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

1 March 1944 - 31 May 1944

(Pages 874 - 1069)

196

MR 203 (16), Sec. 3-E -- SUMMARY OF NAVY DEPARTMENT DISPATCHES (Pacific) 1 Mar 44 - 31 May 44

Regraded Unclassified

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SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 28-29 May, Marine piloted Mitchells harassed RABAUL.

On 29 May:

Supply and dump defenses in the RABAUL area were blasted by 96 SOPAC planes.

Airacobras and Warhawks demolished plantation buildings at TINPUTS, northeast BOUGAINVILLE, and ARIGUA PLANTATION, central east coast BOUGAINVILLE. Two Airacobras were lost but one pilot was rescued.

Venturas went up to KABANGA BAY, northern NEW IRELAND, and destroyed seven buildings, causing a large explosion.

KESSA PLANTATION, northwest coast of BUKA, and TEOP, northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE, and other BUKA and BOUGAINVILLE targets, were attacked by patrol planes and other planes which sprayed diesel oil over the enemy's kitchen gardens, etcetera.

TOROKINA gunboats, during the night of 29 May, destroyed four serviceable DAI HATSU (barges) beached in southern EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE. They also wrecked three other barges and eight hulks, all previously damaged.

On 30 May:

One of our infantry battalions landed on the north bank of the TEKESSI RIVER, outside of the TOROKINA perimeter, and secured a position which an artillery battalion then occupied.

Four troops were wounded in action when a Fiji patrol contacted an unreported number of Japs northeast of the TOROKINA perimeter.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 6-3-78
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 31 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 29 May, destroyers shelled seven villages at MEDINA PLANTATION. There was no return fire.

A reconnaissance party landed, 30 May, on TIGWON ISLAND, just east of NEW HANOVER ISLAND, NEW IRELAND area. Several machine guns were destroyed, as also enemy mortars, ammunition and 20 drums of gasoline. No enemy was encountered.

The submarine SILVERSIDES, conducting a war patrol in the MARIANAS area, states that she has sunk four ships, one probably sunk and damaged two other enemy vessels. These results have not been previously reported.

On 30 May, at 7:36 p.m., the submarine PERCH, operating east of FORMOSA, states that she damaged an enemy deisel oil tanker.

Regraded Unclassified

BOX 74. MILITARY FILES 203(14) to 203(16) Sec 2-A

See Back * Folder 1. Map Room Memorandum for President - Col. Mathewson Studies: 600 — MR 203(14)- 1944.

641 — Folder 2. MAp Room Daily News Summaries - 1944: MR 203(15) ← not all days here Summaries

947 — Folder 3. Map Room Daily News Summaries - January - April, 1945 2 December 18, 1945 Summary should be January 18, 1945

See Back → *Folder 4. Summary of Navy Department Dispatches (Atlantic): MR 203(16)- 1038 Sec. 1*A. 22 Nov., 1942 - 19 March, 1945 pages 178-21

1194-1402 — *Folder 5. Summary of Navy Dep't. Dispatches (North Pacific): MR 203(16) Sec. 2-A (6/4/42) 5 Nov., 1942 - 25 Nov., 1943 pages 299-1

REEL #25

BOX 75. SUMMARY OF NAVY DEPARTMENT DISPATCHES: MR 203(16) (Cont'd)

0095 — Section 2-B. North Pacific - 22 December 1943 - 12 April 1945 pages 442-300

See Back Separate Pages 243 — Section 3-A Pacific: 1 November, 1942 - 31 March, 1943

586 — Section 3-B Pacific: 1 April - 31 July, 1943 pages 468-317

739 — Section 3-C Pacific: 1 August - 30 November, 1943 pages 673-469

BOX 76 SUMMARY OF NAVY DEPARTMENT DISPATCHES: MR 203(16) (Cont'd)

See Separate Page 949 — Section 3-D Pacific: 1 December, 1943 - 29 February, 1944 pages 873-674

1152 — Section 3-E Pacific: 1 March - 31 May, 1944 pages 1069-874

Section 3-F* Pacific: 1 June - 31 August, 1944 pages 1251-1070

Section 3-G Pacific: 1 September - 31 December, 1944 pages 1470-1252

Section 3-H Pacific: 1 January - 12 April, 1945 pages 1709-1471

BOX 77 MILITARY FILES 204(8) to 210(10) Sec. 2.

'all in one File' See Back Separate page

Tables J-I - Japanese Naval Losses

Tables J-II - Japanese Merchantmen Sunk

Tables J-III - Japanese Tonnage Losses

Section 1-A. 1942 - 1945 : MR 204(8) Sec 1-A

Section 2-A. Table M-V -- World Wide Merchant Tonnage Losses 1942 - 1945 No 1945 documents *2 reports: May 1, 1944 Sept. 15, 1943 Film right-reading, reverse steps 1 page/frame

See Separate Sheet *Section 3-A. The United States Fleet: 1942 - 1945

MR 210(1) Sec 1. Commissions, Boards, etc.: May, 1942 - March, 1943 (173 pp)

Reports and messages concerning military commissions, conferences, councils, boards and missions, including Mission to Dakar.

MR 210, Sec. 2. Commissions, Boards, etc.: April, 1943 - December 1944 (116 pp)

MR 210, Sec. 3. Commissions, Boards: January - April, 1945 (17 pp.)

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter 8-78

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 31 May 19

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 27-28 May, night patrol planes from SOPAC bombed reported gun positions on TEOP ISLAND, northeast BOUGAINVILLE. They also observed numerous fires on CAPE SASS, northeast coast of NEW IRELAND.

On 28 May:

Patrol planes from SOPAC destroyed buildings and huts at MUPEKA MISSION, central west coast BOUGAINVILLE. The jetty at CAPE LALAHAN, south BUKA was bombed.

Three barges, in the DUKE OF YORK ISLANDS were set on fire by fighters. One Corsair was damaged. Two bridges and houses were fired at CAPE SENA, east coast NEW IRELAND.

Liberators, Mitchells and Lightnings started fires in the revetments at LAKUNAI, RABAUL.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers bombed VUNAKANAU, RABAUL, and got direct hits on a flak position gun. They also damaged one 105 millimeter gun and put 14 craters in the previously serviceable runway. One Avenger was shot down and another was damaged.

TOBERA airfield, RABAUL, was struck by Airacobras, Warhawks, Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers. One Dauntless dive bomber was shot down but the crew was rescued.

Fires were started in the supply and personnel areas at NAMATANAI, east coast NEW IRELAND, by Ventura planes.

On BOUGAINVILLE, fighter bomber sorties attacked targets of opportunity. They destroyed an antiaircraft position at BALLALE with a direct hit.

During the night of 28-29 May, motor torpedo boats from TREASURY ISLAND, in unison with night patrol planes bombed and strafed RANTAN, MARMOL ISLANDS, off southwest BOUGAINVILLE.

During the same night motor torpedo boats from GREEN ISLAND were subjected to a barrage from 50 millimeter and 37 millimeter guns at BOPIRE PLANTATION, north central coast of NEW IRELAND.

Gunboats from TOROKINA, the same night, destroyed a barge and silenc coastal batteries at MAWARAKA, BOUGAINVILLE.

Regraded Unclassified

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 30 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 27-28 May, night patrol planes of SoPac bombed and strafed AMBA, MEDINA PLANTATION.

Motor torpedo boats shelled FANGELAWA, LAKURAFANGA, northeast coast NEW IRELAND. They were unsuccessfully shelled by coast defense guns on CAPE SASS.

MILLE was bombed by 15 Marine Corsair planes on 28 May at 7:15 a.m. Bombs were dropped in the bivouac area. There was no antiaircraft fire. A garbled report indicates that 2 Corsairs collided in mid-air and it is presumed that both pilots were lost.

On 28 May, from 9:28 a.m. to 2:35 p.m., 24 Liberators and 52 Mitchells of the 7th Air Force struck PONAPE, hitting the hangar, barracks and warehouse areas in PONAPE TOWN, also both airfields and TOMARA settlement. Several fires were started in PONAPE TOWN, and photos show that the hangar was devastated. The moderate antiaircraft fire was inaccurate.

On 28 May, at 9:45 a.m. and at 2:30 p.m., respectively, two flights of 7 Navy Venturas struck JALUIT. The north end of EMIDJ was also hit. The antiaircraft fire was from moderate to meager.

During the afternoon of 28 May, the 4th Marine Air Wing concentrated its strength and thoroughly lashed WOTJE.

WOTJE ISLAND was hit by 107 Corsairs, 46 Dauntless dive bombers, 7 Hellcats and one Ventura. EGMEDIO, TOTON and AGUMICHI ISLANDS were also hit. Several fires were started, and it is reported the bomb hits were well dispersed. Three Corsairs received minor damage.

The U.S. Destroyer, STOCKTON, while participating in the bombardment of BIAK ISLAND, SCHOUTEN ISLAND GROUP, DUTCH NEW GUINEA, was hit by a shell from a coastal defense battery on 28 May. Material damage was slight, but one of her personnel was killed and one wounded.

Regraded Unclassified

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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

9 a.m. 30 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 26-27 May, night patrol planes, operating with motor torpedo boats, bombed CAPE LEMERIS, DOLOMAKUS BAY, on the northeast coast of NEW IRELAND.

Throughout the same night, RABAUL was bombed by aircraft.

On 27 May, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., 7 Corsairs, of the 4th Marine Air Wing, bombed WOTJE and adjacent islets. The antiaircraft fire was meager. One Corsair was damaged.

On 27 May, at 7:10 a.m., 7 Marine Dauntless dive bombers and 4 Navy Hellcats were over WOTJE. Eight bombs were dropped in the antiaircraft battery area. There was no flak.

On 27 May, from 8:46 a.m. to 12:38 p.m., 45 Mitchells of the 7th Air Force blasted JALUIT, hitting the antiaircraft batteries, as also the storage areas on EMIDJ. The antiaircraft fire was meager and inaccurate.

Four Navy Hellcats and 8 Marine Dauntless dive bombers dropped bombs on MILLE on 27 May, at 10:35 a.m. The runway was hit 8 times. The antiaircraft fire from all types was moderate, but inaccurate.

During 27 May, 9 Mitchells, while searching for an aircraft crew that was downed, strafed south PONAPE and PAKIN ISLANDS. The antiaircraft fire on PAKIN was meager and inaccurate. A destroyer rescued 4 crew members of a Mitchell bomber that was forced down on 26 May. Two of its personnel were killed in the crash.

On 27 May:

Fighter planes hit RABAUL, setting buildings on fire. Photographs show one heavy and two automatic antiaircraft guns destroyed. It is reported an equal number of these guns were damaged.

Liberators struck the runway at TOBERA, RABAUL.

Patrol planes from SoPac hit LEMANKOA VILLAGE, northwest BUKA ISLAND, CAPE HANPAN, north BUKA ISLAND and MONOITU MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Fighter bomber sorties from BOUGAINVILLE exploded beached barges at HANTOA, destroyed bridges and huts at AKU and PIVA PLANTATION. Other targets of opportunit on BOUGAINVILLE were bombed.

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

9 a.m. 29 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 25-26 May, Catalinas and motor torpedo boats attacked BORPOP, east coast of NEW IRELAND, and started several fires. CAPE NOMORODU, NEW IRELAND, was also attacked, as were installations at ROLAND, YOUNG and MEDINA PLANTATIONS, north NEW IRELAND. A number of barges near TEOP ISLAND, northeast coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were sunk.

On the same night, reconnaissance planes bombed and strafed RANTAN, southeast coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, SOHANA ISLANDS, northwest coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and TONOLEI HARBOR, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Targets along the west coast of BUKA ISLAND were also attacked. Throughout the night, Mitchells harassed the RABAUL Area, and started fires at LAKUNAI, and VUNAKANAU, in NEW BRITAIN.

The following missions were completed by SoPac aircraft on 26 May:

Mitchells started fires at MONOITU MISSION, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Supplies at PORTON, northwest coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by Lightnings.

Airacobras bombed SORAKEN and PORTON, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Mitchells started fires in supply areas near TALILI, NEW BRITAIN.

Fighter planes destroyed a barge and damaged another off the southwest coast of NEW IRELAND.

During the night of 26-27 May, motor torpedo boats and Catalinas strafed and bombed CAPE LEMERIS, east coast of NEW IRELAND.

On the night of 26 May, destroyer escort vessels probably sank a submarine about 70 miles northwest of MUSSAU ISLAND.

The submarine ASPRO sank 2 freighters northwest of PALAU.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 28 May 194

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

The following enemy bases in the MARSHALL and CAROLINE ISLANDS were bombed by CinCPac aircraft on 26 May:

WOTJE was bombed by 28 Corsairs and 3 Venturas between 6:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Explosions were observed and several small fires started. One Corsair was forced down off WOTJE, but the pilot was recovered.

At 8:50 a.m., 4 Hellcats and 7 Dauntless hit JALUIT antiaircraft batteries. Meager, inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 9:03 a.m., 7 Dauntless and 4 Hellcats bombed runway installations on WOTJE.

PONAPE was bombed by 9 Mitchells between 9:39 a.m. and 4 p.m. Bombs were dropped on gun positions; warehouse and waterfront areas and LANGAR ISLAND. Meager and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered. One Mitchell failed to return, but a number of the crew were rescued.

At 9:55 a.m., EMIDJ and the SYDNEY PIER Area, in JALUIT Atoll, were bombed by 3 Venturas.

MILLE was bombed twice by 6 Corsairs, at 10:50 a.m. and again at 4:45 p.m. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 3:03 p.m., 4 Hellcats and 7 Dauntless bombed the radio station on AINEMAN ISLAND, JALUIT Atoll. Meager, inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On 26 May, a reconnaissance plane bombed KUSAIE. Results were unobserv Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

During the afternoon of 27 May, one of 12 medium enemy bombers, attacking our shipping off BIAK ISLAND, crashed into the USS SC-699. The vessel caught fire and was subsequently abandoned, but remained afloat. Four of the crew were seriously burned and 5 more received minor burns.

During the night of 26-27 May, PT-339, grounded in enemy territory, was abandoned and subsequently destroyed.

The submarine PERMIT sank a Japanese submarine near OTTO PASS, TRUK Ato on 27 May.

The submarine PARGO returned from patrol of the PHILIPPINES and PALAU ISLAND Areas, after sinking a cargo vessel (2,101 tons), damaging one freigh (3,168 tons) and one oiler.

Regraded Unclassified

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DOD Letter

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

4 p.m. 27 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Four Hellcats and seven Dauntless bombed WOTJE at 10:30 a.m. and again at 2:25 p.m. Bombs were dropped on the runway and a radio installation. Machine gun fire slightly damaged two Dauntless.

Eleven Mitchells bombed WOTJE between 9:01 a.m. and 11:10 a.m. Hits were scored on two antiaircraft batteries. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

JALUIT was bombed by 10 Mitchells, between 2:17 p.m. and 3:05 p.m. Weak antiaircraft fire was encountered.

JALUIT was bombed by 3 Hellcats and 7 Dauntless at 10:05 a.m. Meager antiaircraft fire damaged one plane.

JABOR TOWN was bombed by two Venturas. No antiaircraft fire encountered.

Reconnaissance planes bombed PAGAN ISLAND, MARIANAS. No enemy aircraft or antiaircraft fire was encountered.

During the night of 25-26 May, motor torpedo boats and Catalinas attacked BORPOP, NEW IRELAND. The motor torpedo boats were ineffectively shelled by large caliber guns at CAPE SENA, east coast NEW IRELAND. Other motor torpedo boats sank four loaded barges and killed 6 Japanese, probably off the east coast of NEW IRELAND.

The destroyer HUTCHINS, bombarding BIAK ISLAND, in support of landing operations by SOUTHWEST PACIFIC forces, was damaged by a 5-inch shell. Three men were injured. One man was injured on the destroyer BACHE, but damage to the vessel, if any, was not reported.

The landing on BIAK ISLAND is proceeding according to schedule. The 41ST DIVISION, less the 163RD COMBAT TEAM, landed at 7:15 a.m., 27 May, against mortar and automatic weapons fire. No enemy air or Naval opposition was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

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

4 p.m. 27 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 24-25 May, motor torpedo boats and Catalinas strafed and bombed targets at LULUAI POINT, southeast coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, MOBIAI RIVER mouth, and other targets on the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

The following missions were completed by SoPac aircraft on 25 May:

Reconnaissance planes demolished huts at KONANA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and CAPE HANPAN, northeast coast of BUKA ISLAND.

Medium bombers, dive and torpedo bombers started explosions and fires at PORTON, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Fires were started in the bivouac area at IVITURI MISSION, central BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Torpedo bombers sprayed cultivated areas with Diesel oil and bombed targets near TINPUTS, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Airacobras strafed a radar installation at CAPE LALAHAN, south BUKA ISLAND and targets of opportunity in the vicinity.

Liberators bombed LAKUNAI and RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN.

Barge hideouts at RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, were bombed by Lightnings. Two hits were scored on repair sheds and fires started.

TALILI, NEW BRITAIN, supplies were bombed by Mitchells.

Gun installations on the KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, airfield were bombed by dive and torpedo bombers.

The following enemy bases in the MARSHALLS and CAROLINE ISLANDS were bo ed by CinCPac aircraft on 25 May:

The waterfront area and the new airfield on PONAPE was bombed by 8 Mitchells between 9:15 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Antiaircraft fire damaged one Mitchell.

WOTJE was bombed by 38 Corsairs and 3 Venturas between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m Adjacent islets were strafed and bombs fell on a beached ship. One Corsair failed to return and four others were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

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DECLASSIFIED 3-72 Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 26 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 23-24 May, Catalinas bombed targets near MONOITU MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Other Catalinas and motor torpedo boats bombed and strafed MIK MIK ISLAND, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, the BONIS airstrip and TEOP ISLAND, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Gun positions near CAPE NAMORUDU and installations at MEDINA PLANTATION, on the east coast of NEW IRELAND, were also bombed by Catalinas.

The following missions were completed by SoPac aircraft on 24 May:

Dive and torpedo bombers attacked gun positions at RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, and scored a direct hit on one emplacement. Three of the planes were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Lightnings, Warhawks and Mitchells bombed RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires and explosions started. Two Mitchells sustained damage by antiaircraft fire. Corsairs strafed trucks west of VUNAKANAU, NEW BRITAIN.

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 26 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Three trucks were destroyed and two damaged at VUNAKANAU, NEW BRITAIN, by Corsairs. One Corsair was shot down by antiaircraft fire.

Fighter planes set on fire two barges and damaged another off the south central coast of NEW IRELAND.

During the night of 23-24 May, motor torpedo boats destroyed an unreported number of enemy barges carrying cargo and Japanese personnel off the north central coast of NEW IRELAND. Other motor torpedo boats shelled TAKI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 23 May, the submarine PERCH scored four torpedo hits on an unidentified vessel in the vicinity of SOUTH FORMOSA.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 26 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Carrier-borne aircraft of Task Group 58.6, commanded by Rear Admiral A. E. Montgomery (ESSEX (CV), WASP (CV), BATAAN (CVL), SAN JACINTO (CVL), SAN DIEGO (CL AA), RENO (CL AA), BOSTON (CA), BALTIMORE (CA), CANBERRA (CA), 28 destroyers and 3 destroyer escorts) attacked MARCUS ISLAND on 19 and 20 May, and WAKE ISLAND on 23 May.

At MARCUS, 15% of the buildings, including a possible water distillation plant, were destroyed or damaged. An antiaircraft gun position and an ammunition dump were destroyed. A small armed freighter, 56 miles north of MARCUS, was set on fire and left sinking. A patrol vessel, 375 miles north of MARCUS, was attacked and left sinking. A medium enemy bomber, near our surface units, was shot down. A twin-engine grounded enemy plane was strafed and damaged. Two dive bombers and two fighter planes failed to return. Two pilots and one crewman are missing.

At WAKE, 20 buildings were destroyed and 12 damaged. A sampan was sunk and 4 to 6 barges damaged. Four to 6 earth-covered supply dumps were hit, but results were not observed. A fuel tank and an observation tower were destroyed. No combat losses were sustained. Operational losses: one dive bomber, one night fighter and one pilot.

During the night of 22-23 May, Catalinas strafed installations at CAPE PUT PUT, northeast NEW BRITAIN, and bombed MAKAKA BEACH, MOBIAI and the MIBO RIVER MOUTHS, all on southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 23 May, SoPac aircraft completed the following missions:

Reconnaissance planes destroyed a number of huts on the west coast of BUKA ISLAND.

A possibly serviceable float plane in BUKA PASSAGE was possibly destroyed by Airacobras and Warhawks.

Airacobras and Warhawks sank a barge in TONOLEI HARBOR, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and destroyed a bridge over the MIBO RIVER, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Mitchells, Airacobras, Lightnings and Warhawks attacked gun positions at RABAUL, and also struck at LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN. Antiaircraft fire damaged four Mitchells.

TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, gun installations were attacked by dive bombers, torpe and medium bombers. Antiaircraft fire damaged five planes.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
QSD Letter

9 a.m. 25 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 23 May, an unreported number of our destroyers possibly sank an enemy submarine 160 miles north of MUSSAU ISLAND. On the same day, an escort vessel attacked and possibly sank a surfaced submarine 180 miles north of MUSSAU ISLAND. Another surfaced submarine was attacked by destroyer escort vessels about 155 miles north of MUSSAU ISLAND.

The submarine BASHAW returned from patrol of the PALAU ISLAND Area, after sinking one trawler (60 tons) and damaging one freighter and three trawlers (4,430 tons).

The submarine BURRFISH sank a medium tanker in the EMPIRE waters on 23 May.

The submarine SKATE sank a sampan in the BONINS Area.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILED
TOP SECRET
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OSD Letter 3-78
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 25 May 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 21-22 May, Catalinas bombed targets on TEOP ISLAND, northeast coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, AITARA MISSION, south coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, BALLALE and POPORANG ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area. Mitchells started fires in RABAUL airdrome installations.

On 22 May, the following missions were completed by SoPac aircraft:

Reconnaissance planes attacked KESSA PLANTATION, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and installations at SKOTOLAN MISSION, southwest coast BUKA ISLAND.

Fighters and torpedo bombers attacked a BONIS supply area, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and bridges at KIETA PLANTATION, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Installations at TALILI, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked by dive and torpedo bombers. A number of fires started. Antiaircraft fire damaged one torpedo bomber.

Targets along the coast of RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked by Lightnings, Airacobras and Warhawks.

Mitchells started fires and destroyed buildings on MIOKO ISLAND, DUKE OF YORK GROUP.

Enemy equipment and barges in the RABAUL Area were attacked by Corsairs.

Dive, torpedo bombers and fighters attacked targets on NEW IRELAND; destroyed the radar installation on DYAUL ISLAND, four bridges and three barges in the vicinity. Antiaircraft fire shot down one torpedo bomber and two fighters. One fighter pilot and the torpedo bomber crew were rescued.

A reconnaissance plane bombed NOMOI ISLAND and destroyed two enemy barges.

During the night of 22-23 May, motor torpedo boats shelled LUNGATAN PLANTATION, southeast NEW HANOVER.

On 23 May, a reconnaissance plane bombed PULUWAT ISLAND. Hits were scored on the radio and weather station installations.

At 10:12 a.m. 23 May, seven Mitchells bombed PONAPE. A number of fires started. Antiaircraft fire encountered was meager and inaccurate. Later, at 3:45 p.m., five Liberators, on a photo reconnaissance mission, dropped bombs on the PONAPE airfields. Medium and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

DECLASSIFIED 5-3-78
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TOP SECRET
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 24 May 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

ROTA ISLAND, MARIANAS, was photographed and bombed on 22 May by four photo planes and nine escorting Army Liberators. No enemy aircraft were encountered.

The submarines PICUDA, PETO and PERCH sank a passenger freighter on 21 May, east of FORMOSA.

The submarine SAWFISH sank a medium freighter on 22 May in the EMPIRE waters.

The submarine POLLACK sank one destroyer and damaged a freighter on 22 May in the BONINS Area.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

DECLASSIFIED 3-79
TOP SECRET
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OSD

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

9 a.m. 24 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 20-21 May, night flying Catalinas bombed KIETA and targets in BUKA PASSAGE. Mitchells bombed RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN; VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN; and KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

On 21 May, the following missions were completed by SoPac aircraft:

VUNAKANAU, NEW BRITAIN, airdrome installations were attacked by medium bombers, dive bombers, torpedo bombers and fighters. Antiaircraft fire shot down one torpedo bomber.

Targets at RALUANA POINT, NEW BRITAIN, were strafed by Airacobras.

TOBERA airdrome installations were attacked by dive and torpedo bombers. Antiaircraft fire shot down one dive bomber and damaged five. The crew of the downed plane was rescued.

The LAKUNAI runway, NEW BRITAIN, was bombed by Mitchells and Lightnings.

Corsairs attacked the RABAUL Area with unreported results. Two Corsairs sustained damage by antiaircraft fire.

Corsairs and torpedo bombers set fire to buildings at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, damaged two barges and strafed the radar installations on DYAUL ISLAND.

Bridges near RIGU, central east coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and SHISHIGATERO, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by Lightnings and Airacobras.

A reconnaissance patrol, operating north of the TOROKINA perimeter, on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, counted 60-70 dead Japanese. It was estimated that 500 more were killed and buried. A considerable amount of enemy ammunition was destroyed.

During the night of 21-22 May, motor torpedo boats shelled an area near LAKE LAHALA, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

WOTJE Atoll was heavily bombed by Army, Navy and Marine aircraft between 6:24 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. 22 May. Antiaircraft fire encountered was reported meager and inaccurate, but ten planes sustained minor damage and two of the personnel slight injuries.

On 22 May, 16 Corsairs bombed MILLE radio installations. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

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DECLASSIFIED DoD Directive 5200.1, 73

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

9 a.m. 23 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 21 May, the following missions were flown against enemy bases in the MARSHALL and CAROLINE ISLANDS:

Between 4 a.m. and 5:30 a.m., TAROA was bombed by 7 Venturas. The previous night, TAROA was bombed by 4 Catalinas.

At 6 a.m., 30 Corsairs and 4 Venturas bombed WOTJE. Antiaircraft positions on WOTJE and islets near the island were strafed. Antiaircraft fire was meager and inaccurate. WOTJE was harassed by 3 Coronados the preceding night.

MALOELAP was bombed by 13 Hellcats in 3 flights from 7:45 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. Bombs fell among installations on an island northwest of TAROA. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

PONAPE was bombed by 6 Mitchells at 12:10 p.m. and again at 2:35 p.m. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

Battleship Colorado in dry-dock for emergency repairs. Will be complete in time for Solager

COMINCH FILE

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

4 p.m. 22 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 19-20 May, Catalinas and motor torpedo boats strafed the area near the mouth of the MIBO RIVER, central west coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On the same night, Mitchells started large fires at LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN.

On 20 May, SoPac aircraft flew the following missions over NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND and BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND:

Corsairs destroyed 5 barges and damaged 4 near the DUKE OF YORK ISLANDS. One Corsair failed to return and another sustained damage from antiaircraft fire.

Small enemy craft northwest of RABAUL, NEW IRELAND, were strafed by Venturas and Corsairs with unreported results.

The TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, runway was bombed by Liberators, but results were not reported.

Dive bombers, torpedo bombers and fighters attacked bridges and other targets near KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. The radar on DYAUL ISLAND was destroyed. One Corsair was forced down near KAVIENG, but the crew was recovered.

Enemy antiaircraft positions and other targets in the MATCHIN BAY Area, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by Airacobras.

Airacobras sank one and damaged one barge at TARLENA, northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Six other enemy barges were strafed in TINPUTS HARBOR, northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Torpedo bombers bombed KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and damaged a barge near CHABAI, northwest coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Medium bombers, dive bombers, torpedo bombers and fighters attacked an enemy stores and bivouac area between MUGUAI, south coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and EBERYS LEASE, south interior BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two gun emplacements were probably destroyed and a direct hit was scored on a heavy gun battery. Two medium bombers sustained damage from antiaircraft fire. One fighter was forced down, but the pilot was recovered.

On 20 May, an unreported number of our surface units bombarded targets in the SHORTLAND ISLAND Area.

The submarine STURGEON recovered 3 aviators down off MARCUS ISLAND.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE
TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD LETTER
TOP SECRET

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

9 a.m. 22 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 20 May, the following missions were flown against enemy bases in the MARSHALLS and CAROLINE ISLANDS:

WOTJE was bombed by 4 Navy Venturas at 5:30 a.m. and later at 2:45 p.m. by 24 Corsairs and one Ventura. Bombs fell on the radio station installations. Meager antiaircraft fire damaged one fighter.

Five Catalinas harassed TAROA during the night of 19-20 May, and five Venturas bombed TAROA during the early morning. Later, six Navy Hellcats twice attacked TAROA, at 2:45 p.m. and at 4:15. Bombs fell on the storage area and coastal batteries.

Six Dauntless harassed MILLE throughout the night and early morning of 19-20 May. Later, six Corsairs attacked MILLE twice at 6:40 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Light machine gun fire damaged one Corsair.

JALUIT was attacked at 9:43 a.m. by 2 Venturas and again at 2:40 p.m. by seven Dauntless and four Hellcats.

At 7:25 a.m., 9 Mitchells dropped bombs on the new airfield at PONAPE. Meager and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Twelve Mitchells bombed the power plant and phosphate plant area on NAURU ISLAND at 9 a.m. A number of explosions and fires started. Intense and accurate antiaircraft fire slightly damaged four of the bombers.

On 21 May, the auxiliary oiler NECHES (AO47) apparently struck a low action mine 620 miles west southwest of SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA. The vessel sustained damage, but is able to proceed at 14 knots.

On the afternoon of 21 May, an explosion occurred aboard an LST handling ammunition, nested in WEST LOCK, PEARL HARBOR. The explosion, followed by fir caused the total loss of six or more combat loaded LST's. Three of the lost LST's had LCT's aboard and two had pontoon causeways and all had LVT's aboard. Although the number of casualties is not determined, it is believed to be considerable. With fires and explosions continuing, other ships in the vicinit have cleared the area.

Regraded Unclassified

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E.O. 12356, 6-3-79
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 22 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 19 May, SoPac aircraft flew the following missions in the NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND and BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND areas:

An airfield near RABAUL was attacked by Mitchells. A number of fires started.

Torpedo and dive bombers attacked supply dumps near TALILI, NEW BRITAIN, and bombed antiaircraft positions nearby. Antiaircraft fire damaged one dive bomber.

MAKADE ISLAND, DUKE OF YORK ISLAND Area, was attacked by Lightnings, Airacobras and Warhawks. The east coast of DUKE OF YORK ISLAND was also attacked and a number of explosions started.

The north coast of the GAZELLE PENINSULA, NEW IRELAND, was swept by Corsairs and a barge damaged. Enemy antiaircraft fire injured one pilot.

Corsairs destroyed a float plane on the water near BANGATONG ISLAND, southeast NEW HANOVER.

Twenty-four Airacobras attacked the personnel area between BONIS and TSIROGEI, northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and destroyed a barge near CHABAI.

Fighter bombers bombed KIETA, MONOITU, PORTEN PLANTATION and sprayed a cultivated area near RIGU PLANTATION with Diesel oil. Antiaircraft fire damaged 1 torpedo bomber.

Liberators attacked NAMOI ISLAND, CAROLINE ISLANDS Group. A 250-foot freighter and 3 small boats were sunk. One of four unsuccessfully attacking enemy fighter planes was shot down. Antiaircraft damaged one Liberator and injured a crew member. On the afternoon of the same day, a Catalina, attacking the same area, was intercepted by three enemy fighters. One of the enemy planes was damaged.

During the night of 19-20 May, motor torpedo boats silenced enemy shore fire near the MEDINA PLANTATION, on the northeast coast of NEW IRELAND. An enemy float plane bombed a number of our torpedo boats off the south central coast of NEW IRELAND. We suffered one casualty.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 21 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Two Venturas bombed the barracks area at MILLE at 8:50 a.m. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

MILLE was attacked by six Corsairs and one Ventura at 10:50 a.m. Hits were scored on the radio station and barracks area.

Ten Dauntless and eight Hellcats bombed the runway and power station on TAROA at 7:30 a.m. Two dive bombers sustained minor damage from light antiaircraft fire.

Two Navy Venturas bombed ENYBOR, JABOR and the SYDNEY PIER in the JALUIT Atoll at 11:20 a.m.

Seven Dauntless and three Hellcats bombed JALUIT radio installations at 12:40 p.m. Moderate antiaircraft fire slightly damaged one Dauntless.

Between 8:57 a.m. and 1 p.m., TAROA was attacked by 23 Mitchells. Bombs fell on antiaircraft installations and the shelter area.

Twelve more Corsairs attacked WOTJE at 1:35 p.m. Bombs fell on the runway. Moderate flak was encountered.

At 1:50 a.m., 3 Venturas bombed antiaircraft installations on MILLE. Modera antiaircraft fire was encountered.

TAROA was attacked by 10 Dauntless and 8 Hellcats at 2:50 p.m. Bombs fell on the runway and magazine area. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Three Venturas harassed WOTJE during the night.

On 19 May, one of our destroyers attacked and probably destroyed a submarine northeast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

A reconnaissance plane, on the afternoon of 19 May, attacked and damaged an enemy freighter in the NOMOI ISLAND LAGOON, CAROLINE ISLAND Group. Our plane was attacked by four fighters and of these shot down one. The searcher returned damaged with one of the personnel wounded.

The submarine SEA DRAGON, on 17 May, sank with gunfire an armed trawler northeast of the BONIN ISLANDS.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 21 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Six Corsairs attacked WOTJE installations between 6 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. on 18 May. Enemy construction equipment and personnel were strafed. Later, at 8:45 a.m., 6 Corsairs and one Ventura again attacked WOTJE.

At 12:03 p.m. 18 May, 2 squadrons of Liberators bombed WAKE ISLAND. The target areas were well covered. Heavy, intense and accurate antiaircraft fire brought down 1 Liberator and slightly damaged 2 others.

At 1:01 p.m. 18 May, 5 Mitchells bombed the PONAPE new air strip. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On 18 May:

Installations along the northeast coast of NEW IRELAND were attacked by dive and torpedo bombers.

Corsairs sank two barges near MIOKO ISLAND, south DUKE OF YORK ISLANDS, and destroyed another near JACQUINOT POINT, DUKE OF YORK ISLANDS.

KAHILI and MAGUIA, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked by fighter bombers.

Two enemy barges along the northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND were damaged by Airacobras.

Torpedo bombers sprayed cultivated areas with Diesel oil and destroyed buildings near RIGU MISSION, central east coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 18-19 May, motor torpedo boats sank a barge loaded with enemy personnel off the east coast of NEW IRELAND.

On 19 May, the following missions were flown against enemy bases in the MARSHALLS:

Six Corsairs bombed the MILLE radio station area at dawn. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Four Venturas, at 5:30 a.m., bombed WOTJE. Light and medium antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Twenty-four Corsairs, at 7:30 a.m., bombed WOTJE. These planes scored many direct hits on magazines and the radio station. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78

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

4 p.m. 19 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 17-18 May, motor torpedo boats sank an enemy barge in NAKUDUKUDU BAY, and damaged another off BURU POINT, southwest coast of NEW IRELAND. TAKI, on the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was shelled by motor torpedo boats.

On 17 May:

Dive bombers attacked the bivouac area at HANAHAN MISSION and CAPE PUTPUTUN, on the east coast BUKA ISLAND.

Fighter bombers started fires at MUGUAI, south interior BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, strafed a boat containing several JAPANESE near PORTOLA ISLAND and destroyed a bridge at NUMA NUMA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Fighter bombers destroyed an enemy barge at BANIU, northeast coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, sprayed a cultivated area at KIETA with Diesel oil and bombed installations at CHABAI, northwest coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

The VUNAKANAU runway and gun positions were attacked by fighters and dive bombers. Heavy antiaircraft fire brought down one dive bomber.

Targets at CAPE ST. GEORGE, south NEW IRELAND, were strafed by Lightnings. Antiaircraft fire badly damaged two Lightnings.

The LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN, runway and gun positions were attacked by dive and torpedo bombers. One dive bomber was shot down by antiaircraft fire.

TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, and RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked by Mitchells and Marauders.

Enemy equipment and installations in the RABAUL Area and ADLER BAY, NEW BRITAIN, were strafed by fighter planes.

The KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, runway and gun positions were attacked by dive bombers.

On 18 May, a reconnaissance plane destroyed 6 float planes, damaged 3 more and set fire to fuel stores on LAMOTREK ISLAND, CAROLINE ISLANDS. Our plane was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH
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9 a.m. 19 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:30 a.m. 17 May, 12 Mitchells bombed NAURU installations. Bombs were dropped on the dispersal area, power station, antiaircraft positions and east of the phosphate plant. A large explosion and fire was started. Intense antiaircraft fire with varied accuracy was encountered.

Twenty-three Liberators bombed WAKE ISLAND at 10:30 a.m. 17 May. Smoke visible for 25 miles was observed. WILKES ISLAND and PEACOCK POINT were heavily hit. Two bombers were damaged by heavy, moderate and accurate antiaircraft fire.

At 11:13 a.m. 17 May, PONAPE was bombed by nine Mitchells. Bombs were dropped on both airfields, the town and dock installations. This area was bombed on the same day by five photo Liberators, which scored hits on installations at the seaplane base.

WOTJE was bombed at 12:20 p.m. 17 May by 24 Corsairs, and one Ventura. Hits were scored on the runway and radio station. Two fighters and the Ventura sustained minor damage from intense and accurate antiaircraft fire.

The submarine SPEARFISH sank one large and one medium freighter about 300 miles northeast of CHICHIJIMA.

The submarine LANCE sank five enemy ships, totaling 29,000 tons, off SAIPAN.

The submarine POGY sank a Japanese submarine off HONSHU, damaged and probably sank two medium vessels about 180 miles south of TOKYO.

The submarine STEELHEAD sank a trawler by gunfire in the Japanese EMPIRE waters.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-73

9 a.m. 19 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 15-16 May KIETA on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, RANTAN ISLANDS, and gun positions at the mouth of the MIBO RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by night flying Catalinas.

On 16 May:

Reconnaissance planes bombed targets between the MIBO RIVER and SHISHIGATERO PLANTATION, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Dive bombers bombed TABUT, northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and BONIS, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One plane was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Fighter bombers struck at KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Dive and torpedo bombers and Airacobras started fires along the runway and among revetments at TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN.

VUNAKANAU and RATAVAL, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked by fighter bombers.

Fighter planes sank two barges in MIOKO HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN, and set two others on fire near JACQUINOT POINT, DUKE OF YORK ISLAND.

A saw mill installation at KERAVAT, NEW BRITAIN, was bombed by fighters.

MILLE was bombed at 9:40 a.m. 16 May, by 3 Venturas and again by one Ventura at 2:30 p.m. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 6:50 p.m. 16 May and 5:45 a.m. 17 May, 8 Navy Hellcats, 7 Venturas and 5 Catalinas bombed installations on TAROA. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On 16 May, 4 Venturas dropped bombs on WOTJE, storage tanks and shelter installations. Antiaircraft fire was light and meager.

During the night of 16-17 May, motor torpedo boats strafed enemy positions near the mouth of the MIBO RIVER, southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Motor torpedo boats, patrolling the southwest coast of NEW IRELAND, sank a number of enemy barges in NAKUDUKUDU BAY, and silenced machine gun positions on the shore line. Two unidentified planes unsuccessfully attacked these boats. Other motor torpedo boats, cooperating with Catalinas, exchanged fire with enemy gun positions at the MEDINA PLANTATION, northeast NEW IRELAND. On 17 May, one of our destroyers attacked and possibly sank a submarine 130 miles northeast of BUKA ISLAND.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

TOP SECRET
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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NND Letter, 7-8

4 p.m. 18 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 16 May, a reconnaissance plane bombed and scored hits on a 5,000 ton freighter and a 10,000 ton tanker in TRUK HARBOR. Both vessels probably sank.

A reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on the PULUWAT airstrip, radio station, and on the housing area. Moderate and accurate antiaircraft fire damaged the plane and wounded both pilots.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE
DECLASSIFIED 6-3-72
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9 a.m. 18 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 16 May at 9:20 a.m., 2 Venturas of FLEET AIR WING 2 dropped bombs on the northern end of EMIDJ ISLAND and JALUIT and KABENBOCK ISLANDS. These places were again bombed by 2 Venturas at 2:50 p.m. No damage was observed in either flight. The antiaircraft fire was light to moderate.

Four Navy Hellcats and 7 dive bombers of the 4TH MARINE AIR WING hit JALUIT at 3:30 p.m. on 16 May. The fuel tanks at SYDNEY PIER were struck. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

MILLE was harassed by two Marine Dauntless dive bombers on 16 May at 5:30 a.m. and again at 10:20 p.m. They delivered 43 25-pound depth charges. There was no antiaircraft fire in spite of the fact that one searchlight was operative.

On 16 May at 11:40 a.m., 5 Hellcats and 7 Dauntless dive bombers struck MILLE, securing several hits on the operational runway. There was no flak.

During the night of 16 May, 4 Navy Venturas dropped all their bombs on WOTJE, but the results were unobserved. The antiaircraft fire was from light to meager.

At 5:50 a.m. 16 May, 8 Corsairs strafed WOTJE, hitting several small boats.

TAROA was bombed on 16 May at 9:30 a.m. by a combination of 13 Marine dive bombers and 6 Navy fighters. Incendiaries set on fire native buildings reportedly housing enemy supplies. The runways were further damaged. Antiaircraft fire was moderate, damaging, in a minor way, one Dauntless.

On 16 May from dusk to dawn, 3 Coronados struck WOTJE. It is reported 70% of the bombs fell in the barracks and tank area, where a small fire was started. The meager antiaircraft fire was inaccurate.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD Letter 3-72

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

4 p.m. 17 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 14-15 May, night patrol planes bombed the mouth of MIBO RIVER, CAPE FRIENDSHIP, south BOUGAINVILLE, and TSIROGEI, north BOUGAINVILLE.

During the night of 15-16 May, motor torpedo boats from TREASURY ISLAND, while patrolling the southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE, received minor hull damage from shore batteries.

On 15 May:

Personnel and gun areas at KAHILI were heavily bombed.

Dauntless dive bombers, Avengers and Mitchells hit personnel in the SHORTLAND Area and also caused fires and damage to buildings.

Fighter sweeps struck at antiaircraft positions at KOROVO, SHORTLAND ISLANDS, and hit installations at KIETA, CHABAI and CAPE FRIENDSHIP.

Dauntless dive bombers attacked KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

Fighter sweeps in the RABAUL Area strafed 13 barges in KERAVIA BAY, and bombed the LAKUNAI strip.

RABAUL was also bombed by Mitchells.

The submarine MINGO, returning from a war patrol in the SOUTH CHINA SEA, reports on 22 March she probably damaged three enemy freighters of a five-ship escorted convoy.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE
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DECLASSIFIED 3-73
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The enemy's gardens at ARAWA PLANTATION on the east coast of BOUGAINVILLE were sprayed with Diesel oil by an Avenger.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers registered hits on the runways and gun positions at VUNAKANAU, RABAUL. Two Avengers were severely damaged by the antiaircraft fire, while four other planes suffered slight damage.

A fighter bomber sweep over North plantation and the supply and personnel area at VUNAKANAU started large fires, possibly in the oil and gasoline storage section because black smoke arose to 10,000 feet.

At TAMALILI BAY, Warhawks destroyed a large building and hit other installations north of the WARANGOM RIVER.

Marauder planes and Dauntless dive bombers hit the runway and antiaircraft positions at LAKUNAI, RABAUL.

From 3 p.m. 14 May to 3 p.m. 15 May, BLUE patrols on the northeast TOROKINA perimeter located an enemy hospital area which contained 200 to 250 Jap bodies. This patrol also discovered another hospital and 30 Jap shelters, in which were found more Jap bodies and equipment.

The submarine TILEFISH, on a war patrol in EMPIRE WATERS, reports damaging one enemy freighter and a destroyer of approximately 850 tons.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 17 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

From 7:55 a.m. 15 May to 5:00 a.m. 16 May, JALUIT was subjected to the heaviest coordinated concentration of shore-based air power yet shown in the CENTRAL PACIFIC. A total of 284 separate sorties were flown, and 240 tons of bomb were dropped on the atoll from AGIDYEN ISLAND in northeast PASSAGE to South point by the 7TH AIR FORCE Liberators, Army Mitchells, 4TH MARINE AIR WING Corsairs, Dauntless dive bombers, Navy Hellcats and Marine Dauntless dive bombers. Bombing was done from 50 feet to 10,000 feet. The enemy's antiaircraft fire was meager, but machine gun fire at defended points was moderate. Minor damage was received by one Liberator, 5 Dauntless dive bombers and 3 Corsairs. It is estimated that the attack was 60% effective.

On 15 May at 12:26 p.m., one Liberator hit MILLE, dropping bombs near the runway.

From 7:10 p.m. to 11:05 p.m. on 15 May, 4 Dauntless dive bombers annoyed MILLE. The flak was meager and inaccurate.

TAROA was bombed by 5 Venturas on 16 May from 1:05 a.m. to 1:45 a.m. There was no antiaircraft fire.

From dusk to dawn on 15 May, 5 Landcats of FLEET AIR WING 2 harassed TAROA, with small fragmentation bombs.

WOTJE was struck by 4 Venturas at 2:50 a.m. 16 May. There was no antiaircraft fire.

During the night of 14-15 May, motor torpedo boats from GREEN ISLAND were bombed by an enemy patrol plane near CAPE GAZELLE, NEW BRITAIN, and one crew member was injured.

During the same night, motor torpedo boats from EMIRAU ISLAND shelled a small schooner and several boats near TINGWON ISLAND, just west of NEW HANOVER.

During the night of 13-14 May, patrol planes from SoPac bombed SIGACUI and YOUNG PLANTATION, southwest coast of NEW IRELAND. Installations on SULAPIU and RANTAN ISLANDS were also hit.

During 14 May, a patrol bomber from SoPac bombed three barges south of BARTON PIER and strafed another one at CHABAI, north BOUGAINVILLE.

Airacobras and Lightnings bombed NANGAR and KESSA PLANTATION, BUKA, also the supply area at TSIROGEI in the same vicinity.

Dauntless dive bombers struck at the bivouac areas in TARLENA, north BOUGAINVILLE.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD 13-78
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UNITED STATES FLEET

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

9 a.m. 16 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 1:27 p.m. on 14 May, 5 additional Mitchells hit the old and new airstrip and the dock area at PONAPE. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

Before dawn on 14 May, a search plane dropped four 1,000-pound bombs on a 5,000 ton freighter at TRUK. The results were unobserved. The antiaircraft fire was intense.

On 14 May, a search plane bombed the airstrip, strafed the airfield and the lighthouse area on PULUWAT.

The submarine STURGEON, on 10 May, sank three medium-sized enemy freighters out of a 5-ship escorted convoy, near the BONINS. The tonnage sunk totaled 13,700 tons.

On 23 April, the submarine SEA DRAGON damaged a 3,000 ton enemy freighter in EMPIRE waters.

On 27 April, probably sank a medium-sized freighter.

The submarine SEA HORSE, returning from a patrol in the CENTRAL PACIFIC, reports as follows:

8 April - of a 3-ship escorted convoy near SAIPAN sank 2 enemy freighters.
9 April - of a heavily-escorted convoy, again near SAIPAN, sank a medium-sized enemy freighter.
20 April - west of SAIPAN damaged an enemy submarine
26 April - sank one enemy freighter of a 4-ship escorted convoy west of SAIPAN.

The total tonnage sunk for the cruise was 4 freighters, for 25,667 tons and one enemy submarine damaged for 655 tons.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE
DECLASSIFIED 8-8-78
TOP SECRET
OSD Letter

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

shells from a 20mm gun. One single-engined enemy plane was destroyed. The second flight was intercepted by one enemy bomber and three single-engined planes. One Liberator was damaged. One enemy plane was probably destroyed.

On the night of 11 May, at 11:30 p.m., the old airfield at PONAPE was bombed by a Liberator. There was no antiaircraft fire.

On 14 May, at 9:50 a.m. and 2:20 p.m., two Venturas of FLEET AIR WING 2, dropped bombs on JALUIT and ENYBOR ISLANDS. The moderate antiaircraft fire caused minor damage to one Ventura.

On the same day, at 9:25 a.m. and again at 2:10 p.m., 18 Navy Hellcats struck EMIDJ and ENYBOR, JALUIT Atoll. There was no antiaircraft fire.

At 6:30 p.m. on 14 May, 2 Marine Dauntless planes hit JALUIT and AINEMAN ISLAND. A fire was observed. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

Throughout the night of 13 May, 3 Coronados annoyed WOTJE. The results were not observed. There was no antiaircraft fire.

Again, on the night of 14 May, 3 Coronados were over WOTJE between 10:30 p.m. and dawn.

At 1:15 a.m., on 15 May, 3 Navy Ventura planes hit the central portion of WOTJE. An explosion and fire were observed. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

At 10:00 a.m. on 14 May, 6 Liberators of the 7TH AIR FORCE started a fire and explosion on TAROA. There was no antiaircraft fire.

On 14 May at 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. 15 May, 4 Navy Landcats, in rotation, hit TAROA.

TAROA was also harassed by 5 Venturas on 15 May from 0015 a.m. to 1:25 a.m. There was no enemy gunfire.

On 14 May, from 6:45 p.m. to 1:50 a.m. on the 15th, 6 Dauntless planes, of the 4TH MARINE WING, hit MILLE in pairs. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

On 14 May, from 9:45 a.m. to 11:06 a.m., ANT and JOKAJ ISLANDS were blasted by 6 Army Mitchells.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 8-78
OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 16 May, 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 12-13 May, patrol planes from SoPac, cooperating with motor torpedo boats, struck CAPE KANUN, north DYAUL ISLAND, NEW IRELAND. They also hit gun emplacements on YOUNGS PLANTATION, on the southwest coast of NEW IRELAND, and strafed and bombed CAPE NAMARUDU, NEW IRELAND.

On 13 May:

Patrol planes started fires in PORTON PLANTATION, BUKA and bombed KAHILI, south BOUGAINVILLE.

Liberators bombed BUKA runway.

The supply area southeast of BONIS was attacked by fighters and bombers. They also started fires at CHABAI, north BOUGAINVILLE, struck at IBU, central interior of BOUGAINVILLE, and destroyed villages on the NUMA NUMA TRAIL.

Avenger planes caused consternation and woe to the JAPS at MIETA, when they sprayed the enemy's gardens with Diesel oil. They also destroyed a large house in the area.

Sweeps by fighters through the BISMARCK Area destroyed one barge and damaged another in LASSUL BAY, near RABAUL. Bridges were strafed at RAMUT BAY. Anti-aircraft defenses in NAMATANAI, on the east coast of NEW IRELAND were silenced.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers started fires and caused explosions in the RATAVAL supply area, RABAUL.

Mitchell bombers destroyed stores areas at TALILI and bombed coastal defense guns at HAHELA, north BUKA.

Airacobras and Warhawks bombed TALILI.

During the night of 13-14 May, motor torpedo boats from EMIRAU, teaming up with night patrol planes, sank three barges near DYAUL ISLAND, NEW IRELAND.

A supplementary report states that 21 Liberators of the 7TH AIR FORCE bombed in two flights on the night of 11-12 May, from 11:19 p.m. to 3:19 a.m., the TRUK airfields at MOEN, PARAM, ETEN and DUBLON and UDOT. Four fires and four explosions were started. The first flight was intercepted by two twin-engined and five single-engined enemy planes. One Liberator was damaged by

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958-78 and Letter [illegible]

TOP SECRET

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

4 p.m. 15 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 14 May, from 2:20 a.m. to 3:57 a.m., 15 Liberators of the 7th Air Force bombed TRUK, particularly the airfields on MOEN, PARAM, ETEN, MESEGON and DUBLON. On MOEN, two large explosions occurred. The antiaircraft fire was moderate but inaccurate, while three searchlights were ineffective. One enemy fighter made an ineffectual attempt to intercept.

From 1:05 a.m. to 2:01 a.m. on 14 May, 3 Liberators bombed PONAPE.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD letter 3-72
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 15 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 14 May, the submarine BONFIN sank a large freighter of unreported tonnage 105 miles northwest of PALAU.

On 14 May, the submarine BONEFISH, operating in the waters of SULU ARCHIPELAGO, sank a large oiler.

Regraded Unclassified

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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

DECLASSIFIED 6-3-76 NND Letter

SECRET

9 a.m. 15 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Between 8:15 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. 13 May, 22 Mitchells dropped bombs on NAURU shore installations, including an ammunition dump, phosphate works, power plant and the airfield. An explosion and a fire were observed. Two Mitchells sustained damage by antiaircraft fire.

At 6:32 p.m. 13 May, one of our planes attacked and possibly sank a submarine about 350 miles northeast of EAST CAPE, NEW IRELAND.

On 13 May, 4 Corsairs bombed the runways and a light antiaircraft battery on MILLE. During the night, 6 Dauntless bombed MILLE. Although some antiaircraft fire was encountered, our planes sustained no damage.

On 13 May, barge concentrations in SIMPSON HARBOR and KERAVIA BAY, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked by rocket-equipped Airacobras, supported by dive and torpedo bombers. The Airacobras sank 30 to 40 barges and the dive bombers damaged 7 more. Antiaircraft positions at RABAUL were attacked by dive and torpedo bombers, as were installations on MATUPI ISLAND. Three dive bombers sustained light damage. An enemy barge at DUKE OF YORK ISLAND was sunk by an Airacobra.

On 13 May, the personnel and airstrip area at TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, was attacked by Mitchells, dive and torpedo bombers, Lightnings and Airacobras. A number of fires started.

WOTJE magazines and buildings were bombed by 24 Corsairs and one Ventura on 13 May. A number of fires were started. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged two Corsairs. These planes and three Venturas returned at 12:10 a.m. 14 May and again bombed the area. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

One Army Liberator dropped bombs on JABOR at 1:45 a.m. 14 May. Meager inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Throughout the night of 14 May, 6 Venturas and 4 Catalinas bombed TAROA Two fires started. Antiaircraft fire was meager and inaccurate.

The submarine PADDLE, operating in the waters west of NEW GUINEA, returned from patrol and reported as follows:

SANK		Damaged
1 transport or freighter	9,419 tons	1 freighter 7,300 tons
1 DD Hatsuharu class	1,368 tons	
Total	10,787 tons	

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED 8-8-78 Letter

9 a.m. 15 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On the night of 11-12 May, KOKONAI PLANTATION and other installations on south SHORTLAND ISLAND were bombed by night flying Catalinas. Catalinas bombed BONIS PLANTATION, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, ARIGUA PLANTATION, east coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, PANARAS PLANTATION, south central coast NEW IRELAND, KAVIENG TOWN and airstrip, NEW IRELAND.

At 7:25 a.m. 12 May, 5 Marine Corsairs bombed the runway on MILLE. These planes re-armed at MAJURO and later again bombed MILLE. Meager, inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered. All of our planes returned without damage. At 11:20 a.m. 12 May, 3 Navy Venturas bombed the barracks area on MILLE. That night, four Marine Dauntless dropped bombs with unobserved results.

WOTJE antiaircraft batteries and the radio station were bombed and strafed by 24 Marine Corsairs at 8:30 a.m. 12 May. Later, at 10:30 a.m., a Ventura bombed the building area. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

EMIDJ was bombed by 6 Venturas between 9:15 a.m. and 11:35 a.m. 12 May. Numerous explosions were observed on ENYEOR ISLAND. Our planes returned without damage. Two other Venturas dropped bombs on AINEMAN ISLAND with unobserved results.

Between 9:30 a.m. and 10:58 a.m. 12 May, 11 Mitchells bombed antiaircraft batteries and other installations on EMIDJ. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered, but our planes sustained no damage.

At 1:25 p.m. 12 May, 3 Mitchells bombed PONAPE airfields and bombarded the area with 75mm cannon. Antiaircraft fire was meager and inaccurate.

At 1:40 p.m. 12 May, 7 Navy Hellcats and 16 Marine Dauntless bombed TAROA. Moderate antiaircraft fire shot down one plane, but the crew was recovered. Later, between 7 p.m. and 8:40 p.m., TAROA was harassed by a Catalina.

During the night of 12-13 May, gunboats destroyed a Japanese field gun crew in the EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area. Motor torpedo boats destroyed a barge near LEBAU ISLAND. Other motor torpedo boats and a Catalina sank a loaded barge at KOROMIRA POINT, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 13 May, Airacobras and Warhawks attacked piers and other installations at PORTON PLANTATION, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and the BUKA airstrip. Fighter planes attacked RAWI POINT and CAPE LAMBERT, NEW BRITAIN, with unreported results. One fighter plane was downed and one other was damaged by antiaircraft fire. The SORUM and CHABAI supply areas on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND were attacked by dive bombers. Results were not reported.

Regraded Unclassified

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 14 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Several buildings and fuel stocks were destroyed.

During the night of 11-12 May, motor torpedo boats and Catalinas bombed and strafed installations on POPORANG ISLAND, SHORTLAND ISLAND area.

The submarine TAUTOG, operating in the KURILES, EMPIRE areas, sank 4 freighters. The tonnage was not reported.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED 78
QRD Letter SECRET

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

9 a.m. 14 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the night of 10-11 May, a reconnaissance plane attacked three barges, south of LULUAI, southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and bombed KIETA, on the east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Catalinas and motor torpedo boats bombed and strafed installations in the area southeast of NEW HANOVER, north of NEW IRELAND. Catalinas bombed the KAVIENG TOWN air strip and coastal guns on SELAPIU ISLAND.

JALUIT was attacked by 3 Navy Venturas at 8:17 a.m., and again at 1:45 p.m., 11 May. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered during the second attack.

Seven Mitchells attacked JALUIT, at 8:54 a.m., and again at 2:20 p.m., 11 May. Bombs were dropped on the southern building area. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On 11 May, 6 Mitchells bombed LANGAR ISLAND, north of PONAPE ISLAND. Due to overcast, results were not observed.

WOTJE was attacked by 7 Mitchells at 9:30 a.m., and again at 1:25 p.m., 11 May. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 12:15 p.m., 11 May, 23 Corsairs and 1 Ventura bombed WOTJE. Overcast prevented observation of results.

At 2:30 p.m., 11 May, 6 Corsairs bombed antiaircraft batteries on MILLE. Meager and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

A reconnaissance plane bombed the KUSAIE air strip on 11 May. Another reconnaissance plane shot down a medium bomber (Sally), 425 miles northwest of PONAPE.

On 11 May, the coastal gun areas at CAPE NAMARUDU, NEW IRELAND, and BORPOP, NEW IRELAND, were bombed by dive and torpedo bombers. Lightnings, Airacobras and Warhawks, attacked targets at CHABAI and PORTON, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, killed a number of enemy personnel along the east coast of BUKA ISLAND, and started fires at MAWARAKA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. In these missions, only two planes sustained damage by antiaircraft fire.

During 11 May, dive, torpedo bombers and Mitchells bombed airdrome installations at TOBERA and VUNAKANAU, NEW BRITAIN. Two planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire. These areas were again attacked by Liberators, fighter bombers and Lightnings. A number of fires started in the personnel and supply areas west of TOBERA. The RABAUL coastal area was swept by motor torpedo boats.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 13 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 10-11 May, 3 enemy barges were sunk by motor torpedo boats six miles northwest of the PANARAS PLANTATION, northwest coast of NEW IRELAND. Motor torpedo boats and Catalinas strafed and bombed a gun position on the east end of SELAPIU ISLAND, south of NEW HANOVER. One motor torpedo boat sustained minor damage when attacked off the south central coast of NEW IRELAND by a float plane.

A Ventura shot down one enemy float plane over MATUPI, NEW BRITAIN, on the morning of 11 May.

The submarine JACK completed a patrol of the FORMOSA Area, and reported as follows:

Sunk
2 75-ton trawlers
1 125-ton trawler

Total - 200 tons

Probably Sunk
1 7500-ton freighter
3 4000-ton freighters

Total - 19,500 tons

Damaged
1 medium freighter - 4,000 tons

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 13 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 8-9 May reconnaissance planes bombed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Two barges south of CHABAI, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were strafed, as were installations on northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Motor torpedo boats and cooperating Catalinas attacked targets on the northwest coast of NEW IRELAND and southeast of NEW HANOVER. The area between LULUAI POINT to TONOLEI, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was strafed by reconnaissance planes.

On 9 May, fighter bombers attacked the LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN, airstrip. Results were not reported. Antiaircraft fire damaged one Warhawk. On the same day, dive bombers scored hits on gun installations at BORPOP, NEW IRELAND, and CAPE NAMARUDU, east coast of NEW IRELAND. Fighter planes set fire to buildings at TAMBAKER POINT, southwest NEW IRELAND, and attacked a number of trucks, southwest of VUNAKANAU, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN.

Dive bombers and Mitchells, on 9 May, started fires on SOHANA ISLAND, northwest of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and struck gun installations at HAHELA, south BUKA, and the BONIS airstrip, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Other dive bombers bombed KERUKERUAI ISLAND, SHORTLAND ISLAND Area.

During 9 May, 33 Airacobras and 3 Lightnings completed ten missions against targets at PORTON and CHABAI, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. In addition, a barge was sunk and three others damaged. An ammunition dump near AITARA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE, was probably destroyed. Several buildings at KIETA, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were also attacked and destroyed. Ten Lightnings attacked the BONIS airstrip but results were not reported.

During 10 May, reconnaissance planes attacked targets on northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and the area between MONOITU and MAMAGETA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. 18 missions were completed by fighter bombers, and in these attacks a village at SCHWARZE POINT, on the east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was destroyed. An oil barge off the northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND was set on fire.

Throughout 10 May, Mitchells struck targets in BUKA PASSAGE and BONIS airfield installations, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Large fires at MATUPI, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN, were started by Mitchells. Dive and torpedo bombers hit LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN, airfield installations. One dive and one torpedo bomber were shot down and six other planes damaged by heavy antiaircraft fire encountered at LAKUNAI. The TOBERA airstrip was attacked by fighter bombers and dive bombers bombed KAVIENG airfield installations and gun positions at CAPE NAMARUDU, NEW IRELAND. Seven planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Regraded Unclassified

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 12 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 9-10 May, 14 Liberators bombed ETEN, MOEN, PARAN, DUBLON, UDOT, ULALU, in the TRUK ATOLL. A possible hit was scored on a destroyer northwest of MOEN. Although four enemy planes were airborne, they did not attack. Meager inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

During the night of 9-10 May, 1 Liberator dropped bombs on PONAPE TOWN and another on CROLUK, CAROLINE ISLANDS.

At 8:30 p.m., 10 May, 3 Liberators bombed WAKE. Due to clouds, results were unobserved. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On 10 May, a reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on the KUSAIE landing strip. Results were not reported.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 12 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 8 May, a reconnaissance plane bombed RUO ISLAND, CAROLINE ISLAND.

The submarine TINOSA sank an enemy trawler, by gunfire, on 8 May.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE
TOP SECRET
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OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 11 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the same night, motor torpedo boats and cooperating Catalinas attacked the KOROMIRA MISSION, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

ALET ISLAND, in PULUWAT ATOLL, was bombed by a reconnaissance plane on 9 May.

At 8:00 a.m., 9 May, 6 Mitchells bombed PONAPE. Due to clouds, results were not observed. One Mitchell sustained minor damage by antiaircraft fire.

At 8:12 a.m., 9 May, MILLE was attacked by 7 Marine Dauntless and 4 Navy Hellcats. Meager antiaircraft fire damaged one Dauntless. Later, at 1:30 p.m., 8 Corsairs bombed the MILLE bivouac area and started a small fire. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 8:28 a.m., 9 May, a reconnaissance plane shot down an enemy medium bomber, 75 miles southeast of TRUK.

EMIDJ was bombed by 10 Mitchells between 9:00 a.m., and noon, 9 May. Results were not reported. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On the early afternoon of 9 May, WOTJE was attacked by 10 Mitchells. A number of bombs fell in the tank area. Results were not reported. At 2:40 p.m., WOTJE was strafed and bombed by 22 Corsairs and 1 Ventura. Bombs fell in the magazine area and the north coastal battery area. Antiaircraft fire was moderate.

At 2:42 p.m., 9 May, 11 Army Liberators bombed PONAPE. A small fire was started in the town. Two of the bombers were damaged by moderate antiaircraft fire.

Twelve Navy Hellcats and 13 Marine Dauntless, attacked TAROA at 2:48 p.m., 9 May. Results were not reported.

The submarine TAMBOR, operating west and northwest of the MARIANAS, scored two hits on a 6,000 ton enemy freighter.

The submarine SARGO, operating southeast of YOKOHAMA, sank a medium freighter and possibly one other.

Regraded Unclassified

Kwajalein - ✓ Enterprise

advising 1C DD + PTS Battle E
US ships for mat. Conversion
.. Body Support - explosives

Vagabond at 6 kts - no F T/

Jamboree - no air

5 8.6 Mont groups ... Marines ... Wake I
alloy lighting ✓ vagabond + Jamboree
to Sealey ... give fuses + provide convoy
ships for new Carrier air groups
Escort ships, Boston San Juanito ...
Cruiser 10 - convoy Pearl San D ...

5+

57 (Hornet) attack
Lexington + Essex
+ Independence
Bogue + Copahee

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 11 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 5-6 May, night flying Catalinas attacked the PORTON and SORAKEN PLANTATIONS, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Fires were also started in installations on RANTAN ISLAND, off the southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 6 May, Liberators, Lightnings and Airacobras, started fires and explosions in the TALILI, NEW BRITAIN, supply area. Liberators bombed the TOBERA runway. Fires and explosions were started by dive and torpedo bombers at RATAVAL, NEW BRITAIN, while fighter planes attacked enemy barges in LIGUAN BAY, NEW BRITAIN. One Liberator, two torpedo bombers and one unidentified plane, were damaged by antiaircraft fire in these operations.

TALILI installations, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked by Liberators, on 6 May. During the same day, Airacobras and Warhawks started fires on the PORTON PLANTATION, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and sank an enemy barge in the vicinity.

During the night of 6-7 May, motor torpedo boats destroyed a barge and strafed enemy personnel near the DUNUP PLANTATION, on the south coast of NEW IRELAND. These boats were ineffectively attacked by an enemy float-plane. Gunboats sank seven enemy barges and started explosions near the JABA RIVER, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 8 May, a reconnaissance plane bombed the BORPOP, NEW IRELAND, air strip. Throughout the day, targets in the RABAUL area, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked by our aircraft. VUNAKANAU airdrome installations were attacked by 18 dive bombers. TOBERA airdrome installations were attacked by fighter bombers and two grounded enemy planes possibly destroyed. An enemy barge, near RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, was sunk by an Airacobra, and a Liberator bombed RABAUL TOWN, with unreported results. Dive bombers struck at installations near NAMARUDU and gun positions at BORPOP, east coast of NEW IRELAND. Several of the dive bombers sustained damage by enemy antiaircraft fire.

During 8 May, BUKA coastal guns and installations on HAHELA and SOHANNA ISLAND, were attacked by Mitchells. Thirty-five Airacobras and 3 Warhawks attacked many targets on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Installations at NUMA NUMA, KIETA and TABUT, on the east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were destroyed and two large explosions were observed near the BONIS air strip, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 8-9 May, motor torpedo boats exchanged fire with large enemy guns emplaced on the northeast tip of NEW IRELAND and at YOUNG PLANTATION, northwest NEW IRELAND. Our boats escaped injury. These gun positions were later bombed and strafed by Catalinas and motor torpedo boats.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 72
OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 10 May1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 6-7 May, night flying Catalinas attacked installations at KAVIENG, PANAPOI, NEW HANOVER and KARA, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Coastal gun areas, near CAPE FRIENDSHIP and on RATAN ISLAND, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by Mitchells, on the morning of 7 May. During the afternoon, dive and torpedo bombers started fires and explosions on SOHANNA ISLAND and PORTON PLANTATION, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, while fighter bombers struck at targets along the west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 7 May, a reconnaissance plane attacked three enemy barges and of these sank one near CHABAI, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Dive bombers attacked and probably destroyed a number of coastal guns on CAPE NAMARODU, north central coast of NEW IRELAND. Lightnings and Airacobras bombed targets on the east coast of BUKA ISLAND and started fires on the PORTON PLANTATION, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Hits were scored on gun positions at MOTUPENA, west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two Airacobras sustained damage by antiaircraft fire.

During the night of 7-8 May, motor torpedo boats sank two enemy barges near DUBLON PLANTATION, northeast coast of NEW IRELAND, and set on fire another barge in the vicinity of the JABA RIVER, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Other motor torpedo boats sank a barge, damaged another and probably sank a sampan northwest of CHOISEUL ISLAND.

On the morning of 8 May, a number of our destroyers exchanged fire with a six-inch shore battery, located on the east end of POPRANG ISLAND, southeast of SHORTLAND ISLAND. Results were not reported.

At 8:57 a.m., 8 May, six Mitchells bombed the building area and set on fire one building on ENYBOR, JALUIT ATOLL. ENYBOR was again attacked by six other Mitchells at 1:26 p.m. No antiaircraft fire was encountered during both attacks.

WOTJE was bombed by 6 Mitchells at 9:30 a.m., 8 May, and again by six Mitchells at 12:52 p.m. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 1:16 p.m., and 2:45 p.m., 8 May, 6 Army Mitchells bombed the two airfields on PONAPE ISLAND. Results were unobserved. Moderate but inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 9-18

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

9 a.m. 9 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 7 May, the submarine SILVERSIDES, operating in the vicinity of GUAM, damaged a freighter or passenger vessel with one torpedo hit.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-8-79

9 a.m. 8 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 5-6 May, a reconnaissance plane bombed targets in KAUT BAY, south southeast of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. On the same night, motor torpedo boats probably destroyed two enemy barges off the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and on the morning of 6 May, motor torpedo boats sank a barge and strafed installations on SELAPIU ISLAND, near KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

ALET ISLAND gun positions, in PULUWAT, were bombed during the night of 5-6 May, by a reconnaissance plane with unreported results.

At 7:22 a.m., 6 May, 7 Corsairs attacked gun installations on MILLE. Later, 6 Corsairs attacked MILLE twice. Results were not reported.

EMIDJ installations were attacked by 10 Mitchells between 8:57 a.m., and 9:55 a.m., 6 May. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one Mitchell.

One Ventura dropped bombs on WOTJE, at 8:28 a.m., 6 May. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. Later, at 12:07 p.m., 10 Mitchells bombed the northern sector of WOTJE, with unreported results. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. Again, between 6:19 p.m., and 10:35 p.m., 6 May, 13 Army Liberators bombed WOTJE. Results were not reported. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 10:03 a.m., 6 May, 4 Hellcats attacked JALUIT. Results were not reported.

At 10:15 a.m., 6 May, 8 Mitchells bombed the PONAPE airfields and seaplane base. Results were not reported. Meager and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 1:11 a.m., and 2:08 a.m., 6 May, 10 of 12 Liberators bombed ETEN, PARAN, DUBLON and MOEN, in the TRUK ATOLL. Antiaircraft fire was meager. One bomber failed to return.

Sixteen Marine Dauntless and 10 Navy Hellcats attacked MALOELAP, on 6 May. Bombs were dropped on the radio station and stores on two islets northwest of TAROA. Fires were started.

A reconnaissance plane, on 7 May, shot down a four-engined enemy bomber, 170 miles north of PULUWAT.

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COMINCH FILE

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

DECLASSIFIED
TOP SECRET
DEC 6-3-78
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 8 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Seven Marine Corsairs dropped bombs on MILLE antiaircraft batteries at 12:05 p.m., 4 May. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

During the morning of 5 May, the TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, air strip and personnel area, was attacked by dive and medium bombers. Antiaircraft fire shot down one bomber. The dispersal and runway areas at LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked by fighter bombers and fires started. Four Lightnings were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Gun installations at BORPOP, NEW IRELAND, were attacked by dive bombers and fighters, strafed an oil barge, four trucks and about 20 of the enemy personnel near RABAUL. One Corsair sustained damage.

On 5 May, BUKA ISLAND gun positions were bombed by Mitchells, and SORUM on the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was attacked by dive bombers. Airacobras started fires among supplies at CHABAI, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, while Warhawks struck at KIETA installations, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Throughout the day, 34 Airacobras, in 11 missions, struck BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND targets, destroyed an ammunition dump and other installations.

At 10:15 a.m., 5 May, EMIDJ magazine area was bombed by 12 Mitchells. Results were not reported. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

A magazine and coastal batteries on TAROA were bombed by 12 Navy Hellcats and 16 Marine Dauntless, at 10:20 a.m., 5 May. A direct hit was scored on a gun emplacement. The island was strafed and photographed. One dive bomber sustained minor damage from moderate antiaircraft fire.

At 10:35 a.m., 5 May, 6 Corsairs bombed antiaircraft positions on MILLE. One Corsair was damaged by moderate accurate antiaircraft fire. Prior to this attack, 6 Corsairs had bombed MILLE at 7:15 a.m.

PONAPE TOWN and the dock area was struck by 39 of 41 Army Liberators, between 11:57 a.m., and 12:30 p.m., 5 May. Fires and explosions were observed. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one plane. One bomber is reported missing.

Between 1:54 p.m., and 2:48 p.m., 5 May, 12 Mitchells bombed WOTJE and exploded a magazine. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. The following day, at 11:00 a.m., WOTJE was attacked by 24 Marine Corsairs and one Navy Ventura. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered, but results of this attack were not reported.

Installations, in the southwest interior and on the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by a reconnaissance plane, on 5 May. KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, was also bombed.

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

9 a.m., 7 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine TANG rescued eleven officers and eleven enlisted men of approximately thirty reported missing in the carrier task force strike (T.F. 58), against TRUK, 29-30 April.

During the night of 3-4 May, night flying Catalinas attacked targets in ADLER BAY, northeast NEW BRITAIN, and strafed enemy personnel near CAPE INUS, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 4 May, dive and torpedo bombers attacked airdrome installations at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Antiaircraft fire shot down one Corsair, but the pilot was recovered. Enemy coastal guns at BORPOP, east NEW IRELAND, were attacked by dive bombers, many fires were started in supply dumps, and buildings were destroyed at MATUPI ISLAND, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN.

During 4 May, Mitchells started fires and explosions at TALILI, NEW BRITAIN. Two Mitchells were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Fires were started along the VUNAKANAU air strip, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN, by 43 fighter bombers. TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, was attacked by two Liberators, but results were not reported.

On 4 May, fighter planes strafed installations and equipment in the RABAUL Area, and DUKE OF YORK ISLAND, NEW BRITAIN. The east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND was attacked by Lightnings, and some installations at TINPUTS were destroyed. An enemy barge at KORAMIRA, southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was also destroyed. Liberators attacked the KAHILI airdrome, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, with unreported results.

During the night of 4-5 May, gunboats strafed enemy installations, south of TEKESSI, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Motor torpedo boats destroyed two enemy barges in an undisclosed location. Other motor torpedo boats engaged an enemy floatplane and enemy guns on CAPE NAMORADA, east coast of NEW IRELAND. Apparently our boats sustained no damage.

On 5 May, reconnaissance planes attacked 5 and sank 3 small enemy merchant vessels, 40 miles northeast of PULUWAT, CAROLINE ISLANDS.

At 11:01 p.m., 5 May, three of our motor torpedo boats engaged five enemy armored barges, two enemy floatplanes, and shore batteries off RATAN ISLAND, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. In this engagement motor torpedo boat No. 247 was lost. The following casualties were suffered: one officer missing, one officer and one man seriously wounded. Thirteen of the personnel were recovered.

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SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

strafed supplies at KABANGA PLANTATION, east coast of NEW IRELAND. BUKA ISLAND coastal guns and installations at KIETA and NUMA NUMA, central east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by fighter planes on the same day.

During the night of 3-4 May, motor torpedo boats sank an enemy barge west of MIK MIK ISLAND, off the northwest coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and another barge near EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Other torpedo boats damaged 2 of 5 heavily armed enemy barges off RANTAN ISLAND, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. An attacking enemy float plane caused some damage to our motor torpedo boats, but no personnel casualties.

At 7:10 a.m. 4 May, 21 Corsairs and one Ventura bombed antiaircraft batteries on WOTJE. This attack was followed by eight Liberators and later by 12 Mitchells. 6 planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

At 8:25 a.m. 4 May, 6 Corsairs attacked MILLE antiaircraft batteries. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

The magazine area on EMIDJ ISLAND in JALUIT Atoll was bombed by 12 Mitchells on the morning of 4 May. Meager and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 2:00 p.m. 4 May, 10 Dauntless attacked TAROA antiaircraft batteries. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged two of the dive bombers. A similar force of aircraft followed 20 minutes later and attacked the same area.

At 6:08 p.m. 4 May, 8 Venturas bombed the southeast runway and barracks area on NAURU ISLAND. Intense antiaircraft fire slightly damaged 1 Ventura.

The submarine HARDER returned from patrol of the WOLEAI ISLAND area and reported the following results:

Sunk - 1 FUBUKI class DD		1,700 tons
1 freighter		3,560 tons
	Total -	5,260 tons

Damaged and probably sunk -
1 FUBUKI class DD 1,700 tons

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 6 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At about 7:50 a.m. 2 May, 9 Mitchells bombed the JALUIT building area and radio installations on EMIDJ. Meager and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 9:35 a.m. 2 May, 6 Corsairs and an unreported number of Hellcats attacked Mille antiaircraft installations. Large fires and explosions were started. These planes, after rearming at MAJURO, again attacked MILLE at 1:45 p.m. Prior to the first attack, 6 Hellcats strafed antiaircraft batteries.

At 9:50 a.m. 2 May, 13 Dauntless bombed WOTJE. Many small fires were seen. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

TAROA was strafed by 4 Hellcats at 9:15 a.m. 2 May. Later, at 2:25 p.m., 7 Dauntless and 4 Hellcats attacked TAROA. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered and one or more of our planes failed to return.

Between 7:58 p.m. and 10:59 p.m. 2 May, eight Army Liberators were over TRUK. Bombs started fires on ETEN and DUBLON ISLANDS. Hits were scored on searchlight batteries and airstrips. Moderate and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered. Two enemy night fighters were in the air, but did not attack. All of our planes returned without casualties.

One Liberator started a large fire in the PONAPE TOWN Area at 10:07 p.m. 2 May.

During the night of 2-3 May, reconnaissance planes dropped bombs on BORPOP and CAPE NAMARODU, east coast of NEW IRELAND. Other reconnaissance planes on 3 May bombed targets on the northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and strafed PORORAN ISLAND, off the west coast of BUKA ISLAND. Search planes also bombed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

On 3 May, fires were started in the VUNAKANAU supply area, NEW BRITAIN, by 34 dive bombers. Other dive bombers and torpedo planes attacked the VUNA-KANAU airstrip and gun installations. Bridges in the vicinity were attacked and destroyed. Antiaircraft fire damaged 9 planes.

On the same day, the TOBERA supply area, NEW BRITAIN, was struck by fighter bombers. LAKUNAI revetments and antiaircraft positions were also attacked. Warhawks set fire to huts on PORORAN ISLAND and other fighters

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OSD Letter

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

4 p.m. 5 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarines PARCHE, BANG and TINOSA, sank two freighters and damaged three on 1 May, 70 miles off the northwest coast of LUZON. On 4 May, these submarines, in a coordinated attack, sank one tanker, five freighters, one destroyer and damaged two freighters, south of FORMOSA.

The submarine SKATE damaged and possibly sunk an 8,500 ton freighter, 215 miles northwest of CHICHIJIMA.

The submarine GUAVINA, on 25 April, sank a large freighter, and, on 26 April, sank two medium freighters. In addition, on 22 April, a trawler was damaged by gunfire.

The submarine HALIBUT, sank one medium freighter, one coastal minelayer, one sampan and damaged two medium freighters northeast of FORMOSA.

The following is a summary of successes achieved by the submarine REDFIN, in a patrol of the PHILIPPINE area.

SUNK	TONS
1 DD - FUBUKI Class	1,700
1 AO	10,000
1 Freighter	4,000
1 Freighter	7,500
1 Freighter	7,190
TOTAL —	30,390

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD

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

9 a.m. 5 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Reconnaissance planes bombed the VONAPAI air strip at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, during the night of 1-2 May. Antiaircraft fire damaged one plane.

On 2 May, dive and torpedo bombers attacked TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, airdrome installations. Two of our planes were shot down by heavy antiaircraft fire and a number of others sustained damage.

Mitchells bombed TALILI and MATUPI, NEW BRITAIN, at noon, 2 May. Large fires and explosions were observed. Antiaircraft fire damaged two Mitchells.

On 2 May, buildings on the VUNAKAMBI plantations near RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked and set on fire by 30 fighter bombers. Fighter planes set on fire 3 trucks and 3 beached barges in MALAGUNA BAY, NEW IRELAND. Dive bombers struck at BUKA ISLAND coastal guns and fighter planes strafed targets along the southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 2-3 May, motor torpedo boats damaged a small enemy vessel and a barge east of NUSALAUA ISLAND, south of NEW HANOVER.

At 8:02 a.m., 3 May, TAROA antiaircraft batteries were bombed by 10 Dauntless and 4 Hellcats. Forty minutes later, a similar force again struck the area. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged 3 Dauntless.

Between 8:25 a.m., and 9:02 a.m., 3 May, Mitchells bombed the radio station on AINEMAN ISLAND, JALUIT ATOLL.

WOTJE antiaircraft gun installations were bombed by Mitchells between 11:34 a.m., and 1:22 p.m., 3 May. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. Later, at 1:45 p.m., 24 Corsairs and 1 Ventura, bombed shore installations on WOTJE. Intense light caliber antiaircraft fire damaged the Ventura.

MILLE installations were attacked by 5 Corsairs at 12:25 p.m., 3 May.

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

9 a.m. 4 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 1 May, dive and torpedo bombers attacked gun positions near RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, destroyed three and damaged three six-inch guns. Enemy antiaircraft fire shot down one dive bomber and damaged one torpedo bomber. The pilot of the destroyed plane was recovered.

At noon, 1 May, dive and torpedo bombers started fires at VUNAKAMBI, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN, and fighter planes set on fire two barges in KERAVIA BAY, NEW BRITAIN. One Corsair failed to return. On the same day, Mitchells bombed coastal gun installations at BORPOP, NEW IRELAND.

During 1 May, 38 Airacobras attacked numerous targets along the coast of BUKA ISLAND and BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Buildings at TINPUTS MISSION, northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were destroyed.

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OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 3 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

two barges, one of which was carrying 15 Japs and supplies and also damaged two other barges. Trucks and houses in the RABAUL area were set on fire.

Fighter sweeps strafed and bombed supply areas and installations on BOUGAINVILLE and in BUKA.

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OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 3 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 1 May, at 10:20 a.m., 42 Army Liberators hit WAKE ISLAND. A large explosion occurred at the north end. The antiaircraft fire was moderate. Two of our planes suffered slight damage. Three enemy planes were over the target but offered no interception.

In the interval between 7:50 a.m., and 2:10 p.m., 1 May, 13 Marine Corsairs hit MILLE. One direct hit was secured on an antiaircraft gun. There was no antiaircraft fire.

On 1 May, at 10:55 a.m., 4 Hellcats and 10 Marine Dauntless planes bombed TAROA. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

WOTJE was struck by 10 Marine Dauntless planes, on 1 May, at 8:15 a.m. The antiaircraft fire was weak. One hit was secured on an antiaircraft battery which caused a small explosion.

On 1 May, at 8:20 a.m., 8 Mitchells blasted PONAPE and started a large explosion and fire on the old airfield. The antiaircraft fire was moderate.

Eleven Mitchells hit JALUIT, on 1 May, from 8:15 a.m., to 9:20 a.m. The antiaircraft fire was meager and inaccurate.

During the night of 29-30 April, patrol planes from SOPAC, hit KAVIENG and BORPOP, NEW IRELAND.

On 30 April, patrol planes bombed MOSIGA and other installations in the northeast part of BOUGAINVILLE.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers struck the runways and antiaircraft guns at LAKUNAI, RABAUL. It appears that the antiaircraft fire destroyed one Dauntless dive bomber.

Sixteen Dauntless dive bombers and 12 Avengers attacked RATAVAL, RABAUL.

Mitchell bombers and Dauntless dive bombers destroyed two buildings and caused fires in VUNAKAMBI PLANTATION.

Lightnings and Warhawks started fires in the revetments and caused a large explosion on the runway at VUNAKANAU, RABAUL.

Two Liberators attacked RAPOPO. One plane was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Fighter sweeps set on fire houses on the east coast of NEW IRELAND, exploded an enemy floatplane, damaged an enemy motor torpedo boat, destroyed

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DECLASSIFIED Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 3 May 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Following their operations against HOLLANDIA, task forces of the Pacific Fleet, under command of Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher, attacked other enemy bases in the Central Pacific.

Installations in the TRUK ATOLL were blasted by carrier aircraft on 30 April and 1 May. On the first day, the Jap planes came out all bright eyed and bushy-tailed. There was intense antiaircraft fire and weak but determined bombing runs by enemy bombers. At least sixty enemy planes were shot down by our fighters and five by our ship's gunfire. Sixty enemy grounded planes were destroyed. On the second day, only one enemy plane appeared and he was quickly liquidated. During the second day, the intense antiaircraft fire prevailed again. Many fires were started on the islands in the atoll, and it is believed considerable destruction was wrought on shore installations by approximately 800 tons of bombs dropped in the two day's attack.

It is believed the saddened Japs still living on TRUK will need much shipping such as that is today, to rebuild their base. No important enemy ships were encountered.

It is reported that the destroyer MacDonough undoubtedly sunk a Jap submarine because articles were recovered indicating that they belonged to the enemy.

On 1 May, cruisers, under the command of Rear Admiral J. B. Olendorf, bombarded SATAWAN ISLAND, NAMOI ATOLL, for two hours and created consternation.

On 2 May, PONAPE was attacked by carrier-based aircraft and shelled by battleships commanded by Vice Admiral W. A. Lee. The results are unknown, but it is a certainty that havoc was done.

None of our ships was damaged in any of these operations. Preliminary reports indicate that about 20 pilots and 15 men are missing, but some of them were recovered by the courageous and efficient work of the submarine TANG. Our plane losses were light. It is reported that the low ceiling, prevailing over the target area, and the intense antiaircraft fire, accounted for the majority of the planes shot down.

In its last day, off HOLLANDIA, this task force shot down five enemy search planes.

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

9 a.m. 2 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

one thousand pound bombs. It also strafed ETEN and MOEN ISLAND airstrips. The antiaircraft fire was intense.

The submarine HAKE, returning from a war patrol, reports as follows:

27 March - In the evening, in KARIMATA STRAIT, western BORNEO, in a submerged attack, sunk a large unescorted oil tanker..

2 April - Early in the morning, in an attack on a five ship escorted convoy, damaged an enemy freighter. This attack occurred east of SINGAPORE STRAIT.

2 April - An hour later, a little to the southwest, sank a large escorted oil tanker.

A summary of the damage inflicted on the enemy indicates the sinking of two large oil tankers for a total of 20,405 tons and the damaging of an enemy freighter for an estimated 6,000 tons.

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

9 a.m. 2 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 26 April, 6 Japs, attempting to escape by canoe from POWELL HARBOR, south RABAUL, were killed by our fighters.

The following air strikes were reported on 29 April:

Mitchell planes started fires at RAPOPO, RABAUL.

Huts were fired on the west coast of NEW IRELAND by fighter sweeps. One of our Hellcats was damaged.

Avengers and Dauntless dive bombers bombed barracks at BAHITAHI VILLAGE, LONAHAN, southeast BUKA, and bracketed coastal guns at BUKA.

At BUKA, at various places on the runway and revetments, fires were started by Mitchells, who also bombed the dispersal areas and runway at KARA.

Eleven Airacobras strafed BUKA and other BOUGAINVILLE targets. They started fires at SIPAAI MISSION, northwest BOUGAINVILLE.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers bombed coastal guns at BUKA.

At TINPUTS, Lightnings set a house on fire.

Buildings were destroyed by Airacobras on KIETA strip and at LONTIS, northwest BUKA. At south KIETA PLANTATION, a building was set on fire. The bridge at NUMA NUMA was attacked. At AITARA, huts were fired. BAITSI, southwest BOUGAINVILLE, was bombed, as also were oil drums on a small island in MATCHIN BAY.

During the night of 28-29 April, a patrol plane from SoPac bombed the airstrip at KAVIENG TOWN and south KUPOTAN VILLAGE, NEW HANOVER.

During 29 April, patrol planes bombed KATSINKOVERI and a barge and some huts at SINANAI VILLAGE, northeast BOUGAINVILLE. On the northwest coast of BUKA, villages were strafed.

On 30 April, at 8:45 p.m., one of our patrol planes probably damaged an enemy light cruiser anchored northeast of ETEN ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL, with three

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. 1 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 30 April, off the northwest tip of LUZON, PHILIPPINES, a coordinated attack by Blue submarines on a ten-ship enemy convoy resulted in the sinking of two enemy freighters and the damaging of three others.

Early in the morning of 26 April, another BLUE submarine attacked a south-bound convoy off the northwest tip of LUZON. This convoy consisted of seven enemy freighters with eight escorts. The submarine sank four of the convoy and damaged another ship. During 27-28 April, this same submarine sank two trawlers.

During the night of 28-29 April, a BLUE submarine, west of PALAU, sank four enemy freighters and one destroyer.

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DECLASSIFIED
JSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 1 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The runway area and old airfield at PONAPE was bombed by 5 Mitchells on 29 April, at 2:45 p.m. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

A Ventura attacked TAONGI ATOLL and strafed the building area there. There was no antiaircraft fire and no activity was observed.

On 29 April, at 2:06 p.m., 10 Marine Dauntless dive bombers dropped propaganda leaflets on WOTJE. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

TRUK, on 29 April, from 8:13 p.m., to 10:32 p.m., was bombed by 18 Army Liberators. The antiaircraft fire was meager. Explosions were seen. There were three to four enemy aircraft observed over the target. No damage resulted to our planes nor were any injuries received.

A Liberator started two fires on PONAPE, on 29 April, at 10:30 a.m.

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

9 a.m. 1 May 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

MILLE ATOLL was struck by 7 Corsairs in two strikes, on 28 April, once at 7:20 a.m., and then later at 10:10 a.m. The targets were the heavy antiaircraft positions and coastal defense guns. No antiaircraft fire was received.

On 28 April, at 9:18 a.m., PONAPE was blasted by 3 Mitchells and again by five more of the same planes at 11:26 a.m. The revetments and the runway on the new airfield were hit. The antiaircraft fire was moderate. Our planes received no damage.

Twelve Mitchell planes struck JALUIT from 9:10 a.m., on 28 April, to 10:45 a.m. The heavy antiaircraft positions on ENYBOR and the building area on EMIDJ, were the targets. A fire was started at the latter place. The antiaircraft fire varied from meager to none at all.

WOTJE was hit by the same Mitchell planes on 28 April, from 11:50 a.m., to 1:30 p.m., and the bombs which they dropped on the magazines on the north end of the island, started a large fire. There was no antiaircraft defense.

On 28 April, at 11:10 a.m., 24 Corsairs and 2 Venturas bombed and strafed the magazines and motor pool on WOTJE. The antiaircraft fire was weak. Slight damage was incurred by two of our planes.

At 2:30 p.m., on 29 April, 11 Army Liberators blasted JALUIT. Of the 38½ tons of bombs dropped, it is estimated that 50% fell on the island.

On 29 April, 6 Venturas hit JABOR, ENYBOR and KABBENBOCK, JALUIT, at 3:22 a.m., and 2:00 p.m.

The gun positions on ENYBOR were struck by 12 Mitchells on 29 April, from 8:10 a.m., to 10:00 a.m.

On 29 April, at 1:13 p.m., 4 Hellcats strafed KABBENBOCK and the buildings on ENYBOR.

At 7:40 a.m., on 29 April, an Army Liberator photograph plane bombed gun positions on EMIDJ. The defensive fire from various types of antiaircraft guns was meager.

From 8:45 a.m., to 10:45 a.m., on 29 April, TAROA was strafed and bombed by 8 Hellcats and 20 Marine Dauntless planes. The antiaircraft fire was moderate. One Dauntless plane received minor damage.

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter, 7-2

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

9 a.m. 1 May 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 28-29 April, motor torpedo boats from EMIRAU ISLAND, attacked at about 500 yards range two north-bound vehicles on a coastal road east of KAVIENG. One target was stopped, took fire and exploded.

During the night of 27-28 April, night patrol planes from SOPAC, silenced antiaircraft guns at MOSIGA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE. They also bombed CAPE KOTOPAN, northeast BUKA.

A plane crashed off the south central part of NEW IRELAND, after attacking KOKA PLANTATION.

During 28 April, the following air activity was reported from SOPAC:

Mitchell planes struck RAPOPO and VUNAKANAU, in the RABAUL Area. Antiaircraft fire damaged one plane.

Avengers bombed KERAVAT, RABAUL.

VUNAKANAU, RABAUL, was hit by fighters and bombers. The runway and huts were the targets.

On a fighter sweep through the BISMARCKS, a fuel shed on the DUKE OF YORK ISLAND was set on fire and barges and huts were strafed in the small villages on the east coast of NEW IRELAND.

Eight Airacobras hit the antiaircraft positions and bivouac supply areas in MAMAGATA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE.

Other planes bombed KIA RAE bridge, southwest interior BOUGAINVILLE; fuel drums at TINPUTS PLANTATION, and a large quonset shaped hut at TEOPASINO, northeast coast BOUGAINVILLE, were also hit.

During 29 April, a patrol plane from SOPAC, attacked two small vessels near the north entrance of PULUWAT lagoon, and a schooner near FATIDAU ISLAND.

On 28 April, at 11:25 a.m., 16 Marine Dauntless planes and 8 Hellcats hit TAROA, MALOELAP ATOLL, and concentrated on coastal defense guns and magazines. The antiaircraft fire was meager. Slight damage was received by 2 Dauntless planes.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 30 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 27 April, Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers bombed the runway and antiaircraft positions at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Four of the Dauntless planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire and one of them was forced to land on EMIRAU ISLAND.

The supply area at TALILI was bombed by Mitchell planes and the antiaircraft fire damaged three of the bombers.

The same area was attacked by Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers and explosions and fires resulted. Two Avengers were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

TOBERA airfield at RABAUL was hit by 4 Liberators.

Large fires were started in the TALILI ammunition dump area by 4 Airacobras.

Fighter sweeps set on fire a barge in SIMPSON HARBOR, RABAUL, and another one carrying oil drums in KABANGA BAY, was also set on fire. A possible oil storage and six trucks were fired at KERAVAT.

The mouth of the MIBO RIVER, in south BOUGAINVILLE, was bombed on 27 April, by patrol planes. These same planes also hit antiaircraft positions south of BUKA and POPORAN and YAME ISLANDS, off the northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE.

Additional details of the strike only made by 20 Liberators on TRUK, on the morning of 27 April, indicates that 3 Japanese night fighters intercepted, one of which was shot down. The antiaircraft fire accounted for one Liberator.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

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OSD Letter

4 p.m. 29 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:55 p.m., 27 April, the U. S. Navy cargo vessel ETAMIN (AK-93) was seriously damaged at AITAPE, NEW GUINEA, when struck by a medium bomb released by one of three enemy planes over the area at that time. Only one casualty (Army enlisted) was reported. This is first casualty to a naval vessel engaged in Hollandia operation.

No other news of interest.

Regraded Unclassified

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

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DECLASSIFIED JSD Letter 7 Dec 78

9 a.m. 29 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 27-28 April, 20 Army Liberators bombed ETEN, MOEN, PARAN and DUBLON ISLANDS in the TRUK Atoll. A large fire was observed. Antiaircraft fire was meager. Although several enemy fighters were airborne, they did not intercept.

On the night of 27 April, two Liberators bombed PONAPE TOWN and old airfield installations. A fire started.

At 5:08 a.m. 26 April, 7 photo planes and 7 Army Liberators bombed and photographed GUAM. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. Numerous enemy planes were observed on the island's two fields, but no interception was attempted.

Six Venturas bombed MILLE at 8:15 a.m. 27 April and again at 1:32 p.m. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered. All our planes returned without damage. MILLE was also bombed by 6 Corsairs at 10:50 a.m., followed by 5 other Corsairs at 2:25 p.m. No antiaircraft fire was encountered, in the last two attacks.

ENYBOR antiaircraft positions in JALUIT Atoll were bombed by 12 Mitchells between 8:25 a.m. and 9:58 a.m., 27 April. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered, but all planes returned without damage.

Between 1:15 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. 27 April, 4 photo planes and 6 Liberators bombed PONAPE town and LANGAR ISLAND. Results of the bombing were not reported. All planes returned without damage.

At 3 p.m. 27 April, PONAPE airfields were attacked by 6 Mitchells, but results were unobserved. No antiaircraft fire encountered.

On 27 April, WOTJE was attacked by 11 Mitchells, 24 Corsairs and 1 Ventura. Weak antiaircraft fire encountered. All planes returned without damage.

At 9:22 a.m. 27 April, TAROA was attacked by 10 Dauntless and 4 Hellcats. The attack was repeated at 2:00 p.m. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered, but all planes returned without damage.

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter

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

4 p.m. 28 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the night of 25-26 April, reconnaissance planes bombed the KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND air strip. Results were not reported.

On the morning of 26 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked installations at RAPOPO and VUNAKANAU, in the RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN. The LAKUNAI air strip and dispersal area was bombed by Mitchells, and fighter bombers struck at TOBERA and KERAVAT. One torpedo bomber failed to return and four dive bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Dive and torpedo bombers struck at gun positions on BUKA ISLAND, during the afternoon of 26 April. The TONOLEI harbor area, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed by 3 Mitchells and Warhawks destroyed a number of huts along the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 26 April, reconnaissance planes demolished huts at TARARA and started fires at DOURE, both on the east central coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 26 April, the airfield on ALET ISLAND, PULUWAT ATOLL, was bombed by a reconnaissance plane and a number of fires started. Intense antiaircraft fire slightly damaged the plane.

According to preliminary reports, 17 Liberators attacked DUBLON ISLAND, in TRUK ATOLL, on the early morning of 27 April. Further details are not available at this time.

On 27 April, the SATAWAN runway, CAROLINE group, was bombed by a reconnaissance plane. The runway was reported unserviceable.

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

9 a.m. 28 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the early morning of 25 April, 15 SOPAC Liberators bombed DUBLON, MOEN, FEFAN, UMAN and FALO ISLANDS, in the TRUK ATOLL. Results were not reported. A number of Japanese night fighters were seen but did not attack.

On the morning of 25 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked BORPOP, NEW IRELAND, and LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN, airdrome installations. One dive bomber was shot down by antiaircraft fire. The TOBERA runway and revetments were attacked by 23 Mitchells and a fire started. Four Mitchells sustained damage by antiaircraft fire. On the same morning, a Liberator bombed SATAWAN, CAROLINE ISLANDS. Results were not reported.

During the morning of 25 April, 8 Corsairs struck at targets between CAPE SASS and FATMILAK, on the north coast of NEW IRELAND, while 8 Hellcats destroyed a small boat in the RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN, and strafed enemy equipment in the vicinity. BAITSI stock piles, in the southwest interior of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked by 12 Airacobras and fires started. Twelve dive bombers bombed AMNULLAI ISLAND, south SHORTLAND ISLAND, but results were not reported. From these operations, two planes failed to return.

On 25 April, our aircraft attacked enemy installations in MATCHIN BAY, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported.

The submarine SEAHORSE, on 17 April, sank a large enemy freighter and, on 20 April, an RO class submarine, in the MARIANAS area.

of Palau, made attack in a convoy east

The submarine TRIGGER, during the night of 25-26 April, sank four Marus and one destroyer.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter SECRET

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

9 a.m. 27 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Six Corsairs bombed MILLE twice on 25 April, and scored a direct hit on a coastal defense battery. Meager and accurate antiaircraft fire was encountered in the first attack but none in the second.

Three Liberators bombed PONAPE TOWN and the old airfield at 2:45 a.m., 26 April. Results were not reported. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 27 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 23-24 April, reconnaissance planes attacked airdrome installations at BORPOP, NEW IRELAND. Results were not reported.

On the early morning of 24 April, 17 SOPAC Liberators attacked TRUK and started a large fire at FEFAN. Further details are not available at this time.

During the morning of 24 April, 10 Airacobras attacked TOBERA, northeast NEW BRITAIN, while other fighter planes swept over RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN-NEW IRELAND, and set on fire 19 trucks in the RABAUL Area. These planes sank a barge off KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, and set another on fire in DAKUREIE BAY, west coast of the GAZELLE PENINSULA, NEW BRITAIN. Other planes attacked targets in northeast, central east and south interior of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, with unknown results. Targets along the north coast of SHORTLAND ISLAND were also attacked.

TAONGI ATOLL was bombed by 2 Venturas at 10:30 a.m., 25 April. Several buildings were destroyed. Except for meager rifle fire, no antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 11:02 a.m., and 3:33 p.m., 25 April, 11 Mitchells dropped bombs on WOTJE. Results were not reported. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. Between 1:33 p.m., and 2:16 p.m., 23 Army Liberators bombed WOTJE and started large fires in the magazine area. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. At 1:00 p.m., WOTJE was thoroughly strafed by 23 Corsairs and two fires started. Meager antiaircraft fire damaged one Corsair.

At 12:30 p.m., 25 April, the old and new airfields on PONAPE were bombed by 8 Mitchells. Several fires started. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

At 1:15 p.m., 25 April, 16 Dauntless and 8 Hellcats attacked TAROA. A possible hit was scored on a heavy antiaircraft gun position. Moderate antiaircraft fire slightly damaged 4 Dauntless.

Between 7:41 p.m., 25 April and 3:12 a.m., 26 April, 16 Army Liberators dropped bombs on PARAN, ETEN, TOL, MOEN and DUBLON, in the TRUK ATOLL. Explosions were seen on PARAN and DUBLON. Antiaircraft fire encountered was meager and inaccurate. Although 2 or 3 enemy night fighters were airborne, they did not intercept. All planes returned without damage.

On 25 April, twelve Mitchells and 2 Venturas bombed gun positions on EMIDJ, SIDNEY PIER, JABOR and ENYBOR, in the JALUIT ATOLL. A number of explosions were observed. Heavy but meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

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

9 a.m. 26 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Twenty-four Corsairs bombed and strafed coastal defense guns and the fuel storage area on WOTJE at 8:00 a.m., 24 April. Results were not reported. Moderate antiaircraft fire slightly damaged 1 Corsair.

At 8:45 a.m., 24 April, 8 Hellcats and 20 Dauntless bombed and strafed gun positions on TAROA. Moderate antiaircraft fire slightly damaged 4 Dauntless. Later, at 2:00 p.m., 7 Mitchells bombed the same area. Results were not reported.

Three Venturas bombed and strafed installations on TAONGI ATOLL (north of MARSHALL ISLANDS) at 9:00 a.m., 24 April, and again at 2:05 p.m., 24 April. Two buildings were destroyed and a number of fires started. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered in the first attack, but none during the second.

Six Mitchells bombed old and new airfield installations on PONAPE ISLAND, at 11:30 a.m., 24 April. Results were unobserved. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 11:50 a.m., 24 April, JALUIT installations and a 100 foot beached boat were strafed by 4 Hellcats with unobserved results. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. Later, 8 Mitchells bombed gun positions on EMIDJ. Heavy to meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 1:55 p.m., 24 April, 3 Mitchells bombed gun positions on MILLE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356 Sec. 3.4
OSD Letter 3/11/72

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

9 a.m. 26 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 22-23 April, reconnaissance planes bombed the KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, air strip and supply installations. Results were not reported.

Between 3:07 a.m., and 4:40 a.m., 23 April, 17 SOPAC Liberators attacked the seaplane base, tank farm area, and town on ETEN ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL. Fires and explosions were observed on ETEN ISLAND and the northeast shore of PARAN ISLAND. Several enemy interceptors were sighted and one possibly shot down. One Liberator returned slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On the morning of 23 April, dive and torpedo bombers struck the TALILI Area, NEW BRITAIN, and started a number of fires. Liberators started fires on MATUPI ISLAND, northeast NEW BRITAIN. TOBERA runway, NEW BRITAIN, was attacked by fighter planes, while other fighters set on fire a house at NAMATANAI, southeast NEW IRELAND, and sank a 60 foot personnel laden barge south of NUMA NUMA, central east coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Between 3:00 p.m., 23 April and 3:00 p.m., 24 April, our troops, supported by tanks, attacked and cleared the enemy from the coastal position, east to the MOY RIVER, east TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Forty-six Japanese were killed by a combat patrol on the east bank of the SAUA RIVER. Our casualties, 3 killed and 3 wounded. Seven more Japanese were killed in the TOROKINA area by a battalion of FIJI troops.

A press release, by CINCPAC, on 25 April, indicates that United States forces occupied UJELANG ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS, on 22-23 April (west longitude date). Light opposition was quickly overcome.

~~The~~ submarine HADDO returned from patrol ~~of the~~ SOUTH CHINA SEA Area and reported as follows: Damaged 1 large AK, 6,000 tons; 1 small AK, 2,500 tons; 1 small AK, by gunfire, 2,500 tons; total 11,000 tons.

The submarine WHALE sank a medium freighter in the EAST CHINA SEA.

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OSD Letter
SECRET

9 a.m. 25 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

northeast NEW BRITAIN, was set on fire. Fighter planes also attacked enemy personnel at BORPOP, southeast NEW IRELAND, and set fire to a barge near DYAUL ISLAND, northwest of NEW IRELAND.

Targets in the central interior of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND were attacked on 22 April by 6 torpedo planes and one dive bomber, but results were not reported. Two Lightnings attacked an unidentified radio station in the south interior of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 22 April, reconnaissance planes scored hits on the south pier in CHABAI, east MATCHIN BAY, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A barge near BUKA PASSAGE was sunk and 10 embarked Japanese strafed and killed. Targets along the northwest coast of BUKA ISLAND were attacked by reconnaissance planes, but the results were not reported.

On the early afternoon of 23 April, a reconnaissance plane destroyed a medium enemy bomber about 165 miles southwest of TRUK.

Between 3:00 p.m., 22 April, and 3:00 p.m., 23 April, a ground patrol engaged an enemy platoon, northeast of the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and killed 6 Japanese. Our artillery fire forced the remainder to withdraw. Other patrols contacted Japanese near the SAUA RIVER.

The WOTJE barracks area and runways were bombed by 2 Army Liberators at 10:30 p.m., 23 April. Results were not reported.

On 23 April, a reconnaissance plane bombed the radio station on ULUL, CAROLINE ISLANDS. Another reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on PONAPE gun positions. A number of fires started.

PONAPE TOWN and the old airfield were attacked by 2 Liberators during the night of 23-24 April. A number of fires started in the town area.

At 1:10 a.m., 24 April, a Liberator bombed PULUWAT. Results were unobserved.

On the early morning of 24 April, 19 Liberators bombed TRUK. Bombs were dropped on the ETEN, MOEN and PARAN airfields. A large and several small fires, followed by explosions, were observed at MOEN and PARAN. Antiaircraft fire was slight and inaccurate. Although two enemy night fighters were airborne, they did not intercept.

On 24 April, a reconnaissance plane scored hits on a small damaged vessel near MURILO ISLAND, HALL ISLAND group. Installations on the island were also bombed. Results were not reported.

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DECLASSIFIED 3-72
OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 25 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Task Force 58 (6 BB, 9 CA, 3 CL, 2 CL(AA), 5 CV, 7 CVL, 60 DD, 12 AO, plus DE's), supported and covered the NEW GUINEA landings of the Southwest Pacific forces on 22 April. The following communique, released by CINCPAC, is quoted for information:

"SUPPLEMENTING PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS COMMUNIQUE NUMBER FORTY THREE COMMA THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS NOW AVAILABLE CONCERNING OPERATIONS OF PACIFIC FLEET FORCES SUPPORTING AND COVERING LANDINGS BY FORCES OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF COMMA SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA COMMA ~~("O)~~ AT HOLLANDIA COMMA AITAPE COMMA AND TANAHMERAH BAY ON TWENTY AND TWENTY ONE APRIL PAREN WEST LONGITUDE DATE UNPAREN COLON PARA X

"AIRFIELDS AT HOLLANDIA COMMA WAKDE ISLAND AND SAWAR WERE STRUCK BY CARRIER AIRCRAFT ON TWENTY APRIL X THIRTEEN AIRBORNE ENEMY PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN OVER THE TARGET AREAS (100) X AT HOLLANDIA COMMA SIXTY SEVEN PLANES WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND X FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES COMMA AMMUNITION DUMPS COMMA SUPPLY AREAS AND BUILDINGS WERE HEAVILY BOMBED X TWO SMALL CARGO SHIPS COMMA AND SEVERAL BARGES AND SMALL CRAFT WERE SUNK X PARA

"AT WAKDE AND SAWAR TWENTY ONE (150) ENEMY PLANES WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND AND SEVENTEEN DAMAGED BY OUR AIRCRAFT DURING DAYLIGHT ON TWENTY APRIL X ON THE NIGHT OF TWENTY APRIL CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS BOMBARDED THE WAKDE DASH SAWAR AIRFIELDS X THE BOMBARDMENT WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION X NO DAMAGE WAS DONE TO OUR SURFACE (200) SHIPS"

On 23 April, Task Force 58 continued intermittent air strikes against WAKDE and SAWAR, in NEW GUINEA. HOLLANDIA airfields appeared abandoned, and many wrecked enemy planes on all fields were reported.

On the morning of 22 April, dive and torpedo bombers struck at KAVIENG airdrome installations with good results. At about the same time, 43 fighter bombers hit RAPOPO, RABAUL area, NEW BRITAIN, and 73 dive and torpedo bombers attacked VUNAPOPE airdrome installations. Two fires were started at VUNAPOPE. Antiaircraft fire damaged two torpedo bombers.

On 22 April, the LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN, air strip was hit by 9 Airacobras. Mitchells started fires at RATAVAL and attacked the KERAVAT air strip and other targets near CAPE GAZELLE and RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN. Two Mitchells returned damaged by antiaircraft fire. Although a number of unidentified planes were sighted over the NEW BRITAIN area, no interception was encountered.

During 22 April, fighter planes strafed and set on fire houses near CAPE LIGUAN and CAPE LAMBERT, northeast NEW BRITAIN. A barge in KABARIA BAY,

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

9 a.m. 24 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:00 a.m., 23 April, airfield installations on MILLE were attacked by 3 Mitchells. Results were not reported.

Nine Mitchells at 10:00 a.m., 23 April, and again at 12:30 p.m., bombed the runways on TAROA. At about the same time, 6 Mitchells dropped bombs on the EMIDJ seaplane ramp area. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

WOTJE installations were bombed by 14 Dauntless and 16 Corsairs, at 12:30 p.m., 23 April. Results were not reported.

At 1:30 p.m., 23 April, airdrome installations on the old airfield on PONAPE were bombed by 6 Mitchells and a number of fires and explosions started.

In the TOROKINA perimeter area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, our patrols continue active. An unestimated number of Japanese have been contacted northeast of the perimeter.

The submarine SCAMP damaged, by gunfire, a 200 ton enemy trawler northwest of NEW GUINEA.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-73 OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 24 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 20-21 April, reconnaissance planes bombed and strafed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Other planes (type unidentified), struck at installations in TONOLEI HARBOR, PURIATA RIVER Area, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, CAPE HENPAN, north BUKA ISLAND and BUKA PASSAGE. Targets at CAPE HATSIA, southeast BUKA ISLAND, and installations in DOLOMAKUS BAY, north central NEW IRELAND, were also attacked.

On the same night, 4 Mitchells harassed the RABAUL area, NEW BRITAIN, starting fires at TAKUBAR, RATAVAL, east RABAUL TOWN, and attacked the RAPOPO runway.

On the morning of 21 April, Mitchells started a number of large fires on MATUPI ISLAND, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN. Antiaircraft fire damaged one Mitchell. During the morning, Corsairs set fire to a barge in NAKUDUKUDU BAY, south central NEW IRELAND, while dive and torpedo bombers started fires in the KABANGA BAY supply and personnel areas, northeast NEW BRITAIN.

On the same morning, other Corsairs strafed huts in the CAPE LIGUAN area, NEW BRITAIN, and 11 Airacobras struck at targets in the TINPUTS HARBOR area, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Dive bombers bombed the KAHILI air strip, south coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. In these operations, two of our planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 21 April, a reconnaissance plane bombed the bivouac and supply areas on ALET ISLAND, west of TRUK. Results were not reported.

Between 7:45 a.m., and 11:30 a.m., 22 April, MILLE coastal defense positions were bombed by 11 Corsairs. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Eleven Mitchells bombed MALOELAP gun positions between 10:23 a.m., and noon, 22 April. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one plane.

JALUIT was bombed by 11 Mitchells from 8:45 a.m., to 12:24 p.m., 22 April. Results were unobserved. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 10:40 a.m., 22 April, PONAPE was bombed by 5 Mitchells. Hits were scored on runways and installations on the new and old airfields. Moderate but inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Eighteen Liberators bombed WOTJE, during the afternoon of 22 April. Results were unobserved and no antiaircraft fire was encountered. Prior to this attack, 17 Corsairs and 12 Dauntless, plus one Ventura, bombed and strafed gun positions on WOTJE. A number of fires were observed. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 5-3-72
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OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 23 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 19-20 April, night flying Catalinas bombed enemy installations at TINPUTS and NUMA NUMA, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Reconnaissance planes on 20 April, bombed and strafed the runway and adjacent areas on SATAWAN and gun positions on ALET ISLAND, CAROLINE ISLAND group.

On the morning of 20 April, dive and torpedo bombers struck at supplies and gun installations in SIMPSON HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires were started at the TOBOE wharf. Antiaircraft fire damaged two dive bombers. Other dive and torpedo bombers attacked the VUNAKANAU, NEW BRITAIN, airdrome installations, but results were not reported.

On the same day, 35 fighter bombers attacked LAKUNAI and KERAVAT airfield installations in NEW BRITAIN, while Mitchells started large fires on MATUPI ISLAND. Photographs of this island revealed four burned out areas and twenty-five buildings destroyed. Antiaircraft fire damaged one Mitchell.

During 20 April, fighters set on fire fuel supplies in LASSUL BAY, damaged trucks near KABANGA BAY and two boats in KABAIRA BAY, NEW BRITAIN, and, in addition destroyed two buildings on the TABAR ISLANDS, north of NEW IRELAND. Fighter planes destroyed two buildings at KERAVAT, NEW BRITAIN, and started a fire in the MAMAGATA bivouac area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 6:42 p.m., 20 April, a destroyer shelled enemy gun positions on the south shore of SHORTLAND ISLAND. Results were not reported.

During the night of 20-21 April, motor torpedo boats strafed the area near the mouth of the JABA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 9:49 p.m., 21 April, 6 Army Liberators bombed MOEN, DUBLON and TOL, in the TRUK ATOLL. Large fires and several explosions were observed in the runway and dispersal areas on MOEN. Two large fires were seen near the hangar area on DUBLON. Although 3 enemy night fighters were airborne, only one attempted interception. Moderate to intense but inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered. All planes returned without damage or casualties.

On 22 April, a reconnaissance plane destroyed a building on ULUL and started a fire on IGUP, CAROLINE ISLAND group. Reconnaissance planes destroyed 3 small freighters and damaged two at RUO, HALL ISLANDS; destroyed one and damaged another freighter and a patrol vessel at MURILO, HALL ISLANDS.

Regraded Unclassified

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

4 p.m. 22 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

TAROA antiaircraft positions were bombed by 12 Mitchells between 8:57 a.m. and 10:22 a.m. 21 April. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 11:20 a.m. and at 3:29 p.m. 21 April, 2 Venturas bombed JALUIT. Results were not reported. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 12:24 p.m. and 2:04 p.m. 21 April, 12 Mitchells bombed EMIDJ antiaircraft positions and shelled with 75mm guns radio installations on JABOR. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 12:35 p.m. and 3:50 p.m. 21 April, 11 Liberators, 20 Dauntless, 19 Corsairs, 2 Venturas and 4 Hellcats bombed and strafed WOTJE. A number of fires were started and a large explosion was observed. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered. One Dauntless failed to return and 2 other planes sustained damage.

Six Mitchells bombed the new and old airfield on PONAPE at 2:59 p.m. 21 April. Large fires were observed. Intense, but inaccurate, antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On 21 April, a reconnaissance plane bombed ULUL in the CAROLINE ISLAND GROUP.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 22 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

No Japanese have been found on ERIKUB ATOLL, south of WOTJE, and AUR ATOLL, south of MALOELAP, in the MARSHALL ISLANDS. Presumably, these atolls are now occupied by our troops.

On 22 April, forces under Commander in Chief Southwest Pacific Area made scheduled landings against negligible opposition at TANAHMERAH BAY, HUMBOLT BAY and AITAPE on the northwest coast of NEW GUINEA.

The submarine TAMBOR destroyed by gunfire a small Japanese craft 270 miles northwest of WAKE ISLAND. One prisoner was taken, the remainder of the crew were killed.

The submarine FINBACK, on 16 April, shelled OROLUK, CAROLINE ISLANDS.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 22 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 18-19 April, reconnaissance planes bombed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, and huts in DOLOMAKAS BAY, north central NEW IRELAND. AITARA and MOSIGA, on southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by reconnaissance planes, as were installations in TONOLEI HARBOR, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On the early morning of 19 April, 8 Corsairs strafed and killed about 20 Japanese of many seen on the beach at HANGAN, southeast BUKA ISLAND.

The runway on SATAWAN ISLAND was attacked by SoPac Liberators on 19 April. A number of fires started.

On 19 April, dive and torpedo bombers struck LAKUNAI airfield installations and started a number of fires. Fires were started by fighter bombers on MATUPI ISLAND, RABAUL AREA, NEW BRITAIN. Airacobras attacked RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN, but results were not reported. In these operations, enemy antiaircraft fire shot down one Airacobra.

During 19 April, torpedo bombers and Airacobras attacked installations on the NUMA NUMA PLANTATION, central east coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Enemy antiaircraft gun positions in TONOLEI HARBOR, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed by two Liberators. Fires were started at MAWAREKA, central west coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, by dive and torpedo bombers.

Throughout the same day, reconnaissance planes bombed and strafed the MATCHIN BAY Area, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, destroyed a truck east of BUKA ISLAND, and attacked installations near NUMA NUMA and ARIGUA PLANTATION, southeast of NUMA NUMA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

A reconnaissance plane strafed ALET ISLAND, west of TRUK on 19 April.

During the night of 19-20 April, motor torpedo boats and motor gun boats shelled areas near the mouths of the PURIATA and MOBIAI RIVERS, southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, while a night flying Catalina bombed MOSIGA, southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 20 April reconnaissance planes bombed UJELANG, ANT and PAKIN ISLANDS, but results were not reported. Another reconnaissance plane, at about the same time, dropped bombs on PEALE ISLET, WAKE ISLAND. Results were not reported. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

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

9 a.m. 21 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the early morning of 19 April, a Catalina and motor torpedo boats bombed and strafed four wooden structures, near the NUBAI RIVER, northeast central NEW IRELAND. Enemy shore fire was encountered, but our boats and plane escaped without damage.

Fourteen Mitchells and 1 Ventura bombed the radio station and power plant in JALUIT, on the morning of 20 April. Results were not reported.

At noon, 20 April, 14 Mitchells struck TAROA. Results were not reported.

At 6:00 p.m., 20 April, 12 Liberators bombed WAKE ISLAND and encountered moderate antiaircraft fire. 60% of the bombs fell in the target area, but a damage report has not been received.

The submarine HARDER, operating in the CAROLINE ISLANDS, sank a FUBUKI class destroyer, on 13 April, and on 17 April, sank a freighter and damaged another FUBUKI class destroyer.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 21 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 8:09 p.m., 19 April and 1:25 a.m., 20 April, 17 Liberators were over TRUK ATOLL and dropped bombs on the MOEN barracks and the air strip on DUBLON. Three enemy planes were in the air but did not attempt interception. Four large fires were started at DUBLON TOWN and several explosions were observed. At MOEN, the air strip and barracks were hit. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

PONAPE was bombed by 3 Liberators between 8:10 p.m., 19 April, and 1:45 a.m., 20 April. A number of fires started. PONAPE was also bombed by 6 Mitchell bombers between 8:20 a.m., and 9:48 a.m., 19 April. Fires were started near the new and old airfields. Antiaircraft fire was moderate and inaccurate.

Eleven Corsairs bombed installations on MILLE from 9:00 a.m., to 11:15 a.m., 19 April. A small fire was observed. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. A small vessel, near MADAGAI, MILLE ATOLL, was strafed by four Hellcats with undetermined results. One Hellcat was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Twelve Mitchells and 12 torpedo bombers attacked JALUIT between 9:50 a.m., and 11:25 a.m., 19 April. Antiaircraft fire was meager. Two boats near the SIDNEY PIER, were strafed by four Hellcats, but results were unobserved.

Sixteen Corsairs, 20 Dauntless and 2 Venturas, bombed and strafed WOTJE barracks and gun positions from 10:30 a.m., to 11:10 a.m., 19 April. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

TAROA was attacked by 11 Mitchells from 11:25 a.m., to 2:39 p.m., 19 April. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

A Liberator search plane bombed the runway area on WAKE ISLAND, at 1:58 p.m., 19 April. Intense antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 8:30 a.m., 20 April, PONAPE was hit by 6 Mitchells. Antiaircraft fire encountered was weak.

At 8:30 a.m., 20 April, and again at 3:00 p.m., 3 Venturas struck MILLE gun positions and the northern barracks area. Two buildings were destroyed. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 9:00 a.m., 20 April, WOTJE was attacked by 20 Dauntless, 16 Corsairs and 2 Venturas. Hits were scored on gun positions and barracks. One Ventura was damaged, the pilot killed and three of the crew injured by antiaircraft fire.

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OSD Letter 3-78

9a.m. 21 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the night of 17-18 April, night flying Catalinas started fires near MOTUPENA, central west coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, bombed BONIS, north coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, strafed and damaged two barges in MATCHIN BAY, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and, in addition, damaged a bridge serving as a terminus for the NUMA NUMA TRAIL, central east coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One plane was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Personnel and supply areas in northeast NEW BRITAIN were attacked by dive and torpedo bombers during the morning of 18 April. Fires started and buildings were demolished. Other dive and torpedo bombers struck at TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, airdrome installations. One torpedo bomber was forced down, apparently damaged by antiaircraft fire and two dive bombers crashed after colliding.

During the morning of 18 April, Mitchells attacked TOBERA and KERAVAT, NEW BRITAIN, airfield installations, followed by Airacobras which started a fire at KERAVAT. Numerous fires were observed at VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN, after this area was attacked by fighter bombers. Antiaircraft fire encountered was exceptionally intense. One Mitchell sustained damage.

During 18 April, Lightnings bombed a coastal gun emplaced on top of a cliff at HAHELA MISSION, south BUKA, which caused a landslide and buried other guns on the cliff side. One Lightning was brought down by antiaircraft fire. A large fire was started at KATSINKOVERI, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, by 3 Lightnings, and 12 Warhawks bombed KIHILI, while Airacobras attacked targets in southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 18 April, antiaircraft positions at HAHELA, south interior of BUKA ISLAND, were strafed by four Corsairs. Two of the Corsairs were brought down by antiaircraft fire, but the pilot of one was recovered.

SATAWAN runways and revetments were attacked at noon ,18 April, by 14 Liberators. A large oil fire was started west of the air strip. No enemy antiaircraft fire or air interception was encountered.

During the night of 18-19 April, motor torpedo boats and a Catalina bombed and strafed MOSIGA and AITARA, on the south and southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Other motor torpedo boats strafed the area near the mouth of the JABA RIVER.

On the night of 19 April, a Liberator search plane bombed and damaged a 2,000 ton enemy freighter, north of FEFAN ISLAND, in the TRUK ATOLL.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 20 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 17 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked the causeway at MATUPI ISLAND, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN, and airdrome installations at LAKUNAI, RABAUL area, NEW BRITAIN. Several fires were started and the south end of the causeway was destroyed. One dive and one torpedo bomber failed to return. Four other planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During the day, fighters swept over the south central coast of NEW IRELAND, set fire to enemy equipment and installations. Dive and torpedo bombers scored hits on coastal antiaircraft guns on BUKA ISLAND. Four torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

MOSIGA and other enemy targets near the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked on 17 April by dive and torpedo bombers and installations on GUPPY ISLAND, CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, were bombed by Liberators.

On 17 April, 10 Airacobras attacked the KERAVAT runway, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN, while Mitchells struck RAPOPO airfield installations. Results of these attacks were not reported.

During the night of 17-18 April, motor torpedo boats and a Catalina attacked MUPEKA, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 17-18 April, night flying Catalinas bombed the north side of TONOLEI HARBOR, the MABO RIVER mouth and MOSIGA, all at the southwest end of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On the same night, installations at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, were attacked by reconnaissance planes, but results were not reported.

Regraded Unclassified

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4 p.m. 19 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 18 April, at 10:34 a.m., 6 Mitchell bombers struck the old airfield area on PONAPE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. No enemy ships or planes were seen.

From 6:35 a.m., to 7:45 a.m., on 18 April, 19 Marine Corsairs, 20 Marine Dauntless planes and 8 Navy Hellcats bombed and strafed WOTJE. One Dauntless plane was forced down because of engine trouble, but the pilot and gunner were rescued by one of our destroyers. Minor damage was suffered by another Dauntless plane but no personnel casualties occurred. The Corsairs reported the enemy antiaircraft fire varied from intense to light, while the other planes in the flight encountered meager fire.

On April 18, at 9:15 a.m., 2 Venturas bombed and strafed TAONGI ATOLL, 435 miles northeast of ENIWETOK. No damage or casualties occurred from the meager to light antiaircraft fire.

MILLE ATOLL, on 18 April, was hit by 6 Corsairs at 7:05 a.m., by another flight of the same planes at 9:05 a.m., and by 12 Mitchells at 7:15 a.m. A large fire was started. No damage was received from the moderate but inaccurate antiaircraft fire.

At 8:45 a.m., on 18 April, 12 Mitchells struck TAROA. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

On 18 April, a reconnaissance plane bombed PAKIN, northwest of PONAPE, CAROLINE ISLANDS group, and another reconnaissance plane bombed installations on ULUL, north of PULUWAT, CAROLINE ISLANDS group. A number of fires were started.

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

9 a.m. 19 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Fifteen Liberators from SOPAC made a strike on SATAWAN ISLAND, NAMOI ATOLL, around noon, 16 April. Hits were made on the runway in the dispersal and personnel sections.

Liberators also attacked SATAWAN, on 17 April. On neither of these two strikes at SATAWAN was an enemy interception encountered, although five unidentified planes were seen on the airfield.

From 3:00 p.m., 16 April to 3:00 p.m., 17 April, minor Jap contacts were made by our ground forces in the east TOROKINA perimeter. On the south slope of Hill 500 an unestimated number of the enemy was found dug in. Seven of the enemy were killed. Our casualties were two killed in action and six wounded in action. In a section where the FIJI patrol had killed 12 Japs, our artillery was ranged on but no reports have been made of the action.

On 16 April, in waters off the southern islands of the BONIN CHAIN, the submarine SEARAVEN reports having sunk one medium size enemy freighter.

The submarine TRESHER, on the same day, bombarded OROLUK ISLAND, which is approximately 210 miles east of TRUK, in the CAROLINE ISLAND group.

On 16 April, the submarines BARB and STEELHEAD bombarded RASA ISLAND, which is just east of PALAWAN ISLAND, PHILIPPINE group.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 19 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 15-16 April, patrol planes bombed MIKMIK ISLAND, northwest BOUGAINVILLE. They started fires in MOSIGA and also hit CAPE L'AVERDY, south BUKA and BURI BAY, northeast BOUGAINVILLE. The NUMA NUMA jetty was partially destroyed and huts north of the KIETA air strip were strafed. A bridge at AROPA plantation, southeast KIETA, was destroyed. Ten Japs, who were in an abandoned boat near TAURATO ISLAND, south TONOLEI, were killed.

Patrol planes bombed PANAPAI PLANTATION, KAVIENG.

During the morning of 16 April, Dauntless dive bombers and Avenger planes bombed antiaircraft positions at VUNAKANAU, RABAUL, and left the field unserviceable. The antiaircraft fire holed eight of our planes.

The RATAVAL supply area and RALUANA, RABAUL, were bombed 21 Mitchells. One of the Mitchells was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Avenger planes hit TOBERA, RABAUL, and one plane was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Dauntless dive bombers struck at the RAPOPO runways and revetments at RABAUL.

Several fires were started inland by 34 fighter bombers at TOBOI wharf.

The revetments at KERAVAT, RABAUL, were attacked by Airacobras.

Three possibly serviceable barges in KERAVIA BAY, RABAUL, and buildings near CAPE LIGUAN, were set on fire by fighter plane sweeps.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers made a damaging hit on gun positions at BUKA and MANAGATA antiaircraft positions. Two Avengers were damaged by antiaircraft fire over BUKA.

The huts in several of the BUKA villages were flattened out by Dauntless dive bombers.

KARA airfield was hit by 2 Liberators.

Dauntless dive bombers and Venturas hit targets in north CHOISEUL. Two Dauntless planes were damaged and one was downed, but the crew of the latter were rescued.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 18 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Several fires were started in an ammunition dump at TALILI, by 24 Mitchells. Three planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Lightnings started fires at VUNAPOPE, RABAUL.

Airacobras bombed TALILI.

In the afternoon of 15 April, fighter sweeps strafed a barge in the DUKE OF YORK ISLANDS.

Corsairs and Dauntless dive bombers attacked MOSIGA gun positions, southwest BOUGAINVILLE. They also hit other positions along the northeast coast.

At 1:10 a.m., 16 April, a terrific explosion was caused by a patrol plane and numerous fires were started subsequently at DUBLON ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL.

From 3:00 p.m., 15 April to 3:00 p.m., 16 April, ground forces on the east TOROKINA perimeter killed 43 of an estimated total of 50 Japs, located between Hills 500 and 501. Our casualties were six killed in action and 8 wounded in action. At MAGINE ISLAND, west of our BOUGAINVILLE positions, 10 Jap shells fell in the area.

In the vicinity of the TEKESSI RIVER mouth, a destroyer bombarded enemy installations.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 18 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 17 April, between 8:00 a.m., and 9:30 a.m., 19 Dauntless dive bombers, 16 Corsairs and 2 Venturas, bombed and strafed barracks, antiaircraft positions and the radio station at WOTJE. Near the barracks and radio station, fires were observed. Minor damage was suffered by a Corsair and a Dauntless. A Ventura, while strafing, was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

There were two attacks on MILLE, on 17 April, one at 6:15 a.m., and the other at 5:25 p.m. The attacks were made by 5 Corsairs who hit antiaircraft positions and the radio station at the north end of the Atoll. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

On 17 April, from midnight to 3:40 a.m., JALUIT Atoll was bombed by 12 Mitchells and twice by 3 Venturas who had rearmed at ROI ISLAND, KWAJALEIN ATOLL. It is estimated that in the vicinity of JABOR TOWN and ENYBOR ISLAND, forty percent of the bombs fell in target areas. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

The Mitchells who participated in the JALUIT strike, had previously bombed TAROA from 8:30 a.m., to 10:00 a.m. It is reported that eighty percent of the bombs fell in the target area. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

During the night of 15-16 April, motor torpedo boats from TREASURY ISLAND, strafed the MIBO RIVER, south BOUGAINVILLE. They also rescued the crew of a Dauntless dive bomber off VARUVASU POINT, northeast CHOISEUL ISLAND.

During 15 April, motor torpedo boats from EMIRAU landed a reconnaissance party on MUSSAU ISLAND and found no trace of the enemy there.

During the night of 14-15 April, the RABAUL Area was bombed by 3 Mitchells.

On 15 April, at 3:35 a.m., a patrol plane from SOPAC, hit DUBLON ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL.

During the night of 14-15 April, other patrol planes bombed the air strip at KAVIENG, as also KAVIENG TOWN.

Patrol planes carried out their activities during the night of 14-15 April, by bombing AITARA, MOSIGA, PURIATA RIVER, southwest BOUGAINVILLE.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers, during the morning of 15 April, hit VUNAKAMBI PLANTATION, KERAVAT, and caused numerous fires.

Avengers and Dauntless dive bombers damaged the bomber strip at LAKUNAI, RABAUL. Four Dauntless dive bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 17 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At noon, on 16 April, 16 Marine Corsairs and 2 Venturas bombed WOTJE. They were followed at 12:10 p.m., by 10 Marine Dauntless dive bombers. A little later, at 12:40 p.m., 10 more Dauntless dive bombers and 8 Hellcats came in and strafed the barracks, antiaircraft positions and two small boats. The antiaircraft fire in the course of the attacks was moderate. Our planes suffered no damage.

At 8:30 a.m., 16 April, 6 Marine Corsairs bombed MILLE and were back again at 1:30 p.m., to drop more bombs. There was no antiaircraft fire.

Between 8:15 a.m., and 10:00 a.m., 16 April, 12 Mitchell planes hit MALOELAP with unobserved results. Rearming at MAJURO, 3 of the Mitchells struck at EMIDJ, JALUIT ATOLL. The weather was overcast.

Nine Mitchells, during the afternoon of 16 April, dropped bombs on MILLE. The antiaircraft fire was weak. Results of the bombing were unobserved. No damage was received by our planes.

On 16 April, patrol bombers bombed buildings on PAKIN ISLAND and started fires. This flight also bombed buildings on ANT ISLAND.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD Letter

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

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4 p.m. 16 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 14-15 April, LCI's from TREASURY ISLAND, shelled MOSIGA, BOUGAINVILLE.

During the same night, a patrol plane, operating with motor torpedo boats, strafed PURIATA.

Motor torpedo boats from the TOROKINA Area strafed pillboxes near JABA RIVER and were in turn themselves strafed by an unidentified plane.

Night patrol planes bombed and strafed MOSIGA, AITARA, started a fire at KARA airfield, hit CAPE REIS and BORPOP, in northeast central NEW IRELAND.

At KABAIRA BAY, 5 Mitchell bombers started fires.

On 14 April, between 4:30 a.m., and 5:18 a.m., 18 Liberators from SOPAC, bombed ETEN ISLAND, and other small islands in the vicnity of TRUK. A night fighter attempted to intercept six bombers.

During the morning of 14 April, Dauntless dive bombers bombed antiaircraft positions at VUNAKANAU, RABAUL. Avenger planes left the air strip unserviceable. Eleven of our planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

In the RATAVAL supply area, RABAUL, a huge explosion was caused by Mitchell bombers. Antiaircraft fire hit one bomber.

A good fire was started at VUNAPOPE, RABAUL, by Warhawks, but antiaircraft fire damaged two planes.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers struck the KABAIRA BAY personnel area.

Fighter sweeps, during 14 April, set on fire four boats, one large barge in KABAIRA BAY, strafed other barges in this area, and also strafed houses along the northeast central coast of NEW IRELAND.

During the afternoon of 14 April, Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers hit the coastal guns at BUKA, destroying one gun at MAMAGATA. Two Dauntless dive bombers and one Avenger were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Along the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE, fighter bombers attacked targets of opportunity and destroyed many huts along the south TOROKINA perimeter.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD Letter 8-7-75

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

9 a.m. 16 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 14 April, a reconnaissance plane strafed and damaged a small wooden vessel in PULAWAT LAGOON, west of TRUK, and then attacked the bivouac area and radio installation on ALET ISLAND.

Three Venturas, at 7:45 a.m., 14 April, bombed installations in LELE HARBOR, at KUSAIE. A number of hits were scored on piers, warehouses and gun positions.

At 8:30 a.m., 15 April, 10 Dauntless, 21 Corsairs and 2 Venturas, bombed and strafed barracks and gun positions on WOTJE. Later, at 9:40 a.m., 10 Dauntless and 12 Hellcats again attacked the area. Antiaircraft fire damaged one Dauntless.

From 8:40 a.m., to 1:05 p.m., 15 April, JALUIT was attacked by 10 Mitchells, 1 Liberator and 1 Ventura. Numerous small fires were observed at JABOR. Meager antiaircraft fire slightly damaged one Ventura.

TAROA was attacked by 14 Mitchells, between 11:10 a.m., and 1:03 p.m., 15 April. Results were unobserved. One Mitchell sustained minor damage by meager to moderate antiaircraft fire.

Gun positions on MILLE were attacked by 4 Mitchells at 2:29 p.m., 15 April. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Six Mitchells attacked airfields on PONAPE, at 8:24 a.m., and at 3:54 p.m., 15 April. Antiaircraft fire was weak.

On 15 April, 2 Mitchells attacked a small enemy tanker, escorted by 2 small craft, northwest of PONAPE. One Mitchell was damaged by antiaircraft fire. A second flight of three Mitchells later attacked the convoy, sank the tanker, set on fire the escorts, which were subsequently beached on ANT ISLAND. Heavy inaccurate antiaircraft fire seriously damaged one Mitchell and slightly damaged the remaining two.

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

9 a.m. 16 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 13 April, dive and torpedo bombers hit the runway and personnel area, at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Antiaircraft fire brought down one dive bomber and damaged several others.

During the morning of 13 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked airdrome installations at LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN. Two dive bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. The RATAVAL and TALILI supply areas were attacked by Mitchells and a number of fires started, while 40 fighter bombers struck the MALAGUNA Area and destroyed a barge in the vicinity.

On 13 April, Airacobras started fires near the RABAUL customs wharf, and other fighter planes set on fire a damaged submarine chaser off RALUANA POINT, NEW BRITAIN.

The personnel and supply areas, along the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked on 13 April, by 17 fighter bombers. Results were not reported. Dive and torpedo bombers attacked gun installations in BUKA PASSAGE.

A preliminary report indicates, that on the early morning of 13 April, 22 SOPAC Liberators, started fires on ETEN ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL.

At 9:30 a.m., 14 April, 12 Mitchells started explosions in the magazine area at EMIDJ. JABOR was also bombed. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 8:00 a.m., and 10:30 a.m., 14 April, 10 Mitchells and 8 Corsairs bombed and started fires in a camp area near the old airfield on PONAPE ISLAND. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered. One Corsair was forced down but the pilot was recovered.

Twelve Mitchells bombed targets on TAROA from 11:15 a.m., to 1:15 p.m., 14 April. TAROA was also attacked by 8 Hellcats at 11:00 a.m. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 11:00 a.m., 14 April, 16 Corsairs and 19 Dauntless bombed and strafed WOTJE barracks and storage installations. Meager antiaircraft fire slightly damaged 1 Dauntless.

At 1:00 p.m., 14 April, 6 Corsairs and 1 Mitchell struck the MILLE runway areas. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

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

4 p.m. 15 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 13 April, a reconnaissance plane strafed installations on ULUL, CAROLINE ISLAND GROUP, and started a fire. On the same day, installations on PAKIN were bombed by a reconnaissance plane and three buildings were destroyed.

Between 11:10 p.m. 14 April and 2:00 a.m. 15 April, eight or ten enemy bombers ineffectively released bombs over ENIWETOK. Four of our nightfighters intercepted, and shot down two of the enemy planes, plus one probable. Two of our fighters failed to return.

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 15 April 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 1:39 p.m. and 2:55 p.m. 13 April, 12 Mitchells bombed the dock and warehouse area on JABOR and installations on EMIDJ. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. Prior to this attack, JALUIT Atoll was bombed by five Venturas from 9:10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. when explosions were observed and moderate antiaircraft fire damaged two of the Venturas.

At 2:05 p.m. 13 April, 18 Corsairs and 2 Venturas bombed and started fires in the barracks area on WOTJE. Later at 2:50 p.m.9 Dauntless again bombed the area. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Six Mitchells bombed PONAPE runway and airdrome installations at 2:05 p.m. 13 April. Moderate and accurate antiaircraft fire damaged one bomber.

During the night of 13-14 April, 21 Army Liberators bombed, in 2 waves, MOEN, FEFAN, DUBLON, UMAN and PARAN, TRUK Atoll. Fires and explosions were observed on MOEN and PARAN. Three single-engine enemy planes ineffectively followed our bombers for about forty-five minutes. Antiaircraft fire was meager and inaccurate. All of our planes returned without damage or casualties.

The submarine TUNNY returned from patrol of the MARIANAS and reported as follows:

Sank		Damaged	
1 I-Class submarine	2,100 tons	1 MUSASHI Class BB	45,000 tons
		2 medium freighters or oilers (about 9,000 tons each)	18,000 "
23 MAR.		1 MINEKAZE DD	1,215 "
			64,215 "

The submarine BLUEFISH sank a 7,500 ton tanker northeast of BORNEO.

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

9 a.m. 15 April 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 11-12 April, night flying Catalinas bombed installations on NEW HANOVER, FAURO ISLAND, CEMA Atoll, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND; MIKMIK ISLAND, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and SORAKEN PLANTATION, in the MATCHIN BAY Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On the morning of 12 April, fighters swept over the GAZELLE PENINSULA coast line in NEW BRITAIN, attacked and set on fire two barges, started a fire in the BORPOP Area, and set on fire three trucks near VUNAKANAU.

From 3 p.m. 12 April to 3 p.m. 13 April, our patrols contacted a number Japanese northeast of the TOROKINA perimeter. During the night of 12 April, enemy artillery shelled and set on fire a fuel dump north of the TOROKINA airstrip, badly damaged four light bombers, slightly damaged five other planes and injured one man.

On 12 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked the enemy bivouac area near the SAUA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. TONOLEI HARBOR installations, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked by Airacobras. Dive bombers destroyed a number of houses at KIETA, and Lightnings bombed and strafed the NUMA NUMA Area, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 12 April, dive and torpedo bombers started fires in TALILI BAY, NEW BRITAIN, supply dumps, and attacked antiaircraft gun positions west of RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. Antiaircraft fire shot down one torpedo bomber. Mitchells attacked west RABAUL and started a number of fires. In addition, several buildings at RATAVAL were destroyed. Antiaircraft fire damaged two Mitchells. VUNAKANAU runway was attacked by fighter bombers, but results were not reported.

During the night of 12-13 April, reconnaissance planes bombed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, and started a number of fires.

At 8:10 a.m. 13 April, 3 Venturas bombed MILLE. Results were unobserved. Later, at 2:45 p.m. the area was again bombed by one Corsair and three Venturas. Results were not reported.

Twelve Mitchells hit installations on MALOELAP from 10:04 a.m. to 11:01 a.m. 13 April.

At 11:27 p.m. 13 April, a Liberator bombed airfield installations on PONAPE and started several fires. No antiaircraft fire was encounterd. Another Liberator dropped bombs on UJELANG at 10:50 p.m.

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter 3-79

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

14 April 1944
4 p.m. 1944.

ALEUTIANS AND NORTH PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 11:00 p.m., 13 April and 12:25 a.m., 14 April, 3 Venturas on an armed reconnaissance flight over KURABU ZAKI, SURIBACHI, southeast coast of PARAMUSHIRU and KAKUMABETSU WAN, MOYORO WAN, KUJIRA WAN, west and southwest coast of PARAMUSHIRU, dropped a number of bombs. Due to clouds, complete results were not observed. Heavy and intense antiaircraft fire was encountered over KURABU ZAKI and meager antiaircraft fire over the other locations. All planes returned.

Three Liberators were over MATSUWA, SHASOKATAN and PARAMUSHIRU, from 10:30 p.m., 13 April to 11:30 p.m., 13 April. A number of bombs were dropped but due to clouds results were not observed. All planes returned.

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

9 a.m. 14 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. An ammunition dump near the MIBO RIVER, was possibly destroyed.

During the night of 12-13 April, the submarine FINBACK attacked an enemy convoy in the CAROLINE ISLANDS area and damaged at least two ships.

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

9 a.m. 14 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A later report, with relation to the enemy shelling of our air strips at PIVA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, on 10 April, indicates that one dive and one torpedo bomber were destroyed and two planes badly damaged.

During the night of 10-11 April, night flying Catalinas bombed enemy gun positions at MOSIGA, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and the northeast coast of BUKA ISLAND. BALALLE ISLAND was also bombed and a large fire started. On the same night, 2 Mitchells damaged two barges west of RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. Antiaircraft fire damaged one Mitchell.

On the morning of 11 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked the runway and gun positions at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. These planes also attacked gun positions near RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, and installations in the vicinity of MALAGUNA. Two buildings were destroyed at MALAGUNA. Antiaircraft fire damaged one dive bomber and one torpedo bomber.

On the afternoon of 11 April, Warhawks bombed enemy gun positions at AITARA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and supply areas near TAVENA, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and MARIRICI, south EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Torpedo bombers started large fires at gun positions near MAMAGATA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, while four Airacobras attacked and damaged an enemy barge off the west coast of BUKA ISLAND.

The RATAVAL supply area, NEW BRITAIN, was attacked by Mitchells on 11 April. A number of explosions and fires started. Four Mitchells sustained damage by antiaircraft fire. At about the same time, 39 fighter bombers attacked targets east of RABAUL, destroyed one building and started fires. The ammunition area, near TALILI, NEW BRITAIN, was attacked by 12 Warhawks. Other fighter planes strafed enemy barges near RABAUL, but results were not reported.

On 11 April, a reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed the airfield on ALET ISLAND, PULAWAT ATOLL, CAROLINE GROUP. Results were not reported.

On 11 April, a reconnaissance plane seriously damaged or possibly sank a Japanese submarine somehwere in the CAROLINE ISLANDS area.

Between 7:00 a.m., and 7:15 a.m., 12 April, four large caliber enemy shells fell on an air strip at PIVA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, damaged two of our dive bombers, and wounded one man. Enemy artillery shelled the area near the TOROKINA air strip.

During the night of 12-13 April, gunboats (LCI) shelled MOSIGA, central west interior, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, while motor torpedo boats strafed PURIATA,

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OSD Letter

9 a.m. 13 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:30 a.m., 11 April, 5 Corsairs, bombed MILLE. Due to overcast, results were unobserved. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At about 8:45 a.m., 11 April 10 Dauntless and 16 Corsairs bombed and strafed antiaircraft batteries on the southeast shore of WOTJE. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one Corsair.

Between 8:45 a.m., and 10:30 a.m., 11 April, 12 Mitchells and 12 Hellcats bombed installations and runways on TAROA. Results were not observed. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 10:15 a.m., 11 April, the old field and runway areas on PONAPE, were hit by six Mitchells. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one Mitchell.

Twelve Mitchells bombed JABOR TOWN and EMIDJ, in JALUIT ATOLL, between 1:00 p.m., and 3:15 p.m., 11 April. Meager antiaircraft damaged one Mitchell.

At 8:05 a.m., 12 April, PONAPE storage areas and radio installations, together with airfields, were attacked by 6 Mitchells and 8 Corsairs. Small boats in the vicinity were also attacked. Intense antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 8:15 a.m., and 10:35 a.m., 12 April, 12 Mitchells bombed JABOR and EMIDJ, in JALUIT ATOLL. Results were not reported. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. TAROA gun positions were bombed by 12 Mitchells, on the morning of 12 April.

Nineteen Corsairs and 2 Venturas bombed and strafed the runway and gun positions on WOTJE, at 10:20 a.m., 12 April. Two Corsairs were damaged by antiaircraft fire. At about the same time, 10 Dauntless attacked the area. One Dauntless sustained slight damage by antiaircraft fire. Later, at 11:30 a.m., the gun positions and runway were again attacked by 12 Hellcats and 10 Dauntless. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

The submarine REDFIN reported sinking one enemy destroyer south of MINDANAO.

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter 3-79

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

9 a.m. 13 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 10 April, a reconnaissance plane started fires in the DUBLON warehouse area, TRUK ATOLL. An enemy night fighter unsuccessfully attempted interception. Other reconnaissance planes bombed TABAR ISLAND, off northeast central NEW IRELAND, and struck at enemy gun positions south of AITARA MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On the morning of 10 April, Mitchells attacked airfields in the vicinity of RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. Dive and torpedo bombers attacked VUNAPOPE, RALUANA POINT, and KERAVIA BAY. A number of hits were scored on buildings in RALUANA. Antiaircraft fire damaged four dive bombers and one torpedo bomber. Although four enemy fighters were airborne, no attempt to intercept our attack was made. On the same morning, 22 Mitchells started fires and explosions in the RATAVAL supply area, while other dive and torpedo bombers destroyed buildings and started fires in TALILI BAY.

At noon, 10 April, fighter planes swept over the GAZELLE peninsula coast, NEW BRITAIN, destroyed one and damaged two barges in LASSUL BAY, and strafed a barge at RALUANA. Other fighters destroyed a barge near URI plantation, DUKE OF YORK ISLAND. A Ventura bombed and strafed installations at LONTIS, northwest BUKA ISLAND.

Four large caliber shells fell in the vicinity of the TOROKINA air strip during the morning of 11 April. Some material damage was sustained but none to planes.

On 11 April, a reconnaissance plane bombed, strafed airfield installations on ALET ISLAND, PULAWAT ATOLL, CAROLINE GROUP.

On 11 April, a reconnaissance plane unsuccessfully attacked a small enemy vessel and its escort anchored west of ULUL, CAROLINE ISLANDS. Another reconnaissance plane, at about the same time, bombed and strafed installations on OROLUK, CAROLINE ISLANDS.

The submarine SEAHORSE sank two large enemy freighters off GUAM, on the morning of 8 April. Another freighter was sunk west of SAIPAN, on the afternoon of 9 April.

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

4 p.m. 12 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 2:15 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. 11 April, 23 Army Liberators bombed TRUK. Explosions and fires were observed at DUBLON TOWN and MOEN. Although six enemy planes were sighted, only one attacked, but without effect. After leaving the target area, two Liberators were lost. The cause is unknown.

At 2:20 p.m. 11 April, a Liberator bombed PONAPE. Results were not reported.

The submarine SILVERSIDES returned from patrol of the MARIANAS and CAROLINE Areas and reported sinking onefreighter (4,500 tons) and one freighter or oiler (3,000 tons).

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OSD Ltr 5-3-76

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 12 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 10 April, a reconnaissance plane strafed a grounded medium bomber and antiaircraft gun positions at SATAWAN, CAROLINE ISLANDS.

The submarine PAMPANITO attacked a convoy, 145 miles north of WOLEAI and scored two hits on a freighter.

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

9 a.m. 12 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 7 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN, while Mitchells bombed the LAKUNAU runway. Lightnings and Airacobras started fires near VUNAPOPE. Other fighter planes strafed four barges in KERAVIA BAY, KIHILI, NEW BRITAIN.

During the night of 8-9 April, a night flying Catalina bombed AITARA MISSION, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. On the same night, 7 Mitchells started explosions and fires in the wharf area at RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN.

At 10:25 p.m., 9 April and at 2:00 p.m., 10 April, 6 Corsairs attacked MILLE. Hits were scored on the runway and fires started. Antiaircraft fire damaged one Corsair.

A reconnaissance plane bombed the new PONAPE air strip on 9 April. On the same day, another reconnaissance plane strafed and bombed a beached ship and installations at CROLUK.

On the afternoon of 9 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked enemy bivouac areas east of the TOROKINA perimeter. Other installations around the perimeter were also attacked.

During the night of 9-10 April, a destroyer bombarded enemy gun emplacements, near MAMAGATA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Six Dauntless and 8 Hellcats bombed the wharf area and started a fire at JABOR, JALUIT, at 8:12 a.m., 10 April. Fourteen Mitchells also attacked the area between 8:00 a.m., and 10:30 a.m., 10 April.

From 10:57 a.m., 10 April to 2:00 p.m., 10 April, 15 Mitchells bombed hangars, barracks and gun positions on TAROA. Prior to that, at 9:35 a.m., 3 Liberators destroyed a number of barracks and buildings. One Mitchell was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

At 12:13 p.m., 10 April, 10 Dauntless and 8 Corsairs bombed and strafed WOTJE installations. Later, at 1:25 p.m., 10 Dauntless and 11 Hellcats attacked runways and antiaircraft gun positions. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 1:25 p.m., 10 April, PONAPE was bombed by 6 Mitchells. Weak antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At about 6:30 p.m., 10 April, an air strip at PIVA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was hit by 12 enemy shells. Ten dive and torpedo bombers, plus one Lightning were damaged. The enemy artillery was subsequently silenced by our batteries.

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OSD Letter 3-79

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

9 a.m. 11 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the early morning of 8 April, Mitchells started fires in KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, airdrome installations. Fighter planes, later, strafed the area. Antiaircraft fire brought down one VF.

During the morning of 8 April, dive and torpedo bombers started fires and explosions in the RATAVAL supply area, RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. LAKANAU airdrome installations were bombed by Mitchells and a number of hits scored on the runway and revetments. The northeast corner of RABAUL TOWN was bombed by fighter bombers. Fires and explosions were observed in this area and near the oil and coal docks.

On the morning of 8 April, the MAMAGATA Area, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed and strafed by Airacobras and dive bombers, while dive and torpedo bombers started fires in the bivouac area northeast of the TOROKINA perimeter. The MONOITU MISSION Area, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombed by 4 Liberators.

During the period 3:00 p.m., 8 April and 3:00 p.m., 9 April, our troops killed 46 Japanese in the TOROKINA Area. Our casualties, 11 killed, 7 wounded and 3 missing. 5,370 enemy dead have been counted during the period 8 March to 8 April.

During the night of 8-9 April, night flying Catalinas bombed PORTLAND ISLAND, west of NEW HANOVER, NEW IRELAND, and BORPOP, east central NEW IRELAND. The AITARA MISSION Area, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was also bombed.

The submarine TRIGGER, operating northwest of LUZON, damaged a large enemy tanker with two torpedo hits.

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9 a.m. 10 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:30 a.m., 9 April, 6 Corsairs bombed the MILLE runway area. The area was again bombed by these planes at 11:15 a.m. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Airfield installations on PONAPE were attacked at 8:30 a.m., 9 April, by 6 Mitchells and 8 Corsairs. A number of fires started. Weak antiaircraft fire slightly damaged one plane.

JABOR TOWN, in JALUIT, was attacked by 8 Hellcats and 7 Dauntless, at 8:40 a.m., 9 April. Antiaircraft fire was meager. Between 12:13 p.m., and 3:30 p.m., 9 April, 11 Mitchells bombed EMIDJ and JABOR. Small fires were observed on JABOR. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered at EMIDJ and none at JABOR.

At 12:27 p.m., 9 April, 9 Corsairs bombed WOTJE. Two fires were started. Later, 18 dive bombers again attacked the area with unobserved results.

The TAROA runway was bombed at 2:23 p.m., 9 April, by 11 Hellcats. Prior to that, 12 Mitchells bombed the area between 8:15 a.m., and 12:13 p.m. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter 3-79

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

9 a.m. 10 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 6-7 April, night flying Catalinas bombed MOSIGA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and 6 Mitchells started fires and explosions near the TALILI PLANTATION, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN.

On the morning of 7 April, fighter bombers started fires and destroyed buildings at RATAVAL, NEW BRITAIN, while dive bombers scored many hits on gun positions in west SIMPSON HARBOR. The TALILI PLANTATION supply area was attacked by torpedo bombers and a number of fires started. Airdrome installations at VUNAKANAU and TOBERA were attacked by 9 Mitchells. In the foregoing operations, one Airacobra and 2 Mitchells were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During the period 3:00 p.m., 7 April - 3:00 p.m., 8 April, our ground forces advanced against scattered enemy resistance east of the TOROKINA RIVER mouth, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Further details are not available at this time.

During the night of 7-8 April, enemy positions, near the PURIATA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were strafed by motor torpedo boats, and night flying Catalinas bombed MOSIGA and AITARA MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 8 April - 9 April, 12 Army Liberators of the 7th Army Air Force attacked TRUK and scored hits on the DUBLON TOWN wharf and fuel storage area. Another Liberator bombed the MOEN air strip with unobserved results. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On 9 April, single Liberators from the same force, bombed alternate targets on OROLUK, PONAPE and UJELANG.

During the night of 8-9 April, a Catalina attacked a convoy, 55 miles northwest of WOLEAI. Results were unobserved. Another night flying Catalina bombed WOLEAI ISLAND with unobserved results.

At noon 9 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked the KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, air strip and gun positions, while 2 Liberators bombed MONOITU MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Warhawks attacked enemy pillboxes near the mouth of the TEKESSI RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

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

4 p.m. 9 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 3:00 p.m., 7 April, 4 Mitchells and 8 Corsairs bombed PONAPE airdrome installations. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered. Two Corsairs failed to return.

Between 7:05 a.m., 8 April and 10:20 a.m., 8 April, 11 Mitchells bombed TAROA airdrome installations. Three planes were damaged by meager but accurate antiaircraft fire.

At 8:25 a.m., 8 April, 10 Dauntless and 13 Corsairs attacked WOTJE. Later, at 9:15 a.m., 10 Dauntless, followed by 11 Hellcats, again attacked WOTJE. Meager antiaircraft fire damaged 2 Corsairs.

MILLE was attacked at 9:00 a.m., 8 April, by 6 Corsairs. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

JALUIT was bombed twice by 3 Venturas at 9:15 a.m., and 2:25 p.m., 8 April. Explosions and small fires, in the barracks, magazine and warehouse areas, were observed. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

Between 12:47 p.m., 8 April and 4:58 p.m., 8 April, 11 Mitchells bombed JALUIT. A large fire was started in JABOR TOWN. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

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NSC Ltr. 3-8-78

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 9 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A final report relative to the 2 April attack against TRUK by SOPAC planes, indicates that 38 Japanese planes were destroyed, plus 7 probables. Nine enemy planes were damaged.

On the early morning of 6 April, night flying Catalinas bombed and silenced enemy antiaircraft gun positions, south of KIETA, east central BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The KERAVAT and KABAIRA Areas, near RABAUL, were also bombed by these planes. One Catalina was slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During the morning of 6 April, dive and torpedo bombers attacked enemy installations in the TALILI BAY supply area, NEW BRITAIN, while Mitchells bombed LAKUNAI airdrome installations. One Mitchell and two dive bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. On the same morning, Lightnings and Aircobras strafed and started fires on the west side of SIMPSON HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN.

During the afternoon of 6 April, fighter planes in a sweep over NEW IRELAND and NEW BRITAIN, sank a barge in SIMPSON HARBOR, and strafed a number of sea trucks along the east coast of NEW IRELAND. On the same day, Warhawks attacked targets in the vicinity of NUMA NUMA and KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Between 9:33 p.m., and 11:31 p.m., 6 April, 34 SOPAC Liberators bombed TRUK and started a number of fires and explosions in DUBLON TOWN. One enemy plane intercepted and one Liberator is believed to have been brought down in the vicinity of TRUK.

From 3:00 p.m., 6 April to 3:00 p.m., 7 April, our ground patrols were active around the TOROKINA perimeter and found many dead Japanese. The area east of the TOROKINA RIVER mouth, has been cleared of the enemy. A destroyer bombarded targets near the JABA RIVER, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 6-7 April, an LCI gunboat shelled enemy gun positions at MOSIGA, southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 7 April, a reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed a radio station on ULUL ISLAND, 150 miles northwest of TRUK.

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

4 p.m. 8 April 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 3:57 p.m. 6 April, 2 reconnaissance planes bombed MILLE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. The following day, at 5:55 a.m., another reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on MILLE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 9:04 a.m. and 10:20 a.m., 7 April, JALUIT was hit by 12 Mitchells. Later, at 2:05 p.m., 13 Dauntless and 11 Hellcats bombed and strafed the waterfront area. A number of fires were started. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

Twelve Hellcats bombed MALOELAP at 9:14 a.m., 7 April. Later, at 10:26 a.m., 3 Mitchells dropped bombs. A number of hits were scored on the runway. Again, at 12:14 p.m., 14 Mitchells bombed the area, but results were unobserved.

At 9:45 a.m., 7 April, 13 Corsairs and 13 Dauntless attacked WOTJE. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

PONAPE airfields and a bauxite plant were bombed by 8 Mitchells at 11:20 a.m., 7 April. Results were unobserved. Moderate antiaircraft fire slightly damaged one plane.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 OSD Letter, 3/9/78

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

9 a.m. 8 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

ENEMY GROUND INSTALLATIONS DESTROYED

AT PALAU

Forty buildings at ARAKABESAN.

AT SEAPLANE BASE

Four hangars and small buildings.

AT MALAKAL

More than twenty warehouses destroyed and extensive damage to docks and numerous large fires.

AT KOROR

Warehouses, dumps and hangars destroyed.

AT ANGAUR

Phosphate plant damaged, including docks and storage buildings.

AT BABELTHUAP

Ore dock damaged.

AT ATULITHI

The dock, radio station and other buildings damaged.

AT YAP

Airdrome facilities and buildings in the settlement were damaged.

AT MARIAON AND WOLEAI ISLANDS

Extensive ground installations were damaged, including stores, dumps, buildings.

Regraded Unclassified

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Date 2-3-78
OSD
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 8 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional information has been received concerning the operations of the Task Force (6 BB, 5 CV, 6 CVL, 4 CVE, 13 CA, 3 CL, 2 CL(AA), 60 DD), under the tactical command of Admiral R. A. Spruance, against enemy installations and forces in the western CAROLINES:

DAMAGE TO THE ENEMY BY OUR AIRCRAFT

Aircraft

Destroyed	Damaged	Probably Destroyed
114	14	15
39	11	9
7		5
160	25	29

Combatant Ships

Sunk
1 DD (WAKATAKE Class)
1 vessel (possibly ODD, CM or large P.C.)

Damaged
1 DD (WAKATAKE Class converted to CM)

Non-Combatant Types

Sunk	Beached & Burning	Burning	Damaged & Beached
2 large,6 medium, 8 small AK	1 large repair ship	2 small AK	1 large,2 medium & 5 small AK
3 large,1 medium, 1 small AO	1 medium, 2 small AO		1 small AK
1 picket boat	1 small AK		
1-100 foot boat & other small craft			

SUNK AT SEA BY SURFACE ACTION

1 small AK, 1 APC, 1-200 ton coastal vessel

OUR LOSSES

Combat
10 VF, 1 VFN, 9 VB, 5 VT,
8 pilots, 10 air crewmen.

Operational
8 VF, 4 VB, 6 VT,
5 pilots, 3 air crewmen.

No damage was sustained by any of our surface units.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 8-78

9 a.m. 8 April 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 8:42 a.m. and 10:40 a.m. 6 April, TAROA was bombed by twelve Mitchells. A large fire was started. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

At 9:45 a.m. 6 April, MILLE was bombed by three Venturas. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 11:16 a.m. 6 April, 6 Mitchells bombed PONAPE. A large fire started. Antiaircraft fire encountered was weak.

WOTJE was attacked by 13 Corsairs at noon 6 April. Later, at 12:43 p.m., 10 dive bombers attacked. Again, at 1:50 p.m. 11 Hellcats and 10 dive bombers bombed the area. Meager antiaircraft fire damaged one dive bomber.

Eleven Mitchells bombed EMIDJ and JABOR from 11:57 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. 6 April. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

The submarine PUFFER returned from patrol and reported sinking a 15,105 ton enemy transport (TEIKYO Maru) formerly the French ship D'ARTAGNAN).

The submarine RASHER returned from patrol of the NETHERLAND EAST INDIES and PHILIPPINE ISLANDS Area and reported the following results:

Sank		Damaged
1 AP TANGO Maru	6,893 tons	1 freighter TATUKAMI Maru type - 7,064 tons
1 AP-AK NITTAI Maru	6,484 tons	
1 AP-AK RYUSEI Maru	4,797 tons	
1 AK CHILE Maru	5,860 tons	
1 AP-AK HEITO Maru type	4,468 tons	
	28,502 tons	

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE
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OSD Declassified 6-8-72

4 p.m. 7 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Three Liberators bombed MONOITU MISSION, south interior BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, during the morning of 4 April. At the same time fighter planes started explosions and fires in GAZELLE HARBOR, enemy barge hideouts, central west coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and set on fire installations at AITARA MISSION, southwest coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The MIBO RIVER and KIETA Areas were also strafed.

During the night of 4-5 April, night flying Catalinas damaged one enemy barge east of the TONOLEI PLANTATION, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Other Catalinas bombed the enemy radar installation on CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND, and MOSIGA gun positions on the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During 5 April, Mitchells bombed KARA and KIHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, while dive and torpedo bombers supported ground troop operations along the west bank of the SAUA RIVER, east of the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Lightnings bombed the NUMA NUMA TRAIL Area, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 1:30 p.m., 6 April, a medium enemy bomber was shot down near one of our carrier forces, northeast of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

On the early morning of6April, a destroyer bombarded enemy gun positions east of the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

The submarine LAPON, returned from patrol in the SOUTH CHINA SEA, and reported the following successes:

SANK		DAMAGED	
1 large oiler	- 10,000 tons	1 freighter	7,390 tons
1 oiler NICHIEI MARU	- 10-020 tons	2 Japanese fishing vessels (by gunfire)	25 and 75 tons
1 Passenger vessel or freighter HOKUROKO MARU	- 8,360 tons		7,490 tons
1 small freighter	- 4,000 tons		
	32,380 tons		

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 7 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

WAKE ISLAND was attacked by 20 Liberators, in two waves, at 8:15 p.m., 6 April, and at 1:00 a.m. 7 April. Hits were scored on the storage area and caused large explosions. A number of fires were observed in the maintenance and repair area. Antiaircraft fire was meager. All our planes returned without damage.

The United States submarine BONFIN, returned from patrol of the CELEBES Area, and reported the following results:

SANK		DAMAGED	
1 Passenger vessel or freighter TSUKIKAWA MARU	- 6,800 tons	1 Freighter ASAKA MARU	- 4,681 tons
1 Freighter - ATLAS MARU	- 7,399 tons	1 Freighter TYOKO MARU type	- 6,783 tons
1 Freighter - TYOKO MARU type	- 6,783 tons		11,464 tons
	20,982 tons		

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 8-79
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 7 April 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 9:23 p.m., 4 April, and again at 1:36 a.m., 5 April, 20 Liberators, in two waves, bombed TRUK. Numerous fires were observed between DUBLON TOWN and the seaplane base. A small fire was seen at MOEN. One of six enemy fighters which attempted interception was shot down, plus one probable. Two of our planes are missing.

A Navy Liberator, on a reconnaissance flight over TRUK, bombed and possibly sank a tanker or destroyer near MOEN ISLAND, at 11:45 p.m., 4 April.

From 3:00 p.m., 4 April to 3:00 p.m., 5 April, ground patrol activity continued in the TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND sector. A patrol killed 51 Japanese east of the perimeter. Other patrols, north and east of the perimeter captured enemy equipment.

During the night of 4-5 April, a destroyer bombarded enemy positions in the JABA RIVER Area, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 4-5 April, a Liberator dropped bombs on PONAPE. Later, at 8:35 a.m., 6 Mitchells and 7 Corsairs attacked PONAPE airdrome installations. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one Mitchell.

At 9:00 a.m., 5 April, 10 Dauntless and 13 Corsairs bombed and strafed WOTJE installations. Light and moderate antiaircraft fire brought down one Corsair, damaged another, and damaged one Dauntless. Later, at 9:55 a.m., 10 Dauntless and 12 Hellcats again attacked the area.

At 9:35 a.m., 5 April, 5 Corsairs bombed the MILLE runway area. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Thirteen Dauntless and 11 Hellcats attacked JALUIT and damaged a small vessel at JABOR, at 3:04 p.m., 5 April. Prior to that, 12 Mitchells and 3 Venturas bombed and started fires and explosions on JABOR. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

During the afternoon of 5 April, 11 Mitchells bombed TAROA. A large explosion was observed. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

At 4:10 p.m., 5 April, 1 Mitchell bombed MILLE. Results were not observed. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

During the night of 5-6 April, motor torpedo boats strafed the area near the mouth of the PURIATA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and an LCI gunboat exchanged fire with enemy shore batteries, near MOSIGA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 8-78

9 a.m. 6 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 4-5 April, motor torpedo boats sank six enemy barges, one mile north of TOSIAVI, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and a night flying Catalina bombed and strafed MOSIGA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

The United States destroyer HALA (DD-583), while engaged in personnel rescue operations, on 5 April, off WOTJE, sustained damage as a result of two six-inch shells fired by at least five shore batteries located on WOTJE. One man was killed.

The submarine SWORDFISH damaged two enemy ships from a five-ship convoy. Further information is not available.

Regraded Unclassified

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9 a.m. 6 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 3 April, VUNAKANAU and TOBERA airdrome installations were attacked by dive bombers, and torpedo bombers started a fire in the TALILI BAY supply area. At about this time, Mitchells, Airacobras and Warhawks attacked underground fuel stores at KERAVIA BAY. A number of fires were reported in the vicinity.

An enemy barge hideout, in south EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, was bombarded by a destroyer during the afternoon of 3 April.

During the afternoon of 3 April, dive and torpedo bombers scored hits on TALILI BAY buildings and fighters, operating from GREEN ISLAND, attacked two enemy PT type boats in KERAVIA BAY, and set on fire a barge near DYAUL ISLAND. Five enemy sea trucks were attacked with unreported results, along the east coast of NEW IRELAND. Other planes sank an enemy barge south of MOTUPENA POINT, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and strafed the NUMA NUMA TRAIL Area, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

From 3:00 p.m., 2 April to 3:00 p.m., 4 April, our forces continued the pursuit of retreating Japanese, north and east of the TOROKINA perimeter. Many enemy graves and unburied Japanese were found. Our casualties for 2 April, 6 killed and 9 wounded.

At 11:08 a.m., 4 April, Mitchells struck BUKA airdrome installations and the seaplane base at SOHANNA ISLAND.

A SOPAC Liberator started a large fire in DUBLON TOWN, TRUK ATOLL, on the early morning of 4 April.

The MILLE runways were attacked at 8:35 a.m., 4 April, by 6 Corsairs.

At 12:05 p.m., 4 April, 13 Corsairs and 20 dive bombers bombed and strafed WOTJE. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 9:00 a.m., 4 April, 15 Mitchells bombed JALUIT. These planes then re-armed at MAJURO and attacked TAROA at 11:15 a.m. One plane was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

At 9:44 a.m., 4 April, 6 Mitchells bombed TAROA and started a number of fires. Later, at 12:47 p.m., 16 Hellcats followed and scored a number of hits on the runway.

At 11:07 a.m., 4 April, 6 Mitchells bombed PONAPE. Accurate antiaircraft fire damaged 3 planes.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 6 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 1-2 April, five Mitchells harassed the RABAUL Area. One bomber failed to return.

At 5:30 a.m., 2 April, a Mitchell bomber bombed DUBLON, TRUK ATOLL. Results were not reported. A Liberator failed to return from a bombing mission against TRUK, on the night of 1-2 April.

Additional reports of the SOPAC Liberator attack against TRUK, on 2 April, indicates that 25-30 enemy planes were shot down and four of our bombers failed to return.

During the morning of 2 April, our fighters ranged over the RABAUL Area. Medium, dive and torpedo bombers attacked the area and destroyed a number of buildings and antiaircraft gun positions. Fires were also started at CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. One torpedo bomber was shot down by antiaircraft fire, two dive bombers sustained damage while two other dive bombers were accidentally destroyed upon returning to their base.

During the afternoon of 2 April, medium, dive and torpedo bombers attacked LAKUNAI airdrome installations and the TALILI BAY supply area, where three warehouses were demolished and an ammunition dump exploded. Antiaircraft fire damaged three torpedo bombers.

Throughout 2 April, fighter planes, operating from GREEN ISLAND, destroyed eight enemy barges and 14 trucks, between CAPE LAMBERT, northwest coast of NEW BRITAIN, and EAST CAPE, NEW IRELAND.

On 2 April, 12 Corsairs, patrolled over BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, destroyed an enemy barge off BONIS, BUKA ISLAND, and attacked probable gun positions at MOSIGA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Hits were scored on the PURIATA RIVER bridge. On the same day, other planes destroyed enemy pillboxes and buildings on NUSAVE ISLAND, south of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and attacked with unreported results an enemy barge off SANKAU ISLAND, MATCHIN BAY, and another barge off the northeast coast of NEW IRELAND.

During the night of 2-3 April, night flying Catalinas bombed and strafed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND and GARDNER ISLAND. Barges, south of MOTUPENA POINT, were attacked, but results were not reported. Reconnaissance planes strafed CAPE GAZELLE, NEW BRITAIN, and set on fire an enemy barge in the vicinity. The RABAUL Area was attacked during the night, by 6 Mitchells.

The enemy bivouac area, in the vicinity of the TEKESSI RIVER mouth, northeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, was shelled by one of our destroyers on the morning of 3 April.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD LETTER 12-78
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 5 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A reconnaissance was completed on 3 April of the MEJIT ATOLL, 65 miles northeast of WOTJE ATOLL, MARSHALL GROUP. A quantity of radio material was captured and seven Japs were killed.

On 3 April, at 8:42 a.m., 7 Mitchell light bombers attacked JALUIT with unobserved results. Rearming at MAJURO ATOLL, they turned about and hit the northeast end of TAROA at 12:15 p.m., on the same day, with unobserved results. No damage resulted in either of these strikes to our planes.

On two strikes on JALUIT ATOLL, on 3 April, between 7:50 a.m., and 11:50 a.m., 4 Hellcats and 16 Marine Dauntless dive bombers, bombed JABOR and EMIDJ. They also strafed the islands and started small fires on a dock and vessel at JABOR. A fire was started on the east ramp at EMIDJ. Although the antiaircraft fire was moderate, one Dauntless dive bomber suffered slight damage.

At 9:59 a.m., 3 April, 12 Hellcats hit the southwest runway at TAROA. There was no antiaircraft fire.

The runway at WOTJE was bombed and strafed by 13 Corsairs, at 9:15 a.m., on 3 April, Fires were started. The antiaircraft fire was weak.

At 2:09 p.m., on 3 April, 6 Mitchell light bombers, bombed PONAPE's old and new airfields. They were met by a moderate but accurate antiaircraft fire. No attempt was made to intercept this flight. Slight damage was reported by 3 planes.

Between 11:31 p.m., on 3 April, and 1 a.m., on 4 April, 20 Liberators struck the seaplane base at DUBLON and ETEN ISLANDS, TRUK ATOLL. No fires were observed from this bombing. Other targets in the vicinity were obscured. A twin-engined fighter, one of three, attempted an interception. In spite of numerous searchlights, the antiaircraft fire was inaccurate and weak in volume. A miscellaneous collection of large ships was observed through the overcast.

During the same night, at 11:23 p.m., a lone Liberator dropped bombs on the old airfield at PONAPE. No damage or casualties are reported in these two flights by Liberators.

Regraded Unclassified

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DoD Letter

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

9 a.m. 4 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Damaging hits were scored at PORTON PLANTATION and docks on east MATCHIN BAY, northern BOUGAINVILLE, by two Dauntless dive bombers.

On 2 April, at 12:45 p.m., 4 squadrons of Liberators bombed TRUK ATOLL.

Between 3:00 p.m., on 1 April and 3:00 p.m., on 2 April, patrols continued to work toward the upper forks of the TOROKINA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE. From Hill 250, our artillery and machine guns harassed the Japs retreating across the river and inflicted considerable casualties. Enemy installations near TEKESSI RIVER were attacked by air and surface forces. During 1 April, our casualties resulted in 9 killed in action and 26 wounded in action.

On 1 April, a BLUE reconnaissance party returned to EMIRAU ISLAND, from MUSSAU ISLAND, and reported that they had acquired many documents, also 800 pounds of radio gear and three enemy machine guns. Eight buildings, some bombs, 243 drums of gas, were destroyed.

Between 8:45 and 10:10 p.m., on 2 April, 22 Liberators hit DUBLON TOWN and warehouses in the TRUK ATOLL. Large and small fires were started. Three enemy fighters, including a twin-engined plane, attempted an interception. The antiaircraft fire was meager and inaccurate in spite of the aid of numerous searchlights. No damage or casualty resulted to our planes.

On 2 April, both the new and old airfield strips at PONAPE were bombed and strafed.

On 2 April, the AILUK ATOLL, in the RADAK CHAIN, of the MARSHALL ISLANDS, was taken over by one of our reconnaissance parties. The establishment of U.S. sovereignty over this atoll now makes a total of 12 atolls of this group in our possession. The others previously announced, were WOTHO, UJAE, LAE, LIB, NAMU, AILINGLAPALAP, NAMORIK, EBON, KILI, ARNO and BIKINI.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 6-8-78
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 4 April 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 1-2 April, motor torpedo boats from TOROKINA, strafed MIKMIK ISLAND, off the northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE. Later, the same night, a patrol plane bombed the island and scored a near miss on a barge east of TAIOF ISLAND.

A search plane, during the evening of 2 April, sighted three barges south of MOTUPENA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. When a destroyer approached the barges scattered and beached themselves, where they were subjected to a shelling from the destroyer.

During the night of 31 March - 1 April, Mitchell bombers started three large fires in TALILI BAY, NEW BRITAIN.

Patrol planes, during the same night, bombed TANGA ISLAND, off the northeast central coast of NEW IRELAND, LEMANKOA, in northwest BUKA and AITARA, in southwest BOUGAINVILLE.

During 1 April, Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers hit the supply area at RATAVAL, in the western section of RABAUL. The entire area was left seething in a mass of flames. The antiaircraft fire at RATAVAL damaged one of the Avengers. CAPE ST. GEORGE was also bombed where large fires were started.

Mitchell bombers blasted the supply area south of VUNAPOPE, RABAUL. When the antiaircraft barrage caught the first squadron, during its approach, 7 planes were damaged.

Airacobras and Warhawks bombed the BOPOP AREA, hitting the coal and oil wharfs.

Several fires were started at MONOITU MISSION, BOUGAINVILLE, by Lightnings.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers bombed hulks on the shores of KERAVIA BAY, RABAUL.

In the usual fighter sweep, ten to fifteen trucks were set on fire along a coastal road in NEW IRELAND, and a barge and a small craft were also hit off the south coast.

Warhawks attacked the NUMA NUMA supply area in northeast BOUGAINVILLE during the afternoon of 1 April.

The MINTERIA RIVER supply area was hit by Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers.

Regraded Unclassified

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DoD Directive 5200.9

9 a.m. 3 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A fighter sweep, covering RABAUL and certain sections of the NEW IRELAND areas, demolished two trucks, an antiaircraft position and an ammunition dump in TALILI BAY; sank two barges and destroyed several buildings at TABAIRA BAY, and finally sank a small enemy freighter in KERAVIA BAY.

On 31 March, Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers, patrolling the TOROKINA perimeter, sank a barge in the TAVENA RIVER, central west BOUGAINVILLE, and destroyed a bridge over the PURIATA RIVER.

Lightnings and Airacobras strafed the NUMA NUMA PLANTATION supply area.

Two Liberators bombed MONOITU MISSION in northern BOUGAINVILLE.

From 5:00 p.m., 31 March, to 5:00 p.m., 1 April, a patrol from the 132nd Infantry, engaged an unestimated number of Japs in the vicinity of Hill 501, on the east TOROKINA perimeter. Upon contact, the enemy withdrew. Other enemy groups were located, moving east and across the upper stretches of the TOROKINA RIVER. Our artillery brought them under fire. On the northeast of the TOROKINA perimeter, five enemy guns were found destroyed, presumably by our artillery. There were many indications of mass Jap burials. In the battle of BOUGAINVILLE, all indications point to a complete Jap defeat and the withdrawal of his remnants to the north and east of the perimeter. On 31 March, 10 of our troops were killed in action and 21 were wounded.

A preliminary report, sketchy in detail, from our Task Force which struck the PALAU ISLANDS, WOLEAI ISLAND and YAP, in the CAROLINE ISLANDS, on 30 March - 1 April, indicates that our aircraft losses, based on incomplete returns, were as follows: 8 fighters, 11 bombers and 8 torpedo planes, making a total of 27. It would appear that no damage resulted to our surface units, during the night previous to the initial attacks and during the attack days.

Incomplete reports point to the destroyal of many enemy aircraft, and apparently all enemy ships that were present in anchorages of the designated targets, were sunk or damaged. Near PALAU, one small ship was sunk at sea and two near WOLEAI.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE
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TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 3 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 1 April at 5:38 a.m., a lone Liberator dropped incendiaries on DUBLON, TRUK ATOLL. A large fire resulted and was visible for 50 miles. Smoke and flames arose to 3,000 feet from a spectacular explosion.

On 1 April, from 7:05 a.m., to 8:00 a.m., DUBLON TOWN, TRUK ATOLL, was bombed by 14 Liberators. Large fires were started. The intensity of the antiaircraft fire varied in volume, but was inaccurate. Quite a number of searchlights attempted to spot our planes.

During a reconnoitering of BIKINI ATOLL, east of ENIWETOK ATOLL, in the MARSHALL ISLAND group, 5 Japs were killed.

On the night of 31 March, one of our destroyers bombarded an enemy barge hangout at the mouth of the MARIRIEI RIVER, southeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY. Later, the same night, one of our patrol planes bombed the same area.

During the night of 30-31 March, our patrol planes hit POPORANG and BALLALE, in the SHORTLAND Area.

Six Mitchells harassed RABAUL, causing many fires in the VUNAPOPE and RATAVAL Areas. In the latter place, much smoke arose from the numerous fires started in the supply area. Antiaircraft fire slightly damaged one Mitchell.

At noon, on 31 March, Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers hit antiaircraft positions and buildings in the vicinity of the LAKUNAI air strip, RABAUL. Three houses were demolished. Two Avengers were damaged by antiaircraft fire and one of them was forced to make a water landing in ST. GEORGE CHANNEL. However, her crew was rescued.

Lightnings and Airacobras started fires in the northeast section of RABAUL.

Warhawks bombed VUNAPOPE, in the RABAUL Area.

On 31 March, at 12:45 p.m., Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers got four hits on a small enemy freighter in KERAVIA BAY, RABAUL, and left it down by the stern.

CAPE ST. GEORGE Lighthouse was attacked by 3 Avengers.

During the afternoon of 31 March, Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers started fires in three warehouses on the shores of TAILI BAY, in northern NEW BRITAIN.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 6-3-78 OSD Letter
TOP SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

4 p.m. 2 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 31 March, from 11:03 a.m., to 3:09 p.m., 12 Mitchells attacked JALUIT, and started fires on EMIDJ, TINIET, and the first three islands north of TINIET. Rearming at MAJURO, they blasted TAROA from 11:16 a.m., to 2:00 p.m. At the north tip end of the northeast runway, a large explosion took place. The antiaircraft fire was meager and inaccurate.

At noon, on 1 April, WOTJE ATOLL was bombed by 10 Marine Dauhtless dive bombers. The antiaircraft fire was meager. This strike was followed by a strafing attack from 17 Marine Corsairs.

On 1 April, at 12:15 p.m., PONAPE was hit with unobserved results, by 12 Mitchells and 14 Marine Corsairs. Weak antiaircraft fire inflicted minor damage on 1 Corsair.

From 11:00 a.m., to 1:15 p.m., 1 April, TAROA was bombed by 15 Mitchells. One hit exploded a large gasoline stowage unit. The antiaircraft fire was mixed, but all told its aim was inaccurate. This flight rearmed at MAJURO ATOLL and bombed EMIDJ, JALUIT ATOLL, from 12:01 p.m., to 4:45 p.m. Large fires were started. The antiaircraft fire varied from medium to meager and altogether was inaccurate.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-72
OSD letter
TOP SECRET

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

9 a.m. 2 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 30 March, early in the morning, 2 Liberators from the south Pacific area bombed MOEN ISLAND, at TRUK.

Later in the day, at 12:35 p.m., 11 more Liberators struck at the runways and revetments on MOEN ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL and caused a large fire south of the strip. Thirty to forty Zeros and other types of enemy fighters engaged our planes in a forty-five minute running battle. One Liberator was forced down about 176 miles northeast of GREEN ISLAND, but eight of her crew were recovered by one of our rescue planes. Another B-24 landed on GREEN ISLAND with one killed and one wounded. Five other Liberators were damaged. However, 11 enemy fighters were destroyed, with two probables.

With reference to the TRUK strike, on 29 March, by 20 Liberators, operating from EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, more complete interrogation of the planes crews indicates a total of 31 Jap fighters were destroyed, 12 probable and 10 damaged. Fifteen of our Liberators were hit by enemy fighters and one was downed. Our casualties were 20 killed and 10 wounded.

At noon, 30 March, Mitchell planes bombed VUNAPOPE, RABAUL, causing numerous fires. It is believed that one of the fires was from an exploded ammunition dump. Two Mitchells were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Lightnings hit southwest of RABAUL and started many fires.

Early in the morning of 30 March, Dauntless planes and Avengers made a strike over KERAVIA BAY, RABAUL, and made direct hits on a small enemy freighter and the hulk of a destroyer. In another sweep in the afternoon, they again hit the hulk.

During the afternoon of 30 March, 2 Venturas bombed and wrecked buildings and sawmills at PONDO, PORIT and MASSAVA BAY, in northern NEW BRITAIN.

The river mouths along the eastern side of EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE, where possible barge concentrations and supply areas of the enemy were believed to be located, were attacked by fighters and light bombers.

From 3:00 p.m., 30 March, to 3:00 p.m., 31 March, BLUE air patrols continue to be active around the TOROKINA perimeter. In the north side of the perimeter, FIJI forces pocketed an unestimated number of Japs, near the NUMA NUMA TRAIL. Hostile resistance was encountered further east on the trail. During 30 March, seven of our troops were killed in action, while five were wounded in action.

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

9 a.m. 1 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 30 March, WOTJE was attacked three times. At 12:56 a.m., by 10 dive bombers; at 1:30 p.m., by 16 Corsairs; at 2:00 p.m., by 10 dive bombers and four fighters. Two Corsairs were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

At 9:25 a.m., 30 March, MILLE was attacked by 3 Venturas. Prior to that, 6 Corsairs had attacked antiaircraft batteries and an ammunition dump on the atoll.

TAROA was bombed by 11 Mitchells at 8:55 a.m., 30 March. Results were unobserved.

During the night of 30 March, a Liberator apparently unable to reach its TRUK target, bombed PONAPE. Results were not reported.

On 30 March, a reconnaissance plane bombed KUSAIE. Results were not reported.

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

9 a.m. 1 April 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 28 March, Lightnings attacked the MIBO RIVER Area, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and other fighters swept the RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, Area. In KERAVIA BAY, a destroyer was strafed. An explosion was observed but the extent of damage to the destroyer was not reported. Four Lightnings strafed the NUMA NUMA TRAIL and plantation on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, while torpedo bombers bombed the MAVASSA supply area and enemy pillboxes near the mouth of the JABA RIVER. A large fire was started at RATAVAL by Warhawks and MAWARAKA, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, was bombed by these planes.

During the night of 28-29 March, night flying Catalinas bombed installations on the coastline of BUKA ISLAND, TARO AND SIPOSAI ISLANDS, in CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND.

On the morning of 29 March, the VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN, runway and supply area was bombed by dive and torpedo bombers. Hits were scored on a number of gun positions and fires started. Two dive and four torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Later, that morning, the area was again attacked by Mitchells with unreported results. One Mitchell was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

At 8:15 p.m., 29 March, five Liberators bombed TRUK. Four of these bombers attacked ETEN. Results were unobserved. All our planes returned without damage.

At 8:00 p.m., 30 March, 19 Liberators bombed DUBLON, MOEN, FEFAN, PARAN and UMAN, in the TRUK ATOLL. Explosions and fires were seen on DUBLON. Large fires were observed at MOEN and UMAN. Moderate inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Between 8:44 p.m., and 11:33 p.m., 31 March, 21 Liberators bombed TRUK targets, including the MOEN air strip and barracks. Bombs were dropped on ETEN and DUBLON. Large fires were observed on MOEN, DUBLON and ETEN. Two enemy planes ineffectively intercepted. All our planes returned but two sustained slight damage.

From 5:30 a.m., 30 March to 11:30 a.m., 30 March, 14 Dauntless and 19 Hellcats, bombed EMIDJ. One Dauntless was damaged by moderate antiaircraft fire. Later, 11 Mitchells bombed the area. Results were not reported.

At 8:30 a.m., 30 March, 3 Mitchells and 16 Corsairs bombed PONAPE and started large fires in the warehouse area. Antiaircraft fire encountered was moderate. All our planes returned without damage.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 31 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

During the night of 29-30 March, a number of our destroyers bombarded enemy concentrations south of TEKESSI, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. At the same time, an LCI gunboat shelled MOSIGA, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 30 March, the submarine STINGRAY sank a Jinyo Maru type vessel northwest of PAGEN ISLAND in the MARIANAS Group.

The submarine PICUDA, operating in the Marianas Area, sank a 7,000 ton freighter on 29 March.

On 31 March, the submarine FLYING FISH, operating in the FORMOSA-NAHA Area, sank a 2,000 ton freighter, probably sank a 5,000 ton freighter and damaged a 7,000 ton cargo vessel.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 31 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

At 12:59 p.m. 29 March, 20 Liberators, operating from EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, bombed ETEN ISLAND, TRUK Atoll. About 200 direct hits were scored in the shop and hangar area and other airdrome installations. A large explosion and a number of fires were observed. Thirty-five grounded enemy fighters, 4 medium bombers and 10 dive bombers are believed to have been destroyed. Photographs showed 15 of these planes exploding. Heavy moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

About 90 enemy fighters intercepted and pursued our bomber. Preliminary reports indicate that in a 45-minute engagement, 5 to 20 enemy fighters were shot down. We lost one Liberator. Another Liberator, apparently damaged, crash landed on GREEN ISLAND.

Although complete reports have not been received, it is indicated that about 17 Liberators, operating from a base in the MARSHALLS, again attacked TRUK at approximately 7:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. 29 March. A number of fires were started. All of our planes returned without damage.

UJELANG was attacked by 3 Dauntless at 10:45 a.m. 29 March. Antiaircraft fire was weak.

Between 8:30 a.m. and 11:24 a.m. 29 March, 15 Mitchells bombed JALUIT. Results were unobserved. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

Eleven Mitchells bombed TAROA at 11:20 a.m. 29 March. A number of large oil fires were started. Antiaircraft fire was moderate.

EMIDJ was bombed by 3 Mitchells at 4:05 p.m. 29 March. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 9:15 a.m. 29 March, 13 Dauntless and 16 Corsairs bombed and strafed WOTJE antiaircraft gun positions and radar installations. Results were not reported. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one Corsair. Later, 7 Dauntless and 4 Hellcats again attacked the area with unreported results. One Dauntless was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 29 March, 6 Mitchells and 5 Corsairs struck MILLE installations. Results were unobserved. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 31 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following communique, released by CinCPac, is quoted for information: "Strong PACIFIC FLEET forces at dawn Wednesday 29 March (west longitude date) initiated heavy attacks on the Japanese-held PALAU ISLANDS. After discovery of approach of our forces by enemy planes searching from their bases in the CAROLINES and NEW GUINEA, their ships were observed fleeing the area before our units could reach attack positions. Our attacks continue. No further details are as yet available."

At 7 a.m. 26 March, carrier-based planes attacked with rockets a 1,900 ton enemy vessel, damaged and forced the vessel ashore 65 miles east of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

During the night of 27-28 March, reconnaissance planes bombed NAMATANAI and KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. Night flying Catalinas bombed huts at NANALAR, NEW BRITAIN, and Mitchells started a number of fires in the RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN.

On the morning of 28 March, LAKUNAI gun positions were attacked by dive and torpedo bombers. Two planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire. On the same day, Mitchells bombed TOBERA and Lightnings, Airacobras and Warhawks started fires in the RATAVAL supply area, NEW BRITAIN. A Mitchell bombed and strafed barges and warehouses in ATALIKILIKUN BAY, NEW BRITAIN.

During the afternoon of 28 March, one of our destroyers bombarded enemy positions in the TOROKINA perimeter area. A possible fuel dump was set on fire.

During the period 3 p.m. 28 March to 3 p.m. 29 March, 202 more dead Japanese were counted in the area east of the TOROKINA perimeter. Patrol activity continues. Our casualties - 1 killed, 23 wounded.

On the afternoon of 28 March, TALILI, NEW BRITAIN, was bombed by torpedo bombers, and fighters strafed 3 barges and a gunboat in KERAVIA BAY. One fighter plane was downed over the DUKE OF YORK ISLANDS. The pilot was recovered, under fire, by an escorted rescue plane. 2 Corsairs failed to return from this rescue mission.

During 28 March, dive and torpedo bombers struck enemy supply and personnel areas in the EAST EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area and damaged bridges over the PURIATA RIVER. A Liberator attacked and started a fire at MONOITU MISSION, southwest interior BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, while 4 Warhawks bombed the supply area near NUMA NUMA, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

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DOD LETTER

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

4 p.m. 30 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 27 March, dive and torpedo bombers attacked the supply area near the mouth of the REINI RIVER, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, while Warhawks started fires in what appeared to be a gasoline dump, near the TEKESSI RIVER, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

From 3:00 p.m., 27 March to 3:00 p.m., 28 March, our troops cleared the enemy from an area east of the TOROKINA perimeter. Many dead Japanese were found. Contact was maintained with the enemy, 1,500 yards north of the perimeter. Our reconnaissance patrols found many dead Japanese. There are indications that the enemy has broken close contact and may be withdrawing to KIETA, east central BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Our casualties, 27 March, 8 killed, 44 wounded.

During the afternoon of 28 March, our gunboats (LCI), bombarded the TOROKINA area, started fires and destroyed a beached enemy barge near the REINI RIVER.

On 28 March, a reconnaissance plane was attacked by ten enemy fighters, over SATAWAN ISLAND. One fighter was set on fire. One of the reconnaissance plane crew was wounded.

The submarine RAY, in addition to damaging a large tanker, (previously reported), scored one or possibly two torpedo hits in a CHIDORI type destroyer.

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OSD Letter 5-3-78

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

9 a.m. 30 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Five Catalinas and 2 Mitchells attacked WOLEAI, CAROLINE ISLANDS, during the night of 29-30 March. Large fires and explosions were observed.

On 28 March, an unreported number of our destroyers bombarded KAPINGAMARANGI ATOLL with 572 rounds of 5" and 430 rounds of 40 millimeter projectiles. Many buildings were destroyed or damaged. No shore battery fire was encountered and no antiaircraft positions were observed.

The submarine TUNNY attacked and probably scored two hits on a KONGO class battleship, departing PALAU, at 7:40 p.m., 30 March.

The submarine RAY attacked a convoy in the SOUTH CHINA SEA and damaged a large tanker with one torpedo hit. (last ½ of report not yet received in NCR.)

Greenwich Islands - Carolines

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 30 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Reconnaissance planes bombed the KAVIENG airfield and NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND, during the night of 26-27 March, and on 27 March, a Liberator again bombed KAVIENG. Results were not reported.

A supply and ammunition dump, at TALILI, near RABAUL, NEW IRELAND, was attacked on the morning of 27 March, by dive and torpedo bombers. A number of fires and explosions were started. Photographs indicated considerable damage in the area.

On 27 March, Mitchells attacked VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN, and started a large fire. This attack was followed by 34 fighter bombers, which again bombed the area. Photographs indicated 22 buildings destroyed, plus others still burning. Eight Mitchells were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During 27 March, dive and torpedo bombers attacked an ammunition dump area at TAWUI POINT, NEW BRITAIN, with unreported results, while 2 Mitchells strafed shore installations between CAPE LAMBERT and MASSAVE, NEW BRITAIN.

On 27 March, a destroyer bombarded and started fires in a possible ammunition dump and supply area, at the mouth of the TAVENA RIVER, east EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 27-28 March, a gunboat (LCI), shelled MOSIGA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. On the same night, five Mitchells attacked and started fires in TALILI BAY, VUNAPOPE and north RABAUL TOWN installations. One Mitchell was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

The barracks and runways on TAROA were attacked at 9:30 a.m., 28 March, by 9 Mitchells. Results were not reported. Meager antiaircraft fire slightly damaged one plane.

At 9:35 a.m., 28 March, 6 Corsairs attacked MILLE. Results were not reported. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Ten Dauntless attacked WOTJE at 10:35 a.m., 28 March. Prior to this attack, 32 Corsairs had bombed and strafed the area starting a number of fires. Later, at 12:10 p.m., 10 Dauntless and 8 Hellcats attacked WOTJE. Meager antiaircraft fire slightly damaged two planes.

At 12:15 p.m., 28 March, 6 Venturas, bombed islands in JALUIT ATOLL. Later, 3 Venturas and 8 Mitchells again attacked the atoll. Results were not reported. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

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

9 a.m. 29 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 25-26 March, night flying Catalinas set on fire a barge or a small tanker near DUNUNG ISLAND, northwest of NEW HANOVER. Reconnaissance planes attacked the NAMANATAI, NEW IRELAND, runway and started a fire northwest of the KAVIENG, air strip. On the same night, a number of fires were started at RABAUL by 7 Mitchells.

On the morning of 26 March, Mitchells attacked VUNAKANAU airdrome installations. Nine Mitchells were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Fighter bombers started fires in the KIHILI supply area, south NEW IRELAND, while dive and torpedo bombers attacked installations at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

On the afternoon of 26 March, the supply area at VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN, was attacked by dive bombers. During the afternoon, 2 Mitchells probably destroyed the enemy radar installation in ADLER BAY, NEW BRITAIN, and damaged a barge west of RABAUL.

During the night of 26-27 March, gunboats (LCI) bombarded PURIATA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and the mouth of the SAUA RIVER. On the same night, motor torpedo boats sank a gasoline barge off the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two of the boats were slightly damaged by enemy shore fire.

Supply and personnel areas in the vicinity of the MARIRICI RIVER, southeast EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, were attacked on 26 March by dive and torpedo bombers, while fighter planes destroyed 3 pillboxes on islands at the mouth of the TEKESSI RIVER, EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY Area.

Between 3:00 p.m., 26 March and 3:00 p.m., 27 March, our patrols contacted the enemy in all sectors of the TOROKINA perimeter. Bombers patrolled the area, and attacked enemy positions. Our casualties for 26 March, 8 killed, 43 wounded.

PAKIN ISLANDS, in the CAROLINE ISLAND GROUP, were bombed by a reconnaissance plane on 27 March. Results were not reported.

Due to bad weather, Liberators, unable to reach TRUK, bombed PULUSUK ISLAND, 120 miles southwest of TRUK. Results were not reported. No enemy planes were encountered.

The submarine HERRING, operating in EMPIRE waters, damaged an enemy destroyer.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

DECLASSIFIED 5-3-78
DOD Letter

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4 p.m. 28 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:15 a.m. 27 March, 12 Mitchells, escorted by 18 Corsairs, bombed and strafed, with good results, PONAPE town and airdrome installations. Our planes were intercepted by 15 enemy fighters, and of these shot down nine, plus three probables. Enemy antiaircraft fire was intense but inaccurate. One Mitchell failed to return and another was damaged.

WOTJE and other islands in the atoll were bombed and strafed with fair results by 20 dive bombers, escorted by 23 fighters, at 8:35 a.m., 27 March. One bomber was lost, but the pilot was recovered.

At 9 a.m. 27 March, 12 Mitchells bombed JALUIT. Results were unobserved due to clouds.

TAROA and other islands in the MALOELAP Atoll were bombed and strafed by six Venturas at 11:10 a.m. 27 March. Good results were reported.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 28 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the period, 3:00 p.m., 24 March to 3:00 p.m., 26 March, much enemy sniper fire and a considerable concentration of Japs were located by our troops in the north sector of the TOROKINA perimeter. Three hundred and seventy-six Japanese dead were counted in this area. A Fiji patrol, operating near the NUMA NUMA trail, killed 15 Japanese.

Our troops, in mopping up east of the perimeter, killed many Japanese. Since 9 March, 2,384 dead Japs have been counted in the TOROKINA area. Our casualties for 24-25 March, 35 killed and 151 wounded.

On 26 March, a reconnaissance plane bombed LELE ISLAND, KUSAIE GROUP, and another reconnaissance plane attacked PINGELAP. Results were not reported.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 28 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 24-25 March, reconnaissance planes bombed airfield installations at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.

On the early morning of 25 March, 7 Mitchells harassed RABAUL TOWN and started fires at RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN. On the same morning, dive and torpedo bombers attacked gun positions, northwest of RABAUL, started fires and destroyed buildings. One torpedo bomber was shot down by antiaircraft fire and two bombers plus an escorting fighter sustained damage.

Prior to noon, 25 March, 34 fighter bombers attacked and started fires in the enemy fuel stores at KERAVIA BAY, NEW BRITAIN.

On the afternoon of 25 March, dive bombers attacked an ammunition dump at TAWUI POINT, NEW BRITAIN, and struck at the KAVIENG runway, NEW IRELAND. One bomber failed to return.

The bivouac area, in the vicinity of the MIBO RIVER, southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and installations west of the CAMAI RIVER, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were bombed and strafed by Lightnings and Airacobras, on 25 March. On the same day, a radar installation in ADLER BAY, east NEW BRITAIN, was destroyed by Mitchell bombers.

On 25 March, the RATAVAL, NEW BRITAIN, supply area was bombed by Mitchells and a number of fires started. Three Mitchells were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 25 March, 2 Venturas destroyed the MASSAVA BAY dam, NEW BRITAIN, and 2 enemy barges west of RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. Other aircraft in a sweep over RABAUL and south NEW IRELAND, destroyed two truck loads of Japanese at MATLIK, south NEW IRELAND.

During the night of 25-26 March, gunboats (LCI), bombarded the JABA RIVER mouth area central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, attacked five enemy barges, sank one and probably another and drove the remainder ashore, where they were shelled by one of our destroyers.

It is believed that our heavy artillery fire, during the night of 24-25 March, prevented a Japanese attack against the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Throughout 25 March, dive and torpedo bombers attacked enemy gun positions outside of the TOROKINA perimeter, and during the afternoon of the same day, a destroyer bombarded enemy positions in the area.

Regraded Unclassified

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

4 p.m. 27 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 25 March, a reconnaissance plane sank two small freighters, near PONAPE, and strafed airfield installations on the island.

The new field barracks on PONAPE were bombed by 3 Mitchells at 9:45 a.m., 26 March. Our bombers were attacked by 15 Zeros and of these shot down four, plus one probable. One Mitchell was damaged. Later, at 10:05 a.m., 10 Mitchells bombed buildings on the old airfield and started a number of fires. The entire area was strafed by accompanying Corsairs. Heavy but inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered. The escorting Corsairs on their return flight strafed UJELANG ATOLL.

Three Mitchells attacked OLLOT ISLAND, MALOELAP ATOLL, with bombs and 75 millimeter cannon, at 10:27 a.m., 26 March. Later, at 11:05 a.m., 10 Mitchells bombed the runway area on TAROA. Heavy but inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 11:24 a.m., 26 March, EMIDJ, ENYBOR and JABOR, in JALUIT ATOLL, were attacked by 6 Venturas. Heavy explosions on EMIDJ and ENYBOR were observed.

At 12:28 p.m., 26 March, a reconnaissance plane bombed the radio installation area on PINGELAP. No hits were scored. Light antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 2:00 p.m., 26 March, 13 Dauntless and 12 Corsairs bombed and strafed WOTJE. A number of fires were started. Antiaircraft fire encountered was meager and inaccurate.

On 26 March, 1 Mitchell bombed MILLE with unobserved results. The bomber was slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

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

9 a.m. 27 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarines POLLOCK and WHALE attacked a twelve-ship convoy, under strong escort, about 90 miles north by west of CHICHIJIMA. The POLLOCK sank one destroyer, one medium freighter, probably sank two large freighters and damaged one unidentified vessel.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED Letter

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

9 a.m. 27 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 11:33 a.m., 25 March, 13 Mitchells bombed and strafed the PONAPE air strip and other installations, in addition to destroying a building on ANT ISLAND. Enemy antiaircraft fire was moderate.

At 12:45 p.m., 25 March, 13 Dauntless and 12 Corsairs bombed and strafed WOTJE installations. A direct hit was scored on a water distillation plant.

Twelve Mitchells, at 1:00 p.m., 25 March, bombed JALUIT. Enemy antiaircraft fire damaged one plane.

Various islands in MALEOLAP ATOLL were bombed by 4 Venturas at 2:30 p.m., 25 March.

During the night of 23-24 March, reconnaissance planes bombed the KAVIENG runway and NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND. Installations in CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, were also attacked.

During the afternoon of 24 March, 74 dive and torpedo bombers attacked the VUNAKANAU, NEW IRELAND, runway and surrounding gun positions. Antiaircraft fire damaged five planes. Later, 3 Mitchells again attacked this area. One Mitchell was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 24 March, dive and torpedo bombers attacked the supply area in east EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and enemy positions around the TOROKINA perimeter. Installations in the MATCHIN BAY area were attacked by Airacobras.

During the afternoon of 24 March, 37 of our fighter planes bombed VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN, and started a number of fires. Other fighter planes strafed installations at RABAUL and south NEW IRELAND. An enemy barge was attacked off the east coast of NEW IRELAND and left in a sinking condition. Installations at RAPOPO and TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, were strafed from low level. Antiaircraft fire damaged one plane. On the same day, Mitchells attacked the TOBERA runway and probably started fires in the revetments.

During the night of 25-26 March, a gunboat (LCI) and a Catalina, shelled and bombed MOSIGA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

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

4 p.m. 26 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 22-23 March, reconnaissance planes bombed the KAVIENG runway and NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND. 4 Mitchells started fires at RABAUL, NEW IRELAND.

On 23 March, Liberators attacked, started fires and hit buildings in the supply area at RATAVAL, NEW BRITAIN. 4 of the bombers were damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Other Liberators attacked KIHILI, BUKA. Results were not reported. Antiaircraft fire brought down a Corsair near KIHILI and damaged another. 24 Mitchells attacked the CHINATOWN runway on BUKA ISLAND with unreported results.

During 23 March, Warhawks attacked a fuel dump in KERAVIA BAY, NEW BRITAIN, and other fighter planes strafed barges and small craft in the bay. Lightnings bombed KOMILAI POINT, north SHORTLAND ISLAND. On the same day, enemy gun positions at the mouth of the TEKESSI RIVER, east EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, were attacked by dive and torpedo bombers. Results were not reported.

During the period 6:10 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. 23 March, about 70 shells landed in the vicinity of the PIVA airstrips without damage, but 16 men were injured.

Between 3 p.m. 23 March and 3 p.m. 24 March, a battalion of Japanese infantry attacked in the north sector of the TOROKINA perimeter and effected a slight penetration of our lines. A counter-attack restored our positions. About 300 dead Japanese were found inside our lines. Our casualties for 23 March - 4 killed, 47 wounded, 1 missing.

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

T O P S E C R E T

9 a.m. 26 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

TAROA was attacked by 12 Mitchells with 8 tons of bombs at 9:00 a.m., 24 March. Later, these planes dropped 8½ tons on JALUIT.

At 9:15 a.m., 24 March, 1 Liberator, 12 Marine Corsairs and Dauntless released 9 tons of bombs and strafed installations on WOTJE.

At 10:00 a.m., 24 March, 18 Army Liberators dropped 49½ tons of bombs on the barracks and oil storage area on WAKE ISLAND. Intense antiaircraft fire damaged 5 planes, killed one of the crew.

The barracks area on PONAPE was attacked by 7 Mitchells with 7 tons of bombs at 11:31 a.m., 24 March. At about the same time, 3 Mitchells dropped 3 tons on ANT ISLAND.

Seventeen tons of bombs were dropped by 12 Venturas on JALUIT at 11:46 a.m., 24 March.

Nine Mitchells released 8½ tons of bombs on PONAPE installations at 4:30 p.m., 23 March.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958 OSD Letter,

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

9 a.m. 25 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Contd.)

At 9:55 a.m. 23 March and later at 2:10 p.m. 23 March, 12 Mitchells dropped 7 tons of bombs on EMIDJ. A large explosion was observed. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

MILLE was attacked at 8:14 a.m. 23 March and at 12:30 p.m. 23 March with 11½ tons of bombs dropped by 8 Corsairs and 2 Mitchells. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 9:05 a.m. 23 March, 12 Navy Hellcats and 13 Marine Dauntless hit WOTJE with 6 tons of bombs. No damage was observed. One dive bomber returned slightly damaged by light antiaircraft fire.

8 tons of bombs and incendiaries were released by 7 Venturas on TAROA barracks, gun positions and radio station at 2:10 p.m. 23 March. A number of fires started. Enemy antiaircraft fire was moderate.

The submarine TUNNY scored 2 torpedo hits and probably sank an I-class Japanese submarine west of the PALAUS. Prior to this attack, 2 large ships, probably oilers, and a destroyer were damaged.

Regraded Unclassified

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

4 p.m. 24 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 21-22 March, a reconnaissance plane harassed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, and 5 Mitchells attacked LAKUNAI, VUNAKANAU and RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires were started.

On 21 March and 22 March, bombers and fighters attacked the enemy supply area near the LARUMA RIVER, north of the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A large fire and explosion were observed. Gun positions and supply dumps near the REINI RIVER MISSION were also attacked.

On the morning of 22 March, dive and torpedo bombers, attacked VUNAKANAU gun positions and the runway. A large fire was started. 6 dive bombers and 5 torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During 22 March, Mitchells attacked the LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN, airstrip and airdrome installations. A number of grounded enemy planes may have burned. 4 of our bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. TOBERA and RABAUL on NEW BRITAIN, KARA and KIHILI on BOUGAINVILLE were attacked by Liberators. A small freighter and ground installations in KERAVIA BAY, NEW BRITAIN, were strafed.

During the night of 22-23 March, one of our destroyers bombarded a shore battery which was ineffectively shelling a number of our motor torpedo boats near the mouth of the TEKESSI RIVER, central west coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Shore batteries near the PURIATA RIVER, central west coast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, shelled, without damage, a number of our motor torpedo boats engaged in strafing enemy shore installations.

At noon 23 March, a number of our destroyers bombarded a supply dump on ELOAUE ISLAND, south of MUSSAU ISLAND. They also destroyed about 150 gasoline drums on NEI PLANTATION, southeast MUSSAU ISLAND.

A reconnaissance plane shot down one medium enemy bomber 15 miles west of GREENWICH ISLAND on the early afternoon of 23 March.

Since the morning of 19 March, no enemy shells have fallen inside of the TOROKINA defense perimeter. From 3 p.m. 22 March to 3 p.m. 23 March, our patrols encountered many Japs north of the perimeter. Results of these encounters have not been reported. Our casualties for 22 March - 1 killed, 22 wounded.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 24 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 20 March, Mitchells bombed the dispersal area at LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN, and antiaircraft positions, near SULPHUR CREEK. Seven planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During the morning of 20 March, Lightnings bombed the supply area at RATAVAL, NEW BRITAIN, and started a large fire. Fighters strafed small enemy craft in KERAVIA BAY, during the afternoon of the same day.

During 20 March, dive and torpedo bombers attacked VUNAKANAU, antiaircraft positions. Enemy antiaircraft fire damaged three torpedo bombers. On the same day, 23 Liberators struck at the VUNAKANAU airfield, rendered the coral air strip unserviceable and damaged the concrete strip.

Throughout 20 March, dive bombers patrolled and bombed enemy positions around the TOROKINA perimeter. Warhawks and Airacobras attacked enemy positions on the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 20-21 March, Japanese positions in east EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, were effectively bombarded by one of our destroyers. On the same night, reconnaissance planes bombed NAMATANAI, KAVIENG and CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND.

During the morning of 21 March, medium and light bombers attacked the LAKUNAI runway and revetments. Four Mitchells and one Airacobra were damaged by enemy antiaircraft fire. Later, Liberators attacked the VUNAKANAU runway and revetments. Ten Liberators were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 21 March, dive and torpedo bombers attacked enemy positions around the TOROKINA perimeter and east of the SAUA RIVER and north of the LARUMA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the afternoon, 21 March, dive and torpedo bombers attacked the VUNAKANAU air strips, revetments and antiaircraft gun positions. Three dive bombers and four torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. On the same day, two Venturas scored hits on the MASSAVA BAY dam, WEST RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. Other planes swept the NEW BRITAIN area for enemy barges and strafed a small freighter in SIMPSON HARBOR. Strafing planes killed a number of Japanese at VUNAKANAU, NEW BRITAIN.

At 8:02 p.m., 21 March, our troops completed the occupation of EMIRAU ISLAND.

ATTACK EXPECTED NIGHT OF 24TH

From 3:00 p.m., 20 March, to 3:00 p.m., 22 March, minor patrol contacts took place in the TOROKINA area. The enemy is apparently still gathering his forces, north of the perimeter. Our casualties on 20 March, were 8 killed, 45 wounded and 2 missing. On 21 March, 7 killed and 46 wounded.

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9 a.m. 23 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Incendiaries and other bombs were dropped by 5 Venturas on TAROA, at 11:30 a.m., 21 March. Fires and explosions were started. The antiaircraft fire was moderate.

At 9:30 a.m., 21 March, 13 Marine Dauntless dive bombers and 12 Hellcats, strafed and bombed WOTJE. One large explosion occurred. Minor damage was received by two of the Dauntless planes from the enemy's weak antiaircraft fire.

EMIDJ, JALUIT ATOLL, was bombed by 12 Mitchells at 11:20 a.m., 21 March. The antiaircraft fire was meager. The results of our bombing were poor.

On 21 March, at 8:40 a.m., 8 Corsairs bombed MILLE with unobserved results. No antiaircraft fire was received.

The submarine PICUDA, operating on a war patrol in the central Pacific, reports that on 18 March she obtained four torpedo hits in an empty 7,500 ton tanker. The results of the attack were unobserved. A 6,500 ton troop transport was sunk on 20 March, with two torpedo hits.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 22 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

From the morning of 19 March to noon of 20 March, there were no enemy planes or shelling inside the TOROKINA perimeter. Hill 260, on the east perimeter, continues to be object of cleaning up operations. It is reported that on 20 March, 98 Japs were killed in that area. Our casualties on 19 March, 17 killed, 95 wounded and 2 missing.

At 10:16 a.m., on 20 March, 13 Liberators attacked WAKE ISLAND. Because of the heavy overcast it is believed that most of the bombs fell in the water. However, a fire was observed in the fuel oil stowage space. The antiaircraft fire was slight.

One of the Liberators of the WAKE flight, bombed WOTJE at 9:26 a.m., 20 March.

At 10:25 a.m., on 20 March, 7 Marine Dauntless dive bombers, 2 Hellcats and 3 Avengers, hit WOTJE. The antiaircraft fire was heavy.

At 11:15 a.m., on 20 March, 9 Mitchell bombers hit TAROA and exploded an ammunition dump. The antiaircraft fire was medium.

Between 9:00 a.m., and 1:50 p.m., 20 March, among the planes bombing MILLE, were 2 Liberators and 2 Mitchells.

Three Mitchells and 6 Venturas took turns at dropping bombs on JALUIT on 20 March, between 8:00 a.m., and 10:50 a.m. As a result of these bombings, explosions and fires were seen on EMIDJ. Meager antiaircraft fire was received from the enemy.

The submarine BONEFISH, returning from a war patrol, in the southwest Pacific, reports as follows:

22 January - In the morning, in MAKASSAR STRAIT, sunk a large enemy sail boat with machine gun fire.

6 February - In the forenoon, south of CAPE PADARAN, FRENCH INDO-CHINA, damaged a very large tanker and sank a medium size freighter.

9 February - In the afternoon, to the east of CAPE PADARAN, sank a large auxiliary oiler.

Summarizing the damage inflicted on the enemy; it is indicated that a total of 21,272 tons were sunk, which tonnage covered one auxiliary oiler, 17,500 tons, a freighter for 3,712 tons and a sail boat for 60 tons. One oil tanker was damaged for a total of 19,425 tons.

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

9 a.m. 22 March 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 21 March, at 8:30 a.m., our amphibious forces landed without opposition on the southeastern tip of EMIRA, ST. MATTHIAS GROUP, NEW IRELAND. The various task forces effecting this operation were under the command of Task Force 31 - Rear Admiral Wilkinson, U. S. Navy. Slight opposition was encountered by units seizing ELOMUSAO ISLAND, off the eastern tip of EMIRA ISLAND. Otherwise, in the operation, the landing was conducted without opposition. As yet no BLUE casualties have been reported. By midnight, 20 March, the unloading has been reported 97% completed, this, despite the difficult beaches on the island. It is stated there have been no Japs at EMIRA for two months.

Early on the morning of 19 March, a Liberator bombed RABAUL.

During the same morning, 24 Liberators bombed PANAPAI, RABAUL, hitting runways and revetments and causing fires. Apparently one Liberator was slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Mitchell bombers, Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers blasted antiaircraft positions and the stores area, at VUNAPOPE, RABAUL, and caused fires. Some of the Dauntless dive bombers of this flight attacked CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. Eleven planes of these flights were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

Airacobras, Lightnings and Warhawks attacked an ammunition dump at TAWUI POINT, near RABAUL, and started a fire. Two of our Lightnings were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

The south tip of SHORTLAND ISLAND was bombed by a Lightning.

Corsairs strafed three barges, off FENI ISLAND, NEW IRELAND, and also started a possible gas dump fire in KERAVIA BAY, RABAUL.

Dauntless dive bombers and Avenger planes bombed buildings northeast of Hill 150, northeast of TOROKINA perimeter, causing many explosions. One of our Avengers was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

At SKOTOLAN MISSION, southwest BUKA, two Airacobras strafed a house, as also a barge northwest of BOUGAINVILLE.

During 20 March, a patrol plane from the south Pacific area, bombed the radio station at SATAWAN ISLAND, of the NAMOI ISLAND GROUP, and also silenced an antiaircraft position. It is reported that the runway on the island is serviceable.

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OSD Letter 3-9-72

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

9 a.m. 21 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine LAPON, on a war patrol south of HONG KONG, reports sinking a loaded oil tanker and getting three hits on a loaded enemy freighter. Both of these attacks occurred on 17 March.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED DOD Letter 5-3-78

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 18 March, Corsairs hit a barge northwest of AMBITLE ISLAND, NEW IRELAND, as also two launches off the northeast coast. Forty to fifty barges, in KERAVIA BAY, were also strafed by them.

Our fighter patrol, off BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, during 18 March, strafed barges at the mouth of the JABA RIVER.

Dauntless dive bombers and Venturas bombed CHOISEUL BAY targets, on 18 March.

During the night of 18-19 March, three Jap shells landed in the TOROKINA area. A dozen more hit in the PIVA area and caused a fire in a bomb dump which was extinguished after slight damage. During the morning of 19 March, the enemy continued firing and made a hit on our air strip. Indications of increased enemy activity on the north TOROKINA perimeter was found by our ground patrol. It is reported that since 8 March, air and surface bombardment in the TOROKINA area have destroyed 11 Jap guns.

On 20 March, between 11:25 a.m., and 11:33 a.m., 24 Army Mitchells bombed LAKUNAI airdrome, RABAUL. Antiaircraft fire damaged two planes seriously and four slightly.

At 11:35 a.m., 20 March, 9 Marine Mitchells hit the SULPHUR CREEK area, concentrating on antiaircraft and control positions.

At 11:15 a.m., 20 March, 24 Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by 17 Avengers, sought out antiaircraft defenses at VUNAKANAU, RABAUL. Three confirmed hits were made on one position and several other direct hits were reported. Photographs show that one 105 millimeter gun, southwest of the runway was destroyed by a direct hit. Three of our Avengers were damaged by intense and accurate antiaircraft fire.

On 20 March, at 11:53 a.m., 23 Liberators blasted VUNAKANAU field, RABAUL. Our bombing pattern bracketed five antiaircraft positions. Seven Liberators were heavily damaged by enemy antiaircraft fire.

On 20 March, at 9:50 a.m., and 11:35 a.m., respectively, 12 Lightnings and 12 Airacobras hit the RATAVAL supply area.

During the afternoon of 20 March, 28 fighters made barge sweeps in the vicinity of RABAUL.

Between 3:00 a.m., and 5:50 p.m., 20 March, Dauntless and Avengers on a bombing patrol, blasted enemy artillery on the TOROKINA perimeter.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 21 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

MILLE, on 18 March, was bombarded by the battleships IOWA and NEW JERSEY, and the CV LEXINGTON made two carrier group air strikes on the atoll. These three units were part of a task group, escorted by various destroyers. It is reported that the results were satisfactory. The battleship IOWA received two six-inch caliber hits from the enemy shore batteries at about 15,000 yards range. The damage was reported as moderate. Three men were wounded but none seriously.

During the night of 17-18 March, bombing and strafing by our night patrol planes took place on enemy barges, northeast of BUKA, and off the southeast coast of NEW IRELAND.

During the early morning of 18 March, 1 Liberator bombed the VUNAKANAU and RAPOPO airdromes at RABAUL.

The enemy's positions on the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were subjected to bombing, during 18 March, by Avengers.

On the morning of 18 March, our fighter planes started fires in fuel stores in KERAVIA BAY. They also exploded an ammunition dump at CAPE TAWUI, just north of RABAUL.

Dauntless dive bombers also hit RABAUL, during the morning of 18 March, and made ten confirmed hits on antiaircraft positions north and east of the town.

RABAUL was also bombed by Liberators and Avengers during the morning of 18 March, and many fires were started in RABAUL TOWN. They also exploded one barge and damaged piers and buildings. The enemy's antiaircraft fire damaged six Avenger and five Liberators. Only one Zero made any attempt to intercept over RABAUL. Another Zero was seen over TAWUI POINT, but offered no resistance.

Later, on 18 March, Mitchell bombers hit the eastern side of RABAUL TOWN, where the enemy antiaircraft fire hit two of our planes and third was damaged by a premature bomb explosion. Corsairs, which covered this flight, drove off one enemy fighter.

During the afternoon of 18 March, two Venturas completely destroyed the MASSAVA BAY dock, in western RABAUL. They also started a fire in the supply area.

At 2:10 p.m., 18 March, 8 Hellcats destroyed a barge off CAPE LAMBERT, northern NEW IRELAND, and also attacked four other barges in ATALIKLIKUN BAY.

{ 3 air Strikes NEW Ireland
{ 10 " " Rabaul
{ 6 " " Bougainville

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SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 20 March, TASK FORCE 37 (IDAHO, MISSISSIPPI, NEW MEXICO, TENNESSEE, PENNSYLVANIA and 9 destroyers) completed a successful 3½ hour bombardment of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. One thousand eighty-four rounds of 14" high capacity projectiles and 12,275 five-inch were fired into the target area, causing large fires and explosions. Fliers reported CHINA TOWN leveled and few buildings remain in KAVIENG. Ineffective fire from enemy shore batteries was quickly silenced.

Our ships suffered no material casualties but two men aboard the MISSISSIPPI sustained serious injuries and two suffered light wounds from a premature burst of a five-inch fifty-one projectile. A similar accident slightly injured two men on the NEW MEXICO.

On 19 March, a reconnaissance plane dropped a half ton of bombs on PINGELAP.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD LETTER

9 a;m. 20 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 12:07 p.m., 18 March, 11 Mitchells and 1 Liberator dropped 7 tons on JALUIT ATOLL. Results were not reported.

At 2:07 p.m., 18 March, 5½ tons of bombs were dropped by 5 Venturas on TAROA. Results were not reported. Earlier that day, 4 Hellcats and 10 dive bombers dropped 4½ tons. Antiaircraft fire was meager. One dive bomber failed to return.

During the night of 18-19 March, LCM gunboats bombarded MOSIGA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and a Catalina bombed enemy installations on BALLALE ISLAND, south of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 7:45 a.m., 19 March, enemy installations in CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, were strafed by a Catalina. Machine gun fire slightly damaged our plane.

At 9:05 a.m., 19 March, 8 Dauntless and 2 Hellcats hit WOTJE with 3 tons of bombs. Results were not reported.

At 6:00 p.m., 19 March, 2 Mitchells struck PONAPE with 2 tons of bombs and sank a small freighter in the area. A number of large fires were started among shore installations.

At 8:40 p.m., 19 March, gun emplacements on MILLE were attacked by 8 Corsairs. Antiaircraft fire was meager. Prior to this attack a Liberator dropped one ton of bombs.

At 1:07 a.m., 20 March, 8 Venturas released 9 tons of bombs on TAROA barracks and gun positions. Results were not reported. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 20 March 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 16-17 March, torpedo bombers attacked with bombs and rockets enemy gun positions east of the TOROKINA perimeter. Dive and torpedo bombers attacked enemy gun positions throughout 17 March, near the SAUA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Warhawks bombed the MATCHIN BAY bivouac area. A supply area in the vicinity of the NUMA NUMA trail, was also attacked. Results were not reported.

On 17 March, a supply area near VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN, was attacked by medium and light bombers. A number of fires started. On the same day, Corsairs attacked and sank an enemy barge in WIDE BAY, southeast NEW BRITAIN. Another barge was set on fire near KABAIRA PLANTATION, west of RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. Liberators later again attacked the VUNAPOPE supply area and started a number of fires. Antiaircraft fire damaged four of our planes.

At 12:50 p.m., 17 March, 23 Liberators attacked the NAMATANAI runway, NEW IRELAND. A number of fires started. No antiaircraft fire or interception were encountered. The east coast of NEW IRELAND was strafed by 16 escorting Corsairs, in the NAMATANAI strike. Results were not reported.

During the night of 17-18 March, a number of our motor torpedo boats, cooperating with a Catalina, attacked four heavily laden enemy barges east of BUKA passage, north of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two of the barges were destroyed, two escaped.

Between 3:00 a.m., and 4:31 a.m., 18 March, enemy planes bombed our positions at TOROKINA, west BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, killed one man and wounded seven. On the same day, a small bomb dump east of the PIVA air strip was partially destroyed by enemy artillery.

Intensive patrolling, counter-battery and surface bombardment of Japanese positions continue in the TOROKINA sector. There are indications that the enemy is reorganizing for additional attacks north of the TOROKINA perimeter. Our casualties for 17 March, amounted to 5 killed and 117 wounded.

Five tons were released on KUSAIE by 6 Liberators, at 7:19 a.m., 18 March. Fires and explosions were observed.

At 9:25 a.m., 18 March, 11 Liberators released 8 tons of bombs plus incendiaries on PONAPE. A number of fires started. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one plane.

JALUIT ATOLL was bombed by 18 Mitchells, between 9:07 a.m., and 12:05 p.m. 19 March. 13½ tons of bombs were dropped. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 19 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

the bombarding destroyer, was hit by the destroyer's fire, set on fire and sank. One man was killed, eight injured and three are missing.

The beach area at the mouth of the ATSINIMA RIVER, northwest of TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was bombarded by motor torpedo boats during the night of 16-17 March.

During the night of 16-17 March, reconnaissance planes bombed the enemy camp area, north of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, the KAVIENG strip and NAMATANAI runway. Reconnaissance planes also attacked MOSIGA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

The submarine SILVERSIDES reported sinking one enemy ship of a four-ship convoy on 15 March. Further details are not available.

The submarine TAUTOG reported that she sank one freighter on 13 March, set on fire and probably sank another. On the night of 16 March, the TAUTOG attacked a seven-ship convoy and believes that of these she sank three and damaged one.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 8-78
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OSD

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Enemy gun positions along the SAUA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked by dive and torpedo bombers, during the afternoon of 15 March. Forty-seven other dive bombers attacked enemy gun positions in the north TOROKINA perimeter area, while Corsairs strafed enemy barges in the vicinity of KIHILI and TONOLEI, SHORTLAND Area. Three planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During the night of 15-16 March, a Ventura and Liberator bombed RABAUL, NEW IRELAND. Results were not reported.

On the morning of 16 March, 60 dive and torpedo bombers attacked gun positions at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. A number of hits were scored. Two dive bombers and three torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire. One enemy fighter ineffectively attacked our bombers. At about the same time, 10 Lightnings bombed and started ammunition fires in the west RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN. One plane returned damaged.

During the morning of 16 March, Mitchells, Airacobras and Warhawks, attacked the VUNAPOPE supply area, NEW BRITAIN, and started a number of fires. Liberators and Lightnings struck at VUNAKANAU and TOBERA buildings and revetments. Antiaircraft fire damaged six Liberators and eight Mitchells. Mitchell bombers attacked the north shore of SIMPSON HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN, and DUKE OF YORK ISLAND, with unreported results.

On the afternoon of 16 March, Lightnings shot down an enemy reconnaissanc plane over RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, and strafed barges west of RALUANA POINT, and a gunboat south of KERAVIA, NEW BRITAIN.

Between 8:00 a.m., 16 March and 8:00 a.m., 17 March, enemy artillery sporadically shelled the TOROKINA air strips. One man was killed, a plane damaged and the PIVA strips holed. The damage was quickly repaired.

At 3:00 a.m., 17 March, the Japanese attacked our positions in the north perimeter and effected a slight penetration of our lines, which were subsequently reestablished by counter-attack. 195 enemy dead were counted inside our wire, with 52 in the vicinity of one pillbox. Many more Japanese were killed outside of our defense line. Our casualties, 16 March, amounted to 15 killed, 76 wounded.

During the night of 17-18 March, motor torpedo boats forced two enemy barges ashore, near the mouth of the JABA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. These barges were then taken under fire by a destroyer. One barge was destroyed and the other damaged. A gunboat, type unknown, which was engaged in spotting for

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED OSD letter 9-78

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

SECRET

4 p.m. 18 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:15 a.m. 17 March, 11 Mitchells dropped 7½ tons of bombs on WOTJE. Large fires were started.

At 7:35 a.m. 17 March, 10 Dauntless and 5 Hellcats released 3 tons on TAROA. Results were not reported. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

Eight tons of bombs were dropped on EMIDJ by 7 Venturas at 8:50 a.m. 17 March. A large explosion was observed. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged one plane.

Between 7:27 a.m. and 5:40 p.m. 17 March, 12 Mitchells, shuttling from MAJURO, released 14 tons on MILLE. Good results were reported.

Regraded Unclassified

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

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
-SD Letter

9 a.m. 18 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine COD returned from patrol of the CELEBES SEA Area after scoring the following successes:

Sank 1 tanker	7,350 tons	
Sank 1 freighter	2,473 tons	
Sank 1 Sampan	30 tons	(gunfire)
Total	9,853 tons	

The submarine JACK returned from patrol of the SOUTH CHINA SEA and PHILIPPINE waters after scoring the following successes:

Sank 4 unidentified new large gasoline tankers	10,000 tons each
Sank 2 large unidentified freighters	7,500 tons each
Sank 1 small unidentified vessel	2,500 tons
Total	57,500 tons

Regraded Unclassified

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DOD Letter 3-75

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

4 p.m. 17 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Contd)

During the afternoon of 14 March, dive bombers silenced two enemy guns in the east sector of the TOROKINA perimeter. One plane was shot down by antiaircraft fire.

During the night of 14-15 March, torpedo bombers hit an enemy gun position near the east sector of the TOROKINA perimeter. Throughout 15 March, dive bombers struck at the enemy bivouac area near the RENI RIVER, west BOUGAINVILLE, while Lightnings and Airacobras attacked MAWARAKA and PIANO MISSION, west and southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 14-15 March, reconnaissance planes bombed PANAPAI, NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND and BUKA ISLAND revetments. Installations on the north coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND were also attacked.

During the morning of 15 March, Mitchells destroyed a number of buildings, damaged revetments and runways at LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN. On the same morning, the VUNAPOPE supply area was attacked by Mitchells, Lightnings, Airacobras and Warhawks. A number of fires started. Liberators bombed the RAPOPO revetments, while dive and torpedo bombers rendered the TOBERA runway unserviceable. Hits were also scored on the VUNAKANAU runway. Four Mitchells, eleven Liberators and four torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

At about noon 15 March, a light Japanese attack was repulsed in the north sector of the TOROKINA perimeter. 125 enemy dead were counted. Since 8 March, it is reported that 1,325 Japanese have been killed in the TOROKINA Area. Our casualties for 15 March amounted to 15 killed, 179 wounded.

At 4:00 p.m. 15 March, Hellcats, in a sweep over the RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN, and south NEW IRELAND, destroyed one enemy barge, damaged another and damaged a small craft in the KERAVIA BAY Area. These planes then destroyed the enemy radar installation at CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. That evening, Corsairs destroyed a float plane taking off in KERAVIA BAY.

On 16 March, the TOROKINA strip, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was intermittently shelled by enemy artillery. Three shells burst over the PIVA air strip during the night of 15 March, but no damage resulted.

Regraded Unclassified

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QSD Letter

9 a.m. 17 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 12:20 p.m., 16 March, TAROA was attacked by 12 Mitchells with 6 tons of bombs and cannon fire. The enemy radar installation was damaged and an ammunition dump exploded. Two planes sustained minor damage from moderate antiaircraft fire.

Six Venturas started fires and explosions on WOTJE with 18 tons of bombs at 12:15 p.m., 16 March.

On 16 March, 10 Dauntless and 4 Hellcats released 4½ tons of bombs on MILLE. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged two dive bombers.

During the night of 15-16 March, a cooperating destroyer, motor torpedo boat and plane, probably destroyed two enemy barges near the JABA RIVER, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 17 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 13-14 March, reconnaissance planes bombed PANAPAI-NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND. Other reconnaissance planes (Catalinas), attacked BALLALE-AITARA MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and strafed MOTUPENA POINT. A Catalina set on fire a small vessel in CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, and started a fire along the shoreline.

Between 1:55 p.m., 13 March and 11:55 a.m., 14 March, 118 dive bombers and 54 torpedo bombers struck at enemy artillery positions and supply dumps in the TOROKINA sector, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the morning of 14 March, Airacobras and Warhawks bombed VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN. Liberators and Mitchells attacked east RABAUL TOWN and the waterfront in north SIMPSON HARBOR. Photographs showed many fires and numerous hits on the wharf, warehouse and other buildings. Four Mitchells and one Liberator were damaged by antiaircraft fire. No enemy planes were encountered.

On 14 March, our fighter planes damaged three barges on the west coast of NEW IRELAND, and four in TALILI BAY, NEW BRITAIN. In KERAVIA BAY, 12 small enemy craft and a coaster were strafed.

On the same day, dive and torpedo bombers struck the KERAVIA shore installations, scored hits on gun positions and shoreline supply areas. Three dive bombers and four torpedo planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Barges on the east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND were strafed by Airacobras and Warhawks and a bridge over the MIBO RIVER, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, was destroyed.

During the morning of 15 March, enemy artillery scored a number of hits on the PIVA air strip. The damage was quickly repaired.

Our patrols were active in the TOROKINA area throughout 15 March. The enemy attacked the east section of the perimeter on 15 March, and succeeded in effecting a slight penetration. A tank supported counter-attack restored our positions. On 14 March, our casualties amounted to 14 killed, 83 wounded.

At 9:05 a.m., 15 March, 10 dive bombers started two fires on JALUIT, with 4½ tons of bombs. Meager but accurate antiaircraft fire damaged one plane.

At 9:40 a.m., 15 March, 12 Mitchells released 10 tons of bombs on WOTJE. Hits were scored on the barracks and radio station. Antiaircraft fire was moderate.

At 9:57 a.m., 16 March, a reconnaissance plane bombed PINGELAP with 1½ tons of bombs. Results were not reported.

Regraded Unclassified

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SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 14 March, a reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed a beached enemy freighter on LELE ISLAND, KUSAIE. Another reconnaissance plane bombed installations on OROLUK and strafed a beached wooden vessel.

WOTJE was hit with 4½ tons of bombs, released by 4 Hellcats, at 10:30 a.m., 14 March.

At 12:15 a.m., 14 March, 7 Venturas hit MILLE with 12 tons. Later, that afternoon, 18 Mitchells dropped 12½ tons.

On 14 March, 15 Liberators attacked PONAPE with 22 tons of bombs. Antiaircraft fire encountered was meager. On the same day, 2 Liberators bombed KUSAIE with 3 tons and encountered meager antiaircraft fire.

At 2:19 p.m., 14 March, a reconnaissance plane shot down an enemy medium bomber, 270 miles northeast of TRUK. Five survivors were observed and two of these were killed by strafing.

On 14 March, a reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed the airfield area on PONAPE. A number of fires started.

During the night of 14-15 March, motor torpedo boats strafed POROPORO, CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND.

Between 1:30 a.m., and 2:30 a.m., 16 March, 11 Liberators, operating from KWAJALEIN, bombed TRUK. Many fires were started. Intense antiaircraft fire from ships and ashore was encountered.

Eleven other Liberators, operating from KWAJALEIN, unable to reach TRUK, due to weather, bombed PONAPE and OROLUK.

Regraded Unclassified

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9 a.m. 16 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the afternoon of 12 March and the morning of 13 March, 131 dive bombers and 95 torpedo bombers attacked enemy gun positions northeast and east of the TOROKINA perimeter.

During the night of 12-13 March, reconnaissance planes attacked KAVIENG and NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND. Catalinas attacked AITARA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and hit a bridge at north LULUAI POINT, southeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Enemy radar installations, at CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND, were also bombed and a sail boat sunk at SIPOSAI, CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND.

On the morning of 13 March, Corsairs strafed the TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, revetments. Liberators and Mitchells attacked RABAUL and started a number of fires. One Liberator attacked KIHILI, another bombed BONIS, north BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Antiaircraft fire slightly damaged 4 Liberators and 3 Mitchells. In these operations no enemy aircraft were encountered.

On 13 March, fires were started by 2 Liberators among buildings at north MONOITU RIDGE, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Four Airacobras attacked the MAMAGETA Area.

During 13 March, Lightnings, Airacobras and Warhawks bombed the supply area at VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN, destroyed three buildings and started fires. Four Lightnings attacked SHORTLAND ISLAND. Results were not reported.

Reported PM 14 Mar 15

In the TOROKINA sector, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, Japanese shelling decreased considerably on 13 March. A patrol of the 132nd Infantry, engaged an enemy patrol and killed three Japanese. Six hundred and fifteen dead Japanese have been found northeast of the perimeter. Prisoners revealed that the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Japanese infantry have been wiped out.

Our lines have been completely reestablished. Three hundred Japanese dead were counted on the wire surrounding our perimeter and inside of our positions. An estimated total of 1173 enemy dead does not include Japanese killed beyond visual range. On 13 March, our casualties amounted to 37 killed, 146 wounded.

On the early morning of 14 March, a night flying Ventura shot down one enemy float plane over the TOROKINA air strip, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 5:00 a.m., 14 March, 4 Venturas and 1 Liberator dropped six tons of bombs on JALUIT. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

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

9 a.m. 15 March 19

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

planes engaged 6 enemy fighters over TOBERA, shot down three, plus one probable. One Corsair received light damage from antiaircraft fire.

About noon of the same day, Lightnings, Airacobras and Warhawks heavily bombed RABAUL TOWN. A number of fires were started. One Airacobra is missing and one other plane returned damaged.

On 12 March, in an afternoon sweep of the RABAUL Area, Corsairs destroyed one of five grounded enemy fighters at LAKUNAI, NEW BRITAIN. One Corsair was forced down by antiaircraft fire, southeast of CAPE ST. GEORGE.

Throughout 12 March, Corsairs strafed plantations in the vicinity of TINPUTS, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, enemy barges near BONIS and gun positions on SHORTLAND ISLAND. Dive and torpedo bombers struck at gun positions west of the SAUA RIVER, and northeast of the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. BALLALE ISLAND installations were attacked by 3 Venturas.

From 3:00 p.m., 12 March to 3:00 p.m., 13 March, our ground forces repulsed an attack north of the TOROKINA perimeter, west BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The enemy left 109 dead. Our casualties amounted to three men slightly wounded.

Our original lines were restored in the northeast sector of the perimeter, after three counter-attacks with tanks. One hundred Japanese were killed. Many of the enemy were killed during mopping up operations in the east sector of the perimeter.

The intermittent shelling of the PIVA air strip on 12 March, caused some damage to our installations. However, the Japanese artillery fire decreased as a result of air and surface bombardment. Our casualties for 12 March, 35 killed, 213 wounded and 20 missing in action.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 6-3-72
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 15 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 13 March, a reconnaissance plane started a number of fires on OROLUK, CAROLINE ISLANDS. Another reconnaissance plane encountered two enemy fighters, 30 miles northwest of PONAPE, and probably shot down one and damaged the other. A reconnaissance plane started fires on PINGELAP, CAROLINE ISLANDS.

At 10:32 a.m., 13 March, 10 dive bombers dropped four and a half tons on TAROA. Later, 3 Liberators added six more tons. An ammunition dump was exploded and hits were scored on antiaircraft positions. Two planes returned damaged.

The WOTJE barracks area, radio station and a blockhouse were bombed with 6 tons by 3 Liberators at 11 a.m., 13 March. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

At 11:04 a.m., 13 March, a Liberator dropped two tons of bombs on MILLE. Results were not reported.

At 2:50 p.m., 13 March, 3 Mitchells released 3 tons of bombs on KUSAIE. A number of fires started.

JALUIT antiaircraft positions were hit with 12 tons, released by 12 Mitchells, during the afternoon of 13 March. Antiaircraft fire was intense.

During the night of 11-12 March, a reconnaissance plane bombed KAVIENG and NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND. Catalinas attacked beached barges on the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and other barges north of ADLER BAY, NEW BRITAIN. Gun positions at CAPE NARUM, southeast NEW IRELAND, were also attacked. A Liberator harassed RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN.

During the morning of 12 March, Liberators and Mitchells started fires and explosions in north SIMPSON HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN. One Mitchell and six Liberators were damaged by antiaircraft fire. At about the same time, two Mitchells struck enemy installations on BUKA ISLAND. No enemy planes intercepted any of these attacks, although ten fighters were observed taking to the air at TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN.

On 12 March, 8 Corsairs encountered seven enemy fighters over ATLIKLIKUN BAY, NEW BRITAIN, and shot down one. Later, 8 other Corsairs attacked and set on fire two small enemy vessels (about 100-feet), and a small tug. These

Regraded Unclassified

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
DOD Letter, 3-3-72

9 a.m. 14 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 11 March, our troops reconnoitered LIB ISLAND, south of KWAJALEIN. No Japanese were found. Our flag was raised over the area. On UJE ISLAND, six armed Japanese were cornered by Marines. Five of the enemy committed suicide, one was wounded and captured.

On 11 March, a reconnaissance plane bombed PINGELAP, CAROLINE ISLANDS, and destroyed an unidentified tower.

According to a communique released by CINCPAC, Liberator bombers and search Liberators of Fleet Air Wing TWO, attacked WAKE ISLAND on the afternoon of 11 March, (west longitude date). About 50 tons of bombs were dropped.

NAURU ISLAND was also attacked by a small force of Army Liberators on 11 March (west longitude date).

No fighter interception on any of these attacks was encountered. All our planes returned.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter

4 p.m. 13 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A reconnaissance plane bombed KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, during the night of 10-11 March. This plane was ineffectively attacked by one medium enemy bomber. Another reconnaissance plane attacked NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND, while Catalinas bombed MOTUPENA POINT, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and HANPAN VILLAGE, northeast BUKA ISLAND.

During 11 March, fighter planes strafed small enemy craft, south of KERAVIA BAY, NEW BRITAIN, and attacked the radar installation at ADLER BAY, NEW BRITAIN. An unreported number of Warhawks attacked VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN. During the evening of 11 March, 6 torpedo planes attacked barges south of KERAVIA BAY, NEW BRITAIN, and scored hits on four. Antiaircraft fire damaged one plane.

On 11 March, an unreported number of Mitchells bombed RABAUL TOWN, NEW BRITAIN, scored hits on the pier and damaged two barges. Antiaircraft fire damaged five of the Mitchells. Liberators attacked the east side of RABAUL TOWN, started fires and explosions. Two of the Liberators were damaged by antiaircraft fire. On the same day, the KIETA supply area was bombed by a Liberator and another bombed KIHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On 11 March, 160 dive and torpedo bombers attacked enemy gun positions north and northeast of the TOROKINA perimeter, west BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of explosions were observed. On the same day, four Liberators started a fire north of MONOITU MISSION and Warhawks bombed MOSIGETTA.

During the night 11-12 March, motor torpedo boats shot down one enemy observation type plane, east of CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. Other motor torpedo boats, while strafing beached enemy barges, north of PURIATA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were ineffectively attacked by an enemy observation plane. Enemy shore batteries shelled our motor torpedo boats without damage in the vicinity of the RENI RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Enemy artillery scored a number of hits on the PIVA air strips, west BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, during 11 March, and slightly damaged one Catalina. Between 3:00 p.m., 11 March, and 3:00 p.m., 12 March, our troops at TOROKINA, destroyed enemy pillboxes within our lines and killed 349 Japanese. Three major attacks, which developed east of the perimeter, were repelled but the enemy succeeded in effecting a slight penetration. It is estimated that over 1,000 Japanese have been killed within the last three days. Our casualties for 11 March, amount to 22 killed and 187 wounded.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 13 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Catalina destroyed 5 enemy barges and one unidentified craft east of CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND. The torpedo boats encountered ineffectual machine gun fire from the barges and the beach. One motor torpedo boat sustained slight damage due to strafing by an enemy float plane.

During the period 3:00 p.m., 10 March and 3:00 p.m., 11 March, a concentration of about 250 Japanese were contacted by the 182nd Infantry, east of the TOROKINA perimeter. Intensive fighting ensued with action still continuing.

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Early on the morning of 11 March, the 145th Infantry repulsed an attack in force and restored our lines by counterattack. Many Japanese were killed in this action. Our casualties, on 10 March, amounted to 14 killed and 118 wounded. Our counter-battery fire is continuing with reported good effects.

Enemy positions, east of the TOROKINA perimeter, were bombed by Mitchells dive and torpedo bombers. Antiaircraft positions along the SAUA RIVER were silenced.

On the early morning of 12 March, enemy barges unloading at MOLI POINT, ten miles southeast of CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, were shelled by two of our destroyers.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 13 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A detachment of the 22nd Marines occupied WOTHO ATOLL. No enemy resistance was encountered. A Japanese crew from a crashed medium bomber committed suicide when the Marines closed in. The natives welcomed the government of the United States.

At 6:46 a.m., 11 March, a Mitchell dropped one ton on MILIE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. Later, at 12:40 p.m., 11 March, 7 Dauntless and 8 Warhawks dropped eight tons of bombs on MILLE. Antiaircraft fire was intense.

Four and a half tons were dropped on EMIDJ by ten Dauntless at 11:15 a.m., 11 March. Antiaircraft fire was meager.

WOTJE runway and pier were hit with six tons, released by 9 Mitchells, during the morning of 11 March.

At 7:30 p.m., 11 March, 6 Venturas dropped seven tons on TAROA. A number of explosions were observed. Antiaircraft fire encountered was moderate.

Lightnings and Warhawks attacked the wharf area in SIMPSON HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN, during the afternoon of 9 March. During the night, reconnaissance planes bombed KAVIENG and NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND. Reconnaissance planes also attacked BORPOP and CAPE NARUM, southeast NEW IRELAND. A number of barges, south of CAPE GAZELLE, NEW BRITAIN, were attacked and damaged. On the same night a number of fires were started at RAPOPO, KERAVIAT, RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, by a Liberator.

During the morning of 10 March, 2 Warhawks attacked the VUNAPOPE supply area, NEW BRITAIN, and apparently started a number of fires. Later, Airacobras attacked the area and observed six fires. On the same day, a Liberator started a number of fires in RABAUL TOWN and scored a hit on the seaplane base on the east side of the harbor. Five planes returned slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 10 March, two of our bombers were attacked and damaged by two enemy fighters, south of RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN. Corsairs strafed enemy installations along the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and KEPIA PLANTATION, SHORTLAND ISLAND.

At 7:45 p.m., 10 March, a submarine was apparently successfully attacked off CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, by one of our destroyers. Debris was brough to the surface.

During the night of 10-11 March, motor torpedo boats assisted by a

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OSD Letter 3-78

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

9 a.m. 12 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 11:20 a.m., 10 March, 15 Liberators dropped 22½ tons of bombs on PONAPE. Three fires and two explosions were observed. The antiaircraft battery was silenced. All our planes returned without damage.

Three Liberators dropped 4½ tons on KUSAIE at 11:00 a.m., 10 March. Hits were scored on the wharf area and a number of small ships.

At 11:55 a.m., 10 March, 5 Mitchells dropped 9 tons on TAROA. Results were not reported. Two of the bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

WOTJE was hit by 5½ tons, released by 5 Venturas, at 6:50 p.m., 10 March. Antiaircraft fire was meagre and all of the planes returned without damage.

At 9:10 a.m., 10 March, 10 Dauntless with 5 tons of bombs started two large fires on JALUIT. All our planes returned without damage.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 9-78
OSD letter
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 p.m. 11 March 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In eliminating the enemy penetrations of our positions at the TOROKINA perimeter on 9 March, our casualties amounted to 20 killed and 136 wounded. Enemy casualties were considerable.

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

4 p.m. 11 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A Liberator harassed the RABAUL AREA, NEW BRITAIN, during the night of 8-9 March. On the same night, reconnaissance planes attacked the KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, runway and taxi strip.

During the afternoon of 9 March, an unreported number of Liberators and Mitchells, without escort, attacked the north dock area in SIMPSON HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN. Numerous fires were started in the fuel and storage areas and many buildings sustained damage. Hits were also scored on the VUNAKANAU and RAPOPO airstrips, and on revetments at TOBERA. Antiaircraft fire damaged one Mitchell. During the day, other Liberators bombed the enemy radar installation on CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND.

On 9 March, Japanese gun positions around the TOROKINA perimeter, west BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked by 117 dive and torpedo bombers. One dive bomber was destroyed over the SAUA RIVER Area.

During the night of 9-10 March, motor torpedo boats destroyed an enemy barge off FENI ISLAND, east of NEW IRELAND. During the same night, an enemy shore battery at MOTUPENA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, shelling our motor torpedo boats, was silenced by a destroyer.

At 5 p.m. 9 March, 4 torpedo bombers attacked 15 enemy barges or schooners near KERAVIA, NEW BRITAIN, and of these sank 3 and damaged 2.

At 2:25 p.m. 10 March, a submarine chaser (SC 700) caught fire at VELLA LAVELLA and was destroyed. A fuel oil barge (YO 44) also caught fire, but the damage has not been determined. One dead, 7 missing and 10 injured have been reported.

On 10 March, a reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed the seaplane area on GREENWICH ISLAND.

During the afternoon of 10 March, 2 destroyers bombarded Japanese positions east of the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At 7:40 a.m. 11 March, 2 surfaced enemy submarines, north of TAIOF ISLAND, west MATCHIN BAY, were strafed by 4 fighters with undetermined results.

Throughout 9 March and the night of 9-10 March, enemy artillery continued t sporadically shell the PIVA AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two hits were scored on the runways and two torpedo bombers slightly damaged. One enlisted man was wounded. Ten additional hits were scored on the runways during the morning of 10 March. The runways have been repaired.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 11 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

fire, was forced down off CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND, but the crew was recovered.

At 2:30 p.m. 9 March, a reconnaissance plane strafed and exploded a small enemy auxiliary 35 miles south of GREENWICH ISLAND. Later, this plane attacked and set on fire a small freighter at GREENWICH ISLAND.

On 8 March, Japanese artillery shelled the PIVA airfield, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, destroyed 1 Liberator, 3 Corsairs and damaged 11 Corsairs, which are repairable. The enemy continued shelling during the night of 8-9 March, destroyed 1 torpedo bomber and damaged 2 more. During these bombardments, 1 enlisted man was killed and 25 wounded. The enemy artille positions have been located and attacked by aircraft with good effects. Destroyers bombarded enemy positions with good results.

EXCERP

Minor patrol contacts were reported around the perimeter on the night of 8-9 March. The Japanese launched an attack to the right sector of the 37th Division, and effected a slight penetration, which was subsequently reduced and our lines re-established. During the period from 3 p.m. 8 March to 3 p.m. 9 March, over 100 of the enemy were killed with a loss to our troops of 5 killed and 93 wounded.

The submarine ROBALO returned from patrol and reported damaging 1 freighter of 6,182 tons.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 2-7-72 SD Letter

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

9 a.m. 11 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

EXCERP

The following additional details have been received in connection with the ENIWETOK ATOLL bombing on 9 March: About 8 enemy medium bombers dropped approximately 24 500-pound bombs, which killed 1 officer, seriously wounded 2 and 6 enlisted men. 13 enlisted men were moderately wounded. A considerable amount of stores and small caliber ammunition were destroyed in addition to 600 drums of oil products and 4 distillation units. Although some grounded aircraft sustained damage, the airfield was not damaged.

At 12:16 p.m. 9 March, the dock area and installations near the airfield on PONAPE were hit with 10 tons of bombs dropped by 7 Liberators. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged 1 bomber.

At 1:20 p.m. 9 March, 10 Dauntless dropped 4½ tons on JALUIT installations. Antiaircraft fire was weak. On the same day, 9 Mitchells released 8 tons on WOTJE runways and installations. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

On 9 March, 4 Liberators dropped 6 tons on KUSAIE. Results were not reported. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 6:25 p.m. 9 March, 4 Venturas dropped 5 tons on TAROA. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. During the day, MILLE was hit by 9 Dauntless and 6 Warhawks with 8½ tons. Moderate antiaircraft fire damaged 1 dive bomber.

During the night of 7-8 March, Catalinas strafed enemy barges north of the PURIATA RIVER and attacked pillboxes and gun positions on the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Reconnaissance planes also attacked the radar installation on CAPE ST. GEORGE and a gun position on POPORANG ISLAND.

On 8 March, dive bombers and torpedo bombers attacked enemy artillery positions northeast of the TOROKINA perimeter, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The bivouac area east of the SAUA RIVER and positions near TOROKINA, REINI and JABA RIVERS were attacked by light bombers. The BUKA runway and revetments were bombed by 9 Lightnings.

During the morning of 8 March, 23 Liberators, without escort, bombed the wharf area in SIMPSON HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN. A number of fires started. 6 of the Liberators were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Later that day, 46 Warhawks and an unreported number of Airacobras again attacked this area and started additional fires. 1 plane returned slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire. Later that afternoon, 2 Liberators again attacked and caused a large explosion. 1 of the Liberators, possibly damaged by antiaircraft

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

9 a.m. 10 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Several groups of enemy planes attacked ENIWETOK ATOLL, beginning 3:10 a.m., 9 March. No damage was sustained on ENIWETOK ISLAND. Many explosions and a large fire were started on ENGEBI ISLAND. Further details are not available at this time.

At 3:15 p.m., 8 March, a reconnaissance plane shot down a medium enemy bomber 215 miles northeast of PONAPE ISLAND. Another reconnaissance plane dropped a half ton of bombs on enemy installations at RONGELAP.

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78 Letter

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

4 p.m. 9 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 6-7 March, a Liberator harassed RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, and a Catalina bombed and strafed buildings near NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND, and LEMANMANU MISSION, northwest BUKA ISLAND.

During the morning of 7 March, dive bombers and torpedo bombers attacked RALUANA, NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on antiaircraft gun positions and a freighter possibly sunk south of MATUPI. A number of buildings in the vicinity of the air strip were damaged and four planes set on fire in the northwest revetments. A medium bomber was damaged and a float plane destroyed. One dive bomber and four torpedo bombers were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

The dispersal area at TOBERA, NEW BRITAIN, was bombed by an unreported number of Mitchells on 7 March. A number of fires started. Two Mitchells were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

During the afternoon of 7 March, an unidentified location, apparently in the vicinity of RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, was attacked by Liberators. A number of fires started. Airacobras bombed RABAUL TOWN, NEW BRITAIN, and Corsairs strafed enemy barges off north NEW BRITAIN.

At 5:07 p.m., 7 March, three torpedo bombers attacked five small enemy vessels in the vicinity of MALANGUNAN, SIMPSON HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN. One vessel was sunk and another left in a sinking condition.

During 7 March, Airacobras bombed enemy supply area south of the JABA RIVER and started a number of fires. During the same day, two Liberators attacked MONOITU MISSION. Enemy concentrations at MAWAREKA, along the SAUA RIVER and REINI RIVER, were attacked by an unreported number of planes.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 a.m. 9 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 7 March, at 7:48 a.m., a Liberator bombed MILLE and started a small fire in the installations. This attack was followed at 9:30 a.m., by 8 Army Dauntless planes and 8 Warhawks. This flight hit the runway and stores area. Small craft was also strafed. The antiaircraft fire was meager and inaccurate.

Between 8:33 a.m., and 12:33 p.m., on the morning of 7 March, the runway at WOTJE was bombed by 9 Mitchells. No antiaircraft fire was received.

During 7 March, 18 Dauntless planes and 11 Hellcats started several fires at JALUIT. One Hellcat and 5 Dauntless planes were slightly damaged by the moderate but accurate antiaircraft fire.

On 7 March, at 6:20 p.m., 4 Venturas deposited bombs on TAROA. The antiaircraft fire was moderate but inaccurate.

From 7:20 a.m., to 1:00 p.m., 8 March, 16 Mitchells bombed the TAROA runways and antiaircraft installations, starting two fires. They also shelled small nearby islands. The antiaircraft fire was moderate. Three of our planes were damaged.

Again, at 7:00 p.m., 8 March, our attack on TAROA was renewed, this time by 2 Venturas. No antiaircraft fire was received.

At 11:30 a.m., 8 March, 10 Liberators hit EMIDJ, JALUIT ATOLL. The flight was greeted by intense antiaircraft fire. One plane was damaged.

During 8 March, 1 Liberator hit KUSAIE.

At 9:30 a.m., 8 March, 10 Dauntless dive bombers blasted EMIDJ, JALUIT ATOLL. The antiaircraft fire was weak.

MILLE was bombed by 16 Warhawks at 6:50 a.m., 8 March. The antiaircraft fire was intense.

In the afternoon of 8 March, at 4:00 p.m., 4 Hellcats strafed 5 wooden launches in MILLE ATOLL. The antiaircraft fire was moderate. One of our pilots was killed when his plane crashed over the target area.

Early in the evening of 8 March, at 7:00 p.m., 6 Venturas blasted the runways and barracks at WOTJE. The antiaircraft fire was meager.

Regraded Unclassified

DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter 12-2

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

4 p.m. 8 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 5-6 March, a lone Liberator, while bombing RABAUL, was attacked by enemy night fighters but incurred no damage.

During the same night, patrol planes bombed the perimeter at TOROKINA, and other targets of opportunity. They also bombed MALAHUNA POINT, in the northwest SHORTLAND Area.

Airacobras, during the morning of 6 March, damaged six barges in ATALIKLIKUM BAY, northern NEW BRITAIN. They also smoked out a barge south of WATOM ISLAND, NEW BRITAIN.

During the afternoon of 6 March, Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers bombed the airdrome at LAKUNAI, RABAUL. Although the overcast was heavy over the target, some hits created a large amount of smoke northeast of MATUPI. One Avenger was holed by antiaircraft fire. The fighter coverage for this flight encountered no air opposition. However, they strafed and sunk a loaded barge south of WATOM ISLAND and set on fire a small boat off PUT PUT.

The TOBERA airfield at RABAUL was hit during 6 March by 24 Mitchell medium bombers. Six fires were started, of which, three were believed to be burning planes in the revetments. Above the RAPOPO revetments, 10 to 12 enemy fighter planes were seen. One Corsair took on seven single-seated enemy fighters above the RAPOPO landing field and successfully outran three pursuing fighters. Barges in KERAVIA BAY were attacked by the other Corsairs.

On 6 March, at 1:11 p.m., 21 Liberators hit the dispersal area and revetments at KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. A 200-foot pier was set on fire, two buildings were destroyed and the runway left unserviceable.

During 6 March, light bombers and fighters bombed and strafed MONOITU MISSION and the MIBO RIVER Area. Targets east of the SAUA RIVER MOUTH and others near REINI RIVER and SORAKEN PLANTATION, in northwest BOUGAINVILLE, were also attacked.

During 6 March, patrol planes bombed barges at ATALIKLIKUM HARBOR, NEW BRITAIN, and the ADLER BAY radar.

During the morning of 7 March, Jap positions east of TOROKINA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE, were bombed by BLUE destroyers.

BOUGAINVILLE GROUND SITUATION

A preliminary report indicates that the Jap's artillery commenced to shell the PIVA Area, BOUGAINVILLE, on 8 March, at 0445 a.m. Sixteen of our planes were damaged and six men injured. Our artillery returned the fire and silenced some of the enemy's positions. It would appear that a general ground attack is developing.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

DECLASSIFIED 3-72
OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 8 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 5 March, a patrol plane bombed a small ship in PONAPE HARBOR.

Reconnaissance planes dropped bombs on WAKE ISLAND, on 5 March.

The submarine HOE, returning from a war patrol in the southwest Pacific, reports the following:

16 January - during the night sunk 3 enemy freighters of a seven-ship escorted convoy, south of DAVAO GULF, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

25 February - south of DAVAO GULF, sank an enemy tanker and damaged another one.

A summary of her cruise indicates that she sank 3 enemy freighters, one enemy tanker, for a total of 29,399 tons and damaged one enemy tanker of 10,052 tons.

The submarine PICUDA reports sinking an enemy transport of 10,000 tons to the northwest of TRUK, on 2 March.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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DECLASSIFIED 3-72
OSD Letter

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

4 p.m. 7 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 6 March at 7:20 a.m., 18 Dauntless dive bombers and 11 Hellcats bombed EMIDJ, JALUIT Atoll. The antiaircraft fire is reported as being light, but, never-the-less, two Hellcats are missing with 1 pilot reported on a nearby island.

At 7:40 a.m. on 6 March, 15 Warhawks hit MILLE Atoll. The antiaircraft fire was moderate.

At 10 a.m. 6 March, 8 Mitchell medium bombers dropped bombs on islands of the MALOELAP Atoll near TAROA. The runways at MILLE were bombed by four of the Mitchells. None of the planes on this flight were subjected to antiaircraft fire.

At 11:30 a.m. 6 March, WOTJE Atoll was bombed by 5 Venturas. The planes encountered light to meager antiaircraft fire.

The airfield, shops and docks at PONAPE were bombed by 13 Liberators at 11:35 a.m. on 6 March. The area around the airfield was shaken by a huge explosion. The antiaircraft fire was moderate. On alternate strikes, two Liberators each bombed MILLE and KUSAIE.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

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4 p.m. 7 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 6 March, one of our patrol planes bombed buildings at BORPOP HARBOR, NEW IRELAND.

During the night of 6-7 March, motor torpedo boats from TREASURY ISLAND were bombed by an enemy plane southwest of BOUGAINVILLE. The boats also were subjected to gunfire from MOSIGA. In neither case was any damage received. A night patrol plane, which was operating with the PT's, made a direct hit on a floating crane or dredge on the PURIATA RIVER.

While bombarding shore batteries to the entrance of SEEADLER HARBOR, MANUS ISLAND, the destroyer NICHOLSON was hit by an enemy shell. Damage was sustained in the Number 2 Handling Room, where 3 of her personnel were killed and 2 wounded.

It is also reported that Navy Seabees, ashore on LOS NEGROS ISLAND, MANUS ISLAND, have sustained the following casualties: 13 killed, 95 wounded.

Regraded Unclassified

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

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OSD LSS

4 p.m. 7 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 4-5 March, a Liberator bombed RABAUL.

During the same night, night patrol planes bombed and strafed 5 to 6 barges off the northwestern coast of BUKA. On their return flight, they bombed POPORANG ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area.

At 8:45 a.m. 5 March, Avengers bombed the two remaining small enemy freighters in MANDRES BAY, NEW BRITAIN, and forced the ships to beach themselves.

At 10:58 a.m. on 5 March, a flight of Mitchell medium bombers started fires to the north of SIMPSON HARBOR and in the SIMPSON HARBOR wharf area. In the latter place, a direct hit damaged the customs wharf. Two of our Mitchells were slightly damaged by antiaircraft fire.

RABAUL TOWN and the TOBERA airfield revetments were bombed by Liberators and several fires were started. Photographs indicate that 5 planes were burned in the revetments. Three of our Liberators were damaged by antiaircraft fire and one was shot down. From the latter, 3 of its crew of 5, which parachuted, were picked up by a rescue plane.

BORPOP HARBOR, NEW IRELAND, was bombed by a Liberator and 11 Lightnings. Hits were made on the runway and revetments, and a large fire was started.

During 5 March, 118 Dauntless dive bombers and 72 Avengers bombed enemy positions north of KURAIO MISSION, northwest TOROKINA, the bivouac at the west fork of the TOROKINA RIVER and the supply section north of the TOROKINA forks.

Other BLUE planes bombed and strafed concentrations on the REINE RIVER, SIAR PLANTATION in northern BOUGAINVILLE, and MONOITU BRIDGE. At the latter place, one of our Airacobras was downed by antiaircraft fire

Four Venturas, on patrol, bombed and strafed 3 camouflaged barges, which were alongside a supply-laden dock at LIKLIKUN BAY. One of the barges was sunk and another one left listing.

On the morning of 6 March, motor torpedo boats from GREEN ISLAND discovered and destroyed 4 barges hidden under the trees at KMIR HARBOR, on the northeastern end of AMBITLE ISLAND, NEW IRELAND.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 3-72

4 p.m. 6 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 3-4 March, one Liberator harassed RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. On 4 March, two Venturas bombed huts north of EAST CAPE, NEW IRELAND. Intense antiaircraft fire was encountered in the vicinity of NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND.

At 11 a.m. 4 March, an unreported number of dive and torpedo bombers attacked and scored hits on antiaircraft positions east of RABAUL. One torpedo bomber was damaged by antiaircraft fire. RABAUL was hit again by an unreported number of Liberators, Mitchells and Lightnings. Fires were started. At about the same time a Liberator bombed BORPOP, NEW IRELAND, and two Lightnings attacked installations on DUKE OF YORK ISLANDS with unreported results.

On 4 March, an enemy launch and barge were set on fire after being strafed by 28 Corsairs in MASSAWA BAY, NEW BRITAIN. These planes also attacked with unreported results, 4 small enemy freighters in MANDRES BAY, NEW BRITAIN. A small freighter north of VULCAN, NEW BRITAIN, was attacked by torpedo bombers with unknown results.

At 4 p.m. 4 March, torpedo bombers sank 2 of 4 small enemy freighters in MANDRES BAY, NEW BRITAIN, and then bombed the supply area in north RABAUL. A light tower on CAPE GAZELLE was destroyed. One torpedo bomber was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 4 March, an unreported number of destroyers bombarded the TEKESSI-JABA RIVER AREAS, EAST EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY. Results were not reported.

During the night 4-5 March, Catalinas strafed 3 beached enemy barges 2 miles south of CAPE HANPAN, northeast BUKA ISLAND.

Throughout 4 March, torpedo and dive bombers attacked enemy concentrations, pillboxes and bivouac areas east of the SAUA RIVER, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and in the general area of EAST EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter 12

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

9 a.m. 6 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the morning of 3 March, an unreported number of heavy, light and medium bombers, bombed RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. Due to overcast results were generally unobserved. No enemy antiaircraft fire or planes were encountered.

On 3 March, 10 Lightnings bombed the BUKA runway and revetments. Another group of 5 Lightnings attacked the enemy radar installation on CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND.

During 3 March, 30 dive bombers and torpedo planes attacked enemy positions east of the SAUA RIVER and the TOROKINA SECTOR, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Four Lightnings strafed an enemy float plane southeast of SHORTLAND ISLAND.

On 3 March, an unreported number of Corsairs and other planes attacked small craft off the GAZELLE PENINSULA, NEW BRITAIN, and the south central coast of NEW IRELAND. Results were not reported.

At 5:45 p.m., 3 March, 8 of our fighter planes encountered 8 enemy fighters over the area between TOBERA and VUNAKANAU, NEW BRITAIN. One enemy plane was shot down, plus one probable. All our planes returned.

On 4 March, a reconnaissance plane strafed 8 sail boats in the vicinity of NUKUORO ISLAND, CAROLINE ISLANDS. Enemy installations on the island were bombed and gun positions silenced.

During the night of 3-4 March, Catalinas, Liberators and dive bombers bombed and strafed the CHOISEUL BAY Area. Four Catalinas and one dive bomber were damaged by small caliber antiaircraft fire.

At 9:10 a.m., 5 March, 13 Dauntless and 12 Hellcats, attacked EMIDJ with four tons of bombs and machine gun fire. Antiaircraft fire was moderate. Six dive bombers and one fighter were damaged.

At 10:35 a.m., 5 March, 9 Mitchells dropped nine tons on WOTJE. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Six and a half tons of bombs were released by 6 Venturas on TAROA, at 10:55 a.m., 5 March. One fire started. Antiaircraft fire was moderate. All our planes returned.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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SECURITY INFORMATION
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 12-72

4 p.m. 5 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 6:30 a.m., 4 March, installations on PONAPE were bombed and a wooden coastal vessel damaged by 3 Navy Liberators. Two fires were started. An enemy patrol plane on the water was strafed. Although antiaircraft fire was intense our planes sustained no damage. Later, at 11:50 a.m., 4 March, 12 Liberators dropped 21 tons of bombs on the warehouse area on PONAPE. Fires were started. Intense antiaircraft fire damaged two planes.

On 4 March, five tons of bombs were dropped by 3 Liberators on the KUSAIE warehouse area. Two near misses were scored on a 200-foot freighter. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Twelve Mitchells released 12 tons of bombs on TAROA runways and installations at 1:10 p.m., 4 March. Large fires were started. Enemy antiaircraft fire was weak.

On 4 March, 2 Liberators released 3½ tons of bombs on EMIDJ. One fire was started. Antiaircraft encountered was meager. Another Liberator bombed MILLE, without receiving antiaircraft fire.

At 12:30 p.m., 5 March, 6 Venturas dropped six tons of bombs on WOTJE runways, magazines and barracks. Meager antiaircraft fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD LETTER 6-6-72

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

9 a.m. 5 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 2-3 March, motor torpedo boats, assisted by a Ventura, damaged and drove ashore three enemy barges in the vicinity of AITARA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

The submarine FLASHER, returned from patrol, and reported the following successes:

SANK		DAMAGED	
1 freighter	6,000 tons	1 Sampan (by gunfire)	40 tons
1 freighter	7,000 tons		
1 freighter	4,442 tons		
1 auxiliary tanker	7,269 tons		
1 sampan (by gunfire)	40 tons		
	24,751 tons		

The submarine ASPRO scored a hit on a large tender enroute to TRUK.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 3-8-72

9 a.m. 5 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 9:50 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., 3 March, 6 Venturas dropped 6½ tons of bombs on the WOTJE runway area. Slight antiaircraft fire was encountered. At noon, of the same day, 11 Mitchells dropped 11 tons on the TAROA runway and gun positions. Large fires were started. Intense antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 8:36 a.m., 3 March, 2 Liberators bombed a medium enemy freighter and small craft in LELE HARBOR, KUSAIE. No damage was reported. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 7:10 a.m., 3 March, 7½ tons of bombs were dropped on the PONAPE airfield, town and bauxite plant. Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

A reconnaissance plane, during the night of 1-2 March, bombed enemy shore installations and barges, near PURIATA and AITARA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were not reported. DANFU VILLAGE, near EAST CAPE, NEW IRELAND, was bombed by 2 Venturas.

Early, on the morning of 2 March, a Liberator bombed LAKUNAI, TOBERA, RABAUL TOWN, and started a fire.

On 2 March, Liberators, Mitchells and Lightnings attacked RABAUL TOWN and RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN, starting numerous fires and explosions. Lightnings attacked the enemy radar installation on CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND.

During the morning of 2 March, dive bombers and torpedo bombers struck at enemy shipping and installations in KERAVIA BAY, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN. Three hits were scored on two small freighters and rocket hits on a small destroyer. Hits were also scored on gun positions and a number of buildings were set on fire by strafing. Two torpedo bombers and one Corsair were damaged by antiaircraft fire. On the same day, Corsairs attacked 12 enemy barges alongside the RABAUL DOCKS Results were not reported.

On 2 March, Airacobras destroyed huts near PIANO and MONOITU MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Dive bombers and torpedo bombers attacked installations near the upper SAUA RIVER, central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Corsairs attacked small enemy craft north of NEW BRITAIN. Results were not reported.

During the afternoon of 2 March, dive bombers and torpedo bombers attacked the enemy radar installations in ADLER BAY, east NEW BRITAIN. Hits were scored on huts in the area, but the radar was not destroyed.

Regraded Unclassified

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

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OSD letter 3-72
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9 a.m. 4 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 1 March, a reconnaissance plane ineffectively strafed an enemy tanker escorted by 3 surface units and a float plane 50 miles west northwest of PONAPE.

At 10:16 a.m. 2 March, 6 Venturas and 12 Mitchells, released 20 tons of bombs on TAROA runways and buildings. Antiaircraft fire encountered was moderate. Later, at 2:10 p.m., 8 Warhawks dropped 3 tons on the MILLE runway area, with good results. On the same day, JALUIT was hit with 4½ tons by 9 Dauntless and 11 Warhawks, which also strafed the area. Intense antiaircraft fire was encountered at JALUIT.

The submarine SANDLANCE sank 3 enemy freighters in the KUIRLE ISLAND waters.

Regraded Unclassified

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED 3-72
OSD LETTER
SECRET

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

4 p.m. 3 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A late report, relating to motor torpedo boat operations off RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, during the night of 29 February - 1 March, indicates that a total of three enemy barges were badly damaged and probably sunk.

On the morning of 1 March, an unreported number of Liberators bombed KIHILI, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Hits were scored on the runway, antiaircraft positions and a large fire started. No enemy planes were encountered. One Liberator was damaged by antiaircraft fire.

On 1 March, enemy positions on southwest BALALLE ISLAND and the BUKA runway were attacked by an unreported number of Lightnings.

During the afternoon of the same day, 110 dive bombers and 71 torpedo bombers attacked enemy troop supply concentrations outside of the northeast TOROKINA perimeter and north TOROKINA RIVER forks, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of small fires were started.

During the evening of 1 March, Airacobras bombed and strafed MONOITU MISSION and silenced antiaircraft gun positions. A number of fires and explosions were observed.

During the night of 1-2 March, an unreported number of our motor torpedo boats, apparently assisted by a gunboat (type unknown), attacked 3 barges in the vicinity of the PURIATA RIVER, SOUTHWEST BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. One barge was destroyed; the other two were set on fire.

On the same night, other torpedo boats and gunboats shelled enemy activity at the REINI RIVER, EAST TOROKINA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Our boats received heavy gunfire from the shoreline, but no damage was reported.

On 2 March, two destroyers bombarded enemy positions on the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED 3-72
OSD LETTER

9 a.m. 3 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine CREVALLE, in a patrol of the SOUTH CHINA SEA, scored the following successes:

SANK		PROBABLY SUNK	
1 freighter TAIBUN MARU TYPE	6,581 tons	2 large freighters	6,000 tons ea
1 freighter TATUTAKE MARU type	7,065 tons	2 medium freighters	4,000 tons ea
1 unidentified freighter	6,000 tons		20,000 tons
1 sail boat (by gunfire)	5 tons		
1 patrol tug (by gunfire)	150 tons		
	19,801 tons		

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED
USD Letter

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

9 a.m. 3 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Two enemy barges were bombed on 29 February, with unreported results by a Ventura in the vicinity of KALILI, west NEW IRELAND. Other Venturas attacked enemy installations on BUKA ISLAND, BONIS, CHABAI, northwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and installations near ADLER BAY, NEW BRITAIN. Huts and other native buildings near BORPOP BAY, NEW IRELAND, were bombed by a NEW ZEALAND Ventura. At 2:20 p.m., 29 February, fighters attacked and probably set on fire 3 barges in the vicinity of FENI ISLAND, east of NEW IRELAND.

A large enemy barge was strafed off the northeast central coast of NEW IRELAND, and it is reported that about thirty of the eighty enemy troops embarked were killed. Four other barges and two sail boats were damaged off the northeast and southwest central coasts of NEW IRELAND. A 100-foot vessel was damaged by strafing, plus two barges, off the coast of northeast NEW BRITAIN. One Hellcat was shot down by antiaircraft fire near NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND.

During 29 February, other fighter planes destroyed one and damaged two enemy barges in TONOIEI HARBOR, south BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of enemy troops, along the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND were killed by strafing. During the day, dive bombers and torpedo bombers attacked enemy ground positions on the central west coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 29 February - 1 March, a destroyer bombarded enemy installations on CAPE ST. GEORGE and BORPOP, NEW IRELAND.

Motor torpedo boats operating off RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN, badly damaged and possibly sunk an enemy barge during the night of 29 February - 1 March. One of the torpedo boats entered KERAVIA BAY, but found no shipping. Nets or other obstructions were not encountered.

At daylight, 1 March, NAMATANAI, NEW IRELAND, was bombarded by a number of destroyers. Two enemy shore batteries replied but were subsequently silenced. The bombardment results were reported successful.

At about noon, 1 March, 2 destroyers reconnoitered the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, shelled a number of wrecked and beached barges, together with pillboxes and observation stations. A shore battery returned fire and slightly damaged the superstructure of the HRINGLE and CONWAY. One officer sustained minor injuries.

On the morning of 1 March, reconnaissance planes scored a direct hit on the enemy CAPE ST. GEORGE radar installation, attacked installations on CAPE GAZELLE and possible gun positions south of MOTUPENA POINT, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED CNO Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 3 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Additional information received in connection with the 29th of February raid on WAKE ISLAND, indicates that 6 grounded planes which appeared to be fighters and dive bombers, plus one medium bomber, were strafed and possibly destroyed. The attack was apparently a complete surprise.

In an attempt to neutralize air strips, ten Liberators released 30 tons of heavy bombs on WOTJE at 11:33 a.m., 1 March. Throughout the day seven Liberators dropped 21 tons on TAROA. MILLE runways were hit with 17 tons of bombs by 5 Liberators and 2 Mitchells. No antiaircraft fire was encountered at TAROA or WOTJE. Meager antiaircraft fire at MILLE. On the same day, 11 tons of bombs were dropped on JALUIT ISLAND by 11 Mitchells. Antiaircraft fire was weak. All our planes returned without damage or casualties.

During the morning of 28 February, a fighter damaged one of four enemy barges in the vicinity of FENIS ISLAND, east of NEW IRELAND. Throughout the day, Airacobras strafed MONOITU MISSION, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two of our planes were damaged by antiaircraft fire. Other enemy positions in this area were attacked by torpedo bombers, armed with bombs and rockets.

On 28 February, heavy medium and light bombers, together with fighters attacked targets in the vicinity of RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN. No enemy planes were encountered. Four fighters strafed PONDO POINT, northwest NEW BRITAIN. Results were not reported.

At 10:55 a.m., 28 February, an unreported number of dive bombers and torpedo bombers struck VUNAPOPE, NEW BRITAIN, scored hits on the warehouse area and damaged a number of buildings. Two fires were started. One plane was damaged by antiaircraft fire. On the same day, Liberators attacked RAPOPO, scoring hits on the runway later reported unserviceable. A grounded fighter-bomber in the west dispersal area was destroyed.

At 2:00 p.m., 28 February, NEW ZEALAND planes bombed the enemy radar installation at ADLER BAY, east NEW BRITAIN, and scored a number of hits. Two Venturas were attacked by two of six enemy fighters over ADLER BAY-CAPE GAZELLE, NEW BRITAIN.

On 28 February, a reconnaissance plane bombed and silenced enemy antiaircraft positions on KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND.

During the morning 29 February, Mitchells and Lightnings attacked RABAUL TOWN, scored hits on shore installations and started a number of fires and explosions.

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

9 a.m. 2 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 28 February, a reconnaissance plane dropped one ton of bombs on antiaircraft positions on NAURU ISLAND.

At 1:30 p.m., 29 February, 7 Liberators, on an armed reconnaissance flight, hit WAKE ISLAND with 5 tons of bombs. A number of fires were started. All our planes returned.

WOTJE runways were bombed by 5 Venturas with 5½ tons of bombs at 10:00 a.m. 29 February, Later, at 1:30 p.m., the same area was again attacked by 9 Mitchell with 9 tons of bombs. No antiaircraft fire was encountered.

At 6:30 a.m., 29 February, 12 Warhawks released 6 tons on MILLE runways. Results were not reported.

The submarine SARGO sank one 7,000 ton freighter and damaged two freighters for 21,000 tons off the west coast of PALAU.

Regraded Unclassified

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OSD Letter 12.72

9 a.m. 1 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 28-29 February, the MOSIGA and SIPOSAI Area, CHOISEUL BAY, CHOISEUL ISLAND, was strafed. Results were not reported. It is believed that enemy float planes base on BALLALE ISLAND.

The submarine CERO, while patrolling the BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO waters, damaged one enemy freighter of 8,600 tons.

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DOD DIR 5200.9 1-3-78

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

9 a.m. 1 March 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 26 February, a reconnaissance plane strafed with unreported results enemy installations on KUSAIE and a 400-ton vessel in the harbor.

During the night, 26-27 February, the BUKA runway was bombed by a Ventura and installations on TEOP ISLAND, northeast BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, were attacked by a Catalina. A Liberator harassed RAPOPO, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN.

During the morning of 27 February, torpedo planes and dive bombers attacked enemy gun positions at LAKUNAI, RABAUL Area, NEW BRITAIN. Two guns of 4.7 caliber were probably destroyed and others damaged. Two buildings, southeast of the air strip, were destroyed together with a light house at CAPE WANATA. Antiaircraft fire damaged three dive bombers. No enemy planes were encountered over the area. The fighter cover destroyed one enemy float plane, 15 miles east of BORPOP, NEW IRELAND.

At noon, 27 February, 13 Corsairs, in a sweep over the RABAUL Area, sank a small steam launch, seriously damaged a barge and strafed a radar installation at CAPE ST. GEORGE, NEW IRELAND.

During the afternoon, 27 February, Liberators and Mitchells bombed VUNAPOPE warehouses, started two explosions and a number of fires. Antiaircraft fire damaged two Liberators and one Mitchell. The fighter cover destroyed one enemy float plane. Later, that afternoon, Lightnings started more fires at VUNAPOPE. Antiaircraft fire damaged two Lightnings, one of which crash-landed. The other plane failed to return. The radar installation at CAPE ST. GEORGE was again attacked.

On 27 February, two torpedo planes damaged with rockets an enemy barge in the vicinity of MOTUPENA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Five enemy barges were destroyed by an Airacobra on the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. A number of our planes destroyed an enemy barge near FENI ISLAND, east of NEW IRELAND, and started several fires at BORPOP, NEW IRELAND.

Prior to noon, 28 February, an unreported number of Liberators, bombed RABAUL TOWN, NEW BRITAIN, and the runway and revetments at RAPOPO, NEW BRITAIN. No enemy planes were encountered. No further details are available at this time.

During the night of 28-29 February, a Catalina bombed and strafed three enemy barges in the vicinity of AITARA, southwest BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Motor torpedo boats then engaged the barges and forced them ashore. The shoreline was then bombarded by a gunboat (LCM). About 11-16 northbound enemy barges were observed in addition to seven on the beach. These were shelled by a gunboat, (LCM). Our motor torpedo boats were ineffectively bombed by an enemy float plane.

Regraded Unclassified