

203 (2)

WAR DEPARTMENT
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

January

1943

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DOD E.R. 5200.9 (9/27/88) 79

Date- AUG 29 1972

Signature- RHP

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

During January 29 the enemy continued his usual activity, escorting convoys and attacking shipping off Bougie and our installations at Bone. Allied air attacks were made on the El Aouina and Djedeida airdromes and shipping between Sicily and Tunisia, during which operations, two enemy vessels were hit and eight (possibly sixteen) enemy aircraft destroyed without reported Allied loss. Ground activity was limited chiefly to patrolling.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 29, General MacArthur reports that an attack by a strong enemy patrol near Wandumi (east of Wau) was repulsed with casualties and that the enemy has apparently withdrawn. Because of weather, the only flying missions undertaken were attacks by single airplanes on Gasmata and Cape Gloucester and a raid by six B-25's on enemy positions in the Mubo area.

2. In spite of inclement weather, difficulties of supply and enemy resistance, the advance of our ground forces on Guadalcanal continued slowly on January 29. Nine B-26's escorted by eleven fighters dropped some four tons of bombs on Munda. The usual reconnaissance missions were flown, positions of enemy naval vessels being reported.

WAR DEPARTMENT

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 416

0700 January 29 to 0700 January 30, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

A supplementary account of the bombing of German targets on January 27 states that 53 B-17's dropped 131½ tons of high explosive bombs on the dock installations at Wilhelmshaven and 2 B-17's bombed the ship yards at Emden. Twenty-three B-24's failed to locate their target because of weather conditions. Of the 40 to 60 enemy fighters which attacked our bombers, 26 (probably 31) were destroyed; three of our heavy bombers are missing.

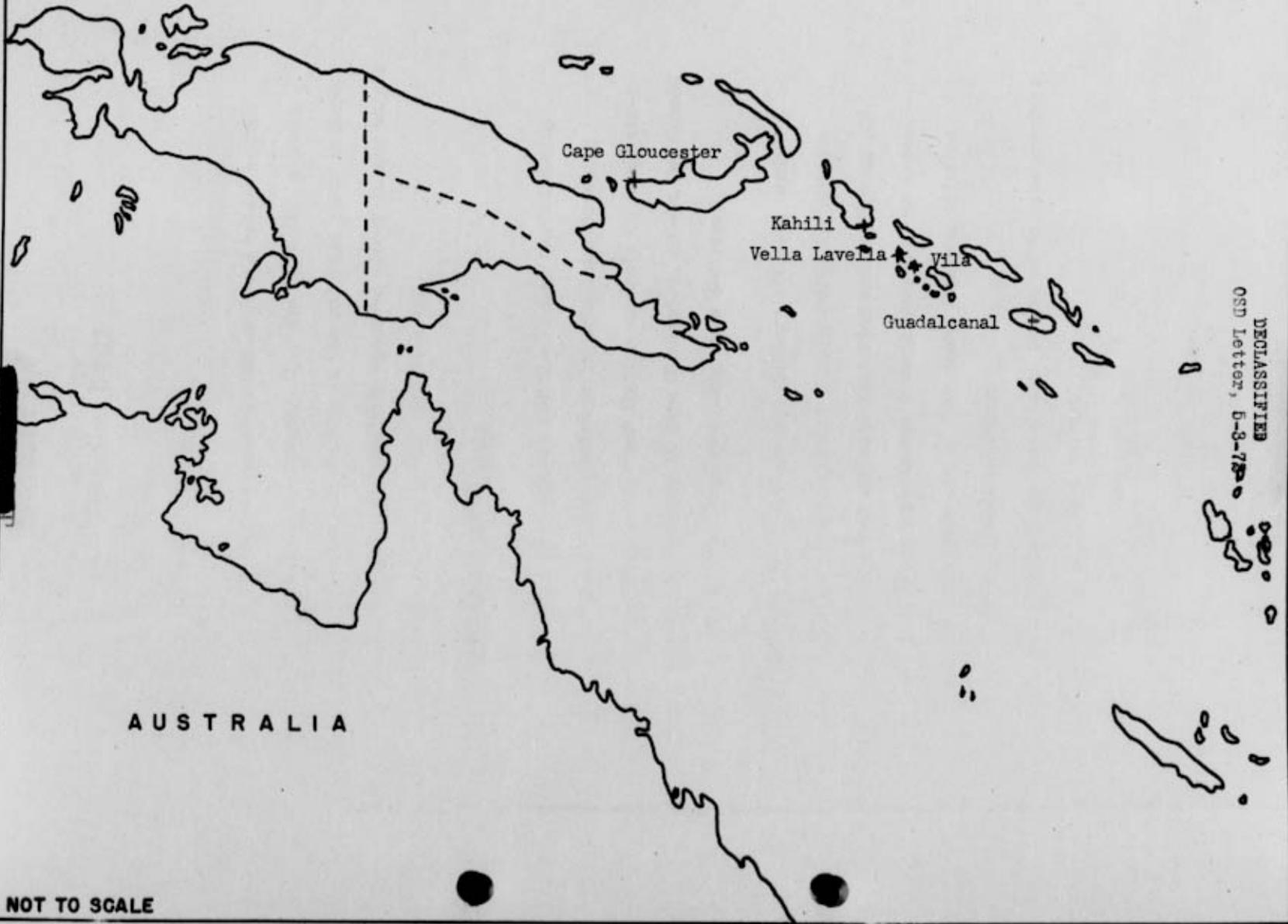
NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 28 the harbor, railroad yards and barracks at Sfax were attacked in three missions by 67 heavy and medium US bombers which dropped a total of 112 tons of bombs; hits were observed on these targets. Six (probably eight) of the enemy aircraft which intercepted these missions were destroyed, with a loss of three of our own airplanes. Other attacks were made during the day on ground targets. British aircraft based on Malta attacked targets in Sicily and the toe of Italy.

Our ground forces have cleared the enemy from the valley to a distance of some sixteen miles north of Ousseltia. Minor gains were made on the eastern heights dominating this valley.

Algiers was attacked by 20 to 30 enemy bombers, 3 of which were destroyed, during the night January 28-29.

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AUSTRALIA

Cape Gloucester

Kahili
Vella Lavella

Guadalcanal

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OSD Letter, 6-8-78

NOT TO SCALE

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OSD Letter, 8-8-78

ASIATIC THEATER

On January 25 US bombers attacked the railroad bridge south of Mandalay (which was hit on January 10). The next day, attacks were made by our fighters and bombers on the railroad yards at Mandalay and the wharf areas at Rangoon with observed effect in the target areas. The airdrome at Lashio was also attacked.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 28, General MacArthur reports that harassing attacks were made by his bomber and fighter aircraft on enemy airdromes and other installations at Cape Gloucester, on the New Guinea coast, and in Timor. Two enemy airplanes were destroyed.

2. On January 28 US bombers and fighters attacked enemy airdromes at Vila and Kahili. Twelve dive-bombers, two torpedo bombers and fifteen fighter aircraft attacking enemy shipping off the north coast of Vella Lavella hit a destroyer, a cargo vessel and a tanker, and shot down one of four enemy fighters offering combat. All of our airplanes returned.

Our ground forces on Guadalcanal continued to make progress against the enemy in difficult terrain.

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WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

1. On January 27, 28 German bombers were reported to have been shot down over the Mediterranean Sea. Another report states that the German bombers were shot down over the Mediterranean Sea.

On the night of January 27-28 German bombers destroyed railway tracks near Catania, Sicily (east of Palermo). Bombs also destroyed the airport at Catania, Sicily. Bombs also destroyed the airport at Catania, Sicily.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

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0700 January 28 to 0700 January 29, 1943

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AFRICAN-ASIAN AIRBORNE FORCES

1. The War Department informed General Eisenhower that the

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On January 27 US forces were astride the Ousseltia-Kairouan pass. Active patrolling by both sides continues. Further south, Station de Sened was reoccupied by the enemy.

On the night of January 25-26 Allied bombers destroyed railway track near Station de Jefna (west of Mateur). Enemy dive-bombers, attacking the Souk-el-Arba airdrome, destroyed two aircraft on the ground at a cost of two (probably four) of their own. On the night of January 26-27, 23 enemy aircraft operating against Algiers hit a merchant vessel and buildings in the town; two of these airplanes were destroyed. Axis bombers also attacked an Allied convoy between Bougie and Algiers with unreported results. In the Sfax-Gabes area, on January 27, US fighter aircraft attacked enemy motor transport and other ground targets, while our light bombers struck Mezzouna. Six medium bombers obtained hits on one of two enemy destroyers, loaded with men, between Tunisia and Sicily.

2. The War Department informed General Eisenhower that the Brazilian Government had been invited to send a small military mission to North Africa where it will be attached to the headquarters of the Fifth Army.

AFRICAN-MIDILE EASTERN THEATER

1. Nine B-24 bombers despatched against Naples on January 26

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were diverted by bad weather to Palermo where they dropped 20 tons of bombs with unobserved results. Of eight others despatched later in the day only one reached Naples where clouds prevented observation of its bombing; five others bombed Messina, hits being observed along the water front.

2. On January 27 the IX Bomber Command attacked Messina and Palermo.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for January 27, General MacArthur reports that an enemy raid on Port Moresby destroyed one grounded airplane. Allied air attacks were carried out against airdromes and other targets at Lae, Salamaua, Mubo, Finschhafen, Gasmata, and Dobo (in Timor).

2. On January 27 our medium bombers attacked the Japanese airfield at Munda. Our ground forces on Guadalcanal continued their advance westwards beyond Kokumbona.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

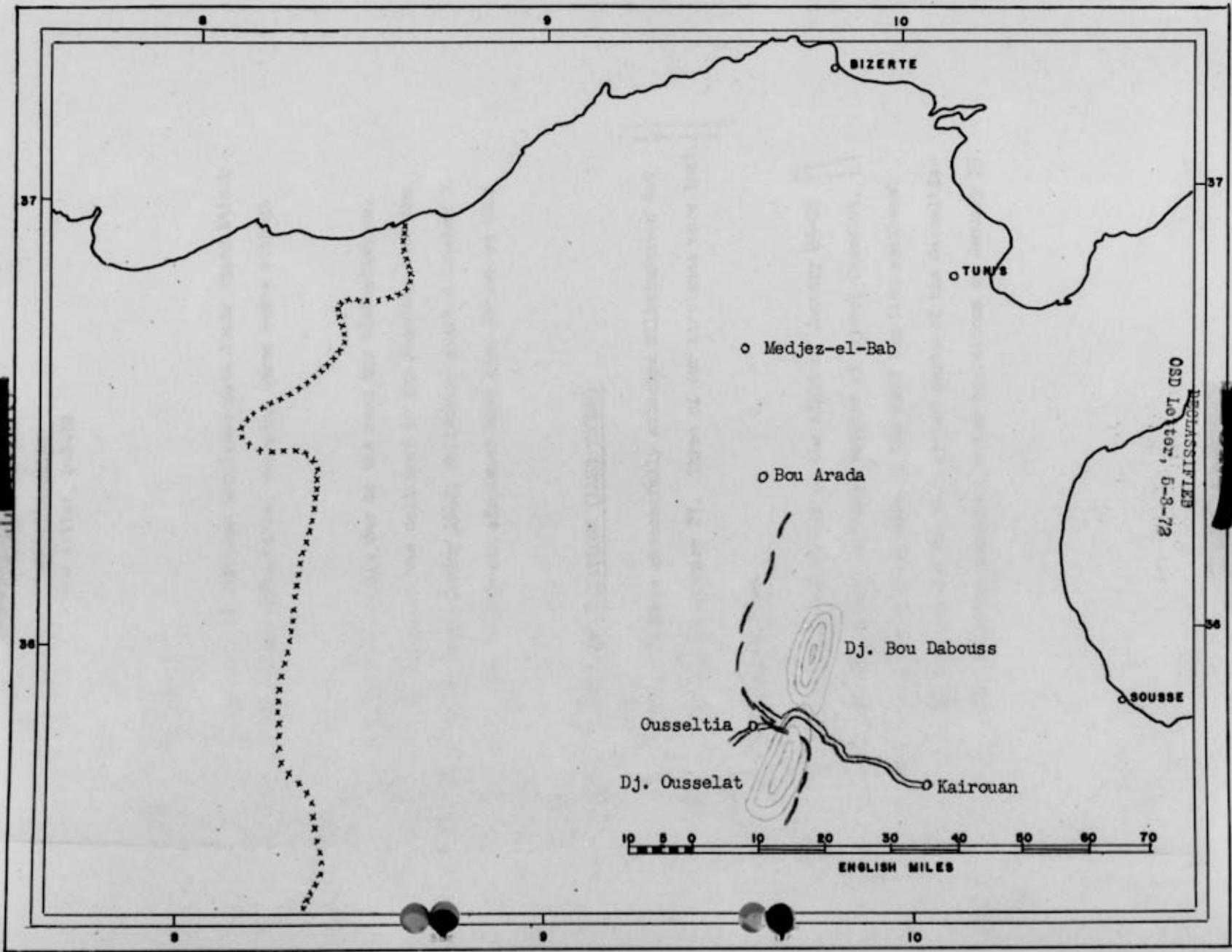
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 414

0700 January 27 to 0700 January 28, 1943

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THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. On January 28 Japanese airplanes made their third attack on our installations on Amchitka, dropping three bombs without effect.

2. In spite of delays due to the need for winterization, a total of 138 airplanes was delivered to the Russians over the Alaska-Siberian route during 1942; deliveries started October 3. Up to January 25, thirty-six airplanes have been delivered this year.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

79 US heavy bombers successfully attacked Wilhelmshaven and other German targets January 27. Three of our airplanes were lost. ||

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

A successful Allied attack on the night of January 25-26 forced the enemy off the northwest heights of Djebel Ousselat. ||
The enemy still is in possession of the road junction southwest of Djebel Bou Dabouss and the high ground north of the Ousseltia-Kairouan road. Weather prevented bomber operations on January 25.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On January 26, aircraft of the IX Bombardment Command attacked railroad yards at Messina.

ASIATIC THEATER

On January 25, General Bissell's P-40's damaged eight or nine enemy locomotives at Naba (north of Katha).

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 26, General MacArthur reports that an enemy air raid on Port Moresby caused no damage. There had been no ground activity for two days. Allied air raids were carried out against enemy airdromes and other targets at Rabaul (where a ship was set afire), Lae, Buka (Bougainville), Gasmata, Cape Gloucester and Finschhafen. The enemy's installations in the Salamaua area were also attacked.

2. General MacArthur was informed that Lieutenant General Krueger and the principal members of his Sixth Army Headquarters staff will leave for Australia on February 3 by air.

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3. On January 26 the enemy airfields at Munda and Ballale were attacked by US aircraft. Two P-39's, attacking four enemy four-engined flying boats north of New Georgia, were intercepted by five enemy fighters; one Zero and one P-39 were destroyed.

On Guadalcanal our units continued their advance.

4. Six B-24's, conducting a photographic reconnaissance of Wake Island, January 25, were intercepted by eight Zero fighters, two of which are believed to have been shot down. All our aircraft landed safely at Midway.

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WORLDWIDE SUMMARY

No damage resulted from the Japanese air attack on Saipan, January 25.

WESTERN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LAST EVENING)

An unidentified airplane was sighted over Saipan on January 25.

PACIFIC THEATER OPERATIONS

WAR DEPARTMENT

On the night of January 25-26 several fighter aircraft attacked enemy water. DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY No. 413. One was ineffectively bombed by enemy. One of which was shot down.

In the action at Saipan on January 25, enemy losses are now reported to be 0700 January 26 to 0700 January 27, 1943. One was shot down, three wounded and lost.

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PACIFIC THEATER OPERATIONS

THE WHITE HOUSE

Airplanes of the United Air Force attacked an enemy landing field near Saipan on January 25.

WORLD THEATER

On January 27 and 28, 24 fighter aircraft bombed and strafed enemy-held towns near Saipan. On the latter date, nine B-24's

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

No damage resulted from the Japanese air attack on Amchitka, January 25.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

An unidentified airplane was sighted over Iceland on January 25.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On the night of January 23-24 British fighter aircraft attacked enemy motor transportation on coastal roads. Bone was ineffectively bombed by enemy airplanes, one of which was shot down.

In the action at Maknassy on January 24, enemy losses are now reported to have been 25 killed and 150 prisoners. Our losses were two killed, three wounded and two tanks lost.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

Airplanes of the Ninth Air Force attacked an enemy landing field near Medenine on January 25.

ASIATIC THEATER

On January 22 and 24, US fighter aircraft bombed and strafed enemy-held towns near Myitkyina. On the latter date, nine B-24's,

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OSD Letter, 8-3-72

attacking enemy harbor installations and shipping at Rangoon, scored direct hits on the wharves and on a 6,000-ton vessel.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations report for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 25, General MacArthur states that "flying fortresses" sighted two enemy destroyers and three cargo vessels (6,000-10,000 tons) in St. George's Channel on the night of January 24-25. PT boats attacked four enemy barges near the mouth of the Kumusi River sinking two, destroying one and beaching one. "Flying fortresses" in a night attack on shipping in Rabaul harbor sank a 2,000-ton vessel and blew a large hole in another. Other Allied bombing action was directed at the enemy lines of communication on New Guinea and on the airdromes at Lae and Gasmata. Enemy aircraft following our returning bombers attacked Port Moresby destroying one transport airplane. An air attack on Milne Bay caused no damage.

2. On January 25 US bombers escorted by fighter aircraft demolished a wharf and obtained hits on an enemy flying field at Reporepi. On Guadalcanal, in the past two days, some units attacking to the west have advanced as much as ten miles; many Japanese have been killed. Near Kokumbona only two small enemy pockets remain to be reduced.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 412

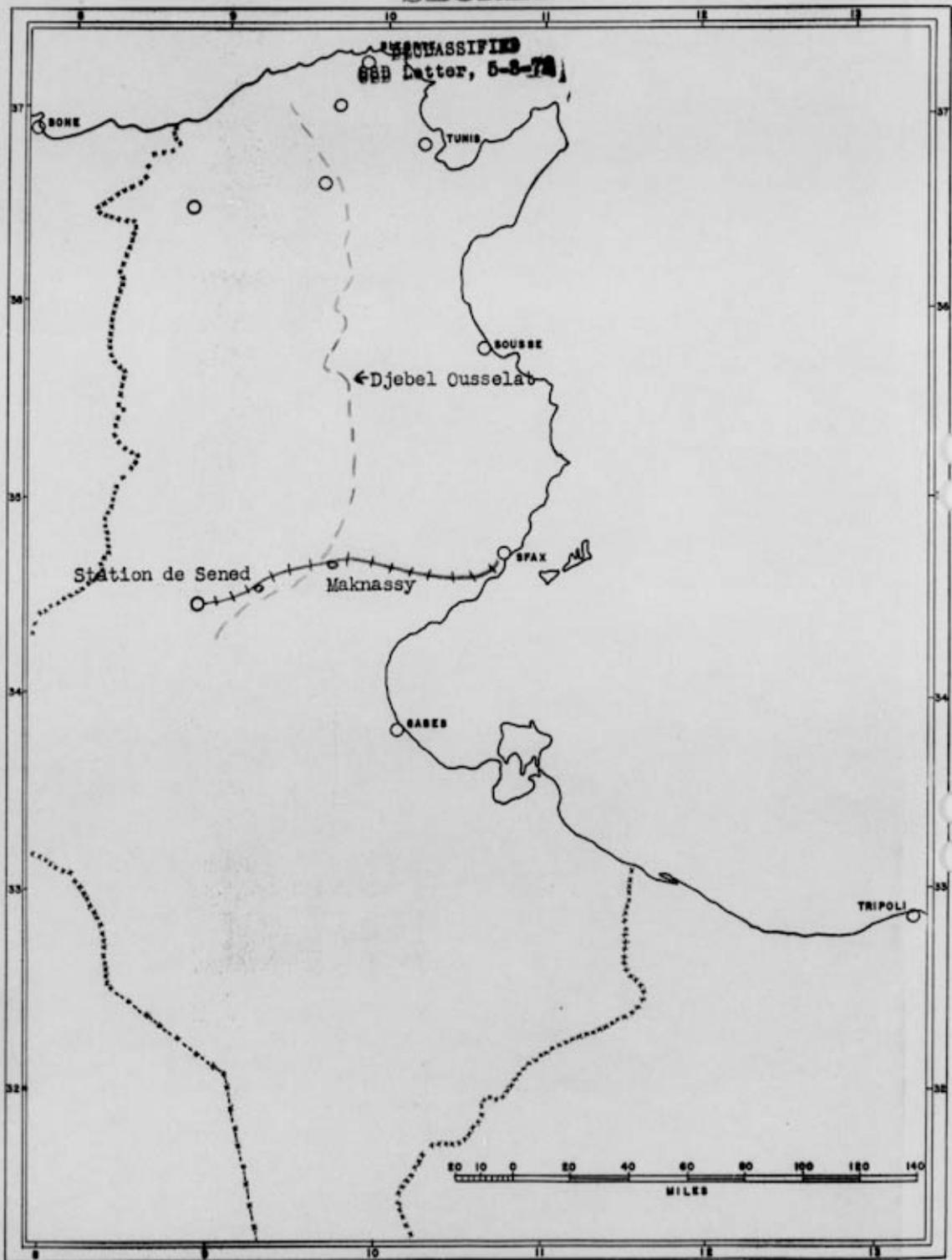
0700 January 25 to 0700 January 26, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78



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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The Japanese made their second attack on Amchitka, January 25; further details have not as yet been reported.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

A supplementary report on the bombing of the enemy submarine installations at Lorient and Brest, January 23, indicates that 131 tons of high explosives were dropped and that nine (probably 16) enemy fighters were destroyed.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 23, after the French forces had withdrawn from Djebel Bou Dabouss to Djebel Ousselat, an enemy attack westward reached the high ground on the northwest section of Djebel Ousselat.

An Allied reconnaissance in force, capturing 86 Axis prisoners at Maknassy, discovered en route that Station de Sened had been evacuated by the enemy.

Allied air attacks on enemy airdromes on January 23 are reported to have resulted in the destruction of some 25 enemy airplanes on the ground.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

Aircraft of the IX Bomber Command attacked harbor installations

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

and shipping at Palermo the night of January 23-24.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. General MacArthur's operations report for January 24 states that, in addition to 42 large and medium vessels at Rabaul harbor, strong enemy naval units including a light cruiser and an aircraft carrier were sighted in Salajar Straits (Celebes). Our heavy and medium bombers attacked shipping at Rabaul and airfields in the vicinity of Rabaul, Lae and Gasmata. Single B-24 Liberators on separate reconnaissance missions successfully repelled intercepting enemy fighters, destroying two, probably three, Zeros. Enemy positions at Salamaua were bombed and strafed by four Allied light bombers.

2. On January 24 "flying fortresses" again attacked the airdrome at Munda. Our ground forces on Guadalcanal, after an aggressive attack from the south, have captured the Kokumbona area and encircled another strong enemy center of resistance comprising of more than three infantry battalions. Supply dumps, food storage, miscellaneous equipment and several command posts were also captured. Four enemy pockets are now encircled and are being reduced.

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DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 411

0700 January 24 to 0700 January 25, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-8-79

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Two Japanese float monoplanes attacked our installations on Amchitka, January 24, causing minor damage. The unloading of the "Middleton" is proceeding slowly.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

During daylight January 23, 48 "flying fortresses" of the Eighth Air Force attacked the enemy submarine installations at Lorient and Brest. Several direct hits were observed on the target at Lorient. Enemy fighters were active during the entire period our bombers were over the continent and five of our planes are missing.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 23 the American armored force continued to operate in the Ousseltia Valley, along the Oued Marouf, and covered the withdrawal of the French force in the hills to the east. US light bombers heavily attacked enemy ground forces in this area. To the south, the enemy occupied the Station de Sened; the lines in Tunisia remain otherwise essentially unchanged.

On January 22, heavy Allied air raids were made on the El Acuina airdrome at Tunis by 26 heavy and 17 medium bombers. Three (probably five) enemy fighters were destroyed with loss of one US medium bomber.

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On January 23 the naval base at Bizerte was attacked by 23 heavy and 10 medium bombers which dropped 79 tons of bombs, destroyed 28 to 40 enemy airplanes, and hit two enemy vessels, sinking one. Other Allied air attacks on enemy lines of communication resulted in the destruction of 28 vehicles and two airplanes. Our losses were one medium bomber and three fighters. Enemy activity over the Algerian coast cost him three airplanes with no reported US loss or damage.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 23, General MacArthur reports that much equipment and 117 prisoners were captured in the Sanananda area during the day. Our bombers, pounding enemy airfields, installations and shipping at Rabaul, obtained hits on fuel dumps and dispersal areas, a direct hit and five near misses on a 12,000-ton transport, and damaged, with near misses, an 8,000-ton transport. Five Zero planes, intercepting a lone heavy bomber over Rabaul, were destroyed. Madang, Finschhafen, Lae, Mubo, and enemy lines of communication on New Guinea and Timor were also attacked. A heavy bomber, intercepted by eighteen Zeros over Wewak, destroyed three (probably five) of the enemy planes. Enemy air raids on Milne Bay, Port Moresby, and Merauke caused no damage. Two north-bound enemy barges were intercepted by two motor torpedo boats and left beached near the Kumusi River.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-73

2. On January 23 US bomber and fighter aircraft in the South Pacific continually pounded the enemy airdrome and antiaircraft installations at Munda. On Guadalcanal, General Patch's Corps advanced rapidly along the entire front despite heavy resistance and artillery fire, repulsed an enemy counterattack, captured four prominent hills one of which was heavily fortified, and frustrated an enemy attempt to break out of encirclement, capturing two additional hills by this last maneuver.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 410

0700 January 23 to 0700 January 24, 1943

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OBD Letter, 5-3-73

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Work is progressing on road building and lake drainage at Amchitka.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

US Spitfires, providing escort for RAF bombers during a day attack on Fort Rouge airdrome, January 22, encountered stiff enemy resistance. Three FW-190's are claimed as destroyed; one US fighter is missing and one crash landed.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 21 and 22 the American armored force of tanks, infantry, field artillery, and tank destroyers advancing northward, under French command, along the Oued Marouf, forced the enemy back eleven miles from the bottom of his salient. Enemy attacks from the east were made at two points against the Allied lines to the east of the Oued Marouf.

Allied aircraft were active over Tunisia on January 21, attacking enemy motor transport, railroads, and roads. At least 65 enemy vehicles and three enemy aircraft were claimed as destroyed. Our losses were three fighters. US medium bombers and escorting fighters, on anti-shipping missions, sank one enemy merchant vessel, damaged another and shot down seven attacking enemy airplanes with

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

a loss of three fighters. Three enemy aircraft were shot down over Northern Algeria, with a loss of one Allied airplane.

Aircraft from Malta sank an enemy merchant vessel on the night of January 20-21 and hit an 850-ton motor vessel the next night.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On January 20, P-40's of the Ninth Air Force flew fighter and fighter-bomber missions. One enemy fighter was probably destroyed; we lost one airplane.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

/In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 22, General MacArthur reports that organized resistance in the Sanananda area has ceased. Three "flying fortresses", carrying out a pre-dawn low-level attack on shipping at Rabaul, hit and sank two medium-size vessels and scored direct hits on two large ships, both of which were observed to be on fire and badly damaged. / Other air raids were carried out on the town and harbor areas at Rabaul, the airdrome at Madang and the enemy dumps at Lae. The Japanese ineffectively raided Port Moresby, Milne Bay and Darwin.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

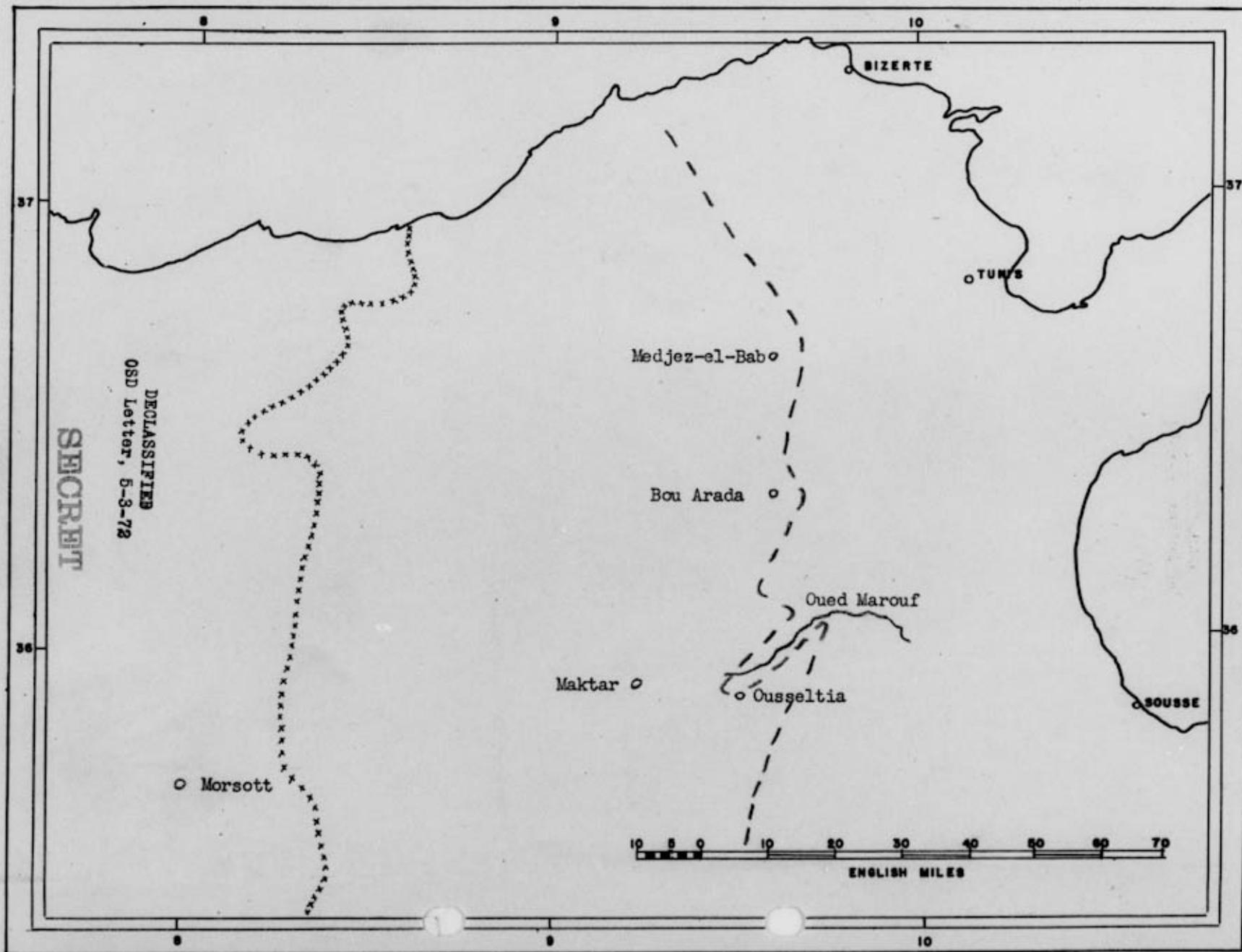
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

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0700 January 22 to 0700 January 23, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Construction of the landing field at Amchitka has begun, and unloading operations continue without enemy interference.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

After some fighting on January 20 and 21, Allied troops were successful in holding the north shoulder of the enemy salient southeast of Bou Arada. On January 21 the enemy penetration continued southwest up the Oued Marouf valley although French troops apparently still held the heights dominating it. US infantry, field artillery, armored, and tank destroyer battalions have been ordered from Maktar to the vicinity of Ousseltia.

On January 20 there was much aircraft activity with many engagements between the opposing forces. Our bombers heavily attacked enemy barracks and the airfield at Gabes; others bombed Bizerte and hit a tanker to the northeast. British aircraft from Malta continued its support of our operations.

Eight out of twelve enemy paratroops who landed at Morsott on January 20 were captured.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On January 21 aircraft of the IX Bomber Command attacked shipping in Tripoli harbor and bombed retreating enemy columns along the coastal road from Sormane to Zouara.

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ASIATIC THEATER

On January 16 and 17 US medium bombers attacked Maymyo (north of Mandalay), obtaining hits on the railroad junction, and attacked enemy rolling stock north of Monywa (west of Mandalay).

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 21, General MacArthur reports continued progress in the Sanananda area, one of the remaining enemy pockets being removed.

Three of our B-17's made a low-level attack on shipping at Rabaul, leaving one 6,000-ton merchant vessel sinking and damaging a 2,000-ton ship. Airdromes in the Rabaul area were also attacked, as were supply dumps at Lae and buildings at Salamaua. Three B-24 heavy bombers attacking shipping in Ambon harbor set one cruiser afire, hit a 4,000-ton merchant vessel, and shot down two (probably three) intercepting Zeros.

The enemy destroyed one light bomber in two attacks on Milne Bay. Other enemy raids on Darwin and Merauke did no damage.

2. On January 21 US medium bombers attacked enemy bivouac areas at Munda while B-17's bombed the airdromes there and at Ballale.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

3. The War Department plans to activate at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, a combat team, composed of one infantry regiment, one field artillery battalion and one engineer company, the personnel to be American citizens of Japanese ancestry who volunteer and who are approved after investigation by the War Department. Of the 4500 personnel required, 1500 are to come from Hawaii and the remainder from the mainland. Company Commanders and above will be white officers.

The War Department directed General Emmons to select his quota and prepare the necessary publicity, which, however, must be approved by the Bureau of Public Relations.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

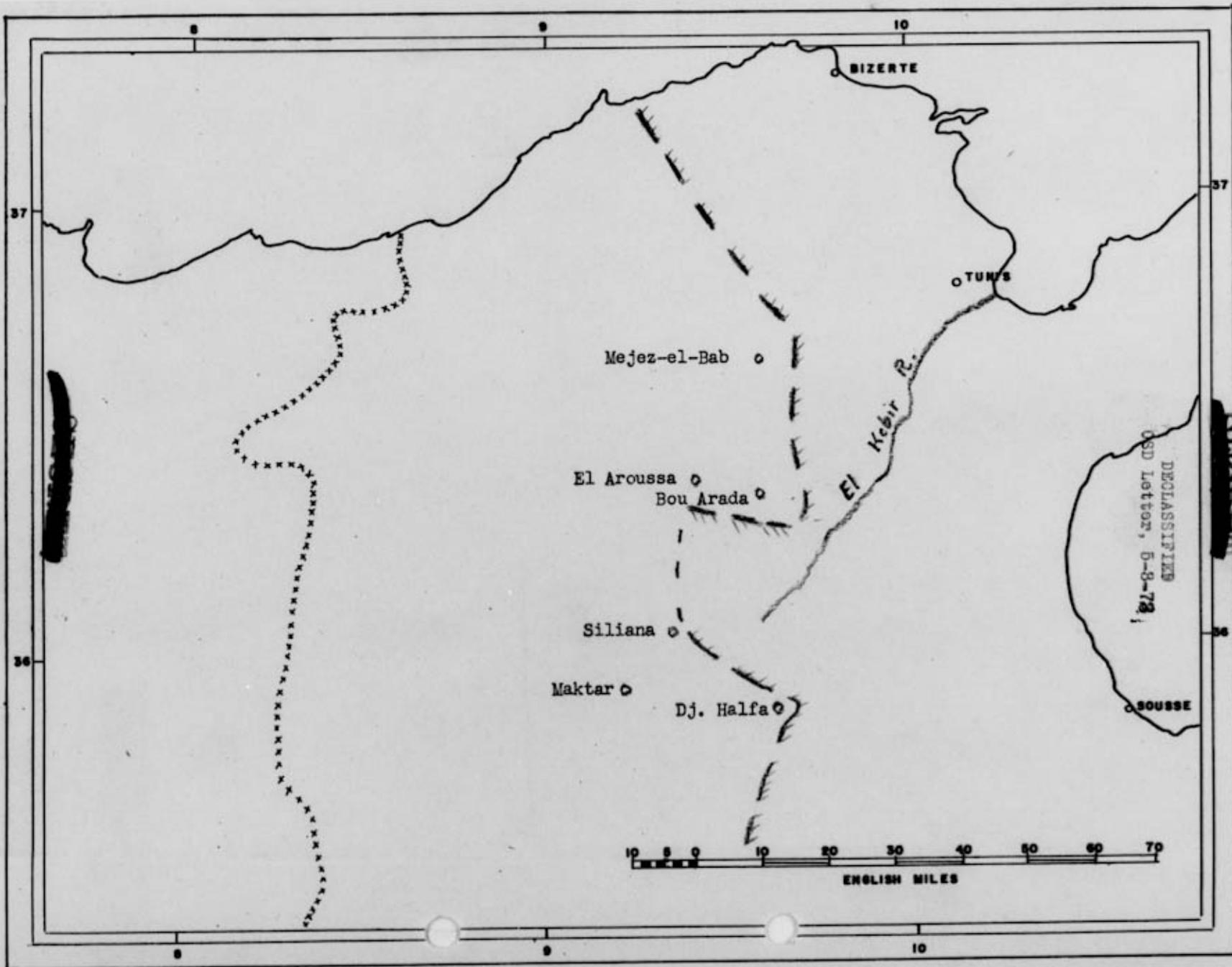
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 408

0700 January 21 to 0700 January 22, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. The enemy attack south of Bou Arada continued during January 19. The French, badly disorganized, were withdrawing up the Kebir Valley, the British V Corps withdrawing its southern flank to conform to this movement. A US armored battalion, a field artillery battalion, one infantry battalion, a tank destroyer battalion, and other units are enroute to Maktar.

On January 19 in southeastern Tunisia, 18 medium bombers heavily raided Medenine and the main road north and south, while fighter aircraft attacked motor columns near Mareth.

British Malta-based aircraft were active during January 20, attacking Tripoli and enemy columns in Tunisia, as well as shipping off the Tunisian coast. Enemy aircraft also maintained their activity over our area, as well as heavy transport traffic between Sicily and Tunisia.

2. Responding to a request from General Eisenhower for a tank transporter unit capable of moving simultaneously a battalion of medium tanks plus its spares (about 60 vehicles), the War Department is organizing a new type unit to be equipped with tractor trailers.

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Each unit completely loaded with a medium tank will weigh about sixty tons.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On the night of January 18-19 nine medium bombers of the Ninth Air Force attacked the Castel Benito airdrome. Eleven heavy bombers successfully attacked harbor installations and shipping at Sousse during daylight January 19; hits were observed on a small merchant vessel in the harbor and on the docks. One of our bombers was forced down by antiaircraft fire and two enemy aircraft intercepting our force were destroyed. That same day an attack was carried out against the harbor at Tripoli by eight heavy bombers which destroyed one (probably three) of four or five enemy planes offering combat.

On January 20 bombers of the Ninth Air Force again attacked shipping in Tripoli harbor.

ASIATIC THEATER

On January 18 and 19 medium bombers escorted by fighter aircraft attacked the enemy base at Kamaing (northwest of Myitkyina), Burma. Hits were observed on the enemy headquarters buildings and a large warehouse. On January 19 three heavy bombers attacked the docks at Bassein (west of Rangoon), and four other heavy bombers attacked the railroad yards at Thazi (central Burma) where hits were observed on the railroad junction and warehouses.

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PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 20, General MacArthur reports that four heavy bombers, despatched to attack an enemy convoy of one light cruiser and two transports near Wewak (New Guinea), were intercepted by 25 Japanese fighters, 12 of which were shot down. Other air action that day consisted of a Dutch mission against Dobo (on Aroe Island), others against Gasmata, Madang, Cape Gloucester, Lae, Lakunai (Rabaul) and harassing missions against the Japanese north of Gona. No Allied losses were reported. 61 enemy ships including 13 warships were observed near Rabaul.

2. The Army Ground Forces issued directives for the constitution and activation of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Sixth Army. In compliance with General MacArthur's request this Army will be assigned, under command of Lieutenant General Walter Krueger, to the Southwest Pacific Theater.

3. On January 19, General Harmon's "flying fortresses" and fighters pounded Munda; all planes returned safely. The same day another B-17 on a reconnaissance mission shot down two (probably three) Zero fighters in a 90-minute running fight over Choiseul Island. Ballale airdrome was also bombed. Medium bombers scored a hit on a destroyer east of Bougainville.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

On January 20 our airplanes, while on unsuccessful missions against enemy cargo vessels, shot down eight enemy fighters with the loss of one US fighter.

4. General Patch, submitting his first report on ground activity on Guadalcanal, reports that on January 20 two hills southwest of our position were captured against heavy resistance. Activity elsewhere consisted of patrolling and the consolidating of positions gained. An enemy force, completely surrounded on the south flank, is being reduced.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 407

0700 January 20 to 0700 January 21, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On January 19 weather forced back a mission which set out to attack two newly discovered freighters in Kiska harbor. Three heavy bombers are missing and one crash-landed at Adak.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 18 "flying fortresses" and fighter aircraft, successfully attacked the Castel Benito airdrome (near Tripoli) with 24 tons of bombs and destroyed four (probably nine) of the enemy airplanes which intercepted them. We lost one bomber and a fighter airplane. Allied airplanes destroyed three (probably four) aircraft near Bou Arada; one Spitfire is missing. US medium bombers hammered the docks at Bizerte and Ferryville.

On January 18 there was considerable activity on the front of the British First Army. To the north of Medjez-el-Bab British troops maintained their pressure, while to the southeast our 18th Infantry counterattacked a local enemy advance. An enemy attack supported by some 50 tanks east of Bou Arada was repulsed, causing him the loss of two companies and several tanks. The enemy penetrated the French position 11 miles SE of Bou Arada and was aggressive for two days in the vicinity of Sened Station.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Brereton reports that on January 15, 16 and 18 heavy

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bombers of the US Ninth Air Force, escorted by fighter planes, heavily attacked some wrecks at Tripoli in order to prevent their use as harbor obstructions. Four (probably five) enemy fighter planes were shot down on January 15.

Repeatedly between January 16 and 19 other heavy bombers attacked the Tarhuna and Benito gates, and Castel Benito airdrome near Tripoli. Enemy aircraft harassing these missions did not press home any attacks and all our airplanes returned. During this period also our pursuit aircraft flew many fighter-bomber missions and destroyed several enemy airplanes on the ground.

On January 19 our heavy bombers attacked shipping at Sousse.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 18, General MacArthur reports that while Allied units were withdrawn from the immediate vicinity of Mubo, harassing patrol operations were maintained. The village of Sanananda was captured by the Australian 7th Division. Four enemy pockets remain near Sanananda.

The US tanker "Mobilube" was hit by a torpedo 60 miles east of Sydney and is being towed to port. Japanese aircraft raided Milne Bay (the 11th time) and Buna, causing no damage. Allied bombers continued their attacks on Rabaul (possibly hitting one ship),

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

Finschhafen, Gasmata, Madang and Lae. A heavy bomber on armed reconnaissance sank an 8,000-ton cargo vessel 70 miles southwest of New Hanover Island.

For January 19, General MacArthur reports that machine-gun nests remaining in the Sanananda area were being attacked by mortar and artillery fire and that reduction of enemy defenses continued.

Small-scale Allied air attacks were made on Gasmata, on various enemy-held points in New Guinea and on islands to the west.

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MEMORANDUM
FOR THE RECORD

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN OPERATIONS

1. On January 17, 1943, a B-24 bomber was shot down at Tripoli, where a personnel vessel was damaged.

2. On the night of January 17-18, 1943, while British Wellingtons were attacking Tripoli, other British planes, operating against the enemy in Sicily, carried out bombing and torpedo operations and returned safely with transportation.

SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN OPERATIONS

WAR DEPARTMENT

During daylight operations on January 19, 1943, the 15th Air Force dropped bombs on the coast of Sicily.

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 406

0700 January 19 to 0700 January 20, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

On January 18, 1943, "Flying Fortresses" attacked the island of New Guinea, where they dropped bombs and strafed the coast of New Guinea. In aerial action, our forces were able to destroy and capture several enemy aircraft.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On January 17 Axis planes twice attacked the harbor at Bone, where a merchant vessel was damaged.

2. On the night of January 17-18 while Malta-based British Wellingtons were attacking Tripoli, other British planes, operating against the enemy in Tunisia, carried out mining and torpedo operations and harassed enemy motor transportation.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

During daylight on January 16 bombers of the US Ninth Air Force dropped more than twelve tons of high explosives on wrecks in Tripoli harbor which could be used to obstruct the channels. That same day US fighter aircraft flew several patrol and fighter-bomber missions; two fighters are missing.

On January 17 twelve heavy bombers of the Ninth Air Force attacked Tripoli harbor with 30 tons of explosives, hits being obtained on the moles and the Governor's palace; all aircraft returned safely.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

On January 18 eight "flying fortresses" obtained two hits on an enemy cargo vessel anchored one mile east of Faisi (Solomons). In aerial combat, two float Zeros were shot down and one of our planes was lost.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

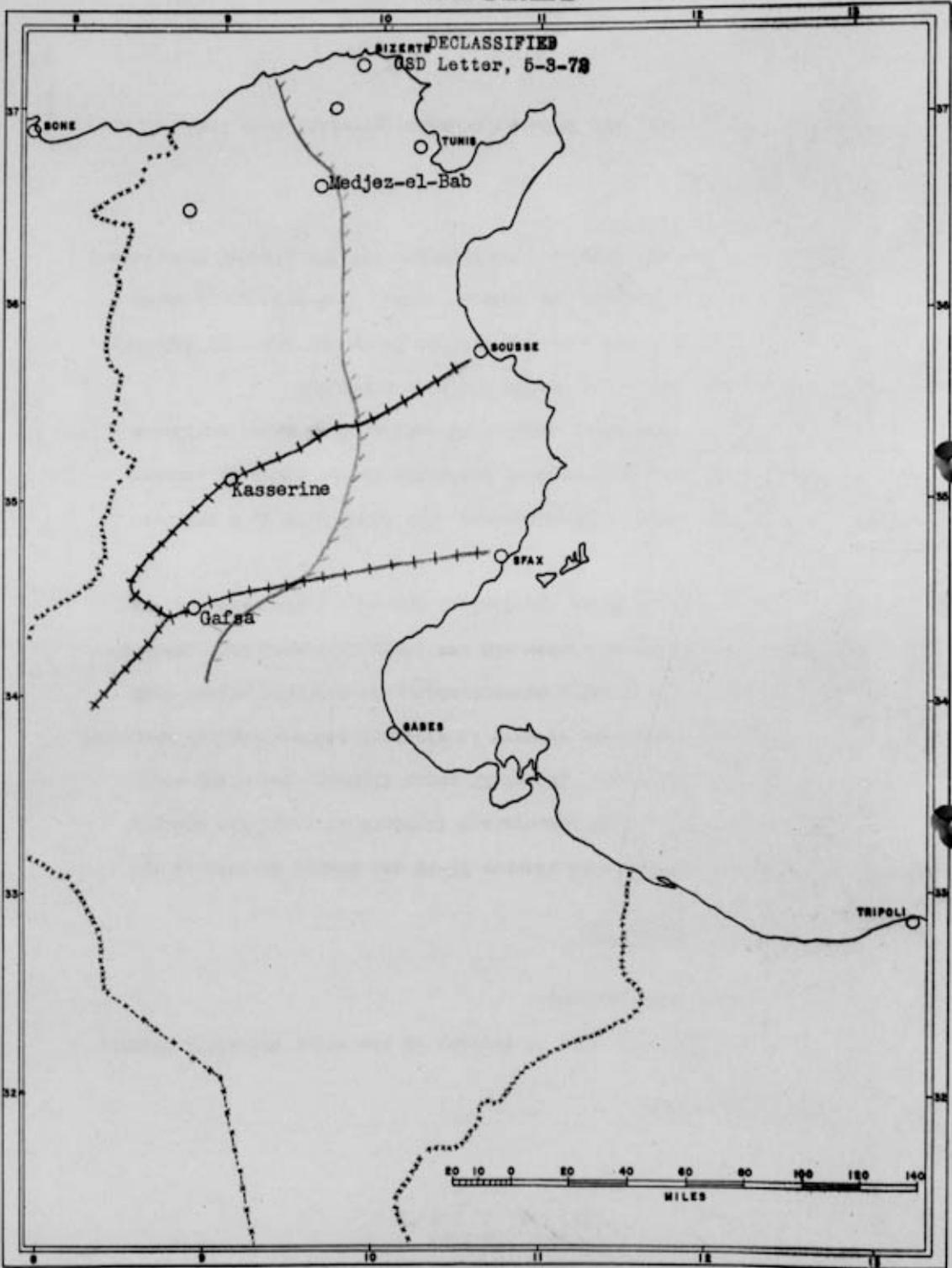
No. 405

0700 January 18 to 0700 January 19, 1943

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CSD Letter, 5-3-73

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Reports indicate that on January 18 the enemy was still unaware of our landings on Amchitka.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

During the nights of January 15-16 and 16-17, as well as the intervening day, Allied bombers and fighters attacked the enemy's lines of communication. Two of 12 enemy fighters operating over Bone were destroyed. On January 17 although adverse weather hampered air operations the enemy's communications in the Sfax region were bombed, and one German bomber and two transports were shot down by US fighters between Tunis and Sicily; two of our aircraft are missing.

Striking at our communications, the enemy blew up a railroad bridge eight miles southwest of Kasserine on the night of January 16-17, and the next night demolished another five miles northeast of that town. The first bridge has been repaired.

The British 139th Infantry Brigade Group (of the 46th Infantry Division) has arrived in the forward area. (Now present in North Africa also are the British 78th Infantry and 6th Armored Divisions.)

ASIATIC THEATER

On January 15, six US heavy bombers operating from India attacked

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OSD Letter, 6-8-78

three enemy vessels east of the Andaman Islands, leaving one, of about 7,000 tons, in a sinking condition.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 17, General MacArthur reports Allied patrol activity in the Mubo area. Elements of our 32d and 41st Divisions in the Sanananda area were advancing against stubborn resistance; the 7th Australian Division occupied the Cape Killerton area.

Attacking a fleet of 50 to 60 ships at Rabaul, US heavy bombers scored hits on two of them and probably three others. Our bombers also hammered Japanese airdromes and other installations at Lae, Madang, Finschhafen, Gasmata and Cape Gloucester.

Twenty-four enemy medium bombers in the tenth raid on Milne Bay destroyed three of our heavy bombers and four other airplanes including one fighter which crash-landed after attempting interception.

2. General Harmon reports that further information indicates that three additional Japanese planes were destroyed in the attack on 9 enemy destroyers January 15, but that the destroyer probably was not sunk. The same day, 12 dive-bombers escorted by 13 fighter planes scored two hits on an enemy cargo ship northwest of New Georgia setting it afire. Seven out of 12 intercepting Zero fighters

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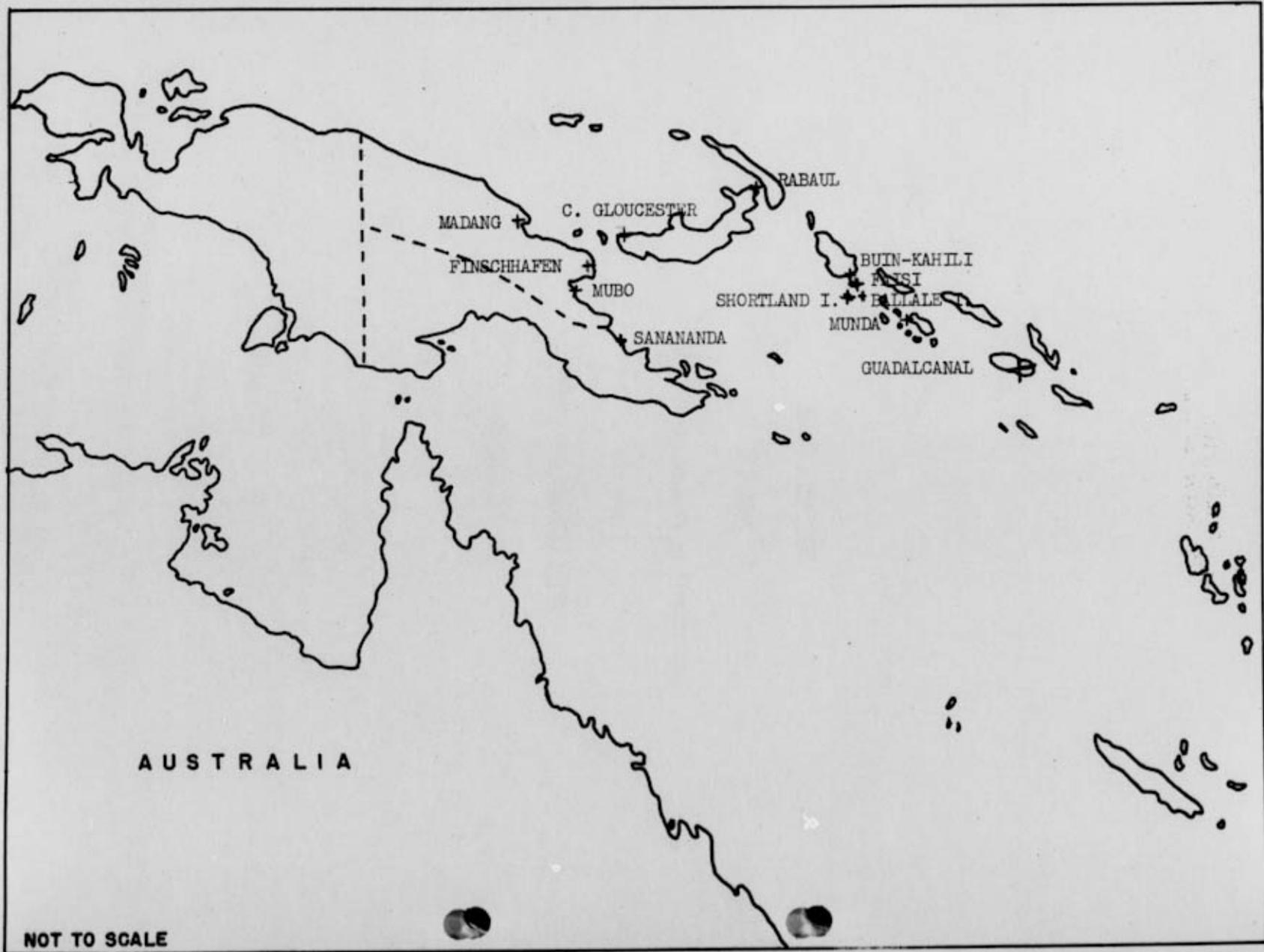
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OSD Letter, 5-9-78

were destroyed; one of our planes is missing. In other attacks that day the Tassafaronga area on Guadalcanal was bombed as was Ballale Island.

On January 16 the airdromes at Ballale Island, Munda and Kahili were bombed. A battleship, four destroyers and eleven cargo ships were sighted in the Buin-Shortlands area.

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SOUTH PACIFIC

Landings operations on Bougainville continued during January 16. Our objects is to establish at the northwest end of the island and our troops are maintaining their positions as far forward as possible. We are maintaining the harbor area.

NORTH PACIFIC OPERATIONS

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 404

0700 January 17 to 0700 January 18, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

ARMY AIR FORCE MARINE CORPS

Aircraft of the 7th Bomber Command, started shipping in Guadalcanal, January 16.

AIR FORCE

Several B-24s reported shot on January 5 (1943) six fighters

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Landing operations on Amchitka continued during January 16. Our outpost is in position at the northwest end of the island and our troops are organizing their positions as far forward as Kirillof Bay, thus occupying the harbor area.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 15 our patrols were active, one of them destroying an enemy post south of Medjez-el-Bab. Italian troops captured Station de Sened (midway between Gafsa and Maknassy) in Central Tunisia. The Lafayette Escadrille, which operates P-40 fighter airplanes with French pilots, destroyed two enemy planes in aerial combat on its first mission.

Reports received during the past seven days (January 12 to 18) indicate that 35 enemy airplanes and 16 Allied airplanes were destroyed during the period covered.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

Aircraft of the 9th Bomber Command attacked shipping in Tripoli harbor, January 16.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that on January 5 (15?) six fighter

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

aircraft bombed and machine-gunned shipping at Bhamo and set gasoline stores afire. Nine more fighters attacked other enemy-occupied towns in N.E. Burma.

On January 16 six medium bombers escorted by eleven fighter aircraft, failing in an attempt to catch enemy aircraft on the airdrome at Lashio, attacked the town with unknown results. Yunnanyi airdrome was attacked on January 16 by eighteen enemy bombers escorted by twenty fighters. Twelve US fighters, intercepting this force, destroyed seven (probably twelve) enemy airplanes. One US fighter is missing. Little damage was caused to the airdrome.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 16, General MacArthur reports a successful attack in the Sanananda area by elements of the US 41st Division. Gasmata and Lae airdromes were heavily attacked by Allied aircraft. Minor Allied air attacks were made on Cape Gloucester airdrome and on enemy installations at several points along the northeast coast of New Guinea. The Japanese lost one, possibly two, aircraft; no Allied loss was reported.

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DATE 08-11-2010 BY 60322/UC/STP

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Unloading of the transport "Spartan" continued during January 15. There is no indication that the enemy is engaged in any operations at this time.

SOUTHERN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS (MIDDLE EAST)

An anti-aircraft explosion was reported over Beirut, January 15.

WAR DEPARTMENT

MIDDLE EASTERN OPERATIONS

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

Operating from the base at Haifa, British bombers attacked Tripoli and Beirut, January 15. The approach to Haifa was sighted and the base was bombed by British fighter aircraft from 1500

No. 403

0700 January 16 to 0700 January 17, 1943

COPY FOR

On January 15, 12 B-24 Superfortresses, 12 B-26 Marauders, 12 Liberator (C-124), and 12 C-47s were used in the operations.

THE WHITE HOUSE

12 medium bombers with fighter escort, attacking the railway and highway bridge SW of Beirut, were intercepted by a dense enemy fighter screen of which one, probably a C-47, was destroyed. Other 12 medium bombers and fighters, in anti-aircraft operations SE of Haifa, encountered large formations of enemy transport aircraft with tanker and fighter escorts; they destroyed six, probably nine, enemy transport planes and three enemy fighters.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Unloading of the transport "Middleton" continued during January 15. There is no indication that the enemy is aware of our operations at Amchitka.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

An unidentified airplane was reported over Iceland, January 15.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

Operating from Malta the night of January 14-15, British bombers attacked Tripoli and Sousse, while others mined the approaches to Sfax. That same night and the next day British fighter aircraft from Malta harassed enemy motor transportation on coastal roads.

On January 15, the enemy attacked the Maison Blanche airdrome, Bone, Thelepte (twice), and Youks Les Bains, losing seven of his aircraft in the operations.

US medium bombers with fighter escort, attacking the railway and highway bridge NNW of Gabes, were intercepted by a dozen enemy fighter planes of which one, probably three, were destroyed. Other US medium bombers and fighters, on anti-shipping operations NE of Bizerte, encountered large formations of enemy transport aircraft with bomber and fighter escort; they destroyed six, probably nine, enemy transport planes and three enemy fighters.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

During January 14 and 15 the enemy showed increased activity on the south flank of the First Army.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

Five British Liberators, operating under US control, attacked road junctions at Tripoli and an enemy supply dump at Misurata on the night of January 13.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that on January 13 and 14, fighter airplanes operating from Kunming attacked enemy shipping and other enemy targets of opportunity in eastern Burma.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 OCT, January 15, General MacArthur reports that fighting near Mubo (S. of Salamaua) lasted three days; the enemy suffered heavy casualties and his headquarters, supply installations, and radio station were destroyed. Allied losses were negligible. At Sanananda an Allied encircling movement dispersed a large pocket of enemy resistance; 152 Japanese were killed. Our 32d Division is pushing northwest toward Sanananda.

Port Moresby sustained its 97th and 98th air raids with no damage or casualties. "Flying fortresses" attacked shipping at Rabaul

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08b Letter, 5-8-78

and the airdrome at Gasmata, while medium bombers attacked the enemy supply dumps at Lae. A heavy bomber intercepted by six Zero fighters, destroyed two (possibly three); it bombed enemy points on the New Guinea coast.

2. General Harmon reports that on Guadalcanal on January 14 fighter aircraft harassed the enemy all day; "flying fortresses" dropped 8,000 lbs. of supplies to our troops.

On January 15 dive-bombers escorted by fighter aircraft attacked nine enemy destroyers off the northeast coast of New Georgia. One destroyer was sunk and near misses were scored on three others. Eight of twelve attacking Zero planes were shot down; five of our fighter aircraft are missing and one dive-bomber was forced down.

Later that day nine "flying fortresses" escorted by fourteen fighter planes, unsuccessfully attacking enemy destroyers, shot down twelve enemy float biplanes. All our aircraft returned safely.

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WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Our landing operations at Anzio progressed during January 15 despite heavy weather. The transport "Madison" is aground and some barges and landing boats have been lost. No casualties have been reported.

NORTHERN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (SEE FORM)

General Blair, report WAR DEPARTMENT the following items by the 13 1st Fighter Group, January 15 and 16, 1943 that were observed on a January 15 mission. The 13th was destroyed and one of our airplanes No. 402 as a result of aerial combat.

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN 0700 January 15 to 0700 January 16, 1943

In British bombers was COPY FOR effectively attacked during the night of

THE WHITE HOUSE

On January 15 our 13th Fighter Group went over off Anzio and harassed enemy transports over the beach. Heavy aircraft attacked ground targets in our area, including enemy storage dumps. Local attacks were made by 11th and 12th Fighter Groups northwest of the beach and by 10th and 14th Fighter Groups a little further south. No casualties were reported.

Wallo-based aircraft engaged in attacks on ground targets during the night of January 15-16.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Our landing operations at Amchitka progressed during January 14 despite heavy weather. The transport "Middleton" is aground and some barges and landing boats have been lost. No casualties have been reported.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

General Eaker, reporting from London the missions flown by the US 4th Fighter Group, January 13 and 14, states that hits were observed on a factory and a steamer. Two FW-190's were destroyed and one of our airplanes crash-landed as a result of aerial combat.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. British bombers based on Malta effectively attacked Sousse Harbor during the night January 12-13.

On January 13 other British aircraft sowed mines off Sfax and harassed motor transport near the coast. Enemy aircraft attacked ground targets in our area, including Maison Blanche airdrome. Local attacks were made by Allied ground forces northeast of Bou Arada and by French troops a little further south, but gains were later relinquished.

Malta-based aircraft renewed their attacks on ground targets during the night of January 13-14.

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On January 14 there was considerable air activity on each side. Twenty-six "flying fortresses" dropped 63 tons of high explosives on Sfax, while 16 others dropped 36 tons on Sousse; docks and ships were believed damaged. Medium bombers attacked railroad installations near these cities. British bombers attacked Bizerte, and other missions were reported. The enemy attacked our airdromes at Biskra and Thelepte, damaging several airplanes but losing two (probably three) of his own.

2. General Eisenhower was informed that in order to contribute to the monthly requirement of 86,000 tons of coal for his area which the British cannot entirely meet due to lack of shipping, we will send 21,000 tons every 25 days until more British shipping becomes available.

3. The War Department notified General Eisenhower that, until such time as a new agreement with the Navy is completed the Army will provide and transport to North Africa all rations used by all of our armed personnel ashore.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Andrews reports that the British offensive against Rommel's Buerat position started at 0515 GCT, January 15. The enemy defenses were still holding at 1800 GCT that day.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. General Harmon reports that two fighter planes, reconnoitering over Rekata Bay, January 14, shot down one out of three intercepting float Zeros.

2. General Harmon was notified that in order better to meet the world-wide maintenance and replacement problem, the War Department plans that ultimately heavy and medium bombers of the B-24 (Consolidated) and B-25 (North American) types only will be used in all theaters except the European.

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REF ID: A66666

WESTERN FRONT

Leading operations on the front progressed during January 13 despite heavy wind and snow. There was no enemy reaction.

GENERAL STATE OF OPERATIONS (GSO) (SECRET)

In a supplementary report on the history of the offensive and our work at Hill January 13, General Isler states that excellent results were obtained by WAR DEPARTMENT aircraft which dropped 154 tons of heavy bombs on the target. Of 18 to 20 German aircraft attacking our columns, DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY (probably seven)

No. 401

0700 January 14 to 0700 January 15, 1943

COPY FOR

WESTERN FRONT OPERATIONS

THE WHITE HOUSE

On January 13 twelve WAR DEPARTMENT Air Force attacked the roads in the vicinity of Hill and Yverville.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

In its operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GMT, January 13, General MacArthur reports that fighting is

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Landing operations on Amchitka progressed during January 13 despite heavy wind and seas. There was no enemy reaction.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

In a supplementary report on the bombing of the locomotive and car works at Lille January 13, General Eaker states that excellent results were obtained by our 62 "flying fortresses" which dropped 159 tons of heavy bombs on the target. Of 18 to 20 German aircraft attacking our bombers over the target area three (probably seven) were destroyed. A diversion mission flown by 16 US medium bombers drew the enemy fighter opposition away from the target area without becoming engaged in aerial combat.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 13 twelve bombers of the Ninth Air Force attacked the roads in the vicinity of Sousse and Tebourba.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 13, General MacArthur reports that fighting is

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

continuing in the Mubo (12 miles south of Salamaua) area where, on the afternoon of January 11, a concerted Allied attack caused many enemy casualties. At Sanananda, although our advance is held up by strong pill box defenses, our patrols are very active.

Merauke was again attacked by enemy medium bombers which caused only slight damage and no casualties. "Flying fortresses", medium bombers and Australian Beaufighters constantly attacked the enemy installations at Lae and Salamaua while light bombers and pursuit aircraft hammered at the enemy lines of communication. A US heavy bomber destroyed two (probably three) of six Zero fighters attempting interception over Gasmata.

2. On January 13, our medium bombers attacked Munda and Rekata with undetermined results. "Flying fortresses" dropped 7000 pounds of ammunition and supplies to our troops on the more inaccessible parts of the front on Guadalcanal.

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WESTERN HIGHLIGHTS

Initial landings on Sicily followed very well by our forces on January 13.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS (Last 24 Hours)

General Smith reports that on January 13 the "Flying Fortresses" made a successful daylight attack on the locomotive and bridge works at Liria. Although WAR DEPARTMENT our reaction was not as strong as in the past. DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY wrote and destroyed two of our bombers were lost by collision and a third was not yet returned.

No. 400

NORTH AFRICA 0700 January 13 to 0700 January 14, 1943

COPY FOR

On January 13, Allied THE WHITE HOUSE military forces pushed back an enemy force south of THE WHITE HOUSE attack southeast of Pichea was repulsed by the THE WHITE HOUSE.

Enemy aircraft attacked an airfield at the latter part of the day. "Flying Fortresses" bombed a bridge north of Gela.

General Eisenhower has established a forward command post at Constantine.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Initial landings on Amchitka Island were made by our troops on January 13.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

General Eaker reports that on January 13 US "flying fortresses" made a successful daylight attack on the locomotive and carriage works at Lille. Although the enemy's fighter reaction was not as strong as in the past, antiaircraft fire was accurate and intense; two of our bombers were lost by collision and a third has not yet returned.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 11 Allied armored and infantry troops pushed back an enemy force south of Goubellat. An enemy attack southeast of Pichon was repulsed by the French.

Enemy aircraft attacked our airfield at Thelepte; our "flying fortresses" bombed a bridge north of Gabes.

General Eisenhower has established a forward command post at Constantine.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On offensive sweeps January 12 fighter planes of the Ninth Air Force destroyed two (probably three) Axis fighters.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. On January 12 six medium bombers escorted by 17 fighter aircraft, operating in unfavorable weather, attacked the enemy airfield at Munda. Usual long-range air reconnaissances from Espiritu Santo and Guadalcanal were maintained.

2. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 12, General MacArthur reports that in the Sananda area the Australian 7th Division, supported by tanks, made a slight advance against strong enemy resistance while our 32d Division established a bridgehead in the enemy positions.

Enemy bombers again raiding Merauke (south coast of New Guinea) caused no damage or casualties. Allied air activity included attacks on enemy landing fields and installations in New Guinea and Timor.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

On January 12 night 12 heavy bombers successfully attacked the railroad yards and rail storage at Toledo. That day also a B-24 Superfortress dropped a 500-lb. bomb squarely on the houses headquarters at LaSalle, and six light bombers attacked an area east of Toledo. One killed within houses and one fighter was lost.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 399

0700 January 12 to 0700 January 13, 1943

On January 12 night 12 heavy bombers dropped 12 500-lb. bombs on the Victoria Harbor. Light bombers attacked at Toledo and large fire. German fighters shot at our bombers and many airplanes was destroyed.

THE WHITE HOUSE

ALLIED WEATHER

On January 9 and 10 our fighter airplanes attacked ground targets near Washburn, LaSalle, Toledo and other (Toledo). The last place also being effectively attacked by weather bombers. On January 10 six heavy and eight light bombers destroyed a spot of

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 10 nine of our medium bombers successfully attacked the railroad yards and oil storage at Gabes. That day also a US pursuit plane dropped a 500-lb. bomb squarely on the German headquarters at Kairouan, and six light bombers attacked an enemy camp west of Gabes. One Allied medium bomber and one fighter were lost.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Brereton reports that on January 10 twelve US heavy bombers dropped 59 1,000-lb. bombs on LaGoulette. One airplane was lost. That night four British bombers under US command, attacked the road junction at Tripoli with 48 quarter-ton bombs.

On January 11 eight US heavy bombers dropped 40 1,000-lb. bombs on the Vittorio Emanuel Mole at Naples causing at least one large fire. German fighters shot down two of our bombers; one enemy airplane was destroyed.

ASIATIC THEATER

On January 9 and 10 our fighter airplanes attacked ground targets near Wanling, Loiwing, Kutkai and Bhamo (Burma), the last place also being effectively attacked by medium bombers. On January 10 six heavy and eight medium bombers destroyed a span of

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

a railroad bridge south of Mandalay. Reports indicate that our various attacks have succeeded in stopping railroad traffic through that city for the past week.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 11, General MacArthur reports that Allied troops continued to close in on the enemy in the Sanananda area.

An Australian Catalina bombed an enemy warship 100 miles east of Salamaua with unobserved results.

Air reconnaissance revealed one aircraft carrier, 37 large vessels, and 24 small vessels at Rabaul.

2. US fighter aircraft, effectively supporting ground operations on Guadalcanal on January 10, destroyed an enemy strong point, attacked reinforcements and supplies moving to the front and destroyed munition dumps.

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...ing to a War Department report for a number of months
...-... activities in the United Kingdom, Canada, and Europe
... from 1 and December 11, 1942, equipment, supplies and
... received from the British was estimated to 2,015,000 tons
... of supplementary and liberty supplies. In addition, the
... available for the war effort, including, for example,
... buildings, and other ...

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 398

0700 January 11 to 0700 January 12, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

The British also furnished ... of supplies and
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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

GENERAL

Replying to a War Department request for a summary of reverse Lend-Lease activities in the United Kingdom, General Lee reports that between June 1 and December 31, 1942, supplies, equipment and materiel received from the British was equivalent to 2,717,171 ship-tons, or approximately 300 Liberty ship-loads. In addition, the British have made available for our use quarters, airfields, warehouses, office buildings, and other facilities, have paid between 16,000 and 25,000 people employed directly by the US forces, have supplied an unestimated amount of civilian labor and have accepted responsibility for such administrative expenses as communications, publications, interior transportation, and damage to property resulting from training.

The British also furnished substantial quantities of supplies and equipment for our forces in the North African operations and continue to supply all items for our Eastern Task Force common to both US and British troops. Already confirmed for procurement during 1943 is the equivalent of 206,751 ship-tons of food.

General MacArthur reports that dollar figures for reciprocal aid from Australia are only partially available but, on November 31, actual Treasury debits totalled \$80,054,400. A large proportion of the Army and Navy rations are furnished locally under this arrangement, and in

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1943 this aid is to be extended to US forces in the South Pacific Area, although this is outside the basic reciprocal aid area. Other services rendered include the furnishing of buildings, hospitals, land, machinery, manpower, communications, transportation, and civilian and military stores.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

The usual air operations over Tunisia continued during January 10. The enemy ground forces showed some activity to the south. US medium bombers sank a tanker carrying fuel from Italy to Tunisia on January 11.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Brereton reports that nine US heavy bombers, unable to attack Bizerte because of weather, dropped 45 - 1,000-lb. bombs on Tunis on January 8 with unobserved results. One enemy fighter was destroyed; all our airplanes landed safely.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations reports covering the periods from 1300 GCT January 8 to 1300 GCT January 10, General MacArthur summarizes Allied actions against the enemy convoy which during this period sailed from

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Lae to the east. Late on January 8, Allied bombers obtained a probable hit on one transport and a direct hit on a landing barge. The next day various types of bombers maintained incessant attacks on the convoy both in the harbor and after its departure, scoring more than a dozen hits on the transports, one of which was set afire at Lae and another left motionless in the water after a hit by a 1,000-lb. bomb; a torpedo hit was made on one of the escorting warships. On January 10 assaults on this convoy were continued.

During this period Allied aircraft not engaged in direct attacks on enemy shipping kept the enemy supply installations at Lae under continuous attack and caused considerable damage.

The total enemy losses in aircraft for the period January 6-9, inclusive, were 83 destroyed with 36 reported as "probables". The latest reports on January 10 list one enemy plane destroyed for that day. During this period approximately ten Allied airplanes were lost.

During the period our ground forces maintained their pressure on the enemy in the Sanananda area where elements of the 41st Division were reported in action.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 397

0700 January 10 to 0700 January 11, 1943

COPY FOR

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

An unidentified aircraft was observed over Iceland, January 9.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

No unusual incidents were reported by our ground forces for January 9. *Simply patrolling in forward areas.*

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

In summarizing Ninth Air Force activities for the month of December, General Brereton reports that US and British airplanes assigned to this unit dropped over 500 tons of bombs on Naples, Tripoli, Sousse, Sfax and Tunis and other North African ports. They damaged enemy harbor installations and rail centers, sank one cruiser, two tankers, and three (probably eleven) motor vessels, and probably damaged one battleship. Enemy operational air losses during the period were 13 (probably 19) airplanes to our ten.

ASIATIC THEATER

On January 7 pursuit airplanes successfully attacked an enemy oil dump at Mangshih, Western Yunnan Province.

The next day six medium bombers escorted by fighter aircraft attacked the warehouse area at Bhamo, Burma, while pursuit-bombers hammered four enemy-held villages along the road north of Myitkyina.

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OSD Letter, 6-8-78

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 8, General MacArthur reports that the remainder of the enemy convoy, consisting of one light cruiser, three destroyers, and three 5,000-ton transports unloading at Lae, was continuously attacked by "flying fortresses" and other heavy bombers, medium bombers and fighter aircraft. More than 48 tons of demolitions were dropped and several direct hits were claimed on the transports, one of which was reported sunk at the jetty and another badly damaged off-shore. During the air action, 27 enemy fighters were destroyed, with an additional 11 listed as "probables"; two Allied planes were lost. Late the previous day 16 US P-40 fighter aircraft, intercepted by 18 enemy fighters over Lae, destroyed 13 (possibly 16); we lost one airplane. Seafighters and light bombers struck barges, supplies, motor transport, grounded aircraft, and a 6,000-ton cargo vessel at Lae. Three grounded enemy fighters and one medium bomber were destroyed. A heavy bomber hit the runway at the Madang airbase. Ground action was confined to patrolling.

2. General Harmon reports that on January 8 five "flying fortresses", successfully attacking enemy-held villages near Cape Friendship, Bougainville, destroyed two of twelve intercepting Zeros over Cape Friendship. Other "flying fortresses" attacked Rokata.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 396

0700 January 9 to 0700 January 10, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. On January 7 four heavy bombers, reaching Kiska despite adverse weather conditions, dropped more than six tons of bombs on the submarine base with unobserved results. All our planes returned safely.

2. The 65th Infantry (Puerto Rican personnel) left San Juan January 7 for Panama for permanent change of station. (Two infantry regiments have been ordered from Panama, one to SWPA and the other to the US.)

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. Only patrol activity was reported in Tunisia on January 8.

Eight British medium bombers from Malta attacked Sousse the night of January 6-7, starting large fires. One medium bomber is missing.

2. Effective January 9 the Western Task Force under General Patton was inactivated as such and reactivated as the I Armored Corps.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Brereton reports that on January 7 ten of his heavy bombers dropped 25 tons of explosives on shipping at Palermo; bursts were observed in the harbor and near the seaplane dock and power station. All aircraft returned safely.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 395

0700 January 8 to 0700 January 9, 1943

COPY FOR

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 8-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On January 6 one heavy bomber dropped two tons of bombs on the Kiska submarine base with unobserved results.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 7, twenty US medium bombers attacked enemy installations at Gabes and six light bombers attacked the troop concentration at Kairouan. On this date reconnaissance revealed a considerable enemy westward movement along the roads from Tripoli.

On January 6 enemy aircraft attacked the Maison Blanche airdrome at Algiers as well as shipping and airdromes in the Bone area, with unreported results. Enemy reconnaissance of our North African area continued during January 6 and 7.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

An RAF squadron of six heavy bombers under General Brereton's command bombed Tunis and Sousse the night of January 5-6. Overcast weather at Tunis prevented observation of results, but at Sousse large fires were started in the target area. All airplanes returned safely.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending

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1300 GCT, January 7, General MacArthur reports that water-borne reinforcements for the enemy base at Lae, first sighted on January 6, were repeatedly attacked by his bomber and fighter aircraft. Two, probably three, of the transports were sunk; sixteen enemy fighter aircraft were shot down with seven others listed as probably destroyed. The airdrome at Lae also was attacked, at least four aircraft being damaged. Other successful air attacks were made on the Gasmata airdrome and on a whaling vessel off Finschhafen which was sunk. One of our aircraft was shot down and one is missing. Ground patrols were active in the Sanananda-Soputa area. The enemy was apparently unloading supplies at Timor.

2. General Harmon's bomber and fighter aircraft attacked Munda airfield and enemy installations at Relata Bay on January 7. One bomber was lost in these operations.

A delayed report from General Harmon states that on January 4, seven "flying fortresses", escorted by six P-38 fighters, scored one hit, possibly two, on an enemy transport at Fauro Island. Two dive-bombers, escorted by sixteen fighters, attacked Munda airfield probably destroying one airplane on the ground. All of our airplanes returned.

3. General Lincoln, commanding the Services of Supply of the South Pacific Area, reports that a joint board has found that there

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is excessive spoilage of foods packed and procured in Australia. This spoilage is due to insufficient cooking and other causes indicating a standard of processing inferior to our own. General Lincoln has directed that the Joint Purchasing Board in Australia suspend all shipments of canned products to our South Pacific bases pending further investigation.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 394

0700 January 7 to 0700 January 8, 1943

COPY FOR

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OSD Letter, 8-3-78

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. Responding to General Eisenhower's recommendation on December 29 that regimental anti-tank companies be equipped with 75 mm guns instead of 37 mm guns which are ineffective against German Mark III and IV tanks except at very short ranges, the War Department informed him that 96 self-propelled 75 mm guns, with armor piercing ammunition, have been loaded on the convoy next to leave.

2. On January 5 British troops captured two hills about 12 miles west of Mateur which dominate the highway to that town and which have been the scene of previous action; however, on January 6, they were forced back to their former positions.

On January 5 eighteen "flying fortresses" escorted by 25 P-38 fighters bombed Sfax, leaving the power station and the dock area in flames and scoring hits on two ships. Thirteen medium bombers bombed Kairouan; ground targets in the Mateur area were also attacked during the day. Five (probably six) enemy aircraft were destroyed; two Allied airplanes were lost.

Malta-based British bombers heavily attacked Sousse on the nights of January 4-5 and 5-6.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

Ten of General Brereton's heavy bombers dropped 25 tons of

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bombs on the dock area of Sousse on January 5. All aircraft returned safely.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 6, General MacArthur reports considerable enemy activity in the vicinity of Finschhafen. The situation in the Sanananda area was generally unchanged; the enemy here was harassed during the day by air attacks.

An enemy convoy of two light cruisers, four destroyers and four transports, escorted by fighters and heading WSW off New Britain, was attacked by heavy and medium bombers and P-38 fighter aircraft; two possible hits on surface vessels were scored, and 13, probably 17, enemy fighters destroyed. No loss of our aircraft was reported. Attacks were also made on Lae and Gasmata airdromes. To the north-west of Australia an enemy torpedo boat was hit directly amidships.

2. On January 5 nine US medium bombers attacked targets in the vicinity of Munda; other aircraft attacked an enemy naval vessel unsuccessfully at Buin. Of 25 enemy fighters intercepting this latter mission three (probably five) were shot down with a loss of two US fighters.

On January 6 attacks were made by eight heavy bombers on Munda, Kahili, and shipping in the Shortland area, where a possible hit was made on an enemy troop transport. Enemy fighter aircraft encountered did not close for combat.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Orders were issued for the movement of the 15th Cavalry from Camp Cooke, San Ysidro, to Camp Maxwell, Trinidad, and the movement of the 1st Cavalry from Camp Cooke, San Ysidro, to Camp Maxwell, Trinidad. The movement of the 1st Cavalry is being effected through the Panama Canal.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 393

0700 January 6 to 0700 January 7, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY FOR THE DAY

A copy of this summary is being furnished to the Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, D. C.

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GSD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. Orders were issued for the movement of the 45th Division from Pine Camp, New York, to Camp Pickett, Virginia, for amphibious training; at the latter station it will replace the 3d Armored Division which is being ordered temporarily to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

2. The 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate), composed of Americans of Japanese ancestry who were transferred from the Hawaiian Department last June, left Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, for Camp Shelby, Mississippi, on January 6. At the latter station it will receive training with the other combat arms prior to movement to the North African area.

3. A heavily loaded 5,000-ton enemy vessel approaching Holtz Bay, Attu, was attacked on January 5 by a heavy bomber operating as a weather airplane. Two 500-lb. bomb hits were scored and the ship was left burning and sinking. Three medium bombers made a deck-level attack on another 5,000-ton freighter on January 6, scoring 6 hits with 500-lb. bombs; the ship was later reported to be down by the stern.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

A later report on the January 3 bombing of St. Nazaire indicates

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that in point of damage to enemy installations this was the most successful effort so far accomplished. A large storehouse containing torpedoes was completely demolished. Fourteen enemy fighters were definitely destroyed, plus eighteen "probables". We lost two bombers to antiaircraft fire, three to enemy fighters, and two from unknown causes.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

Fifth Army Headquarters was activated at Oujda, French Morocco, at 0001, January 5.

ASIATIC THEATER

On January 3 an attack by nine enemy bombers and four fighters on Kweilin airdrome missed the target.

On January 4 effective attacks were made by US aircraft on the railroad yards at Naba (Burma) and Mandalay; two 500-lb. bomb hits were scored on a 15,000-ton transport moving up the Rangoon River. No air losses were reported.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 5, General MacArthur reports no material change

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in the ground situation in New Guinea.

Eighty-seven ships, including three afire, having been observed at or near Rabaul, two squadrons of heavy bombers attacked them; nine vessels, totaling some 50,000 tons and including one destroyer, were destroyed or set afire. Other air attacks were made on Gasmata, Lae and the enemy along the New Guinea coast. Four (probably five) enemy fighters were destroyed; two "flying fortresses" are missing.

2. General MacArthur was informed that a bid has been placed in London on behalf of China for 10,000,000 rounds of .303 caliber ball ammunition, and tentative bids for the same amounts for February and March. It appears that 60,000,000 rounds are available in Australia from last year's and prospective surplus production. Heretofore ammunition for China has been supplied from North American production; supply by Australia will save shipping.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 392

0700 January 5 to 0700 January 6, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 6-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The 26th Infantry Division has been relieved from assignment to the Eastern Defense Command and reassigned to the IV Corps, Third Army. It will be stationed at Camp Livingston, Louisiana.

The 38th Infantry Division having completed amphibious training at Carrabelle, Florida, has been ordered to Camp Gordon, Georgia. The 28th Infantry Division from Camp Livingston, Louisiana, will follow the 38th Division at Camp Carrabelle for amphibious training.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 4 there was little unusual ground activity but air reconnaissances were maintained by both sides, the enemy airplanes being based in part in Sicily, Sardinia, and Southern France. Our bombers attacked Bizerte and the railroad yards at Kairouan; other airplanes attacked tanks of the enemy engaged with the French south-east of Pichon.

The enemy bombed the Bone area again, as well as our airfield at Thelepte.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 4, General MacArthur reports that Allied forces

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are mopping up near Buna and regrouping in the Sanananda area. Advance headquarters of the 41st US Division have been established near Port Moresby; (this division is in training at Rockhampton, Australia).

Allied air units attacked points along the New Guinea coast between Sanananda and Lae, the latter place being heavily bombed. Finschhafen, Madang, Gasmata (New Britain), and enemy-held points on Timor were also attacked. Two enemy airplanes were destroyed with no loss reported by our forces.

An ineffective air raid was made by the Japanese on Cape Nelson (between Buna and Milne Bay). Enemy pressure against Allied forces in Timor is increasing.

2. Movement of the 3d New Zealand Division to New Caledonia was virtually completed by the arrival of some 6,500 troops on January 1.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 391

0700 January 4 to 0700 January 5, 1943

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OSD letter, 6-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Orders were issued for the constitution and activation of the 66th and 75th Infantry Divisions at Camp Blanding, Florida, and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, respectively, on April 15, 1943.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On January 2 forty-five tanks of the British 6th Armored Division supported by artillery, making a reconnaissance in force southeast of Medjez-el-Bab, met little opposition.

The Axis forces in central Tunisia, in a coordinated air-ground attack, captured Fondouk, seven miles southeast of Pichon. US fighter aircraft attacked enemy tanks at several points. Other air operations included two attacks by enemy dive bombers on the railroad station at Gafsa, and two Allied missions against shipping and docks at Sousse where hits were secured on a large vessel and on the docks. Twenty "flying fortresses" making a heavy attack on LaGoulette harbor obtained hits on two merchant vessels. This formation was intercepted by about 50 Axis planes of which 19 (probably 31) were destroyed. Our losses were two P-38 fighter aircraft.

Enemy aircraft again bombed Tebessa and Biskra.

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2. A meeting was arranged between General Orgaz, High Commissioner to Spanish Morocco, and General Patton on the morning of January 4. Consul General Childs was to be present.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Brereton reports that the attacks on Crete on January 2 by his heavy and medium bombers were apparently effective. Three medium bombers were probably lost, however, as against one enemy fighter airplane destroyed.

ASIATIC THEATER

On January 1 six medium bombers successfully attacked a railroad bridge south of Mandalay.

The next day our medium bombers, attacking the Monwya, Burma, airdrome, obtained hits on the runway and in the dispersal area. Our fighter airplanes on reconnaissance destroyed some enemy trucks and shot down one enemy fighter.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 3, General MacArthur reports that all organized enemy resistance in the Buna area has been overcome, and our troops are now rounding up individual enemy stragglers. Local advances were also being made toward Sanananda.

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In air activity, single bombers attacked Rabaul and Madang, six medium bombers destroyed grounded enemy aircraft at Lae, and Allied pursuit craft attacked swimming Japanese attempting to escape from Buna.

2. General Harmon reports that on January 3 nine Navy dive bombers, escorted by fifteen fighter planes, bombed enemy installations at Munda. Bombers and fighters in a later attack on Munda encountered the heaviest antiaircraft fire yet received, one of our bombers being shot down. No enemy aircraft was encountered.

Twenty-six enemy ships were observed in the Buin-Tonolei-Shortland area, including six battleships or heavy cruisers, five light cruisers and six cargo ships. Five "flying fortresses" obtained many near misses on one of the heavy ships.

3. Delayed reports from General Harmon indicate that on December 30, 11 fighter airplanes destroyed five enemy barges at Vangunu Island (Solomons). On December 31, six medium bombers attacked Munda; results were not reported.

4. All units of the 25th Division have now arrived at Guadalcanal.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

On January 3, 1943, the War Department issued a report which reported a considerable number of the Axis submarine installations at St. Nazaire. The report also stated that the Axis submarine force was estimated as well as many other details, many of which were classified as top secret. A copy of this report was furnished to the defense. Some of the details mentioned in the report are as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 390

0700 January 3 to 0700 January 4, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

On January 3, US heavy bombers in a powerful daylight attack effected considerable damage on the Axis submarine installations at St. Nazaire. Intense antiaircraft fire was encountered as well as many enemy fighters, heavy losses being inflicted on the latter; a smoke screen also contributed to the defense. Seven of our "flying fortresses" have not returned.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On January 2 air activity included an attack on the Tunis railroad yards in which we lost one bomber and an escorting fighter. Allied bombers and fighters attacking LaGoulette during the morning were engaged by a force of from forty to fifty German and Italian fighters. No losses were reported.

Allied fighters shot down an enemy bomber over Tebessa.

The enemy in renewed daylight attacks on Bone damaged a destroyer and set fire to a merchant ship.

2. General Giraud has urged a revision of the franc rate (300 to the pound, 75 to the dollar) in North and West Africa. His attitude is possibly influenced by the recently announced British-DeGaulle rate in Madagascar of 175 francs to the pound, 43 to the

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dollar. The War Department has replied that the existing rates were set after the fullest study of all conditions; the proposed revision is unjustifiable economically, would be unfair to our troops, and would be undesirable for other cogent reasons.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Andrews reports that US medium and heavy bombers attacked Crete on January 2.

ASIATIC THEATER

Eight US pursuit aircraft on an offensive reconnaissance mission, December 31, destroyed two locomotives and other rolling stock near Katha, Burma. One of our airplanes was lost.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 2, General MacArthur reports that Buna Mission was captured, only one small enemy pocket being left in the area. Allied air attacks were made on Lae airdrome, and on Sanananda. Two Japanese aircraft were destroyed; one Allied airplane is missing. The Japanese dive-bombed the government station at Tufi (Cape Nelson) with unreported results.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

Air reconnaissance of Rabaul revealed the presence of 18 enemy warships, 53 large merchant vessels and 21 small ships.

2. General Harmon reports that on January 1, Munda was attacked by nine US medium bombers escorted by eleven fighters. Details of the attack were not reported.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 389

0700 January 2 to 0700 January 3, 1943

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Six of our heavy bombers and nine fighters attacked Kiska on January 1 with unreported results. One enemy fighter was believed shot down; all our airplanes returned safely.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

During New Year's Eve a second raid was made on Casablanca by about six airplanes probably coming from Bordeaux; details are lacking. On January 1 Bone harbor was twice attacked by dive bombers and other aircraft which damaged a cruiser and two merchant vessels. The enemy maintained his reconnaissances over the North African coast.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Andrews reports that Tunis and ports in Sicily were attacked by US heavy bombers, January 1.

ASIATIC THEATER

The War Department informed Gens. Stilwell, Andrews, and Connolly that the western boundary of the Asiatic Theater has been changed in order to include the Zahidan-Meshed-Ashkhabad route from India to Russia in the Asiatic Theater.

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PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 1, General MacArthur reports that US forces, attacking with tanks, drove another wedge into the enemy positions, reaching the sea near Giropa Point; severe fighting was continuing. Airdromes and shipping at Rabaul were heavily attacked by Allied aircraft. A large, a medium-size, and a small transport were hit and left burning. Gasmata airdrome was also bombed, one Zero being destroyed on the ground and 1 (probably 2) being shot down. Effective attacks were made against Sanananda and Salamaua by our light bombers.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 388

0700 January 1 to 0700 January 2, 1943

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. With improving weather over the Aleutians on December 30 a force of three heavy bombers and 14 fighters was dispatched to make a low-altitude attack against the shore installations at Kiska. Upon arrival they found two new freighters and several small submarines in the harbor as well as nine Zeros which broke up the first attack; two of our aircraft and one Zero were shot down. Meanwhile our airplanes attacked the two ships with unobserved results, losing one medium bomber. One Catalina was lost while attempting to rescue crews shot down.

Five heavy and eight medium bombers, and a Navy Catalina were dispatched on December 31 to destroy the two ships. At least one hit was scored on the smaller freighter and three hits on the larger, causing fires and explosions. All airplanes returned.

2. Directives were issued for the movement of the 7th Infantry Division from Camp San Luis Obispo to Fort Ord, California, where it will undergo amphibious training.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. During December 30 and 31 the weather was clear with ground conditions improving. Enemy patrols were active near the north coast some twenty miles west and northwest of Mateur. On December 30,

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French troops, supported by British, recaptured the crest one mile northwest of Heidous. On December 31, French artillery fire caused an enemy battalion to withdraw through a pass in the hills 17 miles north of Pichon with considerable losses. Enemy gliders were found deep in our territory, apparently on demolition missions.

During December 30 and 31, air activity flared up. On December 31 a troop encampment and airports near Gabes were repeatedly bombed, as were the railroad yards at Sfax. On December 31 Gabes, the railroad yards at Sousse, and the railroad between Tunis and Bizerte were heavily bombed, as was Sfax where two hits were scored on a ship. The enemy attacked Souk-el-Arba and Bone airfields. There was also intense activity on the part of lighter aircraft. For the two days, we sustained a loss of thirteen airplanes, the enemy reportedly losing two.

2. Casablanca was subjected to intermittent air attacks starting at 0200 Z, December 31, probably by aircraft based in southern France. Seventy civilians were killed but no military damage was sustained.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Andrews reports that airplanes of his air force successfully attacked dock installations at Sfax the night of December 30.

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OBD Letter, 6-3-78

ASIATIC THEATER

Six bombers, escorted by seven fighters, obtained hits on the runway and dispersal areas at Magwe, Burma, December 28. There was no enemy opposition. Eleven heavy bombers on December 29 successfully attacked shipping near Rangoon, apparently disabling a small oil tanker and setting a 5,000-ton enemy freighter afire.

On December 30 five of our medium bombers, escorted by six fighters, successfully attacked a concentration of enemy troops and supplies near Lungling. Nine fighter aircraft on reconnaissance over Lashio caught six Zeros taking off from the airdrome there, destroying one. Three medium bombers scored hits in the dispersal areas and on hangars at Shwebo airdrome starting a large oil fire. All our aircraft returned.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GGT, December 31, General MacArthur reports that US troops in New Guinea made material progress near Giropa Point; Allied air units supported the ground operations. Other Allied air missions included an attack on Lae airdrome by 18 medium and light bombers with eleven P-38 fighter airplanes as escort, during which 9 (probably 14) intercepting Zeros were destroyed. Attacks were made by single Allied

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airplanes on Kahili, Buka, and Gasmata.

Merauke was again heavily bombed by enemy aircraft.

Aerial reconnaissance of Lae airdrome reveals 39 of the 49 airplanes there as being destroyed or badly damaged.

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