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MR 203 WD OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

DECEMBER, 1942

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Date- AUG 29 1972

Signature: *RHP*

CONTINUED

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 379

0700 December 23 to 0700 December 24, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
GSD Letter, 5-3-78

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. The situation in Tunisia remained essentially unchanged during December 22.

2. All American personnel on the transport "Strathallan" torpedoed at 0131 December 21 are safe, including 31 nurses and 5 WAAC officers.

3. General Eisenhower, summarizing the activities of our air force in the North African theater from November 8 through December 18, states that 93 enemy aircraft have been destroyed, 22 probably destroyed, and 38 damaged in aerial combat. Between 55 and 60 enemy aircraft have been destroyed on the ground. Our combat losses for the same period total 55.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 22, General MacArthur reports that his ground forces, aided by air support, continued their steady advance over the small area remaining to the enemy in the Buna-Sanananda area. In other air activity, ships at Arawe and Cape Cunningham (New Britain) were attacked, at least one being set afire. One enemy fighter was shot down and two of our aircraft were lost.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

An enemy submarine apparently attempted to supply the enemy in the Mambare River area (60 miles NW of Buna) on the nights of December 18-19 and 19-20.

2. General Harmon reports that on December 22 a "flying fortress" dropped two tons of demolitions on the enemy landing field at Kahili (Bougainville).

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 378

0700 December 22 to 0700 December 23, 1942

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DD Form Letter, 8-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

General Butler reports that on December 20 an attack on Kiska was made by five heavy bombers, eight medium bombers, and nine fighter airplanes. The resulting damage included an ammunition explosion. There were no airplane losses in spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

A supplementary report on the Romilly-sur-Seine raid of December 20 states that 71 out of the 101 heavy bombers which were dispatched reached the target area. Hits were obtained on buildings and enemy aircraft, many fires being started. Our crews claim that 45 enemy fighters were destroyed and 26 probably destroyed.

75 miles SE Paris

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. Continued enemy air activity, including some bombing of our installations, was reported from Tunisia for December 21. British bombers from Malta attacked Tunis and La Goulette on the night of December 20-21.

2. Replying to an inquiry by the War Department, General Eisenhower reports that shipment of US troops from the United Kingdom to North Africa will reach the following totals when the next

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OSD Letter: 5-3-72

convoy sails:

To Eastern Task Force	13,000
To Center Task Force	124,700
Total	<u>137,700</u>

This will complete the shipments at present planned.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

1. General Brereton reports that British bombers made a second attack on Sousse on the night of December 18-19.
2. The War Department authorized General Adler to withdraw his mission from Russia and return to Cairo as soon as practicable.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that Lashio was the target of a successful raid December 20 by seven medium bombers escorted by ten pursuit craft. Hits were reported on the runway, dispersal area, warehouses, and fires were started in the town.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending at 1300 GCT, December 21, General MacArthur reports that there has been no material change in the ground situation in New Guinea. Our supporting aircraft harassed the enemy positions. Pinschhafen was attacked twice, two small vessels being destroyed. Enemy aircraft

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GND Letter, 6-3-79

bombed Port Moresby unsuccessfully the night of December 21-22.

In Timor the Japanese continued their attacks on Allied troops.

At Rabaul 76 ships were sighted, including 44 merchantmen totalling about 242,000 tons.

2. General Harmon reports that on December 20 attacks on Munda and Kahili were carried out by "flying fortresses" escorted by pursuit craft.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 377

0700 December 21 to 0700 December 22, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

During December 19 and 20 ground activities in Tunisia again were confined generally to patrolling. The enemy's dispositions suggest the possibility of another attack on our south flank toward Medjez-el-Bab. His Bizerte-Tunis bridgehead appears to have been extended to include Sousse and Kairouan. Recent contacts with his forward elements are as indicated on the attached map. Skirmishing moves back and forth through Pichon, which is now held by Allied forces.

On December 19 air operations were limited by rain, but the railroad yards at Sfax were bombed without loss of any of our aircraft. Reconnaissance and bomber aircraft were active over our area on December 20.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

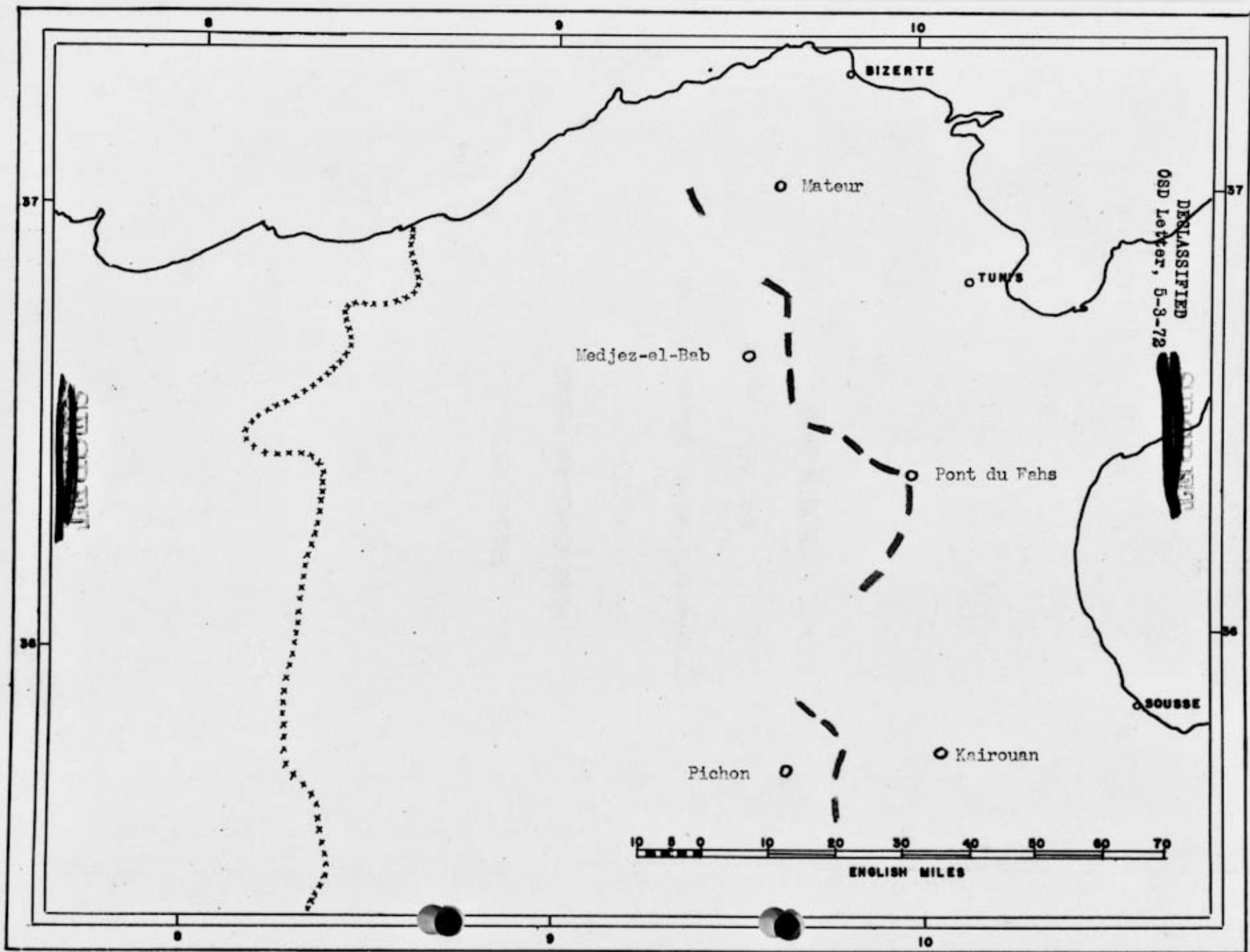
1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending at 1300 GCT, December 20, General MacArthur reports that US and Australian forces, supported by aircraft, artillery and tanks, made substantial gains in the Cape Endaiadere sector. The Australian 7th Division captured 186 Rabaul natives near the mouth of the Amboga River, New Guinea. There was little air activity beyond that in support of ground operations. One heavy bomber is missing from a reconnaissance mission.

2. General Harmon reports that on December 19 seven "flying fortresses" escorted by eight pursuit craft destroyed buildings and

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

started several large fires at Munda. Over the Shortland Islands this mission was intercepted by 20 Japanese fighter airplanes of which three were destroyed. Single reconnaissance-bombing missions were again carried out by "flying fortresses" over Kahili, Munda and Buka, large fires being started at Buka. US pursuit aircraft strafed the coastal road on Guadalcanal from Bonegi River to Tassafaronga.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 376

0700 December 20 to 0700 December 21, 1942

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90W letter, 5-3-78

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

In the deepest penetration yet made into German-occupied territory by US aircraft, a strong force of heavy bombers attacked the aircraft depot at Romilly-sur-Seine shortly before noon December 20. The mission is considered to have been unusually successful. Enemy fighter opposition was continuous from the French coast to the target and return; preliminary reports show that heavy losses were inflicted by our aircraft. Six "flying fortresses" failed to return and two more crash-landed in England.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. No important ground operations were reported by General Eisenhower for December 18; the enemy continued to be active on the right flank of the First Army. Ten US bombers destroyed railroad installations at Sousse but an enemy box barrage cost us two airplanes. Thirty-six "flying fortresses" attacking Bizerte obtained hits on a light cruiser. Three (probably five) of fifteen enemy fighters intercepting this mission were destroyed. One "flying fortress" was shot down and another crash-landed. Light bombers attacked the railroad yard and dispersal area at Mateur, while fighter airplanes attacked enemy trucks and other ground targets. Tunis was bombed by 27 Wellingtons from Malta. The enemy was active over our area, Le Kef and Thelepte (north of Gafsa) being bombed.

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2. General C. R. Smith reports that the agreement covering our air transport requirements at Dakar has been signed by the Governor General. Work has been started on a temporary airdrome which will be completed in about 60 days and will be adequate during the dry season. A new permanent airdrome has been authorized by the colony and will be completed before the rainy season.

Our mission to Dakar arrived December 20.

3. General Eisenhower reports that on December 20, and on his representations, Admiral Darlan removed from office the Mayor of Constantine whose influence, General Eisenhower was convinced, was being used against us.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Andrews reports that seventeen of his heavy bombers attacked the harbor of Sousse the night of December 18-19, dropping 17½ tons of bombs. All aircraft returned.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that on December 18 six fighter airplanes, reconnoitering the Hukawng Valley (northern Burma), attacked the town of Washawng (15 miles east of Myitkyina).

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980 Letter, 5-3-78

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 19, General MacArthur reports that the Australian 7th Division advanced slightly towards Sanananda. Medium and light bombers supported ground operations in the Buna Mission area. The enemy convoy reported the previous day apparently reached the New Guinea coast, and on December 19 was again attacked by medium and heavy bombers on its return voyage; other bombers attacked a light cruiser and a destroyer north of New Britain. Near misses were secured on all these vessels. Lae and Madang Harbor were also attacked. Five enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost a heavy bomber.

2. In air operations over the South Pacific December 18, "flying fortresses" with fighter protection twice attacked the enemy bivouac area at Munda Point destroying the ammunition and supply dump. Reconnaissance-bombing raids by single "flying fortresses" were also performed at Munda and Kahili, and pursuit aircraft strafed the enemy positions on Guadalcanal all day.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 375

0700 December 19 to 0700 December 20, 1942

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Inclement weather prevented operations in the western Aleutians December 16, but the next day, four heavy bombers pounded the submarine base and harbor shore line at Kiska. A weather mission, making a thorough reconnaissance of Amchitka and the Semichis, found no activity, nor anything new at Kiska or Attu.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. In the air attacks on Tunis and Bizerte, previously reported for December 15, eight enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and six to ten on the ground; on December 16, four enemy and one Allied airplanes were destroyed.

On December 17 our air forces attacked Gabes, docks and shipping at Tunis and Bizerte, and an enemy airdrome near Djedeida. Five enemy planes were shot down; all our aircraft returned safely.

Enemy ground activity south and southeast of Medjez-el-Bab during December 16 and 17, tended to confirm a report that 30 Axis tanks and approximately 800 troops had entered this area. On December 17 Allied action again consisted in active patrolling.

2. In an exchange of messages General Eisenhower informed the War Department that he is quite willing to accept the 100th Infantry Battalion in his theater. This is the battalion of Americans of

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Japanese extraction who were transferred from the Hawaiian Department to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, last June. General Eisenhower asks that the battalion complete its training before sailing; he will then regulate its approach to combat gradually so as to give it the best opportunity to make a good showing. Under present schedules the unit will be ready for shipment in June 1943.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that on December 16 US pursuit aircraft set fire to enemy food supplies and attacked other targets in Burma; the next day five medium bombers, finding their target at Lashio covered by overcast, dropped their explosives on Lungling and then attacked an enemy truck column.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 18, General MacArthur reports that Australians in conjunction with the US 128th Infantry captured Cape Endaiadere. The Australian 7th Division completed the mopping up of the small village near the mouth of the Amboga River. In the Bismarcks our "flying fortresses" and other bombers repeatedly attacked an enemy convoy of four destroyers, one light cruiser, and two transports escorted by enemy fighter aircraft, which was apparently steering for

Madang, New Guinea. Four hits were scored on the cruiser, which was seen to be sinking after the apparent explosion of its magazines. Two Japanese Zero fighters were shot down. Australian attack planes crippled a small enemy vessel off the northeast tip of Timor and left it in a sinking condition. Other bombing operations were carried out against Lae, an airdrome near Madang, and an enemy-held village near the mouth of the Kumasi River.

2. Directives were issued for the activation of 12 Mobile, Air-borne, Antiaircraft batteries for dispatch to the Southwest Pacific Area in April, and eight quartermaster companies, pack, for dispatch in May. These units are especially suitable for operations in the terrain over which General MacArthur expects to operate.

3. General Harmon reports that single "flying fortresses", attacking the enemy landing fields at Kahili (Bougainville) and Munda (New Georgia Island) on December 17, set fire to four enemy airplanes on the ground and caused other damage.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 374

0700 December 18 to 0700 December 19, 1942

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REF. 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. The War Department transmitted to General Eisenhower a message from the President dated December 15 informing him that the President was that day appointing Mr. Murphy to be his personal representative in North Africa with the rank of Minister. Mr. Murphy will continue on General Eisenhower's staff in his present capacity as Civil Affairs Officer until such time as consultation with the War Department suggests a change. The British Government is being informed.

2. On December 16 fighter airplanes bombed enemy shipping off the Tunisian coast and destroyed one enemy airplane. Light bombers attacked the railroad yards east of Mateur and the armored vehicle dispersal area at Massicault. All our aircraft returned.

3. The War Department notified General Eisenhower that daily round trips by Douglas 4-motored transports are now being operated to the west coast of Africa from Miami and Washington, respectively.

4. General Eisenhower was informed of the establishment by the Navy on December 8 of the Amphibious Force, Mediterranean, US Atlantic Fleet. By this plan, in which General Eisenhower has previously concurred, the force, under Admiral Bennett, will serve under the command of General Eisenhower as Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Force in

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accordance with the principle of unity of command. Its purpose is to establish and train the naval elements of an amphibious force for future operations in the Mediterranean area.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On December 17 US medium bombers continued to participate in attacks on Axis forces west of El Agheila, dropping a total of 28 tons of bombs on enemy motor transport and antiaircraft batteries and destroying an ammunition dump. Our fighters and fighter-bombers also have been attacking targets of opportunity with excellent results. One ME-109 was destroyed. No US aircraft losses were reported.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 17, General MacArthur reports that Allied forces in New Guinea continued their mopping-up operations, maintaining vigorous patrolling throughout the area. Our air force continued its support of ground operations, and also bombed enemy-held towns on Timor.

2. General Harnon reports that on December 16 "flying fortresses" escorted by pursuit aircraft, in two attacks against the Japanese landing field at Munda (New Georgia) and one against the nearby enemy bivouac area and stores at Lambeti, dropped over eighteen tons of

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OSD Letter. 5-8-77

explosives and shot down three of twelve intercepting enemy fighters. One "flying fortress" was shot down but its crew was rescued.

3. General Harmon reports that the first echelon of the 25th Infantry Division arrived at Guadalcanal December 17 and is debarking satisfactorily. This echelon consists of 339 officers, 17 warrant officers, and 5558 enlisted men on the PRESIDENT JOHNSON, NOORDAM and HINDS.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 373

0700 December 17 to 0700 December 18, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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ASD letter 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On December 15 fourteen of our medium and heavy bombers bombed El Aouina airdrome, Tunis, at the cost of one medium bomber brought down by antiaircraft fire. Twelve "flying fortresses" attacked the harbor at Bizerte also encountering intense antiaircraft fire as well as smoke screens in the target area. During the night December 15-16, British bombers from Malta bombed Tunis and La Goulette continuously for seven hours causing extensive damage. Enemy aircraft were active, especially in the vicinity of Bone.

Ground activities in Tunisia during December 16 were again limited to patrolling, the enemy consolidating his defenses.

2. General Eisenhower was asked to inform Governor General Boisson that, weather permitting, the mission headed by Admiral Glassford will arrive at Dakar on December 19.

3. General Eisenhower recently inquired as to the manner in which Finance Officers may advance and account for funds for pay and pensions of French armed forces which have been guaranteed by the US Government. He was informed that lump sums should be advanced on a contractual basis to designated French authorities in accordance with the rates of pay and regulations of the French Army in the territory involved. Actual payments to individuals will be made by these French officers or persons designated by them. Items other than pay or

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pensions which it is deemed necessary to advance to the French armed forces will be issued in kind and not on a cash basis, as such items may be subject to subsequent adjustment under the Lend-Lease Act.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Brereton reports that on December 15 US medium bombers and pursuit aircraft continued their attacks on the retreating enemy motor columns with effective results. In aerial combat a Messerschmitt 109 was destroyed. The same day nine US heavy bombers destroyed the round house and repair depot at Sfax. All our aircraft returned safely.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell's bomber and fighter aircraft were active in operations in Burma and French Indo-China during the past few days. On December 12, his fighters machine-gunned the enemy in two towns north of Myitkyina (Burma). In a bombing attack on December 14 on the airdrome at Hanoi by six medium bombers and fourteen fighter escorts, hits were scored on shops and runways and the oil storage was ignited, according to a subsequent photographic reconnaissance. During this attack, one of three Japanese intercepting aircraft was shot down as well as an enemy biplane. On December 15 enemy motor convoys near Wanting and Maingwan were bombed and machine-gunned by our fighter aircraft which returned the next day to attack the latter place.

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OSD Letter, 6-3-78

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the period ending 1300 GCT, December 16, General MacArthur reports that the US 32d Division made some progress near Buna; he has moved reinforcements into the area by air and sea. Our medium bombers and pursuit aircraft supported land operations, attacking the Japanese activities near the mouth of the Kumisi River and elsewhere in the combat zone in New Guinea.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

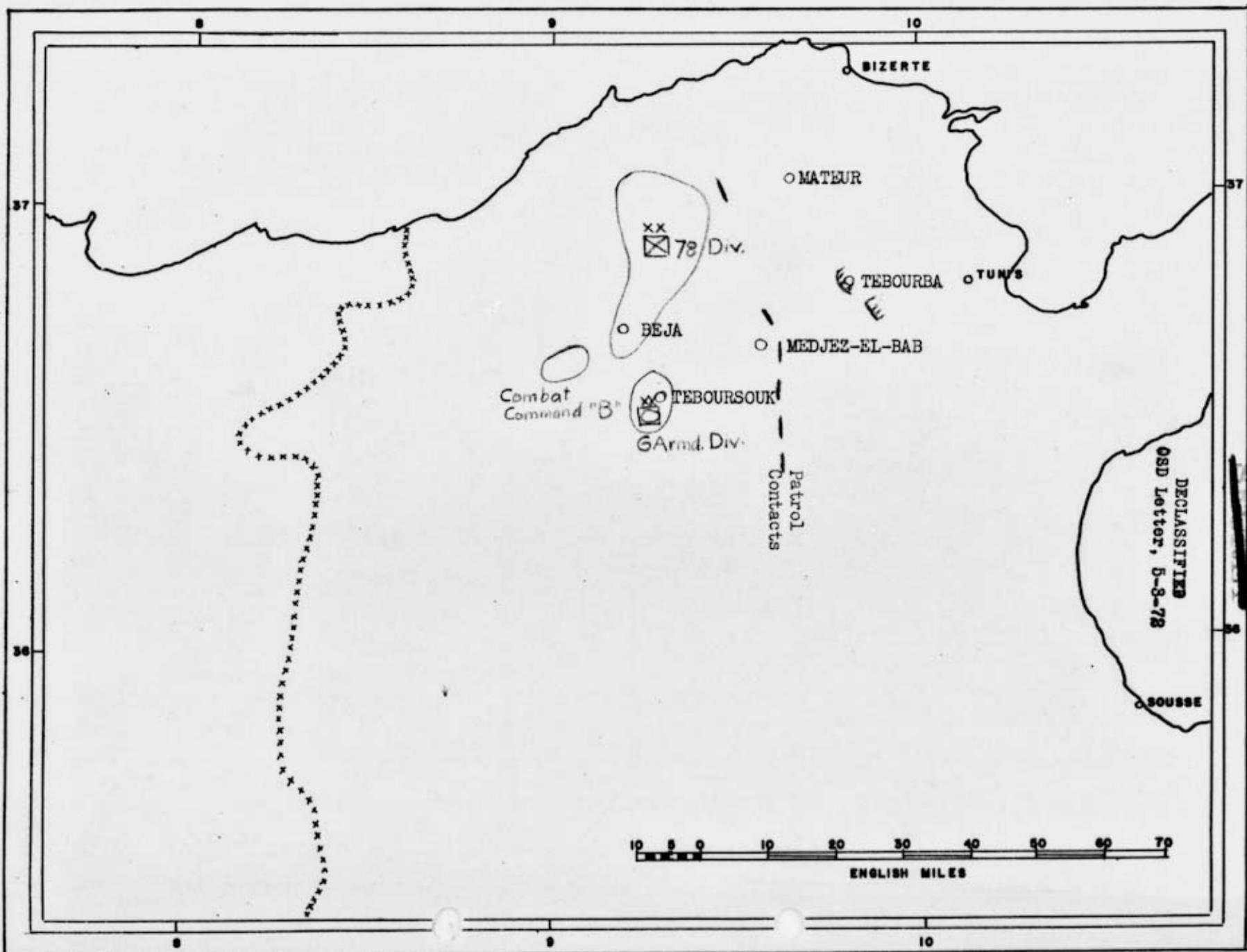
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 372

0700 December 16 to 0700 December 17,

COPY FOR

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

General Bonesteel reports an unidentified airplane over Iceland on December 15.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

During December 14 and 15, ground activities in Tunisia were generally limited to patrolling. Contacts were made with enemy patrols along the general line shown on attached map while reports were received of enemy fortifications in the vicinity of Tebourba and of movements of armored vehicles.

On December 14, our heavy bombers again attacked the docks at Tunis, a direct hit being reported on one vessel, as well as Bizerte where four enemy intercepting airplanes were destroyed. The railroad yards and gasoline storage at Sfax were twice attacked by our aircraft; our pursuit airplanes destroyed several enemy trucks and a grounded airplane. Our losses were one P-40.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Brereton reports that US aircraft continued their attacks on retreating Axis forces in Cyrenaica, December 14. Two of our pilots are missing.

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PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 15, General MacArthur reports that the US 32d Division continued its offensive patrolling and mopping up operations. Three light bombers attacked a Japanese-held village near the mouth of the Mambare River. Two attacks near Gasmata, each by six heavy bombers, on the Japanese returning convoy were intercepted by enemy fighters, three of which were shot down.

Two enemy medium bombers, raiding Port Moresby on the night of December 14-15, caused five casualties. One enemy bomber was probably destroyed by antiaircraft fire.

2. Nine Marine attack bombers, escorted by three fighters, attacked the enemy installations in the vicinity of Munda Field (New Georgia) on December 15. Another bomber-fighter team machine-gunned enemy positions on Guadalcanal and a "flying fortress" bombed the Kahili (Bougainville) airfield. One of our fighter aircraft was lost in these operations.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 371

0700 December 15 to 0700 December 16, 1942

COPY FOR

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The Services of Supply were directed to establish and hold within the continental limits of the United States a strategic reserve of three months' supply of ammunition for all US Army forces overseas or in Defense Commands. This reserve will be filled from production as soon as practicable and will be drawn upon by authority of the Chief of Staff only.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

One unidentified aircraft was reported over Iceland, December 14.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On December 13 air attacks were made on a bridge north of Sfax, on Sousse, and on shipping and docks at Bizerte and Tunis; one bomber is missing and one crash-landed. On the night of December 13-14 Wellington bombers from Malta attacked Tunis, hitting two large ships. No contacts with the enemy were reported by the ground troops.

2. General Eisenhower reports that the Fifth Army Headquarters is being organized at Oujda (near the Moroccan border, 100 miles southwest of Oran) and Headquarters, Western Task Force, is being redesignated as "Headquarters, I Armored Corps".

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DND Letter, 8-3-72

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

1. General Brereton reports that on December 11 eighteen heavy bombers effectively attacked harbor installations and shipping at Naples, using more than 46 tons of bombs. Two enemy aircraft which attacked our bombers were believed shot down; one of our airplanes was brought down by antiaircraft fire.

2. US pursuit aircraft, attacking the Axis forces retreating west of Mersa Braga, Cyrenaica, December 13, dropped 53,000 lbs. of explosives on vehicles and other targets of opportunity. In air combat resulting from these operations two enemy fighters were destroyed for a loss of one US pursuit ship.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 OCT, December 14, General MacArthur reports that Buna was taken by assault. The enemy landed troops and supplies at the mouths of the Kumasi and Manbare Rivers (12-40 miles, respectively, northwest of Gona) from two cruisers and three destroyers. Six air attacks were made on the convoy, and 26 air attacks on the unloading operation; heavy damage and losses are believed to have resulted.

Other Allied air attacks were made on Lae airdrome and Gasmata airdrome. The enemy made an ineffective raid on Port Moresby.

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OSD Letter, 6-8-78

Five, probably seven, Japanese fighters were destroyed and two Allied airplanes crash-landed in friendly territory.

A motor vessel conveying Australian and Dutch troops to Timor was sunk by the enemy on December 1 with a probable loss of 60 lives.

2. General Harmon reports that, on December 13, "flying fortresses", escorted by pursuit aircraft, twice effectively attacked the enemy landing field at Munda, New Georgia Island.

3. The Guadalcanal Corps (composed of units in that general area) has been designated as the XIV Corps.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 370

0700 December 14 to 0700 December 15, 1942

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On December 12 British forces made contact with three enemy columns of infantry and tanks, advancing from Tunis, which attempted to infiltrate north and south of Medjez-el-Bab.

Enemy motor transport on the Tunis--Medjez-el-Bab roads was attacked from the air.

Seventeen "flying fortresses" dropped 42 tons of bombs on docks and shipping at Tunis. Other air action on that day resulted in the destruction of two enemy planes, one US fighter and two bombers.

General Eisenhower and Air Marshal Tedder have arranged for the temporary exchange of "flying fortresses" from the Middle East for the longer-ranged Liberator heavy bombers of General Eisenhower's command. The object is to bring the maximum number of bombers to bear upon Tunis and Bizerte which will now be within the effective range of bombardment from Benghazi as well as from the closer North-west African bases.

General Eisenhower reported the position areas of the three French divisions in Tunisia, shown on attached map.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

1. On December 13 US fighter-bomber aircraft took part all day in harassing the enemy in his retreat from El Agheila. Many trucks were destroyed; we lost two fighter airplanes.

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2. General Fitzgerald, commanding the US Army Forces in Central Africa, has been made responsible for the supply of US Army forces at Dakar. Responsibility for supply of intermediate airfields between Dakar and Casablanca, and between Accra and Oran, will be based on the location of the port of entry from which these airfields can most effectively be supplied.

ASIATIC THEATER

Four medium bombers and 11 fighter airplanes bombed oil storage tanks and troop concentrations at Tengchung (Western Yunnan), December 12, probably firing the oil storage.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations report for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 13, General MacArthur states that our ground troops made slight progress against enemy positions north of Gona and maintained aggressive night patrols near Buna.

An enemy convoy composed of one light cruiser and four destroyers was attacked north of Vitiaz Strait by nine heavy bombers which obtained a hit on one destroyer and near misses on others. Nine medium bombers, attacking the Gasmata airdrome, started small fires. Allied aircraft flew numerous missions in support of the ground forces, during which the Cape Killerton area, Buna Mission, and small boats along the coast were attacked.

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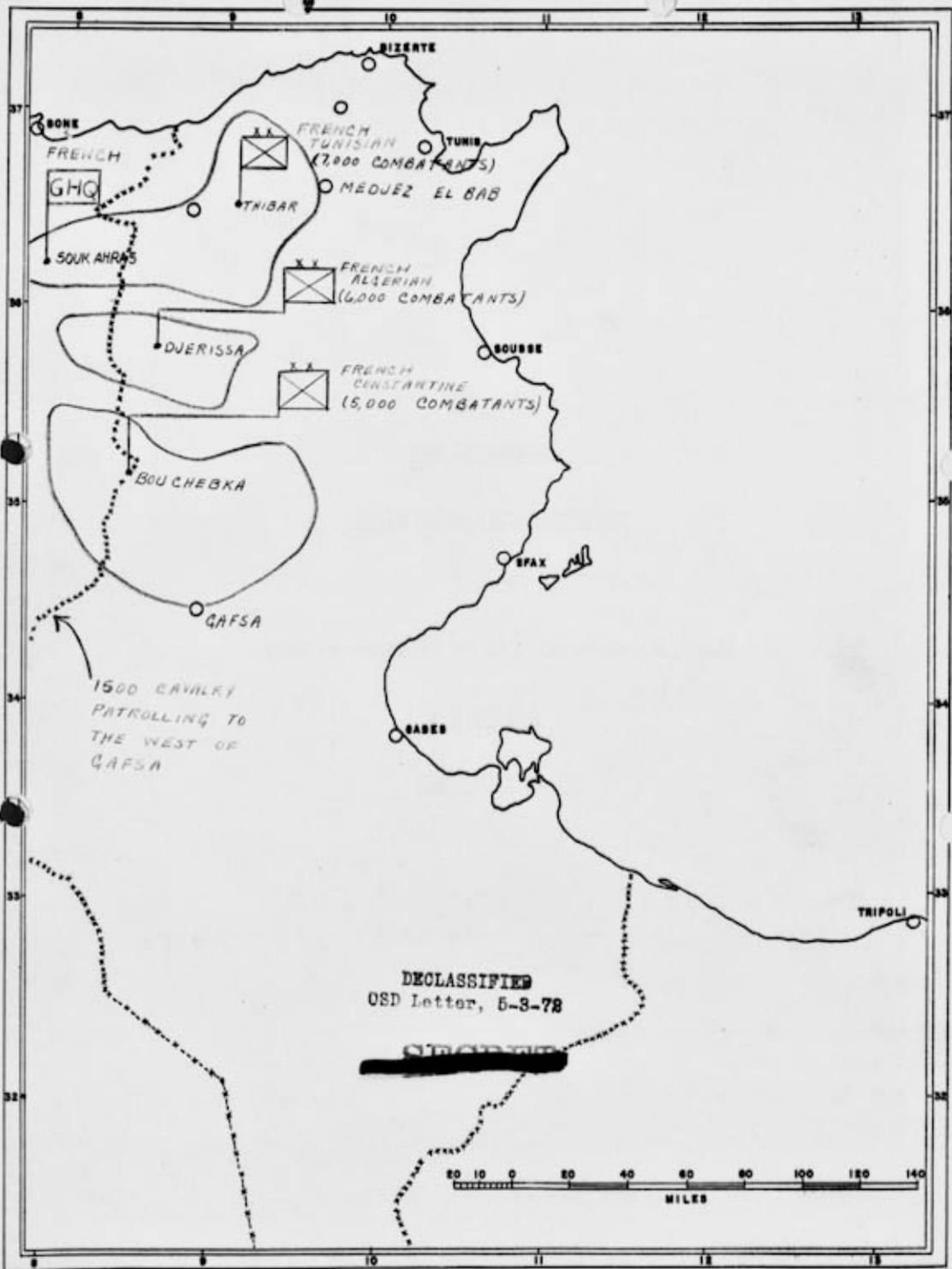
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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

Enemy bombers raided Port Moresby twice the night of December 13-14, but caused no damage. One enemy bomber was destroyed and two Zeros probably shot down by a heavy bomber on reconnaissance.

On Timor, the enemy ground forces attacked toward Betano.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

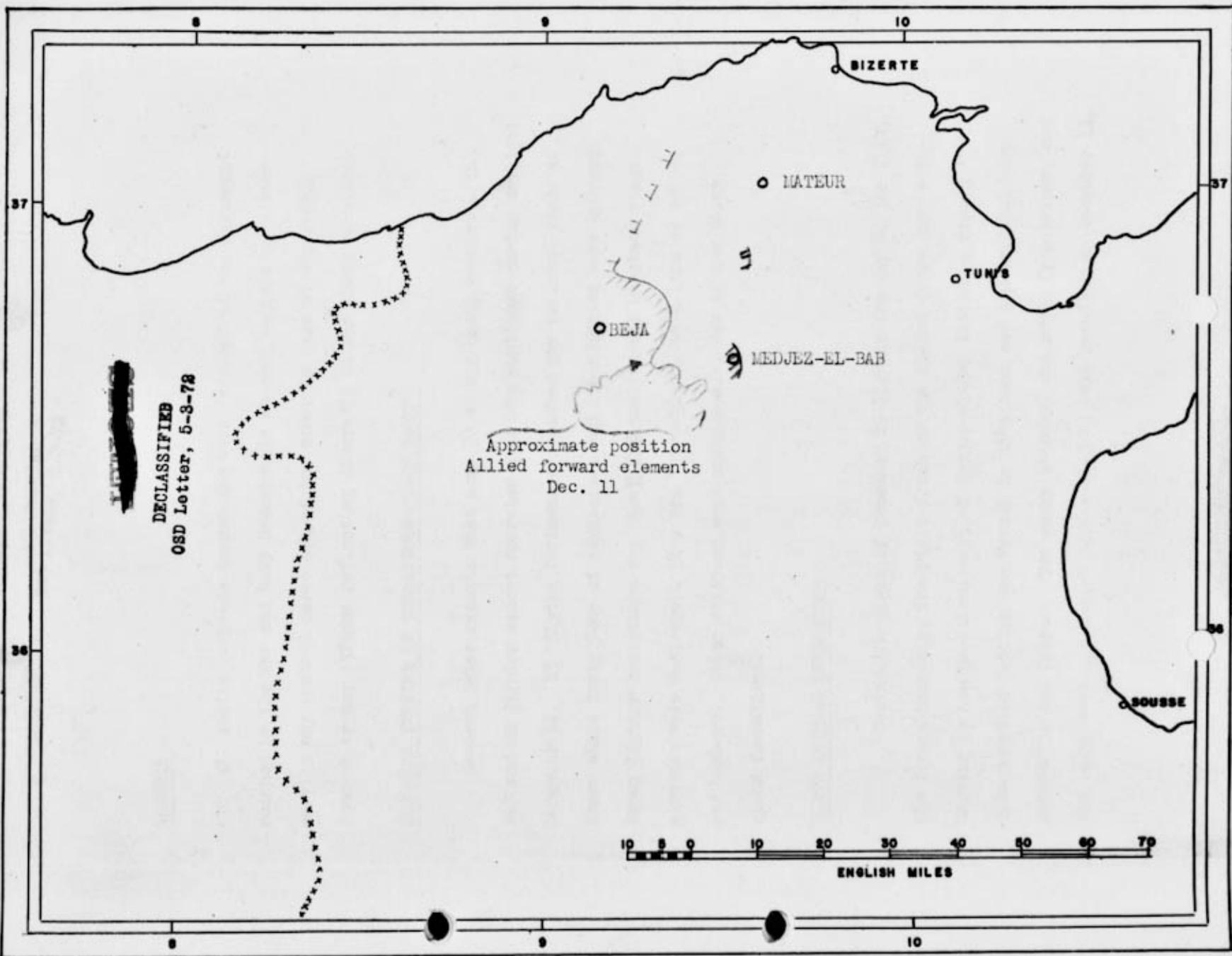
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 369

0700 December 13 to 0700 December 14, 1942

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

GENERAL

All senior overseas commanders were informed of the agreement reached by the War and Navy Departments whereby members of either service may control personnel of the other in case of disorderly conduct or any offense reflecting discredit on our armed services.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

General Eaker reports that some 90 of our heavy bombers with RAF and US fighter escort operated over the continent during daylight December 12. 17 "flying fortresses" reached the railroad yards at Rouen where forty tons of explosives and incendiaries were dropped. Enemy fighter resistance was heavy and continuous; nineteen enemy aircraft were destroyed, plus ten "probables", to a loss of two of our bombers. Other missions were unsuccessful due to the heavy cloud formations.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. During the night of December 10-11, and the day of the 11th, the forces composing the right flank of the Allied force were withdrawing to new positions west of Medjez-el-Bab leaving a strong detachment of British and French in that town and a patrol half-way between it and Mateur. Two enemy attacks, one south from Mateur, and the other westward toward Medjez-el-Bab, were repulsed on December 11.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

Allied armored elements were in contact all day with light enemy forces east and southeast of that town.

In the improving weather, hostile bombers attacked shipping off Bone, Philippeville, and Bougie; an ineffective air attack was made on Souk-el-Arba airdrome. Our bombers attacked the railroad north of Sfax.

2. The War Department notified General Eisenhower that air transport service by stratoliner between Dakar or Accra and the United Kingdom, via Casablanca, will be instituted in about ten days. Service from Washington to the west coast of Africa via Natal will connect with these stratoliners. It is planned that one round trip will be made every other day between Dakar and the United Kingdom.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 12, General MacArthur reports the ground situation on New Guinea unchanged; two Japanese attacks near the Amboga River were repulsed. Patrolling and harassing activities continue. Allied aircraft conducted intensive day and night searches along the coast between Buna and Salamaua to detect any attempted Japanese infiltration southward. Two groups of enemy small boats along the coast were machine-gunned.

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OSD Letter, 6-3-72

Seven Japanese fighter aircraft attempting to intercept a "flying fortress" on reconnaissance were driven off, one, probably two, being shot down.

2. Major General Alexander M. Patch, Jr., has been designated as the Commanding General of the Guadalcanal Corps pending numerical designation of that Corps.

3. General Harmon reports that on December 11 our "flying fortresses", supported by pursuit aircraft, twice successfully attacked the enemy airfield at Munda, New Georgia Island. Later that day Army pursuit aircraft participated in an attack against eleven enemy destroyers off North Bay, New Georgia; five of the enemy ships being hit.

Munda was again attacked the following day by eight "flying fortresses" supported by dive bombers and pursuit craft. Two enemy aircraft were shot down by Marine fighters.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 368

0700 December 12 to 0700 December 13, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OBD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. General Butler's report for December 11 describes a low-altitude attack on Kiska Harbor by three medium bombers escorted by four fighters. The bombers obtained two hits with 500-lb. bombs on a cargo vessel there and the fighters bombed and machine-gunned shore installations. No attempt was made to intercept this attack and all our airplanes returned.

2. Directives were issued for the movement of the 8th Armored Division from Fort Knox to Camp Campbell, Kentucky, for permanent change of station.

ASIATIC THEATER

Six US heavy bombers, using Gaya as a base, attacked the docks at Rangoon on December 11. Of the 29 1,000-lb. bombs dropped, 21 hit in the warehouse and dock area. Port Blair, Andaman Islands, was attacked by another flight of six US heavy bombers from the same base, but the results were unobserved.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for December 11, General MacArthur reports that air and ground forces are maintaining pressure on the Japanese beachhead at Buna. An ineffective attack on the command post of the I US Corps was made by 29 enemy fighters.

Allied air forces attacked the enemy airdromes at Lae and Salamaua in addition to supporting our ground troops in the Buna-Sanananda

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

area.

Forty-seven ships of various types were sighted at Rabaul.

2. A striking force, consisting of 18 of General Harmon's "flying fortresses", attacked Munda airfield (New Georgia Island) on December 9. The heavy antiaircraft fire encountered at this target diminished considerably as the bombing progressed.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 367

0700 December 11 to 0700 December 12, 1942

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OSD Letter, 8-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On December 10 an enemy force of approximately 40 tanks supported by infantry attacked Medjez-el-Bab in two columns. These attacks were repulsed. The enemy withdrew with an estimated loss of 16 tanks.

The enemy bombed the station at Souk-el-Arba, an important detraining point, delaying traffic for six hours.

2. General Eisenhower reports that during the week ending December 5 US aircraft flew 80 missions in Tunisia, including bombing attacks on Bizerte, Tunis, Gabes, Djedeida and Sfax. During these operations 42 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 10 probably destroyed, while our forces lost 17 planes.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Andrews reports that on December 8 twelve fighter-bombers with twelve fighters as escorts, while on a mission in Cyrenaica, were attacked by twelve enemy airplanes, six (probably seven) of which were shot down. One of our airplanes failed to return and one crash-landed.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for December 10, General MacArthur

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GPO FORM 5-3-78

reports that while the Australian 7th Division, registering a slight advance south of Sanananda, repulsed Japanese counterattacks with heavy casualties, our 32d Division harassed the Japanese positions in Buna with artillery and mortar fire and advanced slightly near Cape Endiaderere. Our aircraft bombed and machine-gunned enemy positions in direct support of these operations.

2. In order to provide the greatest possible amount of supplies in the South and Southwest Pacific Areas the War Department is taking steps to negotiate contracts in Australia and New Zealand for rations, and other supplies of all types grown or manufactured locally, for a force of 400,000 men for 1 year. General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz will set up suitable procedures to keep the various force and Area commanders informed as to these contracts in order to avoid duplication in procurement, and shipment of identical items from US sources.

3. General Harmon reports that on December 7 pursuit aircraft participated in an attack on eleven enemy destroyers 170 miles northwest of Guadalcanal. Four hits were scored on one destroyer which was believed sunk. On December 10 a "flying fortress", while performing routine search missions, was attacked by fifteen Zero fighters over New Georgia Island; five of the enemy planes were shot down. Eleven "flying fortresses" escorted by eight fighters were intercepted by enemy planes while successfully attacking two large ships in the Buin area. Six of the Japanese airplanes were shot down. None of our airplanes was reported lost.

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OSD Letter, 6-3-78

G-2 REPORT FROM ALGIERS, and SITUATION REPORT NO. 40, December 10.

General

Many roads still impassable in the forward area. Temperature somewhat warmer.

Ground

First Army Sector: An enemy force of approximately 40 tanks, supported by what was estimated to be an infantry battalion, attacked Medjez El Bab (35 miles west southwest of Tunis) in 2 columns on the afternoon of December 10. One of these columns attacked from the northwest on the west bank of the Medjerda; the other attacked from the east. These attacks were repelled with an estimated loss to the enemy of 16 tanks. Part of Combat Command "B" was engaged in the earlier part of this action, and lost some tanks. The garrison at Medjez El Bab has now been reinforced by 1st Guard Brigade and artillery of all types.

French troops drove a small enemy motorcycle reconnaissance patrol from Bou Arada (16 miles west of Pont Du Fahs) at the same time Medjez El Bab was attacked.

Offensive patrols on the north flank were active east and south of Mateur.

The station at Souk El Arba was bombed causing a 6-hour delay in trains. Train situation has improved. A record number of trains have cleared from Souk Ahras.

The Germans occupied all military and naval positions at Bizerte and Ferryville (9 miles south southwest of Bizerte) without any

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UNCLASSIFIED
REF. 6-3-78

resistance from the French. This action confirms previous reports that such a move was pending.

Southern Sector: The garrison at El Krechem (55 miles west northwest of Sfax) which was previously reported to be 400, is now reported to be 250. It is believed that the remainder has moved to the south on a security mission.

Patrols report that Maknassy (65 miles west southwest of Sfax) is unoccupied. It is reported that the French Camel Corps attacked an Italian patrol from Kebili (50 miles southeast south of Gafsa) consisting of motorcyclists and 2 trucks. Two Italians were killed and 3 captured.

Large enemy forces are reported around Enfidaville (25 miles northwest of Sousse). This confirms previous reports of enemy southward movement which probably indicates Axis apprehension of the security of the lines of communication to Tripoli.

On December 6, it was reported that materiel was disembarked from Sousse. This included some 155 artillery, and 15 Italian light tanks.

It is reported that night rail movements from Tunis to Sfax continue. The French report that the 76th Battalion Infantry Regiment is in Tripoli.

Center Task Force: The 105th Coast Artillery Battalion (AA) is enroute to Algiers from Oran by motor.

Western Task Force: The 693rd, 695th, and 696th Coast Artillery Batteries (AA) have departed for Bone from Casablanca by air.

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Identifications: Identifications from prisoners interrogation report indicate that German Marsch Battalion number 17, 19, and 20 (also classified as T-1, T-3, T-4) are probably in the vicinity of Tebourba.

Air

Four enemy aircraft reconnoitered as far west as Algiers.

Naval

Former French merchant vessel was sunk while enroute from Marseille to Naples, north of Corsica. The German Master and Chief Engineer were captured and landed at Algiers.

British submarine sunk. Submarine schooner in Gulf of Genoa landed a shore party in Allasio, which blew up a train. Hits on oil tanks and a train with gunfire were observed. A British submarine on patrol in the Bizerte-Marittimo area scored hits on 4 merchant vessels, of which one was known to sink. Half of Force Q is enroute for a sweep to the northeast. The other half is at present enroute from Algiers to Bone. A destroyer escorting a submarine depot ship was torpedoed and then towed into Arzew, near Oran. Force H, less a battleship and a carrier, is now enroute from Gibraltar to Mers El Kebir. About 12 enemy submarines between Gibraltar and 6°E and 4-5 between Gibraltar and 11°W.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 366

0700 December 10 to 0700 December 11, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

Continuous rain restricted air and ground operations in Tunisia during December 9. Enemy aircraft sank a corvette off Algiers and escaped in the low clouds.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

During November forty $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks and 4,044 $2\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks were shipped to the Persian Gulf Service Command for the Russians, as well as 500 $2\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks and 500 7-ton trailers for its own operations.

ASIATIC THEATER

The War Department has concurred in the recommendation of the Commanding Officer of the China-India Wing of the Air Transport Command that no publicity be issued concerning its operations, in view of the vulnerability of its installations in that area. Public relations agencies have been advised accordingly.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 9, General MacArthur reports that the Australian 21st Brigade mopped up the remaining enemy positions in Gona and now occupies the entire Gona area. The US 32d Division made a slight advance near Cape Endaiadere and Buna, enemy counterattacks being repulsed. Allied air forces supported these efforts.

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QSD Letter, 6-8-78

2. General Harmon reports that the command of the Guadalcanal-Tulagi area passed to the Army at 1400 GCT, December 9. General Patch has been designated to command Guadalcanal under General Harmon.

3. At General Harmon's request, the War Department has ordered the initial convoy of the 25th Division to disembark at Guadalcanal; it was due to arrive in the vicinity of New Caledonia on December 10 or 11.

The second convoy of the 25th Division, carrying 299 officers and 7,359 enlisted men, left Hawaii on December 10. Two field artillery battalions, a signal company and some miscellaneous detachments remain to be shipped.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

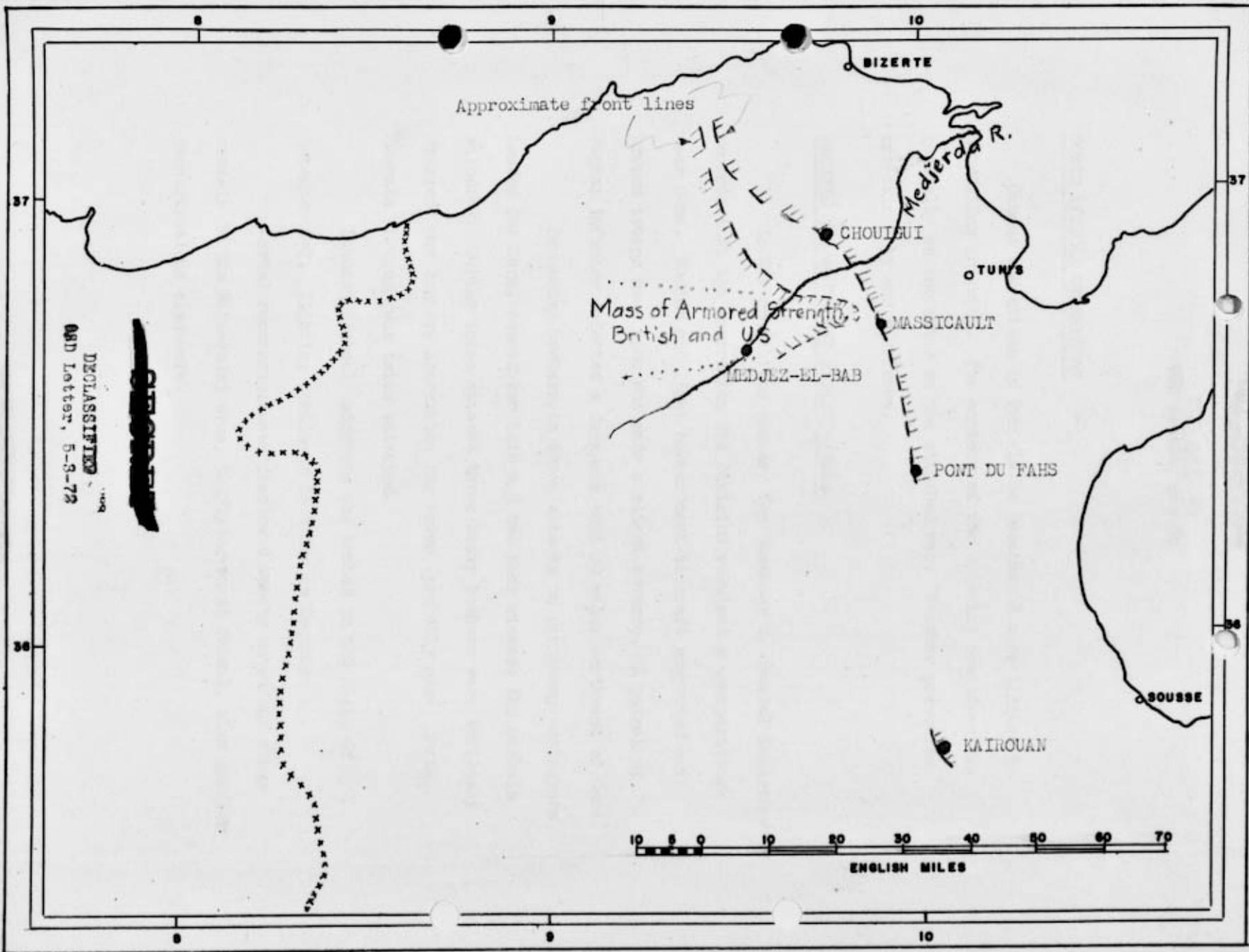
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 365

0700 December 9 to 0700 December 10, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



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OAS Letter, 5-8-72

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10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70
ENGLISH MILES

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

Ground operations in Tunisia on December 8 were limited to patrolling activity. The contour of the opposing positions was generally as indicated on the attached map. Weather prevented operations by our air force.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for December 8, General MacArthur reports that the Australian 7th Division repulsed a counterattack near Gona. Medium and light bombardment aircraft supported our ground troops near Buna who made a slight advance. A patrol of Papuan infantry defeated a Japanese unit 10 miles northwest of Gona.

Our heavy bombers, in three attacks on six enemy destroyers headed for Buna, scored two hits and two near misses; the vessels withdrew. During these attacks three heavy bombers were seriously damaged, our bombers accounting for seven (probably nine) Zeros. Gasmata airdrome was twice attacked.

Lakunai (Rabaul) airdrome was bombed on the night of December 6-7. Fighting continued in Timor on December 4.

Aerial reconnaissances disclosed twenty naval and other vessels in the Buin-Faisi area, thirty-seven at Rabaul, also smaller concentrations elsewhere.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

2. On December 6 General Harmon's fighter aircraft destroyed two warehouses and a wharf at Banika (Russell Is.), performed demolitions at Munda Point (New Georgia Is.) and Rekata Bay (Santa Isabel Is.), and carried out the daily harassment of the enemy in the Kokumbona (Guadalcanal) area. On December 7, two "flying fortresses" sank an enemy fighter at Rekata Bay.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

WB

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 364

0700 December 8 to 0700 December 9, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The War Department directed General Drum to release to the Army Ground Forces the 26th Division, less one regimental combat team, and General DeWitt to release to the Army Ground Forces the 35th and 44th Divisions each less one regimental combat team. It further directed the execution of the plan for regarrisoning the Eastern and Western Defense Commands with these combat teams plus other assigned units. The three divisions thus released will be brought up to authorized strength and become available for use in other theaters.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

Two unidentified airplanes were reported over Iceland on December 7.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

During December 7 US forces remained in possession of the battlefield southwest of Tebourba. The enemy had apparently withdrawn behind his defenses, vacating a wide area east of the Medjerda River. Contact with a hostile post was reestablished some 22 miles SSE of Tebourba. During the night of December 6-7 five enemy airplanes were destroyed over Bone. On December 7 our aircraft bombed and machine-gunned targets, including tanks, in the Tebourba area. Allied and enemy aerial reconnaissances were active during the day, losses being registered on both sides.

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OSD Letter, 8-3-78

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that twenty-four enemy airplanes ineffectively bombed a cargo ship unloading at Chittagong, December 5.

A delayed report states that nine of our heavy bombers successfully attacked the oil refinery at Bangkok on November 26.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for December 7, General MacArthur reports that Allied troops made slow progress to the west of the Japanese beachhead at Buna. Our forces on the beach to the east of Buna repulsed strong enemy counterattacks.

Several Allied air attacks were made in support of operations in this area. A Japanese attack on the 2d Field Hospital by three dive-bombers, three fighters, and eighteen high-level bombers caused thirty casualties.

Two Allied air attacks were made on both Lae and Kavieng. Fifteen enemy airplanes were reported shot down in the Buna area, and one destroyed at Lae without loss to ourselves.

2. General Harmon reports that on December 5 our fighter airplanes machine-gunned enemy landing operations at Tassafaronga.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

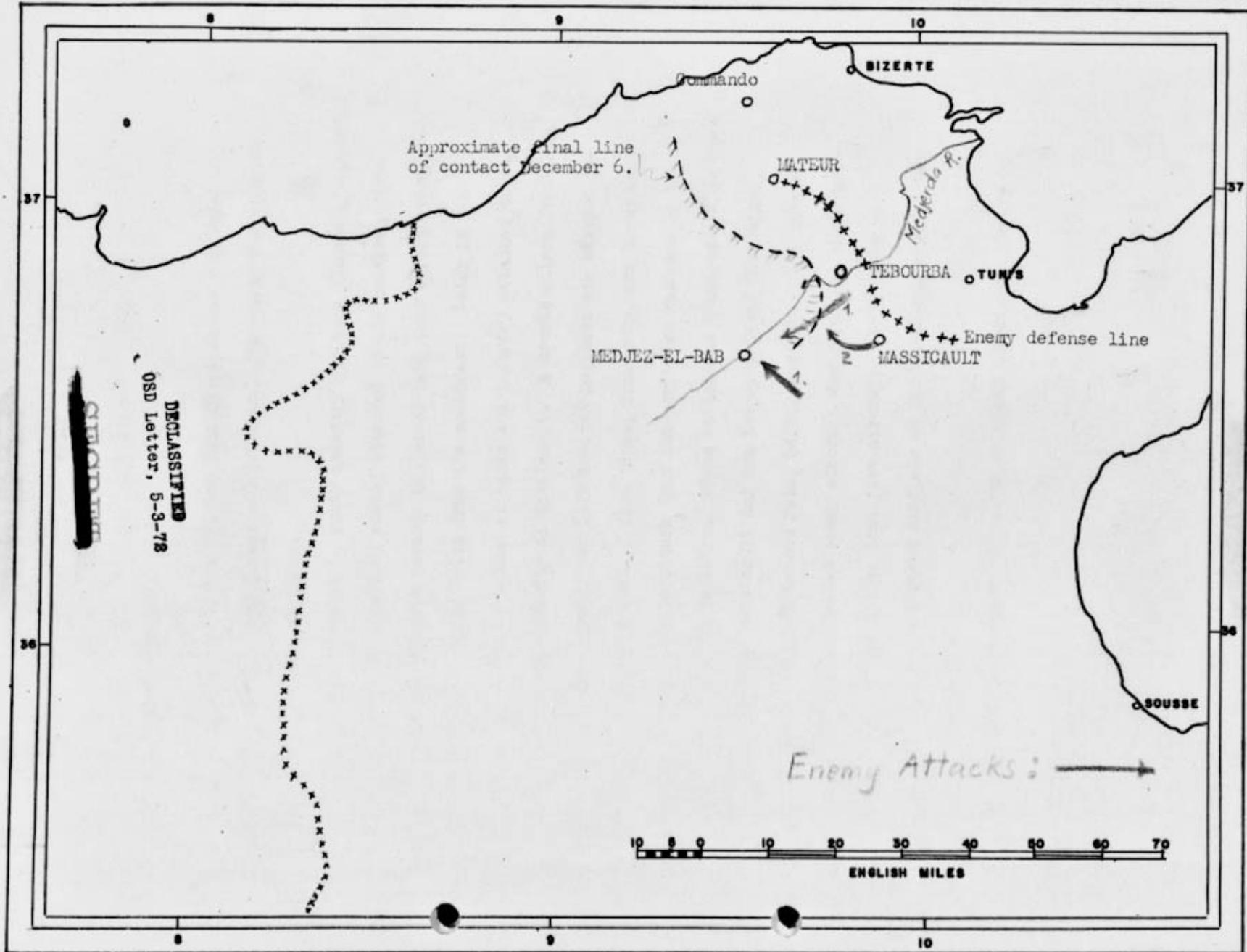
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 362

0700 December 7 to 0700 December 8, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

Enemy Attacks: →

10 20 30 40 50 60 70
ENGLISH MILES

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On December 5, the British 78th Division was regrouped to meet enemy thrusts from Mateur and Tebourba. The enemy improved his defensive line west of Tunis.

At 0800 December 6, enemy infantry and tank elements, supported by dive-bombers on a reduced scale, attacked to the southwest from the vicinity of Tebourba towards Medjez-el-Bab, this effort being coordinated with a second drive from the southeast. Later in the morning a third German column of tanks and infantry attacked to the northwest from the vicinity of Massicault. A counterattack from the south by one battalion of our 13th Armored Regiment was stopped by enemy 88 mm guns at a cost of five tanks, four guns, and heavy casualties. A second counterattack from the northwest was made by two battalions of the 6th Infantry. These battalions concentrated on the high ground between Massicault and the Medjerda River that night.

Enemy aircraft bombed Faid, Gafsa, and Bone. Air losses for the day totalled twelve enemy aircraft destroyed and three probably destroyed; the Allies lost five aircraft. An attempt on December 5 to use an advanced airfield at Medjez-el-Bab cost us two out of six airplanes.

Heavy losses were inflicted on enemy motorized infantry by

a commando unit, which, after landing on December 1 seized a road junction north of Mateur and held it for three days.

2. General Eisenhower reports that the announcement concerning Dakar has been drawn up in the form prescribed by the President, and agreed upon.

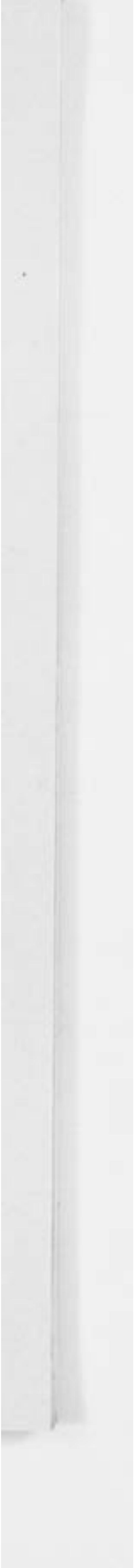
3. General Eisenhower was advised that representatives from the Board of Economic Warfare will leave at once for North Africa to acquire control of the stock piles of various strategic materials, the presence of which has been definitely established. His cooperation was requested in assisting this commission to procure and ship to the US the stock of cobalt and manganese.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the period ending December 6, General MacArthur reports that the relief of two depleted brigades of the 7th Australian Division was effected. There was no material change in positions in the Buna area.

Ineffective enemy air attacks were made on Allied installations on New Guinea and Allied ships north of Milne Bay and near Timor. Allied air attacks were made on Rabaul and on Lae airdrome. One enemy bomber and one fighter were destroyed with no Allied loss.

38 vessels, including six very large ones, were sighted at Rabaul.



WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 362

0700 December 6 to 0700 December 7, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
400 Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have advised all senior commanders concerned of the assignment of experienced Navy and Army officers to staffs of Army and Navy commanders exercising unity of command. These staff officers are working members of the staff of the commander concerned and are in no sense liaison officers. The continuous employment of highly qualified Army and Navy officers as working members of these staffs in the initiation, development, and execution of operations, is considered to be necessary to the efficient employment of units of one service by the other under the procedure of unity of command.

EUROPEAN THEATER

General Eaker reports that 54 "flying fortresses" effectively attacked the locomotive and carriage works at Lille at noon December 6. Five of the enemy fighter planes encountered were destroyed; one of our bombers is missing. Seven heavy bombers attacking the Abbeville airdrome at 1115 were intercepted by 30 to 35 German fighter aircraft, one of our planes being shot down in the Channel; all others returned. Three US fighter squadrons cooperated with twenty British squadrons in covering the bombers.

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DECLASSIFIED
OBD letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

During December 4, the enemy maintained pressure around the eastern and southern faces of our salient in Tunisia, using mechanized troops, infantry, and dive-bombers.

Our medium and heavy bombers attacked the shipping and docks at Bizerte, dropping 45 tons of bombs. One medium bomber is missing; one enemy airplane was destroyed. British aircraft from Malta also dropped 18 tons of bombs on Bizerte docks and Tunis. Our fighter aircraft in their sweeps over Tunisia disposed of two enemy aircraft.

Bone was attacked by the enemy, who lost three of his airplanes. On the night of December 2-3, an enemy airplane was destroyed over Algiers.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. General Harmon reports that US fighter aircraft attacked enemy positions on Guadalcanal, December 1, and participated in the attack, December 3, on a naval force 150 miles northwest of Guadalcanal. These airplanes accounted for four, possibly six, enemy seaplanes.

2. The War Department notified General Harmon that the Army Air Force units in the South Pacific are designated as the Thirteenth Air Force.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 361

0700 December 5 to 0700 December 6, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 6-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

As a consequence of the severe enemy attack of December 3, the British 11th Brigade was authorized to withdraw slightly to more favorable positions dominating Tebourba and Chouigui; part of its rear guard which failed to receive the order was cut off and twenty anti-tank guns were lost. The Brigade claims to have inflicted severe casualties on the enemy. General Eisenhower estimates that during the period December 1-3 the enemy lost thirty-three tanks; during December 1 and 2 ten US and thirty British tanks were lost. Heavy dive-bombing continued during December 4.

The situation of the 36th Brigade, to the north, is unchanged; it has made contact with a commando unit landed on the north coast.

On December 3 El Aouina airdrome and Biserte docks were heavily bombed, two ships being hit.

The supply situation in the forward area is occasioning some concern but is expected to improve with the arrival of large stocks at the railhead by December 6, coupled with the availability of additional trucks which will permit the opening, December 6, of a new supply route south from the port of La Calle. The railroad situation in the forward area is bad but improving.

The harbor defenses at Oran are now manned by units of the French Navy.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-8-72

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Andrews reports that aircraft of our two heavy bomber squadrons attacking the Italian fleet, shipping, and the moles at Naples, December 4, dropped 63 tons of demolition bombs. Direct hits and near misses on a battleship, cruiser, and two additional ships were reported; other hits were observed on the docks, moles, the city, and railroad yards. All our planes landed at their home bases safely.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that eastbound tonnage carried by air from India to China showed an increase of 10% during November despite Japanese attacks on Dinjan and unfavorable flying weather.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 5, General MacArthur reports that the US 32d Division attacked strong enemy positions in Buna, penetrated into the village and reached the sea to the east; this division is now in contact with the Japanese along the entire perimeter of the village. Near Cape Endaiadere US troops have resumed the attack after being temporarily halted by strong enemy counterattacks. Buna Mission and Sanananda

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OSD Letter, 6-3-72

were the targets for our medium and light bombers operating in support of front line units.

Twelve heavy bombers, attacking the airdrome at Kavieng, scored hits on the runway and dispersal areas and set one enemy aircraft afire.

Shipping at Rabaul was reported to include a "possible" aircraft carrier, three heavy cruisers, four light cruisers, and 17 other vessels.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 360

0700 December 4 to 0700 December 5, 1942

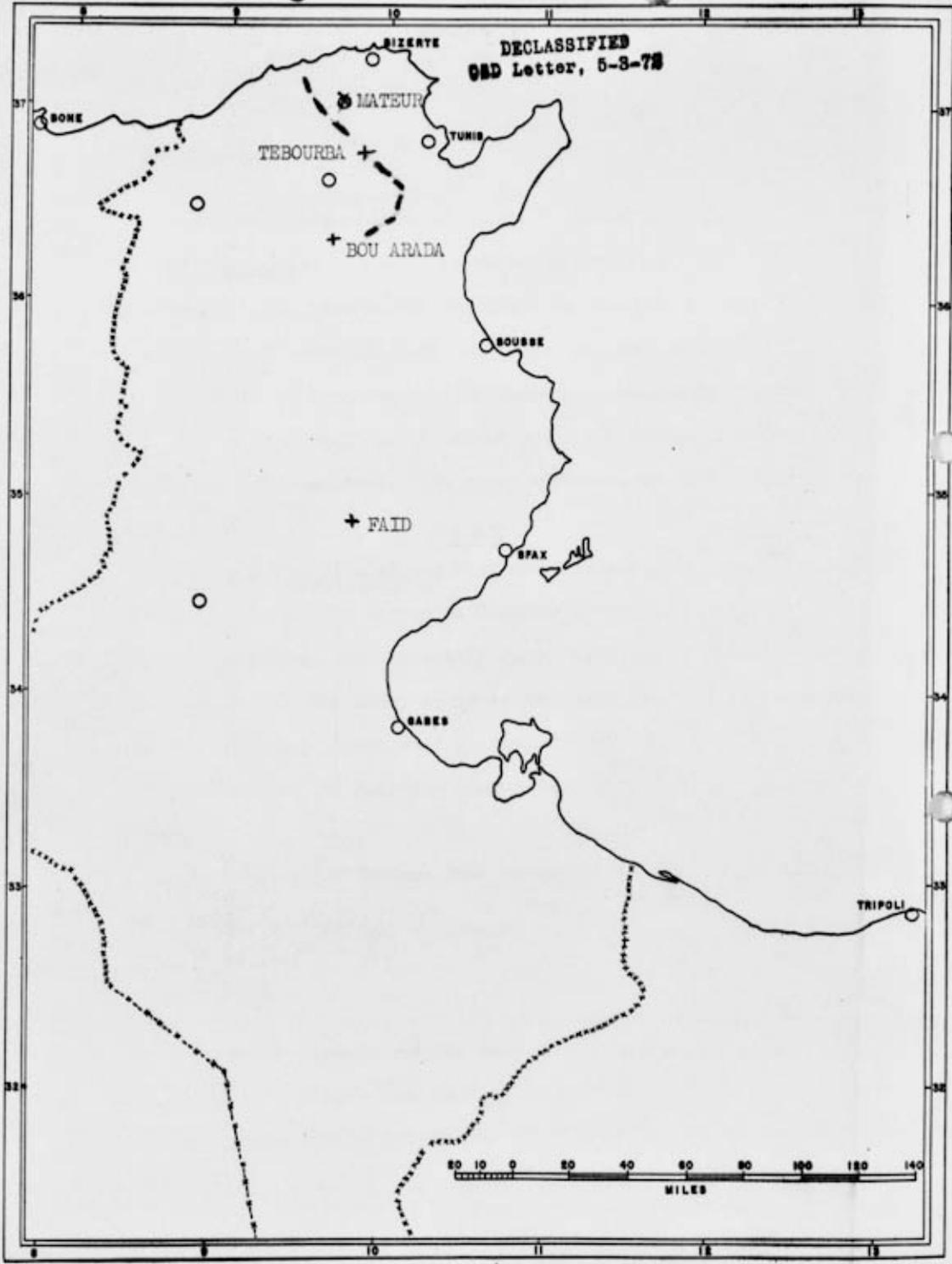
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ORD Letter, 5-8-78



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

Fighting continued west of Tunis; on December 3 enemy infantry and tanks supported by severe dive-bombing gained ground at Tebourba. German tanks were reported at Bou Arada on December 2. During these two days, enemy reconnaissance and combat aircraft were active, and the operations of long-range night bombers increased in intensity. After two days of fighting US troops drove the Germans from Faid, inflicting 200 casualties. The enemy continues to deliver reinforcements by sea.

The El Acouina (Tunis) and Sidi Ahmed (Bizerte) airdromes were heavily and repeatedly bombed on December 1 and 2; Gabes airdrome was also attacked. Four (probably eight) enemy airplanes were shot down December 2. The enemy attacked Bone airdrome, December 2, while our replacement airplanes were landing, at least eight of the latter being destroyed. Two American bombers were shot down at Bizerte December 3.

Concentration of Western Task Force strength in the area Rabat-Port Lyautey continues.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. General Bissell reports that a raid was made on December 1 by our fighter aircraft from Kweilin on an enemy airdrome under construction in northern French Indo-China.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

2. On December 4 six heavy bombers successfully attacked an enemy motor transport concentration at Pyawbwe, Burma (75 miles south of Mandalay). All aircraft and crews returned safely.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, December 3, General MacArthur reports that the 7th Australian Division continued its aggressive action; its forward elements were advancing slowly eastward after clearing out a pocket of enemy troops trapped near Gona. US troops were continuing their reorganization near Buna, where Japanese transport airplanes, protected by Zeros, supplied their forces by parachute on December 2. Our air forces continued to support our action in this area in a series of coordinated attacks on enemy ground troops and installations. One of our airplanes was destroyed.

2. For December 4, General MacArthur reports that activities in New Guinea were confined to patrol operations, supported by his air force which also attacked the airdromes at Lae and Salamaua, a schooner off Timor, and the airdrome at Kavieng. One light bomber failed to return.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

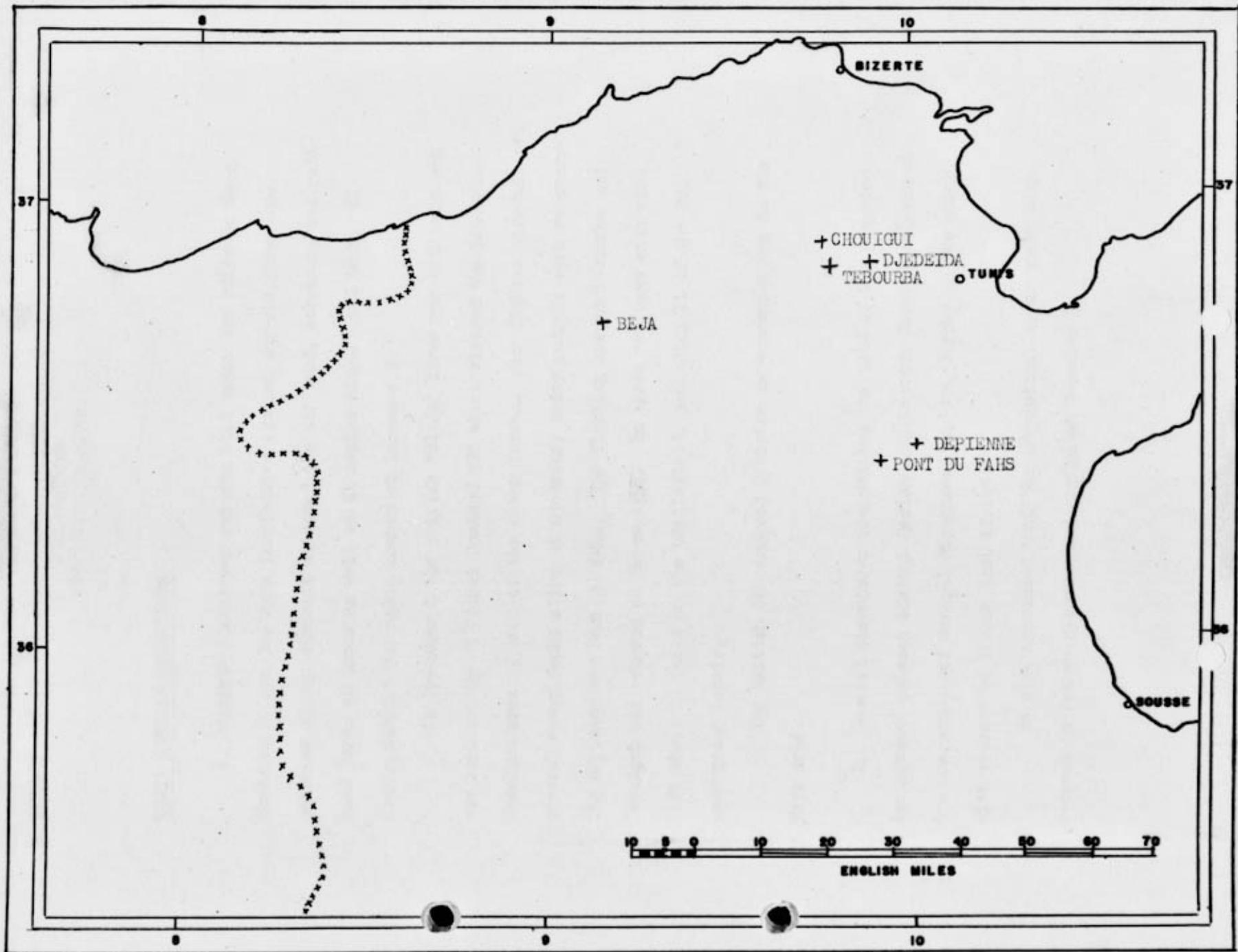
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 359

0700 December 3 to 0700 December 4, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. General Eisenhower reports that enemy air raids on Bone, November 29 and 30, were ineffective against our shipping. On November 30 our aircraft attacked the airfield, barracks, and railroad yards at Gabes as well as El Aouina airport and town. El Aouina airport was again bombed on December 2.

On December 1 the British "Blade" force was withdrawn and was replaced by US Combat Command "B" which cleared the Tebourba-Chouigui area of most of the enemy forces. Our fighter aircraft set several enemy tanks afire at Djedeida; enemy patrols were reoccupying Depienne and Pont du Fahs. The fighting around Tebourba and Chouigui was renewed on December 2. In these two days each side left about 23 tanks on the battlefield, including 11 of the British undergoing repair.

The British 6th Armored Division is concentrating in the Beja area.

2. General Eisenhower transmitted the text of the proposed arrangement between Admiral Darlan and Governor General Boisson on the one hand, and General Eisenhower and Mr. Murphy on the other, with respect to French West Africa.

He also announced that the provisional arrangement with respect to French shipping was signed on December 3.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-74

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for December 2, General MacArthur reports that the Australian 7th Division, against light opposition, moved one battalion some five miles eastward along the coast from Gona. US forces, attacking from the south and east, made some progress against enemy positions at Buna.

Allied bombers and fighters maintained their support of these attacks. They also attacked two enemy cruisers off Beco (Timor) and an enemy concentration of bombers and fighters at the Penfoei airdrome where five airplanes were set on fire.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

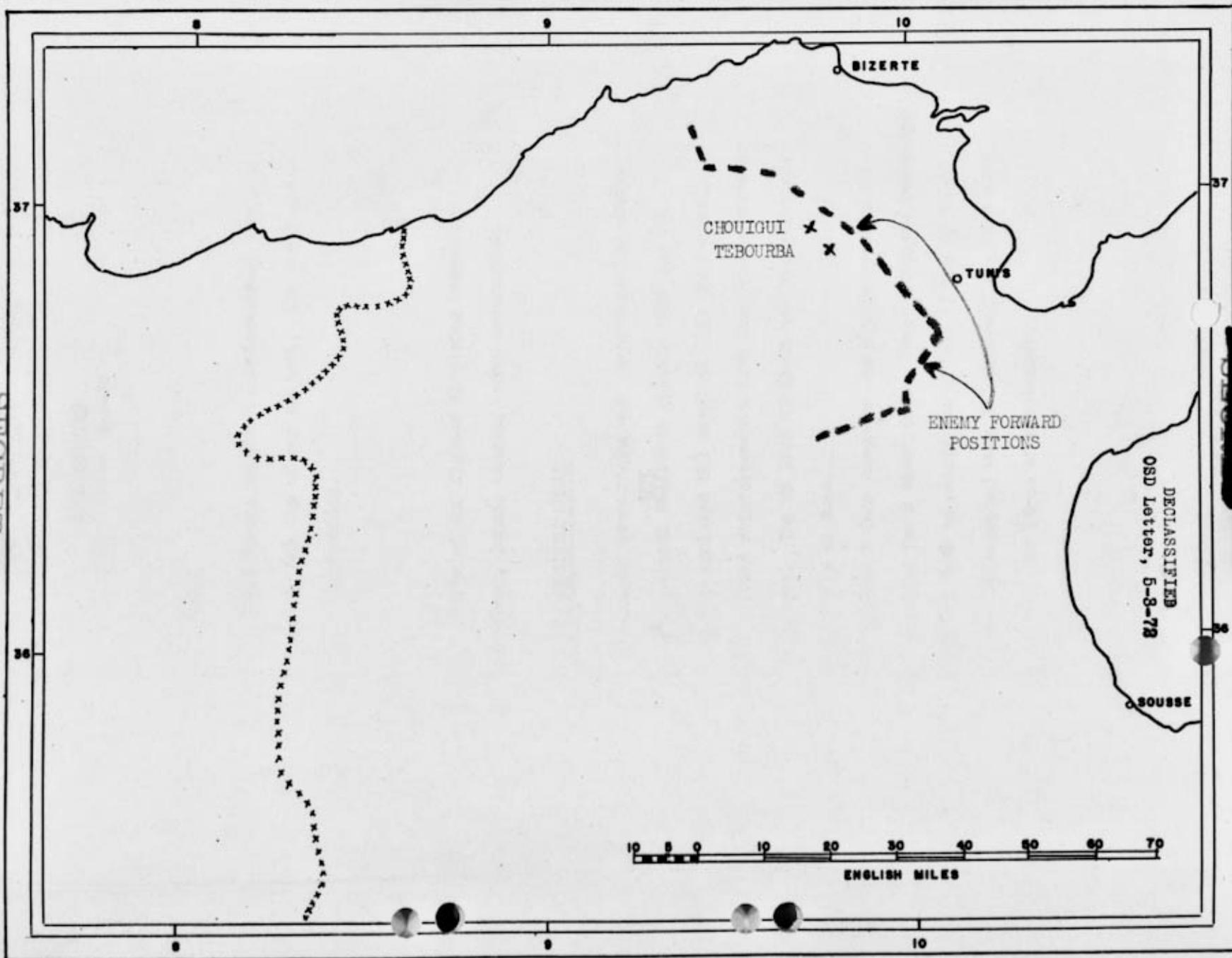
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 358

0700 December 2 to 0700 December 3, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On December 1 Allied forces repulsed counterattacks near Tebourba and Chouigui at the tip of our salient. The enemy maintained his effective dive-bombing.

ASIATIC THEATER

On December 1 twelve of our fighter airplanes bombed and machine-gunned Maingwan, Burma, causing heavy destruction.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1500 GCT, December 1, General MacArthur reports that the 7th Australian Division had isolated the enemy at Gona into a small area on the beach. Allied reinforcements have been transported to the forward areas by air. The US 32nd Division was reorganizing, and had advanced slightly at Buna.

Late on December 1 four Japanese destroyers reached the vicinity of Buna and Gona for a short time. Seven attempts involving 43 of our bombers were made to attack the ships; of the 60 to 80 enemy airplanes which intercepted them 21, probably 23, were shot down with a loss to our air force of two bombers.

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DECLASSIFIED
REF Letter, 6-3-78

Kahili airdrome was bombed, one enemy fighter being destroyed on the runway.

Aerial reconnaissances disclosed the departure of the last destroyer and two transports from the Buka Passage.

2. Since his campaign on the north coast of New Guinea is entirely supported and supplied by air, General MacArthur recently asked for additional troop carrier units. The War Department has taken steps to dispatch in about two weeks the first squadron of four, belonging to the 317th Troop Carrier Group, which had been scheduled for departure next February.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

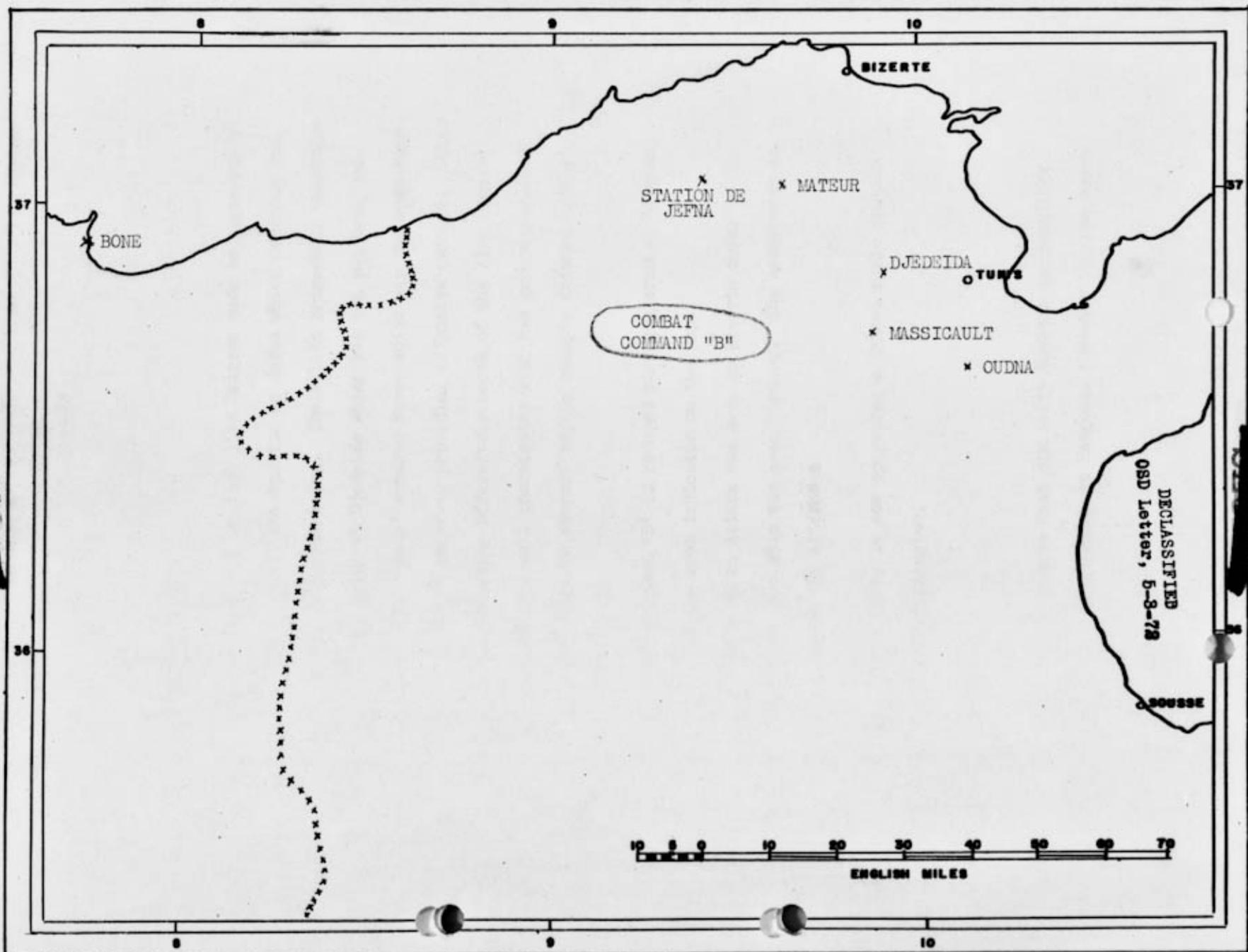
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 357

0700 December 1 to 0700 December 2, 1942

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On November 30 the British 36th Brigade made an unsuccessful attack on the hill north of the Station de Jefna which commands the road to Mateur, and is reorganizing. Their 11th Brigade is maintaining contact with the enemy at Djedeida which has not yet been completely captured. The "Blade" armored force which was the spearhead of the advance is now in reserve, providing offensive patrols. Other British troops are operating offensively north of the line Oudna-Massicault. Air action, well coordinated with his ground elements, continues to give effective support to the enemy's defense against the Allied assaults.

US Combat Command "B" (a reduced strength armored brigade) is concentrating in the area indicated on the map.

On November 30 an attack was made on Bizerte docks by our "flying fortresses"; one ship was seen burning. The enemy made an air attack on Bone in the afternoon.

2. The Signal Corps is now operating a direct radio channel between Algiers and Washington.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that six heavy bombers successfully attacked the docks and shipping at Rangoon, November 29; one heavy

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bomber is missing.

The same night other heavy bombers, attacking Port Blair, Andaman Islands, scored a hit on a naval auxiliary boat.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for November 30, General MacArthur reports that slow progress was made by all Allied ground troops in the Buna area; elements have reached that village. Intensive aerial support was given to these operations; seven (probably ten) enemy airplanes were shot down with a loss of three fighters and one transport.

Other Allied air attacks were made on Faisi and on the Lae airdrome. Ineffective air attacks were made on Port Moresby and on two Allied corvettes en route to Timor. One airplane protecting the corvettes was shot down.

2. General Harmon's operations summary for November 29 mentions an attack by five "flying fortresses" on two enemy freighters and two destroyers; one freighter was left stationary and smoking. Three out of ten Japanese pursuit aircraft, attempting to intercept our bombers, were shot down.

Reconnaissance missions were flown by "flying fortresses" from Espiritu Santo and from Guadalcanal on November 30. Two Zeros were shot down west of Choiseul Island.

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