

#59 ENEMY SINKINGS (MERCHANT AND TRANSPORT)

2

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OSD Letter, 6-3-72

DEC 27 1972

MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

FROM	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
CTF 51		OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE 3 MAY 1942			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROM 1118		COMSOWESTPAC	PRIORITY
DECODED BY POWELL			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY LELAND			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

ROUTED BY FULTON

030219 NCR 0283

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME

DATE

TIME

GCT

TEXT

DAMAGE INFLICTED ON ENEMY HITHERTO UNREPORTED BY SUBS.
 STURGEON OPERATING IN MACASSAR STRAITS. 0100Z MARCH 30 SANK
 1 SUPPLY SHIP OF 6,000 TONS. 1530Z APRIL 3RD SANK 1 AK AND
 ITS ESCORTING DD. REQUEST NAME OF SUBMARINE AND LOCATION OF
 OPERATIONS NOT BE RELEASED TO PRESS BECAUSE OF ITS OBVIOUS VALUE
 TO ENEMY.

ACTION: COMINCH.....

RECORD COPY: 16.....CNO.....

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DEC 27 1972

*Noted***~~SECRET~~**

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In reply refer to No.

Op-16-F-10

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON

May 1, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR NAVAL AIDE TO PRESIDENT

Re: Japanese Merchant Tonnage

It is estimated that Japanese merchant tonnage lost to date is in the neighborhood of 715,000 gross tons. Merchant tonnage gained by Japan by seizure was probably about 512,000 gross tons, of which 115,000 had previously flown the French flag. Gains from new construction, since December 7th, are estimated at 80,000 tons. Deducting the above gains from losses, it is concluded that Japan's net loss to date is about 123,000 gross tons. Her total available tonnage is now estimated as 6,220,000.

Japanese naval losses to date are believed to be 3 heavy cruisers, 7 light cruisers, 18 destroyers, 1 minesweeper, 1 gunboat, 1 sub-chaser and 1 unidentified "warship". It is known that 2 full size Japanese submarines have been sunk, and it is believed that 13 others have also been destroyed.

It is emphasized that the above is a highly conservative estimate.

Since the start of war, it is believed that the Japanese have completed 1 aircraft carrier, 4 destroyers, and 5 submarines.

T. S. Wilkinson
T. S. Wilkinson.

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W.H.

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>CINCPAC</u>	FOR ACTION	COMINCH	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <u>7 APRIL 1942</u>	INFORMATION		DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM <u>#623/448</u>			PRIORITY
DECODED BY <u>TIERS/TIERS</u>			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

070303 CCR 8214

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ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME. DATE TIME GCT

TEXT

DRUM DEPARTED TODAY. GUDGEON RETURNING FROM NORTHERN
 PATROL EAST CHINA SEA REPORTS SINKING TEN THOUSAND
 TON CARGO PASSENGER SHIP AND FIVE THOUSAND TON FREIGHTER.
 WAS DEPTH CHARGED BY SMALL ARMED FREIGHTER WITH CONCEALED
 YOKE GUNS AMIDSHIP SONIC LISTENING AND ECHO RANGING
 EIGHTEEN KCS.

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM CINGPAC	FOR ACTION	COMINCH	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE 11 APRIL 42			DEFERRED
TON CODEROM 0621/0517	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY PITKIN/PITKIN			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

110255

CCR-8745

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

GREYBACK RETURNED FROM PATROL TODAY REPORTS SINKING
SEVEN THOUSAND TON MARU OF KONGO CLASS AND ONE
SUBCHASER AND POSSIBLE SINKING OF ONE FOUR THOUSAND
TON FREIGHTER X NO OTHER DEVELOPMENTS TODAY NOT
 OTHERWISE REPORTED TO YOU

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>GINCPAG</u>	FOR ACTION	COMINCH	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <u>5 APRIL 1942</u>			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROM <u>1020/031</u>	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY <u>TIER0/TIERS</u>			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

050407 CCR 7994

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ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

GRAMPUS FROM PATROL SOUTH TRUK REPORTS SINKING
TWO LOADED TANKERS ONE OF WHICH STRADDLED HER
WITH GUNFIRE AT NIGHT

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM CINCPAC (NPM)	FOR ACTION	COMINCH(NSS)	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE 3 APRIL 1942			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM 1427/1407	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY CANNING/TIERS			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

030309 GCR 7735W

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ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT
TEXT

FROM CINCPAC TO COMINCH

WRIGHT AND ESCORT DEPARTED TODAY TASK IN MY 290241.
KASKASKIA BENT IN COMPANY TO PROVIDE FUEL FOR FLETCHER.
POLLACK RETURNING FROM EAST CHINA SEA REPORTS SINKING
ONE FREIGHTER ^{Enterprise Group} FORGE 16 COMPLETED TWO MORE DAYS OF TARGET
PRACTICE. UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED WILL PROCEED SALVAGE
TAYLOR ACCORDANCE MY 030125. PROSPECTS CONSIDERED FAIR
WITH USE OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT THIS AREA WITHOUT
PREJUDICE TO SALVAGE WORK PEARL.

WAROPS SECRET

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DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>COMANZAC</u>	FOR ACTION	COMINCH	P P P P P
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <u>12 MARCH 1942</u>			DEFERRED
TOR CODEBOOK <u>0621/0600</u>	INFORMATION	CINCPAC COMTASKFORCE 17 COMTASKFORCE 11	P P P P P
DECODED BY <u>SMITH/SMITH</u>			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

120155 OCR 4441

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ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME OCT

TEXT

ADDITIONAL TO BROWNS REPORT FOLLOWING DAMAGE INFLICTED BY B-17'S AND HUDSONS IN SAME AREA WITH FIVE HUNDRED AND SIX HUNDRED POUND BOMBS X ONE DIRECT HIT ON EACH OF TWO TRANSPORTS X SIX BOMBS SURROUNDED ONE TRANSPORT LEFT BURNING X ONE NEAR MISS ON EACH OF TWO OTHERS SEEN TO CAUSE DAMAGE X ONE NEAR MISS ON ONE MORE X NEAR MISS ON CRUISER AND ONE ON LARGE DESTROYER X ATTACK FOLLOWED BROWNS AND SOME VESSELS MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED X RADIO INTELLIGENCE INDICATES SOME OF VESSELS DAMAGED CONNECTED WITH AIR FORCE

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>OPNAV</u>	FOR ACTION		PRIORITY
RELEASED BY <u>F S WILKINSON</u>			ROUTINE
DATE <u>18 MARCH 1942</u>			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROM <u>1713/11</u>	INFORMATION	COMTASKFOR 23 LANFLT CINCLANT COMTASKGROUP 20.3 ALUSNA RIO DE JANEIRO	PRIORITY
DECODED BY			RRRR
PARAPHRASED BY <u>HARVEY</u>			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

ROONEY 111715 NCR 6872
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ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

REFER MY 052120 JANUARY X ELSA ESSBERGER ARRIVED FERROL SPAIN
 JANUARY TWELVE X SPREEMALD REPORTED SUNK 45.17 N 24.57 W JAN-
 UARY THIRTY ONE X BELIEVED OTHER GERMAN SHIPS NAMED MYDIS CAN
 STILL BE EXPECTED TO ATTEMPT RUN RUBBER CARGO TO FRENCH
 PORTS X

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ISSUED BY THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
NAVY DEPARTMENT

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Monograph Index Guide No. 505
(To correspond with SUBJECT given below. See O. N. I. Index Guide.
Make separate report for each main title.)

Reference Official statements, Summary
(Directive, correspondence, previous related report, etc., if applicable)

RATING "A"
(As reliable, dispatch, unwavering)

BRIEF.—(Here enter careful summary of report, containing substance succinctly stated; include important facts, names, places, dates, etc.)

It is conservatively estimated that Japan's available merchant shipping is already inadequate for the demands made upon it by army and navy logistics, and that the ^{by} shortage is currently being increased ^{as} monthly net loss of approximately 150,000 gross tons.

Tonnage available:

Gross tonnage available March 1st. . . .	6,250,000
Gross tonnage required March 1st. . . .	<u>6,400,000</u>
NET DEFICIT.	150,000

Show to the President

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		F-A, F-B, F-C, F-D, F-E, F-F, F-G, F-H, F-I, B-1, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7, B-8												
War College	M. A. D. (3)	H. G.	Nav.	Ord.	T. & D.	Ships	S. & A.	M. & S.	Aers.	U. S. A. C.	C. in C. U. S.	C. in C. List.	C. in C. Fac.	C. in C. A. P.
Attached at			Op-18/11 (2)	Op-13	Op-13	Op-14	Op-20	Op-21	Op-22	Op-23	Op-30	Op-38	Com. Hist. For.	Cym. Sci. For.
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Council of
National Defense

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(Mr. Lubin)

JAPANESE SHIPPING SITUATION

As of March 1, 1942

1. Tonnage available: It is conservatively estimated that total gross tonnage of merchant bottoms available to Japan did not exceed 6,250,000 tons, (Vessels of 1,000 gross tons or over), as of March 1st. The estimate is based on the following figures:

Known tonnage available December 6, 1941	5,760,000
Plus: New construction in January and February, plus estimated tonnage unreported	235,000
Plus: Unreported Chinese tonnage estimated under Japanese control	300,000
Plus: Estimated gains from capture or requisition of United Nations and Axis tonnage in Asiatic waters.	445,000
	<u>6,760,000</u>
Less: Estimated war losses	<u>510,000</u>
Estimated tonnage available March 1st. (of 1,000 tons or over)	6,250,000

2. Tonnage Required: It is conservatively estimated that Japan required as of March 1st, 6,400,000 gross tons of merchant shipping in order to carry out her war effort on the scale then current, and to maintain essential civilian services. This estimate is minimal, for it assumes operating conditions approaching those of peacetime. Thus:

A. 3,200,000 gross tons are assumed as the minimum for economic supply of Japan proper, (to maintain present supply levels), and the maintenance of field armies and garrisons in North and Central China, Manchukuo, and Korea. This figure is supplemented by an estimated 300,000 tons of vessels under 1,000 tons gross, which are omitted from further computations. This tonnage is employed in importing iron ore, coal, soy-beans, salt, ammonium sulphate, rice, etc.; supplying the continental overseas troops on the outbound voyages; and in handling essential Japanese local coasting traffic.

B. 50,000 gross tons are estimated as essential for civilian transportation, ferry services, as well as dredgers and other special types of shipping not adaptable to direct furtherance of the war effort.

C. 2,200,000 gross tons are estimated as the absolute minimum required for the transportation and supply of 550,000 troops in the southern theatre of operations. This estimate, based on 4 tons per man, is believed an irreducible minimum.

D. 300,000 gross tons of shipping are estimated as essential as naval auxiliaries in the furtherance of present operations on a wide and distant front. This tonnage is in addition to that listed under "C" above, and in addition to such naval auxiliaries as the Japanese navy is believed to have possessed prior to the empire's conversion to a war economy.

E. It is estimated that 10% of total tonnage is recurrently laid up for repairs, overhaul, etc. Actual figures for several months of 1941 averaged 400,000 tons a month, and this was under peacetime operating conditions when all tonnage was being employed to the utmost in preparation for war. During the war over 350,000 tons have been

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reported "damaged" to March 1, and of this total at least 250,000 tons should require fairly extensive dockyard repairs. Assuming the present rate of attrition, it is estimated that nearly 1,000,000 gross tons will soon be recurrently eliminated from available active tonnage due to repairs.

The foregoing figures add up to 6,400,000 gross tons (of 1,000 tons or over):

A. Supplies for Japan proper	3,200,000
B. Essential civilian services	50,000
C. Southern expeditionary forces	2,200,000
D. Naval auxiliaries	300,000
E. Recurrently laid-up for repairs	650,000
	<u>6,400,000</u>

3. Conclusions: If tonnage available is estimated at 6,250,000 gross tons, and tonnage required at 6,400,000 tons, then it appears that an actual deficit in merchant tonnage already amounts to 150,000 gross tons. It is probable that this deficit is reflected either (a) in diminution of the output of material for war, or (b) in an uncompensated drain on the Japanese stockpiles of raw materials.

The present deficit of 150,000 tons will be increased by a further monthly net loss of 150,000 tons if sinkings continue at the present rate of approximately 170,000 tons per month. New construction is believed not to exceed 15,000 tons monthly.

The above figures involve no "wishful thinking", and are an underestimate of the effective losses which the Japanese merchant marine is almost surely incurring. Vessels damaged far from their home ports are, in many instances, effectively lost. Wear and tear under war conditions will seriously effect the efficiency of the considerable number of older vessels now in service.

It is concluded that Japan is already feeling the pinch of insufficient shipping, and that within considerably less than a year she will face the alternatives of waging an offensive war with disastrously inadequate supply lines, or of abandoning the offense for defense. The debacle will be hastened if United Nations submarine or other efforts impose upon Japan the necessity of convoying her supply lines, and it will be made more imminent if the sphere of belligerent action is enlarged to India or Australia with consequent lengthening of routes and exposure to attack.

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