

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

1 September 1944 - 31 December 1944

(Pages 1252 - 1470)

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

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MR
Box 76

~~Navy Classified~~

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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4 P.M., 31 December, 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)

On the morning of 31 December enemy planes attacked shipping at anchor off our beachhead at Mindoro resulting in the following casualties:

USS GANSEVOORT (DD-608)	Seriously damaged.
USS PRINGLE (DD-477)	Minor damage.
USS PORCUPINE (IX-126)	Probable total loss from fire.
USS ORESTES (AGP-10)(ex-LST-135)	Badly damaged by explosion and fire. 30 were killed or missing and 32 seriously wounded in this ship.
US Merchant Vessel HOBART BAKER	Sunk.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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9 a.m. 31 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

One of our MINDORO supply convoys (reported in morning summary of 30 December), was under frequent attack while enroute MINDORO. LST-205 is now reported slightly damaged by a floating mine. Ships of the convoy shot down 10 enemy planes and our own planes shot down 10 Jap planes over the convoy.

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9 a.m. 30 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 28 December, at dusk, one of our MINDORO supply convoys was under enemy air attack for one and a half hours. LST-750 was torpedoed and badly damaged and was sunk later by our own gunfire.

At about 8:30 a.m., 29 December, the same convoy was again under heavy air attack west of PANAY. AA fire from the ships destroyed 8 enemy planes, including one crash-diver.

The merchant ship WILLIAM SHARON (7176-ton), damaged by a crash-diver (reported in morning summary, 29 December), was under tow for LEYTE.

PT boats, operating out of LEYTE on the night of 27-28 December, sank 4 enemy barges.

LEYTE Catalinas shot down two Jap planes on the night of 27-28 December, over CENTRAL PHILIPPINES.

On the night of 27-28 December, our MINDORO positions were bombed and strafed six times by groups of 12 to 13 aircraft. No damage to our installations has been reported.

Additional air strikes are reported:

28 December:

IWO JIMA was hit by 13 Liberators, concentrating on Airfield No. 1. Two of our aircraft received minor damage.

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9 a.m. 29 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Commander Task Force 77 now reports that on 26-27 December, one destroyer of the enemy bombardment force was sunk off MINDORO. Apparently no enemy landings were made during the bombardment of MINDORO. One Liberty ship was destroyed by enemy gunfire and one Liberty ship grounded as a result of the bombardment.

On 28 December, at 10:30 a.m., one of our MINDORO convoys was attacked by 4 enemy crash divers south of BOHOL. One enemy plane was shot down by AA fire. Three enemy planes crash-dived the convoy and hit three ships. The American merchant freighter JOHN BURKE (7176 tons) blew up. The merchant ship WILLIAM SHARON (7176 tons) was heavily damaged and was abandoned and the U.S.S. PORCUPINE (IX-126 storage tanker) was damaged.

A further report covering the 27 December attack on IWO JIMA indicates the island was bombed by 48 Liberators. One enemy aircraft was destroyed on the ground, while one of our Liberators sustained major damage and 12 Liberators minor damage. 15 Lightnings, escorting the Liberators to IWO JIMA, destroyed one enemy plane in the air and one on the ground. Two Jap planes were damaged on the ground.

The following additional strikes are reported:

27 December:

8 Corsairs dropped bombs on a BABELTHUAP radar site.

21 Liberators struck at CHICHI JIMA and hit a small enemy freighter.

28 December:

Reconnaissance planes over WOTJE, MILE and JALUIT, destroyed and strafed several small craft. Four Corsairs strafed and sank a motor boat at BABELTHUAP.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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9 a.m. 28 December 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 27 December, IWO JIMA was bombarded again by Task Group 94.9, under Rear Admiral A. E. Smith, consisting of the cruisers CHESTER, PENSACOLA and SALT LAKE CITY, plus five destroyers. The bombardment began at 1:00 p.m., and our units ceased firing at 2:36 p.m. Enemy shore battery fire was moderate except for intense automatic fire. One of our destroyers, the DUNLAP (DD-384) received alight damage; otherwise no damage was sustained by ships or personnel. Our destroyers destroyed one enemy DE and left one large landing ship burning. *Bombardment reported "Best So far."*

During the 25 December bombardment of IWO JIMA, the commanding officer of the ROE (DD-418) and three men were injured by shrapnel from an enemy DE which the ROE later sank.

The enemy task force which bombarded MINDORO, 26-27 December, received the following damage from aircraft: The BB sustained two 500-pound hits and was last seen trailing oil. Our Mitchells were seen to sink one destroyer and damage another. The bombing took place about 80 miles west of MINDORO, at 9:00 p.m., 26 December.

On 25 December, the ROBERT J. WALKER, an American merchant freighter of 7,180 gross tons, was damaged by an enemy submarine about 120 miles south of SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA. The ROBERT J. WALKER was later sunk by our own forces. Several of our Armed Guard personnel were injured.

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MINDORO

UNITED STATES FLEET
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9 a.m. 27 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At about 4:00 p.m., 26 December, our aircraft sighted an enemy task force, composed of one BB, one CA and six DD, 90 miles west of MINDORO on a westerly course.

At 6:30 p.m., Task Group 74.4, composed of two CA, two CL and ten DD, departed from LEYTE at high speed toward MINDORO in order to intercept the enemy force.

Throughout the rest of the day, the Jap units stood toward MINDORO, and at about midnight shelled the beach in the vicinity of SAN JOSE.

There are indications that some damage was sustained by the JAP force. Further details are not available at this time.

SAMAR

On 26 December, a Jap crash-diver hit and damaged a Dutch merchant ship anchored near our base at SAMAR, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, and caused extensive damage in the area as the result of the explosion.

LEYTE PT's on 26 December screened our Army's landing operations at PALOMPON, LEYTE.

The following air strikes are reported:

23 December:

20 Corsairs hit AA installations at WOTUE.

22 Corsairs dropped bombs on JALUIT, striking at boat yard installations and small craft. 19 Dauntless bombed the bivouac area at JALUIT.

MALOELAP was struck by 23 Corsairs.

26 December:

18 Marine Corsairs bombed enemy dumps at MALOELAP.

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9 a.m. 26 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 20 December, one of our convoys, enroute MINDORO, reported the destruction of a small sampan and a medium-size lugger.

On 24 December, the same convoy destroyed a landing barge. The enemy craft were all destroyed in the vicinity of CAMIGUIN ISLAND, north of MINDANAO.

A final report of our surface bombardment of IWO JIMA on 24 December, shows that we sank an enemy destroyer escort, a patrol craft and a medium-size landing ship.

On 25 December, a MINDORO PT shot down one enemy plane northwest of MINDORO.

A patrol Mariner was shot down by an enemy plane 60 miles northeast of MINDANAO. All personnel were recovered.

From 8:10 p.m. until 11:01 p.m., 25 December, SAIPAN was attacked by enemy bombers. One B-29 was destroyed on the ground, while our night fighters shot down 2 enemy medium bombers.

The following strikes are reported:

23 December:

16 Corsairs struck BABELTHUAP, sank 3 barges, damaged 2 barges and 2 boats and damaged a radar station.

8 Corsairs bombed supply storage at ASAO VILLAGE on BABELTHUAP.

24 December:

8 Corsairs strafed and burned 4 buildings on BABELTHUAP.

25 December:

A Liberator attacked SANDOKAN HARBOR, in northern BORNEO, and destroyed 2 warehouses and a lugger and damaged another lugger.

The submarine BERGALL (SS-320), in a summary of second war patrol, is credited with damaging an enemy cruiser, in addition to the heavy cruiser which was sunk on 13 December off the coast of FRENCH INDO-CHINA (reported in morning summary 15 December 1944).

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9 a.m. 25 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine PAROO (SS-264), returning from its sixth war patrol, reported sinking one large tanker (10,000 tons), off the north-east coast of BORNEO.

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9 a.m. 25 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

As the result of statements from the six survivors who have been recovered, the destroyer MONOGHAN (DD-354) is reported lost in the typhoon northeast of SAMAR.

IWO JIMA was bombarded by one of our task groups under Rear Admiral A. E. Smith, consisting of the CHESTER, PENSACOLA, and SALT LAKE CITY, plus six destroyers. The bombardment covered the period from 1:00 p.m. to 2:12 p.m., 24 December. No damage was sustained by our forces from the light enemy opposition. Our destroyers sank one patrol vessel and 15 small craft.

The following additional strikes have been reported:

21 December:

Navy recon planes strafed OROLUK in the CAROLINES and burned one enemy plane on the ground.

BAHELTHUAP ammunition and supply dumps were attacked by Marine fighters.

22 December:

Marine fighters strafed and bombed supply and ammunition dumps at BAHETHUAP.

Shipping in the VOLCANO and BONIN Groups was rocket-bombed by Marine Mitchells.

Marine torpedo planes bombed JAP installations on MILE. Navy recon planes bombed and strafed and sank three small boats at MILE.

23 December:

Marine Mitchells struck IWO JIMA airfields. Two recon Liberators struck at dispersal areas in IWO JIMA.

24 December:

MILE was struck by 18 Corsairs. The majority of the bombs were seen to hit in the target area.

21 Corsairs attacked gun positions at MALOELAP, with one possible direct hit on a coast defense gun.

18 Corsairs struck at WOTJE.

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9 a.m. 24 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

An additional report from SEVENTH Fleet indicates LST-640 (previously reported as LST-460) as unlocated. LST-749 appears salvageable. Action was in vicinity of MARACANAO ISLAND, 70 miles south of MINDORO.

PT's, operating from LEYTE, damaged one barge northwest of CEBU.

The submarine TILFISH reports sinking a Furutaka class cruiser (7,500 tons) five miles southwest of OMAI SAKI (HONGKU).

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9 a.m., 23 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 22 December, LST's 749 and 460, in a convoy enroute MINORO, were bombed and damaged. A large number of survivors were picked up by escorting destroyers. No final report of damage has been received, but it is reported that one of the LST's may have sunk.

PT's, operating out of LEYTE, probably sank one small enemy freighter in the VISAYAN SEA.

The following additional strikes have been reported:

20 December:

Twenty-three Liberators struck IWO JIMA. Results were not observed. Three recce Liberators also bombed IWO JIMA. Results unobserved.

21 December:

Two Liberator recce planes bombed IWO JIMA. Results were unobserved.

22 December:

Two recce Mitchells bombed and set on fire an enemy freighter (5,500 to 7,500 tons) in the BONINS Area.

Two recce Liberators dropped bombs on IWO JIMA.

The submarine SEA CAT reported sinking 2 tankers, totalling 18,000 tons.

The submarine PIPE FISH reported sinking one enemy freighter.

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4 p.m. 22 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The destroyer MONAGHAN (DD 354) was apparently lost in the typhoon northeast of SAMAR. Six survivors have been recovered. No further details are available at this time.

A total of 54 survivors from the destroyer HULL (DD 350) and 24 survivors from the destroyer SPENCE (DD 512) have been recovered.

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9 a.m. 22 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A preliminary report indicates the following vessels sustained damage in the typhoon northeast of SAMAR:

<u>CVL's</u>	<u>CVE's</u>	<u>DD's</u>
CABOT (25)	NERGENTA BAY (74)	AYLWIN (355)
CONTENS (28)	CAPE ESPERANCE (68)	BUCHANAN (484)
MONTEREY (26)	ALTAMAH (18)	DENEY (349)
SAN JACINTO (30)		DYSON (572)
		HICKOX (673)

<u>AO</u>	<u>DE's</u>	<u>ATF</u>
NATAMALA (60)	MELVIN R. NAVMAN (416)	JICARILLA (104)
	TABERER (418)	

Many planes were lost from CVL's and CVE's. Damage to other ships not reported is repairable by ship's force.

The submarine REDFISH reported sinking a Jap carrier, 270 miles north-east of FORMOSA at 4:51 p.m., 19 December.

The submarine H.M.S. STURDY under our operational control, returned from patrol off the southeast coast of BORNEO and reported sinking, by gunfire and demolition charges, eight miscellaneous craft, totalling 1,400 tons.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 21 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The British submarine SEAROVER, under our operational control, returned from patrol and reported sinking a 200-ton enemy coaster by gun-fire in MACASSAR STRAIT.



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WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 21 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A total of 24 survivors from the destroyer SPENCE (DD-512) have been recovered. The SPENCE foundered in the typhoon northeast of SAMAR, which has previously been reported.

The following strikes by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

Strike 18 December:

Two Liberator recon planes dropped bombs on IWO JIMA, starting fires.

Strikes 19 December:

Three Liberators bombed airfield installations on MARCUS ISLAND. Damage was unobserved. Accurate AA fire damaged one Liberator.

IWO JIMA airfield areas were bombed by 52 Liberators. Due to solid overcast, results were unobserved.

One Liberator bombed No. 2 airfield at IWO JIMA.

16 Lightnings attacked the airfield areas at IWO JIMA. One Jap seaplane was shot down, another seaplane and a medium bomber were damaged on the ground.

Strikes 20 December:

YAP installations were attacked by 6 Avengers.

Four Corsairs strafed ROTA installations.

BABELTHUAP installations were bombed and strafed by 16 Corsairs.

Six boats at SONSORAL ISLAND (southwest of PALAU) were destroyed by four Corsairs.

One PBV bombed and strafed a Jap destroyer and a freighter (5,500 to 7,500 tons) northeast of MINDORO. The freighter was left burning.

On 13 December, the submarine BERGALL (SS-320) was damaged by a six-inch shell while attacking an enemy heavy cruiser off the south coast of FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

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9 a.m. 20 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Statements obtained from survivors indicate that the destroyer SPENCE (DD-512) capsized suddenly in the typhoon northeast of SAMAR, previously reported. Further details are not available at this time.

Considerable damage was reported by the ALTAMIRANO (CVE-18), damaged in the same typhoon. About 44 planes were lost overboard, including the ship's radio equipment. Ordnance installations and other equipment aboard the vessel were considerably damaged.

On 16 December, motor torpedo boats shot down one Japanese dive bomber in the vicinity of MINDORO. On the 17th, three float planes were shot down by PT's.

On 19 December, PT-300 was destroyed by a Jap suicide crash.

During 19 December, night-flying Catalinas damaged a barge in DAVAO GULF, MINDANAO, and a PBV probably sank a small AK north of LUZON. On the same day, reconnaissance planes attacked, set on fire and possibly destroyed an enemy freighter (5,500 to 7,500 tons) off the east coast of LUZON.

127 Corsairs and 34 Dauntless, followed by 6 Venturas, bombed and strafed OILLOT ISLAND in MALOELAP ATOLL. Three of the Corsairs were lost when pilots bailed out, due to inability to drop their Napalm bombs. All pilots were subsequently recovered.

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4 p.m. 19 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The destroyers SPENCE (DD-512), MONAGHAN (DD-354), the destroyer escorts WATERMAN (DE-740) and MELVIN R. HANMAN (DE-416) are unaccounted for as yet. These vessels were in the typhoon 180 miles northeast of CAPE ESPIRITU SANTO, SAMAR, P. I., mentioned in this morning's summary.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
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9 a.m. 18 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 19 December, Avengers bombed gun positions at ROTA and Corsairs bombed and strafed targets on BABELTHUAP. Two enemy float planes on the water in the vicinity of BABELTHUAP were burned. In addition, a barge, motor launch and four trucks were destroyed.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 19 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following tabulation represents a final summary of damage inflicted by our carrier planes over LUZON on 14 and 15 December and preliminary results of the strike on 16 December:

AIRCRAFT			SURFACE UNITS	
Shot Down	Destroyed on Ground	Damaged	Sunk	Damaged
61	208	192	1 large AP	4 DD
			1 large AK	2 DE
			1 medium AK	1 coast defense vessel
			7 small AK	1 large AP
			1 large AO	9 AK
			3 medium AO	1 medium AO
			1 CM	1 small AO
			5 small cargo vessels	17 small cargo vessels
			7 small craft	25 landing barges

Eight railroad trains and locomotives were strafed and burned, and at least 25 military trucks and other vehicles. An undetermined number of vehicles in a 200-truck troop convoy, northbound near SAN JOSE, northeast of MANILA, were destroyed or damaged. Extensive damage was wrought upon military buildings, bridges, piers, warehouses, gas and oil storage installations, aircraft and aviation facilities.

During these three days, we lost 27 planes in combat, 38 operationally. Twenty-nine pilots and one crewman were lost.

During the period 13-17 December, carrier-planes, based on CVE's covering the MINDORO landing operation, shot down 51 Japanese planes, destroyed 20 on the ground and damaged 14, at a loss to themselves of one fighter plane and pilot. Seven planes were lost operationally.

The submarine FINBACK, operating in the PACIFIC, reported sinking a freighter or tanker on 16 December.

At 10:30 a.m., 18 December, the destroyer HULL (DD-350) capsized with little warning in a storm reported to be of typhoon intensity, about 180 miles northeast of CAPE ESPERITU SANTO, SAMAR, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Only 10 enlisted survivors have been recovered. The following vessels sustained varied damage in this storm: MONTEREY (CVL) (hangar-deck fire aboard which broke out during heavy rolling), COMPERNS (CVL), SAN JACINTO (CVL), JICARILLA (ATF), DYSON (DD-572), LAWS (DD-558), BENHAM (DD-796), HICKOK (DD-673), AYLWIN (DD-355), TABBERER (DE-418).

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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9 a.m. 18 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 16-17 December, night flying Catalinas over BORNEO damaged one freighter (2,000 - 4,500 tons) and another small freighter of unreported tonnage.

The submarine FLOUNDER returned from patrol of the JAVA SEA after sinking one German U-boat (700 tons) and damaging a 5,000 ton freighter.

The submarine PADDLE returned from patrol of the northwest coast of BORNEO and reported as follows:

Sunk
• 1 Freighter - 4,000 tons
1 Freighter - 5,400 tons
Total 9,400 tons

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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9 a.m. 17 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 16 December, 18 Marine Corsairs bombed MILE, 20 Corsairs attacked WOTJE. One plane received major damage from AA fire, the pilot slightly wounded.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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4 p.m. 16 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Planes of the THIRD FLEET carrier forces operated over LUZON on the night of 15-16 December. During the forenoon of the 16th, eight enemy planes attempted to attack units of the carrier force and were shot down. Planes of this force were over the LUZON airfields on the 16th, but no report is yet available as to their activities.

On 14 December, airfield installations at IWO JIMA were attacked by a B-24. On 15 December, 31 Liberators attacked the same target, releasing 8 tons of bombs. Seven planes received minor damage from AA. Four Zeros intercepted, of which one was shot down. On the night of 15 December, one Liberator bombed by radar with unobserved results.

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PACIFIC THEATER

16 December 1944

A revised report from Admiral Halsey of damage inflicted by the air strike against LUZON of 14 December, has been received and is tabulated as follows:

<u>Planes Destroyed</u>	<u>Planes Shot</u>	<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Set</u>
<u>On Ground</u>	<u>Down</u>		<u>Afire</u>
139	38	1 medium tanker	1 large AP
		1 small AK	1 medium AK
			1 medium AO
			8 or 9 small AK
<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Strafed in</u>		
4 DD or DE	<u>Troop Convoy</u>		
	1 large AK		
	1 DD		
	1 small AK		
	1 DE		

Ground damage included 4 locomotives and six cars destroyed at SAN FERNANDO; three buildings, ammunition and fuel dumps at ANGELES and CLARK FIELDS, a truck convoy, sugar mill, factory and AA positions in neighboring areas. During the night of 14-15 December, runways and AA positions at all LUZON Fields were bombed and strafed.

At 8:58 a.m. (local time) 15 December, USS HOWORTH (DD-592) in MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO, was attacked by 2 suicide Zeros, one of which struck the radar antennas, glanced off the forecastle and ~~struck~~ crashed into the water. No personnel casualties are reported, but there was minor hull and radar damage.

On the nights of 12-13 December, PT boats operated along the west coast of LEYTE, inflicting damage on 2 small vessels and enemy coastal installations.

On 14 December, neutralization strikes were made by Marine Aircraft against enemy positions on JALUIT, WOTJE, MALOKLAP and MILLE. One pilot was seriously wounded by AA fire.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



TOP SECRET
REF ID: A66587
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 15 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A landing by Southwest Pacific forces was made shortly after sunrise, 15 December, at SAN AUGUSTIN, southwest MINDORO ISLAND, PHILIPPINES. Preliminary reports indicate no enemy opposition was met at the three landing beaches and that everything is going according to plan. No casualties were received by our forces on the initial landing. Later in the morning, our heavy covering naval support forces and carrier groups came under continuous air attack. The latest reports from this group indicate that there was no known damage as yet though there were some casualties. In these attacks, the enemy lost eight planes to the combat air patrol, four to ship's gunfire, and three suicide planes crashed. So far in the operation we have lost two LST's.

An amplifying report, covering the damage sustained by the NASHVILLE (MINDORO attack group) as a result of being crash-dived by a Japanese suicide plane, indicates that she has received extensive damage. Apparently the plane crashed broad on the NASHVILLE's starboard quarter and skidded across her stern to the port side, where one of the two bombs that the plane was carrying exploded. Another bomb exploded on the starboard side and an intense fire was started in the five-inch ready ammunition which was brought under control after five minutes. Considerable topside damage has been incurred but no casualties resulted in her engineering plant. Officers killed in action included two ship officers, five of the staff of Amphibious Group 9, making a total of seven. Three ship's officers were wounded and four officers of Amphibious Group No. 9, were wounded - a total of seven. 125 enlisted personnel of the NASHVILLE were killed in action and 175 injured.

On 14 December, the supply dumps at BABELTHUAP were fired by 12 Corsair planes from PELELIU.

The U.S.S. BERGALL (SS-320), reports sinking on 13 December at 9:40 p.m., a heavy cruiser off the coast of FRENCH-INDOCHINA.

Motor torpedo boats from MOROTAI, cooperating with aircraft, bombed and shelled enemy huts in NORTHWEST BALMAHERA during the night of 10-11 December.

Motor torpedo boats from LEYTE sank an enemy destroyer or destroyer escort off PALOMPON, WESTERN LEYTE.

On 10 December, one of our auxiliary freighters and the LCT-1079, were ~~sunk~~ in the TARAGUNA AREA by enemy suicide planes.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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4 p.m. 14 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 14 December, carrier-borne aircraft from Task Force 38 struck airfields in CENTRAL LUZON.

Incomplete reports, covering the first three of six scheduled flights, state that 14 enemy planes were destroyed in the air, 77 on the ground and 37 were damaged by strafing.

HMS TANTALUS, returning from a war patrol in the SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, reports as follows:

6 Nov. - Sank a small enemy freighter of 2,000 tons east of SINGAPORE STRAIT.

11 Nov. - Destroyed by gunfire one motor ship of 200 tons, off the east coast of MALAY PENINSULA.

Sinking a 2000 ton freighter

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9 a.m. 14 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Reconnaissance planes, operating on 13 December over the MINDORO AREA, destroyed three small freighters (300 to 700 tons), set on fire two others, and probably sank a patrol vessel.

On 12 December, Corsairs bombed installations at YAP and BABELTHUAP.

On 13 December, ROTA gun positions were bombed by Corsairs.

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9 a.m. 14 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional information has been received in connection with the damage sustained by the NASHVILLE:

The MINDORO assault force was heavily attacked at 3:00 p.m., 13 December, by enemy aircraft about 20 miles southeast of NEGROS ISLAND. A Japanese suicide plane carrying a bomb crashed into the port side of the NASHVILLE. Fires started aboard the vessel but they were brought under control and the cruiser, escorted by the destroyer STANLY, was ordered to return to LEYTE. Rear Admiral Struble, the attack force command, transferred from the NASHVILLE to the destroyer DASHIELL.

At 6:30 p.m., 13 December, the destroyer HARADEN (DD-585) was damaged during an air attack about 32 miles south southwest of NEGROS ISLAND. The details of this attack are unknown.

The CALDWELL (DD-650), previously reported badly damaged at the north entrance of SURIGAO STRAIT, suffered 32 enlisted dead or missing, 8 officers and 33 enlisted wounded. LSM-42, a straggler from the convoy which the CALDWELL was escorting, was damaged by an enemy bomb and beached on the west coast of LEYTE. The extent of damage and personnel casualties are unknown at this time.

The Liberty ship bombed and set on fire in LEYTE GULF on 11 December and reported in the morning summary of 12 December, subsequently sank and is now identified as the SS WILLIAM LADD. LCT-1075 was sunk during the same attack.

PT-323 struck and damaged by a suicide plane on 11 December, is now considered a total loss.

The unidentified vessel sunk by PT-492, on the early morning of 12 December, northwest of LEYTE, and reported in yesterday morning summary, is now estimated as an APD or DE.

A report from CHQ, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA, to the WAR DEPARTMENT, indicates that fighter bombers attacked a convoy northwest of LEYTE on 11 December, sank three freighter transports, two destroyers and damaged another vessel. The next day, air attacks possibly sank one destroyer, left another burning and set on fire a freighter transport.

The 12 December attack is probably the same as that mentioned in yesterday morning's summary, which stated that Corsairs and Lightnings attacked an enemy convoy northwest of LEYTE and sank one large destroyer, damaged one transport, one freighter transport and one destroyer. The 11 December attack was not previously reported.

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4 p.m. 13 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

At 3:13 p.m., 13 December, the light cruiser NASHVILLE, operating in the MINDANAO SEA, sustained damage when hit by an enemy plane. Further information is not available at this time.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 13 December 1944.

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SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

① ~~At about 8:10 a.m.~~, 12 December, the CALDWELL (DD-605) was badly damaged at the north entrance to SURIAGO STRAIT by a suicide crash when escorting a re-supply echelon enroute to SAN PEDRO HARBOR (north of LEYTE GULF). The vessel returned unescorted to SAN PEDRO HARBOR. The CALDWELL was reported yesterday as sustaining negligible damage in an air attack ~~at about 5:00 p.m.~~, 11 December, when a suicide plane crashed 20 feet from her bow.

At 1:25 a.m., 12 December, PT-492 sank an enemy ship (type unidentified) 10 miles west of LEYTE.

A fragmentary report indicates that at about 4:40 p.m., 12 December, in a position 40 miles northwest of LEYTE, Corsairs and Lightnings attacked an enemy convoy composed of one transport (9 to 12,000 tons), one freighter transport (2 to 4,000 tons), one large DD and one smaller DD. The large destroyer was reported sunk and the other vessels damaged and dead in the water.

On 11 December, a reconnaissance plane over SANDAKAN HARBOR, north coast of BORNEO, sank two luggers, bombed and strafed the dock area. Another reconnaissance plane attacked and destroyed a small freighter (700 to 1300 tons) west of MINDORO.

On 12 December, 20 Corsairs attacked installations at JALUIT. Light, meager and accurate AA fire damaged one Corsair.

13 Dauntless, on 12 December, attacked MALOELAP. Accurate AA fire damaged one Dauntless.

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9 a.m. 12 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At about 5:00 p.m., 11 December, a re-supply echelon bound for ORMOG BAY was attacked by about 10 single-engined Japanese planes, approximately 10 miles off the southern coast of LEYTE. The destroyer REID (DD-369) was struck by a suicide plane and sank in two minutes. 152 survivors, including the captain and the executive officer, have been recovered.

→ The CALDWELL (DD-605), apparently in the same formation, sustained negligible damage when a suicide plane crashed 20 feet from her bow.

① → The HUGHES (~~DD-410~~), on picket duty in SURIAGO STRAIT, was struck amidships by a suicide crash dive and by a bomb. Her engine-room and firerooms were flooded and she was towed to an anchorage in SAN PEDRO HARBOR (north of LEYTE GULF). 7 of her personnel were reported killed, one missing and 15 injured.

② → At about 4:50 p.m., 11 December, 4 of our PT boats in SURIAGO STRAIT were attacked by 4 Zeros. Two of the enemy planes made suicide dives and PT-323 was struck by a crash dive. One officer was killed, one officer is missing and 11 men were wounded. The other suicide plane crash-dived close to PT-528, but the boat escaped damage.

③ → It was also reported that a Liberty ship in the LEYTE GULF was struck by an enemy bomb and set on fire. Further details are not available at this time.

On 11 December, reconnaissance planes dropped bombs on the ROTA airstrip. No AA fire was encountered.

On 11 December, reconnaissance planes shot down an enemy fighter, strafed three small freighters and two barges in the SIBUYAN SEA.

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9 a.m. 11 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 7 December, reconnaissance planes operating from LEYTE sank three small freighters, set 7 on fire, and damaged two by strafing.

On 9 December, 20 Corsairs strafed enemy installations on BABELTHUAP, and 9 Avengers and 4 Corsairs bombed the same area.

On 10 December, 2 of our light cruisers and a number of destroyers, were attacked by 8 enemy medium bombers at the entrance of LEYTE GULF. One enemy plane was shot down by AA fire. Our ships sustained no damage.

✓ The submarine SUNFISH reported sinking one transport and three freighters.

oed The submarine PLAICE probably sank two destroyers.

✓ The submarine REDFISH scored two hits on a carrier of a task force previously attacked by the submarine SEA DEVIL.

✓ The submarine HARDHEAD returned from patrol of the PHILIPPINE'S AREA and reported sinking one tanker, 9,200 tons and one escort vessel of 600 tons. A 7,500 ton freighter was damaged.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 10 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 9 December, Marine fighters bombed enemy installations on ROTA ISLAND.

On the same day, a B-29 unable to reach its EMPIRE target area, dropped bombs on PAGAN ISLAND, and started a number of fires.

PLAID
One of our submarines, operating west of KYUSHU, probably sank two enemy destroyers on 8 December.

At 10:00 p.m., 7 December, the tanker GULF STAR rammed the GILLIS (AVD-12), in a position bearing 76 degrees true and 40 miles distant from MAKAPUN POINT, HAWAII. The extent of the damage has not been ascertained.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 9 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 7 December, destroyers bombarded the western coast of ORMOG BAY, LEYTE.

On the same day, a PBAM strafed and exploded a 5,000 ton freighter off the southern coast of MINDORO, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

On 8 December, a reconnaissance plane set on fire and sank two small freighters (70-150 tons) off the southwest coast of MINDORO, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The submarine BLACKFIN returned from patrol of the PHILIPPINE waters after sinking a medium freighter (4,000 tons) and damaging a large tanker (10,000 tons).

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4 p.m. 8 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Reported AMU 13m
On 8 December, 89 B-29's of the 21st Bomber Command at SAIPAN radar-bombed IWO JIMA through overcast. Results were unobserved. No AA nor enemy fighter opposition was encountered.

Preceding this attack, the area was swept by 28 Lightnings. Of five airborne enemy fighter planes, one was destroyed and one damaged.

Later that day, IWO JIMA was bombed by 102 Liberators. Results of this attack have not been received.

A CinCPac communique indicates that IWO JIMA was bombarded by surface units on 8 December. Reports of the bombardment have not been received.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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9 a.m. 8 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine SEGUNDO sank a large freighter, one ammunition ship and damaged a large transport. This transport was later sunk by the submarine RAZORBACK.

On 5 December, one of our submarines scored three hits on an enemy destroyer north of LUZON.

The submarine BESUGO returned from patrol west of PALAUAN and reported as follows:

<u>SANK</u>		<u>PROBABLY SUNK</u>	
1 medium AO	5,000 tons	1 AK	7,500 tons
1 barge	<u>3,000 tons</u>		
TOTAL - - 8,000 tons			

1AO 1AP 2AK 1AE LARGE BARGE
120 1AP 1AK

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AK

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 8 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 7 December, landing operations by units of the southwest Pacific command were carried out in ORMOG BAY according to plan. Enemy opposition ashore was light.

Preliminary reports indicate the following damages were sustained by our surface units during many enemy air attacks throughout the day.

The destroyer MAHAN (DD-364) was badly damaged.

The destroyer transport WARD (APD-16) sustained serious damage and was abandoned. The MAHAN and the WARD were subsequently sunk by our gunfire after their personnel were removed.

The destroyer transport LITTLE (APD-60) was damaged by a suicide crash. The LITTLE was able to proceed under her own power.

Fires were reported aboard the destroyers WALKE (DD-723) and O'BRIEN (DD-725). Further details or extent of damages aboard these ships are not available at this time.

LST-737 was slightly damaged by a suicide dive and bombing attack.

The destroyer LAMSON (DD-367) was set on fire when hit near the bridge. The fire was apparently brought under control and the vessel is under tow for return to LEYTE.

The hospital ship HOPE (AH-7) was attacked by enemy aircraft at 7:00 p.m., 6 December, southeast of LEYTE GULF. The vessel was illuminated and observing full hospital procedure. No damage was sustained.

During the night of 5-6 December, MTB's operating in the CAMOTES SEA, sank 6 enemy barges near PACIJAN ISLAND. Three of these barges were loaded with personnel and the others with supplies.

Reconnaissance planes operating north and northwest of MINDANAO, during 6 December, strafed and set on fire two small freighters and one sub-chaser.

During the night of 6 December, the following successes were achieved by our submarines when they attacked and destroyed a heavy ship PHILIPPINE bound enemy convoy north of LUZON.

The submarine TREPANG sank one large tanker, one large transport and two large freighters.

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4 p.m. 7 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 4:00 a.m. and 5:40 a.m., 7 December, about ten enemy medium bombers attacked SAIPAN. One B-29 was destroyed and two more badly damaged. We suffered one killed, one seriously injured and a number slightly injured.

Six enemy planes were shot down by AA fire.

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9 a.m. 7 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the early morning of 5 December, enemy aircraft continually attacked a number of our surface units in SURLAGO STRAIT. The destroyer DRAYTON (DD-363) was slightly damaged and had two men killed by a near-miss. Later, at 11:06, the DRAYTON sustained additional damage when an enemy plane crash-dived into her No. 1 gun.

In addition to the SS ANTOINE SAUGRAINE being damaged in the 5 December attack by enemy A/C against our convoy 70 miles northwest of CAUIT POINT, MINDANAO, LSM-20 was sunk and LST-23 extensively damaged.

On 6 December, 18 Corsairs bombed ROTHS, starting a fire and an explosion.

Saipan

*10 Jap Planes attacked Saipan
6 shot down 1 B-29 destroyed 1 damaged*

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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9 a.m. 6 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At about 12:45 p.m., 5 December one of our convoys was attacked by three enemy torpedo bombers 70 miles northeast of CAUIT POINT, MINDANAO. The SS ANTOINE SAUGRAINE was struck by two torpedoes and subsequently abandoned. Another vessel in the convoy was hit, but its type is not known.

At about 5:20 p.m., Task Group 77.3, composed of 2 CL's and 3 DD's, was attacked by enemy aircraft at the entrance to LEYTE GULF. Two of the enemy planes were shot down by AA fire and two by our combat air patrol. Our ships sustained no damage.

At 5:40 p.m. 5 December, the DD MUGFORD (DD-389) was suicide crashed by one of two attacking enemy planes. The vessel sustained considerable damage, but was able to proceed under her own power. This attack occurred in LEYTE GULF.

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9 a.m. 5 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 28-29 November, a PT boat scored one torpedo hit on an enemy freighter transport in ORMOG BAY.

On 3 December, a reconnaissance plane sank a small enemy freighter (300-700-tons), anchored in BALIKPAPAN. Another reconnaissance plane sank a freighter (1500-2500-tons) in the same area. A third reconnaissance plane strafed and damaged a gunboat 90 miles northeast of BALIKPAPAN.

On 3 December, the U.S.S. HOPE (AH-7) was attacked by an enemy torpedo plane about 125 miles east of NORTHEAST MINDANAO. A torpedo passed 300 hundred yards astern and exploded at the end of its run. No damage was reported.

Strikes, 4 December:

Installations on PONAPE were bombed by 20 Corsairs and 9 Dauntless. AA fire was inaccurate.

21 Corsairs attacked WOTJE, encountering no AA fire.

On 3 December, the submarine SEARAVEN, operating south of HAINAN ISLAND, sank a large AP, one large AO and damaged a large AO.

The submarine SEACAT sank a large tanker.

The submarine FIREFISH damaged a large freighter with one torpedo hit.

The submarine BLUEGILL, operating west of LUZON, returned from patrol and reported as follows:

SUNK

1 small freighter	- 1500 tons
2 large AK	- 7500 tons each
1 small AP	- 4000 tons

DAMAGED

2 small freighters by gunfire
1000-tons.

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9 a.m. 4 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Additional strikes 2 December:

Two search Liberators dropped bombs on installations at IWO JIMA.

Corsairs strafed and exploded an ammunition dump at BABELTHUAP. Intense AA fire was encountered. One plane failed to return due to engine failure.

ROTA gun positions were attacked by Marine Corsairs.

On 2 December, a reconnaissance plane over BALIKPAPAN was attacked by 10 Japanese fighters and of these shot down three, probably another, and damaged two. Our plane was badly shot up, and two of its personnel were slightly wounded.

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4 p.m. 3 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 2-3 December, three of our destroyers, in a sweep of the CAMOTES SEA, engaged an enemy force of undetermined composition in the vicinity of ORMOG TOWN, LEYTE. Two, possibly three, enemy ships, including one DE or APD type, were taken under fire. One unidentified ship was believed sunk and another damaged.

During this engagement, the destroyer COOPER was damaged by a large underwater explosion, probably caused by a torpedo or floating mine. The stricken vessel was last seen broken in two with the bridge awash, the bow and stern in the air. No survivors were sighted.

Our ships were under constant air attack by many types of enemy planes, and reported shooting down six planes, plus two probables.

On 1 December, Marine Corsairs strafed PAGAN airfield installations, bombed the ROTA barracks area and the BARELTHUAP airstrip. One Corsair was shot down by AA fire.

Amy Liberators, on 1 December, attacked the IWOJIMA airfield and dispersal area. Five unaggressive Japanese fighter planes intercepted. Nine Liberators were damaged by accurate AA fire.

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9 a.m. 3 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 1:00 a.m., 29 November, about eight enemy medium bombers attacked SAIPAN and TINIAN for two hours. Of these, one was destroyed, one probably destroyed and one possibly destroyed. We sustained no damage.

On 2 December, six Venturas bombed installations on WAKE ISLAND and scored hits on a gun emplacement and fuel tank. Various caliber, but inaccurate, AA fire was encountered.

The submarine SEA DEVIL, operating in the WESTERN PACIFIC, reported sinking one large tanker and probably sinking another on 2 December.

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9 a.m. 2 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Between 21 October and 27 November, the 81ST DIVISION killed 1,300 Japanese, captured 142, and eliminated the principal enemy resistance in caves on PELELIU. During the afore-mentioned period, we suffered 92 killed, 622 wounded and 5 missing.

At 12:25 p.m., 30 November, one Japanese medium bomber attacked KOSOL, PALAU GROUP. One bomb slightly damaged a floating dry dock (ARD 17).

Army LEYTE-based planes probably sank one DE, damaged one AP between LEYTE and CEBU at 11:00 a.m., 29 November. Another AP was reported beached and burning in ORMOG BAY.

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9 a.m. 1 December 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 29-30 November, 4 of our destroyers, in a sweep of CAMOTES SEA, engaged a number of enemy barges with undetermined results off CABGAN ISLAND, west coast of LEYTE ISLAND, P.I. In addition, they fired a number of salvos on possible shore-based radar installations in SILAD BAY, west coast of LEYTE. Our ships were unsuccessfully attacked three times by single enemy bombers.

The submarine SPADEFISH, operating in EMPIRE waters, reported sinking one escort carrier, two freighters, one destroyer and damaging one tanker.

The submarine SUNFISH reported sinking three freighters in the EAST CHINA SEA.

The submarine PAMPANITO, operating in the SOUTH CHINA SEA, sank one freighter and damaged another on the night of 18 November.

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9 a.m. 30 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 1:00 a.m., on 29 November, SAIPAN and TINIAN were attacked by 8 enemy bombers. No damage was reported. It is stated one enemy bomber was destroyed, one probable and one possible. //

With reference to the enemy fighter strike made on ISLEY FIELD, SAIPAN, shortly after midday 27 November, it is now stated that 11 Zeros were destroyed by AA fire and five by our fighters. There may be some further clarification of those claims. Our losses consisted of 3 B-29's and 1 Thunderbolt. 3 B-29's, 1 Thunderbolt and 1 Liberator were damaged. Three men were killed.

The U.S.S. SCARBARDFISH (SS-397), on a war patrol off the EMPIRE reports sinking an I-class enemy submarine on 29 November, at 1:00 a.m. Apparently one prisoner has been taken.

The U.S.S. ARCHER FISH (SS-311), on a war patrol in waters off the EMPIRE reports sinking on 29 November, a large enemy aircraft carrier of the Hayataka class.

The U.S.S. SPADEFISH (SS-411), on a war patrol in the CENTRAL PACIFIC reports sinking one destroyer and damaging a tanker. This is in addition to the previously reported sinking of an escort carrier and two freighters.

The U.S.S. SUNFISH (SS-281), on a war patrol in the CENTRAL PACIFIC, reports sinking 3 freighters.

The U.S.S. PETO (SS-265), on a war patrol in the CENTRAL PACIFIC, has sunk three freighters, a tanker and damaged one freighter.

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9 a.m. 30 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Commander Task Group 77.2 reports that at dusk on 29 November, in LEYTE GULF, his surface ships were attacked by dive bombers and suicide crash divers. One suicide plane crashed between the forward turrets of the battleship MARYLAND. The damage created has interfered with the training of her No. 1 turret and the second deck area is wrecked. 20 of her personnel are dead and over 30 injured.

The destroyers AULICK (DD-569) and the U.S.S. SAUFLEY (DD-465) were also heavily attacked - apparently by dive bombers. The latter suffered minor damage. A bomb struck the AULICK in the bridge area and her topside structure is seriously damaged. It is stated that she has many casualties. It is reported that a minimum of 5 enemy planes were shot down or crashed into our ships.

On 28 November, the airfield at IWO JIMA was bombed by 21 Liberators causing fires and explosions. An unaggressive enemy fighter attempted an interception. One Liberator was damaged by the enemy's moderate AA fire.

During the night of 28 November, fragmentation bombs were dropped by a Liberator on IWO JIMA.

The dispersal and storage areas as also the air strip at YAP were hit by 22 Marine Avengers and 21 Corsairs on 28 November. 3 Corsairs were damaged by the moderate to light AA fire.

Hellcats and other planes dropped incendiaries and fragmentation bombs over NORTHERN PALAUS on 28 November.

BABELTHUAP on 28 November was strafed and buildings were fired by Corsairs. An underground shelter was burned out. The intense but light AA fire damaged one Corsair.

The following strikes were made for 29 November:

A Mitchell bomber during the night fired rockets into OKAMURA TOWN, NAHA JIMA ISLAND, BONINS GROUP.

The gun positions on ROTA were attacked by Avengers and Corsairs.

The airfield area on PAGAN was blasted by 19 Corsairs. A Thunderbolt strafed the same area and set on fire a plane in a hangar.

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9 a.m. 29 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The U.S.S. POMFRET (SS-391) reports sinking in the CENTRAL PACIFIC, two destroyers of a five-ship hunter killer group. One destroyer disintegrated in a 2500-foot column of flame.

The U.S.S. ATULE (SS-403) on a war patrol in the CENTRAL PACIFIC has sunk two large transports, two destroyers and one freighter.

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4 p.m. 28 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Task Force
A further report by Commander ~~Task Group 99.2~~ covering the attack by enemy suicide planes on his force in LEYTE GULF on 27 November indicates that two planes crash-dived close to and another hit the light cruiser MONTPELIER. The battleship MARYLAND dodged an enemy aerial torpedo but shot down the plane dropping it.

The MONTPELIER suffered no serious structural damage, but two of her men are seriously injured.

It was originally stated that an estimated force of 15 - 25 suicide planes had attacked this group of surface vessels. In a late despatch, it is reported that seven enemy planes crash-dived on or near the COLORADO, ST. LOUIS and MONTPELIER, and that approximately 12 planes were shot down by surface ships' AA fire and one was destroyed in the air by the group's combat air patrol.

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9 a.m. 28 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

November. However, the construction on FELELIU was back to normal on 12 November, and the bomber runway is reported completed. The rate of progress on ANGAUR was still at less than the normal rate on 13 November, but progressing satisfactorily on 14 November.

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9 a.m. 28 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional air strikes were made for 26 November:

The enemy's earth covered shelters on MALOELAP were hit by 18 Marine Corsairs. One Corsair received minor damage from the enemy's light to meager, but accurate AA fire.

On MILE, AA positions were bombed by 18 Marine Dauntless dive bombers. The AA fire was light to meager, but inaccurate.

WOTJE was attacked by Marine Corsairs and Venturas. There was no AA fire.

JALUIT was struck by 18 Marine Corsairs. The AA fire was meager but inaccurate.

Shortly after midday on 27 November, 15 enemy fighters made a surprise low-level strafing attack on ISLEY FIELD, SAIPAN. One Zero fighter in a suicide crash dive destroyed 3 B-29's. An unknown number of B-29's are damaged. One Army Thunderbolt was shot down by our own AA fire. One man was reported killed. Our AA fire destroyed about 7 of the enemy fighters while six of them were shot down by our own fighters. This includes two Zeros which were chased up to PAGAN ISLAND and knocked out there.

On 27 November, destroyers of DESRON 22 made a foray into CAMOTES SEA and shelled ORMOG on the western side of LEYTE ISLAND. It is also stated that they sank an enemy submarine.

MOROTAI was hit on 24 November by enemy bombing planes and several Navy search planes were destroyed or damaged.

During the night of 24-25 November, the MTB-363 was destroyed by enemy gunfire off MITI ISLAND. All of her personnel except one were rescued by MTB-362. The MTB-363 had 13 of her crew wounded.

The H.M.S. OL9, operating under our control, reports sinking an enemy coaster by gunfire on 16 November in the vicinity of LOMBOK STRAIT.

On PELELIU, during the period 9 November through 14 November, the Japs continued their efforts to penetrate our lines at night despite constant losses to them. Enemy pockets of resistance were further compressed and additional caves have been cleaned out or sealed with approximately 40 remaining in enemy hands. We have made slight advances from the south and west. Our construction progress has been slowed by the storm of 7-9

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4 p.m. 27 November 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Commander Task Group 77.2 reports that on 27 November, at 11:00 a.m., his group was hit, while conducting fueling operations in the LEYTE AREA, by an estimated force of 15 to 25 enemy suicide planes.

The battleship COLORADO and light cruiser ST. LOUIS were crash-dived. A preliminary report indicates the COLORADO lost one five-inch director, two five-inch guns, a forty quad. She has 19 dead and 26 wounded.

Two planes hit the ST. LOUIS, destroying her catapults and planes and putting out of commission her hangar space. One of her six-inch turrets aft has been damaged, as was structural damage aft. Her magazines were partially flooded by sprinkling. Personnel casualties are 10 killed and 25 wounded. It is stated that 11 - 15 planes either crash-dived or were shot down by Task Group 77.2.

Philippine

Additional information covering the attack by enemy air on 25 November against carriers from Task Group 38.2 indicates that the INDEPENDENCE (CVL-22) had her radar and top-side radio phone apparatus and visual signalling set-up put out of commission. In addition to the previously reported damage suffered by the CABOT (CVL-28), she has the following personnel casualties: 5 dead, 26 wounded, of which 16 are seriously wounded. Personnel casualties on the ESSEX (CV-9) are 14 dead and missing, 39 wounded, including 5 seriously. The HAWCOCK (CV-19) reports that three of her personnel received minor injuries.

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9 a.m. 27 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The U.S.S. BREAM (SS-243) returning from a war patrol in the waters of the PHILIPPINES reports:

23 October - Damaged the cruiser AOBA.

30 October -- Damaged a large transport.

4 November - Damaged a large transport which ship 11 minutes later was sunk by the U.S.S. GUITARO (SS-363).

6 November - Damaged a heavy cruiser.

The MTE-363 on 25 November was destroyed by enemy shore fire off CAIE OGRANGO, MALMAHERA ISLAND. One of her personnel died as a result of wounds received in action and one other is missing.

Shortly after midnight on 27 November, ISLEY FIELD, SAIPAN, was attacked by two or more low-level flying enemy bombers. Their strafing and bombing destroyed one B-29, damaging two seriously and inflicting slight damage on 9 others. Three trucks and two Quonset huts were burned. The enemy escaped after achieving a tactical surprise.

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9 a.m. 27 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Night flying Hellcats started fires in northern PALAU bases.

Headquarters and storage areas at MIZUHO VILLAGE were set on fire by Corsairs during a night raid.

The following strikes were made on 26 November:

Direct hits were scored on the radio station on ROTA by 16 Corsairs.

Four rocketing Marine Mitchells struck at harbor installations in CHIOCHI JIMA and sniped shipping anchored in FUTAMI KO.

The U.S.S. CAVALLA (SS-244) on a war patrol in the SOUTH CHINA SEA reports that in the early morning of 25 November, she made a surface attack on a large heavy enemy cruiser which was traveling with a light cruiser. She blew up the heavy cruiser believed to be one of the NACHI class. ✓

The U.S.S. HARDHEAD (SS-365) on a war patrol in the Pacific, damaged a large AK on 25 November. ✓

The U.S.S. HAKE (SS-256) on a war patrol in the Pacific reports that she damaged an enemy light cruiser of the Matori class on 19 November. ✓

The U.S.S. PICUDA (SS-382) on a war patrol off the EMPIRE waters, reports as follows: ✓

17 November - sank one large freighter, damaged one tanker.

22 November - sank a large tanker, damaged one tanker and one freighter.

The U.S.S. QUEENFISH (SS-393) in a war patrol off the EMPIRE reports as follows:

8 November - sank one medium freighter, damaged one freighter, sank a large tanker and a medium transport. ✓

11 November - damaged a freighter.

The QUEENFISH states that the carrier she previously reported sunk was loaded with planes. No survivors were picked up from the sinking ship.

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9 a.m. 27 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A revised estimate of results for the strike conducted against CENTRAL LUZON on 25 November by planes of Task Groups 38.2 and 38.3, indicates:

ENEMY SURFACE SHIPSSUNK

1 CA (Kumano)
1 DD
2 ODD
3 landing ship, med.)
1 DE
1 AK
1 small AK
1 AO (small)
4 SC
2 luggers
17

Believed Sunk

2 freighters (med.)
3 landing craft

Damaged

3 cargo ships
1 oiler (small)
2 ODD
7 (previously damaged, hit again, AK)
9 luggers

ENEMY PLANESDESTROYED IN AIR BY CAP

21

AA

13

DESTROYED ON GROUND

29

SHOT DOWN OVER TARGET

25

PROBABLY DAMAGED ON GROUND

32

U.S. COMBAT LOSSESOVER TARGET

5 planes

The following air strikes were made for 25 November:

7 Army Liberators struck the BONINS, scoring a direct hit on the radio station at CHICHI JIMA.

The airfield installations at IWO JIMA were hit by a night patrol Liberator.

The YAP air strips were bombed by Corsairs and Avengers.

Strafing Corsairs fired an ammunition dump and hit 4 large transformers, a warehouse, a lumber mill, and a coconut oil factory at BARREL-TUAP, PALAU ISLAND.

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9 a.m. 26 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A preliminary report has been received on the strike against CENTRAL LUZON by planes of Task Groups 38.2, 38.3. Reports to-date indicate 29 enemy planes destroyed in the air, 8 knocked down by AA; destroyed on the ground, 35. A Kumano class heavy cruiser was torpedoed and sunk. Also sunk were 1 DD, 9 AK, 1 small AO and 2 luggers. At Marinduque, 4 old destroyers probably operating as transports were sunk. 4 AK and 1 AO were damaged. Southeast of NICOLS FIELD, 7 tank cars were strafed and burned. A 50 truck convoy South of MANILA was strafed.

At about noon of the 25th an enemy air attack developed against our carriers.

Their strike was pushed with determination, breaching our fighter defense. The INTREPID (CV-11) received considerable damage from 2 suicide planes which crashed aboard with bombs. The ship reports at least 54 dead, 35 seriously and 15 slightly injured, possibly 15 are missing. One plane struck the ESSEX (CV-9) causing slight damage. The CABOT (CVL-28) had a quickly controlled fire which caused considerable damage by a suicide plane which bounced off the ship. A second plane crashed close aboard. The HAMCOCK (CV-19) was hit by burning fragments of a plane shot down over the ship, resulting in no loss in battle efficiency.

No report has been made of our plane losses. Above report of enemy losses presumably includes those shot down over the TF formation.

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9 a.m. 26 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 24 November, LEYTE based fighters dive bombed and strafed an enemy convoy off MASHATE ISLAND, P.I. Two transports were reported sunk and one destroyer escort and a third transport was left burning and beached.

On 25 November, planes of the 7th Fleet attacked and sank two destroyers in BALANAGAN BAY, MARINDUQUE ISLAND.

During the night of 24-25 November, reconnaissance planes operating over the MINDORO AREA, damaged a small freighter in VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE. Another small freighter was damaged by reconnaissance planes off the north coast of PAMAY.

During an enemy air attack on 25 November, about 80 miles East of LUZON, approximately 30 men from the aircraft carrier CABOT (CV-16) were blown overboard. A search of the area made by a destroyer was reported as negative. Further details are not available at this time.

On 25 November, 4 Marine Mitchells attacked enemy shipping and installations at CHICHI and HABA JIMA with undetermined results.

The submarine GUITARO returned from patrol of the western PHILIPPINES:

SUNK

1 AK 8200 tons
1 AK 7500 tons
1 AK 7500 tons
Credit for 1 AP 2500 tons

DAMAGED

Credit 1/2 CA (Mogami Class
7,00 tons)

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9 a.m. 25 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 22 November, about 9 enemy planes raided our installations at MOROTAI and inflicted the following damage:

<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
3 Mitchells	15 Mitchells
4 Liberators	8 Liberators
1 Ventura	2 Venturas
7 Havocs	6 Havocs

Runways and taxiways on PITOE airstrip were cratered. We suffered three killed and eight wounded.

During the night of 22-23 November, a PBY sank a DE off BALABAC ISLAND, PHILIPPINES, and a night flying Catalina shot down one enemy plane.

During 23 November, enemy planes attacked our shipping in LEYTE. In one attack a bomb struck and seriously damaged PC-1124 and LCI-976, both alongside of a water tanker. A total of six were reported killed and forty-six wounded. Throughout the day, our fighter patrols shot down upwards of four enemy planes.

On 24 November, a reconnaissance plane probably sank a small oiler (300-700 tons) off the west coast of PALAWAN and shot down an escorting enemy float plane.

On the same day, three Venturas destroyed with rockets and bombs a transport freighter (5500 and 7500 tons) grounded on TALAUD ISLAND. PT's sank two luggers and one sea truck off ORMOG.

? Motor torpedo boats have been relieved of patrol duty in the NORTHERN SOLOMONS AREA on 24 November. The patrols are being continued by LCI and PGM gunboats.

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9 a.m. 24 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The barracks area and power plants on WAKE was attacked by 6 Navy Venturas. A large explosion north of the power plant was observed.

PAC SUBS

✓ The submarine BANG returning from patrol reported sinking four Marus and damaging one.

✓ The submarine CODRASH sank two Marus plus two sampans by gunfire.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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9 a.m. 24 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

✓ On 21 November, 3 twin-engine enemy bombers unsuccessfully attacked CARDIV 29 (4 CVE). Our ships sustained no damage. One of the enemy planes was shot down. *E of Mindanao.*

During the night of 19 and 20 November, PT's sank three more enemy barges in ORMOG BAY, making a total of 7.

On 22 November, a reconnaissance plane set on fire a small enemy coaster south of LUZON. Another reconnaissance plane attacked and probably sank an escort vessel on the west coast of BALABAC ISLAND, PHILIPPINES.

Strikes 22 November:

PONAPE installations were hit by 23 Corsairs. Medium, moderate but inaccurate AA fire was encountered.

9 Corsairs struck MALOELAP. Light, meager and accurate AA fire caused minor damage to one Corsair.

41 Corsairs struck JALUIT. Accurate AA fire slightly damaged one Corsair.

MILLE gun positions were hit by 20 Corsairs. AA fire encountered was meager and inaccurate.

12 Corsairs attacked the airfield area at YAP through moderate and accurate AA fire. One plane failed to return.

158 Hellcats struck at northern PALAU bases with reported good results.

YAP and ARAKABESAN were bombed by 17 Liberators with unobserved results.

PAGAN runway was bombed by 2 F-47's.

Strikes 23 November:

Marine Corsairs attacking targets in the northern PALAUS destroyed many barges and dwellings.

Corsairs pounded YAP air strip with unreported results.

Shipping and installations at CHICHI JIMA and HANA JIMA were attacked by 17 Liberators.

21 Corsairs struck WOTJE encountering no AA fire.

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9 a.m. 23 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 22 November, planes of Task Group 38.4 rocketed and bombed installations on YAP ISLAND. A number of fires were observed.

Reconnaissance planes over LUZON destroyed a small stack of AK on 21 November.

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9 a.m. 22 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following corrected report has been received in connection with the LUZON strikes on 19 November by Task Force 38:

A total of 28 enemy planes were shot down. 110 were destroyed on the ground. In addition, 1 coastal AK, 1 lugger and 1 small craft were sunk, 6 AK's, 3 AO, 1 PC and 5 luggers were damaged or left burning.

Considerable damage was wrought upon shore and airfield installations.

On 19 November, the destroyer escorts CONKLIN (DE-439) and MCCOY RENOIDS (DE-440), probably sank a Japanese submarine near West entrance KOSSOL, PALAU area.

It has now been reported that the MAPIA ISLANDS have been completely occupied. During this operation 17 men were killed.

During the night of 19 and 20 November, PT's sank four personnel-laden barges south of ORMOG CITY, LEYTE.

The submarine SEALION reported that she scored three hits on a battleship and one hit on another battleship. When the SEALION maneuvered to execute a second attack on the first BB, the target blew up. The radar pip disappeared as the target sank. This is an amplification of the report contained in the morning summary of 21 November.

The submarine GURNARD returned from patrol of the BORNED AREA after sinking one large tanker (10,000 tons) and damaging another of the same tonnage.

The submarine POMFRET reported damaging two medium Marus. Further details are not available.

We wish good night

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9 a.m. 21 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

At 5:38 a.m., 20 November, the destroyer CASE rammed and sank a midget enemy submarine at the entrance channel to ULITHI.

On 19 November, enemy planes raided LEYTE eight times. The transport ALPINE (APA-2) was damaged. A motor vessel was hit by a suicide dive and damaged. One LCI was sunk. Five of the enemy planes were shot down.

During 19 November, PT's sank a barge and destroyed a medium enemy bomber in the vicinity of LEYTE. Other PT's destroyed a barge in RABAU BAY.

Bombers operating over BRUNEL BAY on 19 November, reported scoring four hits and probably sinking a light cruiser.

The following additional strikes for 19 November have been reported:

Liberators and Mitchells attacked enemy shipping in the BONINS and possibly damaged a destroyer.

Liberators, Corsairs, Hellcats and one Catalina attacked enemy installations in the PALAUS. A number of fires were started.

YAP airstrip was bombed by Marine Corsairs.

At 3:00 a.m., 21 November, the submarine SEALION attacked what was possibly an enemy task force composed of 2 BB, 2 CA and 3 DD, forty miles north of HUKIKAKU, FORMOSA. Three hits were scored on a battleship, followed by explosions and fires.

The submarine RONQUIL and BURRISH sank by combined gunfire an enemy patrol vessel. The locality of the attack has not been established.

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9 a.m. 20 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

An incomplete report indicates that THIRD Fleet carrier planes struck LUXON on 19 November. Medium opposition over the target area was encountered, and ten enemy planes were shot down. About 100 grounded JAP planes were destroyed. Two large enemy AK's and one large AO in MANILA HARBOR were set on fire.

Approximately twenty enemy planes attempted to attack our surface units. The attack was broken up without damage to our ships, and eight of the JAP planes were shot down.

The USS MISSISSINWA (AO-59) was sunk by a submarine torpedo on 20 November in ULITHI, opposite MUGAI CHANNEL entrance. A large number of survivors were reported. The number of casualties is not known at this time.

During the night of 15-16 November, motor torpedo boats sank a Japanese PT in RABAUl BAY, NEW BRITAIN.

HMS STOIC, operating under our control, returned from patrol of the SOUTH JAVA SEA Area, after sinking 900 tons of small and miscellaneous enemy shipping and damaging one 4,000-ton freighter.

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9 a.m. 19 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Marine Avengers and Corsairs struck ROTA installations.

13 Corsairs attacked WOTJE installations. No AA fire was encountered.

19 Corsairs hit JALUIT, encountering light and medium AA fire.

The submarine BARB returning from patrol reported as follows:

<u>SANK</u>	<u>PROBABLY SUNK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
1 large AP	1 medium AK	1 large CV
1 large AK		1 large AK
2 medium AK		
1 small AK		
3 schooners (by gunfire)		

It was also reported that the submarine GREENFISH scored two hits on an escort carrier on 15 November.

The submarine SPADEFISH operating in the EAST CHINA SEA, sank an OTAKA class escort carrier on 17 November, scored four more hits in the remainder of the convoy, and on 13 November, sank three large AKS.

H.M.S. STORM, operating under our control returned from patrol and reported destroying, by gunfire, 11 miscellaneous craft totalling 400-tons.

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9 a.m. 19 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In a three day drive, ending on 17 November, 9,000 troops of the 2nd Marine Division killed 248 and captured 47 Japanese on SAIPAN ISLAND. We suffered 9 men killed, 40 wounded.

On 17 November, 39 Liberators attacking BRUNEI BAY, northwest BORNEO, claimed five hits on an enemy battleship and four on a heavy cruiser. Fires started on both vessels. One of five enemy interceptors was probably destroyed. Intense AA fire shot down three Liberators.

During the morning of 17 November, one of our planes attacked two small freighters and set one on fire in ORMOG BAY, LEYTE.

During 17 November, reconnaissance Venturas operating west of CEBU, reported strafing and possibly sinking a small Maru (300-700-tons), and damaging an AK (1,500-2,500-tons).

Motor torpedo boats operating in the vicinity of ORMOG BAY, during the night of 17 November, sank two Japanese PT's, one lugger and upwards of 9 barges. During the same period, a Navy search plane destroyed a gasoline loaded lugger and damaged two Jap PT's.

Strikes 17 November:

Targets in the BONINS and enemy shipping in the area were attacked by 16 Liberators with unobserved results.

Corsairs and Hellcats swept over the Northern PALAUS and set on fire fuel dumps and warehouses.

Marine aircraft attacked air strips at YAP.

ROTA gun positions were attacked by Corsairs.

Strikes 18 November:

Two Army Liberators attacked enemy shipping in the BONIN ISLANDS with unobserved results.

Enemy shipping at CHICHI JIMA was attacked by 9 Liberators with unobserved results.

10 Army Liberators attacked two small freighters and a medium freighter at HAMA JIMA. One small freighter was sunk and the other was set on fire.

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9 a.m. 18 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

A reconnaissance Liberator attacked a four-ship convoy southwest of HAHA JIMA with unobserved results.

Marine Corsairs attacked targets in the northern PALAUS and ROTA ISLAND.

Avengers bombed YAP.

Hellcats bombed BABELTHUAP.

On 17 November, a Mitchell bomber attacked three cargo vessels and a possible cruiser east of CHICHI JIMA. Three hits were scored on one of the cargo vessels.

The submarine RONQUIL sustained damage after a surface gun engagement. The vessel has two holes in her pressure hull but can still dive in an emergency.

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9 a.m. 18 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

The following report of Task Force 38 strikes against CENTRAL LUZON on 13 and 14 November has been received:

<u>Enemy Planes</u>		
<u>Shot Down</u>	<u>Destroyed on Ground</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
45 (34 over targets)	39	75 (strafed but not burned)

<u>Surface Units</u>		
<u>Sunk</u>		<u>Damaged</u>
1 CL (Suma class)		Large number AK & AO, some possibly sunk.
4 DD		Several small craft & barges
3 AO		
9 AK		
1 lugger		
2 barges		

In addition, an ammunition train, oil cars and oil tanks were destroyed. Warehouses and docks in the MANILA AREA were heavily hit.

We lost 34 planes, including at least 20, by AA fire. Eleven were considered operational losses.

At 7:55 a.m., 17 November, our aircraft attacked and set on fire 2 enemy cargo vessels moving into ORMOG BAY.

During the night of 15-16 November, a night flying Mariner reported probably sinking 2 schooners and damaging three more south of the CULBERS.

Strikes 15 November:

15 Liberators bombed enemy shipping at HAHU JIMA without results.

A reconnaissance Liberator bombed INDJIMA.

The northern PALAU GROUP was attacked by Corsairs, Hellcats and Liberators. A number of barges were destroyed, vehicles and ammunition dumps set on fire.

Marine fighters cratered YAP airstrip.

Strikes 16 November:

Enemy shipping at HAHU and CHICHI JIMA was attacked by Liberators. One hit was scored on a tanker.

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JAG Letter

9 a.m. 17 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

By 5:00 p.m., 15 November, all of our troops and stores were landed on PEGUN ISLAND, MAPIA GROUP. It is stated that 15 Japanese committed suicide and about 200 of the enemy shifted over to HEBRAS ISLAND, where they were brought under bombardment by air and surface on 16 November. Our casualties in the landing to-date, are 2 Army personnel. Three LCI's were strafed during the landings.

During the night of 14-15 November, motor torpedo boats from MOROTAI destroyed two barges east of that place. Three more enemy barges were destroyed off Northern LEYTE by motor torpedo boats operating from our bases in LEYTE.

Details on the bombing of the U.S.S. COMFORT (AH-6) indicate that at 2:00 a.m., 24 October, she was steaming at slow speed about 250 miles southeast of LEYTE ISLAND when she was straddled by three bombs, two of which were fairly close aboard. One of her lookouts on watch saw the plane but was unable to identify it. The COMFORT, at the time of the attack was fully illuminated in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention. The ship, on being attacked, was immediately darkened and maneuvered radically until the danger of attack was considered past. The COMFORT did not sustain any damage. An investigation does not reveal that the attack on her was made by friendly planes.

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4 p.m. 16 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

An amplifying report, covering Task Force 38.3 (Rear Admiral Sherman) carrier-based air attack on enemy shipping, 13 November, in MANILA BAY and contiguous territory, indicates its plane combat losses were 12 by flak and 5 unknown, for a total of 17 instead of 6 planes as originally reported. Photographs or definite sightings now confirm that the following enemy ships were destroyed in that strike: one light cruiser, four destroyers, 11 large to medium size freighters and oil tankers. Originally it was reported that 2 destroyers exploded, 11 large to medium AK's and AO's were sunk or burning beyond control and a light cruiser was badly damaged.

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9 a.m. 16 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional strikes were reported for 14 November:

Several barges and small craft were sunk by strafing Marine Corsairs in the Northern PALAUS and in the vicinity of YAP.

The air strip at YAP was attacked by Corsairs.

The radio and dock areas at ARAKABESAN ISLAND, PALAU GROUP, were hit by Liberators.

Enemy bases at PALAU were struck by Hellcats during the night.

Fragmentation clusters were dropped on the airfield area at WOLEAI by 3 Liberators.

A small enemy freighter northeast of IWO JIMA probably received direct hits with bombs dropped by a patrolling Liberator.

On 24 October, at 6:40 p.m., the U.S.S. ASHTABULA (AO-51), was hit by an enemy aerial torpedo in LEXTE GULF. Considerable damage was done but no fire broke out and there were no personnel casualties. The ship was able to steam away to an advanced base.

The U.S.S. ROCK (SS-274) damaged a large and heavy-laden oil tanker in PALAWAN PASSAGE on the morning of 26 October.

On 16 November, at 4:30 a.m., the U.S.S. SCABBARDFISH (SS-397), sank a small escorted enemy freighter off the BONIN ISLANDS group.

The U.S.S. TAMBOR (SS-198), on 16 November, at 7:00 a.m., sank an enemy patrol vessel by gunfire, 10 miles off the TORI SHIMA ISLANDS, east of PARAMUSHIRU. Two prisoners were captured.

On 15 November, at 6:30 a.m., a landing was made on the southern tip of PEGUN ISLAND, MAPIA GROUP, off the coast of NEW GUINEA, by a naval landing force under command of Rear Admiral Barbey. No enemy opposition was encountered.

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4 p.m. 15 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

At 11 p.m. on 14 November, the U.S.S. HALIBUT (SS-232) was severely depth-charged 12 miles north of Y'AMI ISLAND, northernmost island of the PHILIPPINE ISLAND Group.

In spite of the fact that she has received heavy materiel damage, she can still dive. She is proceeding to SAIPAN in company with the U.S.S. PINTADO (SS-387) at 15 knots.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 15 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following strikes were reported for 14 November:

A Marine Mitchell scored two rocket hits on an enemy submarine near HAKA JIMA and it is believed the submarine was sunk. The same plane also bombed IWO JIMA.

The airfields and installations at WOLEAI were bombed by 22 Liberators. No enemy aircraft were present and the air strip does not appear to be in operation.

The town area at ROTA was struck by Avengers and Corsairs.

On PAGAN ISLAND, the building area was attacked by Thunderbolts.

On 12 November, Jap suicide attack planes damaged in LEYTE GULF seven merchant ships and two ~~cruisers~~, plus an undeterminate number of landing craft.

It appears that on 28 October, the U.S.S. SONOMA (auxiliary ocean tug ATO-12) was sunk as a result of enemy action in SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, P.I. She is beached in 18-foot of water.

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9 a.m. 15 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Carrier based planes from Task Force 38 on 14 November, made a repeat strike on enemy targets in CENTRAL and SOUTHERN LUZON. At the moment of writing, the complete results of their last strike in this territory have not been reported. It is stated that buildings and warehouses in the MANILA dock area have been damaged extensively and when last seen this sector was ablaze. At CAVITE NAVY YARD, its facilities, an oil tank and seaplane hangars were hit with many bombs. Enemy aircraft was destroyed on the ground at LIPA, NASUGBU, BATANGAS, and CLARK FIELDS. Planes at NICHOLS and NIELSEN fields were strafed.

An incomplete report indicates the following damage was done:

ENEMY PLANES DESTROYED

<u>IN AIR</u>	<u>GROUND</u>	<u>OVER SURFACE FORCE</u>
20	30	2

ENEMY SHIP CASUALTIES

<u>SUNK</u>	<u>POSSIBLY SUNK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
1 AK	1 ammun. ship	2 AO (left on fire) 4 escort craft (strafed - stern of 1 blown off) 15 AK 1 AO 1 AP

The following additional air strikes on 13 November were reported by aircraft under CINCPAC:

In Northern PALAU, Liberators, Corsairs and Hellcats destroyed enemy vehicles and warehouses.

The YAP air strip and the phosphate plant at ROTA were bombed by Marine Corsairs.

Off CHICHI JIMA, Liberators scored near-misses on an enemy freighter.

A reconnaissance Liberator bombed IWO JIMA.

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4 p.m. 14 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

The U.S.S. HERGALL (SS-320), returning from her first war patrol in the SOUTH CHINA SEAS, reports as follows:

<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Sunk</u>	
30 Oct. 1 AK 100 tons	9 Oct. 1 AK	700 tons
	13 " 1 AK	4,000 "
	27 " 1 AC (Kyokuyo cl.)	16,800 "
	TOTAL	21,500 "

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9 a.m. 14 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 13 November, carrier based planes of Task Force 38 attacked enemy shipping in MANILA BAY. Two destroyers exploded, eleven large to medium AK and AO were sunk or burning beyond control. A light cruiser was badly damaged.

About 20 enemy planes were airborne in the target area and of these 18 were shot down, and an additional 10 were destroyed in the vicinity of our task force.

Numerous hits were scored and large fires started at MANILA docks and CAVITE NAVY YARD. Approximately 140 grounded planes at MANILA, CLARK and LEGASPI fields were strafed.

We lost six planes due to enemy AA fire. Our surface units sustained no damage.

H.M.S. TANTIVI (submarine), operating under our control, returned from patrol of the H.E.I., after sinking a total of 2,600 tons of miscellaneous craft and damaging one 800-ton vessel.

The submarine ANGLER returned from patrol of the SOUTH CHINA SEA after sinking one medium freighter of 4,000 tons.

The submarine DACE returned from patrol of waters to the northwest of BORNEO and reported as follows:

SUNK

1 AO	10,000 tons
1 AK	7,500 tons
1 CA	9,500 tons
TOTAL	27,000 tons

At 10:32 a.m., 13 November, a convoy escort attacked a Japanese submarine 1,100 miles west southwest of LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. During a two-hour attack, explosions were heard, and, subsequently, the submarine surfaced upside down and then sank. Additional sinking evidence in the form of Japanese articles was picked up.

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SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

YAP air installations were bombed by a number of our planes (type unidentified).

The airfield areas at IWO JIMA were bombed by 29 Liberators. Our bombers were intercepted by 3 unaggressive fighters. AA fire was meager, moderate and inaccurate.

Marine Corsairs strafed ROTA TOWN and runways.

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9 a.m. 13 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 12 November, a fighter patrol of 12 planes over the LEYTE AREA, intercepted a group of enemy planes and shot down five medium bombers.

From 11:30 a.m., to 6:30 p.m., enemy planes attacked our shipping in the LEYTE AREA and damaged a number of merchant ships. Several LCI's were also damaged. Further details are not available at this time.

Air strikes, 10 November:

45 Corsairs bombed NGERGONG ISLAND, PALAU ISLANDS, set on fire a tank and sank a barge. Light and moderate AA fire was encountered.

The area was again attacked by 6 Marine Corsairs. One plane failed to return.

12 Corsairs bombed YAP air strip.

Targets on BABELTHUAP ISLAND were attacked by 12 Corsairs. A direct hit was scored on a radio station.

KOROR and BABELTHUAP were harassed during the night by Hellcats.

Corsairs strafed and sank a barge at BABELTHUAP.

Six Army Liberators bombed KOROR.

Four Army Thunderbolts strafed PAGAN.

Strikes, 11 November:

The PAGAN storage area and beach defenses were strafed and rocketed by 12 Thunderbolts.

ROTA gun positions were strafed by 17 Corsairs. No AA fire was encountered.

13 Liberators started large fires on KOROR ISLAND and other enemy held islands in the NORTHERN PALAUS. This area was later attacked by 9 Catalinas, Corsairs and Avengers.

Eight B-29's attacked submarine pens on DUEHLON ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL. AA and fighter opposition meager. One enemy plane probably damaged.

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9 a.m. 12 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During a storm on 8-9 November, about 200 Japanese landed on NGEREGONG ISLAND, PALAU group, armed with machine guns and knee mortars. Our patrol was evacuated without loss under cover of an LCI gunboat.

The island was subsequently shelled and, on 10 November, 13 tons of bombs were dropped. Air attacks against the island are to be continued until it is reoccupied by our forces.

On 11 November, Task Group 30.2 (3 CA, 6 DD), successfully bombarded IWO JIMA airfield. Our ships sustained no damage. Further details are not available at this time.

The submarine PADDLE returned from patrol of the CELEBES after sinking, by gunfire, one miscellaneous vessel (100 tons), and two miscellaneous vessels, 500 tons each, total sunk, 1,100 tons.

The following additional information has been received in connection with the MOUNT HOOD (AE-11), which exploded and sank from an unknown cause at 8:47 a.m., 10 November, while at anchor in SEADLER HARBOR, Admiralties.

A preliminary estimate indicates that 22 officers and 290 enlisted men aboard the vessel were lost. One officer and 16 men, ashore at the time of the explosion, apparently escaped.

Casualties on nearby ships amounted to 109 killed, 593 injured. The blast and flying debris caused minor damage to approximately 29 ships anchored in the area. Eight YMS and the MINDANAO (ARG-3) sustained severe damage.

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9 a.m. 11 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

② At 1:13 a.m., 10 November, 2 PT boats attacked three destroyers with torpedoes in ORMOC BAY. At least one hit was scored and a large explosion followed. The target disappeared from the radar screen.

Two other PT's attacked two unidentified ships in ORMOC BAY at 3:21 a.m. Results were not observed due to heavy return fire and pursuit by enemy ships. Our PT's sustained no casualties.

① On 11 November, carrier planes of Task Force 38 attacked and destroyed an enemy convoy consisting of three large, one medium transports, five destroyers and one escort vessel about to enter ORMOC BAY.

One transport exploded and all four were seen to sink. Two destroyers and the escort vessel were definitely sunk. One destroyer was left awash and another had its bow blown off. Both are believed to have sunk. The remaining damaged destroyer possibly escaped.

The enemy convoy was covered by about 20 Jap fighters and of these our planes shot down 13, plus five probables. Two additional enemy planes, operating near our task force, were shot down. We lost about nine planes. All but a few of these are considered possible rescues by local forces.

The destroyer escort OBERRENDER (DE 334) sustained considerable damage when the ammunition ship MOUNT HOOD (AE-11) blew up in SEADLER HARBOR (reported in 10 November morning summary).

The submarine LAPON returned from patrol of the waters to the west of LUZON and reported as follows:

<u>Sunk</u>		<u>Damaged</u>	
1 AO	10,000 tons	1 unidentified	
1 AK	9,500 tons	vessel	4,000 tons
1 AK	5,600 tons	1 AK	5,800 tons
1 escort vessel	500 tons	Total	9,800 "
Total	25,600 "		

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9 a.m. 10 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:47 a.m., 10 November, the ammunition ship MOUNT HOOD (AE-11), at a berth in SEADLER HARBOR, exploded and sank. The personnel of the vessel were lost with the exception of several men and one officer.

The internal combustion engine tender MINDANAO (ARG-3) and six or seven YMS, plus a number of small boats, were severely damaged. The superstructures of the ARGONNE (AG-31), MINDANAO (ARG-3) and TALBOT (APD-7), sustained considerable damage. Numerous personnel casualties were suffered aboard vessels anchored nearby.

Strikes, 9 November:

PAGAN personnel and storage areas hit by 12 Thunderbolts.

Six Avengers, escorted by Corsairs, bombed and destroyed a sugar mill on ROTA. Moderate AA fire damaged four Avengers.

A reconnaissance Liberator bombed IWO JIMA.

Three Army Liberators dropped bombs on MARCUS.

Two reconnaissance planes attacked four luggers off IWO JIMA, set one on fire and damaged another.

A Navy search plane sank a small (100-ton freighter) and one barge, off northern BORNEO.

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9 a.m. 9 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine GABLAN, operating in the waters of the NANPO SHOTO, on 31 October, sank a medium freighter.

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4 p.m. 8 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

The following additional strikes by CinCPac aircraft on 6 November have been reported:

A reconnaissance Liberator dropped bombs on the dispersal area at IWOJIMA.

Corsairs attacked small enemy shipping in the northern PALAUS.

Strikes - 7 November:

Thunderbolts attacked PAGAN installations twice.

14 Army Liberators bombed airfield No. 1 at IWOJIMA and the dispersal areas. A large fire was started and two medium bombers on the ground were probably destroyed.

Three Liberators attacked AA gun positions and radio installations on MARCUS ISLAND.

At 1:47 a.m. and at 4:30 a.m., 7 November, about 11 enemy planes attacked SAIPAN and TINIAN. AA batteries claimed the destruction of four planes. Our forces reported no damage or casualties.

It is reported that the heavy cruiser set on fire and left in a sinking condition from several bomb and torpedo hits on 5 November in MANILA BAY, and reported in the morning summary of 6 November, was seen to break in two and sink.

At 4:10 a.m., 28 October, FCE-848, operating in the SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA, was damaged by three near-miss enemy bombs. Emergency repairs were being accomplished.

The submarine PADDLE returned from patrol of the SULU SEA and reported sinking one medium AO - 5,000 tons and damaging one medium AK - 4,000 tons.

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9 a.m. 8 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 6 November, a reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on the air strip and gun positions at YAP.

At 1:40 a.m., 6 November, the submarine RATON scored three hits on a Mogami class CA, off the west coast of LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. The cruiser was beached at RENA POINT (peninsula west side of LINGAYEN GULF).

Another submarine scored three hits on an ATAGO class CA in the same vicinity at about the same time.

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9 a.m. 7 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A reconnaissance Ventura dropped bombs on YAP with unobserved results.

The submarine RATON scored three hits on an enemy heavy cruiser west of LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

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9 a.m. 6 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

KOROR ISLAND, in the northern PALAUS was heavily bombed by Army Liberators. Several fires and explosions were observed.

YAP was hit by an unreported number of Liberators.

Twenty Thunderbolts damaged the airfield on PAGAN ISLAND in the MARIANAS.

A preliminary report indicates that the destroyer escort EVERSOLE (DE-107) was sunk by a torpedo from an enemy submarine, at about 2:29 a.m., 29 October, 110 miles east of DINAGAT ISLAND, PHILIPPINES. 75 men are reported missing. 139 survivors have been recovered, including the vessel's commanding officer.] *L. J. T.*

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9 a.m. 6 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following details have been obtained from preliminary reports on the strikes against LUZON by three task groups of Task Force 38, on 5 November *follow*

A submarine was contacted East of LUZON, but it was kept down and apparently had no chance to alert the Japanese, and a complete surprise was achieved by our planes over MANILA BAY.]

Eighty enemy airborne planes were encountered over the CLARK area and of these 58 were shot down. Over MANILA, slight airborne opposition was encountered throughout the day and over CLARK FIELD, opposition diminished during the day. [A total of 83 enemy planes was shot down over the targets and 5 in the vicinity of our task force. In addition, 100 planes were destroyed on the ground.]

[In MANILA BAY, a heavy cruiser was set on fire and left in a sinking condition from several bomb and torpedo hits. A light cruiser and at least three destroyers, plus several freighters, were damaged.] A submarine chaser was sunk off LUBANG. Damage was inflicted to shore installations.

a suicide plane
At 1:18 p.m., 5 November, Task Group 38.3 was attacked by a number of enemy planes. Two suicide planes dove at the carrier LEXINGTON and of these one was shot down by AA fire and the other crashed on the LEXINGTON's signal bridge, causing minor damage.] A third Jap suicide plane missed the TICONDEROGA.

On 5 November, enemy planes raided TACLOBAN air strip ten times without damage.

PT-320 was destroyed by a direct bomb hit from an enemy plane on 5 November, in SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE. Only one enlisted man survived.

The following additional strikes by CINCPAC air-craft on 3 November have been reported:

12 Liberators attacked two destroyers, one large transport, four medium transports and four small transports in CHICHI JIMA HARBOR, BONIN ISLANDS. Results of the attack were unobserved.

Three Liberators bombed HANA JIMA, and a reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on IWO JIMA.

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9 a.m. 5 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The Commander in Chief, of the Southwest Pacific Area, reported that our reinforcement movements to LEXTE are continuing.

On 2 November, a Navy PB4Y reported damaging an AK off the South coast of MASBATE. Another plane destroyed an enemy float plane off PALAWAN.

Confidential
The submarine HAMMERHEAD returned from patrol of the waters to the westward of BORNEO and reported as follows:

	<u>SANK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
5 large freighters	7,500 tons each	1 med. tanker 5,000 tons
1 medium freighter	<u>4,000 tons</u>	
TOTAL	41,500 tons	

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4 p.m. 4 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

At 11:34 a.m., 2 November, 17 B-29's bombed TRUK. Heavy, moderate and accurate AA fire was encountered.

The following strikes by CinCPac aircraft, on 3 November, have been reported:

Thirteen Marine Corsairs bombed JALUIT, and encountered light, meager but inaccurate AA fire.

A PBV harassed NAURU during the night. Light and inaccurate AA fire was encountered.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



4 p.m. 3 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 3 November, the light cruiser RENO (CL-96) was torpedoed 355 miles east of CATANDUANES ISLAND, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. No other information is available at this time.

The following additional information has been received with respect to the U.S.S. ABNER READ (DD-526) which sank at 2:15 p.m., 1 November, in the LEYTE GULF, as a result of a suicide dive by an enemy plane into her after stack:

Initial fires were followed by explosions of after magazines and ready service ammunition. Four of her personnel are dead, four critically injured, 6 seriously injured and 15 missing.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 4 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 3 November, the commander of the 7th Fleet reported that heavy Japanese air attacks were continuing against our forces in LEYTE GULF.

During the night of 31 October and 1 November, a Catalina reported sinking a 7,000 ton tanker in the WESTERN SULU SEA.

During 2 November, a recon plane dropped bombs on YAP gun emplacements and airstrip.

On 3 November, the submarine PINTADO sank a DD from a Task Force, composed of one large carrier, 1 light cruiser and three DD's, about 190 miles west of LUZON.

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9 a.m. 3 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The U.S.S. ANDERSON (DD-411) was damaged when struck by a suicide Japanese float plane at 6:30 p.m., 1 November, in the LEYTE AREA. The vessel sustained minor structural damage which did not affect her seaworthiness and is capable of making 22 knots. One officer, four men, are missing, twelve men have been killed, and one officer and sixteen men wounded.

A reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed installations on IWO JIMA. A number of enemy fighters attempted interception and of these one was damaged.

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4 P.M. 2 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 9:50 a.m., 1 November, the destroyers AMEN, CLAXTON and KILLEN were hit by Japanese suicide dives. The CLAXTON was holed forward, but flooding was brought under control. The KILLEN was heavily flooded, but flooding was finally brought under control. The AMEN sustained damage to her director and searchlight equipment.

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9 a.m. 2 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In a later report, Commander Task Force 77, indicates that the ship that was sunk in LEYTE GULF during heavy enemy air attacks on 1 November, was the U.S.S. ABNER READ (DD-526). She was hit by an enemy torpedo plane while screening the damaged U.S.S. CLAXTON (DD-571). The READ blew up and sank. As yet there is no report of her casualties.

During 1 November, enemy shore targets on NEW IRELAND and CHOISEUL were bombarded and strafed by motor torpedo boats from the Northern SOLOMONS.

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DATE 10/1/78 BY SP-10/1/78

4 p.m. 1 November 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

The following strikes are reported by CinCPac aircraft for 30 October:

Explosions and fires were started on the old airfield at YAP ISLAND, when Liberators from 7th Air Force dropped fragmentation bombs.

The runway and a fuel dump on GAGIL-TOMIL ISLAND, YAP ISLANDS, were hit and fired respectively, by eleven Corsairs. Two enemy barges at BABELTHUAP were sunk when strafed by four Corsairs, while four other Corsairs set on fire two warehouses at GARUMISUKAN, BABELTHUAP ISLAND. The enemy's AA fire ranged from medium to light.

While affording support to ground troops, sixteen Corsairs scored 15 hits on targets on PELELIU.

The airfield installations at IWOJIMA were bombed by a lone Liberator. There was no AA fire.

On 31 October, Marine Corsairs strafed the village area of ROTA ISLAND. The enemy's machine gun fire was meager.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10-13-78
BY SP-6
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9 a.m. 1 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

// The U.S.S. BESUGO (SS-321) on a war patrol in the waters off the EMPIRE, reports sinking a new-type destroyer escort in convoy.

The U.S.S. PHILIP (DD-498) has arrived on the scene of the torpedoing of the American steamer JOHN A. JOHNSON, which was torpedoed and sunk by a large enemy submarine, approximately 930 miles northeast of PEARL HARBOR, on 29 October, at 9:05 p.m. The PHILIP reports that the U.S.S. ARGUS (PY-14) has rescued sixty of the crew of the JOHNSON, out of a total complement of 71. The missing eleven were occupants of a life boat which the submarine strafed and rammed and they are believed to be killed. The ARGUS is proceeding to SAN FRANCISCO with the survivors.

During the night of 27-28 October, motor torpedo boats 523 and 526 were attacked by four enemy dive bombers in the SAN JUANICO CHANNEL, between LEYTE and SAMAR, and eight people were killed and nine wounded in the 523. Both boats were seriously damaged. The motor torpedo boat 132, during the night of 26-27 October, received a near-miss from an enemy plane off northern MINDANAO, and 21 were killed and 5 wounded on the ship. During the nights of 26-27 and 27-28 October, motor torpedo boats have been performing various rescue missions in the LEYTE AREA. They also sank two luggers loaded with personnel in ORMOG BAY and also sank two fuel barges off MINDANAO.

// Commander Task Force 77 reports that during 1 November his combatant ships in LEYTE GULF were under two heavy enemy air attacks. One destroyer was sunk and three damaged.

COMINGH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



~~TOP SECRET~~
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9 a.m. 1 November 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A report from Admiral Nimitz, covering a recapitulation of enemy aircraft losses destroyed by Pacific Fleet carrier aircraft from 30 August - 31 October, as reported by the 3rd and 7th Fleets, indicates:

Planes shot down in air	- 1462
Planes destroyed on ground	- 1132
Planes probably destroyed or damaged	- 2594
	- 252

Our losses during this period were approximately 300 carrier planes, with pilot and air crew losses considerably less, because of rescue operations.

The enemy suffered its greatest air losses during the following periods:

9-24 September - in PHILIPPINES by 3rd Fleet:

Planes shot down	- 362
Planes destroyed on ground	- 584

10-16 October - in NANSEI SHOTO ISLANDS - PHILIPPINES and FORMOSA by 3rd Fleet:

Planes shot down	- 528
Planes destroyed on ground	- 304
Planes damaged	- 59

17-18 October - in PHILIPPINES by 3rd Fleet:

Planes shot down	- 55
Planes destroyed on ground	- 31
Planes damaged	- 55

22-27 October - in Second Battle PHILIPPINES SEA by 3rd and 7th Fleets:

Planes shot down	- 392
Planes destroyed on ground	- 31
Planes damaged	- 20

It is reported that the U.S.S. SALMON (SS-182) cannot dive because of damage inflicted by enemy gunfire, however she is able to proceed on the surface. Friendly ships are standing by to assist her.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



4 p.m. 31 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 30 October, around noon, Army aircraft bombed DUBLON ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL. Two large explosions were seen in the target area, emitting thick smoke. Other hits were made on two piers west of the officers' quarters, other hits in the officers' quarters, and additional bursts in other parts of the target area. An enemy plane followed the flight for about 30 minutes at 3,000 yards, but did not attack. The AA fire was below the formation.

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TOP SECRET

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9 a.m. 31 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

JS. 4

(5) The U.S.S. FRANKLIN (CV-13) and the U.S.S. BELLEAU WOOD (CVL-24), have been damaged in battle. The FRANKLIN has a forty foot hole in her flight deck and much wreckage in her hangar. The BELLEAU WOOD has a 12 foot hole in her flight deck aft. Both ships are being repaired.

(3) The U.S.S. TRIGGER (SS-237), on a war patrol off the SOUTHWESTERN ISLANDS, JAPANESE EMPIRE, reports that on the afternoon of 30 October, she blew the stern off a very large tanker. It is indicated that the U.S.S. STERLET (SS-392), also hit the same target with four torpedoes, but no mention is made as to the eventual disposition of the tanker.

(4) It is now indicated that the survivors seen in the water, some 930 miles northeast of PEARL HARBOR by a commercial plane on 30 October, were from the SS JOHN A JOHNSON of the American Lines. This ship had a complement of 71 officers and men and 58 of them have been picked up. The ship was torpedoed on 29 October about 9:05 p.m. The torpedo hit forward, creating a fire which caused ammunition to explode. The submarine shelled the ship and her life boats. The captain of the JOHNSON states that 13 men in one life boat were killed by the submarine's machine gunfire. It is stated that among the 58 rescued some are wounded. The U.S.S. PHILIP (DD-498) is alongside the U.S.S. ARGUS (PY-14), which ship was first on the scene of the disaster. A search is being conducted for further survivors.

() PT boats strafed and shelled shore targets along Northern CHOISEUL, Northeastern NEW IRELAND and GAZELLE PENINSULA, night of 28 October.

(2) The H.N.M.S. ZWAARDVISCH returning from her first war patrol in the SOUTHWEST PACIFIC reports as follows:

- 4 October - Sank a 500 ton oil-laden sea truck by gunfire.
- 6 October - Sank a German U-boat of the KREUNER type of 1200 A² tons, and picked up 27 survivors, including the captain and three other officers.
- 10 October - Sank a 300 ton sea truck by gunfire.
- 15 October - Sank a 2,000 ton armed enemy freighter with torpedoes and gunfire.
- 17 October - Sank an enemy minelayer of the ITOYUKUSHIMA class of 3,500 tons. Damaged another CM of the same class.

The total tons sunk for the patrol was 7500 tons. Damaged inflicted, total 3500 tons.

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4 p.m. 30 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

From an additional report, it is learned that T.G. 38.2 shot down a total of 65 planes during operations on 29 October. 12 enemy planes were destroyed on the ground at the various fields, plus several more at NICHOLS FIELD. The heavy cruiser previously reported damaged near CAVITE was probably sunk. Another cruiser was damaged near MANILA BAY. Considerable damage was inflicted upon shore installations.

The correct casualties on the INTREPID caused by a Jap suicide dive are 10 killed, 6 wounded.

Due to bad weather, many of T.G. 38.2's planes were forced to return after dark and several made water landings because of gas shortage. Operationally, we lost 27 planes.

On 28 and 29 October, T.G. 38.4 shot down 15 enemy fighters and destroyed 3 coastal AK's near CEBU CITY. The task group lost four fighters in combat and six operationally.

The destroyer HUTCHINS (DD-476) sustained damage when she collided with an uncharted wreck off TACLOBAN, LEYTE, on 25 October. The damage was satisfactorily repaired by the ship's force.

The submarine HARDER returned from patrol after sinking one 1200-ton destroyer and assisting in the sinking of a small transport for which she was credited 1,000 tons; total sunk - 3,200 tons.

On 29 October, 10 enemy Naval vessels, one of which was possibly a light cruiser and several small craft were bombed in the harbor of CHICHIJIMA by 19 Army Liberators. No direct hits were made and no amplifying report of the damage inflicted has been mentioned. The enemy's flak damaged three of our planes.

Ten enemy barges in the harbor of HAHAJIMA were bombed by a Liberator, but no hits were made.

The airfield at YAP and its AA positions were hit by an Army Liberator on 28 and 29 October. The enemy's AA fire was meager and inaccurate.

On 30 October, at 3:00 a.m., an American commercial plane reports that she observed a surfaced submarine about 930 miles northeast of PEARL HARBOR. The plane further states that survivors, one of whom was wounded, from two ships were in a bullet-ridden lifeboat in the vicinity. A destroyer has been ordered to the scene.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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9 a.m. 30 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The hospital ship **COMFORT** was sighted undamaged after undergoing an enemy air attack on 24 October, 220 miles southeast of **LEYTE**. (Reported in morning summary, 26 October).

Motor torpedo boats sank 10 troop-laden barges and two coastal vessels in **ORMOC BAY**, western **LEYTE ISLAND**, during the night of 27 October. Upwards of 26 enemy planes were shot down during raids on **TACLOBAN**, 27-28 October.

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9 a.m. 30 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A communique released by CinCPac informs that the following damage was inflicted upon the Japanese fleet during the period 22-28 October. It should be noted that these results are still subject to revision as more information is received:

<u>SUNK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
2 BB	7 BB (one possibly sunk)
4 carriers	7 CA
6 CA	3 CL
3 CL	17 DD
3 CL or DD	
6 DD	

From a preliminary report, it is learned that Task Force 38.2, on an early morning sweep and two strikes against MANILA and the SOUTHERN LUZON AREA, on 29 October, shot down 33 Jap interceptors, mainly over CLARK FIELD and started a number of fires in the dispersal area. In addition, two hits were scored on a heavy cruiser near CAVITE and one hit on a tanker.

Twelve enemy planes were destroyed in the vicinity of Task Force 38.2's operating area. Two of the enemy dive bombers made suicide dives against the force, one striking a 20 mm gallery on the INTREPID. Six of the ship's personnel were killed and 10 others seriously injured. Minor damage was sustained by the vessel.

At 12:30 p.m., 28 October, the HEIM (DD-388) sank a Japanese submarine 145 miles northeast of CAPE ESPIRITU SANTO, SAMAR.

Strikes 26 October:

Venturas bombed WOTJE.

Strikes 27 October:

15 Mitchells dropped bombs on NAURU airfield installations. A number of large fires were started. AA fire encountered was meager and inaccurate.

Strikes 28 October:

23 Dauntless bombed MILIE bivouac area, started a small fire. No AA fire was encountered.

16 Dauntless and 35 Corsairs hit JALUIT. Light, medium and accurate AA fire caused minor damage to two Corsairs.

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9 a.m. 29 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The British submarine SEACROW, under our operational command, returned from patrol of the SOUTH CHINA SEA and reported sinking two miscellaneous vessels totalling 200 tons.

A revised list of survivors from the PRINCETON, shows 123 officers and 1189 enlisted men were rescued.

Information received indicates that the light cruiser BIRMINGHAM, damaged by the PRINCETON explosion on 24 October, suffered 236 dead, 6 missing and about 400 wounded.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 29 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 5:00 p.m., 28 October, CTF 77, reported that enemy air activity still continues over the LEYTE GULF area. Upwards of 50 Jap planes were over the area during the day.

Commencing at dusk, 27 October, enemy fliers made suicide attacks against our battleship and cruiser force. Dive bombers made two suicide dives against the cruiser LOUISVILLE. By evasive action the LOUISVILLE avoided both dives, although near-misses killed one and injured eleven of the personnel.

An enemy float plane was shot down while attempting a crash dive on the CALIFORNIA's bridge. The plane caused damage to a radar guide pole and crashed 50 yards away.

At dawn, 28 October, an enemy plane crashed alongside the DENVER, causing damage to a compartment.

At dusk, 28 October, enemy planes directed their attacks against CVE's with unreported results. Throughout the day, 17 enemy planes were shot down by our fighters. In addition, 20 enemy barges were strafed and many of them set on fire.

A report received from CTF 38, based on the best estimate available, relative to the composition of the Japanese force attacked by Task Force 38 on 25 October, off Northern LUZON, indicates as follows:

4 enemy carriers, 2 BB's, 1 CA, 4 CL, 6 DD, were identified. Task Force 38 definitely sank all four carriers, one cruiser or destroyer and one destroyer. One light cruiser was reported as probably sunk, two BB/XCV, one CA, two CL, two DD, as damaged. Twenty-one enemy planes were shot down. We lost ten planes, eight pilots and 10 air crewmen by Japanese antiaircraft fire.

On 27 October, 4 Venturas dropped bombs on MOTJE, through meager AA fire.

On 28 October, 17 Corsairs bombed JALUIT. Later, the area was attacked by 21 Corsairs, dropping napalm. Two large fires were observed. AA fire slightly damaged four Corsairs.

The submarine HALIBUT scored five hits and possibly sank a Yamashiro class battleship, 115 miles Southwest of TAKAO KO, FORMOSA.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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9 a.m. 28 October 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

The submarine HOE returned from patrol of the PHILIPPINES and reported as follows:

Sunk

2 AK, 7,500 tons each - total 15,000 tons

Damaged

3 AK, 4,000 tons each	12,000 tons
1 escort vessel	500 tons
	total 12,500 tons

The submarine BAYA returned from patrol of the SOUTH CHINA SEA after sinking one AK of 7,500 tons.

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9 a.m. 28 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

The following report was received from the Commander of the Third Fleet of action on 26 and 27 October. The first sighting on 26 October of the enemy main body off east MINDORO consisted of 4 BB, 3 CA, 3 CL, 10 DD. One damaged CA and 1 DD were sighted near MASEATE and two destroyers off north CEBU. A damaged cruiser was sighted south-west of MARINDUQUE ISLAND, SIBUYAN SEA.

T.G. 38.1 and T.G. 38.2, in strikes against these units, sank one CL, probably sank one CA and damaged 3 BB, one CA, 2 CL and 5 DD. In addition, a large CV was sunk east of PANAY. It was believed that this carrier was previously reported as an Ise class BB. In addition, 15 enemy aircraft were shot down and 15 destroyed on the ground. We lost 10 planes in combat and seven operationally.

A preliminary report indicates that T.G. 38.3 and T.G. 38.4, on 27 October, damaged and possibly sank a CA south of MINDORO. Damaged two DD's, one of which was beached. In addition, an unknown number of enemy planes were destroyed.

During 26 October, a CVE covering group, despite battle losses, suffered on the preceding day, continued to cover the LEYTE AREA, launched strikes against enemy units in the CAMOTES SEA, sank one DD and damaged one CL.

At about 11 a.m., 26 October, our escort carriers were attacked by enemy planes. Four of about eight enemy planes were shot down and three more by ships' gunfire. The SUWANEE (CVE) was struck by a suicide dive, which caused severe damage to the ship and planes. Personnel casualties have not been determined.

The Commander of the 7th Fleet reported that of the enemy force which attempted to enter into LEYTE GULF and SURIGAO STRAIT (2 BB, 2 CA, 2 CL and 10 DD), only one CA, one CL and 4 DD got out the way they came in. Two BB, 1 CA, 1 CL and 6 DD were definitely sunk by the combined torpedo attack of our PT's and destroyers, plus the gunfire of our battle-ships and cruisers. The remaining enemy CA, CL and DD's were subjected to heavy air attacks the following morning and were reported as being badly damaged and probably sank.

On 27 October, a recon plane dropped bombs on YAP with unobserved results.

During 27 October, 15 Mitchells bombed NAURU airfield and other installations. A number of large fires were started.

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FROM: [illegible]
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UNITED STATES FLEET
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 27 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The Commander of the THIRD FLEET reports that light forces of Task Group 34.5 sank one enemy cruiser or large destroyer, 30 miles north-west of CAPE ESPIRITU SANTO, SAMAR, at 1:45 a.m., 25 October.

No word has been received of intended strikes on 26 October by Task Group 38.1 and 38.2 against the enemy force retiring through the SIBUYAN SEA and towards PALAWAN.

On 25 October, 29 Army Liberators struck IWO JIMA airfield and installations through meager AA fire. On the same day, 2 Liberators dropped bombs on YAP airfield and shoreline installations.

The PAGAN personnel area was attacked by 8 Army Thunderbolts on 25 October.

The BRITISH submarine STURDY, operating under our control, returned from patrol of the MOLUCCA SEA, after sinking 1800 tons of miscellaneous enemy shipping.

The submarine BURRFISH probably sank an enemy freighter in the EAST CHINA SEA on 26 October.

The submarine SEAFX sank a medium freighter on 25 October in the BONIN ISLAND area.

The submarine BAYA returned from patrol of the SOUTH CHINA SEA after sinking one large freighter of 7,500 tons.

The submarine FLASHER returned from patrol west of the PHILIPPINES and reported as follows:

SANK

1 large AK	7,500 tons
1 med. AP	7,500 tons
2 med. AK's	4,000 each
	23,000 tons

DAMAGED

1 unidentified ves. 4,000 tons

COMINGH FILE

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DATE 02-10-2000
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 26 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

damaged but able to proceed. Numerous PT's damaged and one sunk.

Throughout 24 October, CVE's, covering the LEYTE AREA, were under heavy shore-based enemy air attacks. During the mid-morning, an enemy force, estimated as four BB, 7 CA, 2 CL, and 12 DD, joined in the attack against our CV's but was turned back by repeated strikes from our escort carriers, and supported during the afternoon by Task Group 38.1. By late afternoon, the enemy was in full retreat.

The following estimated damage has been inflicted upon the enemy: One CA sunk, one DD probably sunk, 3 BB, 3 CA, and one DD damaged. Our damage reports are not complete, but considerable damage was sustained by 2 escort carrier groups.

On 22 October, 22 Japanese planes were shot down by escort carrier-based planes over the VISAYAS. Another six were destroyed on the following day.

The submarine HALIBUT reported scoring 5 torpedo hits on an enemy BB, which possibly sank 280 miles northeast of CAPE ENGANO, LUZON.

The hospital ship COMFORT was attacked by enemy aircraft at 2:15 a.m., 24 October, 220 miles southeast of LEYTE. No report has been received from the vessel since her first urgent message.

At LEYTE, enemy dusk and dawn harassing air attacks continued. A two-hour air attack, during the morning of 24 October, slightly damaged the salvaged vessel PRESERVER (ARS-8).

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 26 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

At 3:40 p.m., a search plane from Task Group 38.3 sighted an enemy group east of CAPE ENGANO, northeast LUZON, consisting of 2 Ise class BB, 2 CA, one CL, 6 DD. At 4:40 p.m., another enemy group was sighted about 200 miles east of CAPE ENGANO, northeast LUZON, consisting of 2 CV, 1 CVL, 3 CL, 3 DD. Three of our task groups were concentrated for an early morning attack against the enemy carrier force, east of LUZON.

When our carrier planes struck the targets, enemy air opposition was negligible. Our surface units were not attacked. As a result of our strike, one carrier of undetermined type exploded and sank, one CV and one CVL were struck by torpedoes and three bombs each, and one CL was badly damaged.

After the second strike, Task Force 34 and Task Group 38.2 departed for LEYTE in response to a request for assistance from Task Force 77. Task Group 38.3 and 38.4 remained in the area to continue afternoon air strikes and night surface attacks against the enemy cripples. They succeeded in sinking 1 CVL and 1 large DD or CL of the enemy cripples.

On 25 October, Task Group 38.1 scored at least one bomb hit on each of 2 BB's, 2 CA, 1 CL or DD, 40 miles east of CAPE ESPIRITU SANTO, SAMAR. One heavy cruiser was seen to sink.

At 2:00 a.m., 26 October, ComThird Fleet reported sinking a light or heavy cruiser at an unrecovered position.

At 11:03 p.m. 25 October, the submarine JALLAO sank a Natori type light cruiser 340 miles northeast of CAPE ENGANO, LUZON.

The following action was reported by Task Force 77:

At 11:10 p.m., 24 October, a PT boat sighted 2 large unidentified enemy ships and 3 DD's, ten miles southeast of BOHOL ISLAND, heading towards SURIGAO STRAITS.

Although complete details of subsequent action are not available, it was reported that the enemy advanced in two groups. The first group reported as 2 BB's, one or two CA's and one DD. The second group, two large and about 5 smaller ships.

Our light forces attacked the enemy and sank at least eight various type ships. At dawn, eight enemy units were seen burning. All of these were sunk by gunfire and torpedoes. The remainder of the enemy vessels which escaped retreated westward and were subjected to air attacks. Our forces sustained the following damage: The destroyer ALBERT W. GRANT

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 26 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

At 11:57 a.m., 26 October, Admiral Halsey reported that the pursuit phase of the battle of the WESTERN PACIFIC was now in progress. The enemy SIBUYAN SEA force is under attack by carrier based planes, and Task Group 34.5 is patrolling the area east of SAMAR for enemy cripples.

It is intended to strike the retreating Japanese units in the SULU SEA and WESTERN VISAYAS. In addition, our submarines have been alerted to intercept any escaping enemy vessels.

Although a chronology of events of the WESTERN PACIFIC battle has been forwarded, the following resume is submitted:

At dawn, 24 October, the Commander of the Third Fleet launched a search by three task groups across LUZON and the VISAYAS.

At 7:45 a.m., a search plane contacted an enemy force composed of 4 BB, 8 CA, 2 CL and 13 DD, 15 miles south of MINDORO. Upon the receipt of this information, Task Group 38.2 immediately launched a strike which was repeated during the day. Task Group 38.3 and 38.4 struck this same enemy force after initial strikes on other targets.

After the first strike, Task Group 38.3 was heavily attacked by shore-based enemy planes. 150 of the enemy planes were shot down, but the light aircraft carrier PRINCETON sustained heavy damage. Subsequently, because of heavy damage caused by a magazine explosion, and because of the tactical situation, the PRINCETON was scuttled. The BIRMINGHAM, alongside of the PRINCETON, suffered personnel casualties and damage.

Task Group 38.4 first struck the enemy force southeast of NEGROS, consisting of two Fuso class BB, one CA, 4 DD, scored two bomb hits on the battleships, rocket hits on the CA and 2 DD's. The remaining two DD's were heavily strafed. However, none of the vessels attacked were seen to sink.

At about 2 p.m., the main enemy body, while under attack, reversed course to the west when 30 miles east of TABLAS ISLAND. The following results of the foregoing attacks are based on incomplete reports:

One Yamato class BB bombed, torpedoed, left afire and down at bow. One Congo class BB - 2 bomb hits, left smoking and apparently badly damaged. Bomb hits on one or both remaining BB's. Two torpedo hits on one of these bombed battleships. One CL torpedoed and capsized. Torpedo hits on 2 CA and bomb hit on another CA.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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OSD Letter 6

9 a.m. 25 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Sufficient reports have not been received to clearly picture the engagement and its results of the Eastern PHILIPPINES. However, from preliminary reports, the following is the general situation:

On 24 October, searches from carrier planes of THIRD FLEET located two enemy forces headed eastward through the PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO. The first force, consisting of three or four battleships, ten cruisers and about thirteen destroyers, was sighted south of MINDORO, and later moved eastward through the SIBUYAN SEA. It was attacked repeatedly by carrier aircraft and incomplete reports indicate that all battleships were damaged by bombs, at least one was hit by a torpedo and one cruiser was torpedoed.

The second enemy force sighted in the SULU SEA, southwest of the NEGROS ISLAND, consisted of two battleships, one cruiser and four destroyers. Both battleships were damaged by bombs and the light units were strafed.

At about 2:00 a.m., 25 October, PT's sighted an enemy force of two battleships, three cruisers and destroyers at the entrance to the GULF of LEYTE, apparently these units were engaged by our light surface forces, and at 5:00 a.m., 25 October, it was reported that the enemy vessels in SURIGAO STRAITS were retiring, pursued by our light forces.

It may be that the enemy force attacked by our light units was one of those or a combination of both forces attacked by our carrier planes in the SIBUYAN SEA and in the SULU SEA, southwest of NEGROS ISLAND. Later, it was reported that about eight or ten of the enemy units were sunk.

At about this time, a number of our CVE's, reported being under attack by Japanese battleships and cruisers, 80 miles northeast of HOMONHON ISLAND. The Commander of the THIRD FLEET, located to the northward and attempting to intercept a Jap carrier force, despatched Task Force 38.1, which included five carriers to the assistance of the CVE's under attack. A number of our fast heavy units were also despatched. The results of this engagement are not available at this time.

During this time, a third battle was in progress about 210 miles east of LUZON, where the THIRD FLEET, with four carrier task forces engaged an enemy carrier force in two groups, consisting of 2 ISE class BB's, 2 CA's, 1 CL, 6 DD and 2 CV, 1 CVL, 3 CL, 3 DD. It was reported that one enemy CV was sunk and two were dead in the water.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



TOP SECRET

TO: SECRETARY

FROM: LECTURE

9 a.m. 25 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During an action on 24 October, a strong force of enemy shore based aircraft attacked Task Force 38.3 and succeeded in seriously damaging the U.S.S. PRINCETON (CVL-23).

Later, the light cruiser BIRMINGHAM came alongside to assist the PRINCETON when a magazine explosion occurred aboard the carrier, causing her to sink and damaged the BIRMINGHAM. There are 134 officers, including the Captain, and 1,227 survivors of the PRINCETON. The BIRMINGHAM lost 150 dead, 400 wounded, including the commanding officer.

The destroyer MORRISON also sustained damage, lost her foremast and had her port side smashed. The destroyer IRWIN had her starboard side smashed and her forward gun mounts damaged.

Although it has not been definitely ascertained, apparently the IRWIN and the MORRISON were alongside, assisting the PRINCETON.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 25 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional information has been received with respect to the enemy strike against our shipping at 7:50 a.m., 24 October, in LEYTE GULF.

An estimated 40 enemy planes, apparently all shore based, attacked our shipping. Our patrolling aircraft shot down between 15 to 25 of the enemy planes. In addition, a number of the enemy planes were shot down by ship's gunfire. One of our Liberty ships sustained damage, one LCI was set on fire and one DD sustained minor damage from a strafing attack.

The following additional strikes by CINCPAC aircraft on 22 October have been reported:

8 Marine Corsairs bombed YAP runway and revetment area, destroying four grounded enemy aircraft.

8 Army Liberators started fires on YAP airfield and town area.

Corsairs operated in support of Army ground forces on PELELIU.

The following strikes were reported by CINCPAC aircraft on 23 October:

Three Liberators bombed YAP.

The submarine SNOK sank three AK's and probably sank another in the LUZON STRAITS on 24 October.

The submarine VECUNA returned from patrol of the area southwest of PORMOGA and reported as follows:

<u>SUNK</u>		<u>DAMAGED</u>	
2 AO	5,000 tons each	1 AO	5,000 tons
	10,000 tons	1 AP	7,500 tons
		1 AK	4,000 tons
			16,500 tons

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



4 p.m. 24 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Carrier Task Groups, supporting the LEYTE landings on 20 October, attacked land targets on PANAY and CEBU, shot down six enemy planes, destroyed four barracks, one warehouse, seven luggers. On LEYTE, buildings, fuel dumps, gun emplacements and trucks were attacked and destroyed.

An air attack on 21 October against our transports leaving the PANAOH AREA was driven off by carrier-based planes.

The submarine GUAVINA returned from patrol of the PHILIPPINES after sinking, by gunfire, two small coastal freighters of 500 tons each off SARANGANI BAY and one 2,000 ton mine layer.

The battleship TENNESSEE and the troop transport WAR HAWK (AP-168), operating in the LEYTE GULF AREA, were in collision on an unreported date, and both ships sustained minor damage.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 24 October 1944.

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REF ID: A672
PHILIPPINES

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 9:05 a.m., 24 October, 2 BB, 1 CA, 4 DD, were reported sighted about 70 miles Southwest of NEGROS. Two bomb hits were reported on each of the BB's. Rocket hits were scored on the cruiser and two of the destroyers.

An enemy force estimated to be 2 BB, 4 CA, 4 CL, 10 DD, was reported under attack by our carrier planes in the EASTERN SULU SEA at 9:10 a.m., 24 October. Other Japanese units have been sighted in the general area South of MINDORO and the enemy may be attempting to reinforce his garrisons or strike our shipping at LEYTE. No further information is available at this time.

It has been reported that our advance on LEYTE is continuing against spotty resistance from enemy strong points at TACLOBAN and DULAG. TACLOBAN and DULAG air strips have been captured by our troops and unloading and returning of echelons is proceeding on schedule.

At 7:50 a.m., 24 October, a large number of enemy planes, including fighters, bombers and observation aircraft, attacked our shipping in LEYTE GULF, causing minor damage.

Our fighters effectively intercepted. Results of the engagement are not available at this time.

The following strikes by CINCPAC aircraft on 23 October have been reported:

14 Mitchells bombed NAURU AA positions. Meager and inaccurate AA fire was encountered.

38 Dauntless and 17 Corsairs bombed AA positions at JALUIT. Two Dauntless sustained damage from light and meager AA fire.

WOTVE installations were bombed by 15 Marine Dauntless.

During the evening of 17 October, YMS-70, while engaged in sweeping LEYTE GULF was abandoned by her crew after heavy seas and near typhoon weather caused uncontrolled flooding. All of the crew was rescued the following morning. The vessel has not been sighted since and is presumed to have sunk.

The submarine HAWKBILL, returned from patrol of the FORMOSA AREA, with the following results:

	<u>SUNK</u>		<u>DAMAGED</u>	
1 large AK	7,500 tons	1 med. AK	4,000 tons	
1 med. AK	4,000 tons	1 large AK	7,500 tons	
	11,500 tons		11,500 tons	

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



4 p.m. 23 October 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

At 5:30 a.m., 23 October, the U. S. submarine DARTER sank one Atago-class cruiser (9,850 tons) and scored four hits on another of the same class about 75 miles west of PALAWAN.

In approximately the same position, at 6:00 a.m., 23 October, the submarine DACE scored four torpedo hits on a Kongo-class battleship. The battleship was believed to have sunk.

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TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10-13-72
BY 1045

9 a.m. 23 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Operations at LEYTE are proceeding on schedule with extremely light losses. Heavy mortar fire has been encountered but no heavy shore guns have been located.

The northern area at LEYTE was bombarded by 3 OBB, 2 CA, 2 CL and 19 DD. The southern area was hit by 3 OBB, 2 CL, 3 CA and 13 DD.

Carrier planes, supporting the operation, sank a 5000 ton oiler, a small destroyer tender, 3 PT's, 6 barges and damaged other enemy shipping. In addition, 13 grounded enemy planes at CEBU and LEYTE were destroyed.

The destroyer transport GOLDSBOROUGH (APD-32) sustained slight damage when a shell struck one of her stacks.

The following strikes by CINCPAC aircraft on 20 October, have been reported:

A Liberator dropped bombs on IWO JIMA with negative results.

Marine Corsairs bombed installations on BABELTHUAP ISLAND.

The following strikes by CINCPAC aircraft on 21 October, have been reported:

Airfield and other installations at IWO JIMA were bombed by 28 Liberators. Our bombers destroyed 2 of 8 intercepting enemy fighters, probably shot down one and damaged another. Sixteen escorting Thunderbolts shot down one enemy plane. We lost one Liberator. AA fire encountered was moderate with varied accuracy.

Twelve Corsairs, supporting ground operations, bombed enemy positions on PELELIU. Two Army Liberators dropped bombs on YAP ISLAND.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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9 a.m. 22 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional strikes by CINCPAC aircraft on 18 October, have been reported:

Marine Corsairs bombed and strafed the airfield at YAP and set on fire two grounded enemy aircraft.

The runway and other installations on ROTA were strafed by 2 night-flying Hellcats.

On 19 October, 4 Army Liberators bombed installations on YAP ISLAND.

A reconnaissance plane on 21 October, dropped bombs on gun emplacements, south of YAP TOWN, YAP ISLAND, with unobserved results.

The submarine SEADRAGON, operating in the Western Pacific, reported scoring two torpedo hits on an enemy carrier. Further information is not available at this time.

The escort carrier SANGAMON (CVE-26), operating in the LEYTE GULF area, sustained slight damage from a small bomb hit.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



4 p.m. 21 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Further information received relative to the U. S. destroyer ROSS (DD-563), which struck two mines on 19 October, indicates that both firerooms have been flooded to the waterline. Her stability is reported good with the list corrected to five degrees. The ROSS was later attacked by a plane and a near-miss caused several holes. Twenty-three of the personnel are killed or missing and nine injured.

The heavy Australian cruiser, AUSTRALIA, operating in the LEYTE GULF AREA, sustained a hit on her bridge during a dawn attack on 21 October. One officer was killed. Commodore Collins, the commanding officer, the navigating officer, plus four others were seriously injured. The bridge is out of commission and the vessel is using emergency steering. Further details are not available at this time.

During dawn sweeps and first strikes, on 21 October, by Task Groups 38.2 and 38.3, against the VISAYAS, the following results were achieved: One previously damaged AK, one coastal AK, one 100-foot escort vessel, four PT were sunk and an unreported number of ammunition barges destroyed. Two medium AK, 2 luggers were damaged. Thirteen enemy aircraft were shot down and 37 destroyed on the ground. A number of the grounded planes had been previously damaged. We lost three planes.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 21 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On LEYTE our troops were reported generally 1,000 to 1,400 yards inland, with resistance fairly light.

At 9:30 a.m., 20 October, U. S. Army troops landed at the north end of PANACON ISLAND, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Enemy opposition was reported light.

During the LEYTE landing operations, enemy mortar fire damaged a number of our LST's and landing craft. One LCVF was sunk. Further information is not available at this time.

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At 4:03 p.m., 20 September, the light cruiser HONOLULU (CL-48), operating in LEYTE GULF, was struck and damaged on the port side amidships by a Japanese aerial torpedo. The vessel was reported down four feet by the bow, but on an even keel. It is estimated that the HONOLULU will be able to proceed to the nearest repair port on 21 October.

On 20 October, planes of Task Group 38.4 swept over LEYTE and the NEGROS ISLANDS. One enemy plane was shot down and five grounded planes strafed at ELEU FIELD. Installations at SAN PABLO and DULAG were bombed. We lost one fighter plane in combat.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/78
BY SP-6 LST/BJ

4 p.m. 20 October 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

The following strikes on 18 October by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

13 Mitchells hit NAURU AA positions and runways. Moderate and accurate AA fire was encountered.

12 Corsairs attacked PONAPE runways, storage areas and AA positions. 2 small fires were observed in the storage areas.

16 Corsairs bombed and strafed WOTJE. No AA fire was encountered.

12 Corsairs attacked targets at JALUIT, starting a small explosion and a large fire. Two Corsairs sustained minor damage from intense and accurate AA fire.

Thunderbolts bombed and strafed the stores area at PAGAN.

19 Liberators struck enemy shipping in the vicinity of HAHAJIMA, scored 2 direct hits on an oiler and one on a large freighter. AA fire damaged 3 Liberators.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

4 p.m. 20 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

A later and final report of the 19 October strike on the MANILA BAY Area by Task Group 38.4 indicates the following results:

<u>Enemy Surface Units</u>		<u>Airborne Enemy Aircraft</u>		
<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
1 AO	5 small AK 6 medium AK 1 large AK 2 large AP 1 medium AP 1 medium AO 1 AO	3	-	-

<u>Grounded Enemy Planes</u>			<u>Own Aircraft Losses</u>	
<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Combat</u>	<u>Operational</u>
(Not reported)			(Not reported)	

The foregoing tabulation supersedes the 19 October Task Group 38.4 report mentioned in this morning's summary.

On 18 October, aircraft of Task Group 38.2 (2 CV, 2 CVL, 2 BB, 5 CL, 17 DD) attacked NORTHERN LUZON AREA with the following results:

<u>Enemy Surface Units</u>			<u>AIRBORNE ENEMY AIRCRAFT</u>		
<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Probably Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
2 large AP 2 medium AP 1 PC	1 landing ship 1 coastal AK 2 luggers	1 AP 1 DE 2 medium AK 3 small AK 17 coastal AK 1 landing ship 28 small craft 1 small AO	1	(Not reported)	

<u>Grounded Enemy Planes</u>			<u>Own Aircraft Losses</u>	
<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Combat</u>	<u>Operational</u>
21	(not reported)		(not reported)	

The following additional strikes by CinCPac aircraft on 17 October have been reported:

Eight Avengers scored hits and damaged piers at MILLB.

A Liberator dropped bombs on the airfield area at IWOJIMA.

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

9 a.m. 20 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 18 October, aircraft of Task Group 38.1 (2 CV, 2 CVL, 3 CA, 11 DD) attacked the MANILA AREA, LUZON ISLAND, with the following results:

ENEMY SURFACE UNITS			AIRBORNE ENEMY A/C		
<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>		<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
None	None		Unknown	1 VF	Unknown
GROUNDED ENEMY PLANES			OWN A/C LOSSES		
<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Combat</u>		<u>Operational</u>
Upwards of 15	None	4 VF	2 VF		2 VF

Installations at MABALACAT and CLARK airfield were damaged.

The following day, the same task group again swept over the MANILA AREA with the following results:

ENEMY SURFACE UNITS			AIRBORNE ENEMY A/C		
<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>		<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
None	1 medium AK		None	None	None
GROUNDED ENEMY PLANES			OWN A/C LOSSES		
<u>Destroyed or Probably Destroyed</u>			<u>Combat</u>		<u>Operational</u>
22			3 VT		-
			1 VB		

Barracks, hangars and other installations at CLARK and NICHOLS airfields were destroyed or damaged.

On 19 October, aircraft of Task Group 38.4 (2 CV, 2 CVL, 1 CA, 1 CL, 12 DD) struck the MANILA AREA, LUZON ISLAND, with the following results:

ENEMY SURFACE UNITS			AIRBORNE ENEMY A/C		
<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>		<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
1 AO	2 large AK		4	1	None
	6 medium AK				
	4 small AK				
	2 large AP				
	1 medium AP				
	2 AO				

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



4 p.m. 19 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 18 October, aircraft of Task Group 38.4 (Rear Admiral Davison), composed of the CV's FRANKLIN and ENTERPRISE, CVL's BELLEAU WOOD and SAN JACINTO, the CA NEW ORLEANS, CL BILOXI and 12 DD's, struck the MANILA AREA, LUZON, with the following results:

<u>ENEMY SURFACE UNITS</u>		<u>AIRBORNE ENEMY AIRCRAFT</u>		
<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Sunk or Damaged</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
1 floating dry dock	6 large and medium AK	30 single engine planes	2 single-engine planes	3 single-engine planes
4 medium AK				
1 AO	1 large AO	1 twin-engine plane		
		<u>GROUNDING ENEMY PLANES</u>		
		<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably Destroyed</u>	
		About 15	About 20	

In addition, a large fuel tank at CLARK FIELD was destroyed and a number of hangars and small buildings damaged.

At about 1:35 a.m., 19 October, the U. S. destroyer ROSS (DD-563) struck two mines in the GULF of LEYTE, PHILIPPINES. The vessel sustained extensive damage, took a 14 degree list and is unable to operate under her own power. The prospects for salvage are reported as good.

On 19 October, a reconnaissance plane dropped bombs with unobserved results on gun emplacements south of YAP TOWN, YAP ISLAND. Meager and inaccurate AA fire was encountered.

During 18 October, NORTHERN SOLOMONS air and surface units made regular strikes on targets of opportunity.

On 17 October, a PB4Y probably damaged one of two enemy PT boats in TOLI TOLI BAY, northwest CELEBES.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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TOP SECRET
REF ID: A6678
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9 a.m. 18 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

It is stated that an air strike on 13 October by Task Group 38.1 (Vice Admiral McCain) destroyed an 80-foot patrol boat off the Northern tip of SAETANG ISLAND, as also five single-engine planes on BASCO FIELD, BATAN ISLAND, Southeast LUZON, PHILIPPINES.

On 14 October, 15 Army Liberators bombed the NORTH MOEN airfield on TRUK. An interception was attempted by three unaggressive single-engine enemy fighters.

On 15 October, just before dawn, an Army Liberator struck the dispersal area and south airfield on IWO JIMA. There was no AA fire.

Later in the day, IWO JIMA was hit by 27 Army Liberators whose targets were the airfield installations, storage areas and gun positions. The AA fire was moderate. Seven single-engine and one twin-engine enemy fighters aggressively pressed home an interception with phosphorous bombs. It is reported that one of these fighters was probably destroyed with three damaged.

The submarine U.S.S. TILFISH (SS-307), returning from a war patrol in the NORTH PACIFIC area, reports the sinking of three enemy fighters, one patrol craft and one trawler.

During the period 16-17 October, enemy targets on NORTHERN CHOISEUL and EASTERN BOUGAINVILLE were shelled by motor torpedo boats.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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9 a.m. 18 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

After further evaluation but still an incomplete report, Commander, Third Fleet reports the following damage inflicted upon the enemy during the period 10 October through 16 October:

Enemy planes shot down (By aircraft in vicinity of surface forces)	- 256
Enemy planes shot down by ships AA fire	- 40
Enemy planes shot down over targets	- 269
Estimated enemy planes destroyed on ground	- <u>350</u> 915

A revision of the results of Third Fleet's carrier air strikes of 12 October against FORMOSA indicates the following total damage to enemy shipping as reported to this date:

Surface Units		
Sunk	Probably Sunk	Damaged
2 large AK	2 large AK	1 large AK
7 medium AK	6 medium AK	6 medium AK
9 small AK	6 small AK	22 small AK
27 small craft	5 coastal AK	1 large AP
8 subchasers	2 AO	11 subchasers
2 coastal AK	5 subchasers	59 small craft
	1 minesweeper	1 large AO
	4 small escorts	11 coastal AK
	1 AM	

Our total losses for the air strikes of 12 October as of this date are:

PLANE LOSSES

PILOT AND PERSONNEL LOSSES

COMBAT

OPERATIONAL

PILOTS

PERSONNEL

43

5

31

21

Further evaluation indicates that additional damage has been inflicted on railways, airfields, storage facilities, factories and barracks areas.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 17 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 16 October, at 2245, the U.S.S. HESUGO (SS-321) intercepted two heavy Jap cruisers sorting from BUNGO SUIDO, in the EMPIRE. She reports damaging one cruiser and when last observed both cruisers were returning to port. ||

On 15 October, in the afternoon, the airfield at PAGAN was bombed by an Army Liberator.

During the night of 15 October, 2 Liberators attacked WAKE.

On 16 October, Army Thunderbolts strafed and bombed the storage and runway areas on PAGAN ISLAND. A Liberator also bombed the airfield on PAGAN this day.

Marine Corsairs strafed enemy antiaircraft positions and personnel at ROTA, on 16 October.

NGULU ATOLL, 180 miles northeast of PELELIU was captured without enemy resistance on 16 October.

The U.S.S. MINGO (SS-261), returning from a war patrol in the CILIEBES, reports sinking by gunfire on 2 October, 4 armed enemy trawlers totalling 900 tons. ||

During the night of 14-15 October, motor torpedo boats destroyed enemy barges northeast of MOROTAI. Motor torpedo boats from WOENDI strafed the beaches at CAPE SORI and WAREM.

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BY 1045

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 17 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 16 October, Admiral Halsey, commander of the Third Fleet, reports that Japanese fleet units were sighted approaching the area in which Task Group 30.3 (comprised of surface units assigned to escort the crippled U.S.S. HOUSTON (CL-81) and the U.S.S. CANBERRA (CA-70) were steaming, but on discovering that our fighting strength was unimpaired the Jap fleet avoided action and withdrew toward their bases.

Task Group 38.4 (Rear Admiral Davis), while operating near Task Group 30.3, shot down during 14-15 October, 95 out of 151 enemy planes which during day and night had maintained a continuous attack. Our losses during this engagement were five fighters in combat and two fighters operationally.

On 16 October, the U.S.S. CABOT (CVL-28) and U.S.S. COMPENS (CVL-25) which ships were also providing air cover for Task Group 30.3, destroyed in the air, 50 out of 60 enemy planes of all classes in their attempts to finally destroy the "HOUSTON" and "CANBERRA".

On 16 October, patrol planes and the combat air patrols of Task Group 38.2 (Rear Admiral Bogan) and Task Group 38.3 (Rear Admiral Sherman) destroyed 15 enemy planes of different classes.

Further details are now available concerning the results of some of the Third Fleet carrier aircraft attacks on FORMOSA on 12-13-14 October. At TAIWAN, the airfield was hard hit and seven hangars were completely destroyed and five heavily damaged. Several buildings in the barracks area were also destroyed.

At TAKAO, the harbor area received severe damage. Thirty large warehouses along the dock area were completely destroyed; ships were sunk in the harbor; heavy damage was inflicted in the industrial area. The airfield at TAKAO was heavily hit and several adjacent buildings were damaged.

The OKAYAMA airfield and assembly plants, many shops, administrative buildings and hangars were destroyed or damaged.

At HEITO, approximately 15 miles inland from TAKAO, fourteen buildings near the airfield were completely destroyed and eight were heavily damaged. At another airfield near HEITO, five barracks were destroyed.

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

4 p.m. 16 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Late reports to cover the afternoon of 16 October (E.L.T.) indicate that the USS HOUSTON (CL-81) is still being towed despite some difficulty because of a starboard list, which has increased approximately to 10 degrees. At the time of the report, she was making good through the water three knots, with the expectation that that speed might be upped to 3½ knots. All but 200 of her crew have been removed to other ships in the task group. It is stated that no additional attacks by enemy aircraft have been made since the HOUSTON was hit by an enemy bomber whose torpedo hit forward of her starboard catapult. It would appear that the CVL CABOT is in the task group escorting the damaged "HOUSTON", and her combat air patrol is reported to have shot down 9 enemy bombers during the afternoon of 16 October.

On 14 October, fighter aircraft from Task Group 38.4 (Rear Admiral Davison, composed of the CV's FRANKLIN and ENTERPRISE, CVL's BELLEAU WOOD and SAN JACINTO, the CA NEW ORLEANS, CL BILOXI and 12 DD's) struck APARRI, north LUZON, and destroyed on the ground 3 single and 2 twin-engined planes, representing the total operational aircraft observed. The enemy offered no airborne opposition.

This task group, on the morning of 15 October, launched a heavy attack against the airfields in the vicinity of MANILA BAY. Aggressive attacks were made on our aircraft by an estimated total of 50 enemy fighters. With a loss to us of only 2 fighters, it is estimated that 30 to 40 enemy planes were knocked out in the air and 15 to 20 planes destroyed on the ground.

Aircraft from this group also delivered attacks on concentrations of enemy shipping in MANILA HARBOR and SUBIC BAY. The results of these shipping attacks have not been reported.

In the vicinity of the surface ships of this Task Group, 30 enemy planes were shot down. Our ships suffered only superficial damage.

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

9 a.m. 16 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following air strikes were made by CINCPAC aircraft on 13 October:

A Navy seaplane, during the night, bombed NAURU, and possibly damaged a searchlight.

Corsairs from the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, bombed heavy antiaircraft positions and the power plant at JALUIT. The enemy's accurate flak was light and inflicted minor damage on one of our planes. A fuel dump was set on fire on the island.

MILLE was hit by 12 Marine Corsairs whose targets were coastal defense guns. There was no opposition from the enemy.

On 13 October, motor torpedo boats from the NORTH SOLOMONS group, struck at enemy targets on BOUGAINVILLE and NEW IRELAND. Motor torpedo boats from TREASURY ISLAND bombarded CHOISEUL. Other motor torpedo boats strafed the GAZELLE PENINSULA on 12 October.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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

9 a.m. 16 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 13-14 October, strong enemy air counter-attacks were delivered against task force #38 (Vice Admiral Mitscher) of the Third Fleet, operating in the area off FORMOSA. It was during these attacks that the U.S.S. CAMBERRA (CA-70), was torpedoed and taken in tow. During these attacks, 13 enemy aircraft were shot out of the air by our own fighters and seven by antiaircraft fire.

Commencing at dawn, on 14 October, carrier aircraft of the Third Fleet struck against enemy installations on FORMOSA and LUZON. Little air opposition was encountered over the target. Preliminary reports indicate, eleven enemy aircraft were shot down and thirty were destroyed on the ground.

In mid-afternoon of 14 October, our forces were attacked by numerous single and twin-engined enemy planes. The combat air patrol of Task Group 38.2 (Rear Admiral Bogan), shot down 28 of these aircraft and two were destroyed by antiaircraft fire. It is stated that other task groups were also under daylight attacks and that many Jap planes were knocked down, but the total is not known as yet. Our plane losses so far have been light.

During the afternoon attack, 14 October, the U.S.S. RENO (CL-96) was set on fire by an enemy plane which had been shot down by her antiaircraft fire and which ricocheted onto her fantail. The fire was quickly brought under control. In the dusk attack of 14 October, the U.S.S. HOUSTON (CL-81) which was operating with Task Group 38.1, was torpedoed and taken in tow by the U.S.S. BOSTON (CA-69). The "HOUSTON" received a second torpedo in her stern on 16 October. Task Groups 38.2 (Rear Admiral Bogan) and 38.2 (Rear Admiral Sherman), drove off their attacks on 14 October without damage to themselves.

SHERMAN

During 14 October, the 1st Marine Division continued operations against the enemy pocket holding out on PELELIU. Several more caves were sealed off.

The assault and occupation phase of PELELIU and ANGAUR terminated 14 October, at noon.

As of 1800, 14 October, casualties of the 1st Marine Division on PELELIU were: KIA, 842, MIA, 4963, MIA, 126. A total of 294 prisoners have been captured and civilians interned number 13. Enemy killed to-date, 10,447. The casualties of the 81st Infantry Division on ANGAUR were: KIA, 233, MIA, 1664, MIA, 14. Prisoners of war total 11 and civilians interned number 182. Enemy killed to-date on ANGAUR is 1192.

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

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DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10/15/00
BY 1000

9 a.m. 15 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 11 October, northwest of MOROTAI, two beached barges were destroyed by motor torpedo boats. The following night, enemy defensive positions in the same vicinity were strafed.

The following strikes were reported for 14 October by aircraft of Admiral Nimitz' command:

The caves and storage areas on PAGAN ISLAND were bombed and strafed by 24 Army Thunderbolts.

The airfield on MARCUS ISLAND was struck by 3 Liberators. The enemy's flak was moderate.

During the night, 2 Liberators attacked WAKE ISLAND.

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

4 p.m. 14 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Task Groups of Task Force 38 were reported under continuous air attack about 145 miles east of FORMOSA. The light cruiser HOUSTON (CL-81) and the heavy cruiser CANBERRA (CA-70) were torpedoed. The torpedoing of the CANBERRA was reported in this morning's summary.

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

9 a.m. 14 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 13 October, elements of the 1st Marine Division, supported by aircraft, continued operations against the remaining enemy pocket of resistance on PELELIU with some progress in the north and an advance of about 150 yards in the southwest sector of the perimeter.

Elements of the 81st Division continued to reduce the remaining small pocket of enemy resistance on the northwest of ANGAUR ISLAND.

The attack and occupation phase of PALAU and ANGAUR ISLANDS is now terminated. Casualties reported as of 13 October: 1st MarDiv - KIA 839, WIA 4,938, MIA 126. 81st Division - KIA 230, WIA 1,647, MIA 14. Enemy killed on PELELIU - 10,411 and 290 captured. On ANGAUR, 1,175 have been killed and 11 captured.

Corsairs, in addition to bombing and strafing targets on BARELTHUAP ISLAND, damaged or sank 28 barges, 8 motor launches, 2 small boats and a boathouse.

The USS CAMBERRA (CA-70), operating with Task Force 38, was torpedoed about 130 miles east by south of TAITO, FORMOSA. The vessel has been taken in tow. Further details are not available at this time.

On 11 October, a PB4Y destroyed a small freighter in SAN PEDRO BAY, PHILIPPINES. Another damaged a small vessel in the vicinity of BASILAN ISLAND, MINDANAO.

During 11 October, two Liberators dropped bombs on WAKE ISLAND.

The following strikes on 12 October by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

ROTA gun positions were attacked by 50 Marine Corsairs. Light AA fire damaged one Corsair.

Twenty-four Army Thunderbolts attacked the building area on PAGAN ISLAND. AA fire was meager. The island was later bombed by Army Liberators.

Three Army Liberators bombed MARCUS ISLAND, encountering meager AA fire.

Six Army Liberators over HAHAJIMA sank a small freighter 20 miles south of the island.

Nineteen Army Liberators bombed CHICHIJIMA shore installations and small shipping in the area. Moderate AA fire slightly damaged 1 Liberator.

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

4 p.m. 13 October 1944.

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SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following tabulation, based on incomplete reports, represents results of Task Force 38's strike against FORMOSA on 12 and 13 October:

Enemy A/C <u>Shot Down</u>	Enemy A/C <u>Destroyed</u> <u>On the Ground</u>	Own A/C <u>Losses</u>	<u>Surface Units</u>		
			<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Probably Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
221	175	45 planes	2 large AK	1 large AK	1 large AK
	Many others		4 medium AK	3 medium AK	6 medium AK
	strafed but		9 small AK	3 small AK	15 small AK
	did not burn.		12 small craft	1 AO	1 large AP
			8 sub chasers	5 sub chasers	11 sub chasers
				1 mine sweeper	25 small craft
				2 small escorts	

FORMOSA and the PESCADORES were thoroughly bombed, our attacks concentrating on aircraft installations, utilities, ship facilities, warehouses and oil dumps.

COMINCH FILE 13-72
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~~TOP SECRET~~
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 13 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

28 Corsairs attacked JALUIT AA gun positions and power plant. Varied AA fire shot down one Corsair, but the pilot was rescued.

20 Corsairs attacked WOTJE through light, meager and inaccurate AA fire.

PACIFIC SUBMARINES

The submarine TREPANG damaged a battleship with one torpedo hit and sank a destroyer about 137 miles southwest of YOKOHAMA. The previous day, the TREPANG had sunk a tanker.

The submarine PAROO returned from patrol of the FLORES SEA and reported as follows:

<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
1 AK - 4,000 tons	1 AK 5,400 tons
	1 AP 7,500 tons
	1 AV 9,000 tons
	<u>21,900 tons total</u>

The submarine DARTER, operating in BALABAC STRAIT, scored three torpedo hits in two tankers.

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

9 a.m. 13 October 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

and one crewman were lost operationally.

During 12 October, elements of the First Marine Division continued to dig out enemy troops from caves on BLOODY NOSE RIDGE at PELELIU ISLAND. A commanding hill and several caves were captured.

On ANGAUR, the 81st Division continues to mop up and now has enemy remnants confined to an area 150 yards square. An enemy plane dropped 4 bombs on ANGAUR without damage. Our PALAU casualties: 1st MarDiv - KIA 864, WIA 4991, MIA 227. 81st Div - KIA 224, WIA 1632, MIA 14. On PELELIU, 10,391 of the enemy have been killed and 285 captured. On ANGAUR, 1,174 have been killed and 11 captured.

Corsairs, operating in the PELELIU AREA and over the north and western coast of BABELTHUAP, sank seven barges, ten motor driven boats and one 75-foot boat.

On 11 October, a reconnaissance plane shot down a medium enemy bomber about 570 miles northwest of SAIPAN. Another recon plane shot down a medium bomber 110 miles northeast of CHICHIJIMA. Another recon plane failed to return, after being attacked by enemy planes.

The following additional strikes for 10 October have been reported:

26 Army Liberators attacked the north end of MOEN airfield and other installations in TRUK ATOLL. The first section of this flight encountered meager AA fire. The second encountered no AA fire. Three to four enemy fighters unsuccessfully intercepted.

The following strikes for 11 October have been reported:

Seven Army Thunderbolts bombed and rocketed PAGAN ISLAND installations and started a number of fires.

A PBV harassed NAURU ISLAND during the night. Later, 12 Mitchells attacked the runways and AA positions through heavy, moderate, but inaccurate AA fire.

The blockhouse and power plant areas on TARAO were attacked by 19 Dauntless through moderate and inaccurate AA fire.

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FORMOSA

UNITED STATES FLEET
 HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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9 a.m. 13 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A preliminary report from the Commander 3RD FLEET indicates the following results were achieved by Task Force 38 in its strike against FORMOSA on 12 October:

<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Aircraft Shot Down</u>	<u>Aircraft Destroyed On Ground</u>
2 large AK	2 large AK		
2 medium AK	7 medium AK	124	97
12 small AK	10 small AK		

In addition, hits were scored on oil dumps, warehouses and other port installations. At HEILO, the airfield buildings were largely destroyed.

Throughout the evening and night of 12 October, surface units of Task Force 38 were under observation of enemy snoopers planes, and from 7:30 p.m. until 2:00 a.m., continuously but unsuccessfully attacked by groups of from 2 to 6 enemy planes. A number of torpedo wakes were observed. Our night fighters shot down three snoopers, and AA guns of Task Group 38.2 shot down eight. No damage to any of our surface units from enemy action has been reported. One of our destroyers was damaged by AA fire from another vessel, but was able to continue in operation with the task force.

LUZON

A preliminary report indicates that the fighter sweep by planes of Task Force 38 over APPARRI, north coast of LUZON, encountered no airborne opposition. From 10-15 enemy planes on the ground were destroyed. Fires were started among buildings and other installations.

OKINAWA

The following represents a revised report of the OKINAWA strike on 10 October by Task Force 38:

<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Probably Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
1 AM	1 AM	1 DM
1 DE	10 small ships	1 LCM
4 midget SS	9 small craft	8 AK
14 AK		10 small ships
1 small AO		Many luggers, barges, sampans
25 small ships		
41 small craft & barges		

Twenty-three enemy planes were shot down, and incomplete photographs show 59 grounded planes destroyed and 37 damaged.

In addition, three hangars, three fuel dumps, one ammunition dump, many barracks, warehouses and other buildings were destroyed. The north-west end of ONO YAMA ISLAND and the north shore of NAHA inner harbor were devastated by fires and explosions. Much damage was caused to other installations. We lost 8 planes, 5 pilots and 3 crewman in combat. Six planes

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9 a.m. 12 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 11 October, elements of the 81st Infantry Division, landed on BAIKAKASERU ISLAND, in the PALAU ISLANDS. No opposition was encountered.

The 1st Marine Division continued to make slow but steady progress against the remaining pocket of enemy resistance on Bloody Nose Ridge. A number of hills and caves have been seized and a large munitions dump exploded.

The 81st Division on ANGAUR ISLAND continued to clean up enemy remnants.

Our casualties, 1st MARDIV: KIA, 858, WIA, 4933, MIA, 228. 81st Division: KIA, 224, WIA, 1630, MIA, 14. 284 Japanese have been captured on PELELIU and 11 on ANGAUR. On PELELIU, 10,305 of the enemy have been killed and 1165 on ANGAUR.

During 11 October, Corsairs scored hits on BABELTHUAP ISLAND air strip and taxiways. In addition, 11 barges, 6 motor driven boats, two whaleboats in GAMLIANGEL and NGATPANG BAYS, west and southwest BABELTHUAP ISLAND, were strafed.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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4 p.m. 11 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 10 October the First Marine Division on PELELIU ISLAND occupied a hill and a number of caves near UMURROGOL MOUNTAIN in an effort to reduce the remaining enemy pocket of resistance.

The 321st Infantry Battalion of the 81st Division completely cleared the enemy from GARAKAYO ISLAND in the SOUTHERN PALAU ISLANDS. The island is now being organized as an outpost.

Elements of the 81st Division continued to reduce remaining remnants of JAPANESE Troops on ANGAUR.

Our casualties as of 10 October: First MarDiv, KIA 850, WIA 4884, MIA 227. 81st Div, KIA 221, WIA 1609, MIA 13. On PELELIU 234 of the enemy have been captured and 11 on ANGAUR. 1256 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU and 1165 on ANGAUR.

On 10 October Corsairs strafed 9 barges and 4 small boats off the east and northeast coasts of BABELTHUAP.

During the night of 7 October a Liberator dropped bombs on WAKE ISLAND with unobserved results.

During the same night five Liberators dropped bombs on IWO JIMA. No anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

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9 a.m. 11 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 9 October, Corsairs bombed UMURBROGOL MOUNTAIN, PELELIU ISLAND, damaged four oil dumps, ten trucks, two warehouses in the GAMLIYINGEL AREA, and strafed six barges and three motor boats in NGATPANG BAY, BABELTHUAP ISLAND.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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4 p.m. 10 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A preliminary report indicates the following results were achieved by Task Force 38 in its strike against OKINAWA, NANSEI SHOTO on 10 October.

<u>SUNK</u>	<u>PROBABLY SUNK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
1 sub tender	2 medium freighters	3 medium freighters
1 destroyer	1 medium tanker	6 small freighters
1 minesweeper	4 small freighters	2 small tankers
2 medium freighters	7 small coastal freighters	Many small craft
2 small freighters	9 small craft	
5 small coastal freighters	1 destroyer (beached)	
9 luggers		
A number of small craft		

In addition, fourteen enemy planes were shot down and at least seventy-five burned on the ground. Buildings all over OKINAWA and adjoining islands were set on fire. Our aircraft losses were light.

Due to weather and alert anti-snooper patrols, the approach was undetected and a tactical surprise was achieved. A reconnaissance fighter sweep and four strikes were completed.

At 5:45 P.M. 9 October the auxiliary store ship ANTIGUA collided with the SS E. A. CHRISTENSON about 115 miles northeast of Honolulu. The ANTIGUA was reported badly damaged and assisting vessels are standing by.

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9 a.m. 10 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Later reports received indicate that the bombardment of MARCUS ISLAND by Task Group 30.2 (3 CA, 6 DD), on 9 October, was completed with no damage to our personnel or to our ships.

During 8 October, the 1st Marine Division on PELELIU, launched a co-ordinated attack against UMERROOOL MOUNTAIN, supported by Corsairs. It was reported that some progress was made. Mopping up of ANGAUR ISLAND by the 81st Division continues.

On 9 October, one company from the 321st Infantry, 81st Division, landed on GARAKAYO ISLAND, in the SOUTHERN PALAU ISLANDS. A beachhead was secured against little opposition and patrols are advancing inland.

Casualties reported as of 9 October, 1st MARDIV: KIA 844, WIA 4845, MIA 232, total, 5921. 81st Division: KIA 221, WIA 1594, MIA 13, total, 1828. A total of 10,222 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU and 1158 on ANGAUR. 217 Japanese have been captured on PELELIU and 11 on ANGAUR.

The following additional strikes on 8 October have been reported:

2 Army Liberators bombed MARCUS ISLAND with unobserved results. No AA fire was encountered.

The following strikes on 9 October have been reported:

WAKE ISLAND was bombed by 3 Army Liberators which encountered meager AA fire.

IWOJIMA airfield and AA positions were hit by 18 Army Liberators through moderate AA fire. About 6-8 enemy fighters were encountered and of these two were shot down and two damaged.

The submarine HADDO returned from patrol of the PHILIPPINE area and reported as follows:

SUNK

1 AK	7,500 tons
1 AK	4,000 tons
1 DD	1,200 tons
1 DD (Kamikaze class)	1,300 tons
1 large patrol ves.	1,000 tons
1 misc. vessel	100 tons
1 AP	2,000 tons
TOTAL	17,100 tons

DAMAGED

1 DD Kamikaze class 1,300 tons

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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TOP SECRET
Dec 1944

9 a.m. 9 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine SAWFISH on 8 October, sank a large unescorted tanker about 210 miles northwest of LUZON.

The submarine ASPRO, operating west of LUZON, sank a medium tanker and a medium freighter on 2-3 October. On 6 October, the ASPRO possibly sank a large tanker and on 7 October, sank a large freighter.

On 6 October, the submarine WHALE attacked a large convoy and sank a large tanker about 150 miles northwest of LUZON.

The submarine SEAHORSE, assisting the WHALE, sank a Hibiki class destroyer engaged in rescuing survivors.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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9 a.m. 9 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A CINCPAC press communique indicates that the scheduled bombardment of MARCUS ISLAND, by Task Group 30.2 (3 CA, 6 DD) was completed on 9 October. It was reported that considerable damage was inflicted upon enemy installations and that the greater part of the coast defense batteries were silenced.

The following additional strike for 6 October has been reported:

8 Mitchells bombed the runways and AA installations at NAURU.

The following strikes for 7 October have been reported:

11 Corsairs bombed MILE. No AA fire was encountered.

JALUIT installations were hit by 36 Corsairs. No AA fire was encountered.

14 Corsairs attacked heavy AA installations on JALUIT through light, medium but inaccurate AA fire.

Reconnaissance Liberators bombed MARCUS ISLAND through heavy AA fire. In addition, near misses were scored on two small freighters north of MARCUS ISLAND.

Two Liberators dropped bombs on WAKE ISLAND with unreported results.

The following strikes for 8 October were reported:

Three Liberators bombed the airfield and radio station areas on PAGAN ISLAND. Later, the area was again attacked by Army Thunderbolts.

One of eight Marine Corsairs on a reconnaissance mission over ROTA ISLAND was shot down by moderate and accurate 20 millimeter AA fire.

The headquarters and magazine areas on TAROA, were bombed by 12 Corsairs. Light, inaccurate and meager AA fire was encountered.

The submarine REDFIN returned from patrol of the DUTCH EAST INDIES after sinking one tanker (5,000 tons) and two miscellaneous vessels (100 tons). In addition, one 5,000 ton tanker and a miscellaneous vessel of 200 tons were damaged.

The submarine BASHAW returned from patrol of the SULU SEA after sinking a large freighter of about 7500 tons and destroying a 200 ton supply vessel by gunfire.

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REF ID: A66183
2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9 a.m. 8 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On PELELIU ISLAND, the 1st Marine Division supported by artillery and tanks made some progress in their attack against enemy positions on UMUR-HROOGL MOUNTAIN. On ANGAUR, the 81st Division continues mopping up operations.

Our casualties as of 7 October: 1st MARDIV: KIA 779, WIA 4685, MIA 265, total 5729. 81st Division: KIA 262, WIA 1518, MIA 13, total 1793. POW's on PELELIU 214, ANGAUR 10. On PELELIU a total of 10,083 of the enemy have been killed and 1128 on ANGAUR.

On 7 October, Corsairs attacked villages on SOUTHWEST BABELTHUAP, damaged 28 trucks, two ammunition dumps, five supply dumps, nine fuel dumps and two buildings. Seven barges and three boats in the vicinity of KOMEBAIL LAGOON were strafed.

On 6 October, 14 Liberators bombed MOEN airfield installations in TRUK ATOLL. AA fire was meager and three or four enemy fighters rising to intercept, were ineffective.

The following strikes on 6 October by CINCPAC aircraft have been reported:

4 Mitchells hit NAURU runways and AA positions, encountering heavy, moderate and inaccurate AA fire.

17 Corsairs bombed gun positions at WOTJE through light, meager and inaccurate AA fire.

4 Corsairs hit the radar station on JALUIT and strafed other installations. No AA fire was encountered.

17 Dauntless hit the magazine and headquarters areas on TAROA. Light, meager and inaccurate AA fire was encountered.

Landbased aircraft continued heavy strikes against RABAU, during 5 October, resulting in considerable destruction to installations.

During the night of 4-5 October, PT's shelled CHOISEUL BAY and NEW IRELAND targets, and strafed enemy positions in Northern HALMAHERA.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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9 a.m. 7 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 3 October, a reconnaissance plane attacked an enemy picket boat 840 miles northwest of SAIPAN with unobserved results.

On 5 October, a reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on YAP gun emplacements and air strips with unobserved results. Meager and inaccurate AA fire was encountered.

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DATE 10-13-78

9 a.m. 6 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 5 October, slow progress was made in the reduction of the remaining pockets of enemy resistance on PELELIU ISLAND. A number of prepared positions and caves were knocked out.

On ANGAUR ISLAND, liquidation of the remaining enemy groups continued.

Our total casualties, as of 5 October; KIA 1022, WIA 6115, MIA 280. A total of 11,043 of the enemy have been killed and 221 taken prisoner.

Twenty Corsairs bombed BABELTHUAP airfield. Later, a concentration of motor vehicles and warehouses were bombed by 16 Corsairs.

Supply dumps in the KOROR area were bombed by Corsairs with unreported results.

During 4 October, a PB4Y sank a small freighter, a tug and fuel barge southwest of MINDANAO.

The following missions were completed on 5 October, by CINCPAC aircraft:

Corsairs bombed PONAPE through light, medium and inaccurate AA fire.

38 Corsairs and 3 Venturas hit JALUIT. Accurate, light AA fire caused minor damage to one Corsair.

The submarine POMFRET, operating south of FORMOSA, sank a medium freighter and scored two hits on a large freighter, during the night of 2 October.

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9 a.m. 5 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The casualty list in the sinking of U.S.S. YMS-385, on 1 October, is now reported as 3 men known dead, 4 men badly injured.

The U.S.S. SHELTON (DE-407), torpedoed on 3 October, off MOROTAI, is now reported to have sunk. Eleven persons are dead or missing.

Air strikes reported for 2 October, are as follows:

30 miles west of CHICHIJIMA, 9 Army Liberators scored a direct hit and many near-misses on an AK and DE. Another convoy of 6 to 8 small and medium AK's in the same area were bombed by 8 Army Liberators, results negative.

MARCUS was bombed by 2 Army Liberators.

23 Army Thunderbolts bombed and rocketed PAGAN.

NUMA NUMA and the SHORTLAND's area were attacked by 29 Dauntless and 50 Corsairs, 17 Corsairs bombed RABUL and 41 Corsairs with 10 Dauntless attacked enemy installations in NEW IRELAND.

On the night of 2-3 October, night Catalinas destroyed a 2700 ton AK in the NORTHERN CELEBES AREA.

Air strikes reported for 4 October were:

49 Marine Corsairs and 3 Navy Venturas attacked JALUIT. Flak caused minor damage to one Corsair and one Ventura.

15 Navy Dauntless attacked MILLE, encountering no flak.

23 Army Thunderbolts attacked AGUIJAN, 3 Army Liberators bombed MARCUS, and 3 Army Liberators hit PAGAN.

Northwest of IWOJIMA, 15 Liberators scored near-misses on a large AK and DD with undetermined results.

UNITED STATES FLEET
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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
9-79
OSD Letter

4 p.m. 4 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On October 3, 35 miles east of CAPE SOPI, MOROTAI, USS SHELTON (DE-407) was torpedoed by an enemy submarine. It is reported that the ship was "abandoned". No report of casualties has been received.

On September 29, night Catalinas silenced a gun position on AMBON, sank a lugger at AMOERANG BAY and strafed a sea truck at BASILAN ISLAND.

On the night of October 1-2 targets in CHOISEUL BAY, Southeast BOUGAINVILLE, were shelled by PTs.

USS TANGIER (AV-8) was under air attack at MOROTAI on the night of October 1. One small bomb was dropped which was a near miss. One enemy medium bomber was probably shot down.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



DECLASSIFIED
ON 10-15-78
SECRET

9 a.m. 4 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 2 October, 13 Army Liberators bombed TRUK, two planes being damaged by moderate AA fire. Two enemy fighters discharged aerial bombs, causing damage to one Liberator.

A single Army Liberator, on the night of 2 October, bombed WAKE.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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4 p.m. 3 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On PELELIU, commencing at 7:56 p.m., 1 October, local time there was a two hour air alert. An enemy floatplane dropped two bombs which caused no damage. The U.S.S. BAILEY was damaged by strafing, as previously reported. Action against isolated enemy groups, hiding in caves, continues on PELELIU and ANGAUR. During the night 1-2 October, enemy troops attempting to infiltrate our lines were repulsed with heavy casualties. Casualties as of 1800, 2 October; 1st MARDIV: KIA 716, WIA 4345, MIA 270, total, 5331; 81st DIV: KIA 228, WIA 1378, MIA 13, total, 1619. POW's, 200. Enemy killed to-date, 10,438. All figures for PELELIU and ANGAUR.

Sudden severe squalls and winds caused cessation of unloading, and damage to four landing craft.

On the night of 30 September - 1 October, night Catalinas continued sweeps against enemy shipping in the ZAMBOANGA-NORTHERN CELEBES area. Four small AK's were damaged and two small AK's, two barges and one schooner sunk.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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9 a.m. 3 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 1 October, JALUIT was struck by Corsairs through heavy AA fire. One plane received minor damage.

Targets along the South and East coasts of BOUGAINVILLE were shelled by PT's on 30 September and 1 October.

During the last two days of September, night Catalinas operating in the CELEBES-SOUTH PHILIPPINES area, damaged a large tanker and two cargo ships.

Marine aircraft struck enemy installations in the WIDE BAY, NEW BRITAIN.

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4 p.m. 2 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

While engaged in sweeping operations at ULITHI, USS YMS-385 was mined and sunk on 1 October. Casualties were described as "medium".

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 2 October 1944.

TO: JEB 78
INFO: SECRET
FROM: Lette
GSD

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Slight progress was made in dislodging remnants of the enemy hiding out in caves on PELELIU and ANGAUR ISLAND. Our casualties reported as of 1 October: 1st MARDIV: KIA 692, WIA 4151, MIA 358. 81st Division: KIA 210, WIA 1357, MIA 13. POW's 187. 9076 of the enemy have been killed on PELELIU and 1075 on ANGAUR ISLAND.

Although the weather has moderated, surf conditions are still hindering unloading. It is estimated that the runways and taxiways on ANGAUR airfield will be completed on 20 October. Military government on ANGAUR has been established.

On 1 October, 8 Corsairs scored 8 hits on BABELTHUAP airstrip.

Fifteen Liberators bombed MOEN and ETEN ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL, on 30 September. Due to overcast results were unobserved. AA fire encountered was meager.

On 1 October, 9 Army Liberators bombed IWONJIMA airfield and encountered moderate AA fire. Prior to reaching the target area our bombers were intercepted by 8 enemy fighters and one Liberator was destroyed. The remaining Liberators returned slightly damaged.

The U.S.S. BAILEY, (T-30), operating with the 3rd Fleet, was heavily strafed by enemy aircraft on 1 October. Three officers, six men were killed, one officer, 19 men wounded. Extensive damage to electrical equipment was sustained.

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TOP SECRET
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DATE 10-10-78

4 p.m. 1 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional strikes by CINCPAC aircraft, on 29 September, have been reported:

Marine Corsairs hit MILE gun positions through meager and light AA fire.

A night reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on IWOJIMA airfield.

The following strikes on 30 September by CINCPAC aircraft have been reported:

A single Liberator dropped bombs on PAGAN ISLAND. Later, Army Thunderbolts again bombed the area. Meager AA fire was encountered.

JALUIT installations were bombed by Marine Corsairs. AA fire was meager.

Marine Corsairs attacked WOTJE gun positions through light AA fire.

Dauntless attacked MILE gun positions through meager AA fire.

MALEOLAP blockhouse area was bombed by Dauntless. No AA fire was encountered.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 1 October 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional strikes on 28 September, by CINCPAC aircraft, have been reported:

Marine Dauntless bombed TAROA gun positions through meager AA fire.

A reconnaissance Catalina dropped bombs on NAURU ISLAND.

Fourteen Liberators struck airfield installations at PARAN, TRUK ATOLL. About four aggressive enemy fighters intercepted. Moderate but accurate AA fire damaged one bomber.

The following missions by CINCPAC aircraft, on 29 September, have been reported:

WOTJE gun positions were bombed by 29 Marine Corsairs.

Twenty-three Thunderbolts hit PAGAN ISLAND installations.

A Liberator bombed PAGAN ISLAND.

MARCUS ISLAND was bombed by 3 Liberators. AA fire was moderate. It was reported that the majority of bombs missed the target.

The following results achieved by night flying Catalinas, during the night of 28-29 September, have been reported:

One Catalina strafed a grounded freighter near BIG SALOES ISLAND, BANGGAI ARCHIPELAGO.

A Catalina destroyed a three-masted schooner near SURIGAO, MINDANAO.

One Catalina destroyed two medium freighters and six loaded barges in DARVEL BAY, northwest BORNEO. In addition, ammunition stores ashore were set on fire.

The submarine HARDHEAD, returned from patrol from waters east of the PHILIPPINES, after sinking a light cruiser of the NATORI Class (5,200 tons).

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

4 p.m. 30 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 27-28 September, a Catalina sank one barge, set on fire a 700-ton freighter and strafed four sailboats in BOSTONG STRAIT, southeast CELEBES. On the same night, a Catalina damaged a small freighter at BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO. Another Catalina sank a small freighter, two luggers, two barges and damaged a small freighter at POLLOC HARBOR, MINDANAO.

On the night of 27-28 September, PT's shelled targets along the northwest coast of CHOISEUL ISLAND and the northeast coast of NEW IRELAND. Other PT's destroyed two beached barges on the northwest tip of HALMAHERA.

The commander of expeditionary troops in the PALAU operation, on 30 September, reported that all planned objectives, except the following, have been captured and occupied. Isolated enemy groups continue stubborn resistance from caves at UMUREROOL HILL on PELELIU and in a small area near the lake region on northwestern ANGAUR. Base development operations have been initiated and can proceed without local enemy interference.

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DATE 10-1-79
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 30 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

NGESESUS ISLAND, KONGAURU ISLAND, north and northeast of PELELIU ISLAND, and an unnamed island east of KONGAURU have now been secured.

During the night of 28 September, a number of the enemy, carrying grenades, infiltrated our lines in the 7th Marine sector on PELELIU ISLAND and caused some casualties. Mopping up operations are in progress against some of the enemy hiding out in caves in northern PELELIU. Little progress was made against Japanese positions on UMURROGOL HILL, where they continue to resist stubbornly. 8,717 have been killed and 158 captured. Our casualties as of 1800, 29 September: 1st MarDiv - KIA 656, WIA 4,035, MIA 364.

On ANGAUR, our troops continued to clean up caves and pillboxes in the northwest lake region of the island. A total of 1,055 Japs have been killed and 5 prisoners taken. 81st Division casualties as of 29 September: KIA - 165, WIA 1,176, MIA 10.

On 29 September, 16 Corsairs scored 11 hits on BABELTHUAP ISLAND airstrip.

The submarine SKATE, operating in the waters of NANSEI SHOTO, damaged an unidentified ship on 29 September.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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~~NAVY SECRET~~
~~OLD LETTER~~

4 p.m. 29 September 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 9 a.m. 28 September, following a preliminary bombardment by artillery, Naval surface units and aircraft, the 5th Marines, preceded by amphibious tanks and supported by General Sherman tanks, landed on NGESEBUS ISLAND. This operation was a shore-to-shore movement.

The attack proceeded against light opposition and all of the island of NGESEBUS, except for a small portion of the northern tip, was captured. KONGARU ISLAND, northeast of NGESEBUS, was also captured.

During 28 September, operations by other elements of the 5th Marines on PELELIU ISLAND continued and by nightfall all of PELELIU was secured but for three pockets of resistance, one at UKURBROGOL HILL, one in the central portion of the western arm and an area at the northeastern end of the arm. Our casualties on PELELIU, reported as of 28 September: KIA 633, WIA 3,035, MIA 369. 8,450 Japanese have been killed and 126 taken prisoner.

On ANGAUR, elements of the 81st Division continued to reduce a pocket of resistance at the northwest tip of the island where the enemy, armed with automatic weapons, still holds out in caves and pillboxes. Our casualties as of 28 September: KIA 143, WIA 1061, MIA 10. 1,030 of the Japanese have been killed and 5 captured.

During the night of 26-27 September, a twin-engined enemy bomber ineffectively bombed the USS TANGIER (AV8), anchored at MOROTAI. On the same night, an ICI gunboat in the HALMAHERA AREA engaged and damaged two heavily armed enemy barges.

On 27 September, a Navy Liberator damaged a small freighter and scored a hit on a small minecraft in LEMBEH STRAIT, northeast CELEBES.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 29 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 27 September, a reconnaissance plane bombed gun emplacements on YAP ISLAND with unobserved results.

The submarine DACE, returned from patrol of the LUZON WATERS after sinking one Asashio class DD (1,500 tons).

The submarine PLAICE sank a large transport and an escort vessel in the waters surrounding NANSEI SHOTO.

The submarine GUARDFISH sank a small oiler in the YELLOW SEA.

During the night of 27 September, two Army Liberators dropped bombs on WAKE ISLAND.

The following strikes by CinCPac aircraft on 28 September have been reported:

PAGAN ISLAND installations were bombed and strafed by 22 Army Thunderbolts.

18 Army Liberators hit installations at CHICHIJIMA. Two explosions and a fire were observed. AA fire was moderate to intense.

A reconnaissance plane shot down a medium enemy bomber 960 miles northwest of SAIPAN.

A reconnaissance plane attacked and damaged a medium enemy bomber about 10 miles northeast of IWOJIMA.

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9 a.m. 28 September 1944

The following missions were completed by CinCPac aircraft during the night 24-25 September:

Army Mitchells attacked airfields and gun installations at POMAPE.

26 Army Liberators attacked ETEN airfield and shipping in TRUK lagoon. A number of near misses on the shipping was observed. About six enemy fighters intercepted, but results of this engagement were not reported. Enemy AA fire was meager.

Catalinas, operating during the night of 24-25 September, over NORTHERN CEBUES and SOUTHERN MINDANAO, reported the following results:

<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
2 medium AP	1 medium AP
	1 small AP

During the night of 25-26 September, motor torpedo boats shelled targets along the southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND and northeast NEW IRELAND and, in addition, two barges were destroyed in the MOROTAI AREA.

The submarine THRESHER, southwest of KYUSHU, sank a submarine tender, one medium AK, a medium AO and damaged a medium AO.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 28 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

II Peleliu

Further gains on PELELIU during 27 September gave our troops complete control of the island with the exception of UMURBROOL HILL, a small pocket on the northeastern tip and lowland east and northeast on the western arm. Rapid progress was made during the day by the First Marine Division, attacking in the northern sector and by Army troops in the center of the western arm. Our casualties on PELELIU: KIA 599, WIA 3,793, MIA 369. Enemy killed: 7,517, POW's - 103.

I Philippines

During the night of 26-27 September, two enemy planes dropped four bombs in the water off the east coast of ANGAUR ISLAND. Our casualties on ANGAUR, where mopping up continues: KIA 130, WIA 912, MIA 7. Enemy killed: 1,020, POW's - 5.

The following results were achieved by Task Force 38 in a heavy strike on 24 September against the VISAYAN GROUP of islands in the PHILIPPINES:

<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u> (includes 18 ships probably sunk or destroyed)
1 large AP	1 small AP
3 " AO	2 large AO
2 " AK	1 medium AO
6 medium AK	1 large AK
5 small AK	15 medium AK
1 DD	21 small AK
3 DE	10 small ships (100 tons each)
11 small craft	2 DE
	Many small craft

Throughout the day, only three enemy planes were encountered over the islands. These were shot down, plus four snoopers, well clear of the task force. In addition, 29 planes were destroyed on the ground at the NEGROS-CEBU-LEYTE airfields. A number of partly concealed planes at LEGASPI were strafed with unobserved results.

Much destruction and damage was caused to installations at ILOILO, CEBU, TANZA, SARAVIA and MACTAN airfields, BACOLOD and SHEIL ISLAND.

Throughout this operation, no warship larger than a DD was sighted. We lost in combat nine planes, five pilots and three crewmen.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. 27 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following strikes by CinCPac aircraft on 25 September have been reported:

INOJIMA's No. 1 airfield was hit by 13 Army Liberators. Of four aggressive enemy fighters, one was destroyed. Intense AA fire damaged three Liberators.

The following strikes by CinCPac aircraft on 26 September have been reported:

PAGAN gun positions and a possible radar installation were bombed and strafed by 21 Army Liberators.

Fifteen Marine Corsairs strafed ROTA installations through meager AA fire.

MARCUS ISLAND runway was bombed by two Army Liberators through moderate AA fire.

Marine Corsairs and Navy Venturas bombed and strafed WOTJE installations. Meager and light AA fire was encountered.

During the night, Marine Corsairs bombed MILLE installations and encountered meager AA fire.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 27 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 25 September, a Catalina sank a medium freighter and left a small freighter in a sinking condition in GARVEL BAY, north-east BORNEO.

During the night of 23-24 September, PT's sank a barge and a whale-boat near NEWIAK, ran two barges aground in GEELVINK BAY, and shelled a target on the coast of NEW IRELAND.

The submarine MUSKALLUNGE returned from patrol of the waters in the vicinity of the MALAY BARRIER after sinking a Wakataki Class DD and damaging one large AK (7500 tons) and one AP (10,000tons).

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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(North of Peleliu)

9 a.m. 27 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 25 September, the 5th Marine perimeter on the western arm of PELELIU ISLAND, was subjected to heavy caliber mortar fire from NGESEBUS ISLAND. A number of casualties resulted. The following morning, the 5th Marines launched an attack to the north and captured AMIANGAL HILL against heavy resistance, including artillery and many automatic weapons.

At the same time, the 321st Infantry attacked to the eastward and secured a mass of hills in the center of the western arm of PELELIU ISLAND, after reducing a number of enemy pillboxes.

The 7th Marines are continuing efforts to encircle UMURBROGOL HILL, which remained a strong point of enemy resistance. Communication between UMURBROGOL HILL and the north has been cut with our capture of a radio station on the northwest end of the western arm.

IN CENTER
OF ISLAND

Our casualties as of 26 September, KIA 580, WIA 3639, MIA 401. Casualties on ANGAUR, KIA 106, WIA 769, MIA 5. On PELELIU, 7313 Japs have been killed and on ANGAUR 979.

It has been reported that a site on ANGAUR ISLAND is suitable for a 6200-foot runway which may be completed in about 15 days.

The destroyer escort REYNOLDS (DE-440), reported sinking an enemy submarine about 90 miles southwest of YAP.

An air strike on MALAKAL HARBOR inflicted major damage on 3 ocean-going vessels which are reported capsized and resting on the bottom. In addition, about 8 barges were destroyed on the northwest coast of URUKTHAPEL, and a direct hit scored on BABELTHUAP airstrip. Heavy and accurate AA fire was encountered in this area.

The following results were achieved during the night of 23-24 September, by night flying Catalinas:

One Catalina sank two DE, 1 CVS, in DAVAO GULF.

A Catalina sank a tanker at KENDARAI, east coast of CELEBES, and damaged an AK off the northeast tip of the CELEBES.

A Catalina fired a lugger off northern ZAMBOANGA and another damaged a small AK in the CELEBES SEA.

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

9 a.m. 26 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Sixteen Liberators hit harbor facilities and small shipping at CHICHIJIMA. Due to weather, results were unobserved. Meager AA fire damaged one Liberator.

A Liberator bombed small shipping at HAHAJIMA.

The shelter areas at JALUIT and the coastal defense positions at MILE were bombed by Dauntless dive bombers.

During the night of 22-23 September, motor torpedo boats, operating off HALMAHERA, attacked a lugger and shoreline targets. One boat was damaged by shore guns. Other PT's shelled shoreline targets on NEW IRELAND.

During the same night, a Catalina reported scoring hits on two destroyer escorts and a Chitose class seaplane tender in an undisclosed locality. The following night another Catalina attacked two small freighters and four small craft with unreported results.

The submarine SHAD, operating south of HONSHU, sank a medium transport, one Chidori-type destroyer and one Saga-type gunboat. In addition, a small freighter, a medium freighter and an unidentified ship were damaged.

During the night of 23-24 September, the submarine BARBERO bombarded a radar station on BATAG ISLAND, north SAMAR, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

A later despatch indicates that it was the YMS-19 that sank after striking a mine off ANGAUR ISLAND, instead of YMS-29, as reported in yesterday morning's summary.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 26 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 25 September, ground activity on PELELIU was light. The 1st Marine Division resumed its attack at 7:00 a.m. and made progress northward along the western arm of the island. At one point, on the western shore, our troops are less than a mile from the northern tip of the island. The 321st Infantry attacked to eastward against light resistance. Patrols reconnoitering the west coast found few of the enemy. Casualties reported as of 25 September: KIA - 562, WIA - 3,558, MIA - 398. Enemy killed - 7,313, POW's - 6.

Mopping up of ANGAUR ISLAND by the 81st Division continued. The following casualties as of 25 September have been reported: KIA - 98, WIA - 737, MIA - 3. Enemy killed - 975, POW's - 5.

A south-bound enemy barge, attempting to run the blockade northeast of PELELIU, was destroyed by Naval gunfire.

The PELELIU fighter strip has been completed and the bomber strip is reported 12% complete, with parking and scramble areas for 40 planes.

The following additional missions on 23 September by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

NAURU ISLAND was harassed during the night by a Navy Catalina.

Two Army Liberators bombed MARCUS with unobserved results through moderate AA fire.

The following missions on 24 September by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

Machine gun positions on ROTA ISLAND were strafed by Marine Corsairs. Enemy return fire was meager.

Two reconnaissance Liberators bombed MARCUS ISLAND.

WOTJE coastal defense areas were attacked by Corsairs through meager AA fire.

The barracks area on JALUIT was bombed by Corsairs.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 25 September 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)

Gun positions at WOTJE were bombed by Marine Corsairs.

Marine Corsairs hit JALUIT gun positions through moderate AA fire.

An Army Liberator bombed PAGAN ISLAND.

Marine Dauntless hit MILLE gun positions through light and meager AA fire.

Ten Army Liberators bombed CHICHIJIMA, IWOJIMA and HAHAJIMA.

The submarine APOGON sank a trawler type patrol vessel on 23 September 640 miles north of MARCUS ISLAND.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 25 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 2:45 a.m., 24 September, a convoy of 13 barges and one motor sampan, transporting supplies and about 700 Japanese, was sighted north-east of PELELIU. The convoy was immediately taken under fire by the destroyer EDWARDS, four LCI(G)'s and a number of LVT(A)'s. Eight barges were seen to explode and later ten were observed wrecked on reefs north-east of PELELIU. It is believed that all of the barges were destroyed but that some Jap stragglers reached shore.

There was little ground activity on PELELIU during the night of 23 September. Our troops continued their pressure upon the enemy and forged ahead somewhat on the left flank. Casualties reported as of 24 September: KIA-544, WIA-3,497, MIA-397, total 4,438. Enemy killed-7,148; POW's-4.

On ANGAUR ISLAND, remaining pockets of enemy resistance are being eliminated and operations are underway to initiate the planned base development. Casualties reported as of 23 September: KIA-82, WIA-699, MIA-2, total 783. Japanese killed-865, POW's-5.

On 24 September, the heavy cruiser INDIANAPOLIS bombarded two camouflaged ocean-going vessels, located in MALAKAL HARBOR, and previously damaged by air strikes. One direct hit was scored, plus a number of straddles, but general results of the bombardment were undetermined.

YMS-29, while engaged in sweeping the east coast of ANGAUR, struck a mine and sank. Casualties reported: 9 missing, including one officer and four wounded.

The following additional missions on 22 September by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

Marine Corsairs bombed MILE gun positions, encountering no AA fire.

Dauntless dive bombers hit MALOELAP. Meager and accurate AA fire was encountered.

The following missions on 23 September by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

An Army reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on IWOJIMA, BONIN ISLANDS, against no opposition.

Army Mitchells bombed NAURU ISLAND through moderate AA fire.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



~~TOP SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

4 p.m. 24 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Attached is a report in tabular form of results achieved by Task Force 38 in a two day strike (21 & 22 September) on LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Out 436
The submarine PLAICE on 23 September scored four torpedo hits on a FUSO class battleship about 25 miles east of TAKARA JIMA in RYUKYU.

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TABULATED SUMMARY
DAMAGE INFLICTED BY TASK FORCE 38
IN STRIKES ON LUZON 21 & 22 SEPTEMBER

<u>Aircraft</u>				<u>Surface Units</u>		
<u>On Ground</u>		<u>In Air</u>		<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Probably Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>			
188	* 45 ** 3	169	---	40 Classified Ships 6 Small Craft	# 11 Classified Ships	## 35 Classified Ships 11 Small Craft ### 2 Floating Dry Docks

OWN LOSSES

<u>Aircraft</u>		<u>Surface Units</u>
<u>Combat</u>	<u>Operational</u>	<u>Sunk</u> <u>Damaged</u>
11	8 (10 pilots 5 crewman in combat) (2 pilots operationally)	None

- * Probably damaged.
- ** Damaged by ships gunfire.
- # Includes one submarine.
- ## Includes one submarine.
- ### One 465 foot naval auxiliary in dry dock.

1. Buildings, box cars, aircraft parts, fuel dumps in airfield areas destroyed.
2. Fuel tanks, warehouses, ships repair shops on water front and many hangars, buildings shops, fuel dumps and railroad yards in Clark Field and Nicholas Field areas damaged.

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9 a.m. 24 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 21-22 September, motor torpedo boats, operating off the northwest coast of NEW GUINEA and MALAKANERA, sank five enemy barges, one 200-foot minesweeper and strafed a number of shoreline targets.

On 23 September, a reconnaissance plane bombed and strafed three small coastal vessels at INGUINA. Definite results of this attack were not ascertained.

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9 a.m. 24 September 1944.

ATLANTIC (Cont'd.)

Further information received with respect to the auxiliary store ship YUNON (AP-9), indicates that the vessel arrived in REYKJAVIK, ICELAND, under her own power. One man was killed, one is missing and two are injured. It is believed that the ship was mined.

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4 p.m. 23 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following corrected totals of our casualties on PELELIU and ANGAUR, as of 22 September, have been received:

	KIA	WIA	MIA	TOTAL
PELELIU	524	3,075	341	3,940
ANGAUR	74	566	-	640
	598	3,641	341	4,580

Ev new!! On 23 September, U. S. Army troops occupied FALAOP, ASOR, SORLEN, MOGMOG and POTANGERAS ISLANDS, ULITHI ATOLL. The Japanese had evacuated the atoll and no opposition was encountered.

During 21-22 September, under support of Naval gunfire, the ULITHI AREA was swept for mines, the beaches reconnoitered and patrols landed on FASSARAI, MANGEWANG and SORLEN ISLAND. The MUGAI entrance channel and the northern anchorage was swept and buoyed and is ready to receive our ships.

Ev new!! The submarine PLUNGER returned from patrol and reported the destruction of a Sanko Maru type freighter (5,000 tons) aground on MINTO REEF, northeast of TRUK.

During 23 September, troops of the 1st Marine Division continued their advance on PELELIU ISLAND and by late afternoon occupied GAREKORU VILLAGE and an unnamed island about 1800 yards south of AKARAKORO POINT. The re-grouping of our forces continued and the 321st Infantry relieved the 1st Marines on the left.

At dawn, 23 September, 7 Japanese barges were sighted in the boat channel north of PELELIU, heading south under cover of rain squalls. The barges dispersed to NGESSEBUS and PELELIU when our patrol vessels fired upon them. One barge was sunk and six were later destroyed on PELELIU beaches by ships, gunfire and aircraft bombing. A small supply dump on PELELIU was set on fire.

Our casualties on PELELIU as of 1800, 23 September, KIA-547, WIA 3170, MIA 344, total 4061. Enemy killed 7,020.

Mopping up of enemy remnants on ANGAUR ISLAND by the 81st Division continued. 950 of the enemy were killed.

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9 a.m. 23 September 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Two reconnaissance Liberators dropped bombs on MARCUS ISLAND.

Four Thunderbolts strafed PAGAN ISLAND, while 20 other Thunderbolts, diverted by bad weather, attacked AGUIJAN ISLAND.

The storage area and phosphate plant on ROTA were strafed by Marine Corsairs.

Both airfield areas and gun positions at FONAPE were bombed by Army Mitchells.

Marine Corsairs hit JALUIT defense positions through moderate AA fire.

Throughout 20 September, escort carrier planes continued their attacks against GALELA installations, NORTH HALMAHERA.

During the night of 20-21 September, Catalinas over NORTHEAST BORNEO probably sank a small freighter. A catalina sank a small oiler and a small freighter off SOUTHERN MINDANAO, while another Catalina bombed and strafed a medium freighter south of LEYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

PT-371, which grounded on a reef off the northwest coast of HALMAHERA ISLAND, was destroyed by her crew. All personnel were removed without casualties.

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9 a.m. 23 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 22 September, troops of the 1st Marine Division on PELELIU were unable to make any appreciable progress. The enemy continued to resist bitterly from heavily fortified defense positions on UMUREROGOL MOUNTAIN. Five five-inch enemy guns were captured during the day. Our front line remains virtually unchanged except for slight northward progress along the west coast. The following casualties have been reported: KIA-598, WIA-3641, MIA-341, total 4580. Two prisoners have been captured. No report of enemy casualties has been received.

On ANGAUR, the 81st Infantry Division continues to dig out remnants of the enemy from caves in the northwestern section of the island.

KOROR ISLAND hangar area was shelled by a heavy cruiser (probably the LOUISVILLE). All four hangars were reported destroyed.

A Liberator bombed MARCUS ISLAND on 20 September with unobserved results.

The following strikes by CinCPac aircraft, on 21 September, have been reported:

30 Liberators bombed MARCUS ISLAND AA positions through meager AA fire.

NAURU ISLAND runway and AA positions were attacked by Army Liberators. AA fire was moderate.

Army Liberators hit EMIDJ through meager AA fire.

ROTA gun positions were attacked by 15 Marine Corsairs. No AA fire was encountered.

Two Army Liberators hit PAGAN installations. No AA fire was encountered.

A reconnaissance plane dropped bombs on YAP with unobserved results.

The following strikes by CinCPac aircraft, on 22 September, have been reported:

15 Liberators struck CHICHIJIMA, sank one barge and scored near misses on a freighter. A number of explosions were observed in the hangar area. Meager AA fire was encountered.

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9 a.m. 22 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

PAGAN ISLAND gun positions were strafed and bombed by Army Thunderbolts.

On 21 September, the submarine BANG (SS385), operating in the waters to the west of the SOUTHWESTERN ISLANDS, EMPIRE, sank a large tanker and a freighter, damaging another ship. This was a surface attack on a six-ship convoy with three escorts.

On 21 September, the submarine PICUDA (SS382) sank a medium size enemy freighter and damaged a medium size transport, about 75 miles northwest of CAPE BOJEADOR, LUZON, PHILIPPINES.

As a part of a coordinated attack, the submarine REDFISH (SS395), sank the other two transports of this convoy, damaged another tanker and one of the two remaining freighters.

On 19 September, aircraft from the naval escort carriers assisting in the MOROTAI operation, struck at planes on the HALMAHERA airfields, destroying and damaging them.

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9 a.m. 22 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On PELELIU, during the night of 20-21 September, sporadic artillery and mortar fire was directed on our front, and an enemy floatplane was over our lines but failed to attack.

On 21 September, at 7:00 a.m., our attack was resumed after a preparatory air and naval gunfire barrage. The 1st and 7th Marine Regiments attacked abreast along the western side of the island, while the 5th Marine Regiment centered their attack on the eastern arm and contiguous islands. The attack on the left was halted after a brief advance by heavy enemy resistance from his positions on the precipitous slopes and deep ravines. This terrain hindered successful counter moves by the Marines.

The 5th Marine Regiment successfully occupied the remainder of the east coast, including NGABAD ISLAND. 6-15 centimeter trench motors and 31 machine guns were captured. It is now reported that an additional ten destroyed enemy planes were found on PELELIU airfields.

As of 21 September, 1800, the 1st Marine Division casualties are: KIA 505, WIA 2975, MIA 340, totalling 3820. Enemy killed to-date on PELELIU, 6792.

During 21 September, the 81st Infantry Division on ANGUAR, continued its mopping up operations despite sniper fire. Total enemy killed to-date on ANGUAR is 850.

The following air strikes were made by CINCPAC aircraft on 19 September:

The airfield and installations on NORTH MOEN ISLAND, TRUK ATOLL, were hit by 20 Army Liberators. Four to five enemy fighters made an unaggressive attempt to intercept dropping phosphorous bombs. The meager and heavy AA fire slightly damaged three of our planes.

A patrol plane bombed INOWIMA. The enemy did not fire on it.

The storage area on ROTA received incendiaries from Marine Hellcats. There was no AA fire.

On 20 September, the following strikes were made by aircraft under the command of CINCPAC:

The bivouac area, food dumps and the radio station at WOTUE, were bombed by Marine Corsairs and Dauntless dive bombers. The AA fire was light and meager.

When Corsairs strafed a probable oil dump on ROTA, large fires and explosions resulted.

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9 a.m. 22 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A superlatively successful carrier borne air attack was made by groups of fast carrier Task Force 38 (Vice Admiral Mitscher) when they swept the island of LUZON, in the heart of the PHILIPPINES, on 21 September. Complete surprise was attained in the approach despite the fact that in the plane launching area, the weather was foul and the attack launched only because of the highest operational skill and determination.

Our aircraft struck in great force at shipping in MANILA BAY, SUBIC BAY, and enemy installations at CLARK and NICHOLS airfields, near MANILA, and at the CAVITE NAVAL BASE.

In addition to the following damage reported by the carrier borne groups, the submarine HADDO, which was doing lifeguard duty for the strike, torpedoed and sunk an enemy destroyer:

BY CARRIER BORNE AIR

Enemy Planes shot down	110
Enemy Planes destroyed on ground	95
TOTAL - -	205

ENEMY SHIPS SUNK BY AIR

1 DD Large	
4 AO "	
1 AO small	
2 AK Large	
1 AK Medium	
2 AS Small	
TOTAL - -	11

ENEMY SHIPS DAMAGED BY AIR

1 DD (probably sunk)	
2 AO Large	
1 AP "	
10 AK "	
12 AK Medium	
1 Floating Drydock	
2 Luggers	
TOTAL - -	29

ENEMY SHIPS SUNK BY SUBMARINES

1 DD	
TOTAL - -	1

U.S. AIR COMBAT LOSSES

15 planes (some pilots recovered) TOTAL - - 15

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9 a.m. 21 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At CHICHIJIMA, 29 Army Liberators struck at enemy shipping, particularly in the harbor of FUTAMI-KO. One freighter received a direct hit and two near-misses and was left burning. Eight to ten lighters were destroyed. Additional bombs were dropped on small shipping, shore installations and bivouac areas, with unobserved results. The enemy's AA fire was meager.

The submarine SCARBARDFISH (SS397), operating in the waters off the SOUTHERN EMPIRE island chain, probably sunk on 20 September, a southbound 5100 ton submarine tender.

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9 a.m. 21 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 19-20 September, the 1st Marine Division on PELELIU had a quiet night except for sporadic but ineffective machine gun and mortar fire on its left front. The 5th Regiment of Marines resumed its attack on the right flank on the morning of 20 September and cleaned up remaining enemy resistance on the eastern coast, including a small unnamed island below NGABAD ISLAND. On the left of our line, progress is a slow and relentless struggle seeking to dislodge the Japs from the hill mass in which they are buried. The enemy has honeycombed this terrain with reinforced caves, pillboxes and dug-outs from which he is resisting bitterly. In one sector, our forces have captured 11 field guns, 70 machine guns, and 23 mortars. The enemy's artillery fire is being reduced and several of its guns destroyed by effective counter-battery fire.

Casualties of the 1st Marine Division up to 1800, 20 September, are: KIA 445, MIA 2728, MIA 323, totalling 3496. Enemy killed to-date on PELELIU, totals 6445.

Troops of the 81st Infantry are mopping up ANGUAR ISLAND. It is interesting to note that before all organized resistance had ceased on 20 September, our troops found that the beaches on the southern part of the island contained many defensive positions, but most of them were unmanned. Casualties to-date in the 81st Infantry Division are: KIA 46, MIA 491, MIA 0, totalling 537. Enemy killed to-date on ANGUAR, totals 600.

On 18 September, the personnel areas on WOTJE were fired by bombs from Marine Corsairs and Dauntless planes.

Aircraft, under command of CINCPAC, reports the following missions completed for 19 September:

The personnel areas on WOTJE were hit by Marine Corsairs and Dauntless dive bombers.

The airfield and gun positions on PONAPE were bombed by 13 Army Mitchells through meager AA fire.

Small fires were started when 24 Army Thunderbolts bombed and strafed AA positions and storage areas on PAGAN ISLAND.

In spite of an intense AA fire, Army Liberators dropped bombs on MARCUS ISLAND.

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9 a.m. 20 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

borne aircraft continues to lend close air support to the landings on MOROTAI. On 17 September, planes from this group destroyed five buildings. The whole MOROTAI operation is proceeding satisfactorily.

During the night of 16-17 September, motor torpedo boats from the Northern SOLOMONS area, sank 3 barges, probably a fourth out of five encountered. During the night of 17-18 September, motor torpedo boats of the same group, straddled enemy targets on BOUGAINVILLE and Northeast NEW IRELAND.

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9 a.m. 20 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 20 September, at 10:34 a.m., all organized resistance ceased on ANGUAR. The casualties suffered by the 81st Infantry Division in this operation to-date are: KIA 22, WIA 167, MIA 0. Enemy killed: 173; two POW's.

On PELELIU, during the night of 18-19 September, the enemy confined itself to sporadic mortar and small arms fire on our positions. On the morning of 19 September, our advance on the left was resumed along rugged terrain with the enemy stubbornly resisting from entrenched pillboxes and aided by supporting artillery and mortar fire. Our assault, however, made steady progress to the north and east, and the east coast has been captured, except for an isolated section in the northeast. From 6:55 p.m. to 7:24 p.m., an enemy air raid was attempted on our positions but no damage was reported.

Upon capturing the airfield at PELELIU, the following enemy planes there were found: 28 twin-engine enemy bombers, 8 twin-engine light bombers, 77 single engine fighters and four transports. All of these planes were badly damaged with the exception of five fighters. Four crated engines and four bladed propellers were also captured.

In the operations up to 1800, 19 September, the 1st Marine Division have suffered casualties on PELELIU as follows: KIA 423, WIA 2622, MIA 302, totalling 3347.

There has been no change in the total of enemy killed on PELELIU, the last reported total being 5495, however one POW has been taken.

While furnishing close rocket fire support, the LCI(G)-459, struck a mine off the reef on the west side of PELELIU and sank twenty minutes later in about 30 fathoms of water. The only casualties reported in this mishap were two wounded.

Minesweeping continues in the roads in KOSSOL PASSAGE. Yesterday, 64 additional mines were swept up, making a total to-date of 249.

The submarine BANG (SS385), on a war patrol northeast of TAIWAN, reports attacking an enemy convoy of eight freighters with five escorts, sinking one freighter and probably sinking another.

Early on the morning of 18 September, the enemy staged an air raid on the landing beaches and the harbor area at MOROTAI. One man was wounded on the auxiliary motor torpedo boat tender MOBJACK (AGP-7). One enemy plane was shot down. Other than noted the raid caused no casualties. Carrier

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9 a.m. 19 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

JALUIT, in spite of heavy AA fire, was bombed by Army Liberators.

Unmolested by the enemy, a patrol plane dropped bombs on ENOJIMA.

On 18 September, CINCPAC reports the following air strikes by aircraft of its command:

In spite of heavy AA fire, armed reconnaissance Liberators, bombed MARCUS ISLAND.

The storage area at WOTJE was bombed by Marine Dauntless planes.

At MAURU, runways, AA positions and the bivouac area were struck by Army Mitchells. The AA fire was from meager to moderate.

The submarine QUEENFISH (SS-393), operating in the SOUTH CHINA SEA, sank on 9 September, a destroyer and a large transport, and probably sank a tanker. On 16 September, in the northern part of the SOUTH CHINA SEA, she damaged a large unidentified enemy vessel.

The submarine BARB (SS-220) on 16 September, damaged a heavily laden enemy freighter and got three torpedo hits in a ship resembling the OTAKA escort carrier class. The BARB also rescued 31 British and Australian survivors from an enemy transport that had been sunk during the night of 12-13 September by the submarine SEALION (SS-315). The survivors state that a torpedo boat of the enemy CHIDORI class rescued the Japanese crew and left the white people to their fate. The rescue by the BARB was made in a 30-knot wind, with high seas running.

On 16 September, in the BASHI CHANNEL, south of FORMOSA, the submarine PICUDA (SS-382), sunk three medium enemy freighters out of an 8-ship convoy.

In the same vicinity, the submarine REDFISH (SS-395), damaged an enemy tanker.

On 17 September, in the waters off the EMPIRE, the submarine PINEFISH (SS-388), damaged an enemy freighter.

His Majesty's Submarine TANTIVY (P-319), operating in the waters of the SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, under operational control of the Naval Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, reports upon returning from a war patrol that she sunk an enemy freighter of 4,000 tons in the vicinity of SUNDA STRAITS, during the night of 4 September.

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4 p.m. 18 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

It is reported that the submarines PAMPANITO and SEALION have on board 113 British and Australian survivors of two Japanese troop ships torpedoed and sunk by the submarines on 17-16 September, respectively, approximately 300 miles west of CAPE BOJEADOR, LUZON ISLAND, PHILIPPINES. Those rescued had been Japanese prisoners of war. A search by other submarines is being conducted for additional survivors.

During the night of 15-16 September, motor torpedo boats from EMIRAU shelled enemy targets on NEW IRELAND.

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9 a.m. 18 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

32 Corsairs bombed and strafed ROTA gun positions and runway installations.

Corsairs bombed food storage dumps at WOTJE.

Marine Dauntless dive bombed the motor pool area at WOTJE. Accurate but meager AA fire brought down one of our planes. The crew was rescued.

The following strikes were reported for 17 September:

The command post area at WOTJE was bombed by 37 Marine Corsairs.

During the night, NAURU ISLAND was harassed by a Catalina.

On MOROTAI ISLAND, 21 Japanese have been killed and 11 captured. Natives reported that about 200 Japanese took to the hills when our landing task force approached. Our casualties, 3 wounded. We lost one plane, shot down by AA fire and another was brought down by an enemy fighter plane.

The submarine FINBACK sank a small Maru on 11 September in the BONIN ISLAND's area.

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9 a.m. 18 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:00 a.m., 17 September, following an hour's preparation by air and naval gunfire, the 1st Marine Division resumed its attack on PELELIU ISLAND and moved ahead in a northerly direction, approximately one third of a mile, capturing NGAREKEHUK and OMAOK. Enemy resistance was heavy on all fronts and was supported by mortar and artillery fire. Much of the enemy artillery has been destroyed by our aircraft and counter-battery fire. Our casualties as of 1800, 17 September, KIA 229, WIA 1650, MIA 44.

On ANGUAR ISLAND, the 81st Division have joined the beachheads established on the north northeast sectors of the island and pushed inland about a 1000 yards against light resistance. The northeast third of ANGUAR is now in our hands.

The U.S.S. WADLEIGH (DD869), operating in the PALAU ISLAND area struck a mine near the east entrance of KOSSOL PASSAGE and sustained extensive damage. The vessel was badly holed amidships, but the damage is reported under control. Further information is not available at this time.

The following strikes on 15 September by CINCPAC aircraft have been reported:

A reconnaissance Liberator dropped bombs on INOUJIMA.

Gun positions on ROTA were hit by Marine Corsairs and two Hellcats strafed the airstrip during the night.

Army Mitchells bombed POMAPE airfield and a heavy AA battery.

The following strikes were reported for 16 September:

The airfield area on INOUJIMA was bombed by 15 Liberators, starting a fire and large explosions. Moderate AA fire was encountered and four unaggressive enemy fighter planes were airborne. All our planes returned without damage.

A reconnaissance Liberator dropped bombs on MARCUS ISLAND.

Two Liberators dropped bombs on PAGAN airfield.

Army Thunderbolts strafed and rocketed installations on PAGAN ISLAND through meager AA fire.

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9 a.m. 17 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

✓ At 8:30 a.m., 17 September, troops of the 81st Infantry Division, U.S. Army, landed against light opposition on the northeast and east coasts of ANGUAIR ISLAND, PALAU ISLANDS, and advanced about 400 yards inland. Prior to the landing, the island was heavily bombed and bombarded by carrier-based aircraft, cruisers and destroyers.

✓ On PELELIU ISLAND, additional gains have been made and progress is reported as satisfactory.

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On 13 September, carrier-based planes of Task Group 38.1 (2 CV, 2 CVL, 3 CA), attacked enemy installations at CEBU, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Considerable damage was reported at the CEBU town dock area and petroleum storages and installations in the vicinity.

In the course of these strikes our aircraft shot down 18 enemy planes and damaged three. In addition, 50 enemy planes were destroyed on the ground. Although complete details are not available, ships of this task group shot down 25 Japanese planes. We lost 5 planes in combat.

✓ On 14 September, the submarine SUNFISH in the YELLOW SEA, sank one tanker, one freighter, and probably sank another tanker and freighter. In addition, a tanker was damaged.

✓ The submarine PAMPANITO sank a large transport, one medium freighter and damaged a medium freighter northwest of LUZON.

✓ The submarine CROWLER sank two destroyers and damaged two freighters. (Previously reported in afternoon summary 14 September as 2 DDs sunk, 2 AK's sunk).

✓ The submarine SEADEVIL, northeast of the BONIN ISLANDS, 16 September, sank an enemy submarine.

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4 p.m. 16 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 15 September, the submarine GUAVINA torpedoed and destroyed a NATORI class cruiser (5,570 tons) anchored at PAGUBAS, SOUTH MINDANAO.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 16 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

ROTA airfield installations and gun positions were bombed by Marine fighters. Meager AA fire was encountered.

PAGAN ISLAND personnel shelters and warehouse areas were rocketed and strafed by Thunderbolts. AA fire encountered was moderate.

MILLE installations were struck by Dauntless and Corsairs through meager AA fire.

28 Liberators started several large explosions on IWOJIMA. AA fire of varied accuracy damaged two Liberators.

The following strikes on 15 September have been reported:

29 Liberators bombed DUHLON and MOEN, TRUK ATOLL. Five enemy fighters attempted interception and slightly damaged one Liberator. One enemy plane was probably damaged. Enemy AA fire was meager and inaccurate.

Mitchells bombed PONAPE.

Thunderbolts strafed and rocketed PAGAN ISLAND AA positions. Light AA fire slightly damaged one plane.

Marine Corsairs struck MOTUE gun positions.

A reconnaissance plane strafed 2 large enemy landing craft and shot down an escorting Zero 55 miles northwest of IWOJIMA.

The submarine SEA LION, reported sinking one large AO and one AP in the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS Area.

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9 a.m. 15 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:30 a.m., 15 September, troops of the 1st Division, U.S. Marines, landed against stiff opposition on the west shore of PELELIU ISLAND. The landings were supported by carrier aircraft and surface bombardment.

Tanks have been brought ashore and our troops are reported to be from two hundred to four hundred yards in shore. Enemy mortar fire continues to harass the beaches. A number of LVT's were lost after landing. Our casualties have not been reported.

Although complete information has not been received, intercepted dispatches indicate that landing operations against MOROTAI ISLAND, North of HALLAMHERA, by Southwest Pacific Forces are proceeding as scheduled.

On the night of 12-13 September, a PBAY, operating Northwest of NEW GUINEA, sank three supply laden enemy sail boats.

During the same night, motor torpedo boats strafed targets along the Northwest coast of NEW GUINEA and NEW IRELAND. Other PT's exchanged fire with enemy batteries in the KIETA area, NEW IRELAND.

The submarine RATON returned from patrol of the PHILIPPINE area, after damaging a large tanker.

The submarine BATFISH returned from patrol west of the MARIANAS after sinking one FUBUKI DD and one MINEKAZE DD, totalling 2,900 tons.

TOP SECRET**TOP SECRET**

OSD L-100

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



4 p.m. 14 September 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Attached is a report in tabular form of results achieved by Task Force 38 in a three-day strike (12-13-14 September) against the VISAYAS, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The minesweeper PERRY (DMS 17), operating southeast of ANGUAIR ISLAND, struck a mine and sank at 4:08 p.m., 13 September. Eleven of the personnel were injured.

The destroyer LEUTZE (DD 481), operating in the PALAU ISLAND Area, sustained minor damage when struck by a ricochet.

A carrier-based plane heavily strafed and rocketed a 1,000 ton freighter in the PALAU AREA.

The submarine GROWLER, on 11 September, sank two large AK's, one Fubuki destroyer, one unidentified destroyer about 240 miles east of HAINAN ISLAND.

On 13 September, the submarine PIKEFISH, in the EMPIRE WATERS, probably sank a medium freighter and damaged a survey ship.

TOP SECRET
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DAMAGE INFLICTED BY TASK FORCE 38
IN VISAYAS, PHILIPPINES, STRIKES
12-13-14 September, 1944

<u>Date</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT DESTROYED</u>		<u>SURFACE CRAFT</u>	
	<u>On Ground</u>	<u>In Air</u>	<u>Sunk</u>	<u>*Damaged</u>
Sept. 12	123	75	2 large AK 1 medium AP 2 DE 22 small ships	5 AK 1 medium AO 30 small vessels 2 MTB Many sampans
Sept. 13	139	81	13 small ships	6 small ships
Sept. 14	10 (approx.)	**	***	***
Total	272	156		

Notes:

- * Some of these probably sunk.
- ** No airborne opposition encountered.
- *** No shipping left to sink
- 1. It is believed pilot estimates of planes destroyed on the ground are excessive, but photo estimates total 150 to 175.
- 2. No attempt made by enemy aircraft to hit surface forces.
- 3. Preliminary estimate of our losses relatively very light.
- 4. Few serviceable planes in this area left to Japs.
- 5. Most of the bulk oil supplies destroyed.
- 6. At CEBU, many buildings destroyed, 3 ammunition storages burned, about 8 oil tanks burned. At MACTAN ISLAND, 3 large oil tanks destroyed. At TACLOBAN ISLAND, fuel storage at several airfields destroyed.

COMINCH FILE

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TOP SECRET
REF ID: A66773
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9 a.m. 14 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

One Liberator dropped bombs on PAGAN gun positions. The area was again attacked by Army Thunderbolts.

NAURU ISLAND runways and gun positions were bombed by Army Mitchells.

Marine Corsairs struck WOTJE coast defense positions.

On 13 September, carrier based planes of Task Group 38.4 bombed, strafed and rocketed installations in the PALAU ISLANDS. Hits were scored at NGESEBUS, ANGUAR and PELELIU. Extensive damage was reported.

During the night of 10-11 September, PT's strafed an enemy observation post on the Northwest coast of NEW IRELAND.

On the same night, two Catalinas over the WESTERN CERAM area, destroyed a large barge, probably destroyed a small freighter and drove a medium freighter on a reef. Another freighter was set on fire while one was strafed with unobserved results. A third Catalina, over the Northeastern CEEBES, damaged a small freighter and a medium freighter.

The submarine ALBACORE, in the EMPIRE waters on 11 September, sank an unidentified Maru.

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 14 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

As no other information has been received, the following extract from CINCPAC Communique No. 115, is quoted:

"Am releasing communique No. 115 at 2030 GCT today:

"One: Carrier based aircraft of the Pacific Fleet shot down more than fifty enemy aircraft and destroyed more than 150 on the ground in a day long attack against CEBU, NEGROS, and PANAY ISLANDS in the PHILIPPINES on 11 September (west longitude date). Preliminary reports are fragmentary, but it is indicated that air operations are continuing against strong enemy opposition. Several cargo ships and numerous smaller craft were sunk in the initial attacks."

On 11 September, IWOJIMA airfields were hit by 15 Army Liberators. A number of large fires were started. About one to four enemy fighters were reported destroyed. Accurate AA fire damaged two Liberators.

The following strikes by CINCPAC aircraft on 12 September have been reported:

A Navy Catalina bombed an ammunition dump at NAURU ISLAND.

JALUIT stores and magazine areas were hit by Marine Corsairs.

Army Thunderbolts rocketed and bombed PAGAN ISLAND gun positions and other installations. AA fire encountered was meager.

WOTJE gun positions and radio station were bombed by Marine Corsairs.

Bivouac areas at MILE were dive bombed by Dauntless planes. Meager AA fire was encountered.

An Army Liberator dropped bombs on MARCUS ISLAND. Accurate AA fire damaged the bomber.

The following strikes on 13 September by CINCPAC aircraft have been reported:

Two Liberators bombed MARCUS ISLAND. But due to weather results were unobserved.

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TOP SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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9 a.m. 13 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 11 September, carrier planes of Task Group 38.4, attacked installations at PELELIU, BABELTHUAP and ANGUAR. In addition, to destruction of buildings at PELELIU and damage to a radio station at BABELTHUAP, a small cargo vessel in the vicinity was sunk and another damaged.

The following day, the area was again attacked by the same task group with additional damage and destruction of buildings and gun positions at PELELIU and ANGUAR. In these operations no combat losses were sustained.

Although no report has been received, a CINCPAC Communique reports that the defenses in the PALAU ISLAND were shelled by battleships and cruisers on 12 September.

The submarine SEAL, in the OKHOTSK SEA, on 10 September, sank one destroyer, one freighter and probably sank another freighter. One cargo vessel and one transport was damaged.

The submarine GUITARRO returned from patrol of the PHILIPPINE area and reported as follows:

<u>SUNK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
1 Amagiri (DD) 1,700 tons	1 CL Katori Class 6,000 tons
1 Hibiki (DD) 1,700 tons	1 AK 4,000 tons
1 AK 4,000 tons	TOTAL - - 10,000 tons
1 AK 2,000 tons	
1 Vessel 700 tons	
TOTAL - 10,100 tons	

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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9 a.m. 12 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

16 Army Liberators attacked airfields and other installations on IROJIMA. Results were not observed. About 10 enemy fighters intercepted and of these 6 were destroyed, one probably destroyed and another damaged. Three Liberators sustained damage and two crewmen were killed and five wounded.

Three Liberators unsuccessfully attacked two freighters and one destroyer west of CHICHIJIMA.

The ROTA air strip was bombed by Marine Corsairs. No AA fire was encountered.

A reconnaissance plane attacked a small tanker 130 miles southeast of CHICHIJIMA. The vessel was left on fire in a sinking condition.

On 10 September, planes of Task Group 38.4 attacked the PALAU ISLANDS. AA emplacements and defense installations on ANGAUR, PELELIEU and KOROR ISLANDS, were hit. A number of fires started on KOROR. We lost two fighters, one fighter bomber and torpedo bomber. Seven of the flight personnel were lost.

The following strikes by CINCPAC aircraft on 11 September, have been reported:

29 Army Liberators hit the seaplane base on ETEN, TRUK ATOLL. About 6 aggressive enemy fighters using phosphorous bombs were encountered and of these one was destroyed, one damaged. Three Liberators sustained light damage.

Marine Corsairs attacked installations at JALUIT and MALOELAP. Intense and light AA fire was encountered at JALUIT. None at MALOELAP.

MILLE installations were attacked by Marine Corsairs and Dauntless through moderate AA fire.

Army Thunderbolts rocketed PAGAN installations and AA positions. Intense to meager AA fire was encountered.

At 4:51 a.m. 12 September, the U. S. Destroyer FULLAM (474) collided with the destroyer transport NOAH (APD24) while maneuvering at an undisclosed locality in the WESTERN PACIFIC. The NOAH sank at 10:30 p.m. The FULLAM sustained considerable damage, and can make about 12 knots. No personnel casualties were suffered.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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9 a.m. 12 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

As no other information has been received relative to the strike against objectives on MINDANAO ISLAND by Task Force 38, the following excerpt from CINCPAC Communique 114 is quoted:

"Carrier based aircraft of the Pacific Fleet struck at enemy airfields and other military objectives at Mindanao Island in the Philippines on September 8 (west longitude date). The airfields at Del Monte, Valencia, Cagayan, Buayan, and Davao were bombed and strafed. In these attacks two enemy aircraft were encountered near our carriers, five were encountered over Cagayan, and one over Davao. All were shot down. Approximately 60 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. Barracks, warehouses, and hangars were hit at the several airdromes attacked. Enemy waterfront installations at Matina, Cagayan, and Surigao were also bombed.

"A convoy was discovered off Hinatuan Bay consisting of 32 loaded coastal cargo ships and 20 sampans. This convoy was brought under attack by Pacific Fleet cruisers, destroyers, and carrier aircraft, and all of the enemy ships were destroyed. In addition, enemy shipping found in Sarangani Bay and Davao Gulf, and near Cagayan and Surigao was attacked, resulting in the sinking or probable sinking of 16 small cargo ships, one medium cargo ship, one patrol craft, and many sampans, and setting fire to two small cargo ship, and at least 17 sampans. Our aircraft losses in the operations were very light. There was no damage to our surface ships."

During the night of 9-10 September, over the CELEBES AREA, a Catalina attacked a 6,000 ton freighter, scored a bomb hit and set the vessel on fire. Another Catalina attacked a 2,000 ton vessel northwest of AMBON with unreported results.

On the night of 9 September, a reconnaissance Liberator bombed the runways on IWOJIMA. Results were not reported.

The following strikes by CINCPAC aircraft, on 10 September, have been reported:

NAURU AA positions and air strips were bombed by 7 Mitchells through meager AA fire.

36 Corsairs attacked gun emplacements on IOTJE. Results were not reported.

Sent last Night

General Report in AMM News

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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ON 11/11/2000

9 a.m. 11 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 7-8 September, PT's strafed targets along the southeast coast of GEELVINK BAY, northwest NEW GUINEA.

On the night of 8-9 September, a Catalina set on fire and destroyed a 10,000 ton fleet tanker in MALUSU BAY, southwest MINDANAO. PT's damaged a beached barge on the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND while other PT's strafed the northeast coast of NEW IRELAND.

*Reported
4 pm*

The following additional missions, on 8 September, by CINCPAC aircraft have been reported:

MILLE gun positions were hit by Marine Corsairs and Dauntless. Light and moderate AA fire damaged one Dauntless.

The following strikes, on 9 September, by CINCPAC aircraft have been reported:

MILLE gun positions were attacked through meager AA fire by Marine Corsairs and Dauntless.

WOTJE gun positions were struck by 3 Army Liberators. No AA fire was encountered.

JALUIT magazine and personnel areas were attacked through light but intense AA fire by Marine Dauntless and Corsairs.

PONAPE airfields and gun positions were bombed by 12 Army Mitchells. Meager AA fire was encountered.

A reconnaissance Liberator dropped bombs on PAGAN ISLAND. Results were not reported.

The submarine SPADEFISH, operating northeast of FORMOSA, sank 4 AK's and damaged one. *del*

The submarine BANG, operating northwest of the BONIN ISLANDS, sank one medium AK and 1 medium AO.

The submarine PLATCE, in the EAST CHINA SEA, reported scoring one torpedo hit on a KONGO MARU converted auxiliary cruiser.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



DECLASSIFIED
TOP SECRET
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4 p.m. 10 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 7 September, a Catalina attacked two small vessels and set one on fire south of SARANGANI BAY (southeast MINDANAO).

During the night of 7-8 September, Catalinas over northeast and east CELEBES damaged a small freighter and strafed five sail boats. PT's shelled targets along the southwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

During the night of 8-9 September, a Catalina set on fire a medium freighter in BASLAN STRAIT (Southwest MINDANAO).

The submarine SEAL, in the OKHOTSK SEA, on 8 September, sank a small vessel.

TOP-SECRET**TOP-SECRET**

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

4 p.m. 9 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 7 September, three CL and 4 DD (CruDiv 14 and DesDiv 100) bombarded targets and started fires in the PALAU ISLANDS, particularly on ANGUAR ISLAND. In addition, planes of Task Force 38 scored numerous hits on supply bases and the radio station at PELELIU. Large fires were observed at KOROR and ARAKABESAN, PALAU ISLANDS. Our planes encountered meager AA fire.

The following additional strikes on 7 September by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

A reconnaissance Liberator dropped bombs on IWOJIMA airfields through very meager AA fire.

MOEN airfield, in TRUK ATOLL, was attacked by 26 Army Liberators. Two of the bombers were damaged by moderate AA fire. About 6 enemy fighters dropped phosphorous bombs, but otherwise did not attack.

The following missions on 8 September by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

Fires were started in the airfield area and among installations on IWOJIMA by 9 Liberators. Of 4 enemy fighters airborne, one was probably destroyed. Our bombers encountered moderate but accurate AA fire.

Six Army Liberators, in an attack on enemy shipping in CHICHIJIMA HARBOR, damaged one freighter. AA fire was moderate.

PAGAN ISLAND gun positions were rocketed and strafed by Army Thunderbolts through moderate machine gun fire.

A Navy Catalina dropped bombs on NAURU ISLAND runway.

Marine Corsairs scored bomb hits on a powerhouse and magazines at WOTJE and JALUIT. One Corsair was shot down over JALUIT.

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

9 a.m. 9 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

*Porter
7/4*
On 6 and 7 September, planes of Task Group 38.4 (2 CV, 2 CVL, one CA, one CL, 12 DD) bombed, strafed and rocketed installations on YAP ISLAND. Considerable damage from previous bombing and shelling was observed, and the absence of suitable targets was reported. Our planes encountered meager AA fire and no enemy planes.

The following day, YAP was again attacked by the same Task Group, but only two striking runs were completed due to lack of targets. In the three-day operation, four planes were lost.

The following strikes on 7 September by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

MILLE radio station and gun positions were bombed by 12 Marine Corsairs and 20 dive bombers. No AA fire was encountered.

Forty Marine Corsairs struck WOTJE and started a number of fires. No AA fire was encountered.

AGUIJAN ISLAND, in the MARIANAS, was strafed by 8 Army Thunderbolts.

Sixteen Army P47's strafed and rocketed gun positions and buildings on PAGAN ISLAND. AA fire was moderate.

Three Army reconnaissance Liberators dropped bombs through moderate AA fire on MARCUS ISLAND airfield installations, starting explosions and a fire.

A reconnaissance plane strafed and set on fire a small freighter 40 miles southwest of CHICHIJIMA, BONIN ISLANDS.

During the morning of 7 September, 2 frigates supported the landing of Army troops on the west shore of GREEPIORI ISLAND, SCHOUTEN ISLAND GROUP. No enemy opposition was encountered.

During the night of 6-7 September, Catalinas over SARANGANI BAY, MINDANAO and the AMBON, CERAM AREA sank one small AK, one barge, probably sank two medium AK's, one small AK and damaged 3 small AK's, four barges. PT's strafed 2 villages on the north central coast of VOGELKOP.

The submarine GURNARD returned from patrol after damaging a 4,000 ton freighter off the east coast of PELANG ISLAND, northeast CELEBES.

The submarine ALBACORE, on 8 September, sank one oiler and one patrol craft in the EMPIRE waters.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 8 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The USS FLINCHER (DD 368), while operating off the southern tip of WOTJE ISLAND, was hit by coastal defense batteries from the island on 6 September at 9:50 a.m. The accident resulted in five minor casualties in personnel. The materiel casualties are such that they can be repaired by tender availability.

On 5 September, Army Mitchells bombed the airfields and AA positions at NAURU and PONAPE. AA fire at the former place was moderate, while at the latter it was meager.

The following airstrikes were reported by aircraft from CinCPac on 6 September:

Shortly after noon, 17 Army Liberators attacked IWOJIMA's airfields. The AA fire was moderate to intense, but varying in accuracy.

Three patrol Liberators deposited bombs on MARCUS ISLAND. The enemy's AA fire was moderate but it's tracking was accurate enough to damage one of the planes.

PAGAN ISLAND was again visited by rocket firing, strafing Thunderbolts that hit the AA positions there.

During the night of 5-6 September, motor torpedo boats from AITAPE rocked and strafed the plantation on KAIRURU ISLAND, northwest of NEWAK.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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4 p.m. 7 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A fighter sweep conducted from task groups of fast carrier Task Force 38 (Vice Admiral Mitscher) against PALAU on 6 September failed to encounter any enemy airborne aircraft or shipping, and the AA fire was found to be meager. The few operational aircraft seen were destroyed on the ground by burning. Surface craft totaling 8 sampans, 3 motor launches and 6 barges were burned by strafing. On BABELTHUAP ISLAND, an ammunition or fuel dump was burnt.

PALAU was again struck by these units on 7 September. Early reports from these strikes indicate that the enemy's AA fire was still meager and inaccurate. AA positions, personnel and supply areas were bombed.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



9 a.m. 7 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)

The following CinCPac press communique is released for information:

"The airfield at IWOJIMA, in the VOLCANO ISLANDS, was bombed by 19 Liberators of the 7th Army Air Force on 5 September. Two enemy fighters were in the air but made no attempt at interception. AA fire was moderate. A single Liberator bombed IWOJIMA during the night of 4-5 September.

"The airstrip at ROTA ISLAND was bombed on 4 September by Marine Corsairs.

"MARCUS ISLAND was attacked by 7th AAF Liberators on 4 and 5 September. On 4 September, a building apparently used for ammunition storage was hit and destroyed. AA fire was intense. On 5 September, a single Liberator bombed the island again.

"A Liberator search plane of Group One, Fleet Air Wing 2, intercepted and shot down an enemy transport plane near IWOJIMA on 5 September. A medium bomber, escorting the transport, managed to escape.

"Further neutralization raids against enemy positions in the MARSHALLS were conducted on 5 September by 7th AAF Liberators, Corsair fighters and Dauntless dive bombers of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing."

The following additional strikes on 4-5 September by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

Thunderbolts rocketed and strafed AA positions on PAGAN ISLAND. There was meager AA fire.

Corsairs and Dauntless of the 4th Marine Air Wing hit gun positions on MILLE, blockhouses and bivouac areas on WOTJE and TAROA.

WOTJE airfield and storage areas were bombed by Army Liberators. AA fire meager to nil.

A Liberator, on a reconnaissance flight over YAP and WOLEAL, dropped bombs on YAP air installations, encountering moderate AA fire.

During the night of 3-4 September, EMIRAU ISLAND PT's shelled northeast NEW IRELAND. Two PT's from WOENDI were damaged by shore fire off the west coast of GHELVINK BAY.

The submarine BOWFIN (SS287), operating in the central PACIFIC, reports sinking a small armed gasoline freighter.

The submarine BARB (SS220), on a war patrol off the northwest coast of LUZON, sunk a sampan.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



6 September 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 3 September, an Army Liberator bombed YAP and on 4 September, additional Liberators hit the personnel and air installation areas there. The AA fire was moderate and accurate.

During the night of 3-4 September, a Navy patrol plane attacked NAURU. The enemy defenses offered no resistance.

As a result of rocketing and strafing gun positions, 16 Thunderbolts of the 7th Army Air Force started fires in the building area on PAGAN ISLAND. The enemy defensive fire was meager.

UNITED STATES FLEET
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4 p.m. 5 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The gun positions and bivouac area on ROTA ISLAND were bombed by Marine Corsairs on 1 September.

The following air strikes were reported by CinCPac for 2 September:

Liberators bombed PAGAN ISLAND but no observation of the damage was made. There was no enemy AA fire.

Launching rockets and strafing AA positions on PAGAN ISLAND, 16 Thunderbolts of the 7th Army Air Force met only meager AA fire.

During 5 September, motor torpedo boats from EMIRAU shelled the northeast coast of NEW IRELAND.

CAPE DJERUAN, west of DAGUR, northeast NEW GUINEA, was shelled by motor torpedo boats.

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

9 a.m. 5 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The runways at NAURU and AA positions there were hit by Mitchells. Three of our planes were damaged by AA fire.

Rockets were employed by Thunderbolts in an attack on MAUG and PAGAN ISLANDS.

ROTA was bombed by Marine Corsairs.

Operating on a war patrol in the waters south of KOREA, the submarine PINTADO (SS387) reports sinking two large oil tankers and a large floating whale factory.

Returning from a patrol in the waters of the SOUTH CHINA SEA, the submarine RASHER (SS269) reports sinking 5 ships for a tonnage of 45,000 and damaging 4 ships for a total of 22,000 tons.

During the nights of 3-4 September, motor torpedo boats, from WOENDI, destroyed an enemy barge in GEEVLINK BAY.

The radar station and other targets in the JEFMAN AREA, DAMPIER STRAIT, were blasted by motor torpedo boats from AMSTERDAM ISLAND.

Mines were sunk by motor torpedo boats from TREASURY ISLAND in the BOUGAINVILLE STRAITS.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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TOP SECRET
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9 a.m. 5 September 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Aircraft destroyed or damaged: A fighter sweep on 31 August destroyed all airborne enemy planes and during the balance of the engagement none were encountered airborne. 10 enemy aircraft shot down near IWOJIMA. 1 twin engine bomber shot down over our task force. 33 enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground, 29 probably destroyed, and 10 damaged at IWOJIMA. Two seaplanes destroyed at CHICHIJIMA.

Damage to ground installations: Extensive damage was done to hangars, shops, warehouses, fuel dumps, and AA positions by bombing and shelling during these attacks. Several AA positions were destroyed at IWOJIMA, a large warehouse was destroyed at HAHAJIMA, and at CHICHIJIMA the seaplane base was demolished.

Own damage: In these operations we lost 5 aircraft in combat. Our personnel casualties were 1 pilot and 3 flight personnel. There was no damage to our ships.

The following air strikes were reported by CinCPac aircraft on 2 September:

The radio station and AA guns on MILE were hit by Marine Corsairs and Dauntless dive bombers. The enemy's AA was light and meager. The ammunition dumps on WOTJE and AA guns and the magazines and personnel areas on MALOELAP were bombed by Corsairs. The enemy's AA fire was light and inaccurate at WOTJE and at MALOELAP was moderate and accurate.

TRUK received bombs from 27 Army Liberators from 4:14 p.m. to 4:44 p.m. One aggressive Zero attempted to intercept, but did no damage. The defensive fire was heavy but inaccurate.

The airfields at PONAPE were bombed by Mitchells. The AA fire was heavy but inaccurate.

The following strikes were reported by CinCPac aircraft on 3 September:

At 9:35 a.m., 40 Army Liberators hit the air installations on IWOJIMA. An enemy fighter attempted an interception by dropping phosphorous bombs on our planes but no damage was done. This fighter did not choose to engage our aircraft. Three of our planes were damaged by the heavy and intense AA fire. One of our Liberators, upon reaching the target area, was forced to turn back. Its crew bailed out, and it is believed they were picked up by a friendly task force.

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

9 a.m. 5 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 4 September WAKE ISLAND was hit by cruisers and destroyers and carrier aircraft comprising Task Group 12.5, Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith (CA's CHESTER, SALT LAKE CITY, PENSACOLA, the CVL MONTEREY and 3 DD's). It is stated that the following damage was done:

Two 8-inch coastal defense guns on TOKI POINT, PEALE ISLAND one 8-inch gun on PEACOCK POINT, WAKE ISLAND, and two 5-inch dual purpose installations on HEEL POINT, WAKE ISLAND, were put out of commission. In addition, four water tanks and one distilling plant on PEALE ISLAND were destroyed. It is reported the following were probably damaged: one 5-inch AA gun on PEACOCK POINT, two 5-inch dual purpose guns in the center of the eastern side of WAKE ISLAND and three small vessels in the lagoon.

All AA positions were heavily strafed. There were no airborne enemy planes. The enemy's AA fire was from medium to heavy and varied from inaccurate to accurate, and of the barrage variety.

LD No operational nor combat losses were suffered in the air and no surface ships were damaged. Two planes received minor damage from AA fire. The enemy's fire from shore batteries was ineffective.

CHICHIJIMA and HAHAJIMA, in the BONIN ISLANDS, and IWOJIMA, in the VOLCANO ISLANDS, were bombed and strafed by aircraft of Carrier Task Force 38.4, Rear Admiral Ralph Davison (CV's FRANKLIN and ENTERPRISE, CVL's SAN JACINTO and LANGLEY, the CA NEW ORLEANS, the CL BILOXI and 12 DD's) on 30 and 31 August and on 1 September (WLD). On 30 August and 1 September, CHICHIJIMA and IWOJIMA were bombarded by cruisers and destroyers of this task group.

The following damage was inflicted on the enemy:

Ships sunk: 3 small cargo ships and a landing barge at IWOJIMA. 1 small cargo ship southwest of HAHAJIMA, damaged by bombing and later sunk by a destroyer. 1 small tanker and 6 barges at CHICHIJIMA. 1 small cargo ship northwest of CHICHIJIMA.

Ships probably sunk: 1 small cargo ship and 1 sub chaser northwest of IWOJIMA. 1 sub chaser southwest of CHICHIJIMA. 1 sub chaser at HAHAJIMA.

Ships damaged: 2 sub chasers at IWOJIMA. 1 sub chaser and a sampan near CHICHIJIMA.

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

9 a.m. 4 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following additional strikes on 31 August by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

Two Army Liberators, Marine Corsairs and Dauntless bombed the building area and gun positions at MILE. AA fire was meager.

Army Liberators, encountering no AA fire, bombed PAGAN ISLAND.

An Army reconnaissance Liberator dropped bombs on YAP and WOLEAI ISLANDS. Heavy and moderate AA fire was encountered at YAP, meager fire at WOLEAI.

The following strikes by CinCPac aircraft on 1 September have been reported:

Thunderbolts rocketed and strafed AA installations at PAGAN ISLAND. AA fire encountered was light and meager.

A Liberator, on a reconnaissance flight, dropped bombs on YAP and WOLEAI ISLANDS, encountering meager AA fire at both places.

During the night of 31 August, PT's strafed an enemy bivouac area at KARIENSORI, west NEW GUINEA.

On 1 September, a PB4Y reconnaissance plane set on fire an oil barge north of PALAU. A Liberator forced a small freighter transport ashore north of CENTRAL CELEBES.

During 2 September, a Liberator damaged a small freighter south-east of the SULU ARCHIPELAGO, and a PB4Y attacked about 12 small freighters off CAPE SAN AUGUSTIN, MINDANAO, forcing a number of them ashore.

During the night of 2-3 September, a Catalina strafed a 3,000 ton freighter northeast of the CELEBES with unobserved results.

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3 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 1 September, a reconnaissance plane over JALUIT sank an 18 foot boat.

During the night of 31 August - 1 September, Catalinas sank a small AK off western CERAM, bombed and strafed four vessels in the LEMTER area. In addition, 7 barges in the vicinity were bombed.

During the same night, PT's strafed enemy positions on Northern NEW IRELAND, destroyed a barge in the MANOKWARI area and strafed an enemy village on the west coast of GEELVINK BAY.

The submarine BATFISH destroyed a beached FUBUKI class destroyer at Northwest PALAU. | sent

The submarine RAY returned from patrol northwest of BORNEO and reported the following results: | sent

<u>SUNK</u>		<u>DAMAGED</u>	
1 AO	10,000 tons	1 AK	7,500 tons
1 AP	6,400 tons	1 AP	6,900 tons
1 AO	10,000 tons	1 AK	<u>4,000 tons</u>
1 AO	<u>10,000 tons</u>	TOTAL	<u>18,400 tons</u>
TOTAL	<u>36,400 tons</u>		

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

9 a.m. 2 September 1944

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following missions on 31 August, by CinCPac aircraft, have been reported:

Marine Corsairs and Dauntless attacked MILLE gun positions.

NAIRU ISLAND was bombed by one Navy Catalina.

Eight Army Thunderbolts, employing rockets, attacked gun positions on PAGAN ISLAND. It is believed that five guns were destroyed. PAGAN installations were strafed by other Thunderbolts. Meager AA fire damaged one Thunderbolt.

A Liberator attacked the PAGAN ISLAND radio station and AA gun installations. No AA fire was encountered.

During the night of 30-31 August, night flying Catalinas, operating over the northeast CELEBES Area and over AMBON, probably sank a small freighter, damaged two freighters, sank one schooner and damaged another.

Allied frigates shelled enemy positions on the north coast of BIAK ISLAND.

On 1 September, a patrol plane of Task Force 57 attacked a convoy of small vessels 90 miles south southeast of CHICHIJIMA, with the following results: One AK sunk, one AK on fire and dead in the water.

The submarine GROWLER, operating northwest of LUZON, sank one fleet destroyer, one AO and damaged two AK's.

The submarine BATFISH, operating northwest of PALAU, sank one Minekaze destroyer.

The submarine DACE returned from patrol of the area southwest of MINDANAO and reported as follows:

<u>Sunk</u>		<u>Damaged</u>
1 small vessel	1,200 tons	1 AK 10,000 tons
2 small AK	2,000 tons	
Total	3,200 tons	

305 Subs

1127 3AK

100
35 small

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

9 a.m. 1 September 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following strikes on 29 August by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

A reconnaissance Liberator dropped bombs on WOLEAI and YAP ISLANDS. AA fire encountered was meager.

During the night two Army Liberators attacked IWOJIMA. Due to weather, results were unobserved.

PAGAN ISLAND was attacked by 7 Liberators. Bombs fell on airfield installations. No AA fire was encountered.

The following missions on 30 August by CinCPac aircraft have been reported:

Storage areas and gun positions on PAGAN ISLAND were strafed by P47's. A number of fires started.

Sixty-five Marine Corsairs and 43 Dauntless bombed MILLE gun positions.

NAURU gun positions and airstrips were attacked by 36 Mitchells. A number of fires started. During the night, the island was harassed by Catalinas.

A reconnaissance Liberator bombed YAP and WOLEAI ISLANDS, drawing moderate AA fire at YAP and meager fire at WOLEAI. Due to weather, results were unobserved.

Night flying Catalinas, operating over the northeast CELEBES AREA, damaged an escort ship, probably sank a small tanker and destroyed two of five small freighters.

The submarine BARB, operating south of FORMOSA, sank one 6,500 ton freighter and one 2,500 ton freighter.

The submarine QUEENFISH, operating south of FORMOSA, sank an oiler and damaged a freighter.

The submarine SEA LION, operating north of LUZON, sank one transport, one unidentified destroyer and probably sank a tanker.

The submarine BOWFIN, operating in the RYUKYU-CHINA COAST Area, sank two Minekaze destroyers, two large freighters, destroyed a trawler by gun-fire and damaged a large transport or freighter.