

MR 205 (S) Sec. 5 - "JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES"

(PERIODIC, MARCH, 1945)

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 31, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1322 W March 29, Kiska was attacked by 6 B-24's and 6 B-25's escorted by 11 P-38's. Bomb hits were observed on the runway and main camp area and the fighters strafed enemy gun installations. 4 Allied planes were slightly damaged by A/A fire.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

2 B-17's set out to attack the Buin area during the early morning of March 30. 1 plane dropped 8 500-lb. bombs on Kahili airdrome and the other failed to reach the intended but bombed the runway and a gun position at Vila.

Photographs of Faisi after the raid March 29, reveal a total of 14 float planes, 4 of which were damaged. 5 or 6 others probably sank.

An Allied SS evacuated approximately 50 women, children, and soldiers from Teop, NE Bougainville Island.

(B) New Britain-New Ireland

On March 29, 5 B-24's set out to attack shipping S. of the Admiralty Islands. 1 plane had mechanical difficulties and the others failed to locate the target so 24 500-lb. bombs were jettisoned.

The same day, a B-17 on reconnaissance bombed the dispersal area at Gasmata and a Catalina hit a possible dump at Cape Gloucester causing an explosion.

Air reconnaissance on March 29, sighted 4 unidentified vessels approximately 50 miles SW of Kavieng. The ships were heading SW. The following day at 0900 K, 4 enemy DD's covered by Zeros were sighted approximately 150 miles SW of Kavieng heading E. These vessels were possibly the enemy DD's which were reported attacked off Finschhafen during the night of March 29-30, in a SWPAC communique.

(C) New Guinea

During the night of March 28-29, 7 B-25's set out to attack an enemy SS reported at Lae Harbor. Because of weather and mechanical difficulties, 6 planes failed to reach the target and the 7th dropped flares near Lae runway.

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Before dawn on March 29, 6 enemy bombers attacked Oro Bay and some damage resulted to docks and a fuel dump was hit and destroyed.

The same day, 1 of our B-17's on reconnaissance dropped bombs on Madang and strafed villages near Saidor, SE of Madang.

An enemy reconnaissance plane over Dobodura (10 miles inland from Buna) was intercepted by our fighters and the enemy plane was shot down.

Enemy planes again raided Oro Bay during the early morning of March 30, but no damage resulted.

According to a SWPAC communique, a force of our heavy bombers attacked a convoy of enemy DD's off Finschhafen during the night of March 29-30. A direct hit was reported on the stern of 1 DD which severely damaged and possibly sank the vessel.

(D) N.E.I.

Total and neighboring villages in the Kai Islands were bombed and strafed by 6 Hudsons March 29. Results were not observed.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 30, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 0620 L, on March 29, 5 P-38's and 1 F4U attacked the enemy sea-plane base at Faiai and set afire 5 to 7 enemy planes. An enemy DD was sighted SE of Faiai on the return trip and our planes heavily strafed the vessel from a low altitude and left the vessel smoking. The mast of the DD clipped off three feet of wing from one P-38, but this damage failed to interfere with the performance of the plane which returned safely with the others.

(B) New Britain-New Ireland

On March 29, one of our reconnaissance planes sighted an enemy force of 2 DD's, 2 AP's, 3 AK's, and an auxiliary vessel 60 miles SW of Kavieng. The ships were heading NW.

On March 28, a B-17 dropped bombs on Gasmata runway and a Catalina bombed and strafed enemy working parties on Cape Gloucester airdrome.

(C) New Guinea

Madang was bombed by a B-17 March 28, and hits were scored in the building area. The same plane strafed 2 enemy motor barges N. of Finschhafen and 1 was left burning.

Fires were started at the airdrome and the wharf area of Finschhafen by a Catalina the same day.

Lae and Salamaua were bombed and strafed by 4 B-25's during the night of March 27-28, but results were not observed. One of our planes is missing.

During the early morning of March 27, 2 enemy planes attacked Kuriwada, an Allied position 20 miles inland along the Mambare River. No damage resulted.

(E) Australia

On March 28, an Allied reconnaissance plane reported that an enemy SS opened fire on it 120 miles E. of Gladstone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 29, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 0803 W March 26, our surface vessels sighted a Japanese naval force of 2 CA's, 2 CL's, 4 DD's, and 2 AP's approximately 150 miles W. of Attu and heading E. Our ships engaged the enemy from 0900 W to 1220 W, at which time contact was broken and our ships proceeded eastward and the enemy probably turned to the W. 1 enemy CA was hit by gunfire and probably by a torpedo, and was firing from only 1 turret when action was discontinued. There were also probable hits on an enemy CL. Some damage was reported to our ships.

Our heavy and medium bombers escorted by fighters searched for the enemy ships throughout the afternoon, but were unable to locate them. During the morning, a PBY had sighted a third enemy AP N. of the main force. Late in the afternoon, a PBY reported sighting 2 enemy AK/AP's W. of the original position of the task force, but bad weather and approaching darkness forced our planes to return to their base.

The following day, our heavy and medium bombers searched W. of Attu for the enemy surface vessels but no contacts were made and no new enemy shipping was observed at Attu.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 0410 L March 29, 13 TBF's, 7 B-17's, and 5 B-24's made a co-ordinated attack on enemy positions in the Buin area. Heavy bombs were dropped along the coast and on Kahili airdrome where hits were observed.

(B) New Ireland

Photographs taken March 26 show 2 CA's and 1 AK at anchor 8 miles SW of Kavieng. These ships were erroneously reported yesterday as 2 DD's and an AK 20 miles SW of Cape Matanalem, New Hanover Island.

(C) New Guinea

Malahang airdrome at Lae, Salamaua, and Mubo were heavily bombed and strafed by 6 A-20's on March 26. Heavy A/A fire was encountered but no enemy planes attempted interception. Explosions and fires resulted. 1 A-20 was damaged and forced to land in the sea.

The following day, an AK in Bogia Harbor (halfway between Wewak and Madang) was attacked by a B-24 on reconnaissance. A direct hit and 2 near

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misses with 500-lb. bombs were reported and the ship's decks were strafed.

Lae was bombed by 4 A-20's with unobserved results.

Buna and Oro Bay were raided by an enemy plane on March 27, but no damage or casualties resulted.

Allied patrols report that both banks of the Waria River and the Dona airstrip have been evacuated by the enemy.

25 Jap medium bombers, 10 to 15 dive bombers escorted by fighters attacked shipping and shore facilities at Oro Bay March 28. 3 ships were hit and a dock was damaged. Our fighters intercepted the enemy force and destroyed 13 enemy planes and 10 others were probably destroyed.

(D) E.E.I.

On March 27, 2 B-24's bombed Saumlaki, Tanimbar Islands, causing damage among buildings and along the waterfront.

The following day, 2 Hudsons attacked enemy positions at Dobo, Aroe Islands, and a B-25 bombed Langgoer, Kai Islands. Results were not observed.

(E) Ellice Islands

At 1054 M on March 27, 2 Allied fighters intercepted 4 enemy bombers 20 miles N. of Funafuti, Ellice Islands. 1 enemy bomber was definitely destroyed and another enemy plane was probably hit. The enemy planes dropped no bombs and we suffered no losses.

III. Allied Submarine Reports

According to a Netherlands Admiralty communique, 1 of their SS's operating in the Far East sank a Japanese supply ship of 4,000-tons.

A U.S. SS in the Southwest Pacific area reports sinking or damaging 2 ships of an escorted enemy convoy of 5 ships.

R.A.Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 28, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

On March 25, a B-24 on reconnaissance dropped 8 500-lb. bombs on enemy positions at Attu. Results were not reported.

The following day, 4 B-25's bombed radar installations and the Main Camp area at Kiska. Hits were observed in the target area.

On March 27, heavy and medium bombers were over enemy positions at Attu and Kiska but no bombs were dropped because of poor visibility.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 26, 4 DD's, 4 AK's and 1 corvette were observed in the Buin - Faisi area.

9 TBF's escorted by 12 fighters attacked Munda at 1312 L, March 27. 4 1000-lb. bombs and 80 100-lb. bombs were dropped starting 1 fire and destroying a dump.

At approximately the same time 9 other TBF's escorted by 10 fighters dropped heavy bombs starting fires in the revetment area at Vila. Light A/A fire was encountered at both Munda and Vila and 1 TBF was hit. All our planes returned safely.

Enemy positions at Ugali, NE Rendova Island, were attacked the same day by 6 SBD's accompanied by 7 fighters. Heavy bombs were dropped and the area was thoroughly strafed, destroying a large house and probably destroying 2 other buildings. No A/A fire was encountered and all our planes returned.

Approximately 7 enemy planes were over our airfield at Guadalcanal during the night of March 26 - 27. Only 2 aircraft dropped bombs which caused slight damaged in the camp area and killed 1 man and injured 13 others.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

Photos of Rabaul Harbor taken March 26, reveal a total of 66 enemy vessels, including 8 DD's, 2 AD's, 7 SS's, 1 AS, 1 AM, 3 PC's, 3 tenders, 6 AO's and 38 AK's, totaling 188,000 tons.

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The same day, a B-17 on reconnaissance reported sighting a possible CV of 8000 tons, 2 DD's and 1 AK at Kavieng Harbor.

2 DD's and 1 AK were sighted by air reconnaissance 20 miles SW of Cape Matanalem, New Hanover Island. The vessels were not moving.

(C) New Guinea

During the early morning of March 26, 9 B-17's attacked the town and shipping at Wewak. A 4000-ton enemy AK was damaged by either direct hits or near misses. Other heavy bombs were dropped in the wharf area and on the airdrome with unobserved results.

Lae, Salamaua and Milne were heavily attacked by Bostons and Beaufighters the same day. Fires were started and an M/G position silenced by strafing.

On March 26, Saidor, 50 miles S.E. of Madang, was reported occupied by the enemy.

Merauke was attacked by 7 enemy planes at 1407 L, March 26. Bombing and strafing attacks damaged buildings.

(D) Canton Island

2 enemy planes bombed airfields at Canton Island from 0144 X to 0216 X, March 26. Bombs destroyed 1 Allied plane but no casualties resulted. 4 P-39's unsuccessfully attempted interception.

(E) Gilbert Islands

6 Catalinas dropped 24 500-lb. bombs on enemy positions at Nauru Island prior to the attack of the B-24's previously reported. Results were not observed.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 27, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

A fifth attack, previously unreported, was made on Kiska on March 24. 4 P-38's bombed the main camp area, scoring hits on targets. Intense AA fire was encountered but without damage to our planes, all of which returned.

Three attacks were made on Kiska on March 25. The first was a low level attack on the seaplane hangar and camp area by 4 P-38's. The attack was a complete surprise with no AA being encountered. Enemy personnel were strafed while seeking shelter. The second attack was made by 3 B-25's and 8 P-38's which attacked the same area. The third attack was made by 10 B-24's which hit the SS base with 2,000-lb. bombs, and the airstrip and North Head area with smaller bombs. One B-24 was slightly damaged but all returned.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 25, 8 F4F's attacked enemy barges and installations at Roviana Lagoon.

(B) New Britain

Photographic reconnaissance of Rabaul on March 25 showed 48 vessels there including 7 DD's, 4 SS's, 1 AD, 1 AS, 3 AO's, 1 AM, 29 AP/AK's and 2 unidentified vessels. At Vunakanau airdrome 13 VB's and 53 VF's were sighted and at Lakunai, 15 VF's were seen.

(C) New Guinea

On March 25, Lae was bombed by 1 B-17 in the morning, and by another in the afternoon, with unobserved results. Stores and buildings at Salamaua were bombed by 5 A-20's at dawn the same day.

2 Allied fighters intercepted and shot down an enemy medium bomber on reconnaissance Dyke Auckland Bay about midday on March 25.

(D) N.E.I.

Ambon was attacked by 6 B-24's the afternoon of March 25. Direct hits were scored on the wharf and on 2 medium sized AK's. Large fires were started in the town area. 4 to 6 enemy planes intercepted, one being destroyed and others damaged.

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(E) West Coast

An unidentified SS was sighted about 35 miles NW of Point Conception off the California coast on March 25.

(F) Nauru Island

Nauru Island was attacked by 5 B-24's on March 26. Bombs were dropped on the runway, officers' quarters, barracks and off the wharf. 4 fires were started. Black smoke was seen on the runway area where planes were believed hit.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS has reported a large loaded enemy AP and a trawler sunk and an AK probably sunk.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 26, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

On March 24, Kiska was attacked four times during the day by a total of 8 P-38's, 9 B-24's, and 3 B-25's. The new airstrip, North Head, and the Main Camp were bombed and hits were observed in the latter areas. A/A fire was heavy and 1 B-24 was damaged. During one attack, 4 enemy float planes were seen on the water.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands.

During the early morning of March 24, Catalinas bombed the runway and dispersal areas at Buka airdrome with unobserved results.

(B) New Britain.

On March 24, a Catalina and a B-17 on reconnaissance bombed Gas-mata. Results were not reported.

(C) New Guinea.

A B-17 on reconnaissance March 24, sighted 3 medium AK's, a small AK, and 1 DD in the Wewak area. 3 enemy fighters attempted interception, 1 of which was shot down and another possibly destroyed.

Finschhafen runway and buildings near the Lae airdrome were bombed and strafed by a B-17 on the same day.

At approximately the same time, Beaufighters and Boston's heavily bombed and strafed enemy positions in the Kubo area. 1 M/G position was silenced but results for the most part were unobserved.

Oro Bay and Milne Bay were attacked March 24, by 1 to 3 enemy bombers, but no damage resulted.

The Waria River area had apparently been evacuated by the enemy March 24.

(D) N.E.I.

On March 24, 2 500-ton enemy vessels and a medium AK were sighted near Kaimana, SW Dutch New Guinea. 2 B-25's bombed the vessels and scored a near miss on the AK and 1 of the smaller vessels. 3 Zeros attempted interception and 1 of them was damaged in air combat.

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The same day, Langgoer and other small villages in the Kai Islands were bombed and strafed by 4 B-25's followed by 6 Hudsons. Several buildings were hit. Another B-25 bombed Dobo, Arce Islands, with unobserved results.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 25, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 2035 L, March 24, 3 B-17's and 18 TBF's bombed Kahili airdrome starting fires in the camp and revetment areas. Concentrated searchlight and A/A barrages were encountered but all our planes returned.

(B) New Britain

27 B-17's over the Rabaul area before dawn March 23, heavily bombed Lakunai, Vunakanau, and Rapopo airdromes. 2 large fires and numerous small fires were started in the building and dispersal areas. Enemy A/A fire was moderate to intense and searchlights were active. Enemy shipping was thoroughly dispersed throughout the harbor area. 18 to 10,000-ton AP off Cape Gazelle heading for Rabaul was afire as a result of a strafing attack by our planes.

The same day, Gasmata airdrome was bombed with unobserved results by 2 Allied aircraft on reconnaissance.

(C) New Guinea

On March 23, Salamaua was raided three times during the day by our planes including Bostons, B-25's, and a B-24 on reconnaissance. The building area and runway were bombed and strafed, but because of the weather results were not determined.

The same day, Mubo was bombed and strafed by 6 A-20's and 4 Beau- fighters with unobserved results.

At Susua Point (SW Trobriand Islands), 15 landing barges and signal flares were sighted by air reconnaissance during the morning of March 24.

(D) N.E.I.

On March 23, 2 Hudsons bombed and strafed Saumlaki, Tanimbar Is- lands, and a lugger off Babar Islands. Results were not reported.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 24, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

On March 22, Allied planes were over Kiska during the day but no bombs were dropped due to poor visibility.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Allied fighter planes strafed enemy positions at Rekata Bay on March 23. Heavy A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned.

During the night of March 22-23, 2 enemy planes attacked our airfield at Guadalcanal destroying 3 B-24's and 1 B-17, and other planes were damaged. There were no casualties among our personnel.

(B) New Britain

4 B-24's and 9 Beaufighters in a coordinated attack bombed and strafed Gasmata airdrome during the morning of March 22. A wireless station and buildings were destroyed and fires were started in the fuel dump area. Other heavy bombs caused large craters in the runway. A/A fire was encountered but no planes were reported missing. Later during the day, a B-24 on reconnaissance bombed the area starting 2 fires near the runway.

A B-24 unsuccessfully attacked a small enemy vessel in Lorengau Harbor, Admiralty Islands, the same day.

(C) New Guinea

Madang, Lae, and Finschhafen airdromes were attacked by an Allied reconnaissance plane with unobserved results on March 22.

Enemy troops are firmly entrenched along the track from Mubo to Salamaua. Other strong defense positions have been established around Salamaua to protect the city.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 23, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

On March 21 Kiska was raided 5 times by Allied aircraft from Amohitka, totaling 15 fighters and 3 B-25's, and once from Adak with a force of 5 B-24's and 6 B-25's. Results for the most part were unobserved but one large fire was started in the Main Camp area during one of these attacks.

The same day our surface vessels, about 75 miles S.W. of Kiska, were covered by an enemy floatplane. P-40's were unsuccessful in attempting to destroy this plane.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) New Britain

During the early morning of March 21 an RAAF Catalina bombed Gasmata airdrome starting 2 fires at one end of the runway and scoring a hit in the building area, causing an explosion and numerous small fires.

The same day a B-24 scored a hit and a near miss on a 500-ton cargo vessel in the waters E. of Cape Gloucester. When last seen the vessel was listing.

A large enemy DD was sighted and attacked during the night of March 20-21 by an RAAF Catalina. 2 hits or near misses damaged the DD causing it to reduce speed and an hour later the vessel was trailing oil.

(B) New Guinea

On March 21 a Catalina bombed and strafed the airdrome and town at Madang starting fires, and also strafed the wharf area at Finschhafen with unobserved results.

Milne Bay was attacked by 3 enemy bombers during the night of March 21-22. The bombing was done from a high altitude and damage was light.

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An enemy SS was reported off the mouth of the Kumusi River during the afternoon of March 21.

(C) N. E. I.

2 enemy AK's, escorted by a DD, were sighted S. E. of Cape Van Den Bosch March 21. B-25's attacked the vessels but no hits were scored. Later during the day a B-24 unsuccessfully bombed the same vessels N.W. of Cape Van Den Bosch.

A B-24 also attacked 3 small merchant vessels off the coast of S.W. Dutch New Guinea about 100 miles S. E. of Kaimana. No hits were scored on the vessels.

(D) Canton Island

2 enemy planes attacked Canton Island during the night of March 21-22. 6 bombs were dropped and 1 hit the runway but no damage or casualties resulted. 4 U. S. planes unsuccessfully attempted interception.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 22, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 20, Kahili airdrome and the Buin area were bombed by 9 B-17's and 9 B-24's during the evening. Enemy A/A fire damaged 1 plane which made a forced landing N. of the Russell Islands. Results of the attack were not reported. The same day, 1 CL, 3 DD's, 2 corvettes, and 9 AK's were sighted in the Buin area.

The following night, at 2045 L, 12 B-24's and 9 B-17's bombed A/A and searchlight positions at Kahili airdrome.

On March 20, two forces of 5 or 6 SBD's escorted by 15 fighters attacked Munda and Vila. Vila camp area and 1 A/A battery were hit and a large explosion was observed in the dump area at Munda. All our planes returned.

The same day, an enemy plane unsuccessfully attacked an Allied convoy NE of San Cristobal Island.

(B) New Britain

A B-24 on reconnaissance attacked an enemy convoy 45 miles NW of Rabaul on March 20. The 8 ships including 5 AK's, 1 AO, and 2 escort vessels were heading E. No bomb hits were scored.

(C) New Guinea

Allied forces reached the mouth of the Gira River (8 miles NW of the Mombare River), during the evening of March 18. No enemy troops were encountered by our patrols.

Two B-24's on reconnaissance bombed the building area at Finschhafen on March 20, starting fires.

The same day, 100 small boats were seen near Wewak and approximately 300 enemy troops were reported guarding Butein airdrome, NW of Wewak.

(D) E.E.I.

On March 20, 5 B-24's dropped 33 500-lb. bombs in the wharf area at Ambon. Enemy A/A fire was intense and accurate and the results of the bombing could not be observed.

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B-25's and Hudsons attacked Langgoer (Kai Islands), on March 20. Direct hits were scored on buildings. 1 of the B-25's scored a possible hit and a near miss on an enemy AK off Cape Van Den Bosch (SW Dutch New Guinea).

During the evening of the same day, 3 Hudsons attacked a DD and 2 AK's at Kaimana (SW Dutch New Guinea). Fires were observed on the deck of 1 AK and in the wharf area.

(B) Bay of Bengal

On March 19, British coastal vessels shelled enemy positions at Donbaik (Western Burma, N. of Akyab), starting numerous fires.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 21, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

(A) Aleutians

On March 19, two 50-ton enemy barges and landing personnel were strafed at Massacre Bay, Attu, by our reconnaissance planes. Two formations of P-38's bombed the camp area at Kiska the same day.

(B) Pacific Coast

An SS, believed to be Japanese, was sighted on the surface about 1,000 miles SW of San Diego March 19.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 19, two B-24's attacked scattered enemy-held points in the Tonoiei Harbor area. On March 20, 2 B-17's bombed Kahili and Ballale with unobserved results. Reconnaissance flights on March 20 showed 3 bombers and 45 fighters at Kahili, only 1 fighter at Vila, and no aircraft at Munda. In the Faiai area, 17 seaplanes and 2 flying boats were sighted.

(B) New Britain-New Ireland

On March 18, enemy positions at Gasmata, Cape Gloucester, and Arawe were bombed and strafed.

On March 19, an enemy AK was strafed in Lorengau Harbor (Admiralty Islands).

Air reconnaissance March 20 showed an enemy force of two 2,000-ton AO's, two 2,000-ton AK's, two 6,000-ton AK's and two DD's about 70 miles NW of Cape Lambert (Gaselle Peninsula), on a 90 degree course.

(C) New Guinea

On March 18-19, an enemy SS, discharging cargo near Lae was bombed and destroyed by our aircraft with four direct hits.

The Mubo area was bombed and strafed March 18-19. During March 18-19, 18 enemy bombers with 32 fighters raided Porlock Harbor (about 40 miles SE of Buna). The wharf and a launch suffered damage.

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Photographic reconnaissance of Madang March 19 showed buildings in the town and 2 A/A positions destroyed, a damaged fighter and numerous bomb craters on the airfield.

(D) N.E.I.

The Penfoei airfield at Koepang was attacked at night by our medium bombers with unobserved results, March 19.

(E) Canton Island

Two enemy flying boats bombed Canton Island March 19, but no damage or casualties resulted.

(F) Australia

An enemy reconnaissance aircraft was believed to have flown over the Broome and Derby areas March 19.

III. U. S. SS Reports

One of our SS's returning from patrols reports having sunk 1 AK, 1 AK or AP, and probably having damaged 2 AK's.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 20, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

On March 17, 2 P-40's raided Kiska and dropped fragmentation bombs on a small AK off North Head and on the main camp area.

The following day Kiska was attacked twice by our planes which bombed North Head and the main camp area, but clouds prevented observation of results. Fighters made the first attack and heavy and medium bombers, escorted by fighters, participated in the second. 4 P-38's strafed the new runway and enemy gun positions. 1 Allied fighter plane was damaged while landing but the pilot was saved.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of March 17 to 18, Buka airdrome was attacked by 3 Catalinas. Bombs were dropped on dispersal bays and along the runway and an A/A position was silenced by strafing.

During the night of March 18-19, enemy aircraft visited Tulagi but no damage was reported.

A force of 24 Allied fighters was over Munda and Vila March 19-20. No serviceable enemy planes were sighted at either airfield. 16 fighters strafed Munda on the return trip, silencing 1 gun position. All our planes returned.

S. of the Solomon Islands an enemy plane unsuccessfully attacked an Allied DD and AO March 18.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

On March 18, a B-17 on reconnaissance bombed the radio station at Gasmata without results and strafed two loaded barges E. of Cape Gloucester.

1 CA, 1 large AK and 4 other vessels were observed in Kavieng Harbor on March 18.

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The same day one of our reconnaissance planes strafed a small boat in Lorengau Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

Photos of the Rabaul area, taken March 18, reveal 3 DD's, 5 AO's, 4 SS's, 2 PC's and 21 AK's, aggregating 100,000 tons. Enemy planes at airfields in the vicinity totaled 101 fighters, 52 light bombers, 80 medium bombers and 4 floatplanes.

(C) New Guinea

A coordinated attack by 12 B-24's, 9 Beaufighters, and 16 P-38's was carried out on Madang March 18. The airfield and town were heavily bombed and strafed causing large fires and explosions. The fighters also strafed Alexishafen damaging enemy installations and starting a fire at enemy Headquarters.

The same day Salamaua was bombed and strafed by 6 Bostons. Several buildings were destroyed. 1 Boston was shot down by A/A fire which was heavy and accurate.

(D) N. E. I.

During the night of March 17-18, 3 Hudsons bombed Penfoei air-drome, Keepang and scored possible hits on the runway and dispersal areas.

The following morning a B-24 over Ambon was attacked by 10 enemy fighters 4 of which were destroyed, 2 were probably destroyed and 1 damaged. Our bomber was damaged and forced to jettison its bombs. 12 AK's were sighted in Ambon Bay.

The same day a B-24, on reconnaissance, bombed Langoer (Kai Is.) destroying buildings, and Timika (S.W. Dutch New Guinea) causing a large explosion.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 19, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of March 17-18, 2 B-17's made harassing attacks on Kahili, Ballale, and Vila airdromes. No results were observed and both planes returned.

Enemy shipping in the Buin area on March 17, included 1 CA, 3 DD's, and 6 AK's. Photos taken the same day show 48 fighters, 4 bombers, and 2 float planes at Kahili; 4 fighters at Ballale; and 5 Zeros at Faisi.

At 1645 L, March 18, 11 SBD's escorted by 16 fighters attacked Vila and dropped 10 1,000-lb. "daisy cutters" in the camp area starting a fire. All our planes returned although enemy A/A fire was intense.

(B) New Britain

During the night of March 16-17, Rapapo airdrome, Rabaul, was attacked by 7 B-17's. Fires and explosions, probably among enemy aircraft in dispersal areas, were observed. 2 enemy fighters were encountered but all planes returned.

The following noon, a B-17 on reconnaissance bombed and strafed enemy installations at Ubili. Results were not observed.

(C) New Guinea

On March 17, an enemy float plane bombed Merauke but no damage resulted.

The enemy apparently evacuated the area at the mouth of the Manbare River immediately following the destruction of the convoy moving toward New Guinea on March 2 to 4. They left an elaborate defense system of pill-boxes, other installations and a field hospital which are now in control of our forces.

(D) N.E.I.

On March 17, a reconnaissance plane unsuccessfully bombed 3 enemy coastal vessels in McCluer Gulf, SW Dutch New Guinea.

The same day, 3 Hudsons and 5 B-25's attacked Langgoer (Kai Islands) just S. of Toeal, and scored bomb hits in the wharf and barracks area. No enemy planes were observed on the airfield.

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(E) Australia

At 1510 L, March 17, an enemy SS fired 2 torpedoes at a small Allied vessel approximately 125 miles NNE of Brisbane, but the vessel was not hit.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of OBOO, March 18, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

On March 16, heavy and medium bombers made 3 attacks on Kiska. Heavy bombs exploded in the Main Camp area at North Head and on the SS base, starting fires. In 2 of the raids 2-3 2,000-lb. bombs were dropped on the SS base. Heavy A/A fire was encountered during all attacks and our losses included 1 B-25 missing, 4 B-24's damaged, and 1 B-25 damaged. 2 bombardiers, exclusive of the missing plane, were killed and 2 other Allied personnel injured. During 1 of the raids 8 Allied fighters attacked 8 enemy planes near Kiska and claim 2 enemy planes shot down and 4 probably destroyed, without damage to our aircraft.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the early hours of March 17, Kahili, Ballale, Munda, and Vila were subjected to harassing attacks by 3 B-24's. Results were not observed.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

A B-17 on reconnaissance attacked a saw-mill at Ubili on March 16, with no results. An enemy bomber which attempted interception, was shot down.

The same day, an enemy SS in Wide Bay crash-dived when attacked by 1 of our planes. Results were unobserved.

Air reconnaissance over Kavieng reported 25 medium bombers, 3 of which were damaged, and 22 fighters on the airdrome, and 1 CA and a 2,000-ton vessel in the harbor.

(C) New Guinea

On March 16, Lae was attacked by medium bombers escorted by fighters and Salamaua was bombed and strafed by 7 Bostons. 1 large fire and 4 other fires in the fuel dump area were started at Salamaua. Heavy A/A fire was encountered during both raids.

During the night of March 15-16, 2 of our PT's attacked 6 or 7 enemy barges off Mageri Point (10 miles NW of Morobe), and sank all of them.

A damaged AK being towed by another AK and escorted by 2 DD's was sighted by air reconnaissance March 16. The ships were 220 miles NNE of Wewak and heading S.

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(D) N.E.I.

3 enemy merchant vessels off Cape Van Den Bosch (SW Dutch New Guinea), were unsuccessfully attacked on March 16 by 2 B-24's.

The same day, 6 Hudsons and 6 Beaufighters bombed and strafed buildings and barracks at Dobo, Aroe Islands. A radio station received a direct hit and 3 luggers were strafed and sunk.

Photos taken of Soerabaya on March 13, reveal 23 merchant vessels in the harbor totalling 85,000 tons. 8 vessels were 5,000-tons or more. 5 serviceable floating docks containing 1 DD and other smaller patrol vessels were shown. 3 other medium merchant vessels were refitting and 6 sunken ships were seen. At Tandjong Perak airdrome, 13 medium bombers, 5 single engine bombers, 1 transport, and 1 fighter were observed.

The airfield at Den Pasar, Bali, was also reconnoitered, but the airfield appeared apparently too wet and soft for regular use.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 17, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

On March 15, Kiska was attacked 6 times by our aircraft during the day. Three of the attacks were made by bombers escorted by fighters and the other three were fighter attacks. 687 bombs weighing about 50 tons were dropped on the Main Camp area and enemy installations at North Head. The fighters both bombed and strafed the same areas. Results and details of most of these attacks were not observed and only 1 fighter was reported destroyed. An enemy SS was sighted and bombed in Kiska Harbor during one of the attacks with unknown results.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the early morning of March 16, 2 B-17's made harassing raids on Kahili airdrome dropping flares and 11 500-lb. bombs with unobserved results as enemy searchlights were accurate and intense. These planes bombed Vila and Munda on the return trip.

From 0200 L to 0212 L on March 16, our DD Task Force bombarded enemy installations and the runway at Vila. There was no air or surface craft opposition and only 2 shore guns opened fire causing no damage or casualties. Catalina's constantly overhead dropped a few bombs on Vila after the bombardment. A search plane over Vila after daylight the following morning, reported heavy damage to the runway.

At 0635 L the same day, 19 SBD's with 20 fighters as escorts bombed the Vila area with unobserved results. Another SBD bombed Munda. All our planes returned.

7 P-38's strafed Viru Harbor where no enemy activity was observed.

(B) New Britain

Gasmata and Cape Gloucester airdromes were attacked twice by our bombers on March 15. Results were not reported.

(C) New Guinea

15 enemy bombers attacked Dro Bay (15 miles S. of Buna) during the evening of March 14. Hits were reported on waterfront installations and a small dump was set afire but no casualties resulted.

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On March 15, a B-17 bombed the airdrome at Finschhafen and 3 Beaufighters strafed enemy positions at Mubo.

The same day, 2 enemy DD's were patrolling outside Wewak Harbor while shipping in the harbor consisted of 3 medium AK's, 2 small AK's and 1 PC.

Guadagasel and an area 500 yards N. have been cleared of enemy troops.

The enemy airfield at Buteim (30 miles NW of Wewak) is now serviceable, work is continuing on a new airstrip at Wewak, and the Dona field (Waria River mouth) is almost cleared.

(D) N.E.I.

On March 15, 3 enemy merchant vessels of approximately 1,000-tons each, were attacked N. of Dobo by B-25's, Hudson's, and Beaufighter's. Direct bomb hits were scored on 2 of the ships and near misses on the 3rd. The vessels were heavily loaded with enemy troops which were strafed by our planes at masthead height. 1 Beaufighter was shot down by A/A fire.

A merchant vessel in the harbor at Kaimana, SW Dutch New Guinea, was bombed by a B-24 on reconnaissance. It is believed a near hit damaged the vessel.

(D) Australia

Darwin was attacked by 25 enemy medium bombers escorted by 24 fighters shortly before noon on March 15. Bomb hits caused considerable damage to fuel tanks, installations, buildings, and wounded 15 Allied personnel. Our fighters intercepted the attack and shot down 1 bomber and 6 fighters, probably destroyed the same number, and damaged 5 other planes. 4 Allied planes were shot down, but 2 of the pilots are safe.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS in the Northwest Pacific has reported sinking 1 enemy SS and possibly sinking a second.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of USCO, March 16, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 1710 L, March 15, Munda was attacked by 12 SBD's escorted by 25 fighters and a half hour later Vila was bombed by 12 SBD's escorted by 4 fighters. 12 1,000-lb. bombs were dropped on each of the targets and all our planes returned.

(B) New Britain

3 enemy SS's were reported SW of Gasmata at noon, March 14.

The same day, the airdrome at Gasmata, a small vessel in Kimbe Bay, and a wharf and buildings at Ubili were attacked by a B-17 on reconnaissance. Results of these attacks were not reported.

At Ubili (S. of Open Bay) a 4,000-foot airstrip was reported as serviceable by one of our reconnaissance planes.

(C) New Guinea

The results of the attack by B-17's on the enemy convoy off Wewak during the evening of March 13 are: 1 hit on a DD, a hit on an AO, a hit and near misses on an AX, and hits on an AP which exploded and was left burning.

The following day, B-24's in two attacks bombed the Wewak airdrome and a point 15 miles SE of Wewak, when they were unable to locate enemy shipping in the harbor. Medium and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered and 18 searchlights were observed in the area.

Photos taken March 14 of Kairiru Island (20 miles NW. of Wewak), revealed 2 luggers, a barge, 5 float planes, and considerable track activity.

Madang runway was bombed by 1 B-24 on March 14. Results were not observed.

(D) N.E.I.

Dili was bombed by a B-24 during the early afternoon of March 14 with unobserved results.

Photos March 13, of Timika, Dutch New Guinea, show a leveled runway 1,500-yards long, and a dispersal area already cleared.

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Photos of Kaimana, Dutch New Guinea, show a clearing 450 yards long for a probable airstrip.

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Summary as of 0800, March 15, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific:

On March 13 Kiska was twice attacked by our fighter planes. In the first raid 12 P-40's bombed the camp area and machine-gunned enemy planes on the beach, but the extent of damage could not be ascertained. Enemy A/A fire was heavy and damaged one plane, but all returned safely. In the second attack 11 fighters strafed Vulcan Point and enemy planes on the ground, damaging 3 to 6 planes. A/A fire was very concentrated, but all our fighters returned safely. On the return trip one plane reported sighting a periscope off the southeast tip of Rat Island.

II. Southwestern Pacific:

(A) Solomon Islands.

Allied medium bombers were over Buka during the morning of March 14, but weather conditions were unfavorable and the extent of damage was not observed.

The Japanese are reported concentrated at Numa Numa, east coast of Bougainville.

Munda, Villa and Shortland Island were subjected to harassing attacks by B-24's during the early morning of March 14.

On March 13 four P-38's strafed and destroyed a small enemy vessel near Rendova Island.

(B) New Britain:

Gasmata air drome and shore installations in the Wide Bay area were strafed by a heavy bomber on reconnaissance. The results were not reported.

Just west of Talasea (north New Britain) 6 enemy medium bombers and 4 fighters were sighted heading west at noon on March 13. These planes were probably intending to form a cover for the enemy convoy approaching Wewak.

(C) New Guinea.

At noon on March 13 an Allied plane on reconnaissance sighted 3 enemy DD's, 160 miles n.e. of Wewak.

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(C) New Guinea (Cont'd).

The same day an enemy convoy of one 6,000 ton AP, one 4,000 ton AK, 3 small AK's, one 4,000 ton AO and two DD's was sighted 40 miles n.e. of Wewak. Seven B-17's attacked the convoy during the evening and scored a direct hit on the large AP, which exploded and was left burning. The 4,000 ton AO received a direct hit and a near miss and probably sank. Another direct hit fell on the forward deck of a DD. Some of the B-17's dropped bombs on Wewak air drome and in the town area. According to an SWPAC communique, a 7,000 ton AK was also hit. Heavy A/A fire was encountered from the ships and shore, but no interception was attempted, and all our planes returned.

The area between Komiatum and Salamoa was thoroughly strafed by 3 Beau fighters on March 13.

In the area s.w. of Mubo our ground patrols have counted 327 enemy dead, as a result of recent air attacks.

(D) N.E.I.

On March 13 a B-24 on reconnaissance sighted a large and a small AK off Babo, Dutch New Guinea. The plane dropped bombs at one vessel, but scored no hits. Six enemy fighters attempted interception, one of which was destroyed.

The same day a B-24 on reconnaissance sighted 15 small enemy merchant vessels in three groups along the s.w. coast of Dutch New Guinea, between Kaimana and Kaukenau. Shipping at Kaimana was bombed without results and a river ferry was forced ashore by strafing attacks.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 14, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1400 W on March 12, 12 Allied fighters were over enemy positions at Kiska. Weather conditions were bad but the planes strafed enemy gun positions. Moderate A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned undamaged.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of March 12 - 13, B-24's on harassing raids bombed Ballale and Kahili airfields starting a fire at each, and 1 B-24 bombed Munda on the return trip.

At 1020 L the following morning, 18 SBD's escorted by 23 fighters attacked Vila. Heavy bombs fell in the dump and camp area causing a heavy heavy explosion. All our planes returned.

(B) New Britain

Lakunai airdrome, Rabaul, was attacked by 8 B-17's during the morning of March 12. Bombs fell in the target area causing 1 large explosion but clouds and searchlights prevented observation of results.

Photographs taken the same day revealed 60 enemy ships in Rabaul Harbor, including 26 AP/AK's, 3 PC's, 6 DD's, 3 SS's, 8 AO's, 1 AM and 3 tenders. Enemy planes at the airfields in the vicinity totaled 62 bombers, 83 fighters and 6 floatplanes.

A B-24 on reconnaissance the same day bombed Cape Gloucester airfield scoring 2 hits on the runway.

(C) New Guinea

On March 12, 3 A-20's made 4 bombing and strafing attacks on enemy positions at Guadagasel Gap and the building area at Salamaua.

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According to a SWPAC communique, 1 of our reconnaissance planes sighted an enemy convoy approaching Wewak from the N.E. on March 13. The convoy consisting of 5 AP/AK's escorted by 3 DD's and covered by fighters was attacked by our heavy bombers which scored 1 direct hit on a 8,000-ton AP, setting it afire and another direct hit and near miss on a 4,000-ton AK.

(D) N. E. I.

On March 12, 3 B-24's attacked enemy shipping and wharf installations at Ambon. 1 direct hit was scored on a 6,000-7,000-ton enemy vessel. Other results were not observed. 6 to 8 enemy fighters attempted interception of which 2 were shot down and 2 others damaged.

Fuilloro airdrome (N.E. Timor) was bombed and strafed by 3 B-25's and 2 Beaufighters the same day. 1 enemy fighter was damaged on the ground but clouds prevented further observation of results. 1 of 4 enemy fighters attempting interception was shot down. At Loutem (just N. of Fuilloro) the Beaufighters damaged a 300-ton motor vessel by cannon fire and strafed personnel on the beach.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS on patrol in the West Pacific reports sinking 1 5,000-ton AP/AK and 2 other ships.

Another SS returning from patrol in the S.W. Pacific area reports sinking 1 7,000-ton AK, 1 7,000-ton AO and damaging or sinking 2 12,000-ton AP's.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of CECOC, March 13, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

Photographs taken at Kiska March 10, show the enemy landing strip near Salmon Lagoon to be about 2,000 feet long with work continuing. It is estimated the field is 80% complete.

A Catalina search or weather plane has been missing since March 10.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Kahili, Ballale, Munda, and Vila were harraessed by 3 B-24's before dawn, March 12. Bombs were dropped but results were not observed.

Munda was attacked by 21 TBF's at 2008 L, March 12. 2 fires were started. Searchlights and AA fire were encountered. 1 plane is missing.

Two enemy planes were over Guadalcanal from 1947 L to 2135 L, March 11. 7 100-lb. bombs were dropped without damage or casualties.

(B) Bismarch Archipelago

2 enemy convoys were sighted about 90 miles NE of Manus Island (In the Admiralty group) at noon March 11. Each convoy consisted of a minimum of 5 vessels plus escort. Both convoys were on a NW course.

A B-24 on reconnaissance at Kavieng, March 11, reported 1 possible CB or BB, 1 CA, 1 DD, and 5 AK's in the area with 3 additional AK's heading in.

2 B-24's bombed Lakunai airdrome at Rabaul before dawn, March 11, with unobserved results.

Ubili airstrip (near Open Bay) was strafed by an Allied plane on armed reconnaissance March 11. An AK (apparently abandoned) in Wide Bay was bombed and strafed by the same plane.

(C) New Guinea

On March 11, at about noon, a B-24 attacked Finschafen. A warehouse and possible supply dumps were destroyed.

Wau was raided by 2 enemy bombers after sundown the same day, causing no damage or casualties.

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The Allied airstrip near Dobodura was attacked by 24 enemy bombers and 16 fighters the morning of March 11. 2 grounded Allied aircraft were destroyed; casualties were 5 killed and 11 wounded. 12 P-38's and 12 P-40's intercepted the enemy planes, shot down 9 enemy fighters and probably destroyed 2 additional fighters and 2 bombers. 1 P-38 was lost but the pilot is safe.

2 enemy bombers again raided the same area after dark but there was no damage.

3 A-20's bombed and strafed the Mubo area during the day on March 11.

2 enemy DD's (one damaged and partially submerged) were seen at Wewak on March 11. Planes were seen taking off at the old airdrome, and the new airdrome was reported nearly serviceable.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities not
Summary as of 0800, March 12, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 0920 W, March 10, 4 P-40's from Amohitka attacked Kiska. Bomb hits were observed in the submarine base area.

A second attack on Kiska occurred 2 hours later by 8 B-24's, 10 B-25's, and 12 P-38's. Radar installations and A/A batteries were hit when medium bombers and fighters bombed and strafed at deck level. The heavy bombers dropped 36 1,000-lb. bombs in the main camp area hitting 3 buildings. Heavy A/A fire damaged 1 B-24, 1 B-25, 1 P-38 and the photo plane, but all returned safely.

Our weather plane returning from Kiska was damaged when attacked by 5 enemy float fighters.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Photographic reconnaissance on March 10 of the Buin-Faisi area revealed 7 AK's, 3 DD's and 4 CL's in the area. A total of 66 land-based fighters, 19 enemy float fighters, and 4 bombers was observed in the same area.

During the early morning of March 11, 3 PB4Y's dropped bombs on Kahili, Ballale, and Vila airfields with unobserved results.

(B) New Britain

On March 10, a B-17 on reconnaissance bombed the runway at Cape Gloucester with unobserved results. The same reconnaissance plane reported considerable enemy activity on the rivers of the N. coast of New Britain.

(C) New Guinea

Enemy shipping and the waterfront at Kowak were bombed at dawn March 10 by 4 B-17's. 1 merchant vessel was left smoking and a searchlight position was extinguished. Enemy A/A fire and searchlights were very active. A B-17 later in the day strafed buildings in the same area.

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The same day, 1 of our fighters shot down an enemy medium bomber on reconnaissance over the Trobriand Islands, 180 miles E. of Buna.

(D) N.E.I.

On March 10, 3 R.A.A.F. Hudsons bombed Saumlaki, scoring possible hits on a wharf and a gun position.

The same day, a B-24 on reconnaissance attacked 2 7,000-ton enemy merchant vessels 20 miles NW of Boeroe Island.

Later the same day, another B-24 on reconnaissance bombed 2 enemy AK's 20 miles SE of Boston Island (SE of Celebes). 1 vessel estimated at 6 to 7,000-tons was afire as a result of a direct hit.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS in the NW Pacific reports sinking 2 AK's and damaging another. An enemy sampan was also destroyed.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 11, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

An air force of 6 B-24's, 10 B-25's, and 12 P-38's set out to attack Kiska at 1036 W, March 9. 6 B-25's failed to reach the target and the other attacking planes dropped 43 1,000-lb. bombs on the enemy camp area. Heavy A/A fire damaged 1 B-24. No enemy planes attempted interception and no new shipping was sighted. Fighter planes were over the same area earlier in the day but details were not reported.

An enemy SS was sighted diving just E. of Amchitka. 2 other possible SS's were sighted close to Kiska and another near Great Sitkin Island.

An R.C.A.F. plane reported another SS 5 miles off the coast of Van Couver Island.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

2 PB4Y's were over Kahili, Munda, and Vila for 3 hours during the early morning of March 10. The results of bombing were unobserved.

At 1745 L, the same day, Vila was attacked by 18 SBD's, 12 TBF's and 31 F4F's. Heavy bombs were dropped at the dump areas and A/A installations, and several fires were started. Enemy A/A fire hit 2 of our planes and wounded 1 pilot, but all aircraft returned.

At 1310 L, 8 P-38's intercepted an enemy attack force of 10 dive bombers and 10 fighters near the Russell Islands. 3 enemy fighters and 1 bomber were shot down. Patrol planes over the area later in the day, reported no evidence of any attack on our positions.

(B) New Britain

A B-17 on reconnaissance over Gasmata March 8 was attacked by 9 Zeros, 4 of which were shot down and another probably destroyed.

(C) New Guinea

On March 8, 26 enemy bombers escorted by 21 fighters attacked our airfield at Wau. Approximately 90 bombs fell in the runway area making it temporarily unserviceable. Our casualties totalled 3 killed and 3 injured.

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At Newak on March 9, a large DD, 2 AK's and several loaded barges were sighted by air reconnaissance. The following day, B-17's bombed the DD and the AK's and 1 AK was left burning.

There are no indications of Japanese troops E. of the mouth of the Mambare River.

Additional parties of survivors from the Lae convoy were killed or captured at Tufi, Goodenough Island, and Lusancay Island.

(D) Australia

An enemy plane was reported over Perth the night of March 7-8. A possible SS was sighted about 330 miles NW of Perth the following day.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS in the Northwest Pacific area reports torpedo hits on an enemy DD.

Another SS returning from patrol in the Western Pacific area reports 2 torpedo hits and a possible 3rd on an enemy vessel of the Asama Maru Class, (16,975-ton passenger vessel).

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of OBOO, March 10, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Before dawn on March 9, 3 B-24's attacked Kahili and Ballale airdromes. On the return trip the same planes dropped bombs on Vila and Munda. Results of these attacks were not observed.

The same day, at 1010 L, Munda was again attacked by 11 TBF's, 18 SBD's and 31 F4F's. The SBD's dropped a total of 18 1000-pound bombs on known AA positions starting fires. 3 other large fires were started by our attacking planes in supply and camp areas.

On March 8 a reconnaissance plane dropped 2 depth charges at Viru with unobserved results.

(B) New Guinea

A B-17 on reconnaissance bombed buildings at Finschhafen on March 8, causing 2 large explosions probably in the dump area.

The same day a 2,800-ton Allied AK was sunk in Porlock Harbor, 40 miles S.E. of Buna, when 9 enemy bombers escorted by 13 fighters attacked our shipping in that area. The enemy planes also dropped bombs in Oro Bay, 15 miles S. of Buna, but caused no damage or casualties. 4 P-38's intercepted and shot down 1 enemy bomber and 1 fighter without loss to our planes.

Small enemy parties of survivors from the Lae convoy landed in small boats at Goodenough Island and along the New Guinea coast W. of Goodenough Island. Allied patrols killed or captured the majority of these troops.

3 other enemy lifeboats, probably from the same convoy, were strafed and sunk by a B-17 on reconnaissance.

(C) N. E. I.

On March 8 Kauken and Nimi (S. coast of Dutch New Guinea) each received 3 500-pound bombs from a B-24 on reconnaissance. Results were not observed.

The same day another B-24 bombed an enemy AK at Babo without results. 2 enemy Zeros attacked causing slight damage to our plane.

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(C) N. E. I. -(Cont'd)

At the same time another B-24 bombed Saumlaki (Tanimbar Islands) and Beaufighters strafed the runway at Pailoro (Eastern Timor) destroying an enemy plane on the ground.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 9, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1000 W, March 7, the main camp area at Kiska was bombed by 4 P-40's. A/A fire damaged 1 Allied plane but there were no casualties.

During the afternoon, Kiska was again bombed by 6 heavy and 10 medium bombers. 483 bombs, including 16 500-lb. bombs, were dropped on the North Head area. A/A fire was heavy and 1 medium bomber was damaged but all planes returned. No new enemy shipping was observed nor did enemy planes attempt interception.

The same day, a B-24 escorted by 4 P-38's attacked Attu. 12 500-lb. bombs were dropped at installations near Chicagof Harbor, and fighters strafed Chicagof Village and Holtz Bay area. No enemy planes were encountered and A/A fire was ineffective. The result of these attacks was not reported.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 8, a B-24 bombed Kahili airdrome during the early morning. Results were not observed.

The same B-24 bombed Munda on the return trip and another B-24 on reconnaissance attacked Munda and Vila. Again results were unobserved.

An enemy plane was over Guadalcanal from 2012 L to 2121 L, March 7. 4 bombs were dropped offshore without damage.

(B) New Britain

On March 7, Gasmata and Cape Gloucester runways were hit by bombs from a B-24 on reconnaissance.

Photographic reconnaissance at Rabaul the same day, revealed 63 enemy vessels including 9 DD's, 2 naval auxiliaries, 1 minelayer, and 51 AP/AX's.

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At Lakunai and Vunakanau airfields there were 69 fighters and 57 bombers. In addition to the above, 4 unclassified vessels were sighted 20 miles N. of Rabaul on a NW course.

(C) New Guinea

6 A-20's bombed and strafed the Guadagasel area on March 7. These same planes strafed the mouth of the Maria River and the enemy airstrip at Dona.

The same day, a B-24 on reconnaissance dropped 6 500-lb. bombs on Salamaua airfield. Results were not observed.

Another B-24 on reconnaissance attacked an 8,000-ton enemy AK near the coast of New Guinea, midway between Madang and Wewak. Results were not reported.

A new enemy airdrome is reported at Dagua, 20 miles NW of Wewak, and another is under construction at Buteim, 10 miles further W. along the coast.

A single enemy float-plane dropped 1 bomb on the town of Merauke causing no damage.

(D) N.E.I.

On March 7, 3 RAAF Hudsons attacked Toetal, Kai Islands, and scored bomb hits on buildings, starting fires. 5 Dutch B-25's bombed Toetal again the same day, but because of smoke rising from the town, results of their attack could not be observed.

(E) Australia

At about noon on March 7, an enemy reconnaissance plane was intercepted and shot down over Darwin.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

An SS in the Southwest Pacific area reports sinking 4 enemy AK's and damaging a 5th of an enemy convoy consisting of 5 AK's and 1 DD.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 8, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 7, a PB4Y dropped 4 500-lb. bombs on an enemy AK at Kieta, E. coast of Bougainville Island, with unobserved results.

Before dawn the same day, PB4Y's bombed Ballale, Kahili, and Vila airdromes. Results were not reported.

(B) New Britain

During the morning of March 6, Allied planes sighted 2 enemy SS's near Gasmata. 1 SS was attacked without results.

The same day, a B-24 on reconnaissance bombed the airstrip at Gasmata and an enemy stranded AK at Talasea.

(C) New Guinea

The area at the mouth of the Waria River was thoroughly bombed and strafed on March 6 by A-20's.

An enemy plane attacked Allied positions on Goodenough Island during the morning of March 5, and the following day another enemy plane over the same area was intercepted by our fighters and shot down.

9 enemy bombers and 15 Zeros later attacked but it is claimed that no damage resulted. This is the first enemy raid on Goodenough Island.

(D) Bay of Bengal

Shipping at Rangoon and the dock area at Moulmein were bombed on March 6 by B-24's. 36 500-lb. bombs were dropped at both places and a probable hit was scored on 1 vessel and near misses on another in the Rangoon River. A large fire was started at Moulmein.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 7, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Before dawn on March 5, 9 PB4Y's bombed Ballale and Kahili, and large fires were reported to have been started at Kahili. Two of these planes are still missing.

Kahili was again bombed before dawn on March 6 by 5 B-24's. 3 B-24's bombed Ballale at the same time and fires were reported in the dispersal areas at both fields.

Further details have been received on our Task-force attack on Munda and Vila just after Midnight, March 5-6. At 0102 L, our force located, engaged and sank 2 enemy ships believed to be CL's or large DL's in the Kula Gulf. Our ships opened fire at a range of about 8,500 yards. One of the enemy ships was seen to sink about 5 minutes after our ships opened fire, and the other blew up, started to burn and sank in about 25 minutes.

Uncertain identification was due to the range and the fact that it was a very dark night. Fire from the enemy ships was weak, probably because of the surprise.

The U.S. Task force bombarded both Vila and Munda, starting fires and silencing batteries in the target areas. No enemy planes attacked although one enemy reconnaissance plane dropped flares on our returning ships. No U.S. personnel or material casualties due to enemy action occurred.

There was considerable air activity in the area by our planes both before and after the bombardments. Munda was attacked by a Hudson on reconnaissance and by 10 TBF's escorted by 15 F4F's on the morning of March 6.

Catalinas were overhead during the bombardment, acting as spotters both for the naval and the shore actions.

69 planes attacked Munda at 0700 L, March 6. Heavy bombs were dropped and the area was strafed. These planes reported the runway absolutely unserviceable as a result of the naval shelling.

Allied positions in the Russell Islands were attacked for the first time by enemy planes on March 6. About 12 enemy dive bombers and 25 Zeros attacked and were intercepted but not before the bombloads had been dropped. Fires were started in two places. 4 P-39's intercepted the enemy

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down 4 dive bombers and probably destroyed another.

An SBD on patrol in the same area was attacked by 5 enemy fighters. Our plane was badly damaged and the gunner was wounded in a 35 minute fight, but the plane returned safely.

Tulagi was raided by enemy planes during the night of March 5-6. Casualties were 2 dead and 11 wounded.

Guadalcanal was attacked by enemy planes from 1347 L to 1427 L, March 6, but details are not yet available.

(B) New Britain

A possible enemy SS was sighted about 30 miles SW of Gasmata by a B-17 on reconnaissance during the morning of March 6. 4 SS's were sighted later east of the same location; they were on a westerly course.

An unidentified ship was seen 7 miles E. of Cape Gloucester and another was seen aground at Talasea on March 5.

(C) New Guinea

An Allied PT boat unsuccessfully attacked a large enemy SS 6 miles NE of Morobe Harbor on March 5, but later located 3 enemy boats and reported destroying all of them together with the 200 occupants.

2 9,000-ton AK's were reported sighted in Lae Harbor at 0830 L, March 5. There is no indication as to when these ships arrived or whether they formed a part of the decimated convoy.

(D) Australia

Darwin was reconnoitered by an enemy light bomber about noon March 4.

(E) N.E.I.

Total (Kai Islands) was attacked by 9 B-25's. Supply dumps were fired.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800 March 6, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 5, 2 enemy cruisers heading for Munda were sighted 30 miles W. of Vella Lavella Island.

During the night of March 5 to 6, our cruiser and destroyer task force bombarded enemy installations at Vila and Munda. Two (2) large enemy DD's or CL's were sunk in the vicinity.

According to a press dispatch, Munda and Buin were attacked by our air force on March 5. Results were not reported.

(B) New Britain

Buildings at Ubili were bombed on March 4 by 3 B-17's on reconnaissance. Results were not reported.

A reconnaissance plane over Gasmata on March 4, observed 40 enemy fighters taking off and others on the ground.

(C) New Guinea

During the night of March 3 to 4, a PT boat attacked and sank a burning enemy AK in Huon Gulf.

The following day, 2 enemy DD's were sighted in the same area and our aircraft attacked and destroyed them.

Enemy troops in boats, on rafts, and in the water were strafed by our planes causing heavy casualties.

Enemy barges between Finschhafen and Tami Island were strafed by B-25's and B-17's and 6 enemy barges were sunk. A large fire was started on Tami Island.

On March 4, Lae and Malahang airdromes were heavily bombed and strafed by A-20's and Beaufighters covered by P-38's and P-40's. Six (6) enemy planes refuelling on the ground were destroyed at Malahang and 3 others were possibly destroyed at Lae. Enemy planes attempting

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(C) New Guinea - (Cont'd)

to intercept were attacked by our covering fighters and 6 Japanese planes were shot down and others damaged. Our losses consisted of 3 Beaufighters and 1 P-38 damaged.

The same day, A-20's bombed and strafed the area at the mouth of the Waria River.

(D) N. E. I.

Saumleki Town and Matkus Island (Tanimbar Islands) were attacked by RAAF Hudsons on March 4. A direct hit on an oil tank started a large fire.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 5, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1335 X, March 3, 4 P-40's each carrying 1 300-lb. bomb and 6 light fragmentation bombs, attacked enemy positions at Kiska. Weather conditions prevented observation of results.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the early morning of March 4, 6 B-24's dropped heavy bombs on Kahili and Ballale airdromes with unobserved results. Enemy A/A fire and searchlights were active but all our planes returned.

The same day at 0720 L, Munda was attacked by 12 SBD's and 15 P4F's. The fighters strafed the area where enemy barges had been reported and later strafed Viru Harbor on the return trip. All our planes returned.

On March 3, 2 Allied fighters strafed an enemy cutter off Irrigila (New Georgia Group). The vessel was set afire.

2 enemy planes were over Guadalcanal during the night of March 3, and dropped 4 to 6 bombs but no casualties or damage resulted.

(B) New Ireland

An Allied plane on reconnaissance March 4, sighted an enemy convoy of 5 AK's, 4 AP's and 1 DD 30 miles S. of Kavieng on a NW course. An hour later another DD and an AK were sighted in Gazelle Channel, 25 miles SE of Kavieng.

(C) New Guinea

The enemy convoy which moved westward along the N. coast of New Britain on March 2, was attacked by 9 B-17's during the evening of March 2, NW of Rooke Island. A medium sized AE was sunk as a result of 2 direct hits, and near misses damaged 2 other ships, 1 of which was stopped.

During the afternoon or late evening of March 2, 6 to 8 additional vessels probably AP/AK's joined the convoy, and 15 vessels (probably 5 DD's and 10 AP/AK's) passed through Vitiaz Strait.

During the following day, a total of 32 B-17's, 32 B-25's, 12 A-20's, 13 Beaufighters, and 16 P-38's attacked the convoy in Huon Gulf. Ship after ship was hit and set afire by low level attacks. At dusk only 6 ships

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were sighted still afloat. 2 of these were AK's which were afire and the 4 others were damaged DD's. The ships were approximately 40 miles off Lae and making no headway. Reconnaissance that night could find only 1 stationary DD and 1 burning AK. Enemy air losses totalled 40 enemy fighters shot down and 15 others probably destroyed. Our losses were 3 P-38's and 1 B-17.

According to SWPAC communique, our aircraft searching for the convoy on the morning of March 4 sighted only 2 damaged DD's which were attacked and sunk. 4 intercepting fighters were shot down without loss to our planes.

The water front at Finschhafen was bombed March 2 by a B-24 on reconnaissance.

On March 2, Lae airdrome was attacked 3 times during the day by A-20's and P-40's. The area was thoroughly bombed and strafed and a barge off the shore was sunk. Enemy planes intercepted of which 6 additional were shot down.

(D) N.E.I.

6 Hudsons attacked Dobo, Arce Islands, on March 3, bombing and strafing buildings and starting fires.

At the same time, 9 B-25's bombed the town at Toeal, Kai Islands, causing a large fire which was probably a fuel dump.

(E) Fiji Islands

On March 2, a Japanese SS was sighted 90 miles NW of Nandi (Viti Levu Island). 4 500-lb. bombs were dropped with unknown results.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 4, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 3, 10 PB4Y's set out to attack shipping in Buin Harbor. From 0155 L to 0500 L, our aircraft were over the area but, due to poor visibility, were unable to locate the vessels. Some of the planes bombed Ballale and Kahili airdromes and another bombed Vila on the return trip. Results were not observed.

The same day, 10 SED's escorted by 16 fighters attacked Munda and dropped heavy bombs in the target area starting 1 fire. All our planes returned safely.

(B) New Britain

On March 2, the enemy convoy N. of Cape Gloucester was attacked by 25 B-17's and 2 B-24's escorted by 16 P-38's. Bomb hits and near misses sent 2 medium AK's, possibly sank a 7,000-9,000-ton AP and a small AK, and damaged 2 medium AK's and a DD.

According to SWPAC communique, 8 additional ships joined the convoy March 2-3. Our aircraft continually attacked the ships until practically all were sunk or sinking. A total of 55 enemy planes were claimed shot out of action and many others damaged during the 2 day battle. Our losses included only 1 bomber and 3 fighters shot down and some damaged which returned to our base.

On March 2, a B-24 bombed and sank a 100-foot AK probably loaded with ammunition in Wide Bay. An adjacent jetty was damaged.

(C) New Guinea

Lae airdrome and dispersal areas were bombed and strafed by 6 A-20's at dawn March 2. Bombs were dropped from a low level and a machine gun position was silenced.

(D) N.E.I.

On March 1, a B-24 on reconnaissance strafed workmen on the runway at Bima, N. coast of Soembawa Island.

(B) Australia

A Darwin air strip was raided by 15 Zeros at 1400 I March 2. Enemy planes strafed the runway destroying 1 Beaufighter and damaging another, and also strafed Allied camps in the same area. Allied fighters intercepted

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the attack and destroyed 3 enemy planes and probably destroyed 3 others.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 3, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 2, Munda was raided during the early morning by a Hudson weather plane returning from Buin. Results were not observed.

(B) New Britain

At 2125 L, March 1, a B-24 unsuccessfully attacked an enemy convoy 45 miles NE of Talasea (N. New Britain). This convoy, consisting of 6 DD's and 8 AK/AP's, was heading W. 7 B-17's set out during the night to attack the ships, but contact with the convoy was lost due to heavy weather and poor visibility, and our attacking force was unable to locate the vessels. 2 of the B-17's dropped 16 500-lb. bombs at Gasmata scoring 4 hits on the runway. The other 5 planes returned with their load.

According to SWPAC communique, our heavy bombers with fighter escort attacked the enemy convoy N. of Cape Gloucester on March 2. A large AP received 5 direct hits with 1,000-lb. bombs and was left enveloped in smoke. Another large AP was hit amidships and sank. A third medium-sized vessel received a direct hit and a fourth was damaged and afire near the bow. Enemy warships and other cargo vessels were damaged but definite results could not be ascertained. 30-40 enemy planes formed a cover for the vessels and we shot 13 of them out of action. The scattered convoy, when last seen, was still trying to proceed toward Lae. Our losses were reported as light.

(C) New Guinea

On February 28, Allied patrols reported that there were no enemy troops in the Guadagasel area or S. thereof.

(D) Australia

Darwin was attacked by enemy planes during the afternoon of March 1. Results were not reported.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS in the Southwest Pacific area reports sinking an 8,000-ton enemy AO.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, March 2, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On March 1, B-24's and TBF's set out to attack shipping in the Buin area, but because of a haze they were unable to locate their target and heavily bombed Ballale and Kahili airdromes. 1 large fire was started at Ballale.

The same day, Munda was attacked twice by our aircraft. The first raid was by a Hudson weather plane and the second by 17 SBD's with 9 fighters as escort. Fires were started as a result of 17 1,000-lb. bombs. Our planes returned safely.

(B) New Britain

An enemy convoy of 14 ships was sighted on March 1 near Talasea, N. New Britain. The vessels were moving westward under cover of an advancing weather front.

(C) New Guinea

On March 1, Alexishafen airfield was bombed by a reconnaissance plane and enemy positions from Salamaua to Guadagasel were bombed and strafed. Results were not reported.

At the same time, our ground patrols in a surprise attack destroyed 4 large enemy barges at the mouth of the Waria River.

Milne Bay was raided by enemy planes at 1124 L, March 1, but results were not reported.

(D) N.E.I.

On March 1, a heavy bomber on reconnaissance attacked enemy shipping at Soemba Island. Details of this attack have not been reported.

(E) Bay of Bengal

On February 28, near Ramree Island (80 miles SE of Akyab), coastal craft of the Royal Indian Navy attacked 2 armed enemy launches heavily loaded with troops and ammunition. 1 enemy vessel was blown up and sunk, and the other was left in a sinking condition. 50 enemy soldiers were killed and others captured.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of OBCO, March 1, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1550 W, February 27, Kiska was attacked by 12 bombers and 4 fighters. 16 1,000-lb. and 52 500-lb. bombs were dropped over the target but clouds prevented observation of results. No enemy planes were seen and no A/A was encountered.

The following day at 1300 W, Kiska was again attacked by 6 heavy and 6 medium bombers. Hits were seen in the target area. A/A fire was heavy but inaccurate and all our planes returned.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

From 0415 L to 0535 L, February 28, PB4Y's and TBF's were over the Buin area. A large AK in the harbor was hit by bombs and blew up. Other planes, which were unable to locate the ships because of the haze, bombed Kahili and Ballale air fields. Fires were started at both places, one at Kahili visible for 80 miles. 1 enemy plane was destroyed on the ground and 1 TBF failed to return.

The same day, Munda was bombed by a weather plane and Vila by 15 SBD's escorted by 16 fighters. 3 fires were started at Vila and all our planes returned.

(B) New Britain

2 enemy schooners were attacked by our aircraft N. of Open Bay on February 27. Results were not reported.

(C) New Guinea

A possible SS was depth-charged S. of Buna on February 26. Results were not reported.

Another possible SS was sighted on the surface S. of Port Moresby.

On February 26-27, our advance patrols near Mubo, drove the enemy from the Waipali area. 100 additional Jap troops have been killed.

Lae and Finschafen were bombed by 1 of our heavy bombers on February 28 with unobserved results.

The same day, enemy planes attacked Merauke and Milne Bay and dropped bombs but no damage resulted.

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(D) H.E.I.

Our long range fighters heavily attacked Panfoei airdrome, Koe-pang, in a pre-dawn attack February 28. The enemy was completely surprised and our planes destroyed 4 bombers and 9 fighters on the ground, and seriously damaged or probably destroyed an additional bomber and 8 fighters.

A/A positions were silenced and fires were started in the building area. Interception was attempted by 3 fighters, 1 of which was shot out of action and the others driven off. All our planes returned.

On the same morning, medium bombers bombed and strafed Tosal, Kai Islands, causing heavy damage in the building area.

(E) Bay of Bengal

On February 27, 4 B-24's attacked a 7,000-ton enemy vessel 60 miles SW of Rangoon. 4 direct hits and several near misses were scored with 500-lb. bombs. When last seen, the ship was burning and being abandoned.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 28, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 26, a Hudson on a weather flight dropped 8 bombs on Munda. Results were not observed.

The following day, at 1600 L, 17 SBD's and 15 fighters bombed and strafed installations and dumps at Munda causing 3 fires. All our planes returned safely.

At 1740 L, February 27, 14 SBD's escorted by 24 fighters attacked an enemy AP and 2 corvettes off the N.E. coast of Vella Lavella Island. The AP was hit by 4 heavy bombs and was enveloped in flames. 1 corvette was also burning from a direct hit. 1 enemy plane was shot down and another probably destroyed. Our losses included 1 fighter shot down and another missing. 2 of our fighters collided over our field.

(B) New Britain

Four (4) enemy SS's were sighted 90 miles S. W. of Gasmata on February 25. The vessels were heading toward Lae.

The same day 3 enemy AK's, 1 AO and 3 smaller vessels, including a possible SS, were sighted 12 miles N. W. of Ubili (Open Bay). Our heavy bomber formations set out to attack these ships but were unable to locate them.

(C) New Guinea

On February 27 Lae was bombed and strafed by our medium bombers. Fires were started and enemy machine gun positions silenced. No interception was attempted.

During the month of February, 660 Japs were killed and 73 taken prisoner in the Buna area.

(D) Australia

An enemy SS off Port Stephens (S.E. coast) was attacked by an RAAF Hudson on February 26. 42 bombs were dropped but no hits were scored.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February, 28, 1943.
(Cont'd)

II. U.S. Submarine Reports

An SS returning from patrol in the Southwest Pacific reports sinking 3 large enemy AK's and a large AP. The same SS damaged a possible cruiser with 2 torpedo hits.

Another SS returning from patrol reports sinking 1 AK, 1 tanker, damaging 1 17,600-ton AO and possibly damaging another 17,600-ton AO. This SS also sank 2 25-ton schooners by gunfire.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 27, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

On February 25, Kiska was attacked by 6 B-24's and 5 B-25's with fighter escort. Bombs were dropped at the North Head and on the main camp. A B-24 was damaged by AA fire and crash landed upon returning to the base. The bombardier of this plane was killed by AA fire and the crew sustained minor injuries in the crash landing. In addition, a B-25 was damaged slightly.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 25, Vila was bombed by a Hudson reconnaissance plane which was returning to base. Bombs hit in the revetment area with unobserved results.

On February 26, Kahili was attacked by 6 F4U's, 3 P-40's, and 12 P-38's at 1215 L. No enemy aircraft was encountered and there was no AA. Further details of the raid are lacking.

On the same day, Munda was attacked by 18 SBD's and 16 P-40's. 8 enemy planes were seen on the ground, 1 of which was claimed destroyed. Bomb hits were reported near other planes. Fires were started and 2 AA batteries were silenced. The area was strafed by the fighter planes. All our planes returned.

(B) New Britain

On February 26, an Allied heavy bomber on armed reconnaissance bombed 3 small vessels at Powell Point in Open Bay. Damaging near misses were claimed. Gasmata airfield and dispersal area were attacked the same day by Allied heavy bombers, which attacked in two waves. Ten tons of bombs were dropped causing wide spread damage.

(C) New Guinea

On February 25, photos were taken at Wewak and revealed 1 DD, 1 minelayer, 1 small unclassified vessel, and several barges in the harbor.

On the next day, February 26, the Wewak area was struck by Allied heavy bombers in a pre-dawn attack. A direct hit and 2 near misses were scored with 500-lb. bombs on a 5,000-ton AK. Explosions were caused by bombs dropped on the airfield runway and dispersal areas and among grounded aircraft.

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On February 25, Pinschafen was bombed by a B-24 on reconnaissance.

On February 26, Lao was attacked by our heavy bombers in two attacks. The airfield and shore installations were the targets and were bombed and strafed from a low altitude.

During the day of February 26, the Guadagasel Saddle area, the Waipali Trail, and the Waria River mouth area were again bombed and strafed by A-20's.

(D) Australia

Darwin was visited by an enemy reconnaissance plane for the second day in succession, on February 25.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS returning from patrol has reported sinking a 4,500-ton AP/AK, a 3,800-ton AK, and a 120-ton schooner. In addition, a 6,000-ton AK was torpedoed and probably sunk.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 26, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the early morning of February 25, 8 B-24's were over the Buin area. Bombs were dropped on Kahili and Faisi, where an explosion was seen. Other results were not observed due to bad weather.

Vila was bombed the same day by heavy bombers escorted by fighters and 3 fires were started. 1 fighter was forced to land off Santa Isabel Island, but the pilot was safe in the water.

(B) New Britain

On February 25, enemy shipping and installations at Rabaul were attacked by our heavy bombers. Direct hits or near misses were scored on 3 small vessels and an 8,000-ton ship resembling an AVP was damaged by 4 bombs. There was no attempt at interception.

Gasmata and Cape Gloucester airdromes were bombed the same day with unobserved results.

(C) New Guinea

A B-24 on reconnaissance bombed Kaukenau (NW Dutch New Guinea) on February 24. A complete airstrip and clearing were observed.

Enemy planes raided Milne Bay the evening of February 24, and again the following morning but results were not reported.

On February 25, an Allied heavy bomber scored 2 direct hits or near misses with 500-lb. bombs on a small AK in the harbor at Alexishafen.

The same day, Bostons bombed and strafed the track from Salamaue to Kubo and the airfield and building area at the mouth of the Waria River.

Ground patrols at the same time, were mopping-up enemy stragglers between the Kumusi and Opi Rivers. An additional 60 Japanese were killed.

(D) N.E.I.

On February 25, an allied heavy bomber scored a direct hit on a 4,000-ton enemy vessel at Babo, Dutch New Guinea.

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(E) Australia

An enemy aircraft was sighted over Darwin during the early afternoon of February 24.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 25, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

On February 23, enemy positions at Kiska were attacked by 16 bombers and 8 P-38's. Many bombs were dropped but results were not observed due to broken clouds.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) New Britain-New Ireland

An Allied heavy bomber attacked enemy shipping off Cape St. George (S. New Ireland) February 24. Results were not reported.

The same day, before dawn, Allied heavy bombers attacked enemy shipping at Rabaul Harbor. A direct hit was claimed on a 10,000-ton AK, and near hits damaged 2 enemy warships. Another large enemy naval vessel was attacked off Cape Gaselle (20 miles SE of Rabaul). In an effort to escape the ship was reported to have gone aground on reefs. No interception was attempted and all our planes returned safely.

An Allied heavy bomber on reconnaissance over Open Bay was attacked by 13 enemy fighters, 4 of which were reported destroyed. Our plane returned safely. Another heavy bomber attacking a small enemy AK in the same area was intercepted by 3 enemy fighters, 1 of which was shot down.

(B) New Guinea

On February 24, 6 B-26's bombed and strafed villages near Lae. Other Allied aircraft attacked Lae and Malahang airdrome starting large fires.

Throughout the day Bostons bombed and strafed the Mubo area and enemy positions near the mouth of the Waria River and along the coast.

Madang airdrome was attacked by an Allied heavy bomber with unobserved results.

(C) N.E.I.

Babo (Dutch New Guinea) was bombed by Allied aircraft February 24. Results were not reported.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 24, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

On February 22, 15 bombers and 8 P-36's set out for Kiska at 1225 W, but bad weather forced them to return to Adak without attacking.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the early morning of February 23, Munda and Vila were each attacked by a formation of 4 PBV's. Heavy bombs fell in the target area. 2 PBV's were damaged by A/A fire over Munda but all planes returned to their base.

During the night of February 20-21, an enemy force was reported landing at Bambatana (W. Choiseul Island). 1 of our search planes on February 22, scored hits with depth charges on an enemy barge loaded with Japanese troops in the same area.

A heavy fighter attack was made on Rekata Bay February 22. The area was thoroughly strafed and no enemy planes were observed.

Enemy planes bombed the Tulagi area during the night of February 21-22, causing a fire in a munition dump and a few casualties.

The following night, an enemy plane was over our airfield at Guadalcanal. 7 bombs were dropped damaging aircraft and 1 man was killed and 5 wounded.

(B) New Britain

At 0931 L, February 23, 3 probable DD's and 1 AP were sighted off Wide Bay on a SE course.

Photographs of Rabaul taken February 22, reveal 79 ships in the harbor including 1 CL, 11 DD's, 2 SS's, 2 PC's, 1 auxiliary, 2 AO's, 1 tender, and 89 AP's/AK's aggregating about 299,000 tons.

Before dawn on February 23, our heavy bombers attacked Rabaul and shipping in the harbor. 3 direct bomb hits were scored on a cruiser or a large DD, and near misses were reported on an enemy AK. Fires were started along the waterfront and 2 schooners were strafed from a low altitude. Intense A/A fire was encountered throughout the attack.

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On the same day, a single heavy bomber on reconnaissance bombed the Cape Gloucester airdrome with unobserved results.

(C) New Guinea

2 unidentified SS's were seen moving into Morobe Harbor during the afternoon of February 22.

During the night, a B-17 bombed installations at Lae with unobserved results.

On February 23, medium bombers attacked villages in the Lae area and the Mubo-Guadagasel area was bombed and strafed by Bostons.

Throughout the day, Bostons bombed enemy positions near the mouth of the Waria River, and other enemy held areas along the coast. Enemy barges near Salamaua were damaged by these raids.

Enemy planes attacked Allied positions at Milne Bay and Port Moresby during the night of February 22-23. Minor damage and casualties were reported at Milne Bay but no further reports have been received.

(D) N.E.I.

On February 23, Penfoel airdrome at Koepong (W. Timor) was raided by an allied heavy bomber. 10 enemy fighters intercepted, 2 of which were shot down and another probably destroyed. Our plane returned to its base.

The same day, medium bombers attacked Tocal (Kai Islands), causing heavy damage and starting fires.

(E) New Hebrides

Espiritu Santo experienced a light air raid by enemy planes during the early morning of February 22.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS returning from patrol in the Southwest Pacific reports sinking a 1,350-ton CM and scoring a torpedo hit on an escorting DD which, when last seen, was stopped and burning.

Another SS has reported 5 enemy AK's torpedoed and possibly several others.

A third SS returning from patrol in the West Pacific, reports sinking 10,000-tons of enemy shipping and damaging an additional 22,000 tons.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of OBOO, February 23, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Ballale and Kahili airdromes were attacked by medium bombers during the night of February 21-22. Fires visible for 40 miles were started in dispersal bays.

During the early morning of February 22, Vila and Munda were attacked by B-24's. Searchlights and A/A fire were encountered at both places and some fires were started by bomb hits.

On February 21, an Allied plane sighted an enemy SS 7 miles NE of Lunga Point, Guadalcanal. Depth charges were dropped and 2 direct hits were reported. Patches of oil were seen five minutes later. } 242207

(B) New Britain

On February 21, a B-24 on reconnaissance attacked a small enemy AK at Open Bay. The ship was not hit.

The following day, Allied planes bombed Gasmata and Lakunai (Rabaul) airdromes. Results were not reported.

At the same time, another heavy bomber attacked shipping and the airfield at Lorengau, Admiralty Islands, with unobserved results.

(C) New Guinea

On February 22, our planes dropped 15 tons of bombs on Malahang airdrome and nearby villages in the Lae area. 1,000-lb. bombs caused heavy destruction and started many fires. Villages at the mouth of the Waria River were attacked by the same planes. There was no interception and all our planes returned.

The same day, A-20's bombed and strafed trails and villages near Guadagasel Gap (S. of Mubo), where the enemy force was concentrated.

Enemy planes were over Port Moresby during the night of February 21-22. There was no damage and no casualties.

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(D) Australia

On February 21, an enemy plane was over Gladstone Harbor, 240 miles N. of Brisbane, and another enemy plane attacked an Allied convoy off Cape Londonderry, approaching Darwin from the west. No damage resulted.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS returning from patrol in the Southwest Pacific reports sinking a 750-ton enemy AK.

Another SS sank a 60-ton AP/schooner by gunfire in the same area.

A third Allied SS, in the same area, reports scoring hits on 2 7,000-ton AK's and a 500-ton barge.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 22, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1400 W, February 20, our bombers and fighters attacked Kiska. Heavy bombs fell on North Head, the Main Camp, the new fighter strip, and on Little Kiska Island. 1 heavy bomber and 1 P-38 were damaged by A/A fire. No enemy planes attempted interception.

A few hours later, 1 of our search planes was attacked by an enemy float plane W. of Buldir Island (W. of Kiska). No damage was reported.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 21, medium bombers attacked the enemy airdromes at Kahila and Ballele. A hangar was destroyed; other buildings were damaged; at least 2 planes were destroyed on the ground, and large fires were started in the revetment area. Heavy A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned.

On February 21, two formations of PB4Y's bombed Munda and Vila. The results of these raids were not observed.

The same day, Munda was again attacked by 12 TBF's and 12 SB2C's escorted by 17 fighters. Bombs started fires in areas around the runway. 1 P-40 was forced down but the pilot landed by parachute. All other planes returned.

(B) New Britain

A B-24 on reconnaissance over Cape Gloucester on February 20 was intercepted by 6 Zeros, 1 of which was damaged and the others driven off.

(C) New Guinea

On February 20 and February 21, enemy planes attacked Milne Bay, Buna, and Dobodura (SW of Buna). Bombs were dropped but no damage resulted.

Two waves of Bostons raided the Mabo area on February 21. Enemy installations were bombed and strafed. A large enemy land unit has been reported moving into this area to reinforce their retreating troops. Waipali village was completely destroyed by fires resulting from our aerial attacks.

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(D) N.E.I.

On February 21, Ambon was attacked by our heavy bombers. Both the town and shipping in the harbor were hit but clouds prevented complete observation of results. 6 enemy planes intercepted, 2 of which were destroyed and 2 others probably destroyed. All our planes returned.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS returning from patrol in the West Pacific reports sinking a 9,000-ton enemy AK and scoring 4 torpedo hits on an unidentified enemy high-speed ship.

Another SS reports sinking an enemy AK in the same area.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 21, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

On February 19, an enemy ammunition ship approaching Attu was set afire by an Allied attack and was reported to be sinking.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 20, our heavy and medium bombers attacked Kahili and Ballale airdromes and Faisi seaplane anchorage. Over 23 tons of bombs and incendiaries were reported dropped causing wide spread damage. Numerous fires and explosions were caused in the dispersal areas. Fuel and ammunition dumps were hit starting huge fires. No shipping was observed. There was no attempt at interception although heavy AA fire was encountered but all our planes returned.

Vila airfield was attacked by 8 B-24's during the early morning hours of February 20. Considerable damage was reported.

The same morning Munda was attacked by 12 TBF's, 18 SED's, 8 P-39's and 24 P4F's. The runway and AA installations were heavily attacked and several AA positions were hit. 1 of our SBB's was damaged by AA fire and was forced to land in the water short of our base, but both members of the crew were seen in a rubber boat. No other planes were lost.

(B) New Britain

On February 20, our heavy and medium bombers and torpedo planes attacked Gasmata. Fires and explosions were observed after our heavy bombers dropped their loads. 2 grounded enemy bombers were destroyed. Allied medium bombers strafed enemy barges in the harbor from a low altitude and Allied torpedo planes attacked enemy shipping releasing 2 torpedoes at a DD and 3 at an AK. Darkness prevented observation of the results of the torpedo attack. 3 enemy fighters intercepted our planes and 1 was shot down.

(C) N.E.I.

Interpretation of photographic reconnaissance over Dili February 18, showed a 7,000 ton AP and 43 landing barges in the harbor.

(D) Australia

At 2350 K, February 19, the Sydney area was reported visited by an enemy plane which later departed seaward.

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III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol in the Southwest Pacific area has reported possibly sinking 1 enemy AK, another AK was damaged with a torpedo hit, and an AO was damaged by 2 torpedo hits.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 20, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1300 X, February 18, our surface vessels bombarded enemy positions at Holtz Bay and Chichagof Harbor. Results were not apparent.

The same day at 1800 X, 2 enemy planes attacked Anshitka. Eight (8) P-40's took to the air and shot both of them down.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the early morning of February 18, 7 PB4Y's and 3 B-24's attacked the Buin - Shortland Island area. Heavy bombs were dropped at ship-ping in the harbors, on the runways at Kahili and Ballale and on Musave Island. Some fires were started.

During the night of February 18 - 19, our heavy and medium bombers, flying at low altitude, again attacked the Buin - Shortland area. Two (2) ships, one of 9,000 tons and another of 7,000 tons, were afire from 2 direct hits on each. Two (2) other enemy ships were hit and badly damaged. Supply dumps and dispersal bays at Kahili were bombed and fires were visible for 30 miles.

At 1740 L, February 18, Vila was bombed by 10 SBD's, escorted by 14 fighters. No enemy aircraft were observed, only light A/A fire was encountered and all our planes returned.

Munda and Vila were again attacked during the night of February 19 but no details were reported.

Allied surface vessels, 20 miles E. of S.E. San Cristobal Island, were attacked by 7 enemy torpedo planes at 2000 L, February 17. At least 5 of the enemy aircraft were destroyed and our ships suffered no casualties or damage.

(B) New Britain

Near Gasmata one of our heavy bombers attacked a 5,000 ton enemy AK, February 18. Twelve (12) enemy fighters intercepted of which 3 were destroyed. Our plane returned safely.

Another heavy bomber, on reconnaissance, attacked enemy

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AP off Cape Gloucester the same day. 1 of 7 intercepting enemy fighters was shot down.

(C) New Guinea

On February 18, Finschhafen was bombed by a B-24 on reconnaissance but results were not reported.

The same day Merauke was attacked at noon by an enemy float plane. Two (2) bombs fell near an Allied surface vessel but caused no damage.

A 1,000 ton enemy supply ship at Salamaua was attacked by Allied aircraft on February 19, but the ship was not hit.

The same day our attack planes and long-range fighters bombed and strafed small villages in the Lae area.

Considerable enemy construction activity has been observed in the lower Markham River valley and a new air strip is being constructed at Wahgat, 50 miles N. W. of Lae.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 19, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of February 17-18, Kahili airdrome was attacked by our medium bombers. Bombs hit in the dispersal and dump areas causing explosions and fires visible for 50 miles. A number of enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. Heavy A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned.

Munda was attacked by 13 SBD's escorted by 24 fighters at 1700 L, February 17. Heavy bombs started 2 fires. No enemy planes were observed. Medium A/A fire was encountered but all planes returned.

The same night, Vila was bombed by our aircraft with unobserved results.

(B) New Britain

An enemy barge and a possible SS, 40 miles E. of Gasmata, were unsuccessfully attacked by a B-24 on February 17.

On February 18, 1 of our heavy bombers bombed an enemy AK off Cape Orford (S. of Wide Bay).

Another Allied plane on reconnaissance bombed and strafed a 5,000-ton enemy AK in Rein Bay (N. New Britain, 50 miles E. of Cape Gloucester). Results were not observed.

(C) New Guinea

On February 15, near the mouth of the Kia River, our PT's attacked 6 to 8 enemy barges, 3 of which were destroyed.

Enemy reinforcements from Lae have recently arrived at the mouth of the Waria River. At least 400 well-armed Japanese troops were reported here February 17. The dispersal areas at Madang airdrome were bombed by a reconnaissance plane, and the area between Madang and Alexishafen (10 miles N.) was strafed by our long range fighters. 4 enemy launches and a 300-ton auxiliary schooner were damaged or destroyed.

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The same day, enemy coastal positions between Lae and the mouth of the Waria River were bombed and strafed by our planes.

Our ground patrols in the Mubo area report 40 additional Japanese killed February 16. The enemy has established a position at Waipali, 2 miles SW of Mubo.

(D) N.E.I.

On February 17, a B-24 on reconnaissance sighted an enemy OL or DD with 2 4,000-ton AK's, 20 miles S. of Fak Fak (NW Dutch New Guinea).

The following day, our medium bombers attacked an enemy cruiser at Dili (N. Timor) with unobserved results. 5 Zeros intercepted, 2 of which were destroyed in a running fight of over 100 miles. 1 Allied plane failed to return.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 18, 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

On February 16, 11 bombers and 6 fighters were over Kiska during the afternoon, but found the area closed in and did not attack.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 0700 L, on February 17, 6 heavy bombers escorted by 29 fighters set out to attack the Buin-Shortland area. Engine and radio trouble forced some of the planes to return and before these difficulties could be corrected the fighters were insufficiently fueled for the trip; therefore, all planes returned to our base.

A Catalina dropped 4 500-lb. bombs on Vila at 0310 L, February 16. There was no A/A fire and no searchlights.

(B) New Britain

Heavy bombers attacked Ubili and Gasmata on February 17 starting fires.

The same day, an 80-foot schooner off Cape Gloucester was sunk by bombs from 1 of our reconnaissance planes.

(C) New Guinea

On February 16, Mahahang airdrome, Lae, was attacked by 6 B-25's with unobserved results.

The following day, low-flying fighters strafed enemy positions along the coast from Lae to the mouth of the Kumusi River.

In the Wau area the enemy is continuing to withdraw towards Mubo.

(D) N.E.I.

Babo (NW Dutch New Guinea) was hit by heavy bombers February 17. Details were not reported.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 17, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1720 X, on February 15, 6 enemy planes attacked Amchitka. 10 bombs were dropped, 3 of which landed on the runway and 5 N. of the runway. There were 3 casualties.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

11 DD's and 10 AK's were sighted in the Buin-Faisi area on February 14.

The following day, 3 planes set out to attack Ballale airdrome but only 1 reached the objective. 1 Allied plane has failed to return.

Another formation of Allied planes were assigned to attack Kahili but only 1 B-24 reached the target. Again 1 plane failed to return.

(B) New Guinea

Three waves of Allied planes attacked the Lae area on February 15 (previously reported without details). Participating planes included 12 B-25's, 6 Bostons, and 15 P-38's which bombed and strafed the supply and ammunition dump areas starting fires, and bombed the airfield at Malahang, NE of Lae, where other fires were observed.

Villages between Dounia and the coast on the Kumusi River have been reported occupied by the enemy.

On February 16, Salamaua was bombed and strafed in a low level attack. A number of small surface crafts were destroyed. There was no interception from enemy planes.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

Three American SS's returning from patrol in the Western Pacific and Southwestern Pacific areas, report sinking 2 enemy DD's, 4 AK's, and an AO.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
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I. Southwestern Pacific:

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(A) Solomon Islands.

On February 14 Kahili airdrome was bombed by 2 Catalinas. One explosion resulted from sixteen 250 lb. bombs and small fragmentation bombs. Enemy searchlights were ineffective.

At 1005L, February 15, Villa was attacked by 8 B-26's accompanied by 10 fighters. Heavy bombs fell in the target area starting fires. Two B-26's were hit by A/A fire and 3 members of the crew injured, but all our planes returned safely.

The same day at 1125L fifteen SBD's and 9 TBF's with fighter escort bombed Munda. The details were not reported. Forty enemy planes were on the field; no interception was attempted. Our planes returned safely. One TBF was damaged by A/A fire.

Five hours later Munda was again heavily bombed by 11 SBD's and 7 TBF's escorted by 18 fighters. No enemy planes were observed on the ground or in the air and all our planes returned to their base.

(B) New Britain:

Photographs of shipping in Rabaul Harbor taken February 14 revealed 1 CL, 10 DD's, 3 SS's, 5 AO's, 1 AM, 8 AP's, totaling 48,000 tons, and 45 AK's, totaling 202,000 tons.

Allied planes en route to Rabaul the morning of February 14 reported sighting 3 possible CL's, 1 DD and a possible CV off Wide Bay. Later the same day a B-24 reported no enemy ships in this area. During the night of February 14-15 Rabaul was again attacked by our heavy bombers. Thirty-eight tons of explosives and 1500 incendiaries caused explosions in the ammunition dump area and the whole N.W. sector of the town was in flames. A large fire was also started at Rapopo airdrome. Heavy A/A fire was encountered, but no interception was attempted. All our planes returned.

Near Talasea, N. New Britain, one of our heavy bombers on reconnaissance scored a direct bomb hit on an enemy AK, February 15.

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(C) New Guinea:

In night attacks on February 11 and 12 our PT's strafed enemy shore positions and barges near the mouth of the Waria River.

Seven B-25's, accompanied by 8 fighters, bombed Lae air field and other installations on February 15. Buildings and grounded aircraft were hit and fires started.

The enemy has been cleared out of the area from the mouth of the Kumusi River to Cape Ward Hunt, 25 miles north.

On February 15 Lae was again attacked by medium bombers with fighter escort. Enemy installations and supply dumps were bombed and strafed starting numerous fires.

On the same day Pinschafen runway was raided by heavy bombers with unobserved results.

Seventy-two additional enemy troops have been killed in the Wau area where our patrols are eliminating small enemy parties and stragglers.

(D) N.E.I.

On February 15 Dobo, Arce Islands, was attacked by low flying medium bombers. Large fires were started and buildings destroyed. According to a SWPAC communique, the town of Dobo is now in ruins. The wharves have been destroyed and the enemy has apparently been forced to abandon this base, as a result of this attack and the raids of February 7 and 8.

Shipping and shore installations at Ambon were hit by our heavy bombers the same day. Two direct hits were scored on an 8,000 ton AP, which was probably destroyed. Explosions and large fires were visible for 50 miles. Four intercepting ZERO's were driven off and all our planes returned safely.

Dilli, N. Timor, was attacked twice on February 15 by our medium bombers causing heavy damage to enemy installations and starting fires.

(E) Samoa Islands.

An enemy SS has been reported operating in this area.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 15, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1100X, February 13, Kiska was attacked by 5 B-24's and 6 B-25's, with 10 P-38's as escort. Heavy bombs were dropped on North Head and the main camp area and near the fighter strip, and P-38's strafed the new runway. 1 B-25 also strafed Little Kiska. Five float planes intercepted of which 3 were shot down. A B-25, damaged by A/A fire, crash landed at Adak, injuring all the crew, but the other planes returned safely.

Our air patrol over Amchitka sighted an enemy float plane and shot it down. Our P-38 was damaged and had to return to Adak on one engine.

At 1725X the same day, 7 enemy planes dropped bombs at an AK in the harbor at Amchitka, but no damage was reported.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Kahili Airdrome, Buin, was bombed during the night of February 13-14, causing explosions in the dispersal and supply dump area.

At 1200L, February 14, 9 PB4Y's and 12 F4U's, escorted by 10 P-38's, dropped 72 1000 pound bombs at two large enemy AK's off Kahili, and 3 direct hits were scored. 40 to 45 enemy planes intercepted, of which 11 were shot down. Our losses by heavy A/A fire and fighter interception totaled 2 PB4Y's shot down and 4 P-38's and 2 F4U's missing.

Flying low, 16 fighters strafed the runway and enemy positions at Munda, February 14. A/A fire was heavy, but all our planes returned.

Munda was hit again the same day by 18 SBD's and 3 TBF's, escorted by 11 fighters. A large fire was started. All our planes returned safely.

6,066 Japanese have been reported killed and 127 captured in the final offensive on Guadalcanal which began on January 15.

(B) New Britain

A B-17 was over Rabaul for two hours during the early morning of

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February 13. Fires were started near the north end of the harbor.

A B-24 unsuccessfully attacked an enemy flying boat over Jacquinot Bay the same day.

The night of Feb. 13-14, Rabaul was heavily raided by 30 heavy bombers in four attacks. More than 50 tons of explosives and over 3500 incendiary bombs were dropped on the town and water front. Heavy explosions and huge fires visible for 100 miles were started throughout the whole area. Search lights were destroyed and two ships in the harbor appeared to have been hit and damaged. Intense A/A fire was encountered, but there was no interception and all our planes returned.

Ubili (Open Bay) was attacked twice on Feb. 14 by our heavy bombers with unobserved results.

(C) New Guinea

On Feb. 13, an enemy CL, 1 DD, 1 AP, and 3 AX's were sighted at Wewak.

The same day, 6 Bostons bombed and strafed the Mubo-Wandumi area, while B-25's attacked the building area at Las. Results were not observed. Merauke was bombed by an enemy float plane February 13, causing 8 native casualties.

(D) N.E.I.

On Feb. 12, a Zero made an unsuccessful attempt to intercept a B-24 on reconnaissance over Ambon. Five ships were sighted in the harbor.

(E) Australia

An enemy float plane was over the Mitchell River (west coast Cape York Peninsula) during the afternoon of Feb. 12. No details have been reported.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 14, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific

(A) Solomons

An enemy convoy of 1 DD, 1 CL (or DL) and one AK was
attacked 20 miles SE of Faiai by 9 PB4Y's, 11 F4U's and 4 P-38's at 1130L
February 13 but no direct hits were scored on the ships. 6 Zeros were sighted
but did not attack.

At 1245L the same day 6 B-24's, 4 P-38's and 7 P-40's attacked
an anchored enemy AK at Buin. A direct hit was scored with 1-1,000 pound bomb
and the ship was later seen smoking. 3 B-24's, 2 P-40's and one P-38 were shot
down (AA fire was responsible for 1 B-24 and 1 P-40 shot down and 2 additional
B-24's being so badly damaged they could not keep up and were shot down by Zeros).
45 Zeros intercepted our planes and 8 were destroyed.

Munda was attacked by 17 SED's, 2 TBF's and 14 P-40's at 1720L,
February 13. Bombs were dropped on AA emplacements N.W. of the runway and several
small fires were started. All our planes returned.

(B) Bismarcks

2 possible CA's, 1 DD and one unclassified vessel were sighted
about 65 miles SE of Cape St. George at 1300L February 12. The ships were on
a NW course towards Rabaul.

Feb. 12 an allied search plane bombed Cape Gloucester runway
which appeared unserviceable. 3 blast pens under construction were observed.

(C) New Guinea

On Feb. 12, 3 parties were reported to have left Madang over-
land for Lae, probably enroute to reinforce Salamua. The same day, our ground
forces report the mouth of the Kumusi River cleared of the enemy forces after
considerable mopping-up action.

Merauke and Port Moresby were both raided by enemy planes on
February 12, Merauke by 1 plane which dropped 2 bombs and Port Moresby by an un-
reported number of planes.

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Beaufighters made a strafing sweep along the New Guinea coast from Madang to Finschafen on February 13. Large fires were started at both places. A hangar, barges and buildings were destroyed at Madang, and large fires were reported still burning 5 hours after the raid at Finschafen.

(D) N.E.I.

Failoro town and airfield were strafed by allied Beaufighters on Feb. 13.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 13, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 11, 2 DD's, 3 AK's and 1 AO were sighted off the W. coast of Buika headed NW.

At 0740 L, February 12, 17 SBD's accompanied by 15 fighters attacked Munda. 16 1,000-lb. bombs fell in the target area and destroyed an A/A position and started fires.

At 1430 L, the same day, Munda was again hit by 3 B-26's and 6 fighters which dropped 6 500-lb. and 18 100-lb. bombs. All our planes returned safely.

(B) New Britain

The night of February 11-12, a heavy bomber was over Rabaul for 3 hours. Bombs fell on Rapopo airdrome starting fires.

Ubili (Open Bay) and Cape Gloucester were attacked by heavy bombers February 12.

The same day another heavy bomber attacked a 6,000-ton enemy AP off Cape Orford (S. of Wide Bay). The ship was badly damaged and stationary.

(C) New Guinea

A small enemy SS was reported off the coast near Buna February 11. 192 additional Japanese were reported killed in the Bulolo River and Wandumi area. Enemy forces were retreating towards Mubo from Wau.

On February 12, in the area between the Kumuzi and Opi Rivers, our patrols had killed 136 Japanese stragglers.

The same day, an enemy float plane bombed Tenahmerah (160 miles N. of Merauke, Dutch New Guinea). No damage resulted.

R. A. Boons.

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On 10 Feb 11, February 11, a B-47's escorted by 10 F-4's were seen flying over the Pacific Ocean in the morning. No other aircraft were observed and all were seen returning safely.

The same day at 1400 L, a large ship was observed near the portway by radar. It was escorted by 4 fighters. Early in the afternoon.

During the morning of February 12, one aircraft again observed. None and still no complete details were not reported. I hereby place the ship down near File.

On February 12, enemy aircraft were being observed in the Pacific Ocean with the assistance of friendly navies. The organization of our forces deployed is not practically complete.

(B) New Article

A B-47 and 4 F-4's were sighted at the Pacific Ocean on February 12.

A sighting for a possible new landing strip was sighted at the Pacific Ocean about 15 miles E. of Honolulu.

On February 11, a B-47 was seen flying over a large and deep bay near the Pacific Ocean coasting along.

(C) New Article

In early 1971, the ship was seen flying over the Pacific Ocean on February 10.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 12, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 10, 26 ships including 2 possible CV's or ACV's, 7 AK's and 17 DD's were sighted in the Buin-Paiei area.

The same day, 15 bombers escorted by 19 fighters attacked Munda (reported without details in yesterday's summary). The beach and runway areas were heavily hit and a large fire was started.

At 1045 L, February 11, 4 B-26's escorted by 10 fighters bombed Munda causing fires in the bivouac area. No enemy interception was attempted and all our planes returned safely.

The same day at 1700 L, a large fire was started near Vila runway by bombs from 4 B-26's escorted by 9 fighters. Heavy A/A was encountered.

During the morning of February 12, our aircraft again attacked Munda and Vila but complete details were not reported. 1 enemy plane was shot down over Vila.

On February 10, enemy stragglers were being eliminated on Guadalcanal with the assistance of friendly natives. The organization of our beach defenses is now practically complete.

(B) New Britain

A DD and 4 AP/AK's were sighted in St. Georges Channel on February 10.

A clearing for a possible new landing strip was sighted at Roebuck Point about 45 miles E. of Gasmata.

On February 11, a B-24 was over Rabaul for 2 hours and dropped bombs near Lakunai airdrome causing fires.

(C) New Guinea

An enemy SS, 90 miles NE of Woodlark Island, was attacked by a Hudson on February 10.

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Our forces continued to drive eastward in the Wau area. 1,500 enemy troops have been killed in this area since the first of the year.

Enemy aircraft were over Milne Bay during the night of February 10-11, but no details were reported.

On February 11, our medium bombers attacked enemy positions near the mouth of the Waria River with unobserved results.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS, returning from patrol in the Southwest Pacific area, reports sinking an enemy AK.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of USCO, February 11, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

On February 10, 14 bombers escorted by 8 fighters attacked enemy positions at Kiska. Seventy-two 500-lb. bombs were dropped on hangars and buildings in the main camp, and on the new air strip. 300-lb. bombs fell in the North Head area. No enemy planes intercepted.

The same day, an enemy plane dropped a bomb at one of our ships 50 miles S. of Kiska. No damage resulted.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

A Catalina was over Munda on a harassing raid during the night of February 9-10, and the following morning our planes again raided Munda and returned safely. No details of this attack have been reported.

On February 9, a P-38 shot down an enemy twin-engine bomber over Choiseul Island.

Our forces on Guadalcanal affected a junction at Cape Esperance on February 9, thus eliminating all organized enemy resistance on Guadalcanal. Large quantities of supplies were captured.

(B) New Britain

On February 10, an Allied heavy bomber strafed the Ubili area at Open Bay. Results were not observed.

(C) New Guinea

Allied planes attacked Salamaua airfield February 9, starting fires in the target area.

The following day, our troops in the area E. of Wau, forced the enemy back more than 6 miles, while our artillery constantly shelled their retreating forces.

(D) N.E.I.

On February 10, medium bombers attacked Tochal, Kai Islands, and numerous fires resulted.

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III. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS returning from patrol in the West Pacific reports sinking 1 enemy AK and damaging 25,000 tons of enemy shipping.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 10, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

At approximately noon on February 8, 6 B-24's and 5 B-25's attacked Kiska. Heavy bombs were dropped on the main camp and harbor installations, scoring hits on buildings and on an oil or water tank. Other bombs were dropped at the new air strip at Salmon Lagoon and near North Head, but results were not observed. A/A fire was heavy but all our planes returned safely. At the same time, a B-25 and 4 P-38's patrolled over Amchitka but no contacts were made with the enemy.

At 0700 X, the following day, an SS was sighted 8 miles from Dutch Harbor. The SS was on the surface and immediately dove.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of February 7-8, a 2,000 ton enemy vessel off Kahili was set afire by an attack of Catalinas.

At 1730 L, February 9, 9 SED's, 16 P4F's and 3 fighters attacked Munda airfield. One large fire was started. Very heavy A/A fire was encountered but none of our planes are missing.

At the same time, 2 B-26's escorted by 9 fighters bombed Vila with unobserved results. All our planes returned safely.

On February 9, 2 P-39's strafed drums and sank an enemy barge off Basco Island (Russell Islands).

Our troops on Guadalcanal on February 8-9, advanced westward along the N. coast to a point 1,200 yards W. of the Segilan River. A DD assisted in these operations by shelling enemy positions near Doma Cove. At the same time, our forces on the W. coast reached Visale without much opposition. The Japanese are now apparently confined to about 10 miles of coastline.

Hospital supplies, rations, boats, outboard motors, spherical gas bombs, and land mines were among the materials captured.

(B) New Guinea

A small explosion resulted when a Catalina bombed and strafed Pischhafen the morning of February 8.

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Lae was bombed and strafed by Allied attack planes and long range fighters the same day. 2 enemy fighters on the ground, probably previously damaged, were destroyed.

One bomb from an enemy plane fell on Merauke the morning of February 8. No damage resulted.

Our patrols moving eastward from Nau, supported by artillery, killed 50-60 enemy troops February 8.

It is reported that a concentration of enemy troops is located at Gabsonkek, 18 miles NW of Lae, on the Markham River.

(C) N.E.I.

On February 9, Kendari was attacked by B-24's causing extensive damage among buildings, installations, and aircraft.

An 8,000 ton AX was bombed but results were not observed.

Enemy fighters intercepted our planes over Timor and 1 Zero was shot down.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 9, 1943

WDB

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Kahili airdrome, Buin, was attacked during the night of February 8-9, and large fires and explosions followed the bombing, destroying buildings, searchlights, and aircraft in blast bays.

The 19 enemy DD's which were attacked February 7, S. of Rendova Island, all returned to Buin-Faisi area the morning of February 8.

At 0907 L, February 8, Munda was bombed but results were not reported.

The same morning, 20 barges were seen off Cape Esperance.

(B) New Britain

A force of 4 enemy AP's escorted by 3 DD's was sighted on February 7, 40 miles SE of Cape St. George. The vessels were headed toward Rabaul.

On February 8, the runway at Gasmata was bombed with unobserved results.

(C) New Guinea

On February 7, the enemy was putting up strong resistance SE of Wau, but remnants of enemy forces, W. of the Bulolo River, were being cleared out. The following day, our planes heavily bombed and strafed enemy targets in this area, and our ground patrols eliminated an enemy pocket E. of the airdrome.

Finschhafen was attacked by an Allied medium bomber February 8. Defenses, including artillery emplacements, are being constructed here, but apparently no attempt has been made to use the airfield.

A B-24 bombed Babo (SW Dutch New Guinea) but results were not reported.

(D) N.E.I.

On February 7, a B-24 bombed Dobo (Aroe Islands) destroying a jetty and setting the barracks afire. The following day, our medium bombers twice attacked Dobo. Heavy explosions and large fires were started by our first raiders, and when the second raid took place the fires were still raging.

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Photographs taken reveal that three-fourths of the town is in ruins.

(E) Australia

An Allied vessel 80 miles SW of Carnarvon, was attacked by an enemy SS on February 7, but the torpedoes failed to hit the vessel.

R. A. Boane.

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Japanese Naval Activities
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I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 6, a Catalina bombed Kihili airdrome at 0230 L, and Buka airdrome at 0305 L. No results were observed.

The same day, SBD's attacked Vila with unobserved results.

At 1220 L, February 7, a force of DD's left Shortland Island, Buin area, on a SE course. 19 DD's were sighted SW of Vella Lavella at 1342 L. 15 SBD's, 20 F4F's, and 1 F5A attacked the 19 DD's S. of Rendova Island at 1735 L. Hits were reported on 2 of the ships. 15 Zeros covered the vessels of which 2 were destroyed and 1 probably destroyed. All of our planes returned.

Along the northern coast, our troops advanced to a line along the Umasani River February 7.

The same day, our units on the N. coast of Guadalcanal advanced to a point 500 yards NE of Marovovo, where they set up an outpost.

(B) New Britain

On February 7, 1 of our heavy bombers strafed 2 enemy barges filled with troops in Riebeck Bay (N. New Britain, W. of Willaumez Peninsula). Both barges were forced to the beach and 1 was set afire. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

The same day, our bombers attacked Cape Gloucester airfield but results were not reported.

(C) New Guinea

Lae airfield was attacked by 7 B-25's, and the Mubo-Komiatum area was bombed and strafed on February 6.

The following day, an Allied heavy bomber attacked enemy positions at Kaukenao, SW New Guinea. Results were not observed.

Lae was again bombed and strafed by our planes February 7.

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Ground patrols were active in the Wau-Mubo area and enemy stragglers near Bakumbari (N. of Gona) were being eliminated.

(D) N.E.I.

On February 7, an Allied medium bomber strafed and damaged 2 enemy luggers off Boston (SE Celebes).

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 7, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 6, an AK and 1 AO were sighted and attacked by an Allied reconnaissance plane 16 miles SW of Buka Passage. A probable hit was scored on the AK, which started smoking from the bow and reduced speed.

Munda airdrome was attacked February 6 by 11 SBD's and 22 P4F's at 1700 L. No enemy planes were encountered but there was heavy AA fire from Munda Point and near the Eastern end of the strip. All our planes returned.

It is probable that an enemy DD struck a mine the night of February 4-5 between Guadalcanal and Savo Islands. An unexplained explosion was heard in that area although our forces were not there at the time, and an oil slick was observed in the same locality on the following morning.

(B) New Britain

On February 6, an Allied heavy bomber scored a direct hit on a 500 ton AK in Open Bay and probably destroyed it.

(C) New Guinea

On February 6, the coastal area from Salamaua to the Kumusi River was swept by 3 A-20's. Enemy positions near the mouth of the Waria River were bombed and strafed.

On the same day, our medium bombers attacked the Lae airdrome blowing up buildings and silencing an AA position.

In the Mubo area our patrols were active, an enemy post was surprised and occupying troops were killed. Our planes bombed and strafed the Komiatum track.

On February 6, enemy bombers with strong fighter escort made repeated attempts to attack the airdrome at Wau. In air battles lasting the whole day, 21 enemy fighters and 3 bombers were destroyed by our planes, and 2 bombers were destroyed by AA fire. 12 enemy fighters and 3 bombers were reported probably destroyed or damaged. Our losses were described as negligible.

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(D) Australia

On February 6, an enemy bomber on reconnaissance over Port Darwin was shot down by an Allied fighter.

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(E) New Britain-New Ireland

Our B-17's attacked Rabaul during the early morning. Fires were started in the town and at Lakemba and Trenchard. Stranding planes had been over Rabaul 4 hours previous. The same day, a 1000-ton enemy LST New Ireland (LST New Ireland) was attacked by our heavy bombers and the ship sank in three minutes, receiving two direct hits.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 6, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

Our weather plane over Kiska at 0832X. On February 4, was attacked by 3 Zeros. One enemy plane was falling and smoking when last observed.

The same day, at 1203X, our heavy and medium bombers, escorted by fighters, bombed Kiska. A newly arrived ship in Trout Lagoon was bombed but not hit. Other bombs fell in the target area at North Head and near the main camp. Five Zeros intercepted, of which 3 were shot down. Our heavy bombers were damaged.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 4, Kahili Airdrome, Buin, received 20 100-pound bombs from a B-17 on reconnaissance. Results were not observed.

Vila was bombed by SBD's, accompanied by fighters, at noon on February 3. The following day our reconnaissance plane sighted an enemy DD burning and beached on Tambuama Island (N.E. Vella Lavella).

Enemy barge activity has been constantly increasing from points in the Russell Islands.

On Feb. 4-5, some of our patrols pushed westward to the Umasani River. A/A guns, M/G guns, a large range finder and radio sets were captured. The morning of Feb. 5, some 40 barges were adrift off Cape Esperance and Aruligo Point.

(B) New Britain-New Ireland

Our B-17's attacked Rabaul during the early morning of Feb. 5. Fires were started in the town and at Lakunai and Vunakanau airdromes. Harassing planes had been over Rabaul for 3 hours previous to the main attack. The same day, a 1000-ton enemy AK near Talasea (N. New Britain) was attacked by our heavy bombers and the ship sank in three minutes after receiving two direct hits.

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Large fires were started at Gasmata airdrome as a result of three attacks by our heavy units.

Enemy shipping in Kavieng Harbor on February 4 included 2 CA's, 1 AK, 1 AO, and 1 PC. During the same day a B-24 on reconnaissance strafed small enemy boats at Lorengau (Admiralty Islands). One boat was sunk and another damaged.

(C) New Guinea

During the night of Feb. 3-4, the enemy made attempts to break through our lines in the Wau area. The Japs were pushed back and our troops had captured some enemy positions by the evening of the 4th.

Port Moresby was raided by enemy planes during the night of Feb. 4-5, but no details were reported.

On Feb. 5, our patrols along the Kumusi River attacked enemy units attempting to escape by rafts. Some 75 Jap casualties resulted. The same day, a B-24 made a direct hit on an enemy AK off Finschhafen.

(D) N.E.I.

Our heavy bombers attacked shipping at Ambon February 5. Three transports of an estimated tonnage of 20,000 tons were destroyed or seriously damaged. One large AK of 10,000 tons was enveloped in flames. Other fires were started in the town and a jetty received a direct hit. Five Zeros were shot down while our planes returned safely. At the same time, medium bombers scored hits on the wharf and building area at Dobo, Aroe Island. Fires and great explosions were observed in the ammunition and supply dump areas.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 5, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1715 X, on February 4, Amchitka was attacked by enemy planes but no details were reported.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On February 3, a B-17 on reconnaissance was attacked over Buka Passage by 3 Zeros. 1 enemy aircraft was shot down and our plane was badly damaged.

Kahili airdrome, Buin, was raided by 1 Catalina on February 3, and again the following day by our medium bombers. Fires were started in the fuel and ammunition dump areas, and other fires near the center of the runway were believed to be burning aircraft.

At 0830 L, February 3, 4 B-26's escorted by 10 fighters attacked Munda. Twelve 500-lb. bombs were dropped but results were not observed.

The following day at 0735 L, 12 SBD's and 4 TBF's escorted by 22 fighters dropped heavy bombs on the Munda runway and in the dispersal and revetment areas. A pier near one end of the runway was hit and fires were burning near enemy A/A positions. No Japanese interception was attempted and all our planes returned safely.

At 1345 L, February 4, an enemy force of 20 DD's was sighted NW of Vella Lavella Island headed SE. 7 SBD's and 13 TBF's escorted by 27 fighters attacked the ships at 1600 L at a point NE of Kolombangara Island. 1 DD was reported sunk and another damaged. Protecting the ships were 25 Zeros of which 7 were shot down and 5 others probably destroyed. Our losses totalled 1 SBD, 4 TBF's and a Grumman fighter.

Further down the channel at 1730 L, 18 enemy DD's still covered by 25 Zeros, were attacked by 13 SBD's and 14 fighters. Our planes scored 2 bomb hits on 1 DD and 1 hit on another. 1 enemy ship was left burning. 10 Zeros were shot down and 2 others were probably hit, while 3 of our fighters and an SBD failed to return. One enemy DD hit in the first attack was seen headed back toward Buin.

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Our troops which landed without opposition at Verahue February 3, have met a strong enemy force of 1,000 men at Titi, 2 mile W. of Marovovo (NW Guadalcanal).

In the main fighting area our forces, on February 4, had pushed W. 1,000 yards beyond Tassafaronga Point.

(B) New Britain

The night of February 3-4, Lakunai airdrome, Rabaul, was attacked by our heavy bombers. Results were not observed. This is the sixth successive night that our bombers have been over this area.

Gasmata and Cape Gloucester airdromes were bombed on February 4 and an enemy AK off Arawe was hit directly on the stern. This ship, when last seen, was listing and on the reefs.

(C) New Guinea

Enemy forces were moving up the Kumusi River and occupied Dounia, 50 miles inland, on February 3. Barge activity continues at night S. from Marobe.

On February 4, medium bombers escorted by fighters made 2 heavy attacks on Lae airdrome. The runway and revetment area were bombed and strafed, fires broke out and it is believed that many enemy aircraft were destroyed.

Other fighter units bombed and strafed the Mubo-Komiatum track and adjacent areas the same day.

(D) N.E.I.

On February 4, an enemy occupied village on Matkus Island, Tanimbar Islands, was attacked by our medium bombers with unobserved results.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 4, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of February 2, there were 2 CA's, 1 CL, 7 DD's, and 13 AK's dispersed in the Buin-Shortland Island area. None of these ships are included in the force of 18 DD's which were sighted N. of Vella Lavella Island, heading toward Buin, at approximately the same time.

At 0800 L, 16 of the 18 enemy DD's were attacked NE of Kolombangara Island by 10 SED's, 11 TBF's, and 20 fighters. 1 DD received a direct hit and near misses were scored on 2 others.

At 1710 L, February 2, 6 B-17's accompanied by fighters, attacked shipping in the Buin area. A large AK received 3 to 5 hits, and when last seen the ship was listing and burning. 20 Zeros intercepted, of which our bombers destroyed 5 and our fighters downed 4 more. All our planes returned.

The same evening, SED's and TBF's with fighter escort, bombed Munda causing large explosions and fires in the target area.

The night of February 1-2, our PT's attacked a force of enemy ships off NW Guadalcanal. 1 enemy DD was sunk and another damaged.

Early in the morning of February 2, a Catalina bombed an enemy DD departing from Cape Esperance, and scored either a hit or a near miss on the ship. 2 other enemy ships (probably DD's) were burning in this area and our SED's bombed and strafed them the same morning.

On the same day, 2 P-39's strafed 16 new landing boats on the beach near Aruligo Point, NW Guadalcanal. 2 boats were set afire and the others riddled.

Japanese planes were over Henderson Field the night of February 2, and again the night of February 3. Some bombs were dropped near the landing strips but no casualties resulted.

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Our troops occupied heights W. of the Bonegi River on February 3. Captured material included 10 field guns, a radio station, and a machine shop. One of our DD's shelled enemy positions and aided measurably in dislodging the enemy. 39 Japanese were killed.

(B) New Britain

The night of February 2-3, the airdromes at Lakunai and Rapopo were attacked by our heavy bombers.

On the morning of February 3, heavy bombers on reconnaissance over Rabaul were attacked by 15 Zeros, two of which were shot down.

The same day the runways at Gasmata and Cape Gloucester were bombed, and an enemy warship in Wide Bay was attacked.

(C) New Guinea

On February 2, our forces continued to shell enemy positions at Wau. Allied patrols twice raided Wandumi and 50-60 enemy troops were killed.

The following day, our fighter planes strafed enemy positions in the Wau area in cooperation with our land patrols. Other Allied aircraft bombed and strafed enemy held areas along the Mubo-Komiatum track, and along the coast S. of Salamaua.

(D) N.E.I.

Our medium bombers attacked Dobo, Aroe Island, on February 3. Buildings in the barracks area were hit and others afire. A lugger in the harbor was strafed and 1 intercepting enemy plane was shot down.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS returning from patrol in the Southwest Pacific area reports sinking a small AP/AK. In addition, a CL was damaged with 2 torpedo hits; an AK is presumed sinking, having been hit twice, and a naval auxiliary received 1 hit which was followed by 6 explosions.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 3, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On January 31 enemy barges off Cape Esperance were shelled by one of our DD's.

Our troops crossed the Bonegi River (NW Guadalcanal) on February 2, and our advance to the NW is continuing.

(B) New Britain

On February 1 a B-24 on reconnaissance bombed an enemy AK in Open Bay and the runway at Cape Gloucester.

The following day our heavy bombers raided Wunakanau air-drome, Rabaul, in a predawn attack. Searchlights prevented observation of the results.

Our heavy bombers on February 2 bombed and strafed troops in launches in Open Bay.

The same day heavy bombers attacked a 3,000-ton enemy AK, towing 2 barges, off Lolobau Island (W. of Open Bay). 1 bomb hit the AK amidships, and other near misses sank 1 barge. The AK when last seen was heading toward the shore.

(C) New Guinea

On February 1 Finschhafen runway was bombed and the Mubo-Komiatum track was bombed and strafed with unobserved results.

Enemy reinforcements are arriving nightly by barge at the mouth of the Waria River.

Supply dumps at Kaukenau (SW Dutch New Guinea), were bombed and strafed February 2, by our bombers.

Other Allied planes bombed and strafed the Mubo-Wau-Komiatum area the same day.

158 enemy stragglers (not previously reported) have been killed or captured in Papua.

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(D) N.E.I.

On February 2 the wharf area at Toel, Kai Island, was attacked by our medium bombers. Fires were started.

(E) Australia

An Allied ship reports sighting an enemy SS on January 31, 75 miles W. of Freemantle.

The same day another possible enemy SS was sighted NW of Cape Melville by a plane.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS returning from patrol in the Southwest Pacific area reports damaging an enemy AO.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 2, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1732 X, on January 31, 2 enemy float planes dropped small bombs at shipping at Amchitka. No casualties and no damage resulted.

The same day our bombers and fighters were over Kiska for thirty minutes, but clouds prevented a view of the target and no bombs were dropped.

The enemy raided Amchitka twice the following day. In the first attack 8 to 10 float planes bombed and strafed our ships. The second attack was by 2 planes which bombed and strafed our ships without damage.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On January 31, a total of 14 DD's and 3 CA's or CL's, were underway in separate groups between Shortland Island and Tonolet Harbor.

The following day at 0640 L, 9 B-17's in two groups, escorted by 9 fighters, attacked shipping in the Shortland-Buin area. 5 B-17's in one group scored 3 direct hits on a large AK off Shortland Harbor. 4 of these planes were damaged by heavy A/A fire, but they returned to our base. The other group of 4 B-17's were intercepted over Buin by 20 Zeros. 3 of our planes failed to return and the other was damaged.

Munda was attacked January 30 by heavy and medium bombers escorted by fighters. Fires were started and one explosion occurred in the area just N. of the runway. A/A fire came from many directions.

The following day, 2 B-17's made separate pre-dawn attacks on Vila. Each plane dropped 6 100-lb. and 8 500-lb. bombs, and an ammunition dump was probably hit.

A reconnaissance plane dropped 2 depth charges and 2 bombs on an unescorted enemy AK between Kolombangara and Vella Lavella.

On February 1, 12 SBD's and 4 TBF's accompanied by fighters, attacked Munda at 0800 L. Heavy bombs fell in the target area. Our planes received heavy A/A fire and 2 SBD's failed to return.

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On January 31, 2 P-39's strafed a barge at Baisen Island (Russel Islands).

On the same day, our forces on Guadalcanal met stiff opposition from a reinforced enemy battalion at the Bonegi River, which runs inland from Tassafaronga.

7 enemy bombers escorted by 4 Zeros were over Henderson Field at noon February 1. 3 enemy bombers were shot down and only 1 plane dropped bombs.

On February 1 (locality not reported but probably in Northern Solomons), a force of 4 enemy DD's was heavily attacked by 17 SBD's and 7 TBF's escorted by 17 fighters. Numerous hits, probable hits, and near misses were scored on the enemy vessels with heavy bombs. It is believed that 2 DD's were sunk and a 3rd was afire. 10 Zeros intercepted of which 2 were shot down. 3 of our planes are missing.

(B) New Britain

Our heavy bombers attacked the Rabaul area the night of January 31-February 1. Many fires were started along runways and in dispersal areas at Lakunai airdrome. Fuel dumps and grounded aircraft were destroyed. Rapopo airdrome was also hit and two large fires started.

(C) New Guinea

On January 28 an Allied patrol contacted a force of 200 enemy troops at Divinikoari, on the Kumusi River, almost directly W. of Buna.

Our forces in the Wau area shelled enemy positions at Wandumi Village, E. of Wau, January 31.

III. Bay of Bengal

A British hospital ship was damaged by an enemy plane which dived into her. The damaged ship was towed into port.

IV. U. S. Submarine Reports

An SS returning from patrol in the Southwest Pacific reports sinking an enemy AO, 2 enemy DD's, and an enemy AP.

F. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, February 1, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific
(A) Solomon Islands

At 1400L on January 31, our fighter planes were over Munda and Vila. Two Jap planes were in the air but did not offer combat.

The same day an enemy DD, a large AK and a corvette headed toward Munda, between Kolombangara and Vella Lavella Islands, were attacked at 1745L by 12 SBD's and 7 TBF's, escorted by 14 fighters. The AK received 2 direct hits and 3 near misses by 1000 pound bombs and 1 torpedo hit. Two 500 pound bombs hit the DD and both the ships were stopped and burning. The corvette was also smoking from gunfire. 5 of 10 intercepting Zeros were shot down. Two P-40's failed to return and 1 SBD crashed while landing.

On the morning of January 29, enemy planes dropped 7 bombs and incendiary clusters near our airfield at Guadalcanal. One enemy plane was shot down.

That night a surfaced SS with troops aboard was attacked by 2 New Zealand AM's off Cape Esperance.

(B) New Britain

A B-24 on reconnaissance bombed a possible new airstrip near Open Bay on January 30. Southwest of Arawe an enemy SS was unsuccessfully bombed by a Catalina the night of January 30.

Rabaul was subjected to a pre-dawn attack on January 31 according to a SWPAC communique. Shipping and harbor installations were the target, but no results were reported.

(C) New Guinea

Our troops at Wau were attacked by a strong Japanese force, estimated at one regiment, before dawn on January 30. The enemy was repulsed and 250 enemy troops were killed including the regimental commander. Later the same day, enemy positions in the Wau area were strafed by 6 RAF Beau-fighters. An ammunition dump exploded and huts were destroyed.

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At the same time, 3 Bostons bombed and strafed the Mubo area. Our air attacks on January 31 were directed against the airdrome and shipping at Wewak, buildings at Pinschhafen, the Mubo-Komiatum track, and an enemy shore establishment between the Markham and Waria rivers.

(D) NEI

On January 31, our long range fighters heavily attacked Koepang airdrome. 8 enemy bombers and 1 fighter were damaged or destroyed on the ground. One warehouse exploded and hangars and buildings were afire.

Installations at Viqueque (SE Timor) were attacked by our medium bombers the same day. At the same time, our heavy bombers were attacking shipping at Ambon and a jetty on Tanimbar Island with unobserved results.

(E) CANTON ISLAND

In the early morning of January 30, 2 enemy SS's shelled Canton Island. No buildings were damaged and no casualties resulted. A grounded vessel received two hits.

II. U.S. SUBMARINE REPORTS

An SS returning from patrol in the S.W. Pacific reported sinking an enemy DD. The same SS reports 2 AP's probably sunk and 1 AO damaged in the same area.

R. A. Boone

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