

MR-203(16), Sec. 3-D -- SUMMARY OF NAVY DEPARTMENT DISPATCHES (Pacific)

1 December 1943 - 29 February 1944

(Pages 674 - 873)

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

300

[~~Naval Classified~~]

COMINCH FILE

SECRET
SECRET
090

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 29 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:30 a.m., 26 February, the shipping and supply areas at VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked by 52 dive bombers and 22 torpedo bombers, escorted by 59 fighters. Hits were scored on about eight enemy barges and on buildings and warehouses. Antiaircraft fire shot down one dive bomber and damaged two others. Later, an unreported number of Mitchells and Liberators again attacked the area and destroyed piers, barges and warehouses. Eight bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. VUNAPOPE was again attacked, after noon of the same day, by 17 Lightnings. A number of fires were started. Enemy installations and personnel at RAPOPO were also attacked. Results were not reported.

On 27 February, reconnaissance planes bombed RONGELAP, UTIRIK and MEJIT, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Results were not reported.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. 28 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 25 February, an Army Liberator bombed KUSAIE. Results were not reported.

During the night of 25-26 February, a reconnaissance plane bombed KESSA PLANTATION, northwest BUKA ISLAND, and destroyed two buildings which may have been warehouses. Gun positions at MOTUPENA POINT, west BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were also bombed. Three or four loaded barges in the south JABA RIVER were strafed with unreported results.

On 26 February, a reconnaissance Ventura sank a 150-foot freighter in the vicinity of DUKE OF YORK ISLANDS.

On 26 February, 4 Corsairs sank one barge, set on fire another and strafed a third off the DUKE OF YORK ISLANDS. 12 Airacobras strafed enemy personnel and installations along the south and southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Between 10:25 a.m., and 11:15 a.m., 26 February, 12 Avengers supporting ground troops, bombed enemy concentrations near the SAUA RIVER, central west coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. It was reported that the target area was well covered.

Due to weather, four missions unable to reach RABAU attacked VUNAPOPE as an alternate target. Results were not reported.

At 12:25 p.m., 26 February, 6 Venturas dropped seven tons on the TAROA runway area. Antiaircraft fire encountered was moderate but inaccurate.

Eleven tons were released on the WOTJE runway area by 12 Mitchells, at 10:59 a.m., 27 February. A large explosion was observed. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 9:05 a.m., 27 February, 12 Warhawks released four tons of bombs on MILLIE runways and strafed enemy small craft in the area. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

The submarine TANG, in a patrol northwest of SAIPAN, sank one large naval tanker, one ammunition ship and three freighters for a total of 40,000 tons.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 8-78
BY 10107 RDE/T

9 a.m. 27 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Although heavy fire from the beach and barges was encountered, only one boat sustained damage.

The submarine DARTER, returning from patrol of the TRUK-KAVIENG convoy route, reported damaging a 7,500 ton freighter.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.DECLASSIFIED
ON 8-3-72
BY SP-1

9 a.m. 27 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Enemy shipping at KUSAIE was attacked by four Navy Liberators at 8:31 a.m., 24 February. One 1500 ton freighter was sunk and a 100 ton escort vessel damaged. Adjacent shore installations were strafed. All our planes were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire. Later, at 12:10 p.m., 11 Army Liberators released 19 tons of bombs on the KUSAIE shore installations. Hits were scored on barracks, radio station and the wharf area.

At 10:45 a.m., 24 February, 5 Venturas dropped six tons of bombs on WOTJE. On 25 February, 9 Mitchells dropped 6½ tons on WOTJE runways. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. The following day, at 10:42 a.m., 9 Mitchells let fall 9 more tons of bombs on the runways. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 11:17 a.m., and 5:20 p.m., 24 February, 17 Liberators released 25 tons of bombs on the barracks area on EMIDJ. The following day, at 9:20 a.m., 12 Dauntless and 14 Warhawks attacked JALUIT shore installations with 13 tons and started a number of fires. On 26 February, at 7:55 a.m., 11 Warhawks bombed TINET ISLAND, JALUIT, with 5½ tons and started a number of fires. A 35-foot enemy boat was strafed and destroyed. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. One plane failed to return.

At 2:00 p.m., 24 February, 12 Mitchells released 12 tons of bombs on TAROA. No enemy antiaircraft fire was encountered. The following day, at 10:25 a.m., 2 Venturas dropped two more tons and the next day, at 11:15 a.m., 5 Venturas bombed the runways and radio station. Moderate and heavy antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 1:05 p.m., 24 February, 4 Warhawks, in a sweep over MILE, strafed a number of small craft. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. On 26 February, at 5:36 a.m., two Mitchells dropped two tons on MILE and later two more tons. All our planes returned.

At 10:33 a.m., 26 February, 24 Liberators struck PONAPE with 30 tons of bombs. Hits were scored on the dock area, seaplane base, hangar and fuel storage installations. A medium freighter was damaged. Intense and heavy antiaircraft fire damaged three of the bombers.

During the night of 24 February, an unreported number of our destroyers bombarded enemy installations at KOKOPO and LESSON POINTS, northeast NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires were started.

During the night of 26 February, an unreported number of motor torpedo boats intercepted five enemy barges, loaded with supplies and men, off the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE. Two of the enemy barges were sunk. Two of the remaining three barges were subsequently strafed and set on fire by a cooperating plane.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**~~SECRET~~

OSD L

4 p.m. 26 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 25 February, enemy installations on BUKA ISLAND were strafed by an unreported number of Corsairs. Antiaircraft fire damaged one Corsair, which subsequently crashed off TOROKINA, WEST BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. On the same day, 6 Airacobras bombed MONOITU and the AIRARA Area, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not observed.

At 10:50 a.m., 25 February, 18 dive bombers and 12 torpedo bombers attacked enemy positions northeast of PIVA, between the LARUMA and TOROKINA RIVERS, west BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Later, at 11:40 a.m., 18 dive bombers and 12 torpedo bombers again bombed the area. The target area was well covered.

At 11:30 a.m. 25 February, 18 Mitchells dropped 27 tons of bombs on anti-aircraft positions at MATUPI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. A considerable amount of smoke was observed. Six Mitchells, at the same time, struck RAPAPO, RABAU Area and scored hits on the runway and the southwest revetments. Antiaircraft fire damaged 9 Mitchells. The fighter escort of 16 Corsairs saw no enemy planes.

At 11:45 a.m. 21 Liberators, escorted by 17 Lightnings, dropped 76 tons of bombs on RAPAPO. Hits were scored on the southwest dispersal area, the runway and west taxiway. Two Liberators were damaged by intense antiaircraft fire. No enemy planes were encountered.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

08D
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 26 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the afternoon of 24 February, 11 Corsairs set on fire a 60-foot enemy barge off west NEW IRELAND, and possibly damaged another. On the same afternoon 14 Lightnings bombed VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN. A number of small fires were started.

During the night of 24-25 February, a reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on DUKE OF YORK ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

No enemy activity was observed on KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND during reconnaissance on 25 February. One 300 pound bomb was dropped, but no damage was observed.

The submarine TAMBOR, operating in the EAST CHINA SEA, reported as follows:

- 29 Jan. - sank one 7,000 ton freighter.
- 3 Feb. - sank one 8,500 ton freighter
and one 9,500 ton tanker.
- 12 Feb. - sank one 5,000 ton freighter.

The submarine GRABACK reported sinking two Marus, tonnage unknown, on 25 February, northeast of FORMOSA..

The submarine DACE damaged a 10,000 ton tanker on 26 January about 345 miles southwest of TRUK.

SECRET**SECRET**

DSD Lett

UNITED STATES FLEET
 HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
 NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 26 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of 23 February, an unknown number of light bombers, attacked and silenced a number of enemy guns at KURATIO MISSION, northwest TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. During the day, an unreported number of Liberators struck at the supply and bivouac area, upper SAUA RIVER, EAST TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Light bombers also strafed BONIS, where antiaircraft fire damaged and forced one Warhawk to land on the water. Two enemy barges in EAST MATCHIN BAY were destroyed.

During the afternoon of 23 February, an unreported number of Mitchells bombed the dispersal and runway areas at KERAVAT, NEW BRITAIN. VUNAKANAU was also bombed and a large fire started. An unreported number of light bombers struck VUNAPOPE on the same day. Two large fires were started.

During the night of 23-24 February, RABAU was harassed by fifteen 100 pound bombs. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On 24 February 3 Airacobras destroyed five huts at SOUTH PIANO MISSION, southwest interior BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Four other Airacobras bombed villages in the vicinity of BONIS, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 9:35 a.m. 24 February, 60 Dauntless dive bombers and 22 Avengers, escorted by 32 Corsairs, 16 Warhawks and 11 Hellcats were unable to reach VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN, due to bad weather. As an alternate target, VUNAPOPE was bombed. Numerous fires and explosions were observed. An ammunition dump was exploded and other installations damaged. No enemy planes were encountered. Meagre and inaccurate antiaircraft fire damaged three Dauntless.

At 10:40 a.m. 24 February, 6 Mitchells, escorted by 19 Corsairs, unable to reach VUNAKANAU, due to weather, bombed RABAU TOWN as an alternate target. Four of our planes were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire. No enemy planes were encountered. All our planes returned.

On 24 February, 24 Liberators, unable to reach VUNAKANAU, due to weather, attacked CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW BRITAIN. Results were undetermined.

At 10:23 a.m. 24 February, 10 Mitchells bombed TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN. Due to clouds, results were unobserved. On the same day, 6 other Mitchells bombed KERAVAT, with unobserved results.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET
SECRET
66-1-10

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 25 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

strikes consisted of one Avenger, four fighters and another plane.

A preliminary tabulation indicates:

ENEMY PLANES DESTROYED BY:

2 cont.
By surface AA fire: 19
By our planes in Air: 30
On ground: 27
TOTAL - - - - 136

ENEMY SHIPS

Sunk - 2
Burning - 2

It is reported that this preliminary estimate of damages suffered by the enemy is conservative. During the retirement, no attacks were suffered during the night, however, during the afternoon of 23 February, our combat air patrol shot down one bomber.

The submarine HAKE, returning from a patrol in the Pacific, reports that on 12 January, after an all day chase, she sank an enemy troop ship. On 24 January she damaged a large tanker of a two-ship escorted convoy. On 1 February, she sank an enemy transport, an enemy freighter and damaged another freighter of a three-ship escorted convoy. On 10 February, early in the evening, she damaged one medium freighter. Summarizing, she reports sinking a tonnage of 16,472 and damaging 18,000 tons of enemy shipping.

SECRET**SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET
 HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
 NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 25 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

add to Hqs. file

The submarine GRAYBACK, in a preliminary report, indicates that she has sunk and damaged enemy surface ships for a total of 44,000 tons.

On 23 February, north of CHICHIJIMA, the submarine SNOOK reports sinking a 6,000 ton enemy freighter.

GREEN ISLAND SITUATION

Various nests of the enemy are being cleaned up in the islands of this group. It is reported that the fighter strip will be ready to receive on 2 March, one fighter squadron.

2

A report from the commanding officer Task Force 58, which struck TENIAN, SAIPAN and GUAM, indicates that the enemy was first contacted and already alerted on the afternoon of 21 February. Throughout the night and early forenoon of 21-22 February, our Task Force was under almost continuous air attack. Gunfire by our surface forces shot down 14 planes during these attacks. One group of our task force was struck by 48 enemy planes during darkness and four immediately after dawn. The enemy attack was launched in two phases and employed both torpedo and low level bombing tactics during the night. Due to our stubborn defense and skilfull maneuvering none of our ships were damaged. However, during the melee one of our five-inch guns fired into the back of another five-inch battery, killing five and wounding eleven, two of which were serious.

Our attacks on enemy targets were made in two strikes by both groups of the task force. This included a twelve plane fighter attack on GUAM and an attack on a ship reputedly in a position where the CVE CHITOSE had been reported. This damaged ship was sunk. However pictures show that it was not an aircraft carrier.

The results of the strike indicate that our combat air patrol shot down five enemy bombers in addition to the 14 enemy planes brought down by the ships antiaircraft fire. In the air, over the target, our planes shot down 24 enemy fighters and five bombers. On the ground, we burned or heavily damaged 76 planes of the bomber, torpedo-bomber and fighter type, as also three Douglas type transports, five float planes and three patrol planes. At TENIAN, a freighter of 6,000 tons exploded and is believed to have been sunk. At SAIPAN, an apparently grounded medium freighter and a small freighter were left burning. A patrol craft, two tugs and five small escorts were also damaged. Aircraft installations, fuel oil dumps and radio stations were bombed and strafed, as also were small harbor boats.

Photographs indicate that between the first and second strikes at TENIAN, about 15 medium bombers had landed. These were all destroyed. Our losses on these

DECLASSIFIED
EX-100, 5-8-78
SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 25 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

3 On 20 February, Task Group 58.1, a carrier task group, bombed JALUIT ATOLL twice. On EMIDJ, the hangars received direct hits, likewise the radio station and other hits were made in the barracks area and on two munition buildings, one of which exploded. A small freighter, in the harbor, was struck and is now beached and burning. Bombs were dropped on ENYBOR ISLAND and in the storage area. The power plant on JABOR ISLAND was hit, likewise the radio station, SYDNEY pier, and four bombs were dropped in the boat yard area. Four of our planes were damaged by heavy and accurate antiaircraft fire, but all returned.

On 23 February, at 3:05 p.m., 20 Dauntless bombers, supporting a ground mission, dropped bombs in the MURATO MISSION clearing, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

A little later, in the same afternoon, at 4:34 p.m., Liberators bombed the bivouac areas in the upper reaches of the SAUA RIVER, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE.

On 23 February, at 2:00 p.m., Warhawks struck RURI BAY, northeast coast, BOUGAINVILLE, and strafed BOVIS.

At 10:35 a.m., 23 February, fighter planes strafed barge concentrations in BUKA PASSAGE and other barges in PORTON and MATCHIN BAY, BOUGAINVILLE.

4 During the night of 24-25 February, a destroyer division bombed the VUNAPOPE Area, RABAU. The bombardment caused a minor and major explosion. A fire was started and was visible twenty miles away some hours later. This force also brought under bombardment areas around CAPE GAZELLE and MATUPI.

5 Another group of destroyers, during the night of 24-25 February, bombed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. It is reported by this force that the shore batteries have been greatly augmented. One of our spotting planes states as a result of the bombardment, one ship was sunk in KAVIENG HARBOR, two left burning, with several smaller ones hit. Fires were seen in the supply dump area. The destroyer FARENHOLT has her after fireroom out of commission as a result of a shell hit. However, none of her personnel were injured. Minor damage was received by the destroyer BUCHANAN from another hit. However, three of her personnel are injured. No casualties were suffered by the balance of the ships.

The submarine SUNFISH got three hits in an apparently previously damaged aircraft carrier on 22 February, at about 5:30 p.m. The attack occurred northwest of TENIAN, in a heavy rain squall. The submarine, two hours later, sank a medium size enemy freighter. She also states that the BLUE air strike on TENIAN and SAIPAN caused many fires.

SECRET**SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET
 HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
 NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 24 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A carrier based aircraft force, escorted by a strong naval unit, attacked SAIPAN and TENIAN of the MARIANNAS group, on 22 February. Details of the strike, under command of Rear Admiral Marc A. Mitscher, are not available at this time. [It is reported that eight of our fliers are in rubber boats off the western coast of these islands and rescue measures are now underway.]

At 7:30 p.m., 22 February, the occupation of the ENIWETOK ATOLL was completed. The Atoll fell when PARRY ISLAND succumbed to a terrific pounding by naval and air and the combative spirit of the 22nd Marines. It is estimated that the Atoll had been defended by a strongly entrenched and well trained enemy whose numbers totaled in excess of 3,000 men.

On 23 February, at 3:00 a.m., 9 Warhawks bombed the runways on MILLE ATOLL. They also strafed and sank three small boats. A light but inaccurate anti-aircraft fire failed to damage any of our planes.

During the afternoon of 23 February, 2 Venturas bombed the pier and buildings in the village of NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND. The end of the pier was destroyed as also ten buildings. On their return trip they strafed CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND.

On 24 February, at 3:00 a.m., a patrol plane attacked six to eight barges near the MIPO RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE. Motor torpedo boats, from TREASURY ISLAND, also helped in this attack and the combined bombing and strafing assault drove four of the barges ashore, but one or two got away for the SHORTLAND Area.

At midnight, 23-24 February, a patrol plane made a direct hit on a ship in a five-ship convoy, on the north easterly course, about 70 miles northeast of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

During 24 February, motor torpedo boats from TOROKINA shelled islands off the western end of BUKA PASSAGE and LEMANMANU MISSION.

GROUND SITUATION GREEN ISLANDS

Mopping up units have been landed on SAU ISLAND and PINIPEL ISLAND, in the GREEN ISLAND group. Various nests of the enemy have been cleaned out. Some 15 Japs have been killed with our casualties totalling four slightly wounded.

GROUND SITUATION BOUGAINVILLE

Our ground forces at TOROKINA have made isolated contacts on the north and northeast perimeter of the TOROKINA sector. A large force of Japs has been reported along the NUMA NUMA trail.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET

OSD L

4 p.m. 23 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A later report on the activities of the destroyer force under command of Captain Burke indicates that on 22 February, in addition to sinking a Maru carrying aircraft personnel, and an old type enemy destroyer, ships of this force also destroyed, at 9:15 p.m., a large enemy freighter and nine barges off the southern entrance of STEFFEN STRAIT, near KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. During this tour of duty, no enemy aircraft was sighted, nor were any damage or casualties suffered.

On 23 February, at 10:30 a.m., one of our submarines damaged a Jap carrier to the west of SAIPAN ISLAND in the MARIANAS.

SECRET

SECRET

OSD L-100 T

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 23 February 19

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 22 February, 5 Dauntless dive bombers bombed targets on the TOROKINA perimeter, destroying a bridge over the PURIATA RIVER and strafing huts along the TEKESSI RIVER, southwest BOUGAINVILLE.

On 22 February, at dusk, 4 Airacobras strafed the TONOLEI Area, southern BOUGAINVILLE. A bombing of a nearby stores area resulted in two 1,000 foot smoke columns.

On the same day, 4 Venturas, unable to find an enemy freighter in NAMESI BAY, NEW IRELAND, bombed and strafed buildings in that area.

Poor weather, during 22 February, provided the principle opposition to air strikes at RABAU. No enemy interception was made to our flights and the maximum number of Jap planes airborne at anyone time was five, but they declined battle.

At 10:20 a.m., on 22 February, 47 Dauntless and 23 Avenger planes, finding LAKUNAI weathered in, blasted enemy shipping in KERA VIA BAY. The Dauntless planes report 6 hits on 6 ships, one hit among enemy motor torpedo boats and 12 hits among 15 to 20 barges and 3 hits on buildings at RALUANA POINT. The Avengers state they hit two ships and got 8 bombs on a 3,000 footer and a 2,000 pound bomb among the storehouses at KERA VIA VILLAGE. After the attack, two ships were seen on fire. The enemy antiaircraft fire was moderate to intense. It damaged 5 Avengers and caused one Dauntless to make a water landing. One of our patrol planes rescued the crew of the latter plane.

A covering force to this flight, consisting of 43 Corsairs and 20 Warhawks, strafed the radar at CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. At the same time, they also strafed a beached barge north of the WARANGOI RIVER, and a radio tower south of CAPE GAZELLE.

On 22 February, at 10:35 a.m., 24 Mitchells blasted the repair center at LAKUNAI. Although the weather over the target was overcast, the escorting fighters stated two large oil fires were seen southeast of the town at RABAU. The fighters report they saw five enemy planes east of LAKUNAI, but no attempt was made by the enemy to intercept.

At 10:57 a.m., 22 February, Liberators closed VUNAKANAU and found it weathered in. After spending 20 minutes trying to get through, they finally bombed KERA VIA, dropping bombs across the revetments, the east end of the runway and the area northeast of the landing strip. Four large explosions and two small fires resulted from their bombing. Some heavy antiaircraft fire was experienced, but no enemy planes attempted any interception.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 23 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 9:00 a.m., 22 February, 3 Mitchell light bombers created a large explosion and fire at TAROA.

On 22 February, at 10:00 a.m., 4 Warhawks struck MILLE. A small boat was destroyed by strafing.

On 21 February, BATDIV 3 (IDAHO, MISSISSIPPI and NEW MEXICO) bombarded WOTJE. Numerous buildings were hit and a fuel dump was fired. It is reported targets of value were missing due to previous surface and aerial bombardments.

The submarine SPEARFISH reports that she sunk another enemy freighter in the CHINA SEA. Her total for this patrol now is five enemy ships sunk, two damaged, for a total of 40,000 tons.

The submarine ASPRO sunk an enemy submarine of the I-9 Class, north of TRUK, on 15 February.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 23 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 12:30 p.m., 21 February, 2 Airacobras bombed eight buildings at TSUNDAWAN, northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE. They also damaged five buildings just south of TABUT, on the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE.

On 22 February, at 10:16 a.m., a destroyer force of an undetermined number, under command of Captain Burke, contacted an enemy ship, sixty miles northwest of MASSAU ISLAND, NEW IRELAND group. It is reported that the enemy was sunk by gunfire before she was able to send any radio report. A total of about 400 Japs, reputedly aircraft personnel, were on the ship. After the battle, about 73 well-fed prisoners, some of which were wounded, were captured from about 100 swimming in the water. Our Task Force suffered no casualties.

In the afternoon, about 5:20 p.m., 22 February, this Task Force picked up an old type enemy destroyer just south of TINGWON ISLAND, near KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. This destroyer now lies, after a half hour battle, near the west end of TINGWON ISLAND, with her mast still showing above water. It is to be regretted that no prisoners could be taken because our ships were over complemented with Japs captured in the morning battle.

Later, this Task Force bombarded the DUKE OF YORK ISLAND airfield, as also the dock and installations there. Anchorages on the south coast of NEW IRELAND were explored without results.

On 23 February, it was reported that the air strip on NISSAN or GREEN ISLAND was 80% stripped of tress and the rough grading had been started.

During the night of 21-22 February and during 22 February, our search planes bombed the DUKE OF YORK ISLAND while patrol and antisub planes hit targets of opportunity on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and near CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND.

During the night of 21-22 February, 21 Liberators dropped general purpose and incendiary bombs over PONAPE. A large explosion resulted and many fires were started on the waterfront and in the town.

At 9:00 a.m., 22 February, 3 Liberators started a large fire over KUSAIE.

At 1:00 a.m., on the morning of 23 February, one Liberator hit shipping in the harbor of KUSAIE. The results were unreported.

At noon, 22 February, 5 Venturas blasted the WOTJE runway and barracks. An explosion was heard. No antiaircraft fire was received.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 23 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

We are still engaged in rustling out the enemy on ENIWETOK ISLAND. PARRY ISLAND is being given a good going over prior to our landing for 22 February, plans for which still remain unchanged. *No word on actual landing*

It is expected that the runway at ENGEBI ISLAND will be ready for emergency landings, 22 February.

In the ENIWETOK operation, to-date, we have taken a total of 35 Jap prisoners and 13 Koreans. It is reported that many of these prisoners surrendered upon our loudspeaker invitation to do so.

At 12:35 p.m., 21 February, 47 Dauntless planes and 24 Avengers blasted antiaircraft positions at LAKUNAI airdrome, RABAU. Two direct hits were reported by the Dauntless planes on some of these positions and three direct hits were made on heavy gun installations, about 8,000 feet east of the runway. Some 13 hits were registered in other gun positions and among buildings along the shore, near SULPHUR POINT. The Avengers reported observing a large fuel fire northeast of the airdrome. The antiaircraft fire was intense and accurate and two of our Dauntless and one of our Avengers were hit but not severely.

At 12:44 p.m., 21 February, 15 Liberators dropped bombs on the LAKUNAI repair section. The enemy did not attempt to intercept. Photographs indicate hits were made in designated target areas and two fires were started in the repair area.

At 12:55 p.m., 21 February, 4 Liberators reported scoring hits in the revetments southwest of the RAPOPO airdrome, RABAU. The antiaircraft fire was intense and fairly accurate and two of our Liberators were winged. 23 Corsairs and 14 Lightnings, doing escort duty on this strike, reported that none of the enemy was airborne. Two Corsairs of this flight strafed a 350 foot ship in KALILI BAY, NEW IRELAND, which strafing resulted in flames shooting up fifty feet. A nearby barge filled with Japs was left smoking. Because of operational reasons three Corsairs were downed during the above mission, however, all of the pilots have been rescued.

At 9:00 a.m., 21 February, 3 Liberators hit the north and west end of the KARA runway, southern BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During 21 February, 2 Dauntless planes bombed targets in the MIBO RIVER area, southwestern BOUGAINVILLE.

During 21 February, 4 Airacobras strafed ten enemy barges at PAU PLANTATION, on the northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

OSD Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 22 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 20 February, a reconnaissance plane bombed and destroyed a building on RONGELAP. Another reconnaissance plane bombed and damaged a radio station on KUSAIE ISLAND.

During the night of 20 February motor torpedo boats sank two enemy barges off MOTUPENA POINT, west BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 22 February, an unreported number of destroyers completed a bombardment of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. A number of fires were started. Results of the bombardment in the harbor area were not observed. The destroyers encountered five or six-inch accurate and intense shore battery fire. The use of smoke and radical maneuvering prevented damage.

Our troops operating on the GREEN ISLAND's eliminated the pocket of enemy resistance on southwest BARAHUN, west of NISSAN ISLAND. A revised total of casualties indicates 64 Japanese killed and one captured. We lost three killed, eleven wounded.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

08D Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 22 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Our troops have captured ENIWETOK ISLAND against stubborn enemy resistance and are now engaged in overcoming small pockets of resistance. The Japanese are in numerous well concealed inner connected foxholes.

Present estimates of overall casualties for ENIWETOK ATOLL are about 150 dead and 350 wounded, and two missing. About 25 prisoners have been taken. Enemy casualties have not been reported.

The assault against PARRY ISLAND has been delayed until 22 February in order to permit reorganization of personnel and repairs to equipment. Aerial and naval bombardment of PARRY ISLAND is underway.

At 8:55 a.m., 21 February, 14 Warhawks dropped 7 tons of bombs on MILE runways. Four small boats in the area were strafed. Results were not reported. Antiaircraft fire encountered was weak. All our planes returned.

At 11:15 a.m., 21 February, 6 Venturas dropped nine tons of bombs on TAROA runways and installations. A large explosion was observed. Antiaircraft fire was moderate.

On 21 February, 8 tons of bombs were dropped on WOTJE runways and buildings by 9 Mitchell bombers. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

A surface bombardment by BATDIV 3 (IDAHO, MISSISSIPPI, NEW MEXICO), was completed against TAROA. All targets were well covered but only one small fire observed. It is believed that previous bombardments destroyed targets, on the island. No casualties were sustained and no return fire from the enemy was encountered.

The submarine POGIEY sank a 6,000 ton freighter and damaged a 5,000 ton freighter off the east coast of FORMOSA.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 21 February 1942

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 20 February, at 1:00 p.m., 22 Liberators dropped twenty tons of bombs on PONAPE. Results were unobserved due to heavy overcast.

At 1:02 p.m., 20 February, 9 Mitchells dropped 8 tons of bombs on the runway and barracks area on WOTJE. No enemy antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 2:00 p.m., 20 February, 6 Liberators dropped 9 tons of bombs on KUSAIE. A number of fires were started. No enemy aircraft were encountered.

In mopping up operations on 20 February, against an enemy pocket of resistance on the southwest end of NISSAN ISLAND, our troops killed 30 Japanese. We suffered six killed and 15 wounded.

SECRET**SECRET**SECRET
OSD Letter TUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 21 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following details have been received in connection with the operations against ENIWETOK ATOLL: At 1:30 p.m., 20 February, as scheduled, two battalions of the 106th Infantry, followed by one battalion of the 22nd Marines, landed on ENIWETOK ISLAND. The landing was preceded by heavy bombing and bombardment. Enemy opposition was weak. Considerable mortar and machine gun fire from Japanese entrenched in deep foxholes somewhat slowed the progress of our troops. A battery of the 104th Field Artillery was landed on the island and began shelling the northeast tip during the afternoon. By 8:00 p.m., the western half of the island was captured, except for a pocket of resistance at the extreme western end of the island. It is expected that the capture of ENIWETOK ISLAND will be completed on 21 February.

On 21 February, it is expected to assault PARRY ISLAND with two battalions of the 22nd Marines. The 3rd Marine battalion in reserve and one battalion of the 106th Infantry in group reserve will be committed if necessary.

Although reports of casualties are not complete, 64 dead and 180 wounded have been reported for the ENGEBI ISLAND operation, and 14 dead and 58 wounded for ENIWETOK ISLAND.

During the night of 19-20 February, 5 Venturas and 1 Corsair, patrolling over the GREEN ISLAND GROUP Area, shot down one enemy observation plane. One Ventura failed to return.

At 9:24 a.m., 20 February, 35 Mitchells, escorted by 56 fighters, attacked LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on the revetment and repair area, and a number of fires were started. No enemy planes were encountered. Seven of our bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire and one of these was eventually forced down. The crew was recovered.

On 20 February, 20 enemy barges, in the MATCHIN BAY Area, were destroyed by 13 Airacobras.

At 9:55 a.m., 20 February, 4 Warhawks bombed the barracks area on MILLE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

During the morning of 20 February, one Warhawk strafed with unobserved results about ten or twelve enemy barges in MATCHIN BAY. On the same day, an unreported number of Corsairs destroyed one enemy barge, in BUKA PASSAGE.

At 10:40 a.m., 20 February, 37 Dauntless dive bombers and 24 Avengers attacked buildings and antiaircraft positions at MONOITU, southwest interior, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Hits were scored on the HONGORAI and PURIATA RIVER bridges. One Avenger failed to return.

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 21 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

No further details have been received in connection with the ENIWETOK operations. The following communique, released by CinCPac, is quoted for information:

" Our forces have landed on ENIWETOK ISLAND. Have possession of the western half of the island. The attack is being carried out by elements of the 106th Infantry supplemented by a unit of the 22nd Marines.

" Except for PARRY ISLAND, the remainder of the ATOLL is in our hands."

At 10:30 a.m., 19 February, 48 dive bombers and 23 torpedo planes, escorted by 68 fighters, attacked LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on gun positions, runways and a fuel dump was set on fire. An undetermined number of enemy fighters were observed over the area. Only one pressed home an attack, but was shot down by the bombers. After the bombing attack, our fighters engaged about 50 enemy fighters, shot down 22, plus one probable. We lost one Corsair. An enemy float plane was encountered off CAPE CENTER, NEW IRELAND, and was destroyed by one of the fighter escorts.

At 10:42 a.m., 19 February, 6 Liberators attacked LAKUNAI and scored a number of hits in the vicinity of the runway and the dispersal loop.

At 10:55 a.m. 19 February, 14 Liberators attacked TOBERA with 52 tons of bombs. Hits were scored on the runway and dispersal area. The runway was reported unserviceable. Six of the bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Out of approximately 16 attacking Zeros, the bombers shot down three. Our fighter escort of 21 Corsairs and 14 Lightnings engaged 17 enemy planes and possibly shot down two.

On 19 February, 4 Dauntless dive bombers and 6 Avengers bombed, strafed and attacked with rockets, the TOROKINA perimeter and destroyed a bridge over the HONGOREI RIVER, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of barges in the PURIATA RIVER, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were damaged.

Six Liberators bombed LAKUNAI at 10:42 a.m., 19 February, and scored a number of hits on the runway. Later, at 10:55 a.m., 14 Liberators bombed TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on the runway and a number of fires started. Antiaircraft fire slightly damaged six of the bombers. Out of about 12 enemy fighters, only 2 attempted to attack. Three enemy planes were shot down.

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 20 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)TF #58 LOSSESPlanes Lost:

Fighters	8	
Torpedo Bombers	6	
Bombers	<u>3</u>	17

Personnel Loss:Missing

14 Pilots	
12 Crewmen	26

Killed

3 Crewmen	<u>3</u>	29
---------------------	----------	----

INTREPID (CV) damaged by one hit from aircraft torpedo.

1. Strike Aircraft searched to distance of 75 miles West, North, and East for shipping reported leaving TRUK.
2. As far as can be determined, no large ships escaped to Westward during daylight.
3. Last strike "D" Day set fire to fuel oil tanks and ammunition dumps.
4. Surface covering force for carriers evidently engaged some of escaping Japanese combat ships.
5. Jap Runways bombed.
6. DD "BURNS" captured 6 Japanese prisoners from SC sunk by it.

SECRET

S E C R E T

OSD Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 20 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)

The following tabulation represents the results of the strikes against TRUK by TASK FORCE 58 (5 CV, 4 CVL, 6 BB, 5 CA, 3 CL, 2 CL(AA), 28 DD):

Total Japanese Aircraft Observed 272

Japanese Aircraft Destroyed:

Shot Down in Air (78 on Fire) . . . 127
 Destroyed on Ground or Water . . . 74
 (Includes 4 - 4Eng Boats
 17 - 2 " Planes)
 Total 201

Other Ground Aircraft:

(50 to 70% Unserviceable
 Reason Unknown as Yet) 71
 Total 272 272

Total Japanese Combat or Sizeable

Ships Observed: 36

Combat Ships Sunk

2 CL
 3 DD
 2 PG 7

Auxiliary Ships Sunk

1 AE
 1 AV-40
 5 + 2 AO
 8 AK 12 19

Probably Sunk

1 Cruiser or DD
 1 + 2 AO
 1 + 4 AK 7 7
 1 Large AP 26 36

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 20 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A number of fragmentation bombs were dropped on MILLE by four reconnaissance Warhawks at 12:35 p.m., 19 February. Antiaircraft fire was light. Our planes returned undamaged.

During 18 and 19 February, reconnaissance planes dropped bombs on CAPE HAMPAN, north BUKA ISLAND, on CAPE DUNGUNO, central west BUKA ISLAND, and on MOTUPENA POINT, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Patrol activity continues in the TOROKINA sector, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two companies of Fijians, returning from a reconnaissance mission, report killing 155 or more Japanese.

On 17 February, work began on the construction of a five thousand foot air strip on NISSAN ISLAND, south and east TANGALAN JETTY. It is estimated that the air strip will be completed on 8 March.

The submarine SNOOK, operating in the EMPIRE waters, reported as follows:

SUNK

1 transport - 6,000 tons
1 cargo vessel - 1,500 tons

DAMAGED

Two 6,000 freighters

The submarine GUARDFISH, returning from patrol, reported as follows:

SUNK

1 destroyer, AMARGI class
1 large tanker

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
ON 05-11-80
BY SP-6
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 20 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following communique released by CINCPAC is quoted for information:

"Our forces have captured the enemy air base at ENGEBI and several other islands in the northern portion of the ENIWETOK ATOLL. Preliminary reports indicate our casualties have been light.

"Assaults on other portions of the Atoll are proceeding according to schedule."

The capture of ENIWETOK ATOLL began on the morning of 18 February (local time) when our Task Force entered the lagoon and reached anchorage areas without incident. A number of moored mines were encountered in the South Channel. That day, twenty-seven mines were destroyed. During the afternoon, 18 February, assault troops landed on five small islands southeast of ENGEBI ISLAND. Three landings were made on BOKANAARAPPU, YEIRI, and the second unnamed island southeast of RUJIYORU. Artillery was landed on RUJIYORU and an unnamed island northwest of there. After dark, a scout company landed on BOGAN ISLAND, west of ENGEBI.

Throughout the day and night of 18 February, heavy naval and air bombardment and field artillery fire continued. The enemy did not return fire.

The assault on ENGEBI ISLAND was carried out on schedule after preparations by intense naval and air bombardment. Opposition on the beach was weak. Troops of the 22nd Marines moved inland rapidly and completed the capture of the island by 4:00 p.m., that afternoon. Mopping up operations continued. Although our casualties have not been determined, it is believed that they are light. ENIWETOK ISLAND is scheduled for attack at 8:00 a.m., 20 February, by two battalions of the 106th Infantry, with one battalion of the 22nd Marines in reserve. Native reports and captured documents indicate that ENIWETOK ISLAND was reinforced in January.

From 14 February, WOTJE was bombarded for four days, with one hundred rounds of 8-inch ammunition and sixty-five rounds of 5-inch. Destroyers started two fires during night bombardments and were once fired on by a three-gun shore battery. No damage was reported. At noon, 19 February, six Venturas dropped seven tons of bombs on WOTJE. Explosions were observed on the runway and nearby installations. No enemy antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 7:40 a.m., 19 February, four Liberators dropped six tons of bombs on the KUSAIE HARBOR area. One two hundred ton enemy vessel was sunk. Antiaircraft fire encountered was meager.

At 8:35 a.m., 19 February, eight Warhawks dropped four tons and strafed radio installations on JALUIT. Antiaircraft fire was intense but no damage was sustained by our planes.

SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 19 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In operations over the RABAU Area, during 18 February, thirteen enemy fighters were definitely destroyed, plus three probables on the ground. We suffered no losses.

The submarine REDFIN, returning from patrol, reported sinking one enemy destroyer (Fubuki class) in the SOUTH CHINA SEA.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. 19 February 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:55 a.m. 17 February, forty-seven Dauntless dive bombers and twenty-three Avengers attacked enemy shipping in KERA VIA BAY, NEW BRITAIN, with bombs and rockets. Nineteen direct and fifteen damaging hits were claimed on twelve of fourteen ships sighted. Hits were scored on gun installations and among numerous enemy barges on the south shore of the bay. No enemy planes intercepted, although fifteen or twenty were observed over the area. Our fighter escort of seventy-four planes engaged about forty Zeros and shot down eight plus two probables. We lost two Corsairs, one of which was shot down by antiaircraft fire.

On 17 February, the enemy radar installation at CAPE ST. GEORGE was strafed by four Hellcats. A number of fires were started. Other planes were unable to reach the target due to bad weather.

On the morning of 18 February, two Mitchells, escorted by four Lightnings, bombed and strafed TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Two grounded enemy planes were destroyed. Eight out of twenty enemy fighters closed to engage our bombers and of these one fighter was probably destroyed. Our fighter escort engaged thirty enemy fighters and shot down five. All our planes returned.

At 11:15 a.m. 18 February, thirty-four Mitchells and thirty-six Corsairs attacked VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Fifty-one tons of bombs were dropped and numerous hits scored on the southeast supply revetments. Anti-aircraft fire damaged two Mitchells. About fifteen Zeros reluctantly attacked. One enemy fighter was probably shot down by a Corsair. The returning Corsairs strafed a number of fuel drums on an island north of SORAKEN HARBOR, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and started a large fire.

At 11:15 a.m. 18 February, eighteen Liberators, escorted by forty-seven fighters, dropped seventy-one tons of bombs on VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on the runway and on the north revetments, where a medium bomber was destroyed. The runway was left unserviceable. Two of our bombers were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire. The fighter escort shot down seven enemy fighters, plus one probable. All our planes returned.

On 18 February, nine Dauntless bombers, after an unsuccessful search for two enemy destroyers off the southeast coast of NEW IRELAND, bombed an enemy radar installation at CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. Results were not observed. A number of Corsairs strafed the area.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET

9 a.m. 19 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Details have not been received in connection with the strike against TRUK or the operations for the capture and occupation of ENIWETOK. However, the following communique, released by CinCPac is quoted for information:

"The capture of ENIWETOK Atoll has been undertaken by forces of the PACIFIC OCEAN Areas. Army and Marine assault troops have landed and established beachheads.

The initial landings took place after strong preliminary attacks by carrier based aircraft and by heavy ships of the PACIFIC Fleet. The troops went ashore under the cover of battleship gunfire and with the close support of low flying naval aircraft.

All forces participating are under the immediate command of Rear Admiral R. K. Turner. The amphibious forces are commanded by Rear Admiral H. W. Hill. The assault troops comprising the Twenty Second Marines and elements of the 106th Army Infantry are commanded by Brigadier Gen. T. E. Watson, USMC."

At 11 a.m. 18 February, ten Liberators dropped 13½ tons of bombs on KUSAIE. Antiaircraft fire encountered was light and inaccurate. No damage nor casualties were sustained, by our planes.

At 12:15 p.m. 18 February, three tons of bombs were dropped on JALUIT by two Liberators. Results were unobserved. No damage nor casualties were sustained by our planes.

On 18 February, two beached enemy float planes at EMIDJ were strafed by four Warhawks. Our planes encountered intense antiaircraft fire and it appeared that the enemy planes were probably previously wrecked and were being used as a trap.

At 10:40 a.m. 19 February, eight Liberators dropped ten tons of bombs on the PONAPE town area. Warehouses and docks were hit and many fires started. Two planes were moderately damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During 17 February, the GREEN ISLAND Area was patrolled by fifty Airacobras, forty-nine Corsairs and twenty-seven Lightnings. The Corsairs set on fire a small enemy barge in QUEEN CAROLA HARBOR, west BUKA ISLAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**
Dec 1942
3-72
SECRET

4 p.m., 18 February 1942

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 8:40 a.m., and 9:11 a.m., 17 February 4 Liberators dropped twelve tons of bombs on TAROA runways. Intense and accurate antiaircraft fire slightly damaged our planes.

At 8:54 a.m., 17 February, 4 Liberators dropped twelve tons of bombs on WOTJE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 8:40 a.m., 17 February, 10 Dauntless dive bombers dropped seven tons of bombs on MILLE. A gun position was hit and small fire started. Intense and accurate antiaircraft fire brought down one of our planes. Another Dauntless went down 10 miles north of MAKIN ISLAND. Two planes returned damaged.

Fifteen Warhawks dropped seven tons of bombs on EMIDJ at 8:45 a.m., 17 February. Three 30-foot boats and an aviation gas dump were destroyed by strafing. One plane sustained minor damage by antiaircraft fire.

At 2:40 p.m., 17 February, 12 Warhawks skipped-bombed a small enemy freighter at JALUIT and scored two hits with 500-pound bombs. Antiaircraft positions at EMIDJ were strafed. Two Warhawks apparently damaged by antiaircraft fire went down south of JALUIT.

The submarine SEAHORSE, on her last patrol, sank the following ships:

- 1 - 6,500 ton AP
- 1 - 4,000 ton AK
- 1 - 5,850 ton AK
- 1 - 7,500 ton AK
- 1 - 7,000 ton AK

SECRET
SECRET
3-72

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m., 18 February 194

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 8:40 a.m., and 9:11 a.m., 17 February 4 Liberators dropped twelve tons of bombs on TAROA runways. Intense and accurate antiaircraft fire slightly damaged our planes.

At 8:54 a.m., 17 February, 4 Liberators dropped twelve tons of bombs on WOTJE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 8:40 a.m., 17 February, 10 Dauntless dive bombers dropped seven tons of bombs on MILLE. A gun position was hit and small fire started. Intense and accurate antiaircraft fire brought down one of our planes. Another Dauntless went down 10 miles north of MAKIN ISLAND. Two planes returned damaged.

Fifteen Warhawks dropped seven tons of bombs on EMIDJ at 8:45 a.m., 17 February. Three 30-foot boats and an aviation gas dump were destroyed by strafing. One plane sustained minor damage by antiaircraft fire.

At 2:40 p.m., 17 February, 12 Warhawks skipped-bombed a small enemy freighter at JALUIT and scored two hits with 500-pound bombs. Antiaircraft positions at EMIDJ were strafed. Two Warhawks apparently damaged by antiaircraft fire went down south of JALUIT.

The submarine SEAHORSE, on her last patrol, sank the following ships:

- 1 - 6,500 ton AP
- 1 - 4,000 ton AK
- 1 - 5,850 ton AK
- 1 - 7,500 ton AK
- 1 - 7,000 ton AK

SECRET
COMINCH FI

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 18 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The aircraft carrier INTREPID, probably operating with Task Forces attacking TRUK, was struck by a torpedo. The vessel can make twenty knots and can steer with her engines.

During the night of 15-16 February, motor torpedo boats engaged at a radar range of 400 yards, three unidentified surface units off the southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. After an exchange of gunfire, the large target disappeared abruptly as did the second. The third escaped into a mine field south of OEMA ISLAND.

On the same night, motor torpedo boats and a Catalina bombed and strafed HANAHAN MISSION, northeast BUKA ISLAND and LEMANMANU MISSION, northwest coast of BUKA ISLAND.

During the night of 16-17 February, motor torpedo boats encountered a coastal transport (about 1200 tons), escorted by five armed barges, possibly containing troops. In cooperation with a plane, the motor torpedo boats attacked the enemy convoy and possibly set three of the barges on fire.

During the night of 16-17 February, two bombs were ineffectively dropped on our positions in the GREEN ISLAND GROUP.

On 17 February, SIROT ISLAND, northwest of NISSAN ISLAND, GREEN ISLAND GROUP, was occupied by our troops in a brisk action in which at least fourteen Japanese were killed. We lost five killed and four wounded.

At 7:35 a.m., 18 February, five destroyers completed an attack against enemy shipping and installations at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. The attack was centered primarily against shipping, underway and anchored in the harbor. Results were not observed from the ships but a spotting plane reported that the main KAVIENG dock and what appeared to be a tanker alongside were well hit. The supply dump and runway was hit. Other shipping, close to the beach, was extensively damaged. Gun emplacements on CAPE NORTH were neutralized.

On the same day, an attack by four destroyers was executed against SIMPSON HARBOR and KEROVIA BAY, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. The shore batteries in SIMPSON HARBOR were silenced. Numerous fires were started at RABAU and VUNAPOI troop areas. Torpedoes were fired into KEROVIA BAY and struck a number of ships. Our ships sustained no damage or casualties.

On 16 February, the heavy cruiser PENSACOLA, bombarded REUTER ISLAND, SATELLITE ISLAND, of TAROA, with 8 and 5-inch shell. Nineteen explosions and flames reaching over 2800 feet were observed. Fires were still burning three and one-half hours later. It is believed that the ammunition for TAROA was destroyed.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
S E C R E T
OSD Letter

4 p.m. 17 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

TAROA has been under daily bombardment from 13 February. One hundred rounds of 8-inch and two hundred rounds of 5-inch were fired into the area each night. WOTJE has been under similar bombardment from 14 February. There was no evidence of enemy reaction except for light antiaircraft fire against our spotting planes. The air strips at WOTJE and TAROA are repaired and at times ready for use.

During the night of 15-16 February, twenty bombs were dropped on our positions in the GREEN ISLAND GROUP. No damage or casualties were sustained. Our air patrols over the area shot down one medium bomber, northeast of BUKA.

On 16 February, two Corsairs strafed antiaircraft positions at KIHILL, KARA and BALLALE, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 11:07 a.m., 16 February, 12 Liberators, escorted by 28 Corsairs and 16 Lightnings, dropped 45 tons of bombs on VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on the runway and revetments. Three grounded enemy planes were damaged. The runway is reported unserviceable. No enemy aircraft were encountered. Due to heavy weather one Corsair failed to return.

During the night of 16-17 February, three Ventura night fighters shot down two enemy observation type planes over the GREEN ISLANDS.

On 17 February, a reconnaissance plane bombed UTIRIK ATOLL and started a number of fires. Another reconnaissance plane attacked an enemy cargo vessel and a destroyer off PONAPE. The cargo vessel was damaged and possibly driven aground.

At daylight, 17 February, carrier-based aircraft attacked TRUK. No further details are available at this time.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
SECRET

9 a.m. 17 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In the TOROKINA Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, ground patrol activity continues. During the afternoon and night of 14 February, at least 20 Japanese were killed. Allied losses amounted to 3 killed and 8 wounded.

A preliminary report indicates that during the morning of 17 February, 23 Avengers and 47 dive bombers completed a successful attack against enemy shipping at RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Numerous hits were scored on a number of enemy ships. A destroyer and a large oiler were probably set on fire. Further details are not available at this time.

The submarine PLUNGER scored six hits and probably sank three enemy freighters (15,000 tons), about 110 miles south of KOBE.

Two other submarines sank one medium transport, one large transport or freighter, two large freighters, and damaged two freighters and one unidentified vessel.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 17 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 14-15 February, Catalinas operating with motor torpedo boats, bombed and strafed enemy positions on east BUKA ISLAND.

During the night of 14-15 February, night flying Catalinas bombed and strafed SIPOSAI ISLAND, in CHOISEUL BAY.

At 5:05 a.m., 15 February, a Ventura destroyed one enemy observation plane, in the vicinity of an Allied surface force, operating west of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At about 6:52 a.m., 15 February, two enemy dive bombers dropped four bombs on STIRLING ISLAND. No damage was sustained.

At 7:00 a.m., 15 February, five Corsairs and four Airacobras, on patrol, intercepted about 15 enemy planes and shot down one over the GREEN ISLAND area.

At 9:38 a.m., 15 February, 23 Mitchells, escorted by fighters, bombed VUNAKANAU, RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on the runway and dispersal area. Five of the Mitchells were struck by antiaircraft fire. Our fighter escort engaged about 50 Zeros, shot down nine, plus two probables. One Lightning was forced down on to the water but the pilot was recovered.

At 11:03 a.m., 15 February, 20 Liberators bombed the runway and revetment area at BORPOP, southeast NEW IRELAND. Results were not reported. No enemy planes were encountered.

At 5:35 a.m., 16 February, another reconnaissance plane attacked an enemy convoy of 14 ships, about 30 miles southwest of MUSSAU ISLAND. Results of the attack were not reported. Our plane was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Incomplete reports indicate that on 16 February, a heavy Liberator, Mitchell and Boston strike, was executed against KAVIENG and airdrome installations at PANAPAI, NEW IRELAND. At KAVIENG, a 3,500 ton freighter was set on fire, two luggers destroyed and at least two more damaged. Four or five enemy float planes, in the harbor, were destroyed. Antiaircraft fire brought down six Mitchells and two Bostons. Fifteen crew members were subsequently rescued by a Navy Catalina.

Between 2:00 a.m., and 5:00 a.m., 16 February, our positions on GREEN ISLAND, were attacked by 10 to 15 Japanese planes. About 20-25 bombs fell on TANGALAN PLANTATION. No damage or casualties were sustained.

On 16 February, a reconnaissance plane bombed POPORAN ISLAND, off the central west coast of BUKA ISLAND. Bombs were also dropped on MOTUPENA POINT, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not observed.

SECRETCLASS
SECRET
OSD 10-10-10

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 17 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 10:55 a.m., and 12:12 p.m., 15 February, 56 tons of bombs were dropped on PONAPE ISLAND, by 42 Liberators. Results were unobserved. No enemy planes intercepted. One bomber sustained minor damage by moderate and inaccurate antiaircraft fire. At 10:00 a.m., two Liberators dropped three tons of bombs on EMIDJ, JALUIT ATOLL.

On 15 February, a number of fires were started on RONGALAP ATOLL by a reconnaissance plane. Another reconnaissance plane dropped a half ton of bombs on enemy installations on MEJIT ISLAND.

From 3:00 a.m., to 7:25 a.m., 15 February, four Liberator dropped 12 tons of bombs on TAROA. Hits were scored on the runway. No enemy planes were encountered. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one bomber.

From 3:00 p.m., to 7:27 p.m., 15 February, three Liberators dropped 9 tons of bombs on WOTJE. Antiaircraft fire was meager. No enemy planes were encountered. Another Liberator bombed MILIE at 5:00 a.m., of the same day.

At 7:05 a.m., 16 February, 10 Warhawks, 11 Dauntless dive bombers, dropped eleven tons of bombs on the MILIE runway area. Accurate but meager antiaircraft fire damaged one Dauntless.

At 6:17 a.m., 14 February, 4 Mitchells attacked TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. 18 grounded enemy planes were strafed. All our planes returned.

At 11:40 a.m., 14 February, 9 dive bombers and 10 torpedo bombers, escorted by 45 fighters, again attacked TOBERA. Hits were scored on revetments and three grounded enemy planes were probably destroyed. Antiaircraft fire damaged two of our dive bombers and three torpedo bombers. Our fighter escort engaged 10-20 enemy fighters and shot down one.

Thirty Mitchells bombed VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN, at 11:57 a.m., 14 February. Due to clouds, results were not observed. Antiaircraft fire was meager. Four of ten enemy fighters ineffectively attempted interception but were dispersed. One enemy fighter plane was probably damaged.

At 12:18 p.m., 14 February, 28 Liberators, escorted by 42 fighters, bombed RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on the revetments and on the runway. One Liberator was slightly damaged by one enemy fighter. No other interception was attempted, although a number of enemy planes were airborne over the area.

Eleven Liberators attacked KAHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, at 1:38 p.m., 14 February. Hits were scored on the runway. At about the same time, eight Liberators struck KARA, south interior, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET

9 a.m. 16 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 4:00 a.m., 13 February, eight torpedo bombers bombed LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Complete results were unobserved. Intense antiaircraft fire damaged two torpedo bombers which crash-landed upon returning.

At 11:00 a.m., 13 February, 59 dive bombers and 24 torpedo bombers, escorted by 72 fighters, struck VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on gun positions, the runway and revetments. Fires were started. Two grounded medium bombers were set on fire. Two of our torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. About 12-13 fighters attacked our bombers. One enemy fighter was damaged. Our fighter escort engaged 30-40 fighters, shot down 7, plus four probables. One Corsair and two Lightnings failed to return.

Prior to noon, 13 February, 20 Mitchells, covered by 30 Corsairs, attacked TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on the runway and dispersal area. No enemy planes were encountered but antiaircraft fire slightly damaged two of the Mitchells.

At about this time, 23 Liberators, escorted by 26 fighters, attacked LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on the runway and other airdrome installations. Antiaircraft fire slightly damaged 16 Liberators. No enemy planes were encountered.

At 3:35 a.m., 13 February, enemy planes raided ONDONGA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA. Six gas trucks and other transport equipment were destroyed.

At noon, 13 February, four dive bombers, escorted by 12 Airacobras, bombed targets in the AITARA Area, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of buildings were destroyed.

At 6:31 a.m., 14 February, two enemy dive bombers dropped four bombs on our positions on STIRLING ISLAND. No damage or casualties were sustained.

Six torpedo bombers failed to return from a mining mission in the RABAU Area, during the early morning of 14 February.

At 7:11 a.m., 15 February, Allied troops landed unopposed at PAKONIAN PLANTATION, west side of NISSAN ISLAND and TANGALAN PLANTATION, east side of NISSAN ISLAND (GREEN ISLAND GROUP).

At 8:11 p.m., 14 February, an Allied surface force, covering the foregoing operation, was attacked by six enemy dive bombers, 110 miles west of EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. It was in this attack that the light cruiser ST. LOUIS sustained minor damage from a light bomb which killed twenty-one and seriously wounded eighteen of her personnel. At least two of the enemy planes were shot down.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**~~SECRET~~

OSD L

4 p.m. 15 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On or about 14 February, the light cruiser ST. LOUIS was hit by a light bomb abaft her number 4 five-inch mount and sustained minor damage. Of six enemy dive bombers attacking, two were shot down.

The auxiliary submarine rescue vessel MACAW (ASR-11), aground at MIDWAY, moved off a reef in a heavy swell and sank at the edge of the main channel. Salvage operations are not practicable. Present estimates indicate that the commanding officer and four men are missing.

*St Louis is in TF 38 (Ainsworth), supporting
the Green Island landing.*

INCH FILE
SECRET
SECRET
OSD-3-72

9 a.m. 15 February 1944.

Carrier-based aircraft attacked ENGERI, north ENIWETOK ATOLL, three times on 11 February, twice on 12 February and once on the 13th of February (Love time). All visible installations appeared to be destroyed. No enemy planes nor anti-aircraft fire were encountered. JAPTAN and PARY ISLANDS, southeast ENIWETOK ATOLL, were also bombed. No enemy installations on these islands were observed.

On or about 13 February, reconnaissance planes bombed UJELANG ATOLL and UTIRIK. A number of fires were started.

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 15 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the morning of 12 February, three dive bombers bombed and strafed KEKERE PLANTATION, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, enemy barges south of MOTUPENA, and buildings north of the KIETA air strip. Results were not reported. Four dive bombers and two torpedo bombers struck buildings near the JABA RIVER and east MOSIGETTA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two Venturas destroyed a number of huts at NUMA NUMA.

At noon, 12 February, 59 dive bombers and 23 torpedo bombers, escorted by 57 fighters, attacked LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on runways and antiaircraft gun positions. A number of large fires were observed. Enemy antiaircraft fire shot down one dive bomber and damaged seven. Our fighter escort shot down five enemy fighters plus two probables out of forty seen in the air. One of our fighters failed to return.

At 11:50 a.m., 12 February, 23 Mitchells, escorted by 42 fighters, bombed TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were observed near the runway and revetments. Our fighters encountered 15-20 enemy fighters and shot down two. All our planes returned.

At 12:05 p.m., 12 February, 21 Liberators, escorted by 20 fighters, attacked VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored in the vicinity of the runway, dispersal and revetment areas. Three fires were started. Enemy antiaircraft fire shot down one Liberator and damaged seven. Although 20 enemy fighters were airborne they did not attack.

The score for air operations, over the RABAU Area, on 12 February: 7 enemy planes definitely destroyed, plus two probables. We lost one Liberator, one dive bomber and one fighter.

At 4:20 a.m., 13 February, a reconnaissance plane sank a large enemy barge 35 miles west of RABAU, NEW BRITAIN.

At 9:40 a.m., 14 February, a reconnaissance plane shot down one medium enemy bomber about 150 miles southeast of KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND.

The submarine BLACKFISH returned from patrol and reported as follows: sank one medium MARU, 6,000 tons, damaged two small tankers, one small freighter and one FUBUKI class destroyer, for a total of 15,300 tons.

The submarine GUDGEON reported sinking a large transport about 100 miles north of FORMOSA.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

9 a.m. 14 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 11 February, 3 Catalinas strafed three and set one enemy barge on fire in WIDE BAY, east NEW BRITAIN.

During the night of 11-12 February, a motor torpedo boat sank as a result of collision. Further details are not available.

At 5:00 a.m., 12 February, a reconnaissance plane destroyed an unreported number of enemy barges 30 miles north northwest of RABAU, NEW BRITAIN.

During the night of 12-13 February, a Catalina, operating with motor torpedo boats, bombed and strafed enemy positions on southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and SIPOSAL ISLAND, CHOISEUL BAY.

At 8:10 a.m., 13 February, a reconnaissance plane possibly damaged a surfaced enemy submarine about 40 miles southeast of JACQUINOT BAY, southeast NEW BRITAIN.

At 12:40 a.m., 13 February, a reconnaissance plane attacked two small enemy ships and scored a direct hit one off the southwest coast of NEW IRELAND.

At 5:41 a.m., 13 February, one enemy plane dropped three bombs on the airstrip at STIRLING ISLAND. One grounded Mitchell was destroyed and another damaged. No personnel casualties were suffered.

SECRET
72
SECRET
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 14 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 11 February, reconnaissance planes bombed WOTJE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

WOTJE was hit by seven tons of bombs, dropped at 10:47 a.m., 13 February, by six Mitchells. A number of fires and explosions were observed. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered. One plane failed to return.

At 11:40 a.m., 13 February, 22 Dauntless dive bombers and 4 Airacobras dropped 15 tons of bombs and strafed MILIE. Intense enemy antiaircraft fire shot down one Dauntless and damaged three.

At 1:50 p.m., 13 February, 6 Mitchells dropped five tons of bombs on TAROA. Two of the bombers were damaged by moderate antiaircraft fire.

During the night of 10-11 February, Catalinas bombed and strafed MAWARAKA, and attacked a large freighter 40 miles northwest of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Results were not reported.

At 11:00 a.m., 11 February, 36 dive bombers and 24 torpedo bombers, escorted by 42 Corsairs and 24 Warhawks, attacked VUNAPOPE, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored in the supply area. A number of fires and explosions were observed. Hits were scored on the TIMBUR breakwater, where six barges were destroyed. One torpedo bomber and one dive bomber were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire. Ten enemy fighters ineffectively used phosphorous bombs. The fighter cover engaged 15 to 25 enemy fighters and shot down two enemy planes plus three probables. One Corsair failed to return.

During 11 February, 5 dive bombers and 2 Venturas bombed enemy installations in the TOROKINA Area. Six other dive bombers bombed enemy positions on CHOISEUL ISLAND.

At 11:10 a.m., 11 February, 15 Liberators, escorted by 14 Lightnings and 11 Corsairs, bombed TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on revetments and the runway. 15 to 20 enemy interceptors ineffectively used six aerial bombs.

At 11:26 a.m., 11 February, 22 Mitchells, escorted by 24 fighters, struck VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Clouds prevented complete observation of results, but bombs were seen to burst near the strip. Antiaircraft fire damaged six Mitchells. Eight attacking enemy fighters damaged 4 Mitchells. One of our bombers was forced down on its return flight, but the crew was rescued. Our fighters engaged 20 to 30 Zeros, destroyed one, plus one probable.

The score for air operations over the RABAU Area, on 11 February: 3 enemy fighters destroyed, five probably destroyed. We lost one Corsair and one Mitchell from which the crew was recovered.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET~~SECRET~~

OSD Letter

4 p.m. 13 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional details have been received in connection with the bombing of ROI, on 13 February, reported in the morning's summary of 13 February: At 2:30 a.m., twelve to fourteen enemy bombers executed a deliberate and accurate attack on our beach unloading areas and bivouac dump. It is estimated that about twenty-five of our personnel were killed and two hundred and thirty wounded. Considerable damage was caused to supplies and construction equipment. LCT's 346 and 347 were burned out but are believed to be salvageable. Minor damage was sustained by three LST's due to small fires which were quickly extinguished.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 13 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of 10 February, 4 Airacobras set on fire a small enemy barge, off the southern tip of GREEN ISLAND, and bombed enemy installations at BONIS, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Three other Airacobras strafed enemy barges in MATCHIN BAY, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and set two on fire.

At 3:00 p.m., 11 February, a reconnaissance plane bombed KAPINGA-MARANGI ISLAND. Bombs were dropped on a seaplane base, radio tower. A number of small fires were started.

During the night of 10 February, three enemy planes ineffectively dropped bombs on our positions in the TOROKINA Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 10-11 February, Catalinas dropped bombs on REDMAN and SIPOSAI ISLANDS, CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, MOSINA, west MOTUPENA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and on enemy positions at the mouth of the PURIATA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of 150 foot enemy barges, twenty miles east of KIETA HARBOR, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by Catalinas. Results were not observed.

During the night of 11-12 February, motor torpedo boats strafed enemy positions on the west and southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 9:15 a.m., 12 February, 12 Dauntless dive bombers and 16 Warhawks, dropped ten tons of bombs on MILIE. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged two planes.

At 2:00 a.m., 13 February, about twelve enemy planes bombed ROI. A number of fires were apparently started but further details are not available at this time.

Note: Local time for the areas involved has been used in the foregoing and will be used in future reports until further notice.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**

9 a.m. 13 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:00 a.m., 13 February, 6 Mitchells bombed WOTJE and six bombed TAROA, at 2:00 p.m. On the same day 20 dive bombers, bombed MILIE. Results were not reported.

During the morning of 10 February, two Venturas engaged four enemy observation planes south of CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. One enemy plane was shot down. On the same morning a reconnaissance plane bombed a number of small vessels off the southeast coast of BUKA ISLAND, and enemy installations on the island. This plane probably destroyed a motor launch, by strafing, in BUKA PASSAGE.

At 9:00 a.m., 10 February, 59 dive bombers and 24 torpedo bombers, escorted by 46 Corsairs and 23 Warhawks, attacked VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on gun positions, the runway and in the revetment area. One grounded medium bomber was destroyed and six more possibly destroyed. Large oil fires were observed. Five enemy fighters attacked our bombers. One enemy plane was shot down. We lost one dive bomber, one torpedo plane and four dive bombers, five torpedo planes returned damaged. The fighter cover engaged about forty Zeros, shot down ten and probably three more. One Corsair failed to return.

At 1:00 p.m., 10 February, 24 Mitchells, escorted by 30 Corsairs, again attacked VUNAKANAU. Hits were scored on the runway and a number of fires were started. Two Mitchells returned damaged by antiaircraft fire. Our fighter cover engaged forty Zeros, possibly damaged one. One Corsair failed to return.

At 1:12 p.m., 10 February, 21 Liberators, escorted by 26 fighters, bombed TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. The results were not observed, although bombs were seen to fall on the runway and revetment areas. Twenty or thirty Zeros dropped a number of aerial bombs which slightly damaged two Liberators. The Liberators shot down nine enemy planes plus four probables. Our fighters destroyed 12 enemy planes plus one probable. All our planes returned.

During the afternoon, 10 February, Corsairs returning from a RABAU area strike, strafed and left settling a 100 foot enemy schooner off the northwest coast of NEW BRITAIN.

During 10 February, air activities in the RABAU Area, 33 enemy planes were destroyed plus ten probables. We lost one dive bomber, one torpedo bomber and two Corsairs.

During 10 February, 11 torpedo bombers attacked enemy installations at TOROKINA, PIPIPAIA, west NUMA NUMA, central east interior, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

SECRET**SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 12 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 9 February, eight Airacobras bombed the enemy bivouac area at TIARAKA, central east coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and also destroyed six huts in the vicinity.

At 6 a.m. 10 February, six torpedo bombers attacked TOBERA, RAPOPO, and LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Results were not reported.

At 1:24 a.m. 10 February, about three to six enemy planes were over our positions at PIVA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and dropped three bombs. Damage, if any, was not reported. Later that morning two more enemy planes approached the area. A Ventura shot down one enemy medium bomber west of TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

In the TOROKINA sector, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, combat ground patrol activity continues, supported by artillery fire.

SECRET**SECRET**UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 12 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 12:40 a.m. 9 February, fifty-eight dive bombers and twenty-four torpedo bombers attacked VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on gun positions, runways and among buildings. Grounded enemy medium bombers were strafed, and a number of grounded enemy planes were probably destroyed. A number of fires were started. About fifteen-twenty Zeros dropped aerial bombs, but did not press their attacks. One of our torpedo bombers and five dive bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Two dive bombers were damaged by enemy planes. The fighter cover of fifty Corsairs and twenty-four Warhawks engaged twenty reluctant enemy fighters, definitely shot down two plus one probable. One Warhawk failed to return.

At 1 p.m. 9 February, VUNAKANAU was again bombed by twenty-four Mitchells, escorted by thirty-seven Corsairs. Hits were scored on the runways and among revetments. A number of small fires were started. Two Mitchells were damaged by antiaircraft fire. The bombers were ineffectively attacked by four enemy fighters. The Corsair fighter cover engaged thirty - forty enemy fighters, and shot down ten. We lost one Corsair.

On the early afternoon of 9 February, nineteen Liberators, escorted by twenty Lightnings, bombed TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Results were not reported. Our bombers shot down three and probably four more enemy fighters out of fifteen to twenty-five that attacked. Four Liberators returned damaged. Our fighter cover engaged fifteen Zeros, shot down five, plus two probables.

During 9 February, in the RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN, twenty enemy planes were destroyed, plus seven probables. We lost two fighters.

During the night of 9-10 February, motor torpedo boats and an LCI gunboat exchanged fire with a large caliber enemy shore battery at MOSIGA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Our boats were not damaged. Enemy installations in this area were later bombed and shelled with undetermined results.

At 10:45 a.m. 9 February, two Venturas destroyed two and damaged two enemy barges near NISSAN ISLAND.

On the afternoon 9 February, four dive bombers bombed enemy warehouses at BONIS, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. On the same day, six dive bombers attacked and scored a hit on the PURIATA RIVER BRIDGE, southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and strafed a number of small enemy boats at the mouth of the JABA RIVER and MAWARAKA, central west coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

SECRETDECLASSIFIED
Letter,
SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

12 February 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 9-10 February, fourteen Liberators dropped forty-two tons of bombs on WOTJE. A number of fires were started.

At noon 10 Feb., nine Mitchells attacked WOTJE with seven tons of bombs and 75mm cannon. Four planes were damaged by moderate antiaircraft fire.

During the night of 9-10 February, ten Liberators dropped thirty tons of bombs on TAROA. Two large explosions were observed. Enemy antiaircraft fire was light.

On the afternoon of 10 February, nine Mitchells dropped six tons of bombs and strafed TAROA. A number of fires were started. One plane crashed near the target area and another was forced down on the water. During the day, two photo reconnaissance planes dropped one ton of bombs on TAROA.

TAROA was bombarded on the morning of 11 February (local time). The air facilities and storage areas were well covered. This island is bombarded each night by a destroyer.

Some repairs on the runways at TAROA and WOTJE have been reported, although the damage observed is considerable. Reconnaissance planes report that efforts are being made by the enemy to keep a runway at WOTJE in repair.

At 1:20 p.m. 10 February, fifteen and one-half tons of bombs were dropped on JALUIT, ENYGOR and KABENBOCK ISLANDS, JALUIT Atoll, by twenty-three Army Dauntless dive bombers and sixteen Warhawks. Large fires were observed at the SYDNEY PIER oil storage area. One dive bomber went down ten miles off JABOR. During the day, two photo reconnaissance planes dropped one ton of explosives on JALUIT.

Reconnaissance planes on a flight over ENIWETOK encountered light anti-aircraft fire, but no other activity was observed. These planes strafed and started a number of fires on RONGELAP Atoll.

Apparently, a third strike by Coronados against WAKE ISLAND has been completed. Details, however, at present are not available.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
EXCEPT
SECRET
OSD

9 a.m. 11 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine PERMIT, at 10:30 p.m., 10 February, scored one or two torpedo hits on an enemy cruiser 155 miles west northwest of TRUK.

At 3:00 a.m., 11 February, the PERMIT possibly scored three hits on a carrier 140 miles northwest of TRUK.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 11 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 8 February, carrier borne aircraft bombed enemy installations on ENIWETOK.

During the evening of 8 February, 19 Liberators dropped 42 tons of bombs on TAROA and 15 tons on MILIE. No enemy planes were encountered. No enemy antiaircraft fire was encountered. All our planes returned.

During the night of 8-9 February, 9 Coronados bombed WAKE ISLAND. The following night, 8 Coronados again bombed WAKE. Hits were scored on the air-drome and barrack areas. No enemy aircraft were encountered.

On 8 February, reconnaissance planes strafed buildings at UJAI and UJELANG ATOLLS.

During the nights of 7 February and 8 February, one destroyer bombarded WOTJE. At noon, 9 February, the heavy cruiser SALT LAKE CITY, bombarded WOTJE.

At 5:42 a.m., 8 February, revetment areas at LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN, were bombed by 5 Avengers. A large fire was started.

On 8 February, three Airacobras strafed huts at TEOPASINO, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A large fire was started.

At 1:40 a.m., 9 February, a reconnaissance plane attacked three enemy barges ten miles north of RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Results were not reported.

At 2:15 p.m., 9 February, a reconnaissance plane engaged one enemy observation plane which was covering a convoy 25 miles north of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. A number of hits were scored on the enemy plane.

During the night of 9-10 February, our motor torpedo boats strafed enemy positions on northwest BUKA ISLAND and northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 2:05 a.m., 10 February, a reconnaissance plane attacked a number of beached enemy barges on the southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

On 10 February, a reconnaissance plane forced down an enemy medium bomber on the water west of NAURU ISLAND and then destroyed it by strafing.

At 7:00 a.m., 10 February, an unreported number of destroyers bombarded enemy positions on northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

The submarine TRIGGER reported sinking a large transport and a destroyer in a TRUK bound enemy convoy.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

~~SECRET~~
OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 10 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The MIBO RIVER area southwest of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND was shelled by a gunboat.

On 8 February, enemy positions on SIPISAI ISLAND, CHOISEUL BAY Area, were shelled by gunboats and a number of hits were scored on an enemy barge, in the same area.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

9 a.m. 10 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the morning and afternoon of 7 February, carrier-based aircraft dropped nine tons of bombs on TAROA. Light antiaircraft fire was encountered. Eight Mitchells dropped eight tons of bombs on runways, gun positions and in the barracks area. A number of fires were started. Two Mitchells were lightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During the night of 7 February, a destroyer bombarded and started a large fire in an ammunition dump on TAROA. The following day, TAROA was bombarded with two hundred rounds of eight-inch ammunition. A large fire was started.

At 9:00 a.m., 7 February, 16 Warhawks dropped sixteen tons of bombs near the pier and in the storage area at JALUIT. Enemy antiaircraft fire was light and inaccurate.

At 12:45 p.m., 7 February, nine Mitchells dropped nine tons of bombs and strafed WOTJE. One Mitchell was lightly damaged by meager and inaccurate antiaircraft fire.

At 10:25 a.m., 7 February, 59 dive bombers and 22 torpedo bombers, escorted by 72 fighters, attacked enemy installations at TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored among grounded enemy planes, on the runways and in revetment areas. Two dive bombers and four torpedo bombers were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire. Our bombers were unsuccessfully attacked by thirty to forty enemy fighters. Our fighter cover engaged about forty enemy fighters, definitely shot down eleven and probably eight more. All our planes returned.

At 10:58 a.m., 7 February, 28 of our fighter planes encountered 15 to 20 Zeros over RABAU, NEW BRITAIN, and damaged one.

At 3:30 a.m., 8 February, six Avengers attacked enemy shipping at RABAU, NEW BRITAIN, scored a direct hit on a submarine and possibly set on fire an unidentified vessel.

At 1:30 a.m., 8 February, a reconnaissance plane attacked enemy barges about twenty miles northeast of RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Results were unreported.

On 7 February, two dive bombers scored direct hits on a pillbox and huts on the beach south of TAVENA RIVER, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 8-9 February, our motor torpedo boats and gunboats operated in conjunction with aircraft in the vicinity of TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Enemy installations at SALE and MIK MIK ISLANDS, were strafed. The area south of MOTUPENA was shelled by gunboats. Our motor torpedo boats were ineffectively strafed by an enemy plane in TAURO BAY, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

9 a.m. 9 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:58 a.m., 7 February, a preliminary report states that seventeen Liberators hit VUNAKANAU airfield, RABAU, placing bombs on the south central part of the runway and the north central dispersal area. Three of our planes were hit by antiaircraft fire and another was hit by a Jap fighter. Ten to fifteen fighters and six unidentified enemy planes were seen and it is reported that one of the enemy fighters was destroyed, with six probables. One of the Liberators of this flight bombed the BONIS runway, BUKA, at 10:14 a.m.

During the night of 7-8 February, motor torpedo boats from TOROKINA, strafed MIKMIK ISLAND, off northwest BOUGAINVILLE. They also shelled a small house near the scene and barges which appeared to be recently beached. The motor torpedo boats were subjected to a light amount of rifle fire. Near the entrance of QUEEN CAROLA HARBOR, northwest of BUKA, they strafed a hundred foot schooner.

A complete report of the war patrol of the submarine BOWFIN, states that she sank two large schooners at noon, 30 January. The total amount of damage reported by her for this patrol indicates that she sank 12,638 tons, heavily damaged and probably sunk a seaplane carrier for 17,000 tons and slightly damaged an enemy destroyer for 1200 tons. In an earlier report it was stated that the last time the BOWFIN saw the seaplane carrier, her bow was well down in the water while her stern was out.

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

(3:00 p.m., 6 February - 3:00 p.m., 7 February)

Patrol activities continue in the central east sector of the TOROKINA RIVER perimeter. It is reported that five Japs were killed in an encounter with one of our patrols. One of our men was wounded. Another of our reconnaissance patrols contacted an undetermined number of the enemy in the northeast perimeter who were entrenched in prepared positions. One of our officers was killed and a man wounded.

SECRET**SECRET**

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 9 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 7:00 a.m., 9 February, the capture and occupation of the KWAJALEIN ATOLL was completed.

At 11:00 a.m., 6 February, two of our Venturas, over GREEN ISLAND, bombed, strafed and damaged four barges on the shore. On the planes return trip, they dropped a depth charge on SARIME PLANTATION, northwest BOUGAINVILLE.

During the afternoon of 6 February, four Airacobras strafed and damaged four barges on PINIPEL ISLAND of the NISSAN or GREEN ISLAND group. Installations at TARNABOROI PLANTATION, on PINIPEL ISLAND and some new huts at TANGALAN PLANTATION, on NISSAN ISLAND, were also strafed.

During 6 February, eight Dauntless dive bombers, while patrolling the TOROKINA RIVER perimeter, bombed pillboxes south of the JABA RIVER, also bridges in the MARIRICI-TAVENA RIVER sections.

At 11:15 a.m., 6 February, thirty-two Mitchell bombers, covered by thirty-nine Corsairs, twenty-four Warhawks and nine Hellcats, bombed LAKUNAI airdrome, RABAU. They made a crisscross with their bombs at both ends of the runway and the revetment and workshop areas. Fires were started in the two latter places, as also a large fire at the northwest end of the strip. Eight Mitchells were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Only one enemy fighter made any attempt to attack the bombers. There were about forty enemy fighters over the field but they did not engage our fighter cover until we went after them, whereupon thirteen of them were shot down with four probables. We incurred no losses.

Fifteen minutes later, a flight of nineteen Liberators, escorted by twenty-nine Corsairs, eighteen Lightnings, smothered the LAKUNAI airfield with bombs. Three Liberators were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire and another one was shaken up by four enemy aerial bombs. Ten Zeros attempted to intercept but only three attacked and were probably shot down. One of the Liberators of this flight, also bombed TOBERA airfield, RABAU. Our fighter cover on this flight ran into ten to fifteen Zeros and it is reported that the enemy showed no inclination to fight and expended their ammunition at very long range. The Lightnings claimed to have shot down three probables. A summary of enemy planes destroyed on 6 February, indicates the following: 13 definitely destroyed, plus ten probables, with no losses in BLUE planes.

Between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m., 7 February, a BLUE patrol plane bombed SATAWAN ISLAND, NOMOI (MORTLOCK) group, CAROLINE ISLANDS, and destroyed a hundred drums of oil, killed the crew of antiaircraft gun, damaged four barges at the pier and strafed the buildings. At 3:05 p.m., the same plane sank a sailboat in the middle of the lagoon at KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**~~SECRET~~

080 Le

4 p.m. 8 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 6 February, the airfields on TAROA and WOTJE were being neutralized by bombing and bombardment. Land-based aircraft are giving MILLE and JALUIT a systematic bombing. It is also reported that the runway on ENIWETOK is pitted with bomb craters and a reconnaissance indicates thirteen burned enemy bombers on the airfield.

At KWAJALEIN, 6 February, the withdrawal of assault troops is progressing in good order. Construction of defenses is proceeding.

At 8:45 a.m., 7 February, 22 Army Dauntless dive bombers and 11 Warhawks bombed MILLE ATOLL, and also strafed antiaircraft installations and the runways. Fire from the antiaircraft guns was meagre. While the runway at MILLE is still unusable, it shows attempts have been made to repair it.

The harbor at TAROA and the runways were subjected to bombing by 8 Liberators on 7 February, at 10:41 a.m. No antiaircraft fire was received. Several fires were started.

At 11:10 a.m., 7 February, 9 Liberators bombed WOTJE, depositing their bombs in the revetment area and on the runways. One fire and explosion occurred. There was no antiaircraft fire.

The United States submarine BOWFIN, returning from a patrol in the southwest Pacific, reports sinking the following:

- 16 January - in the evening, sank a schooner with gunfire in lower MAKASSAR STRAITS.
- 17-18 Jan. - during the night, in the lower reaches of MAKASSAR STRAITS, sank a large freighter and one of its escorts, an OTORI class torpedo boat.
- 26 January - towards midnight, sank an unescorted medium size freighter in the BANDA SEA.
- 28 January - during a day and night attack, sank an enemy seaplane carrier in MAKASSAR STRAITS.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

OSD Let.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 8 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

killed two Japs and wounded one, on the eastern side of the TOROKINA perimeter. Enemy installations, in the vicinity of the JABA RIVER mouth and at MOM, north-east EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, are under continual bombardment by our artillery.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 8 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 5 February, one of our rescue planes, covered by a fighter escort, rescued a pilot from a Lightning who had crashed west of BUKA, on 28 January.

Sometime during 5 February, four Airacobras bombed and strafed south of NOVA RIVER, on the southern end of BUKA ISLAND, near BUKA PASSAGE, and put out of commission a barge near the west entrance of that passage.

At 9:15 p.m., 5 February, twelve enemy planes in two successive bombing runs, hit TREASURY ISLAND. One casualty but no material damage was reported.

During the night of 5-6 February, the enemy was over TOROKINA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, three different times. One of our Venturas on patrol is reported to have contacted one of the bombers which when last seen, was in a vertical dive but not exploding. On the third attempt to bomb, two of the enemy planes dropped bombs east of PIVA and near the eastern end of the TOROKINA battle sector, killing one man and wounding seven.

It is reported that our destroyer bombardment of CHOISEUL BAY, on 1 February, was very effective. A similar bombardment on 4 February, caused a fire on TERIKUKURE PLANTATION, CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND.

An LCI gunboat from TREASURY ISLAND, during the night of 6-7 February, bombarded MOSIGA, in southwest BOUGAINVILLE.

Subject to minor changes, figures on casualties suffered in the KWAJALEIN ATOLL operation are:

	<u>OWN KILLED</u>	<u>OWN WOUNDED</u>	<u>OWN MISSING</u>	<u>ENEMY PRISONERS</u>	<u>ENEMY DEAD</u>
SOUTHERN				48 Japs	
ATTACK FORCE	157	712	17	125 Koreans	4650
NORTHERN				51 Japs	
ATTACK FORCE	<u>129</u> 286	<u>436</u> 1148	<u>65</u> 82	<u>40 Koreans</u> 99 Japs 165 Koreans	<u>3472</u> 8122

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

(3:00 p.m., 5 February - 3:00 p.m., 6 February)

KURAI0 MISSION, northwest of TOROKINA, has been occupied by a BLUE patrol, where contact was made with the enemy. Some of our scouts from the MISSION ran into twenty of the enemy a half mile north of KURAI0 and killed one of them, with no casualties for our side. A reconnaissance party from the 164th Infantry,

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET****SECRET**

9 a.m. 8 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 5-6 February, Task Force 50.15 (3 CA, 4 DD and 2 DM), bombarded the runways at TAROA and other air installations. There was no evidence that enemy air was present. The antiaircraft fire from the island was light. During darkness, one of our destroyers, steaming on an assigned station, reported that there was no air activity from the island.

LAKUNAI airfield, RABAU, was attacked at 10:45 a.m., on 5 February, by 44 Dauntless dive bombers, 24 Avengers, 39 Corsairs, 24 Warhawks and 6 Hellcats. From photographs, the runway was left unserviceable because of nine to sixteen bull's eye hits. On antiaircraft positions, surrounding the airdrome, the Dauntless dive bombers made two direct and nine effective hits, which silenced these weapons while the bombing attack was on. In the vicinity of six machine guns, two large fires were started. Two other hits set on fire thirteen huts. At the northeast end of MATUPI HARBOR an explosion and fire was started. One of our fighters, which was over the airdrome, later, reported much black smoke coming from a huge fire, evidently a gasoline stowage at the southern end of the runway. Our bombers report that they saw twenty to twenty-five enemy fighters as they approached the target but only six of them showed any inclination to fight. These fighters retired speedily without attacking. One of our Avengers crashed and five Dauntless and three other Avengers were slightly damaged. Our covering force, for the bombers, report twenty to forty Zeros were in the air as our flight appeared, but only a few attacked, most of them standing away doing acrobatic stunts or making a good stab of feinting at our fighters. It is reported that five Zeros were destroyed with three probables. Our losses totalled, 2 Warhawks and 1 Corsair.

A little later, at 11:06 a.m., thirteen Liberators bombed substantially LAKUNAI, in the vicinity of the southeast end of the runway and dispersal area, as also the northeast end of the runway. On the north shore a large fire was seen, near the water, with smaller fires in the target area. The formation was attacked by 25 Zeros who appeared to be contented in merely releasing aerial bombs. Two Zeros were destroyed by our bombers. Eight of the Liberators were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire. A covering escort of 19 Corsairs and 15 Lightnings, encountered only two to four Zeros.

A tally for air activity on 5 February, indicates that 7 Zeros were destroyed with four probables, while our losses totalled four.

During the afternoon of 5 February, two Dauntless dive bombers on a patrol from TOROKINA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, bombed MAWARAKA and the HONGORAI RIVER areas, southeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY. The results were not reported.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET**SECRET**

9 a.m. 7 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

It would appear that the whole of the KWAJALEIN ATOLL, with the exception of GODFREY, were in our possession on 5 February. Troops are being reembarked and the departure of ships is proceeding. It is understood that much activity is underway in the MAJURO ANCHORAGE, but no progress report has been received.

An incomplete report of our personnel casualties to-date indicates; Killed 110, wounded 662, missing 20. We have captured 40 Japanese and 122 Koreans. The enemy dead totals 4654. There are 178 MARSHALLESE in our custody.

Task Group 58.3 (1 CV, 2-CVL, 2 BB, 1 CA and 9 DD), has batted ENIWETOK during the last four days and it is reported that much damage has resulted. This group also hit UJELANG and BIKINI ATOLLS and bombed the buildings at these places. In addition to this bombing, one of our search planes also strafed the dock and shore installations at UJELANG on 3 February.

At 9:58 a.m., 6 February, fourteen Warhawks hit the southern end of JALUIT ISLAND, with bombs. The radio buildings were also strafed. The results are not reported. No damage was received by our planes from the medium but moderate accurate anti-aircraft fire.

On 6 February, it was reported that at 9:42 p.m., on 4 February, fifty-six enemy planes raided TREASURY ISLAND. A later despatch corrects this and indicates only four to six planes raided the island.

At 10:07 p.m., 4 February, motor torpedo boats and gunboats from TOROKINA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, attacked four enemy loaded barges off MATSUNKEI, south of MOTUPINA POINT. One of the barges caught fire and exploded for an hour after the first attack. The remaining barges turned from their southerly course to a northerly one and beached themselves. The gunboats fired on them and an LCI gunboat attempted a landing to determine the nature of the cargo carried by the barges, but was prevented by a heavy surf. On the morning of 5 February, the motor torpedo boats returned and found four barges, of which two were nearly submerged. All of the barges were destroyed.

The submarine SCAMP reports sinking a 10,000 tanker on 14 January, south of the CAROLINE ISLANDS.

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

During 4 February, our patrols were in contact with the enemy in the east and southeast perimeter of the TOROKINA RIVER Area. It is reported three Japs were killed, while our casualties consisted of one officer wounded. Our artillery has taken under fire enemy positions in the JAVA RIVER Area, supply and ammunition dumps in the TEKESSI RIVER Area, east EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY. They also destroyed 4 houses east of MAVAVIA.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 6 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 4-5 February, a squadron of destroyers bombed HAHOLA MISSION, on BUKA ISLAND. The results are not reported but it is indicated that no return fire was received. During the same night, at 1:45 a.m., this force sank a large enemy barge off GREEN ISLAND.

At 6:00 p.m., 5 February, nine Mitchell bombers attacked WOTJE. As a result of the bombing, columns of smoke were visible for fifteen miles. Four of our planes were damaged, and one of our personnel received a slight injury, from light but accurate antiaircraft fire.

A little later, at 6:30 p.m., sixteen Liberators struck at WOTJE and started two fires at the intersection of the runway. No casualties were suffered by our forces.

At 5:59 p.m., 5 February, nine Mitchell light bombers, attacked TJAN, TAR, GIJIBAI, OLLOT and EGERIEN ISLANDS, in the MALOELAP ATOLL, and intense but inaccurate antiaircraft fire damaged two of our planes. Runways and antiaircraft positions were damaged on the islands.

At 6:30 p.m., 5 February, twelve Liberators hit the TAROA runway area. Our planes received no damage. The antiaircraft fire was meagre to none at all.

MILLE ATOLL was hit at 5:45 p.m., and at 5:59 p.m., 5 February, by three Liberators and eight Warhawks, respectively. The antiaircraft fire was light. It is reported that the whole island is pockmarked with bomb craters. In the harbor, a large freighter is sunk.

SECRET
REF ID: A63723-72
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 6 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 4-5 February, eighteen heavy bombers attacked WAKE ISLAND. All planes returned.

It has been estimated by the Commanding General of the 4th MARINE DIVISION, that out of about 2,500 enemy fighting men on ROI and NAMUR ISLANDS, fifty to seventy-five percent were killed by naval bombardment and bombing. All but one or two of the blockhouses were destroyed by naval gunfire.

Apparently, on 4 February, TASK GROUP 58.4 (1 CV, 2 CVL, 2 CA, 1 CL, 8 DD), bombed the runway and fuel storage area on ENIWETOK. Two grounded torpedo bombers were destroyed. Further details are not available at this time.

At 11:44 a.m., 4 February, a reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed the seaplane area at KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND. No enemy aircraft or antiaircraft fire was encountered.

During the forenoon of 4 February, twenty-five Mitchells and two squadrons of Liberators, covered by ninety-six fighters, struck RABAU, NEW BRITAIN, within sixty minutes in three coordinated attacks. Hits were scored on runways, revetment areas, and a medium enemy bomber destroyed on the ground. A number of fires were started. Owing to clouds, complete observation of results was not possible. Upwards of thirty enemy fighters engaged our bombers and fighter planes. In the ensuing engagements, four enemy planes were destroyed and two of our fighters are missing. All our bombers returned.

On 4 February, six Dauntless dive bombers bombed and strafed SARIME PLANTATION, northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and started two fires.

At 9:42 p.m., 4 February, fifty-six enemy planes raided TREASURY ISLAND. Out of an estimated thirty bombs, the majority fell into the water. Some damage was caused to electrical installations. Our antiaircraft batteries claimed the destruction of one medium bomber.

On 4 February, six Dauntless dive bombers bombed TOKO MISSION, SOVELE MISSION and destroyed bridges over the MIBO AND MOBIAI RIVERS, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 9:32 p.m., 4 February, about three to five enemy planes dropped bombs in the PIVA revetment area, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two bombs seriously damaged one Avenger and lightly damaged two others.

At 5:15 a.m., 5 February, a reconnaissance plane attacked two enemy vessels north of RABAU, NEW BRITAIN, and possibly scored a hit on one.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 5 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 4 February, 7th Army Division completed the capture of KWAJALEIN ISLAND, BURTON, BURNET and BLANKENSHIP ISLANDS. Further details are not available at this time.

At 10:00 a.m. 4 February, eight Warhawks bombed and strafed MILLE. Results were not reported.

At 11:30 a.m. 4 February, six Venturas attacked and destroyed a 2,000 ton enemy freighter at EMIEJ and dropped four tons of bombs on enemy installations. No enemy planes were encountered. Three Venturas were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED 72
Letter
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 5 February 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In the air operations of 3 February, over the RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN, thirteen enemy fighters were shot down, plus six probables, and one grounded enemy plane destroyed. Three of our fighters failed to return.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET**SECRET**

9 a.m. 5 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 3 February, our troops on KWAJALEIN ISLAND advanced northward about eight hundred and ten yards and by nightfall reached the NOB pier on the northwest end of the island.

At 9:35 a.m. 3 February, a Regimental Combat Team embarked in LVT's landed on the southern end of BURTON ISLAND (north of KWAJALEIN ISLAND) after thorough preparation by gunfire, which leveled enemy installations and trees. Although no opposition to the landing was encountered, enemy defense developed after our troops advanced three hundred yards. By 6 p.m., one half of the island was in our possession.

BUSTER and BYRON ISLANDS (north of KWAJALEIN ISLAND) were occupied. A number of Japanese were killed.

Total casualties as of 3 February in the foregoing operations - 32 killed, 239 wounded, none missing. Enemy casualties - 1,240 killed, 51 prisoners.

Operations are under way for the seizure of islands in the east chain of KWAJALEIN Atoll to include ARNOLD PASS and the west chain to include GODFREY

A little past midnight on 4 February, the destroyer CHARRETTE, in conjunction with the destroyer escort FAIR attacked and possibly sank a submarine eighty miles west by north of JALUIT Atoll.

At 1:45 p.m. 3 February, a reconnaissance plane was attacked by three Japanese fighters about fifteen miles northwest of NEW HANOVER, NEW IRELAND. One of the enemy planes was damaged and possibly destroyed. The other two broke off the attack. Our plane, although damaged, returned safely.

At noon 3 February, forty-four dive bombers and twenty-three torpedo planes, escorted by fifty-eight fighters, attacked TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored in the revetment area and an unknown number of grounded enemy planes possibly destroyed. Enemy equipment on the airfield was strafed. About ten or fifteen enemy fighters intercepted our bombers. Our fighter cover shot down seven enemy fighters, plus four probables. Three of our fighters failed to return.

On the afternoon of 3 February, fifteen Liberators, escorted by thirty-one fighters, bombed LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires were started. Hits were observed in the revetment area. During the bombing run, ten enemy fighters intercepted and damaged two Liberators. The bombers shot down one Zero and probably another. The fighter cover engaged twenty-five to thirty enemy fighters and of these destroyed five and probably another. All of our planes returned.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 4 February 1944.

SECRET**SECRET****SECRET**SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During this bombardment, the destroyer CLAXTON was struck by two medium caliber shells from a shore battery, which killed five men, wounded one seriously, and disabled the vessel's steering gear. Other damage was sustained which limited the CLAXTON's speed to ten knots. The vessel is proceeding to TREASURY ISLAND.

During the night of 2 February, about six enemy medium bombers and floatplanes ineffectively bombed a number of our destroyers on the west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of near misses were observed but no damage was sustained. One enemy plane was shot down.

On 2 February, the destroyer KNAPP picked up one Japanese officer, two enlisted men and one civilian embarked in a sailboat, in the vicinity of KWAJALEIN ATOLL.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 4 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 6 p.m., 2 February, our troops on KWAJALEIN ISLAND were in possession of two-thirds of the island. The enemy was forced into the northern third of the island.

During the previous night, the Japanese launched a number of counter-attacks which were broken up by artillery and naval gunfire. Out of an estimated initial strength of 2,000, enemy casualties to-date amount to 1,250 dead, forty-three prisoners. Our casualties twenty-seven dead, one hundred and ninety wounded, and nine missing.

MAJURO at one time a Japanese seaplane base, but abandoned in favor of MILE, is reported as a favorable location for a naval base. The natives are friendly. One Japanese naval warrant officer has been taken prisoner.

ENIWETOK was effectively neutralized by TASK GROUP 58.3 (1 CV, 2 CVL, 2 BB, 1 CA and 9 dd). No airborne enemy aircraft were encountered. Fifteen grounded medium bombers were destroyed and four floatplanes on the water were destroyed. In addition, two medium freighters and four small vessels were set on fire and beached. Buildings are almost completely razed and burned out.

At 1:00 a.m., 30 January, the destroyer BURNS, after completing a rescue mission, encountered one medium enemy tanker, one medium freighter and two smaller vessels near UJAE ATOLL and sank them all by gunfire.

The commander of the NORTHERN ATTACK FORCE (CTF 53), reported that ANTON, ARCHIBALD, ARCHIE and ARLINGTON ISLANDS were captured without opposition. A preliminary estimate of the casualties, apparently in that Task Force, amount to one hundred killed and four hundred wounded.

At noon, 2 February, four Liberators dropped seven tons of bombs on RONGELAP ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Hits were scored on radio installations which were probably destroyed. No enemy planes were encountered. Antiaircraft fire was meager and light.

In the afternoon of 2 February, twenty Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by twelve fighters, dropped fourteen tons of bombs on antiaircraft positions and on the runway at MILE. No enemy aircraft were encountered. Antiaircraft fire was moderate.

An unreported number of destroyers completed a scheduled bombardment, on 3 February, of SARIME PLANTATION, northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The target area was well covered.

SECRET

SECRET

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 3 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 2 February, the destroyer ANDERSON grounded on a coral reef in northern KWAJALEIN LAGOON. The vessel sustained considerable damage and is being towed to port.

SECRET**SECRET**UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 3 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 1 February, all transport and landing craft entered KWAJALEIN LAGOON, at the northern (ROI-NAMUR ISLANDS), and southern (KWAJALEIN ISLAND) objectives. Neutralization of the airfields at WOTJE and TAROA was maintained throughout the day.

In addition to the landings in the southwest end of KWAJALEIN ISLAND, on 1 February, a secondary landing was made on the same day at the northeast end of the island. From this point our troops moved toward the northern end of the island.

All organized enemy resistance on ROI and NAMUR ISLANDS was overcome at 2:00 p.m., 2 February. The Commanding General of the 4th MARINE DIVISION assumed command ashore and our defenses are now being organized. ALTON, ALVIN, ANDREW and ANTHONY ISLANDS, north KWAJALEIN ATOLL, were occupied without resistance.

SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 2 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 6:55 p.m., 1 February, our forces reported that all of ROI ISLAND and all, except the northern part of NAMUR ISLAND, were captured. Later, at 8:00 p.m., 1 February, they reported all beaches in use and that transports and landing ships were moored inside of the lagoon.

At 9:30 a.m., 1 February, landings commenced on the southwest end of KWAJALEIN ISLAND. In nine minutes, four waves were ashore and leading battalions advanced rapidly. For the first three hundred yards no opposition was encountered. By 6:00 p.m., our troops had advanced eastward thirteen hundred yards against enemy rifle, machine gun and a small amount of mortar and artillery fire, emplaced in an inter-connected trench and pillbox system. By 6:00 p.m., 11,000 troops were ashore and a number of medium tanks were landed. Our advance was hampered by large fires, apparently from previous air and surface bombardment.

At KWAJALEIN ISLAND, incomplete reports indicate that our casualties are light. Including the casualties of 31 January and 1 February, thirty were reported killed and forty wounded. An estimated six hundred of the enemy were killed and about forty-five prisoners, including twenty-five Koreans, were taken.

Bombing and gunfire blew up nine magazines on BENNET ISLAND, and several storehouses on BERLIN ISLAND, southeast KWAJALEIN ATOLL. BURTON ISLAND, in the same area, was pounded from the ocean side and from inside of the lagoon.

On the morning of 1 February, three of our destroyers completed a successful bombardment of enemy positions on CHOISEUL ISLAND.

SECRET**SECRET**UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 2 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 2:58 p.m., 1 February, (local time), five Venturas bombed and strafed NAURU ISLAND. Four tons of bombs started fires and explosions in fuel storage areas. No enemy planes were encountered. Two Venturas were damaged by intense enemy antiaircraft fire.

At 10:28 a.m., 31 January, (Love time), seventeen Liberators, escorted by sixteen Lightnings and four Corsairs, bombed TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. A number of hits were scored in the vicinity of the runway and in the revetment area. No enemy planes were encountered.

At 10:35 a.m., 31 January, an unreported number of Dauntless dive bombers and eighteen torpedo bombers, escorted by forty-six fighters, after an unsuccessful search for enemy shipping in the RABAU Area, bombed TOBERA. Hits were scored on the runway and in the revetment areas where six grounded planes were destroyed and fifteen damaged. Other enemy installations in the area were damaged. About ten or twelve enemy fighters intercepted our bombers. We lost one Dauntless and two dive bombers and four torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. The fighter escort engaged about twenty Zeros and of these shot down eight and four probables. Two of our fighters failed to return.

At 11:50 a.m., 30 January, six Mitchells, escorted by forty-seven fighters, bombed LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires were started. Six Mitchells were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire. About twenty-six enemy fighters were attacked by our fighters when taking off to intercept the attack. Two Zeros were shot down plus three probables. We lost one Corsair.

In a ground action of 30 January, east of the TOROKINA RIVER, our troops destroyed thirty enemy pill boxes and killed eighty Japs. We lost nineteen killed and twenty-three wounded.

A raid on GREEN ISLAND was successfully accomplished during the night 30-31 January. One NEW ZEALANDER (officer) and three enlisted were killed. Enemy casualties were not reported.

On the morning of 1 February, a Liberator bombed KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND. Antiaircraft fire damaged our plane. The results of the bombing were not reported.

The submarine APOGON reported the destruction of a large enemy transport or tender and another unidentified ship.

The submarine SEAHORSE blew up a 7,000 ton enemy freighter, loaded with gasoline. During this patrol the SEAHORSE destroyed five ships, totaling 31,000 tons.

SECRET**SECRET**UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 2 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 30 January, scheduled air strikes by TASK GROUP 58.2 (2 CV, 1 CVL, 3 BB, 1 CL, 10 DD), were completed against ROI ISLAND, KWAJALEIN ATOLL. Eighteen enemy planes were shot down over the area. Twenty-one medium bombers and thirty single-engined planes were destroyed or damaged on the runway. Airdrome facilities, gasoline storage tanks, magazines and gun positions were hit. Approximately thirty buildings, including hangars, were wrecked. We lost, in combat, two fighters and one torpedo bomber. Operational losses were two fighters and one torpedo bomber.

The surface bombardment of this area, on the night of 29 January, and on 30 January, was previously reported. All targets were well covered, and the runway was probably neutralized.

From 7:45 p.m., 30 January, to 2:25 a.m., 31 January, Liberators dropped twenty-seven tons of bombs on WOTJE. Fires were observed throughout the night. KWAJALEIN, ROI and NAMUR were bombed by eleven Liberators from 8:07 p.m., 30 January, to 2:05 a.m., 31 January. The entire island of KWAJALEIN and four ships in the lagoon were ablaze. Fires were observed on NAMUR and ROI ISLANDS. Catalinas and Mariners harassed TAROA from 10:39 p.m., 30 January, to 4:00 a.m., 31 January. Fighter planes bombed and strafed MILE from 9:55 a.m., 30 January, to 5:40 p.m., 31 January. The foregoing action times are YOKE.

From 7:30 a.m., to 5:25 p.m., 31 January, (Yoke time), nineteen Dauntless dive bombers, supported by fighters, continuously attacked MILE. The runways were reported definitely inoperational.

On 1 February, our troops landed on KWAJALEIN ISLAND, according to plan and on schedule. The landings were supported by surface and air bombardment and shore-based artillery. No enemy opposition was encountered on the beach, although slight opposition was encountered as our troops advanced.

At 11:45 a.m., 1 February, successful landings were made on NAMUR and ROI ISLANDS, north KWAJALEIN ATOLL. Gunfire and air support was well coordinated and the landings were made as planned. Enemy resistance was very light.

At 4:30 a.m., 1 February, the battleships WASHINGTON and INDIANA, operating in the MARSHALL ISLANDS' Area, were in collision. Both vessels proceeded, under escort, at ten knots to effect repairs.

The destroyer COLAHAN struck a reef on the north end of ENUBUJ ISLAND, KWAJALEIN ATOLL, at 5:20 a.m., 1 February. The vessel was later refloated. Damage was sustained to the propellers and sound gear.

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 1 February 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)

MARSHALL ISLANDS' OPERATION

On 31 January our forces reported MAJURO Atoll not occupied by the ene
The deep water entrance and anchorage is ready for immediate use.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 1 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

MARSHALL ISLAND'S OPERATION

On 31 January, GEHH, NINNI, GEA, ENNYLAEGAN and ENUBUJ ISLANDS, south KWAJALEIN ATOLL, were captured. Few casualties were suffered. Highly effective support was provided by plane and ship bombardment. Artillery was being landed on ENUBUJ ISLAND.

On the same day, ENNUEBING, MELLU, ENNUMENNET, ENNUBIRR, ENNUGARRET ISLANDS, north KWAJALEIN ATOLL, were secured, with support of ship and plane bombardment.

Although reports on the WAKE ISLAND air strike have not been received, the following CINCPAC press release is quoted for information: "Two squadrons of Coronado seaplanes of FLEET AIR WING TWO, made a strong attack on WAKE ISLAND, during the night of 30-31 January (west longitude date). All bombs hit in or near the target area and no planes were lost".

Cincpac has ordered ComFairWing 2 to repeat the strike on Wake at the earliest possible time.

SECRET**SECRET**

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 1 February 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)MARSHALL ISLAND'S OPERATION

Air attacks against WOTJE, TAROA, ROI and ENIWETOK ISLANDS, were made by TASK FORCE 58 (7 CV, 6 CVL, 8 BB, 3 CA, 3 CL, 36 DD), according to plan. All attacks were reported highly successful.

On the night of 29 January, ROI ISLAND was intermittently bombarded by one BB, two DD, and on 30 January, by 3 BB and 5 DD. Destruction of enemy installations was severe. Enemy opposition was weak. On 30 January, KWAJALEIN ISLAND was bombarded by battleships.

WOTJE and TAROA were bombarded by cruisers on 29 January and 30 January, according to plan. Although complete reports are not on hand, this bombardment is believed to have been effective.

On 30 January, the Destroyer BURNS engaged four enemy vessels near UJAI ATOLL, apparently trying to escape from KWAJALEIN ATOLL. Two of the enemy vessels were on fire and stopped.

SECRET**SECRET**

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 31 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Although reports are fragmentary, operations against the MARSHALL ISLANDS are proceeding according to plan.

As scheduled on 29 January, carrier-based aircraft of TASK GROUP 58.1 (2 CV, 1 CVL, 3 BB, 1 CL, 9 DD), struck TAROA, MALOELAP ATOLL. On the first strike, four enemy fighters, over the target area, were shot down. Thereafter, no enemy planes intercepted. Thirty-nine grounded enemy planes were repeatedly strafed, and photographs indicate that eight were definitely destroyed and that probably two-thirds of the balance are not in operating condition. Photographs further show a large explosion in the ammunition storage area. Two magazines and two fuel dumps were destroyed. We lost six fighters and four torpedo bombers. One fighter pilot and one torpedo bomber crew were recovered. A Mitchell bomber in the area was inadvertently shot down by our fighters at sunset. All but one of the crew were rescued.

The scheduled battleship bombardment of TAROA, on 29 January, probably by TASK UNIT 58.1.3 (3 BB), was completed. Results were not reported.

During the night of 29-30 January, TAROA ISLAND and WOTJE ISLAND were bombarded by destroyers attached to the NEUTRALIZATION GROUP (Task Group 50.15, 3 CA, 4 DD and 2 DM). The bombardment was reported effective. Our ships sustained no casualties. The following day, TAROA ISLAND was taken under bombardment by two heavy cruisers and WOTJE ISLAND by one heavy cruiser attached to the same TASK GROUP.

Maloklap? On 30 January, the FIRE SUPPORT GROUP of the SOUTHERN ATTACK FORCE (Task Group 52.8, 4 OBB, 3 CA, 10 DD, 12 LCI(L)), completed a scheduled bombardment of ~~KWAKWEN~~ with excellent results. The air strip was thoroughly covered. Large explosions and numerous small fires were observed. Enemy coastal guns replied, but were subsequently silenced without damage to our ships. Three small cargo vessels in the lagoon, two of which were previously damaged by 8" shells, were taken under fire, but results have not been reported. No enemy planes were sighted.

During the morning of 30 January, cruisers and destroyers, attached to the NORTHERN SUPPORT GROUP of the NORTHERN ATTACK FORCE (Task Group 53.5, 3 BB, 2 CA, 3 CL, 9 DD), bombarded WOTJE ISLAND. The airfield was completely neutralized and many fires started. The Destroyer ANDERSON, operating as a secondary fighter director, was struck by a shore battery. Three officers, including the commanding officer, and three enlisted men were killed. Eight were seriously wounded.

The submarine SEAHORSE reported sinking a 7,500 ton freighter, and the submarine THRESHER reported sinking three freighters and one oiler, totaling 25,000 tons and damaging another oiler for 10,000 tons.

SECRET**SECRET**

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 31 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

reported observing a large explosion and black smoke four miles northwest of OEMA ISLAND, off southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, indicating that an enemy vessel may have been seriously damaged or sunk by one of our mines in that area.

At 11:15 a.m., 30 January, twenty-six Mitchells, covered by forty-seven fighters, bombed LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires were started. Enemy antiaircraft fire slightly damaged six of our bombers. After the bombing, our fighters engaged about twenty-six enemy fighters, shot down two and probably three more. We lost one Corsair.

During the night of 30 January, eighteen Liberators, escorted by fifteen Lightnings and five Corsairs, struck VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored in the vicinity of the runway and in the revetment area, where five grounded medium bombers were probably damaged. Moderate to intense antiaircraft fire slightly damaged six Liberators. Four airborne enemy fighters were observed but only one pressed an attack.

At 6:15 p.m., 30 January, eighteen torpedo planes and sixteen dive bombers, escorted by fifty fighters, after an unsuccessful search for an enemy aircraft carrier in RABAU, NEW BRITAIN, attacked and sank one freighter, set on fire one destroyer and one medium freighter. Thirty enemy fighters intercepted and of these twenty-one were shot down, plus three probables. We lost two Corsairs and one Avenger.

During 30 January, twenty-three enemy planes were destroyed, plus six probables. Five were damaged on the ground. We lost one torpedo bomber and three fighters.

COMINCH FILED
5-3-72
SECRET
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 31 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 2:00 p.m., 30 January, eighteen dive bombers and twelve Warhawks bombed and strafed EMIDJ. Meager antiaircraft fire damaged one dive bomber.

At 4:00 p.m., 30 January, nine Mitchells attacked TAR, GIJIBIA and OILOT ISLANDS, in MALOELAP ATOLL. A number of fishing boats were strafed. No enemy planes were encountered. Two of our planes sustained light damage by antiaircraft fire.

Nine Mitchell bombers attacked enemy shipping and shore installations at WOTJE, on the late afternoon of 30 January. A large fire was started and a 125 foot vessel was sunk. No enemy planes were encountered. Reports indicate that our bombers were inadvertently attacked by a number of Hellcats and one bomber was shot down, one crashed landed at TARAWA and several more were damaged.

Throughout the night of 30-31 January, Liberators, Venturas and Catalinas, attacked ROI, KWAJALEIN, WOTJE, MILLE, TAROA and JALUIT, MARSHALL ISLANDS. A number of large fires were started. All our planes returned.

At 9:30 a.m., 28 January, eighteen torpedo bombers and forty-two dive bombers, covered by fifty fighters, bombed TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Large fires were started which destroyed twenty to thirty grounded enemy planes. Probably an additional ten or fifteen were damaged. Hits were scored on antiaircraft positions. Seven of our dive bombers and four torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Out of twenty to thirty airborne enemy fighters only ten attacked. The bombers shot down two enemy fighters and probably five more. Our fighters engaged seventy Zeros and of these shot down twenty-eight, plus seven probables. We lost five Lightnings but the pilots of two were recovered.

During the morning of 28 January, two Venturas bombed and strafed TALEVODO POINT, southwest central CHOISEUL ISLAND. Results were unobserved. At about the same time, sixteen Airacobras strafed enemy installations in the SHORTLAND Area.

At 7:15 p.m., 28 January, twenty-three Mitchells, escorted by twelve Lightnings, bombed and strafed TOBERA, RABAU Area. Hits were scored on the runway and among revetments. A number of fires were started and six buildings were set on fire. One grounded enemy plane was destroyed. Enemy antiaircraft fire shot down one Mitchell. No enemy planes were encountered.

During the morning, 28 January, a reconnaissance plane observed a large enemy freighter or transport on fire, explode and disappear fifty miles south of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Another reconnaissance plane scored two direct hits and set on fire a destroyer or light cruiser. Another reconnaissance plane

COMINCH FILM
SECRET
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 30 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 28-29 January, about three enemy bombers dropped a number of bombs into the water, in the vicinity of TOROKINA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Prior to noon, 29 January, nineteen Liberators, twenty-three dive bombers and seventeen torpedo bombers, struck at RABAU airfields. The heavy bombers, escorted by twelve Lightnings and sixteen Corsairs, attacked LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. A number of grounded enemy fighter planes were destroyed. Photographs taken at the time of the strike showed seven enemy planes burning. Intense and accurate antiaircraft fire slightly damaged twelve bombers. About twenty to thirty enemy fighters intercepted but did not press home to attack through our fighter cover. The bombers shot down one Zero and probably one other. The fighters accounted for six enemy planes and one probable. All our planes returned.

On 29 January, eight bombers, type unreported, escorted by sixty fighters, struck TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN, and scored a number of hits on enemy gun positions. Five grounded enemy planes were destroyed and five damaged. Buildings and other installations were destroyed. Antiaircraft fire shot down one of our planes and damaged five. About thirty to fifty enemy planes intercepted and of these seventeen were shot down and four more probably shot down. We lost one Corsair.

During the day's aerial activities, twenty-four enemy fighters were shot down, plus six probables, and, in addition, twelve enemy planes destroyed on the ground. We lost two planes.

At 7:00 a.m., 29 January, two Venturas and three Airacobras attacked the bivouac area at the MILANBULI RIVER, CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND.

During the night of 29-30 January, Liberators dropped bombs on ROI, KWAJALEIN, WOTJE and JALUIT. One patrol bomber bombed TAROA, MALOELAP ATOLL. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. No enemy planes intercepted. One Liberator failed to return.

At 1:43 p.m., 29 January, three reconnaissance planes dropped two tons of bombs on TAROA, MALOELAP ATOLL. Ten enemy fighter planes intercepted and of these two were shot down, one probably destroyed and two damaged. Two of our planes returned damaged.

The submarine POMPOM, operating in the CELEBES SEA Area, destroyed two sampans by gunfire.

SECRET

S E C R E T

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 30 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 28 January, an unknown number of reconnaissance planes strafed two small ships and three enemy float planes on the water, near ENIWETOK, CAROLINE ISLANDS. Two of three medium size freighters were set on fire by these planes, 120 miles south by west of ENIWETOK, and sank a small freighter near UTIRIK ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS.

At 1:43 p.m., 29 January, an unreported number of our reconnaissance planes bombed TAROA, MALOELAP ATOLL. After the bombing attack about eight or ten enemy fighters engaged our planes, thirty miles from TAROA. A running engagement continued for about one hundred miles. Two enemy planes were definitely shot down, one probably and two were damaged. One Liberator returned badly damaged and another sustained light damage.

At 3:00 p.m., 29 January, seven Mitchells attacked TAROA, MALOELAP ATOLL. Eleven grounded enemy planes were damaged. Hits were scored on hangars and other ground installations. A 100 foot vessel was set on fire. Six enemy fighters intercepted and of these one was damaged. We lost one Mitchell and two returned damaged.

An incomplete report indicates that on 29 January, WOTJE was under cruiser bombardment and bombing attack by carrier based aircraft. Results are reported as excellent. Further information is not available at this time.

The following communique, released by CINCPAC at 1:30 a.m., 30 January, (OCT), is quoted for information: "PACIFIC FLEET CARRIER TASK FORCES have made attacks on MARSHALL ISLAND bases today, including TAROA, WOTJE, and KWAJALEIN."

China Sea
The submarine ANGLER sank one large and one medium size tanker and damaged a medium size freighter. An enemy patrol boat was sunk and one prisoner taken.

Empire patrol
The FINBACK sank a large tanker on 2 January.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/1/83
BY SP-6
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 29 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 4:00 a.m. 28 January, a reconnaissance plane attacked an enemy convoy of twelve ships twenty miles south of DYAUL ISLAND, northwest coast of NEW IRELAND. Two ships were set on fire. Our plane returned damaged.

On the morning of 27 January, six Mitchells dropped five tons of bombs on NAURU ISLAND. Results were not observed. No enemy planes were encountered. Antiaircraft fire was light and inaccurate.

On the early night of 27 January, seven Liberators dropped twenty-one tons of bombs on the cantonment area at TAROA, MALOELAP Atoll. Four fires were started. No enemy planes were encountered. Enemy antiaircraft fire was meager.

During the early evening of 27 January, twenty-three Army Dauntless dive bombers and ten Airacobras dropped fourteen tons of bombs on enemy installations at MILE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. No enemy planes were encountered. One dive bomber was shot down by antiaircraft fire and six returned damaged.

On the same afternoon, six tons of bombs were dropped on WOTJE by nine Mitchells. Large fires were started. No enemy planes were encountered. Intense and accurate antiaircraft fire shot down one of our bombers and damaged two.

On 27 January, our aircraft (type and number unreported) dropped 3,300 pounds of bombs on WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. No enemy interception was encountered. Antiaircraft fire was light and inaccurate.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED 2-72
SECRET
OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 29 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 25-26 January, a reconnaissance plane attacked an escorted convoy of ten enemy ships thirty miles north northeast of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. One hit was scored on an escorting gunboat and one on the stern of a destroyer.

At 9:05 a.m. 26 January, nineteen Mitchells, escorted by fifty-two Corsairs and twelve Warhawks, attacked LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored and fires started in the vicinity of the runway and in the revetment area. About thirty or forty enemy fighters ineffectively intercepted and also dropped a number of phosphorous bombs. One enemy fighter was probably shot down by our bombers. Our fighter cover engaged the enemy fighters, shot down twenty-three and probably five more. We lost six fighters, but two pilots were recovered. Antiaircraft fire slightly damaged five Mitchells.

At 12:20 p.m. 26 January, thirty-nine dive bombers and seventeen torpedo bombers, escorted by eighty-eight fighters, attacked LAKUNAI, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires were started. A direct hit was scored on a freighter off LAKUNAI. One dive bomber was shot down by antiaircraft fire. Our fighter cover engaged about forty to eighty enemy fighters, shot down twenty, and probably eight more. We lost two Corsairs. In this engagement, the enemy unsuccessfully dropped four aerial bombs.

During the night of 26-27 January, a Catalina bombed and strafed PURIATA and MAMAGATA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One fire was started.

At 4:30 a.m. 27 January, two enemy planes dropped seven bombs on our positions at TOROKINA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One man was injured.

At 11:46 a.m. 27 January, one Mitchell started a fire at MALIA VILLAGE, SHORTLAND Area, and eight Airacobras strafed the MOTUPENA - GAZELLE Area, EMPRESS AUGUST BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 1:37 p.m. 27 January, two squadrons of Liberators, escorted by fifty-six fighters, bombed the supply concentration area at SULPHUR CREEK, RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Although between seven to thirty enemy fighters were airborne, they did not attack. Five Liberators returned damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 27 January, enemy installations on BUKA ISLAND were strafed by five Airacobras and bombed by one Liberator. One Liberator bombed EAST CAPE, NEW IRELAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 28 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 4:00 p.m., 25 January, an unreported number of our destroyers successfully bombarded GAZELLE HARBOR, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Black smoke visible in the vicinity of TEKESSI and MAWARAKA, indicated the possibility of a fuel or ammunition dump fire. Considerable damage was probably caused in the bivouac, supply and dispersal areas at MAWARAKA.

Between 8:14 p.m., 25 January, and 3:50 a.m., 26 January, nineteen Liberators bombed the LAKUNAI runway, RABAU, NEW BRITAIN, and the re-vestment area in the vicinity. Three Liberators illuminated the area with flares. Results were unobserved. During the same night, one of our planes (type unidentified) bombed RABAU TOWN with unobserved results. Another plane started fires at EAST CAPE, NEW IRELAND. One Liberator was shot down but the crew was recovered.

On 25 January, a reconnaissance plane probably sank a medium tanker and one of two escorts seventy miles east southeast of ENIWETOK, MARSHALL ISLANDS.

At 9:30 a.m., 26 January, Marine FIGHTING SQUADRON FOUR TWENTY-TWO (24) departed TARAWA, GILBERT ISLANDS, in formation, for FUNAFUTI, ELLICE ISLANDS, via NAMOMEA. One plane arrived at FUNAFUTI, another landed at NIUTAO, ELLICE ISLANDS. A number of pilots parachuted in the vicinity of NUI, ELLICE ISLANDS, after their gas supply was exhausted. The remainder of the planes are missing. Planes and destroyers are searching. Further details are not available at this time. *Confuse reports "no plane" 2/1*

Although the number of planes participating in the flight is not known, twenty-four Corsairs are attached to the squadron.

On the afternoon of 26 January, nine Mitchells attacked TAROA, MALOELAP ATOLL. Bombs were dropped on storage buildings and airdrome facilities. Large fires were started. Twenty enemy planes intercepted. Six of these were shot down and five more were destroyed when taking off. Another was probably destroyed.

Upon retirement, our forces were pursued by enemy fighters for fifty miles where they were met by twelve Warhawks, operating from MAKIN ISLAND. Four Zeros were shot down plus one torpedo plane. Five more were probably shot down. All our planes returned.

At 2:20 p.m., 27 January, (MARSHALL ISLAND time), nine Mitchells dropped seven tons of bombs on EMIDJ and bombarded the area with 75 millimeter gunfire. Results were unobserved. Intense antiaircraft fire was encountered, but all our planes returned, although some sustained minor damage.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

4 p.m. 27 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Prior to noon 25 January, twenty-three Dauntless dive bombers and twelve Airacobras dropped fourteen tons of bombs on MILE. Four fires and explosions were observed. No enemy aircraft were encountered. Intense antiaircraft fire slightly damaged four of the dive bombers.

During the afternoon of 25 January, nine Mitchells dropped five tons of bombs on the airfield and installations on TAROA. A number of fires were started. One grounded medium enemy bomber was destroyed. About thirty or thirty-five enemy fighters intercepted, and of these one was destroyed, three probably destroyed and five damaged. Four of our bombers returned damaged. One of our personnel was killed and five slightly injured.

At dusk 25 January, eighteen Liberators dropped thirty-six tons of bombs on KWAJALEIN. A number of fires were started. No enemy planes were encountered. One bomber was damaged by intense antiaircraft fire.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 27 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND GROUND SITUATION

Units of the 132nd Infantry advanced about 350 yards east of the TOROKINA RIVER MOUTH, at 8:00 a.m., 25 January. The advance was preceded by a thirty minute artillery preparation from shore batteries and two LCI gunboats. One enemy pillbox was destroyed and one Japanese killed. Five of our troops were wounded. Our advance was opposed by mortar, machine gun and rifle fire.

SECRET**SECRET**

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 27 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional information has been received in connection with the air strike against enemy shipping, on 24 January, at SIMPSON HARBOR, KERA VIA BAY: At 12:30 p.m., 24 January, eighteen torpedo bombers, escorted by eighty fighters, attacked with the following photo evaluated results:

SIMPSON HARBOR

- 1 - 410 ft freighter - settling.
- 1 - 410 ft freighter - believed sunk.
- 1 - ATAGO MARU type vessel - on fire midships.
- 1 - 320 ft freighter - definitely sinking.

KERA VIA BAY

- 1 - 225 ft freighter - sunk.
- 1 - 455 ft oiler - listing and settling.
- 1 - 505 ft oiler - smoking and possibly beached.

After the bombing run, about ten or fifteen enemy fighters intercepted our bombers. The fighter cover engaged forty-five enemy planes. Twenty-four enemy planes were definitely shot down, four more listed as probables. We lost one fighter. Four of our torpedo bombers were damaged.

On 24 January, two Venturas bombed and strafed a beached enemy barge on PINIPEL ISLAND, east of NEW IRELAND. On the morning of the same day, a reconnaissance plane attacked two unidentified targets in ST. GEORGE CHANNEL. Results were unobserved.

At 4:12 a.m., 25 January, ten bombs were dropped beyond our front lines at TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, by eight enemy planes. Antiaircraft fire downed one of the attacking planes.

At 12:45 a.m., 26 January, a reconnaissance plane attacked five enemy ships and scored a hit on one, ten miles southwest of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

The submarine RATON, returning from patrol of the CELEBES SEA Area, reported as follows: Sank one large unidentified transport or freighter of 8,000 tons and one NIPPON MARU class oiler of 9,974 tons. Damaged one freighter (6,000 tons).

The submarine RASHER, returning from patrol of the ~~CELEBES SEA~~ SOUTH CHINA SEA Area, reported as follows: Sank one tanker KIYO MARU of 7,250 tons and damaged a HEITO MARU class transport of 4,467 tons.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 26 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 24 January, in the morning, twenty-four Army Dauntless dive bombers, seven Warhawks and twelve Airacobras, bombed MILLE and strafed the stores area and antiaircraft emplacements. No interception was injected by the enemy and his antiaircraft fire was moderate. Three of the Dauntless planes were damaged.

In the afternoon, of the same day, eight Mitchell medium bombers attacked WOTJE and also strafed the antiaircraft positions, bivouac area and hangars, causing large fires. The enemy did not intercept, but the antiaircraft fire was heavy. Five of our planes were damaged and three of our personnel injured.

Late, in the afternoon, nine Mitchell medium bombers attacked TAROA and small craft nearby. Fires were started, which eventually led into explosions. On the ground, one Zero was destroyed. The antiaircraft fire was intense. Thirty enemy fighters intercepted and one was destroyed, with one probable. One of our planes crashed to the north of ARNO ATOLL, while two others were damaged.

In the afternoon of 24 January, navy Liberators discovered two enemy destroyers and a PC patrol craft, escorted by five fighters, in AILINGLAPALAP ATOLL, MARSHALLS group. Our planes shot down three Zeros.

At 4:20 p.m., 24 January, one of our patrol planes attacked, without success, a medium size enemy freighter with three escorts, a little to the southwest of KWAJALEIN ATOLL.

During the night of 24 January, thirteen Liberators started many fires and several explosions on TAROA. It is felt that installations and storage spaces suffered severe damage. The antiaircraft fire was moderate but inaccurate. The enemy did not intercept. None of our planes received any damage.

During the same evening, one Liberator dumped two tons of bombs on MILLE, while another one deposited a similar amount on WOTJE. The results were not reported.

The submarine STURGEON, returning from a war patrol, reports sinking on 16 January, a 7,000 ton freighter, and made a hit on a large single stack destroyer. On 24 January, she reported sinking two unknown ships of a three-ship escorted convoy. The STURGEON previously reported a hit on a tanker.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
5-3-72
SECRET

4 p.m. 25 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 2:57 a.m., and 4:47 a.m., 24 January, LUKUNAI was visited again this time by three Mitchell bombers. No details are reported.

Apparently an air strike has been made at SIMPSON HARBOR, RABAU, on the 24th of January, the details of which have not been received as yet. It is reported that photographs taken during the raid, indicate the following:

One freighter - 7534 tons - burning and sinking.
One freighter - 6000 tons - sinking.
One freighter - 3000 tons - sinking.

In KERA VIA BAY

One fleet oil tanker - 10,500 tons - badly hit and beached.
One fleet tanker - 8,000 tons - burning and sinking.
One freighter - 5,000 tons - badly damaged and possibly beached.
One freighter - 1,000 tons - sunk.

During the night of 24-25 January, motor torpedo boats, from TOROKINA, shelled with guns and mortars an area two miles south of MUTUPINA POINT, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

(Between 3:00 p.m., 23 January - 3:00 p.m., 24 January)

A patrol from the 182nd Infantry made contact with the enemy in the east TOROKINA RIVER section, and killed two of them, with no casualties to our forces. Two patrols from the 132nd Infantry came under enemy mortar fire from a position on the beach near the mouth of the TOROKINA RIVER.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 25 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 9:15 a.m., 23 January, forty-five Dauntless dive bombers, eighteen Avengers, escorted by eighty fighters, raided LUKUNAI airfield, RABAU. Our approach evidently took the enemy by surprise because during a down glide, enemy fighters were still scrambling on the runway, while their mechanics were running for their foxholes. Photographs taken after the attack indicated that the runway is unserviceable and a minimum of seventeen antiaircraft positions protecting it, have been destroyed or damaged. One 4.7 twin-mount received a direct hit. On the ground, eight enemy planes were destroyed or damaged. At the north end of MATUPI HARBOR, RABAU, a large fire was seen, probably from an exploding fuel dump and a freighter in the harbor was smoking. Kittyhawks frustrated twenty to twenty-five enemy fighters who had hastily taken off. The Dauntless dive bombers destroyed one Zero, with two probables. Our high flying fighters destroyed thirty-one enemy fighters, plus twelve probables. Our losses consisted of one lightning and two Corsairs, but the pilot of one of the latter was rescued uninjured. One of our Avengers was hit by antiaircraft fire and crashed near CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND.

At 5:00 p.m., on the same day, forty-eight fighters made a return visit to RABAU and circled the harbor three times until sixty enemy fighters could get off the ground. Whereupon fourteen of them were shot down, with one probable, while our forces incurred no losses.

A summary for our air activity, on 23 January, indicates that forty-six Jap fighters were destroyed in the air, with fifteen probables. This does not include eight probables on the ground at LUKUNAI airfield. Our losses consisted of four planes of which one pilot was rescued.

One of our patrol planes, during 23 January, bombed the western end of Chinatown and KIETA, in the northeast central section of BOUGAINVILLE. Light antiaircraft fire was received at KIETA HARBOR.

During the night of 22-23 January, one of our patrol planes attacked a large flat barge, one medium size barge, and an undesignated target in ST. GEORGE CHANNEL. No observation of the results was made.

During the same night, another patrol hit, what appeared to be a destroyer and a large freighter, about 25 miles northeast of RABAU. Results were unreported.

A Corsair pilot, who was downed near BUKA, on 22 January, and another pilot who crashed 35 miles southeast of CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND, have been picked up by one of our rescue planes.

SECRET**SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 25 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Further details on the strike made by two Venturas, on 22 January, on AILINGLAPALAP, MARSHALL group, report that they scored, from a low level, three direct hits on a beached ship, setting it on fire and registered a near miss on an anchored vessel. The antiaircraft fire from shore damaged one of our planes. Our personnel suffered no casualties.

At noon, 23 January, twenty-one Mitchell bombers, in two waves, blasted TAROA. They also strafed small craft, the airfield, planes and antiaircraft installations. The enemy attempted to intercept each of the flights with twenty-five Zeros, and in doing so, lost three planes, two probables, with four damaged. The antiaircraft fire was moderate. One of our planes suffered major casualties and three others received minor damage. Ten of our personnel were injured.

During 23 January, one of our search planes bombed and left in a sinking condition, thirty-five miles southeast of KWAJALEIN, an 8,000 ton enemy freighter which was being escorted by four auxiliaries.

During the evening of 23 January, twenty-four Liberators bombed WOTJE, placing ninety percent of their bombs in the target area. Fires were started. The enemy failed to intercept. A moderate antiaircraft fire was inaccurate. We suffered no damage or casualties.

The submarine CABRILLA, returning from ^{54 day} patrol in the SOUTH CHINA SEA, reports as follows:

4 January - During the afternoon, off CAPE PADARAN, FRENCH-INDO CHINA, sunk an enemy freighter of 4,070 tons and later in the evening, damaged another freighter of the same convoy, having a tonnage of 3,824 tons.

The submarine ARCHERFISH, torpedoed and sunk a large escorted enemy ship north of TAIWAN, on 22 January.

1 Formosa

SECRET**SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 24 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

At 11:00 a.m. 22 January, the Second Battalion of the 182nd Infantry reported that two of its men were wounded in the brush with an unknown number of JAPS in the northeast section of the TOROKINA perimeter.

In the same sector, on the west bank of the TOROKINA RIVER, the anti-tank company of the 164th Infantry came under rifle fire from the east bank, while scrutinizing a pocket south of the river forks.

On 23 January, between 4:25 a.m. and 5:36 a.m., the enemy dropped approximately twenty-five to thirty bombs on TOROKINA, killing three and wounding six.

SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 24 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The auxiliary oiler U.S.S. CACHE entered ESPIRITU SANTO at 4:00 p.m. 23 January. Late reports indicate that three of her tanks are badly holed, with others damaged. The explosion from the enemy torpedo blew two of her men over the side. The U. S. mine sweeper, SOUTHARD, rescued one of them.

The previously reported Mitchell bomber attack of 2:28 p.m. 22 January on LUNAKAI airdrome, RABAU, was covered by ninety-two of our fighters. It is stated that our fighters destroyed eighteen enemy fighters, plus two probables. Our losses were two Corsairs, one Kittyhawk and two Airacobras. One of the Airacobra pilots was rescued.

During 22 January, two Venturas bombed and strafed a suspected JAP radio station in the vicinity of MAMAGATA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE.

On 22 January, at 9:50 a.m., Dauntless dive bombers effectively hit enemy pillboxes in the jungle two miles east of MOTUPINA, south EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY.

During the evening of 22 January, a coordinated attack on RABAU was made by three Liberators, which dropped flares and six Mitchells, which made bombing runs. Numerous fires were started on the northeast side of RABAU, which were visible for seventy-five miles. Two of our Mitchell planes are overdue. At 8:10 p.m., thirty Liberators followed up the Mitchells on a bombing run and reported that two city blocks in RABAU were still on fire from the Mitchells earlier attack. The Liberators themselves started four large and seven small fires in the northeast section of RABAU. Many smaller fires were started, which subsequently caused large explosions. Photographs show eight gutted and six damaged buildings. The antiaircraft fire damaged one of the Liberators. No interception was made by the enemy, but two planes, identified as night fighters, were seen in the enemy search lights.

At 10:13 p.m. on 22 January a Liberator bombed BORPOP. The results were unobserved.

Sometime during 22 January, a patrol plane made a direct hit on a forty foot beached launch on the east coast of FENI ISLAND, NEW IRELAND. It also strafed and left in a burning condition one barge on the east coast of PINIPEL ISLAND, near NISSAN ISLAND, NEW IRELAND.

At 1:15 a.m. 24 January, a patrol plane attacked a ship in ST. GEORGE CHANNEL off CAPE GAZELLE. Results were unreported.

SECRET
72
S E C R E T
O S D L e t t e rUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 24 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

No report has been received as to the plane casualties suffered by the enemy.

After sunset, on 22 January, ten Liberators bombed ROI ISLAND, KWAJALEIN ATOLL. It is reported that ninety percent of the bombs found their target. Fires and explosions were observed and two two-engined bombers on the ground were damaged. The antiaircraft fire was moderate. Twelve to fifteen enemy fighters attempted an interception. One was destroyed and four probably and three others damaged. Antiaircraft fire hit three Liberators, causing minor damage and slight injury to one crewman.

Late in the afternoon and early evening of 22 January, seven Liberators and five Venturas, bombed EMIDJI, JALUIT ATOLL. Hits were made on antiaircraft positions, on a seaplane and on buildings in the barracks area. Three fires were started. The antiaircraft fire was moderate but inaccurate. The enemy made no attempt to intercept and no damage was done to our flight nor were any injuries received.

Around noon, on 22 January, nine Mitchell bombers blasted and strafed WOTJE ATOLL from a low altitude. Hits were made on the runways, a seaplane hangar building and on a 150 foot tanker. It is reported that one medium freighter was probably sunk. Two large fires were started. The antiaircraft fire was intense and fairly accurate, but no enemy air interception was attempted. Three of our planes received minor damage.

At noon, 22 January, twelve Mitchell bombers bombed and strafed KAVEN ISLAND, MALOELAP ATOLL. Two fires were started. About twenty-five to thirty fighters intercepted and some of these planes carried aerial bombs. Two Zeros were destroyed and one damaged. The antiaircraft fire was light. Three of our planes were lost, but one of our patrol rescue planes recovered the crew of one. Four of our planes were damaged and two of the crew received minor injuries.

During the early evening of 22 January, a Liberator bombed MILLE ATOLL and started fires in the barrack section. No air interception was made and no antiaircraft fire was received.

During the evening of 21 January, two enemy planes dropped bombs in the vicinity of TARAWA and did not cause any damage.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10-10-78

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 24 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A later report indicates that the auxiliary CACHE is now west of ESPIRITU SANTO, proceeding to her base, after having been torpedoed at 11:30 p.m., 22 January, approximately 150 miles southeast of SAN CRISTOBAL. One man was drowned. There were no other casualties reported.

On the morning of 21 January, two Venturas bombed and strafed an enemy radio station at KALAKAPISI, southwest central CHOISEUL ISLAND.

At 11:10 a.m., 21 January, six Airacobras strafed KARA and KIHILI. There were no planes or any other activity on the fields. The field at the former place was possibly serviceable, while at KIHILI, the field is unserviceable. One of our planes was damaged by antiaircraft fire at KARA and near TURIBOIRU MISSION, another plane was hit by machine gun fire, but all returned.

At 12:30 p.m., three Avengers bombed the bivouac section and anti-aircraft installations two miles south of MONOITU MISSION, in the interior of southern BOUGAINVILLE.

During the afternoon of 21 January, Mitchell bombers bombed KARA and made hits on the runway, the revetments, and antiaircraft positions. Two Dauntless dive bombers and two Avengers were slightly damaged and one man was wounded.

At 12:50 p.m., on 21 January, thirty-eight Liberators blasted BORPOP, making hits on the runway and antiaircraft positions.

At 6:15 p.m., 22 January, a Liberator bombed the BUKA airstrip with unobserved results.

At 1:04 a.m., 23 January, a patrol plane from GUADALCANAL, attacked two ships off the DUKE OF YORK ISLAND. The results were not reported.

During the afternoon of 22 January, reconnaissance planes reported three enemy barges concealed at the mouth of the REINI RIVER, northeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY. A gunboat from TOROKINA, during the night of 22-23 January, shelled these barges causing a fire.

At 2:28 p.m., 22 January, twenty-seven Mitchell bombers blasted the LUKUNAI airdrome at RABAU and made fifty-four hits on the runway, started three fires south of the strip and one northwest of the strip, which gave off black smoke visible for twenty miles. Before the bombing run was made, forty to seventy enemy fighters attempted an interception but were repulsed by our fighters. Antiaircraft fire shot down one Mitchell and damaged two others.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 23 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the early morning of 21 January, fifteen Liberators bombed ROI and KWAJALEIN ISLANDS, KWAJALEIN ATOLL. One fire was started on ROI ISLAND. No other results were observed. Light antiaircraft fire damaged one plane. No enemy planes were encountered.

On the morning of 21 January, twenty-three Army Dauntless and twelve Warhawks attacked JALUIT and strafed enemy installations on EMIDJ and TINJET, JALUIT ATOLL. A number of fires were started. Two small enemy craft were destroyed and an escort vessel damaged. No enemy planes were encountered. Light antiaircraft fire damaged two of our bombers.

At noon, 21 January, nine Mitchells bombed and strafed MILIE. Results were unreported. No enemy planes were encountered. Enemy antiaircraft fire was intense. Three planes were damaged by crash landings upon their return.

The submarine SEAHORSE reported sinking two freighters of a two-ship convoy, 285 miles southeast of PALAU ISLAND.

SECRETCLASSIFIED
SECRETDSD
South PacificUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 22 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Further details received on the strike against RABAU by eighteen Mitchells during the afternoon of 20 January, and reported in this morning's summary, indicate that our bombers were escorted by seventy fighters. The fighter cover engaged thirty-five - sixty enemy fighters. Fourteen enemy planes were shot down, plus two probables. We lost four fighters.

On the morning of 20 January, one Liberator started a fire in the enemy supply area at BONIS, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the morning of 20 January, two Venturas bombed and strafed a large enemy barge thirty miles southwest of CAPE ST. GEORGE. Results were unreported.

During the night of 20-21 January, an LCM gunboat fired twenty-two rounds of three-inch ammunition into the enemy supply dump at MAMAGATA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

On the early afternoon of 20 January, three squadrons of Liberators bombed an unidentified target on south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were unreported.

On 21 January, a reconnaissance plane bombed the northeast end of NUKIKI PLANTATION, northwest CHOISEUL ISLAND. Results were not reported.

During the night 21-22 January, motor torpedo boats attacked the JABA RIVER Area, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, and SALE ISLAND, off southwest BUKA, with mortar and small caliber fire.

Minor widespread PT and air activity in Central and South Pacific.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 22 January 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

sixty Zeros. One Lightning was shot down and another was forced down on the water in the vicinity of SHORTLAND ISLAND.

At 4:12 a.m. 20 January, five or eight bombs were dropped on STERLING ISLAND by one Japanese plane. Five grounded Mitchells were damaged. Two Mitchells and the main signal line on the island were destroyed. One New Zealander was killed, and three were wounded.

On the evening of 20 January, an unreported number of U. S. destroyers completed a bombardment of enemy positions at the JABA RIVER, MAWAREKA and MOTUPINA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area.

During the night of 20-21 January, two United States destroyers, operating in BOUGAINVILLE STRAIT, set on fire five enemy barges and damaged several. One enemy gunboat was sunk. Later, at 5:00 a.m. 21 January, these destroyers forced two more enemy barges aground, sank one raft and a small boat in the vicinity of CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND. Illumination was provided by a plane. Heavy machine gun fire slightly damaged our destroyers.

The auxiliary oiler CACHE was torpedoed about one hundred and fifty-five miles southwest of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Further details are not available at this time.

5100 tons

DECLASSIFIED
038 100-3-72
SECRET
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 22 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the morning of 20 January, twelve Venturas dropped eleven tons of bombs on EMIDJ, JALUIT. Results were unobserved. One plane failed to return, two others were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On the afternoon of 20 January, thirteen Liberators dropped twenty-five tons of bombs on WOTJE. One fire was started, other results, if any, were not observed. No enemy planes were encountered. One of our planes failed to return.

On 20 January, reconnaissance planes attacked two one-hundred ton enemy freighters at AILINGALAPLAP Atoll, MARSHALL ISLANDS, and set one on fire. On the same day, a reconnaissance plane scored one direct hit on a 4,000 ton enemy freighter twenty-five miles west of MALOELAP.

During the afternoon of 19 January, bivouac areas and the MARIRICI RIVER BRIDGE, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked by seventeen dive bombers. Results were not reported.

On the night of 19 January, two motor torpedo boats, assisted by a Catalina, engaged an enemy landing craft and a seventy-foot barge gunboat off CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND. One of the PT's sustained damage by shellfire, and two men were injured. Damage to the Japs, if any, was not reported.

During the night of 19-20 Jan., six Liberators, harassed the RABAU Area and started five fires at LAKUNAI, RABAU, NEW BRITAIN.

During the morning of 20 January, eleven bombs were dropped on the TOROKINA strip, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area, by an undetermined number of enemy planes. Two men were killed, three wounded. One bomb fell directly on a machine gun emplacement.

At 1:40 p.m. 20 January, eighteen Mitchells, covered by fourteen Lightnings, bombed and strafed the VUNAKANAU Area, RABAU, NEW BRITAIN, started a large fire, scored hits on a number of gun positions and possibly exploded an ammunition dump. One Mitchell was shot down, another was forced down on the water ten miles off CAPE GAZELLE, NEW BRITAIN. The bombers shot down one and probably another of about twelve intercepting Zeros. The fighter cover engaged about

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 21 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 7:45 p.m., 19 January, a bombardment of RAMANDATA-GOHI, north coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was completed by an unreported number of United States destroyers.

During 19 January, a reconnaissance plane bombed one enemy barge at KONDAKANIMBOKO ISLAND, CHOISEUL BAY area. Two other reconnaissance planes attacked SIPISAI ISLAND, CHOISEUL BAY, and two Venturas attacked a barge thirty miles south of CAPE ST. GEORGE. Results of these attacks were not reported.

At 3:00 a.m., 20 January, a reconnaissance plane bombed a number of enemy barges north of NAMATANAI, central coast of NEW IRELAND. One direct hit was scored.

The submarine HADDOCK, on 19 January, scored two and possibly four torpedo hits on an enemy aircraft carrier one hundred miles southeast of GUAM.

The submarine BATFISH sank one and probably one other enemy vessel (type or tonnage unknown), 195 miles south of KOBE.

4) The submarine which was reported yesterday as attacking & damaging an enemy aircraft carrier 100 miles east of Guam has now been identified as the HADDOCK.

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 21 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At noon, 17 January, six photo planes, escorted by twelve PB4Y's, reconnoitered KUSAIE, CAROLINE ISLANDS, and bombed harbor installations. No enemy planes or antiaircraft fire were encountered.

During the early evening of 17 January, five enemy planes ineffectively dropped twenty-nine bombs in the TARAWA LAGOON.

On the morning of 19 January, seventeen Mitchells, operating from TARAWA, dropped eleven tons of bombs on enemy installations at MILE. A number of fires were started. Out of six grounded enemy planes, five were damaged. No interception was encountered. Intense and accurate antiaircraft fire shot down two Mitchells and seriously damaged three. Four bombers sustained light damage.

On the morning of the same day, nine Warhawks, operating from MAKIN, strafed and set on fire a small corvette at JALUIT, MARSHALL ISLANDS, and probably sank a small sailing vessel. No enemy planes or antiaircraft fire were encountered.

During the night of 17-18 January, three Liberators dropped bombs on LAKUNAI, RABAU area, NEW IRELAND, and started a fire in the northeast revetments. A number of hits were scored along the runway.

At 12:40 p.m., 18 January, thirty-four Mitchells, escorted by seventy-two fighters strafed TOBERA, RABAU area, NEW IRELAND. Forty-five fires were started. One grounded enemy plane was destroyed, twelve more were damaged, and some field equipment probably damaged. After the attack our bombers were intercepted by fifteen to twenty Zeros. In the ensuing engagement, the bombers shot down three of the enemy fighters and probably one more. We lost one bomber and three sustained light damage. Although a complete report of enemy planes downed is not on hand, our fighter planes apparently engaged more than thirty enemy planes and probably shot down upwards of sixteen.

On the night of 18-19 January, five Liberators bombed LAKUNAI and VUNAKANAU, RABAU area, NEW BRITAIN. Results were not observed.

During the night 18-19 January, enemy dock installations in CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, were bombed by one of our planes (type unidentified). On the same night an LCM gunboat fired forty-eight rounds of three inch ammunition into the AITARA area, west BOUGAINVILLE. Results were unobserved. No return fire was encountered.

COMINCH FILE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 20 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 18 January, twenty-five Army Dauntless dive bombers and eight Warhawks dropped bombs on fuel installations on JABOR, JALUIT ATOLL. A fire was started. Intense antiaircraft fire shot down two of our dive bombers, but the crew of one was later recovered.

On 19 January, twelve Mitchells attacked enemy installations at MILLE. A fighter plane on the runway was damaged. Nine of our planes were damaged and three men injured by antiaircraft fire. No enemy planes were encountered.

The submarine, BLUEFISH, returning from patrol of the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES waters, reported the destruction of two loaded tankers, totaling 14,035 tons.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET**SECRET**

4 p.m. 19 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of 17 January, nine Mitchells bombed the radio towers, warehouse, runway and antiaircraft positions on MILLE. Two large fires were started. No enemy aircraft were encountered. Antiaircraft fire damaged three of our planes.

At 1:00 p.m. 17 January, twenty-four dive bombers and eighteen torpedo bombers, covered by seventy fighters, attacked enemy shipping at RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Out of eight cargo vessels anchored on the west side of SIMPSON HARBOR, three blew up and sank, two were set on fire, one was left sinking and direct hits were scored on the remainder. At least one hundred enemy fighters intercepted the attack, and of these eighteen were shot down, plus fifteen probably shot down. Thirteen of our planes failed to return.

On the afternoon of 17 January, torpedo bombers attacked a bridge at south MONOITU MISSION, SOUTHWEST interior BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

On 17 January, a reconnaissance plane bombed a small boat and a dry dock on the east coast of PARAMA ISLAND, CHOISEUL BAY Area. That morning, another reconnaissance plane encountered and probably damaged a medium bomber northeast of AMBITLE ISLAND. During the evening of 18 January, a reconnaissance plane bombed and destroyed buildings and huts on the northeast coast of NEW IRELAND.

During the night of 17-18 January, seven Liberators attacked RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires were started.

At 10:30 p.m. 16 January, a reconnaissance plane scored three hits on an enemy vessel sixty miles northwest of KAVIENG.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

OSD Databases

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 19 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 18 January, a reconnaissance plane attacked a small enemy freighter, fifteen miles northeast of KWAJALEIN and, in turn, was attacked by four enemy fighters. One enemy plane was probably shot down.

During the night of 16-17 January, six to twelve Japanese planes bombed the TOROKINA area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Twenty-five to thirty-five bombs were dropped which killed one, wounded three and caused a small amount of damage.

The submarine FLASHER, on 18 January, sank a 6,000 ton freighter, 235 miles southwest of MARCUS ISLAND.

The submarine WHALE, sank the third ship of an enemy convoy previously attacked by the submarine SEAWOLF. *(at which time the Seawolf*

sank two ships, south of the Empire.)

SECRETS D 5-3-72
SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 18 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At dawn, 16 January, four Airacobras shot down two Japanese medium bombers over MILLE. At noon, 16 January, twenty-five Army Dauntless dive bombers, sixteen Airacobras and eight Warhawks, bombed and strafed enemy installations on MILLE. Intense antiaircraft fire shot down one Airacobra. Another plane crashed upon returning but the pilot bailed out. Four other planes sustained minor damage. Two men were slightly injured.

On 16 January, reconnaissance planes destroyed a small enemy cargo vessel at LIKIEP ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Another was damaged and left sinking.

During the night of 15-16 January, MAKIN was raided three times and TARAWA twice. The Japs employed eight planes in each raid. At MAKIN forty-six casualties were suffered, of these five were killed and seven seriously injured. No material damage was sustained. One of the enemy planes was shot down by a fighter operating from MAKIN.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
ON 10-1-78
S E T

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 17 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 14-15 January, about six enemy bombs were dropped on TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. No damage was sustained.

An unreported number of torpedo and dive bombers, attacked enemy positions from 3:00 p.m., 15 January to 3:00 p.m., 16 January, in the north TOROKINA section, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Definite results were not reported, although the area was well covered.

At 9:30 a.m., 15 January, twenty-four Liberators and sixty-two fighters bombed the plantation at EAST CAPE, NEW IRELAND.

On 15 January, Airacobras strafed eleven barges and three trucks at CHABAI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two of the barges were sunk.

During the day, an unreported number of Corsairs bombed the enemy supply area at MARIRICI, southeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY. Bombs were also dropped on bridges over the TEKESSE RIVER, and on a bridge in the vicinity of the NOMOITY MISSION-MAMAGAJA ROAD, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 10:40 p.m. 14 January and at 2:10 a.m. 15 January, three Liberators struck LAKUNAI. One bombed TOBERA and another bombed the northeast section of RABAU TOWN, NEW BRITAIN. No enemy planes were encountered.

Later reports indicate that in the engagement over RABAU on 14 January, thirty-two enemy planes were shot down instead of twenty-nine as previously reported. Thirteen were probably shot down instead of sixteen.

SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 17 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 2:50 p.m., 16 January, nine Mitchells attacked enemy shipping and installations at MALOELAP, MARSHALL ISLANDS. One medium size freighter and a small freighter were possibly sunk. A fuel dump, hangars, buildings and the runway were damaged. Four and possibly five grounded medium enemy bombers were damaged. Forty to fifty enemy fighters intercepted and of these, two were probably destroyed. We lost one bomber, one sustained major damage and seven others minor damage. Two of the personnel were injured.

The submarine SEAHORSE sank a loaded medium enemy transport about 330 miles northwest of TRUK.

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 17 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 13-14 January, enemy planes dropped bombs on the RUSSELL ISLANDS, SEGI, TOROKINA and MUNDA. One grounded dive bomber was demolished and a torpedo bomber damaged. The mat at the PIVA air strip was slightly damaged. No casualties were sustained. One enemy plane was shot down by a Corsair.

During the night of 13-14 January, enemy installations in the RABAU, NEW BRITAIN area, were under air attack. Six Liberators struck at LAKUNAI, five attacked VANUKUNAU and two dropped bombs on RABAU TOWN. MALAGUNA was attacked by one Liberator as was RAPPOPO. Two Liberators bombed KIHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A large explosion was observed at LAKUNAI and hits were scored on revetments and the runway. Several small fires were started at VANUKUNAU. LAKUNA was later bombed by six torpedo bombers, but results were not reported.

On the early morning of 14 January, twelve Mitchells bombed VANUKUNAU, CAPE GAZELLE and EAST CAPE, NEW IRELAND. Results were unobserved. One of our planes failed to return.

At 12:30 p.m., 14 January, thirty-six dive bombers, sixteen torpedo bombers, and seventy-three fighters, attacked enemy shipping in SIMPSON HARBOR, RABAU, NEW IRELAND. Direct hits were scored on seven cargo vessels and a number of near misses were observed. A direct hit and four near misses were scored on a destroyer. One direct hit was observed on what appeared to be a light cruiser. During the approach thirty enemy fighters were encountered and during the attack sixty or seventy enemy fighters intercepted our planes. Twenty-nine enemy fighters were shot down and sixteen probably shot down. We lost ten planes, but four pilots were recovered.

At 3:30 p.m., 14 January, twelve dive bombers and five Airacobras dropped bombs in the vicinity of WAKUNAI, west NUMA NUMA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. During the day, air patrols bombed and strafed NUMA NUMA and TENEKAU. A number of huts were destroyed.

At 3:50 p.m., 14 January, a Lightning fighter shot down one enemy plane (type unidentified), in the vicinity of TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. This brought the total of enemy planes destroyed, during 14 January, to thirty-one and sixteen probables.

SECRET

SECRET

OSD Letter 12-72

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 16 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 3:00 a.m., 15 January, twelve Liberators bombed ROI and NAMUR ISLANDS, KWAJALEIN ATOLL. Many fires and large explosions, visible for thirty miles, indicated considerable damage. No enemy planes were encountered. All our planes returned.

Later that morning, three Mitchells made a low altitude attack on shipping at WOTJE. One medium size cargo vessel was sunk and two others possibly damaged. Intense antiaircraft fire damaged one of our bombers. All our planes returned.

The submarine PUFFER, returned from patrol of the MANILA area, after sinking one destroyer (1,868 tons), and damaging 25,200 tons of enemy shipping. An additional 5,800 tons was possibly damaged.

The submarine BALAO, returned from patrol of the TRUK area and the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO, after damaging one 8,500 ton enemy freighter-trans-
port.

DECLASSIFIED
8-72
SECRET
OSD 1-1-1
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 15 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 12-13 January, sixteen Liberators attacked the LAKUNAI runway and the revetment area at TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Light antiaircraft fire slightly damaged one of our planes.

At 5:30 a.m. 13 January, six torpedo bombers launched torpedoes against enemy cargo vessels in SIMPSON HARBOR, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Results of this attack were unobserved. All of our planes returned, but one was damaged by light antiaircraft fire.

At 5:55 a.m. 13 January, eleven Mitchells completed bombing and strafing attacks on TOBERA, RAPOPO and the WIDE BAY Area, NEW BRITAIN. Results were not reported.

On 13 January the TINPUTS Area, NORTH BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was strafed by four Airacobras and a fire started. At about the same time, three dive bombers destroyed one end of the FURIATA RIVER bridge, south interior BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

An unreported number of enemy planes ineffectively dropped four bombs southwest of the BARAKOMA Airstrip, VELLA LAVELLA, during the early morning of 13 January.

On 13 January, JAPANESE positions in the NUMA NUMA Area, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by twelve dive bombers.

At 5:00 p.m., 13 January, a JAPANESE bomber dropped five bombs in the repair area of the MUNDA airstrip, NEW GEORGIA. Three of our grounded planes were badly damaged, and seven more sustained damage. A number of fuel drums were set on fire. In a second attack, the enemy plane dropped five more bombs north of the airstrip, killed one man, wounded twenty-three Army personnel.

On the early morning of 14 January, a reconnaissance plane strafed two beached enemy barges on the southeast shore of FENI ISLAND, east of NEW IRELAND.

At 6:10 a.m. 14 January, a JAPANESE plane sneaked in behind three of our planes, coming into TREASURY ISLAND, dropped three bombs, which killed one man and wounded nine, but caused no material damage.

At 9:01 p.m. 14 January, a barge (type unreported) in tow of a tanker was torpedoed apparently by an enemy submarine about two hundred and seventy miles east of ESPIRITU SANTO. Fourteen survivors have been recovered; eight are reported missing.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
SECRET
SECRET

9 a.m. 15 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Photographs taken of the Mitchell bomber attack on MALOELAP, 11 January, show a destroyer on fire and a 3,000 ton enemy freighter on fire.

During the afternoon of 12 January, twenty-one Dauntless dive bombers and twenty Airacobras, operating from APAMAMA, GILBERT ISLANDS, dropped six tons of bombs on MILE and started a small fire. No enemy planes were encountered. Two dive bombers were slightly damaged by heavy antiaircraft fire.

On the late afternoon of 13 January, nine Mitchells, operating from TARAWA, bombed and strafed enemy installations at WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Hits were scored on a number of small vessels. No enemy planes were encountered.

During the morning of 13 January, twenty-one Dauntless dive bombers and sixteen Airacobras bombed the barracks area on MILE and strafed six grounded planes. Two fires were started in the barracks area, but results of the attack on the planes were not observed. No airborne enemy planes were encountered. One dive bomber was damaged by light antiaircraft fire.

At 7:45 a.m. 13 January, an unreported number of our destroyers completed a bombardment of the north coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The CHINPUTTS-UMUM Areas and the camp area at RURI BAY were well covered. A number of fires started.

During the night of 12-13 January, one enemy plane dropped a bomb without effect in the TOROKINA Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. At the same time, one enemy plane was shot down by a Ventura night fighter.

At 4:00 a.m. 13 January, an unidentified Allied plane dropped a bomb and started a large fire on KONDAKANIMBOKO ISLAND, CHOISEUL BAY.

The submarine RAY sank 10,020 tons of enemy shipping and probably sank 18,686 tons. //

The submarine SEAWOLF reported blowing up a medium sized freighter loaded with gasoline on 14 January. //

SECRET**SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 14 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 1:50 a.m., 13 January, one enemy plane believed to be a medium bomber, dropped six 100 pound bombs on the MUNDA air strip. Two men were slightly wounded, one grounded Liberator and a torpedo bomber were slightly damaged.

During the night of 12-13 January, about twelve to fifteen enemy bombers dropped bombs on TARAWA. One Ventura was seriously damaged and six others sustained minor damage. A small amount of drum gasoline was destroyed. The machine shop at MULLINIX air field was destroyed. Personnel casualties: one dead, five injured.

On 12 January, eight Liberators, attacked enemy shipping at KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Four medium size cargo vessels and two 150 foot vessels were set on fire. Hits were scored on shore installations. Eight grounded enemy planes were destroyed by strafing. No enemy planes were encountered but two of our bombers sustained damage by antiaircraft fire.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 14 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 11 January, sixteen Liberators attacked TAROA, MARSHALL ISLANDS. This attack was reported in the morning summary of 13 January, but at that time the target was unknown.

On 11 January, four Airacobras strafed the NUMA NUMA area, on the north-east central coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

During the night of 11-12 January, a night fighter bombed the enemy bivouac area at BONIS, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and started a number of fires.

Thirteen Mitchells, at 6:40 a.m., 12 January, attacked air field installations at VUNAKANU, RABAU area, NEW BRITAIN. Seven grounded enemy planes were destroyed. In addition, about six ships or barges were strafed in KERA VIA BAY. Results of this attack were unreported. No enemy planes were encountered. All our planes returned.

During the night of 12-13 January, our positions on TREASURY ISLAND were raided three times by six planes in each raid. About fifteen bombs dropped on the eastern end of STIRLING ISLAND, killed five men and wounded fifty-two. Material damage, if any, has not been reported.

At 11:41 a.m., 12 January, ¹⁹~~nineteen~~ Liberators, escorted by ⁵²~~fifty-two~~ fighters, bombed TOBERA, RABAU area, NEW BRITAIN. A number of hits were scored on a road in the vicinity of the runway and near the south revetments. The escorting planes engaged about thirty-four enemy fighters and destroyed three. Two more enemy planes were shot down by the bombers and three more probably shot down. Two ~~of the~~ Liberators were damaged by aerial bombs and ~~another~~ was damaged by enemy fighters.

At 11:32 a.m., 12 January, one Liberator dropped bombs on the BUKA supply area and another bombed KIHILL, early on the afternoon of the same day. Both planes returned.

At 3:00 p.m., 12 January, two torpedo bombers struck at enemy bridges, MONOITU area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 13 January, one Airacobra bombed the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and set six huts on fire. Four Kittyhawks strafed RAVA HARBOR, north BOUGAINVILLE. Results were not observed.

SECRET**SECRET**UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 13 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 11 January, another enemy plane dropped eight bombs in the water at MAKIN. Additional enemy planes were over APEMAMA, dropping bombs at the southwest end of the air strip with no damage.

At dusk, on 11 January, nine Mitchell medium bombers, hit shipping and antiaircraft installations on the MALOELAP Atoll. Two five hundred pound bombs hit a 5,000 ton freighter amidships, probably sinking her. A light cruiser or destroyer was hit by one five hundred pound bomb and further damaged by strafing. A one hundred and fifty foot sloop was sunk. Antiaircraft installations on BEBI, TJAN, TAR and OLOT ISLANDS were damaged. Some five to seven Zeros attempted an interception and two were probably damaged. All our planes returned, but two received slight damage.

During the night of 11 January, the submarine STURGEON attacked a seven-ship escorted convoy near BUNGO SUIDO, EMPIRE waters, and made one torpedo hit in a 7,000 ton tanker. The submarine SEAWOLF, which was in the vicinity, reports that she sunk the crippled tanker along with the towing ship for a total of 16,000 tons.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 13 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 11 January, at 1:43 p.m., eighteen Avengers, forty-eight Dauntless planes, with twenty-two fighters, bombed CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. They made three hits on antiaircraft positions, near the radar station, started a fire and demolished one building. The enemy did not intercept, but twenty-eight high flying Lightnings destroyed a Zero, and probably knocked down four more. All our planes returned.

On 11 January, at 10:15 a.m., six Dauntless dive bombers hit the bivouac area at MAWAREKA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, with unobserved results.

The MOSIGETTA bivouac area, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, was bombed 11 January at 2:30 p.m., by four Dauntless dive bombers and two Avengers. The results were unreported.

During 11 January, two flights of Airacobras from TOROKINA strafed the east coast of BOUGAINVILLE from NUMA NUMA to KOROMIRA. Results were not observed.

During the night of 10-11 January, a patrol plane from GUADALCANAL bombed the radar at CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. Results were not reported.

It is reported that fighters and Liberators, under command of Admiral Halsey, have destroyed, in the air, between 30 December - 7 January enemy planes in the amount of one hundred and five.

During the night of 11 January, sixteen Liberators hit an unreported target in the eastern MARSHALLS, starting fires which were visible for forty miles. Explosions were also seen. Two twin-engined enemy planes were destroyed. All our planes returned.

During the night of 11 January, five Liberators bombed MILLE Atoll with unobserved results. No losses or casualties were suffered by our planes.

On 11 January, at 1:00 p.m., ten Navy Liberators made a low-level attack on KWAJALEIN ISLAND against shipping. Our flight received no interception from the enemy and their antiaircraft fire was weak. Two freighters were sunk and four smaller ones were damaged. Bomb hits were scored on antiaircraft positions at each end of the island. Two planes on the flying field were strafed. Docks, radio station headquarters and store houses on ENUBIL ISLAND were burned. No damage or casualties were suffered by our planes.

During the night of 10 January, an enemy bomber dropped four bombs into the lagoon at TARAWA. No damage was incurred.

SECRET**SECRET**UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 13 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 9 January, at 9:05 p.m., six Mitchell bombers bombed the LUKUNAI airfield, RABAU, with unobserved results.

Shortly after midnight 10 January, one of our night fighters bombed RABAU, starting large fires and exploding houses in the northeast corner of SIMPSON HARBOR. It also strafed and put out a searchlight near the hospital.

On 10 January, at 12:20 p.m., seventeen Mitchell bombers, twenty-two Dauntless planes and sixty-eight fighters, bombed the installations at CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. One bomb was dropped on antiaircraft positions northwest of the lighthouse. Although three to five Zeros were in the vicinity, they offered no resistance. Our planes received light antiaircraft fire, but all our planes returned.

On 10 January, at 2:00 p.m., five Avengers bombed enemy supply areas in the vicinity of MARIRIEI RIVER, southeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, destroying five huts.

During 10 January, patrol planes from our field at TOROKINA, bombed and strafed the CHABAI Area, BUKA.

On 10 January, at 1:25 p.m., ten Liberators hit the VUNAKANAU airdrome at RABAU, with unobserved results.

A little later the same day, at 1:40 p.m., five Liberators bombed KIHILI's supply area, and four additional Liberators bombed BUKA's Chinatown section, starting two fires.

Between 10 January, 10:08 p.m., and 11 January, 3:26 a.m., twenty Liberators made individual attacks on targets at RABAU. Bomb drops were made on LAKUNAI, VUNAKANAU and TOBERA airfields with unobserved results.

One of our low flying bombers was damaged slightly by antiaircraft fire. Two enemy planes which were observed near the formation offered no interception. All our planes returned.

During the afternoon of 11 January, one of our patrol planes from GUADALCANAL, strafed five barges or sampans in a small bay on the west coast of NEW IRELAND, approximately fifty miles south of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
PACIFIC
OSD-72

9 a.m. 13 January 1944.

It is reported that fighters and Liberators, under command of Admiral Halsey, have destroyed, in the air, between 30 December - 7 January enemy planes in the amount of 106.

On 11 January, at 1:00 p.m., ten Navy Liberators made a low-level attack on KWAJALEIN ISLAND against shipping. Our flight received no interception from the enemy and their antiaircraft fire was weak. Two freighters were sunk and four smaller ones were damaged. Bomb hits were scored on antiaircraft positions at each end of the island. Two planes on the flying field were strafed. Docks, radio station headquarters and store houses on ENUBIL ISLAND were burned. No damage or casualties were suffered by our planes.

At dusk, on 11 January, nine Mitchell medium bombers, hit shipping and antiaircraft installations on the MALOELAP Atoll. Two 500 pound bombs hit a 5,000 ton freighter amidships, probably sinking her. A light cruiser or destroyer was hit by one 500 pound bomb and further damaged by strafing. A 150 foot sloop was sunk. Antiaircraft installations on BEBI, THAN, TAR and OLOT ISLANDS were damaged. Some 5 to 7 Zeros attempted an interception and two were probably damaged. All our planes returned, but two received slight damage.

During the night of 11 January, the submarine STURGEON attacked a 7-ship escorted convoy near BUNGO SUIDO, EMPIRE waters, and made one torpedo hit in a 7,000 ton tanker. The submarine SEAWOLF, which was in the vicinity, reports that she sunk the crippled tanker along with the towing ship for a total of 16,000 tons.

~~SECRET~~

- 1 -

Regraded Unclassified

SECRET**SECRET**UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 11 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A more detailed report of the surface bombardment during the night of 8 January, of the SHORTLAND-POPORANG-FAISI area, indicates that Task Force 38, comprising the light cruisers HONOLULU and ST. LOUIS and five destroyers, thoroughly covered POPORANG ISLAND with thirteen hundred six-inch and two thousand five-inch shells, which started three fires and undoubtedly silenced the shore batteries. KOROVO, on the southeastern side of SHORTLAND ISLAND, was also attacked and blanketed by a thousand six-inch and eight hundred twenty-five five-inch shells, which ignited a fuel dump that burned for several hours. Enemy known shore batteries returned our fire only at intervals but their nearest splashes missed our ships by about five hundred yards. Despite a well placed enemy star shell pattern, the smoke screen put down by our van destroyers, effectively blotted out our light cruisers.

During the night of 10-11 January, one of our patrol planes, from the TOROKINA airfield bombed inter-island barge traffic in the CHOISEUL BAY area, CHOISEUL ISLAND. One barge was sunk and one was damaged.

On 11 January, at 1:30 p.m., a patrol plane from GUADALCANAL, reported shooting down one enemy bomber off the southern end of MUSSAU ISLAND.

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

On 10 January, Company I of the 82nd Infantry, opened an attack against the enemy on the south side of the east to west trail, near the eastern end of our defenses at TOROKINA. Twenty-five of the enemy were killed. Our only casualty; one officer, who was slightly wounded.

SECRET31 DEC 1944
050 200 2-72
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 11 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 10 January (east longitude date), navy search Liberators bombed KWAJALEIN ISLAND without interruption from enemy fighters. Antiaircraft fire was encountered but all our planes returned safely.

During the night of 10 January (east longitude date), navy search Liberators made a mine plant on and also attacked WOTJE from a very low altitude. Large fires were started and antiaircraft installations were damaged. Two enemy planes were destroyed, one small tanker and a patrol vessel were sunk.

In the evening of 10 January (east longitude date), Army Liberators bombed WOTJE with unknown results.

During the morning of 9 January (east longitude date), Mitchell bombers attacked EMIDJI ISLAND, in the JALUIT ATOLL. One near miss with a 500 pound bomb was scored on two 100 foot vessels at the north end of EMIDJI. One of our planes was damaged by antiaircraft fire and one man was wounded.

The submarine GATO, returning from a war patrol, in the southwest PACIFIC, reports as follows:

- 29 November - south of PELEW, damaged a freighter of 500 tons.
- 30 November - in the same general vicinity, sunk a freighter-transport of 5,600 tons.
- 20 December - while patrolling south of PELEW, fired six torpedoes at two south bound MARUS, with two escorts, and sunk a freighter-tanker of 9,000 tons and a freighter of 6,500 tons.

The GATO was severely depth-charged subsequent to the attack. She surfaced two hours later to find an unexploded depth-charge on her deck, just over the after battery. The depth-charge was floated off in a rubber boat in hopes that the Jap escorts might come charging down on it. While making a surface search for the targets she had hit, the GATO ran into the ship's escorts, but evaded them.

The submarine FLYING FISH, returning from a patrol in the CENTRAL PACIFIC, reports sinking one freighter and one tanker during December, for a total of 15,000 tons.

The submarine SEAWOLF, on 10 January, sunk one freighter.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET****SECRET**

4 p.m. 10 January 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 8-9 January, an unreported number of Venturas dropped bombs on POPORANG ISLAND. Results were not reported.

At 1:30 p.m. 9 January, two squadrons of Liberators bombed VUNAKANAU, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. Results were unreported. All of our planes returned. At about the same time, twenty-three dive bombers and sixteen torpedo bombers, escorted by seven squadrons of fighter planes, attacked TOBERA, RABAU Area, NEW BRITAIN. A number of hits were scored on the runway and on antiaircraft gun positions, in the vicinity of the runway. A grounded enemy plane appeared to have been destroyed.

About twelve to fifteen enemy fighters attacked our bombers and released a number of aerial bombs without effect. Two dive bombers and four torpedo bombers were damaged by enemy antiaircraft fire. The fighter escort engaged about forty enemy fighters and of these shot down sixteen, and probably another. We lost one Hellcat and two Kittyhawks.

At 3:20 p.m. 9 January, two torpedo bombers set on fire a number of huts in the KIAREA Area, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 9:44 a.m., 9 January, the BUKA seaplane base was bombed by eight Mitchells. Results were unreported. Another Mitchell dropped bombs on the KIHILI supply area.

On 9 January, eight Airacobras strafed the RAMUSIAN RIVER Area and the TINPUTS Area, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not observed.

The lookout tower at CAPE DUNGANON, west coast of BUKA ISLAND, was strafed by fighter planes. Results were unobserved.

At 3:00 a.m. 10 January, two of our destroyers bombarded the CHOISEUL BAY Area, CHOISEUL ISLAND. A number of fires were started.

SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 10 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 8 January, a reconnaissance plane strafed four enemy barges off the east coast of AMBITLE ISLAND. One of the barges was subsequently beached. The enemy barge staging center, in the area, was also strafed.

The submarine MUSKELUNGE, operating in the PACIFIC, reported as follows:

22 December - possibly damaged a 7,000 ton freighter.

28 December - sank an ammunition carrying vessel.

6 January - damaged a tanker.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 9 January 1944.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Letter, 8-3-78SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:19 p.m., 8 January, an unreported number of United States light cruisers and destroyers, bombarded the SHORTLAND-FAISI-POPORANG area. A number of fires were started. Some enemy shore fire was encountered but this apparently was not effective.

At 9:30 a.m., 8 January, ten Mitchells attacked enemy concentrations on SIPOSAI and KONDAKANIMBOKO ISLANDS, CHOISEUL BAY area, CHOISEUL ISLAND.

At 1:40 p.m., an unreported number of Liberators dropped bombs on KIHILI. Results were not reported. The PURIATA RIVER bridge, near KIA BAY, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was partially destroyed by six torpedo bombers. Bombs were also dropped on a bivouac area in the vicinity.

An unreported number of torpedo bombers, dive bombers and Venturas, strafed an enemy destroyer, three patrol craft, and set on fire two enemy barges, near BUKA PASSAGE. One Corsair failed to return.

An unidentified United States submarine, operating in the CELEBES-CERAM area, sank two and damaged one large enemy ship.

An enemy convoy was attacked by an unidentified United States submarine, forty-five miles southeast of the ADMIRALTY ISLANDS. Although results were not immediately observed, a subsequent count of the convoy indicated one ship missing.

On 6 January, a reconnaissance plane scored a 500 pound bomb hit on a small enemy vessel at JABOR, JALUIT.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 9 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

An unreported number of our motor torpedo boats, during the night of 6-7 January, engaged three enemy landing craft off the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Small caliber hits were scored by both sides. Enemy coastal guns ineffectively bombarded our boats during the engagement.

On the same night, an LCI gunboat shelled the CHOISEUL BAY area, CHOISEUL ISLAND, and a Ventura dropped bombs on MORGUSIA ISLAND, southeast of SHORTLAND ISLAND.

On the morning of 7 January, twenty-four dive bombers and eighteen torpedo bombers, covered by eight squadrons of fighter planes, attacked radar and antiaircraft installations on CAPE ST. GEORGE, south NEW IRELAND. A number of fires were started. Forty or seventy enemy fighters intercepted and attacked the bombers over ST. GEORGE CHANNEL. The enemy planes dropped a number of aerial bombs. Ten enemy fighters were destroyed and two probably destroyed. We lost two bombers and three Hellcats, two of the latter by collision. Another dive bomber crashed upon its return but the crew was recovered.

On 7 January, two Liberators dropped bombs on KIHILI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and another bombed KIETA, east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results of these attacks were not reported.

At 11:32 a.m., 7 January, ten Liberators bombed VUNAKANAU, NEW BRITAIN. Results were unobserved.

On the morning of 7 January, twenty-two Army Dauntless dive bombers and eleven Hellcats bombed and strafed JALUIT. No enemy planes were encountered. Heavy antiaircraft fire damaged three of the dive bombers.

During the night of 7-8 January, an enemy reconnaissance plane dropped two bombs, without effect, on several of our small patrol craft in the vicinity of TOROKINA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY area.

At 6:45 p.m., 8 January, three enemy planes dropped eighteen bombs on TARAUA, without damage.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET~~SECRET~~

OSD L-100

9 a.m. 8 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At midnight 6 January, six Liberators, operating from NUKE FETAU, ELLICE ISLANDS, and staging through TARAUA, bombed TAROA, MALEOLAP, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Eight other Liberators bombed WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Large fires were observed at both places. No enemy planes were encountered. All of our planes returned without damage.

The submarine TARTOG, operating in the PACIFIC, reported as follows:

27 December - damaged one 8,000 ton freighter and a 5,000 ton passenger vessel.

3 January - sank two freighters 6,680 tons and 3,000 tons, respectively.

The submarine PETO, on 7 January, sank an 8,200 ton freighter one hundred and eighty-five miles north northwest of the ADMIRALTY

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
ON 10-1-73
BY SP-7
OSD L

4 p.m. 7 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the morning of 6 January, an unreported number of Lightnings shot down nine enemy fighter planes and four probables over RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Two of the Lightnings failed to return. In addition, our planes strafed BORPOP, southeast coast of NEW IRELAND, and destroyed a grounded enemy medium bomber. Villages and houses between CAPE SENA and CAPE NARUN, southeast coast NEW IRELAND, were also strafed.

On 6 January, a Corsair was attacked by twenty or thirty enemy fighter planes over ST. GEORGES CHANNEL, but succeeded in escaping after shooting down one of the attackers.

During 6 January, six Mitchells bombed and strafed installations at KUKURE PLANTATION, KONDAKANIMBOKO and other islands in the CHOISEUL BAY Area.

At 10:16 a.m. 6 January, ten Mitchells bombed TONOLEI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and possibly damaged enemy antiaircraft installations.

At 3:00 p.m. 6 January, three torpedo bombers attacked MOSIGETTA, destroyed six huts and possibly started a fire in an ammunition dump.

At 6:45 p.m. 6 January, three Venturas attacked installations at TEREKUKURE, in the CHOISEUL BAY Area.

During the night of 6-7 January, motor torpedo boats were bombed, apparently without effect, three times off CAPE LALALAN, south BUKA ISLAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

6 January 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the morning of 5 January, twenty-four dive bombers attacked enemy bivouac areas and bridges in the vicinity of MEIVO and KIARAE, southwest interior of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A direct hit was scored on a bridge and a fire was started at MEIVO.

Six Mitchells bombed and strafed enemy concentrations in CHOISEUL BAY, northwest CHOISEUL ISLAND, during the morning of 5 January. Enemy barges near SIPOSWI and GUPPY ISLANDS, CHOISEUL BAY, were strafed by these bombers, but results were unobserved.

At 11:35 a.m. 5 January, nine Mitchells bombed MAHELA MISSION, south interior BUKA ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

On the same morning, six Liberators attacked enemy installations on POPORANG ISLAND. Two other Liberators bombed TONOLEI, three struck at KIHILI, and one bombed FAURU ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area. Results of these attacks were unobserved.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 6 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 4 January, seven Corsairs strafed four enemy barges in ST. GEORGE CHANNEL, and apparently destroyed one which was observed to explode. These planes, later, attacked the GAZELLE PENINSULA, NEW BRITAIN coastline, and started a number of fires.

T-2 in Scouts.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
1950

9 a.m. 6 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 3 January, an unreported number of Venturas, operating from TARAWA, GILBERT ISLANDS, scored two hits on a cargo transport at JALUIT. Results of bombs dropped on another transport in the area were not observed.

On the same day, twenty-four Army Dauntless dive bombers, covered by twenty-four Airacobras, attacked MILE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. No enemy planes were encountered. One of the fighter planes was shot down by antiaircraft fire.

Enemy planes dropped bombs on TARAWA, MAKIN and APAMAMA, on the night of 3 January, and again on TARAWA, 4 January, without damage to our installations.

On the morning of 4 January, eighteen Liberators, operating from NANOMEA, ELLICE ISLANDS, dropped twenty-two tons of bombs with unobserved results on JALUIT, MARSHALL ISLANDS. No enemy planes were encountered; four of our bombers sustained minor damage by antiaircraft fire.

During the night of 3-4 January, a Ventura dropped bombs on POPORANG ISLAND, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and started a number of fires. A night fighter dropped bombs on BUKA ISLAND.

An unreported number of Liberators attacked SOHANA ISLAND in BUKA PASSAGE, during the morning of 4 January. A number of hits were scored on the seaplane base and in the supply areas.

At 6:35 a.m., 4 January, MAWARAKA, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed by two torpedo bombers. Bombs fell on a road and in the vicinity of a bridge which was possibly damaged.

At 11:15 a.m., four Mitchells, dropped bombs on TONOLEI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

At 11:30 a.m., 4 January, twelve Mitchells attacked CHABAI, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One fire was started.

During the afternoon of 4 January, forty-two fighters were intercepted by thirty Japanese fighters over RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Ten enemy planes were shot down and five more probably shot down. Our losses, if any, were not reported.

On 4 January, BANIU, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed by four Airacobras. These planes then strafed the BONIS runway and villages in the vicinity. Four other Airacobras machine gunned enemy positions at PAPAS, on the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET
DECLASS
080 Letter E T

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 5 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:00 p.m., 3 January, ten enemy planes raided APAMAMA, GILBERT ISLANDS. Two PB4Y's were destroyed and two were damaged by the attack, instead of eleven grounded planes as reported in a previous despatch.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/10/00
BY 1045
SECRET

4 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 7:30 a.m. 3 January, six Liberators bombed an enemy transport in KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Results were unobserved. Nineteen enemy fighters intercepted our bombers. Three enemy planes were shot down. All of our bombers returned, although one was damaged.

At 8:15 a.m. 3 January, three Liberators dropped bombs on KIHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were unobserved. Later, six Mitchells attacked the bivouac area in the vicinity. Results of this attack were not reported.

During the morning of 3 January, three of our planes bombed SOHANA ISLAND in BUKA PASSAGE, north of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A fire was started.

On 3 January, eighteen Mitchells attacked enemy supply areas on the southeast tip of BUKA ISLAND. A number of hits were observed.

During the early afternoon of 3 January, forty-five dive bombers and twenty-four torpedo bombers attacked enemy positions in the SHORTLAND-FAISI Area. A number of direct hits were observed on heavy gun positions. A number of fires were started. All of our planes returned, although seven sustained damage by antiaircraft fire.

Between 7:40 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. 3 January, thirty-eight of our fighters fought twenty Zeros over RABAU. Five of the enemy planes were shot down, and five more probably shot down. We lost two Hellcats, one of these being piloted by Major Boyington, who fell after shooting down his twenty-sixth enemy plane.

COMINCH FILLED
3-78
SECRET
OSDSlet
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 4 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 2 January, five Liberators, operating from ELLICE ISLANDS, bombed WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Due to clouds, results were not observed. Out of thirty enemy fighters that intercepted, eight were destroyed and five more probably destroyed.

On the same day, nine Liberators dropped bombs on TAROA, MALOELAP, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Thirty enemy fighter planes intercepted and of these two were destroyed and two probably destroyed. We lost three Liberators but succeeded in rescuing the crew of one. Four of our planes were severely damaged and others sustained minor damage.

At about noon, 2 January, nine Mitchells bombed and shelled with 75 millimeter gunfire shore installations on JALUIT, MARSHALL ISLANDS. A number of fires were started. Heavy antiaircraft fire was encountered and one of our planes was shot down; another returned damaged.

At 8:00 p.m., 3 January, an unreported number of enemy planes bombed APAMAMA, GILBERT ISLANDS, and destroyed eleven grounded planes and damaged two. Two of the personnel were killed.

On 3 January, a reconnaissance plane attacked and severely damaged a small enemy freighter forty-five miles northwest of MILE, MARSHALL ISLANDS.

On the same day, another reconnaissance plane bombed UJELANG ISLAND, ENIWETOK ATOLL. A near miss was observed near the radio installations.

At 9:25 a.m., 4 January, aircraft from Task Group 37.2 (BUNKER HILL (CV), MONTEREY (CVL), plus destroyers), attacked two enemy destroyers in the KAVIENG area, NEW IRELAND. Both of the vessels were struck by torpedoes and bombs and it is believed that one sank and the other possibly sank.

SECRETDECLASS
OSD 1-1-82
SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 3 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:41 a.m., an unreported number of our Liberators bombed the KIHILI AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were unreported.

Shortly after midnight 2 January, a reconnaissance plane bombed three enemy barges five miles southeast of OEMA ISLAND, off southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A bomb hit was scored on one of the barges.

On 2 January, an unreported number of our planes dropped 900 pounds of bombs on ENYU ISLAND, BIKINI ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS.

At noon, 1 January, an unreported number of our planes sighted about twenty enemy Zeros over RABAU. The Japanese fighters were reluctant to engage. However, one of the enemy planes was damaged. All of our planes returned.

During the night of 1 January, a Corsair night fighter, engaged and destroyed a Japanese dive bomber over TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

There is considerable enemy barge activity off the southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. On 2 January, a Catalina exchanged fire with several of the enemy barges. Results were not reported.

At 10:00 a.m., 2 January, seventeen dive bombers and twelve torpedo bombers attacked enemy positions 5,000 yards east of the TOROKINA RIVER MOUTH, destroyed a number of huts and started several fires.

At 11:37 a.m., 2 January, twenty-four Mitchells, attacked the enemy supply area, northeast of the BUKA ISLAND airdrome. A number of fires were started.

An incomplete report indicates that at noon, 2 January, an unreported number of our fighters engaged about thirty Japanese planes over RABAU, NEW BRITAIN, shot down eleven and probably destroyed three more. We lost one Corsair.

At about noon, 2 January, two Venturas bombed the NUMA NUMA area, north east central coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results of this attack were not reported.

The submarine HERRING sank an enemy destroyer on 31 December, a passenger freighter (9,000 tons) and probably sank a freighter of 5,500 tons, on 1 January.

SECRET**SECRET**

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET
 HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
 NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 3 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 31 December and 1 January, two motor torpedo boats attacked and damaged one or two enemy barges in the vicinity of TORAU BAY, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One of our motor torpedo boats was damaged by machine gunfire.

At about 8:00 a.m., 1 January, eighteen dive bombers and sixteen torpedo bombers bombed the TOROKINA RIVER area in support of ground troops. A fuel dump was probably set on fire.

At 11:02 a.m., 1 January, six Mitchells attacked the area northeast of KIHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results of this attack were not reported.

At about the same time, four Venturas bombed and strafed an enemy barge hideout west of NUMA NUMA, central east BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

At 11:40 a.m., 1 January, thirty-three dive bombers attacked the MOSIGETTA area, southeast of EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, started three fires, destroyed two bridges and damaged a number of buildings.

On 1 January, four Airacobras bombed and damaged two enemy barges in TONOLEI HARBOR, SHORTLAND area. These planes then strafed huts at CAPE DUNGANON, central west coast of BUKA ISLAND, CHABAI, northwest coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and TAPSADAWATA, northeast coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results of these attacks were not reported.

On the same day, eight other Airacobras machine gunned the TOROKINA RIVER area, ROROVANA, central east coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, KIETA, central east coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and CHIROVANTE, central east interior BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

At about noon 1 January, fifteen Liberators, escorted by sixty fighters, attacked LAKUNAI, RABAU area, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires were started in the revetment area and a grounded enemy medium bomber was set on fire.

Out of approximately ninety enemy airborne fighters, about thirty or forty of these aggressively attacked our planes. Our bombers shot down upwards of fifteen enemy planes, seven probably and damaged one.

The fighters destroyed four Japanese planes and probably two more. One Liberator was shot down and a plane, as yet unidentified, crashed after colliding with a Hellcat. Heavy antiaircraft fire caused minor damage to four of our planes.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 2 January 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:30 a.m., 1 January, aircraft from Task Group 37.2 (BUNKER HILL (CV), MONTEREY (CVL), plus destroyers) located two heavy enemy cruisers and two destroyers about to enter KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

The enemy ships were attacked by the carrier-based aircraft at 11:00 a.m., with the following results: One 1,600 pound bomb and two 1,000 pound bomb hits, plus at least one torpedo hit were scored on one of the cruisers. The other cruiser was hit by a 1,600 pound bomb and a 1,000 pound bomb. In addition, two torpedo hits were observed, but these have not been definitely assigned. Both cruisers were set on fire, and one burned heavily. It is believed that both vessels either sank or were beached. Both of the destroyers were heavily strafed, and one was hit by a 1,000 pound bomb. It is believed that one of the destroyers sank after being set on fire. The other was badly damaged.

Our attack was intercepted by twenty to thirty enemy fighters, eleven of these were shot down, and, in addition, four probably shot down. One enemy medium bomber in the vicinity was also shot down. We lost two fighters and one dive bomber plus several planes damaged.

After the attack, our Task Group was shadowed by two enemy fighters. One of these was subsequently shot down. Up until 9:30 p.m., there were indications of enemy planes but none closed.

During the late afternoon 30 December, nine Mitchells, operating from TARAWA, dropped bombs and shelled JABOR, JALUIT Atoll, with seventy-five millimeter ammunition. Hits were scored on the radio, fuel dump and storage installations. All of our planes returned without damage.

The submarine GUNNEL, operating in the PACIFIC, reported sinking one 10,000 ton unidentified passenger freighter on 3 December.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET

4 p.m. 1 January 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the early morning of 31 December, one Ventura dropped bombs in the KIETA Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

Later that morning, the supply and personnel areas at KAHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by seventeen Mitchells and sixteen Liberators. Results were unobserved. All planes returned, but five Mitchells and one Liberator were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

At noon 31 December, four torpedo bombers and three dive bombers destroyed two bridges and one road near MONOITU MISSION, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 10:00 a.m. 31 December, seventeen Liberators, operating from NANOMEA, ELLICE ISLANDS and staging via TARAWA, GILBERT ISLANDS, bombed KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS. A near miss was observed on a medium-sized ship. No enemy planes were encountered. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one of our planes.

At 1:00 p.m. 31 December, twenty-four Airacobras and twenty-five Dauntless bombed and strafed MILE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Two fires were started. No enemy planes were encountered. One Dauntless was damaged by weak antiaircraft fire.

At 3:45 a.m. 1 January, a reconnaissance plane attacked an enemy submarine ten miles southeast of WIDE BAY, NEW BRITAIN. Results were not reported.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
ON 12-18-78
SECRET

9 a.m. 1 January 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 28-29 December, the submarine SILVERSIDES sank three and probably four enemy vessels, including a tanker.

The submarine HERRING reported sinking a 14,000 ton transport and probably a 7,000 ton tanker.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 31 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 29-30 December, a Liberator bombed enemy concentrations in BOUGAINVILLE. Near SHORTLAND, it was harried by three enemy night fighters.

During 30 December, one of our Venturas from TOROKINA bombed southern FAISI, BOUGAINVILLE.

On 30 December, at 11:13 a.m., eighteen unescorted Mitchell bombers, bombed KIHILI, southern BOUGAINVILLE. Three fires were started in the vicinity of the air strip.

On 30 December, at 11:50 a.m., incomplete reports indicate that nineteen Liberators hit RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Two Liberators suffered minor damage from heavy antiaircraft fire, one went down off CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND, and another one made a crash landing on the runway at MUNDA FIELD.

Another report of this strike states that from thirty to ninety enemy fighters intercepted, of which twelve were shot down, nine probably. The enemy used aerial bombs in attacking our air formations. It is stated that the major part of our bombs landed in RABAU and some on the east side of SIMPSON HARBOR. The bombing started fires.

On 30 December at 11:23 a.m., a Liberator bombed MALISI VILLAGE, slightly to the north of BUKA, BUKA ISLAND, and damaged buildings.

On 30 December, at 2:45 p.m., six Liberators blasted KOROVO, southeastern SHORTLAND ISLAND, with unobserved results.

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

For the twenty-four hours ending 30 December, 3:00 p.m., the activities of our ground forces were as follows: Units of the 37th Division, near CAPE MOLTKE outpost, engaged an enemy force, estimated nine in number, killing five of them. Three of our personnel were killed in action. A reconnaissance patrol moved approximately three hundred yards east of the TOROKINA RIVER, to observe the results of our artillery fire of the previous day, but the unit was forced to turn back upon discovery of an enemy ambush. It is reported that the bridge over the main KIHILI road is destroyed. Our small gunboats shelled the mouth of the TEHESSI RIVER, northeast of EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 31 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the afternoon of 28 December, eighteen Army Dauntless dive bombers, twenty Airacobras and nine Mitchells, bombed and strafed WILLE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. No enemy planes were encountered. Five of our planes returned slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 28 December, three photo planes and four escorts encountered ten to thirteen enemy fighters over KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Three of the enemy planes were shot down. We lost one and two returned damaged.

On 28 December, fourteen Liberators, operating from CANTON ISLAND, bombed MALOELAP, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Our bombers were intercepted by ten enemy fighters. The results of this encounter were not reported.

At noon 28 December, six out of sixteen Liberators, operating from ELLICE ISLANDS, dropped eighteen tons of bombs on MAJURO, MARSHALL ISLANDS. This flight was intercepted in the vicinity of MALOELAP, MARSHALL ISLANDS, by thirty-five to fifty enemy fighters. Two Zeros were destroyed, with ten more probably destroyed. Two of our bombers were shot down and twelve returned damaged.

Enemy planes twice raided TARAWA, GILBERT ISLANDS, during the evening of 28 December, and dropped their bombs without effect into the water.

During the evening of 29 December, four enemy planes bombed MAKIN ISLAND. Damage, if any, was not reported.

During the night of 28-29 December, one Ventura bombed the north end of SHORTLAND ISLAND with unobserved results. At about the same time a Liberator dropped bombs on KIHILI and KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET

9 a.m. 30 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 3:00 p.m., 27 December and 3:00 p.m., 28 December, paratroopers neutralized a strong point held by about thirty Japanese, six hundred yards east of the TOROKINA RIVER MOUTH, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. About ten or fifteen of the enemy were killed. Our casualties one killed, four wounded.

SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 30 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 27 December, a Ventura reconnaissance plane scored a direct hit on a large enemy freighter, fifty miles northeast of KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS, and strafed three of four motor torpedo boat escorts. Later, this plane attacked and set on fire a small tanker seventy-five miles southeast of KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS.

An unreported number of Venturas, operating from APEMAMA, GILEERT ISLANDS, bombed NAURU ISLAND on the early morning of 28 December. An ammunition dump was destroyed and two fires started. Three of our planes returned damaged by intense enemy antiaircraft fire.

On 28 December, the United States Destroyer WADSWORTH bombarded enemy positions in the vicinity of the RENEI RIVER, northeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Between 7:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m., 28 December, fourteen Liberators bombed the BONIS Supply Area. One Liberator dropped bombs on BUKA ISLAND. Three other Liberators attacked KIHILI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 7:30 a.m., 28 December, an unreported number of our fighters attacked fifty or sixty enemy fighters in the vicinity of RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Upwards of eighteen enemy planes were destroyed. In addition, seven more were probably destroyed and two damaged. Three of our Corsairs failed to return.

At 11:30 a.m., 28 December, fifty-four dive bombers and twenty-three torpedo bombers attacked enemy installations on POPORANG, SHORTLAND ISLAND and FAISI. A number of fires were started. All of our planes returned.

At 12:10 p.m., 28 December, twenty-two Mitchells attacked KIHILI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and started three fires. One of our planes returned damaged.

On 28 December, two torpedo bombers strafed enemy positions south of the JAVA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 28 December, two Warhawks dropped their belly tanks in the vicinity of NUMA NUMA, east central BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, saturated the area with gasoline and then set it afire by strafing. One plane was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Motor torpedo boats on 28 December, destroyed two of three loaded enemy barges in TORAU BAY, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One of the torpedo boats was damaged by machine gun fire.

SECRETDECLASSIFIED
ON 10-10-72
SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 29 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

Between 3:00 p.m., 26 December, and 3:00 p.m., 27 December, enemy shells fell near our positions in the northeast TOROKINA section, but did not result in any damage or casualty. Similarly, twenty to twenty-five shells fell in front of the section manned by the 21st Marines. No casualties resulted. In the sector covered by the Second Raider Battalion, eight enemy shells landed and one officer was wounded. The enemy position was subjected to a vigorous counter battery fire.

The submarine GURNARD, returning from a war patrol in the central PACIFIC sunk two enemy freighters for eleven thousand tons, and damaged another for seven thousand tons. She also reports that in a night attack she got two torpedoes into a MARU or warship, which was surrounded by ten escorts.

The U.S.S. OKLAHOMA has been successfully placed in drydock.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET**SECRET**

9 a.m. 29 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 27 December, between 4:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m., a preliminary report states that a cruiser and a destroyer Task Group, effectively bombarded enemy target objectives in the KIETA area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night, 26-27 December, a Liberator bombed BUKA, BONIS, NUMA NUMA and the KIHILI sections, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 27 December, at 10:02 a.m., six Mitchell medium bombers bombed the bivouac area, southwest shore of KIETA LAGOON and the Chinatown settlement. Results of the bombardment were unobserved. No antiaircraft was received by our planes.

On 27 December, at 10:33 a.m., fourteen unescorted Mitchells bombed the BUKA float plane anchorage, causing an explosion, the smoke from which spiraled upwards of five hundred feet. The flight also attacked antiaircraft positions southeast of RAMADATA, eastern end of BUKA PASSAGE, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Three additional Mitchells bombed the KIHILI supply dumps.

On 27 December, between 10:55 a.m., and 11:05 a.m., fifty-four Dauntless dive bombers, twenty-two Avengers and sixteen Lightnings, plastered antiaircraft positions at BUKA, particularly the heavy ones at the north end of the runway. Additional planes put out of commission two antiaircraft units at KIHILI. All our planes returned, but ack ack damaged two of the Dauntless planes.

During 27 December, two Venturas bombed and strafed three probably unseviceable barges on the southeast coast of AMBITLE ISLAND, southeastern NEW IRELAND area, and two others on the south coast of FENI ISLAND, southeastern NEW IRELAND area.

On 27 December, at noon, RABAU was swept by a forty plane fighter group. A tally of these fighters with twelve Corsairs still to turn in their reports, indicates that out of a possible fifty-sixty fighter enemy group intercepting, our planes destroyed eight Zeros, one probably, and damaged one. In the fight one Hellcat was slightly damaged and one Corsair was forced into the sea off BUKA. The pilot of the latter plane however has been rescued by one of our PBY's.

During 27 December, a patrol plane from GUADALCANAL was subjected to machine gunfire over CAPE ST. GEORGE Lighthouse, NEW IRELAND.

On 27 December, at 5:20 p.m., another patrol plane from GUADALCANAL bombed seven barges fifteen miles northwest of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 28 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of 26 December, five Venturas and eight Hellcats bombed and strafed JALUIT, and probably damaged several small vessels. The flight was met by heavy antiaircraft fire from EMIDJI. We suffered no casualties.

Late in the afternoon of 26 December, seventeen Liberators from NANOMEA, staged through TARAWA, blasted WOTJE with fifty percent of the bombs falling into the target area. Two near misses were scored on a three hundred foot freighter from fifteen thousand feet. Six Zeros attempted to intercept and one was shot down. One of our Liberators was shot down and one was disintegrated by the island's heavy and dense antiaircraft fire. No other casualties occurred.

INCH FILE
SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/10/01
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 28 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine NARWHAL, returning from a war patrol in the SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, reports sinking, on 5 December, a four thousand ton enemy freighter. ✓

The submarine TINOSA, returning from a war patrol in the PALAU area, reports as follows:

- 23 November - sank two enemy freighters of a two-ship convoy.
- 25 November - attacked a three-ship convoy with torpedoes, but missed. On the following morning, attacked same convoy and blew the stern off one which is believed to have sunk. Hit one ship which was seen burning that afternoon.
- 3 December - In a night attack, approximately two hundred miles southwest of PALAU, in a three-ship escorted convoy, set a freighter on fire, later sinking her after two more attacks.

The score for the cruise was: Sunk, four freighters for 18,544 tons; Damaged one freighter for 7,210 tons.

The submarine BONEFISH, returning from a war patrol in the SOUTH CHINA SEA, reports as follows:

- 29 November - In a morning periscope attack, on an enemy escorted freighter, sank it.
- 1 December - During the night of 30 November- 1 December, attacked an enemy destroyer and a freighter which she was escorting. Both ships were sunk.
- 11 December - In a gun attack off TARAKAN, northeast BORNEO, in the CELEBES SEA, set on fire an enemy minelayer.

The score for the cruise was: Sunk 16,021 tons; Damaged, 700 tons. 1 DD ✓ AK

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET**SECRET**

4. p.m. 27 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 25-26 December, two Venturas dropped bombs on FAISI, SHORTLAND AREA. On the same night, a night fighter bombed enemy bivouac areas along the east coast of MATCHIN BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. KIHILI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed by a Liberator at 11:10 p.m., 25 December.

On 26 December, a reconnaissance plane operating from GUADALCANAL, strafed and sank an enemy barge filled with troops, northeast of RABAU, NEW IRELAND.

At 11:00 a.m., 26 December, eighteen Mitchells bombed the supply and bivouac areas at KIHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

During the morning 26 December, seven Mitchells, escorted by thirty-four fighters bombed and strafed a suspected enemy radar installation on CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. One of the Mitchells fell two miles west of CAPE ST. GEORGE. However an unknown number of her crew were subsequently rescued.

On 26 December, two Venturas bombed CHIVARO, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A bridge and a number of huts were destroyed.

Between 8:00 a.m., and 3:50 p.m., 26 December, fifty-three dive bombers and twenty-four torpedo bombers, in groups of six planes, bombed and strafed the KIETA HARBOR area, at forty-five minute intervals. About thirty or forty buildings were destroyed and in addition a number of huts. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 11:50 p.m., 26 December, a reconnaissance plane operating from GUADALCANAL, attacked and blew up a small enemy ship off EAST CAPE, NEW IRELAND. Later, this plane scored two hits on a small vessel five miles away. Another reconnaissance plane attacked, with unobserved results, a small craft in the vicinity of NEW IRELAND.

There has been no change in the disposition of our front lines at TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, from 3:00 p.m., 25 December, to 3:00 p.m., 26 December. Enemy positions in the northeast sector were bombed by twelve torpedo bombers on the afternoon of 25 December, and again on the morning of 26 December.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 27 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:00 a.m., 25 December, twelve torpedo bombers bombed the northeast TOROKINA sector, in support of our ground forces. Later, at 5:00 p.m., 13 torpedo bombers again attacked the area.

At about noon, 25 December, sixty-three fighters, escorting Liberators, on a bombing mission against RABAU, were intercepted by about fifty or sixty enemy fighters. Thirteen enemy planes were shot down and seven more probably shot down. We lost two fighters and two more are reported missing.

During 25 December, eleven Corsairs strafed the area from TINPUTS, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, to ARAWA BAY, central east BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and west of KIETA.

The destroyer BROWNSON was sunk by two bomb hits and a near miss during landing operations at CAPE GLOUCESTER, west NEW BRITAIN, on 26 December. The destroyers MUNFORD, LAMSON and SHAW, together with a coastal transport (APC-15), were damaged by bombs. Further information is not at present available.

The submarine SKATE, operating in the Pacific, reported sinking one enemy freighter. 6400 GT

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m., 27 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 23 December, nine Liberators operating from CANTON, dropped fifteen tons of bombs on WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. These planes encountered thirty-five enemy fighters in the vicinity of TAROA, and shot down three enemy planes and probably another. Six of the enemy fighters were damaged. In this engagement aerial bombs were used and we lost one dead, two injured. One of our planes was damaged.

On 24 December, seven Venturas operating from TARAUA, bombed the enemy dispersal area on NAURU ISLAND. A number of fires were started. No enemy planes were encountered. One of our planes is missing.

During the night of 24 December, eight enemy bombers twice raided MAKIN ISLAND. One Airacobra intercepted three of the enemy dive bombers and shot down two. These attacks caused injury to eight men and damage to one truck.

On 25 December, fifteen enemy fighter planes dropped fifteen bombs on MAKIN ISLAND without damage.

During the night of 24 December, enemy planes in groups of two to four, raided TARAUA five times. One LPV was destroyed and another damaged.

During the afternoon of 24 December, eighteen ELLICE Liberators, staging from TARAUA, dropped forty-five tons of bombs on WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Three fires were started. No enemy planes were encountered. All of our planes returned.

On the same day, ten Airacobras and ten dive bombers attacked MILE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Light antiaircraft fire encountered damaged two of the dive bombers.

On 25 December, a reconnaissance plane, bombed and strafed two small enemy freighters, under surface escort, thirty miles southeast of KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS. One enemy freighter was left sinking.

During 24 December, a Liberator dropped bombs on KIHILI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and a Ventura dropped bombs on FAISI, SHORTLAND AREA. The Ventura sustained light damage from antiaircraft fire.

On 25 December, antiaircraft positions at BUKA, BONIS, and SOHANA, were bombed by twenty of our torpedo bombers. A number of near hits were observed.

At 12:40 p.m., 25 December, three torpedo bombers and twenty-six dive bombers, bombed antiaircraft positions at KANGU HILL, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of near hits were observed. At about the same time, sixteen dive bombers struck the MOTUPENA POINT area, central west BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

FILE
72
SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 26 December 1

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine BILLFISH, returning from a war patrol, in the SOUTH NA SEA, makes the following report for her activities:

28 November - off CAPE VARELLA, FRENCH INDO-CHINA, damaged an unidentified freighter of six thousand tons. One torpedo explosion was heard but due to bad weather and a rough sea she was unable to regain contact with the freighter.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 26 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Early Xmas day, a Task Group, under command of Rear Admiral F. C. Sherman, consisting of the BUNKER HILL (CV) and MONTEREY (CVL), and three destroyers, bombed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. It is reported that there were in the harbor at the time of the strike, two destroyers, two large freighters, one medium size freighter, eight small freighters and twenty to thirty barges.

Photographs taken during the attack, indicate that one destroyer, two large freighters and three barges were sunk; one destroyer, several small freighters, many barges and one motor torpedo boat, were heavily damaged and possibly sunk. Eight to ten enemy float planes, which were at anchor, were damaged by strafing.

One of our Avengers was damaged and forced to make a water landing seventy-five miles northeast of KAVIENG, and when last seen at least one of the two survivors had succeeded in getting aboard his rubber boat. A search is now being made for their rescue. Two other Avengers were heavily damaged, five Avengers and two Helldivers were slightly damaged. Our personnel losses consisted of one crewman killed, one wounded and three missing.

The Task Group's combat patrol destroyed, during the day, one enemy float bomber and two medium bombers.

At dusk, the Task Group was heavily attacked by enemy bombers but no damage resulted.

A later report of the results of the ALLIED air strike on 24 December, at RABAU, indicate that ALLIED losses were one Hellcat and six Kittyhawks. During this strike, eighteen Liberators blasted the VUNAKANAU runway and destroyed one of eighteen enemy fighters which attempted to intercept.

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

Between 3:00 p.m., 23 December and 3:00 p.m., 24 December, our ground force activity in the northeastern end of the TOROKINA sector was restricted to extensive patrol action. It is indicated, because of our extensive artillery and mortar fire, that the enemy has evacuated a hill in that sector.

On 24 December, at 4:00 a.m., two unidentified enemy planes strafed the fighter strip at TOROKINA and dropped anti-personnel bombs on PURUATA ISLAND near CAPE TOROKINA, without inflicting material damage.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10-10-78
BY SP-6
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m., 25 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

29 November - In a four-ship escorted convoy, two torpedoes were put into a freighter and a transport received one hit. The freighter was heard to break up, but the transport was only temporarily stopped. The score for the cruise was: Sunk, 7,149 tons; Damaged, 4,731 tons.

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

On 23 December, a BLUE artillery barrage was laid down on a hill in the northeast TOROKINA section. This fire continued for twenty-four hours and preceded an attack by a reinforced BLUE platoon which jumped off at 2:20 p.m. The attack is reported to be progressing.

On the coast, about six hundred yards east of TOROKINA RIVER, a patrol from the First Battalion of the 145th infantry, made a contact with the enemy at 10:00 a.m. Our artillery fire was ranged on the enemy positions but our patrol was unable to advance. We suffered fourteen casualties and four killed. This patrol was subsequently reinforced and the enemy position heavily shelled. At this writing no further report has been made.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 25 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)24 DecemberBY FIGHTER COVERENEMY FIGHTERS DOWNEDFIGHTERS PROBABLY
DOWNED

HELLCATS - - - - -	5
KITTYHAWKS - - - - -	12
LIGHTNINGS - - - - -	8
TOTALS- - - - -	<u>25</u>
Total for 23/24 December	<u>58</u>

<u>5</u>
<u>5</u>
<u>11</u>

On 24 December, nineteen Liberators bombed shipping and shore installations on KWAJALEIN ISLAND, and the anchorage. There was no enemy air interception. Two or three medium size freighters were set on fire. No other large shipping was seen. We suffered no losses or casualties.

On the same day, ten Army Dauntless dive bombers and twenty Airacobras, hit MILE ATOLL. A freighter wrecked and awash from the previous day's BLUE air strike, received another five hundred pound bomb hit. Six or seven enemy fighters attempted an interception and two of them were destroyed. We suffered no losses or casualties.

Motor torpedo boats, operating from TREASURY ISLAND, while enroute to their patrol area, during the night of 23-24 December, were subjected to large caliber shore battery fire at a range of five to seven miles from the south shore of POPORANG ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area. Several near misses occurred but no damage was reported.

Early in the morning of 24 December, a light cruiser and destroyer force bombarded enemy installations in the BUKA-BONIS Area. One large and many small fires were started. A large ammunition or fuel dump continued exploding long after the bombardment had ceased.

On 24 December, at 9:00 a.m., an enemy submarine was sighted two and a half miles off KOLI POINT, GUADALCANAL. At 9:30 a.m., a destroyer escort made a sound contact in the vicinity of the sighting. At 10:45 a.m., depth charges were dropped on the sound contact after which an oil slick appeared. At 1:30 p.m., a periscope was sighted in the same area and was covered with a depth charge pattern. This was followed by considerable oil and air bubbles and an unexplained underwater explosion.

The submarine COD, returning from a war patrol in the SOUTH CHINA SEA, reports as follows:

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
 HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
 NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

25 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 23 December, shortly after midnight, motor torpedo boats from TOROKINA, bombarded HOUSE KIAPE, south of CAPE MOLTKE, BOUGAINVILLE. The Japs were entrenched there with guns and mortars.

A little later, at 1:15 a.m., the motor torpedo boats bombarded the area at ATSNIMA RIVER and nearby LAGO, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Several of the boats received one salvo from a light field piece near HOUSE KIAPE, and a few rounds of machine gun fire from ATSNIMA.

During the night 23-24 December, one Liberator bombed KIETA, eastern BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, two Venturas hit FAISI, southern BOUGAINVILLE, and one night fighter bombed BUKA, northern BOUGAINVILLE.

On 23 December, at 4:45 p.m., six Mitchells bombed and strafed the enemy and a reported radio station at NALEVOLI, northwest CHOISEUL. Five huts were destroyed and many others were damaged.

On 24 December, two Venturas bombed a suspected barge hideout on the UMUM RIVER, north BOUGAINVILLE.

On 24 December, two other Venturas engaged nine Zeros near RABAU and destroyed two, set fire to one and damaged three others. Both of the Venturas were damaged and one man was wounded.

On 24 December, at 10:45 a.m., twenty-four Mitchells bombed the BONIS seaplane anchorage.

Later reports of the number of Jap planes destroyed during our air strikes over RABAU on 23 December and 24 December, are indicated by the following tabulation:

23 December

	<u>ENEMY FIGHTERS DOWNED</u>	<u>FIGHTERS PROBABLY DOWNED</u>
CORSAIRS - - - - -	19	
LIGHTNINGS - - - - -	5	
HELLCATS - - - - -	3	
LIBERATORS - - - - -	6	
TOTALS - - - - -	<u>33</u>	<u>6</u>

OUR LOSSES

CORSAIRS - - - - 3
 HELLCATS - - - - 1

SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 25 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night 22-23 December, two BOUGAINVILLE Liberators bombed KIHILI and KIJNA-BUKA Areas.

During the same night, two Venturas bombed POPORANG ISLAND, in the SHORTLAND Area.

On 22 December, at 1:15 p.m., sixteen Liberators bombed BUKA's Chinatown and started two fires. At the same time, two other Liberators bombed SOHANA ISLAND, BUKA, and started one fire. One Liberator hit the BONIS Area, causing one fire, and another one blasted PORTON PLANTATION.

On 23 December, at 12:15 p.m., seventeen Mitchells bombed SOHANA ISLAND and a majority of the bombs bursted in concentrated groups near anti-aircraft positions.

On 23 December, between 9:15 a.m., and 10:15 a.m., forty-seven Dauntless dive bombers and twenty-eight Avengers, blasted the bivouac and supply areas in southwestern BOUGAINVILLE. Fifteen to twenty buildings were destroyed at MAWARAKA and ten to twelve at AITARA. A fire was started at MOTUPENA POINT, and another one at TOKO MISSION. Only scanty anti-aircraft fire was received. One Avenger crashed in the water.

On 23 December, at 12:40 p.m., six Venturas bombed and strafed a possible radar station and the lighthouse at CAPE ST. GEORGE, on the southern end of NEW IRELAND. This attack was from tree-top level. Three Zeros and negligible anti-aircraft fire were encountered. Some slight damage was done to our planes.

Preliminary reports on the fighter sweep of RABAU, on 23 December, at 1:30 p.m., indicates that twenty-four enemy fighters were destroyed with six fighters probably damaged. To date, three of our Corsairs and one Hellcat are missing. Eighteen Liberators hit LAKUNAI air field at RABAU and registered hits on the northwest end of the runway, causing a large explosion on the runway and one in the revetment area. Twelve Zeros got through our fighter cover and two of them were destroyed. One of our co-pilots was wounded and a Liberator was struck in her gas tanks.

On 23 December, sixteen Airacobras, from the local TOROKINA defense force, bombed and strafed the SHORTLAND Area.

On 23 December, a patrol plane from GUADALCANAL, strafed two camouflaged barges on the beach at FENI ISLAND, and another one at AMBITLE ISLAND. These islands are off the southeast coast of NEW IRELAND. In the same area, another patrol plane strafed a sloop towing barges, off NUGURIA ISLAND, a hundred miles northeast of NEW IRELAND, and killed most of the fifteen men manning the sloop. The boat was left in a sinking condition.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET**SECRET**

4 p.m. 24 December 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Early in the afternoon, 21 December, eight Liberators and four Catalinas, on a photo mission to KWAJALEIN, dropped six tons of bombs, resulting in an unobserved number of fires and explosions. Nine enemy fighters intercepted, using aerial bombs. No damage resulted to our planes and no enemy planes were shot down.

On 21 December, EMIDJI, JALUIT ATOLL, was bombed by sixteen Hellcats and seventeen Dauntless dive bombers. Vessels and gun installations were strafed and one medium size freighter was left with her stern awash and one small craft in a sinking condition. No enemy aircraft was seen. One Liberator was lost and two Hellcats suffered slight damage.

On 22 December, eleven Dauntless dive bombers, sixteen Airacobras and one Hellcat, attacked MILIE ATOLL. A surface ship was left burning and settling after receiving three five hundred pound hits. The Airacobras, in addition to strafing a freighter, also hit gun installations and started several fires. Four to six fighters intercepted and one was shot down, one probably destroyed, and one damaged. Two Liberators and one Hellcat received slight damage.

Central Pacific The submarine GRAYBACK, returning from a patrol in the *Superior* CENTRAL PACIFIC, reported on 22 December, that she had sunk six enemy ships and damaged two others for a total of thirty-four thousand tons.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET**SECRET**

9 a.m. 24 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A reconnaissance plane, 22 December, possibly damaged by bombing and strafing a number of loaded enemy barges off the north shore of GREEN ISLAND, northwest of BUKA ISLAND.

In the TOROKINA SECTOR, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, minor patrol activity continued throughout 21 December. Artillery fire was exchanged and five of our Marines were wounded. Enemy artillery and mortars were silenced by our coastal batteries.

There are indications that the Japanese have evacuated the area in the vicinity of MALEVOLI, north coast of CHOISEUL ISLAND. POROPORO, north CHOISEUL ISLAND has been abandoned by the enemy. There are, however, many Japanese reported in the area between the MULAMBULI and the WARRIOR RIVERS, north CHOISEUL ISLAND.

SECRET**SECRET**UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 23 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Enemy bivouac areas on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed and strafed during the nights of 20-21 December, and 21-22 December, by two Liberators. Results of these attacks were unobserved. Two Ventura night fighters bombed FAISI, SHORTLAND AREA, during the night of 21-22 December.

At 11:10 a.m., 22 December, fifty-eight dive bombers and twenty-six torpedo bombers, covered by thirty-three fighters, attacked an enemy barge concentration area on SOHANA ISLAND, and antiaircraft positions in this vicinity and at BONIS, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Hits were scored among a group of barges, on antiaircraft gun positions and a fuel dump was destroyed. The fighters strafed barges in the CHABAI AREA and set on fire a fuel dump at CHABAI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Three of the bombers were damaged by anti-aircraft fire.

During the morning of 22 December, five Mitchells attacked Japanese huts in NUMA NUMA, central east BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of fires were started and several huts were destroyed.

At 12:30 p.m., 22 December, six Venturas and eight Lightnings attacked enemy shipping in the vicinity of AMBITLE ISLAND, off the southeast coast of NEW IRELAND. Four enemy barges were set on fire.

At about noon, 22 December, nine Mitchells attacked the BUKA Chinatown and also dropped bombs on both sides of BUKA PASSAGE. Fires were started at a seaplane base and in the area west of the BUKA air strip.

During 22 December, nine Mitchells bombed the enemy supply area at KIHILI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and four Mitchells attacked enemy installations on SHORTLAND ISLAND. Results of these attacks were not observed.

At noon, 22 December, four fighter planes bombed a possible enemy barge hideout in ANEWA BAY, west KIETA.

At 3:00 p.m., 22 December, four fighters set on fire an enemy fuel dump in north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 5:35 p.m., 22 December, eight fighter planes started a number of fires at TIARAKA, central east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

NUMA NUMA, central east BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed by twelve fighter planes at 5:25 p.m., 22 December, and later, by eight more fighters. The entire village was set on fire.

On 22 December, a reconnaissance plane bombed and apparently destroyed a seventy-five foot enemy barge in the vicinity of AMBITLE ISLAND, southeast coast of NEW IRELAND. This plane then strafed another enemy barge which was later abandoned by the crew.

SECRET
SECRETUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 23 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On December 20, sixteen Army Liberators, operating from CANTON and NAMOEIA, dropped twenty-four tons of bombs on MALOELAP, MARSHALL ISLANDS. A number of fires were started. Thirty enemy fighters intercepted and of these four were shot down and five others probably destroyed. Three of our planes were shot down. The remainder returned damaged due to air combat or by the intense antiaircraft fire encountered.

Prior to dawn, 20 December, two enemy planes bombed TARAWA, started a small fire and caused some damage to installations.

Prior to dawn, 19 December, four enemy planes ineffectively bombed MAKIN ISLAND. The following morning six enemy planes dropped bombs on MAKIN without effect.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Cur

SECRET

SECRET

4 p.m. 22 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Bad weather interfered with flying operations over BOUGAINVILLE on 21 December.

During the day, six Mitchells bombed and strafed MONOITU MISSION, southwest interior of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 1:15 p.m. on 21 December, a reconnaissance plane strafed six enemy barges in an inlet on the southwest coast of AMBITLE ISLAND, east coast of NEW IRELAND. Results were not observed. Three enemy barges were strafed by another reconnaissance plane about thirty miles west of BUKA ISLAND.

At 3:00 a.m. 22 December, motor torpedo boats sank an enemy barge three miles south of OTUA ISLAND, southeast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

SECRET**SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 21 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 19-20 December, night fighters bombed the JABA RIVER AREA. A Corsair intercepted and shot down a float plane.

At 10:45 a.m., 20 December, eight Mitchells bombed KOROVO VILLAGE, and at 11:10 a.m., five more again attacked the area. Results were unobserved.

During 20 December, eight Mitchells struck BUKA and one bombed KIHILI. Results were not reported.

Fighter planes throughout 20 December, strafed the east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND area, set on fire houses on MABIRI.

During the late afternoon of 19 December, eleven Liberators operating from Canton, dropped fifteen tons of bombs on an unnamed island two miles north of TAROA, where a radio station and a tank farm were installed. Twenty-five enemy fighters intercepted. Seven were probably destroyed and five were damaged. Two of our planes were damaged and three of the personnel injured.

On 19 December, three Liberators struck POPORANG, southeast SHORTLAND ISLAND, and three others bombed KIHILI. A Liberator attacked each of the following places on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, BUKA, BONIS, RATSOA, KARA.

On 20 December, fifty-nine dive bombers and twenty-eight torpedo bombers, escorted by thirty-one fighters bombed west BONIS and SOHANA ISLAND. Hits were scored among gun positions and in a group of enemy barges. Eight of the fighter escorts strafed TENEKAU and KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One dive bomber failed to return.

A reconnaissance plane, on the early morning of 21 December, attacked two enemy barges with unreported results northeast of CAPE ORFORD, NEW BRITAIN.

A preliminary report indicates that an unreported number of our destroyers bombarded Japanese concentrations in the TINPUTS-PAPAS areas, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. It was reported that the target area was well covered.

COMINCH F-117
5-3-78
SECRET
0306
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 21 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 16 December, a reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed an enemy vessel at a pier in EBON ATOLL. Results of the attack were not reported.

On 19 December, fourteen Army Liberators, operating from NANOMEA, dropped nineteen tons of bombs on MILE and started a number of fires. Four enemy fighters intercepted and of these one was shot down and another probably destroyed. The enemy dropped ten to fifteen aerial bombs and damaged five of our planes. One Liberator was destroyed when landing on its return.

During the morning of 19 December, twelve Army Liberators, operating from MAKIN, attacked MILE. One grounded enemy medium bomber and two fighters were destroyed. Eight Zeros intercepted and one of these was shot down. We lost two planes.

During the night of 19 December, a Catalina attacked KWAJALEIN, and set on fire a large Japanese freighter.

On 20 December, nineteen Army Liberators dropped twenty-seven tons of bombs on MILE and started a large fire. In addition, a grounded enemy medium bomber and three fighters were destroyed. One enemy fighter plane dropped an aerial bomb which damaged a Liberator.

The submarine ASPRO during the night of 17 December, sank four enemy freighters and damaged two.

SECRET
SECRET
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 20 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 18-19 December, two Ventura night fighters and a Corsair bombed the JABA RIVER AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

On the night of 18-19 December, about ten or fifteen Japanese planes dropped approximately thirty bombs in the TOROKINA AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, which wounded three men.

At 11:30 a.m., and again at 12:45 p.m., 19 December, thirty-two dive bombers and thirty-five torpedo bombers, in two waves, attacked the supply and personnel area at KIETA HARBOR, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of huts were destroyed in addition to the RIGU MISSION bridge. Hits were also scored on several antiaircraft gun positions.

At noon 19 December, twenty-five Mitchells bombed the bivouac and supply areas at MOISURU, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 12:55 p.m., 19 December, sixteen Liberators, escorted by fifty fighters, bombed RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. One enemy cargo vessel or transport was set on fire and another probably set on fire. A submarine in the harbor was possibly damaged. About forty or fifty enemy fighters intercepted. Of these, four were shot down. We lost two Corsairs and two Kittyhawks, the latter in mid-air collision over southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. In addition, one of our bombers sustained minor damage.

At 3:10 p.m., 19 December, three Airacobras bombed the REINI RIVER AREA, northeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Three hits were scored on a warehouse. Two other Aircobras strafed KOIARIS VILLAGE.

At 11:06 p.m., a reconnaissance plane attacked a convoy of eight enemy ships thirty miles south southeast of DYAU, north coast of NEW IRELAND. One troop transport was reported sunk.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 20 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Fighter plane patrols, operating over the TOROKINA Area, during 18 December, strafed five enemy barges off the northeast central coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 3:05 a.m., 19 December, a reconnaissance plane attacked an enemy submarine with unreported results 18 miles west northwest of FENI ISLAND, southeast coast of NEW IRELAND.

(Torokina)

It is estimated that the PIVA airstrip on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND will be ready for our planes on 25 December.

The following additional details have been received in connection with the sinking of the coastal transport (APc-21) by enemy aircraft:

The transport was sunk at 8:15 a.m., 17 December by a direct bomb hit while escorting a convoy of landing craft and other small vessels in the vicinity of ARATE, NEW BRITAIN. Out of forty to fifty enemy fighters and bombers that attacked, fourteen of them were destroyed by gunfire from the convoy, and, in addition, six probably destroyed. Serious hull damage was sustained by LCT's 88, 378, 384 and 386. YMS-50 also sustained damage from a near miss. Casualties were not reported.

The MAKIN airstrip and taxiway is ninety-three percent complete. The first fighter and light bomber attack by Army planes based on this island was executed against MILLE on 18 December. Six grounded enemy fighter planes were destroyed and three were damaged. No enemy planes were encountered. We lost one plane due to operational causes.

During the night of 18 December, about two enemy planes dropped three bombs on TARAWA. No damage was sustained.

The APEMAMA bomber strip is seventy-five percent complete and the taxiway forty percent.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET****SECRET**

9 a.m. 20 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 17-18 December, motor torpedo boats attacked and destroyed two enemy barges off the south coast of BUKA ISLAND. An enemy float plane ineffectively bombed our boats.

At about the same time, other motor torpedo boats bombarded with mortar fire the area at the mouth of the JABA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The enemy did not return fire.

During the night of 17-18 December, three medium bombers dropped bombs on our anchorage at TOROKINA POINT, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One boat was damaged and two men were injured.

Night fighters dropped bombs on the SHORTLAND-FAISI Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND during the night of 17-18 December.

At 9:50 a.m. 18 December, six Mitchells attacked enemy concentrations in the vicinity of PORO PORO, northwest CHOISEUL ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

At 11:12 a.m. 18 December, eleven Mitchell bombers bombed KOROVO, south-east SHORTLAND ISLAND. A large explosion, followed by fire, was observed.

At 11:50 a.m. 18 December, nineteen Liberators struck the CHABAI Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results of the attack were not reported.

On 18 December, fifty-nine dive bombers and forty-two torpedo bombers bombed MONOITU-MOSIGETTA Area, southwest interior of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. An ammunition dump was exploded, two bridges and a number of buildings were destroyed. One dive bomber failed to return.

Throughout the same day, a Liberator dropped bombs on POPORANG, south SHORTLAND ISLAND. Ten more Liberators attacked KIHILI, and three bombed KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 18 December, five Liberators bombed the supply area at BONIS, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

During 18 December, the east coast of BUKA ISLAND was strafed by twenty fighter planes. Numerous explosions and fires were observed.

On 18 December, KESSA POINT, northwest BUKA ISLAND, was strafed by twenty-two Corsairs. Results of this attack were not reported, except for the destruction of one enemy barge in BUKA PASSAGE.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 19 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A coastal transport (APc-21) was sunk by enemy aircraft in the vicinity of
ARAWA, NEW BRITAIN, on 17 December. No further details are available at present.

234 tons

SECRETCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-1-78
BY 1045
SECRET
OSD LtrUNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 19 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:30 a.m. 17 December, eighteen Mitchell bombers bombed MALAI, MORGUSAI ISLAND, south of SHORTLAND ISLAND. Four small fires were started. One of our bombers was forced down on the water near BAGA ISLAND (west of VELLA LAVELLA). Two of the bomber personnel were killed and four were rescued.

During the morning of 17 December, four Corsairs strafed and set on fire a number of huts along the east coast of BUKA ISLAND.

On the same morning, eighty-three fighter planes engaged about thirty or forty enemy fighter planes over RABAU, NEW BRITAIN. Six of the enemy were definitely shot down. Two Kittyhawks failed to return.

At noon 17 December, fifty-four dive bombers and twenty-eight torpedo bombers struck the BALLALE ISLAND (SHORTLAND Area) runway and antiaircraft gun positions. Fires were started, and a number of the gun positions may have been damaged.

At 1:10 p.m. 17 December, a reconnaissance plane bombed the NAMATANAI runway, northeast central NEW IRELAND. Results were not reported. Later, in the vicinity of PORT BORGAN, west NEW IRELAND, this plane attacked and destroyed an eighty-foot enemy barge filled with Japanese. The plane was damaged by machine gun fire.

At 3:00 p.m. 17 December, five Venturas attacked Japanese concentrations at PORO PORO and TERIKUKURE, northwest CHOISEUL ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

Air operations against enemy bases in the MARSHALL ISLANDS were hampered by poor weather. At noon 18 December, one Liberator bombed MILLE. No enemy planes were encountered.

BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND GROUND SITUATION

Our troops continue to attack the enemy in the northeast sector of the TOROKINA position, where the Japanese are encircled on three sides.

Between 3:00 p.m. 16 December and 3:00 p.m. 17 December, a company of the 145TH INFANTRY attacked enemy positions east of the TOROKINA RIVER. Our troops found numerous enemy dead, killed by previous artillery fire. Our forces advanced about five-hundred yards, where about forty or sixty evacuated enemy bunkers were found.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**72
RE T
Was letter,

9 a.m. 18 December 19

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the morning of 15 December, twenty-one Army Liberators, operating from NANOMEA, ELLICE ISLANDS, dropped twenty-five tons of bombs on TAROA ISLAND, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Thirty enemy fighter planes intercepted and dropped a number of aerial bombs. Two of the enemy planes were destroyed, eight probably destroyed, and eight damaged. Ten of our planes sustained damage and one was forced down in the vicinity of TAROA. One of our bomber personnel was killed by an aerial bomb.

At about sunset, 15 December, ten Army Liberators, operating from CANTON ISLAND, dropped seventeen tons of bombs on WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. A number of hits were scored in the building area. No enemy planes were encountered.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/1/80

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 17 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

of gun positions were destroyed or damaged. Later, three Liberators again bombed SOHANA ISLAND. The dispersal area at BONIS was later attacked by three Liberators.

The fighter escort strafed TENEKAU, KIETA, northeast central coast of BOUGAINVILLE, MARIGA and MONOITU, southwest interior BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Three of our dive bombers, apparently damaged, landed in the water, but three pilots and one gunner were rescued.

Many Japanese were reported on northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, with concentrations at PAPAS and TINPUTS. Reports further informed that the overland evacuation of south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND was about to start.

To date, 52,000 personnel and 60,200 tons of cargo have been transported to TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. 10,400 personnel and 16,300 tons of cargo have been landed on TREASURY ISLAND.

SECRET**SECRET**

050 Let 72

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 17 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the afternoon of 14 December, seventeen Liberators, operating from FUNAFUTI, ELLICE ISLANDS, bombed TAROA, and started large fires in the hanger area. Fifteen enemy fighter planes intercepted. One was destroyed, four probably destroyed and five damaged. Three of our bombers sustained slight damage. (This was previously reported in a communique released by CincPac.)

On the morning of 15 December, eight Army Liberators, operating from CANTON ISLAND, dropped fifteen tons of bombs on WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. A number of fires and explosions were observed. No enemy planes were encountered, and all of our planes returned without damage.

The following communique has been released on 16 December by CincPac:

"Heavy bombers of the SEVENTH AAF struck TAROA and WOTJE, in the MARSHALLS on 15 December (west longitude date) dropping more than forty tons of bombs damaging installations on both islands. At TAROA, where damage was inflicted on buildings and storage spaces, our bombers were attacked by thirty enemy fighters. Two Zeros were shot down, eight were probably shot down, and eight others were damaged. One of our planes was lost and several others suffered damage. One crew member of another of our planes was killed. At WOTJE, where fires were observed as result of the bombings, none of our planes were damaged."

During the night of 15-16 December, motor torpedo boats bombarded, with mortar fire, MAYAVIA, east of TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On the same night, night fighters bombed enemy installations on POPORANG ISLAND, southeast of SHORTLAND ISLAND. Later, at 11:45 a.m., two Liberators again bombed the area and started a number of small fires.

At 8:00 a.m. 16 December, four Venturas bombed and strafed the southeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 11:30 a.m. 16 December, fourteen Liberators bombed HONGTU, north of BONIS, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A heavy explosion was observed.

At 11:45 a.m. 16 December, five Mitchells, escorted by eight fighters, bombed SANKAU ISLAND, MATCHIN BAY Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A hit was scored on a fuel dump.

On 16 December, sixty dive bombers and twenty-eight torpedo bombers, escorted by thirty-four fighter planes, bombed enemy gun positions on SOHANA ISLAND, south of BUKA PASSAGE and BONIS, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number

SECRET

SECRET

DISSEM
OSD Level

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 16 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Bougainville Island Ground Situation

At TOROKINA, on 15 December, our troops, supported by artillery and planes, continued to attack enemy positions in the northeast sector. The enemy's artillery and mortar fire in this sector has increased. Patrols in the reconnaissance of the NUMA NUMA TRAIL reported killing ten Japs on 14 December.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 16 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 14-15 December, night fighters bombed FAISI, SHORTLAND Area, and the vicinity of the JABA RIVER MOUTH, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One night fighter, operating over the BUKA-BONIS Area, failed to return.

At 10:03 a.m. 15 December, twenty-one Liberators dropped bombs and started a number of fires on SOHANA ISLAND, south of BUKA PASSAGE. A number of enemy gun positions were probably damaged. At the same time, a Liberator bombed HONGTU, north of BONIS, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and another heavy bomber attacked KIHILI, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results of the last two attacks were not reported.

At 10:30 a.m. 15 December, twenty-three Mitchells and sixteen fighter planes attacked and started many large fires in CHINATOWN, south BUKA ISLAND. A large explosion with smoke visible for sixty miles was observed. The fighter escort strafed TENEKAU and the KIETA HARBOR Area.

At 10:50 a.m. 15 December, sixty-five dive bombers and twenty-one torpedo bombers, escorted by forty-three fighters, attacked enemy anti-aircraft positions in the BUKA-BONIS Area. Three gun positions were destroyed and a number of others damaged. The fighter escort strafed TENEKAU and KIETA Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and set on fire a number of huts.

At noon 15 December, sixteen torpedo bombers, in support of our troops, bombed enemy positions in the northeast TOROKINA sector, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During 15 December, eight Kittyhawks destroyed a bridge at RUNAI, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 15 December, a reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed an enemy bar one hundred and twenty miles northeast of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Another reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on enemy installations on GREEN ISLAND. This plane then destroyed a bridge three miles south of the KIETA airfield, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 3:40 a.m. 16 December, a reconnaissance plane, operating from GUADALCANAL, bombed an unidentified vessel about twenty miles northwest of CHOISEUL ISLAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 16 December 1

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At noon, 13 December, ten Army Liberators, operating from CANTON ISLAND, attacked WOTJE. A number of fires and explosions were started. A four-engine plane and one fighter was observed on the ground. Four ships were in the harbor. No enemy planes intercepted but one of our planes sustained slight damage from antiaircraft fire.

During the night, 12-13 December, about six enemy planes raided TARAWA. A number of bombs were dropped but apparently no damage was sustained. HAWKINS FIELD on TARAWA will be ready to operate bombers on 21 December.

On the night of 13 December, two enemy planes bombed MAKIN and wound three officers and one enlisted man. The following night the enemy planes again raided MAKIN. In this attack no damage was sustained. The ground defenses on MAKIN are eighty percent completed, communications seventy-five percent, and the air field eighty percent.

O'HARE FIELD on APEMAMA, is cleared for six thousand feet and four thousand feet by one hundred and fifty feet of the field are paved.

The following communique has been released by CINCPAC:

"ARMY HEAVY BOMBERS OF THE 7TH AAF WHICH BOMBED THE ENEMY AIRDROME ON TAROA ISLAND ON 14 DECEMBER (WEST LONGITUDE DATE) STARTED FIRES IN THE HANGAR AREA THEY WERE INTERCEPTED BY 15 FIGHTERS X ONE FIGHTER WAS SHOT DOWN FOUR WERE PROBABLY SHOT DOWN AND FIVE WERE DAMAGED X THREE OF OUR PLANES WERE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED X ENEMY BOMBERS MADE NUISANCE RAIDS AT TARAWA ON 12 AND 13 DECEMBER AND AT MAKIN ON 13 AND 14 DECEMBER X NO DAMAGE RESULTED FROM THE TARAWA ATTACKS X FOUR MEN WERE WOUNDED AT MAKIN BY A BOMB DROPPED IN THE RAID ON 13 DECEMBER 160028"

4 p.m. 15 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the same night, night fighters bombed FAISI, SHORTLAND AREA. Results of this attack were not reported.

On the same morning, 14 December, four Kittyhawks damaged and possibly destroyed a bridge near SHISHIGATERO ISLAND, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 10:35 a.m., eighteen Liberators and four Lightnings bombed SOHANA ISLAND, south of BUKA PASSAGE. A large fire was started and one antiaircraft gun position was damaged and another destroyed.

At 11:09 p.m., 14 December, a reconnaissance plane, operating from GUADALCANAL, attacked and damaged a Japanese submarine about ten miles off the east coast of NEW BRITAIN.

At 3:00 p.m., 14 December, a fire and an explosion caused by a faulty pump operation occurred in a gasoline and ammunition dump of the motor torpedo base at LAMBU, northeast VELLA LAVELLA. One motor torpedo boat was destroyed. The fire was reported under control at 5:40 p.m.

SECRET**SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 15 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following communique has been released by CINCPAC:

"Army heavy bombers of the 7th AAF raided enemy installations on WOTJE ATOLL on 13 December (west Longitude date). One of our planes was damaged by antiaircraft fire. There were no personnel casualties. Two Navy search Liberators of FLEET AIR WING TWO made a low altitude attack on JALUIT at dusk on 12 December. One pilot was wounded and both planes suffered some damage from machine gun fire. The enemy made small night raids at TARAWA on 11 and 12 December. There were no casualties nor damage to our installations."

Details of these operations have not been received.

SECRET**SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4:00 p.m. 14 December 1

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Photographs taken on 13 December, show the BUKA, BONIS, KARA, and KIHILI runways all unserviceable, with several craters in the BONIS runway filled. The BALLALE runway is partially serviceable. Photographs taken of the CHABAI SECTION, indicates substantial damage to gun installations as a result of air attacks in that area.

During the night of 13-14 December, motor torpedo boats, from TOROKINA, attacked a beached barge in the mouth of the JABA RIVER, ten miles south of TOROKINA. The boats were met with heavy machine gunfire from the beach but they continued to close it, shooting it out with the shore guns in endeavoring to destroy the barge. The barge escaped and went up the river.

EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY GROUND SITUATION

On 12 December, our ground forces reported a minor action on the northeast fringe of our positions. Two Japs were killed and seven Marines were wounded. Patrols along the beach to the northwest, extending up to CAPE MOLTKE, seventeen miles northwest of TOROKINA, and along the NUMA NUMA TRAIL to IBU, fourteen miles inland from TOROKINA, were negative in results.

It is reported that natives responsible for the capture of ALLIED personnel, on BOUGAINVILLE, during June, have been seized and shot.

It is also reported that sixty dead Japs were counted at TARLENA, five miles south of BONIS and fifty at PORTON PLANTATION. These casualties resulted from the recent bombings. It is also stated that many unarmed Japs have departed for the East Coast of BOUGAINVILLE.

On the northwest coast of CHOISEUL, two Americans were found dead, one of them with his hands tied.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
9-72
SECRET

4:00 p.m. 14 December 1

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 12-13 December, a night fighter from TOROKINA, sighted a barge full of Japanese off SORUM, on the east coast of EUKA PASSAGE. The barge was strafed, set afire and sunk.

Another night fighter harassed KARA and bombed PIANO MISSION, five miles to the west of KARA.

On 13 December, fighters from TOROKINA strafed houses at NUMA NUMA, and ARAKAWAUN on ROROVANA BAY, on the northeast central coast of BOUGAINVILLE. One Jap was killed.

At noon, 13 December, forty-five Dauntless, twenty-two Avengers, escorted by forty-seven fighters, hit MATCHIN BAY gun positions in northern BOUGAINVILLE. Thirty-five sure hits were made on gun installations and the area was heavily strafed. Retiring fighters strafed TENEKAU BAY and KIETA HARBOR, in the northeast section of BOUGAINVILLE, and MONOITU, in the southwest interior of BOUGAINVILLE. Several medium size buildings were set on fire.

Shortly after noon, on 13 December, seventeen Mitchells blasted PORTON PLANTATION, northern BOUGAINVILLE, hitting the personnel and ammunition areas. The fires started were heavy. Photographs show one heavy gun position was destroyed and two heavy and one automatic gun installations were damaged. Eight buildings were destroyed on PORTON PLANTATION. Returning, eight fighters strafed the TENEKAU BAY AREA.

At 1:30 p.m., 13 December, six unescorted Mitchells bombed reported Jap concentrations in the NUMA NUMA AREA. Fourteen native buildings were destroyed and several small fires started.

At 1:30 p.m., twenty-four Liberators, escorted by four fighters, bombed the HINGTU-BONIS AREA, and scored several bull's eyes.

In the early evening, at 6:30 p.m., four Avengers supporting our ground forces sprayed Japanese positions in the northeast arm of the TOROKINA sector

During air operations, on 13 December, no enemy air interception was encountered, nor were any air combat losses suffered by our forces.

On 13 December, at 11:22 a.m., one of our GUADALCANAL patrol planes bombed and strafed a fifty foot fuel barge about seventy miles north of NEW HANOVER ISLAND, just northwest of KAVIENG, and one direct hit left the barge burning in the water, probably sinking.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET
Declassified
OSD Letter 12

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 14 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Around noon, 12 December, a total of thirty-one Liberators from NAMOMEA and NUKUFETAU ISLANDS, in the ELLICE GROUP, and FUNAFUTI, blasted IMIEJI in the JALUIT ATOLL, with forty-seven tons of five hundred and one hundred pound bombs from a height of five thousand to seven thousand feet. Cloudy sky conditions precluded observations of the results. No enemy air opposition was met. In the harbor were two large and one small freighters and one of these ships was attacked by a plane which dropped six five hundred pound bombs from a height of two hundred feet with unknown results. The moderate anti-aircraft fire encountered did slight damage to our planes but no casualties were received. One of our search planes is missing.

The submarine POGY, returning from a patrol in the vicinity of the PALAU ISLANDS, in the CENTRAL PACIFIC, reports that she sank two ships and damaged one, which probably sank. Her score for the cruise showed ships sunk, 14,000 tons; ships damaged, 5,400 tons. During her cruise the POGY received some damage from depth charges.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

4 p.m. 13 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Motor torpedo boats, basing from LAMBU LAMBU, on VELLA LAVELLA, contacted three southbound enemy barges, four miles south of LULUAI POINT, on the southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE, at 11:45 a.m., 12 December. One barge was sunk, one was beached, and one afloat after the motor torpedo boats had expended all their ammunition. The barges were apparently fully armored. Three of the motor torpedo boats were hit in many places by the enemy's intense return fire, but they suffered no major damage nor casualties to personnel.

The submarine CREVALLE, returning from her first war patrol, in the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS area, reports as follows:

- 10 November - in TABLAS STRAIT made a submerged attack on an escorted four-ship convoy and damaged a five thousand six hundred and forty ton enemy freighter.
- 11 November - in south MINDORO STRAIT, sunk by gunfire a seven hundred and fifty ton motor vessel.
- 15 November - twenty miles northwest of SUBIC BAY, got one hit in a freighter of seven thousand and sixty-five tons. An explosion was seen and the freighter was heard breaking up and sinking almost overhead.
- 17 November - forty miles northwest of SUBIC BAY, blew the bow off of a eighteen thousand ton auxiliary aircraft carrier with four torpedoes. The ship was heard to break up after a series of explosions.
- 25 November - in a night attack, fifty miles northwest of SUBIC BAY, two torpedoes were put into a four thousand ton freighter. The ship stopped. No further sight of her was seen after a surface search.

The score for the cruise was: Sunk 29,815 tons;
damaged 5,641 tons.

SECRET**SECRET**UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 13 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Three Dauntless dive bombers and three Avengers blasted DIO DIO on the south coast of BOUGAINVILLE.

Two Venturas went up to GREEN ISLAND, between NEW IRELAND and BOUGAINVILLE, dropped pamphlets to the natives and on the return trip bombed KIETA HARBOR AREA, wrecking several huts and houses. One of the Venturas was damaged by weak ack ack from PUANAPA POINT, near KIETA.

At 1:10 p.m., on 12 December, two Corsairs strafed scurrying Japanese and six or seven huts at the mouth of the HALETA RIVER, which is on the southern coast of SHORTLAND ISLAND. It is reported that several Japanese were killed.

On the morning of 12 December, one Liberator photo plane took pictures and bombed POPORANG ISLAND, southeast of SHORTLAND ISLAND.

At 10:20 a.m., on 12 December, a patrol plane from GUADALCANAL was attacked by four Zeros, northwest of BORPOP HARBOR, near the DUKE OF YORK GROUP ISLANDS, NEW IRELAND. It is believed that one Japanese plane was shot down.

During 11 December, a patrol plane from GUADALCANAL reports sighting seven to ten dome-shaped camouflaged huts and possible camouflaged barges on the west tip of YEHAHNU ISLAND, in the KILINAILU (CARTERET) group, approximately forty miles northeast of BUKA, BOUGAINVILLE.

During 11 December, our ground forces at TOROKINA, reported minor clashes in the northeast sector.

Patrols on TREASURY ISLAND are searching for the lone Jap seen in the vicinity of MALSI, on 12 December.

At 10:30 a.m., on 12 December, a high altitude enemy float plane dropped three bombs on motor torpedo boats from TREASURY ISLAND. One was a near miss, but no casualties or damage resulted.

During the night of 12-13 December, motor torpedo boats from TOROKINA detected two barges leaving the mouth and the lagoons of the AT SINIMA RIVER, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE, as they attempted to go southward. When the motor torpedo boat patrol closed the range, they withdrew.

An enemy float plane strafed the motor torpedo boat patrol off TOTAVI, south of MUTIPENA POINT, BOUGAINVILLE, intermittently for over forty minutes without damage.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 13 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 11-12 December, two night fighters bombed FAISI, southern BOUGAINVILLE, while another one hit KIHILI and started fires.

On 12 December, at 8:05 a.m., four Kittyhawks strafed TONOLEI, southern BOUGAINVILLE, with unobserved results. One plane was hit by antiaircraft fire and was forced into a water landing at ARUNDEL ISLAND, near MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, where the pilot was rescued.

Forty-six Dauntless dive bombers, twenty-seven Avengers, escorted by forty-eight fighters, attacked villages in the vicinity of MATCHIN BAY, northern BOUGAINVILLE, on 12 December, at 10:40 a.m. They demolished a pier at SAROKEN HARBOR, an arm of MATCHIN BAY. Returning, eight of the fighters started fires in the KIETA HARBOR AREA.

On 12 December, at 12:25 p.m., twelve Liberators bombed KIHILI, southern BOUGAINVILLE, and twelve more Liberators blasted the northwest corner of POPORANG ISLAND, southeast of SHORTLAND ISLAND. In both cases the results were unobserved. Only meager antiaircraft was received from KIHILI, and none from POPORANG.

Twenty Dauntless dive bombers, sixteen Avengers, covered by twenty-four fighters, bombed KIETA HARBOR - TOBEREI BAY AREA, in the central east coast of BOUGAINVILLE. Numerous fires were started and buildings were destroyed at TOBEREI BAY.

At 10:15 a.m., 12 December, six Mitchells bombed and strafed ARIGUA PLANTATION, on the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE. Photographs confirm the destruction of three buildings, also damage to the warehouse and plantation house.

At 11:00 a.m., on the morning of 12 December, eight Mitchells, with sixteen fighters, bombed the BONIS supply area, northern BOUGAINVILLE. On their retiring trip the fighters set fire to a house at TENEKAU BAY, central northeast BOUGAINVILLE, and strafed huts between the KIETA air strip and AROPA RIVER, which is in the central east coast of BOUGAINVILLE.

Nine Mitchells bombed the KIETA HARBOR AREA, wrecked two shacks and started a large fire which gave off dense clouds of black smoke. Another Liberator hit KIHILI.

SECRET**SECRET**

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 13 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A report from our surface and air forces that bombarded NAURU, on 8 December, indicates that fifty-one tons of bombs were dropped, that eight hundred and ten sixteen-inch shells and thirty-four hundred five-inch shells were fired on the target. In rough figures, this would indicate that approximately eight hundred and thirty tons of sixteen-inch and one hundred and six tons of five-inch shells hit the target, which coupled with the fifty-one tons of bombs, shows that approximately nine hundred and eighty-seven tons of projectiles blasted the island.

Nine enemy aircraft, consisting of six fighters and three bombers were destroyed on the ground. One bomber was shot down by a PBV. Commencing with the first salvo, heavy fires burned throughout the target area and created a dense smoke pall which obscured the results of the bombardment.

Our losses were as follows: Air Combat, one each Hellcat and observation plane with their crews; Air Operational, one dive bomber from which the crew was rescued.

It is now learned that the destroyer BOYD, which was hit in the foreward engine room by the five or six-inch shell, was struck while engaged in rescuing air flight personnel, subsequent to the bombardment. The disaster to the BOYD resulted in the killing of one officer and ten men, with seven wounded, one seriously.

PROGRESS OF GILBERT AIR FIELDS

At TARAWA, on BETITO, the runway has been resurfaced and now is twenty-four hundred feet by a hundred and fifty feet. In the same group over on BONRIKI, the construction of a new bomber strip indicates that it is coral surfaced to the extent of three thousand feet by a hundred and fifty feet. It appears now that a fighter strip will also be constructed there as it is indicated that the clearing for such a runway has now been started.

At MAKIN, the ground defenses are eighty percent completed and likewise the communication setup is seventy percent finished. The air strip and taxiway is seventy percent done.

At AFEMAMA, a fighter strip, four thousand feet by three hundred feet has been cleared and three thousand feet by a hundred and fifty feet of it been surfaced.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**SECRET
OSD Lett

9 a.m. 13 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 9 December, at 9:00 p.m., two night fighters bombed and strafed the BUKA-BONIS AREA, starting fires in the BONIS supply section.

KIETA, eastern BOUGAINVILLE, was bombed by three Kittyhawks and one house was demolished.

During the night of 10-11 December, night fighters from TOROKINA bombed the enemy bivouac area in the JAVA-PIVA section. They also struck FAISAI, southern BOUGAINVILLE, where a tremendous explosion and a beautiful fire was started. Probably a fuel dump was hit.

On 11 December, between 11:00 a.m., and 11:25 a.m., Mitchell bombers bombed and strafed ARIGUA PLANTATION in northeast central BOUGAINVILLE. Three Quonset type huts and six other metal buildings were destroyed.

At 11:30 a.m., 11 December, sixteen unescorted Mitchells bombed KIHILI, in southern BOUGAINVILLE, and the attack caused volumes of smoke and dust to rise. The first wave met only moderate antiaircraft opposition, but the second wave was subjected to intense fire. Two of our bombers were damaged.

At 1:30 p.m., 11 December, fifty-four Dauntless dive bombers, twenty-eight Avengers, escorted by fourteen fighters, blasted enemy supply areas, bridges, piers, defensive positions, in the general TOROKINA section. Three buildings, one pier and three antiaircraft guns were destroyed. One large explosion and fire resulted. Antiaircraft fire damaged three of our planes.

At 2:00 p.m., 11 December, eight Airacobras bombed the TONOLEI AREA, south BOUGAINVILLE, and caused several fires.

Two Venturas dropped leaflets to the natives and strafed the KOROMIRA MISSION, south of KIETA, eastern BOUGAINVILLE.

Four Venturas bombed and strafed the hut area at GREEN ISLAND, between NEW IRELAND and BUKA ISLAND, but found no enemy barges there.

On 11 December, at 2:07 p.m., fifteen Liberators bombed TSIROGEI VILLAGE just south of BUKA, on MATCHIN BAY.

Nine Liberators bombed the wharf at ALBA (?).

During 11 December, no BLUE planes were lost on their air strikes.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRETDESTROYER
OSD Letter
SECRET

4 p.m. 12 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 10 December, the destroyer BENNETT bombarded targets in the JABA-MAWARAKA Areas in EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY.

Our ground forces at TOROKINA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, report that on 10 December, one of their patrol in the northeast sector engaged in a minor action with the enemy. One officer and three of our men were killed.

Natives report that two Jap officers with twenty-two of their men deserted from WAKUNAI, in the NUMA NUMA Area, EASTERN BOUGAINVILLE, and apparently are now at SIRIAPAIA, which is southwest of NUMA NUMA in the interior.

On 11 December, on TREASURY ISLAND, natives pretending friendship captured two Japs armed with grenades one mile south of MALSI.

On 11 December, a patrol plane from GUADALCANAL bombed KIETA airfield, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and the northwest coast of CHOISEUL ISLAND. No activity was seen in the latter place.

On 11 December, at 5:27 p.m., another patrol plane from GUADALCANAL sighted and bombed an enemy submarine approximately sixty-five miles southwest of EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY. Two of the bombs bracketed the submarine's under water course, causing a large oil slick to appear and numerous pieces of wood debris.

During the night of 11-12 December, motor torpedo boats from TOROKINA stalked into and wrecked a one-hundred and fifty foot schooner in QUEEN CAROLA HARBOR, northwest of BUKA.

During the night of 11-12 December, off TOROKINA, a preliminary report states that the LCI 22 received two near misses from a Jap bomber. The ship, leaking badly forward, was beached on PURUATA ISLAND, off TOROKINA. Nine men of her crew were wounded, but the ship is credited with shooting down the JAP that bombed her.

SECRETDECLASSIFIED TO
080 **SECRET**

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 12 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In the combined United States naval surface and air attack on NAURU, 8 December, it is reported that the Destroyer BOYD received a five-inch shell hit which caused considerable damage in her engineering spaces. No report has been received as yet regarding the details of our attack on NAURU.

The United States submarine BLUEFISH makes the following report on her second war patrol which covered LOMBOK, MAKASSAR, SIBITU and BALABAC STRAITS, in the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES area.

8 November - After a two day's chase of an escorted six-ship north bound convoy, on the predawn of 8 November from a position astern of the escorting destroyer, the BLUEFISH hit all of the six ships with nine torpedoes. The leading oil tanker exploded and sank. The BLUEFISH withdrew, reloaded, and came back to hole a twelve thousand tanker with two hits and sank her. This attack occurred near WEST YORK ISLAND, in the LOMBOK AREA.

Heading for MAKASSAR STRAIT the BLUEFISH contacted a enemy manned sampan and sank her.

18 November - During the night, in the CELEBES SEA AREA, the BLUEFISH put three torpedoes into a Japanese destroyer of eight hundred and twenty tons, and damaged a tanker.

Her score for the cruise indicates: Sunk 22,820 tons, damaged 43,841 tons.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 11 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Air operations on 10 December over BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND were hampered by poor weather. During the day, ten Mitchells bombed the supply area and the airstrip at KIHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were unobserved. On the same day, eight Lightnings bombed enemy installations and four barges in the TONOLEI HARBOR Area. Fires were started.

On 10 December, six Venturas destroyed ten to twelve warehouses on the ARIGUA PLANTATION, northwest central BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 5:27 p.m. 11 December, a reconnaissance plane attacked and possibly destroyed an enemy submarine seventy-five miles southwest of EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND GROUND SITUATION

(The airfield at TOROKINA was put into operation on 9 December.) A ground patrol operating in the northeast sector of the EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area, killed twelve Japanese out of twenty-five encountered. We lost one man. A reinforced enemy company attacked our positions in the northeast sector and killed twelve men, wounded thirty-six. Enemy casualties were not reported.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
08D 12/23/83

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 11 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

*78/10/11
white 123*

During the afternoon of 9 December, nineteen Liberators, operating from FUNA FUTU, ELLICE ISLANDS, bombed MILE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Observation of the results was prevented by clouds. Our bombers were intercepted by fifteen to twenty-five Zeros. Four enemy planes were definitely destroyed, three probably destroyed and one damaged. Five of our planes were damaged and four of the personnel wounded. Two of the enemy fighters dropped six aerial bombs during the air engagement. Antiaircraft fire encountered was light and inaccurate.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 10 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A delayed report indicates that at dawn 7 December seven Liberators bombed MALOELAP, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Eight enemy fighters intercepted our bombers. One enemy plane was shot down. All of our planes returned.

On 7 December, a Liberator dropped bombs on enemy gun installations at MILLI.

During the night of 7 December, four enemy planes dropped a number of bombs on TARAWA, which fell harmlessly into the water.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter
SECRET

9 a.m. 10 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

BLACKFISH

- 23 November, sank a forty-five hundred ton freighter, four hundred and fifteen miles northwest of WEWAK, NEW GUINEA.
- 24 November, damaged a forty-five hundred ton freighter, two hundred and eighty miles north northeast of WEWAK, NEW GUINEA.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 10 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 8 December, a Ventura reconnaissance plane strafed enemy installations on MILLI. Another reconnaissance plane encountered three enemy fighters in the vicinity of MILLI. Results of this encounter were not reported. At about the same time, at JALUIT, a reconnaissance plane sank a patrol boat and probably sank a small cargo vessel, and two one hundred foot wooden ships. In addition, enemy installations at JALUIT were strafed.

Late on 8 December, twenty-two Liberators operating from NANOMEA, attacked JALUIT, MARSHALL ISLANDS. No enemy planes intercepted, but light antiaircraft fire was encountered. All of our planes returned.

At the same time, eleven Liberators from NANOMEA struck at TAROA, MALOELAP, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Good coverage of the target area was observed. Our planes were intercepted by ten enemy fighters and probably shot down two. Four of our planes sustained minor damage.

During the night of 7-8 December, a night fighter strafed two enemy barges ten miles southeast of CAPE TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On December 8, a reconnaissance plane operating from GUADALCANAL, strafed installations on the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the morning of 8 December, an LCI gunboat destroyed a beached enemy barge.

Poor weather interfered with flying operations in the BOUGAINVILLE area during 9 December. However, during the day a fighter patrol strafed huts on BANIU PLANTATION, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and a reconnaissance plane strafed huts, barges and other installations on AMBITLE ISLAND and GREEN ISLAND, northwest of BUKA ISLAND.

The following submarines returned from patrol and reported as follows:

RAY

26 November, north of the BISMARCKS, sank a forty-five hundred ton freighter, and sank a ninety-eight hundred ton cargo transport; total tonnage destroyed, 14,300 tons.

RATON

26 November, sank an enemy freighter northwest of MUSSAU ISLAND.
28 November, sank two enemy freighters in approximately the same area. Total tonnage destroyed, 20,000.

COMINCH FILE 12

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4:00 p.m. 9 December 19

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 1:40 p.m., 8 December, a reconnaissance plane attacked six enemy barges or fishing boats about one hundred and seventy miles west southwest of KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND. One vessel was definitely sunk, two were left in a sinking condition, and the remainder were apparently damaged and possibly sank later.

The submarine ALBACORE reported sinking a nine thousand ton enemy freighter on 25 November, in the vicinity of NEW BRITAIN.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
ON 10-10-78
BY SP-6 LJS/STP

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 9 December 1943

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 5-6 December, two enemy planes dropped eight bombs near BETIO ISLAND, TARAWA. Only one of these bombs landed near our installations and caused minor injuries to personnel.

At 8:30 p.m. 7 December, one enemy bomber dropped four bombs at MAKIN, which landed without harm in the lagoon.

A reconnaissance plane bombed an enemy submarine seventy-five miles east northeast of GASMATA, NEW BRITAIN. The submarine was possibly damaged.

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10-1-80
BY 688

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 8 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At MAKIN the ground defenses are reported eighty percent completed, the communications seventy percent and the air strip forty percent completed. The fighter strip at APEMAMA is half cleared and partially graded. Forty-three fighters are being operated on the original Japanese field on TARAWA. The clearing of the new field in the southeast corner of TARAWA has been completed and work on the grading is now proceeding.

During the night of 6-7 December, motor torpedo boats attacked four loaded enemy barges in TORAU BAY, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The barges headed toward the shore and contact was subsequently lost but it is believed that several of them were hit. The motor torpedo boats returned without damage or casualties.

On the same night two Ventura night fighters, over TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, shot down one enemy float observation plane.

Thirteen Mitchell bombers bombed the KIETA HARBOR AREA at 10:35 a.m., 7 December. Complete observation of the results were not reported but apparently some fires were started. At about the same time five Mitchells attacked KAHILI, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results of the attack were not observed.

A reconnaissance plane, operating from GUADALCANAL strafed huts on GREEN ISLAND, during 7 December. Another reconnaissance plane crashed in the vicinity of SAVO ISLAND. The cause is unknown. One man survived.

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

During 5 December, our ground forces advanced and occupied three hills on the final perimeter in the east sector. Patrols are operating beyond this new line but no enemy contacts have been made. Our positions are being improved and good progress has been made on the air field and road construction.

COMINCH FLEET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 8 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At about 7:00 a.m., 5 December, aircraft from TASK GROUP 50.1 (under command of Admiral Pownall) LEXINGTON (CV), YORKTOWN (CV), COMPENS (CVL), MINNEAPOLIS (CA), SAN FRANCISCO (CA), NEW ORLEANS (CA), BALTIMORE (CA), and OAKLAND (CL), plus destroyers, and TASK GROUP 50.3 (under Admiral Montgomery) ESSEX (CV), ENTERPRISE (CV), BELLEAU WOOD (CVL), SANTA FE (CL), MOBILE (CL), PORTLAND (CA), SAN DIEGO (CL), SAN JUAN (CL), attacked ROI (KWAJALEIN ATOLL) and adjacent anchorages.

It is estimated that two enemy light cruisers, one tanker, and three cargo vessels were sunk. In addition, one transport and two freighters were sunk or badly damaged. Thirty-one enemy fighters, eight medium bombers, two heavy bombers (flying boats), and eighteen float planes were definitely destroyed, plus an unknown number of medium bombers which were left burning. The radio at ROI was damaged. We lost two Hellcats and one Dauntless dive bomber from TASK GROUP 50.1. The losses sustained by TASK GROUP 50.3 have not been reported.

An air attack on a smaller scale was completed against WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS, where three enemy fighters and two bombers were destroyed and a cargo vessel badly damaged. Two hangars were destroyed, a fuel dump set on fire and other installations damaged. All of our planes returned from this attack.

Later, at about noon, seven enemy torpedo bombers unsuccessfully attacked TASK GROUP 50.1. Six of the enemy planes were shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

Beginning at about 8:00 p.m., 5 December, both TASK GROUPS were subjected to continuous and vigorous attacks by about thirty-five to forty low flying medium bombers for five and a half hours. It is believed that the enemy losses were small.

In one of these attacks the aircraft carrier LEXINGTON was struck on the starboard side by an aerial torpedo and sustained damage to the propeller shaft, reduction gears and one turbine. The steering gear was also damaged. The carrier was able to proceed at twenty knots, steering with her engines. One man was killed, twenty-four injured, and seven are reported missing. The LEXINGTON is expected to arrive at PEARL before noon, 9 December.

The light cruiser MOBILE of TASK GROUP 50.3, sustained some damage during the night engagement of 5 December with enemy planes, when her left gun of a five-inch mount accidentally fired into the shield of a forty millimeter gun, which set off forty millimeter ammunition. Further details are not at present available.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRETDECLASSIFIED
ON 10/1/00
BY 1043

4:00 p.m. 6 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 7:50 a.m., 5 December, four Kittyhawks strafed MOSIGETTA, southeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results of the attack were not reported.

Our morning patrol over EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, strafed the CHABAI AREA, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, NUMA NUMA, northeast central BOUGAINVILLE, and FASI ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA. At FASI, a number of Japanese were killed.

Strong air attacks against enemy installations on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND continued for the third day, when twenty-three Mitchells attacked the MONOITU and AITARA MISSIONS, south BOUGAINVILLE, and the MOSIGETTA area, throughout 5 December in four groups at forty-five minute intervals. Many fires were started and numerous huts were destroyed.

Ten dive bombers and twelve torpedo bombers in four groups followed the Mitchell attacks. Additional fires were started and more buildings were destroyed. All of our planes returned.

After the destroyer bombardment of 5 December, previously reported, three torpedo bombers bombed the CHOISEUL BAY AREA, CHOISEUL ISLAND. The area was later bombed by a reconnaissance plane.

Destroyers developed a submarine sound contact three miles south of FLORIDA ISLAND at 7 a.m., 5 December. Depth charges apparently damaged the submarine as evidenced by a heavy oil slick. Subsequent depth charge attacks released a large amount of black oil. It is believed that the submarine is stationary on the bottom in thirty-five fathoms of water. Operations for its complete destruction are continuing.

At 11:25 p.m., 5 December, a reconnaissance plane strafed five enemy barges off KIETA, northeast central BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

During 4 December, five enemy bombs were dropped, without damage, on our positions in the TOROKINA AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

One of our submarines (name unreported) sank a three thousand ton enemy transport eighty miles northeast of PONAPE ISLAND, and a two thousand five hundred ton cargo vessel forty miles east of TRUK.

COMINCH 11-7-43
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 7 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

B.1
B.2
The following communique has been released by CINCPAC at 2230 GCT, 6 December:

"STRONG CARRIER TASK FORCES ATTACKED THE MARSHALL ISLANDS ON 4 DECEMBER (WEST LONGITUDE DATE) X DUE TO THE NECESSITY FOR RADIO SILENCE DETAILS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE X"

During the night of 4-5 December, a Ventura dropped bombs and strafed KAHILI, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 10:10 a.m., 5 December, MONOITU MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed and strafed by six Mitchell bombers. A warehouse was destroyed. This attack was followed up by eight Airacobras which bombed and strafed the vicinity and reported that the entire area was demolished.

At 11:15 a.m., 5 December, fifty-one dive bombers and twenty-eight torpedo bombers, escorted by sixteen fighters, bombed and strafed the vicinity of KIETA HARBOR, east central BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Six fires were started and a number of buildings were destroyed. Light antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 11:23 a.m., 5 December, twenty heavy bombers, escorted by nine fighters, bombed the enemy supply area at BONIS, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of fires were started. At about the same time, the KIETA supply area, east BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed by one Liberator. Results were not reported.

About noon, 5 December, sixteen Lightnings strafed the west coast of EUKA ISLAND. A number of buildings were set on fire.

On 5 December, a number of huts were strafed, in the vicinity of ARAWA BAY, central east BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, by eight Kittyhawks after an unsuccessful search for enemy shipping.

On 5 December, the air patrol over EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, strafed CHABAI, northwest BOUGAINVILLE, KOROMIRA, southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE, and MONOITU MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE.

TARLENA VILLAGE, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was attacked during 5 December, by twenty-four medium bombers, covered by sixteen fighters. Many fires were started. Although moderate to intense antiaircraft fire was encountered, apparently all of our planes returned.

During the entire day's operations no combat losses were sustained.

COMINCH
SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 6 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Amplifying details received indicate that the attack on TARAWA by nine enemy planes, occurred between 8 and 9 p.m., 4 December (TARAWA TIME). A five hundred barrel fuel dump was burned. Three men were slightly wounded.

At 9:00 a.m., 5 December, four small bombs were dropped without damage in the vicinity of FLINT POINT, MAKIN ATOLL.

On 2 December, a reconnaissance Liberator bombed enemy installations on KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND. A number of fires were started.

On 3 December, a Liberator on a reconnaissance flight was attacked by seven Zeros in the vicinity of MILLI. One enemy plane was destroyed and two others damaged.

A reconnaissance plane, on 4 December, bombed and strafed enemy installations at JALUIT, MARSHALL ISLANDS, and in addition sank a four-engined enemy float plane.

At about noon, 4 December, thirty-five Liberators bombed MILLI. Large fires were started and one grounded medium enemy bomber was destroyed. No enemy planes were encountered, but antiaircraft fire slightly damaged five of our planes and wounded three men.

At 10:07 a.m., 5 December, eight Liberators and one reconnaissance plane bombed NAURU ISLAND. A large fire was started in a fuel storage area. No enemy planes were encountered but intense antiaircraft fire damaged one of our planes. Three enemy aircraft were observed leaving the island when our bombers arrived. All of our planes returned.

The submarine SAILFISH, in a ten hour engagement, from 11:00 p.m., 3 December to 9:00 a.m., 4 December, sank a ZUIHO class aircraft carrier (15,000 tons), off the JAPANESE EMPIRE.

COMINCH PIR 3-73

SECRET

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4:00 p.m. 5 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The bombardment of CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, reported in this morning's summary, was conducted by three of our destroyers at 9:00 a.m., 4 December.

Motor torpedo boats, operating in EUKA PASSAGE, before dawn, 4 December, were ineffectively strafed by enemy planes.

On the early morning of 4 December, a number of our surface units, unloading supplies at CAPE TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were harassed by enemy planes which dropped many flares.

Enemy planes were over TREASURY ISLAND, during the night of 3-4 December and our antiaircraft guns possibly shot down two of the planes.

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

OSD Letter RE

The CHOISEUL BAY AREA, CHOISEUL ISLAND, was apparently bombed by an unreported number of our destroyers on 4 December. Spotting planes reported the target area well covered.

- 682 -

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

SECRET

SECRET

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 5 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At MAKIN, defenses are eighty-five percent completed and communications sixty percent operative. The air field is twenty-five percent completed.

At 7:20 p.m., 5 December, nine enemy bombers dropped bombs on TARAWA. One grounded Ventura and one Hellcat was destroyed and two Venturas and six Hellcats damaged. Two hundred barrels of gasoline burned. There were no personnel casualties.

At 12:36 p.m., 3 December, twenty-one Liberators, heavily bombed the BONIS supply area, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of fires were started.

At about the same time one Liberator dropped bombs on KOROVO, southeast SHORTLAND ISLAND, and two other Liberators bombed KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, where a number of buildings were destroyed. No anti-aircraft fire was encountered at KIETA.

At 2:15 p.m., 3 December, six Mitchells bombed and strafed AITARA, south coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of huts were destroyed, but complete observation of the results was not obtained.

During the morning of 4 December, an unreported number of our destroyers shelled Japanese installations at KOIARIS and MAWARAKA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The bombardment was spotted by two Dauntless dive bombers and supported by two other dive bombers which bombed and destroyed a warehouse at KOIARIS and a number of buildings and huts in the area.

On 4 December, our fighter patrol over the EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, strafed the CHABAI AREA and the east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

The CHABAI enemy supply area, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was attacked by twenty-one Liberators at 10:00 a.m., 4 December. Fifteen minutes after this attack seventeen Mitchells struck the area. These two attacks destroyed a portion of the supply dump and three buildings. Six aerial bombs were dropped by a high altitude enemy plane on the Mitchell bombers, but although close misses were scored no damage was sustained. One Liberator failed to return.

At forty-five minute intervals, on 4 December, fifty-eight dive bombers and forty-one torpedo bombers, attacked the MOSIGETTA AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. These attacks were probably made in groups of six planes to one attack. About thirty to forty buildings were destroyed, together with a bridge over the SILIBAI RIVER, south coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

4 p.m. 4 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 11:42 a.m. 2 December, twenty-four Liberators bombed KOROVO, southeast SHORTLAND ISLAND. Hits were scored in the supply and bivouac areas.

On 3 December, a number of camouflaged barges, in the vicinity of GREEN ISLAND (north of BUKA ISLAND) were strafed and set on fire by a reconnaissance plane operating from GUADALCANAL.

At 11:30 a.m. 3 December, twenty-three Mitchells bombed the enemy supply and bivouac areas in KIETA HARBOR, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of fires visible for fifty miles were started.

During 3 December, thirty-six torpedo bombers and fifty-eight dive bombers struck LINOITU MISSION, the MISIGETTA and PORROR RIVER Area, the SHISHIGATERO-MIBO BRIDGE Area in SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE in groups of six planes at forty-five minute intervals. A two-hundred and fifty foot bridge over the PORROR RIVER was destroyed, in addition to thirty or forty buildings. One torpedo bomber failed to return.

On the same day, seventeen dive bombers attacked a beached enemy freighter in MOISURU BAY, east of KAHILI, SHORTLAND Area.

During 3 December, the fighter patrol over EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, strafed MOSIGAI, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, CHABAI, MATCHIN BAY Area and NUMA NUMA, CENTRAL EAST BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET
DND Let

9 a.m. 4 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

✓ The destroyer HOEL reported aground on 2 December off the southwest tip of BITITU ISLAND, TARAWA Atoll, was refloated on the early afternoon of 3 December. The extent of the damage has not been determined.

An incomplete report indicates that on 2 December one of our reconnaissance planes was intercepted by nine enemy Zeros over an unreported locality. Two Zeros were shot down and one probably shot down. Our plane, in addition, strafed a number of small enemy vessels and probably damaged a three hundred foot cargo vessel.

✓ During the night of 2 December, between 8:00 p.m. and 8:40 p.m., a convoy bound for the TOROKINA Area, EMPRESS AUGUST BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and screened by an unreported number of destroyers of DesRon 23 was heavily, although ineffectively attacked by twenty to twenty-five enemy torpedo planes and dive bombers forty-five miles south of EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY. A number of bombs fell near vessels of the convoy, and six torpedoes passed close to the screening destroyers. Three enemy planes were definitely shot down and two or three probably shot down.

One of our submarines (name unreported), operating in the vicinity of the CELEBES, reported as follows:

010 Sank one destroyer and one cargo vessel of 7,000 tons on 2 December thirty-five miles northeast of KWANDANG BAY, north CELEBES, and, in addition, sank an 8,000 ton Naval auxiliary in the JAVA SEA.

On 29 November, another submarine (name unreported) attacked and probably sank one freighter and damaged a transport.

SECRET

SECRET

USCIB

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4:00 p.m. 3 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the morning of 2 December, the CHABAI AREA, MATCHIN BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was harassed by fighter patrols. Results were unobserved.

On 2 December, two reconnaissance planes bombed enemy antiaircraft positions and the building area on OCEAN ISLAND. One fire was started. The island appeared deserted with considerable debris floating in the harbor.

At 7:15 p.m., 2 December, the destroyer HOEL grounded off the southwest tip of BITITU ISLAND, TARAWA ATOLL. Operations were reported in progress to refloat the vessel.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 3 December 1943.

SECRET

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At MAKIN, ground defenses are about eighty percent operative. The fighter strip and taxiway is fifteen percent completed.

Islands in the TARAWA ATOLL are being searched by landing parties. No Japanese have been found. 41 planes are in operational status on *unconfirmed Tarawa, name*

At APEMAMA unloading continues slowly.

On 2 December, a night fighter dropped bombs on enemy positions in the EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 11:06 a.m., 2 December, fourteen Mitchells bombed MALAI VILLAGE on MORGUSAIA ISLAND, south of SHORTLAND ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

At 11:40 a.m., 2 December, two Mitchells bombed RIGU MISSION near KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. All of the bombs dropped in the target area. No enemy plane interception or antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On the same day six Mitchells dropped bombs in the PORROR RIVER AREA, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and an unreported number of Liberators bombed KOROVO, southeast SHORTLAND ISLAND. Results of these attacks were not reported.

The submarine BOWFIN returned from patrol of the SOUTH CHINA SEA and reported as follows: In the vicinity of CAPE VARELLA, FRENCH INDO-CHINA, sank one tanker, two large freighters, one medium transport and one small steamer: estimated total 45,000 tons. Two more freighters were believed sunk for an additional total of 19,000 tons.

named, with approval of Admiral Nimitz, in memory of 1st Lt W D Hawkins USMC whose outstanding bravery in close combat aided materially in capture of island, name?

COMINCH FILE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

OSD

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 2 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At TARAWA, HAWKINS FIELD is ready for Fighting Squadron Twelve and emergency night fighter landings. Antiaircraft and 155mm guns are in position. The disposal of enemy coast watchers on adjacent islands is progressing.

At MAKIN our ground defenses are in position and communication facilities are functioning eighty-five percent. The work on the airfield is slowly progressing.

At 11:46 a.m. 30 November, seventeen Mitchells bombed MALAI on MORGUSAI ISLAND, south of SHORTLAND ISLAND. A number of fires were started. All of our planes returned. Later, at 12:33 MALAI was again attacked by eighteen Mitchells and eight Lightnings. The target area was reported well covered.

SARIME PLANTATION, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed at 10:30 a.m., 1 December, by six Mitchells. Good coverage of the target area was reported.

At 1:10 p.m., 1 December, fifty-one dive bombers and thirty-six torpedo bombers, escorted by thirty-two fighters, attacked the KARA and BALLALE air fields, and adjacent supply areas. Five hits were observed on the KARA air strip and four on the BALLALE strip. Other enemy installations were damaged or destroyed. Weak antiaircraft fire was encountered at KARA, but intense antiaircraft fire was encountered at BALLALE. One of our dive bombers was shot down, another is missing and four were damaged.

During 1 December, the JABA RIVER Area, on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was attacked by ten dive bombers, twelve torpedo planes and eight Airacobras, with unobserved results.

Our air patrols over EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, on 1 December, strafed enemy installations in the MATCHIN BAY Area. The CAPE MOTUPENA Area was also strafed. Results were unobserved. One Corsair failed to return from this patrol.

At 7:00 a.m., 1 December, four Airacobras strafed the TONOLEI HARBOR Area, SHORTLAND Area. Results were unobserved.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
8-1-72
O&D Letter,

9 a.m. 1 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

AIR ACTION OF 30 NOVEMBER

At 11:20 a.m., Liberators bombed PORPORO, northern BOUGAINVILLE. It would appear that a radar station was damaged.

At 2:00 p.m., eight Lightnings strafed AMUN PLANTATION, northwest BOUGAINVILLE, with unobserved results.

Eight lightnings strafed the NUMA NUMA-KIETA AREA, at 2:30 p.m., and put on fire twenty huts, about eight miles north of ARAWA BAY.

Japanese positions in the TEKESSI RIVER AREA, west CENTRAL BOUGAINVILLE, were under fire by artillery and destroyers during the day.

In all of these flights there was no enemy air interception and all our planes returned. No enemy planes have been contacted since the morning of 22 November.

SITUATION AT MAKIN

It is reported, on 30 November, that coastal defense artillery is in position, but apparently the ammunition for the 155 millimeter guns has not been landed. The air field is five percent complete.

New
The Marine battalion, that was landed during the night of 28-29 November, at a point one and one-half miles northwest of KOIARIS, southwest BOUGAINVILLE, was withdrawn by 9:30 p.m., on the night of 29 November. This landing was made in an area of enemy food, ammunition and supply concentrations. The mission of this force was to reconnaissance and raid and apparently was successful because it is reported artillery dumps, rifles, stores and medical supplies were destroyed. Documents were also captured. The battalion's task could not be continued further than it was, because of heavy enemy resistance which curbed its activities. It is reported that an enemy force of several thousand, coordinated with strong mortar fire, engaged it. Although our forces received effective aid from air and surface bombardment, it was decided to withdraw. Our casualties approximated fifteen killed, seventy-one wounded, of which ten are serious. It is believed that enemy casualties were over two hundred known dead. All of our personnel, except those killed, were evacuated and apparently there was no loss of boats during the withdrawal in spite of heavy enemy fire.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 12-3-72
COMB FILE

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 12-3-72
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 1 December 1943.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

AIR ACTION OF 30 NOVEMBER

Four Airacobras hit four barges, two boats and three antiaircraft positions at 10:00 a.m., in TONOLEI HARBOR, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The results were unobserved.

At 10:50 a.m., four Kittyhawks strafed the southeastern end of BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA. One plane was damaged.

Five Airacobras at 2:00 p.m., left one barge smoking and silenced one antiaircraft position at TONOLEI HARBOR. Three planes were damaged by small caliber fire.

The fighter cover over EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, coordinated with destroyers and shelled enemy positions at TOROKINA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY.

Fifty Dauntless dive bombers and twenty-two Avengers, covered by thirty-one fighters, bombed and strafed JAKOHINA MISSION, KAHILI AREA. Antiaircraft positions at KANGU HILL and SALALITA HILLS, in the same area were bombed and strafed at 11:50. Ten buildings and an ammunition dump was destroyed. Three to five fires were started at JAKOHINA. Three direct hits were made on gun positions on MALABITA HILL and two were hit at KANGU HILL. A warehouse south of the UGUIMO RIVER was damaged. The entire area was thoroughly strafed. The antiaircraft fire from KANGU HILL was moderate to intense while the fire at JAKOHINA was light to moderate. Three Dauntless dive bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire, two made emergency landings, one a belly landing at BARAKOMA, VELLA LA-VELLA. No injuries were sustained by our air personnel. After the attack, twenty-three fighters strafed the Japanese concentration on the northwest tip of CHOISEUL ISLAND with unknown results.

At 3:25 p.m., from tree-top level height, three Venturas bombed Japanese positions and stores at MAWARAKA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A large fire was started which was visible for many miles. Two of our planes were damaged by light automatic fire.

Ten Dauntless dive bombers and twelve Avengers, covered by four Airacobras, bombed and strafed the MOSIGETTA AREA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE at 3:45 p.m. Two warehouses, one large, and eight small houses, were destroyed. A large explosion occurred at MOSIGETTA and three to five huts were set on fire. Two huts were burned up at MUTUPENA POINT. It is believed that a radio station was one of the buildings destroyed.