

MR 203(15), Sec. 2 — MAP ROOM DAILY NEWS SUMMARIES

DECLASSIFIED

Jan-Apr, 1945

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January- April, 1945

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NEWS SUMMARY
29 March 1945

WESTERN FRONT

Yesterday U.S. First and Third Armies deepened their penetrations in the German center, capturing German cities of Giessen and Marburg, 60 and 70 miles respectively east of the Rhine River. Enemy is feverishly attempting to restore some sort of blocking position on this front, but lack of means is defeating every attack, and resulting only in further destruction of his remaining forces.

Two U.S. divisions engaged in house-to-house fighting in Frankfurt, where resistance is heavy although city is all but encircled.

Enemy resistance to British Ninth Army operations north of the Ruhr slackened appreciably and good progress made, but greatest threat to enemy's capability to continue the fight continues to be General Bradley's group of Armies on the middle Rhine.

Allies now have 35 divisions east of the Rhine. Logistics, rather than enemy action, biggest Allied problem.

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NEWS SUMMARY
24 March 1945

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WESTERN FRONT

No detailed information is available on the crossing north of Aahr nor on General Patton's crossing south of Mainz.

Enemy must now deal with three Allied bridgeheads spaced over a 200-mile front. In view lack of mobility of his divisions and state of communications, he will have great difficulty in redeploying his surviving forces. Frankfurt area in particular now dangerously under-manned.

Weather yesterday and today excellent.

ITALY

General Alexander reports that due weakened enemy situation, time ripe for offensive by 13th Army Group with objective of destroying maximum enemy forces south of the Po.

On D-Day, 10 April, 8th Army on right will attack toward Ferrara. Four days later, 5th Army will launch main effort on axis Bologna-Ferrara.

Resting, refitting and regrouping of Allied forces completed. Supply situation good.

PHILIPPINES

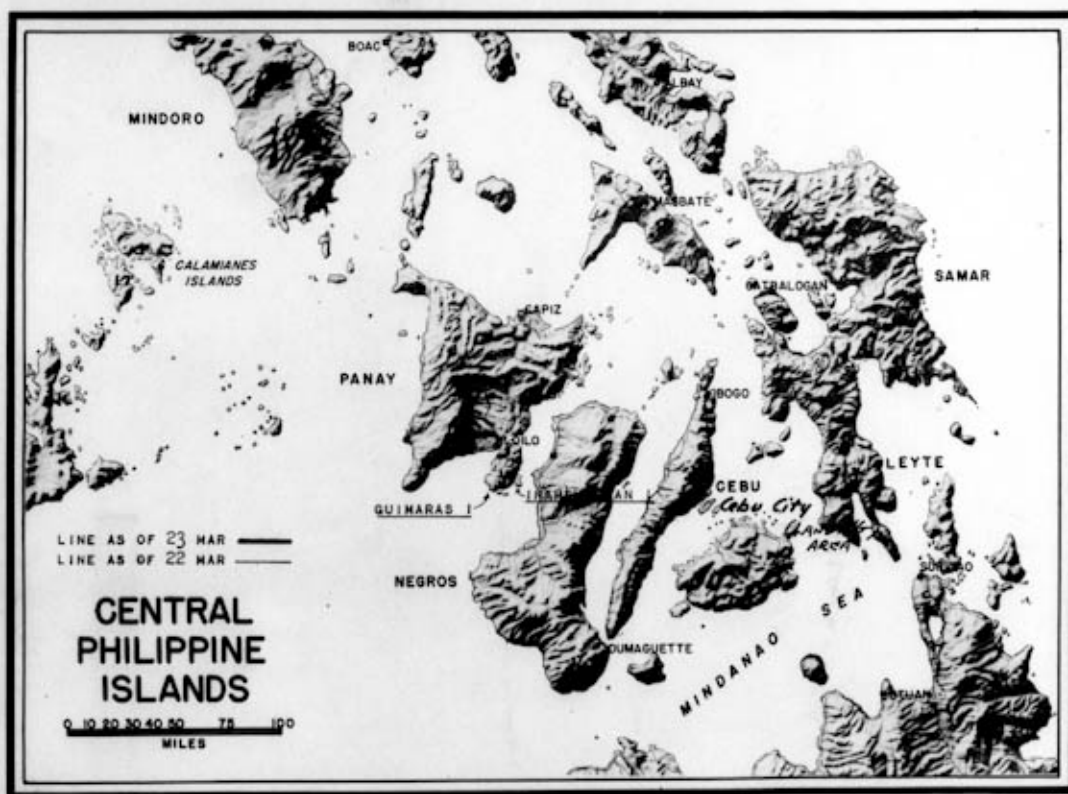
Continuing series of operations to clean up Visayas in Philippines. Americal Division will land on 26 March on Cebu Island.

(Americal Division was formed early in 1942 in New Caledonia of various U.S. units which had been shipped there independently as garrison forces. It is the only unnumbered American division.)

Our forces on Luzon have lost 4,221 killed and 15,576 wounded. Enemy known dead, 88,676.

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NEWS SUMMARY
23 March 1945



WESTERN FRONT

The enemy's disordered and disastrous retreat from the Saar is nearing completion. AARF reports "nearly 100,000 prisoners taken so far and count still rising." The enemy potential for defense of the middle Rhine is now greatly reduced.

Enemy has been unable to prevent slight enlargement of our bridgehead at Remagen. Resistance described as "moderate".

With operations to clear enemy from left bank of Rhine now in final phase, center of interest returns again to area of Allied main effort on lower Rhine. Yesterday combined weight of RAF and U.S. heavy bombers struck enemy concentrations west of Rhine in preparation for jump-off of forces under Marshal Montgomery on 24 March.

ITALY

There have been no developments on this front, other than departure of Marshal Kesselring to assume command on Western front.

PACIFIC FRONT

After securing northern flank along Baltic and firmly establishing their forces along the Oder east of Berlin, the Soviet principal zone of action has shifted to south. Moscow has announced large scale operations in Upper Silesia with apparent intention of moving on Vienna through Moravian Gap in Carpathians.

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NEWS SUMMARY
22 March 1945

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WESTERN FRONT

From 14 March (start of the Saar-Moselle operation) through 20 March, a total of 55,000 prisoners have been taken by American Third and Seventh Armies. Enemy's loss in equipment has been correspondingly heavy. Estimated total loss to enemy in dead and prisoners now 80,000.

Only organized enemy resistance now in this area is along southern ridge west of the Rhine. Here enemy must hold to cover remaining crossings to permit withdrawal of remnants of German First and Seventh Armies.

In our bridgehead east of the Rhine, enemy resistance only moderate. SHAEF states that operations here will be pushed vigorously with object of establishing firm bridgehead to include Frankfurt. At a later date, not now fixed, an advance in strength will be made in direction of Kassel.

PHILIPPINES

40th Division has captured Ildio on Panay Island. Communique reports that city was 70% burned by Japs but dock areas intact and harbor clear. Guerrilla operations on Panay have been a major factor in the speed and success of this operation.

The Ildio area will be developed into one of four large staging areas in the Philippines with installations in each to accommodate six divisions. Other staging areas will be Manila, Leyte and Cebu City on the island of Cebu.

EUROPE

British 14th Army continuing operations which threaten destruction of better part of three Jap divisions in area south of Mandalay.

ICELAND

The four carriers damaged (in addition to the *Franklin*, previously named) are the *INTREPID*, the *ENTERPRISE*, the *YONATONA* and the *WASP*. Minor damage to

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NEWS SUMMARY
20 March 1945

WESTERN FRONT

The enemy bulge west of the Rhine is near collapse and German First Army in complete disorder.

General Patton's pincers movement, with a corps moving east and another corps south from across the Moselle, has made a junction north of Kaiserslautern. Each of these two corps is employing two armored and three infantry divisions. Radio broadcasts state that Third Army took 8,000 prisoners yesterday but operational reports do not indicate that sizeable numbers of the enemy have been captured or destroyed.

To the south on Seventh Army front, the enemy has been cleared from French soil except for stragglers. On the right of Seventh Army, French forces have crossed the border into Germany.

Greatest threat to enemy in bulge area is possibility of junction between Third and Seventh Armies, now reported by press to be 13 miles apart.

Allied forces now control west bank of Rhine all the way down to the bend west of Mainz. Resistance in Coblenze had ceased.

In our bridgehead at Remagen our gains were limited. Enemy is concentrating his armor and whatever infantry he can spare from other sectors to counter Allied threat here.

Marshal Montgomery's Northern Group of Armies is carrying out concentrations and regrouping for the main effort across the Rhine with target date of 24 March. Otherwise no change along the Rhine from Coblenz north.

ICEBERG

The CV FRANKLIN was hit by a suicide diver, armed with a bomb, at 7 a.m. on 19 March. The enemy attack caused bad fires. The FRANKLIN is now being

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towed to the south by the CA PITTSBURGH. The attack occurred during our carrier-strikes against the Kobe-Kure area, on 19 March. TF 58 reports results of aircraft strikes 18-19 March were good.

The British Pacific Fleet, consisting of 4 CV, 2 BB, 5 CL and 11 DD, will supplement Task Force 58 in its support of ICAEWING. The British force will strike Sakishima Gunto (a group of islands between Okinawa Gunto and Formosa) on the 27th, 28th, 29th and 31st of March, and 1st and 2nd of April. At this time, TF 58 will be working over Okinawa.

PHILIPPINES

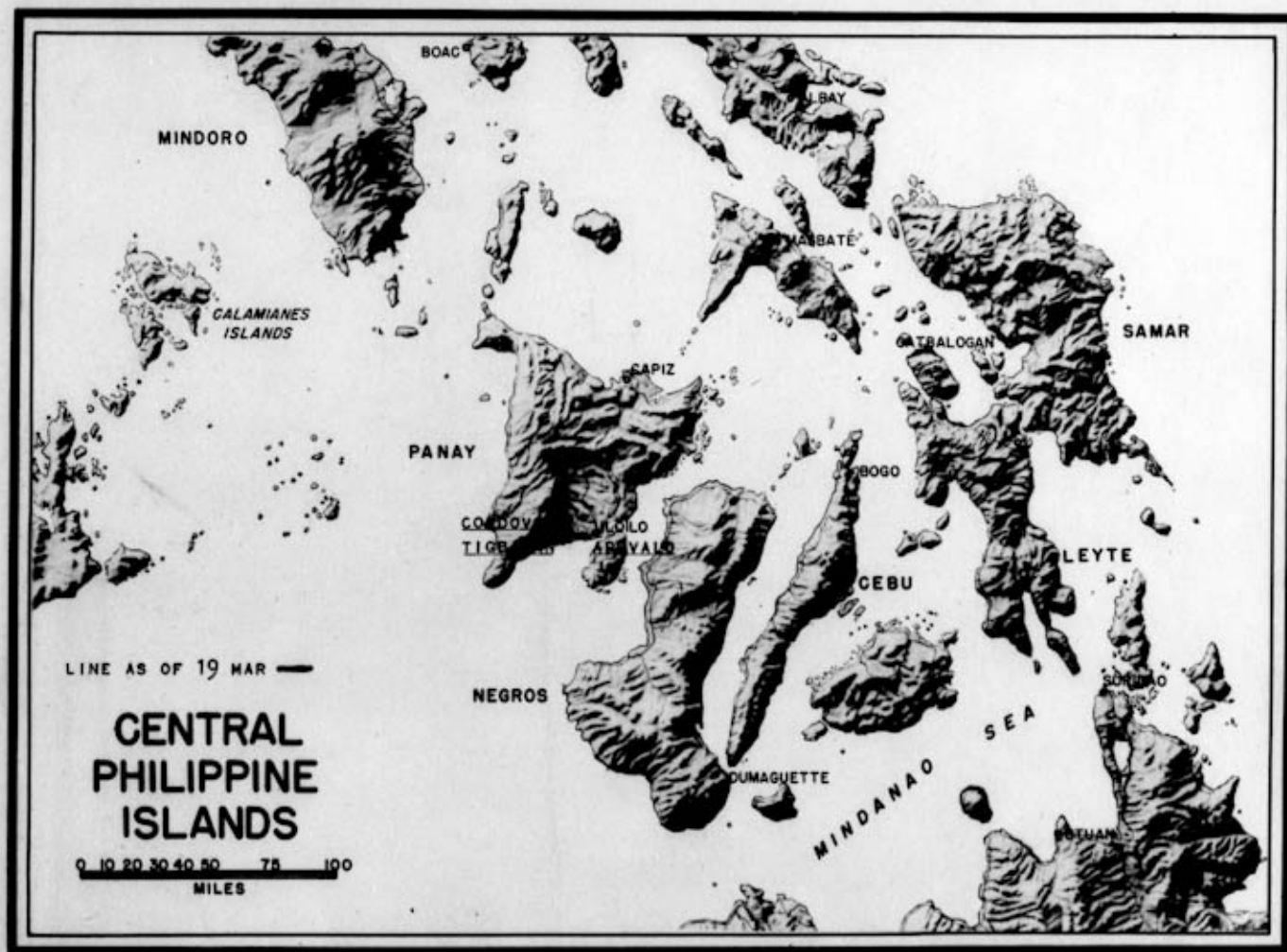
PANAY. By 1400, March 18, 4 infantry battalions and all armor ashore. Maj. Gen. Brush assumed command ashore. Operations continue satisfactory against slight opposition. Casualties to date, 3 wounded.

Two Jap midget submarines were destroyed by aircraft in the Gulf of Davao on 18 March.

PACIFIC SUBS

Six of our subs report sinking 1 DD, 6 freighters, 1 oiler and 2 escort vessels; and damaging 1 freighter and 1 escort vessel.

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18 March 1945

WESTERN FRONT

With the capture of Coblenz, Allies now hold solid 130 mile stretch of the west bank of the Rhine.

The position of the German 1st Army in the bulge south of the Moselle River is becoming increasingly difficult. In Saar area, enemy is rapidly withdrawing into westwall positions, and SHAEF points out that this withdrawal is likely to be nullified by Allied thrust in deep rear and that enemy's delay in reacting to 3-sided threat confronts him with possibility of disaster.

We now have 5 divisions plus in the Remagen bridgehead.

The center span of the Ludendorf bridge, which was damaged by enemy's original attempt to destroy it, collapsed 17 March. This will not interrupt build-up of bridgehead forces because of adequacy of our floating bridges.

PHILIPPINES

Today 40th Division, less one regiment, lands on Panay Island. Purpose of this operation is to secure port of Iloilo, where a large base and staging area for our troops will be established. Western Negros Island will also be secured in this operation.

The railways on Luzon from Lingayen Gulf to Manila Bay are now in operation.

PACIFIC

General MacArthur has reported two authenticated cases of the use of gas by the Japanese against our troops. Both cases were on a small scale, on Biak Island in eastern New Guinea. Gas used was a harassing agent, causing vomiting and headaches but no bad after effects.

A similar gas was used on a small scale by the Japs against the 5th Marine Division on Iwo on 2 March.

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U.S.A.

War Department has requested Defense Commands to prepare defenses against possible increase in Japanese balloon arrivals.

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17 March 1945

Western Front

In the Remagen bridgehead troops of the US 78th Div cut the super highway in the vicinity of Agidienberg (5 miles east of Honnef) which was taken along with Konigswinter to the north. US ^{Naval} landing craft have arrived at Remagen, being employed in towing pontoons for bridges, evacuating casualties, and maintaining engineer installations.

The Third Army's 4th Armored Div in its drive south from the Moselle has advanced its spearhead 32 miles southeast against light resistance, entering (25 miles southwest of Mainz) Bad Kreuznach Friday morning. In the Trier sector further progress has been made to the east with mines and rugged terrain as the major obstacles. **

SHAEF G-2 in a summary states: "Enemy clearly surprised by attacks in Saar Palatinate and across Moselle; was switching reinforcements from Moselle to Trier sector when Moselle crossing occurred; was switching further reinforcements towards Moselle when Saar attack began. No good evidence that he appreciated seriousness of position in time or that he is ready or able to execute a rapid pull-out across Rhine."

For period 1 to 16 March 191,274 personnel were discharged from all ports.

** South of Saarbrücken Bitch and Haguenau were cleared and troops have advanced further north, ~~and~~ entering the Haguenau forest.

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17 March 1945

Pacific

Up to midnight on the 16th our carrier forces, which have sortied from Ulithi, had apparently not been sighted by the Japs, although a large volume of aircraft traffic in the Western Japan area and one possible contact report received wide distribution.

Cinepoa Headquarters at Guam has instructed our carrier forces and our strategic bombing forces in the Pacific Ocean Area to refrain from attacking Emperor's Palace, Tokyo.

Iwo Jima

By the afternoon of the 16th all resistance on Iwo had been overcome. Small pockets and some mopping up remains. It is estimated that the Island can be turned over to the Island Commander about 22 March. Airfield No. 2 is now operational.

Northern Pacific

Admiral McCrea's report states that as a result of his bombardment of Matsuwa, heavy fires were observed. A large spectacular explosion, probably an ammunition dump, accompanied the fires. No damage to our ships from light enemy return fire.

The Rhine

CTU 122.5, Commander of Landing Craft under Admiral Kirk in France, reports that 10 LCVs were the first Naval ships on the Rhine. They are employed in towing pontoons for Remagen bridges, evacuating casualties, towing net cables across, patrolling above the nets, and general maintenance of engineer installations at the bridgehead.

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16 March 1945

Submarine Warfare

Cominch reports that increased enemy activity may be expected in the U.K. area where at least 35 of the 45-50 German U-boats at sea are now operating. There are currently two U-boats south of Newfoundland, which may move into the shipping lanes in the Halifax-New York area.

March shipping losses to date have been light in view of the number of U-boats at sea. Four merchant ships have been torpedoed and three of them sunk in the U.K. area. Three U-boats have also been sunk in the same area and a fourth was scuttled off southern Ireland. Operations by midget submarines off the Dutch Coast increased this month, but 17 of them were sunk, four driven ashore and one captured without any Allied losses.

British Pacific Fleet

17 March the British Pacific Fleet will sail from Manus to Leyte where it will be fueled. These units will take part in the second phase of ICEBERG.

Iwo

On the night of the 14th enemy defenses in the 5th Division sector had been broken. Apparently flame-throwing tanks are the only weapons that the Japs are unable to withstand.

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Iwo Jima

After bitter fighting in the north end of the Island it appears that the backbone of the enemy in the 5th Division sector has been broken.

Pacific

Admiral McCrea with three light cruisers and destroyers will bomb ^{Mo}Matsuwa (center of the Kuriles) on the 16th.

Pacific Submarines

The SEGUNDO sank a medium freighter.

Presidential Messages

HARRIMAN-PRESIDENT re return of Ed Flynn and summary of his activities.

3 Subs English Channel.

203/117 [REDACTED]

15 March 1945

Western Front

Overall serious German casualties, including prisoners, in Rhineland battle on 8 February to 14 March estimated 210,000, an average of over 5,000 per enemy division engaged.

Remagen bridgehead continues to draw more enemy forces and stubborn resistance met, especially on flanks. Elements 3 Panzer divisions now in battle in addition to infantry.

Enemy position in Saar-Palatinate bulge threatened by crossing of Moselle 15 miles southwest of Koblenz by two U.S. divisions against light opposition. In south of bulge, enemy withdrawing into Siegfried Line.

Heavy air support maintained over front and against communications and oil refineries.

North of Cologne, both Allied and German patrols have crossed Rhine and withdrawn.

Burma

Fighting continues in Mandalay and Maymyo. Maymyo is on main line communications of Japs retreating from Lashio. Mandalay brewery captured intact but machinery rusty and vital parts missing.

Philippines

Elements of eight U.S. divisions are still in contact with the enemy's divided forces on Luzon. Stubborn fighting continues in the mountains north of the central plain and in the Batangas area southeast of Manila. Our casualties to March 12 are 18,000. 73,768 Japs have been killed and 773 captured.

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14 March 1945

IWO JIMA

At 9:30 a.m., 14 March, the American flag was officially raised over Iwo.

The 4th Marine Division has commenced reembarkation.

Sporadic resistance continues on the island.

SUBMARINE WARFARE

German U-boat reported in trouble off south coast of Ireland.

48 of crew landed and placed under guard.

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WS

13 March 1945

Western Front

Two ponton bridges and 10 LCVP's are now in operation at Remagen bridgehead. Three battalions of light artillery and a heavy mortar battalion are across Rhine. The three infantry divisions in the bridgehead made advances of from 2 to 3 miles to take key points against stiff opposition, mainly from 11 Pz Div and miscellaneous SS reserves with elements Pz Lehr Division appearing. All damage to R.R. bridge from artillery fire has been repaired. 23 of 47 planes which attacked bridge in 29 raids have been destroyed, without damage to bridge.

British elements of Northern Army Group still regrouping for main effort. U.S. Seventh Army on southern flank of remaining German salient west of Rhine is being strengthened by two infantry divisions and 1 armored division.

Although results were generally unobserved due to overcast, U.S. strategic and tactical air forces were out in great strength yesterday. Weather will continue operational.

Burma

Due to hold British/^{have} obtained south of Mandalay on only R.R. supplying that area, Japs in central Burma are in critical position. British believe they have opportunity to wipe out half Jap forces in Burma.

Mindanao

Extensive defense positions reported east of Zamboanga, which has been taken against light opposition. Believe enemy intends to defend hills to north.

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13 March 1945

The French CVE BEARN at 3:15 a.m., 13 March, rammed the U.S. Army Transport McANDREW (8,000 tons) while in convoy 300 miles northwest of the Azores. The McANDREW was seriously damaged and holed forward. It is proceeding to Horta.

The BEARN suffered small damage. Preliminary report indicates one man killed on the McANDREW and seven men from the carrier picked up from the water.

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13 March 1945


Two

Resistance in 4th Marine Division area now confined to small pocket about 200 yards square. All organized resistance ceased in Third Marine Division zone. 5th Marine Division meeting continued stiff resistance in their area from about 1,000 Japs. Situation shows more improvement than is reflected in space gains. Many important enemy defense installations have been destroyed. No enemy artillery reported.

China Sea

Mitchells sank a destroyer off China Coast opposite Formosa.

Pacific Submarines

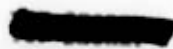
GUAVINA sank two large oilers for 20,000 tons.

Central Pacific

RANDOLPH can be repaired in three or four weeks by Fleet Service Forces. 18 dead, 47 injured.

Atlantic

U.S. Navy patrol plane sank U-boat off Cornwall, England. 37 survivors.

203(15)


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WS

12 March 1945

Western Front

U.S. III Corps enlarged and strengthened Rhine River bridgehead against heavy pressure. A ponton bridge and several ferries are now in operation in addition to R.R. bridge. Bridges have been damaged by enemy fire but have been repaired. Three U.S. infantry divisions and an armored combat command are now in bridgehead. Army feels confident of their position and will exploit to their utmost in an effort to cause enemy troops to concentrate. This exploitation does not, however, affect the main effort directed around the northern flank. Enemy pocket north of Moselle further compressed and much equipment taken.

Eastern Front

Soviet operations to secure northern flank continue. Stettin, Gdynia and Danzig under attack. In Hungary Soviets say they are containing German armored attack northeast Lake Balaton, where 1st and 12th SS Panzers are reported.

Air Warfare

Yesterday over 1200 U.S. heavies attacked sub yards and oil refineries in Germany. Weather is predicted favorable over both fronts today and tomorrow.

Burma

British fighting in northern section Mandalay, where Japs have flooded considerable area.

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Ulithi

^{ULITHI}
RANDOLPH at anchor hit by suicide plane. Fire started now under control.
7 dead, 25 injured. 2010K/11th.

Second plane crashed Sorlen Island, damaging buildings.

Possible Ulithi reconnaissance again.

Central Pacific

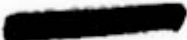
Debris of plane (possibly Harmon's) spotted by plane from Johnston Island,
(475 miles southwest of Johnston). CVE search group directed to area.

Philippines

No enemy air or naval reaction encountered Zamboanga up to 111135I.
Mortar and artillery fire still falling beaching area.

- - - - -
WINANT-PRESIDENT--calling the attention to editorial in the London Sunday Observer.
Attacks Dumbarton Oaks agreement.

HARRIMAN-PRESIDENT--Prisoners of war on Eastern Front and the Soviet's refusal
to allow General Deane to make an inspection trip into Poland; withdrawal of
U.S. contact team Lublin and suggested message to U.J.


203(14)

WS

B-29's

Yesterday 240 B-29's made night incendiary attack on Nagoya, setting fire to an estimated 25% of the city. Defense measures were apparently upset by the unusually low altitude at which the attack was made - 5600-8180 feet. One bomber was lost.

An attack by 48 B-29's was made on oil storage facilities in the Singapore area the same day. Full report not yet received.

203(11)

FWS

11 March 1945

Western Front

Enemy artillery fire increasing in accuracy. Direct hit on Remagen bridge rendered it nonoperative for 5 hours. After 2½ hours of use it received another hit which knocked it out for 6 hours. A pontoon bridge which is being built is now ¾ completed.

III Corps continues to strengthen bridgehead. As of the 9th we had 12 Infantry bns, 2 Anti-Tank bns, 2 tank bns, 1 tank destroyer bn and 1 AA bn on the east bank of the Rhine. Later reports indicate 60 Inf of 9th div. closed in bridgehead. 39 Inf of same div. began crossing bridge yesterday morning. The Commanding General of this div originally took command of the bridgehead. It has now been divided into 2 sectors with the 76th div assuming responsibility for the north half. The Germans have announced that Honnef, on the north of the bridgehead has been captured.

The 9th Tactical Air Command is providing fighter cover over the bridge. Enemy attempts to bomb the bridge yesterday were driven off.

Elsewhere along the front improvement continues.

Air Warfare

Yesterday was the 26th day of the non-stop aerial offensive against Germany.

Balkans

For the fourth day in succession Russians report German attacks with strong tank forces northeast of Lake Balaton.

Tokyo

Reconnaissance photos indicate that 15 square miles in the heart of Tokyo were destroyed in Friday's B-29 incendiary attack. Previous reports showed 10 miles.

203(15)

11 March 1945

Iwo Jima

P-51's are now providing close support in addition to that being furnished by carrier aircraft. On the afternoon of 9 March, a B-29 successfully made a forced landing on Motoyama Airfield No. 1.

The Marine casualties on Iwo Jima at 5:00 p.m., 9 March, totalled 16,011. The total was made up of 760 officers and 15,251 enlisted men. There have been 3098 officers and men killed in action.

Philippines

Patrol planes sank a Jap freighter, a lugger and a tug, and damaged three other freighters off Hong Kong on 8 March. On 10 March, a patrol plane shot down a Jap flying boat in the Nansai Shotos.

Pacific

The submarine KETE reports sinking three medium size Jap ships.

The Staff of Carrier Division 5, according to best available information in Washington is now in the HORNET. (Lieutenant John Roosevelt is attached to the Staff of ComCarDiv 5).

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10 March 1945

Western Front

Latest official reports state Remagen bridgehead is now over 5 mi. wide by 3 mi. deep. (morning press states it is 10 mi. wide and 5 mi. deep.). All high ground commanding site is in Allied hands. No extensive defenses have yet been met. Resistance, generally light and disorganized so far, is centered mainly in towns. Enemy artillery is becoming more active in bridgehead area. In early morning of the 9th 105 mm shells fell into area at the rate of 30 rounds per minute. 4 enemy aircraft bombed and strafed bridge. All were shot down and it took only 15 minutes to repair damage. The bridge is now capable of carrying any military load. Press and radio reports first counterattacks have been repelled. More are expected.

Press reports that prongs of 1st and 3rd armies have joined on west bank of Rhine. *It is estimated that elements of 9 German divisions are in this pocket.* Also that Bonn has been captured. Late official report states that 2 spans of bridge at that place have been destroyed.

G-2 SHAEP states that enemy's willingness to surrender local gains recently made by him in sector south of Trier indicates a major regrouping.

Weather on whole front wet with poor visibility. Allied air activity has continued at a high level with bombing being done through overcast. Enemy air has been conspicuous by its absence.

German troops from the Channel Islands made a commando raid on the port of Granville, Normandy. Some damage caused but casualties were small. 5 USMC personnel reported among those taken prisoners in the raid.

Japan

Radio reports largest B-29 raid to date on Tokyo with incendiaries setting 10 square miles of city on fire. Imperial Palace among buildings reported burning.

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10 March 1945

PHILIPPINES

Barbey reports 4 battalions landed Zamboanga 10 March 0940I with no opposition except light machine gun fire. 2 CL and 6 DD in support.

PACIFIC

Nimitz has directed ships and aircraft required to carry out regularly assigned tasks to discontinue search for General Harrison. Transients to adjust their courses so as to give coverage of area.

IWO JIMA

The Japs were resorting to booby trapping dead Marines and dressing Jap snipers in Marine uniforms.

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TOP SECRET

9 March 1945

EUROPE

Midget subs active on convoy route to Antwerp. No ships damaged.
At least 6 subs sunk or damaged. Five prisoners taken.

PHILIPPINES

Japs report Blue landings near Zamboanga at 0950 March 9th.
Navy patrol seaplanes began operations from Manila Bay 7 March.

PACIFIC SUBS

JALLAO damaged enemy destroyer by fouling screws with her periscope.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

HARRIMAN-PRESIDENT, 8 March 45. Repatriation and Russian treatment
of American prisoners of war.

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TOP SECRET

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9 March 1945

14

WESTERN FRONT

The press now reports that we now hold a four-mile deep perimeter on the east bank. There is every evidence that General Hodges is planning to exploit to the utmost although specific information is lacking.

Elsewhere U.S. troops have reached the Rhine and are fighting in Bonn and at another point north of Koblenz. Enemy forces in this large area north of the Moselle are in disorder. Prisoner take large.

The enemy continues to resist in his west wall positions south of the Moselle from Trier over to the Rhine.

During week ending 7 March, enemy activity against London was heavy and varied. In addition to the V-2 rockets, flying bomb (V-1) attacks were resumed for first time since January. Also, on two nights enemy aircraft bombed on heaviest scale since before D-day.

PHILIPPINES

U.S. 41st Division less one regiment, scheduled to land at Zamboanga, on western tip of Mindanao, on 10 March. Japs report U.S. landing at 0950 on 9th local time. Jap radio reports large U.S. convoy off Zamboanga.

BURMA

General Sultan's headquarters reports that if British are able to exploit their gains south of Mandalay, they can impose worst defeat Japs have yet suffered in Burma. Bulk of Jap Army has been disposed along Irrawaddy east and north of Mandalay and their position has now been made very difficult by sudden British thrust which cut all Jap communications to the south.

EUROPE

Midget subs active on convoy route to Antwerp. No ships damaged. At least six subs sunk or damaged. Five prisoners taken.

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PACIFIC SUBS

JALMO damaged enemy destroyer by fouling screws with her periscope.

SECRET
8 March 1945

PACIFIC

Admiral Fraser advised Admiral Nimitz that a fast carrier force of the British Pacific Fleet would be at Manus between March 6-13 and at Ulithi between March 16-19. Beginning March 19 fleet train to arrive at Leyte to replenish fast carrier forces after its first operation.

Admiral King replied to Fraser, "Do not desire fast carrier force proceed beyond Manus until decision as to its employment warrants." And at same time Admiral Nimitz advised his headquarters that until further notice fuel estimates for British fleet were to be based on training and passage between ports but no combat operations during phase one next operation.

LOCAL

CINCPAC advanced headquarters suggests to Admiral King that if no public release yet of presence in Washington of Nimitz, Wedemeyer and Hurley, such releases not be made.

~~Halley - Presentation ? & Autograph ?~~

203(15)
SECRET


5 March 1945

The submarine BARBEL is overdue from patrol and considered lost. Last contacted 4 February west of Balabac. Lost in action probably enemy aircraft but possibly enemy submarine.

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TOP SECRET

PUR

3 March 1945

WESTERN FRONT

Ninth Army, with nine divisions now committed and three more in immediate reserve, has reached the Rhine north of Dusseldorf. The German 15th Army and First Parachute Army, with nine or ten divisions west of the Rhine caught between the converging wings of the Allied offensive, are in complete disorder and, according to press reports, in "frantic retreat" across the Rhine. The industrial cities of Neuss and Krefeld were overrun.

Our drive on Cologne, an operation subordinate to the Ninth Army's main effort to the north, continues to meet determined enemy resistance.

There is no confirmation of Nazi radio reports of Allied attempts to cross the Rhine river.

Continued good weather has permitted Allied Strategic Air Forces to operate in very great strength for the eighteenth consecutive day. RAF battered Cologne again yesterday. Good weather is again forecast for today.

EASTERN FRONT

German radio says that Soviet forces have driven to within four miles of the Baltic Sea at a point midway between Stettin and Danzig. No change other sectors this front.

General Deane reports from Moscow that it appears that the Soviet-German front is approaching a period of stabilization which may last until after the spring thaw.

TOP SECRET

[REDACTED] PWS
3 March 1945

IWO JIMA

The Marines are continuing to advance on the left flank and in the center. At noon on 2 March our lines extended to the northern limits of Airfield No. 3. Occupation of high ground near Airfield No. 3 places the Marines in a position to split the enemy as well as opening more maneuverable ground to them.

The north to south runway of Airfield No. 1 has about 4,000 feet in operation, and transport planes can now use the strip. The field will probably be clear of all enemy artillery fire by today, and fighter squadrons will be able to land and have been alerted for that purpose.

The supply situation is generally good, except that artillery ammunition is low, due to unloading difficulties and enemy action. On the night of 1 March and during 2 March, a five-foot swell interfered with the unloading. A west coast beach will probably be used on 3 March.

Planes sprayed DDT over areas in our possession and the results are reported as excellent.

The total Marine casualties at 5 p.m. on 1 March are 11,255 (10,663 enlisted men and 592 officers). Of this total, 1,774 have been killed in action.

The enemy dead total 7,127. 15 Japs and 17 Koreans are prisoners of war. Propaganda leaflets are reported by the Koreans to have induced them to surrender.

PHILIPPINES

Elements of the 24th Division landed on Lubang Island, northwest of Mindoro, on 1 March without opposition.

On Palawan the troops continued to advance without opposition and have found evidence of a hasty withdrawal by the enemy from well-constructed positions.

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3 March 1945

WESTERN FRONT

From Cologne north to Wesel there are thirteen bridges across the Rhine, of which five are railroad bridges and eight are highway bridges.

Press dispatches today state that the three bridges at Dusseldorf have been destroyed by the enemy. Dusseldorf is just across the Rhine from Neuss which was occupied yesterday by Allied troops.

So far as is known, the five bridges at Cologne and the bridges below Dusseldorf are still intact.

Another press dispatch confirmed by the German radio states that U.S. and Canadian forces have effected a junction.

MISCELLANEOUS

Admiral Nimitz is scheduled to arrive in Washington, D. C., at 10:00 this evening.

[REDACTED]

2 March 1945

Pres.
WST
US

Western Front

The battle on the Cologne Plain is going well.

Ninth Army, moving almost directly north, and Canadians moving southeast along the Rhine threaten some ten enemy divisions, including two of his hoarded armor units and two first-class parachute divisions. Indications are that these enemy troops are moving eastward toward the Rhine, but as yet there is no sign of a withdrawal across the Rhine.

First Army forces, driving due east toward Cologne, meeting stiffer opposition.

Third Army troops moving steadily through the difficult country north and south of the Moselle River, have captured the ancient city of Trier. (Trier was first entered by U.S. patrol in November of 1944).

The Canadians have captured 14,000 prisoners in their operation since 8 February. 18,000 prisoners taken in Cologne Plain area since jump-off date 23 February.

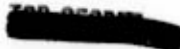
Yesterday our Strategic Air Forces maintained their punishing attacks on German rail centers. Weather forecast for today is continued good flying weather.

203(15)

 *g* 1 March 1945 *ff*

Tokyo

Admiral Mitscher reports that weather was a major factor in determining his operation of last week. Bad weather in the Empire area with only approximate weather predictions made timing of strikes on Tokyo extremely difficult. A tight schedule permitted little or no flexibility. Although Admiral Mitscher planned to strike Tokyo on both the 25th and 26th, weather on the 26th prevented strikes any place on Honshu and Admiral Mitscher withdrew southward and struck at the only target at which his planes could get through, Hachijo Jima. Heavy seas necessitated slowing down on the nights of the 24th and 25th to check destroyer damage, particularly in the 2,200 ton class.

203/14 

WHL
1 March 1945

Western Front

Operational dispatches bear out press reports of crumbling and disorganized enemy resistance before Allied advances toward the Rhine. SHAEF reports that the Nazi Volksgrenadier divisions are incapable of withstanding strong Allied offensive action. Only panzer and parachute units show no deterioration of morale and appear capable of offering determined resistance or organizing a counterattack. It is considered likely that enemy has decided he cannot hold ground west of the Rhine north of the Moselle.

Ninth Army has reached and crossed the Erft River which runs north and south between the Roer and the Rhine. Other elements 9th Army are in the outskirts of ^{Munchen} ~~Kuchen~~ Gladbach. One corps of the First Army, operating on southern flank of the 9th Army is moving directly on Cologne.

The Canadian First Army, northern prong of Montgomery's pincers designed to meet on the Rhine in the Dusseldorf area, made steady advances against stiffer opposition than that opposing the 9th Army.

Philippines

Operation to seize air facilities in the Puerto Princesa area, Palawan Island, executed 28 February without opposition. One regiment of the 41st Division is the combat element.

On March 10 balance of 41st Division will land at Zamboanga, western tip of Mindanao.

Army casualties to date on Luzon 15,410, of which 3,212 killed. Enemy known dead 55,000. 505 prisoners.

203(16)

22 January 1945

Third Fleet Operations

On 21 January the Third Fleet attacked Formosa and Sakishima Gunto in the Nansei Shoto group. Preliminary reports estimate the following damage: 43 enemy planes shot down, 97 destroyed on the ground, 101 damaged. Seven large ships were reported burning at Takao in southwest Formosa and some ships were damaged at other Formosan ports.

During this strike the TICONDEROGA (CV-14) was bombed and damaged so that she is unable to operate her planes. Her captain and executive officer were wounded. The LANGLEY (CVL 27) was hit by two bombs but damage was minor. The MADDOX (DD-731) was damaged seriously by a suicide bomber.

Third Fleet operations are continuing and Admiral Halsey intends to strike Okinawa, an important staging point for planes flying south from the Empire, on the 22nd.

Europe

Admiral Sir Harold M. Burrough assumed duty as Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, Expeditionary Forces on 19 January.

203(11)

 a.m. 22 January 1945 

Third Fleet Operations

While executing strikes on Formosa on 21 January, several ships of the Third Fleet were damaged. Operations are continuing, however, and Admiral Halsey intends to strike Okinawa as planned on the 22nd. Okinawa is an important staging point for planes flying from Japan to Formosa.

The TICONDEROGA (CV) was bombed and is unable to operate planes but she is capable of making 25 knots. Her captain and executive officer were wounded. The LANGLEY (CVL) was hit by two bombs but she is "able to carry on." The MADDOX (DD) was hit by suicide plane and was damaged considerably.

Prime Minister 891

The Prime Minister suggests that the Press be excluded from ARGONAUT but that he and the President take 3 or 4 service photographers.

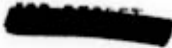
203(15)


 22 January 1945 P

Burma

General Sultan has reported that the road to China is open as of this date -- 22 January.

Communique reports that while Chinese Ground Forces were celebrating capture of Wanting with flag raising ceremony in city on 21 January, Japanese artillery units two miles to south started shelling. P-40's on patrol in area wiped out enemy artillery positions and ceremony in Wanting proceeded.



203(15)

[REDACTED] a.m. 22 January 1945

Western Front

As a result of heavy enemy pressure for the past several days in the north-east tip of Alsace, one corps of the American 7th Army is making a general withdrawal up to thirteen miles. Previously our forces in this area were threatened by converging enemy salients from the north around Bitché and from the east north of Strasbourg. Our 101st Airborne Division has been moved to this area from the Ardennes.

There is little change elsewhere. The enemy has succeeded in withdrawing about half his Panzer strength from the Ardennes battle, so that some of these divisions may soon become available for employment elsewhere.

British continue small gains in Holland.

Eastern Front

Momentum of the Soviet offensive is undiminished. Red Army communique cite extensive gains in southern Poland into Silesia, in central Poland west of Warsaw, and into East Prussia from the south and east. The Nazi Press says that Germany is "in her greatest hour of peril."

Italy

The U.S. Tenth Light division has been committed on the Italian Front. Troops of this unit have been specifically trained for mountain and winter warfare; it is the only division of this type in the U.S. Army.

Philippines

Axis of movement of our forces on Luzon has again turned toward south. Our troops have entered Tarlac, road center half-way to Manila from our beaches, and pushed beyond. Enemy is still putting up stiff resistance in the hills on Kreuger's left, but has offered no organized opposition to our advances toward Manila.

203(11)

[REDACTED]

OK *Not Spec.* *20 Jan*
~~SECRET~~
PACIFIC

Admiral Halsey suggests that the target dates for Ryukus and Bonins be met for the same aggressive reason that permitted no delay in Mindoro and Lingayen operations. He comes to this conclusion after stating that enemy air strength is negligible along southeast China coast and Indo-China, has collapsed on Luzon, and is not aggressive on Formosa. The naval threat from the South to MacArthur is negligible because of ship losses and damage to the enemy and shaken confidence as result of Third Fleet strikes. The threat from the North is small since Empire naval forces are incapable of more than hit and run attacks on Lingayen in the face of early detection. Stiff resistance and harassed retreat under these circumstances that could not inflict sufficient damage on our forces so they could control the sea, nor would it effect the Pacific campaign.

The Japs know they are licked in the Philippines. Halsey is inclined to believe that the enemy may be evacuating vulnerable facilities from Formosa but is digging in inside the perimeter of the East China Sea and strengthening local defenses of Formosa, along the Ryukus to the Empire.

The Japs have written off the Philippines and will not indulge in any dubious attacks that risk further losses to dwindling defence forces and would not permanently stop our Philippine campaign.

Cincpac concurs.

HONGKONG

Halsey reports that only 6 vessels (13,000 tons out of 110,000 tons) were sunk at Hongkong. 37 ships (75,000 tons) were damaged. There was good weather at Hongkong and no air opposition so the results are cause for disappointment and concern and are being examined by Halsey.

203(15) ~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

PHILIPPINES

There are still no indications of what the Jap plans to do to counter our landing on Luzon.

Total enemy killed to date 1529, 28 captured.

No enemy air over Lingayen in past 48 hours.

WESTERN FRONT

The enemy is exploiting his bridgehead across the Rhine north of Strasbourg, using armor which he has brought down from the Ardennes. It is uncertain now whether city of Strasbourg is objective or whether he hopes to link up with his salient farther north around Bifche. This activity is all in a sector of General Patch's Seventh Army.

Little change in the Ardennes.

To the north, in Holland, British are punching out small gains. Enemy as yet has not reinforced this sector.

24

[REDACTED] a.m. 21 January 1945

Western Front

The appearance of additional German armor in the Strasbourg area indicates that enemy's intention in the present attack is to cut off U.S. Forces or force their withdrawal from the Maginot Line defenses in Hagenu Forest region. It is believed that the main effort will be made west from the bridgehead over the Rhine north of Strasbourg. The other attack in this envelopment is being made southeast of Bitsch. In both these efforts Germans have made progress against stiff U.S. opposition and have succeeded in isolating two battalions of our infantry.

British attack from Sittard continues to make moderate progress.

Little change in the Ardennes sector.

Burma

Chinese troops have captured Wanting on the Burma Road, where Japs have been holding stubbornly for past few weeks to prevent our clearance of short remaining section of Burma Road between Wanting and Namkhan. Clearance of this last section will join old Burma Road with new Ledo route under construction by American Engineers.

203(15)

[REDACTED]

WS
a.m. 21 January 1945

Pacific

On 20 January the Third Fleet had numerous contacts with enemy planes flying between Formosa and Luzon. Sixteen enemy aircraft were shot down.

Admiral Halsey states that he is striking Formosa and Sakishima Gunto in the Nansei Shoto group on 21 January and that he will strike Okinawa on the 22nd.

Pacific Submarines

The submarine HAWKBILL has returned from a war patrol conducted west of the Philippines on which she sank one Matsu class destroyer and one small vessel and damaged one Matsu class destroyer.

203(15)

~~TOP SECRET~~
19 January 1945

UR

WESTERN FRONT

The United States First Army reverted to U.S. command on 18 January. In a general reorganization of boundaries, the First Army holds the northern half of the former bulge area, and the Third Army holds the southern half. Both armies are under command of General Bradley. The U.S. Ninth Army, with five infantry divisions, remains under Field Marshal Montgomery.

This regrouping has not as yet been disclosed to the public.

On 18 January, a V-2 rocket fell in a dock at Antwerp, blocking the entrance to a dry dock, sinking three barges and damaging fourteen. A liberty ship is trapped in the dock. Antwerp has been a target for V-2 rockets for some time, but this is the first rocket to cause serious damage.

During the week ending January 17, a total of 45 V-2 rockets landed in England, as compared to 65 for the preceding week. To date, there have been 500 V-2 rocket incidents in England, causing a total of 4,562 casualties.

PHILIPPINES

Little change in ground situation south of Lingayen. General Kreuger now has five infantry divisions committed, with four tank battalions available.

Total U.S. casualties to 17 January: killed 202; wounded 735; missing 89.

The air strip at Lingayen is complete and now is serving fifty P-38's.

BURMA

Japs are offering stubborn resistance in Wanting area but strong indications of probable withdrawal in near future. Reduction of Wanting will clear Burma Road to Kunning.

203(15)

~~TOP SECRET~~

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19 January 1945

THIRD FLEET

Admiral Halsey has cancelled his exit from the South China Sea via Surigao Strait after receiving a message from Admiral Nimitz who stated, "Passing thru Surigao will give enemy definite information of the relinquishment of optimum strategic and tactical position. An exit via Luzon Strait under non-storm conditions preferable even if stay in South China Sea is prolonged several days."

Admiral King concurs in Admiral Nimitz' suggestion. Admiral Halsey will remain west of Luzon. He is refueling today 180 miles west of Manila.

PACIFIC

Discussions between Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur as to allocation of forces continue. In two messages yesterday, Admiral Nimitz told the General that the 24th Corps (which includes the 7, 77 and 96 divisions) which is now employed at Leyte, is scheduled to take part in operation against Ryukus. General MacArthur had indicated in a message yesterday that he would hold on to this Corps so long that it would not be ready for assigned operation. MacArthur has been requested to comply with earlier agreements to ready the 24th Corps and transfer it to the CG, 10th Army for the Ryukus. In a second message, Admiral Nimitz informed MacArthur, "I do not share your opinion as to the ability of the enemy to concentrate a force of 6 BB's for a quick attack on Kinkaid's forces nor do I consider the Jap fleet capable of inflicting disaster to our Philippine operations if our fleet is employed offensively. The best protection of the Philippines is to continue offensive operations against Japan. Therefore, request again the immediate return of 2 damaged BB's. The temporary retention of PORTLAND, MINNEAPOLIS and 5 DD's approved."

There is evidence that the enemy has been obtaining vital information,

203(15)
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TOP SECRET

including intelligence and our future plans, from the conversations of our pilots when in flight and when taken prisoner. Admiral Nimitz directs that personnel be briefed to a point where they can function intelligently, but that information be limited as much as possible to avoid compromise.

PACIFIC SUBMARINES

The ELENY reports sinking 11,100 tons on her first war patrol (2 small ships and 1 large transport).

The HAMMERHEAD on her third patrol reports sinking a 10,000 ton oiler.

- 2 -

  p.m. 18 January 1945  

Pacific

Admiral Halsey reports that because of the inability to refuel in the northern area and because of vulnerability to attack and storm damage in the Luzon Strait during the present heavy weather, he has decided to retire to the east of the Philippines by way of Suriago Strait after fueling on the 19th west of Luzon. This plan cancels the strikes against Formosa and Okinawa reported this morning.

Admiral Kinkaid is holding two old battleships with his forces under instructions of General MacArthur.

Pacific Submarines

Two of our submarines report sinking a large destroyer, a small oiler, a small freighter and an enemy coaster.


203(117)

18 January 1945

PACIFIC

MacArthur expresses concern to Nimitz over immediate withdrawal of two old battleships. He feels Kinkaid will be between two possibly superior ^{(1) UNIFORM} enemy forces. He therefore urges retention of present strength ⁽⁶⁾ in battle-ships until situation is clarified.

INDO-CHINA

French Mission reports that 1500 Jap soldiers perished on the 12th when Halsey's air forces sank 4 large and 5 small transports.

PHILIPPINES

The loss of 3 minesweepers and 1 CVE (previously reported) which were taking part in M-1 operation may be announced without prejudice, according to Admiral Kinkaid.

Airfield situation on Lingayen and Mindoro will permit attack on Luzon by one group of B-24's covered by two groups of P-38's. This will be undertaken when weather permits and when it will no longer interfere with operations of the Third Fleet.

203(15)

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PACIFIC

Admiral Nimitz states "all available intelligence indicates that KONGO-HARUNA-NAGATO-YAMATO force is still in Empire while ISE-HYUGA force in vicinity Lingga Singapore. Meanwhile enemy air strength in Formosa and Okinawa is increasing to an extent which makes it primary target for carrier attack. Third Fleet operations in South China Sea in a more or less fixed position are obtaining diminishing returns with increasing risk.

"Propose direct Halsey on completing today's fueling move to eastward of Luzon Strait and strike enemy airforce Formosa and Okinawa. He will still be in position to intercept heavy ships coming from the Empire.

"To cover Lingayen-Mindoro against Lingga-Singapore force, propose for about 3 weeks augment Kinkaid's 8 American cruisers and 50 destroyers with 4 battleships in best condition and will plan to conduct Iwo Jima bombardment with OBB's TEXAS, ARKANSAS, NEW YORK, plus NEVADA, TENNESSEE and IDAHO augmented by fast battleships as necessary. By this means safety Lingayen will be ensured and contingent on readiness fast carrier force, Tokyo strike and capture of Iwo Jima will take place close to scheduled date with effective strategic support of Philippine campaign."

Admiral King concurs.

PACIFIC SUBMARINES

The PICUDA probably sank a tanker on the 7th.

ATLANTIC

Four destroyer escorts on anti-submarine patrol out of Horta report sinking a German submarine.

SECRET

203(11)

18 DECEMBER 1945

WESTERN FRONT

Little change in the Ardennes or in the north in Holland, where British made local attack yesterday.

Most severe fighting on this front now is in northern Alsace, but there have been no significant changes in our positions here.

EASTERN FRONT

Late radio reports state that Soviets may have crossed German frontier although latest Red Army communique places advance units 15 miles from border. Thus far there are no indications that Soviet offensive has drawn troops from General Eisenhower's front.

PHILIPPINES

No further advance southward toward Manila other than by patrols was made yesterday although Jap opposition in this direction has been very slight. General Kreuger has further secured his right by pushing troops to Cape Bolinao at entrance to Lingayen Gulf.

On Leyte, our mopping up continues on a large scale, with 564 enemy killed on 16 January. Total known dead to date here 67,490.

203(15)

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13 January 1945

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B

PACIFIC

MacArthur expresses concern to Nimitz over withdrawal of two old battleships from Kinkaid's force. He feels Kinkaid will be between two Jap forces which would be superior if combined as single force. He therefore urges retention of present strength of battleships in Philippines until situation is clarified.

Kinkaid reports that the loss of 3 minesweepers and 1 CVE (previously reported) which took part in M-1 operation may be announced without prejudice.

Airfield situation on Lingayen and Mindoro will permit attack on Formosa by one group of B-24's covered by two groups P-38's. This will be undertaken when weather permits and when it will no longer interfere with operations of the Third Fleet.

French Mission reports that 1500 Jap soldiers perished on the 12th when Halsey's air forces sank 4 large and 5 small transports.

The Third Fleet will pass through Luzon Strait during the night 18-19 January, and will attack Formosa from the east, refuel, and attack Okinawa on the 22nd.

The 14th Air Force will attack Hongkong on the 18th and 19th with B-24's and P-51's.

MEDITERRANEAN

The light cruiser REGOLO, three destroyers and one torpedo boat of Italian Navy have arrived at Algiers, having been released from internment at Port Mahon, Balearic Islands, Spain.

203(15)

[REDACTED]

TOP SECRET

17 November 1945

WESTERN FRONT

The enemy bulge is now roughly one-quarter of its size at the time of maximum penetration. The enemy withdrawal has slowed and he is resisting our attacks bitterly. Our operations are hampered by snow, terrain, and mines.

The British attack in Holland north of Sittard is local in nature, involving only one division. Marshal Montgomery still has four of his divisions in the Ardennes area, and does not at present have the strength for larger scale operations.

Enemy appears to be building up his force in the Alsace sector.

Effective 18 January, First United States Army will revert to command of Central Group of Armies under General Bradley. U.S. Ninth Army remains under Montgomery.

ITALY

Another British division is leaving the Italian front for Greece. Two other British divisions are already in Greece, making total of three which have been withdrawn from Eighth Army.

PHILIPPINES

General MacArthur reports in his communique that heavy fighting is taking place on his right at the foot of the mountains below Baguio. Heavy artillery fire was received on our beaches in this area.

On our left, our forces are moving southward and meeting no opposition.

The air strip at Lingayen now has 5,000-foot runway, with dispersal areas for one fighter group.

GENERAL

Of the 89 U.S. divisions, all but six are overseas or are enroute. Of

TOP SECRET

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W

these six, three are infantry, two armored, and one airborne.

Joint Chiefs of Staff have directed that effective 1 April, XX Bomber Command will leave China bases and operate from Marianas.

203(15)

~~TOP SECRET~~
- 2 -

TOP SECRET

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

17 January 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL BROWN:

There is given below a brief of estimate of enemy intentions and capabilities on Luzon from G-2 and Southwest Pacific section of OPD:

The Jap is believed to have seven divisions on Luzon; ^{five} ~~seven~~ of these are located as shown on the map and two are unlocated. Of these two, one is thought to be south of Lingayen.

It is believed that the Jap hopes to concentrate a maximum force on the Manila Plain to oppose General Kreuger and has avoided engaging thus far in order not to commit his forces in a piece-meal manner.

At the present time, the Jap probably has available the equivalent of three divisions south and east of Lingayen, consisting of the 19th and 2nd Armored Divisions, an independent (i.e., non-divisional) brigade, and one brigade from the 103rd Division in the north. If the 23rd Division is south of Lingayen, this force would be four divisions.

By 20 January, Jap can probably muster a total of four (or five) divisions by moving up the 8th from Batangas and replacing it with parts of the 105th Division.

The 10th Division has not been considered in these estimates.

Our forces now have cut in two places one of the two north-south roads between Manila and Lingayen. The Jap must hold the eastern of these two roads (Highway No. 5) in order to effect his concentration.

Ogden Kniffen
OGDEN KNIFFEN,
Major, C. E.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date JAN 7 1974

TOP SECRET

203(11')

TOP SECRET

PACIFIC

Admiral Halsey reports carrier planes swept waterfront from Keelung to Hongkong on Jan 15. Preliminary reports list 1 tanker, 1 destroyer and 1 destroyer escort among few ships sunk. Sixteen Jap planes shot down.

Admiral Halsey's ~~ships~~^{planes} shot down a Jap transport plane which was escorted by four fighters. It is believed that the Chief of Staff of Jap Navy was aboard this plane.

Carrier forces are fueling today.

Halsey reports that he feels that immediate and future dividends from further offensive operations by his forces in the China Sea are not commensurate with forces and efforts involved. He recommends that Task Force 38 move east of Formosa-Luzon after he finishes fueling and from that position he may be able to move to meet any reported enemy fleet detachments approaching Lingayen.

LUZON

Enemy attitude continues passive throughout front except for vigorous resistance on northern flank in vicinity of road to Baguio. Jap casualties to 14 Jan were 291 killed, 3 prisoners.

The destroyer escort LERAY WILSON was severely damaged on 10 Dec in the Lingayen Gulf by Jap crash divers.

PACIFIC

British Pacific Fleet has reported to Cominch for duty. Admiral Fraser says: "The British Pacific Fleet will look forward to fighting alongside the U.S. Navy in whatever area you may assign."

Battle cruiser GUAM ordered to proceed to Pearl Harbor for duty from east coast. Captain Wood's destroyers escorting.

[REDACTED]

WESTERN FRONT

Our forces continue to exert maximum pressure around the perimeter of the much-reduced enemy bulge in the Ardennes. The enemy is carrying out his withdrawal skillfully, aided by poor weather. Many of his panzer units are not out of contact and must be presumed to have been pulled out without too great loss.

A late press dispatch states that our forces have entered Houffalize, road center at western tip of bulge. Capture of this objective would not now constitute threat to enemy's withdrawal as his troops are now well east of it.

Further south in the Alsace area the enemy has again attacked Gen. Patch's troops. Bitter fighting continues in this sector.

PHILIPPINES

Only resistance offered to General Kreuger's troops is on extreme left of his wide front near the central mountain range. Elsewhere his columns are moving southward and meeting no opposition.

Jap casualties on Luzon to date: 542 killed and 14 captured.

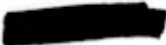
On Leyte, the 11th Airborne Division has been withdrawn from combat. Future plans for operations on Luzon may involve this unit.

BURMA

Jap trend of withdrawal is continued on all fronts, but indications (b) enemy may delay as strongly as possible in central Burma north of Mandalay. British troops, pushing southward, are now within 30 miles of this city.

(7) ^{press} 1st Motor truck convoy
to Myittha

203(N)

 16 January 1945 P

Pacific

British Pacific Fleet has reported to COMINCH for duty. Admiral Fraser says: "The British Pacific Fleet will look forward to fighting alongside the U.S. Navy in whatever area you may assign."

Admiral Nimitz asked Admiral Halsey to submit results of the strikes by Task Force 38 on January 15-16 on the China Coast before he can decide whether or not to withdraw that force from the South China Sea.

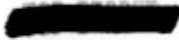
The CVE HOGATT BAY was damaged when a bomb on a landing plane exploded on the flight deck. The damage is beyond the capacity of the ship's force to repair.

The battle-cruiser GUAM has been ordered to proceed to Pearl Harbor from the East Coast for duty. Captain Wood will be in one of the escorting destroyers.

Burma

Jap trend of withdrawal is continued on all fronts, but indications enemy may delay as strongly as possible in central Burma north of Mandalay. British troops, pushing southward, are now within 30 miles of this city.

General Sultan announced the opening of the Ledo Road as far as Myitkyina as an all-weather two-lane road. Press reports indicate that the first motor truck convoy arrived at Myitkyina from Ledo.



202(15)

~~ULTRA~~

a.m. 11 January 1945

PJB

ULTRA

From available evidence it appears that our Task Force 38 has made transit of the Luzon Straits and into the South China Sea without detection by the Japs.

Luzon

On the evening of 10 January, Commander Task Force 77 (Vice Admiral T. C. Kinkaid) reported as follows: Landing operations in the Lingayen area were proceeding on schedule; troops were continuing to advance with very little opposition, except in one or two points where moderate enemy resistance was being encountered. On the afternoon of 10 January, the unloading of ships was being hampered by unfavorable conditions in the Gulf.

The Lingayen air strip was used 10 January by a damaged carrier aircraft for a landing. During the day there was almost no enemy air opposition.

On 10 January, in the afternoon, the transport DU PAGE (APA 41) was damaged by a crash-diver. The details of the damage are not known but it is suggested that they were not extensive and the ship was reported ready to depart from the area with a convoy the same night.

On 10 January, the transport WAR HAWK (AP 163) sustained moderate damage from a possible torpedo. In addition, the destroyer ROBINSON (DD 562) is reported to have suffered superficial damage and the LST's 925 and 1025, minor damage.

During the night of 9 January, a large convoy consisting of 40 transport-type ships, a damaged CVE and the damaged cruisers AUSTRALIA, COLUMBIA and LOUISVILLE, departed for rear areas. The convoy was escorted by 12 DD's and DE's.

Pacific Submarines

Our submarines, operating in the Formosa area, report that 7 ships in an 8-ship convoy have been sunk. The remaining enemy freighter managed to escape with a heavy screen of a destroyer and 8 small escorts.

The U.S. submarine BARBERO returned from second patrol having sunk 21,700 tons of enemy shipping.

Atlantic

The U.S. Cargo ship JONAS LIE (7,198 GT) was torpedoed off the west coast of England. Sixty-five survivors have landed. Tug being sent to assist.

[REDACTED]
a.m. 11 January 1945

Western Front

General picture in Ardennes area is further compressing of enemy salient on all sides. Enemy is offering determined resistance but continues to give up ground. It is believed he is carrying out well-conducted withdrawal from nose of salient but continued holding back of some armor and infantry leaves him capable of limited offensive.

In Alsace, presence of uncommitted enemy forces which he could use to advantage elsewhere may indicate further offensive intentions although from ULTRA information it appears that his efforts in this area were planned to pin down our forces.

Italy

General Alexander does not contemplate large scale offensive operations on this front for present. His divisions to be given maximum rest. Enemy maintains 26 divisions here, holding firmly below Bologna.

Burma

Allied troops have occupied Shwebo, 50 miles north of Mandalay on the Rangoon-Myitkyina railway. Opposition slight.

Philippines

War Department has feeling that Jap was caught off-balance by our landings in Lingayen Gulf. Enemy force on Luzon of 7 divisions -- 166,000 men, is deployed over entire island. Probable area of first coordinated Jap defense will be along Agno River, 20 miles south of landing beaches.

Press reports state that our forces have penetrated 18-20 miles in some areas.

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10 January 1945

LORON

Supplementing the report of the attack on the USS COLORADO, it is stated that the attack occurred 9 January at 7:00 p.m. Considerable damage was done to the ship's AA fire control and personnel connected thereto. Six officers and twelve enlisted men have been killed with four officers and thirty men seriously wounded.

PACIFIC SUBMARINES

On 6 January, at 9:30 p.m., at the mouth of the Gulf of Siam, the U.S. submarine BESUGO sank a large fully-laden enemy tanker.

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Regraded Unclassified

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~~ULTRA~~

a.m. 10 January 1945

Luzon

Prior dawn today 9 January transports and supply ships of assault echelon entered Lingayen Gulf and proceeded to unloading areas. Preliminary bombardment of beachheads by fire support groups and rocket LCI followed by strafing from support aircraft proceeded in accordance with plan. First wave landed on schedule at 0927. By 0940 assault waves ashore on all beaches without opposition except for slight amount mortar fire on Eastern San Fabian beach. Troops moved quickly inland against minor and sporadic opposition. Approximately 68,500 troops ashore by dusk. Unloading progressed rapidly at all beaches. By late afternoon commanding generals 6th, 37th, 40th and 43rd divisions had reported assuming command ashore. Enemy air opposition during the day was comparatively light but attacks by suicide planes were effective in damaging COLUMBIA, AUSTRALIA and COLORADO which were hit, COLUMBIA for second time and HMAS AUSTRALIA for fourth time during present operation. Damage to above ships extensive but not critical. Evening 8th during approach KITKUN BAY hit by suicide diver holed below water line lost power and now en route Lingayen under tow. One engine expected to be operational near future.

There are further indications that confirm estimate that the Second Diversion Attack Force is advancing to Camarish Bay.

General MacArthur requests that the 20th Air Force hit Formosa, Okinawa airfields for the next 7 days.

Pacific Submarines

The PUFFER reports five ships remaining in ten-ship convoy in East China Sea. She is going in for submerged attack. The PUFFER unable to raise the BLUEBACK.

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By Authority of _____

UND 760056
By JP Date OCT 7 1975

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Regraded Unclassified

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~ULTRA~~

Fight submarines being concentrated in the mouth of the Gulf of Siam to intercept northbound Japs and to be in a position to join southbound evacuation if Admiral Halsey's forces detected before strike.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of _____

NND 760056

By GA Date OCT 7 1975

Regraded Unclassified

[REDACTED] a.m. 9 January 1945 FR

U-1

Admiral Halsey has ordered Vice Admiral McCain to execute plan GRATITUDE, that is, to carry out strikes in South China Sea from 10 January to 16 January on Luzon, Camranh Bay, Tizard Bank, Hainan, Hongkong and Formosa.

Admiral Oldendorf's Bombardment Force continued operations according to plan on the 8th with better results than on the 6th and 7th. A number of important strong points in the San Fernando area were "most effectively" bombarded.

Minesweeping was completed in the Lingayen area and CVE'S made "many important strikes".

Underwater demolition teams have completed surveys and found all beaches suitable for landings. No mines or underwater obstacles were found.

One Jap destroyer sunk by U.S. destroyers escorting San Fabian Attack Force at 2300 I/7th off Manila Bay.

Europe

One midget U-boat seen to sink off Zeebrugge and two prisoners were taken on the 5th.

Two Norwegian-manned MTB's attacked escorted convoy 60 miles north of Bergen sinking one 9,000-ton ship, torpedoing one of 5,000 tons and damaging minesweeper.

Lemaster in town

203(15) [REDACTED]

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a.m. 9 January 1944

Western Front

Enemy resistance in the La Roche-Vielsalm sector of the salient generally disorganized. Radio reports state Allied units within one mile of La Roche and a thousand yards of Vielsalm. In Bastogne sector, no enemy armor contacted except for 15th Panzer Grenadier Division. Of the Panzers in nose of the salient only 116th contacted. Second SS Panzer Division has moved eastward to Vielsalm area in support of sagging infantry divisions.

No new forces identified along upper Rhine and present indications are that most serious effort is from direction of Palatinate. In the salient, the bulk of enemy armor is now missing but intentions are still obscured. Indications are that enemy is pulling 5th Panzer Army in. The Allied progress on north shoulder is endangering enemy's remaining east-west road in salient requiring more armor. Candidates for this job are 9th and 12th SS Divisions. Heavy snow on front hiding any enemy movements today. Reidentification of six parachute divisions has tied up one of the spare divisions. Tenth SS and 11th Panzer still missing.

General

A decided effort to step up the flow of additional U.S. manpower to the Western Front is being made. In addition to equipping new French Divisions, two American Divisions which were earmarked for the Pacific have now been allocated to the European Theater of Operations.

Twentieth Air Force

On 9 January, Saipan time, 74 B-29's again struck Nakajima Aircraft Engine Plant in Tokyo. Results unobserved. On same day XX Bomber Command (B-29's from China) attacked air facilities on Formosa. Latter operation was at request of General MacArthur and in conjunction with Fleet Carrier Forces.

203(17)

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[REDACTED]

9 January 1945

M-1 SUPPORTING OPERATIONS

In the strikes of Task Force 38 (Vice Adm McCain) on Luzon on 6 and 7 January, 111 enemy aircraft were destroyed, 3 medium cargo ships and 9 smaller vessels were sunk, and some damage was inflicted on railroads, trucks and ground installations. We lost 45 planes.

Preliminary reports of the strikes of the same force on Formosa on 9 January show 14 ships sunk and 18 damaged. No air opposition was encountered. Weather prevented the scheduled strike on Okinawa.

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WESTERN FRONT

8 January 1946

In Ardennes salient enemy still fighting grimly and showing no signs of withdrawing. Attacks against Bastogne continue and Germans ^{is} seem determined to hold western end of salient inspite our continued pressure from the north, which is making slight gains.

In the Saar region, the enemy penetration in the area of Biche is being contained by our forces. Presence of 21st Panzer Division south of Wissembourg may indicate that enemy is shifting wieght of his offensive to the east with probable ~~x~~ intention of launching a two-pronged drive on Saverne. In addition to the 21st Panzer, he has available in this area the 6th SS Mountain Division and the 17th and 26th Panzer Grenadier Divisions and 9 infantry divisions.

¹⁷⁴
The enemy bridgehead north of Strasbourg has been considerably reduced. Germans still retain pocket west of the Mass at Wanssum.

GREECE

Clearing operations in the Athens-Piraeus area continued against practically no opposition. It is now apparent that a full scale ELAS withdrawal was carried out on 5 January.

203(11) [REDACTED]

7 January 1945

WESTERN FRONT

attacks in the enemy's 19th Army sector in the Saar have not produced impressive identifications as yet. Further attacks are expected. In this offensive enemy's armored striking force still is not committed; indications favor its going southeast rather than southwest but leading infantry elements are not yet clear of forest.

In Aachen, contact with enemy in tip of salient is fairly light except in case of 9th Panzer. There is still a possibility that enemy may withdraw behind the Ourthe River, about midway in the salient, but in the meantime he is concentrating his main effort on Bastogne, attacking with considerable violence while on northern flank infantry is fighting unsupported except for 2d SS Panzer and 116th Panzer on left wing. Elements of these two divisions sent to assist on right wing indicates unwillingness to commit further reserves or armor.

There are no additional signs of trouble impending further north. The 6th and 7th Parachute divisions are both in reserve and their moves may provide a clue to the enemy's future intentions.

GREECE

There is every indication that the bulk of ELAS forces have withdraw from Athens and Piraeus into the hills north and northeast of Kifisia (north of Tatoi) and to the Eleusis-Manchra area, their main supply dump. Our troops have made a detailed search of the southern half of Piraeus and three quarters of Athens, and sent unopposed patrols to the northern outskirts of these places.

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[REDACTED]
p.m. 6 January 1944

M-1

Admiral Oldendorf reports that his Force (Lingayen support unit) has been under attack by suicide bombers for over 24 hours. The battleship NEW MEXICO ✓ had her bridge destroyed and all communications are out. The destroyer WALKER ✓ was hit by a plane in the after part of her bridge in the Communications Intelligence Center. All guns are under local control. The Captain was critically injured. The destroyer SUMNER was hit aft with the aft magazine flooded. The ✓ destroyer LONG was hit by a suicide plane and the fast transport BLOCK was also hit by a suicide plane. No amplifying report has been received. The destroyer LEAHY was hit by a plane on both forward guns. The damage was slight.

Admiral Oldendorf reports that "we require considerably more air support." "What we have does not seem adequate at all. We have had 12 ships hit by suicide bombers since 1630 yesterday of which 9 were damaged severely and one sunk. The suicide dive bomber attacks are made in a determined fashion. The pilots seem to be of a high quality and difficult to stop. Group Fighter Director Officer states that no radar contacts this forenoon. All interception being done by visual lookouts with fighter director."

Admiral Halsey's Task Force 38 will strike Luzon tomorrow to give aid to land-based air forces. This is the second diversion from the fleet plan covering M-1 operations.

Minesweepers report no mines found as yet in entrance to mine fields but several floating mines encountered.

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M-1

TOP SECRET
p.m. 6 January 1944

Western Front

G-2 Summary of situation to 2400Z, 4 th follows:

Enemy bridgehead established across Rhine north of Strasbourg lends color to reports from good sources that a similar attempt will be made south of the Colmar pocket. It is also likely that Ninteenth Army, inside pocket, will start pushing north and south in sympathy. No good information on forces to be employed, but evidence shows some have been brought up.

In Saar, in view of enemy's lack of success on his right in attempted crossing of river Blies, and his comparatively successful advances towards edge of forest on his left, possible he may decide to throw in his main weight on the left, and try to join up with pushes across Rhine.

In Ardennes, weather greatly favored enemy. He is holding firm with armor in snout of salient, and indications still are that he is not withdrawing at present. Evidence increases that his troops are short of supplies, including food, and that his losses in men and material have been heavy. Over 2,700 prisoners taken from 5th Parachute Division; equipment lost in sally out to Dinant speak for themselves. (81 tanks, 405 vehicles, 76 guns plus 7 self propelled) Non appearance of 10th SS Panzer Division casts some doubt of its move south from Duren.

North of Bulge, to be expected that enemy will launch attacks to tie down Allied forces. Threat south of Gorinchem somewhat abated, but concentration on Schouwen still present.

203(13)

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MORNING NEWS, 6 January 1945

PJB

WESTERN FRONT

First Army has continued its attack against heavy opposition. Minefields, difficult terrain and weather slowed up operations generally.

Late radio reports indicate Third Army has been forced to give ground in several sectors.

Hard fighting continues along Seventh Army front with some further withdrawals reported. Enemy infiltrated to vicinity of Wingen, approximately 12 miles south of Bitche. Communique reports that most of these were disposed of.

German 6th SS Mountain division has definitely been identified east of Bitche. This division was previously in Finland and was moved down through Norway and Denmark after German evacuation of northern Finland. Generally the German strength on the Western front has steadily increased. On the 8th of December 67 Divisions were employed. By the 18th of December this had increased to 70 and now stands at a total of 78 divisions and possibly 79 as theater suspects presence of an additional infantry division. The increase has been 10 limited employment and one field division.

During this period the Allied strength has been increased by six divisions (2 airborne, 2 infantry, and 2 armored) to a total of 70 divisions.

The action in the Southern Army Group continues in the Bitche area where the enemy's thrust has been blunted. However, another enemy infiltration took place which was being cleaned up at last reports. Here we have committed two of the divisions we held in reserve and shifted three regiments of infantry to try to halt the enemy thrust. One infantry division formerly in reserve has commenced relief of a division in the First French Army Sector. This still

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leaves us with 3 armored divisions in this sector not committed. On the German side in this sector are three infantry divisions, one Panzer Grenadier and one Panzer division that are not committed; two Panzer divisions in reserve north of the Moselle and an infantry division near Freiburg could possibly be used. With the possible exception of one additional new division being brought into the picture these are his only known reinforcements without weakening some other sector.

An enemy attack was made across the Rhine above Strassbourg and fighting is still in progress. Another attack above Colmar was reported under control.

SHAEP provisionally estimates enemy casualties for December, citing difficulties of making accurate estimate, at about 130,000 of which 30,000 were killed and 50,000 captured. Subsequently, in same cable, estimate was cut to 110,000 total.

More than 1,000 heavy bombers and 500 fighters of 8th AF hit railroad yards and communications centers in Western Germany yesterday. More than 20 targets, all of which are important points along enemy supply route to Western Front, were bombed. This broad scale attack was unopposed by the GAF.

Over 105,000 tons were unloaded on the continent on the 3rd consisting of 63,000 stores. 30,000 POL and 12,000 vehicles, of which 28,000 stores, 9,000 POC, and 2,700 vehicles were unloaded at Antwerp.

ITALY

Troops on right flank of 8th Army have occupied S. Alberto on south shore of the Valli de Comacchio and captured about 500 Germans. Positions were also improved further west.

GREECE

Official reports state that further gains have been made by British in center of Athens against determined resistance and on the western outskirts and

[REDACTED]

northeast suburbs of city against light opposition. Severe casualties were inflicted upon the enemy in this fighting. Late radio reports state that British have completed clearing Athens.

Situation at Patras is reported to be very tense and C-in-C Mediterranean states that evacuation of "our" (italics not in cable) troops may be necessary.

PHILIPPINES

Marinduque occupied after unopposed landings. Communique states that seizure of this island gave us control of Sibuyan Sea and established direct contact with south coast of Luzon.

Mindoro. Another landing made at Mamburao on northwest coast. Sharp engagements reported at Paluan town and also small contacts elsewhere.

At San Jose, 6,000 ft airdrome operational. At Mindoro Hill there is a 5,750 ft strip and 201 hardstands. At least one medium bomber squadron is probably operating from here in addition and two fighter groups.

Luzon. Two recent raids by Palau based B-24's on Clark Field at Manila have encountered no enemy air with exception of lone fighter which unsuccessfully tried to ram one of our bombers.

BURMA

Natives say that Japs began evacuating Akyab Island 1 Nov. Last left 1 Jan. Japs have recaptured Wanting on Burma-Yunnan border.

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Pres read
1-5-45

M-1 OPERATION

A Japanese sighting report of a large force west of Lubang Island (west of Manila Bay) on a northerly course caused Jap "L" operations to be activated.

Task Group 77.2, under command of Rear Admiral Oldendorf, was attacked by Jap planes at 5:20 p.m., 4 January, 25 miles southwest of Maniguin Island (west of Panay). The escort carrier QUINCY was seriously hit. Large fires resulted and she was torpedoed and sunk by the destroyer BURNS.

To-date the survivors are 722 men and 98 officers, including the captain and the executive officer. (Ordinary complement 643 men.)

Carrier-based planes of the 3rd Fleet, commanded by Admiral Halsey, again struck Formosa and Okinawa on 4 January. Searches and small strikes were cancelled at noon because of bad weather. Results of the strikes are not yet available. Enemy air capabilities estimated very low judging from feeble reaction up to now.

PHILIPPINES

On 4 January, in the Philippines area, an ammunition ship was crash-dived by a Jap plane and blew up. The name of the ammunition ship is not known at this time. The minelayer MINARD ROCK, located near the ammunition ship had one man killed and 9 wounded as a result of the explosion and sustained two leaks in her hull. The leaks are under control. The oiler PECOS and the seaplane tender HALFMOON both had near-misses due to dive bombers and one man on the HALFMOON was wounded.

At dawn, 4 January, 10 enemy planes struck the Tacloban air strip and destroyed 9 Venturas and 1 Liberstor and damaged 3 Venturas and 2 Liberators.

ATLANTIC

Two ships torpedoed off Halifax on 4th. One cargo ship sank (1591 GT) and one tanker (2373 GT) still afloat.

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PACIFIC SUBMARINES

The submarine KINGFISH reports sinking a Jap tender and freighter in the Central Pacific. No report of the exact tonnage has been received.

~~TOP SECRET~~

PW

M-1

The strike on Okinawa and Formosa in bad weather on the 3rd and 4th of January caused destruction of 111 Jap planes and damaged 220. 27 Jap ships were sunk and 68 damaged. Air opposition feeble; the Japs unable or unwilling to meet challenge. No attempt was made to attack our forces, although there were snoopers in the area. Our only losses were 17 airplanes in combat and 17 operational, with 17 pilots and 2 crewmen missing. Eleven locomotives, 4 tank cars, railroad bridges and docks were destroyed during the land strike.

A plane reports sighting a carrier, light cruiser and 7 destroyers in the Formosa Straits.

On 5th, Third Fleet informed General MacArthur that it would maintain continuous air cover over the Luzon fields from before dawn to after sunset to protect both Halsey's force and the troop convoys.

Air opposition over Luzon yesterday was negligible. 144 planes, some of which were damaged, were observed in the Clark field area. The weather outlook is not encouraging for tomorrow for either the Luzon or Formosa area.

Admiral Kinkaid has requested Admiral Halsey to repeat yesterday's strike and air patrol over Luzon today, stating that the need to neutralize Jap airfields was urgent.

MacArthur reports that air-neutralization raids on Luzon by land based air has not been as effective as expected and requests Halsey to strike Clark and Angeles Fields during his strike on Luzon today. (These fields lie south of the line of demarcation between surface based and land based air).

On 1 January, a reinforced company of the 503rd Infantry was landed at Mamburao on the northwest coast on Mindoro.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

PACIFIC SUBMARINES

The FLASHER returned from its 5th patrol and reports sinking a destroyer and 4 large oilers for total of 41,700 tons. The patrol took place in the South China Sea.

The PUFFER reports damaging 1 freighter in the southern Empire waters.

~~TOP SECRET~~

Pres read
1-5-44

5 January 1944

Western Front

Weather continues very poor along front with icy fog and snow.

SHARP G-2 sums up developments as follows:

1. There is nothing to report from front between No. Sea and Monschau which indicates offensive action by enemy although rumors prevail about activities on Schouwen Island.
2. Enemy has definitely lost initiative in Ardennes salient and is slowly losing ground despite heavy defensive fighting. Past few days witnessed regrouping of 5th and 6th Pz Armies for attack on Bastogne. Our attacks have meant recommitting defensively the major portion of this armor on the north flank while 3 Pz divs are themselves being attacked on the south. Next 48 hours should disclose whether enemy hangs onto present westerly positions or pulls in. His position is not favorable.
3. In Saar sector more enemy divisions expected to be employed. Failure to get off to flying start so. and east of Saargemines has been considerable setback but it is unlikely that he will give up his efforts in this sector if his eastern bulge is blunted. There is slightly more evidence in area of Upper Rhine which points to enemy intention to assume offensive in this sector.

Flying Bombs and Rockets

9 day lull in flying bomb attacks against U.K. ended 3 January when 52 bombs were plotted. Of these 18 made landfall, 1 reaching London area.

During the first 48 hours of the week ended 3 Jan. situation was uneventful as far as rockets were concerned. However, if rate of fire for last 5 days had been maintained over whole 7 days total number of rocket incidents would have been highest of any week to date. Night of 30/31 December there were 9 incidents, the largest of any day or night yet reported.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

Eastern Front

Press reports from Poland that large numbers of Polish and Soviet troops are being massed east of the Vistula preparatory to launching of major offensive.

Greece

Fighting has flared up again as ELAS refuse to accept edict of new Government to lay down arms.

A senior British Naval officer Ionian Islands has been appointed and will be based on Corfu.

Burma

Following tactical reconnaissance reports that no enemy was seen on Akyab Island, landings were made by Allied forces. There are no further details, other than that no opposition was encountered.

Motor patrols are now 16 miles north of Shwebo without encountering any enemy. Prevalent rumor among natives is that Japs are evacuating Mandalay.

Theater G-2 states that Jap retreat in all of Burma under continuous Allied pressure is evidently in full swing indicating strongly eventual evacuation. No stopping point in retreat is as yet evident and, in fact, it is not believed that they are willing or capable of making a real fight for any part of Burma. G-2, War Department, does not possess enough information to conclude that a total evacuation is under way.

Cuba

Military Attache at Havana reports that excellent source, rated B-2, indicates growing unrest among lower officers and enlisted elements of the Army. Good possibility that group may undertake coup against high command at any time. M/A states that, in his opinion, administration would not place effective obstacles in way of such a coup.

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TOP SECRET

MORNING NEWS, 4 January 1945

NORTH PACIFIC

Three light cruisers and 9 destroyers under Rear Adm McCrea plan to bombard Paramushiro on 6 Jan.

CENTRAL PACIFIC

3 CA and 6 DD will bombard Chichi Jima this morning and Iwo Jima this afternoon.

EUROPE

JOHN LANGDON torpedoed off Murmansk Dec 31. Broke in half; both sections afloat and towed to port. Captain, 15 crew and 50 passengers lost.

PHILIPPINES

Minesweeper group attacked dawn Jan 3rd southeast of Negros Island by Jap planes suffering minor damage. Two planes shot down.

The Commander of the 7th Fleet reports that a U.S. Naval officer escaped from the Japs at Olongapo and is now with friendly forces. The escaped officer states that on 13 December, 1,300 prisoners of war were embarked on an enemy ship at Manila. 350 of the prisoners died as the result of over-crowding. While at Olongapo, the ship was attacked by our planes, the prisoners were left on board and fifty more were killed as the result of the bombing. It was during the bombing that the Naval officer escaped.

PACIFIC SUBS

Sub WHALE reports sinking 4 small ships in a gun battle.

203(15)

TOP SECRET

4 January 1944

Western Front

Official reports confirm start of attack by 1st Army forces on northern flank of German Ardennes salient but give little detail other than to state that enemy is definitely on the defensive in the north. Radio reports that initial penetrations have been small but satisfactory.

Enemy has been unable to prevent further small gains in Bastogne area.

G-2 SHAEF states that enemy situation in Ardennes salient is obscure - that majority of armor is out of contact or in very light contact. His attitude at Bastogne as well as elsewhere now defensive but there is no sign of a general withdrawal from the salient. On the contrary fresh infantry units are being committed. Indications are that still more infantry will be needed if he intends to prolong the defense.

Pressure continues in the Saar and our forces have withdrawn from 1 to 5 miles in some sectors. G-2 SHAEF feels that enemy has still not put forth his full effort here and also that he may attempt attack from Colmar pocket to tie down Allied forces.

Radio from continent this morning reports low ceilings, heavy clouds and snow along much of front.

Flying Bombs

Lull in flying bomb attacks on U.K. continues there having been none over U.K. since morning of 24 December.

Greece

No material change in Athens/Piraeus area. There is sporadic mortar- ing at latter but otherwise all is quiet there and harbour now open to all types of shipping.

Dardanelles Satisfactory progress reported in sweeping of approaches.

203(147)

B-29s

Preliminary report on 3 January attack on Nagoya, Japan, indicate 59 planes hit city with incendiary bombs. (19 additional planes bombed other, unspecified, targets.) Weather was excellent and bombing was done visually from about 30,000 feet. Great smoke and large fires reported over target area.

1 B-29 was shot down over target area by enemy fighters; 2 planes were ditched, reason not given; 2 planes are missing. These latter are stated to have left target area undamaged but have not since been reported.

Claims against enemy indicated as 11 planes destroyed, 9 probably destroyed and 15 damaged.

3 January 1945

P
per Adm McI.

PACIFIC

Carrier-based planes of the 3rd Fleet, under Admiral Halsey, struck Formosa on the morning of 3 January. The operations were cancelled at 2:00 p.m., 3 January, because of unfavorable weather, which became increasingly bad. At the same time, fighters of the same force attacked Okinawa Jima in the Nansei Shoto Islands. Results of the strikes are not yet available. There were no attacks on our force.

Admiral Halsey's force is retiring to Southeast and will strike Formosa 4 Jan, with Luzon as alternate choice depending on weather.

PHILIPPINES

Admiral Kinkaid estimates Japs have assembled off Indo-China 4 BB, 2 XCV, 4 CA, 4 CL and 30 LD for use if feasible to oppose anticipated BLUE landings Manila area.

PACIFIC SUBMARINES

The submarine SASHAN has returned from her fourth war patrol and reports damaging one medium tanker (5,000 tons).

The submarine PAMPANITO has returned from her fourth war patrol, having sunk one large freighter (7,500 tons) and damaged one medium freighter (4,000 tons) and one large tanker (10,000 tons).

203(15)

TOP SECRET

3 January 1945

Western Front

West of Bastogne enemy corridor has been further narrowed by advances from the south up to 2 miles. Elsewhere on the perimeter of German penetration there has been little change in the lines.

Official dispatches do not elaborate on communique reports of sharp German attacks in the area of the Lower Vosges. For the most part these attacks have been contained. However, 14 miles south of Saarbrücken enemy penetrated up to 2 miles and 8 miles west of that city gained up to 1 mile. Attacks are said to be made with all intensity which accompanied ~~which~~ ~~the~~ original counter-attack farther north. In this instance, however, weather has permitted our air forces to operate against initial stages of attack.

8th AF is out again in force today, according to radio, making it 12 days in succession.

Burma

Radio reports that Allied troops have entered Ye-u, approximately 65 miles to the north of Mandalay.

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 2 January 1945 2

Pacific Submarines

The U.S. Submarine PAMPANITO, returning from a coordinated patrol in the South China Seas, reports sinking one large freighter (7,500 tons) and damaging one medium freighter (4,000 tons) and one large oiler (10,000 tons.)

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[REDACTED] 2 January 1945

The U.S. 3rd Fleet hits Formosa tonight at approximately 1830, our time. This is the first move in the build-up for the Luzon Operation.

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P-103
2 January 1945

Western Front

War Department does not yet have detailed reports of yesterday's heavy attacks by German Air Force against our airfields in France, reported in latest communique, which states that 125 of these enemy planes were destroyed.

Allied Air Forces flew more than 7,000 sorties. Good flying weather is again forecast for today.

There was little change on the ground yesterday.

It is now believed that Himmeler is Supreme Commander in the upper Rhine area. This may indicate increased activity in this sector opposite the French.

On 31 December 42,700 tons of supplies were unloaded at Antwerp.

Philippines

On 30 December, Mindoro-based planes attacked shipping in Lingayen Gulf in strength. Claims are 1 destroyer, 1 destroyer escort, and 1 freighter sunk. Other shipping damaged. Lingayen Gulf is landing area for M-1.

Enemy air continues attacks on our air strips on Mindoro almost nightly. In an effort to strengthen our air warning system we have set up radar party on Bulalacal, on south coast.

On Leyte, although organized enemy resistance is said to have ceased, our mopping up continues on large-scale with enemy still capable of counterattacking strongly in some areas. Of our seven divisions on

203(N) Leyte, four are included in build-up force for M-1.

P-WS

ATLANTIC

Inshore Schnorchel operations finally began to pay dividends during December with 6 merchant ships and 1 escort sunk and 3 ships torpedoed in the SW approaches and English Channel area and 1 escort sunk and 1 merchant ship torpedoed off Halifax. Difficulty continues to be experienced in locating and effectively attacking Schnorchel as a result of which few U-boats were sunk during the month.

PACIFIC SUBMARINES

Submarine HARELAK overdue from patrol and presumed lost.

Submarine WAGO returning from patrol reports 10,000 ton oiler sunk and escort damaged.

PACIFIC

Three CA, 6 DD attack shipping Chichi Jima morning 5 January; bombard Iwo Jima afternoon 5 January.

Nimitz asks MacArthur for authorization for visit to Manus by detachment of British Pacific Fleet in mid-January to investigate facilities. Detachment includes 1 BB, 1 CL, 3 DD, 1 AO.

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1 January 1944

PHILIPPINES

The destroyer GANSEVOORT now reports that suicide planes on 30 December totally demolished after fireroom and after engineroom is flooded. 22 men are missing and all other personnel have been transferred ashore. The ship is now anchored off southern Mindoro.

PACIFIC SUBMARINES

The submarine RAZORBACK reports sinking an enemy destroyer and one unidentified type; probably sinking a tanker and damaging an unidentified ship in Formosa Area.

The submarine GUAVINA returned from her fourth war patrol in the Pacific, reports sinkings as follows:

One enemy transport (3800 tons) with assistance of army air force.

One tanker (9500 tons).

One large cargo ship (7500 tons).

One medium cargo ship (4000 tons).

The total shipping destroyed was 24,800 tons.

BURMA

Admiral Mountbatten plans to make a reconnaissance in force of the Akyab area on January 3. If the situation is favorable, this will be followed by the landing of two brigades which will advance overland to capture the port.

PANAMA

To date no disturbance of importance has been reported.

Commanding General of Army Forces in Canal Zone is Lt. General G. R. Brett; Naval commander is Rear Admiral H. F. Kingman; the Governor is Lt. General Joseph C. Mehafeey. [REDACTED]

203(14)

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