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

1 January 1945 - 12 April 1945

(Pages 1471 - 1709)

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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OAD 24 Sept. 1945

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

9 AM 12 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The following air operations have been reported:

11 April:

A Marine Mitchell damaged a small freighter transport south of HONSHU.

7 Hellcats, 37 Corsairs bombed targets on PALAU, while 4 other Corsairs bombed YAP. One of our planes was damaged.

11 Helldivers, 6 Corsairs struck JALUIT. 2 of our planes were damaged.

17 Corsairs and one Privateer bombed PONAPE.

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

FOR VICTORY BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

9 AM 12 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

During the operations against TSUGEN ISLAND, LST-557 was damaged by a large mortar shell, resulting in 2 killed and 1 wounded.

The SC-667 is aground on a reef northeast of KUTAKA SHIMA, with both screws damaged. At 4:40 AM on 10 April, the HAMBLETON (DMS-20) and YMS-96 collided. The HAMBLETON suffered no damage, but the YMS-96's engine room was flooded and she was towed to KERAMA.

On the evening of 10 April, 5 of our ships anchored the first time in NAKAGUSUKU WAN. Minesweeping operations are continuing. Protective measures have been established at the NAGO WAN anchorage. A high surf prohibited unloading at HAGUSHI, but the NAGO beaches are in use.

Between 10:00 and 10:40 AM on 11 April, 5 enemy planes approached OKINAWA from the north, but no attack resulted.

At 6:20 PM on the same day, two raids approached the island from the southwest but turned back again. Possibly one or two planes landed at NAHA after dark. Two enemy planes, however, did attack the MANLOVE (DE-36) which was on patrol. She shot down one. Minor damage was received topside from strafing, and one man was killed and 10 wounded.

Our escort carrier planes attacked MINAMI DAITO SHIMA on 9 April, and SAKISHIMA GUNTO on 10 and 11 April. A fighter, while taking off from YONTAN, crashed into 3 parked planes, burning one. There were no personnel casualties. A transport crash-landed at YONTAN on the afternoon, resulting in one killed and 7 wounded. KADENA airfield is inoperable owing to heavy rains. On 11 April, the enemy lost 4 planes in the vicinity of OKINAWA, and we lost one by AA fire.

Between 0050 and 0600 AM on 12 April, about 25 planes in 10 groups approached OKINAWA from the north. Seven were shot down by air patrols and AA fire. No damage was suffered by our ships. Two planes attacked YONTAN airfield. No damage report has been received.

The HOPPING (APD-51) (morning summaries 10 and 11 April) had two killed and 19 wounded aboard.

On 10 April, the 2nd Marine Division departed the OKINAWA area for SAIPAN.

On 11 April, 164th RCT of the Americal Division landed near TAGBILARAN, on the southwest coast of BOHOL. There was no enemy opposition, and unloading is proceeding satisfactorily. At 10:37 AM on 9 April, the Commander Landing Force assumed command ashore on JOLO.

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

9 AM 12 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

At 6:05 PM on 10 April, the 3rd Battalion, RCT 105, 27th Division (incorrectly reported as 77th Division in yesterday's despatches) completed the capture of TSUGEN SHIMA. Incomplete casualty reports are 8 killed, 34 wounded and 3 missing. Enemy casualties were 150 killed and no POW's were taken. With the elimination of the enemy on TSUGEN SHIMA, it is believed that all the eastern islands are cleared of enemy troops.

Patrols of the 6th Marine Division have reached SHANA WAN on the northwestern coast, and TAIRA and ATTSUBARU, on the eastern coast. Other elements of the 6th Marines continued their operations on the MOTOBU PENINSULA and have met with organized resistance in the center of the front. The 1st Marine Division continues to patrol its assigned areas and captured 5 enemy suicide boats.

In the south, the 24th Corps continued to consolidate its positions and to obtain dominating terrain prior to resuming its offensive. The 7th Division has cleared minefields up to OUKI, on the eastern coast. There is an extremely strong enemy position at Hill No. 178, one mile northwest of the YONABARU airfield, which is obstructing further advances. The JAPANESE defense system, which is organized around SHURI, consists of a series of concentric positions and is described as more elaborately organized than anything previously met.

On 10 April, 10 more enemy were killed by garrison troops on ZAMAMI SHIMA. At noon on 12 April, troops in the KERAMA RETTO will pass to the command of the island commander of OKINAWA.

As of 09/2400, casualties were as follows:

	KIA	MIA	WIA	TOTAL	INEFFECTIVES
Marines	102	394	3	499	396
Army	330	1709	157	2196	640
TOTAL	432	2103	160	2695	1036

The 96th Division has sustained approximately 45% of the total combined casualties reported.

On the night of 8 and 9 April, 12 to 15 enemy suicide surface boats attacked our ships and at least 6 were destroyed. About 15 swimmers were also killed. Supporting naval gunfire is neutralising and destroying suicide boat pens and bases on the southwest coast of the island.

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

4 PM 11 April 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'.D)

On 9 April, there were approximately 73,000 OKINAWAN civilians under our control. About 1,500 males, between 15 and 45, are being employed as laborers, and crops are being harvested by organized parties under our supervision.

The STERETT (DD-407) reports that on 9 April she was hit by one of 5 suicide planes (morning summary 10 April). She shot down 3, and a fourth hit LCS-346. The fifth plane hit the STERETT on the starboard side, main deck, beneath the bridge, and caused considerable damage to that part of the ship. Only 2 men were wounded.

The TIRANTE (SS-420) has reported that she sank one cargo ship and an escorting frigate while on patrol in the PACIFIC.

A summarized report of casualties to ships of our amphibious task forces, up to the 11th of April, has been received from CTF 51. Together with reports from ships of Task Force 58, these produce the revised total as follows: KIA and MIA - 1,660, WIA - 1,494. (See afternoon summary 10 April).

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9 AM 11 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

CTF 51 reports that as of midnight 8 April 12 of our ships have been sunk. This report probably includes the 8 ships reported in these summaries (3 DD, 1 DMS, 1 AM, 1 APD, 1 LCI, 1 PGM), plus the HOBBS VICTORY and LOGAN VICTORY, LST-347 and the YMS-103. On 9 April it was further reported that the YMS-103 was beached and salvageable. The HOBBS VICTORY and LOGAN VICTORY, loaded with ammunition, were hit by suicide planes during the late afternoon attack on 6 April. The HOBBS VICTORY has sunk and the LOGAN VICTORY was last seen on 7 April burning intensely and exploding, and is assumed lost.

On 2 April, the USS FRANKS (DD-554) was in collision with the NEW JERSEY (BB-62). Considerable damage was received on the portside of the FRANKS, between the No. 2 mount and the No. 2 stack. The port wing of the bridge was completely demolished.

A corrected report has been received concerning the patrol results of the BAYA (SS-318), reported as having sunk 19,300 tons of enemy shipping (morning summary 9 April). The following are the revised figures:

Ship	Tonnage
1 AO	5,000 tons
1 AK	7,500 "
1 DD	1,000 "
Total tonnage	13,500 "

The USS BLENNY (SS-324) reports that on her second war patrol she achieved the following results:

Sunk	Tonnage
1 AO	10,000 tons
1 AK	7,500 "
2 AK 4,000 tons ea.	8,000 "
	25,500 "
Damaged	
2 AO 10,000 tons ea.	20,000 "
GRAND TOTAL	45,500 "

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

9 AM 11 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D)

Commander 7th Fleet reports that on 9 April our forces landed on JOLO ISLAND. In the afternoon summary of 10 April, these were erroneously reported as elements of the 163rd Division.. The landing was made by the 163rd RCT, less one battalion, of the 41st Division. The latest report is that JOLO TOWN has been captured, and that MT. PATIKUL, in the northern part of the island, has been reached by our forces.

On the same day, an unopposed landing was made by other elements of the 41st Division on BUSUANGA ISLAND, in the CALAMIAN GROUP, southwest of MINDORO. Our troops have reached CORON BAY, one of the finest anchorages in the PHILIPPINES.

On 10 April, Marines of the 6th Division continued their advances up the MOTOBU PENINSULA, and captured the submarine base at UNTEN. On the western flank, our forces hold a line along the MANNA RIVER. To the north, patrols reached the village of TSUNA on the west coast.

The situation on the 24th Army Corps' front remained unchanged on the 10th, while positions were consolidated and enemy counter attacks were repulsed. A landing was made by a RCT of the 77th Division on TSUGEN ISLAND, off the east coast, and reports, as of 2:30 PM, indicated that considerable resistance was being met. The enemy garrison had previously been estimated to consist of 75 to 100 troops.

As of midnight on the 8th, our troops had killed 5,009 JAPS and had taken 220 prisoners. There were then 43,378 civilians under our administration.

During the day, heavy fire support was given by surface ships, including 2 OBB, 2 CA, 1 CL and 9 DD, which supported the landings on TSUGEN. Ammunition replenishment was interferred with by heavy sea conditions.

A further report on the HOPPING (APD-51) (reported damaged morning summary 10 April) indicates she was hit 6 times by a 4.7-inch gun on TSUGEN JIMA and that her after fire and engine rooms are inoperative.

Bad weather interferred with air operations, including hunter-killer operations in progress. Heavy rains have slowed down supplies to our forward echelons, and unloading was stopped on the HAGUSHI beaches, owing to rain and high seas.

Underwater demolition work was continued on the eastern beaches, under our control, in NAKAGUSUKU BAY and also on the beaches at NAGO WAN.

On 9 April, the CHARLES J. BADGER (DD-657) was holed amidships, and both her engines are out. The STARR (AKA-67) also received minor damage.

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

4 PM 10 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'.D)

Naval personnel casualties as of 9 April are:

SURFACE		AIR	
KIA & MIA	WIA	KIA & MIA	WIA
2175	928	70	2

As of 07/2400, landing force casualties are:

	KIA	WIA	MIA	TOTAL	INEFFECTIVES
3rd Phib Corps	104	348	2	454	298
24th Corps	197	1,018	21	1,236	399
GRAND TOTAL	301	1,366	23	1,690	697

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

4 PM 10 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D).

On 9 April, one RCT, less one battalion of the 163rd Division, landed 4-1/2 miles northeast of JOLO TOWN, on the island of JOLO in the SULU ARCHIPELAGO.

The BENNETT (DD-473) (morning summary 8 April) reports that as a result of a suicide plane attack, she suffered considerable damage amidships. Personnel casualties were 3 dead and 19 wounded.

The submarine SEA LION (SS-315), back from her fifth war patrol, reports that she sank one medium-size tanker, estimated 7,500 tons.

The following is a recapitulation of ship and personnel casualties received to date for the OKINAWA operation:

Naval ship casualties as of 9 April:

SUNK		DAMAGED		
DD	3	BB	3	
DMS	1	CA	1	
AM	1	CV	6	— OK
APD	1	CVL	1	
LCI	1	CVE	1	
PGM	1	CL	1	
TOTAL	8	DD	22	— OK
		SS	1	
		DM	2	
		DMS	3	
		DE	5	
		APD	4	(2)
		AM	5	(4)
		AKA	3	
		APA	6	
		LSM(R)	1	
		LST	5	
		LCI(G)	2	
		TMS	4	
		LCT	1	
		TOTAL	77	

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9 AM 10 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

PGM-18 also hit a mine and sank. Her casualties are 15 wounded there are 46 survivors.

YMS-427 was hit by a coast defense gun. YMS-321 was damaged by a suicide plane.

LST_698 sustained operational damage during beaching operations from 5 to 7 April.

A revised total of damage to enemy aircraft by Task Force 58 for the period 23 March through 7 April show a total of 529 planes destroyed. 176 planes were shot down by the target Combat Air Patrol at OKINAWA, 80 shot down near the task force by planes, 19 by AA fire and 2 self-destroyed. The rest are accounted for on strikes, and searches, including 99 destroyed on the ground.

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9 AM 10 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'.D)

Enemy reaction also consists of daily and nightly attempts by suicide boats and swimmers against our forces. A small boat manned by enemy troops with dynamite charges attacked behind our lines at AWASHI, on the east coast, and was repulsed. Some of our patrolling vessels have killed JAPANESE swimmers. A possible site of a torpedo-launching battery or a midget submarine base, one-half mile east southeast of YONABARU, was bombed with good results on 8 and 9 Arpil. A radar station on the north end of the island was bombed by our aircraft.

At 8 AM on 9 April, the island commander began the assumption of all logistic and administrative functions on the island, including all shore party operations, with the exception of the northern beaches still under the 3rd Phib Corps control.

27th Division, less one RCT, scheduled to land on the eastern islands on 10 April, were put ashore on the HAGUSHI beaches and assigned to the 24th Army Corps.

During the day, fire support, delivered by 4 OBB, 5 CA, 2 CL and 19 DD thoroughly covered southern OKINAWA. Defense positions ashore were destroyed and many small boats were also damaged or destroyed. The HOPPING (APD-51) was hit by shore battery fire.

About 10 enemy planes attacked our forces, commencing at 6:40 PM. The STERRETT (DD-407) shot down 4 and was then hit by a 5th. She lost propulsion and is being taken under tow. Two other planes were shot down.

Marked improvement has been shown in the road net along the beaches, and unloading conditions are apparently good.

96 fighters and 15 night fighters from Marine Air group 33 arrived at KADENA airfield on the afternoon of 9 April. The tactical air force is now established ashore.

The following additional ship casualties have been reported:

On 6 April, the CARLSON (DE-9) was hit by AA fire from our own ships.

On 8 April, YMS-92 struck a mine in NAKAGUSUKU BAY but is still afloat. YMS-103 also hit a mine and is beached. Casualties were 4 killed and 12 wounded.

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

9 AM 10 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

On 8 April, the 3rd Phib Corps continued its advance on northern OKINAWA, and the 6th Marine Division reached a line about one-third of the way up the MOTOBU PENINSULA. In the south, 24th Army Corps was meeting stiff resistance, and only minor local gains were registered. The 96th Infantry Division was within 2,500 yards of the MACHINATO airfield on the west coast, while the 7th Infantry Division had probed within one mile of the YONABARU airfield on the east coast. Heavy mortar and artillery fire was received, including fire identified as that of 240MM mortar. The casualty reports as of midnight 7/8 April are:

UNIT	KIA	WIA	MIA	TOTAL	INEFFECTIVES
3rd Phib Corps	10	13	2	25	10
1st MarDiv	41	153	0	194	162
6th MarDiv	53	182	0	235	126
TOTAL	104	348	2	454	298
24th Corps	5	33	4	42	96
7th Div	58	338	5	401	149
77th Div	49	173	3	225	48
96th Div	85	474	9	568	106
TOTAL	197	1,018	21	1,236	399
GRAND TOTAL	301	1,366	23	1,690	697

During the day, general fire support was delivered by 4 OBB, 4 CA, 3 CL and 16 DD. CVE planes continued providing direct air support to the ground troops.

Under-water demolition work was conducted on beaches in NAGO WAN and those on the east coast under our control.

Between 6 and 7 PM, on 8 April, our forces were attacked by enemy planes. 6 were shot down by AA and our planes and a seventh hit forward on the GREGORY (DD-802), causing considerable damage.

On the 9th, our advance continued on the MOTOBU PENINSULA, with patrols reaching three-quarters of the way to the northern end.

In the south, the 24th Corps' front has been fairly well stabilized during the past 24-hours. Heavy artillery and mortar fire, and increased machine gun and small arms fire have been encountered. The enemy has adopted his usual infiltration tactics.

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

4 PM 9 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

On 7 April, Navy search planes sank a small cargo ship and a sea truck off HAINAN ISLAND, and a lugger, off FORMOSA. Small craft off BORNEO were strafed and a train wrecked in INDO-CHINA.

The submarine BESUGO (SS-321) and the HMS SPARK also cooperated with the GABILAN and CHARR in attacking the enemy surface fore in the FLORES SEA (reported 9 AM 9 April summary). The BESUGO accounted for an escorting minelayer.

The SEA ROBIN (SS-407) reports that she sank 2 sea trucks laden with troops and took 3 prisoners from the survivors.

The HAWKBILL (SS-366), on her third war patrol, sank one large, one medium, two small cargo ships, one patrol craft, and two landing craft, totalling 12,500 tons.

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

PRODUCTION BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

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4 PM 9 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

At 5:32 PM, 6 April, the COLHOUN (DD-801) was hit by 4 enemy crash-divers, while patrolling 80 miles north of KERAMA RETTO. 2 planes hit the starboard side of the ship and 2 hit the portside. At 9 PM, the ship was abandoned and sank in 300 fathoms of water two hours later.

The last item (morning summary 9 April, page 1695) should read the MORRIS (DD-417) instead of the COLHOUN.

On 2 April, off OKINAWA, the HENRICO (APA-45) was seriously damaged in the vicinity of the bridge when she was hit by a JAPANESE suicide plane (morning summary 4 April). It is expected the ship will be able to sail under her own power by 11 April.

At 6:18 AM on 3 April, the LST-599 was struck by a suicide plane, while at anchor in the KERAMA RETTO (morning summary 5 April). Structural damage to the main deck forward was suffered, and LCT-876, which was carried aboard, also sustained considerable damage.

On the night of 4 April, LST-34 received 5 hits from an 8-inch JAPANESE coastal defense gun (morning summary 7 April). Only one shell did serious damage. The ship is sea-worthy and capable of fighting efficiently.

The RODMAN (DMS-21) was struck by 3 suicide planes off OKINAWA between 3:30 and 6:30 PM, 6 April (morning summary 7 April). Two bombs detonated in the ship and the third alongside, puncturing the hull. The super-structure is gutted by fire, and the bow badly damaged and open to the sea. Casualties were 9 killed, 15 wounded and 7 missing. The RODMAN shot down 4 planes, and 4 others also crashed near the ship, as well as the three which actually hit. She returned to port under her own power after extinguishing fires.

A damage report has now been received from the HANCOCK (CV-19), which was hit at 12:11 PM 7 April by a suicide plane carrying a bomb, (morning summary 8 April). Serious damage resulted to the 5-inch and automatic weapons batteries, catapults and elevators, flight deck fueling stations, hangar deck electrical equipment, beams and stanchions. The casualties are 29 killed, 52 wounded and 35 missing. Other ships in the force have recovered 67.

The COMFORT (AH-6), reported morning summary 9 April as having been attacked by enemy aircraft, was actually attacked by one of our own planes returning from a night mission.

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

9 AM 9 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The HAYNESWORTH (DD-700) was severely damaged on 6 April by a suicide attack, which struck her forward on the starboard side. Damage is confined to the forward part of the ship from the main deck to the bridge level. No casualties have been reported.

The EMMONS (DMS-22) at about 3 PM on 6 April was attacked by a large number of enemy planes near OKINAWA. Six JAP planes were shot down, four crash-dive attempts missed and five planes crashed into the EMMONS. Large fires were started, magazines exploded and there was flooding in the forward and after-compartments. The EMMONS was abandoned at 7 PM and was later sunk by gunfire from the ELLYSON (DMS-19).

There were six officers and 121 enlisted survivors. The casualty list shows 17 killed, 71 wounded and 39 missing.

The HOWORTH (morning and afternoon summaries 7 April) (DD-592) was attacked on 6 April by 5 enemy planes, one of which crashed the HOWORTH, while 2 others crashed close aboard. The HOWORTH is sea-worthy but has only local control of her guns.

PT boats in the PHILIPPINE AREA bombarded the enemy on CARABAO ISLAND, in MANILA BAY, and on the beaches of northwestern LEYTE on 6 April.

On 6 April, MARCUS ISLAND was bombed by 11 Liberators. 3 Liberators received minor damage from enemy AA fire.

PHILIPPINE-based patrol planes sank a tug near HONG KONG and a small AK off HAINAN on 7 April. 3 small AK's were left burning.

The submarine BAYA (SS-318) has returned from war patrol and reports the sinking of 19,300 tons of enemy shipping. The ships sunk were:

Ship	Tonnage
1 AO	10,000 tons
1 AK	7,500 "
1 DD	1,000 "
1 DE	800 "
Total	19,300 "

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

FOR VICTORY BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

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9 AM 9 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Another group attacked SAKISHIMA GUNTO and shot down the only enemy aircraft over the target, destroyed 5 planes on the ground and destroyed or damaged 7 more. 7 small cargo vessels were also damaged.

Our aircraft, on 7 April, shot down 50 JAP planes (morning summary 8 April), of which 5 were knocked out of the air by the CAP over OKINAWA. 9 planes were destroyed on the ground and four more were shot down by ships' AA fire. 4 of our fighter pilots are missing.

A fighter-bomber strike attempted to locate the remnants of the JAP surface force (morning summary 7 April) without success. As a result, TOKUNO and KIKAI JIMA airfields were attacked. Only a few enemy planes were shot down, a lugger destroyed and a small cargo vessel and several small craft set on fire.

As the result of a JAP air attack on our fast carrier force on 6 April, the HANCOCK (CV-19) (morning summary 8 April) and the HAINESWORTH (DD-700) were damaged by suiciders. The CHARLES S. SPERRY (DD-697), the HARRISON (DD-573), the TAUSSIG (DD-746) and the SAN JACINTO (CVL-30) were damaged and are also returning to a rear area for repairs. The HARRISON and the SPERRY were damaged by suicider near-misses. The SAN JACINTO and the TAUSSIG were damaged by bomb near-misses.

At 4:45 AM, 9 April, the hospital ship USS COMFORT (AH-6), while fully illuminated, was attacked twice by enemy aircraft about 100 miles east of MIYAKO. 3 bombs were dropped, landing near the ship. Fortunately, neither the ship was damaged nor any personnel injured.

The DANIEL T. GRIFFIN (APD-38) received structural damage while fighting a fire alongside the MORRIS (DD-417) (morning summary 7 April) on the afternoon of 6 April. The GRIFFIN was damaged beyond the scope of the ship's repair facilities.

The LEUTZE (DD-481) was hit by a JAP suicide plane at 6:15 PM on 6 April (morning summary 7 April). The bomb carried by the suicider (500-pounds) exploded against the port side aft. The plating was opened from the main deck to the keel. Extensive flooding resulted. Both shafts were bent, but speeds up to 8 knots are possible. One man was killed, 7 are missing and 30 were wounded.

The COLHOUN (DD-801) (morning summary 7 April), while patrolling east of OKINAWA, was hit by a JAP crash-diver on the portside of the main deck between guns No. 1 and No. 2. The attack took place at 6:17 PM on 6 April. The ship sustained heavy damage, but is able to proceed to port at 7 knots.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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OSD Letter, 3 Apr 72

9 AM 9 April 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The submarines GABILAN (SS-252) and the CHARR (SS-328), in a combined attack, on the morning of 7 April, sank a Natori-class cruiser (CL) in the FLORES SEA. The GABILAN scored one hit on the JAP cruiser, which slowed her down. The CHARR followed this attack with 3 solid hits.

On OKINAWA, the 24th Army Corps continued to register small gains against heavy and stubborn opposition in the south. The enemy are employing heavy artillery. Field artillery, naval gunfire and carrier aircraft are supporting the troops.

In the north, on 8 April, Marines had advanced between one and two miles on MOTOBU PENINSULA.

Major General F. P. Mulcahy, USMC, is at present commanding air-forces based on OKINAWA (morning summary 8 April).

On 7 April, there were about 30,000 OKINAWANS being cared for by our Military Government organization. Local housing, food stocks and farm supplies are being used to feed and house the natives. There is only a small amount of live stock available. Medical facilities of the military government are being taxed, even though the number of medical cases is less than anticipated.

Approximately 350 natives are being cared for on KERAMA RETTO. It is estimated that there are 200 more civilians in caves with JAP soldiers who will not permit them to surrender. As the result of a pre-invasion suicide agreement, about 20 civilians are dead and 60 more suffering from throat wounds.

The following additional information concerning strike results of our fast carrier force have been reported: On 1, 2 and 3 April, 2 fast carrier groups shot down 5 JAP planes and destroyed 10 on the ground. 15 additional planes were either destroyed or damaged at the fields on AMAMI and SAKISHIMA GUNTOS. Carrier planes sank an escort vessel, 12 luggers, an LSM and 6 small craft, and probably sank 3 luggers and damaged 13 luggers, 15 small craft and an APD.

On 4 April, in strikes on the northern NANSEI SHOTOS, 4 JAP planes were shot down, 3 destroyed on the ground and 17 probably destroyed or damaged. 17 luggers and small craft were also damaged.

AMAMI GUNTO was hit by a fast carrier group on 5 April, which caused heavy damage to fuel dumps and buildings. 20 small craft were also damaged. MINAMI DAITO was hit on the same date.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.3
NND Letter, 8-72

9 AM 8 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Fire support was again furnished to both corps from both sides of the island by 5 OBB, 9 CA-CL and 18 DD.

82 Marine Corsairs and 7 Marine Hellcats arrived at YONTAN airfield on the afternoon of 7 April.

Two JAP planes were shot down over the area on the afternoon of 7 April. We lost 3 planes in the afternoon, two as the result of a mid-air crash. Only one pilot was lost.

Ships received damage from our own AA fire during the JAP air attack on 6 April.

The AUDRAIN (APA-59) received hits on the bridge, and 6 personnel were wounded. The PCS-390 was damaged and one was killed and 5 wounded in the ship's personnel. One man was wounded on the BUTTE (APA-68). The BARNET (APA-5) had a forward boom shot away and the rigging severed. Five of the ship's personnel were wounded.

The HARRY F. BAUER (DM-26) was hit by an aerial torpedo at 6:45 PM on 5 April, south of IE SHIMA. The torpedo passed through the bow of the ship without exploding. The torpedo entered above the waterline on the port side. Repairs are being made at a repair ship. No personnel were injured

The MARYLAND (BB-46) received a bomb hit on No. 3 turret. The bomb did not penetrate, but caused heavy damage to the turret. It is believed that under extreme conditions the guns could be fired after five-hours' work. A preliminary casualty report indicates that one officer and 19 men are wounded and 15 men are missing. 6 unidentified bodies have been recovered.

The submarine HARDHEAD (SS-365) reports sinking a large tanker. The SPADEFISH (SS-411) and the TIRANTE (SS-420) report additional sinkings of one JAP schooner and one enemy lugger respectively.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP-SECRET
TOP SECRET

9 AM 8 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Our forces at OKINAWA were under heavy attack by enemy aircraft on 6 and 7 April. In addition to the ships reported damaged or sunk (morning summary of 7 April), the following additional ships were hit: The LOGAN VICTORY, the HOBBS VICTORY (ammunition ships), and LST-347 are all a probable total loss. The loss of the ammunition ships limits the reserve ammunition on hand, although the situation in the fire support ships currently is good.

JAP planes attacked the transport area between 3:25 AM and 10:15 AM on 7 April. About 20 enemy planes made the attacks, of which 6 were shot down by CAP and 6 by ships' gunfire.

The WESSON (DE-184) and the BENNETT (DD-473) were damaged by enemy air action on the morning of 7 April. Both ships were hit by suiciders.

Meanwhile, on OKINAWA, the Marines continued their advance with only minor resistance, and at 6 PM on 7 April, had extended their front line about 3-1/2 miles north on ISHIKAWA PENINSULA. Patrols had advanced an additional 4 miles and were now exploring the base of the MOTOBU PENINSULA. At 8 AM on 7 April, units of the 6th Marine Division landed on the southwest coast of MOTOBU PENINSULA, near its base, to reconnoiter the area. Additional elements of the 6th MarDiv reconnoitered the islands of IKE, TAKA and HEANZA HANARE, all in the NAKAGUSUKU WAN. No enemy activity was reported.

The 24th Army Corps advanced slowly, averaging about 400 yards in the past 24 hours. They are encountering very rough and cliff-like terrain, which the enemy has fortified by an elaborate system of strong-points, pillboxes, block houses and trenches. The JAPS subjected the troops on the southern front to sporadic mortar, artillery and machine gun fire. Some attempts at infiltration were made. The 96th Division captured UCHI TOMARI, on the west coast, north of NAHA. Marine artillery and 24th Corps' artillery have now reinforced divisional artillery in the south.

Casualties for the landing force are as follows:

UNIT	KIA	WIA	MIA	TOTAL	INEFFECTIVES
3rd Phib Corps	10	13	2	25	10
1st MarDiv	40	139	-	179	142
6th MarDiv	54	172	-	226	114
TOTAL	104	324	2	430	266
24th Corps	-	2	4	6	84
7th Div	44	248	5	297	98
77th Div	49	173	-	222	48
96th Div	85	474	9	568	106
TOTAL	178	897	18	1,093	336
GRAND TOTAL	282	1,221	20	1,523	602

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 AM 8 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Patrol planes operating west of KYUSHU on 7 April, after the carrier planes attacked the JAP surface force (morning summary 7 April), reported sighting an enemy battleship listing heavily, down by the stern and dead in the water, a light cruiser underway but smoking and leaving a trail of oil and another light cruiser and three destroyers stopped and apparently undamaged. There was much debris and numerous JAP survivors in the water. During twilight of the night of 7/8 April, only the light cruiser and four destroyers were observed. The cruiser was still smoking and the four DD's showed no apparent damage. All five ships were dead in the water. There was burning oil on the water throughout the area. Throughout the night, there was no change in the group, although it was moving slowly or drifting northward. The foregoing sightings were made about 60 miles west of the southern end of KYUSHU.

In addition to the damage inflicted on the enemy surface force (morning summary 7 April), incomplete reports indicate that about 30 JAP planes were shot down by the fast carrier force planes or gunfire. The HANCOCK (CV-19) was damaged when she was hit by a suicide diver. Large topside fires resulted, but were quickly extinguished. The flight deck will be ready for full operation after an estimated 10-hours repair during daylight.

A more complete report of damage inflicted on the enemy on 6 April by planes of the fast carrier force (afternoon summary 7 April) has been received. 245 JAP planes were shot down in the OKINAWA AREA on 6 April. 101 of these were shot down over the fast carrier force, while 132 were destroyed by the CAP over OKINAWA. Gunfire from ships destroyed an additional 12. 2 JAP planes were destroyed on the ground, and 4 small cargo vessels were sunk. Many enemy small craft were damaged. Several of our ships were damaged on 6 April, but none of them seriously.

The BRITISH carrier force attacked airfields on ISHIGAKI and MIYAKO in the SAKISHIMA GUNTO on 6 and 7 April. The MIYAKO runways are believed to be unserviceable after the heavy bombing. Low clouds prevented heavy strafing on both days.

On 6 April, 4 suiciders attacked the BRITISH force. One near-missed the ILLUSTRIOUS (CV), causing no damage or casualties, although the wing tip hit the island.

Five JAP planes were shot down and 3 destroyed on the ground. The BRITISH force lost 2 planes in combat and 12 operationally.

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COMINCH FILE

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SECRET

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

4 PM 7 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The HALLIGAN (DD-584) hit what was believed to be a mine on 26 March, about 4 miles west of NAHA. The HALLIGAN's forward magazine exploded and the ship is a total loss and beached in the KERAMA RETTO.. 165 men and 2 officers are the only survivors.

On 6 April, the WITTER (DE-636) (morning summary 7 April) sustained extensive damage when a suicide diver struck her forward side. The bomb carried by the JAP plane exploded inside the ship. The WITTER can still proceed at 10 knots on her port engine. 6 men were killed and 1 officer and 6 men wounded.

The HOWORTH (DD-592) (morning summary 7 April) was struck by a suicide plane on the bridge at 5 PM 6 April, near IE SHIMA, northwest of OKINAWA. The entire superstructure is warped. Decks and frames are twisted, but there is no damage below the main deck. Casualties are 4 killed, 5 missing and 14 wounded.

On 5 and 6 April, the dock area at CEBU was under enemy artillery fire.

PT's bombarded newly prepared JAP positions on CARABAO ISLAND in MANILA BAY on 5 April.

On 5 April, patrol planes sank a small freighter and a large transport near HONG KONG. On 6 April, a sea truck was sunk near HONG KONG and an enemy plane shot down near AMOY. Enemy installations in INDO CHINA were attacked.

On 5 April, 18 Liberators bombed TRUK.

The submarine SEA ROBIN (SS-407) has returned from her second war patrol and reports sinking 12,000 tons enemy shipping. 2 small cargo vessels and 2 medium freighters were sunk.

The submarine BESUGO (SS-321) reports sinking an enemy escort vessel.

Regraded Unclassified

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

4 PM 7 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

During the afternoon of 6 April, our fast carrier force was attacked by a large number of enemy planes. In this attack, 150 JAP planes were destroyed. The report of our losses and damage in this action has not been received.

On 6 April, Naval casualties sustained among the personnel of 28 ships and one UDT since the beginning of the operations at OKINAWA are: Killed - 125, wounded 267, missing 71. This does not include personnel casualties sustined by the fast carrier force.

Total JAP casualties on KERAMA RETTO up to 6 April are: 539 killed and 166 taken prisoner.

On 6 April, the 1st Marine Division made a reconnaissance of YABUCHI ISLAND, off KATSUREN PENINSULA on OKINAWA (morning summary 6 April). No JAPS were found nor were any defenses located.

The surf at OKINAWA was decreasing on 6 April and beach conditions had improved.

During the bad weather on the night of 4-5 April, LST-554 was damaged. LCI-1059 received damage above the waterline when the LEON (APA-48) dragged down on her. LST-781 received heavy structural damage, but the details are not available.

The NEVADA (BB-36) was hit 3 times by OKINAWA shore batteries on 5 April. The NEVADA is still operational. Two men were killed and 10 wounded as the result of enemy gunfire.

The BORIE (DD-704), while alongside the ESSEX (CV-9) on 2 April, received topside damage to equipment and the bridge when the ships rolled together in the heavy sea.

The ASHTABULA (AO-51) was not seriously damaged in the collision with the THORNTON (AVD-11) (morning summary 7 April).

The BILOXI (CL-80) (morning summary 29 March) shot down a JAP plane on the night of 26-27 March. The enemy plane crashed into the port-side of the BILOXI at the waterline, tearing a hole 22 x 26 feet. There was some flooding. Emergency repairs have been completed by the ship's force.

Regraded Unclassified

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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9 AM 7 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

On 6 April, the THORNTON (AVD-11) was damaged in a collision with the ASHTABULA (AO-51) and has been towed to KERAMA RETTO. The THORNTON is heavily damaged and all personnel were removed.

On 6 April, PALAU was heavily hit by 6 Hellcats and 36 Corsairs, which destroyed 2 barges and a supply and ammunition dump. One of our planes was damaged by AA fire.

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

9 AM 7 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Progress on OKINAWA is still being made, and in the north the 3rd Amphibious Corps had established a line on ISHIKAWA PENINSULA from CHUDA, on the west coast to KUSOI WAN, on the east.

The 24th Corps were encountering increasingly stubborn resistance from the enemy, particularly on the right flank. Advances were made on the left flank and TSUWA TOWN on NAKAGUSUKU WAN was occupied. The Army line, at 6 PM on 6 April, extended from UCHITOMARI on the right flank to TSUWA on the left flank.

Air reconnaissance failed to disclose any enemy to the north of ISHIKAWA ISTHMUS. Patrols report that movement to the north will be difficult, due to a lack of roads and trails.

Casualties to the landing force, as of midnight on 5 April, are as follows:

	KIA	WIA	MIA	TOTAL	INEFFECTIVES
3rd Phib Corps	1	1	2	4	9
1st MarDiv	33	112	-	145	104
6th MarDiv	37	119	-	156	68
24th Corps	-	1	-	1	10
7th Division	44	248	5	297	98
77th Division	43	161	-	204	48
96th Division	63	346	9	418	73
TOTAL	221	988	16	1,225	410

Minesweeping on NAKAGUSUKU WAN and CHIMU WAN is continuing.

The reconnaissance of TSUGEN JIMA, off KATSUREN PENINSULA, reveals that there is a garrison force of between 75 and 100 JAPS equipped with machine guns and mortars.

On 6 April, direct air support was still being provided by aircraft from CVE's and the fast carrier force. Gunfire support was furnished by 5 OBB, 8 CA-CL and 16 DD on 6 April.

The enemy attacked the transport area on the night of 5 to 6 April with about 35 planes. 7 planes were shot down by AA fire and one by the CAP.

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

9 AM 7 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

On the morning of 7 April, our fast carrier force struck an enemy surface force about 250 miles north of OKINAWA and about 75 miles southwest of KYUSHU. The enemy force consisted of 1 Yamato-class battleship, 1 Agano-class light cruiser, another light cruiser or large destroyer and 7 or 8 destroyers. As a result of our attack, the following JAP ships were sunk: 1 BB, 1 Agano-CL, 1 CL or DD and 3 DD's. Two other destroyers were left burning badly and the remaining 3 destroyers were apparently undamaged, although all destroyers have been strafed and rocketed. The battleship received at least 8 torpedoes and 8 hits from 1,000-pound bombs. AA fire over the enemy force was heavy. There was no enemy air opposition. We lost about 7 planes.

At last report, the remnant of the JAP force was retiring to the north.

On the afternoon and evening of 6 April, a heavy enemy air attack was made against our force in the OKINAWA AREA. The enemy attacked in about 20 groups, and scored a total of 22 suicide crashes. Two suicide planes scored misses. A total of 116 enemy planes were destroyed, of which our planes over the area shot down 55.

The following ships were hit by suiciders:

SHIP	DAMAGE
BUSH (DD-529)	Sunk
CALHOUN (DD-801)	Sunk
EMMONS (DMS-22)	Sunk
MORRIS (DD-417)	Sinking
LEUTZE (DD-481)	Sinking
HYMAN (DD-732)	Heavily damaged
RODMAN (DMS-21)	Heavily damaged
MULLANY (DD-528)	Two hits
BITTER (DE-636)	2 hits
NEWCOMB (DD-586)	2 hits
DEVASTATOR (AM-318)	Minor damage
FIEBERLING (DE-640)	Minor damage
RECRUIT (AM-285)	No report
DEFENSE (AM-317)	No report
HOWORTH (DD-592)	No report
HUTCHINS (DD-476)	No report.

The ships damaged were all radar pickets, transport screen, fire support ships or minecraft.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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TOP SECRET

9 AM 6 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The SPRONSTON (DD-577) sustained minor damage as the result of a near-miss.

A suicider had a near-miss on the HAMBLETON (DMS-20). There is some possible underwater damage.

The hulk of the DICKERSON (APD-21) has been sunk. (Morning summary 4 April).

Minesweeping at the entrance to NAKAGUSUKU WAN continues.

There was no enemy air attacks reported during the period from 6 PM, 4 April to noon 5 April.

About 9,000 OKINAWANS have surrendered to our forces and are under the control of the military government in the occupied area.

On 4 April, an enemy picket boat was sunk northeast of CHICHI JIMA.

On 5 April, 11 Marine Helldivers heavily bombed MALOELAP. One plane sustained minor damage.

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

9 AM 6 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Troops on OKINAWA continued to advance on 5 April. The Marines in the north were still advancing rapidly and their lines had extended well into ISHIKAWA PENINSULA. Marine patrols had advanced considerable distances beyond their own lines on both the east and west coast of the S peninsula. There is no report of organized enemy resistance on this front. Elements of the First Marine Division landed on YUBUCHI SHIMA, off KATSUREN PENINSULA, at 9 AM on 5 April.

The Commanding General of the 3rd Amphibious Corps, Major General R. S. Geiger, USMC, assumed command ashore at 3 PM, 4 April.

The 24th Army Corps continued their attack in the south, but no information as to actual progress is available. Three tanks were lost due to enemy action. Enemy artillery fire was received in the vicinity of FUTEMA, northeast of NAHA. Towns encountered thus far in the advance have not been fortified. Radio report this morning indicated resistance stiffening in the front.

CVE's and fast carriers furnished close air support. Searches and patrols were flown from KERAMA RETTO.

8 OBB, 7 CA-CL and 15 DD furnished gunfire support.

Beach conditions are such that 15 LST may beach at one time. This is largely the result of excellent work by demolition teams in breaching the reefs off the north beaches.

Heavy surf on the night of 4 April made it necessary to cease unloading. Landing craft and boats sustained some damage due to the heavy surf. Handling Craft

LSM-12 is broached and in bad condition. Some of the damage was caused when LST-675 broached and forced LSM-12 against LST-570. LST-675 has some flooding, her engines and generators are inoperative, and she is badly broached.

LST-756 is flooding in the engine room and ballast tanks from holes punctured in the bottom by a reef.

LST-689 is broached. LST-736 has been beached due to a flooded engine room.

Regraded Unclassified

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

TOP SECRET

4 PM 5 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Our aircraft over IE SHIMA on 4 April received some AA fire from the western part of the island.

The PENSACOLA (CA-24) damaged her starboard propeller on 31 March while re-arming from an LST.

On 3 April, YMS 71 sank after hitting a mine in the vicinity of SANGA SANGA. 2 of the crew were killed and 7 injured.

Reinforcements were landed on CEBU on 3 April without interference. Supply convoys to NEGROS ISLAND from PANAY are operating without difficulty.

On 3 and 4 April, PT's landed Navy scouts on SANGA SANGA, destroyed 7 JAP barges under construction on NEGROS, sank 3 barges off MINDANAO, landed Army scouts on JOLO ISLAND, strafed JAP positions on CARABAO ISLAND in MANILA BAY and in a joint attack with Army aircraft assaulted the enemy on western MINDANAO.

Navy patrol planes sank 3 small freighters off the CHINA COAST, strafed 3 locomotives and freight cars in INDO CHINA and shot down one JAP plane and damaged 3 others, over INDO CHINA.

The submarine SEA LION (SS-315) reports that she sank a JAP gasoline tanker.

Regraded Unclassified

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

9 AM 5 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

3rd Marine casualties for the IWO JIMA operation, up to 4 April, were as follows:

	Officers	Men
KIA	41	851
WIA	151	3,147
MIA	-	11
	192	4,009

GRAND TOTAL (Officers and Men) - 4,201

During the same period, the 3rd MarDiv killed 7,839 JAPS and captured 247.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 AM 5 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Minesweeping at IE SHIMA and east of OKINAWA was going forward on 4 April.

The WAKE ISLAND (CVE-65) (morning summary 4 April) was damaged as the result of 2 suicide near-misses.

The CHILTON (APA-38) sustained minor damage in the attacks by suicide aircraft on 2 to 3 April.

On 1 April, the USS ALPINE (APA-92) was damaged by a suicider. There is a hole 30 x 30 feet in the hull on the starboard side and 2 small holes on the main deck.

In the same attacks, LST-599 was badly damaged and is inoperative.

LCI-82 was sunk on 4 April off NAKAGUSUKU WAN, in an engagement with an enemy MTB. The enemy PT was destroyed.

The strike of our fast carrier force of 30 and 31 March (morning summary 4 April) has been finally reported upon, and the score shows 22 JAP planes shot down and 19 others probably destroyed. Our planes sank 2 small cargo vessels and 12 small craft. 5 small freighters and 20 small craft were probably sunk or damaged.

On 3 April, a task group of the fast carrier force shot down 45 enemy planes, destroyed 2 others on the ground and probably destroyed or damaged 9 additional planes. On OKINAWA, several small craft were destroyed and about 25 others damaged. A search plane from the task group damaged a PT and 2 small AK. Fuel dumps were fired and buildings destroyed and damaged. 2 pilots are missing.

On IWO JIMA, the 147th Infantry, at 7 AM on 4 April, relieved the 9th Marines and assumed responsibility for patrol and security operations. At the same time, the 147th Infantry assumed responsibility for patrol and defense of the entire island.

On 2, 3 and 4 April, 54 JAPS were killed and 19 captured on IWO JIMA.

During the same period, no loading was accomplished due to rough seas.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 AM 5 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The two corps on OKINAWA continued their rapid advances on 4 April. By the evening of 4 April, the entire east coastline of OKINAWA from the mid point of CHIMU WAN to KUBA SAKI midway down the coast on NAKAGUSUKU WAN was in our hands. The Marine line extended to the west coast cutting off the southern escape route. On the south, the line extended from KUBA SAKI on the east to UCHITOMARI on the west coast. Enemy resistance was scattered, and the only reported action occurred when Company ~~K~~ of the ~~4th~~ Marines was ambushed by a group of JAPS. 40 JAPS were killed. There is no report of the Marine casualties, in this encounter.

Battle casualties, as of midnight 3 April, are as follows:

UNIT	KIA	WIA	MIA	TOTAL	INEFFECTIVES
6th MarDiv	29	88	-	117	50
1st MarDiv	13	40	-	53	35
7th Inf. Div.	32	155	3	190	54
96th Inf. Div.	20	115	5	140	14
77th Inf. Div.	43	161	-	204	48
24th Corps	-	1	-	1	4
3rd Phib Corps	- Not reported -				
TOTAL	137	560	8	705	205

JAP concentrations previously reported northeast of NAHA have not been substantiated through aerial reconnaissance. Enemy concentrations received heavy naval gunfire and air bombardment.

On 4 April, Naval gunfire support was provided by 3 OBB, 5 CA-CL and 18 DD.

The fast carriers and CVE's furnished direct air support, and reconnaissance by the planes failed to locate enemy concentrations of any size. On 4 April, planes of the fast carrier force attacked KIKAI and TOKUNO SHIMAS as the result of a report from a rescued pilot that enemy fighters were operating from the fields on the islands. Our aircraft attacked small boats near MOTOBU PENINSULA on the west coast of OKINAWA and strafed boats and seaplanes at YORAN SHIMA, north of OKINAWA.

We lost 2 aircraft shot down and 2 which made emergency landings on YONTAN FIELD. Only 2 personnel were lost.

Unloading is going satisfactorily over the beaches. The sea is moderate with a slight surf.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED DOWNGRADED TO SECRET OSD

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

Local Time: 4 PM 4 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Both the 3rd Amphibious Corps and the 24th Army Corps were advancing rapidly at 6 PM on 3 April. The Marines are beyond NAKADOMARI on the west coast and are extending their efforts to reach the east coast north of KATCHIN PENINSULA. The 1st Marine Division reached the peninsula and isolated it. The units of the 24th Army Corps are on the east coast and control the northern half of the coast on NAKAGUSUKU WAN. The 96th Infantry Division is advancing south along the west coast in the direction of the enemy concentration near SHIRU, northeast of NAHA.

Resistance is so light that the resulting rapid movement of the troops makes it difficult to report any fixed lines of advance.

The 96th Division reported that a small group, 5 men and 11 women, dressed in JAP Army uniforms, attempted an attack. When the attack failed, the women committed suicide.

The FOREMAN (DE-633) was damaged at 1:20 AM, 3 April, when a bomb hit and exploded in the engineering plant. LST-599 is reported inoperative and the cargo ruined as the result of a fire.

A group of our fast carriers were operating in the SAKISHIMA GUNTO AREA on 3 April, covering the retirement of the BRITISH fast carrier force.

On the afternoon of 3 April, JAP planes in six groups attacked the transport area but caused no damage. The CAP and antiaircraft fired from the ships knocked down 11 JAP planes. One of our torpedo planes was damaged in a crash-landing at YONTAN FIELD during the attack.

On the night of 1 April, a JAP fighter plane made a routine approach and landing on YONTAN airfield. The pilot, after taxiing the plane into line, was shot by a Marine upon leaving the plane.

Beach conditions are excellent and the unloading is progressing well. Beach roads are being built. The sea is slight and there is no swell.

Patrol planes, on 3 April, heavily damaged a JAP trawler near HONG KONG. A large JAP barge under tow by a large tug was sunk 100 miles southeast of FORMOSA. The tug was left completely on fire. 2 small cargo vessels were sunk in KIRUN HARBOR on northern FORMOSA.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED 78
USD Letter

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

9 to 4 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

PT boats near MINDANAO damaged 2 barges and a lugger, and a destroyer sank 2 JAP barges off BOMOI on 2 April.

Navy patrol planes, on the night of 1-2 April, sank a large tanker and 2 small cargo vessels off the CHINA COAST. They also damaged heavily a DE and a schooner. A landing craft was sunk off northern CELEBES.

On 3 April, a bridge, 4 ammunition dumps, a storage area, 4 houses and 3 barges were destroyed in the PALAUS during an attack by 39 Corsairs and 2 Hellcats.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6
OPD LTR 5-7-78 SECRET

9 Apr 4 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The VARIAN (DE-644) (morning summary 3 April) received damage as the result of a 300-pound depth charge booby-trap mounted on planks.

LST 724, instead of LST 824 (morning summary 2 April) was damaged at KERAMA RETTO.

In the vicinity of OKINAWA, 2 possible JAP submarine contacts were made on 2 April. Mines are still being located north and west of the beaches and are being destroyed by gunboats. Sweeping was being conducted in that area on 3 April.

Search and patrol flights operated from KERAMA RETTO on 3 April.

On 3 April, 60 JAP planes raided the area in 11 raids from midnight to 7 AM. No damage to our surface units was reported, and at least 5 enemy planes were shot down.

Supplies were delivered to OKINAWA by air on 3 April.

An incomplete report from our fast carrier force indicates that on 30 and 31 March, carrier planes shot down at least 19 JAP planes in the OKINAWA AREA, destroyed 5 on the ground and probably destroyed or damaged an additional 16. One medium AK, one small AK, 3 PT's and 7 suicide craft were sunk. 3 medium and 1 small AK, as well as 16 small craft, were damaged. 6 submarine pens at UNTEN KO on the west coast of OKINAWA were destroyed, and fires were started at the sub base. Buildings, bridges, fortified positions, gun batteries, and industrial installations were destroyed or damaged on OKINAWA and on the islands of TORUMO, AKAGI, KIRAI and KINAGI, to the north of OKINAWA.

The COOS BAY (AVP-25) was damaged in collision with the merchant ship SS MATAGORDA about 250 miles west of ENIWETOK. The forward engine room was completely flooded. The hull was heavily damaged on the starboard side amidships. The collision occurred on the evening of 31 March. No injuries to personnel are reported.

Operations on SANGA SANGA (afternoon summary 2 April) are going ahead satisfactorily and Lt. Colonel Munkres assumed command ashore on the afternoon of 3 April. Reconnaissance units landed on PAWAY and NEGROS on 2 April without opposition.

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

VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

~~TOP SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9 AM 4 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

"A preliminary survey of the islands east of OKINAWA ~~[redacted]~~ indicate that with one exception ~~[redacted]~~ all are lightly held. ~~There is a minefield reported at the entrance to the bay. The sweeping of the field is in progress.~~

"A further reconnaissance of the islands is contemplated before any attempts at direct assault are made.

OKINAWA:

"During the night of 3-3 April, only minor and intermittent ~~[redacted]~~ fire was received by our troops from the enemy. By noon of 3 April, Marines had reached NAHA-KOMI, on the west coast, representing an advance of about a mile and a half along the coast to the north. Our lines had been extended considerably to the northeast. ~~On the east coast, patrols had reached the shore of the north and western portion of [redacted] and the western portion of KATSUREN BAY.~~ ONE CORPS HAS REACHED OBJECTIVE LT 15 and ANOTHER CORPS LT 10.

"Heavy JAP concentrations, including artillery, are reported ~~near SHURI, [redacted]~~ 2 miles northeast of NAHA. Naval gunfire and air strikes are concentrating on this area.

~~All divisional artillery is ashore and corps troops are now being unloaded over the beaches.~~

~~Casualty reports are incomplete, but there is no indication that they are heavy.~~

"On 3 April, gunfire support was by 4 OBB, 7 CA and CL, and 15 DD. AIR SUPPORT IS BEING PROVIDED BY CVE's AND FAST CARRIER GROUPS.

The ~~MARK~~ ISLAND (CVE-65) has been damaged. Plating was ruptured below the waterline, and the hole is estimated to be 10' x 2 feet. There are many small shrapnel holes, causing the flooding of compartments. The hull is crushed at Frame 101 between first and second decks. The main engines are once more in commission, but all boilers are salted.

"On the evening of 2 April, an enemy air attack damaged the DICKERSON (APD-21) seriously and caused many casualties. The HENRICO (APA-45) was heavily damaged and was towed to NAHA-KO RETTO. The GOODHUE (APA-107) was hit, and 6 of the crew were killed and 70 injured. The TELFAIR (APA-210) received minor damage, with casualties of one killed and 6 injured. The FRICHETT (DD-561) was damaged by a near-miss. "

Regraded Unclassified

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TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.4 DoD Letter 8-7-78

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

TOP SECRET

AM 3 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

A supplementary report from the HANCOCK (CV-19) (afternoon summary 23 March) reveals that substantial damage was sustained by the ship when she rammed a JAP sub during a depth charge attack. The ship will require a new bow section from the stem at the water-line to Frame 9 at the keel. Work was started on the morning of 27 March to replace material and repair the damage.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED per OSD letter,

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

TOP SECRET

4 PM 3 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The Commanding General of the 10th U. S. Army reports that on 2 April the following OKINAWANS were under our control:

Military Unit	OKINAWANS
6th MarDiv	1,000
1st MarDiv	150
96th Division	220
7th Division	40
	1,410

The majority of the OKINAWANS are women, children and old men. Nearly all the young men have been conscripted for labor battalions by the JAPANESE.

It is also reported that many of the OKINAWANS moved to the northern part of the island as a result of our propaganda.

The civilians under our control appear to be in good physical condition. There has been no report of contagious diseases and very few OKINAWANS have required medical treatment. Local wells and captured food stocks are being used to feed the civilians.

Military police are guarding the civilians in division areas near the beach. All sampans and boats in the area have been destroyed.

Military government operations are proceeding as scheduled and planned.

A report has been received from the MARSHALL ISLANDS covering the period 11 to 29 March, and involves JAPS captured, KOREANS released and natives evacuated. During the period, on MILLE, 5 JAPS were captured, 73 KOREANS released and 164 natives evacuated. In addition, 7 JAPS were captured on MOTJE and 9 on ERIKUB ATOLL, south of MOTJE.

Generally, the JAPS still resisted capture, but the KOREANS, eager to escape JAP rule, surrendered voluntarily. For the same reason, the natives asked to be evacuated.

On 18 March, 67 KOREANS and 85 natives were evacuated after a reported revolts by KOREANS against their JAP guards, in which 7 JAPS and 30 KOREANS were killed and 90 KOREANS committed suicide.

Regraded Unclassified

MINCH FILE

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 DOD Ltr. 3-19-98

TOP SECRET

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

PRODUCTION BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP SECRET 9 AM 3 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Insecticide (DDT) was sprayed over the occupied area of OKINAWA at 4:30 PM on 2 April.

Beach conditions are good, with no appreciable swell. Unloading is continuing satisfactorily.

The HINSDALE (APA-130) (afternoon summary 1 April) received heavy damage in the engineering spaces with some resultant flooding in storeroom spaces from the crash attack of a suicide plane.

Four men were wounded when the FORREST (DD-933) was hit by a 100-pound bomb on 1 April. Damage was generally confined to engineering spaces.

The 3rd Marine Division on IWO JIMA still reports enemy resistance. During the night of 1 April and in daylight on 2 April, Marines and Army killed 47 JAPS and captured 27. The total killed by the 3rd Marine Division is now 7,790. 228 prisoners have been captured.

3rd Marine Division casualties are:

	Officers	Men
KIA	40	844
WIA	146	3,135
MIA	1	17
Total	187	3,996

Total casualties are 4,183.

The submarine SEADEVIL (SS-400) reports sinking 3 JAP escort vessels and 3 cargo ships.

Regraded Unclassified

...NCH FILE

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

TOP-SECRET

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
DOD Letter, ...

9 & 3 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The TYRRELL (AKA-~~29~~) received slight damage from a suicide plane. ~~On the night of 1 April. One man is missing.~~

The SKIRMISH (AK-~~[illegible]~~) was slightly damaged from a near-miss in a masthead attack. ~~One man is missing.~~ Suicide

The WEST VIRGINIA (BB-48) (~~reported morning summary~~ Reported 2 April) received heavy damage on the portside of the second deck, in the galley, the laundry and the engineer's compartment. ~~Two 20mm guns were wrecked and the 5-inch range finder damaged. Revised casualties show that 4 were killed and 9 wounded.~~

LCI-580 and LCI-462 are aground on KERAMA RETTO. Both landing craft have damage to the shafts and screws. LCI-566 was reported hit by a plane on the evening of 1 April.

Revised casualties for the INDIANAPOLIS (CA-35) (morning summary 31 March) reveal that 9 were killed and 18 wounded.

One man was killed on the PORTERFIELD (DD-682) when she was strafed by a JAP fighter. The ship sustained no damage.

Logistic support from KERAMA RETTO is satisfactory. One tanker has been moved to the beach area in order to accelerate the re-fueling of ships.

The VARIAN (DE-644), on 1 April, hit a floating plank and accidently dropped a 300-pound depth-charge, the explosion from which damaged her starboard shaft.

The Combat Air Patrol on 2 April attacked JAP small craft on the western beaches north of ZAMPA-MISAKI. The planes are known to have destroyed 12 barges, 2 50-foot boats and 3 small craft. Support aircraft located and destroyed 12 mines about 100-yards off the southern beaches. Mariners from KERAMA RETTO flew anti-submarine patrols on 2 April.

Enemy aircraft raided the beachhead and transport area during the evening of 1 April and morning of 2 April. 11 group and many single attacks were made. 7 enemy planes were shot down by gunfire and 10 by our own aircraft.

Two of our aircraft were lost and one damaged. Three personnel are missing and one wounded as a result of the foregoing.

E. 2 AKAs and 1 AM damaged by suicide attacks.

Regraded Unclassified

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~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED per OSD Letter,

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

9 AM 3 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The troops and Marines on OKINAWA have been making good progress and are employing every means to capitalize the enemy's weak resistance. ~~At 2:50 PM on 2 April,~~ the Second Battalion of the 17th Infantry Regiment reached the east coast of OKINAWA at ~~the battalion reached~~ TOBARU, on KATSUREN WAN, a small bay at the northern end of NAKAGUSUKU WAN. The 96th Division was moving south on the right flank and had reached the town of FUTEMA. All divisional CP's are operating ashore.

A

020800 Q

B

As late as ~~7 PM on 2 April~~, enemy resistance was still characterized ~~by~~ small arms and mortar fire from scattered units.

Air reconnaissance reports enemy activity and troop concentrations southeast of NAHA airfield. It is estimated that the JAPS have withdrawn the greater portion of their forces to the southern part of the island. Native OKINAWANS are surrendering in considerable numbers as the result of propaganda leaflets dropped among them.

C

~~Air strikes and naval gunfire are supporting the land operations.~~

~~During the night of 1 April, 3 CBB, 8 CL, 14 DD and a number of gunboats furnished gunfire support. During daylight, on 2 April, fire support was received from 8 battleships, 9 cruisers, 21 destroyers and several gunboats.~~

~~No enemy activity has been reported in KERAMA RETTO during 1 and 2 April.~~

~~At 6 PM~~ On 2 April, 19 of our observation planes were using YONTAN and KADENA airfields. KADENA airfield is serviceable only for emergency landings. Some construction work is necessary before it becomes available for full operation.

D

The following ships have been damaged as the result of enemy ~~activity~~: Suicide attacks

The ACHENAR (AKA-~~36~~) ~~was~~ hit ~~on 1 April by a~~ B-~~26~~ crash-diver. ~~Resulting fires were extinguished.~~ The ~~and~~ sustained extensive structural damage, ~~rendering the 3 forward holds inoperative. As a result of the attack, 5 men were killed and 40 wounded.~~

AKA Achenar
AKA Dysell
Am Skirmish

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TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 3-79

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

4 PM 2 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

At 9 AM, 2 April, amphibious forces landed assault waves at SANGA SANGA ISLAND in the SULU ARCHIPELAGO. SANGA SANGA is just off the southwest tip of TAWI TAWI ISLAND, in the southern portion of the island chain. A preliminary bombardment preceded the landing. There was no resistance from the enemy. Bad weather and poor beach conditions are retarding the unloading.

At 11 AM, on 1 April, the Commanding General of the landing force assumed command ashore at LEGASPI on LUZON (morning summary 1 April).

Gun positions and troop areas on CARABAO ISLAND, in MANILA BAY, were strafed by PT's on 1 April.

Patrol planes sank a river boat and shot down a JAP bomber off FORMOSA.

The destroyer SHAW (DD-373), in destroying two JAP barges on the east coast of MINDRO, struck an uncharted submerged rock and damaged her port screw.

Planes of the BRITISH carrier task force attacked SAKISHIMA GUNTO on 1 April, destroying 14 enemy planes on the ground and damaging six.

The BRITISH carriers were attacked by enemy aircraft, including crash divers. Two enemy planes were shot down. No damage to the carrier task force is reported.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

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

9 AM 2 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

LST-884 was heavily damaged by fire after being hit by a suicide plane. She has been towed to KERAMA RETTO. LST 724 was slightly damaged by a suicider's near-miss. LCI(L)-307 had 11 wounded and one killed when a mortar exploded as the result of a miss-fire.

The WEST VIRGINIA (BB-48) was hit by a suicide diver at 7:13 PM, on 1 April. Some damage was sustained but the ship is capable of full operation. Casualties were 3 killed, 9 wounded and 1 missing. All casualties were enlisted personnel.

The ADAMS (DM-27) was hit by 2 suicide divers (afternoon summary 1 April) instead of one as previously reported. The ADAMS shot down one enemy fighter. The ADAMS was badly shaken up, but sustained no substantial damage. There were no personnel casualties.

Fast carriers of the BRITISH PACIFIC FLEET attacked SAKISHIMA GUNTO again on 1 April in support of the assault on OKINAWA.

The BARTON (DD-722) probably destroyed an enemy submarine on the afternoon of 31 March.

Logistic support of all types is being furnished at KERAMA RETTO.

We lost at least 5 planes in direct air support activities over OKINAWA. Three of the crew members were not picked up. On 1 April, two JAP planes were shot down by our air patrol over OKINAWA.

The unloading of supplies at OKINAWA was begun on 1 April near the HISHA-GAWA RIVER, employing LST's, LCM's, DUKWS and LVT's.

On 27 March, the GEORGE F. ELLIOTT (AP-105) sustained structural damage to the hull in the vicinity of the engine room and evaporator room. The ELLIOTT was anchored and loading the LST 646. There was a heavy swell in the anchorage at the time.

Regraded Unclassified

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TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter, 12 MAY

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

9 AM 2 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

In the final preparation for the assault on OKINAWA, fire support either knocked out or severely damaged all known coast defense guns on the island. 4,300 tons of heavy caliber projectiles (6 to 16-inch) and 200 tons of 5-inch were fired in the bombardment of the defense guns.

Minesweeping operations cleared 222 mines. Demolition teams destroyed 2,700 post obstacles on the beaches.

Air support struck at the areas behind the beaches and at anchorages in UNTEN KO and the HIGA-GAWA RIVER.

Anti-submarine air patrols from KERAMA RETTO produced almost immediate results. A patrol plane from the seaplane base sighted an enemy submarine southwest of OKINAWA on 31 March. The plane directed two destroyers, the MORRISON (DD-560) and the STOCKTON (DD-646), to the submarine's location. The destroyers definitely sank the submarine with gunfire after a depth-charge attack. The patrol plane assisted in the kill by providing illumination.

On 31 March, four suicide planes were destroyed in an attack on fire support ships. Another crash-diver crashed astern of the FRASER (DM-24) while under fire.

The total number of enemy planes destroyed on 31 March was 61 by aircraft, of which 10 were shot down, 18 by antiaircraft and 13 by suicide crashes.

61
18
13
92

On 1 April, the landings continued and the troops were making progress inland against slight opposition. The beachhead, by the evening of 1 April, was about 3 miles in depth. The beachhead was free from small arms fire by 6 PM on 1 April. There was some mortar and artillery fire from the enemy received on beaches during the early morning.

Approximately 50,000 troops had been landed over the beaches at 6 PM. These included 15,000 service troops and 8 BCT's, with field artillery and medium artillery battalions attached.

Two battalions of 155MM artillery were emplaced on KEISE SHIMA and furnishing support for the troops on OKINAWA.

Throughout 1 April, naval gunfire support was furnished by 10 CBB, 6 CA, 3 CL, 23 DD and 177 LCI and LSM support craft.

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

TOP SECRET

4 PM 1 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

15 Mustangs from IWO JIMA dive-bombed the headquarters area, the airstrips and ship basin at HAHA JIMA, on 31 March. 16 Mustangs skipped-bombed and strafed target areas on CHICHI JIMA and damaged one small cargo vessel. NISHINO SHIMA and KITA IWO JIMA were both strafed by Mustangs and patrol planes from IWO JIMA. NISHINO SHIMA is northwest of CHICHI JIMA and KITA IWO JIMA is north of IWO JIMA.

On 29 March, LCI(R)-188 received heavy damage from a JAP air attack. The WYANDOT (ARA-92) sustained underwater damage and flooding from a near-miss. LCI(G)-558 was damaged by enemy depth charge attacks. (Morning summary 31 March).

Although over 300 suicide attack boats have been captured or destroyed in the KERAMA RETTO (afternoon summary 31 March), captured documents in our possession indicate that approximately 700 of these craft were stationed in OKINAWA GUNTO for its defense.

The submarine PERCH (SS-313) reports completion of her seventh war patrol and the sinking of one enemy coastal freighter (300 tons).

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter, SECRET

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

4 PM 1 April 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

At 8:30 AM, 1 April, troops of the 10th U. S. Army and Marines of the 3rd Amphibious Corps, landed on the beaches of SOUTHWESTERN OKINAWA. There was only very light opposition and practically no fire was directed against the landing craft and none against the ships. YONTAN and KADENA airfields had been captured by 11 AM. A number of tanks and artillery, as well as regimental reserves, were being landed at that hour.

The troops are advancing inland without opposition and reports from civilians on OKINAWA indicate that most of the native population and the JAPANESE garrison have taken to the hills.

Regardless of the reaction of the enemy, our troops, according to Vice Admiral Turner, have established good positions ashore.

Tactical command of the entire operation on OKINAWA is vested in Admiral R. A. Spruance. Vice Admiral R. K. Turner commands the amphibious forces charged with putting the Army and Marines ashore. Lieutenant General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., U.S. Army, commands the 10th U. S. Army. The 3rd Amphibious Corps is commanded by Major General R. S. Geiger, U. S. Marine Corps.

The HINSDALE (APA-121) either struck a mine or was hit by a torpedo on 1 April. The engine room is flooded, and the troops embarked were transferred to other craft. ~~The HINSDALE is being towed to HERAMA RETTO.~~ The ADAMS (DM-27) was hit by a JAP suicide diver on 1 April.

Antiaircraft fire and the combat air patrol shot down 7 enemy planes over the area on 1 April.

In support of the OKINAWA operation, the carrier force of the BRITISH PACIFIC FLEET, commanded by Vice Admiral Sir Bernard Rawlings, attacked ISHIGAKI and MIYAKO ISLANDS in the SOUTHERN NANSEI SHOTOS, on 31 March. No air opposition is reported and only slight antiaircraft fire.

The BRITISH carrier force was attacked by 10 enemy aircraft at 7:05 AM, 1 April. Four enemy aircraft were shot down by BRITISH fighter planes. The INDEFATIGABLE (CV) was damaged by a JAP suicide plane. The INDEFATIGABLE is operational, but will require some repairs at a rear base. The ULSTER (LD) received damage when hit by a bomb and is now being towed to LEYTE by the GAMBIA (CL).

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
DOD Letter 3-79
TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 1 April 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Patrol planes sank a small enemy AK off the coast of CHINA, on 29 March. On 31 March, search planes shot down 4 enemy planes and destroyed a train, several trucks and 5 buildings in INDO-CHINA.

The destroyer MURRAY (DD-576), afternoon summary 30 March, was hit by a Jap aerial torpedo, which penetrated the ship on the starboard side and after passing through, just above the waterline, exploded near the ship on the port side. Considerable damage and minor flooding was sustained, but the MURRAY can proceed at 25 knots. The enemy torpedo plane was shot down by the MURRAY. The casualties are one killed and several wounded.

PRATAS ISLAND, 200 miles southeast of HONG KONG, was bombarded by the BLACKFISH (SS-221).

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 1 April 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the night of 27-28 March, cruisers and destroyers (2 CB and 4 CL, commanded by Rear Admirals F. S. Low and J. C. Jones, Jr.), bombarded MINAMI DAITO, causing fires and explosions. On 28 March, carrier aircraft struck the same target, destroying an ammunition dump, gun positions, the radio station, three warehouses, barracks and several small buildings. Other buildings were damaged. MINAMI DAITO is located about 200 miles east of OKINAWA.

A revised report of the damage inflicted by our fast carrier force in the attacks against KYUSHU and the NANSEI SHOTOS, on 28 and 29 March, are as follows:

SUNK	PROBABLY SUNK	DAMAGED
1 DE	11 small AKS	1 DE
4 med. AK		1 med. AK
10 small AKs		13 small AKs
4 luggers		

Damage inflicted on enemy aircraft has not changed since the tabulation submitted in the afternoon summary of 31 March.

In the two day strike, we lost 12 planes in combat and 9 operationally. 12 pilots and 8 crewmen are also missing as a result of the aircraft losses.

On 28 March, buildings were damaged on TOKUNO SHIMA, AMAMI O SHIMA and YAKU SHIMA, in the northern RYUKYUS and a hangar and shops were damaged at KANOYA. The following day, carrier aircraft concentrated their attacks on southern KYUSHU and burned and damaged hangars, barracks and ships at KAGO-SHIMA, KANOYA, KUSHIRA, CHIRAN and IBUSUKI, all located in southern KYUSHU. The MINAMATA chemical plant, in southern KYUSHU, was hit and fires were started at the railroad depot in IBUSUKI.

On 31 March, it is reported that all minesweeping at CEBU had been completed, and that no mines have been located. Merchant ships are now unloading at CEBU CITY. A Jap launch and a barge were sunk by PT's near ZAMBOANGA, on the night of 29-30 March.

On 1 April, amphibious forces commanded by Captain H. F. McGee, U.S.N., landed R.C.T. 158 of the 6th U.S. Army, near LEGASPI on southeastern LUZON (Albay Gulf). LEGASPI is in ALBAY PROVINCE. An air and naval bombardment preceded the landing. Initially, the troops were resisted by heavy enemy artillery fire.

Aircraft during the period 17 to 27 March, mined enemy waters in the PESCADORES, at TAKAO, AMOY, SWATOW, HONG KONG, YULINKAN BAY on HAINAN and HAINAN STRAIT.

Regraded Unclassified

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TOP SECRET

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

4 PM 31 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

Fleet Admiral Nimitz' headquarters reports that our fast carrier force, commanded by Vice Admiral Mitscher, on 28 and 29 March, in an attack on KYUSHU and the NANSEI SHOTOS, inflicted the following damage on the enemy:

Sunk	Probably Sunk	Damaged	Shot Down	Destroyed on Ground	Damaged
2 DE	[illegible] AK	1 DE	29 aircraft	16	[illegible]
[illegible]	5 [illegible] AK	[illegible]	1 glider		
[illegible]	14 AK	14 [illegible] AK			

In addition, ground installations throughout the area were heavily attacked, bombed and burned.

Our forces captured KEISE SHIMA on the morning of 31 March, and the landing of artillery for bombardment of OKINAWA began that day. KEISE SHIMA is located between KERAMA RETTO and OKINAWA and is about 5 miles northwest of NAHA. NAHA is the principal port of OKINAWA and is on the southwest coast.

Beach and surf conditions at OKINAWA on 31 March are generally good. In some instances, they are reported as excellent.

On the night of 29-30 March, several enemy aircraft approached our surface units in the OKINAWA AREA. Only one enemy plane attempted an attack. The attacking plane was knocked down by the ADAMS (DD-27).

In the capture of ZAMAMI and TOKASHIKI, a large amount of enemy supplies fell into our hands.

The total enemy casualties in the capture of KERAMA RETTO are 331 killed and 100 prisoners. Our total casualties are 108, composed of 29 killed, 78 wounded and 1 missing.

As of 6 PM, 30 March, we had captured or destroyed 310 JAP suicide craft.

Patrol planes from CLARK FIELD on LUZON damaged one JAP medium cargo vessel near HONG KONG on 30 March. On the same date, 7 luggers were destroyed and 2 damaged at an anchorage on the west coast of IRIOMOTE JIMA, in southwestern SAKISHIMA GUNTO.

The BRITISH submarine STURDY reports the sinking by gunfire of 2 JAP landing craft (100 tons) loaded with troops.

The BRITISH submarine SPIRIT sank 1 coaster (300 tons) by gunfire.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

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

9 AM 31 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

the bomb passed through the INDIANAPOLIS and exploded in the water under the ship. There was damage to No. 4 shaft. With the possible exception of Turret #3, no damage to armament was sustained. ~~One of the ship's planes are damaged beyond repair and a third is at present non-operational.~~ Ship's evaporators are out of commission and several compartments are flooded with oil. The casualties are one killed, 14 wounded and 5 missing, ~~all casualties were sustained by~~ enlisted personnel.

The WYANDOTTE (ARA-92) received minor damage from a near-miss. LSM(R)-188 was seriously damaged and LCI(G)-558 is out of action. Total casualties are 11 killed, 42 wounded and 3 missing.

Additional survivors from the HALLIGAN (DD-584) (morning summary 29 March) have been picked up and the total survivors is now one officer and 150 men. The officer and 20 men are wounded.

The SKYLARK (AM-63) was sunk after hitting two enemy mines while sweeping on 28 March. (Afternoon summary 29 March). 25 of the crew are wounded and 5 are missing.

The landings on NEGROS on 29 March were hampered because of heavy tidal currents at the unloading point. At 2:08 PM, 29 March, the Commanding General of the 40th Division, assumed command ashore.

On 29 March, MASBATE TOWN, on MASBATE ISLAND, northeast of PANAY, was bombarded by 2 LCS and 2 LCI before occupation of the town by guerrillas.

On 28 and 29 March, CARABAO ISLAND in MANILA BAY was bombarded by PT's.

On the night of 29 March, one of our bombers was lost to enemy gunfire in an attack on a JAP convoy south of HAINAN. One enemy destroyer was damaged. On the previous night, patrol planes sank 3 junks and a small AK off the CHINA coast and fired 3 other junks.

On 30 March, PALAU was attacked by 24 Corsairs, which sank a motor boat, destroyed a building and damaged a pier. 4 Corsairs damaged barges at SONSOROL, southeast of PALAU. 4 bombers attacked CHICHI JIMA, HAHA JIMA and ANE JIMA in the BONINS.

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

DECLASSIFIED 6-3-72
per Letter dated

9 thru 31 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The islands of KERAMA RETTO were all captured by 29 March. Our ships are refueling and taking on ammunition in the anchorages in this group. Planes from the seaplane base in KERAMA RETTO were conducting anti-submarine operations on 29 March. The reduction of KERAMA RETTO resulted in the following landing force casualties: 24 killed, 61 wounded. The enemy dead total 306 and an additional 140 are estimated to be sealed in caves. There are 99 prisoners.

Minesweeping, beach reconnaissance, as well as air and gunfire support off OKINAWA, is proceeding according to schedule.

Thus far 2500 square miles have been swept and the beach reconnaissance reports no enemy mines or wire on the beaches. A number of obstacle posts were found on the beaches opposite KADENA airfield. Beaches are all clear as the result of demolition operations by UDT teams. The demolition work and reconnaissance was conducted with only small arms opposition. One man is reported wounded.

Air and gunfire support has been excellent. Bombardment of beach defenses has resulted in the breaching of all sea walls. #1 Planes of the air support group heavily attacked midget sub base at UNTEN KO, hitting and burning 4 pens and destroying two motor torpedo boats. Gun positions, airfields and bridges were also attacked. We lost 2 aircraft and pilots.

On 28 and 29 March, planes of our fast carrier force operating off the NANSEI SHOTOS destroyed 17 JAP planes in the air and 15 on the ground.

At OKINAWA and in the KERAMA RETTO, we have destroyed 290 suicide craft. The JAP reaction thus far has been limited to sporadic attacks by planes and small craft. At least 4 of the crash-divers were shot down.

A delayed report states that on 25 March, the AYLWIN (DD-355) and the THORN (DD-647) probably sank a JAP sub in a joint attack. The attack took place about 200 miles southeast of SAKISHIMA GUNTO.

JAP MTB's, in two groups on the night of 29-30 March, attacked our night patrols off WESTERN OKINAWA. Our ships received no damage and the JAP craft were driven off with one sunk and one possibly sunk.

#2 On 31 March, the INDIANAPOLIS (CA-35) was crashed by a JAP fighter armed with a bomb. The plane hit on the portside forward, tearing a hole in the main and second decks. It is believed that

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OPD Letter 1-7-47

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

4 PM 30 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D)

Planes for the seaplane base at MALAKA ATOLL arrived on 26 March.

Carrier-based aircraft, during the period 25-28 March, ranged the length of the NANSEI SHOTOS from TAKEDA SHIMA, in the north to MIYAKO SHIMA, in the SAKISHIMA GUNTO, at the southern end of the chain. The results of the 3-day strike show 13 JAP planes shot down and 13 destroyed on the ground. Carrier-planes destroyed 1 midget sub and damaged another. 3 DD's or DE's and 5 AK's were damaged. Many small craft were wrecked and 8 luggers were burned. Our losses were 6 planes. One pilot was recovered.

The destroyer MURRAY (DD-576) received slight damage during an air attack on the morning of 27 March.

The following additional information on damage to the FRANKLIN (CV-13) has been received (morning summaries 20, 21, 22 and 29 March). The damage to the interior of the ship is extensive. 3 JAP bombs penetrated as far as the fourth deck. Four large rockets exploded in the hangar, while six 500-pound, twenty 250-pound bombs, and sixteen large rockets exploded on the deck. The FRANKLIN will require rebuilding from the second deck up.

The FRANKLIN can proceed at 21 knots, although the forward boilers cannot be used. To date, 251 of the personnel have been buried at sea. Many of the bodies were beyond identification. It is estimated that an unknown number of dead are still in inaccessible locations on the ship and that probably a number of them were completely cremated.

There are a sufficient number of officers and men on board who are fit for duty to enable the FRANKLIN to reach a rear area.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, [illegible]

9 AM 30 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D)

In the PHILIPPINES AREA, amphibious landings were made on MACTAN ISLAND, opposite CEBU CITY, CABALLO ISLAND, south of CORREGIDOR, TABLAS ISLAND, 30 miles southeast of MINDORO and on southern HALMAHERA, near the DODO RIVER. All landings, with the exception of MACTAN ISLAND, were made on 27 March. PT's supported the landings of 27 March. The amphibious assault on MACTAN ISLAND took place on 28 March.

On 27 and 28 March, patrol planes, operating in the FORMOSA AREA, destroyed an enemy plane, heavily damaged four locomotives and derailed the cars, and sank two enemy medium AK's.

Venturas bombed MURCIA on northwestern NEGROS, damaging warehouses and headquarter's buildings.

On 29 March, 9 Liberators bombed TRUK, and 12 Corsairs attacked the PALAUS. Warehouses, shipping and military headquarters on HANA JIMA were hit by 31 Mustangs.

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NND 969078

4 PM 29 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

A pilot from the YORKTOWN (CV-10), who had been rescued from OKINAWA, where he had spent three days in a cave near MACHINATO TOWN reports that the JAPS are firing their own artillery from caves so that the burst will hit the ground and confuse our spotters.

The SKYLARK (AM-63) hit an enemy mine 7 miles north of NAHA on WESTERN OKINAWA and sank. The TOLMAN (DE-28) recovered 11 officers and 90 men. 5 of the officers and 20 of the men were wounded.

A BRITISH carrier force attacked the islands of MIYAKO and ISHIGAKI in SAKISHIMA GUNTO on 26 and 27 March. 20 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground, and one was shot down over the target. This is the only JAP aircraft reported to have been airborne. BRITISH carrier aircraft hit several coastal freighters, one of which blew up. Enemy airfields, barracks and installations were bombed, strafed and heavily attacked.

Six BRITISH planes were lost because of antiaircraft fire, and 11 others were lost operationally. Five pilots and 4 crewmen were killed or are missing.

On IWO JIMA, on the night of 27 March and during the day on 28 March, 78 JAPS were killed. Of this number, 58 were killed by the 147th Infantry. The 2nd Echelon of the 3rd Marine Division is still on IWO JIMA and conducting the mopping up operations. The 3rd Marine Division, to date, have killed 7,510 JAPS and taken 142 prisoners. The following are the casualties sustained by the 3rd Marine Division up to 28 March:

	Officers	Men
KIA	40	843
WIA	146	3,129
MIA	1	17
Total casualties	187	3,989

On 28 March, 12 Marine Helldivers attacked JALUIT. Patrol planes on the same date, attacked and damaged a number of small boats at MILLE and JALUIT. A patrol plane attacked machine gun and defense gun emplacements on KUSAIE.

The submarine TIRANTE (SS-420) has reported sinking 2 small JAP AK's. The SPADEFISH (SS-411) sank one AK and the TENCH (SS-417) destroyed 2 steam trawlers with gunfire.

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

4 PM 29 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

In the KERAMA RETTO AREA of the NANSEI SHOTO, TOKASHIKI SHIMA was captured on the morning of 27 March. AMAMI SHIMA, south of TOKASHIKA, is uninhabited. On AKA SHIMA, the only enemy remaining are snipers. During the morning of 28 March, only intermittent fighting continued on ZAMAMI SHIMA.

Landing force casualties from incomplete reports totalled only 24 killed and 65 wounded. 292 dead JAPS have been counted. 49 prisoners have been taken.

A 11

On 26 March, the Seaplane Base Group, commanded by Captain McLean, established a seaplane base in the KERAMA RETTO. Seaplanes for the base were scheduled to arrive on 29 March.

Minesweeping and bombardment still continues, although scheduled naval gunfire is still operating at ranges from 8,000 to 11,000 yards, because of unswept areas. It is expected that the minesweeping will have progressed sufficiently on 29 March to permit not only our gunfire support to close the range, but also to enable demolition teams to reconnoiter other beaches. Demolition teams have already begun a reconnaissance at KUISE JIMA between KERAMA RETTO and OKINAWA.

Enemy suicide motor boats are still being captured. Some of them have been found to be booby-trapped.

During the night of 27-28 March, the TOLMAN (DM-28), while off NAGO WAN, on northwestern OKINAWA, was attacked by 8 enemy motor torpedo boats. The TOLMAN sank 2 of these craft and possibly 4 others. The TOLMAN sustained no damage from the torpedo attacks.

The H. A. WILEY (DM-29) and the ADAMS (DM-27), on the night of 27-28 March were attacked by 2 suicide planes. Both suiciders were shot down. The ADAMS sustained slight damage when wreckage of a plane and the pilot landed aboard.

The enemy is launching floating mines off WESTERN OKINAWA, in an attempt to damage our forces.

Our support aircraft were active over OKINAWA on 27 and 28 March, and destroyed 2 enemy MTB's and heavily damaged their base at TOGUCHI on WESTERN OKINAWA. 5 landing barges were strafed and fired. Planes on YONTAN FIELD were strafed. Enemy gun positions on OKINAWA were attacked.

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TOP SECRET

9 AM 29 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

28 March:

SUSAKI airfield was again attacked by 8 Mustangs, while 8 others bombed and strafed HAHA JIMA.

4 Hellcats and 20 Corsairs destroyed targets in the PALAUS, including a warehouse, trucks and a motor boat.

The USS BREAM (SS-243) reports that she sank one lugger and one small cargo vessel and damaged one lugger during her fifth war patrol. Sunk - 2,600 tons, damaged - 100 tons. The ship received extensive damage from a depth charge attack.

The LAGARTO (SS-371) reports that on her first war patrol she assisted in the sinking of 2 picket boats and the damaging of two others. Sunk - 200 tons, damaged - 300 tons.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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DECLASSIFIED
NND Letter [illegible]
TOP SECRET

9 AM 29 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Fast carrier airstrikes continued against the NANSEI SHOTOS. Incomplete reports show that on 27 March, 8 to 10 luggers were fired at KUCHINOTSUBU, OSUMI GUNTO. One tanker was left beached and burning and one cargo freighter damaged in the AMAMI GUNTO AREA. 8 of 10 or 12 planes were destroyed on the ground at TOKUNA SHIMA, AMAMI GUNTO. Our losses were 4 planes from intense AA fire.

The damage report on the FRANKLIN (CV-13) (morning summaries 20, 21, 22 March) states that all elevators, most of the flight deck, galley deck and hangar deck equipment and miscellaneous equipment in the island structure require repair and replacement.

On 27 March, naval units covered a landing on CAUIT ISLAND, off TALISAY, CEBU. Unloading from the landing ships is proceeding favorably. One enemy plane attacked our ships without success. Minesweepers swept OLANGO CHANNEL, in BOHOL STRAIT, with negative results. The Americal Division has entered CEBU CITY.

On 29 March, landing operations are reported proceeding according to plan in the vicinity of BACO, on the northwest coast of MINDORO ISLAND.

The following air operations have been reported:

25 March:

A Navy search plane sank 2 small and 2 medium cargo ships, damaged 12 others, and shot down 1 JAPANESE plane near SAIGON.

26 March:

3 Liberators attacked SUSAKI airfield, CHICHI JIMA, during the night.

27 March:

Search planes sank 5 cargo ships and damaged 2 along the EAST CHINA COAST. One enemy cargo ship was also sunk in the PESCADORES. A troop train was strafed on FORMOSA.

Liberators attacked MARCUS ISLAND.

8 Mustangs hit buildings and ammunition dumps at KITAMURA TOWN, on HAHA JIMA, and 8 others attacked the SUSAKI airfield at CHICHI JIMA.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5/22/81

9 AM 29 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In the KERAMA RETTO, OKINAWA GUNTO, the island of YAKABI was captured by our trrops at 4 PM on 26 March. KUSA SHIMA and AMUO SHIMA have also been captured and successful landings made on TOKASHIKA, where light opposition is being experienced. There have been enemy counter attacks and mortar fire on ZAMAMI SHIMA and AKA SHIMA, and an enemy infiltration attempt on the night of 26 March was repulsed on KERUMA SHIMA. Satisfactory progress is reported on these islands and all personnel of the garrison battalion have been landed on ZAMAMI. In coves, on AKA and ZAMAMI SHIMAS, many light suicide boats have been captured. These are 20 feet long and 8 feet in width, containing a bomb or a mine and piloted by a one-man crew.

Reconnaissance on the night of 26 March disclosed no personnel or obstacles on KEISE SHIMA.

The HAILIGAN (DD-584), reported torpedoed in the morning summary 27 March, is now reported as blowing up at 6:31 PM, 26 March, 14 miles southwest of BOLO POINT, OKINAWA, probably due to a mine. There are only 75 survivors, 14 of whom are wounded. A revised casualty report for the KIDDERLY (DD-521), also reported morning summary 27 March, gives 4 men killed, 1 officer, 16 men missing and 1 officer, 32 men wounded.

During the night and early morning of 26-27 March, about 15 enemy suicide planes attacked our forces, and the following ships were hit but are operable: NEVADA (BB-36), BILOXI (CL-80), PORTERFIELD (DD-682), DORSEY (DMS-1), FOREMAN (DE-633) and SKIRMISH (AM-303). The O'BRIEN (DD-725) was also hit and has extensive super-structural damage and one fireroom inoperable. Aggregate personnel casualties reported were 40 KIA, 3 MIA and 19 WIA. During the early part of these attacks, there was no combat air patrol on station. 12 enemy planes are accounted as destroyed - 3 by antiaircraft, 3 by our own planes, and 6 self-destroyed.

Supporting operations are continuing and mines are still being swept off the preferred and demonstration beaches. Our bombardments are on schedule, except in the vicinity of NAHA, where fire support ships have not been able to penetrate owing to unswept waters. There is no evidence disclosed in photographs of coastal defensive guns in the vicinity of TOGUCHI, in the western landing area. 4 or 5 submarine pens are claimed destroyed at UNTEN KO, on the northwest coast, and 2 or 3 midget subs are reported sunk or damaged there. The CALLAGHAN (DD-792) probably sank one midget submarine.

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

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9 AM 28 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Operations are continuing in the NANSEI SHOTOS, but no report has been received for the past 24 hours. The GILLER (APD-11) (morning summary 27 March) was also hit by a suicide plane which was the cause of the reported personnel casualties. Minor damage was done to the ship.

P-61's shot down 2 or 3 of 8 enemy planes which attempted to attack IWO JIMA on the night of 25 March, and which did not approach closer than 40 miles. On 27 March, 100 Japs were killed on IWO, of which 40 died in a banzai charge.

Our PT's, cooperating with Mitchells, attacked PANDANAN ISLAND, south of PALAWAN, on 25 March. Others destroyed a fuel-laden barge off CEBU that night.

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

[redacted]
DECLASS. SECRET
OSD Letter,

4 PM 27 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

At 4:15 PM, 26 March, the commanding general of the Americal Division, 8th Army, assumed command ashore on CEBU. While light enemy mortar fire was received in the anchorage area, no damage to our ships has been reported.

Unloading of landing ships has proceeded slowly due to difficult beaching conditions.

PT's, supported by Corsairs, attacked BONGAO ISLAND, TAWI TAWI, on 25 March. Intense enemy fire was encountered, and our PT's retired under smoke screen, having suffered minor damage. One man was killed. Mines were observed in the vicinity.

Minesweeping has been completed in BATANGAS BAY, southwestern LUZON, with negative results.

On 26 March, FIFTH Fleet patrol planes sank a lugger southeast of KYUSHU and strafed buildings on northwest HAHA JIMA.

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

9 AM 27 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:30 AM, 26 March, our amphibious forces, commanded by Captain A. T. Sprague, after naval bombardment, landed the Americal Infantry Division of the 8th Army south of CEBU CITY, CEBU. Light opposition and mortar fire was encountered, as well as land mines near the beaches.

On the night of 24 March, PT boats destroyed 2 freight cars on the docks at CEBU CITY.

Our minesweepers swept GUIMARAS CHANNEL on 25 March with negative results.

On the night of 26 March, the NEWMAN (APD-59) attacked and probably damaged a midget submarine in BOHOL STRAIT.

The following air operations are reported:

24 March:

3 Liberators attacked SUBANI airfield at CHICHI JIMA during the night.

25 March:

3 Avengers, 5 Hellcats, 28 Corsairs attacked targets in the PALAUS, destroying a building, a bridge, and starting 3 fires.

YAP was also attacked by 4 Corsairs.

Navy search planes strafed a group of sea trucks south of FORMOSA, drove 2 ashore and fired a third.

26 March:

Search planes from the PHILIPPINES attacked shipping in FORMOSA STRAIT and sank 1 cargo freighter. 2 of our planes were damaged.

FIFTH Fleet search planes attacked a cargo freighter east of HACHIJO JIMA and inflicted considerable damage. Others attacked targets at TRUK, causing personnel casualties and sinking 2 large sampans.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 AM 27 March 1945

SECRET

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At dawn on 26 March, our amphibious forces at KERAMA RETTO, OKINAWA GUNTO, were attacked by 8 enemy planes. 3 planes were shot down by the combat air patrol and ships' gunfire, while 2 other suiciders missed their targets and crashed. One plane hit the KIMBERLY (DD-521) with considerable structural damage and damage to the ship's 5-inch and 40MM battery. Casualties were 3 killed and 30 wounded. There were also one killed and 2 wounded aboard the GILMER (APD-11).

Well supported by ships' gunfire and support aircraft, successful landings were accomplished on GERUMA, ZAMAMI, HOKAJI and YAKABI SHIMAS. Opposition was reported as light and both HOKAJI and GERUMA SHIMAS were secured by noon. Enemy casualties reported so far are 71 killed, 5 POW's and 200 civilians taken.

Our minesweepers swept 18 mines during the day's operations. Bombarding ships and minesweepers carried out their missions without interference from shore batteries.

Support aircraft also attacked installations on OKINAWA and probably damaged the base at UNTEN KO, northwest coast. 3 small luggers were beached and destroyed and one enemy plane was shot down.

Supporting ships off the west coast of OKINAWA were reported attacked by submarines. The HALLIGAN (DD-584) was torpedoed and badly damaged. No further details are available.

Landings on TOKASHIKA, KUBA and AMURO SHIMAS are scheduled for 27 March.

Vice Admiral Mitscher has reported that photographs disclosed the entire of OKINAWA to be honeycombed with tunnels, caves, and gun positions, and that mechanized units were seen entering the caves.

The ENTERPRISE (CV-6) reports the extent of her damage of 18 and 20 March (morning summary 23 March). Most of the damage was sustained on the flight deck and in the island structure, as a result of fires. 8 Nightfighters were destroyed and personnel casualties were 11 killed, 1 missing, 22 injured.

Regraded Unclassified

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

4 PM 26 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 25 March, all preparatory missions at KERAMA RETTO were completed. There was only light shore opposition.

Air attacks, on the night of 24-25 March, against our surface forces caused no damage, except for seven casualties on the ADAMS (DM-27).

Good weather and favorable beach conditions are predicted for the landings scheduled for 26 March.

One of our Liberators sank a JAP AK about 200 miles southeast of SHANGHAI.

IWO JIMA was turned over to the island commander at 8 AM, 26 March. Major General James E. Chaney, USA, is the island commander. The air defense commander for IWO JIMA is Brigadier General Ernest Moore, USA.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 OSD Memo, 11-2-98

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP SECRET

9 AM 26 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In the NANSEI SHOTOS, the fast-carrier force, on 24 March, continued its attack against OKINAWA and KERAMA RETTO. There are no indications of enemy attack against our surface forces. Minesweeping operations off KERAMA RETTO are proceeding satisfactorily. On 24 March, only two mines had been located.

Carrier aircraft on 24 March intercepted a JAP convoy about 150 miles northwest of OKINAWA. The entire convoy was destroyed. We sank 3 large AK, 2 destroyers and 3 other escorts. We lost 3 aircraft in the attack.

Photo reconnaissance on 19 March of KURE, MOJI and other JAP installations in the INLAND SEA show the following ships damaged:

1 BB	3 CVL
1 BBCV	2 CA
2 CV	2 DD
1 CVL	1 SS

On the night of 23-24 March, PT's retrieved Army patrols from JOLO and TAWITAWI in the SULU ARCHIPELAGO, as well as 11 civilians from NEGROS ISLAND. JAP barracks on JOLO were strafed. MOROTAI PT's bombarded JAP positions on HALMAHERA on the night of 23 March.

On 23 and 24 March, patrol planes, operating south of SHATOW, sank 2 enemy sea trucks and damaged another. A medium-sized freighter was sunk in the EAST CHINA SEA. Other patrol planes rocketed barracks on NEGROS ISLAND, and shot down an enemy plane north of FORMOSA.

On 24 March, MALOELAP was attacked by 10 Marine Corsairs.

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

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
OSD Letter 9-72

9 a.m. 25 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

CARABAO ISLAND, in MANILA BAY, was strafed by PT's on the night of 22 and 23 March.

During the same night, patrol planes from the PHILIPPINES damaged three sea trucks near HONG KONG, and probably sank a medium freighter and damaged a DE north of FORMOSA.

On 24 March, patrol planes sank a large AK about 200 miles northwest of OKINAWA.

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

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 25 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 24 March, the 5th Marine Division was still reembarking at IWO JIMA, and the 3rd Division continued operations to clean out the remaining Japs.

The ZUNI (ATP-95) (morning summary 24 March) was successfully salvaged. Salvage operations on the LST-727 (morning summary 23 March) have been resumed.

32 Mustangs attacked the Japs in the BONINS on 24 March.

It is expected that at 8:00 a.m., on 26 March, the capture and occupation phase on IWO JIMA will be completed.

ON 23rd TF 58

~~The fast carrier force, commanded by Vice~~ Admiral Mitscher, struck the Jap installations in the NANSEI SHOTOS, particularly at OKINAWA and KERAMA RETTO. The weather for the attack was not favorable. ~~On 23 March,~~ three enemy aircraft ~~are reported to have been~~ shot down. Airfields on SOUTHERN OKINAWA ~~were~~ attacked ~~and many aircraft strafed. Many small craft and AK's were located in the OKINAWA area.~~ One small AK was sunk and two small AK's ~~and~~ a DE, ~~as well as~~ many small craft were damaged. A small convoy was located about 250 miles west of OKINAWA. One large AK and one medium AK were left burning.

Military installations and towns on OKINAWA, KERAMA RETTO and IE SHIMA, were rocketed, bombed and strafed. MINAMI DAITO SHIMA, 200 miles East of OKINAWA, was also attacked, but the results were not observed due to heavy overcast.

Our losses were two aircraft.

Prior to the attack on the RYUKYUS, the fast carrier force was under attack by enemy aircraft. Complete reports on the damage inflicted on the enemy are not available, but in one encounter, on 21 March, about 50 enemy aircraft were shot down by our planes. In this encounter we lost three aircraft.

On 22 March, the LINGAYEN AREA was attacked by Japanese aircraft. No damage was sustained by shipping in the area.

On 23 March, a Jap-controlled mine field was discovered in GUIMARAS STRAIT, between PANAY and NEGROS. The control station was destroyed in a coordinated attack of PT's and troops, and the cables to the mine field were cut.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED per OPD Letter 19 Jan 70

TOP SECRET

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

9 AM 24 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On IWO JIMA the JAP pocket at the northern end of the island has been reduced to an area approximately 200 yards square. In this pocket, and elsewhere on the island, mopping up continues. Re-embarkation of the 5th Marine Division still continues slowly, due, in part, to combat requirements as well as the very unfavorable surf conditions.

The ZUNI (ATF-95), on 23 March, while attempting the salvage of LST-727 (morning summary 23 March) from the beach at IWO, began to drag anchor. The lines from the ZUNI to the LST were cut, and, subsequently, fouled the ZUNI's screws. The ZUNI broached and grounded. Efforts are now being made to salvage the ZUNI, but the operation is seriously hampered by surf conditions. The ZUNI has hull damage as the result of striking wreckage on the beach. It is anticipated that additional damage will be received before she can be salvaged. The LST-727 is riding easily with some hull damage.

On 20 March, 22 JAP mines were destroyed near CORREGIDOR. Minesweeping is continuing in the newly discovered mine area.

On 21 March, PT's attacked and damaged 2 enemy barges off northern NEGROS and 3 large sailing craft off GUIMARAS ISLAND.

On the night of 21-22 March, PT's returned to CEBU and heavily strafed the remaining barges in the group that had been attacked the previous night (morning summary 23 March).

On 23 March, JALUIT was attacked by 12 Marine Corsairs. Two Privateers bombed WAKE.

On 24 March, a patrol plane sank one medium AK in a convoy of 5 JAP freighters escorted by three destroyer escorts. The sinking occurred about 200 miles southeast of SHANGHAI.

In the attack on the RANDOLPH (~~CV 15) (morning summary 13 March~~), it is reported that 14 of the carrier's aircraft were destroyed and 12 were damaged beyond the capacity of the ship's repair facilities. The attacking crash-diver is identified as a Francis (two-engined bomber). The Francis was armed with a bomb at the time of the attack.

Regraded Unclassified

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

~~TOP SECRET~~

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4 PM 23 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 12:26 AM 23 March, the destroyer HADDARD (DD-555) rammed and sank a JAPANESE submarine about 350 miles southeast of OKINAWA. As the result of underwater explosions and the ramming, the HADDARD sustained damage to the stem and to the starboard shaft. Some additional damage to fire control, radar and radio equipment also resulted from the ramming. The HADDARD is proceeding to ULITHI at 14 knots on her port engine.

The WASP ~~(CV-18)~~, while near SHIKOKU ISLAND during the carrier strikes against JAPAN on 18-19 March, was damaged when hit by a bomb from an enemy carrier-based type reconnaissance plane ~~(which is currently not known)~~. The JAP bomb penetrated the hangar deck, setting fire to aircraft, as well as blowing holes in the second and third decks. ~~No. 4 fireroom the laundry, the galley, berthing facilities and No. 3~~ elevator were also damaged. Some flooding resulted in No. 4 fireroom. Fires were quickly extinguished and flooding was controlled so that normal flight operations were able to be resumed an hour after the bombing. 2 aircraft were burned and 30 damaged. Casualties to date are 102 dead and 200 injured.

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

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DECLASSIFIED 3-78
OSD Letter

9 AM 23 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the night of 18 March, PT's, off southern PALAWAN, sank a launch, a barge and 3 small craft and destroyed, on the following night, 2 beached barges on CEBU.

Off CEBU, PT's attacked 15 barges and destroyed 8 of them on the night of 20-21 March. During the same night, other PT's landed Army scouts on TAWITAWI, and JOLO, in the SULU ARCHIPELAGO.

The following are additional air strikes:

21 March:

A sugar production area was bombed and strafed by a Ventura.

22 March:

The PALAUS were bombed by 6 Hellcats, 28 Corsairs and 3 Avengers. YAP was attacked by 4 Corsairs. One plane was lost, but the pilot was rescued.

Patrol planes from CLARK FIELD on LUZON left one small freighter burning in AMOY HARBOR and heavily damaged another southeast of OKINAWA.

MINDORO patrol planes sank 3 small freighters and damaged another at BRUNEI, NORTHWEST BORNEO. At MIRI, in FRENCH-INDO-CHINA, a small freighter was sunk and 2 gas dumps destroyed.

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IWO JIMA

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

9 AM 23 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The JAPS were still active on the northwestern tip of IWO JIMA on 22 March. As a result, the turnover of IWO JIMA to the Army garrison and the re-embarkation of the 5th Marine Division and Corps Troops is being delayed.

Beach conditions on the east coast are bad due to the heavy surf. LSM-207 and LST-727 were both broached due to surf conditions. LSM-207 has been successfully salvaged. The possibilities of salvaging LST-727 appear favorable.

16 Mustangs attacked the CHICHI JIMA weather station and fuel stowage. Only meager AA fire was encountered. 83 additional Mustangs arrived at IWO to join the garrison airforce.

Casualties at 6 PM 21 March were 20,530. The total included 4,466 killed. The latest estimate of enemy dead is 21,236.

The carrier strikes of 18-19 March against KYUSHU and the INLAND SEA destroyed or damaged a total of 731 JAP aircraft. 281 JAP planes were shot down in the air and 275 others destroyed on the ground and 175 probably destroyed or damaged.

Photo reconnaissance of KYUSHU reveals heavy damage, including the following:

Location	Target
KAGOSHIMA, SOUTHERN KYUSHU	Destroyed half large factory building, 36 barracks, 2 hangars and large shop east of factory. Damaged 6 hangars.
MIYAZAKI, EASTERN KYUSHU	Destroyed 5 hangars, 14 shops.
NITTAGAHARA, EASTERN KYUSHU	Destroyed 1 hangar, damaged 7 hangars.
SAEKI, EAST CENTRAL KYUSHU	Damaged hangars and shops.

At PANAY, minesweeping is continuing, but no mines have been swept. Aircraft attacked 20 barges and destroyed a locomotive in the vicinity of BACOLOD, on northwestern NEGROS ISLAND. In the same area, PT's destroyed one JAP lugger near the docks.

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

4 PM 22 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Some additional information has been received amplifying the reports of the carrier strike of 18 and 19 March. The damage sustained by the DEVILFISH (SS-292) (morning summary 22 March) was caused by a JAP crash-diver. The steering casualty of the HALSEY POWELL (DD-686) (morning summary 22 March) was the result of enemy action. The abortive JAP torpedo plane attacks occurred on the night of 20 March, rather than 19 March, as reported in the morning summary of 22 March.

During 21 March, patrol planes from CLARK FIELD, LUZON, inflicted considerable damage on the enemy off the CHINA COAST and in the vicinity of TAIWAN. A Navy Ventura, in cooperation with Army patrol planes, left a medium freighter burning near SWATOW, as the result of a rocket and strafing attack. Near WENCHOW, a small AK was sunk and another damaged by Navy patrol planes. A small AK and a lugger were damaged off the west central coast of FORMOSA by strafing attacks. A JAP coastal freighter and a motor launch were damaged by strafing in the vicinity of KARENKO, on the northeast coast of FORMOSA. A JAP locomotive was destroyed near KARENKO.

On the night of 21-22 March, Mariners, from the LINGAYEN AREA on LUZON, attacked a medium freighter and 50 junks near SWATOW. 10 junks were sunk and the AK was probably destroyed.

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9 AM 22 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

20 March:

Near OKINAWA patrol planes sank a sea-truck and badly damaged two LCM-type landing craft and left another dead in the water.

Two JAP barges were sunk near QUINHON, FRENCH INDO-CHINA, and two enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. One enemy landing craft was sunk off LUICHOW.

Nine enemy aircraft were strafed and damaged on the ground at an airfield near SWATOW.

An enemy medium freighter was left burning and listing southeast of SHANGHAI. Off northern FORMOSA, a lugger was bombed and capsized, while two luggers and two sea-trucks were strafed and left burning.

At CEBU CITY, a Ventura attacked and sank a Nip coastal-type submarine.

21 March:

A Liberator from MINDORO destroyed a JAP fighter on the ground near QUINHON FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

Patrol planes destroyed or heavily damaged several enemy small craft at HOTJE, MALOELAP, JALUIT and MILLE.

On 20 March, the THORNTON (AVD-11) sustained damage to the after-part of the ship when in collision with the GILLIS (AVD-12). The THORNTON has returned to port for repairs. There is no report of the damage to the GILLIS, and no personnel casualties to either ship are indicated. The collision took place while the GILLIS was attempting to pass mail to the THORNTON.

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9 AM 22 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The 147th Infantry Regiment began unloading at IWO JIMA on 21 March. Due to combat requirements, in connection with the mopping up operations, the re-embarkation of the remaining Marines has been slowed down. Corps troops, however, began to re-embark on 21 March.

Barracks and radio installations on CHICHI JIMA were attacked by 16 Mustangs.

Minesweeping at PANAY has produced no results to date. ILOILO was captured on 19 March. On 20 March, the harbor area was reported clear and the docks in good condition. The naval gunfire support forces at PANAY were released at 6 PM on 20 March. Reconnaissance parties were landed from PT's and LCM's at various points on the west coast of PANAY.

On 19 and 20 March, PT boats landed scouts on GUIMARAS ISLAND, opposite ILOILO, on the southeast coast of PANAY. PT's destroyed 2 JAP barges off CEBU.

The four other carriers damaged in the carrier strikes of 18-19 March (morning summary 21 March) are the ENTERPRISE (CV-6), INTREPID (CV-11), WASP (CV-18) and YORKTOWN (CV-10). The INTREPID received only minor damage from a near-miss, and the YORKTOWN damage is not serious. The ENTERPRISE and WASP will require repairs at an advanced base. The FRANKLIN (CV-13) (morning summary 20 and 21 March) will require more extensive repairs and is being sent to a rear area with the SANTA FE (CL-60). The ENTERPRISE was hit twice, the first attack occurring on 18 March and the second on the afternoon of 20 March.

The HALSEY POWELL (DD-686) sustained a steering casualty.

JAP aircraft torpedo attacks, on the night of 19 March, caused no damage to our force. AA fire and night fighters destroyed several enemy planes.

During the fast-carrier strikes of 18 and 19 March, the submarine DEVILFISH (SS-292) was bombed by a JAP carrier-based fighter. The DEVILFISH received damage and is able to submerge to only 90 feet. She is now proceeding to SAIPAN with air cover provided by one Liberator.

The following air strikes in the SOUTH and CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported:

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9 AM 21 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The 4th Marine Division departed IWO on 20 March, and the 5th Marine Division is still re-embarking. High winds made it necessary to shift the re-loading to the western beaches on 20 March.

Our total casualties at 5 PM 20 March were 20,454. The foregoing casualties consist of:

KIA - 4,421
WIA - 15,657
MIA - 386

Enemy dead total 21,184. 202 prisoners have been taken, of which 68 are Koreans and 134 are JAPS.

Mustang strikes from IWO were cancelled 20 March, because of bad weather.

In the PHILIPPINE AREA, operations at PANAY were proceeding satisfactorily on 19 March, and all unloading had been completed. At 3:30 PM, 19 March, support aircraft control was assumed ashore.

On 18-19 March, off CEBU, PT's destroyed a sub-chaser and sank four JAP barges with 20 to 30 personnel aboard. PT's, cooperating with 6 Corsairs, set fire to warehouses on JOLO ISLAND in the SULU ARCHIPELAGO on 18 March.

The following air strikes are reported:

19 March:

Patrol planes from the PHILIPPINES attacked 2 enemy freighters off FORMOSA. One was left dead in the water and the other damaged.

5 Liberators attacked CHICHI JIMA, bombing SUSAKI airfield.

20 March:

11 Liberators bombed SUSAKI FIELD on CHICHI JIMA.

17 Hellcats and Corsairs bombed the PALAUS.

WAKE was hit by 6 Privateers, causing explosions and fires in the bomb and fuel storage areas.

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

9 AM 21 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Task Force 58, under the command of Vice Admiral Mitscher, has completed a two-day fast carrier strike against the enemy air strength on KYUSHU and the JAP bases in the INLAND SEA. On 18 March, KYUSHU was the target, and on 19 March the carrier aircraft attacked JAP fleet units in the INLAND SEA.

Only incomplete reports are available at this time, but they indicate that substantial damage was inflicted on the enemy. During the two days, 200 JAP planes were shot down and 275 destroyed on the ground. On 18 March, our forces probably destroyed or damaged at least 100 enemy planes. The count in this category for the second day is not available, but it is reported that large numbers were damaged or probably destroyed on 19 March. The preliminary report reveals that we lost only 5 aircraft.

At the JAP airfields, a large number of shops, installations and hangars were destroyed or damaged. At the KANOYA and KURE airbases, similar damage was inflicted. Oil storage tanks were damaged or destroyed at the KURE naval arsenal.

Carrier planes sank 6 small freighters and damaged 7 others. Approximately 18 JAP combatant ships were damaged, including the following:

1 BB CV	2 or 3 CV	2 CVE	1 CL	1 DE
1 or 2 BB	2 CVL or CVE	1 CA	4 DD	1 SS

One of our carriers, the FRANKLIN (CV-13) (morning summary 20 March) received damage but is now proceeding at 15 knots. In addition, 4 carriers received damage but all are fully operational, and none are seriously damaged.

The enemy resistance consisted mainly of individual plane attacks. There were a large number of such attacks. The majority of them were suicide attempts. Low, broken overcast aided the suicide divers in their attacks. No JAP attacks were made after mid-afternoon on 19 March.

On IWO JIMA, the night of 19 March was quiet and throughout 20 March, Marine activities were largely concerned with patrolling and reducing the remaining pockets. The 147th Infantry has arrived at IWO and was expected to begin debarkation on 21 March.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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9 AM 20 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Two luggers, a sea truck, two barges and two scows were destroyed by PT's off CEBU, on the night of 17-18 March.

(B) Two JAP midget submarines were destroyed by three Venturas in the GULF of DAVAO on 18 March.

The following air operations are reported:

18 March:

9 Marine Corsairs attacked JAP food supplies and gardens on WOTJE. No enemy AA was encountered. Four Corsairs bombed personnel areas on MILLE. MILLE was also hit by one Helldiver.

8 Privateers bombed the industrial area on PONAPE.

19 March:

A Privateer, on patrol, sank a lugger and 4 small craft at TRUK.

Venturas, patrolling from IWO JIMA, attacked an enemy cargo vessel and inflicted moderate damage.

The submarine GUITARRO (SS-363) has completed her fourth war patrol and reports damaging one large JAP AK (7500 tons).

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9 AM 20 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

(CV)
The FRANKLIN (~~CV-13~~) was hit by a suicide diver, armed with a bomb, at 7 AM on 19 March. The enemy attack caused bad fires. The FRANKLIN is now being towed to the south by the PITTSBURGH (~~CA-72~~). The attack occurred during our carrier-strikes against the KOBE-KURE AREA, on 19 March. Results of aircraft strikes 18-19 March were good.

A
TF 58 Report

At 6 PM, on 19 March, conditions on IWO JIMA were reported as quiet with mopping up going ahead satisfactorily. The re-embarkation of the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions is proceeding in spite of the unfavorable weather conditions.

Our total casualties on IWO JIMA, as of 5 PM 19 March, are 20,329. A breakdown of the casualties revealed that 4,374 were killed, 15,558 wounded, and 397 missing. During the night of 18-19 March, 83 additional JAPS were killed, bringing the total estimated enemy dead to 21,077. We have captured 174 prisoners.

Fighter planes from the IWO garrison force bombed and strafed the CHICHI JIMA airfield and radio station on 19 March.

Major General Brush, USA, assumed command ashore at PANAY, on 18 March, at 7 PM. The operation is proceeding satisfactorily. The enemy resistance is reported as slight. No enemy surface or air reaction to our landing has been reported.

By 2 PM, on 18 March, 4 battalions of infantry and all the landing force armor has been put ashore. Unsatisfactory weather and beach conditions hampered the unloading, and it was finally necessary to abandon one of our beaches. Casualties reported thus far are 3 men wounded.

On ZAMBOANGA, enemy opposition is classed as moderate and we are making progress. Mine sweeping and demolition work on the west coast of ZAMBOANGA continues, and ZAMBOANGA HARBOR has been cleared of the larger wrecks.

The ZAMBOANGA PT base, which was under enemy artillery fire, has been moved to MALAMAUI ISLAND, off northwest BASILAN ISLAND.

The town of ISABELLA, on BASILAN ISLAND, was occupied as the result of a joint overland and amphibious attack.

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4 PM 19 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine SAILFISH (SS-241) has completed her fifth war patrol and reports sinking one large tanker and two escort vessels and shares with the FLASHER (SS-249) one small freighter and two miscellaneous small vessels. The total tonnage sunk was 10,700. In addition, a total of 400 tons of enemy shipping was damaged. The tanker and one escort vessel were torpedoed. The remainder of the tonnage sunk and damaged was the result of attacks by gunfire.

On 17 March, 5 Liberators bombed the airfield on CHICHI JIMA.

On 18 March, 14 Liberators struck SUSAKI airfield on CHICHI JIMA, and one Liberator bombed southern HAHA JIMA. One Liberator was damaged.

Patrol planes from CLARK FIELD on LUZON sank a small AK and damaged a medium AK in the CANTON AREA and burned and left a small AK beached in the NANSEI SHOTOS, on the eastern coast of AMAMI GUNTO.

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JSD letter

9 AM 19 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

18 March:

Liberators on patrol sank a small passenger ship (250 tons) south of QUINHON, in FRENCH INDO-CHINA, and strafed and damaged 5 enemy aircraft on the ground in FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

Airstrips on YAP and GAGIL TOMIL ISLANDS, as well as YAP TOWN, were struck by 4 Helldivers, 6 Avengers and 14 Hellcats.

The PALAUS were attacked by 39 Corsairs and 3 Hellcats. 4 of our planes were damaged.

The submarine SPOT (SS-413) now reports sinking 2 JAP AK's, instead of damaging one and sinking another, as previously reported (morning summary 18 March). //

The submarine SPRINGER (SS-414) sank an enemy destroyer, and the TRIGGER (SS-237) sank an enemy freighter and damaged another.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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Dep Letter

9 AM 19 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During 18 March, the Marines on IWO JIMA continued mopping up operations. CHICHI JIMA was bombed and strafed by 16 Mustangs. No resistance was encountered over the target and all planes returned safely.

On the same day, the re-embarkation of the 5th Marine Division began.

On 18 March, enemy aircraft bases and installations on KYUSHU were attacked by our carrier-based aircraft. No reports of the results are as yet available.

~~At 9:05 AM~~ on 18 March, the 40th Infantry Division was landed at TIGBAUAN on SOUTHERN PANAY. TIGBAUAN is west of the principal city of the island, ILOILO. A covering force, commanded by Rear Admiral Riggs, furnished preliminary bombardment. The amphibious attack forces were commanded by Rear Admiral Struble. ~~At 10:15 AM,~~ our troops entered TIGBAUAN. There has been no report of any enemy resistance.

JAP artillery fire from the hills on ZAMBOANGA has forced us to abandon our PT base at CALDERA POINT.

On 15 March, ZAMBOANGA PT's destroyed a JAP barge and 8 small craft near JOLO ISLAND, in the SULU ARCHIPELAGO. PT's on the night of 16 and 17 March sank 3 barges off CEBU and on 17 March bombarded the enemy on SIASI and LAPAC ISLANDS, south of JOLO.

LINGAYEN PT's rescued 13 survivors from a Mariner bomber, which was downed off NORTHERN LUZON.

The following are air strikes:

16 March:

SUSAKI airfield on CHICHI JIMA was bombed by 5 Liberators.

17 March:

11 Liberators struck the same target on CHICHI JIMA. One Liberator strafed a small JAP freighter at HAHA JIMA.

Patrol planes probably sank a medium AK, heavily damaged a river boat and shot down an enemy plane off the CHINA COAST.

Liberators shot down an enemy plane, strafed a refinery and bombed a rail-line in northern BORNEO.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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9 a.m. 18 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

17 March

BABELTHUAP airfield was bombed and a bridge and building destroyed by 56 Corsairs. One plane and one pilot are missing. YAP was attacked by 4 Corsairs.

A Jap refinery at MIRI, FRENCH-INDO-CHINA was strafed by a patrol plane. Over FRENCH-INDO-CHINA, one enemy fighter was shot down and another damaged. One of the patrol planes sustained minor damage.

The submarine SEACAT (SS-399) reports sinking a small Jap freighter on 6 March.

The submarine SPOT (SS-413) returning from patrol, reports sinking a medium freighter and damaging another.

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 18 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Activities on IWO JIMA, on 17 March, consisted solely of mopping up operations in rear areas and the elimination of the remaining enemy in the northwest tip of the island. The 3rd Division has taken over the areas previously controlled by the 4th Division, and on 18 March, the 5th Marine Division will begin reembarkation.

Total casualties as of 5:00 p.m., 17 March, were KIA - 4,268, WIA - 15,451 and MIA - 426, for a total of 20,145. Estimated Jap dead are 20,703, and we have captured 156 prisoners.

During 17 March, 16 Superforts landed on IWO JIMA. Because of bad weather, the Mustang strike against CHICHI JIMA was cancelled. One Mustang is missing while on patrol over the area.

The LST-642 was damaged on 2 March while retracting from the beach at IWO JIMA. The ship is unable to proceed under its own power.

One company of R.C.T. 162 landed on BASILAN ISLAND, 16 March. BASILAN ISLAND is about 15 miles south of ZAMBOANGA and is the northern most island of the SULU ARCHIPELAGO.

The landing was preceded by a bombardment by 3 destroyers and at last report, no opposition to our landing was encountered. The enemy has retired to the hills.

On ZAMBOANGA, our troops are receiving Jap mortar and artillery fire, and the enemy still continues infiltration tactics. 3 Jap mines were located off ZAMBOANGA on 16 March. One of the mines destroyed an Army landing craft. Our PT base, near ZAMBOANGA, at CALDERA POINT, was under Jap fire. The extent of damage inflicted is not known.

On 15 March, PT's operating with Mitchells, destroyed a barge and three motor launches in the ZAMBOANGA area.

The following air activities are reported:

15 March
Patrol planes destroyed two luggers and damaged another off CELEBES and damaged a Jap schooner off BORNEO.

4 Liberators bombed SUSAKI FIELD on CHICHI JIMA, during the night.

16 March
13 Liberators attacked the airfield on CHICHI JIMA. 12 Marine Corsairs bombed and strafed MILLE and sank one enemy small boat.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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4 PM 17 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (CONT'D.)

The night of 16 and 17 March was quiet on IWO. The JAPS attempted minor operations to infiltrate our lines. JAPS were discovered booby-trapping the rear areas. On 17 March, the 3rd and 5th Divisions continued their mopping-up activities. The 4th Marine Division was still re-embarking.

Emergency landings were made on IWO on 17 March by 15 Super-Fortresses. A possible JAP submarine contact near IWO JIMA was the object of hunter-killer activities.

Patrol planes from CLARK FIELD on LUZON, on 16 March, sank a small cargo vessel and heavily damaged a lugger in FORMOSA STRAIT and destroyed 2 other small cargo vessels near HONG KONG. A medium freighter was damaged near OKINAWA.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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9 AM 17 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

ZAMBOANGA PT's destroyed a barge near MINDANAO and PT's from MOROTAI bombarded Nip camps on northern HALMAHERA.

On 16 March, the airstrip and ammunition dumps at YAP were attacked by 6 Helldivers, 12 Hellcats and 19 Avengers. One plane was lost and 2 damaged. A pilot and 2 gunners are missing.

50 Hellcats and 3 Avengers hit the PALAUS, destroying a barge and starting fires.

The NETHERLANDS submarine, HRMS ZWAARDVISCH has returned from her 6th war patrol and reports damaging a JAP freighter (5,400 tons). The ZWAARDVISCH was heavily damaged by an aerial bomb.

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

9 AM 17 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 6 PM, on 16 March, organized JAP resistance ceased on IWO JIMA. Previously, at 1:50 PM, the 3rd Marine Division had reached KITANO POINT at the extreme northern end of the island.

The 3rd and 5th Divisions are still advancing to clean out small pockets of JAPS. The 4th Marine Division continued to re-embark and depart from the assault area.

It is estimated that the garrison forces will be able to assume control on IWO JIMA about 22 March.

16 Mustangs bombed and strafed CHICHI JIMA on 16 March.

Marine casualties as of 5 PM on 16 March were: Killed - 4,189, wounded - 15,308 and missing -441. The total casualties are 19,938.

On 16 March, our forces on CORREGIDOR received gunfire support from the destroyer TAYLOR (DD-468).

Units of RCT 158 were landed on CALUMPAN PENINSULA in BATANGAS PROVINCE on 16 March and captured the town of BAGATAN.

During the period 4 to 10 March, 48 Japs were killed on SAIPAN, TINIAN and GUAM. During the same period, on PELELIU, GUAM and SAIPAN, 13 JAP prisoners were taken.

The AMETHYST (PYC-3) was in collision on 14 March with the merchant vessel SS PLATTE PARK. The collision occurred about 150 miles northwest of SAN FRANCISCO. The AMETHYST was hit aft on the port side and lost her port and starboard depth charge racks and 12 depth charges. The stern plates were stove in and the after deck sprung. Bulwarks and rails were damaged. No personnel casualties are reported. Damage to the merchant vessel is not indicated.

On 12 March, patrol planes bombed and strafed a JAP radar station on northern BORNEO, and on 13 March shot down an enemy plane over SWATOW and sank a small AK and fired another near HONG KONG. On 15 March, a small JAP AK was sunk near FOOCHOW and a tug was left burning and aground east of HONG KONG. On the same day, a JAP plane was destroyed over FORMOSA.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP-SECRET

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

9 AM 16 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the night of 14 March, it was reported that the enemy's defense in the 5th Division's sector had been broken. Early on the morning of 15 March, the 5th Division resumed the attack while the 3rd and 4th Divisions continued to clean out the remaining groups of JAPS in their sectors.

The JAP resistance particularly in the 5th Division sector was described as fanatical. Small gains were being made by the 5th Marine Division. These gains are apparently due to our employment of flame throwing tanks, which is apparently the only weapon that the JAPS are unable to withstand. The JAP defenses consist mainly of some pillboxes and innumerable caves, all of which have been converted to individual strong points. The enemy is using small arms weapons and knee mortars.

In the other two sectors, the enemy is continuing to fight from tunnels and deep crevices, and many JAP snipers are in evidence. Some large rockets have fallen on our positions in the 4th Division Area.

Patrol planes from the PHILIPPINES AREA, on 15 and 16 March, covered wide areas and destroyed several enemy small craft in the vicinity of WOTJE and JALUIT.

The following air strikes are reported:

14 March:

48 Hellcats and Corsairs damaged piers, destroyed a bridge and set fire to two fuel dumps in the PALAUS. One Corsair was damaged.

The airstrip on YAP ISLAND was bombed by 9 Avengers.

15 March:

40 Hellcats and Corsairs and 3 Avengers bombed the PALAUS and destroyed two bridges and damaged two piers. One plane was damaged.

WOTJE was hit by 12 Marine Corsairs. No enemy AA was encountered.

On 15 March, a survey of the entrances and the lagoon at MAUG ISLAND was begun by 2 YMS. MAUG ISLAND is located about 120 miles north of PAGAN ISLAND in the MARIANAS.

Regraded Unclassified

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

TOP SECRET

4 PM 16 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 15 March, while the 3rd and 4th Divisions were carrying out mopping up operations, the 5th Marine Division was continuing its advance and had reduced considerably the area remaining in the possession of the JAPS.

Naval gunfire was restricted to the extreme northern end of IWO JIMA. SUSAKI FIELD, CHICHI JIMA, and OKIMURA TOWN on HAHA JIMA, were bombed by Mustangs.

Search planes from the PHILIPPINES, on 14 March, struck JAP installations on BORNEO, destroying a cement factory, burning 3 warehouses and sinking a schooner. The HONG KONG AREA, on the night of 13-14 March, was mined by 4 Catalinas.

Patrol planes sank one enemy small craft at JALUIT and destroyed 2 others at MOTJE.

On 14 March, 16 Marine Corsairs bombed MAIOSLAP. 3 planes received minor damage. On the same date, 4 Privateers struck WAKE. No damage to our planes.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 AM 15 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

13 March:

10 Liberators again attacked SUSAKI airfield and FUTAMI MO, CHICHI JIMA.

14 March:

3 Mariners bombed YAP airfield with negative results.

Liberators, Venturas and Privateers left a small freighter transport and two diesel trawlers burning and sank four diesel trawlers at HACHIJO JIMA, slightly damaged two escort vessels west of the IZUS, and sank two picket boats near OGASARI SHIMA, RYUKYUS. 4 of our planes were damaged and one man wounded.

Search planes from the PHILIPPINES sank two luggers and left two more burning near AMOY, damaged 2 small freighters in FORMOSA STRAIT, strafed and left burning 5 small ships, 2 possible PT's and destroyed 2 large luggers and 3 possible PT's off OKINAWA. One of our planes was damaged and one man slightly wounded.

2 small cargo ships were also sunk on the west coast of BORNEO, date not given.

The SEGUNDO (SS-398) reports sinking 1 medium cargo ship while on patrol in the PACIFIC.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter, 5

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

9 AM 15 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 14 March, the 5th Division continued the attack against the enemy forces in the north of the island, and it appears that the backbone of the JAPANESE defense has now been broken in this sector. Gains were made up to 400 yards on the right flank and all other units of the 5th Division also moved forward. Heavy resistance was still encountered, however, and the JAPANESE were reported using hand charges against our tanks. At 2:00 PM, the enemy destroyed five of their own caves on the 5th Division front. The 3rd and 4th Divisions continued mopping up small pockets of resistance. The enemy was conducting a desperate defense from pillboxes, tunnels, and caves. Our forces were subjected to mortar and grenade fire, sniper fire and occasional large rockets. The 3rd Division destroyed 8 pillboxes. The enemy was still "booby-trapping" our dead and wearing Marine uniforms.

During the day, close support was given by two destroyers and 5 P-51's. 16 other P-51's struck CHICHI JIMA airfield defense installations and the weather station.

The casualties as of 5:00 PM, 14 March, are as follows:

	KIA		WIA		MIA		TOTAL		Non-Effectives	
	Off.	EM	Off.	EM	Off.	EM	Off.	EM	Off.	EM
3rd MarDiv (Less 3rd Marines)	35	637	128	2694	2	129	165	3460	18	974
4th MarDiv	84	1514	272	5720	1	88	357	7322	18	1180
5th MarDiv	79	1440	233	5384	4	200	316	7024	15	672
Corps Troops	1	7	10	84	0	4	11	95	1	11
Corps Artillery	0	5	0	11	-	-	0	16	1	9
Garrison Troops	3	39	9	159	0	6	12	204	5	93
GRAND TOTAL	202	3642	652	14052	7	427	861	18121	58	2939
	3844		14704		434		18982		2997	

On 12 March, ZAMBOANGA PT's, cooperating with Mitchells, destroyed 3 launches, a whaleboat and a PT boat near ISABELA, BASILAN ISLAND. That night, our boats strafed a lighthouse and fired a supply dump on SIBAGO ISLAND, eastern part of BASILAN STRAIT.

The following air strikes have been reported:

12 March:

6 planes bombed SUSAKI airfield, CHICHI JIMA, and one bombed OKIMURA TOWN, HAHA JIMA, during the night.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED per OSD Letter dtd 7 Jan 70

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

4 PM 14 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 13 March, the enemy force, which was isolated in a pocket in the 4th Marine Division zone, made attempts to escape. Our attack was resumed on the morning of the 14th in the north of the island. The 5th Marine Division encountered stiff resistance. Further reports have not been received of the day's action.

At 9:30 AM, 14 March, the AMERICAN flag was officially raised over IWO. The 4th Marine Division has commenced re-embarkation.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. letter, 5-...

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

9 AM 14 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following air operations have been reported:

12 March:

Search planes from the PHILIPPINES damaged a medium cargo ship east of HONG KONG and five small craft in FORMOSA STRAIT. Two small freighters were sunk off OKINAWA and two others were seriously damaged. The plane also bombed and strafed 2 truck loads of troops on OKINAWA. An enemy plane was shot down north of WENCHOW.

Supply dumps and installations at DAVAO were attacked by Liberators.

2 Hellcats and 45 Corsairs attacked the PALAUS, sank two ferry craft and 4 barges and destroyed 2 bridges and a house. 2 Corsairs were damaged. YAP airfield was bombed by 6 Avengers.

13 March:

11 Hellcats, 3 Avengers and 64 Corsairs destroyed 2 ammunition dumps, 1 fuel dump and 8 buildings on BABELTHUAP, PALAU. 4 Corsairs and 12 Avengers again hit the airfield at YAP.

Regraded Unclassified

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

TOP SECRET

9 AM 14 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 12 March, 106 enemy were killed by our forces. At 7:30 AM, on 13 March, the attack was resumed by two regimental combat teams of the 5th Marine Division, while the 3rd and 4th Divisions continued mopping up systematically. Only small gains were made by the 5th Marine Division, owing to resistance involving small arms, machine gun and knee mortar fire from bunkers and pillboxes. No enemy artillery was employed. The 4th Marine Division continued to liquidate the small enemy pocket in its zone. It was reported that on the 12th, 115 caves were sealed up. Fire support was provided by three destroyers, but there were no close support missions flown by aircraft during the day. Landings were made on KANGOKU and KAMA rocks, off the western shore. No enemy were present on either.

A B-29 and a PB4Y made emergency landings on the No. 1 airfield. One of our artillery observation planes crashed.

16 Mustangs attacked CHICHI JIMA and scored hits on a radar station, southeast of SUSAKI runway, and on wharf and dock areas.

The following casualties are given for 12 and 13 March, respectively:

12 March	Landing Force	840 Off.	17,364 EM	18,204 total	3,653 KIA
	Garrison "	11 "	204 "	215 "	44 "
	Total	851 Off.	17,568 EM	18,419 total	3,697 KIA
13 March	Landing Force	850 Off.	17,736 EM	18,586 total	3,758 KIA

Incomplete tabulation of enemy dead, buried or sealed in caves gives a total of 19,995. 121 POW have been taken.

On 12 March, our destroyers continued to provide fire support for the ZAMBOANGA beachhead. Sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire from positions in nearby hills fell on our beaches and near the ZAMBOANGA pier. Minesweeping continued with negative results. It was reported that both airfields are ready for use in dry weather.

During the night of 11 March, PT's at ZAMBOANGA destroyed a barge, a motor whaleboat and a large canoe near BASILAN ISLAND.

Another report has been received on the damage to the RANDOLPH (CV-15). The casualties are 27 dead or missing and 52 injured. 14 aircraft were destroyed and 12 were damaged. Three JAPANESE dead were recovered from the plane. The bomb exploded in the after-hangar space and aviation engine shop.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter

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

9 AM 13 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 12 March, a 5th Fleet search plane sank a picket boat and a small freighter, east of OKINAWA. The plane was badly damaged from AA fire and the explosions from the freighter. The co-pilot was slightly wounded.

A 7th Fleet search plane, on the same date, damaged a small anchored lugger in the GULF OF TOMINI, CELEBES.

The USS GUAVINA (SS-362), back from her fifth war patrol, reports that she sank 2 large tankers, for a total of 20,000 tons.

Regraded Unclassified

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

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DECLASSIFIED
DOD Letter,

9 AM 13 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 11 March, the 3rd and 4th Marine Divisions overcame organized resistance on their fronts except for small isolated pockets. On the same date, the 5th Marine Division estimated there were 1,000 remaining JAPS opposing it. As of 1800, casualties to date were 817 officers, 16,646 enlisted men, totalling 17,463 of which 3,449 were killed in action. Total non-effectives were 3,094.

On 12 March, mopping up was continued in both the 3rd and 4th Division zones. On the 4th Division front, only a small pocket of resistance 200 yards square remained. However, the 5th Marine Division continued to encounter stiff resistance. The situation was more favorable in terms of enemy defensive installations destroyed than in terms of space gained. 23 pillboxes were destroyed in one area on the 5th Division front, and the enemy strong-point on the extreme left flank of the 3rd Division was also eliminated. No enemy artillery fire was reported.

On 12 March, an enemy submarine was also sighted 40 miles southeast of the island at 11:45 AM.

On 11 March, P-51's supported the ground troops and also attacked CHICHI JIMA and HAHA JIMA during the morning. SUSAKI airfield was hit and four planes were damaged. Hits and near misses were also registered on an estimated 16 to 18 small ships in the harbor. KITAMURA and OKIMURA TOWNS, on HAHA JIMA, were strafed, and a radio weather station was set afire at OKIMURA.

During the morning of 12 March, 16 P-51's hit OKIMURA TOWN, HAHA JIMA. Intense AA fire was encountered and one plane was hit, but it returned safely.

A tentative report of damage from the attack on the RANDOLPH (CV-15) reported in the morning summary of 12 March, has been received. One twin-engined plane hit the RANDOLPH on the starboard quarter and caused a hole 60 feet long and 40 feet wide on the flight deck, and the sections underneath were wrecked. 11 planes were destroyed and 6 badly damaged. Personnel casualties are 18 dead and 47 injured. It is estimated that fleet service forces can make repairs in 3 or 4 weeks. The second plane hit the boat repair basin on SORLEN ISLAND, ULITHI, causing some material damage and killing 2 men and injuring 6. A third plane was found wrecked in shallow water near YAP ISLAND, on 12 March. A strike on YAP airstrips, together with a dusk combat air patrol, is being conducted to eliminate the possibility of staging through YAP.

Regraded Unclassified

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

TOP SECRET

4 PM 12 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 11 March, the enemy made minor infiltration attempts and delivered mortar fire along the 4th and 5th MarDiv fronts. The 3rd and 4th Marine Divisions continue mopping up. A POW estimates that there are 300 JAPS in the remaining pocket of resistance on the right flank of the 4th MarDiv. The 5th Marine Division, on the morning of the 12th, has made advances of 75 to 100 yards.

Seven B-29's made emergency landings on the IWO JIMA No. 1 airfield, whose northeast and southwest runway is also operational now. It is expected that the No. 2 airfield will be operational about 14 March.

Patrol planes from MINDORO attacked refineries at MIRI, FRENCH INDO-CHINA, rather than at MIRI, northwest BORNEO, as reported in the morning summary 12 March.

On 11 March, search planes damaged a medium cargo ship in HAINAN STRAIT, probably sank another, sank a landing barge and damaged a tug off HONG KONG, damaged 2 small cargo ships in FORMOSA STRAIT, sank one barge and damaged another east of FORMOSA.

On 10 March, ZAMBOANGA PT's, cooperating with a Mitchell, damaged two boats off BASILAN ISLAND and destroyed a steam-driven pumping barge. That night, PT's sank two luggers near TALISAY, northern CEBU, and destroyed two "Q" boats and ammunition and fuel dumps at BATANGAS, LUZON.

Additional strikes have been reported for 11 March as follows: 20 Marine Corsairs bombed gas dumps, the boat basin and personnal area at MILLE, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Two Corsairs received minor damage.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13-70 USD [illegible]

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP SECRET

9 AM, 12 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following air operations are reported:

10 March:

YAP ISLAND was struck by 8 Corsairs, hitting the causeways and setting fire to buildings.

Six Avengers, 52 Corsairs and 10 Hellcats attacked PALAU with bombs, rockets and depth-charges. 2 of our planes were lost, but one pilot was rescued by our surface craft.

The BERING STRAIT (AVP-34) rescued one passenger and nine crew members of a crashed Super Fort, and the entire crew of ten of another B-29 also down in the same vicinity. Two other survivors were rescued about 200 miles east of MINDANAO.

At about 11 AM on 12 March, one of our planes sighted the fuselage and tail assembly of a plane floating under the surface. There was much debris in the area. The wreckage was sighted about 360 miles southwest of JOHNSTON ISLAND. Planes and surface craft have been sent to the area to investigate the wreckage.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

RELEASED, CNO Letter, SECRET

9 AM 12 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)

The 3rd and 4th Marine Divisions on 11 March had captured large sections of the beach on the east coast at IWO JIMA. The enemy is now divided into two isolated groups.

Destroyers and a heavy cruiser continued to furnish fire support, and Mustangs (P-51's) bombed and strafed designated targets on IWO JIMA. During the night of 10 and 11 March, our troops received some JAP rocket fire.

15 Mustangs attacked CHICHI JIMA on the morning of 11 March.

Unloading conditions are favorable on the eastern beaches. 58 prisoners, which included 34 Koreans, were removed to GUAM on the DICKERSON (APD-21).

Marine casualties totalled 16,714, of which 791 were officers and 15,923 were enlisted men. At 6 PM, on 10 March, 3,304 Marines had been killed in action.

By noon, on 11 March, our forces at ZAMBOANGA, had experienced no enemy air or naval reaction to our landings. JAP artillery and mortar fire was still falling on the beaches, and on the night of 10-11 March, two destroyers furnished illumination and night bombardment.

Major General Doe, of the 41st Infantry Division, assumed command at ZAMBOANGA at 12:55 PM, 10 March.

ZAMBOANGA PT's, on the night of 9-10 March, destroyed a JAP barge and motor boat and damaged a fuel barge on the coast of BASILAN ISLAND.

At 9:10 PM on 11 March, the RANDOLPH (CV-15) was crashed by a JAP suicider while at ULITHI. Fires were started, but are now under control. Known casualties are 1 dead and about 25 injured. Another JAP crash-diver, at about the same time, struck and damaged buildings on SORLEN ISLAND at ULITHI.

Patrol planes, on 10 March, shot down an enemy bomber and sank a medium AK off HONG KONG.

Five patrol planes from MINDORO attacked refineries at MIRI on northwest BORNEO. The planes fired five large and six small oil storage tanks. One enemy bomber was destroyed on the ground and two JAP trucks were destroyed on a near-by highway.

Four Catalinas, on the night of 9 March, mined the HONG KONG Area. On the next night, single Cats mined AMOY and SWATOW.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 11 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The Marine casualties on IWO JIMA at 5:00 p.m., 9 March, totalled 16,011. The total was made up of 760 officers and 15,251 enlisted men. There have been 3098 officers and men killed in action.

Some enemy rocket fire is reported, coming from either KAMA or KANGKOKU rocks, off the northwest coast of IWO JIMA.

P-51's are now providing close support in addition to that being furnished by carrier aircraft. On the afternoon of 9 March, a B-29 successfully made a forced landing on MOTOYAMA Airfield No. 1.

The landings at ZAMBOANGA, on MINDANAO, are proceeding as scheduled. No enemy resistance is reported.

PHILIPPINE patrol planes sank a Jap AK, a lugger and a tug, and damaged three other AKs off HONG KONG, on 8 March. On 10 March, a patrol plane shot down a Jap flying boat in the NANSEI SHOTOS.

WAKE was bombed by five planes on 9 March. On the same date, 54 Hellcats and Corsairs bombed PALAU and sank two barges.

The submarine KETE (SS-369), reports sinking three medium size Jap ships.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

4 PM 10 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A communique from Fleet Admiral Nimitz' headquarters states that during the night of 8 March, the enemy attempted large scale infiltration on the 4th Division front and was repulsed. The 4th Division killed 564 JAPANESE during these attacks. On 9 March, the 3rd Marine Division broke through to the northeast beaches of the island in the early afternoon.

That night only minor infiltration attempts were carried out by the enemy.

On 10 March, our attack continued and our holdings on the northeast beaches were enlarged. Sniper fire held up the 4th Division, and the 5th Division received opposition from defense installations on the flanks. Both the 3rd and 4th Marine Divisions indicated that no large groups of enemy troops were encountered on their fronts.

5 Liberators dropped bombs on SUSAKI airfield, CHICHI JIMA, during the night of 8 March. The next day, 13 Liberators again bombed the airfield.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

~~SECRET~~

9 AM 10 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 6 PM on 8 March, the Marines had made slow but steady progress in reducing the area in the hands of the JAPS on IWO. The greatest gains were made by the 5th Marine Division on the left flank. The 4th Division was still encountering difficulty and making very slow progress. The enemy resistance consisted mainly of heavy mortar, machine gun and small arms fire.

The JAPS were resorting to booby trapping dead Marines and dressing JAP snipers in Marine uniforms.

LCT-1029 was heavily damaged after broaching on one of the eastern beaches. Salvage was out of the question, and the LCT was towed to sea and sunk. There is no report of any personnel casualties.

Carrier-based planes furnished support missions on 8 February. A Marine bomber squadron and 2 Army fighter squadrons landed at IWO JIMA on the afternoon of 8 March.

At ZAMBOANGA, on the southwest tip of MINDANAO, two cruisers and six destroyers of the SEVENTH Fleet, under the command of Rear Admiral Berkey, covered our minesweeping operations and bombarded the shore area, on 8 and 9 March. No enemy mines were swept and there was no reaction on the part of the enemy to our activities.

On 10 March, the first four assault waves landed at ZAMBOANGA, as scheduled and encountered only light machine gun fire from the beaches. By 9:40 AM, two battalions had been landed and no opposition was reported.

A barge was destroyed by PT's off CEBU on the night of 7 and 8 March, and at LOBO, in BATANGAS PROVINCE on LUZON, PT's probably destroyed a barge and a JAP radio station.

On the night of 7 March, 2 Catalinas laid mines in the PESCADORES.

Search planes on 8 March damaged 2 luggers and a sea truck off HAINAN ISLAND, and in FORMOSA STRAIT a medium AK was strafed and another lugger left sinking. A camp site and buildings on KUSAIE, 300 miles southeast of PONAPE, were strafed and bombed by patrol planes.

On 9 March, off CAPE SIRIK, on the west coast of BORNEO, a medium AK, a small coastal AK, a barge and a tug were sunk by patrol planes. In addition, a large schooner and another tug were damaged by strafing.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
TOP SECRET
OSD Letter

4 PM 9 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Of the total casualties previously reported (morning summary 9 March) 2,847 were killed in action on IWO JIMA.

The submarine RAZORBACK (SS-394) reports sinking 2 JAP sea-trucks and one schooner with gunfire. 3 prisoners were captured at the time of the sinking.

The submarine STICKLET (SS-392) reports the sinking of a large tanker and a medium-sized freighter off TOKYO.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

9 a.m. 9 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 5 March, LCS-127 grounded on the rocky shore of SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND, off SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. It is not considered possible to salvage the ship and she is now being stripped.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4 NND 963078

TOP SECRET

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

9 a.m. 9 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

There was very little activity on the night of 7 and 8 March and during daylight on 8 March only small advances were made on the division fronts. Salients between the 5th and 3rd Divisions and the 3rd and 4th Divisions were extended an additional 200 yards. There was a gain of about 200 yards on the 5th MarDiv Front.

A captured JAP document indicates that orders were given to poison all water on IWO JIMA with hydro-cyanic acid if it was not possible to move the water to the rear.

Casualties at 5 PM, 7 March, totalled 14,810, of which 720 were officers and 14,090 enlisted men. In addition, 47 officers and 2,265 enlisted men are either sick or suffering from injuries of a non-combat origin.

On 8 March, the SUMNER (AGS-5) was hit by a small-caliber JAP shell. The SUMNER was not damaged, but one man was killed and 2 wounded.

The enemy is apparently attempting to parachute supplies to the remaining forces on IWO JIMA.

Planes from the ENTERPRISE (CV-6) attacked enemy installations at CHICHI JIMA on 8 March.

Bad surf conditions required the closing of the western beaches. A moderate surf on eastern beach permits unloading.

On 7 March, the sweeping of BALER BAY was completed. A total of 98 JAP mines were swept.

On the same date, Navy patrol seaplanes began to operate from MANILA BAY.

On 6 and 7 March, PT boats destroyed 2 enemy barges on CEBU. PT's also assisted the Army in clearing JAPS from wrecks in MANILA HARBOR.

Navy patrol planes from CLARK FIELD on LUZON bombed and strafed a small freighter and a lugger off SWATOW and left both ships in a sinking condition.

On 7 March, WAKE was bombed and strafed by 4 planes.

On 8 March, 6 Avengers, 62 Corsairs and 8 Hellcats bombed and rocketed the JAPS on PALAU. 6 Avengers and 8 Corsairs attacked JAP shore installations on YAP.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

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

9 am. 8 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 7 March, patrol planes shot down an enemy fighter west of CANTON and damaged two landing barges near ISHIGAKI JIMA in SAKISHIMA GUNTO. Two large LST's were attacked south of SHANGHAI and a patrol plane was damaged by enemy AA fire.

The sweeping of BALER BAY is still continuing and on 6 March, 4 additional mines were cut.

The following air strikes are reported:

6 March:

48 Hellcats and Corsairs and 3 Avengers bombed and rocketed the PALAUS, destroying a bridge and setting fire to houses.

YAP TOWN, on YAP, and GAGIL-TOMIL ISLAND, in the YAP GROUP, were struck by 6 Avengers and 8 Corsairs.

PONAPE runways were attacked by 20 Marine Corsairs.

7 March:

Buildings and cultivated areas on PALAU were attacked by 10 Hellcats and 40 Corsairs. 2 of our planes were damaged.

LSM-169 struck a mine in MARIVELES HARBOR on BATAAN on the morning of 15 February. Damage was heavy and part of the landing ship was flooded and other portions burned out.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED
OPD Letter

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

9 a.m. 8 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

14 battalions supported by 11 massed battalions of Marine artillery were employed in the assault against the JAPS on 6 March at the northern end of IWO JIMA.

At 6 PM on 7 March, it was reported that the largest gains during 6 and 7 March had been made on the left and center, while on the right flank, the 4th Marine Division made only limited gains.

The enemy resistance is heavy, consisting mainly of small arms and machine gun fire on 7 March. It is reported that on the left flank JAPS are withdrawing from some of the caves. In this area, the NIPS blew up one of their own ammunition dumps. Besides the usual infiltration tactics, a group of JAPS made a suicide charge against tanks of the 3rd Marine Battalion and were wiped out.

The seaplane base was decommissioned on 6 March and the patrol seaplanes returned to SAIPAN at 9 AM. Liberators are now using IWO JIMA as a base at which to refuel on their return flights to TINIAN. 28 Army Mustangs arrived at noon on 6 March to form part of the garrison airforce.

A damaged bomber from a CVE made an emergency landing on IWO JIMA. One crew member was killed.

Poor weather conditions prevented planes from CVE's from flying any support missions on 7 March.

Unloading conditions on both beaches were good on 6 and 7 March.

A revised report of our casualties, as of 6 PM, 5 March, has been received. The total of 13,837 casualties is lower than that previously reported, because sick personnel had been carried in the wounded total. The casualties are now 2,584 killed, 10,664 wounded and 589 missing.

In the PHILIPPINES, 3 enemy motor craft were destroyed by PT boats on 3 March. A lugger and a barge were destroyed off NEGROS ISLAND by PT's from ORMOC on 5 March.

Patrol bombers mined HAINAN STRAIT, north of HAINAN, and YULINKAN BAY on southern HAINAN on the nights of 3, 4 and 5 March.

On 6 March, patrol planes damaged 3 enemy planes on a landing strip on northern BORNEO. On the same date, off HONG KONG, they sank a large tanker, two small cargo vessels and a lugger. In addition, they left two small freighters and a lugger in a sinking condition and damaged another large tanker off HONG KONG. A medium-size freighter was damaged in FORMOSA STRAIT.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

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9 a.m. 7 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Three squadrons of Liberators struck SUSAKI FIELD on CHICHI JIMA on 4 March, and on 5 March, 11 Liberators attacked the same area. One plane received minor damage from AA fire.

It is reported that the submarine SEA ROBIN (SS-407) wiped out an enemy convoy, and that the submarine BASHAW (SS-241) sank a large Nip oiler.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 7 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 6 March, the Marines made only small local gains in spite of heavy naval gunfire and carrier-based air strikes in support of a long and heavy Marine artillery bombardment of the JAP positions. Troops of the 3 Marine divisions were pinned down by intense mortar and small arms fire and by stiff enemy resistance.

At 6 PM, 5 March, 14,456 dead JAPS had been counted on IWO JIMA.

Two bombers from the ENTERPRISE (CV-6) rocketed the enemy seaplane base at CHICHI JIMA at 4:30 AM, 6 March.

At 3 PM on the same day, one observation plane from the SALT LAKE CITY (CA-25) was shot down over IWO JIMA. There were no survivors.

12 night fighters for the IWO garrison landed at 1:00 PM.

The DOYEN (APA-1) received damage to a forward boom when she was hit by a light artillery projectile. There were no personnel casualties.

On 5 March, the sweeping of SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT was completed. No mines were swept. In BALER BAY, 45 mines have been swept and sweeping still continues.

Patrol planes from the PHILIPPINES sank a destroyer, 3 barges and a lugger off the CHINA COAST. One enemy plane was shot down. A medium cargo vessel was set on fire in CAMRANH BAY.

Two medium freighters were bombed and strafed by a patrol plane on 6 March, 200 miles southwest of KYUSHU. The patrol plane received minor damage and one of the crew was slightly injured by light, accurate enemy AA fire. A JAP fishing boat was destroyed by strafing on TRUK.

A patrol plane attacked and damaged an enemy DE west of the IZUS and attacked planes on the ground and a radio station in the same island group.

Searches from the GILBERTS report no results on 6 March in their efforts to locate survivors from the party of Lt. General M. F. Harmon, USA.

4 Liberators bombed SUSAKI FIELD on CHICHI JIMA on 3 March. On 4 March CHICHI JIMA was hit by 16 Liberators. One plane was damaged and one crewman wounded.

Regraded Unclassified

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DoD

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

FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 6 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Our casualties during the same period were 1 man killed in action.

On 5 March, 37 Hellcats and Corsairs and 3 Avengers attacked the PALAUS and set fire to an oil and supply dump and destroyed 2 trucks.

The submarine BLACKFIN (SS-322) has returned from her second war patrol and reports sinking one enemy destroyer (1,200 tons) and shares the damaging of a large enemy tanker with the BESUGO. Credited tonnage on damage - 5,000 tons.

The third war patrol of the submarine BERGALL (SS-320) has been completed. 2 enemy patrol vessels were sunk for a tonnage of 300 tons. 2 large tankers and 1 battleship of the Ise-class were damaged. Total damaged tonnage 52,000.

The submarine PAMPANITO (SS-383) has returned from her fifth patrol and reports sinking 1 large AK and 1 large tanker for a total tonnage of 17,500.

Regraded Unclassified

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

9 am 6 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

230 guerrillas were landed near DIMASALANG, on the southeast coast of MASBATE ISLAND, during the morning of 3 March. A preliminary bombardment blew up an ammunition dump, started several fires and killed several JAPS.

The 3 March landing on BURIAS ISLAND (morning summary 5 March) was made by units of the 132nd Infantry without opposition.

On the same day, 3 March, a reinforced company was landed on TICAO ISLAND and met no opposition.

On 3 March, troops on PALAWAN repulsed a small counter-attack at night. Otherwise, no opposition is being met and patrols are operating 15 miles north of PUERTO PRINCESSA.

PT boats on 3 March sank a sailboat in SUBIC BAY, killing 19 JAPS and capturing 7. MINDORO PT's destroyed a JAP barge and strafed CORON TOWN on BUSUANGA ISLAND, north of PALAWAN. PT's from MOROTAI and one LCI started fires on enemy installations on HALMAHERA.

Patrol planes, on 4 March, sank a lugger and shot down one enemy plane off the CHINA COAST. On 5 March, a coastal freighter was strafed and left burning in the NANSEI SHOTOS.

The LOGAN (APA-196) collided with the NAPA (APA-157) due to a steering casualty while in convoy (morning summary 22 and 24 February). There were no LOGAN personnel casualties and the LOGAN rescued 6 of the NAPA personnel. Temporary repairs to the LOGAN were completed by the ship's force and the ship is seaworthy.

During the period 21 to 28 February, the YANCEY (AKA-93) sustained underwater damage, which it is believed has caused structural weakness. The damage was received when the YANCEY had a cruiser and an LST alongside during rough weather.

Mopping up operations still continue at SAIPAN, TINIAN, GUAM and PELELIU. The results for the period 18 to 24 February are as follows:

Location	Japs Killed	Jap POW's
SAIPAN	37	52
TINIAN	7	2
GUAM	35	11
PELELIU	-	2

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

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

9 a.m. 6 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

There were no substantial changes in our lines on 5 March. The 3 divisions were engaged in reorganization preparatory to a concerted assault on the JAPS on 6 March.

The enemy continued to attempt to infiltrate our lines and these attempts during the night were repulsed by artillery fire. The Marines were subjected to JAP mortar and small arms fire throughout the day.

In the rear areas, the troops continued to mop up isolated JAPS.

At 5 PM on 4 March, our casualties were as follows: KIA - 2,419; total casualties 14,355 (671 officers, 13,684 enlisted men).

Weather conditions were improving and the unloading on both east and west beaches was being expedited.

Carrier aircraft and surface ships continued to give support to the troops.

Search planes operated from the seaplane base at IWO JIMA. The base will be decommissioned on 6 March, and land-based Catalinas will take over patrol and search activities from IWO JIMA. One patrol plane sank a small enemy ship about 300 miles northwest of IWO JIMA.

Two of our bombers damaged by enemy AA landed safely at IWO JIMA.

A carrier-based fighter shot down an enemy bomber over IWO JIMA on 3 March.

22 mines have been swept at BALER BAY up to 4 March. BALER BAY has not yet been completely swept.

Sweeping of SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT is continuing. No mines have been swept.

Minesweeping in MANILA HARBOR has been completed, except for areas in which minesweepers cannot operate due to underwater obstructions. On 4 March, Commodore Sullivan began clearing MANILA HARBOR of sunken wrecks.

On 1 March, 2 LCI and 2 LCS delivered supplies to guerrillas on CEBU, near TOLEDO, on the west central coast, and then bombarded SAN CARLOS on the east coast of NEGROS ISLAND.

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

9 a.m. 5 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The RINGGOLD (DD-500) was in collision with the YARNAIL (DD-541) (morning summary 4 March). There were no personnel casualties, but the ship sustained heavy damage. The bow to Frame 25 was cut off, one magazine flooded and the starboard side badly buckled. The RINGGOLD is proceeding under her own power to ULITHI.

The MERRIMACK (AO-37) was damaged on the morning of 27 February when she collided with the SAN JACINTO (CVL-30) during fueling operations.

On 8 January, LST 912 was severely damaged by a JAP crash-diver in the LUZON AREA.

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

9 a.m. 5 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Total casualties are 13,292, composed of 636 officers and 12,656 enlisted men.

On 4 March, a B-29 successfully made an emergency landing on IWO JIMA on its return from a strike against JAPAN. The Flying Fort was refueled and left for TINIAN.

Minesweeping in SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT is hampered by strong currents and the loss of sweep gear. No mines have been found in either this area or in CASIGURAN SOUND.

Sweeping continues in MANILA HARBOR, where 3 more mines of a new type have been found. However, on 1 March, MANILA HARBOR was opened to shipping and a large number of ships of all types entered and began unloading in the north harbor.

At midnight, on 3 March, Vice Adm. Barbey assumed command of the CORREGIDOR and MARIVELES operations.

Landings were made on BURIAS ISLAND, west of SOUTHERN LUZON, in the SIBUYAN SEA on 3 March. 2 destroyers bombarded the island prior to the landing.

On PALAWAN, our troops have encountered no enemy opposition. PT boats landed guerrillas north of PUERTO PRINCESA and secured JAP papers from small craft which a small group of JAPS had used to effect a landing on the previous night.

Patrol planes on 2 and 3 March shot down 2 enemy aircraft over INDO CHINA and FORMOSA, and sank two small coastal freighters and a barge north of WENCHOW, and a lugger in KURUN HARBOR, FORMOSA. Two AK's and a patrol vessel were damaged heavily off WENCHOW. Aminesweeper and two freighters were damaged in the NANSEI SHOTOS, while another freighter was left burning southwest of SHANGHAI.

On 4 March, the PALAUS were attacked by Corsairs, Avengers and Hellcats striking at ammunition dumps, AA positions, supply areas and a pier. We lost two planes and five planes were damaged. One pilot was rescued.

On 3 March, the BOLIVAR (APA-34) was hit by a 75mm shell from Marine artillery. One man was killed and two were wounded. The ship was not damaged.

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

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 5 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 4 March, only slight gains were made by the 5th Amphibious Corps on IWO JIMA. The 4th Division has wiped out the enemy pocket near MINAMI, which previously had been holding up their advance. Progress on the right flank is still slow because of the difficult terrain. On the left and in the center enemy resistance is becoming stronger despite the fact that the defensive positions are not nearly so well constructed as those encountered earlier in the assault on IWO JIMA. The terrain is aiding the enemy defensive positions materially.

One battalion of RCT 27 is being employed in sealing JAP caves on MT. SURIBACHI.

RCT 28 repulsed an enemy counter-attack on the afternoon of 4 March, killing in the process many JAPS.

We have captured a large underwater distilling plant and storage tanks. A Nip launching site for rockets has also been captured.

During the night of 3 March and throughout 4 March, cruisers, destroyers and small support units provided gunfire support for the troops.

Air support activities were severely curtailed due to unfavorable weather conditions, although CHICHI JIMA was hit by carrier planes from the ENTERPRISE.

The sea and the surf has moderated, but unloading on eastern beaches is restricted to LST's and LSM's. LCT's have been able to use the western beaches and that beach area show possibilities for future development.

On 4 March, 4 seaplanes engaged in search missions from IWO JIMA.

It is reported that the JAP naval forces on IWO JIMA are commanded by Rear Admiral Ichimaru.

At 6 PM on 3 March, our forces had counted 12,864 dead JAPS and had taken 81 prisoners, composed of 36 JAPS and 45 KOREANS.

At 5 PM on 3 March, our casualties were as follows:

KILLED IN ACTION		WOUNDED IN ACTION		MISSING IN ACTION	
Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men
135	2,040	497	10,071	4	545
TOTAL 2,175		10,568		549	

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

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TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 4 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

3 March

54 Corsairs and Hellcats and 3 Avengers attacked Japs in the PALAUS. We lost one plane due to enemy antiaircraft fire. Four Corsairs bombed YAP TOWN.

SUSAKI field on CHICHI JIMA was hit by 10 Liberators.

At IWO JIMA, 2 March, LCS-52 sustained heavy structural damage when LST-224 struck her port side when coming alongside, and LST-634 hit her starboard side while retracting from the beach.

On 19 and 20 February, the STAR (AKA-67) sustained major damage to her hull and lost one 5-ton boom while transferring ammunition to a heavy cruiser at IWO JIMA.

The BERRIEN (APA-62) sustained damage to her hull on 1 and 2 March while transferring cargo to LST's and LSM's at IWO JIMA. There is no apparent damage below the waterline, but the BERRIEN will require navy yard repair.

The BENNETT (DD-473) damaged the plating on the port side near Frame 15 from a probable dud bomb or torpedo, dropped by a Jap plane on 1 March. There is some flooding, but bulkheads are holding and there is no machinery casualty. There were no personnel casualties. Docking will be required for repairs.

The YARNELL (DD-541) was heavily damaged in a collision with the RINGGOLD (DD-500). The YARNELL is being towed to ULITHI, stern first. One man was killed and six were injured in the collision which occurred during night torpedo exercises.

On 28 February, the CLINTON (AM-328) received minor damage to the outer hull and heavy damage to interior bulkheads and doors, when an electrical water heater, in the forward crew's head exploded. One man was killed and 11 injured from steam and flying debris.

The SAUNTER (AM-295) requires extensive repairs after hitting a Jap mine on 26 February, while sweeping in MANILA BAY (morning summary 1 March). Two enlisted men were killed and one officer and seventeen men wounded.

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

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OSD Letter

9 a.m. 4 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Air strips of number 1 airfield on IWO JIMA are now being used to evacuate casualties by plane.

A Korean prisoner of war believes that only five or six thousand active Japs of the original garrison of 18,000, remain in combat on the island.

MANILA BAY is not considered safe for shipping and minesweeping still continues. On 2 March, seven mines were swept.

A preliminary sweep of CASIGURAN BAY, on the east coast of LUZON, did not produce any enemy mines, and scouts landed in the same area, report no enemy activity.

On PALAWAN, our troops have encountered only one group of about 50 Japs. On LUBANG ISLAND, extensive patrols developed only minor contacts with the enemy.

On 1 March, PT boats landed scouts on HALMAHERA.

Two LCS, on 2 March, sank a barge and destroyed a sugar plant and buildings on eastern NEGROS ISLAND.

Patrol planes from the PHILIPPINES shot down an enemy plane off the CHINA COAST, and sank three cargo vessels and one barge and damaged and left burning a DE, a schooner and a medium freighter.

The following air strikes are reported:

1 March
SUSAKI field on CHICHI JIMA was bombed by 4 Liberators and one Liberator attacked OMURA TOWN.

2 March
Four Liberators, at night, hit SUSAKI field on CHICHI and one Liberator bombed OMURA TOWN.

9 Liberators attacked SUSAKI field on CHICHI JIMA.

16 Marine Corsairs struck the airfield on WOTJE, and 12 Corsairs bombed the runways at MALOELAP. 15 Marine Corsairs hit MILLE runways with 30 half tonners.

9 medium bombers attacked WAKE, and heavily damaged the runways.

Regraded Unclassified

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 4 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Carrier based planes of the 5th Fleet, under Vice Admiral Mitscher, on 1 March, struck the Japs in the NANSEI SHOTOS. One objective of the attack was to obtain a photo reconnaissance of the island chain, but due to low haze, photo conditions were poor.

The results of the attack show that four enemy planes were shot down in combat and thirty-seven were destroyed on the ground. Approximately fifty additional planes were either destroyed or damaged on the ground. A destroyer, six small cargo ships and two medium cargo ships, an ocean-going tug and three other small vessels were sunk, and at least thirteen others, including one medium and six small cargo ships were probably sunk. Our planes damaged four DE's or patrol craft, four medium cargo vessels, one medium transport, nine small coastal vessels, ten luggers and one small cargo ship. Several other small craft were sunk or damaged. Radio and radar installations, airfields, barracks and warehouses were damaged or destroyed on the islands of TOKUNO, KUME, OKINAWA, MINAMA, AMAMI and OKIN-OYERABU.

In combat, we lost thirteen planes, four pilots and three crewmen. Our operational losses were eight planes with no personnel lost.

During the retirement from the attack area, our surface forces bombarded OKINO DAITO at night, 250 miles southeast of OKINAWA, starting large fires.

On IWO JIMA, reports at 6:00 p.m., 3 March, reveal that the advance continues steadily on the left flank and in the center. The 4th Marine Division on the right flank, is being held up and making very slow progress due to very heavy enemy resistance. A strong enemy pocket, near the town of MINAMI, southeast of airfield No. 2, is mainly responsible for the slow progress on the right flank.

Only limited close support can be furnished by carrier aircraft due to the small area still remaining in the hands of the enemy.

At 6:00 p.m., 3 March, on the left and in the center, the Marine lines were about 700 yards beyond the northern boundary of airfield No. 3, and were 1500 yards from KITANO POINT, which is the extreme northern tip of IWO JIMA.

Both eastern and western beaches are being employed for unloading. A five foot surf hampers unloading activities on the eastern beaches.

Carrier aircraft bombed and rocketed OMURA TOWN, on CHICHI JIMA, and sank a 15,000 ton cargo vessel at HAHA JIMA.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 3 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Naval casualties up to 2 March are 149 killed, 527 wounded and 452 missing.

Carrier-aircraft bombed CHICHI JIMA on 1 March. Approximately one-half of their bombs were delayed-action type.

(I) In the ~~PHILIPPINES AREA~~, elements ~~of the 63rd Infantry~~ of the 24th Division landed on LUBANG ISLAND, northwest of MINDORO, on 1 March without opposition. ~~Naval gunfire exploded enemy ammunition and fuel dumps prior to the landing.~~

(II) On PALAWAN the troops continued to advance without opposition and have found evidence of a hasty withdrawal by the enemy from well-constructed positions.

Minesweeping continues in MANILA BAY in the vicinity of the west breakwater.

Minesweeping operations are being conducted in BALER BAY and in CASIGURAN BAY, on the east coast of LUZON in northern TABAYAS PROVINCE. At BALER BAY, 14 mines were swept.

PT boats on the night of 28 February to 1 March strafed JAP positions on CEBU, starting large fires. On 28 February, PT's and aircraft in a joint operation destroyed 7 JAP suicide boats in BATANGAS BAY on SOUTHERN LUZON.

One enemy aircraft succeeded in bombing TACLOBAN, on LEYTE, but without causing any damage.

On 26 and 27 February, patrol planes sank two coastal ships in the NANSEI SHOTOS and sank six other coastal freighters in FORMOSA STRAIT. They also shot down three enemy planes and damaged at least three others along the CHINA COAST.

On 2 March, patrol planes from LUZON sank one enemy freighter and damaged and left burning a DE and another freighter north of SAKISHIMA GUNTO. They sank a Jap cargo vessel and damaged another, 180 miles southwest of SHANGHAI.

On 25 February, 8 Liberators hit SUSAKI FIELD, on CHICHI JIMA.

The submarine HMS TANTALUS has returned from patrol and reports sinking by gunfire six unarmed miscellaneous vessels for a total of 500 tons.

Regraded Unclassified

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DECLASSIFIED per [illegible]

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

VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS

~~TOP SECRET~~

9 a.m. 3 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

(A) The Marines ~~on IWO JIMA~~ are continuing to advance on the left flank and in the center, ~~and~~ At noon on 2 March our lines extended to the northern limits of Airfield No. 3. ~~Airfield No. 2 is entirely in our hands, and the~~ Occupation of high ground near Airfield No. 3 places the Marines in a position to split the enemy as well as opening more maneuverable ground to them.

Naval gunfire and CVE air strikes are continuing to furnish valuable support and bombardment for the troops.

(C) The supply situation is generally good, except that artillery ammunition is low, due to unloading difficulties and enemy action. On the night of 1 March and during 2 March, a five-foot swell interferred with the unloading. ~~Because of poor beach conditions,~~ A west coast beach will probably be used on 3 March. ~~Roads from the 4th Marine Division beachhead are now being surfaced with clay from local sources.~~

Destroyers, support and gunboat units have been bombarding coastal caves at close range. 2 March was the first day that the mortar support units, on LCI's, did not recive fire from enemy batteries.

The garrison group for IWO JIMA has arrived in the area and unloading has begun.

(D) Planes sprayed ~~insecticide~~ DDT over areas in our possession and the results are reported as excellent.

(B) The north to south runway of Airfield No. 1 ~~now~~ has about 4,000 feet in operation, and transport planes can now use the strip. The field will probably be clear of all enemy artillery fire by ~~daybreak~~ TODAY and fighter squadrons will be able to land and have been alerted for that purpose.

(E) The total Marine casualties at 5 PM on 1 March are 11,255, ~~comprised of~~ (10,663 enlisted men and 592 officers) Of this total, 1,774 have been killed in action.

(F) The enemy dead total 7,127. 15 Japs and 17 Koreans are prisoners of war. Propaganda leaflets are reported by the Koreans to have induced them to surrender.

A Korean POW reports that there were 18,000 Japs on IWO JIMA on "D" day.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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DECLASSIFIED
DOD Directive

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

9 a.m. 2 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

PT's, on the night of 28 February - 1 March, landed an Army radar team at LONG POINT, on the west coast of PALAWAN.

Patrol planes from the PHILIPPINES, on the night of 28 February - 1 March, started fires on PRATAS REEF (180 miles southeast of HONG KONG), attacked a medium AK near the PESCADORES, bombed buildings at MAKO on FORMOSA and destroyed a large enemy freighter south of the PESCADORES.

PT's on the night of 27-28 February, started fires on the beach south of CEBU CITY and sank 2 schooners in the same area. On the same night, PT's landed supplies for guerrillas on northern MASBATE ISLAND.

MANILA HARBOR, with the exception of the area along the breakwater, is now clear of mines.

The following air strikes are reported:

28 February:

16 Marine Corsairs bombed the runways on MALOELAP. 43 Corsairs hit two airfields on PONAPE. 11 Corsairs bombed the runways on MILLE.

1 March:

52 Corsairs, 3 Avengers and 3 Hellcats bombed and rocketed the enemy on BABELTHUAP.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

~~TOP SECRET~~ SECRET

9 a.m. 2 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On IWO JIMA, the Marines on 1 March had advanced on the center and left flank with considerable gains and had occupied the west end of airfield No. 3. Troops on the right flank also advanced but with smaller gains. Marine artillery and Naval gunfire furnished support for the advance.

The Marines on MT. SURIBACHI continued their mopping up operations.

Our casualties as reported at 6:00 PM on 28 February are: Killed - 1635, wounded - 8204 and missing - 606. Casualties are now being evacuated directly to hospital ships from the beach.

Marine patrol bombers are now operating from the seaplane base at IWO JIMA, and 17 spotting planes are using airfield No. 1. The north-south runway at MOTOYAMA airfield No. 1 is now available for use as an emergency landing field by carrier planes.

Mail is being delivered to the troops by parachute and the efficiency and morale of the troops is reported as excellent.

The beaches received some enemy gunfire during the day, but unloading continues. Beach conditions were reported as fair on 1 March.

Between 2:30 and 4:30 AM on 1 March, 4 JAP planes attempted an attack on IWO JIMA. One enemy plane was shot down.

The troops were furnished close air support on 1 March. Enemy installations on CHICHI JIMA were attacked during the night of 28 February. On CHICHI JIMA only meager AA was encountered. One of our TBM's was shot down on 1 March behind our lines. There were no survivors.

On 1 March, at 6:16 AM, the TERRY (DD-513) was hit by a six-inch shell, from enemy batteries. As a result of the hit, the forward engine room was flooded. On the TERRY, 9 were killed and 18 wounded.

At 10:08 AM, on the same day, the COLHOUN (DD-801) was hit by enemy shellfire near the after-torpedo mount and No. 3 gun. There were 7 wounded and 1 killed on the COLHOUN.

The 186th Infantry captured both airstrips and PUERTO PRINCESA on PALAWAN by 1:00 PM, 28 February. The entire PUERTO PRINCESA PENINSULA has been occupied and no contact with the enemy has been reported. On 28 February, fire suport units, minesweepers and APD's were released and departed the area. The landings are proceeding as scheduled.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.3 NND 760050 By NARA, Date 2007

9 a.m. 1 March 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In conjunction with securing the sea route through SAN BERNARDINO STRAITS and VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE, it is reported that mopping up operations are continuing on VERDE ISLAND and that BALICAUTRO and NARANJO ISLANDS in SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT have been taken.

During the period 11 to 17 February, the following casualties, own and enemy, have been reported:

Location	Enemy Killed	Enemy POW	Own Casualties Killed	Wounded
SAIPAN	48	7	-	1
TINIAN	9	2	2	-
GUAM	33	6	5	2
PELELIU	4	-	-	-

It was also reported that on 15, 16, 17 February, 131 JAPANESE were killed or captured in the mountainous central area on SAIPAN.

On 16 February, 3 JAPS on a raft withademolition charge attacked one of our LCI's near SIL MALK, PALAU. They were destroyed.

The following air operations have been reported:

26 and 27 February:

Six small cargo ships were sunk in FORMOSA STRAIT and 2 others near SAKISHIMA GUNTO by Navy search planes.

28 February:

36 Corsairs, 13 Hellcats and 3 Avengers attacked BABELTHUAP and KOROR in the PALAUS. One plane was damaged by anti-aircraft. 6 Avengers hit YAP TOWN, YAP ISLANDS.

Search planes from LEYTE damaged a lugger northeast of FORMOSA, sank two and damaged one small coastal freighters in the SAKISHIMA GUNTO vicinity, sank another small freighter near OKINAWA and damaged a small coastal vessel between HONG KONG and SWATOW.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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9 a.m. 1 March 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 28 February, amphibious forces, under the command of Rear Adm. Fechteler, landed the 186th RCT, 41st Division, at PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN. The landing was covered by a bombardment force of three light cruisers and five destroyers, under the command of Rear Adm. Riggs. There was no opposition up to 12:00 PM, at which time Brig. Gen. Haney assumed command ashore.

At IWO JIMA, during the night of 26 February, enemy activity was on a limited scale. There was some enemy tank movement and rear areas were subjected to some large caliber fire. Two heavy cruisers, nine destroyers, one gunboat support unit and one mortar support unit furnished fire support during the night. The mortar support unit received sporadic enemy fire from the northern tip of the island. This unit was believed to have fired two enemy ammunition dumps. Advances on the 27th were reported in the afternoon summary, 28 February.

Improved weather conditions allowed greater direct air support by our escort carrier planes. Beach conditions were also improving, although the BLUE beaches were only operating at 25% capacity. Most of the wrecked craft has been cleared from the beaches.

On 28 February, considerable advances were made all along the front. On the left, the 5th Marine Division secured the O-2 line. In the center, the 3rd Marine Division advanced through the main enemy defense line beyond the village of MOTOYAMA. On the right, the 4th Division made gains of several hundred yards at various points, and broke up a local counter attack with artillery at 4:25 PM. Enemy mortar fire fell on BLUE beach.

At 2:15 AM, 27 February, the LST-884, was hit at the waterline, starboard side, by a medium caliber shell, rendering her starboard propeller inoperative. There were no personnel casualties. On the 28th, the PRESIDENT ADAMS (APA-19) received operational damage during unloading and requires emergency repairs upon her return to the MARIANAS.

As of 6:00 PM, 26 February, 4,784 enemy dead had been counted and 10 POW taken.

Minesweeping operations continued in MANILA BAY. One of our destroyers sank a 150-foot tug, drifting in the bay. The SAUNTER (AM-295) was damaged by a mine. All enemy organized resistance was reported to have ceased on CORREGIDOR.

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

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OSD LABEL

28 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 27 February, the 3rd Marine Division advanced to a point within 200 yards of the O-2 line, north of Airfield No. 2. The 4th Marine division made an advance of 200 yards on its right flank and in the center. At 11:10 AM, the 5th Marine Division broke up a local counter-attack with artillery fire. A POW reports that the 145th JAP Infantry defends extensive fortified areas near NISHI, north of the O-2 line on the 5th Division front. This report and the recent action has confirmed the belief that our troops are now engaged against the main defensive positions. 800 pillboxes were found mounted in the 3rd Marine Division front alone.

The enemy has been using anti-tank and anti-personnel mines extensively. 11 tanks of the 3rd Tank Battalion were destroyed yesterday, leaving a total of 87 operational for the entire corps. After several days anti-aircraft fire has been encountered again. It is believed that this comes from automatic anti-tank weapons.

The LEO (AKA-60) was reported hit, apparently from a 40MM shell fired from the direction of the beach. No details are available.

Routine dawn sweeps of CHICHI JIMA were made and our CVE's provided ground troops with close air support. 9 Liberators also made strikes on IWO JIMA during the afternoon. Unloading was restricted to LST's, LSM's and LCT's because of surf conditions.

On 25 February, 3 destroyers continued to give fire support to our troops on CORREGIDOR. Our minesweepers and PT's have found many JAPANESE swimmers in MANILA BAY. They were only able to take a few of them prisoners.

Search planes, on the night of 24 February, damaged a barracks in the PESCADORES and a small cargo ship and four sea trucks near FORMOSA. 2 landing craft west of HALMAHERA were also damaged.

On 27 February, LEYTE search planes attacked a small cargo ship in the FORMOSA STRAITS, shot down two enemy planes and probably destroyed another south of CANTON. Three men were wounded in one of our planes.

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

9 a.m. 28 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)

Commander FIFTH Fleet reports that extremely unfavorable weather prevented an attempted strike on the NAGOYA - KOBE AREA on 26 February by Task Force 58 and that HACHIJO JIMA was the only other target that could be attacked. Operational losses for the two day's strikes are given as 4 planes and no personnel. (See afternoon summary 27 February).

During the night of 25 February, 5 small enemy vessels, one of which was a picket boat, caused minor damage to the PORTERFIELD (DD-682) and to the PASADENA (CL-65). One officer was killed and 13 men wounded on the PORTERFIELD, and 2 men were wounded on the PASADENA. Operational damage, incurred mostly from the heavy seas, was reported to the JOHN W. WEEKS (DD-701), STEPHEN POTTER (DD-538) and the MOALE (DD-693). The enemy reaction to the strikes was definitely passive, and most of the 100 airborne aircraft appeared to avoid combat.

At 3:35 AM, on 22 February, the THOMAS F. NICKEL (DE-587) collided with the SS HENRY MEIGGS, suffering slight damage to her bow. The position was not given.

The following air strikes have been reported:

26 February:

Search planes strafed and destroyed a 15-foot whaleboat at WOTJE, MARSHALL ISLANDS.

62 Corsairs, 11 Hellcats and 3 Avengers bombed and strafed targets in the PALAU and YAP ISLANDS. A house and a bridge were destroyed on BABELTHUAP and several warehouses destroyed at YAP.

Night patrol planes from LINGAYEN damaged a small freighter transport near CANTON and a 4,000-ton transport near HONG KONG.

27 February:

MINDORO search planes shot down one enemy plane and damaged another near CAPE SAINT JACQUES.

Another plane sank one small coastal vessel loaded with oil and damaged another between HONG KONG and SWATOW.

Commander Submarines PACIFIC reports that the LAGARTO (SS-371) has sunk an enemy submarine while on patrol in the PACIFIC.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

4 p.m. 27 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A communique from Admiral Nimitz reports the results of T.F. 58 strikes on the TOKYO Area, 25 February, and on HACHIJO JIMA, 26 February. Preliminary reports indicate 47 enemy planes shot down, 111 destroyed on the ground and 75 damaged on the ground. 5 small enemy vessels, including 1 picket boat, were sunk; 5 coastal vessels and 7 small craft were probably sunk; 9 coastal vessels and 5 small craft were damaged. 2 trains near TOKYO were destroyed. Radar installations and hangars were hit. The OTA and KOIZUMI aircraft plants were heavily damaged at OTA, north of TOKYO. Weather conditions were extremely adverse.

Our losses were 9 planes and 4 pilots in combat.

Strong enemy resistance was encountered on IWO JIMA during the afternoon of 26 February and very little change in the lines took place. The heaviest opposition was in the right center, to the northeast of the No. 2 airfield. 200 enemy dead and a number of documents were found in the entrance to a deep cave on the 3rd Division front. Pillboxes in the same area were believed to be ammunition storages. A prisoner of war states that the enemy's only source of water supply is rain water, stored in drums at each defense installation.

The supply situation is reported as generally satisfactory, and there are now 15 water distillation units operating ashore, insuring an adequate water supply to our forces.

On the night of 25 February, PT's,cooperating with aircraft, destroyed one barge, 3 luggers, 3 sailboats and exploded an ammunition dump at ROMBLON ISLAND, north of PANAY, in the SIBUYAN SEA. 2 more barges were destroyed off GUINTACAN ISLAND, north of CEBU, in the VISAYAN SEA, and an attacking aircraft was set afire.

On 26 February, six Avengers bombed shore installations on GAGIL-TOMIL, YAP ISLAND. 48 Corsairs, 3 Avengers and 2 Hellcats attacked the enemy-held PALAUS.

The destroyer FANNING (DD-385) rescued 11 survivors of a downed B-29. Position was not given.

Regraded Unclassified

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OSD Letter 3-79
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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

9 a.m. 27 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following air strikes are reported:

25 February:

8 Liberators dropped bombs on SUSAKI airfield at CHICHI JIMA.

Search planes from LEYTE sank one small cargo ship between HONG KONG and SWATOW, attacked another cargo ship west of FORMOSA, sank a third freighter and also destroyed a radio station and strafed three small freighters in the SAKISHIMA GUNTO.

Marine aircraft fired a supply dump and a fuel storage at URUKTHAPEL, PALAU ISLAND, and also attacked targets at YAP.

26 February:

Search planes from MINDORO strafed and damaged a small transport at CAMRANH BAY.

Carrier planes strafed targets in the CHICHI JIMA AREA, burning one plane, two medium merchant men and sinking a small merchant ship. Oil storage facilities were also destroyed.

Regraded Unclassified

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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.27 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 25 February, the enemy attempted his usual infiltration tactics on a minor scale. Two heavy cruisers, nine destroyers, one mortar support unit and one gunboat support unit provided illumination and close supporting fires for our troops.

Hunter-killer operations were conducted against submarine contacts, one 67 miles to the westward of IWO JIMA and the other 140 miles to the south.

The attack was resumed the morning of 26 February after 45-minutes of preparation fire by Marine artillery, supported by one BB, one CA and one CL. The main effort is being made in the center along the 3rd Division front. By 10:52 A.M., important gains were made on the left flank by the 5th Marine Division and in the center by the 3rd Marine Division. The front lines at that time ran along the northernmost edge of the No. 2 airfield. At 9:00 AM, the 4th Marine Division reported the capture of Hill No. 382, an important enemy defense point to the eastward of No. 2 Airfield. The 28th RCT is still engaged in mopping up SURIBACHI where a considerable number of enemy troops are sealed in caves.

At 10:05 AM, two planes of the 4th Marine Division landed on the No. 1 Airfield at IWO JIMA, the first planes to commence operations on the island. The remainder of the 4th Division observation squadron expects to land today. The No. 1 Airfield is now cleared for 1,500 feet.

Despite a light rain, poor visibility, and a moderate swell off shore, unloading operations continue at an increasing pace, and beach conditions are improved. Nearly all shore party equipment is in operation and dumps ashore are well stocked. To date, 10 transports and 38 LST's have been unloaded. 8 water distillation units are operating ashore.

Indications are that a shortage of water may soon cause a crisis amongst the enemy. It is reported that enemy snipers are concealing themselves under their own dead during daylight hours and then coming out at night to fire.

As of 6:00 PM, 25 February, our casualties were 1,113 KIA, 530 MIA and 5,698 WIA. The enemy counted dead at that time was 3,568 and 9 prisoners of war have been taken.

Regraded Unclassified

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED per letter, OSD 78
TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 26 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A preliminary sweep of MANILA BAY was completed on 24 February and no mines are reported.

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On 24 February, reinforcements were landed on CORREGIDOR. 3 destroyers still continue to furnish gunfire support for the attack on the island. 6 prisoners have been captured, and 3,170 enemy dead have been counted to date on CORREGIDOR.

An enemy lugger was sunk north of NEGROS ISLAND by a destroyer.

On 24 February, in a coordinated attack with aircraft, PT's in CORON BAY in the CALAMIAN GROUP, northeast of PALAWAN, sank 7 enemy small craft, damaged 3 others and fired an enemy fuel dump. On the same night, PT's sank 6 barges and strafed MASBATE ISLAND, northwest of LEYTE.

A troop-filled barge was sunk by PT's off HALMAHERA on 23 February.

On the night of 23-24 February, patrol planes from the PHILIPPINES sank a small cargo ship and a lugger off HONG KONG. The following night, JAP barracks on PESCADORES ISLAND were attacked and damaged. Patrol planes strafed enemy positions on MILLE and MALOELAP, and sank a lugger at TRUK.

On 23 February, 8 Liberators attacked SUSAKI airfield on CHICHI JIMA, and single Liberators each attacked OMURA TOWN, on CHICHI, and OKIMURA TOWN on HAHA JIMA.

Liberators also bombed the airfield at MARCUS.

Regraded Unclassified

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

9 a.m. 26 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The Marines on IWO JIMA continued their slow advance against stubborn JAP resistance. The enemy must be blasted from caves and pill-boxes which exist throughout the entire island. The defenses are constructed of reinforced concrete and located so as to be mutually supporting. In a single area in the center of the island near Airfield No. 2, more than a hundred constructed caves, 30 to 40 feet deep, equipped with stairways, have been found.

On MT. SURIBACHI, 115 JAP emplacements have been destroyed thus far.

2,827 dead JAPS have been counted and we have taken 6 prisoners by noon of 25 February.

During the 24-hour period from 6 p.m. 24 February to 6 p.m. 25 February, very small gains were made on the right and left flanks. In the center, the Marines have advanced and captured two-thirds of Airfield No. 2.

Gunfire support is still being furnished by our surface units, and pinpoint bombing and rocketing is being carried out by carrier aircraft.

Beach conditions are steadily improving, and the unloading is proceeding satisfactorily. The weather has improved and transports can now anchor close to the beach.

The commanding general of the landing force, Major General H. Schmidt, USMC, assumed command ashore at IWO JIMA at 9:55 a.m., on 24 February.

Army Liberators continued to strike the enemy on IWO JIMA. Carrier aircraft conducted a sweep against CHICHI JIMA and HAHA JIMA on 24 February and damaged one enemy plane and destroyed three others. Wharves and buildings were also attacked.

On 23 February, enemy aircraft attempted attacks but without any reported results.

The SARATOGA (CV-3) reports, as the result of the suicide attack on 21 February, that 25 of the ship's company are dead and 57 wounded. The SARATOGA shot down 3 enemy planes in the attack, raising the total for the night of 21 February to 15 JAP planes.

Regraded Unclassified

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

4 p.m. 25 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

During the night of 24-25 February, the enemy attempted minor infiltration into our lines. A small counter-attack was delivered in the center by the enemy and was repulsed at 12:30 AM.

Two heavy cruisers, ten destroyers, one mortar support unit and one gunboat support unit furnished gunfire support during the night. One of our destroyers provided searchlight illumination on enemy cave positions in the SURIBACHI area. The mortar support unit was under heavy enemy fire but received no damage.

From 8:20 PM to 10:25 PM 24 February our amphibious forces were attacked by ten enemy aircraft in three groups. Some bombs were dropped in the transport area. The AUBURN (AGC 10), flagship of Rear Admiral Hill, CTF 53, was straddled but apparently was not damaged. During the air raid the HEYWOOD L. EDWARDS (DD 663) and the BRYANT (DD665) collided, resulting in extensive damage to the EDWARDS.

One enemy plane was shot down over CHICHI JIMA by a night fighter from the ENTERPRISE.

At 9:30 AM 25 February our forces resumed their attack against the enemy on IWO JIMA. The main effort is being made in the center zone on the Third Marine Division front. Only minor gains were indicated as of 11:30 AM. RCT 28 is still engaged in mopping up the SURIBACHI area.

Beach conditions are much improved but a strong east wind is still hampering operations.

To date our casulaties are reported as 834 killed in action and 5428 wounded in action. The wounded include Lt. Colonel A. A. Vandergrift, Jr. Enemy counted dead were 2827 but at least 3,000 enemy killed is estimated. Seven prisoners of war have been taken.

Regraded Unclassified

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
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DECLASSIFIED
OSD LETTER, 12 FEB 72

9 a.m. 25 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 10 January, LST-1028 was heavily damaged by enemy action while in LINGAYEN GULF.

The FULLER (APA-7) sustained two large holes in the plating on the starboard side, above the waterline, as a result of a collision. No underwater damage is reported. No details as to the time and place of the collision are available.

The submarine H.M.S. SPARK has returned from patrol and reports destroying, by gunfire, 1,300 tons consisting of two small coasters, a tug and a barge.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DOD Directive 5200.30
OSD Letter, 22 Mar 72

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 25 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

It is reported that on 25 February, aircraft from the fast carrier force of the 5th Fleet, under command of Vice Admiral Mitscher, was attacking enemy naval, military and air installations in the TOKYO AREA.

On 24 February, the Marines had made substantial advances all along the northern front on IWO JIMA. By 6:00 p.m., 24 February, Marine elements were at the center of airfield number 2, and had advanced on the western flank of IWO ISLAND, extending our beachhead an additional 600 yards to the northward.

On MOUNT SURIBACHI, Marines were cleaning up the remaining positions. Enemy resistance is still fierce and is being conducted from strongly prepared emplacements. On 24 February, 2799 enemy dead had been counted.

Beach conditions are improving and the unloading of equipment and supplies has increased.

PT boats sank three barges loaded with troops and supplies northwest of CEBU, on 22 February. Another barge was destroyed on the beach at CEBU.

On 22 February, Marine Corsairs attacked and probably sank an enemy submarine and damaged another off CEBU CITY.

Mopping up operations against remnants of the Jap garrison on CORREGIDOR, are continuing, and destroyers are furnishing gunfire support in the reduction of enemy positions.

Patrol planes from the PHILIPPINES, 22 February, sank two enemy landing craft laden with troops, in the SAKISHIMA GUNTO, and on 21 February, a patrol plane destroyed an enemy bomber off northern FORMOSA.

The following air strikes are reported:

22 February
Four Liberators attacked SUSAKI FIELD and one Liberator bombed OMURA TOWN, CHICHI JIMA. An additional Liberator attacked OKIMURA TOWN, HAHA JIMA.

23 February
Corsairs and Thunderbolts attacked enemy positions in the PALAUS and on PAGAN, in the MARIANAS.

24 February
Marine Corsairs attacked fuel dumps and transport equipment in the PALAUS. Venturas bombed the air strip on PULUWAT, in the CAROLINES.

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

9 a.m. 24 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

fouled her propeller with wire. SC-1027 snapped her starboard shaft but is operational. PC-877 damaged her starboard propeller but is operational.

A preliminary check of the complement of the BISMARCK SEA (CVE-95) shows that out of a total of 124 officers and 836 men on board, 100 officers and 513 men survived. The explosion of the crash and the subsequent fire was augmented by the explosion of her torpedoes. Among the first operational casualties was partial damage to the fire mains, followed by damage to the steamlines.

The NAPA (APA-157) (morning summary 22 February) was damaged in collision with the LOGAN (APA-196). The collision was caused by a steering casualty on the LOGAN. The LOGAN sustained damage to the plating on both sides of the bow, and has a hole 3-feet deep and 17-feet long, on both sides, in that area.

During the period 4 to 10 February, during mopping up operations the following casualties were inflicted on the enemy:

Location	Enemy Killed	Enemy POW	Own Casualties
SAIPAN	33	2	-
TINIAN	6	-	1 killed
GUAM	34	13	1 killed
PELELIU	-	1	-

The HYDROGRAPHER (AGS-2) was attacked on 9 February by JAPS on 3 rafts, while anchored in SCHONIAN HARBOR, PALAU. The enemy carried a mine on one of the rafts. The HYDROGRAPHER destroyed the mine and naval small craft destroyed the rafts and killed the six JAPS.

Our patrol planes, on 22 February, destroyed 2 small enemy craft at MILLE.

Four Corsairs and one Mitchell attacked PONAPE on 22 February.

PAGAN was hit by Thunderbolts on 23 February.

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

9 a.m. 24 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On IWO JIMA stubborn enemy resistance continued to slow our advance on 23 February. Gains were made, however, in spite of enemy opposition from caves, entrenchments and concrete pillboxes.

The southern tip of Airfield No. 2 was captured by RCT-21. Advances were made on the right flank and the ground lost previously was retaken.

RCT-28 continues mopping up operations on MT. SURIBACHI and are using flame throwers extensively. Within the crater of the mountain enemy pillboxes and blockhouses are reported. At 6 p.m. on 23 February, 717 enemy dead had been counted on MT. SURIBACHI.

The enemy continued their efforts to infiltrate our lines. A group of JAP swimmers landed on the west coast of IWO JIMA in the rear of RCT-26, but our mopping up operations eliminated all of them.

Naval gunfire from a destroyer destroyed enemy landing craft and silenced JAP mortars on KANGOKU ROCK, located about one mile northwest of IWO JIMA.

Cruisers and destroyers continued to provide scheduled and call fire for the troops ashore.

Only larger landing ships and craft could be used on the beaches, because of the 6-foot breakers and the choppy sea. Beach conditions are improving, but BLUE and YELLOW beaches are still under enemy mortar and sniper fire. RED and GREEN beaches now have exits for wheeled and tracked vehicles.

The steep beaches and heavy surf would not permit the use of causeways and pontoon barges on 23 February.

Air strikes were continued throughout 23 February in support of the troops and one strike against CHICHI JIMA destroyed 3 enemy planes and damaged 3 on the ground. Two of our planes were damaged.

The SWEARER (DE-186) was not responsible for the firing on our planes (morning summary 23 February), but the damage was caused by one of our surface units.

The following sustained operational damage off the beaches: LST-390 and LST-807 were in collision and LST-390 was extensively damaged in the forward part of the ship. LST-716 lost her ramp. LSM-92

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

4 p.m. 23 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In the LUZON AREA on 23 February, PT boats are active, patrolling MANILA BAY. On 21 and 22 February, SUBIC PT's moved troops from CAVITE to PARANAQUE, south of MANILA.

On the night of 20-21 February, PT boats from MINDORO torpedoed a JAP cargo ship near AYONI on southeastern LUZON.

Patrol planes on 21 and 22 February destroyed a small vessel off INDO CHINA, sank a small cargo ship near HONG KONG and probably sank four barges off FORMOSA. In addition, a destroyer was damaged off INDO CHINA and a motor lugger damaged near OKINAWA in the NANSEI SHOTOS.

The submarine DARB (SS-220) has completed a war patrol in which 8 enemy ships were sunk, 1 probably sunk and at least 4 damaged. (Morning summary 24 January).

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP-SECRET

9 a.m. 23 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Two of our planes were hit by AA fire from the SWEARER (DE-186). One was shot down and the other damaged.

Six additional enemy planes were shot down in the attack of 21 February.

At 2:59 a.m., on 21 February, the RENSHAW (DD-499) was torpedoed, while performing escort duty southeast of NEGROS ISLAND. Engine rooms and one fireroom were flooded. She is being towed to LEYTE.

The LINGAYEN Area, on the night of 20-21 February, was attacked twice by enemy aircraft. No damage was sustained.

On 20 and 21 February, PT boats covered the occupation of BIRI ISLAND, and ALLEN on northern SAMAR.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 23 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:35 a.m., on 23 February, RCT 28, of the Fifth Amphibious Corps, captured the summit of MOUNT SURIBACHI on the southern tip of IWO.

Elsewhere on IWO JIMA, progress was slow against increasingly heavy enemy resistance. Bad weather, with low visibility and heavy rain and the heavy seas, limited naval gunfire support and air missions. Night naval gunfire was employed only to reply to enemy counter-battery fire and to break up enemy groupings and counter-attacks. Air spotting for the gunfire support was limited by bad weather.

At least 8 battalions of field artillery are now ashore and taking part in the attack.

Preliminary reports indicate that Airfield No. 1 will require a limited amount of preparation before being placed in operation.

Conditions on the beaches are improving, although only LCT's, LSM's and LST's are capable of landing supplies and equipment. One pontoon causeway is now in operation on RED beach and 11 pontoon barges are being employed. Beaches on the west coast of IWO JIMA appear to be unsuitable for landing until all enemy resistance in the area has been wiped out and then only if weather conditions are excellent.

At 6 p.m. on 21 February, our casualties in the ground forces were 6,444. Of these casualties, a total of 1,072 are for RCT 25 and the remaining 5,372 are broken down as follows: Killed - 644, wounded - 4,168 and missing - 560.

We have taken two prisoners and have counted 1,222 enemy dead.

The MELVIN R. NAUMAN (DE-416) damaged her port propeller, putting port engine out of operation, when she hit a submerged object.

LSM-145 was damaged by shifting cargo in the heavy seas.

Casualties on the BISMARCK SEA (CVE-95) are heavy. The known survivors are 32 officers, including the captain, and 622 men, of which 30 are stretcher cases. Casualties on the KEDKUK (AKN-4) are 12 killed, 31 wounded and 51 missing. LST-477 reports 9 killed and 1 wounded. (Afternoon summary 21 February).

Enemy planes attempted further attacks on 22 February, but were unsuccessful due to weather conditions.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

Declassified
OSD Letter

4 p.m. 22 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 5:45 p.m., on 21 February, the casualties to our forces on IWO JIMA were reported as 385 killed and 4,168 wounded.

A MINDORO patrol plane sank a small enemy coastal vessel off the coast of FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

The following additional strikes have been reported:

20 February:

SUSAKI airfield on CHICHI JIMA was bombed by 6 Liberators. OKIMURA TOWN, on HAHA JIMA, was attacked by one Liberator.

21 February:

The airfield on MARCUS ISLAND was bombed by 3 Liberators.

18 Lightnings and 4 Liberators struck MOEN airfield on TRUK.

BABELTHUAP was attacked by 3 Avengers, 8 Corsairs and 10 Hellcats.

6 Avengers bombed YAP.

PAGAN was hit by 24 Thunderbolts.

The CHESTER (CA-27), as the result of her collision on 19 February with the ESTES (AGC-12) (morning summary 21 February) lost No. 1 shaft and propeller from a point 3-feet outside the stern tube. There was other minor damage to hull. No damage to the armament, and she is able to steam at 21 knots.

The INGRAHAM (DD-694) was damaged in collision with the BARTON (DD-722) on 16 February (see morning summary 19 February). Sustained damage to the 40mm battery and some hull damage. There was no flooding. There was only minor engineering damage.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 22 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

One destroyer supported the Army advance near SAN JOSE on the east shore of LINGAYEN GULF.

PT's on 19 February covered our landings on CAPUL ISLAND, at the western entrance of SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT. LINGAYEN PT'S, in a coordinated attack with aircraft, strafed and bombarded SOLVEC, on the west coast of LUZON, south of VIGAN. PT'S also silenced shore batteries on CORREGIDOR, and ORMOC MTB's destroyed a lugger loaded with supplies in BOHOL STRAIT, on 19 February.

On 20 February, a search plane in the OKINAWA AREA of the NANSEI SHOTO shot down 2 enemy planes and sank a small AK, 4 sea trucks and damaged one other. On 21 February, patrol planes sank one small freighter and damaged 4 others east of FORMOSA.

The SARATOGA (CV-3) was hit by 3 suicide planes, 2 on the starboard side amidships and aft and one on the forecastle. There is a 9-foot hole at the waterline, and all planes on the bow were burned. The ship has a 5-degree list to starboard, and there were small fires in the hangar and in one fireroom. The situation is under control and there is no report on casualties.

The LUNGA POINT (CVE-94) was attacked by 2 crash-divers. One was shot down at 6:46 p.m., 21 February, and the other, although hit by gunfire and burning, crashed the ship on the after-end of the island, skidding across the deck and exploding in the water. The damage is being repaired and the ship will be ready for flight operation at 6 a.m., 22 February. One officer and 9 men were injured. There are no dead or missing.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter
TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 22 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Enemy resistance on IWO JIMA became increasingly heavy during 21 February. The Marines were forced to advance over minefields covered by enemy artillery and mortar fire, and, in addition, booby traps and terracotta mines were being found.

By 3 p.m. on 21 February, RCT 28 had reached the base of MOUNT SURIBACHI and were using flame throwers against JAP defensive positions. Troops from the Fifth Engineer Battalion were supporting RCT 28 in demolition operations against the enemy. Four of our tanks, operating with RCT 28, have been knocked out of action by enemy mines.

There have been minor advances but no substantial change in our lines from the previous report. In the area south of Airfield No. 2, the enemy was putting up a very stubborn defense.

Estimates now indicate that there were at least 20,000 combatant Japs on IWO JIMA at the time of our assault, and the Third Marine Division is being landed to support our attack. RCT 21 of the Reserve completed landing at 6 p.m. on 21 February.

Battle ships and cruisers furnished deep, as well as close support, bombardment.

Nearly all the beaches are congested and strenuous efforts are being made to clear the beaches of wreckage. Although the surf is not heavy, the soft volcanic soil and the steep beach slope does not permit the passage of any type of wheeled vehicle, until such time as mat roads have been completed. Troops are being supplied inland by LVT's, and at present only LST's, LSM's, LCT's and LVT's are able to unload over the beach. At the time of the report, transports were only 30% unloaded.

No further information on our casualties is available, and, at 6 p.m. on 21 February, the enemy dead was estimated at 862. One prisoner had been taken.

The NAPA (APA-157) was damaged, and, although temporary repairs have been completed, will require docking. 5 men of the ship's company are missing. LSM-43 was damaged due to the rough sea while unloading transports.

In the MANILA BAY AREA, minesweeping was done only in the area east of ST. NICHOLAS SHOAL, and the area from the shoal to MANILA HARBOR will be swept in a few days. 2 DD's illumuniated CORREGIDOR on the night of 19-20 February with star shells.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
OSD Letter, 3 Aug 78

4 p.m. 21 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 21 February between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. the Carrier Support Group (TG 52.2) was under air attack off IWO JIMA. The BISMARCK SEA (CVE-95) was hit at 6:50 p.m. by a suicide diver on the after part of the ship. The BISMARCK SEA burned furiously and there were many explosions. The CVE turned over and is believed to have sunk.

During the same attack the SARATOGA (CV-3) was hit by four suicide planes at about 5:45 p.m. The damage is under control and the SARATOGA was last reported proceeding at 23 knots in a southerly direction leaving the IWO JIMA Area. Another CVE, the LUNGA POINT (CVE-94), was also crashed by a suicider. The damage caused by the attack is under control. The KEOKUK (AKN-4) and LST-477 were both damaged by suicide divers. The SAGINAW BAY (CVE-82) was also attacked but the results are not available.

Ships of the Task Group shot down four Nip planes.

On IWO JIMA the Marines are continuing to advance against strong resistance and have begun the assault on SURIBACHI MOUNTAIN, the enemy stronghold on the southern tip of the island.

The enemy has attempted to infiltrate the Marine positions and it is reported that at 11:15 p.m. on 19 February the Japs attempted to land behind our lines on the west coast of the island by means of a landing barge. The attempt was repulsed.

On 17 February the east coast of NEGROS ISLAND was bombarded in support of guerrilla activities.

LCI(G)-340 was damaged by enemy gunfire on 16 February in the MANILA BAY Area.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
OSD Letter, 3-4-98

9 a.m. 21 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A number of LVT's, tanks and landing craft were destroyed or broached during the landings on 19 February.

At 6:00 a.m., 19 February, the CHESTER (CA-27) and the ESTES (AGC-12), were in collision. The ESTES' damage was repaired and the ship is operational, but the CHESTER sustained heavy damage to the starboard propellor and was sent to SAIPAN for repairs.

As a result of the bombing of the BLESSMAN (APD-48) (morning summary 19 February), 18 are dead, 6 wounded and 8 missing in the ship's company, and in UDT-15, which was embarked on her, 17 are dead and 22 wounded.

LSM's, 211 and 323 received severe damage as a result of enemy gunfire.

In the bombardment, prior to the landing, it is now reported that 10 of 12 LCI(G's) (morning summary 18 February), supporting UDT activities were damaged by enemy gunfire. Those severely damaged are LCI(G's)- 438, 441, 449, 450, 457, 466, 469, and 471.

To date, three of our planes have been reported lost and one damaged.

The sweeping of MANILA BAY continued through 19 February and the channel north of CORREGIDOR had not been completely swept at that time. A total of 383 mines had been swept by 20 February. PT's, destroyers and carriers are supporting the sweeping operations.

On 18 and 19 February, PT's, while searching for enemy "Q" boats in the vicinity of CORREGIDOR, destroyed several barges.

MINDORO PT's, during the same period, picked up our scouts from LABANG ISLAND and bombarded the enemy on northern NEGROS ISLAND.

Patrol planes rocketed and strafed Jap supply dumps at BANAGO, on NEGROS ISLAND.

Patrol planes from LEYTE sank a small freighter and three sea trucks in the NANSEI SHOTOS.

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

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 21 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

More complete reports are now available from Commander Task Force 51. By 4:00 p.m., 19 February, four regimental combat teams and two tank battalions had been landed, and by 6:00 p.m., four artillery battalions and two battalions of R.C.T. 26, were ashore. The early landing waves encountered light opposition, but heavy fire from artillery and mortars soon developed on the beaches, particularly BLUE and YELLOW, which form our right flank.

The 5th Marine Division crossed the island at the southern end and captured the south portion of No. 1 airfield. Opposition was light and losses moderate. The 4th Marine Division on the right of the 5th, advancing across open terrain toward the airfield, met severe opposition and sustained heavy casualties. The beach party, at YELLOW beach No. 2, suffered 60% casualties.

At about 2:30 a.m., 20 February, approximately 1,000 Japs counter-attacked the 5th Marine Division positions on airfield No. 1. The attack was broken up at 3:45 a.m., by R.C.T. 27. During the night, two cruisers and 11 destroyers delivered bombardment and illumination fire.

At 8:45 a.m., 20 February, after a heavy bombardment by surface and air forces, the Marines began their attack against enemy positions. At noon, our forces held the major portion of airfield No. 1, and about one-third of the southern end of the island. The enemy still held SURIBACHI volcano and our forces had beach frontage of about 4,500 yards on the east coast and 3,000 yards on the west coast.

Despite poor beach conditions, particularly on beaches YELLOW and BLUE, which had to be closed because of gunfire and soft sand, the supply situation ashore is improving.

Very little enemy aircraft activity was encountered. Several groups of two to four planes approached the island but retired when confronted by our night fighters.

* *

It is reported that by "H" hour, 19 February, the majority of heavy antiaircraft batteries and coast defense guns had been destroyed by the bombardment.

1230 wounded had been removed to hospital LST's by 5:30 p.m., 19 February.

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

TOP SECRET

4 p.m. 20 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:00 p.m., on 20 February, the following was the situation on IWO JIMA:

Late on 19 February, the Marines had driven across the island to the western beaches, isolating the enemy forces emplaced on the SURIBACHI VOLCANO at the southern tip of IWO JIMA. Only moderate resistance was encountered in the southern portion of the beachhead, and about 1,000 yards of the west beach is now occupied by our forces. The unloading of supplies and equipment was begun over the southern beaches.

YELLOW and BLUE beaches, ~~located~~ at ~~the~~ northern end of our beachhead, received heavy mortar and artillery fire. Despite resistance, the beachhead had been pushed inland about 250 yards. Heaviest resistance was being met on the eastern slopes of No. 1 airfield and our casualties were most numerous in this area. southernmost

Enemy strong points were still under bombardment from our surface forces and aircraft, and enemy positions were strafed and rocketed throughout the day.

On 16 February, while supporting the CORREGIDOR landings, LCI(G)-338 and 341 were both damaged by hits from enemy shore batteries. The damage to LCI(G)-338 was substantial.

LCT-1151 was abandoned on 26 January about 150 miles north of NEW GUINEA and subsequent searches have failed to locate her. The LCT is presumed to be sunk. Her loss was not due to enemy action.

In the morning summary of 20 February, the reported bombing of SUSAKI airfield, on southern SHIKOKU, is in error. The SUSAKI airfield, which was attacked by Liberators, is located on CHICHI JIMA, in the BONINS.

Cook Book

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED 5-8-78
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 20 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 3:30 a.m., 16 February, LCI(G)-340 was damaged by enemy shellfire during the bombardment of IWO JIMA.

The Navy tanker PATUXENT (AO-44) was damaged by an internal explosion when gas fumes in the boatswains' storeroom were ignited by a spark from an ammunition hoist motor. The damage in the foreward part of the ship was extensive. The PATUXENT has returned to SAIPAN. One man was killed and 4 slightly injured.

The PENSACOLA (CA-24) was hit by 6 shells and one near-miss. Two of the hits were with 8-inch and the others 6 and 3.5 inch. The PENSACOLA was hit at about 9:36 a.m., 17 February. There is no further report on personnel casualties.

The submarine BOARFISH (SS-327) has returned from patrol in the WESTERN PACIFIC. The BOARFISH sank one large AK (6,500 tons) and shared the destruction of another with the 14th Airforce. Total credited tonnage - 9,800 tons.

The HESUGO (SS-321) has returned from the third war patrol, having sunk one tanker (10,000 tons) and one DD (1,000 tons) for a total tonnage of 11,000 tons(afternoon summaries 10 January and 5 February 1945). In addition, one medium tanker was damaged (5,000 tons.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 20 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In a report released at 6:30 p.m., 19 February, the landings on IWO JIMA were proceeding satisfactorily, and the 5th Amphibious Corps had a beachhead on the southeast shore extending from the southern tip 4,500 yards northward.

Operations in the MANILA BAY AREA are continuing, and the channel south of CORREGIDOR was completely swept by 18 February. On 19 February, the minesweepers enlarged the swept area. The eastern shore of BATAAN has been occupied by our troops.

LUZON PT's sank 3 Jap barges off the east coast of BATAAN.

Patrol planes, on 17 February, attacked a medium freighter off the INDO-CHINA COAST. It was beached and burning when last sighted. A barge-load of enemy troops was destroyed off the west coast of BORNEO.

On 19 February, our search planes destroyed a small freighter (300-700 tons) off the CHINA COAST, near CANTON, and strafed 4 enemy coastal craft off the west coast of FORMOSA.

The following strikes are reported:

19 February:

14 Liberators bombed IWO JIMA with unobserved results. 30 other Liberators did not bomb targets due to instructions from surface control and due to late arrival over the target.

9 Liberators bombed SUSAKI airfield on southern SHIKOKU on the night of 18-19 February. Nearly half of the bombs were delayed action.

YAP was hit by 6 Avengers.

ARAKABESAN and KOROR, in the PALAUS, were attacked by 6 Hellcats and 3 Avengers.

A landing will be made on ANATAHAN in the CENTRAL MARIANAS on 20 February by an Infantry Platoon to investigate the wreckage of a B-29 sighted on the island.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP-SECRET

TOP SECRET, CLASSIFIED BY OPD LETTER

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

9 a.m. 19 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the night of 16-17 February, PT's from ORMOC destroyed a barge off the east coast of CEBU, and MINDORO PT's landed scouts on LUBANG ISLAND, northwest of MINDORO.

The following air strikes are reported:

17 February:

42 Liberators bombed IWO JIMA with a majority of the bombs landing in the target. MARCUS ISLAND was hit by 3 Liberators.

3 Liberators hit TRUK.

BABELTHUAP was strafed by 4 Corsairs.

18 February:

6 Hellcats, 3 Avengers and 16 Corsairs attacked BABELTHUAP in the PALAUS, hitting at the lighthouse, burning 6 houses and destroying 2 barges.

8 Corsairs damaged the pier at TOMIL HARBOR, YAP.

At CHICHI JIMA, 7 small boats and 16 small ships and barges were damaged.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP-SECRET

DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter, 6

SECRET

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

9 a.m. 19 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Northwest of TOKYO, the Ota aircraft plant was hit by one carrier strike. Musashino-Tama and Tachikawa engine plants were also effectively hit by our carrier planes.

At YOKOHAMA, one Jap carrier (CVL or CVE) was set on fire and was last seen down at the bow and over on its side, apparently resting on the bottom.

At TOKYO, nine coastal vessels were sunk as well as one destroyer, two destroyer escorts and one cargo ship. 22 coastal vessesl are reported as damaged.

Many picket boats were destroyed by aircraft and destroyers of the task force, including one which was rammed by the WALDRON (DD-669), causing minor damage to the bow of the WALDRON.

None of our surface ships were attacked by the enemy. No damage was sustained by our surface force due to enemy action because of the air patrol and picket line stationed between Task Force 58 and TOKYO.

The BARTON (DD-772) and the INGRAHAM (DD-694) were damaged as the result of a collision. The DORTCH (DD-670) also received slight damage from causes not reported.

Increasingly poor weather resulted in a decision to retire on the 17th instead of continuing the strikes on 18 February.

Our losses are 49 planes, 40 pilots and 6 crewmen in combat, and 21 planes, 5 pilots and 4 crewmen operationally.

From 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., 18 February, heavy bombardment of IWO JIMA was continued at ranges from 1,800 to 3,000 yards in preparation for the amphibious landings reported above. The supporting aircraft also continued heavy attacks on the target, encountering only light but intense AA fire, which damaged a number of planes but only one seriously. There were no personnel losses.

Commander Task Force 77 reports on 18 February that the opening of the entrance to MANILA BAY continues satisfactorily and that additional troops were landed 17 February on CORREGIDOR with little opposition.

On 17 February, the HIDATSA (ATF-102) was damaged by a mine and was towed to SUBIC BAY. CARABAO ISLAND was bombarded by the TAYLOR (DD-468) without any return fire.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP-SECRET

DECLASSIFIED TOP SECRET

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

9 a.m. 19 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 19 February, the 4TH and 5TH Marine Divisions of the 5TH Amphibious Corps landed as scheduled on the eastern beaches of IWO JIMA in the VOLCANO ISLANDS. 9 a.m. of 19 February was the hour scheduled for landing.

By 10:20 a.m., 8 Marine battalions, with their supporting tanks had been landed. At first there was little opposition, although LST's and landing craft were subjected to some artillery and mortar fire. Later, all beaches were under fire and especially the two northern beaches, BLUE and YELLOW.

By 10:30 a.m., some units of the 27TH Marines had reached the southern edge of the airfield.

Personnel casualties are not heavy and the situation is reported as favorable. At the time of the report, 11:50 a.m., on 19 February, the Regimental Reserves were being landed.

LSM 74 and LSM 212 were hit by enemy fire and damaged. The GAMBLE (DM-15) and the BLESSMAN (APD-48) were hit by bombs and sustained heavy casualties. They will be towed to SAIPAN.

Major General Harry Schmidt, USMC, is in command of the 5TH Amphibious Corps.

The first report of the strike against TOKYO by our fast carrier force, under the command of Vice Adm. Mitscher, has been received.

Task Force 58 approached the target without detection, and TOKYO received no alerts until our planes were near the target.

Weather conditions on both 16 and 17 February were bad, with low clouds and squalls over our carrier force and with much of the target closed in.

As the result of a two-day strike, 332 enemy planes were shot down and 177 planes destroyed on the ground.

At least 150 planes were damaged and probably destroyed on the ground.

Shops, hangars, etc., were destroyed at many of the TOKYO airfields and air installations.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 18 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 17 February, the MANILA BAY operations were reported as proceeding satisfactorily. On CORREGIDOR, at 3:15 p.m., 16 February, Colonel Jones of the 503 Paratroop Regiment assumed command ashore. Heavy enemy resistance is developing on CORREGIDOR, both on the north coast and on the west flank of our beachhead. MALINTA HILL was captured on the afternoon of 16 February. Naval gunfire is still being employed against enemy strong points in support of the troops.

PT boats rescued 70 survivors of the LCS' which were sunk on the night of 15-16 February.

It is reported that an enemy submarine was probably sunk west of PANAY on 16 February by the HAAS (DE-424).

Patrol planes on 16 and 17 February bombed and strafed an enemy freighter off the west coast of FORMOSA, and bombed a factory at KARENKO, on the east coast of FORMOSA. Two small freighters and a lugger were damaged and one coastal freighter sunk off the east coast of FORMOSA. An enemy radio station on the northeast coast of FORMOSA was strafed.

The following air strikes are reported:

15 February
Four Liberators bombed an airfield on CHICHI JIMA, and five Liberators struck Airfield No. 2 on IWO JIMA.

16 February
Two Liberators bombed the enemy airfield on MARCUS ISLAND. Four Corsairs hit BABELTHUAP.

17 February
Five enemy aircraft at CHICHI JIMA were damaged on the ground and 18 small craft strafed, three of which burned, and a barge load of ammunition was destroyed by our aircraft. On HAHA JIMA, one medium and 15 small craft were strafed. 6 Hellcats and 6 Corsairs attacked the enemy in the PALAUS.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

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

9 a.m. 18 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

No reports have been received in connection with the bombing of TOKYO on 16 and 17 February by the fast carrier force of the 5th Fleet under command of Vice Admiral Mitscher.

The bombardment and bombing of IWO JIMA continued on 17 February and a report from Task Force 52 (Amphibious Support Force) under Rear Admiral Blandy, reveals that late on 17 February, all minesweeping, except for a small area, had been completed. A covering bombardment by major units is being conducted but apparently a majority of the enemy installations are still in operation.

The aircraft supporting the bombardment, hit a tank park area and many other targets. The Liberator strikes are reported as excellent. Enemy anti-aircraft fire was intense and as the strikes progressed, increased in accuracy. No Liberators were shot down.

The Underwater Demolition Group, Task Group 52.4, under Captain Hanlon, reports that no underwater obstacles were located and no demolition was required on either the east or west beaches. Only one swimmer is missing from the underwater demolition teams.

LCI(G's) of the Gunboat Support Group (Task Group 52.5), under the command of Captain Aylward, gave close support to the underwater demolition teams on the east beaches and received very heavy fire from enemy positions when about 1,000 yards off shore. Of the 12 LCI(G's) engaged, 8 are known to have been hit and the casualties from seven of them are 31 dead, 83 wounded, one missing and 11 shock cases. Casualties from the five remaining gunboats have not been reported. LCI-(G's) were not used on the west beaches of IWO JIMA. LCI(G)-474 was ordered sunk after it had capsized. All personnel were removed.

YMS's of the Mine Group (Task Group 52.3), under Rear Admiral Sharp, preceded underwater demolition teams to their respective beaches.

The destroyer LEUTZE (DD-481) was hit by enemy mortar fire. The Captain was seriously wounded. Five men were wounded, including three seriously. The ship is fully able to continue operations.

The PENSACOLA (CA-24), was hit by enemy gunfire and one after 5"-inch gun, one catapult, the C.I.C. and control aft are out of commission. There were many casualties. The Executive Officer is dead and the First Lieutenant wounded.

During the support of the demolition teams, destroyers shot down two enemy aircraft.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
OSD LETTER 5-78
TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 17 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The LAVALLETTE (DD-448) (morning summary 16 February) is now at SUBIC BAY alongside the GRIFFIN (AS-13) for preliminary repairs. The LAVALLETTE hit a mine forward on the portside and the forward fire room is flooded and wrecked. Heavy flooding occurred in the forward part of the ship, and it is now down 8 feet by the head. Two men were killed, four missing and 19 wounded.

The HOPEWELL (DD-681) (morning summary 16 February) received 4 hits from shore batteries off CORREGIDOR and sustained substantial damage. 6 men and 1 officer are dead and 8 wounded. The ship is still able to proceed at 30 knots.

On 15 February, at about 10:40 p.m., the HALFORD (DD-480) rammed the merchant ship MARY E. STEPHENSON while she was at anchor at SAIPAN. The HALFORD sustained extensive damage in the forward compartments and will require dry-docking.

On 16 February, off CAPE SAN JACQUES, a Liberator attacked and sank one enemy ship (5,500 to 8,500 tons).

Our patrol planes probably destroyed a medium freighter 150 miles northeast of CAMRANH BAY and sank 2 barges northwest of BORNEO.

Three enemy freighters (70 to 150 tons) were strafed while at anchor in MUKO JIMA, in the northern BONINS. One enemy ship was badly damaged.

On 16 February, enemy installations in the PALAUS were hit by 10 Hellcats and 12 Corsairs. A reservoir was hit, a house burned and a boat sunk.

On the same date, 5 Avengers bombed GADIL TOMIL ISLAND, in the YAP GROUP.

The submarine HARDHEAD (SS-365) reports the sinking of one enemy tanker (2,500 tons) as the result of her third war patrol.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD LETTER,

SECRET

9 a.m. 17 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 16 February, it was reported that our fast carrier force, under the command of Vice Admiral Mitscher, was continuing to attack the TOKYO AREA. No reports of the damage inflicted have been received to date.

A preliminary report of the combined surface and air assault on IWO JIMA indicates that substantial damage was inflicted on the enemy and that enemy shore battery fire against our surface force was quickly silenced. Both the light and heavy AA fire from IWO JIMA was not effective. One enemy gasoline barge was sunk by gunfire and two luggers (500 tons) were destroyed by aircraft. One enemy fighter was shot down and three enemy bombers destroyed on the ground.

The coordinated air attack by Army Liberators was curtailed due to weather conditions. One of our fighters was shot down, one plane lost operationally and one fighter is missing due to the thick weather. Only one pilot is missing.

On 16 February, at 8:30 a.m., elements of the 503 Parachute Battalion dropped on CORREGIDOR and were followed ashore at 10:28 a.m. by the 3RD Battalion of RCT 34. There was no enemy opposition in the vicinity of the landing beaches. Our landings for the re-occupation of CORREGIDOR are proceeding as scheduled.

At 2:00 p.m. on 15 February, Brigadier General Chase assumed command at MARIVELES BAY.

Minesweeping of the area continues, and a total of 272 Nip mines have been swept.

LSM 169 hit a mine in the area on 15 February and was burned and beached.

Enemy suicide craft destroyed three LCS during the night of 15-16 February in MARIVELES BAY. Another LCS was beached as a result of the attack.

PT boats in SUBIC BAY on 14 to 15 February, destroyed one Nip suicide boat. Two other suicide craft escaped. Several barges were sunk by the PT's.

LEYTE PT's, on 14 February, operating with Corsairs, attacked enemy positions and small craft on northwestern SAMAR and attacked CAPUL ISLAND in SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 5-73

9 a.m. 16 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 15 February, 31 Corsairs, 3 Hellcats and 2 Avengers attacked BABELTHUAP in the PALAUS, causing large explosions and fires and sinking a barge.

On the same date, 8 Corsairs bombed PEKEL ISLAND, east of YAP ISLAND, and TOMIL HARBOR, on GAGIL TOMIL ISLAND, in the YAP GROUP.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED 8-3-72
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 16 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A carrier task force (Task Force 58) on 16 February, under command of Vice Admiral Mitscher, is attacking JAP air bases, military installations and enemy aircraft in the TOKYO AREA.

On 16 February, a surface task force (Task Force 54) under Rear Admiral Rodgers, commenced the bombardment of the enemy base at IWO JIMA. Land-based aircraft were, at the same time, attacking IWO JIMA and other enemy bases in the BONINS.

The assault against CORREGIDOR and MARIVELES on BATAAN continues. Commander Task Force 77 reports that the bombardment on 14 February did not silence all the JAP gun positions. Gunfire from enemy shore batteries delayed the minesweeping of the entrance to MANILA BAY. However, the sweeping continues and about 115 enemy mines have been swept at the time of the report. YMS-48 was severely damaged and set afire by enemy gunfire and was later sunk by our own forces. 3 men are missing and 4 wounded.

In addition to damage to the FLETCHER (DD-445), (morning summary 15 February), the RADFORD (DD-446) and the LAVALLETTE (DD-448) hit mines and have returned to SUBIC BAY under their own power. The HOPEWELL (DD-681) sustained some damage when she was hit twice by enemy shellfire. 3 men are missing and 3 are wounded.

At 10:00 a.m., on 15 February, the first troops landed at MARIVELES HARBOR on BATAAN against very light opposition. The troops ashore are now advancing inland. Bad conditions on the beach delayed the unloading.

PT boats from MINDORO and LINGAYEN are landing scouts on BATAAN in order that guerillas may be contacted.

Patrols have investigated CASIGURAN SOUND and BALER BAY in the northern part of TABAYAS PROVINCE, on the east coast of LUZON, and report no enemy at BALER BAY and believe the JAP forces in the CASIGURAN AREA do not total more than 100.

On 14 and 15 February, patrol planes from LEYTE again covered wide areas and damaged a lighthouse on western FORMOSA by bombing and strafing. On YONAKUNI JIMA, in western SAKISHIMA GUNTO, a radar tower was bombed and strafed. In the SAKISHIMA GUNTO GROUP, 10 small coastal freighter (70-150 tons) were attacked, one was sunk, one left burning and dead in the water, and the remainder were damaged. On MIYAKO SHIMA in the SAKISHIMA GUNTO GROUP, a radar station was bombed and strafed.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 15 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Operations at the entrances to MANILA BAY are continuing according to plan. Our forces which commenced preliminary bombardment on the morning of 13 February, received no return fire until 9:45 a.m., 14 February, at which time shore batteries on CORREGIDOR, CABALLO, CARABAO and CALUNGPANG POINT opened fire on the minesweepers. The bombardment group immediately concentrated heavy fire on the enemy batteries.

During the bombardment of MARIVELES, the USS FLETCHER (DD-445) was hit starboard side forward by a six-inch projectile from shore batteries on CORREGIDOR. The shell started fires in the forward magazines. Report of casualties has not been received.

Our minesweepers thus far have swept 7 Japanese and 22 of our own mines.

The following air strikes have been reported:

12 February:

4 Liberators bombed SUSAKI airfield at CHICHI JIMA during the night.

13 February:

13 Liberators dropped 23 tons on radar installations and AA defenses at IWO JIMA. 12 more Liberators bombed air installations on the island.

10 Liberators bombed building areas at OKIMURA TOWN, HAHA JIMA. 5 Liberators bombed airfield installations at IWO JIMA that night.

14 February:

2 buildings were destroyed and a causeway hit at YAP by 8 Corsairs.

4 Corsairs set barges afire off BABELTHUAP and that night 9 Hellcats harassed positions in the CENTRAL PALAUS.

Commander Submarines PACIFIC reports that during the last 5 days four enemy submarines have been sunk in the PACIFIC, 3 by the BATFISH (SS-310) and the fourth by the ARCHER FISH (SS-311).

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.3
NLN-NN-78
DoD Ltr

9 a.m. 14 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

13 February:

Search planes from LEYTE shot down two enemy planes south of the PESCADORES ISLANDS, sank one fishing boat, strafed a radio station, a converted yacht and 3 small cargo ships in the SAKISHIMA GUNTO.

The USS HLOWER (SS-325) reports that at 1:00 p.m., 13 February, she attacked and probably damaged one enemy battleship and one cruiser southwest of the PARACEL ISLANDS. The enemy force has been reported to consist of two Ise-class battleships, one Tone-class heavy cruiser, and three destroyers.

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

9 a.m. 14 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 11:15 a.m., 13 February, the bombardment group of cruisers and destroyers, commanded by Rear Admiral Berkey, delivered a preliminary bombardment against objectives at the entrances of MANILA BAY. No return fire was received, and the operation is reported proceeding according to plan.

PT operations are reported as follows:

On the night of 10 February, MOROTAI PT's captured one heavily armored barge, sank a second and probably sank a third.

LINGAYEN PT's, operating off SAN FERNANDO, destroyed 5 barges, 6 suicide boats, one sea truck, and strafed shore targets.

ORMOC PT's destroyed several small craft.

The following air operations have been reported:

5 Liberators received minor damage on 10 February and 4 Liberators on 11 February on strike missions against IWO JIMA.

11 February:

10 Liberators bombed IWO airfield No. 2 and AA defenses on a night strike. A searchlight was destroyed and fires were started. One of 6 Marine Mitchells, on a night search in the BONINS, failed to return.

12 February:

19 Liberators struck IWO JIMA airfield No. 2, air installations and AA defenses. There was no antiaircraft fire or fighter interception.

8 Liberators bombed naval installations and housing areas at CHICHI JIMA. One Liberator dropped bombs on MEI JIMA, southeast of HAHA JIMA. Liberators dropped 17½ tons of bombs on air installations at IWO JIMA that night.

Buildings on BABELTHUAP were hit by 8 Corsairs, and that night 10 Hellcats continued operations against the island.

8 Corsairs and 5 Avengers bombed dock and shore installations at YAP.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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OSD Declassified

9 a.m. 13 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 12 February, the LST-577 was torpedoed about 100 miles west of PALAU and was subsequently sunk by one of our destroyers. Preliminary reports indicate the casualties were 68 Navy and 102 Army personnel missing.

Again there have been no enemy air attacks on our naval forces during the last 24 hours.

The following air strikes have been reported for 11 February:

Navy search planes bombed TRUK while Marine fighters destroyed one barge and set 9 others afire off BABELTHUAP. 6 trucks were also destroyed on BABELTHUAP. Marine aircraft also bombed installations on YAP in the CAROLINES and ROTA in the MARIANAS. Army bombers attacked airfields and other targets at IWO JIMA and also raided MARCUS ISLAND.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
TOP SECRET

4 p.m. 12 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following strikes have been reported for 10 February:

10 Liberators dropped 10 tons of bombs on buildings in OKIMURA TOWN at HAHA JIMA. One Liberator was lost and two others damaged by intense AA fire. A PBM rescued one survivor from the downed plane; 10 crewmen are still missing.

6 Lightnings accompanied a photo plane to IWO JIMA and destroyed 5 aircraft, damaged one aircraft and strafed a destroyer.

20 Liberators and 10 Lightnings attacked IWO JIMA and destroyed 2 more planes. One of our fighters failed to return.

6 Marine Mitchells attacked shipping in the BONINS and KAZANS that night. A medium tanker west of KITA IO SHIMA (KAZANS) was attacked and two or three explosions were observed. Another Mitchell attacked a cargo transport west of HAHA JIMA and observed 8 explosions. The planes encountered intense AA fire and were intercepted by enemy night fighters. No damage was received.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

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

9 a.m. 12 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The following air strikes are reported in the CENTRAL PACIFIC:

10 February:

Marine Mitchells attacked a medium-sized tanker and a large freighter with rockets north of IWO JIMA. Hits were made on both ships and explosions were observed. The Mitchells were intercepted by enemy night fighters and encountered very heavy anti-aircraft fire.

In the BONINS, HAHA JIMA was bombed by Liberators. Again intense AA fire was encountered and the results of the bombing were not observed. One Liberator was shot down.

Marine fighters attacked BABELTHUAP in the PALAUS, and strafed ROTA in the MARIANAS.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
DOD Letter

SECRET

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

9 a.m. 11 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

PT boats on the night of 7 February sank one enemy barge and damaged another at the entrance to MANILA BAY. On 9 February, PT's from LINGAYEN, in cooperation with aircraft, sank 11 barges, seven suicide boats, one motor boat and one lugger, as well as starting oil fires in the SAN FERNANDO area of western LUZON.

The following are air strikes in the CENTRAL PACIFIC:

7 February
A bridge on BABELTHUAP was destroyed by 2 Corsairs.

8 February
ROTA and PALAU were attacked by Corsairs and Hellcats. Corsairs destroyed a bridge on GAGIL TOMIL, on YAP.

9 February
IWO JIMA was hit during the day by 22 Liberators, striking at gun installations, radio and radar stations and bivouac areas. On the night of 9 February, 10 more Liberators bombed Airfield No. 2 and the AA defenses of the airfield.

10 February
Lightnings destroyed 7 enemy aircraft and damaged another over IWO JIMA. One enemy destroyer was strafed. One of our planes was lost.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 10 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

There is still no report of any enemy aircraft activity against naval forces in the PHILIPPINES Area.

On 9 February, PT boats from MINDORO landed scouts near PUERTO PRINCESSA on the east central coast of PALAWAN, in the PHILIPPINES. PT's also successfully evacuated 41 natives from BOELI BAY on eastern HALMAHERA.

4 Nightcats operated from LINGAYEN during the night of 8-9 February. One patrol plane dropped incendiaries on GARAN BI radio station on the southern tip of FORMOSA.

The following are aircraft strikes in the CENTRAL PACIFIC:

8 February:

Liberators dropped bombs on IWO JIMA, striking at dispersal areas, airfield No. 2 and gun positions. One enemy fighter was destroyed and one Liberator lost when the Jap plane rammed the Liberator.

Two barges were sunk on BABELTHUAP when attacked by 4 Corsairs.

Marine Corsairs destroyed a bridge on YAP.

Enemy installations on ROTA in the MARIANAS were strafed and bombed by Marine Hellcats and Corsairs.

9 February:

12 Corsairs and 8 Hellcats damaged warehouses and buildings on BABELTHUAP.

On YAP a pier was hit and a house set on fire by Corsairs.

~~The submarine~~ RONQUIL ~~(SS-396)~~ reports the sinking of a Jap tanker off PORT ARTHUR.

The SPADEFISH (SS-411) sank an AK in the same area.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

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DECLASSIFIED 72
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
NSC Letter, 3/9/82
By NARA, Date 6/30/82

9 a.m. 9 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The movement of supplies and reinforcements in the LUZON, LEYTE and MINDORO AREAS continued on 8 February. There was still no air attacks by the enemy on naval shipping during the preceding 24 hours.

On the night of 4 February, PT boats from LEYTE bombarded enemy positions on northern CEBU with rockets, and MOROTAI PT's attacked an enemy coastal hideout.

On the night of 5 February, PT's, operating at the entrance to MANILA BAY, probably sank one of two enemy craft. MINDORO based PT's sank one troop-carrying barge and destroyed one other on the beach in VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE, north of MINDORO, and ORMOC PT's, off CEBU, sank a lugger transporting troops.

A night patrol plane on 6 February sank a large JAP sea truck in the NANSEI SHOTOS. Patrol planes continued to search over wide areas from the PHILIPPINES.

The following strikes in the CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported:

6 February:

An oil dump was set on fire, a pier damaged and a 30-foot boat sunk by 8 Corsairs at BABELTHUAP.

7 February:

16 Corsairs dropped bombs on BABELTHUAP.

MAP ISLAND, YAP, was hit by 8 Avengers attacking the shore installations.

ROTA was strafed and bombed by Hellcats and Corsairs.

8 February:

Airfields on PONAPE, in the CAROLINES, were attacked by 17 Corsairs and one Mitchell. Both the old and new airfields were hit. The old field is reported to be completely out of operation. Buildings and installations were strafed and a barge and 2 small boats were sunk. Moderate but inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered over the target.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED 72
OSD Letter

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 8 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

7 February:

Search planes from LEYTE sank an anchored picket boat off SWATOW and attacked 2 small cargo vessels in the same area. 2 sea trucks were strafed and left sinking southwest of SWATOW. Another small cargo vessel was attacked and forced to beach near LAM YIT ISLAND, south of FOOCHOW.

The Netherlands submarine HNMS O-19, under United States' operational control, has returned from patrol and reports the sinking of one merchant ship (3,000 tons).

The HMS SPIRIT has returned from patrol and reports the sinking of a 200-ton coastal cargo ship and a 600-ton sea truck.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED DOD Directive

TOP SECRET

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

9 a.m. 8 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 7 February, reinforcement and re-supply echelons continued to arrive at LINGAYEN and NASUGBU beachheads. There has been no air attack on naval shipping in the last 24 hours.

On the night of 5 February, CRMDC PT's sank a 70-foot lugger, off east TINIAN anchorage, CEBU. 31 Japs were killed and 4 were captured.

The following air operations have been reported:

5 February:

8 Corsairs and 3 Hellcats destroyed a warehouse, houses, a bridge and a supply dump at BABELTHUAP.

That night patrol planes from LINGAYEN sank a cargo ship off ISHIGAKI, SAKISHIMA GUNTO.

6 February:

20 Marine Corsairs destroyed a bridge and 2 trucks and hit coastal defense positions at BABELTHUAP, while 8 Marine Avengers and 8 Corsairs bombed a bridge and a pier at GAGIL-TOMIL, YAP.

2 Marine Hellcats bombed ROTA.

Patrol planes from LEYTE strafed a small salvage vessel off SWATOW, 2 coastal cargo ships off southeast FORMOSA, one of which blew up and damaged the attacking plane, and strafed the air station on the southern tip of MIYAKO SHIMA, inflicting slight damage.

10 Liberators attacked naval barracks and installations at FUTAMI KO, CHICHI JIMA, and OTOTO JIMA, north of CHICHI JIMA.

6 Marine Mitchells ~~sank~~ attacked 2 convoys in the BONINS and KAZANS that evening.

One large vessel was hit in a 4-ship convoy north of KITA IO SHIMA (KAZANS) and another large ship was hit in a 5-ship convoy, northwest of MUKO JIMA. Results were unobserved.

6 Marine Mitchells bombed PONAPE airfield, strafed air installations, and destroyed one large building. One Mitchell was shot down at the target and another received a direct hit, killing the navigator.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 7 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 6 February it was reported that no enemy air attacks had been made on our Naval forces in the PHILIPPINES Area during the preceding 24 hours.

Patrol planes from LINGAYEN continued to search areas as far as the west coast of FORMOSA. One plane reported sinking a large freighter (1,000 tons) on the night of 5-6 February, northwest of SAKISHIMA GUNTO. The JAP ship is sunk in 20 feet of water with the stern blown off.

IWO JIMA targets were bombed on 5 February by Strategic Airforce Liberators.

Marine bombers, on 6 February, struck airfields and destroyed a building on PONAPE, in the CAROLINES. The aircraft encountered heavy antiaircraft fire and one plane was lost.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
DoD Letter 5/7/71

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 6 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

PT's 77 and 79 were sunk on the night of 1-2 February in the PHILIPPINES Area. One officer and one enlisted man were killed by gunfire and 2 men are missing as the result of this enemy action.

The following are additional air strikes:

4 February:

9 Liberators bombed IWO JIMA through clouds. HAHA JIMA was hit by 10 Liberators. The results were not observed.

4 Navy photo Liberators, over IWO JIMA, encountered medium to heavy antiaircraft fire.

2 Liberators hit MARCUS.

The BONINS were attacked by 3 Mitchells.

4 Corsairs set fire to barges on BABELTHUAP.

5 February:

Houses on BABELTHUAP were destroyed by 4 Corsairs. Hellcats, during the night, attacked other targets in the PALAUS.

The buildings and pier on MAP ISLAND, in the YAP GROUP, were destroyed by 8 Avengers.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

4 p.m. 5 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The CAVALIER (APA-37) was torpedoed at 1:31 p.m. on 30 January (morning summary 31 January) aft on the port side. The CAVALIER was in a convoy returning from the ZAMBALES beachhead, and at the time of torpedoing was about 90 miles west of the assault area. She was damaged to the extent that it was necessary to tow her to LEYTE. There is no apparent serious damage to the engineering installation or auxiliaries. No lives were lost as a result of the torpedoing but 23 men were injured.

Patrol planes continued their coverage of wide areas and one plane over PONAPE, in the CAROLINES, destroyed a bridge, a warehouse and one armed power boat. 4 fishing boats were also strafed.

8 Corsairs bombed YAP on 3 February, and on 4 February 8 Avengers hit YAP.

On 3 February, 10 Hellcats struck at the PALAUS.

The submarine SPADEFISH (SS-411), operating in the PACIFIC, reports the sinking of 4 JAP ships (3 AK and 1 PC).

The BESUGO (SS-321), operating in the SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA, reports the sinking of a JAP destroyer.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 5 February 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd).

On the night of 3-4 February, enemy aircraft started fires on the airstrip at TACLOBAN, in northeastern LEYTE. There were no enemy air attacks on Naval forces at either MINDORO or LINGAYEN during the preceding 24 hours, according to a report issued on 4 February at about 8 p.m.

On 21 December, LST640 sank as the result of battle damage, which caused fires and flooding. LST-640 sank near the CUYO ISLANDS, west of PANAY.

The following are additional air strikes in the CENTRAL PACIFIC:

2 February:

ROTA was bombed and strafed by Hellcats.

Shore installations and the jetty at GAGIL-TOMIL, YAP, were bombed by 7 Avengers. 8 Corsairs also bombed YAP TOWN.

On BABELTHUAP, 16 Corsairs sank a barge and damaged a causeway, a dock, a bridge and a building, as well as setting fire to warehouses.

3 February:

ROTA, in the MARIANAS, was attacked by Hellcats.

YAP and BABELTHUAP, in the CAROLINES, were also attacked: 8 Avengers struck at shore installations and jetties on YAP; and 6 Avengers, 9 Hellcats and 60 Corsairs destroyed a bridge, sank a barge, damaged a warehouse and started fires on BABELTHUAP.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter

9 a.m. 4 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

From the beach heads on LUZON it is reported that convoys continued to support our forces and that no air attacks on naval forces occurred during the twenty-four hour period of 2 February. On 2 February, PT boats reported at the SAN ANTONIO area in ZAMBALLES PROVINCE for duty.

PT boats from the LINGAYEN base attacked 7 enemy barges at SALOMAGUE, on the northwest coast of LUZON, on 1 February.

Patrol planes operating out of LEYTE, on 3 February, attacked two small Jap freighters (70-150 tons) near AMOY, on the CHINA coast. Both ships were sunk. Another patrol plane sank a lugger carrying oil southwest of TAIWAN (FORMOSA). The air strip at SWATOW was bombed by patrol planes and two adjacent buildings were also hit. One enemy plane was shot down and another probably destroyed on the air strip.

At 4:36 a.m., 10 January, LST-610 was damaged by a Jap suicide boat in the LINGAYEN area. There were apparently no personnel casualties. LST-567 broached near LST-610 and caused considerable additional damage to the LST-610.

On 21 January, the LANGLEY (CVL-27) was damaged by enemy bombing (morning summary, 22 January). The damage was not sufficient to place the ship out of action, but extensive repairs will be required. As a result of the bombing, 3 men are dead and 11 wounded.

The following strikes are reported:

2 February
Airfields and dispersal areas ON IWO JIMA were bombed by 10 Liberators.

3 February
IWO JIMA was attacked by 11 Liberators and the results were not observed because of clouds. 3 enemy planes attempted to intercept.

10 Liberators bombed naval installations on CHICHI JIMA.

20 Lightnings escorting photo planes strafed enemy positions on IWO JIMA. The AA fire was heavy and accurate and one Lightning and one photo plane were lost and two Lightnings damaged. Airfield number 2 on IWO JIMA was later bombed by 9 Liberators and fires were started.

Four Liberators were later over IWO JIMA and intercepted by 7 enemy fighters. 3 of the enemy fighters were probably damaged.

Regraded Unclassified

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TOP SECRET

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

9 a.m. 3 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 1 and 2 February, patrol planes bombed and strafed a small enemy freighter (70 to 150 tons) carrying oil drums. The attack took place off CAPE SAN JACQUES, FRENCH INDO-CHINA. The freighter was left burning.

In the MOLUCCA PASSAGE, west of HALMAHERA, a patrol plane strafed a sea truck. On the west coast of HALMAHERA, another patrol bomber rocketed a large camouflaged whaleboat.

On PATA ISLAND, south of JOHOL, in the SULU ARCHIPELAGO, a Ventura bomber rocketed and bombed an enemy radar station. One hut was destroyed and the tower and two huts damaged.

The following air strikes are reported:

31 January:

Army Liberators bombed JAP airfields on IWO JIMA.

Marine fighters attacked the harbor at YAP.

The PALAUS were attacked by Marine aircraft and an explosion and a large fire were observed on ARAKABESAN.

On 1 February, the above strikes were repeated.

The following additional information concerning casualties and damage resulting from the sinking of the SERPENS (AK-97) (afternoon summary 30 January) is reported: Survivors of the SERPENS, 2 officers, 6 men, plus 2 men injured; 13 officers and 193 men believed to be lost. The commanding officer is a survivor. In addition, one Army officer and 56 enlisted men are missing; one enlisted man is known to have been killed ashore by a fragment. The YP-514 received heavy damage to the super-structure and 6 enlisted men were injured. PC-588, SC-1266, SC-1039 and YMS-281 received minor damage and sustained no personnel casualties. The blast from the explosion caused minor damage to warehouses, etc., at LUNGA.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

9 a.m. 2 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 31 January, amphibious assault forces, under the command of Rear Admiral W. M. Fechteler, landed the 11th Airborne Division Reinforced in the vicinity of NASUGBU in BATANGAS. Strong reconnaissance elements were first put ashore. Encountering only light machine gun opposition, they reached objectives at 10:00 a.m., and the balance of the troops were landed later in the day. Supporting Naval bombardment was not required. Naval opposition consisted of an attack upon the outer screen by 25 to 30 small high-speed craft in which PC-1129 was sunk.

On the night of 30 January, ORMOC PT's sank two sea trucks and one barge with an estimated 200 enemy troops in BOHOL STRAIT. LINGAYEN PT's strafed buildings south of VIGAN, while other PT's, operating in the LUBANG-BALAYAN BAY Area, destroyed one lugger.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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DECLASSIFIED
DOD Letter 3/5/78

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 1 February 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 10:22 a.m., 29 January the USS AMYCUS (ARL-2) received superficial damage, resulting from a bomb jettisoned by one of our planes in the LINGAYEN GULF. The LSM-135 also received minor damage. Casualties were 3 killed and 12 wounded.

On 31 January, 8 Avengers bombed YAP HARBOR, destroying a building, and 12 Corsairs bombed BABELTHUAP, sinking 2 barges.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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NAVY DEPARTMENT
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4 p.m. 31 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

In coordination with the BATANGAS landings on 31 January, diversionary operations in eastern TAYABAS Area were completed according to plan. No reports have been received of further activities concerning the new landings.

On 27 January, PT-338 grounded on a coral head north of SEMIRARA ISLAND (south of MINDORO), and at 11:00 a.m. the next day the boat broke up and sank.

Additional strike was reported as follows for night 27 January:

LINGAYEN patrol planes bombed and destroyed a medium-sized ship off TAKAO, and strafed two small craft near TAINAN, FORMOSA.

The submarine SEA ROBIN (SS-407) has returned from patrol and reports damaging one unidentified ship (4,000 tons). One man was lost overboard during the patrol.

Cook Book

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

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 31 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The same night, 3 Marine Mitchells attacked shipping in the BONINS and KAZANS with the following results: One medium freighter transport was hit and two explosions were observed. Another plane scored hits on a large freighter transport and observed 6 explosions, the ship on fire astern and amidships. Both ships were in a convoy north of MUKO JIMA. A third Mitchell possibly hit a destroyer escort near IWO JIMA.

9 Avengers and 4 Corsairs bombed shore installations and TOMIL HARBOR at YAP. 12 more Corsairs hit buildings on BABELTHUAP.

30 January:

3 Avengers and 4 Corsairs strafed and bombed YAP TOWN, while 8 Avengers bombed shore installations on the island.

18 Liberators bombed airfields at IWO JIMA. One of 3 intercepting fighters was damaged. 5 of our planes received minor damage from AA fire.

3 Liberators dropped 6 tons of bombs on MOLEAI.

10 Liberators bombed airfield No. 2 and dispersal areas at IWO JIMA that night.

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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. 31 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 29 January, amphibious assault forces under the command of Rear Admiral A. D. Struble, landed the 38th Infantry Division and the 34th R.C.T. of the 24th Infantry Division on the southern coast of ZAMBALES PROVINCE in the SAN ANTONIO-CASTILLEJOS-SAN FELIPE region. The first wave landed on the beaches at 8:30 a.m. and, encountering no opposition, moved rapidly inland, and seized all initial objectives. The towns of SAN NARCISO, MARCELLINO and CATILLEJOS were captured. No mines were found off the landing beaches and the scheduled bombardment of the objective was not carried out. Supporting Naval aircraft sank one small vessel in SUBIC BAY. No enemy air opposition was encountered.

At 2:00 a.m., 30 January, the CAVALIER (APA-37), returning in a convoy from the ZAMBALES beachhead, was hit by a mine or a torpedo and taken in tow.

At 11:50 a.m. 900 troops landed on GRANDE ISLAND in SUBIC BAY. No opposition was encountered. No mines have been found as yet in SUBIC BAY by our minesweepers.

PT boats from MINDORO, supported by aircraft, destroyed 29 small craft off BATANGAS BAY at dawn, 29 January. Other PT's from LINGAYEN, cooperating with Army fighters, destroyed 10 barges, 10 suicide speed boats, 2 luggers and fired 3 fuel dumps and an ammunition dump in the SAN FERNANDO Area.

No enemy air attacks on MINDORO have occurred in the last 24 hours.

The following air strikes are reported:

28 January:

10 Liberators dropped quarter-ton bombs on No. 2 airfield at IWO JIMA.

29 January:

Two Liberators dropped 3 tons of bombs on air installations at MARCUS ISLAND.

21 Liberators dropped 42½ tons of bombs on IWO JIMA airfields, and one small explosion was observed. Minor damage from AA fire to 5 planes resulted, and one enlisted man was seriously wounded.

7 more Liberators attacked IWO JIMA that night, and 3 fires were observed in the airfield area.

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E.O. 13-78
DOD Letter
TOP SECRET

4 p.m. 30 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 11:23 p.m., 29 January, the USS SERPENS (AK-97) exploded while loading depth bombs at LUNGA, GUADALCANAL, and sank immediately. A possible submarine contact was made at the time of the explosion. Three survivors, including the commanding officer, have been accounted for thus far.

The YP-514, which was anchored nearby, also sustained damage as a result of the explosion. Casualties on her are one dead and four injured.

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9 a.m. 30 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

The following air strikes have been reported:

26 January:

9 Liberators bombed the south airfield at IWO JIMA during the night. 3 fires were observed.

27 January:

20 Liberators dropped 37 tons of bombs on IWO JIMA airfield. One plane was hit by a 75mm shell, and 3 other planes received damage. 3 officers were injured. One of 2 intercepting fighters was destroyed. 10 Liberators dropped fragmentation bombs on airfield No. 1 and the dispersal area that night.

One Marine Mitchell attacked a medium AK off MUKO JIMA (BONIN ISLANDS) during the night with unobserved results.

6 Avengers strafed TOMIL PIER at YAP with rockets.

28 January:

9 Avengers and 3 Corsairs bombed shore installations at YAP. 20 Corsairs and 4 Hellcats bombed and strafed targets at BABELTHUAP.

2 Navy Liberators damaged a small vessel off the MUKA RIVER and an airfield and 15 buildings at ATABINTULA, near KIDURONG POINT, in northwest BORNEO.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 3-78 SOURCE

4 p.m. 29 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)

PT's attacked and damaged an enemy concentration of sixteen sailboats in VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE, north of MINDORO on 26 January.

IWO JIMA airfields were bombed on 28 January by 10 Liberators, causing some fires.

Marine Mitchells, on the night of 28 January, searched the BONINS: One Mitchell attacked an eight-ship convoy north of the BONINS and damaged one DD; another Mitchell attacked a destroyer 200 miles northeast of MARCUS ISLAND and saw two explosions as the result of the rocket fire; still another Mitchell attacked a Jap destroyer, southwest of the BONINS, with rockets and caused two underwater explosions. The destroyer was last seen stopped dead in the water.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958 3-75
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 29 January 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the night of 23 January, PT boats from LINGAYEN destroyed 2 enemy barges in DASOL BAY, on the west coast of LUZON. On the same night, ORMOC PT's destroyed one barge east of CEBU, and on the night of 25 January destroyed 4 barges in the same area.

Patrol planes, operating from LEYTE, searched their sectors extensively and shot down one enemy plane and strafed 3 luggers east of CANTON.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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9 a.m. 28 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

LST-219 and LST-710 are reported beached at LINGAYEN, on 18 January. Both landing ships sustained damage as a result of the beaching.

On 25 January, YAP was attacked by 6 Corsairs and 8 Avengers.

On 26 January, YAP was again bombed by 12 Avengers and 8 Corsairs. 12 Corsairs destroyed a bridge and attacked gun positions on URUKTHAPEL, while 4 Hellcats sank a barge at BABELTHUAP, in the PALAUS. SONSOROL, southwest of PALAU, was bombed by 4 Corsairs.

The PINTADO (SS-387) has returned from patrol and reports sinking one enemy destroyer (2300 tons), two large AK's and one medium AK for a total tonnage of 21,300 tons. The PINTADO damaged one enemy carrier (28,000 tons).

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4 p.m. 27 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The damaged CVE referred to in the morning summary of 11 January has been identified as the KADASHAN BAY (CVE-76). At 7:51 a.m., on 8 January, the KADASHAN BAY was hit by a suicide diver and received damage beyond the capacity of the ship's force. The casualties were slight, one officer and two men being injured.

The bombardment of IWO JIMA (morning summary 26 January) by Task Group 94.9 was curtailed because of bad weather conditions in the area. Target installations were well covered before withdrawal. One enemy plane was shot down and one probably damaged in the air and 2 on the runway.

The SEA LION (SS-315) has returned from patrol and reports the sinking of one large enemy AP (15,800 tons).

The COBIA (SS-245), upon return from patrol, reports the sinking of one enemy mine layer (700tons).

The HMS O-19 has returned from her third war patrol and reports the sinking of a small enemy AK (2,000 tons).

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
NSC Memo, 11/24/98

9 a.m. 27 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

There have been no enemy air attacks in the LINGAYEN AREA during the preceding 24 hours.

Four patrol Catalinas, operating from LUZON, on the night of 25-26 January, report the following results of their search: A direct hit was made on a Jap destroyer anchored in AMOY HARBOR; a small enemy freighter was damaged south of FORMOSA; small fires were started at GIRAN and in the barracks at KARENKO on the east coast of FORMOSA, and incendiaries caused fires on KASHO ISLAND, off the southeast coast of FORMOSA.

The MC DERMUT (DD-677) received the following damage as the result of grounding: Tail shafts bent and propellers badly damaged. The propellers must be replaced. No damage was reported to the hull.

Regraded Unclassified

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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4 p.m. 26 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Hangars, shops and barracks at several airfields are reported as destroyed. Docks, shipyards and piers at KEELUNG were set on fire and oil storage at TOSHIEN was burned. Railroad yards and shops at MATSUYAMA and at TAKAO were heavily damaged. The radio and radar station at GARAMBI, southern tip of FORMOSA, was hit once more.

During the strike of 21 January, 47 Jap planes were shot down, including 3 crash-divers, while 102 planes were destroyed and 162 damaged on the ground.

Our total losses of aircraft during the two days reported above amounted to 15 planes lost in combat and 14 lost operationally. 16 pilots and 12 crewmen are missing.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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4 p.m. 26 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The Commander of the THIRD FLEET, Admiral Halsey, has reported on the NANSEI SHOTO strike of 22 January and the FORMOSA and SAKISHIMA GUNTO strike of 21 January.

The final results of the NANSEI SHOTO strike, 22 January, reveal that 28 Jap planes were burned and 40 damaged on the ground; 4 ships and 25 small vessels sunk; and 5 ships and 36 small vessels damaged. Hangars, buildings, shops, 4 trucks and 2 buildings on southern OKINAWA and at IE SHIMA (northwest of OKINAWA) were destroyed. Harbor installations at OKINAWA were damaged.

A preliminary estimate of the FORMOSA - SAKISHIMA GUNTO attack of 21 January shows the following:

Location	Ships Sunk	Ships Damaged
TAKAO, southwestern FORMOSA	6 AO 2 medium AK	1 large AP 1 large AO
TOSHIEN, southwestern FORMOSA	1 medium AK 1 lugger	2 DD
KOWANSHI, west coast of FORMOSA	2 small AK	
RYUKU SHO, southwest of FORMOSA MIYAKO (SAKISHIMA GUNTO)	3 luggers 1 medium AK	3 luggers 1 medium AK 4 small AK
KEELUNG, northern FORMOSA		2 large AO 1 large AK
TOYOHARA, western FORMOSA		1 large AO
MAKO, PESCADORES ISLANDS		1 DD 1 medium AK

In the above tabulation, the six AO and 2 medium AK reported as sunk at TAKAO have been previously reported as damaged. Likewise, the DD and medium AK, tabulated as damaged at MAKO (in the PESCADORES) are reported by the commander of the THIRD FLEET as having been previously damaged. The total estimated shipping sunk is 60,000 tons with 65,000 tons reported as damaged.

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9 a.m. 26 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 24 January, IWO JIMA was hit by Task Group 94.9 (Rear Admiral A. E. Smith) (1 BB, 3 CA, 7 DD) and by Army and Navy aircraft. The aircraft bombed airfields and antiaircraft positions. 2 Liberators were damaged and 1 was lost near SAIPAN. 8 of the 11 crew members were rescued. There was no interception by enemy aircraft. The surface forces bombarded the crater area and caused heavy damage. Three Jap AK's were destroyed.

Commander Task Force 77, on 25 January, reported still no enemy aircraft activity in the LINGAYEN AREA.

On 9 January, a crash-diver hit the foremast of the HODGES (DE-231), causing heavy damage to communication facilities.

At 7:34 p.m., 24 January, the SHADWELL (LSD-15), while in the MINDANAO SEA, was torpedoed forward on her starboard side, causing heavy structural damage. The torpedo was released from a Nip plane.

Patrol planes from LINGAYEN, on the night of 24-25 January, bombed buildings on southwestern FORMOSA and strafed two small enemy freighters at TAINAN, one of which was completely burned out. An enemy AK (7,000 to 8,500 tons) was bombed in the same area. West of SAKISHIMA GUNTO, two small freighters, six luggers and a large schooner were bombed and strafed while at anchor. All ships were damaged.

The following air activities are reported:

22 January:

19 Corsairs attacked BABELTHUAP, sinking 2 boats and one barge and damaging a warehouse. One plane was lost but the pilot was rescued.

YAP was hit by Corsairs and Avengers, striking at a possible JAP submarine hideout.

24 January:

Marine aircraft attacked BABELTHUAP and demolished 2 warehouses. On the same date, harbor facilities at YAP were damaged.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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4 p.m. 25 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 12:10 p.m. and again at 12:59 p.m., on 21 January, a Nip suicide diver, carrying bombs, crashed the TICONDEROGA (CV-14). The first plane went through the flight deck well forward and the other plane hit the forward director on the starboard side. The TICONDEROGA, as a result of the two attacks, sustained heavy damage, including the forward part of the hangar gutted by fire and a portion of the gallery deck destroyed. Both the flight deck and the starboard catapult are inoperative. Radio and radar are out of commission and internal communications and electrical circuits extensively damaged due to fire and flooding. 37 planes were destroyed on the flight and hangar decks. Casualties are as follows: 7 officers and 60 men killed. 4 officers and 69 men missing and 118 personnel injured, including the captain and the executive officer.

Regraded Unclassified

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9 a.m. 25 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

ROSARIO was bombarded on 24 January by the PORTLAND (CA-33) and SANTO TOMAS by MUSTIN (DD-413), in support of the ground operations on the east shore of LINGAYEN GULF.

At 9:30 p.m. on 23 January, 2 Jap planes attacked the transport area, but caused no damage. One enemy plane was shot down.

Reconnaissance planes, operating out of LINGAYEN, on the night of 22-23 January, bombed supply areas in the PESCADORES, west of FORMOSA, causing explosions and large fires. On the same night, they also bombed the town of TAITO in southwest FORMOSA and dock areas in SAKISHIMA GUNTO, in the NANSEI SHOTO GROUP. The results of this bombing were not observed.

Two LEYTE PT's, in a coordinated attack with Marine aircraft, destroyed 10 enemy barges.

At 1:28 p.m., on 21 January, one of her torpedo bombers, with a 500-pound bomb aboard, landed on the flight deck of the HANCOCK (CV-19). The bomb exploded when the plane was at the center of the flight-deck abreast the island and severe to moderate damage was sustained by the flight and gallery decks. The casualties are 7 officers and 43 men dead, and 5 officers and 75 men wounded, of which 2 officers and 5 men are critically wounded. Temporary repairs were made by the ship's force on 21 January, and the HANCOCK was able to continue operations but on a slightly reduced scale.

On 23 January, a hunter-killer combination reports a probable kill of an enemy "SS" off ULITHI as the result of heavy explosions which produced dismembered bodies and wreckage.

The following air strikes in the CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported:

23 January:

4 Corsairs bombed ammunition dumps at ARAKABESAN, in the PALAUS, and 4 other Corsairs struck at BABELTHUAP, in the same group.

16 Palau Corsairs and 6 Avengers hit YAP with 10 tons of bombs and started one large fire. One of our planes was damaged.

The TAUTOG (SS-199) reports the sinking of a loaded transport and a small freighter, in the FORMOSA AREA.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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OSD Letter

9 a.m. 24 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

10 Liberators again bombed IWO JIMA dispersal areas that night.

3 Liberators bombed runways at WOENDI.

The BARB (SS-220) reports that she sank 3 ships of a convoy anchored off NAMKWAN HARBOR, north of FOOCHOW, on 23 January.

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

9 a.m. 24 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The PORTLAND (CA-33) continued bombardment support of ground operations in the ROSARIO sector on 23 January.

Again no enemy air activity was noted for the past 24 hours in the LINGAYEN AREA.

Commander THIRD Fleet reports the results of the 22 January photo strike against the NANSEI SHOTO ISLANDS. 27 planes were destroyed on the ground and 41 damaged. Main enemy aircraft concentrations were observed at fields in southern OKINAWA, IE SHIMA (northwest of OKINAWA), and at MIYAKO and ISHIGAKI, in the SAKISHIMA GROUP. There was no enemy air opposition, but AA fire at all fields was intense. In addition, one medium AK and 31 small vessels were sunk, 1 large AK probably sunk and 27 small vessels damaged. Buildings at IE SHIMA and 3 trucks, 2 small oil dumps and a hangar at NAHA (southwest OKINAWA) were destroyed.

The following air activities were reported:

21 January:

3 night patrol planes from LINGAYEN dropped 250-pound bombs on TOKO seaplane base (southwest FORMOSA), causing large fires and explosions.

22 January:

Night patrol planes from LINGAYEN carried out the following operations:

two medium ships bombed off SWATOW with unobserved results,
storage area at MAKO (PESCADORES) bombed causing explosions and fires,
TAITO (southeast FORMOSA) bombed, and
camp and dock area in the SAKISHIMA GROUP bombed with unobserved results.

20 Liberators dropped 100-pound bombs on IWO JIMA airfield areas and installations, causing damage to one plane on the ground. One of 4 intercepting planes was probably destroyed. 8 more Liberators again bombed IWO JIMA that night with unobserved results.

23 January:

Liberators bombed runways and dispersal areas at IWO JIMA and damaged one intercepting plane. Some of our planes received damage from intense AA fire but returned to base.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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OSD letter

9 a.m. 23 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

9 Mitchells of the FOURTH MARINE AIR WING bombed and strafed anti-aircraft positions at WOTJE. AA fire was light.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958

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9 a.m. 23 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The WEST VIRGINIA (BB-48) continued to give fire support to ground operations in the ROSARIO sector at LUZON, 22 January.

Commander Task Force 77, Vice Admiral Kinkaid, reported there has been no enemy air activity during the past 24 hours.

On the night of 20 January, PT boats from MINDORO attacked and damaged 3 luggers and 3 sailing vessels at anchor off AGCAWAYAN, eastern shore of LUBANG ISLAND, and set fire to ammunition dumps.

Barge hideouts in northeastern HALMAHERA were attacked by PT's from MOROTAI, cooperating with 12 Kittyhawks. No results were reported.

Commander THIRD Fleet reports that a photo strike was conducted against OKINAWA on 22 January. No other reports of operations against the enemy by Task Force 38 were received.

Additional strikes reported are as follows:

20 January:

10 Liberators harassed IWO JIMA during the night, dropping fragmentation bombs on airfield areas. One large fire was seen.

21 January:

16 Lightnings accompanied a B-29 strike against TRUK. No enemy air opposition was encountered and AA was reported as meager.

12 Liberators dropped 100-pound bombs on airfield installations and areas at IWO JIMA with unobserved results. 4 enemy fighters intercepted. 2 Liberators received minor damage from AA fire.

8 more Liberators harassed IWO JIMA airfield the same night, with unobserved results. One enemy aircraft intercepted.

3 Marine search Mitchells attacked shipping in the BONINS. [redacted]. At CHICHI JIMA an enemy ship was set afire. 6 explosions were observed. About 15 miles southwest of HAHA JIMA, a second Mitchell attacked an unidentified ship with unobserved results.

22 January:

A PBY search plane picked up a P.O.W. at AUR ATOLL, in the MARSHALLS. Other search planes strafed MILLE and JALUIT, sinking 3 small boats.

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9 a.m. 22 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 21 January, the THIRD FLEET attacked FORMOSA and SAKISHIMA GUNTO in the NANSEI SHOTO GROUP. Preliminary reports from the THIRD FLEET reveal the following: 43 Jap planes shot down, 97 destroyed on the ground and 101 damaged. The majority of the damage to aircraft apparently occurred over FORMOSA. Damage to shipping is not complete at this time, but 7 large ships were reported burning at TAKAO in SOUTHWEST FORMOSA. At TOSHIEN, KEELUNG and NANWAN, on FORMOSA, and at SAKISHIMA GUNTO, in the NANSEI SHOTOS, substantial damage to shipping is reported. Heavy and accurate AA fire was experienced at TAKAO, in southern FORMOSA, where docks and the industrial area were left burning.

Apparently as a result of this strike, it is reported that the TICONDEROGA (CV-14) was bombed by enemy aircraft and damaged to the extent that it is unable to operate its planes, but is capable of steaming at 25 knots. The captain and the executive officer are reported as being wounded. The LANGLEY (CVL-27) was hit by 2 bombs, which failed to explode. The damage was repaired and the ship is able to function normally. A suicide crash-diver considerably damaged the MADDOX (DD-731). The MADDOX is able to proceed under her own power.

The commander of Task Force 77, in the LINGAYEN AREA, reports as follows: On 21 January the WEST VIRGINIA(BB-48) bombarded the ROSARIO Area on our left flank in support of the ground forces; there were no enemy air attacks during the preceding 24 hours.

On the night of 19-20 January, PT's from LINGAYEN strafed an enemy medium freighter beached near POINT SAN ESTABAN, 60 miles north of LINGAYEN, and started large fires on the beach.

At 11 a.m., on 18 January, LCI(G)-396, while patrolling west of the PALAU GROUP, hit a mine and was severely damaged.

71 of the enemy which landed on PELELIU on 18 January (morning summary 21 January) were killed. 2 prisoners were taken and interrogation indicates that the landing was part of a program to destroy planes and supply dumps in an effort to relieve the pressure on the military situation in the PHILIPPINES. As a result of the landings, our casualties are 1 killed and 6 wounded.

On 21 January, 7 Avengers hit docks and buildings on YAP. 12 Corsairs hit BABELTHUAP.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 21 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine HAWKBILL (SS-366) has returned from a war patrol, conducted west of the PHILIPPINES. The HAWKBILL sank one Matsu class destroyer (1,000 tons) and one small vessel (300 tons), and damaged one Matsu class destroyer.

The submarine SPOT (SS-413) reports sinking a small passenger freighter and a medium tanker off the CHINA COAST.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

ULTRA TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 21 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The 3rd FLEET, under Admiral Halsey, reported that they were hitting FORMOSA and SAKISHIMA GUNTO, in the NANSEI SHOTO GROUP, on 21 January.

On 20 January, the 3rd FLEET observed numerous enemy planes enroute between FORMOSA and LUZON, and shot down at least 16 enemy aircraft between 7:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

The commander of the 7th FLEET, on 20 January, reports that the troops in the ROSARIO AREA, on the east flank of our LUZON line, are still being supported by intermittent bombardment from cruisers and destroyers. There was no enemy air activity over either MINDORO or LINGAYEN during the preceding twenty-four hours.

The ZEILIN (APA-3) was damaged at 8:21 a.m., 13 January, by a Jap crash-diver. The casualties are 7 dead, 3 missing and 31 injured. It is estimated that it will take 20 days to complete the necessary yard repairs.

LST-700 reported, 20 January, that she was holed on the starboard due to enemy action. The main and auxiliary engine rooms were flooded.

On 12 January, in LINGAYEN GULF, LST-270 was damaged by enemy shell fire.

On 11 January, the LATIMER (APA-152) was in collision with the CLEMSON (APD-31), hitting the CLEMSON at Frame 136, on the port side and penetrating the main deck to a depth of five feet. No casualties are reported and it is not indicated that the damage was severe.

On 18 January, during the night, a small enemy force totalling about 64 men landed from two barges on PELELIU. 49 of the enemy were killed, two captured and the remaining have been surrounded. No damage has been reported to our installations.

The following air strikes are reported:

18 January:

8 Corsairs scored direct hits on coast defense gun positions at URUK-THAPEL, in the PALAU GROUP, and 4 Corsairs attacked SONSOROL and MERIR, southwest of PALAU.

19 January:

8 Corsairs sank a barge and damaged a launch and a bridge on BABELTHUAP, in the PALAUS. 6 Avengers struck at a bridge on YAP.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 20 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The Commander of the SEVENTH FLEET on the evening of 19 January reported that there had been no enemy air activity over LINGAYEN during the past 48 hours.

PT boats from ORMOC on LEYTE, on 17 January, destroyed 3 enemy barges at PORO ISLAND (West of LEYTE) and, on 18 January, escorted and supported Army landings on PORO ISLAND.

LCI(L)-600 sank in ULITHI, 1:13 p.m. on 12 January (morning summary 19 January). An underwater explosion from an undetermined source caused the sinking. However, ULITHI HARBOR was alerted at the time of the sinking against an enemy submarine attack. The casualties are 2 dead, 1 missing and 35 injured, of which 26, including the commanding officer, are seriously injured.

Additional air strikes in the CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported below:

18 January:

Army Liberators, under our operational control, attacked targets on CHICHI JIMA and HAHA JIMA in the BONINS GROUP. Fires were started among the installations on both islands.

IWO JIMA airstrip facilities were struck by Army Liberators.

Marine fighters and torpedo planes hit targets at ARAKABESAN, in the CENTRAL PALAUS.

Torpedo planes attacked installations on YAP.

19 January:

Marine Mitchells attacked 2 small convoys north of the BONINS and scored rocket hits on a medium cargo ship and one other vessel.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP-SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~
OSD Letter of

4 p.m. 19 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The strikes against INDO-CHINA on 12 January have been verified further and a Katori-class light cruiser is known to have sunk in deep water and a reconnaissance of the area further shows one large AK burning and 6 tankers beached, confirming that a whole convoy was either sunk or beached.

The submarine HAMMERHEAD (SS-364) has returned from her third war patrol and reports sinking 1 large enemy tanker (10,000 tons).

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASS OSD Letter SECRET

4 p.m. 19 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The HONG KONG-HAINAN strikes by the THIRD FLEET, of 16 January (morning summary 17 January) are the subject of revised reports, which indicate that 10 Jap planes were shot down, 3 destroyed on the ground and 1 damaged. Shipping was destroyed or damaged as follows:

Location	Destroyed or Sunk	Damaged
YULIN, southern HAINAN	2 large AK	
TAIKOO docks, CANTON	1 large AK	
CANTON	2 tugs	
CANTON	1 motor launch	
	6	
HONGKONG		1 DD
		5 DE or PC
		4 large AO
		1 large AK
		1 medium AK
		1 small AK
		2 coastal AK
CANTON		3 coastal AK
		2 tugs
		3 barges
YULIN, southern HAINAN		1 large AP
		1 large AK
		1 small AK
HOIHOW, northern HAINAN		1 medium AK
SIFA POINT, eastern HAINAN		2 coastal AK
		1 lugger
		30

The above tabulation represents an estimated total tonnage, sunk or damaged, of 88,000 tons.

Due to heavy and accurate AA fire over HONG KONG, the rough seas and overcast weather, our plane losses for 16 January were heavy. We lost 22 planes in combat and 27 operationally. There are 24 pilots and 19 crewmen missing.

On 15 January, we lost 4 planes in combat with 5 pilots and 2 crewmen missing, in the strikes against HONGKONG and FORMOSA.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP-SECRET

9 a.m. 19 January 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 9 January, in the LUZON AREA, the USS MISSISSIPPI (BB-41) sustained heavy damage as the result of a Jap suicide attack. Personnel casualties are reported as 23 killed, 75 injured and 3 missing.

On 12 January, at ULITHI, LCI(L)-600 sank in 19 fathoms of water. The cause of the sinking is not available at this time.

PT-boats from ORMOC on LEYTE destroyed 3 enemy barges off CAMOTES ISLAND, west of LEYTE.

The following are additional strikes by aircraft in the SOUTH and CENTRAL PACIFIC:

16 January:

BABELTHUAP was struck by 8 Corsairs, which destroyed a sawmill and hit the lighthouse. Two Corsairs were damaged.

ROTA was bombed and strafed by 3 planes.

17 January:

YAP HARBOR was depth-charged by 11 Corsairs. 6 Avengers bombed the causeway in the harbor area.

BABELTHUAP was hit by 8 Corsairs, destroying a truck and 3 barges.

The submarine BLENNY (SS-324) reports sinking 11,100 tons as the result of her first war patrol. Three enemy surface craft were sunk as follows: 1 large AP (10,000 tons), 1 small escort vessel (800 tons) and 1 cargo barge (300 tons). The BLENNY also reported damaging 1 unidentified ship (4,000 tons).

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

4 p.m. 18 January 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

One of our submarines, the CAVALLA (SS-244) has returned from her third war patrol and reports the sinking of three ships totalling 5,300 tons. The enemy ships were one large DD, one small AO and one small AK.

HMS SIRDAR, a British submarine under our operational control, has returned and reports sinking, by gunfire, one enemy coaster loaded with oil.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP-SECRET
TOP SECRET
OSD HISTORIES 3-72

9 a.m. 18 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 16 January, in the LUZON AREA, the HOGGATT BAY (CVE-75) received damage to the flight deck when an Avenger, in landing, detonated a bomb in her bomb bay. The damage to the HOGGATT BAY is beyond the facilities of the ship's force to repair. The crew of the Avenger were all killed; the total casualties were 8 killed, 10 wounded, of whom 5 were seriously injured.

Vice Admiral Oldendorf, Commander Task Force 77, reports that at 6:20 p.m., on 17 January, the Naval air forces in the LINGAYEN Area were relieved by the Allied Air Force. The Allied Air Force, at that time, began active operations in the protection of convoys and Naval forces in LINGAYEN GULF and enroute to and from that area as well as in support of ground operations. Two of our task groups, composed largely of CVE's, have departed the LINGAYEN Area.

The enemy air opposition is still reported as being on a minor scale over LINGAYEN, LEYTE and MINDORO.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
Letter 6-4

9 a.m. 17 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 15 January, the Commander in Chief, BRITISH PACIFIC FLEET, reported for duty to the Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

The 3rd FLEET reports that on 15 January the air strikes sank 9 enemy ships and damaged 9 other ships and 9 small vessels. At TAKAO, in FORMOSA, 7 locomotives and warehouses and docks were destroyed. 3rd FLEET planes shot down 16 Nips, destroyed 18 on the ground and damaged 38 others.

The strikes of 16 January, by the 3rd FLEET, have not been completely reported upon, but early on 17 January, the following preliminary information was available: 7 enemy planes shot down, one plane destroyed on the ground and 7 damaged. Shipping to the amount of 82,000 tons was either sunk or damaged, while damage was inflicted upon the ROYAL NAVAL and TAIKOO dock fuel storage, as well as other facilities in the harbors of HONG KONG and CANTON. During 16 January, the 3rd FLEET was not attacked by enemy forces or aircraft.

Carrier-based planes, 16 January, operating in the LINGAYEN AREA, strafed two enemy AK's and two small coastal vessels on the west coast of LUZON, north of LINGAYEN.

On the night of 14 to 15 January, PT's operating out of LINGAYEN, sank 4 enemy auxiliaries off the west coast of LUZON.

At about 4:10 a.m., 10 January, the transport WAR HAWK (AP-168) (morning summary, 11 January), was heavily damaged by an explosive charge which was detonated against the port side of No. 3 hold by a small enemy craft.

A Jap reconnaissance plane was shot down at noon, 15 January, 10 miles west of TINIAN ISLAND.

Additional air strikes in the CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported as follows:

14 January:

8 Corsairs destroyed a bridge and houses at BABELTHUAP.

15 January:

7 Corsairs and 6 Aveng ers depth-charged the harbor at YAP in an attack against a possible enemy submarine.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
NSC Memo, 11-2-98
By NARA, Date 12-3-98

OSD DECLASSIFIED

4 p.m. 16 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Aircraft of the THIRD FLEET on 16 January continued their attacks on the CHINA COAST by striking at the HONGKONG Area and HAINAN ISLAND. The Commander of the THIRD FLEET reports no air opposition over HONGKONG and CANTON and only a few enemy aircraft over HAINAN. No reports have as yet been received concerning the results of the strikes.

On 14 and 15 January, destroyers of Task Force 77 bombarded ROSARIO, north of SAN FABIAN on LINGAYEN GULF with excellent results.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED 6-72
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OSD

9 a.m. 16 January 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

THIRD FLEET aircraft on 15 January struck the CHINA COAST in the vicinity of HONG KONG and hit FORMOSA. A preliminary survey reveals 16 enemy planes shot down and 14 destroyed on the ground. The poor visibility over the area curtailed the strikes; however, one tanker, one destroyer and one destroyer escort are known to have been sunk. During the afternoon of 15 January, the planes struck PRATAS REEF, 270 miles southeast of CANTON, where they destroyed ammunition storage and the weather and radio station, with the exception of the radio towers.

PT-73, while on combat patrol on 15 January, was grounded on a reef on LUBANG ISLAND (northwest of MINDORO). Salvage was impossible, and the PT was destroyed by her crew. The crew escaped.

The destroyer escort LeRAY WILSON (DE-414) was severely damaged on 10 January at about 7:00 a.m. in LINGAYEN GULF by a Jap crash-diver. The personnel casualties are 3 dead, 3 missing and 7 critically injured.

Vice Admiral Oldendorf, Commander Task Force 77, reports for 15 January that beach conditions were less favorable than on the previous reporting. Unloading continues and support aircraft were still giving ground troops effective support by the destruction of store houses, bridges, trucks and ammunition and fuel supply dumps. Enemy air activity was again reported as negligible.

On 13 January, a PT boat sank an enemy barge northwest of PALOMPON on LEYTE.

The following additional air strikes for 13 January in the CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported:

14 Liberators struck the dispersal area at IWO JIMA. Results were not observed. 2 night reconnaissance planes dropped bombs on IWO JIMA dispersal area and started large fires.

In OKIMURA HARBOR on HAHA JIMA, 2 Mitchells attacked a small vessel with rockets.

On 15 January, THIRD FLEET planes shot down between SWATOW and HONGKONG a west-bound enemy transport escorted by 4 fighters.

Regraded Unclassified

NCH FILE

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

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter 5-53-78

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

4 p.m. 15 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

One high altitude Nip reconnaissance plane was shot down at noon on 14 January off GUAM.

Additional air strikes for 14 January in the CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported below:

On BABELTHUAP, 12 Corsairs hit the lighthouse and sank a barge. One plane was lost but the pilot was rescued. 9 Marine Corsairs bombed MALOELAP gun positions and encountered light AA fire. On the same night two Mitchells strafed and bombed KAVEN ISLAND in MALOELAP ATOLL. One Mitchell bombed and strafed a radio station on OLLOT ISLAND in MALOELAP ATOLL. No AA fire was encountered.

Regraded Unclassified

AINCH FILE

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

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

VICTORY BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

9 a.m. 15 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 14 January, Commander Task Force 77 states that unloading in the LINGAYEN AREA continues on a 24-hour basis and that no air attacks have occurred in the transport area on 14 January.

At 7:00 a.m., 15 January, the USS BRAXTON (APA-138) was in collision with a merchant tanker off the entrance to LOS ANGELES Harbor. The collision took place in a dense fog. There were no personnel casualties and the damage to both ships is reported as minor.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958 DOD Letter

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

VICTORY BUY WAR BONDS

9 a.m. 15 January 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The final report of the THIRD FLEET strikes against INDO-CHINA on 12 January reveals that a total of 41 enemy ships were sunk and 28 damaged. One enemy convoy was completely destroyed, while another convoy lost better than half its tonnage by sinking, and the remainder was beached and damaged. A tabulation of the larger units sunk or damaged is as follows:

Sunk	Damaged
2 CL (1 French, LAMOTTE-PICQUET)	2 AO
10 DE	11 medium AK
5 AO	3 large AK
1 large AP	7 small AK
4 large AK	1 DE
10 medium AK	1 LSM
4 small AK	3 PC
4 PC	

15 enemy planes were shot down by our own aircraft while 77 were destroyed on the ground and 20 on the water. About 50 enemy planes were damaged on the ground.

The following installations were destroyed:

Location	Installation
CAMRANH BAY	Long dock
SAIGON	5 Shell storage tanks
SAIGON RIVER	Oil storage
SAIGON dock area	Buildings & warehouses
CAT LAI (SAIGON)	Seaplane hangar
SAIGON AREA	2 locomotives

Texas Company and Standard Vacumn Company plants were heavily hit and fires were started at the SAIGON Navy Yard. Shipping and facilities at SAIGON were heavily damaged.

The THIRD FLEET lost 16 planes in combat and 7 operationally; 14 pilots and 11 crewmen are missing. No damage was sustained by the ships of the THIRD FLEET.

On the 14th, search planes of the THIRD FLEET sank 1 medium AK and strafed and damaged another medium AK, 1 small coastal AK and a tug.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

4 p.m. 14 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 13 January Commander Task Force 77 reported that unloading over the beaches continues and that surf conditions were more favorable. The Commanding General of the 6th Army assumed command on LUZON at 2:30 PM 13 January. A cargo vessel

Our returning convoys were attacked by Jap crash divers on 12 January. ~~At 2:40 PM an AK~~ was damaged by a crash diver and ~~at 6:15 PM~~ in another convoy suicide planes hit two merchant ships. Two attacking planes were shot down by our air cover.

On 13 January ~~at 9:04 AM~~ a suicide diver crashed through the flight deck of the SALAMAUA (CVE 96). The after engine room was flooded and major repairs to the flight deck are necessary but the ship is capable of proceeding at five knots. During the attack one Nip plane was shot down.

During the night of 11-12 January PT boats operating out of ORMOC sank two enemy luggers off CAPITANCILLO ISLAND located off the northeast coast of CEBU.

Reconnaissance planes operating in the BONINS Group attacked a 4,000 ton enemy freighter by bombs and strafing and started a number of fires.

The following air strikes by our aircraft for 12 January in the Central Pacific are reported:

MARCUS ISLAND was struck by 3 Liberators. Results were unobserved.

28 Liberators hit IWO JIMA airfields and installations. Results were unobserved. 3 Liberators sustained minor damage from anti-aircraft fire.

3 Mitchells attacked a 6-ship convoy 100 miles northwest of CHICHI JIMA with rockets. Results were not observed due to poor visibility.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

SECRET

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

9 a.m. 14 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At 8:00 a.m., 12 January, LST-225 destroyed an enemy submarine, by gunfire, at KOSSOL, in the PALAU group.

The following air strikes in the SOUTH and CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported:

11 January:

12 Dauntless bombed MALOELAP, striking at loose stores. They encountered no AA fire. 19 Corsairs hit JALUIT, dropping one thousand pound bombs on the piers and building areas. No antiaircraft fire was encountered. 15 Corsairs attacked the boat basin and boat yards at NAURU, west of the GILBERT ISLANDS. Medium to heavy antiaircraft fire was received.

12 January:

BABELTHUAP and URUNTHAPEL were attacked by 16 Corsairs, destroying a large building supply dump and making a direct hit on a coast defense gun.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

~~TOP SECRET~~ DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958 5-3-78
TOP SECRET

4 p.m. 13 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

(1) ~~At about 9:00 p.m.,~~ 12 January, Commander Task Force 77, Vice Admiral Kinkaid, reported that unloading was continuing in the LINGAYEN AREA and that surf conditions were more favorable. The advance of troops still continues, and the right half of our forces have reached the beachhead line.

(2) At dawn, 12 January, the transport BELKNAP (APD-34) was heavily damaged by a suicide diver. During the same attack, the GILLIGAN (DE-508) and RICHARD W. SUESENS (DE-342) were also hit by suicide planes. The DE's sustained only superficial damage.

(4) On 12 January, fifteen enemy planes were destroyed.

out → During the morning of 12 January, ROSARIO, north of SAN FABIAN, on LINGAYEN GULF, was bombarded by destroyers of Task Group 77.7. Large fires and heavy explosions resulted from the bombardment.

out → On the same day, reinforcements were sent from SAN JOSE, MINDORO, to several points on the east coast of MINDORO by LCI's, escorted by PT's.

(3) The destroyer NEWCOMB ~~(DD-586)~~ was damaged on 6 January by fragments from a JAP suicide plane which crashed astern. As a result of the near-miss, two men were killed and ten wounded.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 13 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The THIRD FLEET attacks of 12 January on SAIGON and the coast of INDO-CHINA indicate that in the bombing of SAIGON, six enemy transports were sunk, and at TAN SON NHUT and PORT NAHAEE numerous fires were observed. Thus far, three THIRD FLEET planes were reported shot down over SAIGON. The FRENCH cruiser LAMOTTE-PICQUET at anchor off CAT LAI was slightly damaged.

The THIRD FLEET's FORMOSA strike of 9 January has been finally reported upon and two additional DE's or DD's were sunk (afternoon summary 12 January). An additional five planes were destroyed on the ground. The total shipping sunk is thirty-three, with one-hundred and four damaged. Enemy planes shot down total thirty-seven, destroyed on the ground - five and damaged - sixty-one.

Four THIRD FLEET planes were lost in combat and six operationally. Five pilots and eight crewmen are reported lost.

On 11 January, one of our reconnaissance planes, operating west of the BONINS, attacked a 150-foot enemy tanker. The ship was set on fire and abandoned by the crew. When last seen, the tanker was still afloat and burning.

The submarine SPEARFISH (SS-190), on 11 January, sank an enemy sampan near the BONINS by gunfire and ramming.

Three of our submarines, operating in the FORMOSA AREA, attacked an eight-ship convoy with the following results (morning summary 11 January): Submarine BARB (SS-220) sank one large transport, one large freighter; two large ammunition ships; submarine PICUDA (SS-382) sank two freighters; and the submarine QUEENFISH (SS-393) sank one tanker. The remaining freighter escaped under heavy escort.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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TOP-SECRET

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter 3-79

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

4 p.m. 12 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

After the strikes, and while departing the area, the THIRD FLEET planes on 10 and 11 January shot down seven planes, which included one dive bomber, two medium bombers, one fighter and three reconnaissance float planes.

Regraded Unclassified

INCH FILE

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

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

4 p.m. 12 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

At about 8:00 p.m., 12 January, the THIRD FLEET, under the command of Admiral Halsey, reported that attacks on SAIGON, CAMRANH BAY and the INDO-CHINA COAST were still continuing. Partial reports reveal at least four enemy convoys were under attack, as well as individual units in the area. Twenty-five ships are reported sunk, including one Katori class CL, and several DD's and DE's. Thirteen enemy ships were seriously damaged.

Over SAIGON, enemy air opposition consisted of eighteen planes, of which ten were shot down. In addition to the fighters, one medium bomber was shot down.

Fifty aircraft were sighted at TAN SON NHUT (SAIGON AREA), and at least eight were destroyed.

At CAMRANH BAY and QUINHON, twenty seaplanes and flying boats were destroyed.

Incomplete reports of the THIRD FLEET strikes on FORMOSA on 9 January indicate that a total of thirty-seven enemy planes were shot down and sixty-one damaged. The following shipping was sunk or damaged:

Sunk	Damaged
1 large AO	3 AO
1 large AK	5 large AK
2 medium AK	3 medium AK
9 small ships	1 DD
18 small craft	5 DE
31	45 small ships
	42 small craft
	104 damaged

Our THIRD FLEET planes destroyed an ammunition dump at KEELUNG (northeast FORMOSA), two hangars at HEITO (south central FORMOSA) and five locomotives, three tank cars and four freight cars loaded with trucks in the FORMOSA strike. The following installations were damaged:

Location	Installation
GIRAN, northeast FORMOSA	Radio and radar stations
SUO BAY, northeast coast FORMOSA	Radar station
KEELUNG, northeast FORMOSA	Chemical plant
KARENKO, west central coast FORMOSA	Aluminum & nickel smelter
TAINAN, southwest FORMOSA	Hangars and shops
HEITO, south central FORMOSA	Hangars and shops
KOBI, west central FORMOSA	Hangars and shops

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

TOP SECRET

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

TOP-SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
OSD letter

FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 12 January 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

11 January:

10 Avengers hit YAP airstrip with four tons of bombs.

Corsairs struck enemy installations in the PALAU ISLANDS as follows: 4 Corsairs sank 2 barges at KOROR; 8 struck gun positions on URUKTHAPEL with four tons; and 12 exploded an ammunition dump at BABELTHUAP. One plane and one pilot were lost. Two planes were damaged.

The submarine HECUNA (SS-319) has returned from a war patrol and reports sinking two small enemy vessels for a total of 1,100 tons.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 12 January 1945

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Commander Task Force 77 (Vice Admiral T. C. Kinkaid) reported on 11 January, that at dawn of that day the Reinforcement Group arrived in the LINGAYEN assault area. On 11 January, the group landed all units of the 25th Infantry Division and RCT 158. Unfavorable surf conditions still continued to hamper the unloading. The advance by troops ashore was still without opposition, except in one or two localities where only light opposition was encountered.

During the day, enemy air activity was negligible.

Several convoys departed the LINGAYEN Area during the night of 10 January and the day of 11 January. The fast convoy leaving on the night of 10 January included the damaged KITKUN BAY (CVE-71).

On the afternoon of 11 January, destroyers of Task Group 77.7 destroyed three enemy ammunition dumps and started several large fires near the beach at SAN FERNANDO, located north of the LINGAYEN AREA. At the same time, the destroyers attacked between 20 and 25 enemy barges and one medium freighter unloading at SAN FERNANDO, and reported the barges and ship either sunk or damaged.

The Commander of the THIRD FLEET (Admiral Halsey) reported at about 11:00 a.m. 12 January, that the INDO-CHINA area from SAIGON to CAPE SAHOI (160 miles north of CAMRANH BAY) was under attack, and that the attack was accomplished with complete surprise and enemy air opposition was negligible.

At 7:00 a.m., 12 January, the ammunition ship USS MAZAMA (AE-9) was hit by a torpedo while at anchor in ULITHI. The torpedo is believed to have been fired by a midget submarine. There were no explosions in the ship and no fire resulted from the torpedoing, but No. 1 hold and a deep tank in No. 2 are flooded. The MAZAMA is not in danger. One man is missing and three are injured.

On the night of 5 January, PT boats, operating out of LEYTE, sank an enemy lugger northeast of CEBU.

The following air strikes in the SOUTH and CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported:

10 January:

20 Marine Corsairs bombed NAURU, attacking gun emplacements and the power station.

19 Corsairs dropped one-thousand pound bombs on the bivouac area at MILLE.

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

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.3 NLN 02-78-72 By NARA Date 1/30/03
TOP SECRET
OSD Cancel

PEACE VICTORY BUY WAR BONDS

4 p.m. 11 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine BARBERO (SS-317) has returned from her second war patrol in the SOUTH CHINA SEA and reports as follows:

Sunk		Damaged	
1 small AP	2,700 tons	1 medium AO	5,000 tons
2 medium AO	15,000 "		
1 medium AK	4,000 "		
Total	21,700 "		

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

ULTRA

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 11 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On the evening of 10 January, Commander Task Force 77 (Vice Admiral T. C. Kinkaid) reported as follows: Landing operations in the LINGAYEN AREA were proceeding on schedule; troops were continuing to advance with very little opposition, except in one or two points where moderate enemy resistance was being encountered. On the afternoon of 10 January, the unloading of ships was being hampered by unfavorable conditions in the Gulf.

The LINGAYEN air strip was used 10 January by a damaged carrier aircraft for a landing. During the day there was almost no enemy air opposition.

On 10 January, in the afternoon, the transport DU PAGE (APA-41) was damaged by a crash-diver. The details of the damage are not known but it is suggested that they were not extensive and the ship was reported ready to depart from the area with a convoy the same night.

On 10 January, the transport WAR HAWK (AP-168) sustained moderate damage from a possible torpedo. In addition, the destroyer ROBINSON (DD-562) is reported to have suffered superficial damage and the LST's 925 and 1025, minor damage.

During the night of 9 January, a large convoy consisting of 40 transport-type ships, a damaged CVE and the damaged cruisers AUSTRALIA, COLUMBIA and LOUISVILLE, departed for rear areas. The convoy was escorted by 12 DD's and DE's.

On the night of 8-9 January, PT's operating in CORON BAY, sank one small enemy transport. CORON BAY is on the southern coast BUSUANGA ISLAND, about 50 miles southwest of MINDORO.

PAC. SUBMARINES

Our submarines, operating in the FORMOSA AREA, report that 7 ships in an 8-ship convoy have been sunk. The remaining enemy freighter managed to escape with a heavy screen of a destroyer and 8 small escorts.

BARBERO returned from second patrol having sunk 21,700 tons of enemy shipping.

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DECLASSIFIED 1-3-78

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

4 p.m. 10 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Supplementing the report of the attack on the USS COLORADO (BB-45), it is stated that the attack occurred 9 January at 7:00 p.m. Considerable damage was done to the ship's AA fire control and personnel connected thereto. Six officers and twelve enlisted men have been killed with four officers and thirty men seriously wounded.

On 8 January, 26 Liberators dropped bombs on IWO JIMA airfields. The results are reported as poor. The enemy's meager to moderate, but accurate, AA fire slightly wounded one officer and two planes received minor damage.

Pacific Submarines

On 6 January, at 9:30 p.m., at the mouth of the GULF OF SIAM, the USS BESUGO (SS-321) sank a large fully-laden enemy tanker.

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

TOP SECRET
TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 10 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Before dawn, 9 January, U. S. troops landed from ships of the 7TH FLEET in the LINGAYEN and SAN FABIAN Areas of LUZON, the first wave landing at 0937. Due to preliminary surface and air bombardment, little opposition was offered by the enemy. By dusk of the 9th, 68,500 troops were ashore.

Enemy air opposition on the 9th was comparatively light; however, the following ships sustained damage as follows: The COLORADO (BB-45), HMAS AUSTRALIA (CA), and COLUMBIA (CL-56) were hit by suicide planes. (HMAS AUSTRALIA has been struck four times and the COLUMBIA twice during the present operation.) Damage to these ships was reported as extensive but not critical.

During the evening of 8 January, a suicide plane struck the KITKUN BAY (CVE-71). The ship was holed below the waterline, has lost power and is under tow for LINGAYEN.

The submarine PUFFER (SS-268), operating in the EAST CHINA SEA, reports sinking five ships of a ten-ship convoy.

On the night of 7-8 January, USS LCI(G) 404 was attacked during a rain storm by enemy swimmers in the PELELIU SEA. The ship was badly damaged by a demolition charge exploded under the stern by one of the swimmers.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

TOP SECRET

4 p.m. 9 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Final results of Task Force 38 strikes against LUZON 6 to 7 January have been reported as follows:

AIRCRAFT			SURFACE CRAFT		
Shot Down	Destroyed on Ground	Damaged	Sunk/Destroyed	Damaged	LOCATION
18 (Includes all previously reported in 9 a.m. summary 7 January).	93	117	3 medium AK 4 small coastal AK 5 luggers	1 large AK 3 medium AK 9 small coastal AK 1 tug 15 small craft	North and northwest coast of LUZON

One locomotive, fifteen freight cars, forty-six trucks, a fuel dump and barracks were destroyed near ANGELES. Installations were damaged in the CENTRAL LUZON Area.

Own plane losses were reported as 15 combat and 30 operational. 25 pilots and 6 crewmen are missing.

Partial reports on the 9 January FORMOSA strikes have been received from Commander THIRD Fleet. About 100 planes and much enemy shipping was seen. 17 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 17 were damaged. Our planes sank 14 ships and damaged 17 small ships. In addition, one large tanker was attacked and left burning off TOSHIEN. Our combat air patrol shot down one snooper.

No air opposition was encountered over FORMOSA. Weather prevented scheduled strikes against OKINAWA and MIYAKO.

The USS COLUMBIA (CL-56) now reports that extensive damage was done by a suicide plane on 6 January. (See 4 p.m. summary 7 January). An 800 kilogram bomb exploded in the magazine of No. 4 turret. The ship has six holes in her hull below the waterline. On 9 January, the COLUMBIA was again struck by a suicide plane, resulting in extensive damage forward. Personnel casualties are "heavy".

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

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OSD Letter 5-3-78

SECRET

9 a.m. 9 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

7 January: (Cont'd.)

9 Avengers dropped 8 tons of bombs on SOROL ISLAND.

The XAK LEWIS L. DYCHE (7176 tons) has been reported sunk at MINDORO on 4 January.

Regraded Unclassified

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

DECLASSIFIED
OSD letter, 5-3-72

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 9 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Commander Task Group 77.2 (Vice Admiral Oldendorf) reports that operations on 8 January proceeded according to plan. Surface forces bombarded objective areas successfully. No damage to our forces was reported.

Air and surface bombardment was particularly concentrated on enemy strong points on the eastern coast of LINGAYEN GULF. Shore defenses, warehouses, store houses, bridges, and railroad installations were hit. Ammunition supply and fuel dumps were destroyed at ROSARIO, SAN FERNANDO, BAGUIO and LINGAYEN by supporting aircraft. Headquarters at the airfield at CAMP JOHN HAY (BAGUIO) were reported damaged. Barracks were damaged at BAGUIO and BINALOMAN. A bridge at BAYAMBANG was also damaged. Troops were noted moving in the vicinity of LINGAYEN VILLAGE, but air reconnaissances located no signs of enemy troops moving between SAN FERNANDO and RABON. Heavy civilian traffic was noted from LINGAYEN toward MALASIQUI.

All scheduled areas were swept by minesweepers with meager results. Several floating mines were found. Underwater demolition teams in the SAN FABIAN sector reported all beaches to have firm sand bottoms and to be suitable for landing. No mines or underwater obstacles were observed. Some small caliber gunfire and mortar fire was received.

Commander Task Force 78 (Vice Admiral Barbey) reports that at 5:55 p.m., 7 January, one enemy bomber dropped two bombs between some LST's without damage. The plane was shot down during its retirement. At 9:39 p.m., 7 January, the right flank destroyers CHARLES AUSBURNE (DD-570), BRAINE (DD-630), SHAW (DD-373) and RUSSELL (DD-414), ComDesRon 23 in command, intercepted and sank a HATSUHARU class (1400 tons) destroyer, about 50 miles west southwest of MANILA BAY. No damage was suffered by our destroyers. No prisoners were taken.

Commander 3rd FLEET reports at 7:55 a.m., 9 January, that his forces were attacking FORMOSA, ISHIGAKI, MIYAKO and OKINAWA.

Additional air strikes have been reported:

6 January:
4 Corsairs fired a supply dump on BABELTHUAP.

7 January:
12 Corsairs strafed BABELTHUAP and URUKTHAPEL. 8 barges were sunk and a gas dump hit.

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

4 p.m. 8 January 1944.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Commander Task Force 78 reports that at 6:30 p.m., 7 January, an enemy plane crashed LST-912. Casualties were four dead and four injured. At 8:00 a.m., 8 January, the USS CALLOWAY (APA-35) was hit on the starboard side amidships by another suicide plane, resulting in minor damage. Casualties were six dead and ten critically injured.

It was further reported by CTF 78 that two enemy reconnaissance planes were shot down at 5:40 a.m., 8 January, by the night combat air patrol.

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

9 a.m. 8 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The commander of Task Group 77.2, Rear Admiral Oldendorf, has reported the following additional information in connection with operations in the LINGAYEN AREA. Direct air support from our forces in the area showed increasingly good results over those obtained on 6 January. On 7 January, our planes attacked the target area with bombs, rockets and strafing. The aircraft struck at dumps, heavy guns, motor convoys, barracks, railroad facilities, enemy surface craft and troop movements. We lost only one torpedo plane during the day.

Rear Admiral T. E. Chandler died on 7 January as the result of burns and injuries sustained when his flagship, the LOUISVILLE (CA-28), was hit by a crash-diver on 6 January.

LST 749 and LST 460 are reported as being damaged by a suicide bomber attack on 3 January.

HMAS AUSTRALIA was attacked twice on 8 January by Jap suicide planes, one of which hit her on the portside. The ship is holed near the waterline, her antiaircraft battery only one-third effective, and it is necessary to steer from aft. The AUSTRALIA is able to carry out her bombardment missions. This cruiser was also damaged on 6 January by a suicide bomber.

The destroyer DAVID W. TAYLOR (DD-551), reports mine damage (afternoon summary 6 January) as follows: Explosion center on portside forward two to four feet above keel; starboard side blown out in same vicinity; ship flooded between frames 14 to 42 to second platform. Sonar gear, pitometer log and fathometer are inoperative. The forward five-inch guns are out of alignment.

On the night of 3-4 January, PT's from LEYTE sank a small Jap freighter and two luggers northeast of CEBU.

Additional aircraft strikes in the NORTH and CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported:

5 January:

Marine fighters destroyed a supply dump on BABELTHUAP.

6 January:

Eight Corsairs strafed BABELTHUAP and destroyed a supply truck and two boats.

Fifteen Liberators dropped twenty-five tons of 100-pound bombs on IWO JIMA. Results were unobserved.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

4 p.m., 7 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd)

The following information has been received from Task Group 77.2, commanded by Rear Admiral Oldendorf, covering the operations in the LINGAYEN GULF for 6 January. The bombardment has been completed of both SANTIAGO ISLAND and PORO POINT. In addition the ARINGAY-BAUANG Area was also bombarded for half an hour. The bombardment covered designated targets and storage areas. Antiaircraft installations and 155 mm gun positions were hit by our bombardment force. Troop movements in the ARINGAY-BAUANG Area were fired upon by our forces.

During the bombardment and upon retirement from the bombardment area, the enemy directed a heavy and prolonged attack against our force with suicide bombers.

As the result of the suicide attacks the following additional ships have been damaged or sunk:

Ship	Damage Sustained
MINNEAPOLIS (CA-36)	Superficial damage due to suicide bomber near miss. Some antenna out.
COLUMBIA (CL-56)	Heavily damaged.
HELM (DD-388)	Superficial damage.
STAFFORD (DE-411)	Heavily damaged.
SOUTHARD (DMS-10)	No details.
HOVEY (DMS-11)	Sunk.
APACHE (ATF-67)	Minor damage.

The LONG (DMS-12) (Morning summary 7 January) has since been reported to have sunk as the result of the damage sustained from a crash diver.

There is no additional information on personnel casualties.

On 7 January at about 9:00 p.m., Task Group 77.2 reports that very slight air opposition was encountered during the day. There were no attacks on the force until 6:45 p.m. when the PALMER (DMS-5) was bombed and sunk by Japanese aircraft.

25 ships have been damaged or sunk during the current LINGAYEN operations up to 7:00 p.m., 7 January.

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

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OSD Ltr of 6 Apr 78
SECRET

9 a.m. 7 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

A carrier group under command of Rear Admiral Stump in the PHILIPPINES area, reports as follows:

At 5:48 p.m., 5 January, the MANILA BAY (CVE-61) was struck by 2 crash-divers. Radio and radar equipment was destroyed and damage was sustained to sterring and electrical equipment. Ship is reported as possibly capable of limited operation. 10 men were killed, 5 missing, 25 are seriously wounded and 60 have minor wounds. The SAVO ISLAND (CVE-78) sustained damage to her antenna from another crash-diver. No personnel were injured.

A partial report of 3rd FLEET air strikes of 6 January, on LUZON, indicate that 8 enemy planes were shot down, 19 destroyed on the ground and 14 damaged.

Central Pacific

One of our task units, on 1 January, at 9:30 a.m., landed on FAIS, 40 miles southeast of ULITHI. By 11:00 a.m., 3 January, all enemy resistance was ended. Our casualties included 3 men dead, 4 slightly wounded, one officer seriously wounded and one officer slightly wounded.

On 5 January, at 12:18 p.m., a SAIPAN-based plane sighted and attacked an enemy midget submarine two miles southeast of CHICHI JIMA. One of three 250 lb. bombs exploded close to the conning tower. The submarine was observed to sink stern first and before shor batteries drove the attacking plane away, a large oil slick was seen on the water. The submarine was positively identified as Japanese and was estimated to be between 70 and 80 feet in length.

The submarine ASPRO (SS-309), reports sinking a crippled enemy tanker south of FORMOSA.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

9 a.m. 7 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Task Group 77.2, under the command of Rear Admiral Oldendorf, in the LINGAYEN GULF AREA, has been under heavy attack by suicide planes since 4:30 p.m., 5 January.

At about 9:00 p.m., 6 January, Admiral Oldendorf reported that 17 ships of his force had been hit by crash-divers. At least 9 of the ships were severely damaged and one sunk. 12 of the 17 ships were hit on 6 January.

The present estimate of damage reported so far is as follows:

SHIP	DAMAGE SUSTAINED	PERSONNEL CASUALTIES
NEW MEXICO (BB-40)	Bridge destroyed, all communications out.	4 officers, 26 men dead, 130 injured, 16 critical, 20 serious. Captain R. W. Fleming, dead. Admiral Weyler safe.
CALIFORNIA (BB-44)	No details.	
H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA	Hit twice, no details.	
LOUISVILLE (CA-28)	Hit twice, no details.	Rear Admiral T. E. Chandler, painfully and seriously burned.
WALKE (DD-723)	Damage after part of bridge and CIC hit. All guns on local control.	10 killed, 25 burned, Captain critically injured.
A. M. SUMNER (DD-692)	Hit aft, after magazine flooded.	2 killed, 3 injured.
LOWRY (DD-770)	No details.	
O'BRIEN (DD-720)	No details.	
R. P. LEARY (DD-664)	Slight damage to both forward guns.	One man superficial injuries.
LONG (DMS-12)	No details. later sunk	
BROOKS (APD-10)	No details.	
ORCA (AVP-49)	No details.	

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

4 p.m. 6 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 5 January, CHICHI JIMA and HAHA JIMA, in the BONINS, and IWO JIMA in the VOLCANOES, were bombarded by ~~Task Group 94.9 (CA's~~ Heavy Cruisers CHESTER, PENSACOLA and SALT LAKE CITY, plus 5 DD), under Rear Admiral A. E. Smith. The task group, prior to arrival in the bombardment area, met and sank one enemy AK (length 260 feet), about forty miles west of HAHA JIMA. The bombardment of CHICHI JIMA commenced as scheduled, but poor visibility rendered spotting impossible and the anchorage at FUTAMI KO could not be seen clearly at sunrise. ~~At 6:55 a.m., our surface forces ceased firing~~. At 7:49 a.m., the destroyer DAVID W. TAYLOR (DD-551) probably hit a mine four miles west of FUTAMI KO. Some of the forward compartments of the ship were flooded and four men were reported trapped. The TAYLOR left the area at 15 knots with the destroyer FANNING (DD-385) as an escort. The FANNING received one 10-inch hole forward about six feet above the water line.

Task Group 94.9 next conducted a bombardment of HAHA JIMA as follows: SALT LAKE CITY (CA-25) and two destroyers attacking HIGASHI HARBOR on the northeast side of the island, while the remainder of the group bombarded OKIMURA KO on the southwest side. During this bombardment, fires were started. Visibility was low and became increasingly worse, and at the end of one-half-hour was zero.

At both CHICHI JIMA and HAHA JIMA, only meager enemy shore battery fire was encountered.

At 3:00 p.m., on 5 January, Task Group 94.9 commenced firing on IWO JIMA and ceased firing at 4:40 p.m. Visibility was unlimited. The cruisers concentrated main batteries on coast defense and AA battery positions, with the exception of one cruiser which fired on the east boat basin for 20 minutes. The boat basin was left burning. During the last half hour, the secondary batteries (5 inch/25) fired on air strips and installations and started many small but good fires. The destroyers engaged foreshore targets and started an oil fire on the northwest shore. No enemy shore battery fire encountered, except for one instance of light automatic fire.

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

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DECLASSIFIED 5-3-74

9 a.m. 6 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC(cont'd.)

1 DD	1,700	tons
4 large tankers	40,000	tons
TOTAL	41,700	tons

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

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter SECRET

9 a.m. 6 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Location	Installations
HEITO, TANSUI, southwest FORMOSA	Ammunition dumps
SHINSHOSHI	Fuel dumps

The following installations were damaged:

Location	Installations
KEELUNG, north coast of FORMOSA	Sub base and dry dock
OKASEKI TAICHU	Hangars and buildings
KOBI, in western FORMOSA	Alcohol plant
KORYU, northwestern FORMOSA	Ammunition dump
GARANGI POINT, southern tip of FORMOSA	Radar station
OKAYAMA, southwest FORMOSA	Aircraft factory
TAITO, southeast coast of FORMOSA	Factory and stores
SHOKA, northern FORMOSA, near KEELUNG	Sugar refinery & railroad
TAIHOKU, southwest of KEELUNG	Large warehouse (station

In addition, a forty-car oil train and 11-car passenger train, three locomotives, five street cars and several trucks were damaged in the target area. Rocket damage and strafing was directed at many installations and buildings.

THIRD FLEET plane losses - 34, of which 17 were lost in combat. 17 pilots and 2 crewmen are missing.

On 1 January, a reinforced company of the 503rd Infantry was landed at MAMBURAO on the northwest coast of MINDORO.

Aircraft strikes in the CENTRAL PACIFIC are reported as follows:

5 January:

19 Corsairs bombed and strafed enemy installations on MALOELAP.

At about 6:00 a.m., 8 Lightnings and 3 Liberators were over IWO JIMA and destroyed one enemy plane in the air. One of our pilots was lost when a Lightning crashed during the approach. The plane strafed oil drums on the beach.

Between 8:36 a.m. and 1:15 p.m., 43 Liberators dropped 79½ tons of bombs on IWO JIMA. Eleven enemy planes were damaged on the ground.

The submarine FLASHER has returned from her fifth war patrol off the SOUTH CHINA COAST and reports the following sinkings:

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

TOP SECRET
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9 a.m. 6 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 3 and 4 January, FORMOSA and OKINAWA JIMA were struck by carrier-based planes of the THIRD Fleet, commanded by Admiral Halsey. Although adverse weather was experienced on both days, the following damage was inflicted:

AIRCRAFT			SURFACE CRAFT		
Shot Down	Destroyed on Ground	Damaged	Sunk/Destroyed	Damaged	Location
30	81	220	1 large AK		West of TAKAO
			2 DE		West of TAKAO
			1 medium AK		KEELUNG
			1 small AK		KEELUNG
			1 PC		Unknown
			10 coastal AK		"
			11 small craft		"
				1 Destroyer	"
				4 DE	"
				6 PC	"
				1 large landing craft (V)	"
				2 landing craft	"
				2 large AK	"
				1 medium AK	"
				44 small AK	"
				7 small craft	"

At OKAYAMA, in southwestern FORMOSA, ground installations were attacked and the following was destroyed:

11 locomotives
4 tank cars
Several freight cars and gas trucks
1 railway bridge over TANSUI RIVER railway station.

In addition, the following installations were attacked and destroyed elsewhere:

Location	Installations
TANSUI TAIEN, northwestern FORMOSA	Hangars
KARENKO docks at KOEI, in western FORMOSA 15 miles northeast of KAGI	Warehouses

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.3 NND 963150 By NARA, Date 12-18-96

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

4 p.m. 5 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 5 January, 1945, Task Group 77.3, under command of Rear Admiral Berkey, was attacked by an enemy midget submarine seven miles south of APO ISLAND. APO ISLAND is off the southeast tip of NEGROS ISLAND, PHILIPPINES. No ships were hit by the two torpedoes which passed through the formation.

The destroyer TAYLOR (DD-468) sighted the midget submarine, rammed and depth charged it. The enemy submarine was reported probably destroyed. The TAYLOR sustained minor damage to her fairwater and sound gear. The midget submarine was reported to be approximately 60 feet in length.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 5 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

4 January:

16 Corsairs and 6 Avengers bombed and strafed BABELTHUAP bivouac areas and power plant. One barge was destroyed and 2 Corsairs were damaged.

Pac Subs
(1)

The submarine KINGFISH reports sinking a Jap tanker and freighter in the CENTRAL PACIFIC. No report of the exact tonnage has been received.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 5 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Task Group 77.2, under command of Rear Admiral OLDENDORF, was attacked by Jap planes at 5:20 p.m., 4 January, 25 miles southwest of MANIQUIN ISLAND. MANIQUIN is located west of PANAY. The ORISKANEY BAY (CVE-34) was seriously hit. Large fires resulted and she was torpedoed and sunk by the destroyer BURNS (DD-588). To-date the survivors are 722 men and 98 officers, including the captain and the executive officer.

Carrier-based planes of the 3rd FLEET, commanded by Admiral Halsey, again struck FORMOSA and OKINAWA on 4 January. Searches and small strikes were cancelled at noon because of bad weather. Results of the strikes are not yet available.

At 5:30 p.m., 4 January, in the PHILIPPINES AREA, an ammunition ship was crash-dived by a Nip plane and blew up. The name of the ammunition ship is not known at this time. The MONADNOCK (PG-9) located near the ammunition ship had one man killed and 9 wounded as a result of the explosion and sustained two leaks in her hull. The leaks are under control. The PECOS (AO-65) and the HALFMOON (AVP-26), both had near-misses due to dive bombers and one man on the HALFMOON was wounded.

Early on 3 January, single enemy planes were over SAIPAN. Night fighters shot down an enemy medium bomber and a fighter before either had reached the base.

On 3 January, enemy planes destroyed one Ventura at TACLOBAN, LEYTE.

At dawn, 4 January, 10 enemy planes struck the TACLOBAN air strip and destroyed 9 Venturas and 1 Liberator and damaged 3 Venturas and 2 Liberators.

On the night of 2-3 January, MINDORO PT's covered a successful Army landing on MARINDUQUE ISLAND, located northeast of MINDORO, between MINDORO and LUZON.

MOROTAI PT's, on the night of 1-2 January, strafed enemy concentrations on HALMAHERA, northwest of NEW GUINEA.

Aircraft strikes in the CENTRAL and SOUTH PACIFIC are reported as follows:

3 January:

28 Corsairs and 9 Avengers struck BABELTHUAP with 11 tons of bombs. Troop and supply areas were set on fire and a boat landing destroyed.

Reconnaissance planes strafed SONSOROL and MERIR ISLANDS, southwest of the PALAUS and damaged 7 barges.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
SECRET
OSD Letter

9 a.m. 4 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The weather station at EAST MAUG ISLAND, in the northern MARIANAS, was struck by one Mitchell. Results of the rocket attack were not observed.

3 January:

Rota was strafed by four Corsairs.

Forty Corsairs bombed and strafed BABELTHUAP supply dumps and sank a barge. One Corsair was damaged.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP-SECRET
TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 4 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The Commander of the SEVENTH Fleet reports that a U. S. Naval officer escaped from the JAPS at OLONGAPO and is now with friendly forces. The escaped officer states that on 13 December 1,300 prisoners of war were embarked on an enemy ship at MANILA. 350 of the prisoners died as the result of over-crowding. While at OLONGAPO, the ship was attacked by our planes, the prisoners were left on board and fifty more were killed as the result of the bombing. It was during the bombing that the Naval officer escaped.

On the night of 31 December, PT boats from LEYTE attacked and destroyed five enemy luggers and one motor launch anchored off northern CEBU.

On 1 January, a rifle company was landed without opposition at BONGABONG, on the west coast of MINDORO.

On the night of 1 to 2 January, MINDORO sustained heavy enemy air attacks, and one Liberty ship was hit and beached on BANIAGA REEF.

At dawn on 3 January, a minesweeper group was attacked by seven enemy dive bombers and two seaplanes ten miles southeast of SIQUIJOR ISLAND, about twenty-five miles north of MINDANAO. The enemy planes caused minor damage, and two of the planes were shot down.

Aircraft strikes in the CENTRAL and SOUTH PACIFIC are reported as follows:

1 January:

Two reconnaissance Liberators dropped bombs on IWO JIMA air installations.

2 January:

HAHA JIMA was hit by 500-pounders from twelve Liberators. The results of the attack were not observed.

IWO JIMA was attacked by fourteen Liberators, which dropped twenty-eight tons of bombs with good results. The Liberators encountered moderate, accurate AA fire; one plane sustained major damage and five planes minor damage.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 3 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

Carrier-based planes of the THIRD FLEET, under Admiral Halsey, struck FORMOSA on the morning of 3 January. The operations were cancelled at 2:00 p.m., 3 January, because of unfavorable weather, which became increasingly bad. At the same time, fighters of the same force attacked OKINAWA JIMA in the NANSEI SHOTO ISLANDS. Results of the strikes are not yet available.

On the morning of 1 January, our search planes destroyed a 50-foot cabin boat at MILLE and dropped ten depth charges on a building at WOTJE.

On 2 January, a reconnaissance plane from SAIPAN strafed a medium freighter northeast of CHICHI JIMA. The AK was left burning and believed to be sinking. Enemy antiaircraft fire killed the co-pilot and wounded two other members of the crew. The plane returned safely to its base.

At 12:55 p.m., 2 January, a Jap reconnaissance plane was shot down by our aircraft five miles northwest of MARPI POINT, SAIPAN.

The following strikes by our aircraft are reported:

1 January:

Twenty Corsairs dropped fifty-four 500-pound bombs on enemy installations at WOTJE with four possible direct hits. One plane received minor damage.

2 January:

Four Corsairs strafed installations at ROTA. Eight Corsairs strafed a barge and two buildings at BABELTHUAP. Ten Avengers dropped bombs on antiaircraft positions in YAP.

The submarine BASHAW (SS-241) has returned from her fourth war patrol and reports damaging one medium tanker (5,000 tons).

The submarine PAMPANITO (SS-383) has returned from her fourth war patrol, having sunk one large freighter (7,500 tons) and damaged one medium freighter (4,000 tons) and one large tanker (10,000 tons).

Regraded Unclassified

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TOP-SECRET

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

9 a.m. 2 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

On 30 December, a reinforced platoon equipped with a radar installation, landed near BULALACAO on the southeast corner of MINDORO.

On 1 January, 2 of our convoys were under air attack. One convoy was enroute from LEYTE to HOLLANDIA, and the other from MINDORO to LEYTE. No damage is reported to either convoy.

The U.S.S. PORCUPINE (IX-126), which was reported damaged at MINDORO, is now considered to be a total loss due to fire.

On the night of 30 December, PT boats, operating from ORMOC, destroyed 4 enemy barges on the northeast shore of CEBU and destroyed enemy supply dumps on PORO ISLAND, located in the CAMOTES SEA between LEYTE and CEBU.

MOROTAI PT's on 31 December, attacked LABUHA on HALMAHERA, northwest of NEW GUINEA.

Reconnaissance planes from LEYTE on 30 December, destroyed four enemy planes and left 5 small AK's burning east of FORMOSA. The planes also strafed 25 small ships in the same area.

The MINDORO PT base was attacked on 31 December by enemy aircraft and 8 of our personnel were killed and 16 wounded.

Additional strikes by aircraft are reported:

30 December:

2 Jap planes at LEGASPI airfield were destroyed by Marine fighters and an ammunition train was blown up and railroad yards were hit at NAGA, in southeastern LUZON.

1 January:

ROTA and BABELTHUAP were each hit by 4 Corsairs.

The submarine H.M.S. SPITEFUL, under our operational control, returned from a war patrol and reported the sinking of a 200-ton enemy coaster by gunfire.

The submarine MINGO returned from her sixth war patrol and reported the sinking of a large Jap tanker (10,000 ton) and the damaging of a small escort vessel (1500 ton).

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

DECLASSIFIED 5-3-72

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 1 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

The submarine RAZORBACK, ~~on patrol in the PACIFIC~~, reports sinking an enemy destroyer and one unidentified type; probably sinking a tanker and damaging an unidentified ship. ~~in Formosa Area~~.

The submarine GUAVINA returned from her fourth war patrol in the PACIFIC, reports sinkings as follows:

One enemy transport (3800 tons) with assistance of Army air force.

One tanker (9500 tons).

One large cargo ship (7500 tons).

One medium cargo ship (4000 tons).

The total shipping destroyed was 24,800 tons.

Regraded Unclassified

COMINCH FILE

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

TOP SECRET

9 a.m. 1 January 1945.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL PACIFIC (Cont'd.)

GANSEVOORT (DD 608) now reports that suicide planes ~~at 3:50 p.m.~~ on 30 December, totally demolished after fireroom and after engineroom is flooded. 22 men are missing and all other personnel have been transferred ashore. The ship is now anchored off SOUTHERN MINDORO.

On the night of 28 December, our PT boats sank 4 loaded luggers off NEGROS ISLAND.

The following air strikes are reported:

28 December:

Marine Corsairs strafed docking facilities at BABELTHUAP.

29 December:

9 Liberators dropped fragmentation bombs on IWO JIMA during the night.

30 December:

14 Liberators dropped 28 tons of bombs on No. 1 and 2 Airfields at IWO JIMA. Results were unobserved. 8 more Liberators hourly harassed IWO JIMA airfields from 7:00 p.m., 30 December, to 1:00 a.m., 31 December. Cloud cover prevented observation of results.

Single Liberator bombed dispersal area at IWO JIMA. Results also were unobserved.

Search planes strafed and bombed small boats at MALOELAP, WOTJE and JALUIT.

31 December:

19 Liberators hit airfield installations at IWO JIMA. Cloud cover prevented observation of results. 3 rocket-carrying Mitchells attacked the BONINS and the KAZANS at night. A possible light cruiser at OKIMURA KO (HAHA JIMA) was hit with 8 rockets, and a small cargo ship (1500-2500 tons) was left smoking and dead in the water.

4 Corsairs strafed ROTA. 4 more sank four launches at WOLEAI.

6 Avengers dropped 3 tons on a bridge at YAP.

16 Corsairs strafed and bombed supply dumps at BABELTHUAP. One Corsair received damage.

Regraded Unclassified