~

JULY (GCT)

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06 0236 CINCPQA to COM5THFLEET Info COMINCH.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ In view your 051425 together with latest information as to strength of enemy garrison GUAM and my appreciation of extent to which long period of embarkation ^{may} have affected condition of troops delay of W Day until arrival 77th Division is approved. Remainder 77th Division will leave here 9 July. Assume all practicable steps being taken to recondition Geiger's troops. Para. STALEMATE plans being extensively revised to meet delays and expected return of assault shipping in increments. Revised warning order will give details. No FORAGER troops will be required. For time being effective completion of FORAGER is paramount to other tasks except the continuing one of destroying enemy naval and air forces.

06 0252 CINCPAC TO COMINCH.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Unless otherwise directed I intend on 7 July issue warning order for occupation MARIANAS-PALAU line in accordance concept indicated in first paragraph my 040400.

06 1840 COMINCH AND CNO to CINCPAC.

This is TOP SECRET. Your 060252 Joint Chiefs of Staff approve.

14 0227 COMSOPAC to CINCPQA Info COMAIRSOPAC, CINCSWPA, NEW ZEALAND CHIEF OF STAFF.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ After meeting SoPac garrison requirements and New Zealand training and forming requirements the RNZAF can make available for transfer SWPA and maintain an operational level the following combat squadrons

(A) TYPE	(B) DATE AVAILABLE	(C) PRESENT LOCATION
1 VF	27 July	BOUGAINVILLE
1 VF	17 Sept	NEW ZEALAND
1 VF	1 Nov	NEW ZEALAND
1 VF	15 Dec	NEW ZEALAND
1 VB medium	1 Oct	NOW BOUGAINVILLE
1 VB medium	17 Sept	NEW ZEALAND

Each New Zealand FightRon equipped with 18 Corsairs. Each New Zealand medium BombRon equipped with 15 Venturas. Squadrons shown as being in NEW Zealand are being rehabilitated or organized and will become available in GUADALCANAL--SANTOS area on dates indicated.

17 0205 RICHARDSON to CINCPQA Info COM3rdFlt COM3rdPHIBFORCES CTF 36 CG FMFPAC etc.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ (RJ 22461) Pursuant to CinCPQA top secret priority disp 152201 GCT 24th Corps and attached units and 81st Division and attached units pass to operational control CTF 36. Field orders follow listing. By copy this dispatch ComGen 24th Corps and ComGen 81st Division are directed to report for operational control as indicated.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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JULY
19 0519 CINCPHA to COMSOPAC Info CINCSWPA, COMAIRPAC, N.Z. C of S,
COMAIRSOPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 140227. Request you arrange direct with CinCSWPA transfer of RNZAF aircraft units to SWPA.

02 1631 COMINCH to CINCPHA

~~TOP SECRET~~. This is a planning message from the Joint Staff Planners to CINCPHA Planners. Reference CAUSEWAY Joint Staff Study. Following information would be appreciated: Para. A. Plans you may have for occupation and future use of DONATION. Para. B. Plans for Post-CAUSEWAY operations to occupy northern DIAPHRAGM. What is estimated target date and what forces will you employ for these operations. Para. C. What employment other than defense do you envisage for the substantial air elements you indicate will go to ABOLITION. Can these air forces be established on the coastal islands or must we build fields on the mainland. Para. D. How will the feasibility of CAUSEWAY be affected if the 14th air force is unable to render direct support to CAUSEWAY. Para. E. What would be the effect on your plans if enemy air on WHITEWASH cannot be effectively reduced and contained from SILVERSAND as envisaged in JCS number 989 of 12 March.

24 0957 CINCPHA to COMINCH.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 021631. Answers to queries follow; (A). It is intended only to neutralize DONATION for the time being unless future developments require substitution of DONATION for ABOLITION. (B) Choice between post CAUSEWAY operations primarily to occupy northern DIAPHRAGM or to move rapidly into more advanced positions will depend on strategic situation as it develops. In any case perimeter will be expanded as practicable with means available. To complete occupation of DIAPHRAGM it is estimated that about 208,000 additional personnel would be required as follows in addition to those envisaged by GRANITE Second and Preliminary Draft CAUSEWAY Joint Staff Study: One armored division 11,000, two infantry divisions 30,000 supporting combat troops 30,500, QM units 26,200 Engineering and construction 29,500, medical 8,000, signal 6,400, ordnance 5,000, CWS 500, transportation corps 8,500, miscellaneous naval units 10,000, aviation service units army 14,000. Following additional aircraft would be employed: 3 day fighter groups plus one night fighter, 3 medium bomber groups 10 very long range bomber groups. These troops would have to be lifted in repeated movements of assault shipping. Their maintenance would require an increase of approximately 10 AP and 25 AK sailings per month from west coast. (C) The air elements now listed for ABOLITION namely 2 fighter groups 1 light bomber groups and 1 medium bomber group plus 1 patrol seaplane and 1 VH squadron are considered none too great for defensive purposes but would be used also to strike suitable targets and assist in improving military situation in SUBLIME. This last activity

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~JULY (GCT)~~

24 0957 CINCPOA to COMINCH (Cont'd).

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is considered to be a very important result of the establishment of our air forces in the DIAPHRAGM-ABOLITION area. It is believed that fields for 4 groups can be developed on the coastal islands. (D) Inability of the 14th air force to support CAUSEWAY will increase necessity to reduce or contain enemy air forces in WHITEWASH by establishment SoWesPac air forces in EXCELSIOR and for previous attrition of enemy air strength by VLR and carrier operations against BUNKHOUSE and HYPOCRITE. However, completion of CAUSEWAY even on reduced scale will immediately enhance overall effectiveness of air forces based in SUBLIME. (E) Inability effectively reduce or contain enemy air forces on WHITEWASH would render success of CAUSEWAY doubtful. For this reason, the SoWesPac air forces should be established in SILVERSAND and accumulation as envisaged by Phase 2 of RENO 5. After successful completion Phase 2 CAUSEWAY should be feasible. Para. The foregoing summarizes my views which were expressed in greater detail during conference at PEARL just concluded.

27 0245 REAR ADMIRAL SHERMAN (VIA COM7THFLT) to CINCPOA.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Target dates for SARANGANI and LEYTE are now 15 November and 20 December respectively. Recommend CominCh be informed as target date for CAUSEWAY somewhat affected. New dates remove certain weaknesses previously pointed out by CincPOA Planners and are in my opinion advisable.

27 0603 CINCEP to CINCPAC for (CAPT TUFNELL)

~~Top Secret~~. Following for Capt Tufnell from Capt Hillgarth (1) Battleships, cruisers, destroyers of Eastern Fleet bombarded SABANG dawn 25th July by carrier borne aircraft (2) complete surprise achieved. Bombardment lasted 35 minutes most effective harbor installations almost all destroyed. Alternative wharves "go down" left mass of flames and smoke. Half of barracks devastated remaining buildings almost completely destroyed. W/T station destroyed or severely damaged. Radar station heavily shelled and attacked by aircraft. No damage or casualties to bombarding force. My 270617 part 1.

~~Top Secret~~. My 270617 part 2 final. (3) under cover main bombardment 3 destroyers 1 cruiser entered harbor engaging target at very close range silencing shore batteries sunk medium size merchant ship and wrecked 2 jetties with torpedoes suffering minor damage only and few casualties 2 fatal (4) carrier borne aircraft attacked airdrome damaging hangar, buildings radar station and destroyed 4 aircraft on the ground. 2 aircraft sent to intercept fleet shot down. 1 aircraft lost crew saved (5) Formation enemy aircraft attempted attack fleet evening 25th July. 3 destroyed 2 damaged remainder driven off by fighter cover before close fire.

JULY (GCT)

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

27 1956Z JOINT STAFF PLANNERS WASHINGTON SIGNED ROBERTS to STAFF PLANNERS OF CINCPAC, STAFF PLANNERS OF CINCSWPA.

~~Top Secret~~. This is planning level message WRAX 71483. Planning assumption is that DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA) assault at earliest practicable date is primary objective of campaign outlined in J.C.S. 713/4 and occupation WHITEWASH (LUZON) not to be accomplished prior to occupation of DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA). Primary purpose occupation ACCUMULATION (LEYTE IS.) - SILVER-SAND (MINDANAO) Area is to establish air forces to reduce enemy air in WHITEWASH (LUZON) in support of CAUSEWAY (Operation against FORMOSA). Thereafter SoWesPac forces to continue operations in EXCELSIOR (PHILIPPINES), maintain pressure and continue attrition, and extending holdings to the limit of resources available after requirements have been met for augmentation of CAUSEWAY (Operation against FORMOSA) forces with a view to eventual complete reoccupation of EXCELSIOR (PHILIPPINES). These operations would be conducted without the direct support of the Pacific Fleet. The transfer of assault craft suitable for shore-to-shore operation from CentPac to SoWesPac is contemplated. Some SoWesPac air, ground, and service forces would be necessary in CAUSEWAY (Operation against FORMOSA) and POST-CAUSEWAY operations. Believe early March latest practicable target date for DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA) in order avoid unacceptable delay in subsequent operations, the primary consideration being the weather. Therefore believe 1 December latest acceptable target date for ACCUMULATION (LEYTE IS.) if approximately 3 months required to occupy and then conduct effective air operations against WHITEWASH (LUZON). Your views on following would be appreciated: Para. A. Beginning end of FORAGER (Capture of MARIANAS) what reasonable possibilities exist to meet target date of 15 November for ACCUMULATION (LEYTE IS.) by bypassing objectives or by compressing intervals between presently contemplated operations. For Example: Para. (1) Can Phase 1 STALEMATE (Operations against the PALAUS) be eliminated, and Phase 2 be executed 15 September, possibly adding DOWNPOUR (WOLEAI) as objective to HORROR (ULITHI) and BEQUEST (YAP ISLANDS). Para. (2) Can GOSSIPMONGER (TALAUO) and/or WINDBAG (SARANGANI) be eliminated and Northern SILVERSAND (MINDANAO) - ACCUMULATION (LEYTE IS.) operations be designated as simultaneous or closely timed operations within the capabilities of the fleet to support them until land-based air is established. Para. B. In Phase 2 RENO 5 what operations are contemplated to seize, develop and use the available airfield sites in the Central SILVERSAND (MINDANAO) plateau area.

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02 0435 COMSOPAC to CINCPAC info COMINCH CINCSWPA RNZAF HEADQUARTERS WELLINGTON COMAIRSOPAC COMAIRPAC.

Your 230146 June. ~~This is Top Secret~~. As result conference with representatives RNZAF and CINCSWPA following recommendation submitted by ComSoPac. RNZAF squadrons will become available to report to CINCSOWESPA on following dates, 2 VF and 1 VB medium now ready in BOUGAINVILLE, 1 VB medium on 17 September in NEW ZEALAND, 2 VF on 1 October in NEW ZEALAND. Availability for employment in combat area for squadrons forming in NEW ZEALAND is dependent on shipping which will be provided by SOPAC to destinations in SOLOMONS-BISMARCK axis and by SWPA if destination is West of EMIRAU. Logistic support now provided by SOPAC to NEW ZEALAND air force will be continued for aircraft operating in SOLOMONS BISMARCK axis including EMIRAU. If and when

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02 0435 COMSOPAC to CINCPAC info COMINCH CINCSWPA RNZAF HEADQUARTERS WELLINGTON
COMAIRSOPAC COMAIRPAC - continued -

they operate from points elsewhere than SOLOMONS BISMARCK axis the logistic support to be provided by CINCSOWESPA. Details of organization and administration to be arranged directly between CINCSOWESPA and Commander RNZAF.

05 0457Z RICHARDSON HDWAR to WDCSA info CINCPAC 10TH ARMY.

~~Top-Secret~~ RJ-24287 Campaign Plan GRANITE 2 contemplates partial occupation of DIAPHRAGM. Operational planning indicates ultimate necessity for occupation of all of DIAPHRAGM. Whether final concept directs initial assault on this basis or not, ultimate requirement indicates need for 1 Army Corps headquarters in addition to the 24th Corps presently assigned. Para. To facilitate training and planning necessary it is requested that early action be taken by the War Department to send to this area the following units: Corps Headquarters T/O 100-1, Headquarters company T/O 100-2, Headquarters and Headquarters battery corps artillery T/O 6-50-1, signal battalion T/O 11-15, Field Artillery Observation Battalion T/O 6-75, Engineer Topographical Company, Corps T/O 5-167. Request radio advice of action taken.

05 0910 GHQ SWPA to AGWAR info CINCPAC, CG SOPAC ADCOM.

CX15765 I am opposed to the establishment of the arbitrary date of 1 Sept. for the termination of transfer of Army troops from the South Pacific to the Southwest Pacific area reference WARX 73119 July 30th and CINCPAC letter serial 000558 July 20th. JC 7713/5 reads "All other combat and all service and supporting troops when not required for the operation bases retained in the South Pacific area should pass to the control of the Southwest Pacific" This can be interpreted only to mean that it was the intent of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to transfer eventually all Army troops of the South Pacific Area to the Southwest Pacific Area when their requirement to support the South Pacific bases ceased. During the conferences leading up to the mutual agreements for the transfer of Army troops from the South Pacific Area to the Southwest Pacific Area, a full survey by the South Pacific Area of available service force units was impracticable because at that time there was no reliable indication as to what missions would be assigned to the South Pacific. In my conferences with Admiral Halsey leading up to the final interim solution I made it clear that the number of Army Service Force troops being received was not sufficient to support the Army Air and Army Ground Force units being transferred, and I informed that I would expect the transfer of additional Service Force units if and when they became surplus to the needs of the South Pacific. That this principle was understood and accented is indicated clearly by the statement of Commander South Pacific Area cited in paragraph 2 CINCPAC's letter serial 000558 July 20th "No other Service troops can be reported as available at this time but will be reported when and if they are no longer needed for the missions assigned this area after redeployment" Para. It is presumed that prior to the redeployment of units from the South Pacific Area certain Service Force Units were dispatched there to serve the air force and ground force units comprised the Army Garrison. In other words it was a balanced force. When these air and ground force units are dispatched to another area the same general balance should obtain. Examination of this balance indicates that prior to transfer the Army Air and Army

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05 0910 GHQ SWPA to AGWAR info CINCPAC, CG SOPAC ADCOM - continued -

Ground Force units aggregated 152,000 troops and the Army Service Force a total of 65,000 troops, A 70-30% ratio. Of the troops transferred the air and ground force units total approximately 131,000 and the Army Service Force units transferred 14,000 A 90-10% ratio. This unfavorable balance of service force to air and ground force units seriously aggravates the present critical deficiency of service troops already existing in the South-West Pacific Area, which has necessitated the employment of large numbers of combat troops to fulfill the service force mission. My staff is at present engaged in trying to solve the service problems of the wideawake campaign by a series of expedients. Present indications point to serious deficiencies in the latter phases of this operation with no solution in sight. Para. I desire to point out that if the eventual transfer of the Army Service Units of the South Pacific Area to the Southwest Pacific Area is denied, a disproportionate impact of the deficiency must be absorbed by the Southwest Pacific Area at a time when it is carrying the principal air and ground offensive action of the Pacific theatre.

06 1023 CINCPAC to COMGENPOA

~~This is Top Secret.~~ Following are answers to questions urdis 050501Z. (A) Forecast as to employment of A and B Divisions is impossible at this time because decision of higher authority has not been made as to what operations are to follow CAUSEWAY. Possibilities are (1) Assault if Division has amphibious training. (2) Operations ashore following Assault. (3) Garrison. (B) Present plans for employment of Divisions as garrison units are generally as in Appendix F GRANITE II except substitute 81st for 77th as garrison ARTERIAL. Dates and extent of reduction of garrisons depend upon the future situation and can not now be forecast. Policy is to keep maximum number of divisions available for offensive operations and to reduce defensive garrisons to minimum required by the situation.

06 1447 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC COMSOPAC info CINCSOWESPAC COMAIRPAC COMAIRSOPAC
RNZAF HQ WELLINGTON.

~~Top Secret.~~ COMSOPAC 020435 approved.

07 0116 CINCPAC to COMGENPOA info COMINCH.

~~Top Secret.~~ Nimitz to Richardson, info King. In compliance request of your R 24796 being passed you separately for your eyes only. You will note that it constitutes a summary of certain views previously given Admiral King in conference and was furnished as a result of an inquiry originated by the Joint Staff Planners. As directed by my serial 00071 of 3 June GRANITE TWO is to be used as the basis for acquiring and preparing forces and for providing means for their logistic support. It is requested that any divergent views concerning its concept for operations for which I am responsible be submitted to me. Your RJ 24287. As expressed in my 240957 it is my view that choice between post CAUSEWAY operations primarily to occupy Northern DIAPHRAGM or to move rapidly into more advanced positions will depend on strategic situation as it develops.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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01 2336Z RICHARDSON HDWAR to WDCSA info CINCPOA.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ RJ 24343 This is in furtherance of our radio R22303-15 July and in reply to your Top Secret radio War 62673-9 July para it is recommended that the category of defense for HAWAII, upon successful completion of FORAGER, be set as category B in accordance with paragraph 31B, "Joint Action of the Army and Navy," with the following additional specifications; (A) That continuous, constant air protection be provided and that it not be limited to periods "When enemy threat is imminent" (B) That long range air reconnaissance be provided (C) That no submarine mine barrages be established (D) That a minimum of 1 (1) infantry division be present for the defense of the islands of the main Hawaiian Group" Para. Cincpoa neither approves nor disapproves these recommendations at present but has stated that he will make recommendations in near future to Joint Chiefs of Staffs. Request information of action taken upon these recommendations.

10 0125 CINCPOA to COM3rdFLEET COM5thFLEET info COMINCH COMFWDAREA

~~This is Top Secret.~~ It is my intention to continue the responsibility of Commander 5th Fleet for the Forward Area including the Marianas until relieved thereof by Com 3rd Flt at a time to be determined later by Cincpoa now estimated as about 26 August. Covering and striking forces and the forces of the Forward Area will remain under the operational control of Com 5th Flt until he is relieved of responsibility for the Forward Area.

10 0133 CINCPOA to COM5thFLEET COMGENPOA COMPHIBSPAC COMGENFMFPAC COMGEN 10th FIELD ARMY info COMINCH COMAIRPAC COMSERVPAC COM3rdFLT COMGENAAFPPOA

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Following assignments are made for planning purposes in connection with CAUSEWAY operation: Admiral R. A. Spruance officer commanding the CAUSEWAY operation, Vice Admiral R. K. Turner Commander Joint Expeditionary Force, Lieutenant General S. B. Buckner Commander Expeditionary Troops.

09 0400 CINCPOA to COM5THFLT, COMGENPOA, COMGEN AAFPPOA, COMSERVPAC, COMAIRPAC, DEP COM XX AF, COMFWDAREA, Info to COMINCH & CNO, COM 14.

The MARIANAS are to be developed as a base for future operations of the forces of the Pacific Ocean Areas and also for the twentieth Air Force. It has become apparent that to meet the requirements of CAUSEWAY and subsequent operations there must be a maximum expansion of port facilities and that extensive naval base facilities must be provided. Para. It has been decided to proceed with development of SAIPAN and TINIAN under directives heretofore issued which give high priority to Twentieth Air Force facilities. At GUAM priority will be given to improvement of harbor, naval base facilities, staging facilities for ground troops, facilities necessary for garrison air forces, advanced headquarters for CINCPOA together with necessary communications. Para. Construction for Twentieth Air Force on GUAM will be deferred except for depot. Para. Revised directives for base development of GUAM will be issued separately.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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11 2110Z MARSHALL to RICHARDSON Info HARMON (COMGENPOA passed to CINCPAA)
(War-79225)

~~Top Secret~~. War Department considers that assignment of Air Force Service Units is entirely dependent on organization for air service support established by Commanding General Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Area. It is not practicable from this distance to determine in each case relative merit of specific assignment to either 20th Air Force, 7th Air Force or Air Service Command Pacific Ocean Area, if latter is established. Accordingly, the War Department will continue to assign all air service units (except those which are an integral part of 20th Air Force) including those listed Urad RJ-24558 to the US Army Forces Pacific Ocean Area. This will thus permit their further assignment as indicated above.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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15 0355 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT, COM3RDPHIBFOR, CTF 36, COMGEN3RDPHIBCORPS, Info to COMAIRPAC, COMSOPAC, COMGENFMFPAC, COMINCH & CNO, CINCSWPA, MARCORPS, COMGENADCOMFMFPAC, COMGENPOA, COM5THFLT, COM7THFLT, COMPHIBSPAC, CTF 57, COMGEN5THPHIBCORPS, COMAIRWINGSPAC, COMGEN SUPSERVFMFPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. MyDis 071245 July modified as follows: Major General Julian C Smith USMC will command all Expeditionary Troops with designation CTF 36. Expeditionary Troops will consist of the following subordinate commands (A) for Phase 1. Maj.Gen. R. S. Geiger, USMC, in command of 3rd PhibCorps consisting of corps troops, 1st MarDiv and 81st InfDiv (B) for Phase 2. Maj. Gen. Hodge, USA, in command of 24th Army Corps consisting of corps troops 7th, 81st, and 96th InfDivs. XRAY Provisional Amphibious Corps redesignated 3rd PhibCorps.

15 2100 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to NIMITZ.

War 81033. ~~Top Secret~~. Preparation of Joint Strategical Studies for the war against Japan has been handicapped by lack of accurate and recent intelligence, maps, and photographic coverage concerning Japanese inner zone, especially BONIN and IZU ISLAND CHAINS, RYUKYUS, and JAPAN proper. Para 2.

A Vertical reconnaissance photography of the following island in the VOLCANO, BONIN, and IZU chains, scale not smaller than 1 to 20,000, is desired as soon as possible consistent with current operations, showing beaches in both black and white and color, communications, airfields, and large military installations:

- (1) IWO JIMA
- (2) HAHAI JIMA
- (3) CHICHI JIMA
- (4) HACHIJO JIMA
- (5) MIYAKE SHIMA
- (6) KOZU SHIMA
- (7) NII SHIMA
- (8) SHIKINE SHIMA

B In addition complete vertical cover is desired of the above islands any scale.

Para 3. Also request that any other sources of files of intelligence concerning topography and military installations or objectives in the areas referred to in the first paragraph be reexamined with view to procuring and transmitting to Washington such intelligence not previously transmitted.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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18 0437 CINCPOA to COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~. Concept of Central Pacific campaign substantially as contemplated in JCS 713/4 and in GRANITE 2 is still considered offer best prospects early establishment our forces in Formosa Strait area.

However after the occupation of the Marianas-Palau line by POA forces SWPA forces should be established in Central Philippines. Following recent inter area conferences as directed in JCS 713/4 plans have been prepared by CinCSWPA for occupation of (A) MOROTAI during 1st phase of STALEMATE (B) Occupation of TALAUD in October (C) Of SARANGANI in November and (D) LEYTE in December. STALEMATE plans include cover and support for (A) and (B) by POA forces and my INSURGENT plan outlines Pacific Fleet cover and support for (C) and (D). INSURGENT contemplates full scale carrier attacks against enemy air force in LUZON and MINDANAO to support SARANGANI operation and in FORMOSA LUZON and LEYTE to cover and support LEYTE operation. Consider that the combined effect of these carrier attacks and the sustained operations of both SWPA and POA shore based air forces will reduce enemy air force in PHILIPPINES to an ineffective force. The coordinated advance of our shore based air forces ground forces and naval forces is essential and can be effected under present SWPA and POA concepts. Even though some enemy air strength remains in LUZON it is my belief that it can be so continuously engaged by SWPA air forces established in LEYTE area as to prevent its effective interference with subsequent POA operations.

If we are to obtain advantages of establishment of our forces in FORMOSA STRAIT region prior to end of typhoon season 1945 CAUSEWAY must follow as closely after LEYTE as movement and preparation of forces will permit. My outline plan for CAUSEWAY which involves occupation southern FORMOSA and AMOY was prepared to ensure seizure of vital positions with minimum force. Lieutenant General Buckner who has been assigned to command expeditionary troops has informed me that assuming air superiority can be maintained (which assumption I believe can be met) the forces summarized in my preliminary staff study will be adequate to accomplish the limited occupation. However he considers that it will eventually be necessary to conquer the whole island. In my opinion choice between occupation northern FORMOSA or rapid movement into more advanced positions will depend on further developments. Independent estimates by my joint staff and by ComGenPOA indicates requirements for 208,000 and 244,000 additional troops respectively. Of various estimates including those of ComGen 10th Army I am inclined to accept ComGenPOA's estimate of total of 261,000 army troops for the limited operation and 505,000 army troops for the expanded operation as being the best for planning purposes. These figures are now being restudied to reconcile difference. The Marine strength for limited operation will be 154,000 and the Naval personnel on shore 61,000.

Expansion VLR program over that shown my GRANITE 2 will follow any extension of territory acquired on FORMOSA.

Since lack of time will prevent adequate development of positions not now in our possession I have initiated action to develop port and base facilities at GUAM and SAIPAN to the utmost. ComGenPOA has submitted a review of additional troop commitments needed to ensure his readiness to support the operation which will be forwarded separately.

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18 0437 CINCPOA to COMINCH - Continued -

In order that all preparations may proceed with a minimum of uncertainty a firm directive is necessary.

Para. Recent successes in destroying the enemy carrier based air force at sea and his shore based air forces in the MARIANAS WESTERN NEW GUINEA and the HALMAHERAS and in destroying his strongly reinforced garrisons in the MARIANAS show that we are now able to overcome his resistance in any outlying position where we can concentrate and coordinate the power of our fleet and amphibious forces and troops and the shore based air forces now available in SWPA and POA. It

Para. It is my belief that under cover of POA forces established in the FORMOSA STRAIT Area and with Japanese sea communications cut at that latitude the advance of SWPA forces into LUZON will involve no delay in the overall progress of the war, will meet minimum resistance and can be accomplished concurrently with operations to isolate JAPAN by sea and air action and to destroy vital objectives in JAPAN by bombing. Operations will be mutually supporting and time available for strengthening of enemy defenses will be reduced.

Para. I recommend that the Joint Chiefs of Staff issue a directive now for the progressive advance of SWPA forces into the CENTRAL PHILIPPINES to be followed by the establishment of POA forces in the FORMOSA STRAIT REGION with a target date of 15 February.

18 0849Z MACARTHUR to COMDR ALLIED AIR FORCES, COMDR ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COMDR ALAMO FORCE, CG USASOS, Info CHIEF STAFF WAR DEPT, CINCPOA, CTF 76.

~~Top Secret~~. CX 16299. Warning order for GOSSIPMONGER (TALAUD IS.) FOLLOWS: Minor hostile forces of undetermined strength occupy GOSSIPMONGER (TALAUD). Southwest Pacific Forces covered by the 3rd Fleet will seize INVENTION (SALEBABOE IS. TALAUD) in GOSSIPMONGER to establish air and naval facilities to support future operations in EXCELSIOR (P.I.). Target date for George-Day 15 October. Major troop units abablnseyispjln 32 Division less 1 Regimental Combat Team, 8 Engineer Battalions. Objectives for air garrison in the following priority: By G plus 15, 2 fighter squadrons; G plus 30, additional 1 fighter group and 1 fighter squadron, 1 night fighter squadron, 1 medium bomb group; by G plus 45, additional 1 heavy bomb group (with facilities prepared for the use of 1 troop carrier group if substituted for heavy bomb group); by G plus 60, additional 1 heavy bomb group. Para.

ALAMO force will prepare to seize by amphibious operation INVENTION construct necessary airjcca port and minor naval facilities. Para.

Allied air forces will prepare to support the operation in conjunction and in coordination with naval air; install the necessary ground echelons for air garrisons and initiate preparations at GOSSIPMONGER for staging and supporting airborne operations in EXCELSIOR of approximately 1 Regimental Combat Team 32 Division and 1 Battalion 503 Parachute Regiment. Para.

Allied naval forces will prepare to SLPP the operation by transporting and landing elements of the assault and supporting forces and furnishing naval protection therefor; provide motor torpedo boat operations in the GOSSIPMONGER Area by G plus 2 days and establish annor naval forces as required; details relative to carrier based aviation support and coordination between land and carrier based aircraft participating in the operations will be communicated to all concerned later. Para. Partial troop movement direct-

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18 0849Z MACARTHUR TO COMDR ALLIED AIR FORCES, ETC., CONT'D.

ive for concentration follows in separate radio. Combat instructions to amplify the above will be issued later. Signed MACARTHUR .

17 0252 COM5THFLT to CINCPAC Info CTF 57, CTF 59

Operations of B-24's without fighter protection against IWO JIMA and CHICHI JIMA have resulted in losses from enemy VF attacks. Situation resembles that existing early January with our unsupported bomber attacks of MARSHALLS. CTF 59 has proposed to CTF 57 use of CVE to give fighter support to his attacks. Concur with CTF 57 that properly scheduled and timed fighter sweeps from CVE would be valuable. Problem of keeping IWO JIMA and CHICHI JIMA down can be largely reduced by preventing reenforcement through destruction of shipping. However B24's and PB4Y's are not able to accomplish this satisfactorily. Request consideration be given to assigning to ComForward Area CenPac CVE manned with long range fighters.

18 2112 CINCPAC to COM5THFLEET info CTF 57, CTF 59, COM3RDFLEET

~~TOP SECRET~~. Since the beginning of the Central Pacific Campaign heavy bombers of the 5th, 7th and 13th Army Air Forces and reconnaissance aircraft of Fleet Air Wing 2 in their attacks on PALAU, YAP, WOLEAI, TRUK and the MARSHALLS have demonstrated that it is practicable to attack enemy island positions effectively and successfully without fighter cover. Accordingly contention that heavy bombers of Task Force 59 cannot accomplish Tasks in connection with BONINS does not appear well founded. Para. The Carriers available for offensive operation in the near future are to be employed in the STALEMATE operation. Moreover if they were available to make scheduled strikes against the BONINS and other enemy bases against which heavy bombers of Task Force 59 are to operate the need for the heavy bomber attacks would tend to disappear. Para. Believe my 181945 will improve present situation.

19 0733 MACARTHUR CINCSWPA via COM7THFLT to CINCPAC info COMAAF, COMANF.

~~Top Secret~~. CX 16358. Page 4, memorandum record conferences with your staff representatives dated 28 July is reference, carrier air support GOSSIPMONGER operation is subject. Para. Request Fast Carrier Support by strikes on airdromes FLAREUP-WINDBAG and fighter sweeps north central SILVERSAND D-1 through D-1; TQOVPD* strike D-3 and D-4 and final strike D-6. ACCUMULATION AREA ALTERNATE TARGET 2nd and 3rd strikes as determined by Commander 3rd Fleet. Southwest Pacific Area heavies will continue night harassing operations. Southern SILVERSAND area as weather permits throughout this period. Para. Also request 6 CVE's attached 7th Fleet for INTERLUDE remain so attached during GOSSIPMONGER to augment land-ADRFD** cover for the operation. Para. Indication your capabilities as to above would be appreciated at this time to permit issue appropriate instructions.

*As decoded, probably "Second"
"Based"

**As decoded, probably

~~TOP SECRET~~

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20 0533 COM7THFLEET to CINCPAC info COM3RDFLT, CTF56, CINCSWPA, COMALLIED AIR FORCES.

~~Top Secret.~~ Com3rd Fleet OPlan 14-44. KITCHENMAID is a potential source of danger during INTERLUDE operation. Consideration being given to desirability Carrier Strikes this area D and D plus 1 days. If you consider feasible TaskGroup 38.1 may be requested to make these strikes if circumstances require in lieu direct support INTERLUDE on these days. Advise. Desirability consensus of conference ComCardivs 22 and 25 Com7th PhibFor and representatives ComGen Alamo Com Air 7th Fleet and 5th Airforce. McArthur has seen this.

21 0237 CINCPAC to CINCSWPA info COM3RDFLT, COM7THFLT, COMAIRPAC, COMCARDIV 22, COMCARDIV 25.

~~Top Secret.~~ It is planned to ^{TALAM-D} leave the 6 CVE's with 7th Fleet through GOSSIPMONGER as requested by your CX 16358 not to all adees. Will advise in near future concerning details Fast Carrier strikes to cover operation.

21 0741 CINCPAC to COM7THFLT info CINCSWPA, COM3RDFLT, CTF 58.

~~Top Secret.~~ Although strikes on ^{MANADO, CEBES} KITCHENMAID may be necessary I do not feel they should be made by carriers. I desire to retain Fast Carriers for STALEMATE operations but am willing to provide 1 Fast Carrier Group for direct support of INTERLUDE should that be found absolutely necessary. If that necessity does not arise however, I am unwilling to divert them from their primary task in STALEMATE to other supporting operations.

21 0816 CINCPAC to CINCSWPA info COM3RDFLEET.

~~Top Secret.~~ Your CX 16358. Further consideration of extent to which intervening operations and requirements for support of K1 and K2 operations will affect capabilities to make strikes against SILVERSAND on 6 dates requested indicates that details should be left for later decision and that strikes should be made on fewer days. Agreement made in Brisbane to strike SILVERSAND airfields during period D-1 to about D+6 confirmed. Assume your requests for strikes on specific dates are predicated on certain movements and consider that information thereof should be given com3rdfleet and CTF 38 to guide their eventual decisions. Except where local coordination necessitates consider it advisable avoid precise schedules in long range planning Fast Carrier operations.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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21 0123 CINCPQA to COMGENPOA Info COM3RD FLT, COM3RDPHIBFOR, COM3RDPHIBCORPS, CTF36.

~~Top Secret.~~ Desire personnel replacements for Army units to be employed Phase 2 STALEMATE 2 be organized and prepared for transfer as follows: (A) To arrive VOCALIST approx W plus 9 approx 2400 officers and enlisted organized into 2 units of approx 1200 each (B) To arrive VOCALIST approx W plus 15 approx 1200 officers and enlisted. Please advise date and place above units will be available for lift. In addition to individual weapons and equipment and such other equipment and supplies as accompany this personnel as directed by ComGenPOA it is desired that 1 unit of fire for individual weapons days 1 K rations and 2 days C rations for personnel concerned also accompany replacement personnel.

29 0901Z RICHARDSON to CINCPQA.

R-29572-29th TOP SECRET X Replacement plans this headquarters for STALEMATE were to furnish replacements for Divisions in rehabilitation areas at completion of operation in accordance with War Department policies. Method as implied your 210123 is contrary to normal Army policies on replacements and considered by the War Dept as last resort to be used only when additional units for reserves are unobtainable. The Chief of Staff of Army has informed me in a personal letter that overstrengths for replacement purposes are beyond our manpower capabilities, if such numbers of additional personnel are deemed necessary for a reserve I recommend that this object be accomplished by alerting and mounting additional constituted units, Army or Marine, rather than by replacements as individuals.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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23 2108 CINCPA to COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~. The lack of a directive as to operations subsequent to STALEMATE is proving to be a serious handicap to sound decisions on current problems. Orders now being issued for disposition of units as they are released from STALEMATE and current development of bases in forward areas are predicated on assumption that directives will eventually be issued to implement decisions of first paragraph of JCS 713/4. Para. It is becoming increasingly evident that without a firm directive now for operations to be conducted in the first quarter of the calendar year 1945 the forces required will not be assembled and prepared in time. In order that the pressure and momentum of our operations in the Pacific may be maintained I urge that a directive be issued now for the CAUSEWAY operation.

24 2034 CINCPAC to CTF 57 info COM5THFLT, CTF 59, CTG 10.15, CTG 59.6, COM3RDFLT, COM MARSHALLS

~~TOP SECRET~~. Although all shore based air forces assigned to the forward area form one task force and for offensive operations operate under their task force commander it is intended that the defensive tasks of the aircraft in the ARTERIAL SUB AREA will be subject to coordination by the sub area commander exercised through the senior officer of TASK FORCE 59 in the sub area. To facilitate such coordination it is intended that the command posts of the sub area commander and the air task group commander will be in close proximity to each other. The use of Joint Command and Communication Centers by island commanders and local air defense commanders is required. Para. The delineation of command relationships and responsibilities in sub areas atolls and islands does not contravene the inherent right of the senior naval or military official on the spot to employ all forces in his vicinity to meet a serious emergency.

24 1736 COMINCH to CINCPA info COS ARMY, COMGENPOA

~~SECRET~~. Your 100217. THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF approve changing the category of defense for the HAWAIIAN AREA to Category "B" plus the following additional specifications: (1) Fighter air protection to be maintained continuously. (2) Long range air reconnaissance to be provided. (3) Ground forces of islands in main HAWAIIAN group to be not less than 1 Division

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

AUGUST (GCT)

26 1545 COMINCH AND CNO to COMSOWSPACFOR Info COPS ARMY, CINCSWPAC, CINCPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~. Establishment of PHILIPPINE Sea Frontier command approved. Estimate earliest arrival in theatre of trained headquarters unit about 15 November. Urser 00064 of 31 July. Submit by despatch recommendation as to size and composition this unit. Anticipate that boundaries will require changes consequent on developments.

SEPT.

02 0803 GHQ SWPA MACARTHUR to COMMANDER ALLIED AIR FORCES CINCPAC Info COMMANDER ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COMMANDER 3RD FLT, CG ALAMO FORCE.

CX-17013

One of the purposes of the Philippine Campaign is to liberate the Filipinos. These people will not be able to understand liberation if it is accompanied by indiscriminate destruction of their homes, their possessions, their civilization and their own lives. Humanity and our moral standing throughout the Far East dictate that the destruction of lives and property in the PHILIPPINES be held to the minimum compatible with the insurance of success in our military campaigns. There is accumulating evidence that in some localities the Japanese are evacuating cities, leaving Filipinos in residence, either failing to warn them or compelling them to stay. By far the greatest destructive effect comes from aerial bombing. Our objective in areas we are to occupy is to totally destroy hostile effort in order to ensure our own success. In other areas we neutralize to weaken any hostile effort which may tend to strengthen resistance of our occupation objectives. In the latter areas our attack objectives are primarily airfields and shipping, not metropolitan areas or villages or barrios. To the extent possible we must preserve port facilities that we plan to use. The Commander Allied Air Forces will, and CINCPAC is requested to issue general instructions in compliance with the above with the objective of minimizing destruction of life and property of Filipinos. Please Acknowledge.

03 2208 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info CTF 38.

~~Top Secret~~. Refer to this as 310402. Referring CinCPAC 210741 seamail from Mitscher states Com7thFlt representative informs that Kenney's fighters cannot arrive over INTERLUDE (MOROTAI) prior 0900 D Day and direct support by 38.1 most desirable. Mitscher therefore recommends dawn D Day fighter sweep on KITCHENMAID (MANADO) from position between INTERLUDE and GOSSIPMONGER (TALAUD) and I concur. Para. Unless otherwise directed Mitscher is instructed by this dispatch to execute his KITCHENMAID sweep plan at discretion and thereafter give direct support to INTERLUDE by 38.1 air operations in the INTERLUDE Area D and D plus 1 as may be requested by ComTaskFor 77.

04 2339 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info CTF 38 COM7THFLT, COMDR ARMY AIR FORCES SWP, CINCPAC, CTF 77, COMINCH, CTG 38.1.

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~~Top Secret~~. In operating carrier it is generally inadvisable to employ them in small numbers against shore objectives where the enemy has numerous aircraft and many supporting airfields. However, since the forces of Gen. MacArthur have been very successful in beating down the enemy air strength in the HALAMAHERA, CELEBES, MINDANAO Area it is considered that the operations outlined in your 310402 (032208) are suitable and your action is approved.

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

05 0314 CINCPOA to COMGENAFAPOA Info COMGENPOA, COMINCH.

~~Top Secret.~~ Your 031959 requests that you be furnished by 050130 (A) objectives and target dates for conceived operations following CAUSEWAY and (B) acceptability by CINCPOA of a total of 25 air combat groups by December 1944 increasing to 76 such groups including supporting air force ground units by September 1945. You indicated need for such information in order to furnish ComGenPOA numbers and types of units to be shipped POA so that he might reply to War Department query on subject. JCS 521/6 and JLPC 38/3 dated 12 August predict availability. Paragraph. Limited time and information permit at present only general statements as to operations beyond CAUSEWAY. The redeployment of Army Air Combat Groups and their supporting ground units must be integrated with the overall operational aspects. It can not profitably be considered separately from the redeployment and operation of other forces. Necessity is stressed for retaining available units in the Homeland until the theater is ready to receive and use them. The foregoing comments show that commitments as to redeployment of air groups are infeasible until JCS directives permit firmer planning than is now the case. Para. For planning purposes target date for CAUSEWAY is 15 February but a firm directive has not been received and that date is subject to radical change. For planning purpose assume as a concept of subsequent operations a similar operations against the mouth of the YANGTZE RIVER Area with concurrent operations against objectives in NANPO SHOTO and NANSEI SHOTO with target date 60 days after completion CAUSEWAY. In addition for planning purposes assume a concept of seizure of a position in the KURILES mounting from ALASKAN positions with a target date of 15 May. Para. Plans for future operations are under study and development and copies of tentative ones will be forwarded to you as they are issued. Please furnish me with copy of your reply to ComGenPOA on subject matter.

02 0200 CINCPOA to COMGENPOA Info COM3RDPHIBFOR, CTF 36, COMGEN XXIV CORPS.

~~Top Secret.~~ ComGenPOA 290901. Com3dPhibFor 301804 indicates that Com3d PhibFor, CTF 36, and ComGen XXIV Corps believe that in principle replacements are preferable to additional organized reserve battalions as more readily absorbed and utilized, that in Phase 2 STALEMATE replacements now set up are contemplated for use as such and not as reserves and recommend that replacements be sent as such if at all. However, in view of the fact that UrDis 290901 states that the method of providing replacements MyDis 210123 is contrary to normal Army policies on replacements and considered by the War Dept as last resort to be used only when additional units for reserves are unobtainable and in view of the statement of Com3dPhibFor that prospective situation Phase 2 warrants cancellation of any replacements or reserve battalions CINCPOA's directive for replacements for Phase 2 will be cancelled.

~~TOP SECRET~~

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

09 0314Z JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to NIMITZ, MACARTHUR

WARX 27648 TOP SECRET ADMIRAL NIMITZ ONLY Pursuant to and in furtherance of the strategic concept set forth in JCS 713/4, The Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area (CINCSWPA) and Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPOA) will conduct the operations and submit the plans directed below. A firm decision as to whether LUZON will be occupied before FORMOSA will be made later.

Para 2. CINCSWPA will:

A After conducting such preliminary operations as may be necessary:

- (1) Occupy the LEYTE-SURIGAO Area, target date 20 December 1944.
- (2) Seize and develop bases and install forces in the Central PHILIPPINES necessary to:
 - (a) Support a further advance directly to FORMOSA by Pacific Ocean Areas (POA) Forces, with target date 1 March 1945, or alternatively,
 - (b) Seize LUZON, target date 20 February 1945.

B Submit, without delay, plans for:

- (1) The effective reduction of enemy air on LUZON in support of an attack on FORMOSA by POA Forces, with target date 1 March, prior to seizure of LUZON, while continuing within the limit of resources remaining to him to extend his control over the PHILIPPINES.
- (2) The occupation of the Northern PHILIPPINES following the LEYTE-SURIGAO Operation, with target date for the main assault against LUZON 20 February 1945.

Para 3. CINCPOA will:

A Furnish necessary fleet support and augment assault shipping for the Southwest Pacific Operations directed in paragraph 2A.

B Submit plans without delay for:

- (1) The occupation, development and defense of FORMOSA, including AMOY if necessary, target date 1 March 1945.
- (2) Support of the LUZON Operation, target date 20 February 1945.

Para 4. CINCSWPA and CINCPOA will:

A Arrange for coordination and mutual support of the operations and plans directed above.

B Coordinate plans with the Commanding General, U.S. Forces, CHINA-BURMA-INDIA, in order to obtain maximum support from the CHINA-BURMA-INDIA area.

C Coordinate with the Commanding General, 20th Air Force, to arrange for the conduct of supporting operations by that air force.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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SEPTEMBER (GCT)

09 1830 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38, Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, CINCSOWESPAC, COMAARF

~~TOP SECRET~~. This is warning order for modification my Op Plan 14-44. Pending information and results 1st SILVERSAND (MINDANAO) strikes be prepared modify air plan as follows: D-3 to D-1 strike ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) OXYGEN (CEBU) BANDAGE (NEGROS) area with TG 38.2 and 38.3, strike SILVERSAND with TG 38.1. My modified plan will be transmitted while fueling on D-4. Para. New Subject. Consideration is also being given to strikes on WHITEWASH (LUZON) with 3 carrier groups on D/6 followed by additional strikes on ACCUMULATION OXYGEN and BANDAGE on D/7. Staff representatives will visit you D-4 to discuss movement and logistics WHITEWASH plan.

10 1955 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH

Your 091830. Unless there have been developments of which I am unaware it is preferable that strikes against the PHILIPPINES be made by at least 3 carrier task groups within tactical supporting distance in accordance original concept your OpPlan 14-44.

06 2136 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info CTF 57, COMCRUDIV 5

~~THIS IS TOP SECRET~~. Plan leave CruDiv 5 in TF 57 at least until after STALEMATE. Desire she not be moved to CAROLINES but employed in general area of MARSHALLS and MARIANAS to safeguard our communication lines or to operate against enemy held positions as may be found desirable in a manner similar to the employment of that division after GALVANIC and FLINTLOCK.

10 0705 COM3RDFLT to CTF 57 Info CINCPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~. Cincpac 062136 Operate CruDiv 5 in MARSHALLS MARIANAS area in manner best suited to accomplish my task of covering principal sea communications from West Coast and Hawaiian Islands through vicinity of ENIWETOK to MARIANAS. Employ CruDiv 5 against enemy held positions in MARSHALLS and MARIANAS when such positions threaten our sea communications and when use of CruDiv 5 will eliminate or materially reduce such threat. Para. Other operations by CruDiv 5 against enemy held positions will be as Cincpac may direct.

10 2333 CINCPAC to CINCSOWESPACAREA

~~TOP SECRET~~. Request your comment or concurrence in my Joint Staff study of INSURGENT operation (my serial 00099 of 20 August) as basis for detailed planning of Pacific Fleet cover and strategic support of your operations to occupy the WINDBAG (SARANGINI BAY) and ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) - LOGARITHM (SURIGAO STRAIT) areas in compliance WARX 27468 of 9 September. Para. Request as soon as practicable your detailed concept of Pacific Ocean Areas support of WHITEWASH (LUZON) operation for use in preparation plans required by same direction from Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

11 1637 CINCSOWESTPAC VIA REAR ECHILON, COM 7TH FLEET to CINCPAC Info
COM3RDFLT, COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COM ALLIED AIR FORCES

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Cite CX 17617. Your 210816 relative fast carrier strikes in support of GOSSIPMONGER (TALAUD) operation. In order that arrangements can be made firm at an early date for the coordination of 3rd Fleet fast carrier and Southwest Pacific land based strikes from G minus 1 to G plus 6, it is requested that direct contact with the Commander 3rd Fleet be authorized. At TEACUP Conference, Commander 3rd Fleet considered strikes in southern SILVERSAND AREA (MINDANAO IS.), from G minus 1 to G plus 6 practicable with not more than 2 carrier groups, subject to your decision, and dependent on the current situation of STALMATE II and the general strategic situation. MACARTHUR

13 0131 CINCPAC to CINCSWPA Info COMINCH, COM3RDFLT, COM 1ST CARRIER TASK FORCE,
COM 2ND CARRIER TASK FORCE

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Your CX 17617. It is my desire to employ the covering and striking forces of the Pacific Fleet in the manner which will most effectively provide strategic cover and support for your successive operations and will also contribute most effectively to the overall progress of the war. Carrier operations now proposed in connection with occupation of FULLCRY (PALAU) VOCALIST (YAP) GOSSIPMONGER (TALAUD) WINDBAG (SARANGANI BAY) and ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) will extend almost continuously over a four months period and must therefore be reviewed carefully to ensure that consideration is given to requirements for occasional rest for personnel, material upkeep for ships and other logistic needs. Para. The success of our initial air attacks in the Southern EXCELSIOR (PHILIPPINES) tends to confirm my belief that the enemy air force in the EXCELSIOR (PHILIPPINES) will be effectively and promptly reduced. The Fast Carrier Task Forces should be free to strike the enemy fleet and air forces wherever they may be and exacting schedules of strikes against particular objectives tend to limit unduly their freedom of action. It now appears possible that by the latter half of October and in November it may be advantageous to strike objectives well to the northward of WHITEWASH (LUZON) possibly including JAPAN providing that such strikes continue to give strategic cover and adequate support to your operations for which CVE divisions and shore based air can continue to give direct support. Para. Admiral Halsey is free to confer with you whenever his duties afloat permit and to arrange detailed coordination but I must continue to ensure that the employment of the forces assigned to his command meet the requirements of the overall strategic situation, inflicts maximum damage on the enemy and maintains his forces in readiness to meet future requirements. Para. In order to expedite our planning for the next six months suggest a conference of planning staffs at Pearl Harbor in the near future.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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SEPTEMBER (GCT)

13 0230 COM3RDFLT to CINCPA, CINCOWESPAC, COMINCH Info CTF 38, CTF 31

~~TOP SECRET~~. Downed carrier pilot rescued from LEYTE informed by natives no Nips on LEYTE BOHOL APIT or small islands in vicinity. Planes report no military installations except bare strips on LEYTE and no fields on SAMAR. Natives estimate 15,000 troops CEBU. New subject preliminary incomplete reports first day Central PHILIPPINES strike 50 airborne planes shot down and over 150 destroyed on ground, several AK's and many small vessels sunk. Enemy air NEGROS-CEBU apparently reinforced overnight. Air slugging match now going on. No attack on surface ships yet.

13 0300 COM3RDFLT to CINCPA

~~TOP SECRET~~. Refer my 130230 am firmly convinced FULLCRY (PALAU) not now needed to support occupation of PHILIPPINES. ARTERIAL (WESTERN CAROLINES) not essential to our operations (except ULITHI which easily defended), can not be used by enemy, and does not offer opportunities for destruction of enemy forces commensurate with delay and effort involved in STALEMATE. Para. Believe that LEYTE fleet base site can be seized immediately and cheaply without any intermediate operations if initial landings were covered by Task Force 30 until land based air can be installed. Suggest that Task Force 31 could be made available by CINCOWESPAC if STALEMATE II cancelled.

13 0747 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH, CINCOWESPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~. Carry out first phase of STALEMATE as planned. Am considering eliminating occupation of YAP to make forces and resources available for other employment. In any event will occupy and develop ULITHI as planned and would neutralize YAP from PALAU and GUAM. Action adee acknowledge.

13 0813 CINCPA to CINCOWPA Info COMINCH, COM3RDFLT

~~TOP SECRET~~. My 130747. Loading of forces for Phase II of STALEMATE practically finished and they will be sailed as planned. If occupation of YAP is eliminated 24th Corps including 7th 77th and 96th Divisions plus Corps Troops and Garrison Forces for YAP (see Annex A my OpPlan 6-44) would be potentially available to exploit favorable developments in the PHILIPPINES. Your views on this and Com3rdFleet's 130300 requested.

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

12 1816 OPERATIONS DIV WDGS AMER THEATER to COMMANDING GENERAL ALASKAN DEPT.
REAR ECHELON FT RICHARDSON, COMGEN ALASKAN DEPT ADV CP ADAK Info
CINCPHA, COMNORPAC, COMALASSEAFRON, COM 17

~~TOP SECRET~~. WARX 28430 WDOPD 6623-JRR-30831OPD 320.2 TS (8544) SUBJ
reduction of troop basis Alaskan Dept. 9 Sept 1944. Informing you now
of the mission of the Alaskan Department with respect to operations
forth coming in the Pacific is as follows. A. Authorized UJCS 474/4
dated September 31, 1943 the ADAK Depot will be completed and maintained
less stockage over and above that required for the permanent garrison.
State of maintenance will be such that it can be placed on an operating
basis within a period of 90 days. Personnel will be provided from other
sources outside of your theater when depot is made operative. B. Upon
15 days notice you will be prepared to base not more than 3 VBH groups
in the Aleutians with the understanding that temporary housing and steel
runway matting will be adequate and that necessary air service and
antiaircraft units will accompany these groups. The VBH base on SHENYA
AMCHITKA and ADAK will be completed by July 1945 and based on that date
you will restudy your construction requirements and report to the War
Department personnel and equipment including antiaircraft units which
can be made available thereby for assignment to other theaters. Above
bases will be completed to the extent only of providing hard standings
taxiways runways and minimum construction necessary for operation of VBH.
No construction will be provided for housing personnel. D. Adequate
base facilities will be maintained in the Aleutians to receive and
operate tactical air units in the number and rate of flow indicated in
Appendix B of JCS 521/6. This will be done with the understanding that
supporting air service and AAA units will be furnished from sources
outside the theater. E. Moreover you will be prepared to stage as many
as 8 infantry divisions and supporting troops with total strength of
352,000 which includes the Alaskan Department garrison through the
Aleutian bases at the rate of 2 divisions per month each remaining in
the Aleutians 2 months and the first 2 arriving by March 31, 1945. It
will be necessary to accomplish this with facilities now existing or
presently under construction. Supplies for the above will not be main-
tained at this time within your theater but will be issued at the
time of redeployment. Necessary bases and facilities to implement the
above redeployment will be maintained by you with the understanding that
tentage will be used if necessary to accomplish the housing required.
This tentage will be requisitioned at the time of redeployment. Desire
your recommendations as to the minimum garrison that you will need at
this time to maintain installations required for the above.

14 0316 GHQ SWPA MACARTHUR to CINCPHA, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF Info COM3RDFLT

CX 17697 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Com3rdFleet 130300 and Cincpa 130813 and Joint
Chiefs of Staff OCTAGON 24 are references. Reports from air and ground
sources of carrier air attacks on PHILIPPINES have been awaited with
a view to the creation of the opportunity to eliminate one or both op-
erations scheduled prior to K2 and its consequent acceleration. This
has been anticipated as stated in REVO and MUSKETEE and plans have been
anticipated and have been prepared accordingly. No information yet
available beyond Com3rdFlt 130230. Report by rescued carrier pilot

~~TOP SECRET~~

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

14 0316 Cont'd

incorrect according to mass of current evidence from our local agents. Concur in elimination of YAP attack. Present limited intelligence indicates probability of elimination prior steps and direct movement against LEYTE but consider further information of current air action necessary before final decision. First cavalry and 24th Infantry Divisions immediately available with service elements sufficient to support entire operation. Air elements available. Logistic support practicable. If executed will stage personnel only of 24th Corps for rest during final preparations.

14 0835 CINCPAC to COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~ If not inappropriate request copy OCTAGON 24 mentioned MacArthur's 140316. ✓

14 1000 CINCPAC to CINCSWPA Info COMINCH, COM3RDELT

~~TOP SECRET~~ Request clarification and amplification last sentence your 140316. For your information force sailing from PEARL for Forward Area Central Pacific on 15th is a completely balanced one that is combat loaded and equipped for assault occupation and development of YAP and if developments should require is capable of diversion to an alternate objective such as IWO JIMA or assistance at LEYTE. Paragraph. Assume MUSKETEER mentioned your dispatch is a plan if so request copy. ✓

~~TOP SECRET~~

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SEPTEMBER (GCT)

13 2100 CINCPOA to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH, CINCOWESPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~. With further reference to your 130230 purposes of occupation of FULLCRY (PALAU) and HORROR (ULITHI) include not only support of occupation of EXCELSIOR (PHILIPPINES) but also completion of neutralization of highway and support of advances into PATRIMONY (FORMOSA) ^{LUZON-CHINA Coast AREA} and operations against objectives to northward. See page 2 my Joint Staff Study STALEMATE II.

14 0101 CINCPOA to COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~. Nimitz to King. My 130747 130813 and 132100. The occupation of PALAU and ULITHI are of course essential and it would not be feasible to reorientate the plans for the employment of the PALAU attack and occupation forces as rapidly as Halsey's 130230 appears to visualize. However initial reports of our success in promptly overcoming enemy air forces in the PHILIPPINES has been even greater than I had expected and creates a situation in which the capture and occupation of YAP may be no longer necessary. Para. To exploit fully the favorable developments to date it now appears advisable to use the YAP force to assist in an early movement into LEYTE or if MacArthur should not desire to move promptly it may be feasible to take IWO JIMA in mid October using the YAP Force. If the situation in the PHILIPPINES then permits withdrawal of the major portion of the Fast Carrier Task Forces it may be feasible to strike JAPAN to cover the IWO JIMA assault. Am preparing plans along these lines for use if required. Para. The foregoing represents concepts which may or may not eventuate but which are submitted now to keep you fully informed of possibilities.

14 1325 COMINCH to CINCPOA, COM3RDFLT

~~TOP SECRET~~. OCTAGON 24 of 13 September TopSec book message to MacArthur for action. To Nimitz Halsey and AGWAR Washington for information from Joint Chiefs of Staff. CINCPOA 130813 and Com-3rdFlt 130300 in regard to omission of operation against YAP and utilization of that force for occupation of LEYTE are the references. Para. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are of opinion that this operation is HILSLY* to be desired and would advance the progress of the war in your theater by many months as well as simplifying the arrangements for further operations. * probably "highly".

14 2359 MACARTHUR VIA COM7THFLT to CINCPOA Info COM3RDFLT, NASHVILLE (CL43)

~~TOP SECRET~~. Quote hicom from MacArthur. Joint Chiefs of Staff have by another channel. In view Com3rdFlt's latest report on carrier operations in PHILIPPINES Area I am prepared to move immediately to execution of K2 with target date October 20th Unquote.

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

15 0258 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to NIMITZ, MACARTHUR Info HALSEY

~~TOP SECRET~~ OCTOGAN 31 A
Joint Chiefs of Staff authorize MacArthur to execute LEYTE Operation target date 20 October reference MacArthurs C17744 September 16. MacArthur and Nimitz arrange necessary coordination. Inform Joint Chiefs of Staff of your plans. Nimitz acknowledge.

15 2044 CINCPA to COM3RDFLT, COMGENPOA, COMARMYAIRFORCE POA, COMAIRPAC, COMSERVPAC, COMDESPAC, COMSUBPAC, COMGENFMFPAC, Info to COMINCH COMSOPAC, COMNORPAC, CTF'S 57 59 31 33 38, COMMARSHALLSSUBAREA, CINCSWPA.

~~Top Secret.~~ My OpPlan 6-44 modified to delete VOCALIST from positions to be captured. Orders governing employment of troops and garrison forces heretofore intended for VOCALIST will follow.

16 0125Z CINCSOWESPAC to CINCPA Info COM3RDFLT, COMALLIED AIRFOR, COMALLIEDNAVFOR

~~Top Secret.~~ CX 17817 Reference your 102333 INSURGENT Plan. Phase I not now applicable. Phase 2 is generally concurred in except that present planning indicates that the landings cannot be made until mid-morning and it would be desirable to have an early morning strike of the 3 carrier groups against beach defenses on D Day. In this respect plans contemplate minesweeping operations together with landing operations on islands at entrance LUBRICATE (LEYTE GULF) on D minus 2 and D minus 1. The off-shore operations will be covered by 7th Fleet escort carriers while fast carriers strike into the mainland areas. Para. It is probable that flexibility can be attained only by late conference between Southwest Pacific Area and Com3rdFleet. It is suggested that you authorize this procedure relative details subject to such limitations you may impose. K2 Staff Study will be forwarded shortly. Para. Study of the WHITEWASH (LUZON IS) Plan is proceeding and you will be advised earliest practicable date of support required for STICKFAST (Operations against LUZON) Operations. Tentatively for the OBTRUSIVE (APARRI) Operation, if held, a pre D Day strike of maximum strength should be made against DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA) and selected areas on the SUBLIME (CHINA) Coast, followed by a strike in northern WHITEWASH about D minus 2 and D minus 1 days with standby for further strikes into the DIAPHRAGM area after D day. If, as is probable, the OBTRUSIVE Operation can be omitted approximately the same fast carrier support would be required for SARTORIAL. CVE's reinforced by fast carriers, if later information requires latter, would cover landing.

(LINGAYAN
GULF)

16 0346 CINCPA to CINCSWPA Info COMINCH, COM7THFLT, CTF'S 31 32 33, CTG'S 32.2 31.1 31.2, COMFWDAREACENTPAC, COMSOPAC, COMSERVPAC, COMPHIBSPAC, ADCOM-PHIBSPAC, COMAIRPAC, COMDESPAC, COM3RDFLT.

~~Top Secret.~~ TF 33 Vice Admiral Wilkinson ETA ENIWETOK 27th 6omprises 3 AGC 21 APA 5 AP 1 APH 2 LSV 6 AKA 2 AK 5 LSD 8 APD 48 LST 18 LCI(G) 21 DD plus miscellaneous mine, escort and patrol craft and with 7th and 96th Infantry Divisions plus other units listed in separate dispatch

- continued -

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~~TOP SECRET~~

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

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(Cont'd) 16 0346 CINCPOA to CINCSWPA Info (As listed) -- Continued.

embarked will be ready to proceed as directed by Com7thFleet when released by Com3rdFleet on or about October 3. TG 32.2 Rear Admiral Blandy with 1 RAGC 8 APA 3 AP 2 AKA 3 AK 2 LSD 4 LST 8 DD with 77th Inf Div embarked will be ready to proceed from GUAM as directed by Com7thFleet when released by Com3rdFleet on or about October 5. Following ships employed in 1st Phase STALEMATE under CTF 31 will be ready to proceed from PALAU as directed by Com7thFleet when released by Com3rdFleet on or about September 25 if required 8 APA 1 AK 2 LSD 20 LST 5 DD. Also LST 24-220-241-986 ordered from SoFAC should report Com7thFleet by 1 October. TG 31.1 Rear Admiral Oldendorf comprising 6 OBB 4 CA 4 CL 14 DD should be ready to proceed from MANUS as directed by Com7thFleet after replenishing ammunition and when released by Com3rdFleet on or about October 5. TG 31.2 Rear Admiral Stump comprising 12 CVE 12 DD will be ready to proceed from WESTERN CAROLINE Area as directed by Com7thFleet when and as released by Com3rdFleet not later than October 6 will require bombs and aircraft in MANUS. Additional commitments of assault shipping previously made can not be met for target date October 20. This cancels my 232323. 070105 - 120310 - 102345 - 102355 - 100449 . 2 APA 2 APH 1 AP 3 AKA and 4 DD now in TF 31 must be retained in PELELIU to evacuate 1st MarDiv and casualties to RUSSELLS. In implementing these movements suggest Com7thFleet deal directly with Com3rdFleet including CINCPOA and CTF 31 as information addressees. Your comment requested. Logistics will be covered in later dispatch.

16 0410 CINCPOA to CINCSWPA Info COMINCH, COMGENPOA, COMGENAAFPPOA.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Separate despatches inform you of forces available from PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS to comply with directive of OCTAGON 31A. I assume that ships and troops employed will be returned to operational control of CINCPOA as soon as situation permits.

16 0535 CINCPOA to COMPHIBSPAC, CTF 36, COMGENPOA, COMGENAAFPPOA Info CINCSWPA, COM3RDFLT, COMGEN VII AIRFORCE, COM3RDPHIBFOR.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Desire following Army aviation units withdrawn from Task Force 33 and Task Group 59.6: 854th AvEng Bn, 15th Fighter Group, 6th Nite Fighter squadron, 386th air service group special, Det of 384th Sig Co Avn, Det 38 70th AACS Gp, Det 57 7th Weather Sq. Para. Disembark personnel and material as practicable at PEARL or ENIWETOK.

16 1119Z CINCSOWESPAC to CINCPOA Info COM3RDFLT, CTF 38, COMAIRPAC, COM 7THFLT.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Concur in ordering of officers your 120641 September to assist material EXEELSIOR (PHILIPPINES).

~~TOP SECRET~~

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15 0419 CINCSWPAC to COMDR ALLIED FORCE, COMDR ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COMDR ALLIED AIR FORCES, CG 8th US ARMY, GENERAL USASOS info CINCPAC COM3rdFLT, CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPT, CG 14th CORPS, CG USAFFE.

CX-17760 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Here follows modification of warning instructions number 5, designated warning instruction number 5/1. Previous operations instructions in conflict herewith are cancelled. Hostile land based air forces and shipping in the MINDANAO and LISAYAN areas and along the line MENADO-HALMAHERA-LIMBOO have been destroyed. Our landings in the PALAUS and in the MOLUKKAS are progressing satisfactorily. Southwest Pacific Area forces, covered and supported by the 3rd Fleet, will move directly on ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) eliminating TALAUD-SARANGANI and MISAMIS, target date 20 October. Troops 8th U.S. Army, composed of 10 and 24 corps; 10 corps, 1st Cavalry and 24th Divisions; 24 Corps, now departing HAWAII, composed of 7th and 96th Divisions. Land based air forces, supporting and service troops as later designated. General plan of operations and missions assigned Commander 8th Army, Allied Naval and Air Forces, generally as set forth for K2, warning instructions number 5, this headquarters, 31 August 1944. Coordination of planning, no change. Coordination of carrier based and land based aviation will be given later. Logistic and communications instructions, generally no change. Alamo Force will be discontinued as a task force, effective 0001 hours, zone item time, 25 September. 8th Army will assume on that date such duties of the Alamo Force as have not been passed to other commands. Concentrations directed for GOSSIPMONGER (TALAUD), operations instructions number 63 dated 30 August, will proceed. Changes in destinations will be announced later. Concentrations for WINDBAG (SARANGANI BAY), operations instructions number 67 dated 9 September, are cancelled. Movement of AUSTRALIAN troops to AITAPE and WESTERN NEW BRITAIN, operations instructions number 65 dated 30 August, are suspended. Movement retaining elements 33rd Division to HOLLANDIA is cancelled. Staging movements as a consequence this directive will follow.

15 0707 CINCSWPAC to CINCPAC info COM3rdFLT.

CX 17771 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Reference your 141000. Based on previous exchanges of radiograms, our plan for ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) operation will be to use the 24th Corps (less 77th division) and with service elements as at present loaded. In addition thereto, a corps of 2 divs, the 1st Cavalry Division and the 24th Division, will be loaded in the Southwest Pacific. For this purpose a 2 division lift will be necessary from sources outside the Southwest Pacific area. Assumption is being made that 1 additional division lift discharging troops in Phase I STALEMATE, supplemented by the 1 division lift and 38 LST'S and other equipment previously specified for WINDBAG (SARANGANI BAY), will be available for this purpose. It was believed desirable that the troops only constituting the 24th Corps and other elements of the YAP Task Force be discharged at some location in the Southwest Pacific for rest, all ships remain combat loaded. For this purpose 1 division can be accommodated at MANUS, 1 division at ORO BAY and the slower ships containing service troops elements at HOLLANDIA if required. Your comments concerning this general plan requested. It is further requested that the commanders

~~TOP SECRET~~

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15 0707 Cont'd

24th Corps, 7th and 96th Divisions with planning and operations staffs be flown from 1st port of call to HOLLANDIA for planning purposes. Copies of MUSKETEER plan are being forwarded this date. This plan is the overall PHILIPPINE campaign and when drawn contemplated WINDBAG 15 November, ACCUMULATION 20 December, OBTRUSIVE (APARRI) 31 January and SARTORIAL (LINGAYEN GULF) 20 February. Recent developments materially alter this plan. The intermediate objectives before ACCUMULATION will be eliminated and, from present indications regarding hostile air, the OBTRUSIVE operation can probably likewise be eliminated. Based on target date for ACCUMULATION, 20 October it is probably that the SARTORIAL operation can be executed in the latter part of December.

16 1515

CTF 31 to COM3RDFLT Info CINCPAC, CTF 31 (Admin), CTG 32.2, CTF 33, CTF 32.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 150415. Am prepared, if and when tactical situation PELELIU and ANGUAR permits diversion of RCT of 81st Division from this area, to take ULITHI and meet 77th Division date in Cincpoa 160346 provided (a) The assault troops can be left ULITHI for return to PELELIU less estimated 1 battalion as garrison ULITHI by use of vessels remaining for evacuation of 1st MarDiv. (b) 1 or more Serfor vessels present ULITHI for communications and other needs of troops between departure transports and arrival ULITHI sections of Task Force 33 convoy and 1st garrison echelon.

As alternative or in case of delay in ULITHI attack could make up shipping for 77th Division from remaining 1st MarDiv ships and return ULITHI attack shipping to service of 1st MarDiv evacuation.

17 0135

COM3RDFLT to CTF 31 Info CINCPAC, CINCSOWESPAC, COM7THFLT

~~TOP SECRET~~. In connection with changes in campaign plans desire you initiate arrangements for transfer and movements of Task Force 31 units to Southwest Pacific keeping originator informed. Com3rdFlt approval may be assumed unless you are specifically informed to contrary. If Com3rdFlt staff can be of assistance speak up. General Riley now at HOLLANDIA and Colonels Brooks, USMC and Dayharsh, Army, can be made available to you or CinCSWPac if desired. I intend visit PALAU in Hunt with operation/staff about D+8 or 9 if strategic situation permits will then confer with MacArthur.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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17 0308

CINCSWPA to CINCPA Info COMINCH, CTF 31, CTF 32, CTF 33
CTG 32.2, CTG 31.1, CTG 31.2, COMFWDAREA CENPAC, COMSOPAC,
COMSERVPAC, COM7THFLT, COMPHIBSPAC, ADCOMPHIBSPAC, COMAIRPAC,
COMDESPAC, COM3RDFLT.

CX 17875. ~~TOP SECRET~~ reference 160346. All plans based on movement of 1st Cavalry Division and 24th Division from this area into LEYTE in addition to the 7th and 96th Division as loaded. This plan is preferable to use of the 77th Division which has just completed a hard campaign. It is requested that you send Admiral Blandys force which was to mount the 77th Division to this area for loading 1 of our divisions which is ready fresh and has studied the target area. The total equipment available from Blandys force and from PALAU operations becoming available 25 September no less than required for mounting troops from the Southwest Pacific for the LEYTE operation. Is it not practicable to leave the 1st Marine Division on PALAU lifting it to the rear after the LEYTE operation on the equipment becoming available from allocating to us for the LEYTE operation as much of the equipment retained on PELELIU to evacuate the 1st Marine Division as practicable query should this plan be possible how much of the 2 APA 2 APH 1 AP and 3 AKA could be made available for LEYTE operation query

17 0550

CINCSOWESTPACAREA via COM7THFLT to CINCPA

C17882 UrDis 160410 and 170023. I of course assume that employment of Centpac Forces in SWPA is of a temporary nature. Glad to welcome Rear Admiral Sherman and staff officers.

20 1302Z

MACARTHUR to CHIEF OF STAFF WAR Info COMGENPOA, CINCPA, COMGEN 20th AIR FORCE.

CX 18071 ~~TOP SECRET~~ WARX 27648* (*090314 Admiral Nimitz only) dated 9 September is reference. Summary of plan for effective reduction of enemy air on WHITEWASH (LUZON) in support of an attack on DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA) by Pacific Ocean Areas forces, if conducted prior to Occupation of central WHITEWASH, is subject. Para. Plan contemplates support by air action of land-based elements from central EXCELSIOR (PHILIPPINES) substantially as follows: (A) ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) area, revised K2 operation, offensive elements, 3 groups attack bombardment with escorts, effective approximately 5 December, and 2 groups heavy bombardment, effective approximately 20 December. (B) Southwestern UBIQUE (MINDORO) established by airborne-seaborne operations about 20 December, offensive element, 1 group attack bombardment from ACCUMULATION with P-51 escort, estimated effective approximately 15 January. (C) Subsequent augmentation air forces in ACCUMULATION area. As time and engineering resources permit and additional air units become available. Para. Effective dates, (A) and (B) above, are dependent upon 1 turn-around of 3rd Fleet assault shipping as part of K2. Para. Deployment of air forces in ACCUMULATION area is covered in detail in 4th edition, Staff Study K2, being forwarded. Outline plan for operation into UBIQUE is in process and will be forwarded at an early date.

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19 1442Z CINCOWESPAC VIA COM7thFLT to CINCPAC Info COM3rdFLT, COM7thFLT, CTF 31, CTF 33, COMSOPAC.

CX 18028 TOP SECRET. Request approval of following arrangements: (A) 77th Division will not be employed in K2 (B) All assault shipping from PHASE 1 STALEMATE to report to 7th Fleet except 2 APH and 2 AKA for use in evacuation 1st MarDiv. This will make available from Task Force 32: 19 APA, 4 AP, 3 AKA, 2 AK, 4 LSD, 4 APD, 24 LST plus miscellaneous escort and patrol craft. (C) SWPA to send 5 civilian manned AP to FULLCRY (PALAU ISLANDS) to assist with 1st MarDiv. (D) Remainder 1st MarDiv to be evacuated by Pacific Ocean Area garrison shipping and return trips of APH Para Com7thFleet and Rear Admiral Sherman concur. MacArthur.

20 1330 CINCOWPA VIA COM7THFLT to CINCPAC Info COM3RDFLT, COMSOPAC, COM7THFLT, CTF 31, CTF 33.

CX-18072 ~~TOP SECRET~~. After preliminary conference with Com7thFleet and Rear Admiral Sherman who concur, request all forces listed as available in your 160346 and 161119 with following exceptions: (A) 77 Division to remain on GUAM as 6th Army Reserve and then if not used be moved to SoPac in transports returning from K2 (B) Army aviation units to be withdrawn as listed in your 160535 (C) If necessary ground echelons for naval heavy search squadrons in western CAROLINES can be otherwise provided, request 2 Patsus intended for YAP be sent to ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) with Acorn to facilitate forward movement 7th Fleet search squadrons (D) Assault shipping to conform to my 191442 Para Propose 24 Corps troops 7th Division and 96 Division rehabilitate at objective and their rear echelons follow them to ACCUMULATION in due course. Exchange of Army and Marine artillery to be effected after K2 when shipping permits Para As a general principle desire logistic support of all forces landed at ACCUMULATION from PacOcean Areas sources to continue as planned for YAP. GEPRULE date to be determined later after garrison echelons have been completed SWPA will assume responsibility for further logistic support Para Request Major General Woodruff and key staff personnel proceed from ENIWETOK to HOLLANDIA by air Para Arrangements concerning naval forces and movements of YAP task force will follow in later dispatch after arrival of Vice Admiral Wilkinson Para ComGen 24 Corps requests remainder his staff detachment including enlisted personnel now at PEARL be sent to ENIWETOK by air to join command. Colonel FISH is in charge of detachment. MacArthur.

21 1042Z MacARTHUR to CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPT Info COMGENPOA, CINCPAC

C 18103 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Recent successes of our land based and carrier based air operations in EXCELSIOR (PHILIPPINES) and other intelligence giving evidence of reduced hostile air capabilities for defense point clearly to the feasibility of proceeding directly from ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) to the main assault against WHITEWASH (LUZON), leaving the OBTRUSIVE (APARRI) area to be secured at a later date, there being ample time to install air facilities there before the next move. MUSKETEER plan is therefore being amended as follows: Major amphibious assault from central bases target date 20 December 1944 with 6th Army, 1st Corps (6th and 43rd Infantry Divisions) 14th Corps (40th and 25th Infantry Divisions) Army troops (37th Infantry Division 11th Airborne Division an Australian

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21 1042Z MACARTHUR to CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPT - continued

armored brigade 4 United States tank battalions) operation essentially in 3 phases as follows: (A) Supported by the Pacific Fleet seize a beachhead in the SARTORIAL (LINGAYEN GULF) area by amphibious assault of 4 divisions with 1 reserve division and armored brigade afloat followed by the establishment of close supporting air elements and minimum logistic facilities (B) Overland campaign southward through the central plain of WHITEWASH to seize STEAMROLLER (MANILA) and establish base facilities required for support of further operations (C) Consolidation operations to complete the occupation of WHITEWASH Para Assault commitment 148,000 personnel and 207,000 dead weight tons Para Initial operations will require support by the full resources of the United States Pacific Fleet. In addition to strategic naval and full carrier based air support Southwest Pacific resources need augmentation by naval assault shipping to lift 5 infantry divisions and 8000 supporting troops from the central axis; 1 armored brigade from SPAVIN. It is estimated that amphibious lift assigned 7th Fleet will be fully committed to provide for approximately 64,000 supporting troops from the central axis. Coordination with Pacific Ocean Area is in progress Para For operations to precede entry into central WHITEWASH contemplate seizure of airdrome area on southwest coast of UBIQUE (MINDORO) to augment direct air support for central WHITEWASH operation and to open a line of seaborne communications through the central EXCELSIOR area Para Staff study covering details of the central WHITEWASH operations will be forwarded at an early date Para Exploitation of possible weakness and the combining of resources available in the Pacific makes possible the assault against WHITEWASH within the time schedule previously projected for the ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) operation. It is anticipated that the central WHITEWASH (LUZON) plain can be cleared and STEAMROLLER (MANILA) occupied by February. This will permit of the launching of contemplated operations to the northward on the schedule now projected with the great advantage of WHITEWASH bases and land based air support. The DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA) operation will then be unnecessary and, particularly with a prior attack on SECLUSION (BONIN IS. GROUP), a direct move may be made on DIABOLIC (KYUSHU). Southwest Pacific forces meanwhile will complete the liberation of EXCELSIOR (PHILIPPINES), block BUTTERFLY (S. CHINA SEA) and proceed to the reconquest of BRIGANTINE (BORNEO) and CRINGLE (N.E.I.) by attack from EXCELSIOR and western CENTRAL (NEW GUINEA). It is considered that this campaign can be executed with great celerity and with minimum losses. An early dividend will be the recovery of important oil resources.

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22 0220Z GHQ SOWESPAC AREA (MACARTHUR) to CHIEF OF STAFF WAR Info COMGENPOA, CINCPAC.

CX 18149. ~~Top Secret~~. Sub Para A, WARX 27648 dated 9 September is reference. Summary of plan for K-2 Operation, occupation of LUBRICATE(LEYTE GULF)-LOGARITHM(SURIGAO STRAIT) Area is subject. Para. Plan provides for major amphibious assault from central (NEW GUINEA) bases, supported by 3rd Fleet target date 20 October 1944, with 10th Corps (1st Cavalry and 24th Inf.Divs.) 24th Corps (7th and 96th Inf.Divs.) and the 98th Ranger Battalion. Operation essentially in 4 phases as follows: (A) Preliminary, D minus 2 and D minus 1, seize islands at entrance to LUBRICATE to insure access for amphibious shipping. (B) Major assault, D day, seize the UNDERTAKER-KILKENNY (TACLOBAN-DULAG) Area of eastern ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) and establish air elements for maintenance of local air superiority; seize control of MATCHABLE (PANAON STRAIT) to permit access of light naval craft into OVERSTRESS (CAMOTES SEA); establish control of LACUNA (SAN JUANICO STRAIT) to permit access of light naval forces into WITCHCRAFT (SAMAR)SEA. (C) Consolidation, overland operations to establish control of the remainder of ACCUMULATION and YNR western portion of southern WITCHCRAFT; coordinated land and naval operations to open LOGARITHM for naval operations and ship movement into OVERSTRESS and adjacent waters. (D) Exploitation, such overland and/or minor amphibious operations as the situation dictates to destroy or contain hostile forces in WITCHCRAFT or the central INTEGER (VISAYAN GROUP) Area which may threaten development of facilities in ACCUMULATION AREA. para. 3rd Fleet support, subject to developments in situation, contemplates carrier strikes on either LEGUMINOUS (OKINAWA JIMA) and/or DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA), or on northern WHITEWASH (LUZON) and DIAPHRAGM, D minus 10 to D minus 7; on WHITEWASH-ROISTERER AREA, the ACCUMULATION-OXYGEN-OYNDAGE AREA and in support of landings, D minus 4 to D day; thereafter in strategic support of operation, effecting strikes as the situation at that time requires PDNM 7th Air Force from FULLCRY to neutralize hostile air in ROISTERER AREA. 5th and 13th air forces to neutralize hostile air in SILVERSAND and island groups surrounding TRIBESMAN. Air installation at ACCUMULATION includes: by A plus 5, 2 groups fighters and 1 squadron fighters (NINGHT); by A plus 15 additional, 1 group medium bombers, 1 squadron photo, 1 squadron tactical reconnaissance, 1 squadron medium bombers, 3 squadrons PBV (tender-based); by A plus 30 additional, 2 groups light bombers, 1 group fighters 1 squadron tactical reconnaissance and 1 squadron ASR; by A plus 45 additional, 1 group fighters, 2 groups heavy bombers, 1 squadron LAB and 1 squadron PB4Y; by A plus 60 additional, 2 groups TC, 1 squadron photo, 1 squadron PB4Y and 1 squadron combat map. Para. Staff study covering details of the operation being forwarded.

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222230Z JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to STILWELL, NIMITZ, MACARTHUR Info
BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF & HQ COMM ZONE MAIN, MOUNTBATTEN,
CENTRAL DISTRICT UNITED KINGDOM BASE SECTION LONDON.

WARX-34928 ~~TOP SECRET~~ Subject: Outline Plans for the Provision of Land-based Air Support from CHINA. Para. Revised Pac-Air, Alternative-Pac-Air, and Pre-Pac-Air submitted by ComGen, USAF, CBI have been examined. Plans Pre-Pac-Air and Alternative-Pac-Air are approved subject to the following limitations: Para 1. Execution of these plans will be carried out with resources now available or committed. Para 2. Forces will not be moved to CHINA unless, in the opinion of the CG, USAF, CBI, they can at that time be profitably employed there. Para 3. Forces will not be removed from INDIA-BURMA, if in the opinion of the CG, USAF, CBI, their removal will endanger BURMA operations. Para 4. The 7th Bomb Group will be returned to combat operations as soon as 14th Air Force supply requirements in the forward area can be met by other means. Para. Allocation of hump tonnage will be done in accordance with the priorities established in War 87086, 26 August 1944. Para. Operations of the XX Bomb Command in furtherance of these plans will be in addition to the optimum 225 sorties per month, until D-15 of the FORMOSA Operation. Allocation of supplies will be adjusted accordingly. Para. The preparatory phases of Alternative-Pac-Aid will be commenced now. The basic principles outlines in the Pac-Air in so far as they are applicable and feasible. Para. Cincpoa and CinCSowesPac are being furnished by courier, copies of Pre-Pac-Aid and Alternative-Pac-Air as a basis to establish their requirements for air support from CHINA bases during PHILIPPINES and FORMOSA Operations. Para. CG, USAF, CBI and CG, 20th Air Force, are charged with the responsibility of providing air support from CHINA bases for Pacific operations in accordance with requirements to be established by CinCPOA and CinCSowesPac. Direct communication between headquarters concerned is authorized. Para. This answers CRAX-12928 from CG, USAF, CHINA BURMA INDIA.

230030Z COMGENPOA to CINCPOA.

SRID R-32644. Top Secret. Comments on CinCSWPA top secret radio 201330, as requested in your 211048 GCT are contained in the following concur in rehabilitation at objective of 24th Corps Troops, 7th Division, 96th Division, and movement of their rear echelons to ACCUMULATION when appropriate. Concur in substitution, when shipping permits, of elements of Army artillery for Marine artillery now attached to 24th Corps. Concur in logistic support of all forces landed at ACCUMULATION from Pacific Ocean Areas sources to continue as previously planned for VOCALIST. West coast ports have been instructed to continue maintenance shipments. Shipments currently scheduled to include 11.5 echelon with ETD 30 October 1944. Request this headquarters be advised early as possible of

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23 0030Z COMGENPOA to CINCPA (CONT'D)

terminal date of logistic support from Pacific Ocean Areas. With regard to request for Major General Woodruff and key staff personnel, attention is invited to our dispatch 202339 GCT. Foregoing comments pertain to Paragraph D of 1st reference.

✓ 23 1022Z RICHARDSON to CINCPA.

R-32734 ~~Top Secret~~. Subject is memorandum to CinCSWPA and Cincpoa dated 21 September 44 subject: "Coordination of Operations" signed by Admiral Sherman and Major General Chamberlain, copy of which was furnished this headquarters for remarks and recommendations. I concur in general with the recommendations contained therein but wish to include the following remarks: (1) I believe this headquarters, from the 6th Replacement Depot located at NEW CALEDONIA in the South Pacific, will be able to assist the Commanding General 6th Army in furnishing replacements required by the 24th Corps during the combat phase of K-2 operation to the extent of 3000 personnel can be made by Cincpoa and provided, further, that facilities are available for staging these replacements at an intermediate base in the Southwest Pacific Area if necessary. This personnel is in addition to the 1,000 replacements to be staged at MANUS for the 81st Division and filler replacements required by the 24th Corps subsequent to the combat phase. (2) Any extension of the air evacuation plan as now set up for the STALEMATE operation is subject to capability of the Air Transport Command to meet additional requirements. (3) the extent to which the 24th Corps and accompanying units can be reequipped for future operations is dependent on the time allowed for such rehabilitation before the 24th Corps is subsequently employed. (4) Every effort will be made to meet the communication requirements as outlined, but is subject to availability of equipment. Studies are being conducted to determine this availability. You will be kept informed. (5) The 230 Signal operations company was released as of October 1 by ourad RJ-32391 DTG 210345Z to CinCSWPA, info the Cincpoa and others, and will be embarked in transportation provided by Southwest Pacific Area as indicated in ComGenSoPacBaCom radio 220918Z September 44 which has been passed to you for information.

■ Added by corrected dispatch: "replacements, provided that arrangements for shipment of this"

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23 0424 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info CTF 38.

This is Top Secret. After servicing task force 38 at SAIPAN WESTERN CAROLINES and MANUS intend strike OKINAWAH A minus 10 with 4 groups. Fuel. Strike FORMOSA A minus 8 and A minus 7 with 4 groups. Fuel. Strike LUZON A minus 4 and A minus 3 with 4 groups. Support LEYTE with 2 groups A minus 2 through A day. Except for LEYTE support commitment will adjust schedule to meet circumstances and opportunities. Recommendation for Zoo by separate dispatch. Desire strike Empire as soon after A day as favorable situation can be created. All plans contemplate (A) drawing out enemy fleet (B) air and submarine reconnaissance (C) submarine ambush (D) denial to enemy fleet of opportunities to benefit by support from shore-based air or to outrange us by shuttling from carrier to target to shore (E) tactics which will bring air surface and submarine weapons to bear if enemy fleet can be contacted. Coordination of 3rd Fleet Empire strike with strike by B-29's will be made subject of separate recommendation.

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- ✓ 24 1225 SULTAN to MARSHALL, ARNOLD Info MACARTHUR, COMGENPOA, CINCPAC, COMGENPOA
PASS CINCPAC FOR NIMITZ, STRATEMEYER, LEMAY.

CRAX-14761-24th. ~~Top Secret~~. Consultation with Stratemeyer and Lemay confirms 350 sorties as maximum for October, increasing by 25 sorties per month to reach 425 in January 1945. Reference WARX 32426 of 18th September 1944. This assumes strength of 160 B-29's in October and November, 170 in December and 180 in January. Para. Approximately 1/3 of these sorties will be performed from CHENG TU bases without return of B29 aircraft to INDIA. Para. Until arrival of night fighters and anti aircraft units for VLR CHINA bases, risk of loss from enemy air attacks must be accepted for this operation. Para. Agree that best target for VLR to assist MacArthur would be major aircraft repair and modification centers on DIAPHRAM. Para. Logistically sorties by 20th Bomber Command can be supported as follows: October 350, November 300, December 320, January 340, and February 425. It is assumed that Arnold will so direct operations as to divide support between MacArthur, Nimitz and strategic sorties. Para. A result of above will be curtailment of 14th Air Force operations as follows: Normal operations limited by monthly tonnage of not more than 10,000; operations in support of Nimitz as shown in "Alternative Pac-Aid" dated 21st July 1944 will be approximately 80 percent effective. Para. Tonnages required to support operations listed above include capacities of all aircraft presently allocated to Air Transport Command including East BENGAL expansion and arm based on arrival dates now set up by War Department. This point cannot be overemphasized. Decisions must be prompt if logistical arrangements in this theatre are to be completed in time to make 20th Bomber Command operations in October effective.

- ✓ 24 1551Z GHQ SWP SIGNED MACARTHUR to ARMY AIR FORCES WASHINGTON, COMGEN SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND, 20TH AIR FORCE, CINCPAC, COMAFAPOA.

CX 18297 ~~Top Secret~~. A paraphrase of our too 240919Z. Your 32426 believe all attacks in direct support of WIDEAWAKE (MINDANAO, SO. PHILIPPINES) Operations should be directed toward preventing air reinforcement from DIAPHRAM (FORMOSA). Available sorties for October should be scheduled from 5th to 25th with greatest intensity 15th to 25th. Suggest in order of priority airfields and facilities plan (A) TAKAO, particularly OKYAMA (B) KAJI (C) SHINCHUJU. Suggest dates of attack be coordinated with CINCPAC to avoid interference with land and carrier based aviation. Strategic attacks against aircraft production facilities in any area will be helpful. Para. Avoid in DIAPHRAM following locations believed to harbor American and British prisoners including General Wainwright and 300 staff officers: A camp of wooden barracks which is on the site of a former Formosan cemetery and tangerine grove, 1 kilometer west of MOKUSAKU VILLAGE which is 5 miles south of TAIHOKU CITY.

- 25 0131 CINCPAC to COMTHIRDFLEET Info COMSUBSPAC, CTF 38.

~~This is Top Secret~~. Your 230643. Appreciate your views but consider that under current circumstances it is advantageous to break up present zoo as indicated by 222026 for operations in more profitable areas. Ref: (230643) Top Secret. Zoo remain in present positionrequest new zoo be on station with bearpit...request plans be made to continue employment of new zoo from 8 October through all of November. Ref: 222026(3)...ComSubsPac withdraw immediately...for coverage LUZON STRAITS ...withdraw remainder zoo at 000 GCT 25 September unless otherwise directed....

~~TOP SECRET~~

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25 0856 CINCPHA to COM MARSHALLS Info COM3RDFLT, COMSOPAC, COMINCH, COMFWDAREACENTPAC, COMHAWSEAFRON, COMGENPOA, COMGENIAAFPOA.

Top Secret. Following tasks assigned forces of MARSHALLS GILBERTS AREA effective 1 October. (A) Hold the island positions in the MARSHALLS and GILBERTS necessary for the security of the sea and air communications in the Central Pacific. (B) Support the operations of forces in the Southwest and Central Pacific Areas. (C) Protect sea and air communications. (D) Inflict maximum attrition on enemy forces remaining in the area.

25 0919 CINCPHA to COMGENPOA Info COMSOPAC, COMGENSOPACBASECOM, CTF57, CINCSWPA, CG24TH CORPS.

Top Secret. Following information furnished in reply to urdis 210756 not to all: (A) 24th Corps and attached units including elements of VOCALIST garrison will rehabilitate LEYTE (B) Disposition of elements of 81st Division in Western CAROLINES is dependent on information to be provided by CTF 57 in accordance mydis 050634. Plans concerning future operational employment of 81st Division and displacement forward not formulated to date. (C) Present intention that 77th Division and attachments remain GUAM as area reserve for K-2 and then if not used be moved GUADAL for rehabilitation.

26 0523Z MACARTHUR to US ARMY AIR FORCES WASH, CINCPHA Info COM3RDFLT, COMGEN US FORCES CHINA BURMA INDIA THEATER, COMGEN 20TH AIR FORCE.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ CX 18384 Commanding General U S Force China-Burma-India Theater indicates following 14th Air Force capabilities to support ACCUMULATION operation and prior operations of 3rd Fleet: (A) Without the use of KWEILIN-LIUCHOW airfields, capabilities limited to strikes on air installation within 1000 M radius KULMING airfield which includes HONG KONG, HAINAN and GULF OF TONKIN areas. (B) With KWEILIN-LIUCHOW bases available: 1 heavy bomb group can conduct intensified operations against shipping and air installations in the DIAPHRAGM area (restricted by lack of fighter cover); limited night attacks against shipping concentrations and Pott installations in WHITEWASH; long range offensive reconnaissance within 1000 miles KWEILIN. Para. Reference our CX 18297 (241551), too 240919Z, relating to our suggested strikes by 20th Air Force PLIUM view of above capabilities of 14th Air Force, it is suggested that Commanding General U S Forces in CHINA-BURMA-INDIA be authorized by Commanding General US Army Air Forces to coordinate strikes by the 14th and 20th Air Force in support of SWPA and 3rd Fleet operations in the DIAPHRAGM areas. Coordination of land based and carrier based aviation to be arranged directly between Cincpa and Commanding General U S Forces CHINA-BURMA-INDIA. It is suggested that strikes by the 14th and 20th Air Forces be concentrated against hostile air installations in the DIAPHRAGM area and on hostile supporting air installations of the SUBLIME (CHINA) coast within range of DIAPHRAGM-northern WHITEWASH areas. Strikes on the DIAPHRAGM area to precede and follow operation of the 3rd Fleet in the DIAPHRAGM area and during 3rd Fleet operations land based bombers switch to hostile airfields on SUBLIME coast.

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26 2316 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLEET Info CTF 38, COMINCH, COM7THFLEET, CINCSOWESPAC, CTF 71, CTF 72, COMSUBPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~ Urdis 230643 not to all. Carefully studied. Desire both to meet your needs and to operate subs in waters where profitable targets are expected. Probable mined areas mydis 250625 must be avoided. For submarine support of King 2 operations present intention is not to organize offensive reconnaissance group similar to Zoo. On a minus 10 day submarines will be on stations as follows. 3 packs of 3 subs each plus SAILFISH in convoy COLLEGE. SAILFISH to be used as lifeguard off southern tip FORMOSA. 1 pack of 3 subs at each of following places northeast coast FORMOSA. BUNGO SUIDO. 2 subs southern approaches to TOKYO BAY. 6 submarines in MARU MORGUE 1 of which to be employed as lifeguard at OKINAWA JIMA and other 5 to be placed in intercepting positions to catch ships attempting to escape during your strikes. 1 sub off northwest coast FORMOSA. One sub patrolling BONINS. 2 subs patrolling KURILES. Above subject to minor adjustment due possibility subs having to leave station early. Dispositions can be adjusted to suit your needs. Please advise soon as practicable and give dates positions reference points and calls for lifeguard subs. Assume from Appendix A Annex 3 C(4) of K2 plan that 7th Fleet will supply lifeguard and patrolsubs on east coast of PHILIPPINES. Com7thFleet please advise whether or not this assumption is correct.

~~SECRET~~

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

27 1520 CINCPOA to COMGENARMY AIR FORCE POA, Info COMGENPOA, COMFWDAREA, ISCOM TINIAN.

~~Top Secret.~~ Reference your 200155. Present VLR construction plans for TINIAN envisage: (A) Construction of 2 operational strips on each of 2 fields as rapidly as possible with existing harbor facilities and construction troops. (B) Construction of 2 additional strips as soon as harbor capacity and service troops are increased sufficiently to support efficiently the additional VLR units that will use the strips. Para. Every reasonable effort will be made to support the VLR program. However it must be understood that harbor development must progress ahead of VLR construction if early saturation is to be avoided and efficient supply of VLR units presently committed is to be maintained. Para. Concur in eventual plan for 7th strip and space will be reserved accordingly. Construction of the strip and supply of additional VLR units must be contingent upon adequate harbor facilities and service troops.

27 1946 DEPCOM AIR FORCE to CINCPOA.

~~Top Secret.~~ AAFPOA 1085. Look at your SAIKAN 261405 GCT from ComFwdArea. There must be some foundation for opinion expressed by Col Robinson in his SAIKAN 181035 GCT since Island Engr informed Robinson that completion dates set are 2 VLR runways north field 27 Dec and 2 VLR runways west field 25 Jan. If these 4 runways can be completed on these dates it should be entirely feasible to build 2 runways as per our 202309 GCT. Please review situation TINIAN and on basis concentrating on 2 strips north field and expedite report as to earliest dates 1st and 2nd strips can be completed for minimum operation 4 groups. Due to movement of echelons 20 Air Force it is urgently necessary this info be available earliest possible moment. Suggest you utilize Col. Robinson services for this review.

27 2150 COMTHIRDFLEET to CINCPOA.

~~This is Top Secret.~~ Referring MacArthur 260523. Concur in recommended support by CHINA based air. Doubt if any closer coordination practicable and specifically recommend that 20th and 14th Air Forces be kept advised of our operations in order that they may operate against appropriate targets other than those under attack by fast carrier forces.

28 0150 CINCPOA to COMFWDAREACENTPAC Info DEPCOM 20TH AF, ISCOM TINIAN.

~~Top Secret.~~ Refers UR 261405. DepCom 20th AAF desires that 2 VLR strips each 8500 ft long and 150 ft wide with 90 hardstands and minimum taxiways and other facilities to permit initial operation four VLR groups be completed on north field TINIAN earliest possible and that VLR work on west field be deferred as necessary for this purpose. Request operational completion date for one strip and facilities for first two groups and operational completion date for second strip and facilities for an additional two groups. Asphalt paving desirable but not essential for initial operation but should follow as soon as practicable. VLR program and harbor development are high priority projects on TINIAN. Request reply be expedited. My 271520 authorizes construction of total six VLR strips.

2371

~~SECRET~~

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

DECLASSIFIED

28 0238 GHQ SWPA SGD MACARTHUR to COM IN CHIEF ASIA COMMAND info
CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPT, CINCPAC, COMALLIED AIR FORCES,
COM 3RD FLT, COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES.

~~Top Secret.~~ CX-18490 x Reference my CX-18489 x (A) LUBRICATE
(LEYTE GULF) (B) SILVERSAND (MINDANAO) (C) INTEGER (VISAYAN
GROUP) (D) WHITEWASH (LUZON) (E) DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA) (F)
OBTRUSIVE (APARRI) (G) SARTORIAL (LINGAYAN GULF) (H) HIDROSIS
(DINGALEN BAY) (I) UGGAUE (NINDORO) (J) LEGUMINOUS (OKINAWA)X
Southwest Pacific Area Forces, covered and supported by the
3rd Fleet, attack objectives in the LUBRICATE area with 4
Divisions, target date Able Day, 20 October 1944. This
attack is preceded by 3rd Fleet carrier based action LEGUM-
INOUS and objectives on DIAPHRAGM, about Able minus 10 to
Able minus 7; on WHITEWASH, the INTEGER and in the objective
area, Able minus 4 to Able Day. Land-based aviation Eastern
NEW GUINEA protects western flank of the advance and neutral-
izes SILVERSAND by attacking hostile air, naval forces and
shipping within range. Land-based aviation KORCIN area
attacks objectives in the BANDA, FLORES and ARAFURA Seas.
14th and 20th Air Forces assist by attacks on DIAPHRAGM, co-
ordinated with 3rd Fleet carrier action. Diversionary attack
by Eastern Fleet against the SUMATRA, SINGAPORE and ANDAMAN
Island Areas and ILBIBIK BGATION of land and air action in
the general BURMA area just prior to Able Day would be
helpful.

28 1252 MARSHALL to MACARTHUR info CINCPAC, COM 7TH FLT.

~~Top Secret.~~ CominCh reenciphers War Department desp War
37291 dated 23 Sept. 1944. Providing bases for eventual
British Fleet operations in Pacific was discussed in general
terms between Admiral Cunningham and Admiral King. Admiral
Cunningham indicated British desire for main rear base for
British Fleet in Eastern Australia. The British were in-
formed by Admiral King that the United States Naval Facilit-
ies were not extensive but it was anticipated that present
facilities would be ready for use by the British Navy at the
appropriate time. As far as covered storage facilities were
concerned they were advised that the US Army and Army Air
Forces had established the bulk of such facilities in this
area. Admiral King has requested that facilities established
in Eastern Australia by US Army could be made available for
use of British Navy. Following information is being forward-
ed to Admiral King: Paraphrase. All facilities in use by
US Army Forces constructed in Australia have been obtained as
reciprocal aid on reverse lend lease and are to revert to
Australians upon release and further that several airdromes
and camp sites have already been reverted to the Australian
Commonwealth. That detailed estimate of facilities will be
submitted upon receipt of information from Commander in Chief
Southwest Pacific Area. End of paraphrase. Request your
estimate of date and type of facilities to be released in
Australia mainland and your comments and recommendations on
this matter.

2372

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

29 0357z WAR DEPARTMENT to MACARTHUR, STILLWELL, SULTAN, STRATEMEYER, CINCPAC info LEMAY.

AAFPAC 1139 ~~Top Secret~~. This is confirmation paraphrase of WARX 36341 passed by Harmon to Admiral McMorris for Nimitz in original form by hand: A-Plan as first mission supporting Pacific activities attack on repair facilities and aircraft factory at OKAYAMA about 14 October by 20th Bomber Command. Details on timing of carrier strikes referred to in CinCPAC 212151 GCT are requested to effect greatest cooperation. B-OKINAWA photo coverage has been directed. Accomplishment prior to 10 October is anticipated. Radio report of first phase will be forwarded from headquarters 20th Air Force to CinCPAC and CINCSOPAC while photos will come most expeditious means. C - Now being considered are objectives suggested by CinCPAC and CINCSOPAC and you will be advised of tentative schedules. D- Harmon will keep 20th Air Force Headquarters advised of CinCPAC requests for attack on specific objectives and of any changes thereto. This refers to WARX 32426 (181912) and replies to 212151 from CinCPAC number 1040 from AAFPAC CRAX 14761 from Sultan and CX 18297 (241225) from MacArthur.

29 2317z ARNOLD to MACARTHUR, HARMON, NIMITZ, STILLWELL, SULTAN, LEMAY, STRATEMEYER.

WARX-38830 ~~Top Secret~~. Reference MacArthur's CX-18384 (260523) September 26 and Commander 3rd Flt 272150 paragraph 1. Operations of XX Bomber Command in support Pacific Operations will be directed by Headquarters 20th Air Force in same manner as strategic operations are directed. Local coordination to prevent conflict between operations of 14th and 20th Air Forces is responsibility of Commanding General that theater and is satisfactory. It consists largely in exchange of routine flight information. It is our desire to coordinate operations in the DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA) Area as closely as possible with operations of Fast Carrier Forces through Deputy Commander 20th Air Force in POA. Coordination with CINCSOPAC will be by direct exchange of information from this headquarters. Arnold.

SEPTEMBER (GCT)

30 1127 ADV GEN HEADQUARTERS MACARTHUR to COM3RDFLT, COMD ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COMD ALLIED AIR FORCES, Info CINCPA, COMGEN 6TH US ARMY.

C-18630. Confirming conference Southwest Pacific Area and 3rd Fleet 29 September, Coordination of Air Operations for K2 as follows: 3rd Fleet Area of responsibility through A Day includes PHILIPPINE ISLANDS AREA exclusive of MINDANAO and SULU ARCHIPELAGO Operations as follows: Neutralize hostile air, naval forces and shipping LEGUMINOUS (OKINAWA)-DIAPHIRAGM (FORMOSA)-NORTHERN WHITEWASH (LUZON) from A-10 through A-7; neutralize hostile air, naval forces and shipping in the LUZON-KICOL AREA ABLE-4 and A-3; neutralize hostile air, naval forces and shipping in the VISAYAN AREA A-3 through A-1; support landing operations ACCUMULATION (LEYTE ISLAND) AREA A Day in coordination with 7th Fleet. Subsequent A Day, CinCSWPA or Commander 7th Fleet will request carrier strikes if necessitated by the existing situation, and Commander 3rd Flt will comply or immediately report inability. Para. 7th Air Force neutralize hostile air operations BICOL AREA as directed and coordinated by Commander 3rd Fleet. CinCSWPA coordinate directly as required with Commander Task Force 57 while 3rd Fleet at sea. Para. Allied Naval Forces furnish direct support of minesweeping and preliminary operations against islands at entrance LUBRICATE (LEYTE GULF) A-3 through A-6; direct support landing operations ACCUMULATION A Day until relieved by land based aviation Allied Air Forces. Continue missions assigned operations instructions number 70. Para. Allied Air Forces Area of responsibility (exclusive of searches carried by separate raids) until land based bombers are established on INTERLUDE (MOROTAI IS.) includes MINDANAO-SULU ARCHIPELAGO excluding the following areas until further notice: (1) Water areas east of MINDANAO north of CAPE SAINT AUGUSTINE AREA (2) KEMDND areas in MINDANAO north of 08-45 north latitude (3) The MINDANAO SEA Area. Commencing A-10 maintain neutralization of hostile air forces and shipping in the MINDANAO Area. When bombers are established in MOROTOBORI and neutralization to include CELEBES SEA and the VISAYAN exclusive of ACCUMULATION and WITCHCRAFT (SAMAR) while escort carriers are in area. Initiative strikes in force against naval and air forces in the BUNUEI Area, BORNEO at the earliest practicable date. Continue missions assigned in operations instructions number 70.

30 1315Z GHQ SWPA to CINCPA, DEPCOM20thAF, COMGEN CBI, COMDR 20THAF, COM3RDFLT.

~~Top Secret~~. CX 18643. Reference my CX 18384 (260523) Sept 26, Com3rdFlt 272150 and U S AAF WARX 38830 (292317) Commander 3rd Fleet indicated in recent conference that his attacks would be directed at southern part of DIAPHIRAGM (FORMOSA). Land based planes could attack targets on northern DIAPHIRAGM without interference. He requested that the land based air attacks be later in the day than his attacks in order to prevent hostile air force from leaving southern DIAPHIRAGM Area. CinCSWPA leaves further coordination to CINCPA, Deputy Commander 20th Air Force and ComGen CBI as suggested in WARX 38830 (292317).

~~TOP SECRET~~

OCTOBER (GCT)

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021612 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info CINCSoWESPAC.

~~Top Secret.~~ Refer CINCSoWesPac 301315 of September. Further study and conference with CTF 38 indicates practicability of striking all the DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA) area with carrier planes during attacks of 12 and 13 October. Consequently desire that 14th and 20th Air Forces concentrate on ~~on~~ SUBLIME (CHINA) coast during those days and that attacks on OKAYAMA as outlined in Commander Army Air Forces 011915 be conducted either prior to or after days of carrier attacks. Request I be kept advised of their intentions.

012138Z DEPUTY COMAF 20 to COMGEN 20 AF Info COMGENPOA, CINCPAC.

AAFPAC 1207 ~~Top Secret.~~ My radio 1099 of 27 September is reference following dates for completion now confirmed TINIAN. 1 strip and minimum operational facilities for 2 groups 1 January and 2nd similar facilities for 2 groups January 15 confirmation of feasibility of rescheduling shipping to meet these dates on TINIAN for the 313 wing is being rushed and report of progress will be made in 48 hours. Rescheduling of shipping for 314 wing GUAM also being examined but 2nd priority and will follow on completion of examination TINIAN shipping. The above completion dates in accordance with ComForwardArea radio 010043 to CinCPac.

020035 CINCPAC to COMGEN US FORCES CHINA-BURMA-INDIA Info CINCSoWPA, COM3RDFLT, COMNAVGROUP CHINA, COMINCH, COMGEN AAF POA.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ MacArthur 260523 Halsey 272150. Fast carrier scheduled to strike in October as follows: 10 LEGUMINOUS (OKINAWA). 12-13 DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA). 16 and 17 WHITEWASH (LUZON). 18, 19 and 20 ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) area. All dates east longitude. Request you coordinate by strikes with 14th and 20th Air Forces on appropriate targets other than those under attack by fast carrier forces. Com3rdFleet advise all adees of any modification to above schedule of strikes. Cominch please pass to War Dept.

011017Z SULTAN to CHENNAULT Info NIMITZ, STRATEMEYER, LEMAY, MACARTHUR, RICHARDSON, MARSHALL, ARNOLD, STILLWELL.

CRA 15444 ~~TOP SECRET.~~ Land based support of MacArthur's operations by 14th Air Force is subject. Desire support of MacArthur be given as outlined in preparatory phases of alternate Pac-aid and CRA 14575 of September 23. No additional tonnage allotted therefor. WARX 34928 of 22 September is authority for above. Paragraph. Look at CX 18384 and ARNOLD's WARX 38830 on coordination. You will coordinate your operations with those of MacArthur and Nimitz. For such purposes you are authorized to communicate direct therewith. You are further charged with responsibility for necessary intra-theater operational coordination with 20th Bomber Command. DELHI Headquarters and USAF, IBS will be kept informed as to the general scope of you proposed operations and schedule of principal missions.

~~TOP SECRET~~

OCTOBER (GCT)

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03 2220Z ARNOLD to HARMON NIMITZ COM3RDFLT Info MACARTHUR, CTF 38, REAR ECHELON GHQ SOWESPAC.

~~Top Secret.~~ WARK 40740. Purpose of the 20th Bomber Command missions referred to in Com3rdFlt 021612, 2 October is to give maximum support to Pacific operations. Since you consider that this can best be done prior to or after days of carrier attacks we shall schedule our missions on 11th of October and the 14th of October instead of on the 12th and 14th as previously indicated. This excludes any other operations by the 20th Bomber Command during this period.

04 0305 CINCPOA to DEPCOM 20TH AIR FORCE Info COM3RDFLT, CINCSWPA.

~~Top Secret.~~ Request that you arrange that 20th Air Force attacks in support of MacArthur's operations be conducted on OKAYAMA either prior to or after the fast carrier attacks on the DIAPHRAGM area which will be conducted on 12 and 13 October. Further request that any VLR attacks scheduled for these days be directed against the SUBLIME coast.

04 0309 CINCPOA to COMNAVGROUPCHINA FOR CHENNAULT Info COM3RDFLT, CINCSWPA.

~~Top Secret.~~ Request that no 14th Air Force attacks in support of MacArthur's operations be conducted against DIAPHRAGM (FORMOSA) area on 12 and 13 October on which dates the fast carriers will be attacking this area. Further request that any attacks scheduled for these days be directed against the SUBLIME (CHINA) Coast.

05 0543 CINCPOA to COM3RDFLT Info CTF 38.

~~Top Secret.~~ Change in objectives for future operations makes it advisable inflict lasting damage on installations and port facilities in FORMOSA.

05 0644 CINCPOA to COMGENPOA, COMGENAAPPAC, COMSOPAC, COMGENFMFPAC, COMPHIBSPAC, COMSERVPAC, COMAIRPAC, COM3RDFLT, COM5THFLT, COMNORPAC, COMFWDAREA.

~~Top Secret.~~ Operation CAUSEWAY has been deferred. Forces of Pacific Ocean Areas will conduct operation DETACHMENT target date 20 January and operation ICEBERG target date 1 March. Limit this information to those who need to know. Para. My Joint Staff Study of DETACHMENT will be distributed by 10 October.

06 0202 CINCPOA to CINCSWPA Info COM 3RD FLEET, COM 7TH FLEET.

~~Top Secret.~~ During K2 and the period immediately following that operation information as to the movements of important enemy fleet units will be of the greatest importance. My submarine dispositions will be such as to cover movements of the enemy carriers which are believed to be in the Empire. Request information as to the extent to which your submarines are so located as to intercept enemy fleet movements from Lingga and Brunei Bay.

~~TOP SECRET~~

OCTOBER (GCT)

07 0236 CINCPQA to COMNORPAC.

DECLASSIFIED

~~Top Secret~~ Nimitz to Fletcher. With reference to the last sentence of your serial 00241 commenting on Joint Staff Study KEELBLOCKS (Operations against KURILES) request by dispatch your recommendations as to the objectives to be seized under the assumption that KAMCHATKA fields are available.

07 1125 CINCPQA to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH, COMSUBSPAC, COMSERVPAC, COMAIRPAC, CTF 38, CTF 57, CINCSWPA.

~~Top Secret~~ Warning Order. On the assumption that the situation will permit the withdrawal of Task Force 38 from the vicinity of the CENTRAL PHILIPPINES, be prepared to execute the following task, supplementary to my OpPlan 8-44, with target date about 10 November if so directed by later dispatch. This operation is called HOTFOOT (Carrier raid on JAPAN). After replenishment of carrier forces conduct carrier strikes against the JAPANESE HOMELAND in order to (1) Destroy and contain enemy forces. (2) Destroy aircraft facilities and manufacturing installations in the TOKYO Area and (3) Determine the effectiveness of enemy air forces in JAPAN. Para. Fleet replenishment of all items will be available at ULITHI. Bulk fuel deliveries to that base commence 20 October via ENIWETOK. Fuel reserve 600,000 barrels in floating storage ComServRon 10 at ULITHI and 300,000 barrels in tank farm KWAJALEIN. Assignment 25 fleet oilers continues. 6 oilers of Task Force 57 available as reserve. Para. Joint Staff Study is being forwarded to you for your assistance in planning this operation.

08 0645 CINCPQA to COM5THFLT, COMPHIBSPAC, COMGEN 10TH ARMY, Info COMINCH, COMGENPQA, COM3RDFLT, COMGENAAPPQA, COMGENITFPAC, COMNORPAC, COMSERVPAC, COMFWIDAREA, COMSOPAC, COMAIRPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~ Following assignments effective for planning operation ICEBERG. Officer Conducting Operation Admiral R. A. Spruance Comdr Joint Expeditionary Force Vice Admiral R. K. Turner, Comdr Expeditionary Troops Lieut General S. B. Buckner.

08 0719 CINCPQA to CINCSOWESPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~ For the support of future operations of POA forces (Army, Navy, and Marine Corps) in the West Pacific use of facilities to be established by CinCSOWesPac in WHITEWASH is highly desirable. In order to assist CinCPQA in planning for the future logistic support of POA forces it is requested that information be furnished as to the logistic facilities which CinCSOWesPac plans to establish in WHITEWASH and which, augmented as necessary, could furnish assistance to POA forces. Para. A conference at your Headquarters at an early date between appropriate members of our staffs at which these requirements and their implementation could be explored is believed highly desirable and is suggested. Request your views and indication of an approximate date convenient to you.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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08 0642 CINCPOA to COM5THFLT, COMPHIBSPAC, COMGENFMFPAC Info COMINCH, CONGENPOA, COMGENAATFPOA, COM3RDFLT, COMAIRPAC, COMSOPAC, COMNORPAC, COMSERVPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Following assignments effective for planning operation DETACHMENT. Officer Conducting Operation Admiral R. A. Spruance Comdr Joint Expeditionary Force Vice Admiral R. K. Turner Comdr Expeditionary Troops Lieut. General Holland Smith.

03 2255Z JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to MACARTHUR, NIMITZ Info ARNOLD, STILWELL.

~~Top Secret~~. WARX 40782. Joint Chiefs of Staff have approved the following directive: Para 1. CINC SWPA WILL: Para A. After conducting such preliminary operations as may be necessary, seize and occupy LUZON, target date 20 December 1944. Para B. Establish bases in LUZON to support further advances. Para C. Provide support for the occupation of the NANSEI SHOTO by POA forces, target date 1 March 1945. Para 2. CINCPOA WILL: Para A. Provide fleet cover and support for the occupation of LUZON by SWPA forces, target date 20 December 1944. Para B. Occupy 1 or more positions in the NANPO SHOTO, target date 20 January 1945. Para C. Occupy 1 or more positions in the NANSEI SHOTO, target date 1 March 1945. Para 3. CINC SWPA AND CINCPOA WILL: Para A. Arrange for coordination of mutual support and for the interchange of forces and resources for the operations directed above. Para B. Coordinate plans with the Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces, CHINA-BURMA-INDIA, in order to obtain maximum support from the CBI Area for their respective operations. Para C. Coordinate with the Commanding General, 20th Air Force, to arrange for the conduct of supporting operations by that Air Force for their respective operations. Para D. Coordinate with the Commanding General, 20th Air Force for the establishment and development of airfields and facilities for VLR bomber groups in their respective areas. Para 4. Cinc SWPA and CINCPOA will keep the air situation affecting the movement of assault forces north about LUZON under continuous joint review. If either considers the enemy air situation such as to make this movement unduly hazardous, he will report immediately to the Joint Chiefs of Staff with appropriate recommendations. Para 5. Directions will be issued later regarding plans for possible operations against FORMOSA, the PESCADORES, AMOY and other points on the CHINA COAST.

07 2155 COMNORPAC to CINCPOA.

~~Top Secret~~. Reference your 070236. Recommend objectives include ETOROFU and MATSUWA. Operation would be major one and require complete restudy. Commanding General Alaskan Department has by hand and concurs.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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09 2200 CINCPAA to COMSERVPAC, COMAIRPAC, COM5THFLT, COMPHIBSPAC, COM5THPHIBFOR, COMFMFPAC, COMGEN5THPHIBCORPS, COMGENAAPPAA, Info COMGENPOA, COMSOPAC, CTF 96, COMFWDAREACENPAC, CTF 59, COMINCH & CNO, COMNORPAC, CINCSWPA, CGSUPSERVFMFPAC, MARCORPS, COM7THFLT, COM3RDFLT, COMAIRFMFPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Warning Order. Initiate preparations for operation detachment with target date 20 January East Longitude in accordance concept CINCPAA Joint Staff Study now in preparation. Operation will be commanded by Adm R.A. Spruance with Vice Adm R. K. Turner Commanding Joint Expeditionary Force and Lt. Gen. H. M. Smith USMC Commanding All Expeditionary Troops. Troops to be mounted in Hawaiian Area: V Phib Corps consisting of 4th and 5th Marine Divisions (Reinforced) and Corps Troops as follows: Corps Hqtrs, 1 Signal Bn, 1 MT Co, 1 Med Bn, 3 CB Bns, 1 Corps Evac Hosp, Det of Field Depot, 3 Amp Truck Cos (Army), 2 JASCOs, 2 Amp Trac Bns, Corps Arty consisting of an Arty Grp Hqtrs and 2 - 155MM How Bns, Garrison Troops to include 3 AAA Bns Reinforced (Army) and 2 - 155MM Gun CD Bns (Army). Shipping Available about D - 40. Troops to be mounted MARIANAS: 1 AmTank Bn, 2 AmTrac Bns, 2 Tank Cos. Shipping available about D - 12. 3rd MarDiv (Reinforced) will be held in area reserve at GUAM. 1 RCT (Army) will be staged SAIPAN about 1 Jan and will proceed on call to WORKMAN for garrison duty. Para. After operation Fourth and 5th MarDivs will return to MARIANAS for rehabilitation. Para. Garrison aircraft for WORKMAN: 3 Groups VF (Army), 2 Sqdns VF (N) (Army), 1 Group VBH (Army), 1 AWS Co (Army) (Plus 1 additional SCR 527), 1 Sqdn VMTB. Para. Island Commander will be Army and COMGENPOA will provide necessary supplemental garrison forces not specifically indicated above. COMGENPOA, COMGENFMFPAC and Navy Type Commanders concerned submit by 25 October to fullest extent practicable specific designations units to be employed DETACHMENT including Assault, Defense, Aviation, Construction and Service Units. Unit designations not available 25 October will be submitted earliest practicable. COM GENPOA is requested to nominate a general officer of the Army Air Forces as Island Commander. All units will be furnished initial supplies by agencies in area from which mounted.

09 2300 CINCPAA to COM5THFLT, COM5THPHIBFOR, COMSERVPAC, COMAIRPAC, COMPHIBSPAC, COMGEN5THPHIBCORPS, COMFMFPAC, COMGENAAPPAA, Info COMSOPAC, CTF 96, COMFWDAREACENPAC, CTF 59, COMINCH & CNO, COMNORPAC, CINCSWPA, MARCORPS, CGSUPSERVFMFPAC, COM7THFLT, COM3RDFLT, COMAIRFMFPAC.

~~Top Secret~~. Preliminary warning order. Initiate preparations for operation ICEBERG with target date 1 March East Longitude in accordance concept CINCPAA Joint Staff Study now in preparation. Operation will be commanded by Adm R. A. Spruance with Vice Adm R.K. Turner Commanding Joint

~~TOP SECRET~~

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09 2300 CINCPOA to COM5THFLT (CONT'D)

Expeditionary Forces and Lt Gen S. B. Buckner Commanding all Expeditionary Troops. Troops to mount out for operation include an Army Corps of 2 Army Divisions and an Amphibious Corps of 3 Marine Divisions. 1 Army division and 1 MarDiv will be held in area reserve. Corps and Divs above will have normal supporting troops all to be designated later. Garrison troops will consist of 2 Army Divs (From Assault Forces) 6 AAA Gun Bns (Army), 3 AAA AW Bns (Army), 2 AAA S/L Bns (Army), 2 AA Bns (Mar) and 3 - 155MM Seacoast Bns (Army). Garrison aircraft will consist of 4 groups VMF, 2 Sqds VMF (N), 2 Sqds VMTB, 2 Sqds VPH (HL), 1 Sqdr VD (Army), 1 Sqdr Photo Recon, 2 Grps VBM (Army), 2 Grps VBH (Army), 2 Sqdrs VPB (MS), 4 Marine AW Sqdns. Island Commander will be Army and COMGENPOA will provide necessary supplemental garrison forces not specifically indicated above. Additional details to complete Warning Order will be issued by later dispatch.

10 0330 CINCPOA to COMNORPAC.

~~Top Secret.~~ Please amplify your 072155 as soon as practicable by airmail letter.

10 1523Z ARNOLD to NIMITZ Info MACARTHUR.

WARX 44163. Top Secret. Operation of 20th Bomber Command against DIAPHRAGM target on 11th October has been postponed because of weather. Now plan attacks on 14th and 16th October against same targets.

11 1957 COMGENAAFFOA to CINCPOA Info COMGENPOA.

~~TOP SECRET~~ AAFPOA 1447 Look at radio 221045 FwdArea to Cincpoa, radio 040058 Cincpoa to ComFwdArea and Cincpoa 100513Z. The 20th Air Force has accepted the plan to dispose the 313 Wing on TINIAN and the 314 Wing on GUAM in conformity with these dates: TINIAN 2 groups 1 Jan 2 groups 15 Jan. GUAM 2 groups 1 Feb 2 groups 1 April. It is believed that in order to avoid delay and to insure that the Forward Area and Island Commanders concerned have definite instructions to meet these requirements that radio directives are necessary. These radio directives to be in the nature of revisions to base plans requiring earlier completion dates. Formal confirmation by written revision of base plans should follow and this headquarters will prepare the necessary detailed request for revision if desired.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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12 0127 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info COMAIRPAC, CTF 38, CTG 38.1

~~TOP SECRET~~. A target date of November 11 is contemplated for HOTFOOT. For such operation it is highly desirable that the maximum carrier strength and offensive power be amassed to contend with the probable enemy air concentrations defending the EMPIRE. Toward this end the following specific recommendations are made for your consideration: (1) That the BUNKER HILL be retained for the operation and that for such her complement be changed to 100 VF. That by retention of present fighters and exchange of other planes now on board with F6F'S and pilots from replacements in MARSHALLS-MARIANAS. Latter to be accomplished in SAIPAN not later than November 4th to any necessary movement of planes YES This must be as CVE'S not now assigned to 3rd Fleet. (2) That the YORKTOWN and TICONDEROGA be furnished complements of 100 fighters from assigned and replacement groups in lieu of their regular groups and that these spips J in TF 38 in ULITHI-Saipan Area by 4 November. (3) That the SARATOGA, if training program permits, be permitted to join TF 38 for this operation and provided with 100 fighters from any available source using Corsairs if necessary or practicable. Para. With such projected large carrier strength it is possible that some CVL'S, the use of which is questionable in heavy seas that may well be encountered in the vicinity of the target, could be released from the operation and their fighters used to assist in making possible the desired complement for the 4 carriers listed above. However I would prefer this source of fighters not be used except as a last resort. Para. I realize the above will entail many difficulties but the resultant strength of approximately 800 fighters and 400 bombers is considered a better apportioning of types for use against land based air than is the current carrier complement which is suited primarily for use against the enemy fleet. Future objectives of carrier strikes may well justify permanent retention of 2 to 1 ratio which would still be very effective against the Jap Fleet. If my recommendations receive favorable consideration request you take appropriate action to make the above possible.

12 0632 CINCSWPA via COM7THFLT to CINCPAC, COM3RDFLT, CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPT, CINCSAC, COMGEN CHINA BURMA INDIA, COMGEN USAAF.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Cancel and file our message XHG 128 TOO 061305Z as the following is a paraphrase of same. Allied Air Forces will support operations Southwest Pacific Area Task Forces, 3rd Fleet and Allied Naval Forces in the above operations Para Allied Naval Forces will conduct operations consequent to the above seizure of objectives. Para. Allied Naval and Air Forces will as preliminary to above operations open routes for shipping through SURIGAO STRAIT via MINDANAO SEA - SULU SEA - MINDORO STRAITS and via CAMOTES SEA - VWY - YAN SEA - SIBUYAN SEA - MINDORO STRAITS. Para M2 (Contingent Operation) 8th Army will seize passes through the mountains in the vicinity of TOGGLE by combined overwater movement through HIDROSIS and a parachute drop in the vicinity of TOGGLE. Pass one division to the control of 6th Army on debouchment from the mountain passes. Target date of H day, 1-20 January 1945. Major units: 1 infantry division, 1 parachute regimental combat team, 1 cavalry regimental combat team.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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Para M1 (Main Operation) 6th Army will establish a beachhead in the SARTORIAL Area, destroy hostile forces and occupy the Central WHITEWASH-STEAM-ROLLER Area. Establish bases as later directed by this headquarters to support subsequent operations; complete occupation of WHITEWASH. Target date for S Day, 20 December. Major units: 5 infantry division, 1 regimental combat team, 2 fighters groups, 1 medium bomb group, 1 marine dive bomb group, 1 tactical reconnaissance group. Para Operations: L3: (Preliminary operation) 6th Army will occupy southwestern UBRRUE, establish control of sea routes through waters of INTEGER and establish Naval and air facilities for direct support of operations in WHITEWASH. (This is first sentence of last paragraph). Warning instructions Number 6, this headquarters, being issued this date for the seizure and occupation of WHITEWASH by Southwest Pacific Forces, for the purpose of establishing naval and air facilities to support future operations. Target date for U Day, 5 December. Major Units: 1 parachute infantry combat team, 1 infantry regimental combat team, 2 fighter groups, 1 medium bomb group. End of paraphrase. Signed MACARTHUR.

13 0338 COM3RDFLT to CTF 57, CTG 30.8 CTG 38.1, CTF 59 Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, COMCRUDIV 5, CTF 38.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Warning Order. Present intention 3rd Fleet conduct sustained air strikes TOKYO Area Target Date 11 November. Will require employment TF 38 reinforced by TICONDEROGA YORKTOWN SARATOGA if possible and Desron 47, Crudiv 5 and 6 DD now assigned CTF 57, 12 AO 4 CVE (Replacement) 3 CVE (Escort) and escorts from TG 30.8 plus 2 ATF assigned ComSeron 10. TF 38 proceed from area GAMBOL other units from ENIWETOK on or about 5 November. Details of departure points route and schedule in Op-Order to be issued later. Sustained land based air strikes on BONINS and MARCUS ISLANDS prior to target date will also be required.

13 0348 CINCPAC to COM THIRD FLEET Info CTF 38, CTG 38.1 COMINCH COMAIRPAC CTF 57.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 120127 not to all. Desirability of increasing your fighter strength for HOTFOOT fully appreciated. The maximum that can be done without impairing the readiness of the fleet for subsequent operations is embodied in the following which will be initiated now. ABLE will send by escort carriers Fiteron Four with fiftyfour aircraft plus additional Hellcats to bring Fiteron Eight up to total of fifty. Fiterons Four and Eight to operate from BUNKER HILL. Bombron and Torpron Eight to be returned PEARL. After HOTFOOT Fiteron Four should go to ESSEX in advance of remainder group Four. BAKER TICONDEROGA and YORKTOWN will be equipped with fiftyfour fighters each prior to departure PEARL. CHARLIE You may augment the Fiterons of other carriers to a strength not to exceed fiftyfour by withdrawals from escort carriers and forward area pools after you have replaced losses incurred during KING TWO recognizing that depletion of fighters and pilots in pipeline and pools will disrupt replacements for about six weeks and necessitate accelerated training of replacements here.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

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Para. I do not approve of detaching the light carriers. The operating procedure in the fast carrier task groups using both CV and CVL is well established and highly successful and should not be subjected to radical changes at this time. Para. The foregoing barring interim losses will give you eleven CV and eight CVL with approximately 825 fighters 235 dive bombers and 250 torpedo planes.

13 2035 ADCOMNORPAC to CINCPAC Info CTF 90, CTF 91, COMFAIRWING 4, COMNORPAC, COMSUBPAC, CTF 94.

~~TOP SECRET~~ TF 94 will bombard MATSUWA 171240. Request air-surface zone be established between Longitude 153 East and eastern boundary submarine patrol zone shown Addendum 5 Cinpoa SOP 1 from latitude 47 N to 58-30 N commencing 0 hours 15th and ending 12 hours October 20th. All times GCT.

14 0445 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH, COMAIRPAC, COMBATPAC, COMCRUPAC, COM-DESPAC, CTF's 38, 57, CTG's, 30.8, 30.9.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Refer warning order in mydis 071255. Following ships assigned you for duty during HOTFOOT: CarDivs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 less BATAAN, 6 less BENNINGTON. BatDivs 6, 7, 8 less INDIANA, 9. CruDivs 4, less INDIANAPOLIS, 6 less SAN FRANCISCO plus BOSTON, 11 less SAN JUAN and FLINT, 13, 14 less VICKSBURG. DesRons 6 less CRAVEN, 46 less BRADFORD, 47, 50, 52, 53, 55, 60 less LOWRY, 61. ANZIO (Ex CORAL SEA) ASW group. Transport CVE, oilers, Service Force units and their escorts as presently assigned plus CarDiv 29 less MAKIN ISLAND escorted by DEWEY (DD349) MONAGHAN (DD354) C F AUSBURNE (DD570) DYSON (DD572) CONVERSE (DD509) and SPENCE (DD512) all ETD PEARL 25 October. Para. TICONDEROGA escorted by LANSLOWNE (DD486) LARDNER (DD487) depart PEARL about 18th. YORKTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA and DesRon 60 less LOWRY (DD770) plus COLLETT (DD730) and SAMUEL N MOORE (DD747) depart PEARL about 24th. Para. TF 57 will continue under your operational control during HOTFOOT. You may transfer CruDiv 5 and escorts to TF 30 for this operation. Para. Urdis 130338. Target date of 11 November approved for planning purposes.

14 2219 CINCPAC to ALL HOLDERS 35-S POA Info COM 7TH FLEET, CTF 57, CTF 59, COM-SUBPAC.

SUPER. At 141808 CinC Combined issued "Special DesopOrder 8. 1. Enemy striking force has received our stinging attack and is retreating. 2. Shore based air force (s) blank and Number 2 Diversion Attack Force carry out annihilation operations as directed". Comment by Cinpac. Term diversion attack force not confirmed but believed good. No good information on strength or location but for reasons to follow estimated to consist of carriers and surface vessels in EMPIRE area probably CarDivs 3 and 4 possibly including CarDivs 1 and 5. Believe no battleships in EMPIRE. Believe maximum of cruiser destroyer strength in EMPIRE to be 3 heavy 6 light and 20 destroyers. The Number 2 Diversion Attack Force Comdr set Condition 2 same day Blue striking force hit OKINAWA hence believed EMPIRE area. Previously number 1 Diversion Attack Force associated with SINGAPORE MANILA area. Possibility exists of recent

~~TOP SECRET~~

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14 2219 (continued)

reorganization Jap surface forces may make above deductions non applicable and Japs may throw all available air and surface force at you. At 141613 Comdr T Force reported sinking between blank and 8 blue carriers on 12th and sinking between 3 and 5 blue carriers on 13th suggesting Jap high command may have ordered your annihilation based on exaggerated reports received. Good luck to you all. Nimitz.

15 0149 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC, COMINCH, ALL TFC's 3RD AND 7TH FLEETS, COM7THFLT, CINCSOWESPAC.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Cincpac 142219 not to all am disposing all forces for fleet action. Except for today's LUZON strike no fast carriers will be available support KING 2 until further notice. CTG 38.4 report LUZON enemy air situation direct to CinCSWPA earliest possible info others.

15 0252 COM 3RD FLT to CINCPAC, COMINCH, ALL TASKFORCOMS 3RD AND 7TH FLEET, COM TASKGROUP 30.3, COM TASKGROUP 30.8, COM TASKGROUP 30.5, COM 7TH FLT, CINCSOWESPAC.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Enemy believes we are greatly reduced beaten and retiring. Annihilation attack on Blue MR expected. I intend to attack in strength. Para General Plan. Expedite fueling all carrier groups. As fueling completed force will be concentrated toward reference position Lat 22 North Long 128 East. Task Group 30.3 represent beaten remnant of 3rd Fleet continue retirement. Orders for movements and disposition by separate dispatches. HALSEY in NEW JERSEY with Task Group 38.2 is OTC.

15 0932 CINCPOA to COM 3RD FLEET Info ALL TASKS FORCE AND GROUP COMDRS 3RD FLT, COMINCH, COMSUBPAC, CTF 77.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Submarine dispositions are being made as follows. BLACKFIN in position approximately 20-45 North 130-00 East being ordered retire eastward to 134-30 East to clear your concentration point. 10 submarines blocking LUZON STRAIT between 119 and 121 East. 2 submarines in approximate position 20-45 North 125-00 East are retiring west to 122-30 East and will then move north toward 24 North 123 East. 1 submarine off north west tip FORMOSA. 3 submarines off eastward of northeast tip FORMOSA. 2 submarines of MARU MORGUE watching OKINAWA. Submarine in each of ABANDON ABLAZE ABUSE AND ABDUCT. 3 submarines off southern approaches NAGASAKI-SASEBO. 3 guarding BUNGO SUIDO and 2 guarding southwest approaches TOKYO BAY.

15 0301 CINCPAC to CINCSWPA Info COM ALLIED AIR FORCES SWPA, COM3RDFLT, COM7THFLT.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Mydis 142219. Request maximum practicable air reconnaissance covering exits at SURIGAO and SAN BERNADINO STRAITS beginning daylight 16 October and continuing until situation clarifies.

15 1230 CINCPAC to COMNAVGROUP CHINA, Info COM3RD FLEET, CINCSWPA, COMINCH, COMGEN AAF POA.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Request you arrange daily reconnaissance of SOUTH CHINA SEA north of CAMRANH BAY-LINGAYEN line by CHINA based air for purpose of detecting possible movement of enemy fleet units toward area in which 3rd Fleet now operating. Please advise extent to which this can be accomplished.

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15 1755 COMNAVGROUP CHINA to CINCPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~ Your 151230. Cincpac inform those who need to know. 14th Air Force undertaking job with 4 Liberators daily.

15 0651 CINCPOA to DEPCOM 20TH AIR FORCE Info COMNAVGROUP CHINA, COMINCH, COM3RDFLT, COMSUBPAC, CINCSWPA, COM 7THFLT.

My 142219 Com 3rd Flt's 150149 and 150252 not to all adees but held by Cominch and passed to you by hand. Request maximum action against enemy air force in FORMOSA until situation clarifies.

15 0736Z DEPCOMAF 20 to COMAF 20 Info CINCPOA.

~~TOP SECRET~~ AAFPOA 1574 Cincpoa requests maximum possible action against enemy air force FORMOSA until situation clears. Recommend for this period minimum of 1 strike each day even at expense of size of strike force rather than infrequent strikes of heavier forces. References are Cincpoa's 142219, Com3rdFlt's 150149 and 150252 all of which Cominch has.

16 1125I COM ALLIED AIR FORCE to COM 5TH AIRFORCE, CINC SOWESPAC, CINCPAC, COM 7TH FLT, COM 3RD FLT.

AX 79225 ~~TOP SECRET~~ Special reconnaissance orders: (A) Continue special reconnaissance of SURIGAO and SAN BERNADINO STRAITS until this area effectively covered by regular reconnaissance of search plan F revised (refer AAF OI 69 dated 2 October). (B) Immediately and progressively activate MOROTAI sectors of search plan F revised. Mission to cover friendly naval forces operating east of the Philline Day search sector and reporting enemy fleet movements west of the east boundary of PHILIPPINES which effect our forces. Report action taken and time searches effective.

16 0953 COMNAVGROUP CHINA to CINCPAC Info CINCSOWESPAC, COM3RDFLT, COMSUBPAC, COMINCH CORTDIV 25.

~~TOP SECRET~~ 14th Air Force changes plan. Refer ourdis 151920. Search of SOUTH CHINA SEA not started as yet. Plan now is twice daily search commencing 1100 GCT October 16 and repeated every 12 hours until notified to stop. 2 Liberators will make complete coverage of area bounded by HAILING ISLAND 21-35 North 111-53 East- CANRANH-LINGAYEN-HAILING ISLAND. Planes will use aircraft code CSQ 1270 (CQ) authenticator only. Planes will broadcast on 5440 kilocycles using MCW. Not 5640 kilocycles voice. No bombs carried. ComNavGroup CHINA guarding new frequency both at CHUNGKING and KUNMING and together with 14th Air Force will do all possible to expediate contact reports to Cincpoa. Reason for delay and change unknown here.

16 0342 CINCPOA to CINCSWPA Info COM 7TH FLT, COMINCH.

~~TOP SECRET~~ Following replies to lettered queries your 100743 (A) 57 DD's and 18 DE's will be increased by the addition of 9 DD but early return to POA will be necessary as indicated in (C) below in order to implement DETACHMENT. (B) Allocation herein may be considered final except insofar as battle damages unanticipated material breakdowns or unforeseen military

~~TOP SECRET~~

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16 0342 (continued)

exigencies may introduce unavoidable changes. CA's now reduced to 3 as indicated my 101935 which also covers temporary release CA's to Com3rdFlt for HOTFOOT during interval between K-2 and M-1. CVE's reduced to 18 as indicated my 112018. AKA's reduced to 19 due to recent material deficiencies ALCHIBA. APD increased to 17 by inclusion 5 APD Cominch 191317. AGC reduced to 4 due to urgent early requirement for 1 in connection training large number new ships and preparation and rehearsals for DETACHMENT. Additional command facilities are available since 4 APA assigned you CAMBRIA FREMONT CAVALIER and LEONARD WOOD are fully equipped RAGC of which only 2 were previously so designated. In redeployment schedule which follows 2 RAGC refer to CAMBRIA and FREMONT. (C) Dates and localities of release of assault shipping to POA follows. GUAM 4 January 13 APA or AP 1 LSV 1 RAGC 3 LSD 6 AKA or AK 6 APD. GUADALCANAL 20 January 10 APA or AP 3 APH 1 LSV 1 RAGC 5 LSD 2 AGC 60 LST 15 LSM 5 APD. LEYTE 25 January 29 APA or AP 1 LSV 12 AKA or AK 2 AGC 60 LST 15 LSM 6 APD. PEARL 20 February for overhaul 10 APA or AP 1 AKA or AK to be designated later. Dates and localities of release of fire support and escort ships to POA follows. ULITHI 30 Dec 7 OBB 3 CA 2 CL 18 DD 18 LCI(G) 9 CVE 9 DD 9 DE. GUAM 4 Jan 12 DD. GUAM 11 Jan 6 DMS. GUADALCANAL 20 January 9 DD 6 PC 3 PCS 8 YMS. LEYTE 25 Jan 9 DD 4 DMS plus all remaining small craft. ULITHI 1 Feb 9 CVE 9 DD 12 DE. This redeployment should permit 1 turn around of at least 2 transgroups and half of LST's. PART 2. (D) Current temporary assignment of SARANAC ASHTABULA SUAMICO WINOOSKI SEVERN and AOG KISHWAUKEE continued. Approximately 500,000 barrels fuel will be available ULITHI for replenishment fleet oilers listed above to meet requirements fire support group. Cinpoa will provide initial and replacement ammunition for Pac Fleet fire support groups and 3rd Fleet covering forces. Ammunition ships will be routed western CAROLINES and MARIANAS. Disposition you desire for these ammunition ships should be arranged direct with Com3rdFlt. (E) Auxiliary vessels for repair maintenance and supply of all POA forces, including 3rd Fleet and those temporarily assigned 7th Fleet, are available under ComSeron 10 at ULITHI and MANUS. Any special dispositions of auxiliary vessels desired should be arranged direct with Com3rd Fleet. (F) 22 LST transporting 2 side load pontoon assemblies each making total of 44. This replies Com 7th Fleet 080653. (G) Negative except those already loaded in units engaged in K-2. Para. Anticipate no requirements for SWPacific forces in support DETACHMENT or ICEBERG except strategical support from shore based aircraft which will be made the subject of later communication and possible redeployment to LEGUMINOUS of 1 Marine medium bombardment group and 2 Army heavy bomb groups in the event POA Army Air Forces have not been augmented prior to target date.

17 0819 COMNORPAC to CTF 94, CINCPAC Info COMSUBPAC.

~~This is TOP SECRET~~ Refer originators 132035. Task Force 94 bombardment of MATSUWA postponed 24 hours account unrestricted visibility.

17 1955 CINCPAC to COMINCH Info COMNORPAC COMGENPOA

~~TOP SECRET~~ Recommends assignment of an Army Corps Command and Staff to conduct preliminary plans and be available to command army troops KEELBLOCKS or similar operations.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

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18 1851 CINCPA to COM3RDFLT Info COM5THFLT, COM1STCARTASKFOR, COM2NDCARTASKFOR.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 180756 best target data available for Japanese Empire, RYUKYUS, FORMOSA, LUZON and CHINA COAST will be delivered carriers prior operation INDUCTION in support of M1. However my plans for INDUCTION do not invoke entry of major forces into the EAST CHINA SEA.

19 1836 COMNAVGR CHINA to COMSUBPAC info CINCPAC.

~~Top Secret~~. For DELAWARE strike scheduled over target OMURA AIRCRAFT FACTORY 0600 GCT October 25. 20th Bomber Command requests lifeguard submarines in following priority positions. A at 33-00 north 128-15 east. B at 32-30 north 126-00 east. C at 32-00 north 129-00 east. D at 33-00 north 128-30 east. Flight reference point DANJO GUNTO posit 32-00 north 128-21 east. Possibility that operations will extend until 29 October.

14 0348 COM7THFLT to COMINCH, CNO Info COMSUBSPAC, CINCPA, COMSUBS SWPA, CTF 72, CINCSWPA.

~~TOP SECRET~~ Very deeply regret report SEAWOLF on special mission eastern SAMAR overdue at rendezvous since 6 October. Attendant circumstances are such that she must be presumed lost. Departed BRISBANE 21 September via SEADLER for special mission XWST coast SAMAR. Last transmission from SEAWOLF reported her position as 01-35 North 133-57 East proceeding in established safety land SOA 13.5 knots at 010544 GCT. Eastbound NARWHAL reported exchanging calls with westbound SEAWOLF in safety land position 02-30 North 130-13 East. This last known position SEA WOLF. Repeated messages requiring reply HAVE NOT been answered. Preliminary report of incidents probably connected with loss of SEAWOLF. SHELTON hit by submarine torpedo position 02-32 North 129-18 East at 030815 -I- while in CVE screen. At 1255 -I- carrier plane on ASP sighted sub with deck awash reported position 2-30 North 129-17 East. Sub crash dived. No recognition signal. Plane attacked. 2 bombs 120 feet ahead and slightly to starboard. RICHARD ROWELL from CVE screen proceeded to scene established sound contact and made 5 hedge hog PMOS 1 depth charge attack between 1315 and 1403 -I-. ROWELL reports 3 to 5 hedge hog explosions and small amount debris plus large air bubble on 2nd attack. Between 1st and 2nd attack submarine attempted jam DE sound contact ROWELL reports signals unrelated to effective identification signal. Circumstances indicate possibility sub attacked was enemy sub which may have torpedoed SEAWOLF or attack was made on SEAWOLF. Official investigation will be conducted.

19 2215 CINCPA to CINCSOWESPAC Info COMINCH, COMGENPOA, COMGENFMFPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~ A broad outline reference your 111356 and my 130958 of facilities desirable in EXCELSIOR (PHILIPPINES) to support future operations of POA forces follows. The desirable timing of availability of this support and most advantageous division of facilities between ACCUMULATION (LEYTE) and WHITEWASH (LUZON) is still under study and will be presented for discussion at pending conference. Para. Summary of POA needs. A. Supply and repair facilities sufficient to support approximately 1/3 of the Pacific Fleet. B. Staging areas with supply and repair facilities sufficient to support and mount out 1 corps of 3 Marine divisions (depot and shop troops and equipment to be furnished by FMFPac). C. Staging areas and supply and repair facilities

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sufficient to support and mount out 2 Army Corps of 3 divisions each. D. Stockade of sufficient supplies and equipment to maintain above Marine and Army units on a future major objective until their direct support from the United States can be assured estimated to require 60 days supply after mounting out. E. Hospital support for reception and temporary retention of casualties incurred in operations involving above forces. Para. The extent of assistance, if any, which you will need from POA resources to effect the augmentation of your facilities necessary to provide the above support should also be explored at the pending conference.

19 2225 CINCPOA to COMGENFMFPAC Info COMINCH, MARCORPS, COMPHIBSPAC, COMFWDAREA, COMSOPAC, CINCSWPA, COMGENPOA.

~~THIS IS TOP SECRET.~~ Tentative schedule employment and rehabilitation major FMF units is as follows: On completion DETACHMENT V Amphibious Corps including corps troops 3rd and 4th MarDivs will be returned GUAM for rehabilitation and 5th MarDiv to SAIPAN. On completion ICEBERG III Amphibious Corps including corps troops 1st 2d and 6th MarDivs will be returned GUADAL-RUSSELLS area for rehabilitation unless staging areas have become available in the PHILIPPINES. Para. Urdis 080013 not to all. Not anticipated that major FMF units will be staged in Hawaiian area subsequent to mounting for DETACHMENT.

21 1130Z SULTAN to MACARTHUR AND RICHARDSON FOR NIMITZ Info MARSHALL AND ARNOLD.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ CRAX-17462 In order best to assist both SWPA and POA with the limited tonnage available to this theater in CHINA, it is believed desirable that conferences be held between representatives of CBI and both SWPA and POA. It is proposed therefore, that a small group of about 6 officers, representing theater headquarters, Army Air Forces India Burma Sector, 20th Bomber Command, 14th Air Force and India China Division ATC leave this theater approximately November 1 and proceed to HOLLANDIA and/or HONOLULU for necessary staff conferences. The exact purpose of the conferences would be to determine the assistance which can be rendered by us to each of the other theaters. The changing tempo of operations in the Pacific as well as actual changes of targets and target dates make advisable some revision of our present Pac-Aid plans. Para. Original directive WARX 23614 dated April 16, upon which Pac-Aid was based, gave prior of assistance to Nimitz's FORMOSA operation and directed such assistance to MacArthur as would not interfere with the support possible for Nimitz. Our desire at this time is to revise our stockpile accumulation schedule and our operational schedules to permit maximum assistance to both theaters. An additional subject to be considered is the development of transport route from PHILIPPINES to CHINA. Para. Can we have your early reply as to: 1st, desirability of proposed conferences; 2nd, location desired by respective theaters; 3rd, indication as to whether general date indicated above is satisfactory to you. Para. If possible desire group not leave here until approximately 1 November in order to take advantage of information to be gathered at monthly hump tonnage allocation conference.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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21 1852 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH, CINCSWPA.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Nimitz to Halsey Info King and MacArthur
Your 210454 and 210645 to CinCSWPA. General plan and tasks assigned by my
Op Plan 8-44 continue in effect and restrictions imposed by necessity to
cover forces of the Southwest Pacific are accepted. Para. Movement of
major units of the 3rd Fleet through SURIGAO or SAN BERNADINO STRAITS will
not be initiated without orders from me. Acknowledge.

21 0645 COM3RDFLT to CINC SOWESPAC Info CINCPAC, CTF 77, COMINCH, CTF 38, CTG 38.1

~~TOP SECRET.~~ For MacArthur. My present operations in strategic position
to meet threat of enemy fleet forces are somewhat restricted by necessity
to cover your transports and other vulnerable overseas movements. Would
appreciate early advice regarding withdrawal such units to safe positions.
This information will permit me execute orderly rearming program for my
groups and at same time give me more freedom for further offensive action.
Halsey.

22 0517 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info COMSERVPAC, COMAIR 7THFLT (LOGISTICS), CTU 30.9.1,
COMNAVBASE MANUS, CTF 57, CTF 38, COM7THFLT, CTG 30.9.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Cancel my 092243. Present intention send 2 carrier groups to
ULITHI 25-29 October and 2 groups same place 29-3 November. Only BUNKER
HILL and 2 destroyers will be sent MANUS in immediate future.

21 2240 MACARTHUR to COM3RD FLEET Info COMINCH, CHIEF OF STAFF, CINCPAC, CTF 77, CTF
38, CTG 38.1.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ For Admiral Halsey replying his 210645. Basic plan for this
operation in which for the first time I have moved beyond my own land based
air cover was predicated upon full support by 3rd Fleet. As planned every
possible measure is being taken to expedite the installation in this area of
land based air forces but pending achievement our mass of shipping is subject
during this critical period to raiding enemy elements both air and surface.
2 cruisers already have been damaged by air attack in LEYTE GULF. I consider
that your mission to cover this operation is essential and paramount. The
method by which you fulfill that responsibility rests of course in your judge-
ment. You will be kept fully informed of progress. Withdrawal of our ship-
ping is proceeding according to plan. This despatch was prepared 211200.
Transmission delayed due radio silence.

21 1535 COMINCH, CNO to CINCPAC Info COM3RDFLT.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Desire early amplification of Com 3rd Fleet 210454 as to nature
of operations in mind.

22 0344 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Cominch 211535. My 210454 was exploratory having in mind (A)
reported widespread movements of Jap fleet units. (B) Paragraphs 3(A), 3(X)
(1) and 3(X)(2) of CinCPac OpPlan 8-44. (C) Undesirability routing oilers
north of LUZON at present and (D) Looking ahead to the carrier operations
preceding and supporting SARTORIAL. Your 211852 is acknowledged.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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22 0537 CINC EASTERN FLEET to ADMIRALTY; AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE; CINCPAC; CINC SO ATLANTIC STATION, CAPE TOWN; COM 7TH FLEET.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Eastern Fleet disposition signal number 122 (A) Battleships HMS RENOWN at TRINCOMALEE (CEYLON) HMS HOWE COLOMBO HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH DURBAN (B) Aircraft carriers HMS INDOMITABLE HMS UNICORN HMS ATHELING HMS BATTLER TRINCOMALEE HMS VICTORIOUS HMS ILLUSTRIOUS at sea HMS SHAH HMS BEGUM HMS AMEER HMS ACTIVITY AT COLUMBO (C) 8 inch cruisers HMS LONDON HMS CUMBERLAND HMS SUFFOLK TRINCOMALEE (D) 6 inch cruisers HMS NIGERIA HMS PHOEBE TRINCOMALEE HMS CEYLON DURBAN D S TROMP SYDNEY HMS GAMBIA HMS KENYA HMS NEWCASTLE at sea HMS ACHILLES at BOMBAY.

21 2240 CINCPAC to COM GEN ARMY FORCES CHINA-BURMA-INDIA Info COMINCH, CINCSWPA.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Concur in conference proposed by your CRAX 17462 to arrange for support from CHINA BURMA INDIA area for Pacific Ocean Areas operations.

21 0454 COM 3RD FLEET to CINCSOWESPAC Info CINCPAC, COMINCH, CTF 77, CTF 38, CTG 38.1

~~TOP SECRET~~. What is earliest estimate for safe route to SOUTH CHINA SEA via SURIGAO and MINDORO STRAITS for (A) well escorted fleet oilers and (B) major combatant ships. CHINA SEA may suddenly become a critical area.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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23 2330 COM2ND CARTASKFORPAC to COMINCH, CINCPAC, COMTHIRDFLT, COMFIFTH FLT, COM1STCARTASKFORCEPAC.

~~THIS IS TOP SECRET.~~ Para 1 Para. After being subjected to incessant attack on this Task Group from diverse bases for more than 48 hours, during which it was necessary to handle VF and VF only at top speed, the following facts are again, and yet again confirmed and reaffirmed. Para. 2 Para. In this kind of war SB2C non-util, complicates plane handling, and occupies vital space which should go to invaluable VF. It is urgently recommended that by flat order SB2C on CV's be immediately replaced by VF, Corsairs preferred to catch Frans. Use SB2C pilots if necessary, 2 hours required. Para. 3 Para. The originator knows: A, That the requisite planes are available. B, That logistics of upkeep are flexible and readily adjustable. C, And that training also is underway, though training is no great problem; and fails to apprehend theory in persistent opposition to practical experience. Para. 4 Para. Our preparations have had in mind hitting the enemy at his source of power. The time is not in the future. Para. 5 Para. Successful HOTFOOT certain if so. Para. 6 Para. See my action report of 7 October serial 0015.

24 0850 CINCPAC to CTF 57 info CTF 59.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ 14 V 223 240443 and similar reports indicate opportunities to sink shipping and deny needed supplies to enemy bases in Nanpo Shoto. Give high priority to such opportunities in employment of long range aircraft of Task Force 59.

24 1800 Com3RDFLT to COMINCH, CINCPAC, CINCOWESPAC, CTF 77, ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RD FLEET, COM7THFLT.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Night snooper contacted enemy carrier force 0205 I (-9) 100 miles north in 2 groups Lat. 17-10 Long. 125-30 and Lat. 16-40 Long. 125-30 course 110 speed 15. Own force of 3 groups concentrated.

24 1836 CINCPOA to COM SECOND CARTASK FOR info COMINCH, COM3RDFLEET, COM5THFLEET, COMFIRSTCARTASKFOR.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Cancel your 232330 which was improperly addressed direct to higher authority. Resubmit your views to me by letter via ComTHIRDFleet and ComAirPac.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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OCTOBER (GCT) Continued.

daylight today but search will be continued assisted by aircraft tomorrow. During retirement Coolbaugh got what is believed to be a sure kill of sub while proceeding south across SHEARWATER. She was ordered to sit on her contact throughout the night. The Sproston also had good contact and has similar orders. Sproston shot down 1 night raider which was attempting to attack Task Unit 77.4.3. No estimate of total aircraft shot down can be made at this time but the number is considerable. Last strikes of day were with enemy on westerly courses in "SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT". This action and that of the preceding night in which a strong enemy surface force was overwhelmingly defeated in SURIGAO STRAITS by the surface units of the 7TH FLEET under Rear Admiral J. B. Oldendorf are highlights on the road to TOKYO. Together they constitute the battle of LEYTE GULF.

25 1317 COM3RDFLEET to CINCPAC CINCSOWESPAC COM7THFLEET COMINCH.

That there be no misunderstanding concerning recent operations of the THIRD FLEET I inform you as follows: To obtain information of JAP plans and movements became vital on 23 October so three carrier groups were moved into PHILIPPINE COAST off POLILLO, SAN BERNADINO and SURIGAO to search as far west as possible. On 24 October the THIRD FLEET searches revealed JAP forces moving east through the SIBUYAN and SULU SEAS and both of those forces were brought under attack by THIRD FLEET air strikes. The existence of a JAP plan for coordinated attack was then apparent but the objective was not sure and the expected carrier force was missing from the picture. THIRD FLEET carrier searches revealed the presence of the enemy carrier force on the afternoon of 24 October completing the picture. To statically guard SAN BERNADINO STRAITS until enemy surface and carrier air attacks could be coordinated would have been childish so three carrier groups were concentrated during the night and started north for a surprise dawn attack on the enemy carrier fleet. I considered that the enemy force in SIBUYAN SEA had been so badly damaged that they constituted no serious threat to Kinkaid and that estimate has been borne out by the events of the 25th off SURIGAO. The enemy carrier force was caught off guard there being no air opposition over the target and no air attack against our force. Their air groups were apparently shore based and arrive too late to land on their carriers or get into the fight. I had projected surface striking units ahead of our carriers in order to coordinate surface and air attacks against the enemy. Com 7TH FLEET's urgent appeals for help came at a time when the enemy force was heavily damaged and my overwhelming surface striking force was within 45 miles of the enemy's cripples. I had no alternative but to break off from my golden opportunity and head south to support Kinkaid although I was convinced that

~~TOP SECRET~~

OCTOBER (GCT) Continued.

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his force was adequate to deal with an enemy force that was badly weakened by our attacks of the 24th - a conviction justified by later events off LEYTE. I wish to point out that MacArthur and Kinkaid were supported by (A) Destruction of 1200 enemy planes between 10 and 20 October plus much shipping. (B) Air attacks against JAP forces in the SULU SEA. (C) Crippling of enemy force in SIBUYAN SEA. (D) Destruction of over 150 planes on 24 October. (E) Destruction of enemy carrier strength on 25 October. (F) Carrier attacks on threatening enemy force off LEYTE 25 October. (G) Surface movements evening 25 October to cut off enemy retreat toward SAN BERNADINO. Para. The back of the JAP Navy has been broken in the course of supporting our landings at LEYTE. Halsey.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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26 0631 CTF 77 to COMINCH info CINCSWPA CINCPAC COM3RDFLT
COMDESPAC COM7THFLT COMAIRPAC.

With deepest regret I report the loss of 2 CVE's
2 DD's and 1 DE plus damage to other ships ndus
battle fought to the eastward of SAMAR on 2 KPVSNKKGOEAW
between enemy air and surface forces and a group of
16 CVE's plus DD and DE escorts. This group with superb
determination and skill fought and defeated a strong
enemy surface force supported by repeated attacks by
shore based enemy aircraft. They struck repeatedly with
all means at their disposal until the enemy retired
defeated and continued to strike his retreating forces
until darkness. The report of the valliant Commander
of this gallant group Rear Admiral T. L. Sprague is
transmitted herewith. "CTG 77.4 Despatch 252000. As
a result of todays surface and air actions CTU 77.4.3
reports SAINT LO (Former MIDWAY) hit by dive bomber
FWENTED by heavy explosions which destroyed ship.
Gambier Bay Johnson and Roberts missing since bombard-
ment by strong enemy force believed to contain 4 BB
8 CA and CL 7 or more DD all very fast. All carrier
groups were under attack throughout the day. Santee
received torpedo hit and suicide crash on deck which
started large fire. Suwanee received suicide crash
which started large fire and penetrated both flight
and hangar deck. Sangamon had a suicide crash along-
side with bomb which punctured side in many places.
Fires and damage were brought under control and all
vessels continued to launch SSXNUM against the enemy
force till sundown. Vessels of Task Unit 77.4.2 were
INHIDEUP to late afternoon and Task Group launched a
total of 6 Heavy strikes armed with torpedoes and heavy
bombs. Northern Group Task Unit 77.4.3 was under more
or less continuous fire of enemy Battleships Cruisers
and Aircraft throughout the day. All surviving carriers
were damaged. White Plains Fanshaw Bay and Kitkun Bay
got fires and other damage under control and continued
to launch attacks until the end of the day. Last strikes
from all ships were overtaken by darkness and many landed
on LEYTE. Damage to enemy cannot be assessed at present
but known damage includes 4 torpedoes in BB and NATORI
class Cruiser stopped and set afire in MINDANAO SEA. Off
SAMAR at least 2 BB were hit by torpedoes and 1 CA stopped
dead. DD and DE of screen Task Unit 77.4.3 made a gallant
headon attack with guns and torpedoes when the carriers
were brought under fire by the enemy BB's. Casualties
of sunk and missing ships cannot be estimated. There were
40 dead and 40 critically wounded on Santee. 1 dead on
Sangamon. 1 dead on Powell. Reports from other Task Units
are not yet available. Richard S Bull and Eversole were
ordered to scene of sinkings to recover survivors reported
in the water. Report of sinkings received too late to use

~~TOP SECRET~~

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26 0257 COM3RDFLT to COMINCH, CINCPAC info COMSUBPAC, CINCOWESPAC, COM7THFLT, ALL TFC'S & TGC'S 3RD AND 7TH FLEETS, CTF 77.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ The pursuit phase of the battle of the western Pacific is now in progress. The SIBUYAN SEA force is under unremitting carrier air attack. Task Group 34.5 is patrolling eastern SAMAR for cripples. FEAF reports intent to strike retreating Nips in SULU SEA and western VISAYAS. And those that escape the surface and air forces are submitted to the tender mercies of the implacable submarines.

26 0814 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC

~~TOP SECRET.~~ In order to replenish carrier force at ULITHI while at same time maintaining 2 groups at sea, and in order to prepare for strenuous induction operations recommend for HOTFOOT target date 17 November and not later than 20 November. Please comment on my assumption that such needed upkeep and rehabilitation schedules may be planned without commitments in connection with support of O3 operation.

26 1235 COM3RDFLT to CINCOWESPAC info CTF 77, CINCPAC, COMINCH, CTF 38.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ For MacArthur. 2 carrier groups will furnish support at LEYTE 27th. After 17 days of fighting the fast carrier force is virtually out of bombs torpedoes and provisions and pilots are exhausted. I am unable to provide any extended direct air support. When will your shore based air take over air defense at the objective. Halsey

26 1812 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT info COMINCH, COMSERVPAC.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Your 261235 reference to provisions not understood. Report approximate average number days supply of dry provisions in each type of combatant ship in company with you and list controlling items which are sufficiently short to affect combat operations.

26 1809 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLEET info CINCSWPA, COMINCH, COM7THFLT.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ My OpPlan 8-44 remains in effect. Cover and support forces of the southwest pacific until otherwise directed by me.

26 2354 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT info COMINCH, CINCSWPA.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Delay in HOTFOOT your 260814 not to all adees is approved and will be announced. Have made no commitments for your support of SWPA operations between INSURGENT and INDUCTION (K2 and M1)

2395

~~TOP SECRET~~

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21 1905 ARNOLD to DEPCOMAF 20, BOMCOM 21 Info CINCPAC.

WAR 50166 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Speaking about Harmons telecon 20-A paragraph 1 The dates proposed for SAN ANTONIO -1 and SAN ANTONIO -2 are accepted. Paragraph 2 I feel strongly that significant results on this initial operation can be obtained only by concentrating the entire weight of the joint bombing effort against a single target area. I am equally convinced that this concentration must be directed against targets in the immediate 90.17 area. It is desired therefore that the primary target for the subject operations be 90.17.357. Secondary target should be port facilities at 90.17 and the last resort target, the urban area at 90.17. Paragraph 3. To insure the maximum effect of the coordinated operation, the 20th Bomber Command is being directed to attack 90.36-.1627 on D / 1 and D / 3 under both the preferred and alternate plan. The alternate target for the 20th Bomber Command will be 90.35.662. In case of weather interference, B-29's from CHINA bases will attack these targets on the 1st succeeding day on which weather permits. Both of these attacks will be maximum efforts. Paragraph 4. Detailed plan will be submitted through, and will be coordinated by, DepComAF 20. It will be dispatched to arrive this headquarters not later than 1 November current.

23 0511 MACARTHUR to CTF 77 Info COM 3D FLT, CINCPAC, ADV ECH GHQ ALLIED NAVAL FORCES.

CX 19909. ~~Top Secret~~. Anticipate operation into UBIQUE 1 to 5 December with land based pursuit installed 5 days later reference Com 3d Fleet 210494. Please advise all addressees estimated date SURIGAIO STRAITS and other passages will be cleared for traffic.

26 1235 COM3rdFLT to CINCSOWESPAC Info CTF 77; CINCPAC; COMINCH; CTF 38.

~~TOP SECRET~~. For MacArthur. 2 carrier groups will furnish support at LEYTE 27th. After 17 days of fighting the fast carrier force is virtually out of bombs torpedoes and provisions and pilots are exhausted. I am unable to provide any extended direct air support. When will your shore based air take over air defense at the objective. Halsey.

26 0814 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~. In order to replenish carrier force at ULITHI while at same time maintaining 2 groups at sea, and in order to prepare for strenuous INDUCTION operations recommend for HOTFOOT target date 17 November and not later than 20 November Please comment on my assumption that such needed upkeep and rehabilitation schedules may be planned without commitments in connection with support of 03 operation.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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28 2242 CINCPOA to CINCSOWESPAC Info COMINCH; COM3RDFLT;
COM7THFLT.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ In view action your CAX 11404 which gives your shore based air forces the mission of direct air support in the LEYTE-SAMAR area, your CX 51126 which assigns to it also the attack of all land targets and prevents 3rd Fleet carrier attacks on land targets in your area except after specific coordination with your headquarters and also the lack of important accessible naval targets in your area and absence strong naval threat it is advisable now to return the Fast Carrier Task Forces to their advanced base in order that they may be prepared and conduct HOTFOOT operation which is essential equally to your future operations and mine. Com3rdFlt is hereby authorized to reduce covering force to 1 Carrier Task Group. Your concurrence is requested in the withdrawal of the other.

29 0844 CINCSWPA to NIMITZ.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ CA 91428 Your 282242 Concur.

29 1828 CINCPOA to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH; CINCSWPA.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ CinCSWPA CA 91428. Operation INSURGENT completed. Retire Carrier Task Groups to advanced bases at discretion. Para. My letter of instructions 00096 of 18 August continues in effect. Consistent therewith desire maximum upkeep rest and logistic replenishment in preparation for HOTFOOT.

27 1806 COMINCH info CINCPAC

~~TOP SECRET.~~ WARX 51593 of 25 October 1944 originated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and addressed to the Commanding Generals 14th Air Force, Army Air Forces INDIA-BURMA Sector, USAF CHINA-BURMA-INDIA Forward Echelon and Theatre Headquarters and Southeast ASIA Command is passed for your Top-Secret Info. Begins: 2 Theatres as described below are substituted for the CHINA-BURMA-INDIA Theatre which is abolished. They are the CHINA Theatre and the INDIA -BURMA Theatre. The Secretary of Wars order to General Stillwell dated February 2, 1942 together with his assignment and the Chief of Staffs initial letter of instructions to him of the same date and subsequent modifications or supplements thereto which are in conflict herewith are rescinded. In lieu thereof the following directive effective this date is issued to the Commanding General U.S. Forces CHINA Theatre and to the Commanding General U.S. Forces INDIA-BURMA Theatre. Para A. Directive to

~~TOP SECRET~~

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27 1806 (continued)

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the Commanding General U.S. Forces CHINA Theatre. 1. Boundaries. The CHINA Theatres boundaries include INDO CHINA and the mainland of CHINA and the immediately adjacent islands such as HONGKONG but not FORMOSA or HAINAN. 2. Command. Except as you may agree to under Para 6 below or as stated in Para 2B below all U.S. Forces within the geographic boundaries of the CHINA Theatre are under your command. Separate agreements with the authorities concerned will define your control over Chinese and other Allied forces. B. Navy Group CHINA Air Transport Command and 20th Air Force are examples of certain units in the CHINA Theatre which are not under your full control. Directives to Commanding General U.S. Army Forces CHINA-BURMA-INDIA show their status which will remain unchanged insofar as the directives are applicable to you as Commanding General U.S. Forces CHINA Theatre. 3. Mission. A. With respect to Chinese Forces your primary mission is to advise and assist the Generalissimo in the conduct of anti-Japanese military operations. B. Carrying out air operations from CHINA is your primary mission as to U.S. combat forces under your command. In addition continue assistance to the Air and Group Forces of CHINA in training, logistic support and operations. C. Except for the protection of U.S. lives and property U.S. resources will not be employed for the suppression of civil strife. 4. Position under the Chinese Government. You may accept the position of Chief of Staff to the Generalissimo. 5. Relation to the INDIA-BURMA and other theaters. To the extent necessary to carry out your mission you will coordinate directly with the Commanding General U.S. Forces INDIA-BURMA Theater and with other force and theater commanders. Submit your requirements for units supplies equipment and personnel through the Commanding General INDIA-BURMA Theatre to the War Department. 6. Special instructions. Specific agreements may be made with the Commanding General, U.S. Forces INDIA-BURMA Theatre if desirable to facilitate accomplishment of your mission wherein you will accept responsibility for certain operations or installations within his theatre or wherein he will accept responsibility for certain installations or operations within your theatre. Inform the War Department. 7. Allocation of U.S. supplies. You will control allocation of supplies delivered into CHINA by U.S. facilities within the priorities set up by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and inform the Commander U.S. Forces INDIA-BURMA Theatre as to projected allocations. Para B. Directive to the Commanding General U.S. Forces INDIA-BURMA Theatre. 1. Boundaries of the INDIA-BURMA Theatre are as follows: From the junction of the 60 Meridian with the Iranian Coast north to KEWMAN exclusive

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thence to ASHKHABAD inclusive thence southeast and south along the northern and eastern border of IRAN to the INDIAN border. From this point along the boundary between INDIA and AFGHANISTAN to the boundary of CHINA thence east and south along the boundary of CHINA to INDO CHINA thence south along the western INDO CHINA border to the gulf of SIAM thence west and south along the coast of THAILAND and the MALAY Peninsula to SINGAPORE. From SINGAPORE south to the north coast of SUMATRA thence round the east coast of SUMATRA (leaving the SUNDA strait to the eastward of the line) to a point on the coast of SUMATRA at longitude 104-00 east thence south to latitude 08-00 south thence southeasterly towards ONSLOW AUSTRALIA and on reaching longitude 110-00 east due south along that meridian. On the west the boundary extends from the point of origin southward along meridian 060-00 east to ALBATROSS Island thence southeast to exclude RODRIQUEZ Island and thence due southward. 2. A. Command. Except as stated in para 2B below or as you may agree to under para 6 below all United States Army Forces within the geographic boundaries of the INDIA BURMA theater are under your command. Separate agreements with the authorities concerned will define your control over CHINESE or forces of other nations. B. The status of certain units in the INDIA BURMA theatre such as the 20th Air Force and the Air Transport Command which are not under your full control is shown in directives to the Commanding General US Army Forces CHINA BURMA INDIA and will remain unchanged insofar as the directives are applicable to you as Commanding General US Forces INDIA BURMA theatre. 3. Mission. Support of the CHINA theatre in carrying out its mission as specified in A above is your primary mission. Security of the air route to CHINA and the establishment maintenance operation and security of the land route of C to CHINA are included therein. B. Support and participate in the operations of the southeast ASIA command as directed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. SACSEA will have operational control of the forces involved under your command for this purpose. C. You will be responsible for the logistic and administrative support of all US Army Forces in the INDIA BURMA theatre in accordance with pertinent existing and future directives. D. Except insofar as necessary to protect US property and lives do not employ US resources for the suppression of civil strife. 4. Your requirements will be submitted to the appropriate agency in INDIA or WASHINGTON in accordance with present policies. Submit to the War Department requirements of the CHINA theatre which cannot be met from resources available to you. These will be separated from INDIA BURMA theater requirements where practicable. 5. CHINA and other theatres. To the extent necessary to carry out your mission you will coordinate directly with CinC INDIA Supreme Allied Commander

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27 1806 (Continued)

southeast ASIA command and the Commanding General of the CHINA theatre. The INDIA BURMA theatre must serve as the communications zone for the CHINA theatre and requisitions will be made accordingly by the Commanding General of the CHINA Theatre. 6. Special instructions. You may make specific agreements with the Commanding General U.S. Forces CHINA if desirable to facilitate the accomplishment of your mission wherein you will accept responsibility for certain operations or installations within the geographic boundaries of his theatre or wherein he will accept responsibility for certain installations or operations within your theatre. You will keep the War Department informed.

03 1241

SHERMAN VIA COM7THFLT to NIMITZ, *passed to King and Holley*

Personal Sherman to Nimitz. Top Secret. After consultation with Admiral Kinkaid General Sutherland Kenney and Chamberlin find general agreement on following facts. A. Japanese fields captured on LEYTE are disappointing except for TACLOBAN and airfield development and activation will be about 2 weeks slower than estimated before landing. Continued adverse weather may increase delay. B. There are now nearly 100 Army fighters at TACLOBAN and will be 150 by 7 November which will saturate that field. C. The ability of the Southwest Pacific Air Forces to accomplish effectively the continuing neutralization of LUZON fields (which is essential to the security of troops and shipping at LEYTE) will not change appreciably until the DULAG strip is activated between 15 and 20 November which will add a medium bomber group and a 2nd fighter group to the LEYTE force. Para. In my opinion we should be prepared to continue strikes on enemy air concentrations on LUZON at least until 15 to 20 November. Moreover the success of the MINDORO operation will again require carrier attacks on LUZON airfields unless that operation is delayed to obtain air support from LEYTE which will in turn delay LINGAYEN. Complete control of the air will be essential in MINDORO operation. Para. The impression is general that delay in target date for LINGAYEN is inevitable. Para. Purpose of this message is to advise you of probable necessity considerable delay in HOTFOOT and clear indications that circumstances will require more protracted support of PHILIPPINE campaign by 3rd Fleet than heretofore conceded. Para. General Kenney informed me that CinCSWPA CX 51126 (271329) resulted from Com3rdFlt's 261235. He admitted he was and is unable to reach LUZON fields from which enemy is now attacking LEYTE.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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06 2241 CINCPAC to COMINCH

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NIMITZ to KING only. Top Secret. For your information I am in receipt of following from Sherman quote 040900 at a meeting today between Kinkaid Sutherland Wilkinson and Chamberlain which I attended it was definitely agreed that in M1 the Joint Expeditionary Force will approach through the VISAYAS and MINDORO STRAIT. General MacArthur has already approved this. Unquote. Paragraph. New Subject. In present circumstances I withhold any recommendation as to movement mentioned in paragraph 4 JCS 032255Z (WARX 40782).

04 1105 COMINCH info CINCPAC

~~Top Secret~~. Reencypherment ALUSLO COLOMBO 021100. "For Admiral King from Capt. Wheeler. Referring our conversation Admiral Mountbatten informed me at luncheon yesterday that present plans envisage occupation AKYAB or VICTORIA POINT and HASTINGS BAY on dates given in following dispatch."

021155 ALUSLO COLUMBO to COMINCH Info CINCPAC

~~Top Secret~~. For Admiral King from Captain Wheeler. 1st operation mentioned my 1100 2nd scheduled for 15 January. 2nd operation 15 March. For latter preference is now being given to 1st alternative in reference despatch.

31 2149 COMINCH to CINCPAC Info COMNORPAC, COMFAIRWING 4, CG 11th AIR FORCE.

~~TOP SECRET~~. The following message is from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. 2 communications have been received from the Soviet government requesting that urgent measures be taken to put an end to the violations by American planes operating against KURILES of the Soviet state borders and territorial waters, including attacks on Soviet shipping, in the KAMCHATKA-KOMANDORSKIE region. The substance of the information contained in one of these requests made through the US Military Mission, Moscow, has already been communicated to Cincpac and ComNorPac (Cominch 301550 not to all refers). The other request, dated 29 September, was received by the State Department through the Soviet Embassy, Washington. In support of these requests the Soviet government cites 105 violations between January and August 1944, inclusive. 90 of these are stated to have taken place in the regions of the KAMCHATKA PENINSULA and the KOMANDORSKIE ISLANDS. In 1 week, 14-21 September, 13 American planes are said to have violated to Soviet border. In addition to flights over Soviet territory, it is stated that there have been a number of incidents where US planes have dropped bombs on KAMCHATKA or in Soviet territorial waters. 1 incident is cited when an American plane machine-gunned a Soviet patrol vessel in

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the 1st KURILE STRAIT. Para. The difficult conditions under which operations against the KURILES are carried out are fully appreciated. However, the Joint Chiefs of Staff direct that the commanders concerned take all practicable additional measures to avoid further violations of the kind referred to.

10 0835Z ADVGHQ SWPA MACARTHUR to CINCPAA Info GHQ SWPA HOLLANDIA

~~TOP SECRET~~. CAX 11594 In view of current developments which have changed some aspects of the situation it is requested that if possible the 77th division be diverted to TACLOBAN area where it will be available to join its Corps if required and at any rate will be in advanced staging area.

10 2013 CINCPAA to CINCSWPA (ADV HHQ SWPA) Info GHQ SWPA (HOLLANDIA), COMGENPOA, COMSOPAC, COMINCH

~~Top Secret~~. Urdis 100835 affirmative. Ships being diverted to MANUS to await your orders. Troops are not combat loaded and are accompanied only by organizational and personal equipment plus 3 days emergency rations and ammunition ordinarily carried on person. Operational control of 77th InfDiv passes to CinCSWPA on arrival ships MANUS.

31 0032 CINCPAA to COMGENAAFPAA Info COMGENPOA

~~Top Secret~~. Recommendations your Top Secret letter 24 Oct concerning deployment 5 additional Army fighter groups in POA. A and B. Myser 000131 of 25 October and mydis 09-2300 will be revised to call for substitution of 1 Army fighter group for the 4th VMF groups required for aviation garrison LEGUMINOUS during Phase I and for 2 additional Army fighter groups during Phase II to base on additional strip to be constructed on LEGUMINOUS. 4th group depending on tactical situation and other developments which cannot now be foreseen may be deployed at WORKMAN, held in immediate reserve at SAIPAN or in area reserve on OAHU. C D and E concur. F. Concur in proposed dispatch. Aircraft types should be whichever you consider most desirable in view foregoing. Para. Meeting foregoing DETACHMENT and ICEBERG fighter group movement schedules will require lift of at least part of the fighters by CVE. The availability of this lift is not yet firm and cannot be assured in full. Request that you submit at earliest date practicable firm dates on which fighters for 15th and 21st groups will be available on West Coast in CVE lots.

01 0833 COMGENPOA to MARSHALL Info COMGEN AAFFPA CINCPAA COMGEN AAF

RJ 37824 Top Secret Cincpaa has approved a plan for the employment of 3 P-51 B groups in DETACHMENT; 3 P-47 N groups in ICEBERG; 1 P-47 N group either at WORKMAN, or held in

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in immediate reserve at SAIPAN, or in area reserve at OAHU, depending on tactical situation and other unforeseen developments; and 1 P-47 D group in OAHU to meet minimum requirement for Hawaiian defense accordingly this radio confirms the requirements for combat units described in Top Secret AAFPOA 1864 and for revised dates of service groups special described in Topsecret AAFPOA 1871. The readiness dates however though indicating a probably time of departure from the States, are not to be interpreted as indicated a schedule of employment in the forward area. Employment will be governed entirely by the progress of operations and the theaters ability to develop suitable bases. Reference your radio WARX 54149, 1 P-47 D group is required in current state of training without aircraft with readiness date of 15 December. Assume you have secured General Richardsons concurrence in accordance with Siglsly between OPD and General Ruffner 29 October 44 and 31 October 44. Unit will be accepted with whatever equipment can be furnished as of the 15 December readiness date, the balance of equipment to follow as available. Initial shortages are available here and will be furnished from theater stocks until balance of equipment arrives.

11 0233 CINCPWA to CINCSWPA, ADV ECH, CTF 57, COMAAFPWA Info
CTF 59 CTG 57.14, CTG 59.6 COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET.~~ CINCSWPA 051316. Concur. CTF 57 designate appropriate commander FULLCRY to arrange details. Remaining 2 squadrons 454 bomb group will depart OAHU to arrive FULLCRY November 20.

11 2103Z COMGENPOA to CINCPWA

R-39147 Top secret. Reference Cincpoa dispatch 101944 concur in CinCSWPA 100835 November this year.

13 0901 CINCPAC to COMINCH Info COM3RDFLT COM5THFLT CINCSWPA
COM7THFLT

~~TOP SECRET.~~ The enemy has chosen to make a strong fight for the PHILIPPINES. He has already used all available naval strength with results favorable to us. He is moving additional troops into LEYTE which has given and will continue to give us opportunities to strike his naval and merchant shipping with results favorable to us. Additionally he is committing much of his total air strength which gives us an opportunity to inflict severe attrition on his air forces but not without some losses of our own ships and aircraft and heavy demands on the endurance of our personnel and material. Para. It is necessary that the Pacific Fleet continue to attack the enemy air forces in LUZON until MacArthurs air forces are established in LEYTE in strength or the enemy slows down his present rate of reinforcement. Meanwhile damaged ships must be repaired and opportunity must be made for maintenance

~~TOP SECRET~~

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logistic replenishment and rest of personnel. Para. Accordingly I am proceeding with return of ships for repair and overhaul with a view of ensuring readiness for INDUCTION DETACHMENT ICEBERG and other necessary operations. I have also deferred HOTFOOT until an opportunity arises to conduct that operation without undue delay in the overall campaign and without undue exposure of other forces already committed to action in circumstances which require that they be covered and supported.

13 1550 COMINCH CNO to CINCPAC

~~Top Secret~~ Your 130901 approved.

13 0113 COM7THFLT to CINCSWPA Info COMINCH CINCPAC COM3RDFLEET

~~Top Secret~~. References contained Cincpoa 120905 not held. For information RAAF intend aerial mining BRUNEI BAY with target dates 9th 15th and 18th all November. Have no information as to completion operations on 9th. Will advise you when known.

13 0248 CINCSWPA to CINCPAC Info COM3RDFLEET, COM7THFLT, COMINCH, CHW SWPA

CAX 11620 ~~Top secret~~. Halsey's 110249 and 110409*(*probably 110406*) not received. This replies to your 120905. As a general proposition I agree thoroughly with desirability of such strikes as BRUNEI. However the completion of strategic situation has changed. It is now evident that the enemy has decided to make a decisive stand in western LEYTE in order to delay our further advance in the PHILIPPINES thereby gaining time for preparation for the defense of LUZON. Army air strength in LEYTE is not now sufficient to neutralize enemy air bases in PHILIPPINES and until that air strength is sufficient to neutralize those air bases I consider the support of fast carriers essential. Present estimate of date when fast carrier support can be dispensed with is dependent upon incidents of campaign. Fields on LEYTE are expected to be in full operative conditions for ground air by first week in December. However even then carrier air may be necessary to supplement it. Request 3rd Fleet continue for present to strike LUZON and VISAYAN air and any shipping threatening LEYTE operation. Will keep you advised.

130918 CINCPAC to CINCSWPA COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH COM7THFLT

~~Top Secret~~. In view MacArthurs CAX 11620 cancel 1st paragraph of my 120905. See my 130901 also.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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13 0343 CINCPAC to COM FWD AREA Info CTF 95 CTG 57.14 CTG 59.6

~~Top Secret.~~ In view ultra indications intended Japanese use of WOLEAI in near future for operation of undetermined nature strike WOLEAI as soon as practicable.

12 1904 FIRST SEA LORD (PERSONAL) to BRITISH ADMIRALTY Info COMINCH CINCPAC

~~Top Secret.~~ This is Admiralty 110146Z. You have no doubt already been informed by Admiral Somerville of the strength and composition of the British Fleet which will arrive in the Pacific in January and build up during the 1st 6 months of 1945. Admiral Fraser the Commander in Chief of the British Pacific Fleet will visit Australia in near future to discuss administrative arrangements with Australian authorities. To make the best arrangements regarding a forward base for his fleet and for operating in the best way in support of the United States Pacific Fleet I suggest that Admiral Fraser should visit Admiral Nimitz about mid-December at Pearl Harbor and discuss all relevant questions. If you agree it is requested that you will inform Admiral Nimitz of the strength and build up of the British Pacific Fleet and ask him if Admiral Fraser's visit will be convenient. I will then instruct Admiral Fraser to make detailed arrangements direct with Admiral Nimitz.

121915 ADMIRALTY to BAD, ACNB, NZNB, NSHQ, CINCEF, CINCMED Info CINC HF CINCPAC

This is a reencipherment of Admiralty 101700A. "Admiralty message 012006. The following flag appointments have or will be made: Admiral Fraser to be Commander in Chief British Pacific Fleet. Vice Admiral Power to be Commander in Chief, East Indies Station. Vice Admiral Rawlings to be second in command British Pacific Fleet. Acting Vice Admiral Daniel to be Vice Admiral (Queen), British Pacific Fleet with headquarters at MELBOURNE. Rear Admiral Vian to be flag officer carrier force, British Pacific Fleet. Rear Admiral Fisher to be Rear Admiral Fleet Train, British Pacific Fleet. Rear Admiral Portal to be FONAS AUSTRALIA.

13 0148 COM 3RD FLT to CINCPAC Info CTF 57 CTG 57.14 ATCOM ULITHI CTG 30.9

Insofar as 3rd Fleet is concerned do not now foresee any immediate use for NGULU.

10 0215 COM3RDFLT to CINCSOWESPAC Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT CTF 38 CTG 38.3 COM FAR EAST AIR FORCE

Suggest carrier groups be authorized strike enemy shipping in VISAYAS November 11th. Advise.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

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10 1103 ADV GHQ SWPA MACARTHUR to COM 3RD FLT Info CINCPAC, CTF 38 CTG 38.4, GHQ SWPA, COM 7TH FLT, COMFEAF

CAX 11596 ~~Top Secret~~. Concur your 100215. Request you strike at discretion any target afloat in Visayan or Luzon waters. See my 100824 not to all addressees.

11 0249 COM3RDFLT to CINCPA

~~Top Secret~~. For Nimitz. Your 052230 recent Nip activities point strongly toward likelihood of (A) continued reinforcement of air strength in LUZON (B) Use of remnants of 1st diversion attack force in some manner connection enemy amphibious movements (C) continued shipping movements to and from MANILA (D) troop convoy movements in Central Philippines. All such operations are best countered by fast carrier strikes and (A) cannot be neutralized by any other means at present. I therefore recommend (1) that HOTFOOT be postponed until after INDUCTION and (2) that 3rd Fleet continue operations in support of MacArthur conducting useful and necessary strikes and taking all possible advantage of opportunities to improve material readiness and prepare for a strenuous INDUCTION. Halsey.

12 0905 CINCPA to COM3RDFLT CINCSWPAC Info COMINCH COM7THFLT

~~TOP SECRET~~. I am in general accord with views expressed Halseys 110249. Ref his 110406 concur after 15th if CinCSWPAC feels that he then has sufficient air strength in LEYTE to permit fast carriers withdrawal as far as CELEBES SEA and if aerial reconnaissance indicates profitable naval targets then at BRUNEI. If General MacArthur agrees on desirability BRUNEI strike request he inform Halsey and me and that Halsey arrange details directly with CinCSWPac keeping me advised. Paragraph In supporting MacArthur Halsey is directed to give full consideration to necessity for providing suitable rest for crews and for maintaining material readiness of aircraft and ships of all types not only for current operations but for the entire PHILIPPINES campaign as well as other operations including DETACHMENT and ICEBERG.

11 0406 COM 3RD FLT to CINCPA

For Nimitz. ~~Top Secret~~. BRUNEI BAY can be reached from carriers in Western CELEBES SEA. Potential jackpot is surprise can be achieved - and I believe it can. Recommend obtaining MacArthur's concurrence with understanding that operation would be undertaken with MacArthur's specific approval at same propitious time with reference to the commitment of keeping LUZON air neutralized. Halsey.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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11 2307 CINCSWPA to COM3RDFLEET Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT

CAX 11608 Top Secret. In view of anticipated enemy action on 15th, it would be most helpful if you could strike airfields in LUZON on 14th and 15th.

11 1329 COM 3RD FLT to CINCSOWESTPAC Info CINCPAC, COM 7TH FLT, COMFEAF

~~Top Secret.~~ TF 38 retiring to fuel on 12th. Request authority strike central and southern LUZON with 3 fast carrier groups on 13 and 14 November.

12 0411 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH COMSUBSPAC COMSERVPAC COMAIRPAC COM5THFLT COM7THFLT DEPCOM20thAF CINCSWPA CTF 57 CTF 38

~~Top Secret.~~ My 071125 and 270514 Oct. Operation HOTFOOT deferred indefinitely.

01 1248 COM3rdFLT to CINCPAC COM7THFLT to CINCSOWESPAC, CTF 77, COMINCH, CTF 38

~~Top Secret.~~ Anticipating ComTaskFor 77 010703 Task Group 34.5 will be in position ready to support surface forces LEYTE if needed. If further carrier operations against LUZON EKQIEYS as necessary not less than 3 groups and preferably 4 should be used in order do thorough job and minimize suicide dive losses. Pending further orders from you I will expedite readiness in all respects and start earliest deployment toward PHILIPPINES. Estimate earliest 3 groups can strike about 5 November.

02 1937 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info CINCSWPAC, COM7THFLT

~~Top Secret.~~ For present Com3rdFlt employ his forces so as to most effectively support LEYTE operations. Arrange directly with CinCSWPAC for cooperation in making strikes or in direct support. CinCSWPAC requested to release your forces as soon as situation permits.

01 1335 COM3RDFLT to CINCSOWESPAC MACARTHUR Info CINCPAC, COMTASK FOR 77

~~Top Secret.~~ I will beef up your surface forces at LEYTE if needed but the fast carriers must not be risked in close for defensive CAP job. I am presuming from our long association that KENNEY is being called on for heroic measures. Halsey.

11 0251 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info COMAIRPAC CTF 38

~~Top Secret.~~ Carrier operations for INDUCTION promise to be as concentrated and continued as those in support of K-2 have been. To meet this period of coming operations

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the maximum of carrier strength will be required to permit a reasonable rotation of groups for rest and replenishment and to allow for bases of battle damage. For planning purposes the following formation is requested as soon as it can be furnished: (1) Your intention WOTLVWCNTRD to return of ENTERPRISE to PEARL. (2) Expected date of return to service of FRANKLIN and BELLEAU WOOD. (3) When I may expect new carriers to join. Para. In addition recommend that at least 1 replacement carrier air group be established in the forward area as soon as practicable to be available for emergency embarkation. This is necessary to take care of air group deterioration under concentrated operations.

11 0258 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info COMAIRPAC CTF 38

~~Top Secret.~~ With the loss of the PRINCETON, the return of the BELLEAU WOOD and FRANKLIN to PEARL for battle damage repair and the availability granted the LEXINGTON by my 100545 my carrier force is temporarily reduced to 9 CV's and 6 CVL's. Request BUNKER HILL yard overhaul be deferred until necessary strength of Task Force 38 can be restored. Rear Admiral Smith Fleet Maintenance Officer considers this practicable from material standpoint. This refers to your 080529.

010452 CINCPAC to CINCSOWESPAC Info COM7THFLT

~~Top Secret.~~ In view strong indications of many damaged enemy ships in BRUNEI BAY request that if feasible you make earliest practicable photo reconnaissance that bay to determine what ships may be there.

31 2253 ARNOLD to LEMAY Info HARMON for NIMITZ

~~Top Secret.~~ WARX 55364 Damage inflicted to numerous Japanese naval units in recent battles in PHILIPPINES has made repair facilities of SINGAPORE naval base an important target. It is desired therefore that you cancel VIRGINIA and in lieu thereof attack the naval repair facilities of SINGAPORE naval base. The size of the force should be as possible without being prejudicial to operations scheduled from forward area later in the month. If possible attack should be scheduled to take place approximately same date as planned for VIRGINIA. Time of attack and method of attack are at your discretion. Advise your detailed plan at earliest.

31 0151 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info CTF 38 COMFWDAREA DEPCOMDR 20th AIR FORCE.

~~Top Secret.~~ Reference your 300604, 300642, 300645, and 300810 my 192105. Coordination all forces HOTFOOT subject. A 20th Air Force desires strike both TOKYO and

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KYUSHU making at each objective 2 daylight strikes 48 hours apart, coordination will be arranged by me with Harmon. B Directives to TF 17 and TF 57 will be issued on receipt your reply to my 291822. Captain Hedding my staff and Lieut Comdr Pepper arrive ULITHI 3 November for conference concerning details.

10 0718 CINCPOA to CINCSOWESPAC Info COMINCH COMGENPOA

~~Top Secret.~~ Cincpoa approves Sherman Chamberlain Leavey Whitlock conference agreements as to logistical support in the PHILIPPINES for POA forces dated 4 Nov.

07 0610 CINCSWPA to CHIEF OF STAFF WASHINGTON Info CINCPOA

~~Top Secret.~~ CX 51685. Paragraph 1 Matters presented in your WARX 57406 (041509) October 5 have been the subject of discussion between POA and SWPA representatives during conference at HOLLANDIA 3 and 4 November to arrange for necessary logistic support of POA forces in the PHILIPPINES. Subject to approval by CINCPOA, agreements have been reached as follows: (A) SWPA will provide certain services and facilities, including those required to stage through and mount out for operations 6 POA Marine divisions and 3 POA Army divisions, plus those for the support of approximately 1/3 of the Pacific Fleet. (B) Since the establishment of facilities in the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS to support Army, Navy, and Marine Corps forces of the POA will permit the abandonment of similar facilities in the SOPAC area, Cincpoa will make available to CINCSWPA the Army service units now in the SOPAC area, and such of the Marine Corps ground service units in the SoPac area as are needed to support Marine Corps installations in the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. In addition, such naval service units, now in the SoPac area, as can be released from the POA to the SWPA will likewise be made available. These units will be made available as soon as practicable consistent with the requirements for the establishment of new facilities in the PHILIPPINES and the continuance of essential activities in SoPac the exemption of specific Army units or individuals from this general policy covering Army service units will be made only by mutual agreement between CINCSWPA and CINCPOA. (C) In the above statements of general policies consideration has been given to War Department radiogram WX-54639, 30 October which transfers certain SoPac Army service units to the SWPA upon their departure from SoPac. Of the units listed in the reference radiogram, CINCSWPA agrees to release the following to Cincpoa: 1 general hospital, 2 signal service companies, 3 signal service platoons, 1 engineer construction battalion, 1 engineer combat company, 3 engineer dump truck companies. (D) Cincpoa agrees to release to CINCSWPA the Army garrison force, APO 248, diverted to the LEYTE area from STALEMATE 2

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Roman operation, CINCEWPA concurs in the use of essential Army service troops from the SoPac area in the PALAUs for the support of the 81st Division while in that area. Paragraph 2 report of conference follows by mail. You will be further advised regarding disposition of SoPac units upon receipt of Cincpoa comments of concurrence.

31 1945 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC

~~Top Secret~~, King to Nimitz. I am in agreement with the portion of your 152058 relating to the temporary facilities for the immediate future at SAN PEDRO BAY and the LUZON area. I am not prepared as yet to make decisions on the long range program. In this connection I am repeating to you for information my 141302 addressed to Com7thFlt. The long range base program for the entire Pacific including the PHILIPPINES is under study and my views will be communicated to you as soon as practicable. At your discretion transmit such portion of this to 7th Fleet for Sherman as you consider necessary.

12 1737 COMINCH & CNO to ADMIRALTY info CINCPAC

For First Sea Lord. ~~Top Secret~~. I note your 110146A, confirmed by your 101700A designates Admiral Fraser as the "Commander in Chief of the British Pacific Fleet". This action sets up two naval Commanders in Chief in the Pacific, which is an action not carried out in any other naval area or theater of action, notably in the Mediterranean and in British home waters. Para. 2. At Quebec the agreement was "that the method of employment of the British Fleet in these main operations in the Pacific would be decided from time to time in accordance with the prevailing circumstances". The method of employment that appears to be contemplated by the command set up of your despatch is, in my opinion, not workable. Para. 3. As indicated in memorandum to Admiral Somerville of Nov. 11, I contemplate initial employment of British Fleet Units under Vice Admiral Kinkaid, the Allied Commander of Naval Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area. Subsequently employment to be under Admiral Nimitz and or Vice Admiral Kinkaid as operations may indicate. To accomplish this employment I agree that a Commander (not a Commander in Chief) of the British Fleet can be set up in Eastern Australia from which British units can pass for operational control to Nimitz or Kinkaid when and if the use of forward bases can be made available. We have not as yet arranged for the establishment of such forward bases. The designation of Admiral Fraser for the duty as given in this paragraph is wholly acceptable to me. I am taking up with Admiral Nimitz the question as to the best time for Admiral Frasers visit to Pearl Harbor.

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14 0309Z MAC ARTHUR to CINCPOA info CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPARTMENT

~~Top Secret~~ CX 52139. Reference report of conferees (Filbas) signed 4 November at Hollandia by POA and SWPA representatives. CinCSWPA approves.

15 0235 CINCSWPA (MACARTHUR) to COM3RDFLT Info CINCPOA; COM7THFLT; ADV ECH GHO SWPA:

CAX-11656 ~~TOP SECRET~~. In view of report of heavy air reinforcement from FORMOSA to CLARK FIELD now under way suggest this as well as FORMOSA fields as profitable targets for your future strikes.

15 1020Z CFBX 26359 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Fivesome agreement dated 5 November 1944 signed at HOLLANDIA by representatives SWPA, POA, INDIA BURMA and CHINA theaters approved with exceptions as follows. A. Due to fall of LIUCHOW 14 Air Force will have to operate from KUNMING; therefore search plan BAKER for the 14th Air Force must be adopted para. B. Ground situation in southeast CHINA is so critical and dangerous it is imperative large numbers reinforcements be flown from north CHINA to the threatened area west of LIUCHOW immediately. This operation and future air movements of equipment and troops will markedly reduce tonnage that can be allocated to XX Bomber Command and 14 Air Force. The 349 sorties recommended by the conferees for XX Bomber Command for December cannot be met. It is anticipated that the cost and adjustments of tonnage for the air transportation of reinforcements will be determined by 20 November and new estimate of sorties for XX Bomber Command determined para. C. The 14 Air Force will be able to fully perform its search missions in plan BAKER from KUNMING base. Contemplated 14th Air Force supplementary operations from our most eastern airfields if still in our possession during landing operations in LUZON will suffer reduction due present necessity of large scale air troop movements para. D. Every effort will be made to limit these movements and air support missions for Chinese current operations to the minimum so as to provide as large a supply as possible for support of the LUZON operations. We will do the best we can toward this be assured para. E. The missions specified in the "Fivesome" agreement completely replace plans PAC-AID and alternate PAC-AID. Stock piling as contemplated in those plans has been nullified by operational necessities arising out of changed situation.

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16 0101 CINCSWPA to CINCPA info GEN HEADQUARTERS SOWESPAC, COM'S 3RD AND 7TH FLTS.

CAX-11669 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 140411 and 130901. The obvious intention of the enemy to make a strong fight for the PHILIPPINES can best be frustrated by immediate attack in strength to prevent his preparations for the defense of LUZON which he is pushing at top speed at the present time. For that reason I intend to adhere to the present target dates for the L-3 and M-1 operations. Heavy rain has retarded the completion of airfields on LEYTE but the strip at DULAG will be activated after 3 more clear work days and that at SAN JOSE by 30 November. Shore based air can furnish air cover for the L-3 attack force but will not have been activated for a long enough period to saturate enemy airfields and beat down enemy air strength in LUZON and the VISAYAN area. Therefore it is highly desirable that fast carriers strike enemy air in these areas in conjunction with the L-3 operations. Further the operations of fast carriers should insure that MANILA BAY is untenable for enemy Cruisers capable of raiding MINDORO. For the M-1 operation it is probable that gunfire support ships can be released about S+6 day. It is probable that by that date such gunfire support as is still required by forces ashore can be furnished by Cruisers 7th Flt plus destroyers. However there will then be no surface force under control of the 7th Flt strong enough to turn back surface raids into LINGAYEN GULF and against our long line of supplies in the strength of which the enemy is capable. Such raids are precluded as long as the 3rd Flt is operating in the CHINA SEA in direct interposition between our amphibious operations and enemy forces. When the 3rd Flt moves to eastward of the PHILIPPINES the 7th Fleet should be temporarily augmented by at least 2 new battleships with screen in order adequately to cover the landing areas and the resupply echelons. MacArthur.

16 0733 GHQ SWPA (MACARTHUR) to JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF info CINCPA, COMGEN US FORCES CHINA THEATER, COMGEN 20TH AIR FORCE.

~~TOP SECRET~~. CX-52283. Proposed cover plan for operation M-1 follows: (A) Joint security control to indicate to Japanese command through appropriate channels a prospective major assault on CULTURE, target date S plus 3. Build-up to take into account tactical operations scheduled for 20th air force, 14th air force and Pacific Fleet under agreements reached with those commands as contained in conference notes 5 same dated 5 November 1944, copies forwarded to War Department by special courier. (B) Cincpa in addition develop threat against northern MONKEY PUZZLE from the north Pacific during the period S minus 30 through S Day. (C)

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Tactical diversion and deception operations by south-west pacific forces to simulate build-up and attempted landing by major forces in southern WHITEWASH beginning S minus 5. Para. Detailed plan by courier.

16 0017 HEADQUARTERS SWPA (MACARTHUR) to CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPARTMENT info CINCPOA, COMGENPOA.

CX-52257 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Reference ourad CX-51685 5 November (070610Z), CinCP OA by radio 100718 approved agreements as indicated in subject radio and detailed in letter report of conference dated 4 November enroute to you by airmail. Para. Request your approval of this proposed solution and in order to expedite putting this solution into effect it is further requested that all the Army Forces SOUTH PACIFIC designated as SOPACBACOM be transferred to SWPA at the earliest possible dates. This action will serve to minimize delays and facilitate movement of units as required by the situation at any given time as well as eliminate the necessity for handling each individual situation separately. If required further conferences with representatives of CinCP OA and SOPACBACOM will be held to determine details involved in proposed transfer..Para. Needed from CinCP OA is complete up to date list of all units thus transferred including those previously assigned to SWPA by urad WX-54639, 30 October, as amended by POA-SWPA agreement with specific unit designation, location and date of availability. MacArthur.

16 2121 COMGENPOA to CINCP OA.

RJ 39766 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Concerning GHQ SWPA 130707 suggest reply that although no replacements are currently available within this theater study of the replacement situation indicates that 2800 ground force replacements now requisitioned to be shipped from MAINLAND to NOUMEA in December can be furnished for 24 CORPS at that point. These replacements will be in normal percentages but will not have received the special training normal in this theater and, if furnished, will constitute a credit to this theater against the replacements required at a later date to rehabilitate the 24 CORPS. If this assistance is desired would appreciate early advice in order that the WAR DEPARTMENT can be advised and an early shipping date scheduled.

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17 0200 CINCPOA to CINCSWPA info COMINCH COM3RDFLT COM7THFLT.

~~Top Secret.~~ While I concur in the desirability of adhering to target dates and frustrating enemy plans for reinforcing LUZON by attacking as soon as possible, I do not consider it practicable to place on the carrier task forces of the Pacific Fleet responsibility for neutralizing the enemy air forces for the long period and to the degree contemplated by your CAX-11669. Para. It has been my concept that the carrier task forces would cover and support the LEYTE operation by strikes commencing on D-10 and continuing until shore based air forces were established in LEYTE in adequate strength and that similarly they would cover and support the LUZON Operation by strikes commencing prior to target date and continuing until shore based air forces were established in LUZON in sufficient strength to ensure adequate air defense for the other forces present. Para. I am also willing to use the carrier force to assist in obtaining the control of the air which is obviously essential for the success of the MINDORO Operation. However such use must be contingent on giving the carrier task force periods at anchor of at least 10 days and preferably 2 weeks between the completion of operations to cover LEYTE and those to support MINDORO and between those to support MINDORO and those to cover and support LUZON. These periods are essential for upkeep of material, logistic replenishment, rest of personnel and reorganization of carrier air groups which will have been operating at sea for unprecedented periods. During the periods when the ships are at anchor the shore based air forces should be able to inflict lasting damage on the enemy and create a situation more favorable to all subsequent amphibious operations. Para. The operations of the Pacific Fleet to cover and support the LUZON operation must be shaped in the light of the situation which develops at the time and it is somewhat premature to discuss specific augmentations of 7th Fleet strength to protect LINGAYEN GULF and your sea communications. However I do not now envisage a situation which will require transferring fast battleships to the 7th Fleet.

17 0240 CINCPOA to COMINCH Info COM3RDFLT; COM5THFLT:

~~TOP SECRET.~~ My 130901, 140411 and 170200. CinCSWPA CAX 11669. Due to delays in activation of the LEYTE airfields and to the strength of the enemy reaction it is obvious that the target date for the LUZON operation can be met only by continuing the operations of the fast carrier task forces almost without interruption for an unduly long period. If the target date is met it will be necessary subsequently to allow a greatly extended period for upkeep and rest before undertaking DETACHMENT. Para. Although delays are being incurred in specific operations I believe that the damage being inflicted on the enemy will hasten the attainment of ultimate strategic objectives. Para. DETACHMENT preparations will in the next 2 weeks begin to

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17 0240 CINCPOA to COMINCH Info COM3RDFLT; COM5THFLT: (Cont'd)

affect shipping. Specifically certain APA and AKA must be sent here empty from the West Coast to meet readiness dates and echeloning of supply will be wasteful unless the DETACHMENT date is adjusted realistically in the immediate future. Efficient utilization of time for overhauls is likewise involved. Para. The weather for both DETACHMENT and ICEBERG will improve if target dates are delayed. Para. I consider it necessary to announce now a 2 weeks delay in target date for both operations. Request concurrence.

17 0248 COMGENPOA to CINCPOA Info ARMY AIR FORCES POA; CG 10TH ARMY:

~~TOP SECRET~~. Answer cannot be provided to your Top Secret dispatch 142251 November, until such time as the mounting areas for divisions have been determined by conferences as proposed in your radio 160042 GCT November. The numbers and types of service units to be made available will depend upon the location and the mounting areas of the Divisions to be employed. For tentative availability of service troops see serial 00039 this headquarters dated 10 November this year.

17 0220 CINCPOA to COMGENPOA, COMGENAAFPOA, COMGEN 10TH ARMY

~~TOP SECRET~~. A conference will be held by Cincpoa at an early date to determine the availability of Army service units for ICEBERG. In this connection see mydis 142251. The analysis and report by ComGen POA called for by referenced despatch is essential as the basis of the conference and should be submitted prior thereto. Desire that each addressee designate representative to attend and submit recommendation as to the earliest practicable date for the conference.

17 0957 COMGENPOA to CINCPOA

After determination of the disposition of Army divisions by the conference proposed in your 160042 GCT, recommendations will be made immediately in reply to your 170220 GCT. This is Top Secret. In this connection see our top secret operational priority dispatch 170248 GCT current month.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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16 0232 CINCPOA to COMGENPOA.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Since the responsibility for the defense of the Hawaiian Area and of other parts of the Pacific Ocean Areas as well as the conduct of offensive operations rests with me I will submit my recommendations concerning the question raised in your R-39588-13th to the Joint Chiefs of Staff through prescribed channels. I have no objection to your advising the War Department of the recommendations you make to me. I am inclined to recommend an arrangement which would permit reducing mobile ground defense force in the main Hawaiian Group even more than you propose whenever necessary to make possible effective offensive operations elsewhere. See my 291945 July.

17 1835 COMINCH and CNO to CINCPOA.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 170240. The Joint Chiefs of Staff concur in your proposal to announce now a 2 weeks delay in target date for DETACHMENT and ICEBERG.

17 2312 ARNOLD to MACARTHUR, NIMITZ, WEDEMAYER, SULTAN, DEPCOM20THAF Info LEMAY, BOMCOM 21:

WARX 64579. ~~TOP SECRET~~. This message is on the subject of the FIVESOME agreements. Para 1. The 20th Air Force accepts the FIVESOME agreement with the following reservations. Sub para A. It is requested that the details of the scope and nature of offensive reconnaissance required for M-1 be forwarded to this headquarters in order that this task may be properly arranged. In this connection it must be accepted in this type of operation that any bombing incident thereto will be merely harassing in nature. Sup para B. The schedule of operations of the XXI Bomber Command in support of ICEBERG is accepted contingent upon the establishment of suitable objectives for very heavy bombardment. In this connection neither airfields proper nor fixed defenses are normally considered suitable objectives for this type of operation. This subject will be given continuous study and plan of operations will be coordinated with interested agencies. Para 2. It must be appreciated that the extent of the participation of the XX Bomber Command in any of these operations depends upon the tonnage allocated for this purpose.

18 0105 COM3RDFLT to CINCOWESPAC Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, COMFEAF:

~~TOP SECRET~~: Unless otherwise directed 3 groups will strike LUZON November 19th. Decision whether to strike again on 20th reserved pending results for 1st day.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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18 0935 CINCPOA to COM5THFLT, COM5THPHIBFOR, COMGEN10TH ARMY, COMFENFMFPAC, COMGENPOA, COMGENAAFPPOA, COMSERVPAC, COMAIRPAC Info COMINCH, COMMARGILS, CINCSWPA, COMDESPAC, COM3RDFLT, COM7THFLT, COMNORPAC, COMSOPAC, COMFWDAREA:

~~TOP SECRET~~. My 092200 and 092300 October. Target dates for DETACHMENT and ICEBERG delayed until 3 February and 15 March respectively both east longitude dates.

18 0430 CINCPOA to COMFWDAREACENTPAC Info COMGENPOA, COMAIRPAC, COMGENAAFPPOA, CTF 59, ISCOM GUAM:

To meet urgent operating needs it is desired that facilities be made available at AGANA by 1 January to base 2 CV Air Groups in an operating status in reserve for fast carriers. This is in addition to housekeeping facilities presently provided for equivalent of 3 CVG staging. Furthermore it is desired to recondition the field at MARPI POINT, SAIPAN for the operation of 2 CVG or such staging of fighter aircraft as may be necessary to support operations after 1 March. Propose that 11th AAF Heavy Bomber Group will be moved to depot field and shift of MAG 21 to AGANA be deferred. Navy VJ and Marine Towing Detachment will be based GUAM and Army Tow Squadron on an Army Field SAIPAN or TINIAN. Anticipate no additional construction troops over those currently planned. Desire you consult with ComGenAAFPPOA and Adm Penoyer of ComAirPac staff and submit comment and recommendations: (A) Readjustment in basing Marine Squadrons with view to reduction in Marine Fighter strength by 2 squadrons. (B) Necessity or desirability of withdrawing 2 Flight Echelons of Army Heavy Bombers to OAHU for rehabilitation. (C) Acorn and CASU components required for AGANA and MARPI. (D) Construction implications GUAM and SAIPAN. Your AMGM 130930 refers.

20 0312 CINCPOA to COMFWDAREA info ISCOM SAIPAN ISCOM TINIAN COMGENPOA

Your 170217. ComGenPOA's 130256 is applicable only to matters of internal Army administration over which he has jurisdiction. For purposes of operational control and area administration under unity of command SAIPAN TINIAN and GUAM are coequal island commands and all three island commanders are responsible only to ComFwdArea.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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20 0043 CINCPOA to COMTHIRD FLEET Info COMAIRPAC, COMSECOND CARRIER TASK FORCE

~~TOP SECRET~~ Your 170251 steps are being taken to accelerate carrier air group replacements and to provide more opportunity for rest and recuperation. See my 170200 and 170251. Groups will be relieved as early as possible but to avoid creation of a source of disappointment to flight personnel and consequent lowering of morale all published schedules will continue on a 6 months basis. ComNavAirBases GUAM is responsible for matters of type administration only to ComAirPac who in turn is responsible only to me. I am unwilling to complicate the administration of pools of replacement planes and pilots on shore by giving carriers task force commanders authority over them and furthermore do not believe that CTF 38 should be burdened with any type administrative functions. I desire to have the type administration of AirPac conducted by and through the type commander to the maximum extent practicable and consider that carrier task force and carrier division commanders should submit their requirements and recommendations on aviation matters to the type commander or when appropriate to his forward area representative.

20 0113 CINCPOA to COMINCH Info CINCSoWESPAC, COMGENPOA, CHIEF OF STAFF WAR DEPT, COMSOPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~ Gen Headquarters SWPA 160017 (CX-52257) refers. Transfer of SoPac BaCom in bulk to SWPA as proposed by CincSoWesPac not considered necessary to implement recent agreements between CincPOA and CincSoWesPac. Continued pressure to roll up Army Forces and facilities in SoPac Area is being exerted by CincPOA and SoPac Units will be transferred to SWPA as fast as they can be released. However CincPOA as Area Commander is responsible for the SoPac Area, for maintaining and operating facilities pending roll-up, for dismantling and shipping them when no longer needed, and for moving out surplus supplies. It is considered that transfer of SoPac BaCom en masse to SWPA while still performing essential services in SoPac is not consistent with CincPOA's Area Command responsibilities and is therefore not concurred in. Transfers of units should be made singly or in groups as they become available. However I would be willing to have a representative of CincSWPA or ComGen USAFFE established in Headquarters ComGen SoPacBasCom to facilitate planning liaison connection roll up and transfer.

20 0720 HALSEY to NIMITZ

~~TOP SECRET~~ Nimitz only. Estimate of situation. 13th AF make BRUNEI untenable. TIZARD REEF serviceable Nip advanced base. Majority remaining enemy naval strength concentrated in CHINA SEA area based wholly or in part on TIZARD. Total

~~TOP SECRET~~

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20 0720 (Cont'd)

strength including ships damaged but retaining some measure of speed and hitting power may add up to HAYAHKA, OYUKO, 2-4 escort carriers, ISE HYUGA plus 2 battleships, 2-3 heavy cruisers, 3-4 light cruiser, including ISUZU and KISO, some destroyers. Para. At present can see no possible enemy fleet objective except precarious participation in TA operations or unlikely raid on SWPA echelons via SOUTH MINDANAO. Foregoing plus LUZON situation and behavior of Jap air leads me to believe enemy is busbanding air and surface strength to counter any further move by MacArthur. Para. If enemy is determined to continue all out resistance to further moves by MacArthur L3 may well develop into another crucial struggle with many advantages resting with the enemy if he wisely times an assault by his full remaining surface strength. Night express is most probably in order to avoid blue air attack. Study reveals no way 3rd Fleet can help from East of PHILIPPINES other than by keeping down enemy air - which will not stop the Express. Para. Should MINDORO provoke all out resistance the opportunities for decisive actions will come just that much sooner. Further SHO operations can best be defeated by breaking it up before it can get started and this only appears possible by striking from within the CHINA SEA about U or U plus 1. I consider this feasible by some appropriate tactical variation of the following: Pass West through LUZON STRAITS with about 6 oilers, strike, refuel as necessary, combatant ships retire East through LUZON STRAITS, oilers retire via SABUYAN SEA with SWPA echelons; details of neutralizing FORMOSA LUZON are as situation dictates. Para. The operation will simultaneously strike at Japan's last sea lane, interfere with reinforcement of LUZON, should yield rich haul in enemy shipping, open up new and profitable targets for air attack and put the finishing touches on LUZON air and bombardment targets. Para. This plan only anticipates by a few days the moves apparently contemplated by INDUCTION Joint Staff Study and allows enemy less chance to get set to resist. I urge that it be approved in principle so that quick move can be made if risks and gains justify it. The risks are apparent but the profits from early control of this rich and vital strategic area should be worth a fair price and boldness and speed against existing enemy capabilities offer excellent possibilities of great success. Para. There are logistic problems but they can be worked out and earliest consideration should be given to arranging for anchorages for combatant and train ships in CENTRAL PHILIPPINES to facilitate continued and uninterrupted control of CHINA SEA. Para. In making this estimate I have not been unmindful of your future operations which should benefit by any successes in CHINA SEA. Under any circumstances JAPAN can be in no position to critically threaten DETACHMENT and the carrier

~~TOP SECRET~~

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20 0720 (Cont'd)

strength vital to ICEBERG would not be jeopardized to greater extent than accepted to incident to INDUCTION which in turn should be less hazardous with the control of the CHINA SEA in our hands. Halsey.

20 2255 CINCPOA to CINCSWPA, COMGEN XX AIR FORCE, COM3RDFLT.

CinCSWPA CX 52470 and ComGen20th Air Force WX 64579 not to all. After Com3rdFlt's detailed plan of strikes preparatory to INDUCTION has been determined CinCPOA will inform ComGen 20th Air Force of the details of offensive reconnaissance desired to be conducted by the 20th Bomber Command in accordance sub paragraph 2E(1) of FIVE SOME Agreement.

19 0411 CINC EASTERN FLEET to CINCPAC (Nimitz only).

Part 1 of 190504. ~~Hush most secret.~~ My present orders are to move 4 carriers to the Pacific as early as possible. This would mean leaving CEYLON about mid December (2) Owing to the re-equipment of the carriers with Avengers they will not be sufficiently trained by mid December to carry a strike at PALEMBANG. (3) The weather at PALEMBANG mid December is unfavorable but will have improved by mid January. (4) Alternative proposals are carry (A) a strike at BRANDAN Oil Refinery with first 2 carriers ready at end of December (B) a repeat strike with other 2 carriers at BRANDAN early January (C) A four carrier strike against PALEMBANG about 3rd week in January repeating on successive days as necessary and thence proceeding to AUSTRALIA to arrive mid February.

19 0504 Part 2 final of 190504. Captain Wheeler has details. I am proposing to visit you about mid December but a provisional decision is required now to enable planning to proceed. (6) X I do not know your wishes or whether the culminating arrival of carriers in Pacific is more important than the operations proposed above but I would favor the latter X (7) I have not yet spoken to Admiralty about such change of plans but will represent anything you may desire. (8) Perhaps you could give me a provisional reply now.

21 1352 MACARTHUR to CINCPOA info ADV ECH GHQ SWPA.

CX 52652 Additional strength of Japanese forces WHITEWASH makes it appear likely that immediate reinforcement of 5-division assault effort may be required. Preliminary studies indicate that a turn-around of a 4-division lift should be planned to provide for eventualities. These preliminary studies indicate that it will be impracticable to return all of the amphibious equipment to MAINYARD set forth in your 160342 October by 20 January. In view of your 180935 November postponing target date for ICEBERG, request that the delivery date of the amphibious equipment at MAINYARD and MANHOLE be postponed in same ratio. From present figures it does not appear that any delay will be necessary in the delivery of amphibious equipment at STEVEDORE.

2420

~~TOP SECRET~~

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21 0935 CINCPHA to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH

Nimitz to Halsey info King. In connection with your 200720 see my 170200 to which no reply has been received. I intend to adhere to the stand taken therein in connection with the MINDORO Operation and periods at anchor. Para. The stated purpose of the MINDORO Operation is to establish control of sea routes through the VISAYAS and establish shore based air forces for direct support of subsequent operations. If the Fleet were available to operate for a long period in the South CHINA SEA in position to cover MINDORO the necessity and value of the MINDORO Operation would tend to disappear. If the MINDORO Operation cannot be accomplished without movement of the Fast Carrier Task Force west of the PHILIPPINES the plan of the campaign should be revised to cut down the overall duration of Fast Carrier operations and in part substitute progressive advance of shore based air forces. Para. Under present arrangements as to target dates the proposal of your 200720 would involve moving the Fast Carrier Task Force into the South CHINA SEA without an adequate preparatory period at anchor. With such movement as an understood feature of the MINDORO Plan there is little assurance that withdrawal could be arranged at any early date. The enemy threat you visualize could continue undiminished unless the SouthWest Pacific Air Forces are strongly and effectively established in the VISAYAS. The movement into the South CHINA SEA contemplated in INDUCTION will be at a later date and obviously for a shorter period. Shore based air forces in LEYTE can easily reach TIZARD REEF. Para. Our sustained operations in the PHILIPPINES SEA have been possible because a fleet train has been maintained at sea with some degree of security from attack and because the facilities of ULITHI although limited were accessible without passing through narrow waters exposed to attack. Para. My intelligence indicates that most of the Japanese heavy ships are in Empire waters. Para. I do not approve of planning now a movement of major units of the Pacific Fleet into the South CHINA SEA during the MINDORO Operation. In emergency action must of course be governed by existing circumstances. The support proposed by CinCSWPA namely strikes on enemy air in LUZON and the VISAYAN Area and denial of MANILA BAY to enemy cruisers can be furnished effectively from east of the PHILIPPINES. However I must repeat my insistence on a preparatory period for upkeep replenishment rest and reorganization. See paragraph 35 your serial 0090 of 14 November. Para. Desire that no commitments be made connection MINDORO without prior approval by me.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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23 0355Z RICHARDSON to WDCSA Info CINCPOA (RJ-40550)

~~TOP SECRET~~ Paragraph 1. CINCPOA serial 000998 dated 17 November 1944 which was forwarded to you air courier 21 November 1944 as inclosure to letter this headquarters to OBD Subject "Shortages of Service Troops for ICEBERG" file AG 093.6/27A dated 21 November 1944, is quoted in part below "The matter of provision of Army Service troops for prosecutive operations is of paramount importance. It is evident that little assistance can be expected from sources outside of the Central Pacific Area and that necessary troops must be obtained by freeing units now performing base services in rear areas for the prosecution of the war in the forward areas. The use of provisional units for regularly organized service troops is indicated. The movement, location, and employment of infantry divisions is listed below: A. 7th Division mount from LEYTE for ICEBERG remain LEGUMINOUS. B. 27th Division. Area reserve for ICEBERG. Remain present location until ICEBERG and if not employed move to PHILIPPINES after ICEBERG. C. 77th Division. Mount from LEYTE for ICEBERG. Remain LEGUMINOUS thereafter. D. 81st Division. Assemble GUADALCANAL as units progressively withdrawn from PALAU. Withdrawal to commence about 5 December with 1 RCT. Last RCT remaining PALAU to be relieved by non divisional infantry regiment reinforced as soon as conditions permit. E. 86th and 97th Divisions remain in the United States until staging area is available in the PHILIPPINES, estimated as 1 May, then move direct to that area. F. The 96th Division mount from LEYTE for ICEBERG return to PHILIPPINES upon release from that operation. G. 98th Division remain in HAWAII as area reserve for ICEBERG; move from HAWAII to PHILIPPINES about 1 May if not employed in ICEBERG. If employed move to PHILIPPINES after release from ICEBERG"

Paragraph 2. It is pointed out that the above CINCPOA plan contemplates the retention of the 86th and 97th Divisions in the United States until such time as staging areas available in the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS in order that the divisions may be moved directly to that destination.

Paragraph 3. It has been my understanding that it is the War Department policy to train Army divisions for employment in the Pacific Ocean areas at OAHU before committing them to combat operations. The plan outlined above vitiates this policy. Therefore, I conferred with Admiral Nimitz, pointing out this fact, and recommended that his serial 000998 referred to above be modified to make this change. However, CINCPOA in his dispatch 220830 dated 22 November 1944 to me, with information copy to COMINCH, has reaffirmed the suspension of movement of the 97th and 86th Divisions

~~TOP SECRET~~

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23 0355Z (Continued)

from the United States to OAHU for the present, again referring us to his serial 000998, which contemplates moving these divisions directly to the PHILIPPINES from the mainland at an estimated date of 1 May 45.

Paragraph 4. For reasons explained in my letter to CINCPOA, copy furnished you as inclosure to letter referred to in paragraph 1 above, I am firmly of the belief that divisions being committed to combat in the Pacific Ocean areas can only attain the maximum degree of combat efficiency if they are staged at OAHU prior to combat for a reasonable period of time.

Paragraph 5. This is also an answer to your radio 65716 dated 20 November this year. Final answer will be made after receipt here of information indicating action taken by the War Department on CinCPOAs recommendation relative to the above named divisions. Request radio reply of War Department decision.

24 0155 CINCPOA to COMSOPAC.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Present plans contemplate ABLE retaining the 27th Div on ESPIRITU SANTO until employed in ICEBERG about 1 March or staged forward to PHILIPPINES about 1 May and moving 81st Div as indicated my 221003 Nov. 81st Div to remain GUADALCANAL until about 1 May and then move to PHILIPPINES. B. No other Army Divisions to be sent to SOPAC. Para. Proposal has now been made to move both 27th and 81st Divs to NEW CALEDONIA to take advantage of conditions stated as more advantageous including health, availability of supplies for re-equipment, presence of replacement depot, more adequate mounting facilities, jungle training school, and other training aids, adequate impact area. Clearance of all large Army troop units from all other islands in the South Pacific and consequent roll up possibilities are cited in this proposal as added advantage. Desire your comments as to comparative advantages of NEW CALEDONIA, GUADALCANAL and ESPIRITU SANTO and your recommendations taking into account existing facilities, the urgent necessity for earliest practicable release maximum number Army service troops from SoPac, and need for maintaining Marine units and aviation facilities on GUADALCANAL. Desire early reply.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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24 0354 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38, CTG 30.5, CTG 30.8, CTG 30.9 info COMINCH, CINCSOWESPAC, CTF 77, CTF 71, COMFEAF, ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RD FLT, CTF 94, CTF 95, CINCPAC, COMSUBPAC.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ This is part one of 2 parts. My 240400. Call this operation obliteration and my Op Order 24-44 TG 30.5 Commodore Ketcham TG 30.8 Captain Keuff TG 30.9 Commodore Carter TF 38 less TG 38.3 Vice Adm. McCain. Forces as currently assigned. Para. Enemy information accordance current intelligence and by mail and dispatch. Own air search from MARIANAS, ULITHI and PALAU as currently prescribed with sectors north and west of TINIAN extended to 1000 mile radius. SovesPac air search plan G in effect unless modified later by separate dispatch. Submarines of TF 17 and 71 are supporting this operation by furnishing early information enemy movements, attacks on enemy shipping and lifeguard service (TF 71) in objective area. 14th and 20th Air Forces are striking FORMOSA and EMPIRE targets in coordination. Forces of CinCSowesPac are seizing objectives on MINDORO ISLAND by airborne and amphibious assault in an operation termed L-3 commencing on unit day. Para. This fleet will conduct air strikes on LUZON area in order to support CinCSowesPac L3 operation by neutralizing enemy air in this area and denying the use of LUZON harbors to enemy combatant and support shipping. Para. TG 30.5 continue air searches from MARIANAS, ULITHI and PALAU as now prescribed extending searches north and west of TINIAN to 1000 mile radius commencing on unit minus two day and continuing until otherwise directed.

24 0800 ADVGHQ MACARTHUR to COM3RDFLT info COM ALLIED AIR FORCES, COMFEAF, COM5THAIR FORCE

~~TOP SECRET~~ CAX 11829 reference my CAX 11804 photographic planes of 5th air force which were to supplement you photographic effort BP LINGAYAN were put out of action at TACLOBAN this morning. This leaves me entirely dependent upon such pictures as you can take.

24 1855 CINCPAC to CTF 94 info CTF 95, COMINCH, DEPUTY CDR 20 AF.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ In view possible reaction from TOKYO bombing, the mediocre results against shipping by CTF 95 aircraft and added danger of attacks by moonlight the airfields and facilities of IWO JIMA will be primary targets for your aircraft for the present.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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25 0502 CINCPGA to CINCSOWESPAC Info ADV ECH GHQ SWPA, COMINCH, COMWESSEAFRON

~~TOP SECRET~~ Your 211352 Purpose delay in target date DETACHMENT is to provide additional interval for essential upkeep and recuperation of fleet units after protracted operations during PHILIPPINES campaign. It is necessary that there be no delay in units including escorts and small craft needed for DETACHMENT. It is my desire to furnish all practicable assistance but any concurrence in postponement of delivery date of amphibious equipment must be subject to foregoing remarks. In order I may help to maximum extent please advise details as to any amphibious equipment including numbers by types of ships that you desire to retain beyond 20 January and I will give all possible consideration to your desires.

25 0021 CINCPGA to COMNAVGROUP CHINA Info COM 3RD FLEET, COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~ Request 14th Air Force support L3 operation by maximum reconnaissance of the CHINA SEA and the northern and southern approaches thereto commencing U minus 2 day. Date Unit Day by separate dispatch.

25 0015 CINCPGA to COM3RDFLT Info ADVANCED ECHELON, GHQ SWPAC; COMINCH: CINCPAC; CINCPAC ADMIN

~~TOP SECRET~~ Your 230217 and 240400 Conditions of my 170200 concerning period at anchor between operations to cover and support K2 and support L3 are not being met. My 241745. Para 2. Effective immediately reduce carrier groups operating against PHILIPPINES to 2 and except in emergency keep 2 in rear for upkeep and recuperation until necessary to execute your OpOrder 24-44. Para 3. At earliest practicable time after L3 operation you will again reduce groups to not more than 2 for interim operations in order to have full strength ready for M1. Para 4. Acknowledge.

26 0325 CINCPGA to CINCSWPA Info COMFWDAREA, COMINCH, COMWESCAR-SUBAREA, COM 3RD FLEET

Your CX 52650 timed 211421 and CX 52657 timed 211521. Concur in general that airfields ANGAUR and PELELIU should be made available to your transport and combat aircraft to maximum extent consistent with ComWesCarSubAreas tactical responsibilities and logistic capabilities provided that in case of emergency your aircraft temporarily based in PALAUS will at my request either be withdrawn or placed under operation control of ComShore Based Air Force WesCarSubArea. ComFwdArea 250551 indicates that in addition to staging 50 ODD transports per

~~TOP SECRET~~

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26 0325 (continued)

day and 24 B-24's temporary basing 22nd Heavy Bomb Group is feasible with limitation indicated. Concur in arrangement details of operations by Brig Gen Grabbe with ComWesCarSubArea and ComShore Based Air Force WesCarSubArea at PELELIU.

25 1935 COMINCH to CINCPAC Info COM3RD FLEET, CINCSWPA, COMINCH (ADM), CINCPAC (ADM)

I wholly concur in your 250015 to 1st Info addressee.

27 0123 CINCPAC to CINCSWPA InfoCTF 95, 94, COMAIRPAC, CTGS 95.6, 94.14, COMGENAIRFMFPAC, COMGENAAFPAC, COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 260742 concur. Approve temporary transfer VMF(N) 541 from PALAU to LEYTE. This squadron to be replaced by all or part of P-61 squadron from LEYTE. Each squadron to furnish own controllers. In view of other commitments of Marine aviation, 541 will be subject to recall after reasonable period. Details of exchange to be handled directly between CINCSWPA and CTG 94.14 and CTG 95.6.

27 0235 CTF 77 to COM 7TH FLT Info 7TH FLT, CINCPAC, COMINCH, COM 3RD FLT, CINCSOWESPAC, ALL TFC'S, & TGC'S 3RD AND 7TH FLTS, COMALLIED AIR SOWESPAC, COM 5TH AF, COM 13TH AF.

~~TOP SECRET~~. JCFCM for L-3 and M-1 are firm. Available air strips LEYTE have not the capacity to provide adequate night cover for L-3 convoy. Naval air will supplement this cover. Present plan organize covering group of 6 CVE escorted by battleships cruisers and destroyers to operate in SULU SEA until U day. CANY Op Plan 15-44 will be modified accordingly.

27 0438 COMSOPAC to CINCPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 240155. Recommend a Locating 81st Division in NEW CALEDONIA and B retaining 27th Division Espiritu Santo. Para. With respect to A NEW CALEDONIA offers better health conditions and more adequate mounting facilities, supplies for reequipment are adequate and available, replacement depot available to receive personnel, adequate impact areas are available. Jungle training school not available NEW CALEDONIA is considered a minor disadvantage in view of recent employment 81st Division. Turn around time for shipping will not be increased and some time may be saved by reason of better port facilities. Non presence of this or similar large Army combat unit on GUADALCANAL will enable the release of appreciable number Army service troop units

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27 0438 (continued)

which will be in excess of those required for port operation, security, and logistic functions connected with Class 1 and 3 supplies. Para. With respect to B Port facilities are entirely adequate to mount this division, supplies for reequipment have been stockpiled and palletizing operations well underway, replacements could be initially screened and disembarked at SANTO by establishment appropriate liaison, adequate impact areas now exist at SANTO, jungle training areas also exist which can not be duplicated in NEW CALEDONIA. While health and recreational facilities are better in NEW CALEDONIA training areas SANTO are non malarious and special recreational facilities closer to bivouac areas do exist. Transportation of division to NEW CALEDONIA would seriously affect shipping situation now critical SoPac area. Most serious disadvantage involved in move would be loss of approximately 6 weeks of training. Such move would result in release of approximately 2000 service troops only 2 months earlier than now contemplated in present plans. Para. Approval of above recommendations in whole or in part will not affect the requirements now existent for the maintenance of such Marine units and aviation facilities as are located at GUADALCANAL. Para. If recommendations A and B are approved and plans do not envisage sending more than 2 Army divisions and 2 Marine divisions and headquarters and corps troops to SoPac recommend that authority be granted to dismantle and abandon excess staging areas and camp and training facilities GUADALCANAL and NEW CALEDONIA.

28 0102 MARSHALL to RICHARDSON Info CG SOWESTPACBACOM, COMGEN CENTPACBACOM, CINCPAC

WAR 68885 TOP SECRET Reencipherment of WAR dtg 271548 Relative to disposition of Army divisions in and projected for Pacific Ocean Areas, references are: (A) Pacific Ocean Areas TopSec Radio RJ 40440 November 23 to War Department (B) Cincpac serial 220830 November to ComGenPOA. War Department recognizes the value of training given Army divisions that have been staged through HAWAII and the benefits that are derived from the program prescribed by your headquarters for divisions prior to their entry into combat. However in view of the additional shipping that would be involved in the initial shipment of 97 and 86 divisions and tonnages required to maintain prescribed theater level of supply for these units until they are required in operations, the decision of Cincpac to defer shipment 97 and 86 Divisions to Pacific Ocean Areas until

~~TOP SECRET~~

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28 0102 (continued)

May 45 as indicated in reference (b) is concurred in by War Department and shipment of these divisions will be deferred. Cominch concurs. It is desired that you make necessary arrangements for deletion of these units from Joint Shipping Priority Lists. Para The loss of the training is regretted but fortunately under existing situation such training is no longer considered a mandatory prerequisite.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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28 0634 CTF 77 to ALL TFC AND TGC 7TH FLEET, COM7THFLT Info
CINCPAC, CINCSWPA, COM3RDFLT, COMAAF, COMGEN10TH ARMY,
COMAF 5, COMDESRON 21, COMDESRON 8, COMDESRON 5,
COMDESRON 22, COMDESRON 54, COMDESRON 51, COMDESRON 6,
COMDESRON 33, COMINCH:

~~TOP SECRET~~. Pass to all holders my OpPlan 15-44. OpPlan 15-44 as modified by my 191313 and 250147 further modified as follows. Task Organization correct Para B to read TG 77.3 close covering Group RAdm Berkey CruDiv 15, 3 CL, DesRon 21 less RADFORD, ROSS, JENKINS, TAYLOR plus MOALE, COOPER, ALLEN M SUMNER 8 DD. Add new paragraph D TG 77.12 heavy covering and carrier group RAdm Ruddock Battleships Bat Div 4 less COLORADO plus NEW MEXICO, 3 OBB. Cruisers Capt Bledsoa until relieved CruDiv 12 3 CL. Carriers RAdm Stump carriers as later designated 6 CVE. Destroyers HALLIGAN, HARADAN, TWIGGS, TALPH TALBOT, REMEY, MERTZ, MCDERMUT, STEMBEL, BRAINE, INGRAHAM, WALLER, SAUFLEY, RENSHAW, CONWAY, CONY, EATON, SIGOURNEY, CONNOR 18 DD. Para 3A Add Info. Commander Heavy Covering and Carrier Group and Commander Escort Carriers when shore based air cover is established over the objective area on U Day. Add new para 3D heavy covering and carrier group support the L3 Operation by providing fighter cover and aircraft anti submarine patrol for MINDORO Attack Group on U minus 2 U minus 1 and U Day until relieved by shore based air. Coordinate air operations with those of Allied Air Forces. Provide maximum practicable anti aircraft protection for CVEs. While operating in MINDANAO and SULU SEAS interdict or destroy as practicable enemy heavy surface forces which may threaten the MINDORO attack group and supporting forces. Coordinate operations with Commander MINDORO Attack Group and Commander close covering force. As promptly as practicable after completion mission retire to LEYTE GULF where release escort carriers with escort of 9 DD's to proceed KOSSOL ROADS for replenishment. ADD to para 4 special logistics arrangements for heavy covering and carrier group by separate despatches. Add new para 3 x 9 Naval Air Support for this operation is in addition to that required of Allied Air Forces by CINCSWPA Op Instr 74 indicated in para 1 my OpPlan 15-44.

7/
28 1312

GHQ SOWESPAC AREA to COM3RDFLT Info CINCPAC

CX 54038. Following Plan for 3rd Fleet participation in L 3 operations arranged, subject to your approval, during conference with your representatives. 3rd Fleet neutralize hostile I RAT air forces LUZON U minus 1 to U plus 1; be prepared to strike LUZON targets in emergency during period U plus 3 to U plus 4; On above dates be prepared to strike hostile naval forces in VISAYAN waters and westward thereof in range which may threaten our over-water movements. Southwest Pacific Air Forces neutralize

~~TOP SECRET~~

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28 1312 GHQ SOWESPAC AREA to COM3RDFLT Info CINCPAC (Cont'd)

hostile air forces in VISAYAS, MINDANAO, and SULU ARCHIPELAGO and other overwater movement and support landing. 7th Air Force, in coordination with Southwest Pacific Air Forces, neutralize air forces in the BICOLS. Dividing line between responsibility 3RD Fleet and Southwest Pacific Air Forces including SIXWAOBJIHE force will be: 14-30 North, 115-00 East; 14-30 North, 121-50 East; 13-35 North, 121-50 East; Thence due west. 3rd Fleet and the Allied Air Forces will exchange information when either force strikes in the area of the other. Notification should be given as far in advance as practicable indicating the target to be attacked. Approximate scale of effort, or the time of attack. The 3rd Fleet may at discretion put fighter sweeps into the BICOL area and LUZON without notification Request your immediate concurrence or comments. Similar data for support of M 1 follows in separate radiogram.

28 1110 COM3RDFLT-CINCPAC Info CTF 94

~~This is TOP SECRET.~~ I consider that existing command setup for local defense forces at ULITHI violates the sound principle of unified command and does not provide the most effective use of those forces in defense of the Fleet. By ComFwdArea Op Plan 7-44 the responsibility for surface patrol and escort rests with CTU 94.6.2, Air Defense ULITHI with CTU 95.6.3, and Hunter-Killer (JASASA) with CTG 94.14. CTG 94.14 has delegated to AtCom ULITHI authority to initiate Hunter-Killer (JASASA) in his immediate area which is all very well except that AtCom ULITHI does not have command of either the air or surface forces which should logically be used and once JASASA has been "initiated" there is no one in command of it. Para. In order to provide a single clear cut authoritative command which can take quick and positive local action instead of making requests or waiting for approval by other remote commands I strongly recommend that local air groups and surface defense forces be placed under the unequivocal command of AtCom ULITHI and that he be charged with base defense responsible to his ISIC, CTG 94.14. In no other way can maximum security be obtained. Halsey.

29 0324 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~ NIMITZ TO HALSEY, INFO KING. Your 260700 reached me on my return to PEARL. The difficulty in meeting Fleet Maintenance requirements is due in part to adherence to target dates which do not take Fleet requirements sufficiently into account. It was for that reason that my 210935 desired that no commitment be made in connection with the MINDORO Operation. However your 24040 (your Op Order 24-44) constituted a definite

~~TOP SECRET~~

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29 0324 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH (Cont'd)

commitment further substantiated by the Conferences reported by MACARTHUR CX 54038 para 2. There appears now to be no alternative except to carry on under the terms of my 250015 and reexamine the overall situation after L 3. If the Fleet is not then able to meet the commitments which have been made for the M-1 Operation (Pursuant to the directive from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide cover and support for that operation) it may become necessary to request a delay in that operation. However such a delay may meanwhile become necessary for other reasons which will ease the situation for the Fleet.

29 0400 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC

~~TOP SECRET.~~ MACARTHUR CX 45038 (271312) concur strikes U minus 1 and U Day with strike U plus 1 if absolutely necessary. If carriers must be ready to render additional support on U plus 3 and U plus 4 then I feel strongly that INDUCTION must be sufficiently delayed to permit TF 38 to return to ULITHI for service rearming and some upkeep. If asked to make recommendation I would suggest S Day be delayed at least 10 days. Para. Concur in proposed air coordination measures except that carrier air must be free to strike any threatening field in emergency as measure of self preservation. Halsey.

29 2349 CINCPAC to CINCSWPA Info COM3RDFLEET

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Para. 1. See my 170200 which is as yet unanswered and Halsey's 290400 passed to you separately. Although my present headquarters are far removed from the area of your operations they are studied closely in connection with mine with which they are so closely interrelated. I believe that you should at this time have my estimate of the situation which confronts us. Para. 2. The enemy naval forces are not capable of interfering effectively with our forces in the LEYTE area. The 3rd Fleet controls effectively the PHILIPPINE SEA and the forces south of the EMPIRE are now estimated to consist only of ISE HYUGA 1 CVE 2 CA 2 CL and about 8 serviceable destroyers. Your information as to the ground situation is better than mine. I assume the enemy Army to be incapable of interfering effectively with the MINDORO operation. In the air however the enemy is still strong and capable of operating effectively from LUZON the VISAYAS and from MINDANAO. Ships

~~TOP SECRET~~

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29 2349 (continued)

which operate in the narrow waters of the PHILIPPINES within the next few days may expect severe attacks from enemy aircraft which in the case of escort carriers and assault shipping and embarked troops may be destructive. Para 3. The initial landings in the PHILIPPINES and to a considerable degree the subsequent land operations have been made possible by a long sustained use of carrier aircraft. Due to circumstances beyond our control which have delayed the full activation of shore based aircraft in the LEYTE area the operations of the carrier task forces have been protracted to an unprecedented degree with inadequate opportunity for rest upkeep and logistic replenishment. Their long sustained operations in the same area have facilitated enemy counter measures particularly the suicide attack. Extensive damage has been received and requirements for carrier pilot replacements have become critical. Para 4. If given an adequate preparatory period of recuperation the carrier task force can to a degree neutralize the enemy air force in LUZON for a considerable time. Without such preparation their strikes must be limited as indicated by Halsey's 290400 and it will be unlikely that they will be able to give you the subsequent support which you will probably need. Without very strong preliminary operations by shore based aircraft and their employment concurrently with carrier aircraft it is extremely doubtful if the degree of air supremacy can be achieved which will ensure safe passage of your expeditionary force from LEYTE to MINDORO and reasonable safety of the ships off MINDORO. Para 5. Although as you know I stand ready to support you in every way possible in the operations which you find it necessary to conduct to recapture LUZON I believe that eventual success will come sooner if the MINDORO operation is delayed until your shore based air forces have been established in strength in the LEYTE area and have had time to do their work and so recommend. If you so agree plans can then be made to rest and prepare the 3rd Fleet to support your operations while maintaining control of the PHILIPPINE SEA.

29 1431 CTF 77 to CINCSWPA Info COMAAF, COM 3RD FLEET, CTF 95, CINCPAC, COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~. Evidence of growing air strength of enemy on MINDANAO indicates need of strenuous efforts to neutralize MINDANAO fields in order protect our line of communication and keep LEYTE tenable to surface shipping.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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29 0419Z BOMCOM 21 (HANSELL) to DEPCOMAF 20 (HARMON for ARNOLD)
Info CINCPAA, COMGENPOA

~~TOP SECRET~~. Subject: Decision on mission. Weather and size of available force unfavorable for daylight strike on 30 November. Am dispatching 30 ACFT on BROOKLYN 1 tonight partially clearing congestion on ISLEY 1. Preparing for maximum effort daylight strike against 1544 on 1 December. That will be mission MONTGOMERY 1.

26 0700 COM3RDFLT to NIMITZ, CINCPAA; KING, MCMORRIS CINCPAC ADMIN.

~~TOP SECRET~~. FOR NIMITZ INFO KING, MCMORRIS. Your 250015 acknowledged. Apparently some Com3rdFlt traffic was missed as supporting force at sea was reduced to 2 groups on 23 November. Para. With existing target dates any ship participating both in U plus 1 PHILIPPINE strike and S Minus 5 FORMOSA strike can have a maximum 3 days at anchor ULITHI. That is physically all that is possible. If 3 groups support L3 those 3 groups can be given 3 days at anchor before departing for INDUCTION and the 4th group can have a long uninterrupted overhaul weather permitting. Para. During November Groups will have had total (But not consecutive) time at anchor as follows 38.1, 7 days; 38.2, 8 days; 38.3, 6 days; 38.4, 11 days. Para. If task force 38 can be absolved of any support commitments for sufficient time to permit 10 uninterrupted days at anchor the operational prospects for INDUCTION, DETACHMENT and ICEBERG will be vastly improved. To do this will require at least 15 days without commitment and 1 of the 4 Groups will have to go elsewhere than ULITHI preferably MANUS. Para. I fully share your concern in this matter of upkeep. I do not consider Task Force 38 has had adequate upkeep and further it will be physically impossible to meet your maintenance requirements and carry out my assigned combat tasks with existing target dates. Battle damage sustained 25 Nov has made this matter ever more critical. Your 241745 was also considered in preparing this despatch. Halsey.

27 0831 ADV GHQ SWPA (MACARTHUR) to COM7THFLT, COM3RDFLT, CINCPAA.

CX 54015 Following Plan for 3rdFlt cover M1 Operations has been discussed with your representatives and is submitted for your approval or comments. 3RDFLT neutralize hostile air forces FORMOSA S minus 5 and S minus 4; sweep northern LUZON fields north of the line Santa Cruz (17-10 North 121-25 East) BENXBAG DADH CAPE ILDEFONSO on S minus 3 or S minus 2 or both if practicable; neutralize

~~TOP SECRET~~

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27 0831 ADV GHQ SWPA (MACARTHUR) to COM7THFLT, COM3RDFLT, CINCPAC (Continued)

AIRVJF YNP FORMOSA S minus 1 and S Day; stand by for missions of opportunity S plus 2 until relieved; continuing mission to destroy and neutralize Naval Forces threatening the operation. Southwest Pacific Air Forces and 7th Air Force will neutralize air in the PHILIPPINE, Southwestward thereof, except during period of fighter sweep on S minus 3 or S minus A O. 14th and 20th Air Forces as later arranged. Normal zone of responsibility between 3rd Fleet and southwest Pacific Air Forces, except for reconnaissance, east coast of PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO, North Coast of LUZON extended westward to southernmost point on HAINAN ISLAND except during fighter sweep when 3rd Fleet sweeps north LUZON. Southwest Pacific Air Forces included from this area during day of this sweep. 3rd Fleet and southwest Pacific Air Forces, including 7th Air Force and escort carriers 7th Fleet, will exchange information when either force strikes in the area of the other. Notification should be given as far in advance as practicable indicating the target to be attacked, approximate scale of effort, and the time of attack.

29 0842 MACARTHUR to SUBCOMSEAC Info CINCPAC, COM7THFLT, COM3RDFLT, DETACH GHQ HOLLANDIA

~~TOP SECRET~~. For Admiral Lord Mountbatten. The enemy is making a decisive stand in the PHILIPPINES. Operation L-3 involves a penetration to unique on 5 December. We do not yet have complete control of the air and sea in the PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO. In view of this situation my plans provide strong surface ship and carrier protection to our assault echelon during its movement through the MINDANAO and SULU SEAS. However I have some concern for the safety of follow up shipping after the withdrawal from those waters of my battleship, cruiser and escort carrier forces a withdrawal necessitated by their need for replenishment prior to operation M-1 20 December. In order to alleviate the threat of attack from the southwest against my lightly protected loc from LEYTE to unique I feel it would be most helpful if you could undertake strong diversion within a day or 2 after my landing on 5 December and to repeat shortly after landing on December 20. I would appreciate your comments on the probability of you maintaining for a limited time enemy air and naval forces in the SINGAPORE area were you to strike the MALAY PENINSULA or other strategic objective within your reach.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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29 1923 ~~TOP SECRET~~ COMINCH AND CNO to CINCPOA

War Department plans to assign Major General Charles H. Corlett to conduct planning and be available to command Army troops in KEELBLOCKS. It is desired therefore that General Corlett attend the conference called by your 282117. Advise as soon as possible date you wish him to arrive. It will be necessary for him to return to United States for a brief period following conference.

30 1311 GHQ SOWESPAC (MACARTHUR) to CINCPOA, COMUSAAF WASH DC, etc

CA 54167 ~~TOP SECRET~~. U Day, Operations instructions 74 this headquarters, is 15 December 1944. S Day, Operations instructions 73 this headquarters, is 9 January 1945.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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01 0230 CINCPOA to COM3RDFLT Info COMFWDAREA, CTF 95,
CTG 30.5, COMAIRPAC, COMGENAAFPPOA

~~TOP SECRET~~. In order to obtain close coordination of bombing and photographic missions required for future operations desire that photo Group 2 be assigned temporarily to operational control CTF 95. 3rd Fleet requirements both for photographic missions and processing will continue to have such priority as you require. ComFwdArea 291001 not to all refers.

01 0309 CINCPOA to COMGEN 20TH AF THRU DEPCOM 20TH AF Info
COM3RDFLT, CINCOWESPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~. This answers para 1 your WARX 68829 which is 261723. Desire following use 15 sorties available. 10 Sorties desired to maintain surveillance of major airfields and western sea approaches to KYUSHU S-15 to S-5. Balance of sorties to be available on call. This predicated on ability of CincSWPA to provide coverage of FORMOSA as indicated in search plan Annex to FIVESOME. If circumstances prevent full extension of search plan G surveillance of FORMOSA will be desired instead of KYUSHU. Para. Daily photo reconnaissance of OKINAWA airfields is desired S-15 to S-11 and on S-9. Dispatch reconnaissance reports and interpretation of photos to Com3rdFlt, CTF 38, CTG's 38.1, 38.2, 38.3.

02 0313Z CINCPOA to ALL TYPE COMMANDERS PACFLT, ALL TFC PACFLT,
COMGENAAFPPOA, COMGENPOA Info COMINCH, CINCOWSPA, COM 7TH
FLT, COMGENAAFSWPA

~~TOP SECRET~~. Para 1. Effective 0000 (minus 10) 6 December the Shore Based Air Force Forward Area is dissolved and the Strategic Air Force POA (TF 93) established under command of Lieut Gen M F Harmon. Provisions my serial 000144 of 17 November and enclosures apply. Para 2. 7th Bomber Command plus VMB 612 and long range fighters (P-38's) in MARIANAS assigned TF 93 except that 494th Bomb Group remains under operational control FEAF until released. Para 3. Other elements now in TF 95 reassigned to TF 94 for service in air defense commands MARIANAS ULITHI and PALAU or as desired by CTF 94. Assignment of air defense PALAU and ULITHI to direct control of atoll commanders authorized. Para 4. Major General Hale and present joint staff available to CTF 93 for assignment. Para 5. Offensive tasks now assigned TF 95 reassigned to TF 93 except neutralization of enemy held positions in MARIANAS which is reassigned to TF 94.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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02 0205 DEPCOMAF 20 to COMGEN AF 20 Info CINCPHA, CINCSWPA, COM 3RD FLT, COMBOMCOM 20, COMBOMCOM 21

~~TOP SECRET~~. AAFPOA 9985 Subject is 20 AF support to M1. Reference Arnolds WARX 68829 not to all dated 261723 GCT. BomCom 20 requested to direct 15 sorties available for reconnaissance as follows: 10 sorties to maintain surveillance of major airfields and western sea approaches to KYUSHU during period S-15 to S-5 inclusive. Balance of 5 sorties to be available on call beginning S-15 for special recco missions. This plan predicated on ability of SWPA to provide coverage of FORMOSA as outlined in Search Plan G Annex to Fivesome. If circumstances prevent full extension of Search Plan G surveillance of FORMOSA instead of KYUSHU will be desired. Desired from BomCom 21: Daily photo reconnaissance of major OKINAWA airfields from S-15 to S-11 inclusive and on S-9. All reconnaissance and photo interpretation reports to be furnished Com 3rd Fleet, ComTasFor 38, ComTasGroups 38.1, 2, and 3. S day now set as 9 January. Recommend approval.

02 0900 CINCSWPA sgd MACARTHUR to CG USAF CHINA Info CINCPHA, COMDR ANF, COMDR AAF FOR

CX-54259-~~TOP SECRET~~. M1 and L3 are different operations. Refer your CFB-27866, 1 December. M1 operation is that referred to in Fivesome in paragraph 2A(4). S day is as indicated in our C-54189. Details of the operation continued in OI-73 are not essential for coordination of 14th Air Force activities in support of the M1 operation. L3 covered in OI-74 with objective in the central PHILIPPINES is a preliminary operation to M1. The date is termed U day and is 15 December. Due to your limited facilities request for special missions other than reconnaissance missions to support the L3 operation will not be made in order to conserve maximum support for the M1 operation. Para It is requested if practicable that KUNMING searches be flown from U minus 3 day and continue through the period indicated in paragraph 2D in Fivesome.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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02 2024 CINCPOA to CTF 93; CTF 94; Info COMINCH; CINCSWPA; COM3RDFLT; COM5THFLT; CTF 95; COMCRUDIV 5:

~~TOP SECRET.~~ As soon as practicable strategic Air Force conduct all out air attack with maximum strength available against enemy aircraft and air installations at WORKMAN. ComFwdArea conduct surface daylight bombardment to destroy defense installations. ComFwdArea and ComGen AAFPOA arrange coordination direct. Lieut Gen HARMON will depart Hickam about 2000 3 December VW to establish temporary Headquarters at SAIPAN. See CinCPOA top secret serial 000155 of 24 Nov to ComFwdArea copy being furnished ComGen AAFPOA by Officer Messenger.

03 0735 COMGEN 14TH VIA COMNAV UNIT 14TH COMNAVGRP CHINA to COMNAVGROUP CHINA; CINCPA Info COMGENSWPAC; COMGEN AAF FEAF, COMGEN USA FOR CHINA; MACARTHUR, KENNY, WEDEMEYER;

CAKX-1776 ~~TOP SECRET.~~ CINCPA 020310 received this headquarters states that U Day has been postponed 10 days. The 14th Air Force will commence on the basis of this message at U-2 to conduct 1 LAB reconnaissance daily from TOURNAI to LINGAYEN GULF using the same signal SOP as previously. 2 LAB strike missions per night as are now being conducted in the LAB area assigned to the 14th Air Force will be continued. These missions partially cover northern approaches of the south CHINA SEA within 1100 mile radius of KUNMING. Weather and logistics permitting, these latter LAB strikes missions instead of being dispatched from MUNMING will be dispatched from SUICHWAN and will provide reconnaissance from SHANGHAI through the FORMOSA STRAIT. Beginning at 3-15 the southern LAB reconnaissance will be discontinued in favor from FIVESOME of B Appendix. Chennault.

03 0215 CINCPOA to COMINCH Info COM5THFLT; COMPHIBSPAC; COMGEN 10TH ARMY:

~~TOP SECRET.~~ CinCSWPA 301311 necessitates establishment new target dates for DETACHMENT and ICEBERG which should be announced without delay in order to avoid tying up shipping and other resources unnecessarily. The minimum interval between M-1 and DETACHMENT had originally been established as 31 days and was increased to 45 to allow for necessary upkeep of covering forces after protracted operations. Para. It now appears necessary to allow for somewhat extended covering operations after M-1 and also for an upkeep and recuperation period accordingly a minimum interval of 41 days seems wise for planning purposes. Retaining a 40 day interval between DETACHMENT and ICEBERG will give desirable

~~TOP SECRET~~

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03 0215 CINCPOA to COMINCH Info COM5THFLT; COMPHIBSPAC;
COMGEN 10TH ARMY: (Continued)

weather for latter. Para. Request concurrence in announcing 19 February and 1 April as new target dates for my next 2 Operations.

02 2158Z ARNOLD to DEPCOMAF 20; CINCPOA Info COM3RDFLT;
CINCSEWESPAC.

WAR-71838 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Reply to CINCPOAS 010309. 20TH and 21ST Bomber Commands have been directed to perform supporting operations as indicated in CinCPOA's message and in message number 9985 AAFPOA.

03 0731 ADMIRAL FRASER to ADMIRAL NIMITZ.

Admiral Nimitz only. Your 251615 November. I have consulted context Admiralty who agree with my proposal to carry out operation against Sumatran oil refineries on passage to the PACIFIC. At the same time they are most anxious that I should not delay arrival of the British Pacific Fleet in the PACIFIC more than is absolutely necessary (3) I shall probably be able to improve on dates given in paragraph 4 of my 190504 and carrier force should be in AUSTRALIA by end of January (4) I gladly accept your invitation and hope to arrive PEARL HARBOR about 18th December.

04 1230 MACARTHUR to COM3RDFLT Info CINCPOA, COM ALLIED NAVAL
FORCES, COM ALLIED AIR FORCES:

~~TOP SECRET~~: CX 54370. Reference Com3rdFlt's 290400. Still desire cover by 3rdFlt on U-1, U Day, and U plus 1 as indicated in my CX 54038, too 271312. 1st Follow up convoy due to arrive objective area U plus 6. In view of changed dates and greater interval between operations, can 3rd Fleet be prepared to strike LUZON airfields and shipping on U plus 4, U plus 5 and U plus 6. No desire restrict 3rd Fleet striking field in own defense. Coordination line delimits normal activity and provides for coordination through information when 1 air force enters the normal zone of the other. Notification only is required. In view of the extended time factors which will probably permit greater strength on your attack, it would be helpful for you as 2nd priority to bomb shipping from West Coast LUZON south of LINGAYEN inclusive to assist in preventing hostile surface reaction against objective area. Request early reply.

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01 0900 Com3rdFlt to CINCPAC:

TOP SECRET, FOR NIMITZ. Noting CinCSWPA 301311 and referring to my 010146. For a starter I am keeping a skeleton group at sea. The prospect of their being needed appears very remote but the Nips are stubborn and they are being badly goaded by the B-29 strikes. If and as prospects of enemy surface-carrier retaliation decreases I will reduce PHILIPPINE SEA patrol to small surface unit working in conjunction with shore based air. I am not passing the buck in saying that your own estimate would be most welcome. Halsey.

05 1024Z RICHARDSON to WAR DEPT, CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY; CINCPAC, ARMY AIR FORCES POA:

TOP SECRET RJ-42017 Availability of medium bomb group plus air services group from MTO about January 10 is noted. Based on change in D Day, now 15 March, and Progress of the operation as visualized in theater it is expected that this group will be in operation 10 May 1945. Recommend that units be on West Coast and unit loaded not later than 20 March 1945. Following specific information submitted as requested. A. Flight echelon readiness date 20 April. B. Air echelons of squadrons and groups by water shipment. C. Retention of selected personnel from ground echelon moving by water will not be required. D. Personnel under B and C above will be by water to final destination without intermediate stops enroute. Assumption that United States Army Forces Pacific Ocean Areas request for service forces for ICEBERG includes services in support of additional Air Combat Units is correct. Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Areas concurs in the foregoing. Reference substitution of VLR Group for heavy bombardment Group, study now underway to determine whether or not 1 complete VLR Wing can be deployed in LEGUMINOUS. If Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Areas accepts propose to recommend employment of only 2 Heavy Bombardment Groups in Phase 1, 2 VLR Groups to be deployed in Phase 2 and remaining 2 VLR Groups of the Wing to be deployed as soon thereafter as situation permits. If possible 15 March should be readiness date at home station for 2 aviation squadrons.

0500722 CTF 93 to CINCPAC, COMINCH, CINCSOWESPAC, COM3RDFLT, CRUDIV 5, COM5THFLT, COMAF20, DEPCOMAF 20, CTF 94, WAR DEPT WASHDC.

TOP SECRET. Following Plan all-out attack IWO JIMA scheduled for 7 Dec east longitude all times K(-10). A. Just prior to noon VF by P-38; B. 1200 to 1345 ²⁴⁴⁰ attack by estimated 75 B-29's dropping 750 tons, C. 1400 to 1530 attack by estimated 95 B-24's dropping 23 tons, D. Beginning 1600 bombardment by CruDiv 5. Foregoing arranged in conference CTF 94 and BomCom 21.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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06 0049 CINCPOA to COMINCH

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~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 021258. In proposing temporary utilization VMF squadrons on fast carriers it was not anticipated that units of 1st Marine Air Wing would be so employed. Recommend that withdrawal of such squadrons from Southwest Pacific (which would leave MarAirWing 1 badly unbalanced tactically) be deferred since immediate CVG requirements will be met from Marine squadrons presently available to POA which are in excess of shore based needs through initial garrison period of ICEBERG operation. See ComAirPac 020254.

05 2032 COMINCH, CNO to CINCPOA

~~TOP SECRET~~. Joint Chiefs of Staff concur your 030215 and authorize announcement proposed in last sentence thereof.

06 0159 GHQ SOWESPAC signed MACARTHUR to COM 3RD FLT Info CINCPOA, COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COM ALLIED AIR FORCES

~~TOP SECRET~~ Reference my CX 54015, TOO 270831, relative 3rd Flt cover and support M-1, reexamination of requirements in light of changed dates indicates following plan 3rd Flt cover and support desirable subject to future developments of situation. 3rd Flt neutralize hostile air forces Formosa S-5 S-4; sweep airfields of northern LUZON north of the line SANTA CRUZ (17-10N, 121-25E) - BAGABAB - CAPE IDLEFONSO on S-3 and S-2 to cover minesweeping operations in objective area starting S-3; neutralize air FORMOSA S-1 and S day; standby for missions of opportunity S/2 until relieved; continuous mission to destroy and neutralize naval forces threatening the operation. Southwest Pacific Air Forces and 7th Air Force will neutralize air in the PHILIPPINES and southwestward thereof except for northern LUZON during period of 3rd Flt sweeps on S-3 and S-2. 14th Air Force to reconnoiter as indicated in quote Fivesomw unquote, enclosure B, and to attack HONGKONG with maximum intensity between S-10 and S/10. 20th Air Force perform missions as specified in Cincpoa's 010309 and 272127 GCT. Normal zone of responsibility and coordination of air as in my CX 54015. For your information, starting S-3 until further notice from Commander LUZON Attack Force (TF 77) the area north of the line HERMANA MAYOR ISLAND - CAMILING and west of the line CAMILING-BAGABAG-SANTA CRUZ will constitute the area of air operations for the aircraft of the LUZON Attack Force (principally# escort carrier aviation). Aviation of other commands upon entering the area S-3 to S-1 days, report to

~~TOP SECRET~~

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06 0159 (continued)

advance commander support aircraft LUZON in ship under command Fire and Support Group (CTG 77.2); on S day and thereafter to CSA LUZON Attack Force (voice call HALIFAX). Limits of area will be changed by dispatch as required.

06 0202 COM 3RD FLEET to CINCPOA

~~TOP SECRET~~. CinCSWPA CX 54370 (041230) recommend employment of 3rd Fleet as requested with proviso that 3rd Fleet will strike during period U plus 4 to U plus 6 JNRY if specifically requested to do so. Further suggest that CinCSWPA notify Com 3rd Fleet promptly if general situation permits cancellation of U/ 1 strike. Wording of text assigning strike is not clear but intend that all strikes be launched from east coast of PHILIPPINES.

05 1521 WAR DEPT to CINCSWPA, COMGENPOA, CINCPOA

WARX 72694 ~~TOP SECRET~~. Concerning proposed FILBAS Agreement (indicated also in CX 51685 dated 7 November 1944); CX 52257 dated 16 November 44; Cincpoa 200113 November 44; C54123 dated 29 November; and WARX 57406 dated 4 November. (1) Plan FILBAS is approved. (2) Transfers for the support of FILBAS will be effected at time agreed upon by theater commanders concerned. These forces remain under control of Cincpoa until transfer is effected. ComGenPOA will notify WD of effective date of each transfer of Army units. (3) Some or all of the following units: 1 ordnance company HAM; 5 QM truck Cos; 5 QM service Cos; 1 QM laundry company; 1 QM bakery company; and 2 PORR Cos TC; may be required in another theater in support of 8 VLR groups, the deployment of which is now under consideration by JCS. Prior to actual physical transfer to SWPA of these particular units, War Department confirmation of movement will be secured. Navy concurs.

05 0048 DEPCOMAF 20 to COMGENBOMCOM 21 Info CINCPOA, COMGENPOA.

~~TOP SECRET~~. "Telecon message No S-4-7. Subject target code names. The following code designators of possible future missions of the 20th Bomber Command are furnished for your information:

CODE NAME
NEVADA
WYOMING
MARYLAND
NEBRASKA
FLORIDA

TARGET
OMURA
SINGAPORE
NAGASAKI
SAIGON
ANSHAN

CODE NAME
GEORGIA
TENNESSEE
OREGON
~~OHIO~~
NEW YORK
ILLINOIS

TARGET
TAKAO
MOULMEIN
YAWATA
KEELUNG
HANKOW
TACHIARI

2442

~~TOP SECRET~~

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05 0048 DEPCOMAF 20 to COMGENBOMCOM 21 Info CINCPOA, COMGENPOA,
(Continued)

When a repeat is run on the same target the code designator should be followed by a number indicating the number of attack on that target for example, San Antonio 1, 2 and 3.

07 0335 COMGENAAFPOA to CINCPOA.

AAFPOA 10146. ~~TOP SECRET~~. Attention invited to the following references: (A) ComGenAAFPOA top secret 9839 to CinCPOA 28 November (B) ComGenAAFPOA Top secret 10026 to ComAF 20 Info CinCPOA 3 December (C) ARNOLD WARX 72670 to Richardson for Harmon 4 December passed to CinCPOA for Info. By reference (C) the War Department proposes to commit entire 655 Bombardment Squadron Heavy to this theater for Long Range Weather reconnaissance. Your concurrence has already been obtained in sending flight A to the MARIANAS and Flight C to ICEBERG. It is highly desirable that complete squadron be brought to theater, as this represents minimum number of personnel capable of providing adequate weather information, as covered in detail in reference (C). Request your concurrence in advising War Department that theater is prepared to accept remainder of this unit. This would involve the additional movement of 38 officers and 168 enlisted personnel to GUAM subsequent to 1 March 1945, of which a minimum of 17 officers and 45 enlisted would travel by air.

07 0638 CINCPOA to COMTHIRDFLEET, CINCSWPA Info COMINCH,
COMFWDAREA, COMSEVENTHFLEET.

~~This is TOP SECRET~~. Pursuant to the directive of subparagraph 3 (C) of my letter of instructions serial 00096 of 18 August 1944 Third fleet will provide cover for the L-3 Operation. Proposals of CinCSWPA CX 54038 (271312) and CX 54370 (041230) approved subject to following. A. Other directives of letter of instructions of 18 August continue in effect. B. Major units of the 3rd Fleet will not transit SURIGAO or SAN BERNADINO or LUZON STRAIT unless specifically authorized by CINCPOA or unless in hot pursuit of enemy units so valuable that the hazards of mines and air action in narrow waters warrant the added risk to our major units. C. CinCSWPA is requested to notify Com3rdFlt if general situation permits cancellation unit plus 1 strike. D. It is understood that specific request will be originated by CinCSWPA if strikes on unit plus 4 unit plus 5 or unit plus 6 are required.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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07 0554 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT, CINCSWPA Info COMINCH, COM7THFLT

~~TOP SECRET~~. Proposals of CinCSWPA CX 54435 (060159) connection 3rdFleet operations approved except that mission of Third Fleet will remain as prescribed in broader terms by my OpPlan 9-44. Tentative provisions of paragraph 1 Annex D of same OpPlan modified to accord with CinCSWPA CX 54435 and may be further modified as contemplated by subparagraph G thereof.

07 1156 CTF 77 to COM ALLIED AIR FOR, COM5TH AIRFORCE Info CINCSWPA, COM7THFLEET, CTU 77.12.7, CTF 73, COM3RD FLEET, CINCPAC, COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~. As generally agreed conference between ComAllied Air Forces and RAdm Stump commanding CVE's in L3 operation following minimum requirements fighter cover shore based air at the following times during which CVE's will be unable to provide any fighter cover. U minus 2 day dawn to 1900 16 fighters MINDANAO SEA. U minus 1 1700 to 1900 8 fighters cover each over CVE's and convoy west of NEGROS and PANAY. U day 1800 to 1900 8 fighters over CVE's south of NEGROS and 8 fighters over slow convoy all day. U plus 1 day 12 fighters over CVE's east MINDANAO SEA or SURIGAO STRAIT daybreak until formation clear LEYTE GULF and CVE's can conduct flight operations. Request you confirm this arrangement and advise concerning meeting these requirements.

07 2333 ARNOLD SIGNED MARSHALL COMGENAAPPFA to RICHARDSON FOR HARMON Info CINCPAC:

~~TOP SECRET~~. Greatly concerned by Japanese air raids on MARIANAS which have in three raids effected substantial attrition to B-29 aircraft including 7 destroyed, 9 major damaged, 30 damaged. Our B-29 raids on Japanese homeland will continue to provoke desperate and fanatical counteraction. Consider that heavy bombing of IWO JIMA is a constructive measure but do not believe will prevent future enemy air attacks on our B-29 bases. Raids will still be possible by long range aircraft from Jap homeland with possibility of employing 1 way aircraft. Japs have capability of bombarding B-29 bases by subs and light naval forces; Landing small raiding forces from naval craft; causing damage to B-29 aircraft by local sabotage; Dropping paratroops. Example of Jap paratroop action follows: On Dec 6 GHQ reported that paratroops were dropped at night by 14 enemy planes on 2 airdromes in LEYTE. Vital that every effort be made to insure the most effective defense of B-29 bases; proper and expeditious use of engineers in developing the most effective radar sites; with earliest installation of New; and development of all possible passive defense measures. This is sent to you as an insurance that no enemy capabilities are being overlooked in the

~~TOP SECRET~~

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07 2333

ARNOLD SIGNED MARSHALL COMGENAAFPOA to RICHARDSON FOR HARMON Info CINCPOA:

precautionary measures you are taking.

08 2315

~~FN-08-41 TOP SECRET~~

BOMCOM 21 to COMGENAF 20; CINCPOA; COMGENPOA; Info DEPCOMAF 20:

The XXI BC must carry out a maximum effort attack against targets in HONSHU on 13 Dec in support of L-3 Operations. Further support will be continued thereafter as practicable. Our maintenance situation is such that any major effort against JAPAN prior to that date will detract materially from magnitude of effort on 13 Dec. Hence no major operations will be scheduled prior to 13 Dec. On 13 Dec we plan to carry out the following operation, depending on weather: (A) Memphis 1, if wind and cloud predictions will permit of precision bombing in daylight, or (B) Los Angeles 1, if weather not favorable for daylight precision bombing. Target for Los Angeles 1 has been selected as permitting radar bombing of a primary target, with secondary effect on the city of NAGOYA, in which the primary target is located. Los Angeles 1 will be conducted as a night mission since that will permit carrying of larger bomb load.

10 0918

COMAF 20 to COMGENARMY AIR FORCE Info COMGENAAFPOA, COMGENPOA, CINCPOA:

~~FN-10-25 TOP SECRET~~ Your WARX-74052 December 7. Have discussed these matters with ISCOM SAIPAN GENERAL JARMAN, with ADMIRAL HOOVER and members of his staff. All here concerned with defense VLR bases are alert to situation. Hoover maintaining 2 to 3 DD's 100 miles to northwest for early radar warning. These have provided advance warning on at least 3 occasions. Coordinated employment night fighter, fighter/searchlight teams, land based and DD radars being developed maximum. Local radar installations include 3 SCR 682 and 1 AN/TPS-3. These give full low angle coverage and giving good results. Installation of new on TOPACHAU is on highest priority. Present estimates give January 20 as operational date. I hope for earlier operation. Doctor Bowles here now and may be able assist in this and other respects. Daily searches, off shore picket boats, visual OPTION P'S and radars should provide against surprise by submarines and surface craft. Adjacent water areas well covered by dual purpose 90MM and shore batteries. ISLEY FIELDS 1 and 2 are protected by about 500 automatic weapons

~~TOP SECRET~~

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10 0918 COMAF 20 to COMGENARMY AIR FORCE Info COMGENAAFPOA, COMGENPOA, CINCPOA: (continued)

supplemented by spread beam searchlights. General Jarman alert to need for protection against paratroop raids and sabotage. I do not consider present plan satisfactory as not sufficiently well organized it endeavors make maximum utilization Air Force and Engineer Troops available. I am suggesting to Jarman that he provide a unit trained and equipped for this duty. Combination Air Force/Engineer Fire Fighting Organization has functioned in superior manner. My plan for air operations provides for daily strikes of 1 to 2 B-24 squadrons against air fields at IWO JIMA with occasional fighter sweeps and for nightly harassment those airdromes. Intensity of night operations dependent on Jap reaction during certain moon phases. Possibility of 1 way Jap raids is not discounted. While we may slow up operations thru IWO complete neutralization at range of over 600 nautical miles is not a probability. Weather this time of year presents formidable obstacle effective strikes against IWO JIMA and emphasizes need for maximum development radar and radio aides during this and future campaigns this general area. You will appreciate I am sure that defense of all bases is a responsibility of CINCPOA and that I can act only in an advisory capacity in this regard.

09 1431 JOINT STAFF PLANNERS, WASHINGTON (LINCOLN) to PLANNING STAFF CINCPOA Info PLANNING STAFF CINCSOWESPAC.

WARX-74788-~~TOP SECRET~~. Pursuant to the concept of JCS 924/8 which is being furnished CINCPOA and CINCSOWESPAC, to advise you of what is being worked on here, we are examining objectives on the CHINA COAST northeast SWATOW and objectives in the NANSEI SHOTO additional to OKINAWA with a view to selecting the most suitable objectives for the period between the RYUKYUS and KYUSHU Operations. We do not now see how we can do both and still adhere to the invasion time schedule of JCS 924/6. Our examination so far indicates the NINGPO-CHUSAN ARCHIPELAGO area as best so far as the CHINA COAST area is concerned with regard to the expansion of holdings in the RYUKYUS, which we feel is essential to provide direct support for the invasion. It would be helpful to know your plans including time schedule and resources required. Our studies should be available shortly, for whatever help they may be. Para. You have already been furnished outline plans for OKINAWA-AMAMI in JWPC 116/4 and for KYUSHU in JWPC 235/3 as revised by JWPC 235/4. Para. We are preparing outline plans for: Para Able. NINGPO-CHUSAN ARCHIPELAGO. We have just seen CINCPOA'S Plan for this. We will send ours when it is finished. Para BAKER. Additional objectives in the NANSEI SHOTO. We assume from the ICEBERG Plan that CINCPOA'S Staff is also working on

~~TOP SECRET~~

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09 1431 JOINT STAFF PLANNERS, WASHINGTON (LINCOLN) to PLANNING STAFF CINCPAC Info PLANNING STAFF CINCSOWESPAC. (Cont'd).

this. Para. CHARLIE. HONSHU. Para DOG. HOKKAIDO-KARAFUTO. Para FOX. HAINAN. See paragraph 30, JCS 924/8.

09 1309 COMINCH & CND to - Info CINCPAC, CINCSWPA, COM7THFLT:

~~TOP SECRET~~. Admiralty has authorized Admiral Fraser while enroute AUSTRALIA to comply as practicable with requests for destruction of SUMATRAN Oil Refineries and for operational strikes against the MALAY PENINSULA and SINGAPORE as desired by CINCPAC and CINCSWPA. Final attack on PALEMBANG to be carried out in early JANUARY. It is expected these operations will delay arrival in AUSTRALIA of main body of the British Pacific Fleet by 2 or 3 weeks. 1 Battleship, 2 Cruisers and a Flotilla of Destroyers should arrive prior to end of the year. Australian Government has been informed.

10 1436 MARSHALL to SULTAN, WEDEMEYER Info MACARTHUR, NIMITZ, RICHARDSON:

WARX 75106. (WDCMC SVC 11175) ~~TOP SECRET~~. Directive of President that no political decisions may be made with French Military Mission attached to southeast Asia Command is subject reference WARX 66178 November 21 From JCS. Secretary of State in a letter to the Secretary of War dated December 6 has just indicated that a message recently received from the U.S. Consulate in COLOMBO reported that in the early part of October Lord Louis Mountbatten is understood to have advised the Staff of the southeast Asia Command that the French Mission under General Blaixot had been recognized officially on the basis of a verbal agreement between the Prime Minister and the President. Upon this being communicated to the President the Secretary of State further indicates the President replied that the British should be advised that he and the Prime Minister did not recognize the French Military Mission at Southeast Asia Command officially. The State Department plans to advise the British Embassy of the Presidents reply verbally. The above is being sent to you for your information and it is also desired that General Sultan at the first opportunity give this information to General Wheeler privately.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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10 0345

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to EISENHOUR, MCNARNEY, MACARTHUR,
NIMITZ, KALLOCK (WSA), MONROE (WSA), SCHAGE (WSA),
MURPHY (WSA), LEE, RICHARDSON, STARK, KINKAID, NEWTON,
GILBREATH, GRONINGER, KELLS, KELLY, WRIGHT, LEARY,
INGERSOLL, BAGLEY, GREENSLADE.

~~THIS IS TOP SECRET.~~ Para 1. The President, in a memorandum to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 20 November, noted the congestion of shipping in the several theaters, and in view of the critical overall shortage of shipping, stated that "With due allowance for the delays inevitable in war time it nevertheless seems to me that the most urgent representation should be made by the Chiefs of Staff to the theater Commanders to improve this situation." Para 2. The Present critical shortage of ships is due primarily to the retention of large numbers of vessels in the 4 major theaters of war and to the inability of the theaters to discharge and release ships promptly. This immobilization is largely the result of overestimation of discharge capacity, partial rather than complete discharge of vessels once berthed, and the use of ocean ships as warehouses on a large scale. Para 3. While there is presently congestion in all theaters, it will be considerably alleviated through implementation of these policies. This relief will result in a demand for more shipping by the theaters who have relieved their congestion. Such additional shipping will be diverted from those theaters where congestion still exists. Para 4. Therefore, in order that there may be a uniform approach to the solution of this pressing problem, it is directed that the following policies be followed by all United States Commanders of Areas under Executive Directions of the United States Chiefs of Staff and shall be a guide to U.S. Commanders in other Areas: Para A. The use of Ocean-Going ships for storage purposes, whether loaded in the U.S. or in the Theater, is prohibited. Para B. In arriving at shipping requirements, a realistic appreciation of port and discharge capacity is imperative. Factors of safety applied to supply requirements which result in wasteful banks of idle ships awaiting call to an operational area will be reviewed and scaled downward to provide safety with economy. Theater shipping schedules for, and employment of, both locally loaded vessels and those arriving from the U.S. will conform to port and discharge capacities. Schedules will be altered promptly by responsible Commanders as experience modifies estimates of discharge capacities. Theater and Area calls for supplies will be adjusted to conform to revised shipping schedules. Para C. Selective discharge of ships, resulting in a partial unloading of a number of vessels, save on the early stages of amphibious operations, or urgent operations, will be discontinued. Para D. The misuse of large Ocean-Going

~~TOP SECRET~~

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10 0345 JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF to EISENHOUR, etc: (Cont'd)

vessels by diversion or delay to discharge or load small tonnages; by partial or selective unloading of cargo; or by the inefficient use of ocean tonnage for local small deliveries will be discontinued except in case of emergency which the theater Commander cannot meet by other means. Para E. The detailed ship position and employment reports to WASHINGTON shipping authorities as prescribed by the War and Navy Departments will be submitted expeditiously by responsible Commanders. Para F. It is considered that the most effective way to implement the above policies is through the designation by the theater or area commander of a single theater agency for the control of shipping. Para 5. The War Department is charged with supervising the utilization of U.S. Shipping by Commanding General, European Theater of Operations; Commanding General, Mediterranean Theater of Operations; and Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, and the Navy Department (CNO) is charged with supervising the utilization of U.S. Shipping by Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas in accordance with the above policies. Allocations of shipping shall be made with due regard to capacity of ports in the terminal area, to the end that vessels in excess of the number that can be unloaded (with allowance for reasonable detentions) shall not be despatched.

09 0557Z CINCSWPA to CINCPAC, IDEB COMD 20TH AIR FORCE Info
COMDR ANF, WASATCH, CTF 73, COMDR ARMY AIR FORCES
(FWD ECH)

CX 54575 Refer Cincpas 010309 GCT and our CX 54260 to KHXL 020859 GCT X SWPA long range search planes will provide coverage of the FORMOSA area by S minus 15 as indicated in FIVESOME.

10 2325 CINCPAC to COMSERVRON 10, COMSERVPAC Info CTF 94, 96,
COM3RDFLT, COM5THFLT:

Responsibilities Commander Service Squadron 10 are redefined as follows. Previous directives were conflicting are superseded:

- (1) Render Fleet units all services required of a mobile advanced base at a Fleet anchorage. These include Logistic Support, Battle damage and emergency repairs, and upkeep.
- (2) Until local shore based facilities are adequate for the purpose, supply similar services to vessels operating under area commanders.
- (3) In cases of emergency, render support to advanced bases. Para. Responsibilities under (2) and (3) shall continue during such periods as ComSeron 10 may be assigned by CinCPac-CinCPOA directives to operational control of Task Fleet Commanders. 2449

~~TOP SECRET~~

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12 0815 COM7THFLT to THIRD FLEET; 7TH FLT; Info CINCPOA:

Estimate Japanese Fleet currently located as follows. EMPIRE FORMOSA Area 4 BB, 3 CV, 1 CVL, 1 CVE, 4/5 CA, 3 CL about 18 DD. In PHILIPPINES BRUNEI BAY 2 CL and 10 DD. SINGAPORE NEI south INDO CHINA Area 2 BB-XCV, 1 CVE, 3 CA, 2 CL, 8 DD. Believe maximum major Orange surface units operational to be 2 BB, 2BB-XCV, 2 CV, 1 CVL, 2 CVE, 4 CA, 3 CL. Anticipate Japanese may use operational Fleet Units in transportation runs to strengthen PHILIPPINES positions and possibly in hit run attacks coordinated with air strikes in opposition to current Blue operations. Ground estimate follows: MINDORO 1000 with largest concentration in S WIGLIAC VOASOAW area (Probably 200-300). NE MINDORO concentrations consist of widely dispersed groups with greatest concentrations in vicinity of CALAPAN and SUBAANG BAY areas in immediate vicinity remain basically unchanged from figures in OpPlan except for increase BATANGAS area to 29,000. Nil additional information available in respect to ground installations MINDORO. Nil further regard to mine DAUA AA maximum of 40 PT and 15 HDYABUSA anti PT Boats estimated in PHILIPPINES at present. Submarines located approximately 40 in home waters. 12 in MALAY E NEI theater plus PHILIPPINES estimate a minimum of 10 standard type Orange submarines plus up to 100 midgets. 4 large and about 10 midgets believed at present in VISAYAS area with rest divided between DAVAO GULF and MANILA. Estimated enemy air strength 12 December. LUZON 146 fighters 192 bombers 60 others. VISAYAS 118 fighters 44 bombers 24 others. MINDANAO 34 fighters 48 bombers 18 others. Believe heavy raids by both suicide planes and other bombers will be directed against Blue shipping particularly transports and carriers. Attacks will continue as long as ships do not have continuous heavy fighter cover. Japs have large plane reserves in FORMOSA to replace losses incurred in the PHILIPPINES. Raids possible all the way from LEYTE to beachhead and return as enemy has numerous fields for staging. Dawn and dusk raids may supersede heavy daylight one if losses for Nips become too high.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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13 0650 CINCPAC to COM3RDFLT Info KING:

~~TOP SECRET~~. NIMITZ TO HALSEY, INFO KING. My estimate of the present situation is based on very incomplete information as to the extent to which shore based air forces are now effectively established in LEYTE. However it does not appear that they are yet in sufficient strength or have inflicted sufficient damage on the enemy air force to achieve the degree of air supremacy requisite to ensure safe passage of the Expeditionary Force from LEYTE to MINDORO. See my 292349. Since 1 November enemy aircraft have inflicted the following damage on combatant ships supporting the PHILIPPINES Campaign sunk 3 destroyers, 1 destroyer-transport and 2 motor torpedo boats damaged 2 battleships, 5 large carriers 3 light carriers, 3 light cruisers, 14 destroyers, 1 destroyer transport and 1 motor torpedo boat. Para. The enemy appears still to be capable of inflicting attacks which may be destructive in the case of the escort carriers assault shipping and embarked troops except as your own attacks may succeed in destroying his air forces now in LUZON and his replacements as they may be brought forward. Para. It seems probable that the carrier force may be called on for another protracted period of operations and it will be advisable to operate on that premise. Also I may find it necessary to modify your current directives as the situation develops. Para. In order that I may be fully advised of your situation and prepared to meet my responsibilities at all times during the MINDORO operation submit to me at least daily a report of your operations and keep me advised of the position of your major units except when radio silence prevents.

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13 2305 COM THIRD FLEET to CINCPAC info COMINCH.

~~Top Secret~~ for Nimitz info King. My estimate entirely in agreement with your 130650 effective BLUE air strength in MINDORO should prove vital factor in campaign but putting it there may be tough and costly. Part Task Force 38 reached launching point east of LUZON dawn 14th undetected primary strike objective enemy air. Plan contemplates new technique continuous day and night CAP over enemy fields. Will keep you fully informed. Halsey

13 1253 COMINCH & CNO to CINCPAC info CINCSPACOM 7TH FLEET.

~~Top Secret.~~ Personal King to Nimitz. Say to Admiral Fraser that after he has reported to me in accordance with my agreement with the First Sea Lord pursuant to OCTAGON decisions I will direct him to report with British Pacific Fleet to you for duty and that subsequent allocations of his forces including any that may be assigned to Kinkaid to support MacArthur's operations will result from directives issued by me and implemented by you in the same manner as United States Fleet matters are handled.

13 1654 COMINCH AND CNO to CINCPAC

PERSONAL FOR NIMITZ FROM KING. Following for your information in connection discussions with Admiral Fraser. At OCTAGON we received the assurance of the British Chiefs of Staff that the British Fleet in the Pacific would be "balanced and self supporting". At OCTAGON and in subsequent discussion I have pressed the British as to the necessity of their providing the supporting elements required for their combatant forces both shore based and afloat. Para. The suggestion has now been made by the British that we "pool resources" in the Pacific. I do not agree with the use of this term in describing the manner in which the British and U. S. forces will be supported. I desire it to be understood that the British Fleet shall be supported by British resources and that they should put into the Pacific such supporting elements as are required for the combatant forces sent into the theater. This does not imply that U. S. supporting elements cannot be used for the British nor that British supporting elements cannot be used for U. S. This will be done wholly at the discretion of the Area Commander. Para. The point I wish clearly made is that the term "balanced and self supporting" shall be realistic and not repeat mere words. A good example lies in the preparations for the OVERLORD operation in which we provided the complete support afloat and ashore for U. S. forces including repair, supply, manning, and equipping of bases etc. The British likewise made provisions for their forces. These provisions having been made, allocation of facilities from 1 service to the other, as from time to time became necessary and feasible, followed.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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15 0215 THIS IS TOP SECRET: COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info COMAF
5 - FAR EASTERN AIRFORCE LEYTE; COM7TH FLEET; CINCSO-
WESPAC; CTF 77 - ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS SOWESPAC - CTF 38:

No Bogies last night. Bat Hecklers worked on all enemy fields and some shipping till night. Analysis will not be completed until after withdrawing on 16th but about 200 planes destroyed yesterday on ground. Continuous CAP over enemy fields worked perfectly yesterday and being repeated today. Shipping worked over in spare time with good results to be reported separately. Expect repeat tomorrow unless MacArthur signified our assistance not needed.

13 2226 ARNOLD to MACARTHUR; HARMON Info LEMAY, CINCPAC:

~~TOP SECRET~~. WARX 76699. Unfavorable weather forecast over southern Japan until 19 December precludes performance by 20th Bomber Command of operations schedules in support of L-3. At earliest date weather permits scheduled operations will be performed. Recon sorties requested will be performed on schedule.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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15 0514 WEDEMEYER to MACARTHUR; NIMITZ Info CHENNAULT:

~~TOP SECRET~~. Begun on 13 December was Fourteenth Air Force sea reconnaissances asked for by URAD CX 53259 December 2. See Chennaults CAXX 2286 December 12 for details area covered. Request verification of designation of S Day so that we may be sure of initiation of support to be given as outlined in "Fivesome" Agreement. Sea reconnaissances now under way will be changed to area shown in inclosure B of Fivesome Agreement and will start on S - 15. Strike Mission Planned in support of Fivesome area. A. 1 Night mission HONGKONG area against air fields. B. In HONGKONG-CANTON area 2 daylight strikes with fighter support against airfields. C. 2 daylight strikes. 1 Each against TAIKOO Dry Dock installation and the Royal Navy Yard using fighter support. D. If photo recon indicates profitable target. 1 Daylight strike against airfields in HONGKONG vicinity otherwise against Royal Navy Yard or TAIKOO Docks A repeat mission. E. Against shipping nightly LAB strikes along south China Coast. F. In HONGKONG Harbor 3 mining missions we will do. G. 30 B-25 sorties along China Coast against shipping in FORMOSA STRAITS north to WENCHOW. H. Minor supporting missions of photographs and strafing by supporting aircraft are other activities included. Para. It is presumed in accordance with 2 F (2) Paragraph of Fivesome Agreement strikes aimed at shipping in FORMOSA STRAITS and attack on Naval installations in HONGKONG area will be phased as coordinated between CINCPAC and China Theater Commander. Against airfields installations our strikes will have to be timed more or less to support our attacks on Naval installations. Para. This part for Nimitz. At this time Query can any datum relative to S Day be designated for our HONGKONG strikes or will our own phasing be satisfactory end Query. In either event weather in a large measure will control.

15 0009 MARSHALL to MACARTHUR Info NIMITZ:

HANDLE AS NIMITZ ONLY . THIS IS TOP SECRET.

The broad outline of initial reporting and Command setup is contained in CNO Radio DTG 131253 December 1944, Info copy having been furnished you and Commander Seventh Fleet (Reference your radio C54700 dated 11 December 1944). Amplifying instructions and further details will be transmitted shortly. Operational schedule and dates of arrival in your area will be communicated to you when determined. Such coordination as is necessary for operations enroute by British Fleet units will be effected with you. British Fleet Units that may be allocated to the Command of Admiral Kinkaid will be under your command and direction in the same manner as United States Fleet units are now handled.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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13 0520 BOMCOM 21; COMGENAAFP OA to DEPCOM AF 20 Info COMAF 20;
CINCPOA; COMGENPOA: (Continued)

90.13 - 1545	FURIOUS	- Takasaki Area, Nakajima Aircraft Co., Koizumu Plant.
90.20 - 194	HESITATION	- Nagoya Area, Mitsubishi Aircraft Works.
90.20 - 1729	KIDNEYBEAN	- Nagoya Area, Aichi Aircraft Works, Eitoku Plant.
90.17 - 1682	LADYBIRD	- Tokyo Area, Tama Plant, location unknown - See 130230 Dec.Top-Sec.

B. SECONDARY AND LAST RESORT TARGETS:

TOKYO	MEETINGHOUSE
NAGOYA	MICROSCOPE
OSAKA	PEACHBLOW
KAWASAKI	RAILING
YOKOHAMA	REEDBIRD
KOBE	SAPSUCKER
KURE	HICKEY
HIROSHIMA	ILLOGICAL
YOKOSUKA	KEYWAY
NIIGAOUH	LAMBSKIN
MOBEOKA	RAFFLING

Note: The letters "P" and "U" will be used as suffixes to codewords on secondary and last resort targets to designate "Port" and/or "Urban" area.

3. The code words set forth in this message will henceforth be used instead of those set forth in our Telecon FN-09-23.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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14 0220 COMGEN 20; DEPCOMAF 20 to COMGENBOMCOM 21 Info
CINCPOA; COMGENPOA:

~~TOP SECRET~~. Following are the code words of the 20th
Bomber Command Operations:

<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>CODES</u>
BANGKOK	CAPACIOUS
MANKOW	ALBUMOSE
HONGKONG	CHIMMEY SWEEP
SINGAPORE	FILICAN
SAIGON	PURIFICATOR
SINGAPORE(Mining)	REPEATEDLY
OMURA	BUNCHBERRY
TACHIARI	OPENHOUSE
KEELUNG	OUTRANGE
NAGASAKI	PROPULSION
TAKAO	SEVERITY
ANSHAN	RITUALIST
YAWATA	ADMEASURE
MOULMEIN	SUCROSE
NANKING-PUKOW	ANGELIC

13 0520 BOMCOM 21; COMGENAAFPOA to DEPCOM AF 20 Info COMAF 20;
CINCPOA; COMGENPOA:

~~TOP SECRET~~. Subject assignment of Mission Code Words
References: (A) Telecon Mesg Fn-09-23 (Top Secret)
(B) Telcon Mesg S-11-6 (Secret)

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in Telecon
Reference (B) above, Mission Code Words have been
assigned as follows:

A. PRIMARY TARGETS:

90.17 - 357	ENKINDLE	- Tokyo Area, Nakajima Aircraft, Musashino Plant.
90.20- 193	ERADICATE	- Nagoya Area, Mitsub- ishi Aircraft engine works.
90.25 -1547	FOREDOOM	- Osaka Area, Kawasaki Aircraft Company.
90.13 -1544	FRACTION	- Takasaki, Nakajima Aircraft Co. New Ota plant.
90.20 - 240	FRUITCAKE	- Nagoya Area, Kawasaki Aircraft works, Kagamigahara Plant.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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14 0923

CINCPOA to COMFWDAREA Info COMGENPOA; CTG 94.14;
ISCOM PELELIU; COMGEN 24TH CORPS; COMSOPAC; CINCSWPA;
COMGEN 81ST INF DIV:

For the purpose of clarifying future discussions the relief of the 81st InfDiv from PALAU will be considered in 3 phases: Phase 1. Transfer of 322nd RCT to NEW CALEDONIA. Now being accomplished. Para. Phase 2. Transfer of remainder 8st InfDiv less 321st Inf Regt (Reinf). Accomplish phase 2 as directed my dis 221003 and 280403 except that 1138th Engr Combat Group, including 52nd, 154th and 155th Engr Bns will be transferred with 8st Div and shipped NEW CALEDONIA instead of LEYTE (This answers ComGenPOA Dis 080153 not to all or needed). Para. Phase 3. Relief of 321st Inf Regt (Reinf). In this connection ComGenPOA dis 110627 not to all or needed proposes to utilize 111th Inf Regt reinforced with 1 Tank Destroyer Bn, 1 Amphibious Tractor Bn. This will provide 1 AmTrac Bn in lieu of 1 AmTrac Co and 1 AmTank Co proposed by you and also contemplates Engineer Co and Medical Co be withdrawn. AmTank Medical and Engineer Cos urgently required for subsequent operation. Your comment on this proposed garrison Force requested.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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15 2315 MARSHALL, COMGENPOA to RICHARDSON Info CINCPAA:

THIS IS ~~TOP SECRET~~ WAR-77866-15th. Paragraph 1... Based on assumed German defeat and subsequent redeployment effective as of 31 March 45, and further based on operations approved for planning purposes is JCS 924/8, copy of which was forwarded to you by courier #4490, Under cover of Memo, Subject: "Operations for the defeat of Japan", dated 1 December 44, the following major units, with corresponding strengths for air, ground, and service, are being considered for POA: As of 31 March 45, 21 Air Groups and 6 Divisions: As of 30 June 45, 1 Armored Division, 8 other divisions, and 41 Air Groups; as of 30 September 45, 1 Armored Division, 21 other divisions and 62 Air Groups; As of 31 December 45, 5 Armored Divisions, 27 other divisions and 80 Air Groups; As of 31 March 46 and 30 June 46, Same divisions and 98 Air Groups/ As of 30 SEPTEMBER 46, Same divisions and 109 Air Groups. Paragraph 2.. Corresponding ceiling strengths as of 30 September 46 are 593300 for Army Air Force Type Units, 921900 for Army Ground Force Type Units and 475600 For Army Service Force Type Units. Paragraph 3.. Desire that you prepare troop basis listing type units desired to meet the 30 September 46, ceiling strengths. Your reply should be placed in similar format to the troop basis schedule worksheets which you filled in and forwarded to operations division in letter, your file AG320.2/91, Subject: "Ground and Service Troop schedule in consonance with JCS 521/6, assumption "B". Desire that you furnish, on worksheets prepared in your Hdqts, an initial troop basis listing the type unit, T/O number, unit aggregate strength, number of units, and total strength for each type unit. Desire that initial report be dispatched to OPD from your headquarters later than 23 December 44. Paragraph 4... Desire that a subsequent report be prepared programming your unit and strength increases by months from 31 March 44 to 30 September 46. Subsequent report should also be keyed as of 30 September 46 to ceiling strengths indicated in paragraph 2 above and should be dispatched to Operations Division from your headquarters not later than 30 December 44. Program schedule desired will be of great importance in planning for unit withdrawal from Mediterranean and European Theaters after defeat of Germany and shipment to your area.

17 0135 COMGENAAFPAA to CINCPAA Info COMGENPOA, COMFWDAREACENTPAC, ISCOMS GUAM, TINIAN and SAIPAN.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Original plan for Operation 4 VLR Groups from each occupied island in the MARIANAS will be adhered to unless hostile air operations necessitate the temporary dispersion of a portion of the 73rd

~~TOP SECRET~~

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17 0135

COMGENAAFPOA to CINCPAC Info COMGENFOA, COMFWDAREACENTPAC
ISCOMS GUAM, TINIAN and SAIPAN. (Continued)

Bombardment Wing. Present indications are that additional VLR Groups will be committed to the Pacific Ocean Areas, and it is strongly recommended that no Change be made in present plans to provide facilities for a minimum of 4 VLR Groups on TINIAN and 4 VLR Groups on GUAM. Strips number 5 and 6 on TINIAN will permit the staging of GUAM based groups as required, and allow temporary dispersion when necessitated by enemy action. These strips will also provide bases for augmentation when approved.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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13 0510 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info COMAIRPAC, CTF 38:

~~TOP SECRET.~~ The very remarkable success of 14-16 December operations in completely smothering all enemy air in LUZON and at same time inflicting good damage on shipping indicates desirability of earliest possible establishment of 2-type CV complement (A) Fighters (B) planes capable of carrying torpedoes or bombs.- For operations in prospect. Recognizing inability obtain any substantial increase in fighters prior to departure for next operation recommend CV and CVL fighter pilot complements be bolstered up by making every possible qualified fighter pilot (up to 150%) available to CTF 38 prior to 30 December SC that greater number of sorties per fighter may be flown during protracted operations in support of M-1.

16 2045 CNO (DNI) to COMINCH Info CINCPAC, COMNORPAC.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Following is extracted from AMCON VLAD 122320 to ALUSNA MOSCOW giving report of conference with Vice Adm Frolov Chief of Staff Red Navy Pac Fleet. QUOTE Soviet fighter planes and antiaircraft batteries are now ready to repel surprise Jap air attack. Adm concerned lest some outlying crew may mistake US plane for Jap. Pending further official info on fields and approach instructions he suggested all planes which must land on soviet soil should approach any known field directly at less than 1000 meters or well below cloud ceiling over Soviet Territory. Planes should follow escort fighters which may come aloft to guide and prevent mistakes by Soviet Gunners. Plane should circle field in wide circles about 4 times before landing.

17 1101 CINCSWPA MACARTHUR to COM3RDFLT Info COMALLIED NAVAL FORCES; COMALLIED AIR FORCES; CINCPAC; COMFEAF (LEYTE).

~~THIS IS TOP SECRET.~~ Reference my CX 54370 time group 041230 and my CX 54908 time group 151516, request 3rd Fleet strike LUZON Airfields and shipping on U(4), U(5), and U(6) to cover reenforcement echelon scheduled to arrive UBIQUE early morning U(7). Further request 3rd Fleet be prepared to strike Japanese Naval Forces, see CTF 77's 170108, within range, if subsequent reconnaissance indicates practicability.

17 2318 COM3RDFLT to CINCSWPA Info CINCPAC, COMFEAF, COMAF5, CTF 77, CTF 38.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Have been unable to dodge storm which so far has prevented refueling. Your CX 55010 (171101). Unable to strike U 4. Will advise later as to

~~TOP SECRET~~

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17 2318 COM3RDFLT to CINCSWPA Info CINCPAC, COMFEAF, COMAF 5, CTF 77, CTF 38. (Continued)

capabilities for U / 5. As final count for 3 days ending 16th was 270 planes destroyed 192 definitely damaged and many others strafed enemy air effort should be badly crippled. Force will have to head for base evening of U / 6 in order prepare for M-1.

17 2333 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info CTF 38.

~~TOP SECRET~~. See my 172318 to MacArthur. Baffling storm pursues us. Estimated noon 1 (-9) position 18th latitude 14-13 N, longitude 127-40 E. Not yet refuelled. Proceeding south looking for better weather.

17 2352 CINCPOA to COMINCH:

~~THIS IS TOP SECRET~~. Para, 1. My views concerning wuestions raised in WARX-74788 (091431) are briefly as follows. I consider that the invasion time schedule of JCS 924/8 is now impracticable unless an immediate collapse of Germany is followed by a relaxation of the Japanese will to resist which is most unlikely. Para.2. My plans for expansion of holdings in the RYUKYUS which are now being developed are necessarily dependent on the timing and rapidity of transfer of troops from the European Theater. Phase 2 of ICEBERG involves completion of control of OKINAWA and occupation of IE SHIMA. Phase 3 involves occupation of MIYAKO JIMA, KUME, KIKAI and also for Loran purposes a site in OKINO DAITO JIMA. Para 3. My serial 000153 of 21 Nov submitted outline of LONGTOM Plan and my concept of operations after ICEBERG to create conditions prerequisite for invasion of JAPAN. Para.4. My serial 000162 of 10 Dec submitted revised plan (KEELBLOCKS 2) for North Pacific Operations. Para 5. Do not favor operations against HAINAN or HOKKAIDO.

18 1220 CINCSWPA MACARTHUR to COMAAF Info COM3RDFLT: COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, (WASATCH), COMGEN 5TH AIR FORCE; CTF 77.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Reference Commander 3rd Fleet's 172318Z. 3rd Fleet unable to attack LUZON targets U /4. LUZON area open to Allied Air Forces for bombing on that day.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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19 0100 COM3RDFLT to CINCSWPA Info CINCPAC, CTF 77, COMFEAF, COMAF 5.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Intend strike LUZON predawn U Plus 6 Which is earliest possible.

19 0111 COM3RDFLT to CINCSOWESPAC Info COMFEAF, COMAF 5, COM-TASFOR 38, CINCPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Advise earliest EYKN and if MINDORO Fields can be used for staging 3rd Fleet Carrier Planes in event enemy surface forces approach PHILIPPINES. Such staging would greatly extend range of our VT.

19 0222 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info CINCSOWESPAC, CTF 77, CTG 30.9, CTF 38.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Typhoon Center passed 30 miles north of Fleet Guide midday 18th. Tracked by SM Radar. Gusts to 93 knots Fleet took beating. TABBERER (DE 418) reports HULL (DD350) capsized with little warning at 1030 I (-9) only 10 enlisted survivors at time of report. Several other stragglers still unreported. MATACO towing disabled JICARILLA to ULITHI. MONTEREY, COMPENS, SAN JACINTO being sent in to ULITHI for survey of damage and repairs. Estimate now MONTEREY will be sent PEARL result of serious hanger deck fire which broke out during heavy rolling. DYSON, LAWS, BENHAM, HICKOX, AYLWIN, TABBERER with assorted derangements will escort cripples. Para. Fueling now proceeding in clear weather latitude 12 longitude 129. Strike intentions and movements of cripples in separate despatches.

19 0605 COM 3RD FLT to CINCPAC Info COMAIRPAC, COMTASKFORCE 38

~~TOP SECRET~~ Planned operations in support of M1 will require Task Force 38 sortie ULITHI afternoon December 30. Anticipate night operations will play an important role in this operations both in offense and in an offensive defense of own forces. Refer ComAirPac 170124. Urgently request that departure ENTERPRISE and BATAAN be expedited to permit joining at ULITHI by 30 December or at sea on the ULITHI FORMOSA line by dawn 2 January both east longitude dates.

19 0933 COM3RDFLT to CINCPAC Info CTF 38

This is ~~TOP SECRET~~. See my 190930 to MacArthur for proposed strike plan to cover M1. Referring to Joint Staff Study INDUCTION now consider entry into CHINA SEA will depend on development of a favorable reasonable and profitable situation. Contemplate photo strike on OKINAWA during M1 only if general situation warrants it,

~~TOP SECRET~~

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19 0933 (continued)
otherwise do it after release from M1 and before returning to base. New subject Please advise 20th and 14th Air Forces of 3rd Fleet strikes as appropriate.

19 1006 CINCPAC to COM 7TH FLEET Info COMINCH COMSUBPAC
CINC3WPA CINCPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your comment is requested as to the feasibility of basing in the Southwest Pacific the 10 British submarines with depot ship ADAMANT now at CEYLON. This flotilla could be available in January for allocation to your operational control. The submarines consist of 6 T Class 3 S Class and 1 minelayer.

19 0930 COM 3RD FLT to CINCSOWESPAC Info ADV ECH CHQ SWPA,
CINCPOA, COM ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COM ALLIED AIR FORCES,
CTF 38, CTF 77, COM 7TH FLEET, COM FEAF.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Will comply general procedure but exact adherence schedule requested in your CX-54435 (060159Z) not practicable owing refueling requirements. In order best interdict enemy air effort at most critical M-1, propose encore FORMOSA S-6, S-5, refuel S-4, strike LUZON S-3, strike LUZON or FORMOSA S-2, Refuel S-1, strike FORMOSA S day. Para. Strikes after S Day to be as necessary to prevent enemy air interference with M-1 from NANSEI SHOTO-FORMOSA-NORTHERN LUZON-CHINA coast area subject to tactical limitations of fuel endurance, our strength, and physical endurance of pilots. After S Day Com 3rd Fleet will initiate operations that appear necessary to prevent enemy interference and will assume that CINCSWPA will make recommendations and requests in the premise as the situation develops. Compliance by Com 3rd Fleet with requests for use of fast carrier planes in direct support of landings or as CAP for ships at objective will undoubtedly be impracticable. Para. 3rd Fleet will strike by air or otherwise engage any threatening enemy surface force within reach. Para. As necessary self protection measure desire freedom to attack any LUZON CIDODS on LUZON strike days making earliest notification but without waiting for prior coordinating arrangements and will assume your approval unless otherwise advised. Para. Will request CINCPOA advise 20th and 14th Air Forces of proposed 3rd Fleet strike schedule if you concur. Please advise earliest if forgoing plan satisfactory

19 1245 CTF 94 to CINCPOA Info CTF 93, COMGENAAFPAC, COM 3RD FLT,
COMCRUDIV 5.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Am planning bombardment of IWO JIMA by CruDiv 5 on December 24 and 27 coordinated with augmented bombing of IWO and CHICHI by Strategic Air Force. Cruisers to use $\frac{1}{2}$ allowance each mission.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

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19 2036 COMINCH CNO to CINCPOA.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 172316 is reference. As indicated in my 101303 of June on 6 March 1944 the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved the recommendations contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of JCS 741. This paper approved the interchange of information on the planning level between the Joint Staff Planners in Washington and the Joint Planning Staff of Area and Theater Commanders. It also provided that the contents be the reports. Studies. Plans and messages exchanged between planning staffs under this authority should not be considered as having approved status nor as binding on any command or agency. It further specified that the messages be properly identified in order to be distinguishable as planning messages. Experience has indicated the necessity and the workability of this arrangement. It is recognized that the Joint Staff Planners in Washington being responsible to the Joint Chiefs of Staff are in a somewhat different status than the Joint Planning Staff of an area or theater commander who are responsible only to such commander. It is essential to their work in long range planning that they have the benefit of the views of the theater and area planners. These contacts with SWPA and CINCPOA are particularly necessary to facilitate the joint exploration of availability of and planning for resources as a basis for recommendations to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is not intended that the planning staff of an area or theater commander should be in any way responsible to the planning staff of a higher echelon of command the sole purpose of the arrangement being to further the interchange of thought and of information which is necessary for advance planning. This in effect is a substitute for staff conferences which are not practicable because of the distances separating the various headquarters. Your personal approval or clearance of planning messages from your area is a matter for your discretion however it is necessary that such messages be identified as messages pertaining to this system of exchange of information and should contain the expression "this is a planners message for the Joint Staff Planners in Washington".

19 2240 ARNOLD to LEMAY HANSELL Info HARMON MACARTHUR NIMITZ WEDEMEYER.

~~TOP SECRET~~. WARX 79536. Operations following will be conducted by 20th Air Force in support of M-1. This is confirmation and represents no change in agreed operations except for dates which have been adjusted to present S-Day a 20th Bomber Command will conduct 10 reconnaissance sorties of major airfields on KYUSHU and western sea approaches to KYUSHU from December 25th to January

~~TOP SECRET~~

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19 2240 (continued)

4th B 20th Bomber Command will maintain 5 reconnaissance sorties on call December 25th to January 4th. Sorties will be directed from Headquarters 20th Air Force C 20th Bomber Command will continue attacks on major air installations on KYUSHU to the limit of logistical capabilities D 20th Bomber Command will attack TACHIARAI Air Depot January 6th E 20th Bomber Command will attack KEELUNG HARBOR January 8th F 21st Bomber Command will continue daily photo reconnaissance of major AKINAWA airfields December 25th to December 29th inclusive and on December 31st and will maintain sustained attack on major aircraft engine plants on HONSHU. Para. The following operations will be conducted by 20th Air Force in support of DETACHMENT A 20th Bomber Command will sustain the attack on major air installations on KYUSHU to the limit of logistical capabilities B 21st Bomber Command will intensify attack on major aircraft engine factories on HONSHU. Para 20th and 21st Bomber Commands will be prepared to conduct additional reconnaissance which this headquarters may direct.

20 0257Z COMGENAAFFPOA to CTF 93 Info CINCPAC CTF 94 COM 3RD FLEET CRUDIV 5 BOMCOM 21.

AAFFPOA 10616 ~~TOP SECRET~~ In coordination with CruDiv 5 bombardment as outlined CTF 94 message 191245 GCT execute maximum effort B 24 strikes against IWO JIMA and CHICHI JIMA on 24 and 27 Dec. P 38 sweep may be included at your discretion but only if both route and target weather good. Coordinate with CTF 94 and conform to his desires with respect to timing. ComBom 21 participation if any not yet determined.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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19 2205 COMINCH AND CNO to CINCPOA.

~~MAKE THIS TOP SECRET.~~ First paragraph of your 190752 concurred in. As to second paragraph if the provision that British shall furnish at MANUS adequate facilities to support their own fleet and aircraft is included in the agreement I concur that you tell Admiral Fraser that when they are ready to move up from AUSTRALIA you will arrange for him to use MANUS as an anchorage and for his carrier replacement groups on a "not to interfere basis". This is therefore contingent upon the prospective provision of most if not all required fleet facilities in LEYTE. I suggest that agreement be in writing as a matter of record for possible future reference.

19 0752 CINCPOA to COMINCH.

NIMITZ TO KING ONLY. TOP SECRET. In my conference of yesterday and today with Admiral Fraser it develops that the Admiralty has made no provision for shore establishments other than Mobile Naval Air Base (MONAB). He proposes to use a headquarters ship possibly LOTHIAN. Such an arrangement would have many advantages and would relieve the predicament in which he is placed by my informing him that we would not provide him with a shore establishment including communications housing boats and motor cars. New Subject. He is pressing for the use of MANUS as an anchorage and as a location for his carrier replacement aircraft and personnel. Stating that ESPIRITU SANTO is much too far from the combat area. I concur to the extent that if his fleet is to enter the Pacific it will be of most use if it augments the carrier forces available to me and has its train and replacements reasonably accessible to the area of operations north of the line MARIANAS-PALAU-LEYTE. For this reason request concurrence in telling him that I will arrange for his use of MANUS as an anchorage and for his carrier replacement groups in the same manner as for mine and on a "not to interfere" basis. Para. It seems clear that the earliest appearance of 4 carriers 2 battleships and screen will be in mid March by which time my needs at MANUS will be decreased by the availability of LEYTE GULF and presumably Kincaids needs will be similarly decreased. Request early reply.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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20 0049 CINCPOA to COM5THFLT CINC BPF Info COMINCH.

TOP SECRET. In view possibility of employment of a British Carrier Task Force in ICEBERG request exploratory discussions be conducted prior to departure CINC BPF from PEARL.

21 0430 CTF 93 to CTU 93.1.1; CO 38th Fighter Gr; CTG 92.2; CTG 93.3 (CO VD-5 GUAM); Info CTF 94; CTG 94.9; CTG 17.7; CTU 94.4.1; CTU 94.4.2; CTU 30.5.3; 21st BOMCOM; CINCPOA; COMGENAAFPOA;

This is my OpOrder 3-44. 2 Coordinated surface and air attacks ar to be made on IWO JIMA. 1st Attack on 24 December called ROCKCRUSHER 1. 2nd Attack on 27 December called ROCKCRUSHER 2 similar to 1st unless otherwise advised. TG 94.9 with 3 cruisers and 6 destroyers shells 1300 to 1350. 21 BomCom may attack after 1415 if sufficient aircraft become available. TF 93 attacks in coordination with other forces. CTU 93.1.1 with maximum number P-38 aircraft attack IWO JIMA at 1015 destroying enemy aircraft in air and on ground making main effort against airfield number 2. Make arrangements with 21st BomCom who will furnish 3 navigational escorts. CTG 93.2 with minimum of 4 heavy bomber squadrons attack and destroy airfields and air installations IWO JIMA from 1100 to 1300. With 2 squadrons attack and destroy airfield and air installations at CHICHI JIMA at 1145. Provide spotting aircraft for CTG 94.9 as required. CTG 93.3 take vertical photos IWO at 10000 feet or above for damage assesment after 1500 both days. If clouds prevent photos at 10000 feet photo coverage may be omitted. Escorts will not be available. All units this force effect necessary coordination with other units direct. Submit Dumbo requirements to CTF 93. CTG 94.9 available rescue service along their tracks and will listen on CTG 93.2 strike frequency plus standard air sea rescue frequencies. My Op 2-44 remains in effect except that on 22,23,25, 26, 28 and 29 December strike required by paragraph 1 B 3 may be made with 1 squadron only. Communications accordance CentCom 2 and Pac 70 A. All times this order K (-11). CTF 93 at SAIPAN.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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21 0248 CINCPAC to COMINCH and CNO.

This is ~~TOP SECRET~~. My understanding with CINCPAC relative to fuel is that he will take up with the British Admiralty the question of the source of fuel for the British Pacific Fleet and the method of its delivery to the British Fleet Tankers at advanced anchorages. In this connection attention is invited to CNO serial 0210312 of 12 June 1944 with which CINCPAC is apparently not familiar. Recommend early action to terminate agreements which by paragraph 6 continue to be effective.

21 1748 COMNAVGROUP CHINA to CINCPAC Info COMSUBPAC:

~~TOP SECRET~~. 20th BomCom has notified ComNavGroup China as follows: Search operations begin 25 December until 4 January with 2 sorties per day. Sector A Western Sea approaches and Major Airfields within latitudes 33-55 North. Sector B 33-05 North and 32-15 North. Sector C 32-15 North and 31-10. Sector C will be covered daily others every other day alternating. If weather prevents photography on return route plane will let down when 50 miles off Empire Mainland to permit visual search. Planes will broadcast sightings in effective CSP 1270 using 8280 KCS and call sign C00. Distress will be in the clear. BomCom requests CINCPAC send all pertinent data on enemy war and merchant shipping dispositions in KYUSHU area together with possible friendly forces nearby and any other useful information. Flight reference point for entire operation DANJO GUNTO 32 North 128-20 east. Code word LEGLESS LADY. Will submarines in area maintain intercept watch.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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22 0406 CTF 77 to CINCPAC info CINCSWPA, COMINCH, CINC BRITISH PACIFIC FLEET, COMSUBPAC, COMSUBSOWESPAC, COM7THFLT.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Dutch British and U.S. submarines now at XAEOVONTRE utilize full facilities of that port. Additional submarines cannot be based there. Darwin is only reasonably satisfactory and is not recommended as base for British submarines and tender your 191006. Brisbane is too far removed from submarine operating areas. Recommend transfer of ADAMANT and accompanying submarines be deferred until additional submarine base facilities available in western Philippines.

21 0833 CINCSWPA to COM3RDFLT info COMDR ALLIED NAVAL FORCES, COMDR ALLIED AIR FORCES, CTF 38, COMDR 7TH FLT, CINCPOA, COMDR 3RD FLT. evident

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Plan your 190930 GCT for 3rd Fleet cover and support of M 1 concurred in. 3rd Fleet is free to strike across the dividing line when worthwhile. Targets are divided merely by notification and without waiting for coordination. This rule is general and applies equally to the allied air forces. Maximum warning will be given by each air force to the other whenever practicable.

21 2105 CINCPOA to DEPCOM 20TH AIR FORCE info COM3RDFLT, CINCSWPA

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Subject is photo reconnaissance OKINAWA by 21st Bomber Command. Request daily photo reconnaissance S minus 10 to S Day inclusive. Reconnaissance dispatch reports and interpretations to Com3rdFLT, CTF 38, CTG's 38.1, 38.2 and 38.3.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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22 0104 ARNOLD to LEMAY, HANSELL Info HARMON, MACARTHUR, NIMITZ, WEDEMMEYER, CHEVES:

WARX 80998 ~~TOP SECRET~~. At the request of CINCPAC, the directive to the 21st Bomber Command as stated in para F of WARX 79536 is changed to read as follows: 21st Bomber Command will continue daily photo reconnaissance of major OKINAWA Airfields from 25th December to 9th January inclusive and will maintain sustained attack on major aircraft engine plants on HONSHU.

22 1214 CINC EAST IND to ADMIRALTY, NACSPA, CINCPAC, CSWP RNLU DELHI, AGNB SZEIF KANDY, Info VA BPF, VA 3 RAA BPF, FO ACR EI:

~~TOP SECRET~~. Part 2 final my 221214 GCT. Part 1 is 221139 (5) surprise achieved. No fighters encountered (6) PM 20th Fighters attacked airfields in SABANG Area and small craft off ULEELHOE (7) own surface forces not located by enemy (8) about 6 twin engine bombers seen near MEDAN Airfields. None seen north SUMATRA Airfields (9) Weather for this operation less favourable than expected and with no promise of early improvement force withdrew to rendezvous wave King 21st and return TRUWCBOASOE 22st December (10) No casualties sustained (11) Press communique is not being issued yet as enemy's knowledge of our strength and dispositions is probably very incomplete (12) Flak Late. One Sally was intercepted and shot down over target area.

22 1139Z CINC EI to ADMIRALTY, NACSPA, CINC BPF, CSWP RNLU DELHI, AGNB SZEIF KANDY, VA BPF, VA 3 RAA BPF, FOACR EI: Also Info CINCPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Part 1 my 221214Z. Operation ROBVON. Force 67 consisting of 7 Destroyers of 27th destroyer flotilla and HFA wave king left Trincomalee 17th December under command of RAA BPF. Object air strike on BANGKALAN BIANBAN Oil Refinery (2) After detaching Wave King 18th December force proceeded to arrive flying off position northward of DIAMOND POINT dawn 20th. (3) Strike of 28 Avengers 16 Hellcats and 16 Corsairs found BANGKALAN BIANBAN totally obscured in cloud and therefore attacked harbour warehouses railway yards and oil installations at BELAWANODELI (4) Observation of bombing results difficult in low cloud and rain but 1 oil tank and petrol tank set on fire by fighters. Indomitable Illustrious, Newcastle, Argonaut, Black Prince.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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23 0115 DECOMAF 20 to CINCPAC Info COMAF 20, BOMCOM 21, COMINPAC:

~~TOP SECRET~~. BomCom 21 has been directed initiate plans mining operations in general conformance your serial 000966 with exception such operations will, for planning purposes, be scheduled commence about 1 April 45 and provide for about 150 to 200 sorties per month. Reur serial 000966 consideration will be given to conducting mining operations during weather periods which preclude normal visual bombing operations to insure minimum interference primary mission. Plans prepared by 21 BomCom will be coordinated with you by this headquarters prior to submission to ComAF 20 for approval. Supply of munitions and technical advisory personnel has been covered in previous correspondence.

221837 ARNOLD signed MARSHALL to RICHARDSON, HARMON NIMITZ.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Discussion concerning deployment of 8 additional VLR groups to the Marianas and the speeding up of construction of B-29 bases in the Central Pacific to accommodate these units on schedule, General Arnold and Admiral Towers concluded that 2 additional aviation engineer battalions should be sent to Central Pacific without their heavy equipment by 15 January. Admiral Towers stated that sufficient heavy equipment could be furnished by Navy from theater stocks and that he would like Navy there to determine availability of shipment for the 2 units. General Arnold is most anxious to do everything possible to speed up construction of B-29 bases and facilities in the Central Pacific to the end that we can place maximum weight against JAPAN at earliest possible date. Present plan for shipment of aviation engineer battalions to Central Pacific is as follows: (A) 5 battalions are scheduled to move from ports of embarkation in January. Of these 5 the theater has requested that 2 scheduled for HODE be available early January, that 2 scheduled for BIVE be available for loading 20 January. Priority established for the unit for IRON indicates it will move in late January. (B) Movement orders on the above 5 battalions on theater request provide that all units be moved with complete organization equipment and further provide that the units scheduled for BIVE and HODE be combat loaded with certain extra maintenance supplies, etc. (C) 1 battalion is available 15 March, another available 1 April, both minus unit and combined training. (D) 3 battalions (colored) have readiness dates of 1 June and should be fully trained. Considering the above would like your answers to the following questions: A. Do you recommend any changes in the movement orders of the 5 battalions scheduled for movement in January. B. Should the battalion scheduled for movement in March and the battalion scheduled for movement in April move without heavy equipment

~~TOP SECRET~~

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ARNOLD signed MARSHALL to RICHARDSON, HARMON, NIMITZ
(Cont'd)

under the assumption that the same will be furnished by the Navy in the theater. C. We can endeavor to make the 3 colored battalions now scheduled for movement in June available by 1 March if so desired. If they move in March they will not have had unit and combined training and would have to work alongside an experienced battalion. Question can heavy equipment be furnished for them in the theater and if so do you recommend this be done.

23 2353 CINCPOA to COMNAVGROUP CHINA

ComNavGroup CHINA pass to ComGen 14th AAF. Forces under ComThirdFleet will support M-1 operation by striking FORMOSA S-6, S-5. LUZON S-3. LUZON or FORMOSA S-2. FORMOSA on S Day. Para. Strikes after S Day as necessary to prevent enemy interference from NANSEI SHOTO-FORMOSA-Northern LUZON-CHINA Coast area. This information should be safeguarded with the greatest care. It is for benefit of the High Command and should not be disseminated to lower echelons except when absolutely essential for specific operations and then to the minimum possible extent and at the latest possible time.

23 1844 ARNOLD to LEMAY AND HANSELL Info HARMON MACARTHUR
NIMITZ WEDEMAYER

~~TOP SECRET~~ WARX 81461 DTG 231751Z: Gaze at paragraph F WARX 79536 and WARX 80998 changed to read as follows: 21st Bomber Command will continue daily photo reconnaissance of Major OKINAWA airfields 31 December to January 9 inclusive and will maintain sustained attack on major aircraft engine plants on HONSHU

~~TOP SECRET~~

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23 2318 COM 3RD FLT to CTF 38 Info COMINCH CINCPAC CINCSOWESPAC
CTF 77 CTF 71 COMFEAF CTF 93 CTF 94 COMSUBPAC ALL TF
COMS AND TASK GROUP COMS 3RD FLEET CNAB GUAM.

This is annex C my Op Plan 25-44. ~~THIS IS TOP SECRET.~~
Task Force 38 sortie ULITHI prior noon S-10 proceed to arrive fueling rendezvous center area VARNISH at 0600 S-7 conducting training exercises enroute. On S-7 fuel all units. Upon completion fueling commence high speed run toward FORMOSA. At dawn S-6 in vicinity latitude 22-30 long 122-30 commence sustained strikes against FORMOSA, strikes to be continued through S-5. Upon completion strikes retire to fueling rendezvous latitude 20-00 long 126-00 to arrive 0700 S-4 where fuel all ships. After fueling proceed toward LUZON where in vicinity latitude 17-30 long 123-30 at dawn S-3 commence 1 day sustained strikes on LUZON area. Upon completion strikes commence high speed run to northward. At dawn S-2 in vicinity latitude 22-00 long 122-30 commence 1 day of sustained strikes on FORMOSA after which retire toward fueling rendezvous northwest corner area VARNISH to arrive 0800 S-1 where fuel all ships. Upon completion fueling commence high speed run to northwest and at dawn S Day in vicinity latitude 23-00 long 122-45 commence sustained strikes against FORMOSA. Further schedule of operations predicated upon contingencies and existing situation. All times I (-9) all positions north and east. Para. Where dawn strikes are indicated predawn take off of limited numbers of strike aircraft encouraged at discretion ComTaskForce 38. Where sustained strikes on area directed employment of continuous target CAP is desirable in interest offensive effort and resultant defense own forces. In continuation of target CAP during darkness maximum practicable use night hecklers and intruders will be employed. During strikes on FORMOSA sweeps of OKINAWA JIMA within capabilities of force are authorized. Strikes on LUZON area 3rd Fleet responsibility north of line SANTA CRUZ (17-10 121-25) BAGABAG-CAPE ILDEFONSO. With notification CINCSWPA and without further coordination Task Force 38 free to strike across dividing line if worthwhile targets evident or as necessary protection own forces. Such notification CINCSOWESPAC by COM 3RD FLEET. Lifeguard submarines will be arranged by separate despatch. Para. Through out this operation need for flexibility of schedule to meet changing situation emphasized and contingency requiring movement into NORTH CHINA SEA must be kept in mind

~~TOP SECRET~~

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24 0648 CINCPOA to COMGENAIRFMFPAC, COMGENPOA, COMGENNAAFPOA, COMAIRPAC, COMGENFMFPAC, COMGEN10THARMY, COMPHIBSPAC, COMSERVPAC Info CTG 99.3 COMGEN3RDPHIBCORPS, CTF 94 COMGEN24THCORPS MARCORPS COMINCH COM5THFLT CTG 99.2 COM5THPHIBFOR CTF 93 CTU 99.3.1, 99.3.2, 99.3.3, 99.3.4, 99.3.5, 99.3.6, 99.3.7.

~~TOP SECRET~~ My 220210 Nov. Commodore Fred D. Kirtland designated as Commandant NOB. Col. Charles M Baer, USA, designated as OinC Joint Communication Activities. Above commanders will be ordered report to IsCom LEGUMINOUS for duty on 1 Jan 45 or as soon thereafter as practicable. Para. MyDis 210735 Nov. Brig.Gen. W.J. Wallace USMC designated as Air Defense Commander LEGUMINOUS. Brig.Gen Wallace should be ordered to report to Commander Tactical Air Force for duty at the earliest practicable. Para. My dis 300632. MySer 000131 Oct 25. ComGenPOA designate officers for duty as Commanders of Army Air Fields and ComAirPac designate officers for duty as Commanders of Navy and Marine Air Fields and the sea-plane base. Above Air Field Commanders should be ordered to report for duty at earliest to the IsCom LEGUMINOUS for further assignment to the respective Commanders of Army and Navy Air Bases. Para. My 220210 Nov and 300632 Commanders of all garrison units including aviation defense construction and service units should be ordered to report to IsCom LEGUMINOUS at the earliest practicable. Above units on reporting will be assigned to appropriate Task Unit Commanders. Units not in the immediate vicinity of IsCom LEGUMINOUS should report by dispatch. Para. My 210735. RAdm Calvin H. Cobb designated as Commander Naval Forces (CTG 99.1). RAdm. Cobb will be ordered to report to ComGen 10th Army for above duty on arrival this theater.

24 2205 DEPCOMAF 20 VIA ARMY AIR FORPAC OCEANAREA to COMAIRFORCE 20 21st BOMCOM Info CINCPOA.

~~TOP SECRET~~ The following has been dispatched "mater of possible danger to the security of any joint or simultaneous operation by VLR and CINCPOA Forces resulting from present 20 Air Force policy of early communique releases on B 29 strikes has been discussed with CINCPOA who concurs in continuation of present announced policy as best security measure with no reference being made to indicate that B 29 strike is other than an independent operation by the 21 Bomber Command. Release of the nature of the operation and its joint or combined aspects will be made by CINCPOA at such times as he considers appropriate".

~~TOP SECRET~~

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25 0006 COMGENAAFFOA To CINCPAC Info COMGENPOA COMGENAAF

AAFFOA-10805. TOP SECRET. In determining jointly the answers to War 80979DTG221837 a conference was held by representatives CINCPAC, COMGENPOA and AAFFOA. It is believed that the following recommended reply expresses the understanding reached: Look at War 80979. Answers to questions follow: Question A. Change movement orders of the 2 battalions scheduled for MODE to BIVE and delay movement date of all 4 for BIVE to conform to changed target date and type shipping. Question B. Yes. Question C. Movement in March instead of June although units lack training is desired. No equipment either Army or Navy can be furnished in theatre. By this message COMGENPOA R44468-24 December is answered.

25 0550 CTF 38 to COMAIRPAC Info COM3RDFLT CINCPAC CTG 38.1
CTG 38.2 USS ESSEX

~~TOP SECRET.~~ Com3rdFlt 220419. Reembarkation VMF 124 and 213 a total of 36 Corsairs in ESSEX. In view of critical operation in near future, the nature of which will require all possible VF strength in the Task Force for wide spread offensive missions, recommend 15 Helldivers be removed from both ESSEX and WASP to make room for the 36 Hellcats displaced by 36 Corsairs in ESSEX. 18 VF can easily operate in same deck space as 15 Hellcats. Resulting complement of ESSEX 36 Corsairs 55 Hellcats and 15 Avengers. Wasp 91 Hellcats and 15 Avengers. The 2 displaced VB squadrons would release pilots for conversion to VF or they could be retained in forward area in event this increase in VF or they could be retained in forward area in event this increase in VF can not be supported by replacement aircraft flow beyond next operation. All experience past 6 months shows VF with rockets and bombs most effective against all types land ship targets except ships requiring a torpedo to sink.

25 2321 CINCPAC to CINC BPF Info COMINCH CINCSWPA COMSUBPAC
COMSUBSOWESPAC COM7THFLT COM3RDFLT.

~~TOP SECRET.~~ My 191006 CTF 77 220406 consider it advisable that ADAMANT and submarines continue operating from CEYLON for present. Determination as to time for moving into Pacific to be dependent upon later availability of suitable place from which to operate.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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27 0209 CINCPAC to COMINCH Info COMGENAAF, COMGENAAFPOA, COMGENPOA, CONO, BUDOCKS.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Reference ARNOLD and MARSHALL to RICHARDSON, HARMON, NIMITZ. TOP SEC DESPATCH WAR 80979 DIG 221837 GCT December. A Conference was held CINCPAC Headquarters with representative of ComGenPOA and ComGenAAFPOA. Answers as follows to questions in reference were determined question A. Negative except change movement orders of 2 battalions scheduled for HODE to BIVE keeping in mind revised target date: Equipment for 2 Battalions is available in theater as stated by TOWERS but recent developments render it preferable to equip Army Battalions at HUENEME CALIF rather than OAHU. Question B Negative but equipment can be made available HUENEME if required. Question C move colored Battalion in March without unit and combined training as they can be trained in theater, equipment can be furnished in theater but desire they be equipped before moving from coast Navy can furnish equipment at HUENEME if Army furnished equipment would delay their departure. Personnel transport is not critical between West Coast and OAHU during period under consideration but shipping space for equipment from Coast and all shipping west of Oahu is critical.

25 0625 COM3RDFLT to CTG 30.5, CINCSOWESPAC, Info COMINCH, CINCPAC, CTF 94, CTF 93, CTF 77, CTF 38, ALL CTG'S OF TF 38, CTF 73, COMFEAF.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Interdiction Plan My OpPlan 25-44. CTG 30.5 on S minus 9 S minus 8 and S minus 7 extend sectors 4, 10, 17 and 5 V 223 to maximum practicable distance. On S minus 7, employing PB4Y detachment on PALAU, patrol to the north and west of TF 38 during fueling and initial advance toward FORMOSA to interdict enemy search planes and thus prevent discovery this force. Para. CinCSowesPac requested to establish interdiction as follows: On S minus 7 sector 10 from LEYTE to be on station at limit of search as early as possible preferably at dawn to interdict search planes departing FORMOSA early morning. Para. CTG 30.5 and CinCSowesPac requested furnish Com3rdFlt and CTF 38 intents in connection interdiction Plan.

26 1950 ARNOLD to RICHARDSON, HARMON, NIMITZ.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Joint Chiefs of Staff have approved deployment of 315th and 316th VLR Wings to the MARIANAS subject to the understanding that necessary adjustment with regard to shipping can be made without a detriment to approved operations in the Central Pacific. The composition of these Wings and service Forces concerned and availability dates will be subject of separate communications.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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23 2254 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38 CTG 30.5 CTG 30.7 CTG 30.8 CTG 30.9
Info COMINCH CINCPAC CINCSOWESPAC CTF 77 CTF 7. CTF 93
COMTEAF CTF 94 COMSUBPAC ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RD FLEET
CNAB GUAM.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Com 3rd Fleet Op Plan 25-44. TG 30.5
Commodore Ketcham TG 30.7 Captain Montgomery TG 30.8
Captain Acuff TG 30.9 Commodore Carter TF 38 ViceAdm
McCain. Forces as currently assigned or as indicated in
annex A. Para. Enemy information accordance current intel-
ligence and by mail and despatch. This Op Plan derived
from CINCPAC Op Plan 9-44. Own air search from MARIANAS
ULITHI and PALAU as currently prescribed with sectors
north and west of TINIAN extended to 1000 mile radius.
SoWesPac air search Plan G revised in effect unless later
modified by dispatch. Submarines of TF's 17 and 71 are
supporting this operation: TF 17 by 1 providing
accurate intelligence of movements enemy naval units
approaching PHILIPPINES and SOUTH CHINA SEAS from
northward 2 intensive reconnaissance off enemy
bases and along approach routes 3 interdiction of
flow of reinforcements to PHILIPPINES from northward
4 providing lifeguard service and are prepared to
concentrate for stratigical or tactical support of
3rd Fleet when directed by CINCPAC; TF 71 by station-
ing strong offensive and reconnaissance patrols and
lifeguard services accordance instructions from
Comdr 7th Fleet. 14th and 20th Air Forces are sup-
porting this operation by reconnaissance EAST and
SOUTH CHINA SEAS and by aerial bombardment enemy
positions CHINA coast FORMOSA and in EMPIRE. So-
WesPac forces are seizing objectives in the LINGAYEN
area of LUZON by amphibious assault in an operation
termed M 1. Para. This fleet will prevent enemy
naval and air forces from interfering with LUZON
assault by 1 destroying hostile naval and air forces
and shipping in RYUKYU FORMOSA CHINA COAST LUZON
area prior S Day, 2 neutralize hostile air and
naval forces in FORMOSA CHINA COAST LUZON area
immediately preceding S Day and 3 striking hostile
objectives as required by the existing situation
subsequent to S Day in order to support M 1 oper-
ation. This fleet will also protect air and sea
communications along CENTRAL PACIFIC axis. Para.
TG 30.5 continue air searches from MARIANAS ULITHI
and PALAU as now prescribed extending searches north
and west of TINIAN to 1000 mile radius commencing
on S Minus 8 Day and continuing until otherwise
directed. TG 30.7 conduct anti submarine sweeps
in TF 38 and TG 30.8 operating areas and execute
JASASA operations when directed, moving in accord-
ance instructions in Annex B. TG 30.8 provide
fuel, aircraft replacement and standby tug service

~~TOP SECRET~~

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COM3RDFLT to CTF 38 CTG 30.5 CTG 30.7 CTG 30.8 CTG 30.9
Info COMINCH CINCPAC CINCSOWESPAC CTF 77 CTF 71 CTF 93
COMFEAF CTF 94 COMSUBPAC ALL TFC'S AND TGC'S 3RD
FLEET CNAB GUAM (Cont'd)

in accordance Annex D. TG 30.9 furnish logistic, salvage and repair services as required. TF 38 proceed from ULITHI and conduct strikes in accordance with schedule in Annex C. Sub Para. S Day is 9 January 1945 unless otherwise modified by dispatch and is date of landing in LINGAYEN area. Annexes A B C and D in separate dispatch to those who need to know. Para. Fuel aircraft replacements and towing service at sea with Task Group 30.8. Supplies and ammunition at SAIPAN GUAM and ULITHI. Para. Use ITEM time (-9). Communications accordance CentCom 2 revised. Necessary coordination for entrance 3rd Fleet units into waters under control CINCSOWESPAC will be arranged by Com 3rd Fleet. Phib Op Plan effective 0 hours I (-9) 30 December. Com 3rd Fleet in NEW JERSEY with Task Group 38.2.

27 1230 CINC WEST INDIES STATION to SACSEA Info COMPHIBSOPAC,
CINC EASTERN FLEET etc.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Intend that units countersigned to British Pacific Fleet should carry air strikes farther than targets in South SUMATRA about 21st January and possibly again about 28th January. Request concurrence of Com30WesPac be sought immediately in operations of these definite units in waters of Com30WesPac Command outside MALAY BARRIER and west of 106 East for 3 days commencing at each of dates in paragraph 1 ____*In arrangement being made direct with CTF 71 for operations of submarines in connection with the above.

*1 garbled word.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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28 0648 CINCPAC to CINC BPF.

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~~TOP SECRET~~. Reference paragraph 2B your 210351 to Admiralty regarding conference with Admiral Nimitz. To avoid possibility of any misunderstanding or misinterpretation it should be stated that above mentioned subparagraph is interpreted to mean that your forces will have use of anchorage and air strip but they will be supported by British resources just as U.S. Pacific Fleet forces are supported by American resources.

28 1408 CINCPAC Via COM3RDFLT to COM3RDFLT Info COMINCH, CINCSOWESPAC, CINCPAC (ADMIN), COM7THFLT.

~~This is TOP SECRET~~ para 1. An enemy force including Battleships and 1 or more carriers is expected to continue operations in the South China Sea during the M-1 Operation. The destruction of this Force particularly the Battleships and carriers thereof will most effectively accomplish the covering and supporting Task assigned the 3rd Fleet by my OpPlan 9-44. Para 2. At an advantageous time after the enemy force is located attack and destroy its heavy units. Then retire our fast carrier Task Force east of the Philippines as expeditiously as the situation permits. Para 3. Avoid minable waters. Para 4. Attacks on other objectives which do not threaten interference with our forces will be undertaken only if they do not delay the retirement of the Carrier Force from the South China Sea.

28 1712 CINCPOA to All TF & TG COMMANDERS 3RD FLT, CTF 93, 94, 96, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 97, Info COMINCH, CINCSWPA, COM7TH FLEET, CTF 71, DEPCOM 20TH AAF.

~~TOP SECRET~~ CincPOA Zone notice 72. Action Adees inform only ships and shore-based air commands under their operational control who need to know. CINCSWPA has directed that effective 0900 GCT 2 January all the waters of the Central Philippines are an air surface zone with North, West and South boundaries as follows: From CAPE BOJEADOR 18-31 North 120-35 East to 20-00 North 119-00 East to 20-00 North 118-00 East to 19-00 North 117-00 East to 12-20 North 117-00 East to LIBRO POINT 11-25 North 119-29 East then South along the East Coast of PALAWAN to FLECHAS POINT 10-22 North 19-33 East thence to South islet 08-43 North 119-48 East to DULINGUIN POINT 07-45 North 122-06 East.

29 0331 CINCPAC to COMINCH AND CNO Info COMAIRPAC

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 272145 Negative. SARATOGA assigned as night carrier as temporary expedient for DETACHMENT. Recent operations INDEPENDENCE indicates CVLs have definite limitations as Night Carriers. CVLs being used for training during absence SARATOGA. These temporary

~~TOP SECRET~~

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29 0331 CINCPAC to COMINCH AND CNO Info COMAIRPAC (Continued)

arrangements in response to strong recommendations by Halsey and McCain. Some recommendations as to organization CarDiv 7 may be made after further experience is gained.

29 0345 CTG 30.5 to CTU 30.5.3 Info COM3RDEFLT, COM7THFLT, COMAIR 7THFLT, CTF 39, ATGCS 3RD FLT, CTG 93, CTF 94, CTG 94.5

~~TOP SECRET~~. See Com3rd and FIFTH Fleets interdiction Plan and OpPlan 25-44. Using all gas no bombs Liberators organize 2 plane anti snooper barrier to be maintained between TF 38 and oilers at center of area VARNISH and EMPIRE Positions to North and West during daylight hours on S minus 7 Day. Prevent discovery of surface units. Stage Through TACLOBON. RON ANGUAR. Guard VHF Channel C. Advise FAW-10.

29 0513 CINCPAC to CNO Info COMINCH

~~TOP SECRET~~. Your 212105. CNO Serial 036512 made certain provisions for supplying fuel and gasoline to Allied Forces. Subsequently arrangements were made for movement of large British Naval Forces to the Pacific. My understanding that British Pacific Fleet would be self supporting as agreed upon at OCTAGON and further confirmed by Admiral King. Self supporting is interpreted to include petroleum fuels and gasolines since agreement at OCTAGON did not exclude those products. If we must supply them request early advice in order that estimates may be sharply revised upward and arrangements initiated to obtain tankers etc.

29 0014 CINCPAC to COMFWDAREA, COMCRUDIV 5, COMTASFOR 93 Info CINCPAC (ADMIN).

~~TOP SECRET~~. In future major attacks against IWO JIMA desire inclusion of Cruiser bombardment of BONINS.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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28 2114 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38, CTG 30.7, CTG 30.8 Info
COMINCH, CINCPAC, CINCSOWESPAC, CTF 77, CTF 71,
COMFEAF, CTF 93, CTF 94, COMSUBPAC, ALL TFC's AND
TGC's 3RDFLT, COM5THFLT.

~~TOP SECRET. THIS IS PART 1 OF 3 PARTS MY 282150~~
Part 2 is 282137. Part 3 is 282150. Appendix 1
My OpPlan 25-44. Operation described herein termed
GRATITUDE and will be executed only if specifically
directed by COM3RDFLT. See my 232254 and 232318. G Day
for this operation will be designated at time
execution is directed. For planning purposes G Day
most probably will be S-1 but tactical situation
may require another date to be selected. Para. On
G Day Task Force 38 fuel commencing 0800 at Northwest
Corner Area VARNISH unless otherwise directed. Upon
completion fueling G Day proceed vicinity latitude
22 22 Long 122 where strike FORMOSA on G Plus 1. Provide
cover for fast oilers moving as specified below. At
dusk proceed via BASHI CHANNEL Latitude 19-20 Long
119 where rendezvous with Fast Oiler Group at 0800
G plus 2. Be prepared for fighter sweeps on Northern
LUZON on G plus 2 if situation indicates this necessary.
From 0800 position G plus 2 proceed with fast oiler
Group in company to latitude 15-20 Long 116 to arrive
0700 G plus 3.

28 2137 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38, CTG 30.7, CTG 30.8 Info COMINCH,
etc.

THIS IS PART 2 OF TOP SECRET 282150. Top off destroyers
as practicable enroute. Part company with fast oiler
group at 0700 G plus 3 and proceed to latitude 11-30
Long 112-00 from vicinity which Point strike enemy
naval forces and shipping in KAMRANH BAY and or TIZARD
REEF during daylight G plus 4. Dusk GEORGE plus 4
retire to latitude 15-00 Long 115-00 where rendezvous
with fast oilers 0600 G plus 5 and fuel all ships as
practicable during daylight that day. Dusk G plus
5 proceed to vicinity Latitude 18-40 Long 113-00 where
strike enemy naval forces and shipping HAINAN and or
HONGKONG on G plus 6. Dusk G plus 6 retire toward
BASHI CHANNEL at high speed. During daylight G plus
7 while making best practicable advance to eastward
toward BASHI CHANNEL conduct fighter sweeps on FORMOSA.
Continue easterly retirement to Latitude 20-00 Long
126-00 where rendezvous with service group 0700 or
as soon thereafter as practicable on G plus 8 and fuel
all ships. Further orders by dispatch. Para. Upon
completion fueling G day ComTaskGroup 30.8 with 6
Fast Oilers 6 Destroyers and 2 Escort CVE with escorts
proceed at SOA 15 knots via route A 20-10 122-10
B 20-10 121-30
to 0800 rendezvous G plus 2 Day lat 19-20, Long 119-00.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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28 2150 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38, CTG 30.7, CTG 30.8 Info COMINCH, etc.

~~TOP SECRET~~. PART 3 AND FINAL PART OF 282150. Part 1 is 282114. Part 2 is 282137. Remain in company with TF 38 until 0700 G plus 3 after which time proceed vicinity Latitude 15-20 North Long 116 until time rendezvous with TF 38 0600 G plus 4 at Latitude 15 Long 115. Completion fueling G plus 5 proceed to vicinity Latitude 14 Long 116 where remain until dusk G plus 6. If not otherwise directed proceed at dusk G plus 6 to POINT J Latitude 13-40 Long 118-50 thence via SOWESPAC route CARIBOU through SURIGAO STRAIT. After transit of STRAITS send fast oilers, 4 DD's and 1 CVE with escorts to ULITHI via direct route. VNACKADEI WELLES with 1 escort CVE, escorts and 1 additional DD to join service group in area DIESEL or at rendezvous specified later. Direct remaining vessels of service group not proceeding to CHINA SEA on G Day retire to area DIESEL where remain until time proceed to Latitude 20 Long 126 where rendezvous with TF 38 0700 G plus 8. Reinforce this group with 6 additional oilers plus escorts prior G plus 8 rendezvous. CTG 30.7 Remain in company with service group which retires to area DIESEL. TU 30.7.1 will be directed rejoin TG 30.7 on G Day. Para. All positions North and East all times item (minus 9).

29 0045 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38, CTG 30.7, CTG 30.8 Info COMINCH, CINCSOWESPAC, CTF 77, CTF 71, COMFEAF, CTF 93, 94, ALL TGC's 3RD FLT, CINCPAC, COMSUBPAC.

~~TOP SECRET~~. Appendix 2 My OpPlan 25-44. This operation named AGITATOR and will be executed only if specifically directed by Com3rdFleet. See my 232254 and 232318. A Day for this operation will be designated at time execution is directed. For Planning purposes A Day will most probably be S-1 or later. Operation AGITATOR is alternate for operation GRATITUDE. See My 282150. And will not be employed if latter is used. Para. On A Day Task Force 38 fuel commencing 0800 at Northwest corner area VARNISH unless otherwise directed. Upon completion fueling A Day proceed vicinity Lat 22 Long 122 where strike FORMOSA on A plus 1. At Dusk commence high speed run via BASHI CHANNEL to vicinity Lat 19-30 Long 115-15 arriving about 1000 A plus 2. At daylight A plus 2 launch search of the southwest semicircle with limits the bearings of LINGAYEN and HONGKONG to maximum range of aircraft. Strike any enemy Naval Force or shipping within range. Be prepared strike shipping targets HAINAN and or HONGKONG. At dusk A plus 2 commence high speed retirement toward BASHI CHANNEL. During daylight A plus 3 while making best practicable advance to eastward through BASHI CHANNEL conduct fighter sweeps on FORMOSA. Continue easterly

~~TOP SECRET~~

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29 0045 COM3RDFLT to CTF 38, CTG 30.7, CTG 30.8 Info COMINCH, etc. (Continued)

retirement to Lat 20 Long 126 where rendezvous with service group 0700 or as soon thereafter as practicable on A plus 4 and fuel all ships XJ IPMHEX orders by dispatch. Para. Upon completion fueling A Day ComTaskGroup 30.8 proceed with all service units in company to area OCTANE where remain until time rendezvous on A plus 4 as specified above. Be prepared to proceed to an advanced fueling rendezvous with 6 fast oilers 6 destroyers and 2 escort CVE with escorts if specifically directed by later despatch. Para. CTG 30.7 remain in company with service group. TU 30.7.1 will be directed rejoin TG 30.7 on A Day. Para. All positions North and East all times Item.

26 1950 CINCPAC to COM5THFLT, COM5THPHIBFOR, COMGEN10TH ARMY, COMGENAAFPAC, CG 3RDPHIBCORPS, COMCENTMFPAC, CG 24TH CORPS, COMAIRPAC, COMSERVPAC, COMGENPOA, COMPHIBSPAC Info COMGENAIRMFPAC Etc.

~~TOP SECRET~~ 27th Inf Div (Reinf) is designated floating reserve ICEBERG under CG Expeditionary Troops rather than area reserve. MyDis 300632 November modified accordingly. Mounting this Division is contingent on early release transportation designated for this purpose from assault shipping engaged DETACHMENT.

24 1216 CINCPAC to ADMIRALTY, BAD WASH, FLAG OFFICER SUBMARINES, PNLO, SAKER.

~~TOP SECRET~~ Part 1 My 241222. During discussions with CinCPac I found us authorities most anxious that the 3 Officer observers with us Pacific Fleet should now become my Liaison Officers 2 the personal contacts and goodwill which these Officers have most successfully secured will be a very valuable asset 3 The following arrangements are therefore intended (A) Commander H. (R) H. Hopkins to be British Pacific Fleet Liaison Officer.

27 0440 CINCPAC to COMGENPOA

Filbas agreement is binding in letter and spirit. Paragraph 78 outlines the policy as to availability service units in SoPac for movement to SWPA. The last sentence thereof has a saving clause for obtaining exemption of units or individuals by agreement between the two theatre commanders. That proviso was inserted to take care of unusual and unanticipated circumstances. A considerable number of individuals have been requested as they became available. Continuation of that practice on the scale of recent weeks might be construed as an endeavor to avoid fully carrying out terms of the signed agreement. To avoid any such misunderstanding

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27 0440 CINCPOA to COMGENPOA (Continued) **DECLASSIFIED**

please give closest scrutiny to any further requests for exemption to the FILBAS Agreement. In connection with this dispatch and my 160003 no further action is being taken on your 270440.

22 0608 COM3RDFLT CTG 30.5 Info CINCPAC, CTF 93, CTF 94, CTF 38.

It is imperative that Fleet Units obtain earliest and best weather information. In the area of few land masses in the Western Pacific best sources such information is search planes. Desire 1 All pilots your Task Group be briefed by aerologist as to weather indications they may encounter. 2 That pilots make definite reports weather data to aerology upon return from flight remembering that insignificant cloud change wind shift or sea change may be indications of approaching storm. 3 That daily summary plane weather reports (not in weather code) and predictions be sent direct Com3rdFlt Task Force commanders 3rd Fleet and CTF 94 by operational priority dispatch as soon after search return as practicable. 4 That special flights be set up with competent Aerographers aboard to investigate areas of unusual weather activity. Para. This plan to be followed pending establishment establishment weather central MARIANAS and even then information will continue to be invaluable.

30 1634 MARSHALL to RICHARDSON, CINCPOA Info MACARTHUR.

~~TOP SECRET~~. WARX-84316. Supporting the 315 and 316 VLR Wings deployed to Marianas by decision of Joint Chiefs of Staff contained in WARX-82189 December 26, and in accordance with JCS 11902, December 26 (Copy being Forwarded) the following units are excepted from FILBAS Agreement and are released from SoPac when declared surplus: 1 Ordnance HAM company, 5 QM Truck Companies, 5 QM Service Companies, 1 QM Laundry Company, 1 QM Bakery Company 2 Port Companies (TC). Notify War Department of designation of units when determined.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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31 1735 ARNOLD, SIGNED MARSHALL to RICHARDSON for NIMITZ Info
HARMON.

~~TOP SECRET~~. WARX 84945. In effort to save shipping the plan as outlined in War 80979 dated 22 December 1944, assumed that Navy equipment could be made available for 2 Engineer Aviation Battalions in OAHU. In message from CINCPOA to COMINCH on 27 December 1944 and again in message from RICHARDSON RJ45001 dated 29 December 1944, inference is made that such equipment is available on OAHU but CINCPOA prefers that issue be made in the United States, also, that providing 2 Battalions were equipped with Navy Equipment on OAHU, replacements would have to be made later, therefore, no shipping would be saved. Para. The following action being taken reference movement and equipment of Engineer Units mentioned in War 80979. (A) The 807 now scheduled for IRON with readiness date of 15 January 1945 at home station. (B) The 1902 and 1903 originally scheduled for HODE now changed to BIVE with readiness date at home station of 15 January 1945. (C) The 802 and 1901 now scheduled for BIVE with readiness date of 15 January 1945 at home station. (D) Unit scheduled for March is 1924 and Unit scheduled for April is 813, Both will be sent without unit training. (E) 3 Negro Battalions 1882, 1908, and 1909 will be ready 1 March at home station without unit training. Para. Since no shipping can be saved, all of the above listed Engineer Battalions will be equipped with Army equipment in the United States. Para. The 802 and 1901 will be units in LST combat loaded. All dates subject to your shipping plan.