

MR 203 (3) JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
SECTION 9 - NOVEMBER THRU DECEMBER, 1943

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 31 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Mili was attacked 28 December by 18 U.S. Army A-24's, 9 B-25's and 20 P-39's. 23 tons of bombs were released over the target which was also strafed. There was no enemy air interception but A/A fire slightly damaged 5 of our planes. The same day over Kwajalein 7 PB4Y's on a photo mission were intercepted by 10 - 13 Jap fighters which downed 1 of our planes and damaged 2. 3 of the Japs were downed. Many ships were observed at Kwajalein where moderately intense A/A fire was encountered.

Also 28 December Maloelap was hit with 15½ tons of bombs by 14 B-24's. Two-thirds of the bombs hit the target area with unreported results. No details of interception by 10 Jap fighters were reported. At noon the same day Majuro atoll, about 90 miles S. of Maloelap, was hit with 18 tons of bombs from 6 of 16 U.S. B-24's which attacked in bad weather. Near Maloelap this flight was intercepted by 35 - 50 camouflaged Jap fighters of which 2 were destroyed and 10 probably destroyed. 2 U.S. bombers were downed and 12 were damaged but it is not clear whether they were victims of the enemy fighters or the moderately intense A/A fire encountered.

(B) Gilbert Islands

Tarawa was twice ineffectively raided by Jap aircraft on 28 December and the following afternoon Makin was attacked by 4 enemy planes which dropped 15 bombs.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Belated reports reveal that on 28 December Numa Numa was raided by 2 P-40's which started fires in the area in which they dropped their belly tanks and then strafed them. 1 P-40 was damaged by A/A fire. That night N. Shortland Island was raided, with unobserved results, by a single PV while Kahili and Kiota were each raided by a single B-24. Early the following morning about 1/2 mile E. of the Pirias River, Torau Bay, 3 laden Jap barges were attacked by PT's which sank 2 of them and drove the 3rd ashore. 1 PT was damaged. Later the same day over Bougainville air activity was curtailed by bad weather, but units of the newly arrived Americal Division patrolled to 2000 yards in front of the Allied perimeter in the Torokina area without contacting any Japs. In the Cape Holtke area U.S. patrols contacted enemy patrols.

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The night of 28 December Kaviang was attacked, for the 9th successive night, by 4 RAAF PBY's which dropped 7 tons of bombs, starting a number of fires. Intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered.

(C) New Britain

The night of 28 December Gasmata was raided by 1 RAAF PBY which dropped nearly 2 tons of bombs, starting a number of fires. The same night off Cape Hoskins a PBY scored a near miss on a Jap LD after releasing a ton and a half of bombs. The following day in the Cape Gloucester area U.S. Marines pushed to the E. end of the number 2 airstrip. 700 enemy casualties in the area were reported since the 26 December landing. The same day, in support of our troops, 23 B-25's dropped 24 tons of bombs along the S. coast of Borgen Bay and also strafed the area. No results were reported. Also 28 December Jap defenses in the vicinity of the Cape Gloucester strips were attacked by 54 B-24's and 41 B-25's which dropped over 178 tons of bombs.

The same day in the Arawe area increased patrol activity by Allied ground forces was reported. 4 more Japs were killed. Early in the day the area was ineffectively raided by an unstated number of Jap planes. Also 28 December 2 RAAF P-40's strafed the Cape Hoskins airfield and 2 barges in Montagu Harbor while 2 RAAF Beaufighters strafed Kailai plantation, Wide Bay, and destroyed a laden Jap fuel barge in Waterfall Bay.

By noon 30 December, following the attack plane bombing and strafing of the area, U.S. Marines occupied the 2 Cape Gloucester airstrips.

(D) New Guinea

In addition to the previously reported B-25's, 10 B-25's hit Madang with 15 tons of bombs on 28 December. A large fuel fire was started. That night 21 Jap bombers attacked Finschhafen. No damage resulted and 1 of the enemy planes was downed. Allied ground forces encountered some resistance N. of Blucher Point on 29 December. The same day 14 P-47's sweeping the Rai coast from Sio to Hansa Bay, strafed Bogia Harbor in the Hansa Bay area. 2 bridges and a truck were set afire by these planes. Also 29 December 5 B-24's dropped 15 tons of bombs on Sio with unreported results.

(E) N. E. I.

Manokwari was attacked 29 December by 3 B-24's which dropped 4 1/2 tons of bombs on the waterfront area, starting some fires, and shot down 4 Jap planes. A Jap seatruck at Geser, LE Ceram, was also strafed with unobserved results. The same day about 55 miles S. of Merauke an Allied vessel was attacked by enemy aircraft. No details were reported.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 30 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert Islands

On 27 December the bomber landing strip at Tarawa had been surfaced for 6100 feet by 150 feet, the strip at Apurama was 68% complete and that at Makin 75% complete.

(B) Marshall Islands

Between Kwajalein and Likiep atolls on 27 December a large AK received a direct hit from a U.S. patrol plane which also strafed 3 MTB escorts and set an AO afire S. of Likiep.

(C) Mauru

At dawn 28 December Mauru was attacked by an unstated number of PV's. Fires were started and 1 ammunition dump was destroyed. 3 of our aircraft were damaged by intense A/A fire encountered.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 28 December Bonis supply dumps were hit with over 30 tons of bombs from 14 B-24's. No results were reported. At the same time Buka was raided by 1 B-24 and Kahili by 3 but no details were reported. Later 54 SB's and 23 TBF's attacked Poporang, Faisi and Shortland gun positions with good results and all our planes returned safely. Thereafter 22 B-25's attacked Kahili, starting 3 fires and scoring a number of hits on A/A positions. 1 of our planes was damaged by A/A fire. The same day Jap positions S. of the Jaba River were strafed by 2 TBF's and enemy defenses in the Reini River area were bombarded by a U.S. DD. The afternoon of 28 December about 600 yards E. of the Torokina River mouth U.S. paratroopers wiped out an enemy position, killing 10 - 15 Japs. Our losses were very small. On the same day the 2nd echelon of the Americal Division arrived to relieve the 9th Marines. The first echelon of this division had previously relieved the 3rd Marines on 25 December. All Bougainville enemy airfields were reported unserviceable on 28 December.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 27 December Panapai runway was bombed by 5 PV's. A number of explosions and fires followed the release of nearly 10

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tons of bombs and incendiaries. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate.

(C) New Britain

Photographs of Rabaul 26 December revealed 10 warships, 14 AK's, 14 small vessels, 425 barges and 27 floatplanes in the harbor while on the airfields there was a total of 133 planes. Additional details of the 27 December Allied fighter plane engagement over Rabaul revealed that a total of 17 Jap planes were downed instead of 8 previously reported. In addition 1 of our planes is missing. The same day, in addition to a previously reported raid, Cape Hoskins was attacked by 3 RAAF Beaufighters which strafed buildings and barges. The planes encountered parachute A/A projectiles and moderately intense, inaccurate fire. That night at Arawe Allied ground forces were twice raided by Jap planes which inflicted some casualties.

The morning of 28 December on a sweep over Rabaul an unstated number of Allied fighters dove on 50 - 60 Jap intercepting planes of which 18 - 28 were destroyed 7 probably destroyed and 2 damaged. 3 of our planes are missing. 20 large vessels were reported in Simpson's Harbor.

The same day in the Cape Gloucester area Allied troops advanced on the airfield, against increased Jap resistance, from the W. while in the E, on Borgen Bay, our forces held firm after repulsing further Jap attacks on their positions S. of Silimati Point. Our ground forces were supported by 19 A-20's which dropped more than 8 tons of bombs and strafed Jap positions in the vicinity of Cape Gloucester airfield. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met. The same day the New Britain coast E. of Borgen Bay was swept by 12 B-25's which dropped 12 tons of bombs on villages and suspected barge hideouts. No results were reported.

In the Arawe area 28 December active patrolling continued. Jap reinforcements were reported arriving from the Itni River area and from Gasrata. The same day NW of Arawe 2 Jap barges were damaged by a patrolling B-25 while Cape Hoskins runway was left unserviceable after release of 50 tons of bombs by 17 B-24's. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 27 December 9 Jap bombers ineffectively attacked Finschhafen. The following day Allied ground forces advanced along the coast N. of Finschhafen to Blucher Point while in the Ramu Valley our troops occupied more Jap strong points in the high ridge N. of Dumpu. The same day Alexishafen and Madang airfields were attacked by Allied planes. 24 (probably) B-24's, escorted by fighters, dropped 72 tons of bombs on Alexishafen destroying 1 grounded bomber, silencing gun positions and starting a number of fires. A/A fire encountered was slight. 9 B-25's dropped more than 8 tons of bombs on Madang airfield with unreported results. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. The Bogadjim coastal area was bombed and strafed by 6 B-25's on 28 December. Nearly 6 tons of bombs were dropped. Some buildings were destroyed and 1 barge was damaged. The same day the coastal stretch between Saidor and Vioke Point was bombed and strafed by 6 B-25's which, releasing 6 tons of bombs, destroyed an enemy barge and damaged another. Also on the same day the Rai coast was swept by 8 P-39's which strafed villages and 3 beached Jap barges.

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(E) N. E. I.

Off Boetoeng, SE Celebes, a 3 vessel convoy was attacked 27 December by 11 B-24's which dropped 33 500 lb. bombs to score near misses on 2 3000 ton AP's. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. The following day villages in the Wissel Lakes area were raided by a patrolling Dutch B-25. No results were reported. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

III. U. S. Submarine Report

A U.S. SS reports sinking a Jap AK.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 29 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

On 25 December an unstated number of U.S. Army light bombers and P-39's attacked Mili atoll, according to a Cinopac communique. 2 of the bombers were damaged. The following day 5 PV's and 8 P6F's bombed and strafed Jaluit atoll probably damaging some small vessels. From Enidj Island A/A fire was encountered, but we suffered no casualties. Later the same afternoon Motje atoll was attacked by 17 B-24's which dropped 51 tons of bombs, half of which were in the target area. Of 6 intercepting Jap fighters 1 was destroyed. 1 of our bombers was downed by intense A/A fire and another exploded over the target.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 26 - 27 December a single B-24 raided Kahili, Kuma Kuma, Buka and Sonis with unreported results. The following morning 6 B-25's bombed Kiata with unreported results. No A/A fire was encountered. Shortly thereafter 14 unescorted B-25's hit the Buka floatplane anchorage with more than 7 tons of bombs and 26 fragmentation clusters and also hit A/A positions SE of Ramadata, in the same area, with more than 2 tons of bombs. About the same time 3 other B-25's bombed Kahili supply dumps with unreported results.

The same morning Buka was attacked by 54 SBD's and 22 TRF's escorted by 16 P-38's. More than 18 tons of bombs were dropped and numerous hits were observed. 2 SBD's were damaged by A/A fire but all our planes returned safely. That afternoon U.S. cruisers and DD's bombarded the Kiata area but no details were reported. Also that afternoon in the MS Torokina area a 24 hour period of shelling by Jap artillery ended without casualties or damage to our forces.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 26 - 27 December 5 B-24's bombed Kavieng and Panapai airfields, dropping more than 10 tons of bombs and incendiaries. A number of fires were observed. The following day Cape St. George was raided by a single Allied patrol plane which observed no results. Some m/g fire was encountered. Also 27 December, 15 miles N. of Kavieng, 7 Jap barges were bombed by an Allied patrol plane while at Lorengau another Allied patrol

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plane destroyed a grounded Jap plane.

(C) New Britain

In the Cape Gloucester area on 27 December Allied ground forces advanced, from the E., to a point about 2 miles SE of the number 2 runway, while the force which had landed W. of the Cape dug in and limited themselves to patrol activity. The same day in the Arawe area patrol clashes were reported and 3 waves of Jap planes which attacked before dawn were driven off, 33 of the enemy being downed while our losses were nil. About the same time 4 of 30 Jap bombers were destroyed by PT's W. of Arawe. The same day 12 A-20's, supporting ground forces, dropped nearly 12 tons of bombs on Cape Gloucester airfield which was also heavily strafed. A ammunition dump was destroyed. The same day Lindenhafen plantation, just E. of Gasmata, and Unea Island were each hit with a ton of bombs from different single B-24's on patrol. At Unea Island a building was destroyed.

About noon 27 December over Rabaul 40 Allied fighter planes destroyed 8 and damaged 1 of a possible 50 - 60 intercepting Jap fighters. 1 of our planes was damaged by A/A fire and another landed in the water but the pilot was saved.

The same day 9 A-20's raided Jap positions along the Pulie River and at Didmop village, in the Arawe area, while 2 RAAF P-40's set a grounded Jap plane afire and damaged 2 trucks in a raid on Cape Hoskins airfield.

(D) New Guinea

Allied troops in the Finschhafen area occupied Waringai, about 10 miles N. of Fortification Point, on 27 December. The same day in the Upper Ramu Valley Allied ground forces captured a Jap position 7 miles N. of Dumpu. Also 27 December Jap defense positions N. of Waringai were bombed and strafed by 18 B-25's, 12 A-20's and 11 P-39's. More than 32 tons of bombs were dropped. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day the Bogadjim area was attacked by 22 B-25's which released more than 4 tons of bombs and a number of incendiaries while 11 B-25's and 10 B-26's dropped 30 tons of bombs on Madang. Fires were observed over both targets and at Madang a grounded Jap plane was destroyed. A/A fire was encountered.

(E) N. E. I.

Over N.E.I. no Allied air activity other than reconnaissance was reported 27 December.

III. A U.S Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking 2 AK's, totalling 11,000 tons; damaging a 7000 ton AE, and probably damaging an unidentified vessel.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 28 December 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 25 - 26 December Faisi was raided by 2 PV's while the E. Latchin Bay area was raided by a P-70. No results were reported. The following day, beginning the morning and continuing past mid-afternoon, the Kieta Harbor area was attacked at 45 minute intervals by 53 SBD's and 24 TBF's which flew over the target in 6 plane formations. 30 - 40 buildings were destroyed. No A/A fire was encountered. The same morning 18 B-25's attacked Kahili with unreported results, while 2 PV's bombed and strafed Chivaroi, S. of Kieta airfield, destroying a bridge and several huts. Over Kahili moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Also the morning of 26 December 12 TBF's bombed Jap positions in the NE Torokina area. No results were reported.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 25 December 5 RA F PBV's dropped more than 9 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the dispersal and ammunition dump areas at Kavieng. A number of fires followed. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire of all calibres was encountered. The following morning a possible Jap radar station at Cape St. George was hit with more than 4 tons of bombs by 7 B-25's escorted by 34 fighters. 5 m/g's were silenced. 1 of the B-25's was downed but part of the crew was rescued. Late that night off East Cape a small vessel was attacked and reported destroyed by an Allied patrol plane which also claimed 2 direct hits on another vessel in the same area.

(C) New Britain

In addition to previously reported Allied air activity 25 December, 18 A-20's dropped more than 6 tons of bombs on enemy positions on the Pulie River, E. of Arawe, and Didmop village while 9 A-20's hit Cape Gloucester with about 4 tons of bombs. That night Allied positions at Arawe were thrice raided by unstated numbers of Jap planes which did some damage. The same night an RA F PBV dropped a bomb on Cape Hoskins with unreported results. Early the following morning Allied shipping off Arawe was attacked by 20 Jap dive bombers of which 2 were downed by A/A fire. The same day in the same area 3 enemy ground attacks on the Allied right flank were repulsed, while in the Cape Gloucester area Allied ground forces which had landed earlier, as previously reported, consolidated their positions around the 2 beachheads -- 1 a mile N. of Salimati Point, Dorgen Bay, and

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the other about 3½ miles N. of Lagoon Point.

Also 16 December prior to the unopposed Allied landing, Cape Gloucester was attacked by 42 B-24's which dropped more than 96 tons of bombs on the beach and bivouac areas while 52 Allied B-25's hit the same area with more than 44 tons of bombs. Subsequently Jap positions near the Allied beachheads were attacked by 32 A-20's which dropped more than 14 tons of bombs which strafed the area. During the rest of the day 64 B-24's and 51 B-25's dropped 215 tons of bombs on Jap positions in the Cape Gloucester area.

(D) New Guinea

On 25 December Alexishafen was attacked by 6 B-25's in addition to the 10 previously reported. More than 6 tons of bombs fell on enemy gun positions but no results were reported. Also 25 December Sio was strafed with unobserved results by 2 RAAF Boomerangs and that night PT's destroyed 2 Jap barges off Nambariwa and strafed Taum Island, S. of Rooke Island in Vitiaz Strait. The following day Allied ground forces in the Wandokai area were engaged in mopping up and clearing the vicinity of mine fields.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking 4 AK's totalling 18,544 tons and damaging 1 7,210 ton AK while another SS reports sinking a 4,000 ton AK.

A third SS reports sinking 2 AK's and 1 DD and damaging, by gunfire, a CM for a total of 16,621 tons sunk and 700 tons damaged.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 27 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Kotje atoll was attacked by 9 B-24's on 23 December. 15 tons of bombs were dropped on enemy installations. 35 enemy fighter planes intercepted our bombers near Taroa. 3 enemy planes were shot down, 1 was probably destroyed and 6 were damaged. Allied casualties were 1 plane damaged, 1 crew member dead and 1 wounded. The same day an Allied reconnaissance plane reported no enemy military installations observed on Ujae or Lae atolls. An enemy seaplane was reported damaged by these planes.

On 24 December Kwajalein was attacked by 19 B-24's. 38 tons of bombs were released on enemy installations and shipping. 2 AK's were seen burning. No enemy planes were encountered. All our planes returned safely. The same day Mili was attacked by 10 A-24's and 10 P-39's. A 500 lb. bomb was dropped on the enemy AK reported damaged on 22 December and 4 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped on the island. Enemy interceptors were encountered and 2 of them were shot down. All our planes returned safely. The afternoon of 24 December 18 B-24's attacked Kotje. 45 tons of bombs were dropped and fires were started. Weak anti-aircraft fire was encountered but there was no interception. There were no Allied casualties. The same day Nauru was attacked by 7 Venturas. Bombs were dropped on the dispersal and service areas. 1 of our planes is missing. There was no interception but heavy A/A fire was encountered. The same day 2 enemy AK's and escorts were attacked by Allied planes 30 miles SE of Kwajalein. 1 AK was left sinking.

(B) Gilbert Islands

On the night of 24 December Makin was twice attacked by enemy planes, the first by 2 and the second by 6 planes. On 25 December Makin was again attacked by 16 enemy fighters which dropped bombs. 2 of the enemy planes were shot down. The night of 24 December Tarawa was also attacked 5 different times by enemy planes in groups of 2 - 4 planes each. Damage was reported as not heavy.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Christmas morning the Johana - Bonis - Buka area was attacked by 20 TBF's. The same day enemy positions on Vangu Hill were bombed by 3 TBF's and 26 SBD's. At the same time Motupena Point was attacked by 16 SBD's. Enemy forces in the Torokina area were hit by 25 TBF's operating in 2 groups. These attacks were made in support of our ground troops. The same

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day Tinputz area and the eastern coast of Bougainville were attacked by 11 F4U's operating in 2 groups of 4 and 7.

The morning of 24 December about 2 1/2 miles off the E. coast of Guadalcanal an enemy UC was sighted. An Allied DE depth-charged the area. During the afternoon of the same day a periscope was seen and the area was again depth-charged. An underwater explosion was heard, and air bubbles and oil were seen on the surface.

On 25 December large oil slicks and debris were seen in the area and the attacks on the enemy submarine were reported as successful.

(B) New Britain

Correction: The attack reported in the summary for 26 December third paragraph should have shown Vunakanau instead of Buna Canal.

An additional attack was made on Cape Gloucester 24 December by 12 B-24's.

On 25 December Cape Hoskins area was strafed by 2 RA/F P-40's and 3 Beaufighters. A small vessel near Gasmata was strafed by 2 A-20's, 6 P-38's strafed 2 barges at Rein Bay and the previously damaged ED near Cape Gloucester. Over Arawe Allied fighters shot down 1 enemy bomber. During the day 2 enemy bombs were dropped on Arawe but enemy troops were reported moving over-land ... from the mouth of the Pulie River and were reported to have reached Untingalu about 6 miles E. of the Arawe airstrip. On 25 December the Cape Gloucester area was very heavily bombed by a total of 156 Allied heavy, medium and light bombers (62 B-24's, 62 B-25's and 30 A-20's). More than 250 tons of bombs were dropped. The same day at noon Rabaul was hit by 63 Sopac B-24's covered by fighters. 13 of 50 - 60 enemy interceptors were shot down and 7 were probably destroyed. 1 F4U and 1 P-38 were shot down and 2 P-38's are missing. Further details are lacking.

At dawn 26 December Allied forces landed at Cape Gloucester. A naval bombardment preceded the landing. Air supremacy was maintained by Allied planes. No enemy opposition was reported on the landing beaches. A S.M.F.C. communique also reports landings on Long Island and indicates Marines were establishing beachheads at Cape Gloucester. The communique also reported that Jap aircraft heavily raided our landing forces and that 61 enemy planes were shot down with the loss of 7 Allied planes. Losses of ships and personnel were reported as light. No further details are available.

(C) New Guinea

On 24 December Allied troops captured Wandakai. A considerable quantity of ammunition and equipment was taken. On 25 December Alexishafen was bombed and strafed by 10 B-25's and 10 P-47's. Buildings and barges were hit.

R. A. Boone.

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

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I. Central Pacific Area

On 21 December 1 thousand-ton enemy AK was sunk by a U.S. plane near Jaluit. Other search planes bombed and strafed Majuro Island and Kaloelap Island without results.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Early 23 December Soupac PT's shelled House Klap and the Atsinima Area (NW. of Empress Augusta Bay). Some enemy fire was received from the shore. During the day 16 P39's strafed the Shortland Area while at night a single B24 bombed Kieta, a P70 bombed Ruka and 2 B34's hit Faizi. Also Thursday night Allied vessels moving N. from Treasury Island received large calibre shells from batteries on the S. shore of Poporang Island, Shortland group. No damage resulted. The range was 5-7 miles. The following day 24 B25's dropped over 14 tons of bombs on Bonis seaplane anchorage. 2 B-34's strafed enemy barge hideouts near Umum (N. coast of Bougainville). It was reported on 24 December that the Japs have considerable forces at Tiniputs and Bandu Bay, NW. coast of Bougainville.

Same day it was indicated that U.S. artillery and mortar fire were forcing the Japs to evacuate their high positions NE. of Torokina.

Before dawn Christmas morning our air strip at Torokina and Puruata Island were bombed and strafed by 2 unidentified planes but no material damage resulted.

6 B-25's raided Jap positions on NW. Choiseul Island on 23 December. 5 huts were destroyed and others damaged and a possible radio station strafed. There were reported to be approximately 100 Japs in Fulambuli (NW. Choiseul). 2 natives were reported captured and 1 killed.

(B) New Britain

2 Jap DD's were attacked by a PBV near Carove Island during the night of 23-24 December. A 500-pound bomb hit one warship. 18 Soupac B-24's heavily raided Lakunai airfield, Rabaul, the afternoon of 23 December. Strong fighter support covered the bombers and only 12 of an intercepting Jap air force were able to break through the fighter cover. 6 of these 12 were

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shot down by our bombers. Our fighters shot down 24 other Jap planes and claim 6 more probables - total of 30 destroyed, 6 probably destroyed. 3 F4U's and 1 P6F are missing. 54 tons of bombs were dropped by our bombers and scored hits on the runway and revetment area, causing a large explosion.

8 Jap planes attacked Arawe area 24 December. Only slight damage resulted. Approximately 344 tons of bombs rained on Cape Gloucester throughout 24 December. 165-177 heavy, medium and light bombers, escorted by fighters, participated in these attacks. Gun positions and coastal installations thoroughly bombed and strafed. Other air activity during the day included B-24 attack on Garove Island. Barges destroyed off Gasmata by 2 RAAF A-20's and 6 A-20's hit enemy barge hideouts 20 miles NE. of Arawe. The area between Borgen and Rein Bays was also bombed and strafed by 12 B-25's. Near Rabaul on 24 December 2 B-34's encountered 9 Jap fighters. 2 enemy planes were destroyed, another was afire and three were damaged, and 1 man wounded.

18 B-24's heavily hit Buna Canal airfield on 24 December. Our fighter cover shot down 25 enemy interceptors and probably destroyed 5 more. One Jap plane was downed by our bombers. We lost 6 P-40's and 1 P6F. Photos of Rabaul Harbor, 24 December, reveal 1 SS, 2 DD's, 3 PC's, 13 AK's, 3 AO's, 11 small craft and 180 barges. There were 66 bombers, 55 fighters, 18 float planes and 1 flying boat in the entire Rabaul Area.

A new enemy air strip is reported under construction 3 1/2 miles NE. of the airfield at Cape Hoskins.

(C) New Ireland

A 10-ship enemy convoy was sighted off the west central coast of New Ireland and heading for Rabaul. During the night of 23-24 December a PBY scored a direct hit with a 500-lb. bomb on a large AP.

4 RAAF PBY's dropped over 7 tons of bombs on Panapai airdrome, Kavieng, the morning of 24 December. The same day 8 B-34's strafed buildings at Cape St. George. A possible radar station was bombed and strafed. 3 Jap fighters feebly attempted interception. 30 miles off East Cape an enemy SS was bombed by 1 of our reconnaissance planes, but the vessel was not hit.

Early Christmas morning dive and torpedo bombers, from a Soupac task group dropped 9 torpedoes and 32 1/2 tons of bombs on enemy shipping in Kavieng Harbor. 2 large AK's, 1 DD and 3 barges were reported sunk and 1 DD, 1 PT, small AK's and other barges were either sunk or badly damaged. Strafing attacks also damaged 8-10 Jap float planes. 1 TBF was lost but personnel may be rescued. Damaged planes included: 2 dive bombers and 7 TBF's. Patrol planes from the same task group shot down 3 Jap aircraft during the day. Christmas evening 18 Jap planes attacked this task group, but no damage resulted.

(D) New Guinea

On 23 December Australian troops along the New Guinea coast reached a point 2 miles S. of Wandokai. The following day near Sio Allied

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PT's destroyed a small Jap SS, a barge, and another small boat. The 100-ft. SS is a new type and is probably being used for the transportation of supplies. The same day A-20's bombed and strafed barge hideouts near Sio.

(E) N.E.I.

During the evening of 24 December 5 B-25's raided Atamboea (NE. Dutch Timor). Fires were started in the barracks area.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

^{photo} A U.S. SS returning from patrol ^{mandate} in the S. China Sea area reports damaging a 6,000-ton enemy AK.

R. A. Boone.

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III. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Salomon Islands

Yakima aircraft was attacked by 3 B-25's on 24 December. With 2 B-25's bombed the island of Sio. On the 24th day villages and fuel storage in S. Malakoff were bombed by U.S. fighter planes. Early on 24 December 21 bombs were dropped off the coast of the island. The afternoon of the same day Sio was bombed by 10 B-25's and at the same time Solomons Island and boats were bombed by 3 B-25's. Fires were observed in both places. On the 25th morning a military force to prepare the way for evacuation the afternoon of 24 December. In the following afternoon the attack was still in progress. At the same time the enemy had been contacted on the coast of the Turkish River. Jap positions were being shelled.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of OBOC, 25 December 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

Additional information on the previously reported Paramushiru raid reveal that all the bombs dropped fell inside the Kataoka area of W. Shirushu Island. Less than a ton of bombs was dropped.

II. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Kwajalein atoll was attacked by 8 B-24's and 4 PB4Y's on 21 December. 6 tons of bombs were released. Fires and explosions were observed. On the same day Eniwj Island, Jaluit atoll, was bombed and strafed by 16 F6F's and 17 A-24's which released 8 tons of bombs. 1 AK was seen sinking and 1 was damaged. Our casualties include 1 A-24 lost and 2 F6F's damaged. Mili was attacked on 22 December by 11 A-24's, 16 P-39's and 1 F6F. Ships and installations were bombed and strafed. 1 AK received 3 direct hits. 1 enemy interceptor was destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and a third damaged. Our casualties included 1 F6F and 2 A-24's damaged. Shipping and installations were attacked on Kwajalein on 24 December by 16 B-24's. 38 tons of bombs were released and 2 AK's were seen burning. All our planes returned safely.

On the same day Mili was attacked by 10 SBD's and 20 P-39's. The AK damaged on 22 December received another hit. 2 enemy interceptors were shot down. All our planes returned safely.

III. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Kahili airdrome was attacked by 9 U.S. B-25's on 22 December while 4 B-25's raided the Shortland area. On the same day villages and fuel storages in E. Bougainville were strafed by U.S. fighter planes. Early 22 December IT boats sank 1 Jap barge off the Bougainville coast. The afternoon of the same day Buka was attacked by 16 B-24's and at the same time Sohana Island and Bonia were raided by 3 B-24's. Fires were observed in both places. On the NE Torokina sector artillery began to prepare the way for attack on the afternoon of 22 December. On the following afternoon the attack was still in progress. At the same time the enemy had been contacted on the coast E. of the Torokina River. Jap positions were being shelled.

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The night of 22 December Poporang Island was raided by a B-34.

Solana Island was attacked by 17 B-25's on 23 December. Hits were observed near Japanese gun positions. On the same day Japanese positions in St. Bougainville were attacked by 47 B-24's and 28 TBF's. Buildings were destroyed and fires started. A/A fire was encountered and 1 TBF was seen to crash into the sea.

The Buks - Bonis area was shelled by Allied CL's and DD's on 24 December. Several fires and 1 explosion was observed.

(B) Feni, Ambitle and Nguria Islands

At Feni Island 2 Jap positions were strafed by an Allied search plane on 23 December and at Ambitle the same plane strafed another barge. On the same day near Nguria Island a barge-towing sloop was strafed by an Allied plane. The sloop was left burning.

(C) New Ireland

Kavieng airfield was raided by 3 RAAF Catalinas on 22 December. Nearly a ton of bombs was released. Fires and explosions were observed. On the same day 70 miles S. of Kavieng 1 B-14 bombed and strafed 1 AK. No damage was done.

(D) New Britain

Near Arave Jap effort to land was frustrated by U.S. patrol vessel on 19 December. On the SW coast of New Britain 3 Jap barges were strafed by 6 P-39's on 21 December. No results were reported.

The night of 21 - 22 December Jap planes attacked the Arave area dropping about 20 tons of bombs. 1 LC was sunk. The coast SW of Cape Gloucester was bombed and strafed by 10 A-20's 22 December. Gasmata was raided by a RAAF Catalina on 23 December. About a ton of bombs was dropped. No results were reported. On the same day 10 RAAF P-40's attacked the Gasmata runway dropping 3 1/2 tons of bombs. No results were reported. On the same day 60 B-24's attacked the Cape Gloucester area dropping 179 tons of bombs, starting several fires and destroying 4 barges. Also on 23 December the Cape Hoskins buildings and enemy planes on the field were strafed by 24 RAAF P-40's. 2 planes were destroyed and several buildings were seen burning. Light A/A fire was encountered. Barges in Borgen Bay were strafed by 6 P-39's also on 23 December.

(E) New Guinea

6 medium bombers attacked Alexishafen 22 December. 6 tons of bombs were released but no results were reported. On the same day Jap positions near Wandakai were bombed by 6 B-26's in support of land activity. 10 tons of bombs were released. Results were not reported.

Wewak was attacked by 20 medium bombers 23 December. 7 tons of bombs and 211 clusters were dropped. Fires and explosions were observed. 5 other B-25's bombed and strafed Amar plantation, releasing 100 clusters. In addition to m/g fire. On the same day the runway and ammunition dumps at Alexishafen were bombed by 36 B-25's and 9 B-26's. 57 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped, fires started and 2 enemy bombers were damaged on the ground. On the

same day villages and barges in the Rai River area were strafed by 8 F-32's. No results were reported. At the same time barges between Sio and Nambariwa were attacked by 24 A-20's. More than 11 tons of bombs were dropped but no results were reported.

IV. U. S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. SS reports sinking 6 vessels and damaging 2 more, *Graylock*
 totalling 34,000 tons. Another SS reports 1 AK, Nagara Maru type of 7149 tons, *Cash*
 probably sunk and 1 AP of about 4731 tons was damaged.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of CSCC, 24 December 1943

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I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of 21 - 22 December 2 B-24's harassed enemy bivouac areas in the Buka - Bougainville area. Faisi was bombed the same night by 2 night fighters.

On 22 December patrolling and strafing activity was carried out against the following areas: Monoitu Mission, Muma Numa, Chinese settlement at Buka, Kahili - Shortland area, Piva River area, Chabai, Forton, Anewa Bay (W. of Kicta) Rana and Tiaraka and on the same day Sohana Island and the Bonis airstrip were attacked by 58 BND's, 26 TBF's and 33 fighters. Enemy A/A positions and barge hideouts constituted the target. A fuel dump was hit and destroyed and 6 hits were observed among the barges.

(B) Ambitle Island

On 22 December an Allied search plane bombed and strafed 2 of 3 boats seen at Ambitle Island. One of the boats disappeared and the second was abandoned by the crew following the attack. The area was again attacked by 6 Ventures and 8 P-38's later that same day. 6 barges were set afire.

(C) Green Island

Barges were attacked on the N. shore of Green Island by an Allied search plane on 22 December.

(D) New Ireland

The night of 21 December 6 BAA Catalinas attacked Kavieng, starting fires in the barracks and dispersal areas. An enemy AP - AK was attacked S. of New Hanover Island by a B-24 on 22 December. No results were reported.

(E) New Britain

Allied positions in the Aruwe area were raided by enemy aircraft 3 hours before dawn on 22 December. Casualties and damage were not determined. Allied PT boats attacked but did not sink 3 enemy barges in the Dampier Strait. Reconnaissance bombers bombed Carova Island and the old strip at Cape Gloucester on the same day. Also the same day 30 BAAF P-40's bombed and strafed bridge and buildings in the Cape Hoskins area, starting fires. Cape Gloucester was also attacked 22 December by 47 B-24's. More

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than 138 tons of bombs were released on the bivouac and storage areas. Dampier Strait and the W. side of Borgen Bay were bombed and strafed by 23 A-20's on the same day.

(F) Low Guinea

6 B-25's bombed the Alexishafen runway on 21 December. Additional 6 B-25's bombed Madang airdrome that same day, starting several fires. Allied PT boats attacked 3 S. bound enemy barges sinking 2 and damaging the third off Walingai, NW of Fortification Point, on 22 December. The same day Newak was attacked by 36 B-25's, starting fires in the dump areas and destroying 1 grounded plane and damaging another. Direct hits were scored on 2 enemy AP - AK's which were later strafed. 30 enemy interceptors were encountered, 14 destroyed and 2 probably destroyed. 2 Allied P-38's were shot down a third is missing. Accurate and intense A/A fire was encountered. Also on 22 December enemy positions in the Sio area were strafed by 2 Boomerangs and enemy positions and trails in the Hukika area were bombed and strafed by 12 A-20's.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 23 December 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

The night of 21 - 22 December (E. longitude time) Paramushiru was raided by 2 PBY's on a photo and night bombing mission. 1 of the planes, although the area was 90% obscured by clouds, was able to find the target and drop some bombs on the Shimushu side of the strait. There was no enemy opposition.

II. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Maloslap atoll (presumably Taroa Island) was attacked on 20 December by 16 U.S. Army B-24's which dropped 24 tons of bombs causing a number of fires in the target area. Of 30 intercepting Jap fighters 4 were downed and 5 were probably downed. A/A fire was intense and accurate. 3 U.S. planes were downed and all suffered some damage.

(B) Gilbert Islands

Before dawn 19 December Makin was ineffectively raided by 4 high-flying Jap bombers and the following morning the same target was again ineffectively raided, this time by 6 Jap bombers. About the same time 2 Jap bombers raided Tarawa, causing some damage.

III. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

In the Torokina area 2,226 dead Japs had been counted between 1 November and 1 December and during the same period 18 Jap prisoners were taken.

On 21 December Allied air activity over Bougainville was handicapped by bad weather. However, in the afternoon 6 B-25's dropped 9 tons of bombs with unobserved results on the Monoitu area. The same day the 12th Echelon reached Torokina safely. Also on 21 December N. of Torokina 1 Jap was captured by a U.S. patrol while in the NE Torokina area another patrol was sent to a hill N. of the Torokina River where some Japs had been contacted. The front lines remained unchanged. The same day the 11th Echelon arrived at Treasury without mishap. Early 22 December 3 miles S. of Otua Island, off SE Bougainville, PT's sank a Jap barge and a short while thereafter 30 Miles N. of Buks 3 Jap barges were strafed with unobserved results by an Allied patrol plane.

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(B) Ambitle Island

The afternoon of 21 December in an inlet on E. Ambitle Island an Allied patrol plane strafed 6 well camouflaged Jap barges with unobserved results.

(C) New Ireland

Kavieng was raided the night of 20 December by 2 RAAF PBW's which dropped about 3 1/2 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the airfield. No A/A fire was encountered. The following night SE of Dyaul Island a 7000 ton Jap AP was set afire by a PBW while the same night NE of Rabaul a 6000 ton AK was sunk by 2 B-24's.

(D) New Britain

Very early the morning of 21 December Allied positions in the Arawe area were twice ineffectively raided by unstated numbers of Jap planes. The same day in the same area the ground situation remained unchanged. Also 21 December area was heavily attacked by a total of 54 B-24's, 35 B-25's and 24 A-20's which dropped 206 tons of bombs on bivouacs, dumps, gun positions, coastal villages and trails. The same day 3 B-24's dropped 3 tons of bombs on Casrata with unobserved results while 2 Spitfires downed an enemy fighter over the same target. Moderately intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered. 7 RAAF A-20's escorted by an unstated number of P-40's dropped 4 tons of bombs on Cape Hoskins airfield 21 December with unobserved results while 3 RAAF Beaufighters strafed the area, damaging a grounded Jap plane.

The same day off Cape Boschee 3 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed a boat while 6 P-39's hit a boat and barge in Bergen Bay and 5 P-38's strafed wharves in Rein Bay. No results were reported. In Margie Bay 6 P-39's damaged 3 barges. The same day about noon 15 - 20 Jap dive-bombers covered by fighters attacked shipping off Arawe, damaging 2 vessels. During the afternoon, about 100 enemy planes were reported in the area and preliminary reports indicated that 16 of them were destroyed and 3 probably destroyed by Allied fighter patrols.

(E) New Guinea

In the Finschhafen area 21 December Allied ground forces made further advances along the coast N. of Lakona. The same day Madang airfield and town were hit with 21 tons of bombs from 24 low-flying B-25's which also heavily strafed the area. Gun positions and buildings were destroyed and a number of fires started. 1 B-25 was downed by A/A fire. Also 21 December 11 A-20's hit Jap camps in the Wandokai area with more than 5 tons of bombs and off Hansa Bay 2 barges were strafed and damaged by 2 P-39's.

(F) N. E. I.

Villages in the Japoro area of Dutch New Guinea were bombed and strafed by 8 RAAF P-40's on 21 December while 11 B-24's dropped more than 20 tons of bombs and incendiaries on Arahai airfield, Ceram Island. Fires were observed by both missions following the attacks.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 22 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

The evening of 19 December an unnamed island 2 miles N. of Taroa, Falcclap atoll, was attacked by 11 U.S. Army B-24's. 15 tons of bombs were dropped on the target on which are located a Jap radio installation and fuel storage. The attacking planes were intercepted by 25 Jap fighters of which 7 were probably downed and 5 damaged. A/A fire was accurate and intense and 2 of our planes were damaged and 3 men injured.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 19 December Poporong, SE of Shortland Island, was raided by 3 B-24's while 3 more raided Kahili. Kara, Ratsoa, in the Katchin Bay area, Buka and Bonis were each raided by single B-24's. No results were reported. The same day a Jap patrol of undetermined strength was contacted in the NE Torokina area by a U.S. Marine patrol. No details were reported. Later another U.S. patrol was unable to locate the enemy. That night an unstated number of Allied night fighters bombed Jap positions in the Jaba River area with unreported results and 1 F4U downed a Jap fighter. The following day Sohana Island and W Bonis were attacked by 59 SBD's and 28 TBF's escorted by 31 fighters. A number of hits were scored on enemy ground positions, buildings and barges. On the return flight Tenekau and Mieta were strafed by 8 of the covering fighters. 1 SBD crashed.

The morning of 20 December Korovo village, SE Shortland Island, was attacked by 2 flights (8 and 5) of B-25's. No results were observed following release of more than 23 tons of bombs. About the same time 8 more B-25's dropped 8 tons of bombs on Buka with unobserved results and 1 B-25 dropped a ton of bombs on Kahili. The E. Bougainville coast was strafed by escorting fighters returning from Buka. The same day at Tiniputz and Papas, NE Bougainville, reported Jap concentrations were bombarded by an unstated number of U.S. DD's. Preliminary reports indicate the targets were well covered.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 19 December off the W. New Ireland coast a convoy of 15 Jap ships was attacked by 5 PBV's which scored a direct hit on a 6000 ton AK which was left burning, scored a hit on and probably destroyed another 6000 ton AK and scored a hit on an 8000 ton AK. More than 2 tons of bombs were dropped from 150'.

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(C) New Britain

Belated reports reveal that off Arawe on 17 December 40 Jap dive-bombers and fighters attacked Allied shipping which inflicted some damage on the vessels. 14 of the enemy attackers were downed by A/A fire and 6 more were probably destroyed.

Early 20 December 2 Jap planes bombed the Arawe area. No details were reported. The same day in the same area Allied ground troops consolidated positions following occupation of the airstrip. Before dawn 20 December Wumakanau airfield, Rabaul, was hit with 17 tons of bombs from 18 RAAF Beauforts. Large fires in the dispersal areas were reported. A/A fire was encountered. The same day W. of Cape Orford 12 RAAF P-40's strafed some buildings, 1 of which exploded and in Wide Bay 3 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed 14 small boats.

Cape Mensing, about 16 miles E. of Cape Gloucester, was attacked 20 December by 5 B-24's which dropped 20 tons of bombs. Fires followed 5 explosions. The same day 28 B-24's and 6 B-25's dropped 104 tons of bombs on Cape Gloucester with unreported results while 17 B-24's and 26 B-25's dropped 93 tons of bombs on enemy dumps around Borgen Bay. These planes also expended more than 52,000 rounds of 50 and 30 calibre in strafing. The same day 18 A-20's bombed and strafed suspected Jap positions E. of Arawe and 12 A-20's bombed and strafed Aisega village. 14 tons of bombs were released over the first target and more than 5 tons over the second where slight m/c fire was encountered. No results were reported. The same day SW of Talasea a Jap bomber was downed by an unstated number of patrolling P-47's.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 19 - 20 December Kiriwina and Goodenough Islands were bombed by 15 Jap planes of which 1 was downed by A/A fire. The same night Finschhafen was twice raided by unstated numbers of enemy planes. Alexishafen airfield and adjacent dumps were hit with nearly 28 tons of bombs from 35 B-25's on 20 December. 1 grounded Jap plane was destroyed, 4 were damaged and gun positions were silenced. Moderately intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day N. of Dumpu Jap positions were bombed by 4 P-40's. No results were reported. Also on 20 December Waringai was attacked by 5 B-25's which hit enemy bivouac areas with 7 1/2 tons of bombs while just N. of Waringai 7 P-39's damaged 7 enemy barges. The same day 12 B-25's attacked the Yubika area (this place has not been located but it is presumably in the NE Huon Peninsula area), releasing 18 tons of bombs. Also on 20 December Allied ground forces advancing along the coast N. of Lakona reached high ground SW of Fortification Point.

(E) N. E. I.

There is nothing to report.

(F) Australia

An Allied convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by a single Jap bomber on 20 December E. of Cape Messel.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of OESCO, 21 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

At Ebon atoll a U.S. patrol plane on 16 December bombed and strafed an AK and a pier with unreported results. On 19 December Mili atoll was twice attacked. 14 U.S. Army B-24's dropped 19 tons of bombs to start fires in the area. 4 Jap fighters, releasing aerial bombs, intercepted and of those 1 was downed and another probably downed. 5 of our planes were damaged and 1 was lost. In the second attack, 12 U.S. Army fighters destroyed 3 Jap planes on the ground and shot down 1 of 8 more which intercepted. 3 of our planes were lost. The same day at Kwajalein atoll 12 AK's, 8 PC's and 1 DD were observed while a small AO was sighted at Jaluit. No shipping was seen at Kotje or Maleolap. That night a raiding U.S. PBY left a large AK burning at Kwajalein.

19 U.S. Army B-24's dropped 27 tons of bombs on Mili 20 December. A large fire was started and 4 grounded Jap planes were destroyed. 1 intercepting Jap fighter damaged 1 of our planes.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 18 - 19 December 10 - 15 Jap planes attacked the Torokina area causing some casualties. The same night Jap positions in the Jaba River area were raided by 2 PV's and 1 F4U with unreported results. At noon the following day Jap bivouac and supply areas at Moisuru, NE of Kahili, were hit with 8 tons of bombs and 216 fragmentation clusters from 24 B-24's. Black smoke rose over the area after the attack. About noon 19 December 2 waves, totalling 32 SBD's and 35 T-F's, attacked Kiska Harbor, supply and bivouac areas, causing considerable damage. That afternoon in the vicinity of the Reini River, NE Empress Augusta Bay, 3 hits on a warehouse were scored by 3 dive-bombing P-38's while 2 other P-38's strafed Moiaris village in the same area. Also 19 December at Tiaraka village, about 4 1/2 miles NE of Numa Numa, a concentration of Japs was reported.

(B) Green Islands

The afternoon of 19 December 2 camouflaged Jap barges in the lagoon at Missan Island were strafed with unreported results by a B-24.

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(C) New Ireland

The afternoon of 19 December about 30 miles SW of Kavieng a B-24 scored a near miss on an AK in convoy and probably destroyed 1 of 4 intercepting Jap planes. The same afternoon about 80 miles N. of Now Hanover 2 DD's or cruisers and 2 medium AK - AP's were sighted headed E.

(D) New Britain

In the Arawe area 19 December Allied patrols reached the Ilni River to the N. and advanced as far as the airstrip, about 6 miles NE of Cape Merkus, without contacting any Japs. The same day 8 A-20's, supporting Allied ground forces, bombed and strafed the mouth of the Pulie River with unreported results.

Cape Gloucester was attacked on 19 December by 100 B-24's, 46 B-25's and 9 B-26's which dropped a record load of 414 tons of bombs on gun positions, dumps and villages. Considerable damage resulted. Only slight and inaccurate m/c fire was encountered. The same day Gasmata was twice attacked. Before dawn 7 RAAF Beauforts dropped 6 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the dump areas with excellent results and later 10 RAAF A-38's and 37 RAAF P-40's released 9 tons of bombs over the same area, silencing A/A positions and causing damage to the runway and dumps. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

Also on 19 December 3 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed a boat off Kallai plantation, Wide Bay, and strafed the area while 2 A-20's left 1 launch and 2 barges burning off Owon Point. About noon the same day 16 B-24's escorted by 50 fighters bombed Rabaul. 1 AK or AP exploded, 1 was set afire and the third was left smoking. 4 of 40 - 50 intercepting Jap fighters were destroyed. 2 P-40's were downed and 2 P-40's collided. 1 B-24 was damaged.

(E) New Guinea

The night of 18 - 19 December the Bonga - Lakona area was raided by a single Jap plane and the same night 17's destroyed 9 Jap barges off Reiss Point and 1 barge off Waringai. The following day Allied ground forces advancing N. of Lakona crossed the Masaweng River, eliminating some small Jap forces and capturing some equipment. Also 19 December 22 B-25's and 7 B-26's hit the Madang airfield with over 42 tons of bombs, causing a large explosion and fires. A/A fire encountered was accurate. The same day 14 P-39's strafed Saidor and Fortification Point and also downed a Jap plane and destroyed 3 barges. The same day a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Namberiwa and in the Cape Miliam area 9 B-25's and 12 A-20's hit supply dumps and trails with more than 11 tons of bombs and 6 P-39's destroyed 2 enemy barges. 2 RAAF Boomerangs bombed and strafed a suspected Jap dump at Nuzen on 19 December and 4 P-39's strafed 2 Jap barges off Waringai.

(F) N. E. I.

Over N. E. I. on 19 December Allied aerial activity was limited to reconnaissance.

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III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking 4 AK's and damaging 2 more of a
15 vessel convoy.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 20 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert Islands

The night of 18 December Tarawa was raided by about 2 Jap planes which dropped 3 bombs, causing no damage.

(B) Marshall Islands

On 18 December Mili was attacked by an unreported number of fighter-escorted U.S. Army light bombers. 6 Jap fighters were destroyed on the ground and 3 more were damaged. There was no air interception but we suffered 1 operational plane loss.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 16 December about 45 miles N. of Buka an RAAF Beaufort bombed and damaged a enemy SS. The night of 17 - 18 December between Sale Island and Cape Lalahan, SE Buka, 2 Jap barges were destroyed by PT's which were themselves ineffectively bombed by a Jap floatplane, shelled from Cape Lalahan and fired upon from Sale Island. The same night the mouth of the Jaba River was bombed by PT's using mortars. There was no return fire. Also during the night 3 Jap medium bombers raided the Allied PT anchorage at Cape Torokina, causing some slight damage and casualties. The same night Faial was raided, with unobserved results, by 2 P-70's.

The forenoon of 18 December Korovo, SE Shortland Island, was bombed by 11 B-25's. A heavy explosion rocked the docks and started a fire. Shortly thereafter Chabai and Porton, Matchin Bay, were attacked by 19 B-24's, Bonis was attacked by 5 B-25's, Poporang was attacked by 1 B-24, Kahili was attacked by 10 B-24's and Kieta was hit by 3 B-24's. No details were reported. Also 18 December the Mosigetta - Monolitu area was attacked by 59 SBD's and 42 1BF's. A number of buildings and 2 bridges were destroyed and a probable ammunition dump was exploded. Only a few bursts of m/c fire was encountered. 1 SBD is believed to have crashed. The same day the E. coast of Buka was strafed by 22 Allied fighters which caused a number of explosions and started numerous fires. NE Buka and Shortland Island were strafed by 22 P4U's, which destroyed a barge in Buka Passage, and between Cape Pui Pui, S. Korovana Bay, and Muna Muna 5 more Jap barges were strafed by other Allied fighters.

At noon 18 December about 50 miles N. of Buka Passage 1 of our reconnaissance planes was attacked by 3 Jap fighters but no damage resulted. That afternoon in the Cape Moltke area an Allied patrol was evacuated by boat

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following an attack by Japs who withdrew. Our casualties were 5. Also 18 December in the NE Torokina area Allied ground forces overwhelmed a Jap position and on the coast E. of the Torokina River another Allied patrol encountered a Jap patrol and killed 9.

The same day Jap positions on Mt Choiseul were heavily bombed and strafed by 6 B-25's. No results were reported.

The night of 18 - 19 December 2 P-70's bombed the Jaba River area and Allied positions in the Torokina area were attacked by 10 - 15 Jap planes which dropped 25 - 30 bombs, wounding 3 more. The same night about 18 miles WNW of the Feni Island, NE of Nissan Island, an SS was attacked by a patrol plane from Guadalcanal. No results were reported. The forenoon of 19 December Kieta Harbor was hit by 2 waves totalling 32 SBD's and 35 ABF's, bivouac, and supply areas were hit and at Rigu Mission a bridge and some store-houses were destroyed. Hits were also made on a number of A/A positions which appeared unmanned.

At noon 19 December Moisuru was attacked by 24 B-25's which bombed bivouac and supply areas. Later the same day Japs the vicinity of Reini, NE Empress Augusta Bay, were dive-bombed by 3 P-38's and 2 more P-38's strafed Koiaris Village.

(B) New Ireland

Later details of the previously reported B-24 attack on a possible Jap DD 17 December 130 miles N. of Kussau Island revealed that it was unsuccessful. On 19 December 3 large and a number of small ships were observed in Kavieng Harbor and that night an 8 ship convoy about 30 miles SSE of Dyuall Island was attacked by a patrolling Allied plane which claimed to have sunk 1 AP.

(C) New Britain

The afternoon of 17 December a single Jap reconnaissance plane over Arawe was downed by 8 P-47's while later over the Same area, E. of Cape Gloucester, 2 of about 16 Jap fighters were destroyed by 7 P-47's. The night of 17 - 18 December Arawe was subjected to a number of enemy air raids but no details were reported.

On 18 December Umtinagalu, about 3 miles NE of Cape Merkus in the Arawe area, was occupied by Allied ground forces. During the morning the Borgen Bay area was attacked by 25 B-25's which dropped 28 tons of bombs with unreported results. At the same time 24 B-24's, 33 B-25's and 12 B-26's released 164 tons of bombs on the runway, dump and bivouac areas at Cape Gloucester, destroying 1 grounded enemy plane and starting a large fire. The same day over Cape Racult 3 of 30 - 40 Jap fighter planes were destroyed by 16 P-38's. 1 of which was downed and another of which was lost in a collision. Also 18 December P-38's strafed a number of enemy barges at the mouth of the Pulie River, about 15 miles NE of Umtinagalu, and 37 B-24's attacked Cape Hoskins, destroying a grounded plane and leaving the runway unserviceable after the release of 129 tons of bombs. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

Unesa Island was also raided on 18 December by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs and W. of Mundua another B-24 sank a 2000 ton enemy AO.

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Slight and inaccurate A/A fire from the AO was encountered. The following noon Rabaul was attacked by 16 B-24's escorted by 50 fighters. 1 A/K or AP exploded, 1 was left burning and another left smoking. Of 40 - 50 Jap fighters which intercepted, 4 were destroyed. 1 of our planes received minor damage and 2 others were downed. 2 more were in collision.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 16 - 17 December about 50 miles N. of Long Island an Allied PBV sank an enemy S by a direct hit and near miss. On 18 December Allied ground forces were engaged in cleaning up enemy remnants S. of the Sanga River while other elements advanced N. along the coast. The same day Jap bivouac and dump areas at Waringai, about 8 miles NW of Lakona, were bombed and strafed by 33 A-20's which released more than 11 tons of bombs causing explosions.

(E) N. E. I.

The nights of 17 - 18 December 3 RAAF PBV's dropped more than 4 tons of bombs and incendiaries on Efman Island, starting a number of fires. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same night Taberfane, Aroe Islands, was raided by 2 other RAAF PBV's. 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped, exploding an ammunition dump and causing fires in the waterfront area. Moderately intense, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The following day Kaimana, Geser, SE Coram, and a village on Trangan Island, Aroe Islands, were raided by 3 B-24's on patrol. More than 2 tons of bombs were released on Kaimana, 3/4 of a ton on Geser and nearly 3 tons on Trangan with unreported results.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0000, 19 December 1943

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I. Central Pacific Area

A. Gilbert and Marshall Islands

At noon 13 December a single D-24 dropped a ton of bombs on
Mill. Weather curtailed other bombing raids.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Colon Islands

On 16 - 17 December our artillery blasted the enemy in the
kina area. Our troops advanced 500 yards and found many dead Japs as a result
of artillery fire. 40 - 60 bunkers were also found which had only recently been
evacuated. On 17 December Maliai, Morgusiai Island, S Shortland Islands, was
raided by 13 D-25's which dropped 10 tons of bombs. 4 small fires resulted.
1 D-25 made a water landing which killed 2 men and 4 others were saved. The
same day 4 F4U's strafed enemy positions on the E coast of Bulu starting fires
while 6 D-25's raided Motupona, S Empress Augusta Bay, with reported excellent
results.

A force of 54 SBD's and 23 TBF's attacked Ballale at noon 17
December. 3 enemy A/A positions were believed damaged and 2 fires started
in the camp area. The runway is unserviceable. 5 D-34's bombed and strafed
enemy positions on Mt Choiseul the afternoon of 17 December. The following
noon 3 Jap fighters attacked one of our reconnaissance planes about 50 miles
W of Bulu passage but no damage resulted.

B. New Ireland - New Britain

On 17 December a search plane bombed Namatanai, Central New
Ireland. The same day a single D-24 bombed a possible enemy DD approximately
130 miles N of Massau Island. No further details were reported. An enemy force
of 1 torpedo bomber and 15 enemy fighters was intercepted by 15 P-47's over
Arawe the afternoon of 16 December. The enemy bomber and 5 fighters were des-
troyed and another fighter probably destroyed. During the night the enemy
raided the Arawe area 12 times with bombing and strafing planes. The following
morning P-47's again intercepted a force of Jap planes and destroyed 7 enemy
dive bombers, 1 light bomber and 2 fighters. 20 D-24's dropped 20 tons of bombs
on Cape Gloucester, 17 December, but bad weather prevented observation of re-
sults. 10 D-25's bombed and strafed the Dorgen Bay area. A Jap barge in
Dorgen Bay was bombed and strafed by a single Allied plane the afternoon of
17 December. The barge exploded killing many Japs. Over Rabaul the morning of
17 December.

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17 December there were 83 Soupes fighters. They were engaged by 30 - 40 enemy planes of which 6 were destroyed. 2 P-40's were lost. Our troops in the Lurue area were reported to have expanded their positions.

C. New Guinea

The Sio and Markariva areas, 5 miles SW of Sio, were bombed and strafed by 9 B-25's the morning of 17 December. A B-24 later bombed the same area. 3 P-39's, later followed by 6 P-39's, strafed the area at Moies Point and Molamoa. 3 barges were destroyed. The Kosambi area in the upper Pamu Valley was strafed by 2 RAAF fighters. Ground troops in the Maon Peninsula captured another village NE of Woreo while along the coast troops crossed the Sanga River.

D. H. B. I.

Timika was raided by 2 P-40's on 17 December. Fires resulted. 2 A-29's bombed and strafed buildings at Manatutu (N coast of Portuguese Timor) and a Dutch P-25 damaged an enemy lighter in the Damar Islands.

R. A. Doane.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 18 December 1943

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall and Gilbert Islands

The morning of 15 December Taroa, Maloelap atoll, Marshall Islands, was attacked by 21 U.S. Army B-24's. The planes released 25 tons of bombs, 75% of which were reported to have scored hits on barracks and dump areas. 30 Jap fighters, dropping aerial bombs, intercepted and of these 2 were destroyed, 2 probably destroyed and 8 damaged. 1 U.S. bomber was downed and 10 were damaged. 2 of the bombers landed at Betio Island, Tarawa atoll, Gilbert Islands. The same day at sun-set Wotje atoll, Marshall Islands, was attacked by 10 U.S. Army B-24's. 17 tons of bombs were released and hits in the building area were reported. There was no enemy air interception but 3 medium bombers and 25 fighters were observed on the ground. Over 1311 the planes observed 4 Jap DD's and 4 AK's and numerous small craft.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The afternoon of 16 December in the NE Torokina area Jap mortar and artillery fire increased in intensity as U.S. Marines continued their attack. E. of the Torokina River an estimated Jap reinforced platoon was contacted by an Allied patrol. Preparatory to an attack the enemy was subjected to artillery fire and our forces then advanced reportedly surrounding the Japs. The same day in the Cape Moltke area ambush of a party of Japs was reported and another Allied patrol returning from the Numa Numa trail reported killing 10 Japs.

(B) New Ireland

At noon 15 December Allied reconnaissance planes observed 2 DD's, 1 large and 1 small AK at Kavieng. The following afternoon 73 miles N. by W. of Kavieng a Jap ID and PG were observed E. bound.

(C) New Britain

In addition to the previously reported attack, Cape Gloucester was hit with 113 tons of bombs by 33 B-24's on the afternoon of 15 December. No results were reported. That night S. of Casrata a Jap 4 engined flying boat was shot down by patrolling PT's.

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In the area 16 December Allied ground forces were engaged in consolidating their positions on the mainland and on the fringing small isles. During the afternoon and evening over the northern coast of the island from Corrodore Bay to Bergen Bay and over the southwestern coast in the Cape Busching area, a number of flights of enemy bombers and fighters totalling about 85 were intercepted by flights totalling 63 P-38's. Destroyed were 11 Jap planes and probably destroyed were 2 more. Our losses were nil. The same day off Cape Hoskins 2 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed 5 Jap barges while 2 RAAF A-20's damaged 2 more enemy barges off Cape Dampier. Also Cape Gloucester was attacked by 38 B-24's on 16 December. 118 tons of bombs were dropped but clouds obscured the results. With this attack 323 tons have been dropped on this target in 2 days - more than 1100 tons in about 3 weeks. The same day Unca Island was hit, with unreported results, with a ton of bombs from a B-24 and 70 miles SSE of Lorengau 3 3000 ton AK - AP's, 1 AO and 3 AG's were sighted headed E.

(D) New Guinea

In the Finschhafen area 16 December Allied ground forces were engaged in cleaning up enemy remnants SE of newly-won Lakona. The same day off Hermit Island, about 160 miles SE of Newak, 1 of 2 small AO's was sunk by a direct hit from an attacking B-24. The plane encountered slight and inaccurate A/A fire. Also 16 December along the N. Huon Peninsula 12 barges, of doubtful usefulness, were strafed by B-24's on patrol while 10 B-25's dropped over 13 tons of bombs and started fires in the dumps and bivouacs of the Jap area. The same day 13 tons of bombs were dropped on Jap camps at Kolanoa by 9 B-26's. Results were called excellent. At noon 16 December a large number of Jap bombers and fighters were observed taking off. That night off Gila a surfaced Jap SS was unsuccessfully attacked by the PBY.

(E) N. E. I.

Additional details of the previously reported night raid on Sorong and Mfan Island by 3 RAAF PBY's revealed that 3 direct hits sank a 1000 ton AK off Sorong while 4 of 8 Jap bombers were strafed at Mfan Island. It is also revealed that the raids occurred on 14 December instead of 15 December.

The following night - 15 - 16 December Balikpapan, Soe neo, and Macassar, Celebes, were attacked by 11 B-24's. 4 tons of bombs were released over the oil refinery installations at Balikpapan, where accurate A/A fire was encountered, and 6 tons were dropped on the Macassar waterfront. Because of bad weather no observation of results was possible. The same night Ponfoei airdrome, SE Dutch Timor, was raided by 3 B-25's which dropped nearly 4 tons of bombs and incendiaries, starting a number of fires.

Off Lautem, NE Portuguese Timor, 8 RAAF Beaufighters scored 8 direct hits on a loaded Jap barge and AK, destroying both, on 16 December. The planes also destroyed 1 and damaged another of 3 intercepting Jap fighters.

A. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0000, 17 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Marshall Islands

Photographs taken the morning of 4 December reveal a new air strip, about 1 mile long and partially surfaced, under construction on the S central portion of Kwajalein Island.

Later details reveal that the previously reported 14 December air attack on Tarao, Jaloolap atoll was carried out by 17 U.S. Army B-24's. The morning of 15 December Motje atoll was attacked by 3 U.S. Army B-24's which released 15 tons of bombs. Explosions and fires resulted. There was no air interception and no enemy planes were seen.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

The night of 14 - 15 December an unreported number of P-70's bombed the Jata River mouth, the Duka - Bonis area and Faiei with unreported results. 1 plane is missing. The following morning Sohana Island, S of the entrance to Duka Passage, was attacked by 21 B-24's which dropped 63 tons of bombs, probably damaging 4 Jap guns and possibly damaging another. About the same time the H Bonis area and Kahili were each raided by single B-24's with unreported results and a little later 23 B-25's escorted by 16 fighters dropped nearly 30 tons of bombs on Duka starting a number of fires. On the return flight the fighter escort strafed Tonokau and Kieta.

Later the same morning 65 SHD's and 21 TBF's bombed and strafed the Duka - Bonis area damaging a number of A/A positions and buildings. 53 fighters which escorted the planes strafed Tonokau and Kieta on the return flight. At noon 15 December 16 TBF's supporting Allied ground forces in the area bombed and strafed Jap positions NE of Cape Torokina. No results were observed. The planes also destroyed some buildings at Molaris, Empress Augusta Bay.

The same day at W Runai, about 4 miles NW of Aitara, SW Bougainville, a plank bridge was destroyed by 3 P-40's while 3 miles S of Kieta airfield another bridge was hit by a patrol plane.

The same day, with the arrival of the 11th Echelon, Allied forces landed at Torokina since 1 November totaled 52,000 men and unloaded cargo totaled 60,200 tons. On Treasury Island a total of 10,400 men and 16,300 tons of cargo have been landed with the arrival of the 10th Echelon.

The night of 15 - 16 December Maravia, E of Cape Torokina, was bombarded with mortar fire by PT's and Poporang Island was bombed by an unreported number of P-70's. No results were reported.

Very early the following morning about 20 miles/of Choisoul Island an unidentified vessel was bombed by an Allied patrol plane. No results

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were reported. Later the morning of 16 December Makaraka, Makatona and Makarogu, SW of Christmas Augusta Bay, were bombed and strafed with unobserved results by 4 FV's.

Also the same morning the H Bonis area was heavily bombed by 14 B-24's. At the same time Solana Island and Bonis were each effectively raided by single, different groups of 3 B-24's. Later the forenoon 16 December Poporang was bombed by 2 B-24's which observed some small fires, while at the same time Sankau Island, Hatchin Bay, was attacked by 5 B-25's escorted by 3 fighters. A fuel dump was reported hit. Only meagre A/A fire was encountered. The same day Solana Island and Bonis were also attacked by 60 C-47's and 20 T-28's escorted by 34 fighters. Several Jap gun positions were destroyed or damaged. A/A fire encountered was meagre. On the return flight Tunakau, Kieta, Monokitu and Mariga were strafed by the fighter escort. 4 men were rescued from 3 T-28's which landed on the water. There is some belief that S Bougainville is being evacuated by the Japs.

D. Green (Missan) Island

The afternoon of 15 December Missan Island was raided by a Guadalcanal patrol plane which bombed some warehouses. No enemy activity was observed.

C. Greenwich (Kapingamarangi) Island

About 90 miles S of Greenwich Island a derelict barge was probably sunk by a Guadalcanal patrol plane on 15 December.

D. How Ireland

On 15 December 7 RAAF Bombers strafed the revetments, dumps and gun positions at Dorgop airfield with unreported results. From East Cape the planes encountered slight and inaccurate A/A fire. The same day about 120 miles NW of Kavieng a Jap barge was bombed and strafed by a Guadalcanal patrol plane but no results were reported.

D. How Britain

According to a belated report, Gasanta was attacked 14 December by 11 B-25's in addition to those previously reported. More than 16 tons of bombs were released. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. That afternoon Anlut Plantation, Arawe area, was attacked by 20 B-24's and 12 A-20's. 34 tons of bombs were dropped and the results were termed excellent. That night 12 RAAF Bombers bombed Vunakanau airfield, 1 bombed Duke of York Island and 1 bombed Gasanta. No results were observed because of clouds. 11 other Bombers failed to reach any target because of adverse weather and mechanical troubles.

Before dawn 15 December 3,000 Allied ground forces successfully launched a landing, completed later during the day, at Arawe, about 90 miles W of Gasanta and about 72 miles SW of Cape Gloucester. The operation was preceded by bombardment of the area by U.S. DD's and aerial bombing by B-25's. Little opposition was encountered and no surface vessels or aircraft

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were lost. Our casualties were reported as 13 killed in action, 25 wounded and 29 missing. 60 Jap dead were counted.

Prior to the landing Analut Plantation was attacked by 8 B-25's which released 9 tons of bombs and strafed the area with unreported results. About the same time 7 more B-25's bombed and strafed a village NW of the shore emergency air strip just NE of the plantation. During the day the Allied beachhead and shipping in Araue harbor were attacked by about 30 - 40 enemy bombers. No damage resulted and 2 of the Jap planes were downed by the ground forces. The same day Cape Gloucester was attacked by 23 B-24's which dropped 93 tons of bombs on the target, and the same area was raided by a single B-25 which strafed the airfield with unreported results.

F. New Guinea

On 15 December no enemy aircraft were observed at Mubia, Madang or Alexishafen. The same day Laena was captured by Allied ground forces. In the Ramu Valley little patrol activity was reported. The same day in the Saidor - Sio area 7 Jap troop laden barges and 3 more empty ones were damaged by a B-25, while off Reiss Point 3 more enemy barges were destroyed by 5 P-39's. Also 15 December Kolaona village N of Wala Bay was strafed by 2 RAAF Boomerangs which damaged 2 barges and started some fires.

G. N. E. I.

Off Dilli, NW Portuguese Timor, 2 Jap troop laden AK-AP's and a DM were discovered and strafed by 8 RAAF Bombers on 15 December. The vessels were subsequently attacked by 6 additional B-25's which scored direct hits on the AK-AP's, leaving both afire. A/A fire of all Calibres was encountered from the vessels and shore. A little later at Vila do Liquea, about 17 miles W of Dilli, 8 RAAF Bombers destroyed a small AK and damaged stores and warehouses. The planes also strafed a large Jap camp at Atamboe, NW Dutch Timor.

Koopang and the adjacent airfield at Penfoei, SW Dutch Timor, were attacked 15 December by 4 PB's which dropped more than 6 tons of bombs and incendiaries. Fires were started in the area. Slight but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day the town of Sorong, the airfield at Efinan Island and shipping in Mooler Gulf were bombed and strafed by 3 RAAF PB's. At Sorong fires were started and at Efinan Island fires were started among grounded aircraft. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was met by these planes.

R. A. Boone.

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Summary as of 0800, 16 December 1943I. Central Pacific Area(A) Marshall Islands

At noon 13 December (presumably W. longitude time) Wotje was attacked by 10 U.S. Army B-24's which dropped 15 tons of bombs, starting several fires. In the harbor 4 ships and on the ground 2 Jap planes were observed. There was no enemy air interception but 1 of our planes was reported damaged, presumably by A/A fire. The following day, according to a statement by Admiral Nimitz Taroa, Maloelap atoll, was attacked by an unstated number of U.S. Army B-24's. Fires were started in the hangar area. 15 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 1 was downed, 4 were probably downed and 5 were damaged. 3 of our planes were slightly damaged.

(B) Gilbert Islands

The night of 13 and 14 December (presumably W. longitude time) Makin was raided by about 2 Jap bombers. 4 of our personnel were wounded. The next night Makin was again raided by an unstated number of Jap planes but no damage resulted. On 15 December it was announced that Hawkins Field, Betio Island, Tarawa atoll, will be ready for use by bombers on 21 December while Mullinix Field, Buota Island, Tarawa atoll, will be ready for fighter use by 18 December and bomber use by 25 December. At Apurama O'Hare Field has been cleared to 6000' and paved for 4000' by 150'.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 13 - 14 December Faiai was bombed by an unstated number of P-70's with unobserved results. The same night in Torau Bay, SE Bougainville, 2 beached Jap barges were strafed and wrecked by PT's. The following morning the Numa Numa and Arigua areas were attacked by 6 B-25's which released 9 tons of bombs and strafed the area. 28 buildings were destroyed or damaged. Only m/c fire was encountered. The same morning in the NE Torokina area 16 TB's, supporting ground forces, bombed Jap positions with unobserved results. A little later Bokana Island, just S. of the W. entrance to Buka Passage, was attacked by 18 B-24's escorted by 4 P-38's while Manob, N. of Bonis, was bombed by 18 B-25's escorted by 8 fighters. More than 15 tons of bombs destroyed 6 buildings at Manob and more than 55 tons hit Shhaha, starting a fire and causing many explosions.

Also the forenoon of 14 December the Chabai area was attacked by 51 SBD's and 23 TBF's escorted by 36 fighters. Many hits were reported in Jap

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A/A positions at Ratsosa. On the return flight Numa Numa was strafed and fires started there by the fighter escort. That night off NE Bougainville a PT was bombed and strafed by Jap floatplanes but no casualties resulted.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 13 - 14 December a PBX in a glide attack released 2 1000 lb. bombs to score 2 hits on a Jap CA stationary in Steffen Strait, SE of Kavieng. From the vessel and shore batteries intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered. Extent of damage to the CA was not reported.

(C) New Britain

In addition to the previously reported 13 - 14 December night attack on Lakunai airfield by 8 RAAF Beauforts, it is revealed that the same target was attacked by 19 other RAAF Beauforts which dropped more than 18 tons of bombs. Large fires resulted. The planes encountered slight to moderately intense A/A fire. The following day, from morning until early afternoon, the Arawa area was attacked by 70 B-24's, 59 B-25's, and 60 A-20's which, escorted by an unreported number of fighters, flew over the Jap installations in 5 flights dropping, a total of 355 tons of bombs and expending 174,000 rounds in strafing. Many fires were started, enemy gun positions were silenced and a number of buildings were destroyed. No air interception was reported and all our planes returned safely.

Also on 14 December Gasmata was attacked by 25 B-25's and 9 B-28's. More than 42 tons of bombs were released over the airfield where hits on the runway and a number of fires were observed. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day the Annek River area, Mundua Island and Unea Island were each raided by single B-24's. A ton of bombs was dropped on each target with unreported results. That night about 10 miles off the New Britain coast in St. George Channel, a Jap SS was probably damaged by an Allied patrol plane.

(D) New Guinea

It is reported that between 30 November and 11 December 343 Jap dead have been counted in the Huon Peninsula area thus bringing to 2356 the number of enemy dead counted since Allied forces landed at the mouth of the Song River on 22 September.

The night of 13 - 14 December off Rooke Island a Jap barge was sunk by PT's. The same night Goodenough and Kiriwina Islands and the Finschhafen beach area were each ineffectively bombed by single Jap planes. The plane that raided Goodenough Island runway had followed RAAF Beauforts back from the attack on Lakunai airfield, badly damaging 1 of the bombers. On 14 December there was a lull in ground force activity in the Remu Valley while in the Finschhafen area Allied troops reached a point just S. of Lakona. The same day E. of Saidor Jap dump areas and beached barges were strafed by 5 P-39's with unobserved results while in Hansa Bay an enemy barge was strafed and damaged by a B-24.

(E) N. E. I.

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Allied air activity over N. E. I. was limited to reconnaissance.

R. A. Boons.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 15 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall and Gilbert Islands

The night of 11 and 12 December both U.L. airfields - Betio and Buota islands - at Tarawa atoll were subjected to nuisance raids by about 6 Jap planes each of which dropped 1 500 lb. bomb. No damage was done and no enemy planes were downed.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 12 December in the NE Torokina area 2 Japs were killed and 7 U.S. Marines wounded in minor patrol clashes. Other U.S. patrols contacted enemies along the coast to the NW and along the trail to Numa Numa. It is reported that natives responsible for the capture of Allied personnel on Bougainville in June have been shot. It is further reported that 60 dead Japs were counted at Tarlena and 50 at Porton after recent Allied bombings. It is also reported that 2 dead Americans, their hands tied behind their backs, have been found on NW Choiseul Island.

The night of 12 - 13 December off Sorum, N. Bougainville S. of Buka Passage, a barge full of Japs was sunk by a P-70 while another P-70 bombed Kata and Piano Mission, just N. of Kara, with unobserved results. The following day Numa Numa and Trakawaun, on Korovana Bay NE of Kieta, were strafed by Allied fighters. Some buildings were damaged and 1 Jap was killed.

At noon 13 December 45 B-25's and 22 TBF's escorted by 47 fighters attacked Latchin Bay. 35 hits were scored on enemy positions and the area was also heavily strafed. On the return flight Tensekau, Kieta, Monoitu and Mosigetta were strafed by the fighter escorts which set a number of buildings ablaze. Shortly thereafter Porton Plantation, just S. of Chabai, was attacked by 17 B-25's escorted by an unstated number of fighters. Supply and ammunition dumps and bivouac areas were bombed. 1 A/A position and 8 buildings were destroyed and a number of fires started. The fighters strafed Tensekau on the return flight.

Later 13 December a Jap concentration at Numa Numa was bombed and strafed by 6 unescorted B-25's. 14 buildings were destroyed and several fires started. At the same time 24 B-24's escorted by 4 fighters dropped 72 tons of bombs on the Bonis area with good results. That evening Jap positions in the NE Torokina area were attacked by 4 TBF's but no results were reported.

Over Bougainville there was no Jap air interference and no Allied losses. Photographs the same day showed Ruka, Bonis, Kara, and Kahili runways unserviceable. Ballale was partially serviceable.

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(B) New Ireland

Before dawn 13 December off Cape Maragu, W. coast of New Ireland, a 4000 ton Jap AK in convoy was bombed and sunk by a patrolling PRY and later the same day 70 miles N. of New Hanover another Allied patrol plane probably sank a Jap fuel barge.

(C) New Britain

Ring Ring and Lindenhafen Plantations, just N. of Gasmata, were attacked by 60 B-24's and 48 B-25's escorted by an unstated number of P-38's on 13 December. 248 tons of bombs were released, destroying 2 supply dumps, causing a number of explosions and starting large fires. 97,000 rounds were also expended in strafing the target. Only slight an inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. 7 Jap fighters intercepted and 2 were shot down by our fighter escort. The same day at Cape Hoskins 3 Jap barges were strafed and damaged by RAAF Beaufighters while at Henry Reid Bay 2 low-flying A-20's dropped nearly a ton of 100 lb. bombs on the enemy camp area with unobserved results.

Also 13 December Gasmata was raided by a single B-24 which dropped 4 100 lb. bombs with unobserved results. The plane encountered moderately intense A/A fire. The same day Runglo, E. of Cape Busching, was strafed by a B-25 and Cape Gloucester and Lagoon Point were each hit with a ton of bombs from single patrolling B-24's. No results were reported. That night Lakunai airfield, Rabaul, was attacked by 8 RAAF Beauforts each of which released 1 2000 lb. bomb over the dispersal area, starting a number of fires. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate.

(D) New Guinea

In the vicinity of Reiss Point 9 large Jap barges were sunk by PT's the night of 12 - 13 December. The same night in the Ramu Valley an attack on Allied outposts by about 400 Japs was repulsed and an estimated 100 of the enemy killed. The following day Allied artillery shelled Jap positions at Lakona as the ground forces advanced up the coast. At Garea other units were mopping up the area. Also on 13 December Jap camps in the Bogadjim area were strafed with unobserved results by 7 P-47's and the Bogadjim - Yaula road was bombed and strafed by 34 A-20's which hit bivouac and dump areas with nearly 16 tons of bombs. No results were reported. The same day between Fortification Point and Saidor 10 Jap barges and a bridge were destroyed or badly damaged by 4 P-39's which strafed the targets.

(E) N. E. I.

The night of 12 - 13 December Koepong, SE Dutch Timor, was twice attacked by Allied planes. First the waterfront and town were hit with more than 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries from 5 U.S. PRY's. 5 fires were started. A/A fire was not accurate and 2 Jap night fighters were unsuccessful in attempt at interception. Following this attack 4 Dutch B-25's dropped an unreported number of bombs and incendiaries on the same target. A/A fire was also encountered by these planes but there was no enemy air interception. The same night Babo, on McCluer Gulf, Kairana and villages in the Kai Islands were attacked by 4 RAAF PRY's. Nearly 5 tons of bombs and incendiaries were

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dropped and a number of fires were reported. A/A fire from all the targets was inaccurate and slight. Some enemy night fighters made ineffective attempts at interception.

R. A. Boons.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 14 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

On 12 December Enidj, Jaluit atoll, S. Marshall Islands, was attacked by 31 B-24's which released 47 tons of bombs through cloudy skies. No results were observed. 1 of the planes, from 200' altitude, dropped a ton and a half of bombs on 1 of the 3 AK's in the harbor but no results were observed. No enemy planes were seen but moderately intense A/A fire caused some slight damage to our planes. There were no casualties.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 10 - 11 December the Jaba River and Mawaraka areas were bombarded by a U.S. DD. The following day MW Choiseul was raided with unreported results by a single Allied plane and that night off Torokina a LCI was damaged by 2 near misses from a Jap bomber which was downed by the attacking vessel. The same night a wrecked 150' schooner was driven into Queen Carola Harbor, MW Buka, by patrolling PT's. Also the night of 11 - 12 December Faizi was bombed and strafed by 2 P-70's and Kahili was raided by 1 P-70. At Kahili fires were started.

Later reports indicate that Jakohina was the 11 December target for Allied SBD's and TBF's which were previously reported to have attacked either Jakohina or Torokina. The morning of 12 December 4 P-40's strafed Tonolei Harbor with unobserved results. 1 of the planes was damaged by Jap A/A fire and forced to land in the water. The pilot was rescued. Later Aropa Plantation, just S. of the Kieta airfield, was bombed and strafed by 6 B-25's. Photographs revealed the destruction of 3 buildings and damage to 2 others. About the same time Poporang was bombed with unobserved results by a single B-24 which also photographed the area. Shortly thereafter 46 SBD's and 27 TBF's escorted by 48 fighters, attacked the Matchin Bay area. Gun positions and buildings were wrecked and a number of fires were started. On the return flight 8 of the escorts strafed Kieta Harbor, starting some fires.

Later the forenoon of 12 December 8 B-25's escorted by 16 fighters attacked Bonis with unobserved results. On the return flight the fighter escort strafed Tenekau Plantation, about 6 miles SE of Numa Numa and Jac positions S. of Kieta airfield. About the same time 9 B-25's bombed Kieta Harbor and 1 bombed Kahili. At Kieta 2 buildings were demolished and a large fire started but no results were reported over Kahili. Also on 12 December about 4 miles S. of Luluai Point, SE Bougainville, 3 S. bound armored Jap barges were attacked by patrolling PT's. 1 enemy craft was sunk, 1 was beached

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and the third was still aloft when the PT's ammunition was expended. Intense fire hit the PT's but no damage or casualties resulted. The same day Kieta was also bombed by 20 SBD's and 16 TBF's escorted by 24 fighters. A number of fires were started. Shortly after noon 12 December Kahili and Poporang were each bombed by 12 B-24's in 2 different flights but no results were observed. From Kahili A/A fire was meagre and from Poporang there was none. Also the afternoon of 12 December Dio Dio at the mouth of the Robikai River, S. Bougainville, was bombed with unobserved results by 3 SBD's and 3 TBF's while 2 PV's bombed Kieta where several buildings were wrecked and 1 of our planes damaged by meagre A/A fire. The same afternoon at the mouth of the Huleia River, Shortland Island, 2 P4U's strafed some enemy hits and possibly killed several of 6 - 7 Japs encountered.

That night at Atsinima Bay 2 Jap barges endeavoring to leave the area were forced back by patrolling PT's and off Totavi, S. of Motupena, another PT patrol was ineffectively strafed for 40 minutes by a Jap floatplane.

(B) Nissan Island

Over Nissan Island 12 December 2 PV's dropped pamphlets to the natives.

(C) New Ireland

The morning of 12 December NE of Borpop Harbor a Guadalcanal patrol plane probably downed 1 of 4 intercepting Jap fighters.

(D) New Britain

Hampered by unfavorable weather conditions, 37 RAAF P-40's dropped more than 9 tons of bombs on the airfield and dump areas at Gusmata on 12 December. A number of fires were started and Jap gun positions were strafed. A/A fire of all calibres was encountered. The same day villages along the coast of Henry Reid Bay were strafed with unobserved results by 2 RAAF Beaufighters while the NE coast of Borgen Bay was raided by a single B-25 which dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton of bombs with unobserved results. Also on 12 December Cape Gloucester was hit with a ton of bombs from a B-24 on reconnaissance. No results were observed.

(E) New Guinea

The night of 11 December NE of Waid Bay 3 Jap barges were sunk by patrolling PT's. Before dawn the following morning Dumps was ineffectively raided by a single Jap plane while Gusap was attacked by 9 enemy bombers and 15 fighters. Some damage was done to fuel dumps. 8 intercepting P-40's downed 2 Jap bombers and 1 fighter and probably downed another fighter over Gusap.

12 December Allied ground forces advanced to a point 1200 yards SE of Lakona while inland other units captured a heavily defended roadblock NE of Kareo. In the Ramu Valley Allied and Jap patrols and artillery were active.

Also 12 December Nambariwa was raided by a single B-24 on patrol. Explosions and a large fire followed the release of a ton of bombs. The same

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day on the Bogadjim Road a bridge was dive-bombed and damaged by 12 P-40's while at Kisa Village, about 17 miles S. of Bogadjim, Jap gun positions were attacked by 17 more P-40's which dropped nearly 5 tons of bombs.

(F) K. E. I.

Over K. E. I. 12 December 3 B-24's on patrol bombed Jap barracks at Soela, Ceram; the town of Kokas, on Lekar Bay in MacCluer Gulf and villages on Jandena and Larat Islands in the Tanimbars. A total of 6 3/4 tons of bombs were dropped over all targets but no results were reported.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from its first patrol reports sinking 29,815 tons and damaging 5,640 in the Southwestern Pacific while another SS reports sinking 14,000 tons and probably sinking 5,400 tons in the same area.

R. A. Boons.

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

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

The attack on Mili, Marshall Islands, by 19 B-24's previously reported as having occurred on 9 December is now revealed to have occurred at midday 10 December (0300Z). The same day at Kakin the runway was completed to 4000' by 150' and at Motio, Tarawa, the runway was surfaced for 700' by 150' of the 4750' by 350' dimensions of the Jap field was already there. At Buota, Tarawa, the landing strip was cleared for 6300'.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 9 December Buka and Bonis were bombed and strafed by 2 P-70's. At Bonis a fire was started in a supply dump. The following day the 10th echelon unloaded at Torokina and the 9th at Treasury Island. That night Jap bivouacs in the Jaba River area and Faisi were bombed and strafed by an unreported number of P-70's. At Faisi a tremendous explosion and fire led to the belief that a fuel dump had been hit. The same night at Bonis enemy planes were reported landing.

The morning of 11 December Arigua Plantation, SE of Kuma Kuma, was bombed and strafed by an unreported number of B-25's which destroyed several buildings. About the same time 16 more B-25's, in 2 unescorted waves, attacked Kahili. Smoke and dust obscured the area after the attack. Moderately intense A/A fire met the first wave but that encountered by the second was intense and 2 bombers were damaged. Early the afternoon of the same day Jakohina or Torokina (dispatches are conflicting) was attacked by 54 SED's and 28 TRP's escorted by 14 fighters. 3 A/A guns, 3 buildings and 1 pier were destroyed. 3 of our planes were damaged by A/A fire. If Torokina was the target, it was probably the area in the southeastern portion of Empress Augusta Bay.

Later the afternoon of 11 December Tonolei was bombed by 8 P-39's which reported several fires. About the same time Tsirogei village, on Hatchin Bay SE of Bonis and NW of Tarlona, was bombed with unreported results by 15 B-24's while 9 more hit wharves in the same area. Also on 11 December all Dougainville airfields were reported unserviceable.

(B) New Britain

The night of 10 December about 30 miles S. of Gasmata a Jap SS was probably sunk by a RAAF Beaufort which released 6 bombs. The following day Borgen Bay was attacked by 27 B-25's escorted by an unreported number of fighters. Jap positions, villages and trails were hit with more than 25 tons

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of bombs. No results were observed. The same day a single B-25 bombed and strafed Hoin Bay with unreported results.

(D) New Guinea

On 10 December 7 B-26's dropped 6 tons of bombs on the Dogudjim - Yaula road and the P-40's dropped 2 bombs on a village. No results were reported. That night off Blucher Point PT's sank 2 and damaged 3 empty K. bound Jap barges. The following day over the Ramu Valley 35 Jap fighters were engaged by 8 P-40's. 1 Jap plane was damaged and 1 P-40 was lost. The same day off Lepsius Point 2 Jap barges and a launch were destroyed by 5 P-39's. Also on 11 December Fortification Point was attacked by 2 missions - 1 of 8 B-25's and 1 of 8 B-26's. The B-25's dropped 9 tons of bombs on the barge depot in the area with unsatisfactory results while the B-26's hit the Jap bivouac area with more than 10 tons of bombs. Results were termed excellent. The same day K. of Bonga Allied ground forces pushed K. to the S. bank of the Sowi River killing 75 Japs in an assault on enemy positions.

(E) N. E. I.

At Balikpapan, Borneo, and Macassar, Celebes, were bombed by 8 B-24's on 11 December. 3 of the planes dropped 4 1/2 tons of bombs on the oil refinery at Balikpapan, causing explosions and a number of fires. A/A fire was encountered. 5 of the planes dropped 7 1/2 tons of bombs at Macassar starting 5 fires along the waterfront. Only slight A/A fire was encountered.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0000, 12 December 1943.

I. Central Pacific

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

The morning of 6 December Betio, Tarawa atoll, Gilbert Islands, was raided by 2 Jap planes which dropped 8 bombs, damaging a fighter plane and a landing craft.

The previously reported 7 December attack on Maloelap by 7 B-24's now appears to have taken place the morning of 8 December.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The Allied airfield at Torokina, Bougainville, became operative on 9 December. The same day in the NE. Torokina sector an Allied patrol killed 12 of 25 Japs encountered. Allied loss was 1. Later in the same sector Japs, estimated at 1 reinforced company, made an attack which resulted in 48 Allied casualties--12 killed and 36 wounded. The enemy's losses were not revealed. The following day air activity in the Solomons was considerably handicapped by bad weather. However, near Rigu Mission, in the Kieta area, a near miss on a bridge was scored by a TBF and Kahili was attacked by 10 B-25's which bombed and strafed supply dumps S. of the airfield. More than 9 tons of bombs fell but no results were reported. About the same time Tonolei was raided by 8 P-39's which strafed 4 Jap barges in the harbor and dropped nearly 2 tons of bombs on A/A positions and supply dumps in the area. Fires were reported. Also 10 December Arigua, Numa Numa, was attacked by 6 PV's which seriously damaged 10-12 warehouses. The afternoon of 11 December about 60 miles SW. of Empress Augusta Bay a Guadalcanal patrol plane possibly sank an SS.

(B) New Ireland

The morning of 11 December about 80 miles W. of Cape Matalom, New Hanover, a B-24 sighted a NZ. bound Jap convoy consisting of 2 AK's and a UD.

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Japanese Naval Activities (Cont'd.)
Summary as of 0800, 12 December 1943 (Cont'd.)

Southwestern Pacific Area (Cont'd.)

(C) New Britain

On 10 December villages in Henry Reid Bay, Tide Bay, were strafed with unobserved results by 2 RAAF A-20's and Unesa Island was hit with a ton of bombs from a B-24. No results were observed. The same day Cape Gloucester dump areas were raided by a B-24 which released a ton of bombs with unreported results. That afternoon Cape Gloucester was attacked by 13 B-24's escorted by an unreported number of P-36's. 52 tons of bombs were released over Jap gun positions but no results were reported.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 9-10 December in Vitiaz Strait 10 Jap barges, all believed empty, were destroyed by PT's. The following morning NW. of Dampu 10 Jap planes dropped 4-5 bombs on Allied positions causing some casualties and some damage. About the same time the Bogadjim-Yaula road was attacked by 34 B-25's escorted by an unreported number of P-40's. More than 44 tons of bombs were dropped on bridges along the way and on enemy dumps and camps 6 miles SSE of Daumoina. Hits were reported on 2 bridges and in 1 village a large explosion was reported. Later in the day aerial reconnaissance over the area reported the road clear, bridges intact and damage repaired.

Also the morning of 10 December over Madang 3 of 15 fighters encountered by 8 P-40's were destroyed. 1 P-40 crash-landed but the pilot was rescued. The same morning Sio was strafed by 4 P-39's with unreported results. That afternoon the Jap barge base at Nambariwa was attacked by 14 B-24's escorted by an unreported number of P-38's. These planes had set out for Cape Gloucester but failed to find the target because of bad weather. At least 1 fire was observed but no other details were reported following release of 42 tons of bombs. The same day in the Wareo area Allied ground forces captured Buzuluo, W. of Wareo. A recently evacuated enemy hospital was found there. Along the Masaweng River the troops were supported by 9 A-20's which bombed and strafed the area with unreported results. Nearly 4 tons of bombs were released. Also 10 December in the Kesawai area of the Upper Ramu Valley increased patrol activity was reported.

(E) N.E.I.

Over N.E.I. 10 December Allied air activity consisted only of reconnaissance.

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Japanese Naval Activities (Cont'd.)
Summary as of ORECO, 12 December 1943 (Cont'd.)

Southwestern Pacific Area Cont'd.)

III. U.S. Submarine Report

Bluefish

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking 22,820 tons of enemy shipping and damaging 43,841 tons.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0000, 11 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Gilbert and Marshall Islands

On 7 December 7 B-24's dropped 10 tons of bombs on Maloelap. 1 of 8 enemy fighters attempting interception was shot down but we lost no planes. A single B-24 raided Mili the same day. That night Tarawa was attacked by 4 Jap planes but all bombs fell in the water.

19 B-24's dropped 20 tons of bombs on Mili, the afternoon of 9 December but results were unobserved. Of 15 - 25 Jap fighters which intercepted 4 were destroyed, 3 probably destroyed and 1 damaged. Enemy planes dropped 6 aerial bombs. Enemy A/A fire was inaccurate and light. 5 of our planes were damaged and 4 men wounded.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

Kieta was strafed by Allied fighter planes on 9 December. Other air activity was curtailed because of bad weather.

B. New Ireland

An Allied plane attacked a 5 ship enemy convoy on 9 December. The convoy was 90 miles SE of Kavieng headed for Rabaul. The largest vessel was attacked but the bombs missed the target. A second plane sighted an 8,000-ton Jap AK near Dyaul Island (S of Kavieng). 2 1,000 pound and 1 500 pound bombs hit the vessel which sank in 5 minutes. The bow of the vessel was straight up in the air when the pilot returned to strafe the target.

C. New Britain

The area on the N coast of New Britain from Borgen Bay to Rein Bay was heavily bombed and strafed by 50 B-25's covered by P-47's the morning of 9 December. Over 45 tons of bombs were dropped on the targets and the P-47's assisted in strafing. 1 large explosion resulted. The same day a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Cape Gloucester.

D. New Guinea

Uligan Harbor (50 miles NW of Madang) was attacked by 8 P-40's

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9 December. Strafing attacks left 3 loaded barges and 1 lugger smoking. The same day a total of 39 P-40's, 22 P-39's, 10 B-25's and 1 B-24 attacked enemy positions in New Guinea, along the N coast of the Huon Peninsula and S of Bogadjim. 2 Jap planes dive bombed and strafed our positions N of the Song River and a single Jap plane bombed our forces in the Ramu River Valley. The later attack caused some damage and casualties.

E. N. E. I.

On 9 December a single Dutch B-25 bombed the Wissel Lakes area and 3 RAAF Catalinas bombed and strafed the wharf area at Kaimana.

III. U. S. SS Reports

A U. S. SS reports sinking an unidentified Jap AP in the SW Pacific area.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800 10 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Gilbert and Marshall Islands

OK
A PV strafed Mili, Marshall Islands, on 8 December but no results were reported. Only m/g fire was encountered and our plane suffered no damage. The same day at Jaluit, Marshall Islands, another U.S. plane probably sank a 300-foot AK, 2 100-foot wooden vessels and a PC. This plane also strafed enemy installations with unobserved results. Late 8 December Jaluit and Tarao, Maloelap, Marshall Islands, were attacked by 22 and 11 U.S. B-24's respectively. 44 tons of bombs were released over Jaluit and 90% landed in the target area. There was no air interception and only light A/A fire was encountered. No suffered no damage or casualties. 16 tons of bombs fell on Tarao and all landed in the target area. 2 of 10 intercepting Jap fighters were probably destroyed. Moderately intense A/A fire was met and 4 of our planes suffered minor damage.

B. Mauru

OK
The night 8 - 9 December Mauru was attacked by U.S. carrier-based planes and surface vessels. No details were immediately available but the next morning at least 1 DD was still shelling the island and 43 tons of bombs were released over the target by 8 B-24's with excellent results.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On 7 December in the Cape Torokina area a Seabee, armed only with an axe, captured a Jap. The same day Allied patrols E of the Torokina River encountered no enemy. That night 10 miles SE of Cape Torokina an Allied night fighter strafed 2 Jap barges with unreported results and early the following morning 1 beached enemy barge was destroyed by gunfire from an LCI. Also on 8 December 2 miles E of House Kiape, NW of Cape Torokina, Allied patrols killed 1 of 8 Japs encountered and E of Empress Augusta Bay perimeter Allied patrols killed another Jap. That evening on S Treasury Island 1 Jap was killed. Allied air activity over Bougainville was handicapped by bad weather, 9 December.

B. Missan Island

Missan Island was raided on 9 December by an Allied patrol plane which dropped 4 bombs with unobserved results and at Ambitle Island, NW of

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Misan, the same plane strafed 2 barges and 2 huts. No results were observed.

C. New Britain

Photographs of Rabaul, 6 December, reveal a total of 166 planes - 97 fighters, 21 light bombers and 31 medium bombers on the 4 airfields in that area and 17 floatplanes in the harbor - 12 merchant vessels, totalling about 55,000 tons, 1 AO, 5 SS's, 2 PC's, 85 harbor craft and 97 barges. No cruisers or DD's were in the harbor. 71 of the fighter planes reported were at Lakunai. Later reports reveal that the 7 December Allied fighter plane attack on Gas-mata, reported in the Daily Summary for 9 December, was made by 62 RAAF P-40's instead of 50 P-47's.

Air activity over New Britain 8 December was sharply curtailed by adverse weather conditions. However, Cape Gloucester was raided 3 times by single B-24's on reconnaissance. Each dropped a ton of bombs with unreported results. That night off Arawa a Jap MTB was destroyed by patrolling Allied PT's.

D. New Guinea

The night 7 - 8 December a heavy movement of aircraft to the E was reported over Vitiaz Strait. The morning of 8 December Wareo was captured by Allied ground forces while other troops moving W from Bonga contacted the enemy on a trail about 1 mile NE of Wareo. Along the coast N of Gusika the Allies continued to advance. The same day at Wandokai, just S of Fortification Point, Jap supply dumps were attacked by 10 Allied B-26's which released 15 tons of bombs with unreported results. Also 8 December Jap bivouacs and dumps E of Lakona were attacked by 11 B-25's which dropped 13 tons of bombs with excellent results.

At Scharnhorst Point tents were strafed with unobserved results by 4 P-39's while 4 more P-39's strafed a barge off Vincke Point. These latter planes also strafed 2 barges off Wandokai. That night off Reiss Point 2 Jap barges were destroyed by Allied PT's.

E. N. E. I.

The night of 8 December Koepang was the target for 4 Dutch B-25's which flew through unsettled weather to drop more than 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the waterfront area and on Penfoei airfield. Large fires were observed. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered.

F. U. S. SS Reports

A U. S. SS returned from patrol reports sinking a 4500-ton Jap AK and damaging another of the same type. Another SS reports sinking a 6000-ton AK and damaging another. A third SS reports sinking a 4500-ton AK and a 9800-ton AK. A fourth SS has reported sinking an 8000-ton AK and two 6000-

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ton AK's. A fifth SS has reported sinking a 9000-ton AK. The five SS's reported 8 vessels sunk and 2 damaged.

R. A. Boons.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 9 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

On 6 December at Makin, in the Gilbert Islands, the runway was reported 40% completed while that at Apamama, also in the Gilbert Islands was 50% cleared and partly graded. That night Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, was attacked by about 6 Jap planes but no damage was reported.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 8 December Kahili was unserviceable according to photographs. No pictures were taken of the other fields. During the day over the Bougainville area Allied bombers and a majority of fighter patrols were grounded by adverse weather. 5 patrols were in the air and Kieta was strafed by 1. No details were reported.

(B) New Ireland

26 RAAF Beauforts dropped 21 tons of bombs and incendiaries on Borop airfield and nearby villages the early morning of 7 December. 2 large explosions were caused, a number of large fires were started and some buildings were destroyed. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. The same day W. of New Hanover a patrolling B-24 scored near misses on an AK - AP with 2 1000 lb bombs. No results were reported. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire from the vessel was encountered.

(C) New Britain

On 6 December along the SW New Britain coast 18 B-25's dropped nearly 15 1/2 tons of bombs on Jap barge hideouts with unreported results. That night Garove Island was raided by a single PBV but no details were reported.

Cape Gloucester was attacked by 43 B-24's on 7 December. 143 tons of bombs hit Jap gun positions but no results were reported. About the same time the NW coast between Bergen and Rottook Bays was attacked by 45 B-25's which released more than 45 tons of bombs over Jap-held villages and trails, fired 224 75 MM shells and expended over 175,000 rounds of 50 and 30 calibre in strafing. Buildings and a loaded barge were reported destroyed. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate.

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The same day Gasmata was attacked by 50 P-47's covered by 12 P-40's. 12 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped on the dump areas but no results were reported. Accurate A/A fire was encountered. The following morning about 55 miles E. of Cape Beechey an Allied patrol plane released 3 bombs over a surfaced SS. Only 1 exploded but apparently a hit was scored.

(D) New Guinea

In the Wareo - Bonga - Gusika triangle Allied ground forces captured a Jap strong point 400 yards S. of Wareo on 7 December while the coastal force pushed N. to a point 2 miles beyond Gusika. Progress along the Gusika - Wareo trail was also reported. The same day the NE coast of the Huon Peninsula from Wandokai to Rugen was bombed and strafed by 10 A-20's. The low-flying planes released 10 tons of bombs on Jap-held villages and supply dumps. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day the Madang area and Ulingan (Eitel Friedrich) harbor were each strafed by 8 P-40's. A warehouse at Madang and barges at Ulingan were attacked but no results were reported. Also on 7 December 20 Jap fighter planes were attacked by 4 P-47's over Newak. 1 of the enemy was downed and another probably downed. Our losses were nil. That night off Sio 2 heavily laden Jap barges were sunk by PT's and 2 others on the beach were also destroyed.

(D) N. E. I.

On 7 December Pelauw, Haroekoe Island, off SW Ceram Island, was attacked by 13 B-24's which hit the town and airfield with 27 tons of bombs, starting some fires. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 8 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

Later details reveal that the previously reported Jap air attack on Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands, on 4 December actually occurred on the afternoon of 5 December. The evening of 7 December Makin, in the Gilbert Islands, was raided by a single Jap bomber. 4 bombs fell harmlessly into the lagoon.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

In addition to the previously reported Allied air activity over Bougainville 5 December, it is revealed that during the morning the Monoitu Mission area was attacked by 8 P-39's which dropped 2 tons of bombs and thoroughly strafed the target as well. That night the Cape Torokina area was ineffectively raided by several Jap planes. The following night off SE Bougainville 4 laden Jap barges were probably damaged and driven ashore by patrolling PT's which were ineffectively fired upon by the enemy surface craft. The same night over the Cape Torokina area a Jap fighter plane was downed in flames by 2 PV's. The same night 2 more Japs were killed on the E. coast of Treasury Island.

The morning of 7 December Kahili was bombed by 5 B-25's but clouds prevented observation of results. Shortly thereafter Kieta was bombed by 13 more B-25's with unreported results. Bad weather over the entire Bougainville area hampered air activity throughout the day. Also on 7 December U.S. ground positions in the Torokina area reported no contact with the enemy. 3 more hills in the E. sector were occupied and work on the airfield, roads and defense positions is proceeding satisfactorily.

During the month of November in the Empress Augusta Bay area, where the Allied landing occurred on 1 November, U.S. Army and Marine casualties total 1289 - 254 killed in action, 962 wounded in action and 73 missing in action.

(B) Green Island

On 7 December Green Island about 40 miles N. by W. of Buka, was raided by an Allied patrol plane which strafed buildings on the NW side with unobserved results.

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(C) Greenwich (Kapinganarang) Island

The afternoon of 8 December about 160 miles SE of Greenwich Island 3 small Jap vessels were destroyed and 3 more were damaged by a patrolling Allied plane which was itself slightly damaged.

(D) New Ireland

The morning of 6 December just S. of Kalili a Jap CL was reported headed NW by Allied aircraft and that afternoon about 75 miles NW of Cape Matanalem, W New Hanover, a convoy of 5 Jap AK's was sighted headed WNW. On 8 December 2 AK's, 7 small auxiliary vessels and 1 DD were reported at anchor at Kavieng.

(E) New Britain

Wulai Island, off Cape Hoskins, and a bridge over the Kapihua River, E. of Cape Hoskins, were attacked by 20 RAAF P-40's which dropped nearly a ton of 40 lb. bombs. A Jap barge was destroyed and the bridge was heavily strafed. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day the Cape Gloucester area was attacked by 30 B-24's. More than 119 tons of bombs were dropped but heavy clouds prevented assessment of the damage. There was no A/A fire. Later the same target was hit with a ton of bombs from a B-24 which also strafed barges in Rein Bay with unreported results. Rein Bay was raided by another B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs, destroying 1 and damaging another Jap barge.

Also 6 December 30 B-25's, escorted by an unstated number of P-47's, attacked Borgen Bay. Nearly 30 tons of bombs, some of them 6 to 12 hour delay bombs, were released over trails and Jap-held villages which were also strafed by the fighter escort. Moderately intense, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day at Henry Reid Bay, in Wide Bay, a plantation and jetty were strafed by 2 RAAF Beaufighters but no results were reported. Also on 6 December Garove Island was raided by a B-24, which dropped a ton of bombs with unobserved results, and by 2 RAAF Beaufighters and 3 RAAF A-20's which dropped 16 100 lb. bombs and strafed buildings. No results were reported.

(F) New Guinea

The night of 5 December Malahang airfield at Lae, Dumpu in the Ramu Valley and Finschhafen were each ineffectively raided by enemy aircraft. The following day Allied ground forces made some gains westward along the Bonga - Wareo trail. While along the coast N. of Bonga the troops advanced to a point 1200 yards N. of the Kalueng River. The same day Jap positions in the Lakona area were attacked by 12 B-25's and 9 A-20's escorted by an unreported number of P-38's. Nearly 20 tons of bombs hit the target and a large explosion was reported. The escorting fighters expended more than 10,000 rounds of 50 cal. in strafing. The same day the Bogadjim - Yaula road was again attacked. 8 P-39's dropped an unreported number of 500 lb. bombs and also strafed the area. A bridge over the Ioworro River, which flows into the Gori River above Bogadjim, was reported destroyed.

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(G) N. E. I.

The morning of 6 December Boela, Ceram Island, was raided by 3 B-24's which dropped 4 tons of bombs on the runway with unreported results. Off Pak Pak the same planes dropped nearly 3 tons of bombs on a small AK - AP with unreported results. That night SE of Kaimana 2 PBV's strafed a schooner, set the vessel afire and left it beached. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered from shore positions.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 7 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

On 4 December at Jaluit atoll, in the Marshall Islands, a Jap 4 engined flying boat was destroyed by a U.S. plane. Apparently the enemy plane was on the water when attacked. On 6 December the runway at Makin atoll, Gilbert Islands, was reported 35% completed. The same day at Tarawa atoll, Gilbert Islands, unloading was continuing and construction of the airfield was progressing satisfactorily. In the Marshall Islands there is evidence that Jap medium bombers and fighter planes are actively patrolling the area while supplies are being brought in by fast naval units.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 4 - 5 December Kahili was lightly bombed and strafed by a PV which encountered no A/A fire over the target. No search-lights were beamed on it either. Early the next morning Mosigetta, SE of Empress Augusta Bay, was strafed by 4 NZ P-40's while the Chabai area, NW Bougainville; Numa Numa and Faisi were strafed by other fighter patrols. At Faisi 12 - 15 Japs were killed. About the same time the same morning, for the third successive day, the Aitara - Monocitu - Mosigetta area was attacked at 45 minute intervals by 23 B-25's flying in 4 groups. 31 tons of bombs were dropped and a number of buildings destroyed. 1 plane was damaged by A/A fire but all returned safely. Later 10 SBD's and 12 TBF's also in 4 groups, bombed and strafed the same area, destroying 10 buildings and starting many fires. Only meagre A/A fire was encountered.

Also before noon of 5 December Kieta was bombed and strafed by 51 SBD's and 28 TBF's escorted by an unreported number of fighters. About 37 tons of bombs were released over the harbor area, destroying 12 - 15 buildings and starting 6 fires. Moderately intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered. The same morning Tarlena village in the Matchin Bay area was hit with more than 34 tons of bombs from 24 B-25's. A number of fires were started and smoke from them was visible at Augusta Bay, about 60 miles S. Also the same morning Bonis was attacked by 20 B-24's covered by 9 fighters. 3 heavy fires were started. A/A fire was meagre and inaccurate. 1 of these planes also bombed Kieta. About noon 16 P-38's strafed the W. coast of Duka while a few hours later 8 P-40's strafed the Kieta area. No results were reported. That evening

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5 Jap barges at Kieta were strafed by a patrolling plane but no results were reported.

The morning of 5 December, following the previously reported shelling by 3 DD's, the Choiseul Bay area was bombed by 3 TBF's and, a little later, a B-24. No results were reported. The following day Buka, Bonis, Kara, Kahili and Ballale airfields were reported unserviceable.

(B) New Ireland

About noon 5 December 100 miles N. of Mussau Island 4 Jap warships - reported as 1 CA, 1 CL and 2 DD's - were sighted heading SW by a B-24 which was unable to attack because of the heavy A/A fire encountered. That night 60 miles S. of New Hanover a PBV reported sighting 1 Jap CL and 3 DD's. It is believed that this latter force is the same as that previously, and possibly inaccurately, reported.

(C) New Britain

The night of 4 December Rabaul was attacked by 14 RAAF Beauforts. 6 released torpedoes against shipping in the harbor, hitting 1 medium AK and setting it afire and possibly hitting another. 1 of these planes is missing. 8 of the planes dropped 8½ tons of bombs on the Lakunai airfield dispersal area starting 4 large fires. A/A fire was moderately intense to intense, inaccurate to accurate, over the airfield.

Early the morning of 5 December a sailing coaster was destroyed in Wide Bay by 2 RAAF Beaufighters while, somewhat later, near Cape Hoskins a 50 ton vessel was destroyed by 2 RAAF A-20's. At mid-day 5 December 40 B-24's escorted by an unreported number of P-47's attacked Cape Gloucester. 155 tons of bombs were released, silencing Jap A/A guns and starting a number of fires. The same day Rein Bay was raided by a single B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs with unobserved results. A ton of bombs was also dropped, with unobserved results, on Garove Island by another B-24 during the day.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 4 December about ½ a mile off Nambariwa, Jap barge base about 4½ miles SE of Sio, 2 U.S. PT's destroyed 7 enemy rafts of 8 encountered. 5 of them were loaded with an estimated 1000 60 lb. double rubber bags filled with rice, soya bean flour and meat. The other 3 rafts each carried 3 50 gal. drums and a number of heavy boxes which may have contained ammunition. It is considered possible that the rafts may have been released by an SS and such a vessel was later contacted off Rooke Island by another U.S. PT. The same night Langemak Bay was twice ineffectively raided by unreported numbers of Jap planes.

Before dawn 5 December between Alexishafen and Madang a laden Jap lugger and 2 bagges were destroyed by 8 P-40's. Later the same morning the Bogadjim - Yaula road was attacked by 10 B-25's and 16 P-40's. The B-25's were escorted by 12 P-38's. Nearly 15 tons of bombs were dropped by the mediums while an unreported number were dropped by the fighter mission. A bridge 7 miles S. of Bogadjim was reported partly destroyed. Also the morning of 5 December Jap defenses at Lakona, 4 miles N. of Bonga, were raided by 6 low-flying A-20's which dropped 3 tons of bombs and also strafed the target.

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Later the same day Sio was hit with a ton of bombs by a B-24 which observed no results. The same day Allied ground forces in the Finschhafen - Bonga - Wareo area pushed further N. along the coast while inland Artillery and mortars shelled the enemy just S. of Wareo.

(E) N. E. I.

Very early the morning of 5 December Kaimana was raided by 3 RAAF PBV's which hit the waterfront area with more than 4 tons of bombs and incendiaries. Fires were started. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Later the same morning the Tanimbar Islands were swept by 9 RAAF Beaufighters which dropped a ton and a half of bombs on Jap-held villages, damaging the waterfront areas and starting fires. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 3000 ton AP while another SS sank a 2500 ton AK.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 6 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

About noon 4 December Mili, in the Marshall Islands was attacked by 35 B-24's which released more than 50 tons of bombs. A grounded Jap bomber was destroyed and a number of fires were started. Heavy to intense A/A fire was encountered but there was no air interception and all our planes returned safely. 5 of them suffered slight damage. The following day near Mili, Marshall Islands, U.S. patrol plane was intercepted by 7 Jap fighters of which 1 was downed and 2 more damaged. About noon the same day Ocean Island was reconnoitred by a B-24 which dropped no bombs. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered. Although 3 days earlier the island appeared deserted.

(B) Nauru

About noon 5 December Nauru was attacked by 8 B-24's. 12 tons of bombs were released and all found the target area. A large fuel fire was started. A/A fire was moderately intense but inaccurate. 1 of our planes was damaged. There was no air interception and all our planes returned safely.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 3 - 4 December Allied A/A fire on Treasury Island claimed 2 Jap planes, while the same night Allied vessels unloading at Torokina were ineffectively raided by Jap planes and L. of Buka Passage Allied PT's were strafed by Jap planes but no damage resulted. The following day Jap supply lines in ST Bougainville were raided at 45 minute intervals by Allied aircraft. 58 SBD's and 41 TBF's took part in the attacks. Many buildings were destroyed and another bridge knocked out.

(B) New Britain

The night of 3 December Lakunai airfield, Rabaul, was attacked by 18 B-24's. 6 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped over the target and a number of fires were started. More complete observation of results was prevented by the enemy searchlights. Light to moderately intense A/A fire of all calibres was inaccurate. More complete details of a previous report, revealed that Rein Bry was bombed and strafed about noon 4 December by 30 B-25's which released nearly 32 tons of bombs to silence A/A positions, destroy buildings

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and start a number of fires. Over 85,000 rounds of 50 and 30 calibre were expended in strafing. Slight A/A fire, inaccurate to accurate, was encountered. About the same time the same target was attacked by 5 B-24's which dropped 20 tons of bombs with unreported results while Cape Gloucester was attacked by 3 more heavies which scored hits on A/A positions after releasing 12 tons of bombs. All of these attacks were originally planned for a greater number of planes but bad weather prevented many from reaching their targets. Later the same day Cape Gloucester was raided by another B-24 on patrol. A ton of bombs was dropped with unreported results. Also on 4 December Sak Sak village on Dampier Strait was strafed by 4 P-38's while a B-24 hit Unea Island with a ton of bombs. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered over Sak Sak. The same day in Kimbe Bay 5 Jap barges were destroyed and 3 more were probably destroyed in a strafing raid by 2 RAAF Beaufighters. That night in the Bismarck Sea 1 of 2 Jap PC's was destroyed by a PBV on patrol. No details were reported.

(C) New Guinea

Early 4 December the Bogadjim Road was bombed and strafed by 16 P-40's and an unreported number of RAAF Boomerangs. 6 miles S. of Bogadjim a bridge was half destroyed. The same day Nanda village, N. of Bonga, was bombed and strafed by 8 B-25's which dropped 12 tons of bombs with unreported results. Later the same morning between Wandokai, just S. of Fortification Point, and Blucher Point, Jap-held villages and trails were attacked by 16 A-20's which released nearly 7 tons of bombs and strafed the area. From Blucher Point slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Also on 4 December in Dogamar Bay, SE of Nubia, Hansa Bay, 3 Jap barges were destroyed or damaged when 8 P-40's bombed and strafed the area. The same day Wareo was still in Jap hands with Allied ground forces, supported by tanks, 2 miles E. On the coast, N. of Bonga, our troops were continuing to advance.

(D) N. E. I.

Allied air activity over N.E.I. 4 December, was limited to reconnaissance.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a Jap CV at the end of a 10 hour engagement.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 5 December 1943

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert Islands

Makin was attacked the afternoon of 4 December by a single Jap fighter but no damage resulted. 9 Jap bombers dropped 36 100 lb. bombs on Tarawa but the exact time of the attack is not yet clear. It occurred either the night of 4 December or the morning of 5 December. Our ground losses were 1 PV and 1 F6F destroyed, 2 PV's badly damaged and 6 F6F's damaged. 200 barrels of gas were set afire but no personnel were lost.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 3 December a total of 58 SBD's and 36 TBF's bombed and strafed Jap supply lines from Buin to Empress Augusta Bay. The planes attacked in formations of 6 every 45 minutes. A 250 foot bridge and 30 - 40 buildings were destroyed and many fires started. 1 TBF was lost. The same day 25 B-25's dropped over 32 tons of bombs on Kieta starting 5 large fires and many small fires. 6 B-25's dropped 9 tons of bombs on Aitara, SN Bougainville, destroying huts but damage for the most part was unobserved. The same time 17 SBD's bombed beached Jap AK's in Moisuru Bay, E. of Kahili, and other fighters strafed targets on N. and NE Bougainville and a reconnaissance bomber attacked camouflaged barges at Green Island. Bonia airfield was hit 3 December by 21 B-24's. 4 fires resulted. 1 - 2 B-24's struck Kieta and Korova destroying buildings. None of these planes were reported lost.

Friendly natives killed 6 Japs on the trail from the Laruma River to Numa Numa on 3 December. It was also reported that the enemy broke contact with our forces NE of Torokina and ground positions were reported improved.

21 B-24's followed shortly afterwards by 17 B-25's heavily bombed Chabai supply area the morning of 4 December. 3 buildings and part of the supply dump area were destroyed. Heavy A/A fire was encountered and 1 B-24 was lost although 7 of the crew bailed out. A Jap plane flying high over our B-25's dropped 6 aerial bombs which exploded near our planes but no losses resulted.

Enemy positions and installations at Mawaraka and Koiaria, Empress Augusta Bay area, were shelled by our DD's the morning of 4 December. Covering SBD's bombed the same targets and several buildings and a warehouse were destroyed. 30 fighters covering our surface vessels strafed the Chabai and the E. coast of Bougainville. On the morning of 5 December the Choiseul Bay area, N. Choiseul, was bombarded by Allied surface units. Covering planes reported fires started and good hits on the target.

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(B) New Britain - New Ireland

Greenwich or Kapingmarangi Island was bombed 3 December by reconnaissance bomber and damaged planes and buildings were hit causing 2 fires. The island appeared deserted. The same night a 11 ship Jap convoy including 4 possible PC's, 2 AP's of 7 - 9000 tons and 5 unidentified vessels was attacked by a single B-24 and 1 near miss on an AP was reported.

40 B-24's, 29 B-25's and 6 B-26's heavily bombed the Cape Gloucester area the morning of 3 December. Over 179 tons of bombs were dropped. Results for the most part were unobserved. A single heavy bomber attacked Cape Hoskins and sank 5 Jap barges at Garove Island. The following day a large force of B-24's and B-25's set out to attack Cape Gloucester but bad weather forced most of the planes to return. The B-25's hit gun positions at Rein Bay but other results were unobserved.

(C) New Guinea

On 3 December 4 P-47's over Newak encountered 24 Jap fighters of which 4 were shot down while we suffered no losses. 11 A-20's bombed and strafed enemy positions near the Masaweng River, 8 miles N. of Bonga, and a single B-24 attacked Sio. An enemy plane attacked 1 of our PT's S. of Long Island but no damage resulted. Our PT's off Lepsius Point, 30 miles SE of Saidor, sank 1, probably sank 2 and damaged 2 other Jap barges the night of 3 December. Heavy gun fire was received from enemy shore positions. The Japs continued to resist stubbornly S. of Wareo and little progress was reported. On 4 December 10 B-25's and 16 A-20's raided Sio and 1 barge was destroyed. A 1000 ton Jap AK, 120 miles N. of Newak was bombed by a B-24.

(D) N. E. I.

24 B-24's attacked Waingapoe the morning of 3 December and dropped over 28 tons of bombs starting large fires.

III. A U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS in the Southwest Pacific reports sinking a 7,400 ton Jap AK.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 4 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Gilbert and Marshall Islands

W Ocean Island, which was the administrative center for the British Crown Colony of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, was raided on 2 December by 2 B-24's. A/A positions and buildings on the SW shore were hit and a fire started but no other damage was apparent. The planes reported the island appeared deserted. The same day, presumably over Mili, Marshall Islands, a U.S. plane destroyed 2 of 9 intercepting Jap fighters and probably destroyed another. On 3 December 2 Jap CL's, 1 DD, 9 AK's and 1 small AO were reported at Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

PK The Porro River area, S Bougainville, was bombed and strafed on 2 December by 6 B-25's while Korovo, SE Shortland, was attacked by an unreported number of Allied heavy bombers. No results were reported. The night of 3 December about 35 miles SW of Empress Augusta Bay an unreported number of U.S. ships, including DD's, were attacked by 15 - 25 Jap dive and torpedo bombers. Some damage was reported but there were no serious casualties. 3 of the enemy planes were downed and 2 or 3 were probably destroyed. The following day the 9th echelon arrived at Torokina and the 8th reached Treasury.

B. New Ireland

At noon 2 December 100 miles NW of New Hanover a 7 vessel W bound Jap convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by a patrolling B-24 which released a ton of bombs. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire from DD's in the convoy was encountered. The same day at Kavieng 12 AK's, totalling an estimated 64,000 tons, and 1 PC were observed. The night of 3 - 4 December in St. Georges Channel an Allied patrol plane unsuccessfully attacked a Jap DD and 2 PC's.

C. New Britain

The W shores of New Britain from Rottock Bay on the N to Cape

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Busching on the S were bombed and strafed by 16 A-20's on 1 December. More than 6 tons of bombs were released. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. That night Gasmata was attacked by 11 RAAF Beauforts which dropped more than 8 tons of bombs and concentrated on the dump areas. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. No results were reported. The same night 11 miles SW of Cape Gloucester an Allied PT encountered a possible Jap PT. No details were reported. Also the same night 20 miles E of Garove Island a probable Jap sea truck was attacked by a patrolling B-24 which dropped 3 tons of bombs with unobserved results. Borgen Bay was attacked 2 December by 59 B-25's escorted by an unreported number of P-38's. 63 tons of bombs were dropped on villages, dump areas and barge concentrations with unobserved results. The low-flying planes also expended 175 75 MM shells and 98,000 rounds of 30 and 50 calibre. 1 squadron reported encountering slight and inaccurate A/A fire.

D. New Guinea

Photographs of the Wewak area, 1 December, revealed 105 Jap planes on the 4 fields. At Aitape, about 80 miles NW of Wewak, 2 new airstrips were photographed. The following day enemy positions along the trail between Bonga and Wareo were cleaned out by Allied ground forces, supported by tanks. That morning the coastal area 2 miles N of Bonga was bombed and strafed by 10 B-25's and 10 B-26's which only released 5 tons of bombs over Jap supply dumps. Slight A/A fire was encountered. The same day Sio was raided by 2 B-24's which dropped 2 tons of bombs with unobserved results.

E. N. E. I.

On 2 December Toeal, Kai Islands, was raided by 4 RAAF PBV's which dropped nearly 6 tons of bombs on the waterfront area. 2 explosions and 5 fires were observed.

III. U.S. SS Reports

U.S. SS's report sinking a Jap DD, 1 7,000-ton AK and 1 8,000-ton naval auxiliary, probably sinking another AK and damaging an AP.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 3 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

Occupation of Tarawa and Apamama atolls in the Gilbert Islands was reported progressing on 1 December. A landing on Maiana atoll, about 25 miles S. by W. of Tarawa, indicated the Japs have never occupied it. On 2 December the fighter strip at Makin was reported 15 % finished. The same day Abaig and Maraki atolls, N. and NE of Tarawa respectively, in the Gilbert Islands, were vainly searched for Japs by U.S. landing parties. A Jap coast-watcher's radio was destroyed.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 30 November Maliai, NE Morgusiai Island off SE Shortland, was attacked by 17 B-25's which dropped 40 quarter ton bombs and 143 fragmentation clusters. Thereafter a number of fires were observed. Accurate but not intense A/A fire was encountered and all our planes returned safely.

The following noon Maliai was again attacked. This time 18 B-25's, escorted by 8 P-38's, bombed and strafed the target with unreported results. The same morning Sarime Plantation, N. Bougainville, was bombed and strafed by 6 B-25's but no results were reported. The same day Jap positions in the Jaba River area were bombed and strafed by 12 TBF's and 10 SBD's escorted by 8 P-38's. Also on 1 December 4 P-39's strafed Tonolei Harbor with unobserved results and other fighter patrols strafed and set afire a large building at Tenekau, N. of Kieta, and also strafed barges and supplies at Motupena where no results were observed. 1 P-40 is missing. Early the afternoon of 1 December Kara and Ballale airfields were attacked by 50 SBD's and 26 TBF's escorted by 32 fighters. 56 tons of bombs were dropped, damaging buildings and starting a number of fires. 2 SBD's are missing. Photographs of the Chabai area 1 December revealed 2 new A/A positions under construction at the SE end of the plantation. The evening of 1 December N. of Treasury Island PT's killed 2 Japs fleeing by canoe.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 30 November - 1 December in Caselle Channel a reported 6 vessel convoy, including 2 DD's, was attacked by 2 B-24's which

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OK scored 2 possible direct hits on 1 AP. 4 hours later S. of New Hanover direct hits were scored on each of 2 DD's, probably in the same convoy attacked by the B-24's, by a PBV and shortly thereafter in the same vicinity another PBV claimed 2 hits on a large AO in a convoy which, although reported to include 10 - 12 ships, was possibly the same one attacked twice before. The afternoon of 1 December 65 miles WSW of New Hanover a motor-launch and 20 small boats loaded with Japs was strafed by a B-24.

(C) New Britain

The morning of 1 December Borgen Bay was attacked by 29 B-25's and 7 B-26's escorted by 18 P-38's. 54 tons of bombs were released over the target, starting fires and damaging A/A positions, barges and installations. No A/A fire was encountered. The same day near Cape Hoskins 2 RAAF Beaufighters strafed Jap barges with unobserved results.

(D) New Guinea

Wareo, 3 1/2 miles N. of Sattelberg in the Finschhafen area, was occupied by Allied ground forces 1 December. About noon the same day Newak was attacked by 46 B-24's escorted by 47 fighters. 110 tons of bombs were dropped on the airfield and adjacent supply dumps. Estimation of the damage wrought was prevented by the clouds of smoke and fires which rose from the target following the attack. 40 Jap fighter planes intercepted and of these 8 were downed by our bombers and 2 by our covering fighters while another was probably destroyed by our fighters. 2 B-24's were lost in combat and a 3rd crash-landed. Moderately intense to intense, inaccurate to accurate, AA fire was encountered. The same day 40 miles N. of Nubia a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on 2 enemy boats with unobserved results while at Uligan Harbor, SE of Nubia, a large Jap landing barge was strafed by 8 P-40's.

(E) N. E. I.

Over N. E. I. Allied air activity was limited to reconnaissance on 1 December.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

OK A U.S. SS. returned from a 2 weeks patrol, reports sinking 1 AO, 2 large AK's, 1 medium AP and a small steamer, totalling 45,000 tons, and possibly sinking 2 more large AK's totalling 19,000 tons.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 2 December 1943

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

Related reports state that on Tarawa atoll, Gilbert Islands, the last Japs were eliminated by the night of 29 November. 125 to 175 of them were killed in this final activity while our casualties were 26 killed, 57 wounded and 2 missing. Over Mili, Marshall Islands, on 30 November U.S. aircraft were intercepted by 8 Jap fighters of which 1 was downed, 1 probably destroyed and 2 possibly damaged. The following day at Makin, Gilbert Islands, construction of the runway was reported progressing slowly. The same day on Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands, Jap coastwatchers on adjacent islands were being liquidated. That afternoon 36 F6F's landed on Betio Island field, Tarawa. Early the morning of 2 December 2 Jap CL's and 1 DD left Mili, heading WNW at 24 knots.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Photographs 30 November revealed Ballale, Kahili and Kara all unserviceable although craters at Ballale had been filled. Other fields were not covered. During the day Jap positions in the S. Empress Augusta Bay area were bombarded by U.S. DD's covered by aircraft and in the Chabai area our fighter patrols sank 1 boat, damaged another and set 2 buildings afire. Also on 30 November the E. Bougainville coast S. from Numa Numa to Kieta was strafed by 8 P-38's. A number of fires were started. The same afternoon Amun Plantation NW of Cape Moltke, W Bougainville, was strafed with unobserved results by 9 P-38's. Since 22 November there has been no Jap air interception over Bougainville.

(B) New Ireland

The forenoon of 29 November about 60 miles W. of S. New Hanover a B-24 sighted 7 empty lifeboats and considerable wreckage all of which was presumed to be evidence of an SS attack on a convoy. The following night 8 of Kavieng a 6 - 8 vessel convoy heading NW was reported and later a 10,000 ton AP in this convoy was reported hit with a 1000 lb. bomb from an Allied plane.

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(C) New Britain

The night of 29 November NE of Talasea a Jap DD was bombed with unobserved results by a B-24 which released 2 tons of bombs while, in the same area, another B-24 released 2 tons of bombs on an unidentified vessel. Intense and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. At dawn 30 November in the Cape Hoskins area 4 Jap barges were reported. At noon the same day Cape Gloucester was attacked by 15 B-24's which dropped more than 28 tons of bombs. 2 grounded planes were destroyed and a large fire started. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. The same day the NW coast of New Britain was swept by 8 B-25's escorted by 11 P-38's. Nearly 7 tons of bombs were released. At least 4 A/A positions silenced, villages strafed and Jap barges hit. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered. Also the planes observed small 18" diameter parachutes from which were suspended 6 - 8 inch cartridges. These were believed fired by guns at Cape Roualt. The afternoon of 30 November a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Garove Island and another dropped a ton of bombs on Los Negros Island airfield, just E. of Manus Island. No results were reported. Over Garove slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day Rooke Island plantation buildings were strafed with unobserved results by 3 P-39's.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 28 November Sio was bombarded by an unreported number of U.S. DD's. No details were reported but spotting planes believed the attack was accurate and effective. After the bombardment the DD's were ineffectively strafed by enemy aircraft. The following day Kalasa was raided by a single B-25 which dropped a ton of bombs from tree-top height, starting a large fire. That night 4 U.S. DD's bombarded Madang, sinking a small enemy vessel and, again according to covering aircraft, the target was effectively hit.

The morning of 30 November Kalasa and the surrounding vicinity were attacked by 18 B-25's escorted by an unreported number of fighters. 48 tons of bombs destroyed a number of buildings and started fires. About the same time the trail between Busulu, about 4 miles NW of Bonga, and Lakona, about 4 miles N. of Bonga, was bombed and strafed by 11 A-20's supporting ground forces in the area. More than 6 tons of bombs were dropped. The only A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. 3 miles NE of Sattelberg, the same day, Allied ground forces encountered a Jap strong point at the Song River Bridge. No details were reported. Also on 30 November 36 B-24's dropped more than 70 tons of bombs on supply and dump areas at Alexishafen. Results were reported good. Moderately intense to intense and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

(D) N. E. I.

The night 29 - 30 November Efman Island, opposite Sorong, NW Vogelkop, Dutch New Guinea, was raided by 2 RAAF PBY's which dropped a number of small bombs and incendiaries, starting 2 fires on the runway; and Jap positions on Mac Cluer Bay were also strafed by these planes. 1 of them strafed the airfield at Timika where slight A/A fire was encountered. The night of 30 November Langgoer, Kai Islands, was raided by 2 RAAF PBY's which released 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries. Fires were started in the jetty area. Moderately intense A/A fire was met.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 1 December 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

At Makin, in the Gilbert Islands, the newly begun runway was reported 5% finished on 30 November. The same day occupation activities continued at Tarawa, Gilbert Islands. The airfield was in use and had been prepared for emergency use by night fighters. Reconnoitering of nearby atolls was in progress.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 29 November the Tiniputz Harbor, Numa Numa and Kieta areas were bombed and strafed by 2 flights totalling 18 B-25's. 12 fighters escorted the bombers which did considerable damage. Only m/g fire from Kieta was encountered but it downed 1 bomber. Preliminary reports indicate Kieta was bombed by B-24's during the day. The same morning Jap artillery shelled the beach E. of Cape Torokina damaging 1 of our guns, setting a fuel dump afire and sinking 3 small landing craft. There were no casualties. The afternoon of 29 November the Motupena - Mosigetta area, S. Empress Augusta Bay, was bombed and strafed by 38 TBF's covered by 8 P-39's. 28 buildings were destroyed, a warehouse was damaged and a number of fires were started after 32 tons of bombs had been dropped. Later the same afternoon the Jaba River, Kolariis areas were twice bombed and strafed by 2 flights - 1 of 17 SBD's and the other of 12 SBD's - supporting ground forces. Only light A/A fire was encountered. Also on Monday Porton Plantation, S. of Chabai, Matchin Bay; Gazelle Harbor, and Jap gun positions S. of Cape Torokina were strafed by patrolling fighter planes while the Mavavia area was bombed by a PBO (A-29). No results were reported. The same day Allied ground forces in the Torokina area made some slight progress to the NE and captured 1 Jap. Photographs that day revealed Ballale serviceable, Buka and Kahili unserviceable.

The night of 29 November about 1 1/2 miles NW of Kolariis a reinforced Marine battalion, which had landed without opposition the night of 28 November, was successfully withdrawn in the face of heavy enemy resistance that began at dawn 29 November with an attack by an estimated 1000 Japs. The Jap force increased during the day and made effective use of their mortars which prevented evacuation of the landing force by boats. DD's summoned by the Marines almost completely silenced the enemy and the Marines were withdrawn without fatal mishap. All personnel except the 15 killed were believed rescued.

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Jap known dead totalled 200. Quantities of Jap supplies and equipment were destroyed or captured.

On 29 November Treasury Island was raided by Jap aircraft but no details were reported. The same day work was begun on the bomber runway at Stirling Island and 1 Jap was killed N. of Malsi on Treasury

The morning of 30 November 3 A/A positions, 4 barges and 2 boats in Tonolei Harbor were strafed with unobserved results by 4 P-39's. Slight A/A fire was met. Shortly thereafter the SE coast of Ballale was bombed and strafed by 4 P-40's. 1 plane was damaged by A/A fire. Later the same morning the Kahili - Kara area was attacked by 50 SBD's and 22 TBF's escorted by 31 fighters. 43½ tons of bombs were dropped and the area was strafed. A/A positions were hit and a number of buildings were destroyed. A/A fire, of varying intensity, was encountered and 3 SBD's were damaged.

The afternoon of 30 November Mawareka was hit with 4½ tons of bombs from 3 B-34's, 2 of which were damaged by A/A fire. 1 large fire was reported. Later the same afternoon the Mosigetta area was heavily bombed and strafed by 12 TBF's and 10 SBD's escorted by 4 P-39's. Only meagre A/A fire was met. 18 tons of bombs fell and a number of buildings were destroyed. 1 of the latter was believed to have been a radio station. Still later an A/A position and a barge at Tonolei Harbor were wrecked by 5 P-39's. 3 of which were damaged by small calibre fire.

Also on 30 November Jap concentrations on NW Choiseul were strafed by 23 fighters with unobserved results. Later the same day NW Choiseul was bombed and strafed by an unreported number of B-24's and 6 B-25's. Considerable damage was reported.

(B) New Britain

On 29 November Cape Gloucester was hit with a ton of bombs from a single B-24 on reconnaissance which encountered slight and inaccurate A/A fire. This raid followed the previously reported attack on the same target by 38 medium bombers the same day. Also on 29 November S. of Cape Pomas a Jap barge was attacked by a patrolling B-24 with unreported results. That night W. of Gaselle Peninsula 2 groups of ships, 1 of 2 DD's and another of 4 possible DD's, were sighted heading W. by patrolling Allied aircraft.

(C) New Guinea

On 29 November Bonga and Gusika N. of Finschhafen, were captured by Allied ground forces who then turned W. to clean out a Jap post 1½ miles along the trail leading to Wareo. N. of Satelberg other Allied units were reported advancing on Wareo. The same day Sio was raided by a single B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs with unobserved results. At mid-day 29 November a single Jap reconnaissance plane was observed over Milne Bay.

R. A. Boone.

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

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

Late 28 November over Makin a single Jap bomber was downed by U.S. planes and the following night in the Tarawa area U.S. carrier-based fighters destroyed 3 Jap planes. At noon 28 November Nauru, in the Gilbert Islands, was attacked by 11 B-24's which dropped 18 tons of bombs on the target. Several fires were observed. Except for moderately intense A/A fire, which damaged 1 of our planes, there was no enemy opposition of any kind and all our bombers returned safely to their base.

The same day occupation of Tarawa continued with unloading 95% completed. A few remaining Japs previously reported on the N. end of the atoll are said to number not more than 60. On Betio there are still a few snipers. U.S. Marines now hold Betio, Bairiki, Eita and Buota Islands and have set up A/A defenses on Betio and Buota. 43 fighter planes are operating from the runway at Betio. U.S. casualties to date are estimated at 1000 killed and missing and 2500 wounded. Completion of occupation of Tarawa is expected by 3 December.

At Kwajalein, in the Marshall Islands, 3 Jap CL's, 4 DD's and 8 AK's were reported 29 November while the same day at Eniwetok, NW of Kwajalein, 4 Jap CA's and 6 DD's which had arrived the day before, appeared to have left. The same day at Makin completion of unloading was anticipated while at Apamama unloading was apparently proceeding less rapidly.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 28 November in the vicinity of Kakurua, just SE of the Mobai River SW Bougainville, a heavily laden Jap barge was driven ashore and damaged or destroyed by PT's aided by a PBY which beamed a light on the enemy craft. The following day revised estimates reported 5000 Japs on the entire island of Choiseul.

(B) Green Island

The afternoon of 27 November Green Island was attacked by a single Patrol plane which probably destroyed a large building. About the same time at the Peni Islands 35 miles NW of Green Island, 4 Jap barges were strafed by another patrol plane.

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(C) New Britain

The night of 27 November about 22 miles W. of Gazelle Peninsula a small Jap AK was unsuccessfully attacked by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The following day Unea Island, Vitu group, was raided by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs with unreported results. The same day 33 miles N. of Talasea a near miss on 1 of 2 DD's was scored by another B-24 which released 4 tons of bombs. Moderately intense but accurate A/A fire was encountered. The morning of 29 November Cape Gloucester was attacked by 29 B-25's and 9 B-26's escorted by an unreported number of P-47's. The planes bombed and strafed the supply dump areas but no details were reported. That night 4 Allied DD's bombarded Gasmata. There was no return fire.

(D) New Guinea

The morning of 27 November along the N. New Guinea coast 1 Jap barge was destroyed and another damaged by 8 P-39's. The same morning the trail W. from Bonga to Wareo was bombed and strafed by 18 B-25's which hit targets designated by the Allied ground forces whom they were supporting in the area. That night 15 miles S. of Long Island in Vitiaz Strait an enemy SS was contacted by PT's but no details were reported. Over Kiriwina the morning of 28 November a single enemy reconnaissance plane was downed by a patrolling Spitfire. Later in the morning coastal targets SE of Sio were bombed and strafed by 18 B-25's escorted by 12 P-38's while enemy supply trails running inland in the Kalasa area about 20 miles SE of Sio were bombed and strafed by 9 A-20's which dropped nearly 10 tons of bombs. Before noon 28 November the Bonga trail area was again attacked. 45 B-25's and 7 B-26's hit enemy positions with about 50 tons of bombs. About the same time Kewak and Boram were attacked by 47 B-24's escorted by about 45 P-47's. More than 93 tons of bombs were dropped on the 2 airfields and the supply dumps at Cape Boram. The targets were reported well covered, but heavy smoke prevented observation of results. Neither A/A fire nor air interception was encountered and all our planes returned safely.

The same day Sio was raided by 2 B-24's, which released 2 tons of bombs with unreported results and Kiari was hit with about a ton of bombs from a single B-25. No results were reported. Allied ground forces in the Finschhafen - Sattelberg area were reported only about 500 yards S. of Bonga on 28 November. That night 4 Jap dive-bombers raided the Finschhafen area, causing some casualties but no material damage.

(E) N. E. I.

The night of 27 November Ambon was raided by 3 RAAF PBV's which dropped more than 4 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the waterfront and barracks. Fires were started in the target areas. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The afternoon of 29 November Manokwari was bombed by 6 B-24's. No results were reported.

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III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from a 2 months patrol reports sinking 3 Jap vessels (2 AK's, 1 AO), probably sinking a 7500 ton AO, damaging 1 AK and 1 AO.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 29 November 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

The morning of 28 November Mill, in the Marshall Islands, was attacked by 8 B-24's which released 10 tons of bombs 95% of which were reported to have hit the target area. 1 Jap fighter attempted interception and medium A/A fire was encountered. We suffered no casualties. The same day on Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands, operations were proceeding against the few remaining Japs located on the N. end of the atoll.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 27 November Carola Harbor, NW Buka, was bombed and strafed by 5 B-25's escorted by 8 fighters. The low-flying planes destroyed several buildings and damaged a pier. About 20 minutes later the Mosigetta - Mawaraka - Motupena triangle in the S. Empress Augusta Bay area was heavily bombed and strafed by 60 SBD's and 37 TBF's escorted by 8 P-39's. More than 40 tons of bombs were dropped starting a number of fires and destroying enemy installations. About the same time Buka was attacked by 23 B-25's escorted by 24 fighters. 34 tons of bombs fell. 40 hits on the runway were reported and an explosion and 2 fires were observed. Intense A/A fire damaged 4 of our planes.

The afternoon of 27 November a possible Jap radio station at Motupena was bombed and strafed by 3 PV's and a little later 2 B-25's, finding only wreckage, went on to bomb and strafe huts at the mouth of the Mobia River. The same day Allied air patrols sweeping the Bougainville coast strafed Kieta and Chabai starting a number of fires. At no time during the day was there any Jap air interception and all our planes returned safely.

On 28 November Bonis and Buka runways were probably unserviceable. The others were not photographed. Early that morning just off Cape Henpan an Allied plane attacked a Jap SS and reported the target broke up. Later 55 miles W. of Buka another Allied plane bombed a Jap SS with unreported results. The same morning about 60 miles W. of Empress Augusta Bay a third Allied plane bombed a probable submerged SS trailing an oil slick.

Also the morning of 28 November 6 unescorted B-25's dropped more than 6 tons of bombs and strafed the Motupena area from tree-top height.

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No results were observed. No A/A fire was encountered. At the same time Tinian Harbor was strafed by 14 P-40's which started fires in the area. No A/A fire was encountered. That afternoon barges in Tonolei Harbor were strafed by 4 P-39's with unobserved results. Only slight A/A fire was encountered. The same day Allied patrols strafed the NW coast of Bougainville, starting a number of fires, while other planes supporting Allied ground forces dropped nearly 4 tons of bombs on Jap positions in the Empress Augusta Bay area. No results were reported. On 28 November 2000 Japs were reported in the Choiseul Bay area.

(B) Greenwich (Kapingamarangi) Island

On 27 November Greenwich Island was bombed and strafed by a single Allied plane. No results were reported.

(C) New Ireland

About 50 miles NW of Cape Matanalem a Jap 7 - 8000 ton AK was hit by an Allied plane on 27 November. No details were reported.

(D) New Britain

The night of 26 November off Cape Gloucester 5 Jap barges, headed NW with a total of 200 personnel, field guns and supplies, were destroyed by 2 PT's. The same night 50 miles W. of the NW tip of Gazelle Peninsula a Jap CL or DD was hit with a 1000 lb. bomb released by a B-24. A terrific explosion followed the attack and shortly thereafter a possible DD was observed speeding to the scene.

Garove Island was bombed 27 November by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs with unreported results. That night off the Duke of York Islands a PBV bombed 2 Jap PC's. No results were reported. Accurate A/A fire was encountered. The same night W. of Gazelle Peninsula 4 probable Jap DD's were sighted heading toward Garove Island.

(E) New Guinea

The night of 26 November 18 miles N. of Bonga a PT sank a single S. bound Jap barge. The following day Wewak and Boram airfields were attacked by 45 B-25's escorted by 50 P-38's. More than 18 tons of bombs were dropped and over 79,000 rounds were expended in strafing. Of an estimated 25 enemy aircraft on the ground 5 were destroyed and a number damaged. Hits were scored on A/A positions and 6 barges were destroyed. A/A fire was encountered. 2 B-25's are missing. The same day 102 miles N. of Wewak an AK - AP was attacked with unreported results by a B-24 which released a ton of bombs. Also on 27 November Sio was raided by a single B-24. More than a ton of bombs was released but no results were reported.

(F) N. E. I.

Timika airfield and near-by villages were attacked by 5 RAAF

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Beauforts on 27 November. Nearly 4 tons of bombs were released over the target area to start a number of fires. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

Scamp A U.S. SS returning from patrol has reported sinking 1 enemy AP, damaging a CA with 2 hits, and damaging an AP of 8000 tons with 1 hit.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0000 28 November 1943

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I. Central Pacific

On Apamama 3 additional beachheads were established by U. S. marines on 25 November.

II. Southwestern Pacific

A. Solomon Islands

The evening and night of 25 November a number of enemy shells fell in the Torokina strip area causing some damage and wounding 2. Early the following morning in the Imposs Augusta Bay area Jap artillery shelling our positions in the vicinity of Cape Torokina were strafed by a single I-70. The same day 4 miles E of the LAHUNA RIVER mouth and also NE of Piva Village considerable enemy activity was observed by 2 patrolling SBD's.

The afternoon of 26 November 4 B-25's bombed and strafed Green Island, about 40 miles NW of Cape Monpan, destroying a barge and damaging installations. There was neither air interception nor A/A fire encountered.

Further details reveal that on 26 November, in addition to the previously reported attack by 24 B-24's, Buka was raided by 3 B-25's while 2 more hit Bonis. Earlier in the afternoon Bonis had been attacked by 25 B-25's. No results were reported. Subsequently photographs reveal the 5 major airfields unserviceable. That evening a single Jap bomb damaged an Allied communications base on Stirling Island.

Early the morning of 28 November Torokina was reached by the 3th echelon without incident except for an ineffective attack the afternoon before by a single enemy bomber. Also on 28 November the 7th echelon reached Treasury Island. The same day at Green Island a Jap troop barge was attacked by an Allied patrol plane but no details were reported.

B. New Britain

The morning of 26 November 13 B-24's escorted by 31 RAAF P-40's attacked Lindenhafen Plantation, 9 miles E of Gasmata. More than 25 tons of bombs were released and the results were called excellent. The same morning the SE coast of New Britain was swept by 14 A-27's which bombed the shores of Wide Bay with unobserved results. That noon photographs of the Rabaul area revealed 204 land planes and 17 floatplanes. That night 4 RAAF Beauforts dropped about 3 tons of bombs on the Vunakinau airfield, starting a large fire.

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At the same time a 5th Beaufort dropped about 3/4 of a ton of bombs on the Rabaul waterfront and 2 more dropped over a ton on dump areas at Wide Bay. Slight A/A fire was encountered.

C. New Guinea

The night of 24 November SE of Sio 1 of 2 S bound, loaded Jap barges was destroyed by a single PT. The following morning at daybreak, 30 miles NE of Finschhafen a surfaced SS was sighted.

The morning of 26 November 10 Jap bombers escorted by 15 fighters attacked Allied positions in the Finschhafen area, causing some casualties and damage. Shortly thereafter NW of Saidor 2 Jap fighters were destroyed by 4 patrolling P-40's. The same day Manbarima, an enemy barge hideout 4 miles SE of Sio, was attacked by 20 B-25's and 8 B-26's escorted by 15 P-33's. Nearly 50 tons of bombs were released with excellent results. Also 26 November the Madang area was raided by 8 P-40's with unobserved results while at Dogia, just E of Mansa Bay, 2 Jap trucks were destroyed by 3 raiding P-47's. Moderately intense inaccurate A/A fire was encountered over Dogia. The same day E of Finschhafen Allied ground forces, supported by tanks, captured Penor Hill, SW of Donga. 1 1/2 miles SW of Ousika, in the same area, 126 Japs are reported to have been killed since 20 November.

D. N. E. I.

Over N. E. I. Allied air activity 26 November was limited to reconnaissance flights.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 27 November 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

Related reports of the Gilbert Island operation on 23 November revealed that U.S. carrier based fighter planes intercepted 20 Jap fighter planes which probably came from the enemy base at Taroa, Maloelap, Marshall Islands. 16 enemy planes were destroyed with no losses to us. On the next day U.S. carrier based fighter planes shot down 9 Jap fighters and 1 medium bomber of 15 planes intercepted. 1 F6F was lost. To date enemy losses have been 25 fighters, 9 floatplanes, 7 medium bombers 3 4-engined flying boats and 2 dive-bombers. Our losses have been 2 F6F's and 1 TBF. On 24 November Mili was attacked by U.S. carrier based planes. 191 tons of bombs were dropped on the enemy base. Results were unreported. On the same field at least 6 unidentified enemy planes were observed landing on the evening of 26 November. As of 26 November mopping up was continuing on the Eastern land rim of Tarawa, the S. land rim having been cleared. Slight resistance was being encountered and the capture of 70 more prisoners (Koreans) was reported.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The afternoon of 24 November 9 barges were destroyed in S. Empress Augusta Bay by Allied fighter patrols. The same afternoon in Queen Carola Harbor an enemy lugger was set afire. Just after mid-night 24 - 25 November 3 Allied PT boats were attacked by 2 enemy DD's 8 miles N. of Katchin Bay. After an unsuccessful attempt to ram the PT boats, the DD's retired to the W. Enemy casualties to 25 November in the Torokina operations have been reported at 1146 confirmed killed. 26 November Kara and the vicinity were heavily attacked by 37 TBF's and 57 SBD's escorted by 8 fighters. The airfield and surrounding gun positions were heavily hit and the airfield was left unserviceable. During the same morning Buka was attacked by 24 B-24's. A second and third attack on Buka, Bonis and Chabai were made but details are still lacking.

(B) New Ireland

On 25 November patrol planes found 2 groups of survivors of about 150 each in the water SE of Cape St. George. These men probably were survivors from the 5 enemy DD's sunk in that vicinity. A surfaced enemy SS approaching 1 group was attacked by our PT's. 3 depth charges were dropped.

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and a large oil slick and much debris were noted. The submarine was believed to have been destroyed.

(D) New Britain

On 24 November 1 of 2 patrolling PBY's reported scoring direct hits with 1000 lb. bombs on an enemy cruiser which was in a group of 3 ships headed NW of Gazelle Peninsula. An explosion and fire were reported on the ship. The same day an enemy cruiser or DD was attacked by an Allied B-24 NE of Garove Island. Bomb hits were reported within 25 feet of the bow and it is believed the ship was damaged. The same day photographs at Rabaul showed the following shipping: 1 CL, 9 DD's, 1 destroyer tender, 2 AO's 17 AK's (totalling 70,000 tons). 74 fighters and 11 bombers were seen at Lakunai. 20 floatplanes were in the harbor.

(D) New Guinea

23 November 2 M. bound enemy barges were sunk by Allied patrol craft 30 miles N. of Finschhafen. On Wednesday afternoon, 24 November, the enemy barge base at Kiari, 10 miles N. of Sio, was attacked by 3 A-20's. Results were not seen. 25 November Sattelberg was reported captured and by the same evening villages in the vicinity were cleared of the enemy. Our forces had advanced to beyond the Long River and the enemy was reported retreating northward toward Wareo. During the morning of the same day bridges along the Bogadjim road were bombed by 16 P-39's and 2 boomerangs.

(E) N. E. I.

On 25 November Halong near Ambon was attacked by 4 B-24's with unobserved results.

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

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

Belated reports reveal that on 22 November Mill, in the Marshall Islands, was hit with 200 tons of bombs from an unreported number of U.S. carrier-based planes. At noon 24 November Enidj, Jaluit, Marshall Islands, was attacked by 6 B-24's which released 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs over the target. There was no interception by 3 Jap floatplanes but accurate A/A fire forced 1 of the attackers to land on the water, injuring 6 men. 6 small and 1 large AME were observed. At the same time Taroa, Maloelep, Marshall Islands, was attacked by 20 B-24's which released 20 tons of bombs over the Jap island airfield where numerous grounded planes were observed. A number of fires were started and an AK was sunk. 1 of our planes is missing. The following day at Makin, Gilbert Islands, a preliminary check indicated 63 U.S. troops were killed in action, 119 wounded in action and 22 wounded accidentally. Naval and Coast Guard casualties were 2 killed and 1 wounded in action. 2 Japs and 103 Koreans (probably laborers) were taken. The same day on Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, mopping up operations continued against the few and isolated Japs remaining. AP's departed with the 1st echelon assault troops, 782 wounded and 126 prisoners, most of whom were Koreans. An additional 220 wounded were put aboard AM's. It is revealed that enemy mines were responsible for many U.S. casualties. The bulk of 4500 Japs were presumed killed.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 22 - 23 November at the mouth of the Torokina River about 3 miles E. of Torokina a U.S. Marine raiding party landed to destroy Jap installations in the area. Very early in the morning of 26 November Ballale was raided by a single Allied patrol plane which dropped more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton of bombs on the target with unobserved results. Inaccurate A/A fire of light intensity was encountered when a Jap search-light was accurately beamed on the plane.

(B) Greenwich (Kapingamarangi) Island

On 25 November Greenwich Island was bombed and strafed by a B-24 which was reported wrecking a radio station, damaging planes and silencing A/A positions and yet reported belief the Japs have evacuated the atoll.

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(C) New Ireland

S. of East Cape on 25 November 3 depth charges were dropped on a Jap AG by a patrolling Allied plane. No results were determined.

(D) New Britain

Before dawn 24 November Ring King plantation, 6 miles E. of Gasmata, was attacked by 24 B-24's escorted by 42 RAFF P-40's and 28 P-38's. 53 tons of bombs were released and a number of fires were started. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. On Gasmata airfield only 4 enemy planes (3 P-40's and 1 - 2EF) were observed. The same day Cape Racult, S. of Roin Bay, N. New Britain, was raided by a single B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs on enemy A/A positions with unreported results. That night 70 miles NE of Garove Island a lone S. bound Jap AG was unsuccessfully attacked by a patrolling B-24.

(E) New Guinea

The night of 23 November in Vitiaz Strait 2 of 6 S. bound Jap barges were destroyed by PT's. The following forenoon Kalasa, a possible Jap supply assembly point about 70 miles SE of Sio, was bombed and strafed by 18 B-25's, 9 B-26's and 5 A-20's escorted by 12 P-38's. 37 tons of bombs were released and the village was reported completely destroyed. The same day in the Heldsbach area Allied positions were ineffectively attacked by 9 Jap bombers escorted by 20 fighters.

(F) N. E. I.

The night of 23 November Ambon was raided by 3 RAFF PBY's which dropped nearly 4 tons of bombs and incendiaries in the waterfront area, causing explosions and fires. The following noon in Masile Bay, Halmahera, 13 B-24's unsuccessfully attacked enemy shipping. The bombers were intercepted by about 6 Jap fighters of which 1 was downed and another damaged. At the same time in Ieda Bay, 40 miles N. of the SE tip of Halmahera, 5 more B-24's, attacking 1 AK, 1 sea truck and 1 corvette in convoy, scored a possible hit and 2 near misses on the 8000 ton AK which was left listing and stationary. The sea truck also received 2 near misses. All our planes returned safely.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports probably sinking a 10,000 ton Jap AG.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 25 November 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert Islands

The night of 24 November U.S. marines on Betio, Tarawa, estimated that mopping up of the newly won island base would be completed by 27 November while the runway would be ready for fighter planes 26 November. Related reports indicate that 1 Jap SS not 2 as previously reported, was destroyed during the Tarawa operation. The same day a report from Admiral Nimitz indicated the situation on Apemama was satisfactory with the slight enemy resistance due for speedy elimination.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 23 November 100 miles W. of Buka a U.S. patrol plane reports probably destroying a Jap SS. Later the same morning Bonis was attacked by 16 unescorted B-24's which hit the target with 48 tons of bombs, covering the runway and revetment area well and starting a number of fires. At the same time Buka was hit with 9 tons of bombs from 3 B-24's and Chabai was hit with 6 tons from 2 B-24's. No results were observed. Over all these targets intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. No enemy planes intercepted and all our planes returned safely. That afternoon the E. Bougainville coast from Luluai Head NW to Capo Mabiri was swept by 4 B-25's on a vain search for enemy shipping. 4 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped on villages with unobserved results. The morning of 24 November Chabai area was attacked by 37 TRP's and 57 SBD's escorted by 48 fighters. More than 36 tons of bombs and incendiaries caused numerous fires, destroying warehouses and supply dumps and set an oil dump afire. The area was also thoroughly strafed. A/A fire was almost completely eliminated during the attack by hits or near misses on gun positions. There was no enemy air interception and all our planes returned safely although 1 SBD was forced to make an emergency landing. About the same time 1 TBF of this mission released a ton of bombs and incendiaries over Kara, starting fires. A/A and m/g fire was encountered but our plane returned safely. Later the same morning Kahili was attacked by 20 B-25's which released 30 tons of bombs over the target. Hits were scored on the runway and a number of fires started. Slight A/A fire was encountered. 1 of our planes landed in the water S. of Kahili but the crew was rescued 3 hours later by a PBV which braved enemy fire from Kahili and Ballale. Until the rescue plane arrived the downed fliers were protected by 4 hovering fighters. All the other B-25's returned safely. That afternoon at Motupena Point and

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in Gazelle Harbor Jap installations were hit with 9 tons of bombs and also strafed in an attack by 6 B-25's. A possible radio station was put out of commission. There was neither enemy A/A fire nor air interception and all our planes returned safely.

(B) New Ireland

Early the morning of 25 November in the Solomons Sea about 55 miles SE of Cape St. George 6 JMW bound possible Jap DD's were engaged by 5 U.S. DD's and in a running fight, during which the enemy fled N. and W. 4 Jap vessels were sunk and 1 of the 2 which escaped was damaged. The enemy was contacted in 2 groups of 3 vessels each. The type of ship was not definitely identified but they were probably DD's. 2 of the first group of 3 were sunk by torpedoes and 1 by torpedoes and gun fire. After which the second group scattered and was attacked with gun fire. An hour or so after the initial contact another Jap was sunk and about 15 minutes later a 5th was reported damaged. This damaged 1, together with the remaining and undamaged vessel, escaped probably to Rabaul. Well covered by U.S. aircraft, our DD's suffered no damage.

(C) New Britain

On 23 November Garove Island was raided by a single B-24 which released a ton of bombs with unobserved results. The same day Gasmata was attacked by 4 RAAF Beauforts which hit the dump areas with 3 tons of bombs. No results were reported. Photographs of this area the same day indicate the presence of several coastal gun positions. That night Gasmata was raided by a single RAAF PBV which released 2 tons of bombs with unobserved results while N. of Rabaul 3 other PBV's attacked and sank a Jap barge. 1 of these 3 planes is missing.

(D) New Guinea

Photographs of the Newak area revealed a total of 82 serviceable enemy aircraft on the airfields there 21 November. The afternoon of 22 November Sio was raided by a single B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs with unobserved results. That night in Vitiaz Strait patrolling PT's destroyed 3 S. bound troop and supply laden enemy barges, probably destroyed a 4th and damaged a 5th.

Before dawn 23 November the Finschhafen coastal area was raided by a single Jap plane and later the Sici area, about 1 mile SE of Sattelberg, was attacked by 9 enemy bombers. No damage was reported as a result of either attack. Before noon of the same day N. and W. of Sattelberg enemy-held villages and trails were attacked by 12 B-25's and 6 A-20's which dropped over 20 tons of bombs and heavily strafed the area. Only slight and inaccurate m/g fire was encountered. About the same time N. of Saidor 9 Jap bombers escorted by 9 fighters were intercepted by 12 P-39's. 2 enemy fighters were downed and 1 enemy bomber and another fighter were probably destroyed. 1 P-39 was lost.

The afternoon of 23 November Sio was the target for a B-24 which released a ton of bombs with unobserved results. Also 23 November off Newak an Allied B-24 attacked a small enemy vessel and bombed and strafed Vokdo

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Island. No results were reported. The same day in the Sattelberg area Allied ground forces were reported only 400 yards E., and the same distance S., of the Jap-held settlement.

(3) M. E. I.

Further details of the 23 November attack on enemy shipping in Kace Bay, NE Melmahera, reported in the Summary for 24 November, reveal that 1 7000 ton Jap AK - AP was sunk by 5 direct hits from 5 B-24's. Earlier reports erroneously stated that 17,000 tons of shipping had been destroyed in this attack. The same afternoon Lingat, Solaru, Tanimar Islands, was raided by a B-24. No results were reported.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 24 November 1943

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

Belated reports of U.S. operations on Makin Island in the Gilberts reveal that the night of 22 November Jap opposition was attacked by U.S. tanks and infantry following an artillery bombardment and from then on rapid progress was made by our forces. From about noon on, 23 November, only sporadic resistance was offered by the enemy and by nightfall the island was in U.S. hands. A survey of the area revealed that U.S. ship and air bombardment had effectively smashed enemy pillboxes, dugouts and guns. On Tarawa 23 November stubborn resistance by the remaining Japs, of the estimated 4500 on the island when the U.S. marines landed, slowed our advance and caused heavy casualties. SE of Betio Island, U.S. marines occupied Bairiki Island to thwart any attempt of the Japs to reach that point from E. Betio to which they had been driven. The same day Mili, in the Marshall Islands, was hit with 13 tons of bombs from 11 B-24's. A/A fire was not intense. Of 12 intercepting Jap fighters 2 were destroyed and 2 more were probably destroyed. The following day, 24 November, complete occupation of Tarawa and end of Jap resistance was reported. Culmination of the operations followed a decisive repulse of a heavy Jap counter-attack the preceding night.

During Tarawa operations 2 Jap SS's were destroyed. 1 was rammed and sunk by a DD. = ???

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

The morning of 21 November off Empress Augusta Bay U.S. surface vessels were ineffectively bombed by enemy aircraft. That night in the Torokina area Jap planes dropped 30 - 35 bombs but no damage resulted. The following morning 10 miles NE of Motupena 5 of 30 - 40 Jap fighters were destroyed by 8 P-40's while at noon Buka was attacked by 24 B-25's and 5 PV's escorted by 8 F4U's and 8 P-38's. Buka airfield was well covered by more than 43 tons of bombs. A/A fire encountered was moderately intense but there was no air interception. Shortly after this attack the Chabai area was strafed by 8 P-38's which set fire to some buildings and 3 barges. Photographs 22 November indicated Bonis, Kara, Kahili and Ballale runways unserviceable while Buka appeared possibly serviceable (presumably these pictures preceded the bombing of Buka). On 22 November in the Torokina area the Allied beach-head extended 9000 yards in length and 7000 yards in depth, taking in all the Piva airfield site. Stout Jap resistance in the NE was overcome with the aid of artillery and 75 of the enemy were killed.

The afternoon of 23 November the 7th echelon completed was unloaded at Cape Torokina while the 6th echelon was unloaded at Treasury Island. At

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Torokina 1 LST was shelled by a Jap shore battery and some casualties and damage resulted. Photographs 22 November revealed Ballale, Kahili, Kara and Bonis airfields unserviceable and Buka possibly serviceable.

(B) New Ireland

At noon 22 November about 135 miles N. of Mussau Island a B-24 attacked a N. bound enemy AK, escorted by a DD, scoring a direct hit and a near miss on the AK. When last observed, the attacked vessel was settling. From both the DD and AK inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

(C) New Britain

Shortly before noon 22 November Gasmata was attacked by 3 waves of Allied B-25's and B-24's escorted by 35 P-38's. 142 tons of bombs covered the airfields and the adjacent area well. In addition the target was heavily strafed. The first attack was carried out by 22 B-25's which passed over at medium altitude. 45 minutes later 23 B-24's went over at the same altitude. Lastly 41 low-flying B-25's bombed and strafed the target. Moderately intense A/A fire ran from inaccurate to accurate but there was no enemy air interception. 1 B-25 is missing. About the same time Cape Gloucester was attacked by 22 other B-24's which failed to reach Gasmata. The planes dropped 52 tons of bombs on the runway and dump areas, destroying 1 and further damaging 4 of the grounded Jap bombers previously reported unserviceable. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. The same day photographs of Rabaul revealed 1 possibly damaged Jap CL, 9 DD's of which 1 was damaged, 1 AD, 72,000 tons of merchant shipping and 13 floatplanes. Good coverage of the airfields was not obtained. Also on 22 November a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24 were released on buildings on Unea Island, Vitu group but no results were reported. That night in Wide Bay a PBV scored a direct hit on an enemy barge.

(D) New Guinea

The morning of 22 November 10 Jap medium bombers raided an Australian patrol at the mouth of the Song River in the Finschhafen area. While that afternoon 3 more Jap planes hit the same target. No damage resulted from either raid. The same day Jap supply dumps, bivouacs and trails between Sattelberg and Wareo were attacked by 16 B-25's and 6 A20's which dropped more than 20 tons of bombs. Explosions and fires followed.

(E) N. E. I.

The night of 21 November Ambon was attacked by 4 RAAF PBV's. 2 of the planes dropped more than 3 tons of bombs on the waterfront and barracks areas causing numerous explosions and fires. Another of the planes hit Molana Island, 28 miles NE of Ambon, with over 1 1/2 tons of bombs. No results were observed. The 4th plane has not yet reported. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The afternoon of 23 November in Kace Bay, NE Halmahera, a S bound convoy of 5 unescorted AK's was reported attacked by Allied aircraft. Preliminary reports indicate vessels totalling 17,000 tons were sunk.

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R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 23 November 1943.

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert Islands

Nauru was attacked by 14 B-24's on the afternoon of 21 November. Planes in 2 waves dropped 20 tons of bombs. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered but we suffered no casualties. The following day according to a release to the press by Admiral Nimitz, Apamama, about 80 miles SE of Tarawa, was attacked by U.S. forces which landed marines on the atoll. Also on 22 November the . half of Botio, Tarawa, was in control of the second marines but for isolated centers of resistance which were delaying the landing of supplies and slowing the entire operation. Our casualties were reported heavy. The same day on Butaritari, Makin, U.S. Army forces were engaged in wiping out the last remnants of enemy opposition which at no time had been stout. The Japs suffered many casualties, our own were reported light. The following day complete capture of Makin except for scattered groups of Jap snipers was announced.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Early the morning of 20 November Allied shipping and positions in the Empress Augusta Bay area were bombed and strafed by an unreported number of Jap planes which dropped 60 - 60 bombs and caused some casualties and damage. 2 of the enemy planes were probably downed by A/A fire. A little later some of our patrol craft entering the bay were strafed by 2 Jap fighters and some casualties resulted.

The afternoon of 22 November Kahili was attacked by 52 SED's and 24 TFF's covered by 16 F4U's. 52 tons of bombs hit the area, scoring new hits on the runway, taxiways and A/A positions. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered and 9 of our planes suffered damage. However, all returned safely. Apparently there was no enemy air interception. The same day over Empress Augusta Bay 2 SRD's encountered Jap A/A fire for the first time in this area.

(B) New Ireland

At noon 21 November a patrolling B-24 broke through a cover of 8 enemy fighters and 1 floatplane to score a hit and a near miss on a large AK, and a . bound convoy of 2 other AK's and a DD, leaving the vessel in flames

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and probably destroyed. 1 of the intercepting fighters was also downed. Earlier the same day at least 6 probable Jap warships, loading for Rabaul, were attacked 45 miles SE of Kavieng by 3 patrolling PRY's. No results were observed. The following afternoon about 15 miles N. of Cape Erkokon 2 Rabaul-bound Jap barges were bombed, strafed and sunk by a B-24.

(C) New Britain

Late the night of 20 November 12 miles SE of Garove Island a B-24 unsuccessfully attacked a small E. bound AK and later, off Saidor, New Guinea, attacked a Jap barge with unreported results.

Further study of 20 November photographs over Rabaul reveal 1 CL, 9 DL's and 97,000 tons of merchant shipping in the harbor. On 21 November Ring King plantation, 6 miles E. of Gasmata, was attacked by 18 B-24's covered by 34 RAAF P-40's. 49 tons of bombs were released but heavy smoke and dust clouds prevented observation of results. Only slight inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Earlier the same day the New Britain coast in the vicinity of Capo Hoskins was swept by 2 RAAF Beaufighters which destroyed 1 of 4 enemy barges strafed. That afternoon the S. coast E. of Gasmata and S. coast N. of Gasmata were each swept by 2 RAAF A-20's which destroyed a power barge, a boat and bombed enemy shore positions.

(D) New Guinea

Allied ground forces on 21 November advanced, under support by tanks, to a point 800 yards S. of Sattelberg. The same day 12 A-20's bombed and strafed enemy positions, villages and trails N. of Sattelberg. 5 tons of bombs were released but no results were reported.

(E) N. E. I.

Early the morning of 21 November off Taberfane, Aroo Islands, an AK and 2 sea trucks were attacked by 4 Dutch B-25's escorted by 6 RAAF Beaufighters. From masthead height more than a ton of bombs were released to sink the AK and damage 1 sea truck. 3 enemy floatplanes intercepted and of these 2 were downed by the Beaufighters while the 3rd was destroyed by the B-25's. 1 B-25 was lost. Intense A/A fire was met. About noon the same day Manokwari was attacked by 7 B-24's which dropped more than 15 tons of bombs on shipping, sinking 1 AK - AP. 4 Jap fighters and 2 floatplanes intercepted and of these 2 fighters were downed and another damaged. Intense A/A fire from slips in the harbor downed 1 of the B-24's and another crash landed at its base. That afternoon Taberfane was again attacked. This time 14 B-24's dropped over 31 tons of bombs on the harbor and waterfront area. 1 sea truck was sunk and 1 of 4 intercepting enemy floatplanes was downed. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Also on 21 November a single Dutch B-25 raided villages in the Missel Lakes area dropping a ton of bombs. Explosions were observed.

III. A U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS concluding a patrol reports sinking 37,000 tons and probably sinking 7,000 tons.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of C800, 22 November 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Gilbert Islands

The afternoon of 19 November Makin, was heavily attacked by 12 B-24's which dropped over 20 tons of bombs, starting fires. The island appeared practically deserted and only light A/A fire was encountered. Although no personnel was lost 1 bomber landed on the water and sank while another burned after a crash-landing. The following morning, 20 November, U.S. forces made a landing on Tarawa Island in addition to the previously reported landing on Makin. At Tarawa the enemy put up stout resistance and, with the U.S. landing operations handicapped by low tides after the initial beachheads had been secured, the situation was not clearly in our favor until late Sunday night. The landings were made under cover of surface vessel and air bombardment.

The morning of 21 November Nauru was attacked by 30 B-24's. There was no enemy air interception but A/A fire was intense. All our planes returned safely. Later a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs over the same target with poor results. A/A fire was intense but inaccurate. Also the same plane dropped some bombs on Ocean Island but caused no damage. A/A fire there was heavy and accurate. The following morning off Tarawa Jap torpedo planes unsuccessfully attacked our surface vessels which continued to bombard the enemy island base in an effort to wipe out the Jap resistance still thwarting U.S. landings. U.S. aircraft were also continuing to attack the area.

(B) Solomon Islands

The nights of 17 - 18 - 19 November Allied positions in the Empress Augusta Bay area were raided by unreported numbers of Jap planes. Some casualties resulted, particularly on the night of 18 November when 40 bombs were dropped during the course of 4 raids. Photographs of 20 November showed the Bougainville runways unserviceable. Early the morning of 21 November Kieta was strafed with unobserved results by 3 B-25's. While over SE Bougainville Allied P-39's and P4U's shot down 6 of 7 Jap fighters intercepted. Our planes also strafed Monoitu after which 1 P4U was reported missing. The same day at Mawaraka 2 LBD's strafed enemy huts, destroying 1. That afternoon the Kahili area was attacked by 58 SED's and 35 19F's escorted by 16 P4U's. 60 tons of bombs smashed A/A positions, the runway and started fuel fires. There was no air interception and all our planes returned safely. Over Kara A/A fire was met.

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(C) New Ireland - New Britain

The night of 19 November 45 miles N. of Rabaul a 10,000 ton Jap AK, heading N. in convoy with 2 medium AO's and 2 LD's, was attacked by a PTY which left the vessel afire and abandoned after 2 hits. Intense A/A fire was encountered. The following morning Ring Ring plantation, 6 miles E. of Gasmata, was attacked by 60 B-24's escorted by 33 MAAF P-40's. Over 138 tons of bombs were dropped, thoroughly covering the target. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. The same day Garovo Island was hit with a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24 which observed no results. Reconnaissance over Rabaul 20 November by a single P-38 revealed very light shipping in the harbor. Only 1 or 2 warships were observed.

(D) New Guinea

Before dawn 20 November Langemak Bay and Gusap were each raided by single Jap planes. No damage was reported. Later the same morning Jap positions N. and E. of Sattelberg were attacked by 24 B-25's and 7 B-26's. 21 tons of bombs destroyed a number of buildings and started fires. At noon the same day the Hansa Bay area was attacked by 17 B-25's escorted by 7 P-47's which released over 16 tons of bombs on the jetty area, shipping and A/A positions. 10 barges and 1 lugger was destroyed by the low-flying planes. Moderately intense A/A fire was inaccurate to accurate. 1 of the B-25's is missing. The same day in the Wald Bay area, 30 miles N. of Finschhafen, Jap bivouacs and supply dumps were raided by 5 A-20's which hit the target area with 8 1/2 tons of bombs. No results were reported. The same day Jio was hit with a ton of bombs by a B-24. No results were observed. Also on 20 November heavy ground fighting was reported 1800 yards N. and 1300 yards S. of Sattelberg.

(E) M. S. I.

The night of 19 - 20 November Lorong was raided by 4 RA F PTY's which dropped nearly 6 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the waterfront area. Heavy explosions resulted.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS is reported to have sunk a Jap AK and an escort. Another SS reports a hit on a Jap AK but extent of the damage was not reported.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800 21 November 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 18 November 8 B-25's bombed enemy positions at Chabai in the Matchin Bay area. 2 buildings were destroyed.

On 20 November Bonis airfield was heavily bombed by 30 B-25's and B-34's covered by 15 P-38's. 15 hits were scored on the runway, one building was destroyed and others damaged, and numerous fires were started. A/A fire was encountered but no interception was attempted and all our planes returned safely. Other Allied planes strafed trucks between Nakari and Monoitu Mission (S. Bougainville). The results were unobserved. At the same mission a truck was set afire by other Allied planes which also shot down a Jap plane 20 miles W. of Torokina.

The afternoon of the same day 3 B-25's bombed and strafed villages in the Ruri Bay area (NE coast of Bougainville). The results were unobserved. 57 SBD's and 31 TBF's covered by 8 fighters attacked enemy positions and supply lines from the Mibo River to Maweraka (SW Bougainville). Many fires were started of which one was a burning medium bomber on Kera. M/G fire was received but all planes returned safely.

(B) Gilbert Islands

Tarawa was raided by 19 B-24's the afternoon of 19 November. 21 tons of bombs were dropped and excellent results were reported. Moderate A/A fire was encountered but all planes returned safely although 1 was damaged on landing. The morning of 20 November U.S. forces landed on Makin. First reports indicated that no opposition was encountered but additional details indicate stubborn and strong enemy resistance on the 3 beaches where landings were made.

(C) New Britain - New Ireland

On 19 November 9 B-25's escorted by 11 P-38's bombed and strafed enemy A/A positions along the coast between Cape Gloucester and Rein Bay. One loaded lugger was destroyed and 2 others damaged. The same day Allied PT's depth-charged a Jap SS 40 miles SE of Gasmata. Results were not known.

At noon 19 November an enemy convoy of 5 AK's and 2 cruisers was sighted heading S. 135 miles N. of Massau Island. Buildings on Massau Island were bombed by a single B-24.

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(D) New Guinea

A force of 21 B-25's, 6 B-26's and 9 A-20's heavily bombed enemy positions NW of Sattelberg on 19 November. 8 other A-20's bombed enemy barge and supply positions N. of Finschhafen. A total of over 47 tons of bombs were dropped and buildings were reported destroyed and fires started. Allied tanks knocked out Jap artillery positions while ground forces advanced slowly on Sattelberg. Against stubborn resistance and enemy counter attacks our forces reached 1000 yards E. and S. of the town by evening the same day. 6 P-38's intercepted a Jap force of 12 medium bombers and 15 fighters N. of Finschhafen. The enemy planes never reached the target and were forced to jettison their bombs in the sea. No planes were shot down and 1 of our fighters was damaged.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS in the Southwest Pacific Area reports scoring a hit on a Jap AK but no further details were reported.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 20 November 1943.

1. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Marshall and Gilbert Islands

Related reports reveal that the evening of 15 November Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, was attacked by 9 B-24's which dropped 160 fragmentation bombs, 70% of which hit the target area. Explosions and fires were observed. Accurate A/A fire was made but our planes suffered no damage. This attack has not been previously reported in the Summary. Later reports reveal that Fili, in the Marshalls, and Makin, in the Gilberts, were each attacked by 8 B-24's on 16 November not 15 November as previously reported and that the unsuccessful attack on Maloelap, in the Marshalls, occurred on 17 November not 16 November as previously reported. It is also revealed that Jaluit, in the Marshalls was attacked by 15 B-24's and Kwajalein, in the same group, was attacked by 1 B-24 on 17 November instead of 16 November as previously reported.

19 November 3 waves of U.S. carrier based planes dropped more than 90 tons of bombs on Nauru and strafed A/A positions there. The target was well covered. 3 - 4 grounded medium bombers were wrecked and a 100 foot AK left afire. The second and third strikes were intercepted by 7 Jap fighters of which 2 were destroyed. A/A fire was fairly intense and accurate and 6 of our planes received some damage. All of our planes returned safely but 2 landed on the water.

(B) Solomon Islands

Before dawn 16 November an unreported number of Jap planes dropped 32 bombs on Allied positions in the Empress Augusta Bay area. No damage or casualties resulted. Shortly thereafter the same target was raided by 2 Jap fighters which strafed the beach, causing some casualties. 1 of the fighters was probably downed. The following day 24 B-24's attacked Kara but no details were reported. The same day 3 B-25's dropped more than 5 tons of bombs on Kieta, destroying 2 buildings. All our planes returned safely.

Photographs 18 November revealed all Buka - Bougainville airfields unfit for use except the NE half of the Kahili strip which was possibly serviceable. Only 11 enemy planes were counted in the area. The same day in the Empress Augusta Bay area Allied ground forces confined themselves to consolidating their positions and to patrol activities. On the right flank, where enemy patrol activity is increasing, our forces contacted the Japs. Also the Japs are continuing their harassing plane bombing and we have suffered some casualties. At noon the same day Kara and Buka were each attacked by 24 B-24's. Early reports indicated excellent coverage. Neither strike was intercepted by the enemy and all our planes returned safely. A little later the SE shore of

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Poporango Island was bombed by a single B-24 with unreported results. Also on 18 November some small Jap patrol activity was reported on Treasury Island. 1 Jap was captured and 4 were killed. Some enemy air bombing continues with no damage reported.

Very early the morning of 19 November Chabai, Patchin Bay, was raided by an Allied night fighter with unobserved results. At noon the same day Kahili (presumably - since the dispatch was garbled) was attacked by 62 SBD's and 23 TBF's escorted by 15 P4U's. Over 100 tons of bombs were dropped and 15 new hits rendered the runway unserviceable. Other hits were scored on or near gun positions. Slight to moderately intense A/A fire was encountered but there was no enemy air interception and all our planes returned safely. The same day Chabai was strafed by several fighter patrols but no results were reported. Photographs on 19 November showed all of Buka - Bougainville airfields unserviceable except Tonis which was possibly serviceable. Only 7 enemy planes were reported in the area.

(C) New Ireland

Early 18 November off SW New Ireland 2 Jap convoys were unsuccessfully attacked by 2 PBY's. Later in the morning 50 miles S. of Kavieng a B-24 unsuccessfully attacked a Jap CL and DD heading E.

(D) New Britain

18 November adverse weather conditions thwarted a sweep of the New Britain S. coast by 9 B-25's.

(E) New Guinea

In the Finschhafen area 18 November Allied ground forces continued to push on Satelberg. That morning Satelberg was attacked by 23 B-25's and 6 B-26's escorted by 10 P-38's. 43 tons of bombs were released over Jap camps and supply dumps NW of town. An ammunition dump and several buildings were reported destroyed.

(F) N. E. I.

Further details of the 18 November pre-dawn attack on Soerabaja, previously reported, revealed that 10 of the 26 B-24's which started on the mission failed to find the target, the oil refineries at Tjepoe, 70 miles W. of Soerabaja. Of the 16 planes which did, 10 dropped 20 tons of bombs with unobserved results, 2 dropped about 2 tons on the city of Soerabaja and the airfield at Tandjoeng Perak and 1 bombed Den Pasar airfield, S. Bali. 3 planes returned their bombs to their base. A/A fire encountered was inaccurate and slight.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking 1 4500 ton AK and damaging a 5500 ton

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AK while another SS reports probably sinking an AK, badly damaging another and damaging a third.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 19 November

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I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

In the Empress Augusta Bay area 17 November the Allied perimeter had been extended to 8000 yards in width and 5500 yards in depth. 812 Japs have been killed and our losses total 117 since the landing.

Before dawn 17 November Buka was bombarded by an unreported number of DD's despite harassment by Jap planes of which 1 was downed and another probably destroyed. The DD's shelled the runway and revetment areas and also reported 2 hits on a SS off E. Bougainville. About the same time 4 B-24's, 19 B-25's and an unreported number of night fighters bombed and strafed the same target, causing explosions and fires. Also before dawn 17 November off Cape Torokina approaching Allied shipping was attacked by a large number of Jap planes which hit 1 vessel. 2 of the enemy planes were downed. Later in the morning over the Empress Augusta Bay area an unreported number of Allied planes intercepted 35 Jap fighters, torpedo and dive bombers, destroying 16 of the enemy for loss of 2 F4U's.

During the later morning 17 November Buka and Bonia were again attacked by several Allied missions totalling 24 B-24's, 12 B-25's, 30 TBF's and 40 dive bombers escorted by 44 fighters. 2 of 4 airborne Jap planes were shot down and 1 TBF is missing.

(B) Marshall and Gilbert Islands

At noon 17 November Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands, was raided by 3 B-24's which bombed and strafed the airfield. Except for slight A/A fire from the E. of Betio Island at the SW end of the atoll there were no signs of life and no Jap aircraft or shipping observed. That afternoon Mili, a Jap base in the Marshalls, was attacked by 9 B-24's which released more than 9 tons of bombs, scoring hits on the barracks and runway. There was no air interception but A/A fire was intense. The U.S. planes suffered no casualties. That evening Maloelap, in the Marshalls, was attacked by 9 other B-24's which hit the target with 1 1/2 tons of demolition bombs and 270 fragmentation bombs. A/A fire was moderate but 2 of our planes were damaged by an unreported number of Jap fighters. We suffered no casualties.

(C) New Ireland

The morning of 19 November about 145 miles NNW of Mussau Island 2 Jap CA's and 5 unidentified vessels were sighted heading S. by W. at 15 knots.

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(D) New Britain

Early the morning of 17 November Lakunai airfield, Rabaul, was attacked by 12 RAAF Beauforts, bad weather and mechanical difficulties having forced 11 other Beauforts to turn back before reaching the target. The attacking planes released nearly 11 tons of bombs. Observation of results was prevented by the heavy smoke. Moderate to intense but inaccurate A/A fire was met. The same day a Jap bivouac at Wide Bay and a wireless station at Cape Beechey were strafed by 3 RAAF Beaufighters while the Gasmata dump area was hit with 3 tons of bombs from 11 RAAF P-40's. The P-40's encountered moderately intense and accurate A/A fire. Also on 17 November 7 barges at Garove Island were the target for a patrolling B-24 which released a ton of bombs with unreported results.

(E) New Guinea

The night of 16 November in Wald Bay, NW of Finschhafen, an enemy barge was sunk by PT's. Before dawn the following day Lae and Dumpa were lightly raided by unreported numbers of Jap planes and 5 enemy planes raided Finschhafen. There were no casualties or damage reported. The same day in the Finschhafen area Allied ground forces, supported by aircraft, tanks and artillery, advanced against stout Jap resistance to points 1 mile S. and 1 mile E. of Sattelberg. Sattelberg was attacked during the morning by 11 RAAF A-35's which dropped 5 tons of bombs on Jap positions N. of the settlement. Results were termed excellent. The same day Sattelberg was also hit with about 3 tons of bombs from a B-24, the only 1 of 58 which got through adverse weather to raid the target. Sio was also raided by 2 other heavies of this same group which dropped more than 6 tons of bombs. Sio was also the target for a patrolling B-24 on reconnaissance which released a ton of bombs with unreported results. Over Newak on 17 November 22 P-38's attacked 30 of 60 - 70 Jap planes in the air and shot down 6 and probably destroyed another. 2 P-38's are missing.

(F) N. E. I.

Off Dawador Island, W. of the Tanimbars, 17 November a Jap troop laden sea-truck was attacked by a Dutch B-25 which released more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton of bombs from masthead height while another B-25 dropped 2 bombs on a corvette escorting the sea-truck. A/A fire from both targets was inaccurate. Later the same day the corvette was sunk by 3 Dutch B-25's and 3 RAAF Beaufighters. The B-25's released 3 tons of bombs over the vessels while the Beaufighters heavily strafed it. That night the Kaimana jetty area and Utarom airfield were attacked by 5 RAAF PBV's which also strafed small craft off Kaukenau and Dobo. Over 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped on Kaimana and over 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons on Utarom. Large fires were observed after the attacks. Over Kaimana A/A fire was slight and inaccurate to accurate and over Utarom it was slight and accurate. The same night Manatuto, central N. Portuguese Timor, was raided by 2 Dutch B-25's which dropped a ton of bombs to start fires in the area. A/A fire was intense. Before dawn the following day 26 B-24's released an unreported number of bombs and incendiaries over Soerabaja and Soerabaja airfield. The same planes bombed an oil refinery at Tjepoe, 70 miles W. of Soerabaja and airfields on S. Pali. That afternoon Fak Fak was raided by 3 B-24's which started fires in the target area.

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

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 16 November Buka was bombed and heavily strafed by 4 B-24's and 20 B-25's. A number of fires were observed but there were no details reported. The same day Jap positions in the Empress Augusta Bay area were bombed and strafed by 18 SBD's. Later reports reveal that of the 8 F4U's which strafed Bougainville 16 November, as previously reported, 2 were downed by Jap A/A fire. The same day all Buka - Bougainville airfields except Bonis and Kara appeared unserviceable in photographs. Early the next morning near Katua, in central Choiseul N. of Bamatana, 17 Japs were attacked by native police who killed 8. The remainder fled, leaving behind ammunition and equipment.

(B) Greenwich (Kapingamarangi) Island

Greenwich Island was strafed 17 November by a B-24. Little damage was done and no serviceable floatplanes were observed.

(C) Marshall and Gilbert Islands

Belated reports reveal that coincident with the previously reported 15 November attack on Jaluit, Marshall Islands, Mili, E. of Jaluit in the same group, and Makin, in the Gilbert Islands, were attacked by 8 B-24's which dropped more than 6 1/2 tons of bombs on Mili and 4 1/2 on Makin, starting large fires at Mili where intense A/A fire was encountered. Over Makin A/A fire was slight. There was no air interception over either target. The following noon Jaluit was attacked by 15 PB4Y's (presumably) accompanied by 2 photo planes (PB4Y's). 12 tons of bombs were dropped and large fires started. Moderate A/A fire was encountered and 1 of an unreported number of intercepting Jap fighters was probably downed. 1 of our planes also dropped some bombs on Kwajalein, NW of Jaluit. A/A fire was moderate and there was no interception. The same day Maleolap in the Marshalls was attacked by 6 B-24's which were forced to jettison their bombs when intercepted by 7 - 15 Jap fighters of which 1 was probably downed.

(D) Ellice Islands

Early the morning of 18 November Funafuti was attacked by 9 - 12 enemy bombers which made individual runs over the target and dropped 70 - 80 bombs. 2 of our grounded planes were destroyed, several were damaged and 1

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man was killed. A radio station was wrecked and hits were also scored on the runway. No Jap plane was downed.

(E) New Ireland

The morning of 16 November off Cape Erkokon a convoy of 2 Jap AK's, 2 DD's and 2 corvettes heading NW at 15 knots was attacked by 3 separate, low-flying PTY's, 1 of which scored 2 hits on a 6000 ton AK. Intense and accurate A/A fire prevented observation of the vessel's sinking which was presumed since a subsequently attacking PTY sighted only 5 vessels in what was apparently the same convoy. The morning of 18 November 2 Jap CL's were sighted heading NE about 60 miles S. of Kavieng.

(F) New Guinea

Belated reports reveal 3 more Jap fighters probably destroyed in the previously reported air clash over Newak 15 November and 2 more Jap planes destroyed and 2 probably destroyed during the previously reported Jap raid over Gusap 15 November. Langemak Bay was raided 16 November by a lone Jap plane. The same day the NE Huon Peninsula coast from Bonga N. to Kiari was attacked by 9 B-25's which released 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs and heavily strafed coastal villages and trails. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day Jap supply dumps and bivouacs on the trail from Bonga to Sattelberg were attacked by 21 B-25's and 4 B-26's which reported excellent results after releasing 17 tons of bombs. Also on 16 November along the Bogadjim road enemy trucks were strafed by 8 P-39's escorted by an unreported number of P-40's. Allied ground activity in the Finschhafen area 16 November consisted of patrolling and shelling.

(G) N. E. I.

Over N. E. I. 16 November Allied air activity was limited to reconnaissance.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 14000 ton AO, a 5000 ton AK and, by gunfire, a 225 ton sailing vessel. Another SS reports sinking a Jap medium AK.

R. A. Boone.

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

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Kahili and Shortland were each raided during the forenoon of 14 November by single B-24's of which 1 is missing. Before dawn the following day a single A-20 and a single PV raided Faial, destroying a Jap floatplane and 2 barges. Later the same morning Kara was attacked by 51 SBD's and 26 TBF's escorted by 16 P4U's. 25 tons of bombs hit the airfield damaging A/A positions and installations. Also on the morning of 15 November at Cape Duganoni, NW Buka, a small AK was damaged by 4 B-25's which also destroyed a Jap barge and some supplies at Leuss, just W. of Tinputz Harbor, NE Bougainville. At noon 15 November 20 unescorted B-24's dropped 57 tons of bombs on Buka with good results. At the same time a single B-24 dropped 3 tons of bombs on Kahili. There was no air interception and all our planes returned safely. The same day Matchin Bay and Buka were strafed by a single P-38 while in Tonolet Harbor 8 Jap barges were destroyed, 7 were damaged, a small AK was set afire and buildings were left burning after a strafing attack by an unreported number of fighters. Later reports state that Ballale, Kahili, Kara and Buka airfields were unserviceable 15 November while Bonis was serviceable. 6 fighter planes and 3 floatplanes were all the enemy aircraft observed in the Buka - Bougainville area that day.

Early the morning of 16 November Kahili was raided by a P-70 which dropped over a ton of bombs on supply and personnel areas. Slight A/A fire was encountered. Early that afternoon along the E. coast of Bougainville 3 B-25's dropped over 4 tons of bombs, destroying 3 enemy barges N. of Kieta. Villages from Kieta to Tinputz were strafed but no results were observed. A/A fire was slight but accurate and all our planes suffered minor damage. All returned safely however, with no personnel injured.

(B) Marshall Islands

The afternoon of 15 November Jaluit, Marshall Islands, was attacked by 17 B-24's which took the enemy base by surprise, no A/A fire being encountered on the first run over the target. 1 AK in the harbor was left burning and 3 were possibly damaged of a total of 5 AK's and 1 possible CL observed. Many fires were started throughout the area. After the first run ineffective A/A fire was encountered.

(C) New Ireland

The morning of 15 November 120 miles N. of Mussau Island a S. bound medium Jap AK - AP was attacked by a B-24. A ton of bombs were released

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but no results were reported. An escorting enemy PG put forth slight and inaccurate A/A fire. The following morning off Cape Erkokon, S. central New Ireland, a convoy of 2 AK's, 2 DD's and 2 corvettes heading NW at 15 knots were attacked by a low-flying PBY which hit a 6000 ton AK with 1 1000 lb. and 1 250 lb. bomb, causing heavy below-deck explosions forward of the bridge. Intense and accurate A/A fire prevented observation of the vessels sinking which was presumed.

(D) New Britain

The night of 14 - 15 November Rabaul was attacked by 21 RAAF Beauforts which dropped nearly 16 tons of bombs, including 6 2000 lb., on shipping, the waterfront and seaplane anchorage. 2 hits were scored on a 8000 ton AP and the vessel was thereafter observed sinking. Another large AK was damaged. Moderate to intense, but inaccurate, A/A fire was encountered. About the same time 34 miles NW of Talasea 1 of 2 S. bound Jap seatrucks was bombed by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs with unreported results. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met.

(E) New Guinea

Early the morning of 15 November Langemak Bay was ineffectively bombed by a lone Jap plane while Dobodura was bombed by 6 enemy planes. No damage or casualties resulted. Later the same morning Gusap airfield, 20 miles SE of Dumpu in the Upper Ramu Valley, was attacked by 20 - 30 Jap bombers covered by the same number of fighters. 2 grounded Allied planes were destroyed and a number of fires started. An unreported number of P-40's intercepted and shot down 20 enemy planes and probably 6 more. 2 P-40's were lost. Later details reveal that the attack on Alexishafen the same day, previously reported, was carried out by 31 B-24's covered by 16 P-38's. 76 tons of bombs were dropped on 1 of the runways, destroying 1 grounded enemy and starting large fires in the fuel dumps. No interception was attempted by Jap planes. A/A fire was, for the most part, accurate. At midday 15 November over Kewak 5 of 15 - 20 Jap fighter planes were downed by 15 P-47's. Also on 15 November Sio was bombed by a single B-24 which released a ton of bombs with unobserved results. That night SE of Sio 2 N. bound enemy barges were sunk and 2 more probably damaged by PT's.

The morning of 16 November Jap positions NE of Finschhafen were attacked by 14 B-25's. Early reports gave no details. That afternoon about 100 miles NE of Kewak a hit was scored on a medium Jap AK by a patrolling B-24 which reported the vessel appeared to be sinking.

(F) N. E. I.

The night of 14 - 15 November Babo airfield was raided by 3 RAAF PBY's which dropped 4 1/2 tons of bombs and incendiaries to destroy 2 grounded Jap bombers and probably 4 more. Large fires in fuel and ammunition dumps were also started. About the same time the village of Kaimana was raided by a single RAAF PBY which dropped 1 1/2 tons of bombs to start a number of fires. Over Babo inaccurate and slight A/A fire was encountered.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 18 November 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

According to belated reports, Furuata Island, off Cape Torokina, was raided by 7 Jap planes the night of 11 November. 18 bombs were dropped causing some casualties. Just before midnight 13 November about 1 mile off S. central Shortland Island a patrolling PT was hit by an enemy 3" shell which killed 2 men and wounded 6 more.

(3) Gilbert and Marshall Islands

Late reports reveal that the 14 November afternoon attack on Tarawa, reported in the Summary of 15 November, was carried out by 9 rather than 18 B-24's. The other 9 planes went on to attack Millie, in the Marshall Islands about 295 miles N. by W. of Tarawa, where fires and explosions were observed after 80 demolition and fragmentation bombs had been released. There was no air interception but heavy A/A fire was encountered. We suffered no casualties.

(C) New Ireland

A 4000 ton Jap AK was attacked by a B-24 14 November 205 miles N. of Mussau Island. No results were reported. Moderately intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered by the plane. The following morning in St. George Channel an 8 - 10,000 ton Jap AK, escorted by 2 corvettes and heading N., was attacked by a low-flying PBY which scored a near miss and a hit on the vessel causing it to be beached near Cape Erkokon, S. central New Ireland. That night about 10 miles W. of Cape Erkokon, 1 Jap CL, 1 DD and 1 AP were sighted heading NW at 15 knots. Very early the morning of 16 November about 15 miles W. of Kalili a Jap DD, 2 escorts and 2 AK's were sighted heading NW at 20 knots.

(D) New Britain

Before dawn 14 November 40 miles NW of Rabaul 3 large Jap AK's escorted by 2 DL's were sighted heading S. by E. by a PBY. The following morning photographs of Rabaul revealed 3 DE's, 1 DL, 1 AD, 5 SC's and 19 AK's totalling 83,400 tons. This is a very low total for the area although Keravia Bay, where several vessels are generally anchored, was not photographed.

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The same day in the vicinity of Gasmata 2 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed 4 small enemy coastal craft in a strafing attack.

(D) New Guinea

The morning of 13 November Finschhafen was raided by 13 Jap bombers which released 30 bombs over the area with no success. (Another source reports this same attack on 14 November) That night along the Huon Peninsula coast between Sio and Finschhafen 3 Jap barges were sunk and another damaged by PT's. The following forenoon Sio and the Huon Peninsula coast to the SE were attacked by 9 B-25's which defied adverse weather to bomb barracks at Sio and possible Jap barge hideouts, villages and A/A positions along the coast. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. No results were reported. The same day in the Finschhafen area Allied artillery continued to harass small concentrations of the enemy. No details were reported. The following noon Alexishafen was bombed by 19 B-24's but preliminary reports gave no details.

(F) N. E. I.

The night of 13 November Sorong was hit with more than 3 tons of bombs from 3 RAAF PBX's while Soela, Ceram, was the target for nearly 3 tons released by 2 more RAAF PBX's. Fires were observed over both targets. The following night Penfooi, SW Dutch Timor, was raided by 4 RAAF A-29's and 1 Dutch B-25 which dropped nearly 2½ tons of bombs and incendiaries on the airfield starting a number of fires in the barracks and revetment areas. A/A fire was moderately intense and inaccurate.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 15 November 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Shortly before dawn 13 November 55 miles SW of Empress Augusta Bay an Allied surface force, the same one previously reported attacked the night of 11 November off Ganonga Island, was attacked by Jap torpedo planes. 1 ship was damaged and 1 enemy plane was downed by an Allied IV. Early the same morning Bonis was strafed by an unreported number of P-38's which destroyed 4 grounded enemy planes and damaged another and probably destroyed a troop laden Jap barge in Matchin Bay. About the same time Buka was raided by 6 low-flying B-25's. No results were reported. Later the same day Tarlena was strafed by 16 P-39's and the Chabai area was strafed by 8 more. No results were reported. Also on 13 November 17 B-24's hit Bonis with 51 tons of bombs, covering the entire target well.

In the Empress Augusta Bay area ground action 13 November was limited to patrol activities. The same day 25 miles S. of Empress Augusta Bay a Jap medium bomber was shot down by an Allied patrol plane. Before dawn 14 November an Allied night-fighter dropped 6 bombs each on Kahili and Shortland. No A/A fire was met. Later NE Bougainville in the Kieta area was strafed by 4 Allied fighters but no results were observed. At noon the same day Ballale was attacked by 48 SBD's and 8 TBF's escorted by 16 P-40's. 30 tons of bombs were dropped on the runway and installations with good results. There was no air interception but A/A fire was intense. All our planes returned safely. The same day NE of Piva Jap positions were bombed and strafed by 20 TBF's. There was no interception and no A/A fire. All our planes returned safely. The following day photographs showed Kara and Kahili airfields unfit for service while observation of Ballale revealed it also unserviceable. Buka and Bonis were closed in.

(B) Greenwich (Kapingamarangi) Island

The afternoon of 13 November at Greenwich Island a B-24 destroyed 5 Jap floatplanes, starting some fires and damaging installations.

(C) Gilbert Islands

The afternoon of 14 November Tarawa, Jap base in the Gilbert Islands, was attacked by 18 B-24's which dropped more than 14 tons of bombs on the runways, supply and dispersal areas. 4 large fires were started. Only 1 grounded enemy plane was observed and there was no interception. A/A fire

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encountered was intense at first but decreased.

(D) New Britain

The night of 12 - 13 November 20 miles NW of Rabaul an anchored Jap convoy of 11 ships was attacked by a PBV which believed 1 torpedo hit an AK. Shortly afterwards just off Daul Island a Jap DD headed WNW was unsuccessfully attacked by the same PBV. Early the morning of 13 November Vunakanau airfield, Rabaul, was attacked by 5 RAAF Beauforts which dropped 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs, starting a number of fires. At the same time another Beaufort bombed Tobera with unreported results. Over Vunakanau slight, inaccurate A/A fire was met. At noon the same day Gasmata was attacked by 9 B-25's covered by 18 P-40's. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs were released over the airfield and surrounding islands. No results were reported. Slight to intense, inaccurate to accurate A/A fire was encountered. Very early the following morning about 20 miles NW of Rabaul a PBV reported a hit on a Rabaul - bound Jap CL.

(E) New Guinea

The nights of 11 - 12 November off Sic 2 N. bound Jap barges were sunk by PT's. Before dawn 13 November 14 P-40's covered by 8 P-39's thoroughly strafed both runways at Alexishafen, starting a number of fires. 1 P-40 is missing. 3 hours later the same target was attacked by 57 B-24's which dropped 162 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs. Large fires and explosions resulted. In conjunction with this attack Alexishafen and Madang were attacked by 70 low-flying B-25's which dropped more than 58 tons of bombs and thoroughly shelled and strafed the target. 4 grounded enemy planes were destroyed and others damaged. Hits were scored on A/A positions and fires started in fuel dump areas. A/A fire of all calibres, running from slight to intense, inaccurate to accurate, was encountered by both these missions but no enemy planes intercepted. The B-24's and B-25's were escorted by 48 P-47's. That afternoon Sic was hit with a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24 while the coastal vicinity was strafed by 4 P-47's covered by 8 more. No results were reported.

(F) N. E. I.

Before dawn 13 November Kaimana was raided by 3 RAAF PBV's which hit the waterfront and shipping with more than 8 tons of bombs and incendiaries, starting large fires. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. At midday 13 November Keaukwa, Kaukenau and the nearby Timika airfield were raided by 3 B-24's which dropped a ton of bombs on each target. No results were reported. Over Timika slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met. Early that afternoon off the E. coast of the N. Tanimbar Islands a Jap sea truck was unsuccessfully attacked by a patrolling Dutch B-25 but 3 hours later the vessel was sunk by 3 Dutch B-25's and 3 RAAF Beaufighters, the B-25's dropping nearly 6 tons of bombs from masthead height.

II. A U.S. Submarines Reports

A U.S. SS reports probably damaging an AK 5 - 7000 tons.

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R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 15 November 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Late the night of 11 November S. of Ganonga Island an Allied task force was attacked by 7 Jap floatplanes and medium bombers of which 1 plane was downed. 1 of the enemy planes released a torpedo but the rest apparently retired without taking any offensive action. The same night 2 Jap barges were driven back into Choiseul Bay by 4 PT's which lost contact. The following morning Tarlena, Patchin Bay area of N. Bougainville, was attacked by 18 B-25's with excellent results. That afternoon Kara was attacked by 45 SBD's and 27 TBF's under escort of 10 F4U's. 20 hits were reported on the runway and numerous fires were also started. There was no interception and no A/A fire. Later the same afternoon Bonis airfield was strafed by 8 P-38's which also strafed NE. Bougainville targets and Kieta Harbor on their return flight. The ground situation 12 November in the Cape Torokina area found U.S. marines advancing 400 yards towards the Piva River against Jap resistance. About 70 Japs were reported killed and about the same number wounded. The same day all Bougainville airfields except Bonis were reported unserviceable.

(B) Ellice Islands

Thursday night Nanomea, N. Ellice Islands, was attacked by 2 groups totalling 12 Jap bombers. About 60 bombs were dropped starting some fires, killing 1 man and wounding 2. A/A fire downed 1 of the enemy planes. Late the night of 13 November Funafuti was raided by 6 Jap planes which dropped 24-36 bombs. 3 grounded planes and a fuel dump were destroyed and the radio station damaged. 2 men were wounded.

(C) New Ireland

About noon 12 November 60 miles N. of Mussau Island an enemy AK in a 6 vessel convoy was damaged by a near miss scored by a B-24. Early in the morning of 12 November 50 miles S. of Kavieng a probable Jap CA, 3 ID's and 3 AK's in convoy were sighted heading NE. Later in the day 150 miles further NE. the AK's and the ID's were attacked by

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2 B-24's which scored 2 near misses to damage 1 of the AK's. About the same time in the same area a S. bound convoy, consisting of 3 DE's, 3 medium AK's and 1 AP were sighted. Early the following afternoon just N. of Pussau 1 CA and 2 unidentified vessels were sighted heading NW. by an patrol plane. The same plane sighted 3 other vessels heading NW. just W. of Pussau but an attempt to attack was thwarted by 8 intercepting Jap fighters. Very early the morning of 14 November about 20 miles W. of Kalili, 1 AO, 3 AK's and an auxiliary heading WNW. were attacked by a patrolling plane which reported a direct hit on a large AK.

(D) New Britain

Photographs the forenoon of 12 November at Rabaul disclosed 2 DE's of which 1 was damaged; 1 AD; 5 SS's, and 110,000 tons of merchant shipping of which 40,000 tons were damaged. In the harbor were 26 floatplanes while on 4 airfields in the area there were 90 planes.

(E) New Guinea

The night of 10-11 November 20 miles N. of Finschhafen 3 S. bound Jap barges were sunk by PT's. The next day 10 A-20's escorted by 15 P-39's bombed and strafed the NW. Huon Peninsula. The attack planes dropped 9 tons of bombs on coastal villages, starting a number of fires and destroying 6 enemy barges. Accurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day Kiari, Jap barge center 15 miles W. of Sio, was attacked by 11 B-25's and 6 B-26's which dropped over 22 tons of bombs and incendiaries starting a number of fires in building and supply areas. The same day in the Finschhafen and Ramu Valley areas Allied ground patrols were reported active.

(F) N.E.I.

The night of 11 November Arbon was raided by 5 B-24's which dropped over 9 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the barracks area starting a number of large fires. 3 Jap fighters unsuccessfully attempted interception. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. About the same time Marlea, NE. Boeroe Island, was raided by 3 PBY's which dropped 4½ tons of bombs and incendiaries with unobserved results. Light A/A fire was encountered. Early the following morning Soerabaja was attacked by 12 B-24's which dropped more than 22 tons of bombs and incendiaries, starting a number of fires. Slight and inaccurate A/A fires of all calibres was encountered. Possibly as many as 5 Jap planes were in the air over the target but no interception was reported.

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(G) Australia

Early the morning of 12 November Darwin was attacked by 9 Jap planes which caused some damage to the town area. 2 of the enemy were downed by the 11 Spitfires which intercepted.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports probably sinking a large Jap AK and damaging another. Another U.S. SS reports probably sinking an AO.

R. A. Boone.

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

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

During the encounters of 8 - 9 November in the Empress Augusta Bay area 300 Japs were killed.

The afternoon of 11 November 4 forces of Japanese aircraft attacked our carrier task force off N. Bougainville. The Jap force was intercepted 110 miles from our vessels and only 20 dive-bombers got through to attack but no hits or damage resulted to our CV's. At 1410L another raid was made and a near miss was scored on a CV but no damage resulted. 15 Jap torpedo-bombers made the 3rd attack on our surface units and 3 torpedo tracks were seen but no vessels were hit. A 4th attack of 10 - 15 Jap bombers was intercepted and no planes got through to attack. In the 4 raids a total of 64 Jap planes (32 dive-bombers, 27 torpedo-bombers, 2 medium bombers and 3 fighters) were destroyed. This is reported as a conservative estimate and does not include planes destroyed by land-based fighters. Our operational and combat losses from carrier units total 1 dive-bomber and 2 torpedo-bombers. Casualties on the vessels totalled 10 slightly wounded.

The same day 3 B-25's covered by F4U's bombed and strafed the Matchin Bay area. 4 barges were also attacked by our fighters.

(B) New Ireland - New Britain

At noon 11 November 3 enemy DL's and 3 AP's were sighted 60 miles N. of Mussau Island heading S. The evening of the same day a B-24 on reconnaissance attacked but failed to hit a Jap CA and DD 30 miles SE of Kavieng. Rabaul airfields and shipping in the harbor were heavily attacked 11 November by large forces of U.S. planes. The first attack was by 4 Beauports which raided Vunakanau scoring hits in the dispersal areas. Bad weather forced all but 13 B-24's to return to base but the 13 heavy bombers dropped over 25 tons of light bombs on Lakunai airfield causing fires and 1 large explosion. 42 B-24's attacked shipping on Simpson's Harbor later in the morning and although no hits were claimed 5 of 12 - 15 enemy intercepting planes were shot down. 2 of our planes were lost but the crews are safe. This attack was followed at 0900L by 25 TBF's and 21 LBD's escorted by 55 PBF's. A Jap DD was directly hit by 2 1000 lb. bombs and 2 probable torpedoes hit. Near misses and possible torpedo hits were scored on other DD's. 30 - 40 planes attempted interception of which 1 - 2 was destroyed. We lost 1 TBF. It is further reported by GHQ Brisbane that an additional 51 LBD's and 46 TBF's with 71 fighters also attacked shipping at Rabaul. This report claimed total enemy losses for the day as 1 CL, and 2 DD's sunk, 1 CL and 11 DD's damaged and 31 enemy planes shot down while our losses for the day totalled 12 planes.

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(C) New Guinea

During the afternoon of 10 November 10 A-20's bombed and strafed Alexishafen from a low altitude. A total of 22 enemy planes were seen dispersed on the 2 airfields of which 1 bomber was destroyed and 5 other aircraft damaged by strafing. The following morning 16 P-39's again strafed Alexishafen and a Jap light bomber in the air was shot down.

(D) N. E. I.

On 11 November 4 Catalinas bombed Babo causing fires and explosions. 8 Beaufighters attacked Solaru airfield and villages in the Tanimbar Islands causing fires. A Dutch B-25 bombed the Wissel Lakes area and a RAAF Beaufort the same day shot down an enemy floatplane 70 miles SE of Cape Valsch.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 12 November 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Belated reports indicate that on 8 November Kahili was raided by a single Allied B-24 which dropped 20 fragmentation clusters with unobserved results and that Jap positions near the Laruma River mouth were bombed and strafed by 17 SBD's and 12 TBF's. The morning of 10 November Buka and Bonia airfields were attacked by 55 SBD's and 34 TBF's under escort of 54 fighters. Early reports indicate a probable ammunition dump exploded and a number of fires started. Both runways were rendered unfit for use. 1 SBD is missing. Later the same morning Ballale was attacked by 12 unescorted B-25's which dropped more than 17 tons of bombs, scoring hits on the runway. A/A fire was not intense. About the same time 11 more unescorted B-25's dropped more than 14 tons of bombs on Kara, starting large fires in the runway area. No A/A fire was encountered and all our planes returned safely. Both Kara and Ballale were unfit for service after these attacks.

The same day along the Piva and Jaba Rivers in the Empress Augusta Bay area Jap positions were bombed and strafed by 17 SBD's and 12 TBF's cooperating with Allied ground forces in the area. The planes released about 23 tons of bombs starting a number of fires at the mouth of the Jaba and destroying half of Piva village. That afternoon in Matchin Bay a 200 foot AK was sunk by 3 unescorted B-25's which also sank 2 barges. Intense and accurate A/A fire damaged 1 plane but all returned safely. The same day Piva was occupied without incident by Allied ground troops who captured considerable equipment. Allied patrols to the Laruma River and to the N. met no Jap opposition.

On 11 November all enemy airfields in the Buka - Bougainville area were reported unserviceable. The same day, with the landing of the 3rd Echelon, Allied ground forces at Cape Torokina totalled 28,700 men while on Treasury Island, with the landing of the 4th Echelon, the Allies had 7,700 men. In addition 19,000 tons of equipment had been landed at Torokina and 5,800 tons at Treasury.

(B) New Ireland

9 November photographs revealed 19 light bombers, 16 fighters, 15 medium bombers and 7 floatplanes at Kavieng. The same day 27 miles W. of Massau 2 Jap AK's and 2 PC's were sighted heading NW by N. 1 AK appeared to have a deck cargo. That night 47 miles SW of Kavieng a Jap DD was sunk by 4 B-24's which released 3 1000 lb. bombs from 250 feet. The same bombers also sighted another lone DD headed SSW off the NW tip of the Gazelle Peninsula.

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(New Britain).

At midday 12 November 75 miles SW of Cape Mantanalem, New Hanover, 1 BB, 1 CA, 1 CL, 4 DD's and 1 unidentified warship were reported heading NW by a patrolling Allied plane which, a short while later, reported a 9 vessel convoy heading ESE about 135 miles SW of Cape Matanalem.

(C) New Britain

Early the morning of 9 November Rapopo airfield was raided by 4 RAAF Beauforts while 3 more Beauforts released 3 torpedoes against shipping in the harbor, probably hitting an enemy CL. The airfield was hit with 3½ tons of bombs and the target was reported well covered. Accurate and inaccurate A/A fire of all calibres was met. These 2 raids were in addition to the previously reported attack the same morning on Vunakanau airfield by 9 RAAF Beauforts. The same morning W. of Rein Bay a patrolling B-24 set 1 of 2 Jap sea trucks and 2 barges afire in a strafing attack. That afternoon Gasmata was attacked by 18 P-40's. The dump areas were the target but no details were reported. That night Vunakanau was hit again, 3 RAAF Beauforts releasing more than 2 tons of bombs with unreported results. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate.

Early the morning of 10 November Lakunai airfield was attacked by 12 B-24's 10 of which released 22 tons of bombs over the target. 2 explosions and 3 fires were observed. A/A fire from the shore and harbor shipping was intense and 3 enemy night fighters intercepted. 1 B-24 is missing. The same day buildings on Garove Island were hit with a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24. No results were reported. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. That night 50 miles NW by N. of Rabaul 2 Jap AP's and 1 DD were sighted heading W.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 8 - 9 November near Sio a large beached Jap barge was destroyed by Allied PT's. The 4 laden barges previously reported sunk the night of 8 November in Vitiaz Strait are now revealed to have been sunk the night of 9 November. The PT's which made the attack were ineffectively raided by an unreported number of Jap planes.

At noon 10 November Alexishafen was attacked by 22 B-25's escorted by an unreported number of P-47's. 16 of the low-flying planes dropped over 7 tons of bombs on the airfield, destroying a grounded Jap fighter plane and damaged 2 more. A/A positions, warehouses and a jetty were also wrecked. Intense A/A fire, ranging from inaccurate to accurate, was encountered but all our planes returned safely. The same day over Las 12 Jap fighters were intercepted by 15 P-39's and in the ensuing engagement 3 of the enemy were downed and another was probably destroyed.

(E) N. E. I.

About midnight 9 November Soerabaja, Java, was attacked by 14 B-24's. 11 of the planes dropped more than 26 tons of bombs through heavy clouds which prevented observation of the results. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 11 November 1946

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I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Related reports revealed that the Empress Augusta Bay area was attacked the night of 6 November by Jap planes which dropped 50 bombs. No details were forthcoming.

Further details of 8 November air patrol clashes over the Empress Augusta Bay area indicate that 3 more Jap dive-bombers and 1 more Jap fighter were destroyed and 3 more Jap dive-bombers probably destroyed raising the total number of enemy planes downed to 26 and the probables to 7. Our losses were increased to 7.

Ballale was attacked 9 November by 35 SBD's and 18 TBF's escorted by fighters. 34 tons of bombs were dropped on the runway and A/A positions resulting in the explosion of an ammunition dump and starting 3 fires. The same day Kara was hit with 33 tons of bombs released by 33 SBD's and 17 TBF's escorted by fighters which also strafed the Shortlands area. Also on 9 November Jap positions N. of Empress Augusta Bay were bombed and strafed by 6 B-25's with unobserved results while an unreported number of B-25's also strafed Jap bivouac areas at Buka. The same day all enemy airfields in the Buka - Bougainville area were reported unserviceable except Bonis. Also on 9 November enemy positions on the N. coast of Choiseul were strafed by 2 Allied PT's with unobserved results.

(B) New Ireland

8 miles W. of Mussau Island on 9 November a 10,000 ton Jap AK was sunk by a B-24 which scored 1 direct hit and 2 near misses with 3 1000 lb. bombs. Intense and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day 55 miles N. of Mussau a B-24 released a ton of bombs over a medium Jap AK in convoy but no results were reported. At noon 9 November 50 miles NNE of Mussau a Jap DD and 2 AK's were sighted heading N. while about the same time off N. New Hanover 1 CL, 3 DD's and 5 AK's were sighted heading E. Late that night 35 miles SE of Dyaul Island 2 CL's, a DD and 4 other vessels were sighted heading SE.

(C) New Britain

Late the night of 8 November 14 miles N. of Rein Bay 2 large Jap barges were strafed with unobserved results by a PRY which also dropped

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a ton of bombs while an hour later about 110 miles NNW of Rabaul 2 AK's, 1 DD and 1 PC headed SE by S. were unsuccessfully attacked by another MY.

Very early 9 November Vunakanau airfield, Rabaul, was attacked by 9 RAAF Beauforts, 7 of which hit the dispersal areas with more than 5 tons of bombs. 2 other planes have not yet reported. Results were termed excellent and a small ammunition dump was believed destroyed. Intense A/A fire was encountered. Later the same morning along the coast in the Rein Bay area 9 B-25's bombed and strafed 2 large Jap barges and 3 luggers, destroying the latter, and also knocked out an A/A position and set a fuel dump afire. From a minimum altitude more than 8½ tons of bombs were dropped. Accurate A/A fire was encountered. Photographs 9 November of the Rabaul area revealed 1 damaged CA, 1 CL, 9 DD's of which 1 was damaged, 1 damaged AD, 2 SS's and 8 AK's of which 7 were probably damaged. In addition 5 probable Jap warships were observed heading N. off Cape Gazelle. On three airfields - Vunakanau, Lakunai and Tobora - were 142 fighters, 20 medium bombers and 18 light-bombers. Photographs the following day revealed 1 CL, 4 DD's, 3 SS's and 3 AK's in addition to the vessels photographed 9 November and the air strength was believed to have been increased to 180 fighters, 20 medium bombers, 21 light bombers and 32 floatplanes.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 8 November in Vitiaz Strait 4 S. bound Jap barges were sunk by Allied PT's. The following morning Alexishafen was attacked by 11 A-20's and 5 P-47's. The A-20's dropped 11 tons of bombs on the runway and dispersal area while the P-47's strafed the target. A/A positions, hangars and buildings were hit and 12 grounded aircraft were reported destroyed. Only inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. After the attack the N. Huon Peninsula coast, from Sio to Fortification Point, was strafed by the returning P-47's. No results were observed. Shortly thereafter Alexishafen was again attacked. This time 36 low-flying B-25's covered by 24 P-38's dropped over 12 tons of bombs on the target and shelled and strafed it as well. Fires were started in fuel dumps, 9 grounded aircraft were destroyed and others were damaged, a fuel truck was demolished and a number of other large fires were started. 25 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 14 were destroyed and 2 more probably destroyed by the P-38's. 3 of our fighters are missing. A/A fires of all calibres was encountered. The same morning over Nadzab 12 Jap fighter planes were engaged by 8 P-40's and 4 P-39's which destroyed 3 of the enemy and damaged another. 1 P-40 was damaged. Also on 9 November Allied artillery and patrols were active N. of Finschhafen.

(E) N. E. I.

Over M...I. 9 November Allied air activity was confined to reconnaissance flights.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 10 November 1943.

1. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

At noon 7 November 21 B-24's bombed Buka. No interception was met. That afternoon the Atsinina Bay - Laruma River area a mile or so N. of Cape Torokina, SW Bougainville, and scene of the previously reported Jap troop landing earlier the same day, was bombed and strafed by 4 SBD's and 3 PV's escorted by 24 fighters. The targets were reported well covered. These attacks on SW Bougainville targets were in addition to the previously reported bombing of the area by 8 B-26's. The same day Jap gun positions, bivouacs and supply dumps in the Jaba River area, SE of Cape Torokina, were bombed and strafed by 18 SBD's and 14 TBF's.

The morning of 8 November over Buka 7 F4U's, which had escorted the B-25's on the previously reported attack on Kieta, downed a Jap medium bomber and also strafed the area, wrecking a grounded enemy fighter plane. During the day over the Empress Augusta Bay area Allied fighter patrols intercepted 20 Jap dive-bombers escorted by 40 fighters shooting down 10 enemy bombers and 12 fighters and probably destroying 4 more fighters. Our losses were 2 P-40's, 1 F4U and 1 P-38. Also on 8 November 2 Allied AP's suffered some slight damage when attacked by Jap dive bombers after Echelon 2A had been landed. Our ground forces in the area believe that half of the estimated 300 Japs who landed on their left flank 7 and 8 November have been killed. 50 or 60 of our force have been wounded. The Allied position is reported satisfactory. On Treasury Island 8 November 1/2 a mile W. of Soanotalu, Allied ground forces eliminated 10 - 12 Japs hiding in the cave and also captured equipment. That night in the same area an LCT was bombed by Jap planes but no details were reported.

At Cape Torokina construction of an Allied runway was begun 9 November with completion scheduled in about a month.

(B) Greenwich (Kapingamarangi) Island

Near Greenwich Island 9 November 1 of 5 intercepting floatplanes was destroyed and another was probably destroyed by a B-24 from Guadalcanal.

(C) New Ireland

The night of 7 November a patrolling PBV sighted 1 AK and 1 DD heading S in St. George Channel. Before dawn the following day off SW Mussau Island 2 AK's and 2 escorts were unsuccessfully attacked by a patrolling B-24

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and about noon 90 miles NW of Mussau 5 Jap AK's and 3 escorts were sighted heading S. Also on 8 November 135 miles NE of Mussau a medium Jap AK was attacked by a B-24. No results were reported after the plane dropped a ton of bombs.

(D) New Britain

On 8 November a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on an A/A position on Garove Island, causing a heavy explosion and a fire. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. That night at Wide Bay a patrolling PBY dropped a ton of bombs to destroy a jetty.

(E) New Guinea

According to midday photographs 6 November the 4 airfields in the Newak area held a total of 96 enemy planes. The following morning no Jap aircraft were observed at Alexishafen. The evening of 7 November off Hansa Bay a Jap sea truck filled with an estimated number of 200 troops was seen approaching from the NW. About midnight the same night Lae was twice ineffectively raided by high flying Jap planes. In the Finschhafen area 8 November Jap positions were shelled by Allied artillery while ground forces made some advance about 3 miles W. of Heldsbach. Air activity in the area the same day was handicapped by adverse weather.

(F) N. E. I.

The night of 7 November 4 RAAF PBY's dropped over 5 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the Ambon waterfront area starting a number of fires. Intense A/A fire was encountered. The attacking planes reported 1 CA, 2 DD's and 2 AK's in the harbor. The following morning just SW of Kaimana a B-24 scored a hit on 1 of 2 small AK's. 2 Jap fighter planes attempted interception and inaccurate A/A fire from the vessels was encountered. That noon off Seroea Island, about 120 miles NW of Solaru in the Tanimbar Islands, a Dutch B-25 damaged a small coastal vessel.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking an entire Jap convoy of 2 10,000 ton AO's, 2 AK's, 1 large AP and 1 unidentified ship. Another SS reports damaging an AO while a third reports possibly damaging an AK.

R. A. Boone.

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

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The forenoon of 4 November Kahili was attacked by 57 SBD's and 19 TBF's under fighter escort. Hits were scored throughout the area. 1 TBF was downed by A/A fire and 3 SBD's and 1 TBF were damaged. No Jap planes intercepted. Following this attack the fighter escort strafed a number of small craft and villages in N. Bougainville. The same day Allied fighters patrolling the Empress Augusta Bay area strafed small craft NE and NW Bougainville. The following afternoon 2 Jap planes ineffectively bombed the Munda area. New Georgia.

Early the morning of 6 November about 50 miles NW of Cape Henpan, Buka, 2 Jap AK's and 1 DD were sighted by Allied aircraft and that night about 80 miles NW of Buka Passage 3 enemy DD's were observed. Also that night an unreported number of Allied amphibious craft between Treasury Islands and Empress Augusta Bay were attacked by 20 Jap dive-bombers of which 5 were downed. The afternoon of 6 November off SE Santa Isabel a Jap fighter plane was destroyed by 2 P-38's. About midnight 6 November 40 miles SW of Buka Passage a Jap CL or DD was probably hit by a torpedo launched by 1 of 4 RAAF Beauforts. About the same time 2 CL's and 5 DD's were sighted 20 miles further SE headed SW. Later 1 of these DD's was hit when 6 RAAF Beauforts attacked the force off Empress Augusta Bay. A near miss was scored on another.

Early Sunday morning about 20 barge loads of Jap troops were landed on the Allied left flank in the Cape Torokina area. Midday photographs the same day revealed Kieta, Kara, Kahili and Ballale runways unserviceable while that at Bonis was obscured by clouds. That afternoon Atsinima Bay, about 12 miles NW of Cape Torokina, was attacked by 8 B-25's which dropped over 7 tons of bombs on the beach area and 4 enemy barges. No results were observed. The following morning 6 B-25's bombed and strafed Kieta with unobserved results. 9 tons of bombs were dropped. A/A fire was slight and no enemy planes intercepted. The same day the Atsinima Bay area was bombed by 3 PV's. No results were observed.

(B) Ontong Java (Lord Howe) Island

Early 9 November about 90 miles NE of Ontong Java 4 unidentified vessels headed E. by S. were attacked by an Allied plane. No details were reported.

(C) Greenwich (Kapingamarangi) Island

The evening of 4 November 145 miles W. of Greenwich Island 3 AK's

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and 3 DD's were attacked by a B-24 with unobserved results. A few hours later 60 miles S. of Greenwich Island another Allied patrol plane sighted 1 cruiser and 2 DD's.

(D) New Ireland

Very early the morning of 6 November about 50 miles SE by S of New Hanover Allied aircraft sighted 2 Jap cruisers heading NE by E at 10 knots. Later the same morning a Jap DD heading N. about 25 miles W. of New Hanover was unsuccessfully attacked by an Allied plane. About noon the following day approximately 135 miles NW of Mussau Island a Jap convoy of 5 vessels was sighted headed SSW. The morning of 8 November about 375 miles NW of Kavieng a Jap 9 vessel convoy, reported 400 miles NNW of Lorengau on 6 November, was sighted heading SE at 10 knots. Before noon of 9 November about 70 miles S. of NAMatanai, 5 6000 ton Jap AK's were sighted heading N. by W. Early that afternoon about 120 miles NW of Kavieng 1 CL, 3 DD's, 2 6000 ton AK's and 1 3000 ton AK were sighted heading E. at 15 knots.

(E) New Britain

About noon 7 November Rapopo airfield, Rabaul, was attacked by 25 B-24's escorted by 75 P-38's. More than 83 tons of bombs started fires, wrecked installations and destroyed at least 12 grounded aircraft. Of 60 intercepting Jap planes 23 were destroyed by Allied planes and 8 others were probably destroyed. 5 P-38's are missing.

(F) New Guinea

The night of 6 November 3 miles N. of Blucher Point 2 Jap SS's were believed hit by attacking PT's which reported no details.

At daybreak 7 November Nadzab was attacked by 9 Jap bombers escorted by 10 fighters. Some casualties resulted and 2 grounded P-39's were destroyed and others damaged. 7 Jap bombers and 2 fighters were destroyed and 2 bombers and 3 fighters were probably destroyed by intercepting P-39's. 1 P-39 crash landed. Over Saidor the retiring Japs were intercepted by 4 P-47's which shot down 4 more enemy fighters. About the same time over Finschhafen 4 of 20 Jap fighters encountered by an Allied patrol were destroyed and 2 more fell to the fighter escort of an uncompleted Allied raid on Newak. That afternoon 4 Jap fighter planes strafed Bena Bena with little success and over Madang 8 P-40's destroyed 3, and probably destroyed another, of 6 Jap fighters.

(G) N. E. I.

Allied air activity over N. E. I. was limited to reconnaissance.

R. A. Boone.

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

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 5 November 6 B-25's attacked enemy shipping off NE Bougainville. In the general vicinity of Kieta a 300 foot AK was set afire, a 150 foot AK exploded, a 100 foot AK was damaged and several barges were strafed. The same planes dropped 2 1/2 tons of bombs on Kieta airfield and also strafed the area from low-level. Fires broke out in the bivouac area.

The morning of 6 November off SW Buka direct hits from low-flying B-25's escorted by P4U's sank a 150 foot and a 300 foot AK said to be loaded with A/A ammunition, and a 125 foot corvette. After the attack, 8 Jap planes intercepted. 1 was destroyed. All our bombers suffered some damage. The fighter escort downed a Jap medium bomber off Cape Moltke, W. Bougainville. An hour or so later the same morning 2 Jap barges in Tiniputz Harbor, NE Bougainville, were sunk by a B-25 which also attacked Kieta with unobserved results. That afternoon SW of Buka 3 AK's and 2 barges were sunk by 4 B-25's which also strafed 20 to 25 barges off Chabai, Matchin Bay, where intense A/A fire was encountered.

Also on 6 November Kara was twice attacked. At noon 44 SBD's and 17 TBF's covered by 32 fighters hit the runway, A/A positions and the nearby area. A/A fire met was slight but 1 SBD is missing. The escorting fighters set 5 Jap barges afire in the general area. 15 minutes after this attack 24 B-25's hit Kara with excellent results. Light A/A fire was encountered. About the same time Bonis runway was attacked by an unreported number of B-24's and an early report indicates that the attack was successful. The same day fighters patrolling Empress Augusta Bay strafed Kieta runway and installations at Mabiri, N. of Kieta, with unobserved results. Early the following morning about 30 miles W. of Buka Passage 1 CA and 2 AK's were sighted heading E. by H.

(B) Greenwich Island (Kapingamarangi)

At Greenwich Island 6 November a small AK or tender in the Lagoon was strafed by a B-24. Interception was unsuccessfully attempted by a single enemy floatplane.

(C) New Ireland

Early the morning of 6 November 400 miles NW by N. of Lorengau, Admiralty Islands, 4 AK's, 2 DD's and 2 PC's were sighted heading S. That afternoon 80 miles NW of Mussau Island 3 CL's and a DD heading N were unsuccessfully attacked by a B-24, and that night 20 miles SE of Cape St. George a

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patrolling PBV sighted 3 DD's heading E.

(D) New Britain

15 P-40's dropped nearly 4 tons of bombs on the dump areas at Gasmata 6 November. No results were reported. In accurate A/A fire was encountered.

(E) New Guinea

The night of 5 November a single Jap plane ineffectively raided Dumpu while 3 to 4 more enemy planes did no better in an attack on the Finschhafen area. The following morning 10 Jap bombers covered by 10 fighters attacked the Nadzab airfield, damaging some grounded planes and causing some casualties. 1 P-39 is lost. That afternoon a runway about 20 miles SE of Dumpu was strafed by 4 enemy fighters. 1 grounded plane was destroyed and others damaged. The same day a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Sio. Results were called excellent.

(F) N.E.I.

The night of 5 November 3 RAAF PBV's dropped 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries on barracks and supply dump at Ambon, starting a number of fires, while another PBV dropped a ton of bombs on Saumlaki in the Tanimbar Islands. Over Ambon, slight but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The following noon 75 miles NW of the Tanimbar Islands a Dutch B-25 scored 2 near misses on 2 Jap sea trucks. That afternoon 8 RAAF Beaufighters raided Selaru, in the Tanimbar Islands, dropping 3/4 of a ton of bombs on the airfield and village and strafing 4 small troop laden craft in the vicinity. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

R. A. Boone.

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6 NOV 1943

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Division of Naval Intelligence

Brief of Telegrams of the Department of State
Prepared by
Division of Naval Intelligence

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Letter, 5-3-72
CONFIDENTIAL

(November 6, 1943)

RESUME

NAVAL

- (1) The S.S. GLEN POOL sailed from Cartagena, Colombia on November 3rd at 7 p. m., as Harold Griffiths, the new master, only took command on the 3rd.

RUSSIA

- (1) Foreign Secretary Eden and Secretary Hull left Moscow on November 3rd, according to the Moscow papers of November 4th.

EUROPE

- (1) The Italian Merchant Marine has now been placed under the Ministry of the Navy; General Sandalli has been appointed ad interim Minister of Communications; and other information.
- (2) Marshal Badoglio has informed the Italian Ambassador to Spain that the Italian Missions must be reduced and that all MA's must be repatriated.
- (3) Three fresh German divisions have reached Estonia recently and they consist of conscripts from the class of 1925.
- (4) A Catholic organization is being formed in Germany to overthrow the Nazis and to set-up an independent Bavaria; the Bavarians believe that Germany will collapse in March or April; the Wehrmacht is demanding more material than previously; the morale on the Eastern Front is declining.
- (5) At the present time, motor gasoline is shorter than gas oil in Germany.
- (6) The Bavarians consider the war lost but fear Russia; confirmation has been received of the drafting of men over 60 and of the terrorist methods of the Gestapo; etc.

AFRICA

- (1) The Italian Consular agent will remain at Beira and not proceed to Lourenco Marques; the Portuguese Government is maintaining a guard aboard the S.S. GERUSALEMME; and other information.

THE EAST

- (1) The Japanese are reported to have suffered heavy SS losses off the mouth of the Mekong River, as well as six or eight heavily laden outgoing vessels; the food situation in the Philippines is reported to be serious; the price of living in Japan has doubled in two years; etc.
- (2) Japanese missions consisting of Naval and Military personnel have been visiting recently the various European fronts in order to report first-hand to Tokyo.
- (3) The Japanese are being prepared for the defeat of Germany; the Japanese are not dissatisfied and continue to believe Japanese propaganda; the Japanese admit U. S. SS activity along the coast of China; confirmation has been received of the scuttling of the S.S. CONTE VERDE and the LEPANTO; and other information.

FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS

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(November 6, 1943)

NAVAL

1. Cartagena, Colombia
November 4

OAKLEY
(Vice-Consul)

The S.S. GLEN POOL sailed from CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA
on November 3rd at 7 p. m., as HAROLD GRIFFITHS, the
new master, only took command on the 3rd.

(Reference: "Brief" of Nov. 1st, page 1, No. 1).

CONFIDENTIAL

(November 7, 1943)

RUSSIA

1. Moscow, Russia
November 4

HARRIMAN
(Ambassador)

Foreign Secretary EDEN and Secretary HULL left
MOSCOW on November 3rd, according to the Moscow papers
of November 4th.

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1. Algiers, Algeria
November 4

WILEY
(Consul Gen'l)

CONFIDENTIAL
(November 6, 1943)
EUROPE
The Italian Merchant Marine has now been placed under the Ministry of the Navy; General Sandalli has been appointed ad interim Minister of Communications; and other information.

Marshal BADOGLIO has announced that General SANDALLI has been appointed ad interim Minister for Communications, according to Mr. MURPHY. General DERAIMONDO has been appointed Director of Railways and Transport and SIGNOR FANO, Director of Radio and Telephone, as the Ministry of Communications has been divided into these two directorates.

The Merchant Marine has now been placed under the Ministry of the Navy instead of remaining under the Ministry of Communications, but air communications are still a part of the Air Ministry.

2. Algiers, Algeria
November 4

WILEY
(Consul Gen'l)

Marshal Badoglio has informed the Italian Ambassador to Spain that the Italian Missions must be reduced and that all MA's must be repatriated.

The following information has been sent to the Italian Embassy at MADRID from Marshal BADOGLIO:

The Royal Italian Government is preparing a temporary scheme for financing its foreign missions. Owing to reasons of economy, it is necessary that the number of Italian Consulates should be reduced, as well as the number of personnel in the various Consular and diplomatic missions; the military attaches and their staffs and all persons not strictly indispensable must be repatriated. All expenditures must be cut down, including Italian institutions, schools and overhead expenses.

The Italian Embassy in MADRID has been requested to forward this information to Italian Missions in neutral countries and to FINLAND and to send Marshal BADOGLIO, via the Italian Embassy at MADRID, their responses.

3. Helsinki, Finland
November 5

MCCLINTOCK
(Chg d'Affs)

Three fresh German divisions have reached ESTONIA recently and they consist of conscripts from the class of 1925, according to a reliable SOURCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

(November 6, 1943)

EUROPE (Continued)

4. Bern, Switzerland
October 28
HARRISON
(Minister)

A Catholic organization is being formed in Germany to overthrow the Nazis and to set-up an independent Bavaria; the Bavarians believe that Germany will collapse in March or April; the Wehrmacht is demanding more material than previously; the morale on the Eastern Front is declining.

The Catholics are particularly strong in the rural areas and villages of GERMANY where repression is more difficult. The Catholics are organizing themselves from all classes of people so as to take the first opportunity of over-throwing the Nazis, with the end in mind of establishing an independent BAVARIA which might possibly be joined with AUSTRIA, according to a SOURCE recently returned from WUERTTEMBERG, and BAVARIA. It is not yet known who are the leaders or the members of the organization. In BADEN and in WUERTTEMBERG, similar organizations are beginning to grow.

The Protestants are less active, although some of them have affiliated themselves with the Catholic organization, but possibly 40% of the preachers are still loyal to the Fuehrer. In MUNICH, only about 20% of the Protestants are for the Nazis, whereas in NUERNBERG, about 80% still believe that the Nazis and the German Army will win. The anti-Nazi feeling in AUGSBURG is even more pronounced than it is in MUNICH.

The feeling exists in BAVARIA that GERMANY cannot hold out longer than March or April. In September, in AUGSBURG the large BMW works were forced to interrupt production for several days as raw materials did not arrive on time. The Wehrmacht demands larger deliveries than ever before, even though the deliveries from the Silesian and Ruhr smelters are not made in time and are not sufficient. Machine tools are being used long after the time has come when they should be scrapped. Early last January, a plant near STUTTGART, at FELLBACH, ordered some capstan or turret lathes from a manufacturer at PLAUEN, which, however, cannot be delivered before January, 1944.

Confirmation has been received in regard to the deterioration of morale among the officers and troops along the Eastern Front during the past six months, due chiefly to their concern about their families at home and to their short furloughs, which cannot be increased owing to the manpower shortage.

(November 7, 1943)

EUROPE (Continued)

5. Bern, Switzerland
October 30

HARRISON
(Minister)

At the present time motor gasoline is shorter than gas oil in GERMANY. This situation is a reverse of that of three months ago and may reflect injury to the Rumanian cracking capacity, although there is some indication that over the last few months this relationship has varied from time to time, possibly indicating variations in intensity of cracking in hydrogenation plants. In any event, the alternation of shortages may indicate a general overall liquid fuel shortage.

6. Bern, Switzerland
November 4

HARRISON
(Minister)

The Bavarians consider the war lost but fear Russia; confirmation has been received of the drafting of men over 60 and of the terrorist methods of the Gestapo; etc.

A fear of RUSSIA prolongs the determination of the Bavarians to continue the war, in spite of the fact that they consider the war lost and further sacrifices useless. The hatred between PRUSSIA and BAVARIA, and also the hatred of the Nazis, is increasing. Crown Prince RUPRECHT is reported to have been executed in FLORENCE as a traitor, according to an anti-Nazi SOURCE.

The people in MUNICH are not impressed by the rumors that a new secret weapon is about to be used but are much more impressed by the mobilizing into labor services of men over 65 and of men over 60 for the army and by the large number of German youths who have been killed.

The feeling against the Nazis is increasing owing to the reign of terror which the Gestapo is operating.

(CONFIDENTIAL)
10/31/43

CONFIDENTIAL

(November 7, 1943)

AFRICA

1. Lisbon, Portugal
November 5

CROCKER
(Chg. d'Affs.)

The Italian Consular agent will remain at Beira and not proceed to Lourenco Marques; the Portuguese Government is maintaining a guard aboard the S.S. GERUSALEMME; and other information.

The Italian Consular agent will remain at BEIRA and not proceed to LOURENCO MARQUES as it has been discovered that the agent is a woman and not capable of handling the situation. No further effort will be made in LISBON to replace the Italian Consul General at LOURENCO MARQUES, as LONDON will not support the request for the transporation of the Italian Consul from OPORTO.

The Royal Italian Government has been sent a cable by the Italian Charge' at LISBON asking for instructions in regard to the repatriation of the non-resident Italians at LOURENCO MARQUES and also asking for authorization to inform the Portuguese Government that the Italian Government will pay for the cost of maintaining a guard aboard the S.S. GERUSALEMME and for the expenses of the crew, which is being kept on shore.

(Ref: "Brief" of October 30th, page 5, #1)

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CONFIDENTIAL 3-72

(November 7, 1943)

FAR EAST

1. New Delhi, India
November 4

MERRELL
(Secretary)

The Japanese are reported to have suffered heavy SS losses off the mouth of the Mekong River, as well as six or eight heavily laden outgoing vessels; the food situation in the Philippines is reported to be serious; the price of living in Japan has doubled in two years; etc.

The following information was received from correspondents of the Associated Press who interviewed the repatriates from the GRIPSHOLM when they arrived at COA:

The Japanese are reported to have suffered heavy SS losses off the mouth of the MEKONG RIVER where troop and cargo convoys are constantly arriving and leaving. The week before the TEIA MARU entered MEKONG RIVER, six or eight heavily laden outgoing ships are reported to have been torpedoed.

1,200,000 tons of high-grade rice are being taken by the Japanese annually from French Indo-China, as well as heavy shipments of rubber and 150,000 gallons of rice alcohol a month.

The black market in JAPAN is more active and the cost of living has doubled during the last two years. There is not sufficient tin to fill the ration allowance, even though all necessities are strictly rationed. Coal cannot be obtained, meat is issued three times a month but many items can be purchased from the black market, excepting rice which is strictly controlled.

As the Japanese Army in the PHILIPPINES is not importing food to replace that which formerly came from the U. S. but is living off the country, the food situation in the PHILIPPINES is reported to be serious. As the Japanese took all of the reserves of sugar for alcohol, which amounted to more than 200,000 tons, a grave sugar shortage exists.

2. Bern, Switzerland
November 4

HARRISON
(Minister)

Japanese missions consisting of naval and military personnel have been visiting recently the various European fronts in order to report first-hand to Tokyo.

Special Japanese missions consisting of officers from the Japanese Navy, Army and Air Force, as well as diplomats, have visited all the sectors of the various European fronts and also the defense areas during the past two months, so that full reports could be sent to the Japanese Government in TOKYO, according to a reliable neutral SOURCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

(November 7, 1943)

FAR EAST (Continued)

Apparently JAPAN is anxious to have first-hand information about her western ally's ability to cope with the situation which she is facing both at home and at the front.

3. Calcutta, India The Japanese are being prepared for the defeat of Germany;
October 28 the Japanese are not dissatisfied and continue to be-
PATTON lieve Japanese propaganda; the Japanese admit U. S. SS
(Consul Gen'l) activity along the coast of China; confirmation has been
 received of the scuttling of the S.S. CONTE VERDE and
 the LEPANTO; and other information.

The Japanese public is being prepared for a Nazi defeat, according to information received from repatriates on the CRIPSHOLM. The Japanese have not yet expressed any dissatisfaction as the result of various privations and on the whole implicitly believe Japanese propaganda. The true statistics of Japanese casualties, however, are not made known to the people. The feeling against foreigners, even against European neutrals, is growing steadily.

A complete and rapid Allied victory is expected by the Chinese in SHANGHAI, where fantastic rumors are current, as for example, that there are 10,000 U. S. pilots in free CHINA. The food situation at SHANGHAI is not acute.

The Italian gunboat LEPANTO has been scuttled, as has been the S.S. CONTE VERDE. The Japanese admit that U. S. submarines have been active on the coast of CHINA.

The British Broadcasting Corporation has been praised by the repatriates as reporting factual information in contrast to unrealistic and padded broadcasts from SAN FRANCISCO. The U. S. raids have recently been so accurate that the Chinese morale has soared and the Japanese do not seem to know what they should do.

Some guerilla fighting continues in the PHILIPPINES.

A large number of troops has been sent in recent months to SAIGON from which point they are sent overland to SINGAPORE, which has caused speculation as to whether they are in turn being sent on to BURMA.

(November 6, 1943)

FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS

1. London, England
November 4

The talks which MR. EDEN will hold in CAIRO with the TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER are already arousing lively interest in British newspapers.

2. London, England
November 4

Turkish participation in the war in some form or other will be the subject to be discussed at the meeting. (DAILY TELEGRAPH)

3. London, England
November 4

Just as PORTUGAL gave the use of the AZORES for airfields and ports, TURKEY may grant facilities which will make possible intensive attacks on new and vital parts of German-held EUROPE. (DAILY EXPRESS)

4. Stockholm, Sweden
November 4

Quite a number of boats must return in ballast to SWEDEN after unloading in German NORTH SEA ports. Bomb damages to DANZIG and GDYNIA do not seem especially great, since shipping continues fairly normal. Obviously GDYNIA is the hardest hit. There is a considerable German demand for ships under 1,500 tons. (ALLHANDA)

5. Stockholm, Sweden
November 4

The air raid against WIENER-NEUSTADT was very hard. Few planes were shot down because the Hungarians failed to report the Fortresses enroute, their fighters did not attack and the anti-aircraft was weak. The German Air Attache lodged a protest in BUDAPEST for the Hungarian fliers passiveness. The Hungarians replied their planes did not have a chance against the heavily-armed Fortresses. (DEMOKRATEN)

6. Stockholm, Sweden
November 4

The German General, JAENECKE, in the CRIMEA, sent several help appeals to headquarters. The general possesses only 20,000 tons of shipping, while 500,000 are needed to evacuate his 50,000 badly wounded men, plus 100,000 fit troops. Also he says he lacks adequate war material for effective resistance. (IDEM)

7. Bern, Switzerland
November 5

Blackout during November will be from 7 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. throughout CROATIA and the public is warned that non-compliance will be severely punished. (ZAGREB Press)

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

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not be placed in any general file.*

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 4 November 90 tons of bombs were dropped on Buka by 23 B-24's instead of 9 tons as previously reported.

Allied troops on N. Treasury Island were attacked 4 November by about 100 Japs. The attack was driven off and 60 Japs were killed and only 2 of our personnel were killed. Other Allied ground forces in the Torokina area were expanding their positions and mopping up nearby islands. Small parties of Japs were trying to infiltrate into Allied lines and snipers were active. During the night of 5 - 6 November U.S. PT's with small marine parties operated and searched the Empress Augusta Bay area around the mouth of the Jaba River. No actual landings were made as the enemy detected our operations. After dawn PT's again searched this area but no enemy personnel or boats were seen. The same night 12 enemy planes attacked an LCI, an LCT and a PT retiring from Empress Augusta Bay. A torpedo hit the LCI but failed to explode and remained lodged in the engine room. Enemy planes were also over Treasury Island and three bombs were dropped but no damage resulted. An Allied patrol on the island met 10 Japs of which 8 were killed and 1 captured. 2 other Japs near Malsi were captured and it is believed that only about 20 Japs remain on the island.

By 4 November all U.S. paratroops had been withdrawn from Choiseul. 143 enemy dead had been counted while our casualties total 9 killed and 16 wounded. The camp at Sangigai and other enemy stores and equipment were destroyed, barges were sunk and a successful diversion attack has been completed.

During the afternoon of 6 November 3 Jap cruisers were sighted heading E. approximately 100 miles WNW of Buka Passage. At 0100L, 7 November, 2 Jap CL's and 5 DD's were seen 30 miles SW of Buka Passage, heading SSW.

(B) New Ireland

During the night of 4 - 5 November a B-24 reported 3 direct hits with a 1000 lb. bombs sinking a probable CL in Gazelle Channel, 20 miles SE of Kavieng. The B-24 has failed to return.

During the afternoon of 5 November an enemy force of 2 CA's, 4 CL's and 3 DD's was reported heading N. approximately 200 miles N. of Mussau Island. That night a PBV bombed a DD 50 miles SW of Kavieng but no further details were reported. Before noon 7 November an Allied plane reported 2 Jap DD's and 3 AO's about 120 miles N. of Kavieng and heading NW. Our plane attacked the ships and scored a near miss on 1 of the vessels. A Jap fighter attempting interception was damaged.

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(C) New Britain

27 B-24's covered by 67 P-38's heavily bombed the city of Rabaul 5 November an hour after the carrier-based bombed attack which was previously reported. 81 tons of bombs fell throughout the area causing large fires and damaging a medium AK at the jetty. Fuel dumps and shore buildings were ablaze. Interception was attempted by 15 - 20 enemy fighters of which 2 were destroyed and 2 others probably destroyed. 1 P-38 is missing but all bombers returned to base.

That night 2 - 3 RAAF Beaufighters with torpedoes attacked a possible CA just off Simpson's Harbor, Rabaul. The planes reported a probable hit. Another enemy vessel in Keravia Bay was possibly hit. Vunakanau airfield was bombed by 4 other Beaufighters causing fires.

2 RAAF A-20's bombed Ubi and a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Garove Island 5 November. That night a PBV attacked a small enemy vessel 30 miles E. of Rabaul. 11 B-24's attacked a DD and 2 small vessels 20 miles NW of Cape St. George but no further details were reported.

145 miles W. of Greenwich Island 12 B-24's attacked 3 Jap DD's and 3 large AK's on 5 November. No further details were reported.

(D) New Guinea

On 5 November 26 B-25's and 5 B-26's heavily bombed enemy positions in the Faria River area (approximately 25 miles S. of Bogadjim). This attack was to support Allied ground troops. Over Wewak the same day 4 P-47's encountered 20 Jap fighters. 6 of the enemy planes were destroyed. There were 15 enemy planes on the field.

A B-24 on reconnaissance dropped a ton of bombs at 2 Jap sea trucks 25 miles E. of Wewak. No details were reported.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS in the Southwest Pacific area reports 2 10,000 ton AO's and 1 1,500 ton DD. Another SS reports 1 AK sunk, 1 AK damaged and 3 hits in a CV. A third SS reports sinking a Naval auxiliary (probably CM) and a large AK. A fourth SS reports scoring 3 hits on an enemy convoy. A fifth SS reports sinking 1 AK, damaging an AK and scoring 2 probable hits on an enemy convoy.

R. A. Boons.

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

I. Southwestern Pacific

A. Solomon Islands

On 2 November N of the Warrior River, NW Choiseul, a Jap out-post was destroyed by Allied ground troops and there were several small patrol clashes. Some Japs are still reported inland in the Sangigai area. At noon the next day near Cape Moltke, N of Empress Augusta Bay on W Bougainville, 8 F4U's were set upon by 20 Jap fighters several of which were damaged. 2 of our planes are possibly missing. Morning photographs, 4 November, revealed the runways at Ballale, Kara, Kahili and Buka unserviceable, and that at Bonis serviceable. The same morning about 30 miles WNW of DUKA PASSAGE 20 Japs went over the side of a lifeboat when it was strafed by an Allied patrol plane.

B. Ontong Java

At noon 3 November 60 miles NE of Ontong Java (Lord Howe Islands) a Jap AK was left sinking by an Allied patrol plane.

C. Greenwich Island

The morning of 4 November off Kapingamarangi (Greenwich Island) a B-24 attacking an AO was intercepted by 8 Jap float planes.

D. New Ireland

On the morning 4 November 168 miles N of Kavieng a B-24 scored a direct hit on a DD-escorted AO. Early the same morning about 115 miles NE of Mussau Island 1 of 2 large Jap AK's was set afire after 2 direct hits from a B-24. That night 32 miles W of Kavieng a PBX dropped a ton of bombs on 2 Jap AK's. A/A fire from the vessels was intense but inaccurate. Very early the following morning about 60 miles S of SE New Hanover a 9-ship convoy was sighted heading SE.

E. New Britain

The morning of 3 November Jacquinot Bay was bombed and strafed by 10 RAAF Beaufighters and 12 RAAF P-40's which dropped 3 tons of bombs. No

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results were reported. Moderate and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The following morning Jacquinot Bay was again raided. 12 RAAF Beaufighters drew slight and inaccurate A/A fire. The night 4 November 47 miles NE of Cape Gloucester a 1,000-ton AK was sunk by a direct hit from a B-24.

Before Noon 5 November Rabaul was attacked by 23 carrier-based TBF's and 22 SED's under escort of 52 F6F's. 11 tons of bombs and 23 torpedoes were released against a heavy concentration of Jap warships in the harbor. Bombs and torpedoes both hit 5 of 6 CA's, 1 of which blew up, while torpedoes hit the 6th CA. Bombs and torpedoes both hit 1 of 2 CL's and the other was hit by bombs alone. In addition, 2 of the 15 to 20 DD's present were torpedoed and most of them strafed.

About 23 of about 100 Jap fighters in the air were downed and 20 more probably downed while a Jap bomber was destroyed and another probably destroyed. 8 other enemy planes were damaged. From the ships in the harbor area intense and rather accurate A/A fire was encountered. Missing are 5 F6F's and 2 TBF's while 2 TBF's crashlanded on the water and 1 SED was downed. 32 of our planes also suffered minor damage. In Rabaul Harbor 10 to 20 merchant vessels and a large AV were sighted by the attacking planes.

Also on 5 November 11 RAAF Beaufighters strafed enemy bivouacs and buildings in Wide Bay. No results were observed. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

F. New Guinea

The morning of 3 November Langemak Bay was bombed and strafed by a lone Jap plane while another single enemy plane raided the same target the following morning. That night 9 miles N of Finschhafen 5 Jap barges were sunk by Allied PT's. In the Finschhafen area, 5 November, Jap positions N and W of Song River were shelled by Allied artillery. That night in the Ullingan Harbor area, just W of Dove point, 12 enemy barges and small craft were strafed by a patrolling PBV. 2 barges were severely damaged and a lugger hit.

G. N. E. I.

Over N. E. I. there was no Allied air activity except reconnaissance flights, 5 November.

II. U. S. SS Reports

A U. S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking a 8,250-ton AK and a 4,800-ton AK.

R. A. Boone.

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

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I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Details of the 2 November predawn surface engagement 35 miles WNW of Empress Augusta Bay reveal that U. S. cruisers and DD's sank 1 probable Jap CL and 4 DD's of 12 enemy ships engaged and damaged 2 cruisers and 2 DD's. Although some were damaged, no U.S. ships were lost.

3 November morning photographs revealed Buka, Bonis, Kahili and Ballale runways all unserviceable and only 5 Jap planes were observed on 3 of the fields, none being seen at Buka. The same day ground action in the Cape Torokina area consisted largely of mopping up remnants of the enemy on the small islands off shore and checking Jap snipers and attempts at infiltration. U.S. paratroopers successfully withdrew from NW Choiseul.

Kahili was attacked the forenoon of 4 November by 57 SBD's and 19 TBF's which dropped over 40 tons of bombs scoring 2 probable direct hits on A/A positions and 6 on buildings in addition to good coverage of the entire area. Moderately intense A/A fire damaged 3 TBF's and 1 SBD while 1 TBF was downed. There was no Jap plane interception. After the attack, the escorting fighters strafed a number of barges and small craft during a sweep of the Bougainville coast. The same morning Buka was hit with over 9 tons of bombs from 23 B-24's. Results were excellent. Intense A/A fire was encountered but there was no air interception. Over Empress Augusta Bay, 4 November, Allied fighters contacted no enemy planes but damaged or set afire a number of small AK's and barges in the sweep of Bougainville.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 2 November about 70 miles E. of Cape St. George a patrolling B-24 probably sank a Jap AK. The next morning 19 B-24 attacked 3 Jap AK's escorted by 3 DD's NE of Kavieng, scoring hits on a large AK and damaging a small one. The bombers were intercepted by 10 - 20 enemy fighters and floatplanes of which 4 were destroyed and 3 probably destroyed. One of our planes was lost and another crash landed.

(C) New Britain

The night of 2 - 3 November 13 RAAF Beauforts attacked Tobera airfield at Rabaul dropping a number of bombs and incendiaries with unobserved results. Early the following morning off the NW coast of the Gazelle Peninsula a patrolling B-24 sank a probable Jap 6 - 10,000 ton AO, and that night about

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25 miles S. of Kavieng. A Jap CL or CA was destroyed by a heavy bomber.

(D) New Guinea

The afternoon of 2 November 12 A-35's and 9 A-20's attacked a Jap barge concentration points at Fortification Pt. and near Sio. Before dawn the next day Buna was ineffectively raided by Jap planes. Also the morning of 3 November 18 B-25's attacked Madang and the surrounding vicinity. The same morning another Jap post NW of Finschhafen was cleared out by Allied ground forces.

(E) N. E. I.

At midday 3 November, Boela, Ceram, was raided by 3 B-24's. A number of fires were reported. 1 Jap fighter over Sorong unsuccessfully attempted interception. The following evening, 4 November, 19 Jap ships, including 5 CA's, 3 CL's and 5 DD's, were sighted heading SW about 180 miles NNW of Hollandia.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking 1 AO and 2 AK's and damaging another AK while another SS reports sinking a large AO and 1 large and 1 small AK.

R. A. Boone

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

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Belated reports indicate that U. S. Marines which landed early 1 November at Cape Torokina, SW Bougainville, gained their objectives without encountering any great Jap opposition. At the conclusion of the initial day's fighting, our casualties totalled about 300 of whom 55 were killed while enemy dead totalled at least 135. No Jap prisoners were taken. At the successful conclusion of landing operations, 14,300 men and 6200 tons of equipment and supplies were ashore. Also on 1 November, during the forenoon, 14 SBD's and 24 TBF's bombed Kakasa, scoring hits on A/A positions. About the same time N. of Vella Lavella an Allied surface force was attacked by 12 Jap dive-bombers. A/A fire from the vessels downed 4 enemy planes. That night our wounded were successfully removed from Choiseul. Also during the night Munda was ineffectively raided by enemy planes while others dropped bombs on Sterling Island without causing any real damage.

The morning of 2 November, Buka and Bonis were successfully bombed and strafed by U.S. naval planes. 2 of 3 medium AK's, S. of Buka, were set afire by strafing. 4 of our planes were damaged by A/A fire but all returned safely. (Photographs later in the day indicated Buka runway unserviceable.) Little later the same morning, 40 miles W. of Cape Torokina, more than 40 Jap planes were intercepted by 32 Allied fighters which shot down 8. Our losses were nil. The Jap planes were probably headed to take part in the air attack on the Allied surface force in the area which, as previously reported, occurred the same morning. An hour or so after this air clash, Kahili and Kara were attacked by 20 unescorted B-24's, 44 SBD's and 24 TBF's which dropped 126 tons of bombs. A/A positions were demolished and both runways were left unfit for operations. Also the morning of 2 November 20 TBF's and 18 SBD's failed to locate any damaged Jap vessels W. of Bougainville but did sight a 300 foot wide oil slick extending NW. The same day Puruata Island, and Cape Torokina was mopped up by U. S. Marines. Indications are that the Torokina area was held by about 300 Japs prior to the Allied landing. On Treasury Island, 2 November, Allied ground force activity was reported progressing favorably.

(B) Ocean Island

About noon 3 November, 30 miles SW of Ocean Island, an Allied patrol plane from Guadalcanal sank a 1000 ton Jap AK heading E. The plane was damaged and some of its personnel was wounded.

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(C) New Ireland

The night of 1 November, 17 miles SW of Cape St. George, a N. bound Jap CL was attacked, with unobserved results, by a patrolling PBV.

(D) New Britain

The afternoon of 2 November, 75 B-25's under escort of 80 fighters attacked Simpson's Harbor and Lakunai airfield, Rabaul. Flying at mast head height, the bombers showered 1000 lb. bombs on shipping and A/A positions throughout the area. 3 Jap DD's, 8 AK's and 4 luggers were sunk while 2 CA's, 2 DD's, 7 AK's and 2 AO's were damaged. 8 planes on the harbor waters were also destroyed. 67 of the Jap fighter planes which intercepted were shot down and 23 more were probably destroyed. In addition 6 planes were destroyed and several damaged on Lakunai field. Intense A/A fire was encountered. Our losses were 9 B-25's and 10 fighters.

The same day a patrolling B-24 dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton of bombs on Garove Island with unobserved results. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

(E) New Guinea

On 1 November 8 P-39's and an unreported number of RAAF Boomerangs dive-bombed Jap gun positions on the Faria River in the Upper Ramu Valley. That night, 6 miles NE of Alexishafen, a PBV strafed 9 Jap barges, damaging several, while 19 miles NNW of Finschhafen 2 barges were sunk and another damaged by patrolling PT's. The following day, 2 miles W. of Heldsbach, Allied ground forces cleared an enemy road block. The same day Jap positions in the Faria River were again attacked by 8 P-39's while bridges along the road S. of Bogadjim were bombed by 8 more P-39's. No details were reported.

(F) N. E. I.

The afternoon of 2 November Trangan Island, Aroe Islands, was attacked by 5 Dutch B-25's and 6 RAAF Beaufighters which dropped more than 4 tons of bombs and strafed villages in the area. 1 of 3 intercepting Jap floatplanes was possibly destroyed.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports damaging a Jap AO.

R. A. Boone.

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

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I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 30 October Sangigai, Jap barge base on SW central Choiseul, was captured by our ground forces. 72 Japs were killed and survivors retired to the SE.

(The air attack on Kieta reported in the 2 November Summary is revealed to have taken place the afternoon of 30 October, instead of the afternoon of 31 October. The same is true of the strafing attack on Tonolei Harbor.)

Just before mid-night 31 October, 10 miles SE of Shortland Island, a Jap medium bomber was downed by a patrolling B-24. Early the morning of 1 November, the Jap floatplane base at Poporang - Faizi was strafed by 4 B-25's which encountered very intense A/A fire and observed considerable movement of troops and barges on the N. shore of Poporang. 1 Jap floatplane was destroyed and barges and jetties damaged. About the same time the Empress Augusta Bay area of Bougainville was attacked by Allied planes in preparation for the landing operations. The beach was strafed and bombed by 31 TBF's while 7 SBD's dropped smoke bombs. Somewhat later both Buka and Bonia airfields were twice bombed by Allied planes but no details were reported.

Monday morning photographs revealed the runways at Bonia and Kara serviceable, that at Kahili possibly serviceable, that at Buka 80% serviceable and that at Ballale unserviceable. Six Jap fighter planes were observed at Kahili, 3 at Ballale, 3 probably unfit for service at Kara and 1 medium bomber and 6 floatplanes were at Buka. No planes were seen at Kieta where the strip was being repaired. During the day Allied planes are reported to have destroyed 26 enemy planes and probably destroyed 6 more in air combat over the general S. Bougainville area. That evening Japs were reported moving on NW Choiseul and the successful landing of the 2nd echelon on Treasury Island was completed.

Before dawn 2 November, about 35 miles WNW of Empress Augusta Bay, according to early reports, an Allied surface force engaged an enemy surface force and about 2 hours later some undamaged Jap ships were reported retiring to the W. at high speed. Some of our ships were apparently damaged but none was sunk. Later in the morning, 40 miles W. of Empress Augusta Bay, the Allied task force was subjected to heavy bombing by approximately 70 Jap planes of which 10 - 12 were shot down. That night, 35 miles E. of Kieta, a patrolling B-24 attacked an enemy SS with unobserved results while shortly thereafter, about 60 miles W. of Buka, the same plane bombed a NW bound Jap AK, also with unobserved results.

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(B) New Ireland

During the early hours of 1 November Kavieng suffered its 7th consecutive night bombing when 4 RAAF PBV's dropped over 5½ tons of bombs and incendiaries on the airfield. A number of explosions resulted and fires were started. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered but there was no air interception although a probable Jap night fighter was seen. At midday 1 November, 32 miles W. of New Hanover, an 8,000 ton enemy AP was sunk by a B-24.

(C) New Britain

Before dawn 1 November, N. of Cape Gloucester, 2 medium Jap AK's and 2 possible DD's heading NE were attacked by a PBV which scored 3 near misses. From the DD's heavy but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

(D) New Guinea

In the Finschhafen area, 1 November, Allied patrols were active in the high ground W. of the harbor but no details were reported.

(E) N. E. I.

Early the morning of 1 November, Cape Chater, NE Portuguese Timor, was raided by a patrolling B-24 which dropped nearly a ton of small bombs with unobserved results. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. That afternoon Pomelaa, Jap-controlled nickel mining center in Celebes, was attacked by 11 B-24's which dropped nearly 25 tons of bombs, scoring hits in the nickel plant and the wharf area. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 2 November 1943

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purpose and that in the meantime it
not be placed in any general file.*

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

(Two air attacks on Buka and 1 on Bonis reported in the Summary for 1 November as having occurred the morning of 30 October now appear to have taken place the morning of 29 October.)

The night of 28 - 29 October a lone enemy plane was destroyed by Allied A/A fire over Treasury Island. The next day our ground forces advancing on Treasury Island captured Jap mortar and gun positions while 1 company reached Malsi, NE Treasury Island, without encountering any Japs. Enemy known dead total 44. 100 Japs are estimated to remain in the jungle. That evening off Voza, SW Choiseul, an SS was sighted heading NW.

The morning of 30 October Kara was twice bombed by Allied planes. First 16 unescorted B-24's bombed the area with unobserved results. No Jap planes were seen but 1 of our planes was damaged by A/A fire. Shortly thereafter 68 SBD's and 27 TBF's, escorted by 22 F4U's, 16 P-39's and 8 P-40's, dropped 61 tons of bombs on the runway and A/A gun positions with excellent results. The fighter escort also strafed shipping in Tonolei Harbor. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned safely. That afternoon Allied ground forces attacked Sangigai, Jap barge base on SW central Choiseul. In support of these troops, 9 TBF's, escorted by 8 F4U's and 8 P-40's, bombed and strafed enemy positions $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile NW of Sangigai. Light m/g fire was encountered.

The morning of 31 October Kara was attacked 3 times by a total of 165 Allied planes. The first attack for which no details were reported, was made by 19 unescorted B-24's. The second was carried out by 34 SBD's and 25 TBF's covered by 16 F4U's, 16 P-40's and 16 P-39's. Over 15 tons of bombs were dropped with good coverage of the entire target. Despite moderately intense A/A fire, all our planes returned safely. The third attack was carried out by 23 B-25's escorted by 16 F4U's. Over 34 tons of bombs were dropped destroying buildings and covering the runway with craters. A/A fire was not intense and all our planes returned safely.

The afternoon of 31 October 2 Allied missions -- 4 NZ PV's covered by 12 P-39's and 6 B-25's covered by 32 F4U's -- bombed Kieta. About 2 tons of bombs were dropped with excellent hits reported. A/A fire was not intense. Shipping in Kieta Harbor was also strafed, 3 AK's being set afire in Arawa Bay. 3 F4U's are missing. Later the same afternoon Tonolei Harbor was strafed by 24 F4U's and 12 P-39's which sank 1 AK and a barge, damaged 5 barges and

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set another one afire. Intense A/A fire was encountered. One P-39 landed on the water but the pilot was rescued.

Late reports reveal that the Allied landing at Cape Torokina, Empress Augusta Bay, began Monday morning instead of Sunday as reported in the Summary for 1 November. Operations were halted for about 2 hours by the threat of attack by enemy planes which did not materialize. Prior to the landing, an Allied surface force shelled the airfield at Bonis Plantation, N. Bougainville, and at Buka, starting a fire at the former field and 3 at the latter. Inaccurate fire from shore and single plane and PT attacks constituted opposition. Also aircraft dropped flares during the shelling. Our surface vessels also bombarded Shortland, Poporang and Faisi, silencing a number of enemy batteries and covering the whole area, including the airfield at Ballale, effectively. Jap shore batteries replied with fairly accurate fire but our ships suffered only minor damage and there were no personnel killed.

The same morning, about the time the landing was being effected, a Jap bomber was destroyed about 65 miles W. of Buka by 8 P-38's. A few hours later an unreported number of B-24's dropped over 60 tons of bombs on Kheili. All our planes returned safely although A/A fire was intense.

(B) New Ireland

Early the morning of 31 October Kavieng and Panapei (about 2½ miles SE of Kavieng) airfields were attacked by 6 RAAF PBV's which dropped over 8 tons of bombs and incendiaries. A number of fires were observed over both targets and a heavy explosion occurred at Kavieng. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. About midday, the same day, 17 miles N. of Mussau Island, a 10,000 ton enemy AK, escorted by a lone DD and headed SE, was unsuccessfully attacked by a patrolling B-24 which released a ton of bombs. Later this plane sighted a possible CA and 3 DD's heading S. 175 miles N. of Mussau.

(C) New Britain

Off Cape Orford, 31 October, a lone Jap barge was sunk by 8 RAAF P-40's. These planes also probably destroyed a Jap bomber which, escorted by 12 Zeros, was encountered over Jacquinot Bay. The same day, off Long Island in Vitiaz Strait an enemy sea truck was damaged and attacked by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs.

Later reports indicate that 2 more Jap fighters were destroyed in the 29 October attack on Rabaul, raising the total to 47.

(D) New Guinea

In the Finschhafen area, 31 October, Allied ground forces captured a Jap position 2 miles W. of Heldsbach and inflicted a number of casualties on the enemy. The same day, Wareo was hit with 3 tons of bombs from 6 RAAF A-35's. No results were reported. Also on 31 October a patrolling B-24 dropped a ton of bombs along the coast E. of Sic with unobserved results and 2 RAAF Spitfires shot down 1 of 2 Jap planes encountered heading S. 60 miles N. of Kiriwina.

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(E) N. E. I.

Allied air activity over N.E.I. 31 October was limited to reconnaissance flights.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0600, 1 November 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

A. Solomon Islands

A belated report reveals that Buka airfield was attacked the night of 25 October by 8 RAAF Beauforts. No details were reported.

On the morning of 29 October Bonis Plantation airfield, N. tip of Bougainville, was attacked by 8 B-24's escorted by 23 F4U's which dropped nearly 10 tons of bombs, scoring direct hits on 2 gun positions, destroying 1 Jap bomber on the runway and strafing 10 grounded planes and 2 float planes and an enemy vessel in Buka Passage. Intense A/A fire was encountered. A few minutes after this attack Buka airfield was hit by 9 low-flying B-25's which dropped 648 fragmentation bombs, started fires and damaged buildings.

A/A fire encountered was accurate but all our planes returned safely from this mission as well as that against Bonis. That afternoon Kieta airfield was bombed by 15 SHD's and 12 THF's, covered by 12 F6F's and 12 F4U's. No results were reported.

On the morning of 30 October Buka was attacked by 2 missions. 17 B-24's and 4 PTM's (Naval B-24's), unescorted by fighters, dropped 80 tons of bombs, scoring excellent hits throughout the area. All our planes returned safely. A few minutes later 11 B-25's, escorted by 24 F4U's, dropped about 16 tons of bombs on the same target destroying a building and possibly destroying 3 grounded Jap planes. Despite A/A fire all our planes returned safely. While the first attack on Buka was in progress 12 FV's and 1 B-25 covered by 24 F4U's dropped 3 tons of bombs on Bonis. Hits were reported throughout the area. A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned safely. That afternoon Allied ground forces in the Sangigai area of SW Central Choiseul were in contact with Japs apparently moving in from the NW and SE.

On the morning of 31 October Allied ground forces landed on SW Bougainville, apparently at Cape Torokina, N shore of Empress Augusta Bay. Photos that day revealed Kahili, Kieta and Ballale airfields unserviceable.

The following morning a Jap task force of 4 CL's and 6 DD's was sighted about 80 miles W of Bougainville heading NW.

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Before dawn on 30 October Kavieng was attacked by 5 RAAF PRY's which dropped over 7 tons of bombs on the airfield, starting a number of fires. A/A fire encountered was not accurate.

C. Now Britain

At noon 29 October Vunakana airfield at Rabaul was attacked by 41 B-24's covered by 75 P-38's. Over 115 tons of bombs were dropped, destroying 20 enemy planes on the ground, probably destroying 5 more, exploding an underground ammunition dump and starting many fires. Our planes were intercepted by about 50 Jap fighters of which 25 were downed and 13 more probably destroyed. 1 P-38 was lost and several of our planes were damaged. That night Tobra airfield, in the same area, was raided by 7 RAAF Beauforts. More than 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped. Over Rapopo slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same planes also dropped about 3/4 of a ton of bombs on a jetty at Brown Island in Wide Bay. No results were observed. Also the night of 29 October in Planet Harbor, Mundua Island, a Jap DD was possibly sunk by a B-24 on reconnaissance which scored 2 direct hits on it. A near miss was also scored on another DD. Intense A/A fire from the vessels was encountered but 3 unidentified aircraft failed to intercept. Early the following morning a PRY dropped nearly 2 tons of bombs on Gasmata with unobserved results.

The morning of 30 October 9 B-25's strafed Jap barges and buildings in Rein Bay. Slight, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered at Rein Bay but intense and accurate A/A fire over Garove Island downed 1 of the B-25's which conducted a vain search for enemy shipping in the Vitu Islands. The same day 2 RAAF A-20's dropped a ton of bombs on a dump area at Gasmata. Inaccurate A/A fire was met by our planes, but they returned safely. Also on 30 October Cape Gloucester A/A positions were hit with a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24. No results were reported. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

D. New Guinea

During the forenoon of 30 October the Jap barge base on SW Long Island, in Vitiaz Strait, was raided by a patrolling B-24. That evening the area was reported evacuated by the enemy. Allied ground forces in the upper Ramu Valley on 30 October encountered Jap defense positions 3 miles S of Daumoina, while in the Finschhafen area our patrols and artillery were active. The same day Jap occupied villages and barge depots along the coast from the Gogol River mouth to Jomba Island, S of Madang, were attacked by 17 low-flying B-25's which dropped over 8 tons of bombs and strafed the area, destroying fuel

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dumps and starting fires.

E. H. E. I.

Allied air activity over the H. E. I. on 30 October was limited to reconnaissance flights.

R. A. Boone.

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