

203(2)

WAR DEPARTMENT
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

FEBRUARY, 1943

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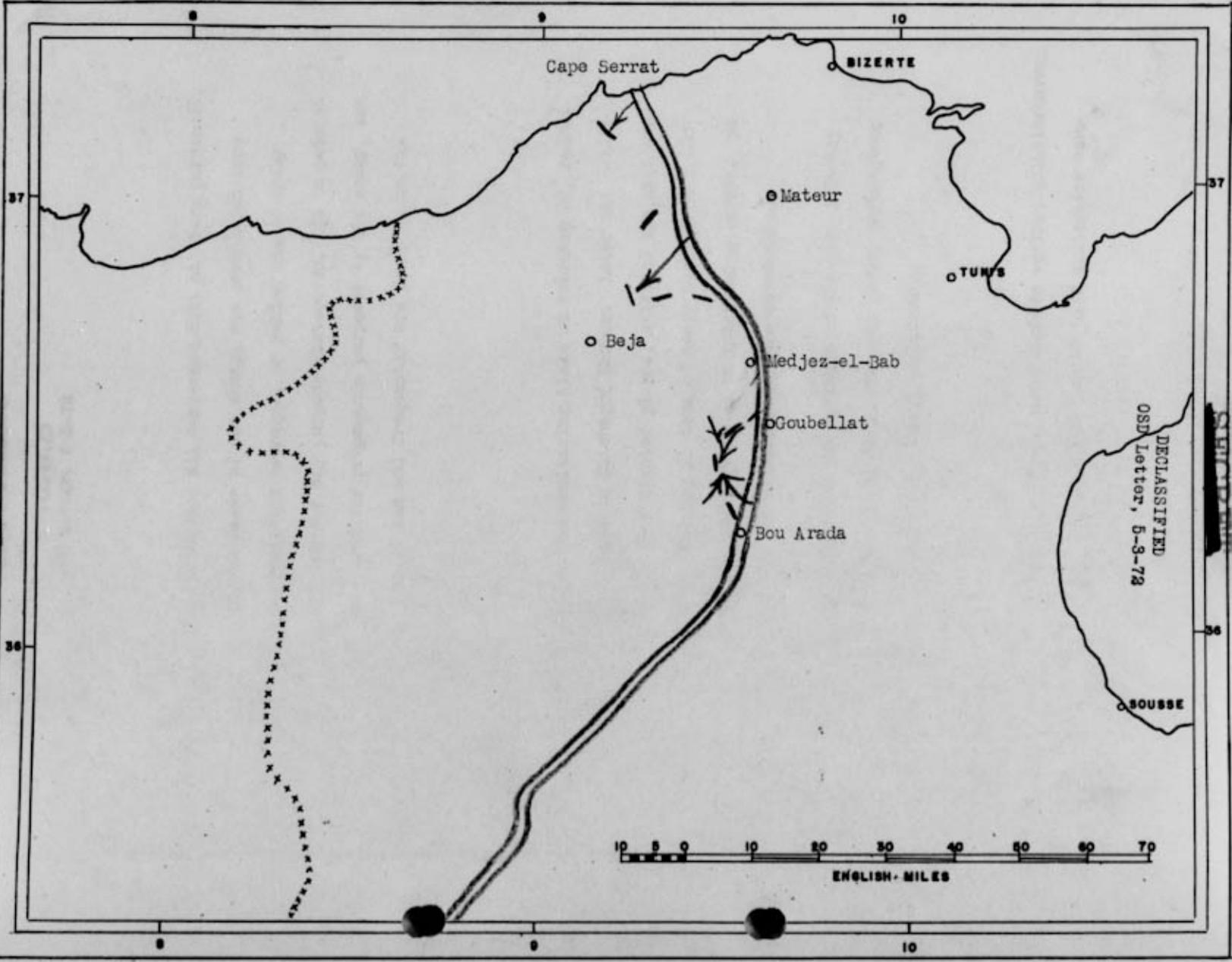
WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 446

0700 February 28 to 0700 March 1, 1943

COPY FOR
THE WHITE HOUSE



Cape Serrat

BIZERTE

Mateur

TUNIS

Beja

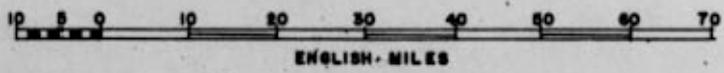
Medjez-el-Bab

Goubellat

Bou Arada

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

SOUSSE



ENGLISH MILES

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GENERAL

The War Department instructed all concerned that military personnel, when prisoners of war in the hands of the enemy, are prohibited from making announcements, transmitting messages, or making use of enemy wireless broadcasting systems for any purpose whatsoever. It is pointed out that such broadcasts, used for propaganda purposes by the enemy, can not be relied upon by next of kin and frequently are found to be inaccurate and unreliable.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. The weather plane, reconnoitering Kiska on February 27, bombed and machine gunned enemy barges in Chichagof Harbor. Later six B-24's and six B-25's, escorted by four fighter planes, attacked the main camp area at Kiska and vicinity dropping 21 tons of heavy bombs from 7,000 feet altitude. Results were unobserved due to intervening clouds. No enemy aircraft were observed nor antiaircraft fire encountered.

2. Directives were issued for the movement of the 33rd Infantry Division and the artillery of the IX Corps from Ft. Lewis, Washington, to the desert training center at Camp Young, California.

EUROPEAN THEATER

A further report on the raid of our heavy bombers against Wilhelmshaven, February 26, discloses that more than 124 tons of high explosives were

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dropped on the submarine yards and 21 (probably 27) of the intercepting enemy fighters destroyed.

On February 26, 76 Spitfires of the US 8th Air Force escorted RAF bombers in their raids on Dunkirk. On February 27, 24 US Spitfires repeated this mission. No contact with the enemy was reported.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 27 in northern Tunisia the enemy continued his un-coordinated attacks south of Cape Serrat, southwest of Mateur (where he made some progress towards Beja), and south of Medjez-el-Bab where his advance has been held.

During the past week 53 Allied and 45 Axis airplanes have been reported destroyed in this theater.

On February 26 two large formations of enemy air transports, including a few 6-engined airplanes arrived in Tunisia. On February 27 British Malta-based Spitfires successfully bombed the power station and seaplane base at Syracuse.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

The War Department has approved the removal from Eritrea of all of the Services of Supply activities of the African-Middle Eastern Theater, with the exception of the radio communications system.

ASIATIC THEATER

Four P-40's operating from Chinese bases on February ²⁶22 attacked

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enemy airfields and transportation in Burma and Western China.

On February 27, P-40's operating from Dinjan attacked an enemy-held town four miles southeast of Myitkyina, setting a warehouse and fuel and ammunition dumps afire. The same day four B-24's operating from India, made four hits with 500-lb. demolition bombs on a 7,000-ton enemy vessel south of Moulmein. When last seen the burning ship was being abandoned.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 27, General MacArthur reports that four B-25's attacked enemy barges and villages near Lae.

During the month ending February 24, 660 Japanese were killed and 73 taken prisoner near Buna and in the area to the north thereof.

PACIFIC THEATER

On February 27 fourteen A-24 dive-bombers, escorted by 17 fighter aircraft, attacked an enemy cargo ship and two corvettes three miles off the northeast tip of Vella La Vella. The cargo ship and one corvette were hit and set afire; three of our fighter planes are missing and two others collided. Seventeen A-24's and 15 fighter aircraft attacked Munda, starting fires; all of the planes on this mission returned safely. Photographs of the target area had been made from a Navy patrol airplane and developed in the air; the best targets were then radioed to the attacking aircraft.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

The Secretary of War directed General Duff to issue from the headquarters of the Western Defense Command an announcement that in response to a request from the War Relocation Authority to make more resources available in Pinal, Graham, and a portion of Maricopa Counties, Arizona, by the use of Japanese labor in the harvesting of the long-staple cotton crop, the War Department has decided that the military situation will permit the use of such Japanese civilian labor.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

Line comfortably. Command reports of 20000 construction, states that no reports to account the change in the line about March 3.

No. 445

WESTERN THEATRE

0700 February 27 to 0700 February 28, 1943

1. On February 26, 30 B-27's and 3 B-24's, without fighter support, made a daylight attack on enemy supply-line yards at Wilhelmshaven. Although COPY FOR and enemy fighter resistance were encountered their results were obtained. Five B-27's and two B-24's are missing.

THE WHITE HOUSE

2. On February 27st about 1500.00 B-27's and 14 B-24's of our 6th Air Force, with British fighter support, attacked the enemy port installations at Brest. The anti-aircraft fire and enemy fighter resistance encountered were light, and reports indicate that good results were obtained. All of our bombers returned safely.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The Secretary of War directed General DeWitt to issue from the Headquarters of the Western Defense Command an announcement that in response to a request from the War Manpower Commission to make more manpower available in Pinal, Graham, and a portion of Maricopa Counties, Arizona, by the use of Japanese labor in the harvesting of the long-staple cotton crop, the War Department has decided that the military situation will permit the relocation of the Japanese exclusion line conformably. General DeWitt, acknowledging receipt of these instructions, states that he expects to announce the change in the line about March 3.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. On February 26, 60 B-17's and 9 B-24's, without fighter support, made a daylight attack on the enemy submarine yards at Wilhelmshaven. Although heavy antiaircraft and enemy fighter resistance were encountered fair results were obtained. Five B-17's and two B-24's are missing.

2. On February 27, at about 1500.48 B-17's and 14 B-24's of our 8th Air Force, with British fighter support, attacked the enemy port installations at Brest. The antiaircraft fire and enemy fighter resistance encountered were light, and reports indicate that good results were obtained. All of our bombers returned safely.

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NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 26 enemy infantry and tanks attacked southwest from Mateur but failed to sustain their effort. The enemy also launched converging attacks southwest from Goubellat and northwest from Bou Arada; although some initial success was gained the enemy withdrew. In these actions the Axis lost 400 prisoners and nine tanks. In the Kasserine region our patrols encountered much enemy mining but reached Thelepte and the outskirts of Sbeitla with little or no active opposition.

18 B-17's, unescorted, attacked enemy shipping near the Aeolian Islands and 20 others dropped 48 tons of bombs on Cagliari and the Elmas airdrome; one large enemy merchant vessel was set afire. While British fighters in Tunisia attacked enemy transports and flew offensive patrols in the Medjez-el-Bab area, destroying enemy vehicles and a gun position, their Malta-based aircraft continued to furnish effective support by harassing enemy installations in Sicily and southern Italy. During the day five enemy planes were destroyed for an Allied loss of six British fighter aircraft.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

General Brereton reports that on February 25 and 26, planes of the US 9th Air Force attacked enemy installations and transportation in and near Arram (four miles southeast of Mareth).

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 CCT, February 26, General MacArthur reports that six of our B-17's in a pre-dawn attack on shipping and the airdrome at Wewak hit a 5,000-ton cargo ship and destroyed at least one enemy airplane on the field. Other B-17's and B-24's, unable to locate a reported enemy convoy, bombed the Gasmata and Lae airdromes. Allied light bombers continued their low-level attacks on coastal areas in the vicinity of Salamaua.

PACIFIC THEATER

On February 25, our B-24's carried out harassing missions against the Kahili and Faisi areas. On February 26, a weather-mission Hudson bombed Munda while returning from the Buin area. A fighter sweep over Kahili by 26 US fighter airplanes was uneventful.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

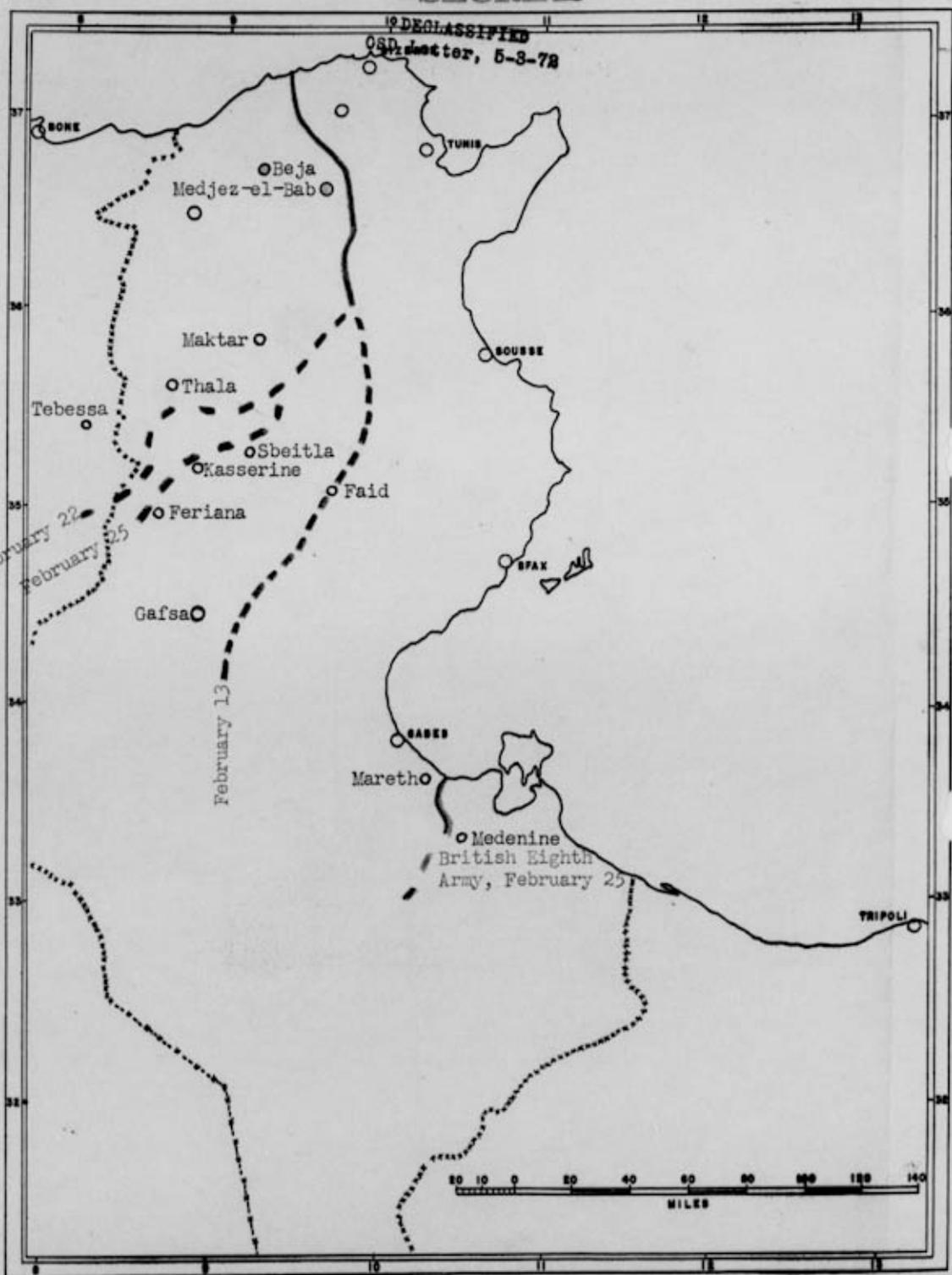
No. 444

0700 February 26 to 0700 February 27, 1943

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD, 5-3-78



February 22
February 25

February 13

0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Six B-24's and five B-25's, escorted by fighter aircraft, attacked the enemy installations at Kiska on February 25. One of our heavy bombers, with two of its motors put out of action by antiaircraft fire, crash-landed at Amchitka. No enemy aircraft were observed.

EUROPEAN THEATER

An unidentified airplane was observed over Iceland on February 25.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 25 an attack by our armored troops and the Grenadier Guards cleared the Kasserine pass of enemy forces, and by evening our units held the southeastern approach to the gap. Enemy artillery fire, mines and booby traps delayed our advance. The enemy appears to be withdrawing his forces in this region, while elsewhere in Tunisia he is on the defensive. The US 9th Division is now concentrating near Tebessa.

Our B-17's, escorted by P-38's, bombed Bizerte, this attack being repeated by British Wellingtons that night. Enemy aircraft engaged in their usual reconnaissance and transport flights and

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carried out ground-strafting missions in the areas southwest of Beja and Medjez-el-Bab. During the day three (probably six) enemy planes were shot down for an Allied loss of four fighter planes.

During the night of February 24-25 and the following day, British Malta-based aircraft cooperated by attacking railroad transportation and other targets in Italy and Sicily. One (probably two) enemy merchantmen were sunk, and two others as well as a destroyer were hit.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

Six of the nine B-24's which left their base near Benghazi to attack Naples dropped 18 tons of heavy demolition bombs on the Vittorio Emanuele Mole and the wharves and adjacent areas during daylight of February 25. Dummy fires were seen 25 miles from the city. One of our B-24's, bombing the alternate target, Crotona, hit the quay and railroad feeding it. All of our airplanes returned.

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 26, five of General Bissell's P-40's harassed the enemy's lines of communications in North Burma and eight B-24's again attacked the Myitnge bridge south of Mandalay but failed to hit it.

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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300
GCT, February 25, General MacArthur reports that six B-17's attacked
airdromes and shipping at Rabaul, while single B-24's bombed the
airdromes at Cape Gloucester and Gasmata as well as a ship at Alexis-
hafen, near Madang. Six A-20's bombed and machine-gunned enemy-held
points in the Salamaua area. Shipping and other activities were
reported at Wewak and neighboring points on the north coast of New
Guinea.

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WEST AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of February 20-21, an enemy force attacked in the vicinity of Gassalia, but passed to the defensive. At nightfall on February 21, our patrols were in contact with the enemy at the northwest end of the Kassala post.

During this day the Allied air force kept the enemy in the Gassala-Berak-Dessale area. WAR DEPARTMENT Airman crews under constant heavy attacks. British fighters bombed the El Amira airbase at Togo.

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 443

0700 February 25 to 0700 February 26, 1943

WLB

Loss of all Allied airplanes.

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AFRICAN-AFROE LETTER THE WHITE HOUSE

Two heavy daylight attacks were made on February 25 on the Gassala harbor and ferry station by B-24's of the 7th Air Force which dropped a total of over 1000 lb of bombs of large caliber. Bombs were located on the ferry slips, along the docks, and probably on the enemy transport. The Gassala harbor fighter was shot down. All our airplanes returned safely.

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NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of February 23-24 an enemy force attacked in the vicinity of Cusseltia, but passed to the defensive. At night-fall on February 24 our patrols were in contact with the enemy at the northwest end of the Kasserine pass.

During this day the Allied air force kept the enemy in the Gafsa-Feriana-Kasserine and the Sbeitla-Kairouan areas under repeated heavy attacks. Thirteen B-26's bombed the El Aouina airdrome at Tunis claiming many hits on dispersed aircraft; our fighters and light bombers were also active in the Medjez-el-Bab---Mateur area. The enemy continued his usual transport and reconnaissance missions, and also made one heavy air attack northeast of Beja. In the day's operations nine (probably eleven) enemy aircraft were shot down with loss of six Allied airplanes.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

Two heavy daylight attacks were made on February 23 on Messina harbor and ferry station by B-24's of the 9th Air Force which dropped a total of more than 40 tons of large bombs. Hits were secured on the ferry slips, along the docks, and probably on one enemy vessel. One Messerschmitt fighter was shot down. All our airplanes returned safely.

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On February 24, US medium bombers dropped over 12 tons of bombs on Arram (four miles southeast of Mareth), while British bombers attacked Mareth and Gabes with 114 tons of explosives. Observations of the results of these attacks were hindered by cloud formations. Nine B-24's bombed Naples with unreported results.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On February 24, P-40's operating from Dinjan successfully attacked another bridge on the Katha-Myitkyina railroad, destroying one span and causing other damage.

2. On February 25, 18 Japanese bombers escorted by 28 fighter planes attacked our air installations in Assam. Our 10th Air Force, intercepting this mission, broke up the Japanese formation and forced it to jettison its bombs. Nine (probably 21) of the enemy airplanes were destroyed without loss or damage to our aircraft, installations or personnel.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for February 24, General MacArthur reports that before dawn seven B-17's carried out high-altitude and skip-bombing attacks on shipping at Rabaul, obtaining a hit on a merchant vessel; a warship in St. George's channel was driven on to

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a reef. A B-24 on armed reconnaissance over Open Bay (New Britain) shot down four out of nine attacking enemy fighters and other US bombers attacked enemy installations in the Lae-Salamaua area. Another B-24 on photographic reconnaissance scored a hit on a 3,000-ton enemy vessel at Babo on the west coast of Dutch New Guinea; other shipping and evidences of enemy activity were reported west of New Guinea.

PACIFIC THEATER

Japanese aircraft bombed our landing field on Guadalcanal, February 23, damaging six US fighter airplanes. Our B-24's attacked Munda and Vila; the latter place was again bombed on February 24. All our airplanes returned safely.

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WARRIOR VICTORIES

1. Six heavy bombers, ten medium bombers and eight fighter aircraft attacked the main camp area at Kisen on February 23. Results could not be observed because of cloud formations.

2. Construction of our emergency landing strip at Toluca is (Gardai group) in progress. This is about midway between Ask and Anditia.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

WEST AFRICAN FRONT

Activity was quiet by 1 No. 442 on the night of February 23-24. All day during February 24 the power of our air force in North Africa 0700 February 24 to 0700 February 25, 1943 was felt through which we were withdrawing. The valley to the north-west was reported cleared of COPY FOR to within two miles of the post. Four (probably all THE WHITE HOUSE aircraft were destroyed during the day. Heavy transport operations from Toluca continued.

Headquarters of our I Armored Corps moved from Toluca to Toluca.

WESTERN THEATER

On February 23, two F-50's attacked enemy troops near Toluca.

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. Six heavy bombers, ten medium bombers and eight fighter aircraft attacked the main camp area at Kiska on February 23. Results could not be observed because of cloud formations.

2. Construction of our emergency landing strip on Ogliuga I. (Gareloi group) is progressing. This is about midway between Adak and Amchitka.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Bizerte was bombed by 11 Wellingtons on the night of February 22-23. All day during February 23 the power of our air force in North Africa was concentrated against the enemy in and near Kasserine pass through which he was withdrawing. The valley to the northwest was reported cleared of the enemy to within two miles of the pass. Four (probably six) enemy and ten Allied aircraft were destroyed during the day. Enemy transport operations from Italy continued.

Headquarters of our I Armored Corps moved from Casablanca to Rabat.

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 22, two P-40's attacked enemy trucks near Lungling.

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That night, while other aircraft of the US 10th Air Force attacked Rangoon to divert the attention of the Japanese, our B-24's sowed 48 magnetic mines in a narrow channel of the Rangoon River. On February 23, eight P-40's successfully attacked a railroad bridge west of Myitkyina, knocking out one span and damaging another span and the foundations.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations report for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 23, General MacArthur reports that six US B-17's scored three hits on a destroyer or cruiser at Rabaul and started fires along the water front; one of our bombers is missing. While US B-25's bombed enemy-held villages in the Lae area, Australian and US light bombers carried out continuous attacks on suspected enemy positions in this region. In other Allied air activity, fires were started at Toeal (Kei Islands) by eight Hudson bombers, and a B-24 reconnoitering the Penfoei airdrome (Koepong, Timor) shot down two (probably three) of six intercepting Zero fighters.

At least six enemy bombers raided Milne Bay; three Hudson bombers were slightly damaged.

PACIFIC THEATER

Twenty-four US light bombers escorted by 17 fighter aircraft attacked Munda on February 21, starting fires in the target area;

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one P-40 is missing from this raid. The next day one of our reconnaissance planes using depth charges damaged a Japanese barge off Choiseul Island. Twenty-six US fighter aircraft attacked Rekata Bay from low altitudes, while B-24's attacked Munda and Vila.

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WESTERN THEATRE

Several British reports that twelve British warships were being sent to the Mediterranean.

SOUTH AMERICAN THEATRE

The Navy Department announced in the Washington Daily News Herald on February 22. The Navy Department has announced that it has ordered a patrol of three destroyers to the Caribbean Sea.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 441

0700 February 23 to 0700 February 24, 1943

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THE WHITE HOUSE

In accordance with a recommendation of General Eisenhower the War Department announced that it will send twenty machine-gunned tankers to the Mediterranean Sea as well as four machine-gunned destroyers to the same area. These are the first destroyers with a tank. The tank destroyers and the machine-gunned destroyers will be sent to the Mediterranean Sea as well as the machine-gunned destroyers.

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

General Butler reports that twelve P-40's and one Navy flying boat are now based at Amchitka.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. Heavy fighting continued in the Kasserine-Thala area throughout February 22. The enemy column on the Kasserine-Thala road reached a point three miles south of Thala, while the force which was attacking northwest from the Kasserine pass was checked on a north-south line some 12 miles beyond the pass after losing a number of tanks. Aircraft of all types supported our ground forces; during the day 11 (probably 13) enemy airplanes were destroyed for a loss of 13 of our own. Malta-based aircraft renewed their attacks on railroad installations and rolling-stock in Sicily and Southern Italy.

During the fighting on February 21, at least 18 enemy tanks were destroyed in central Tunisia.

2. Responding to a recommendation of General Eisenhower the War Department notified him that it will ship twenty gasoline-powered tank-recovery tractors on each future convoy as well as some diesel-powered tractors for the same purpose. These are tank chassis equipped with a winch. All tank destroyer and tank units will be equipped hereafter with this type of vehicle prior to their departure from this country.

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ASIATIC THEATER

1. Japanese airplanes bombed our installations at Chabua (Assam) on February 23. Some casualties but no material damage resulted.

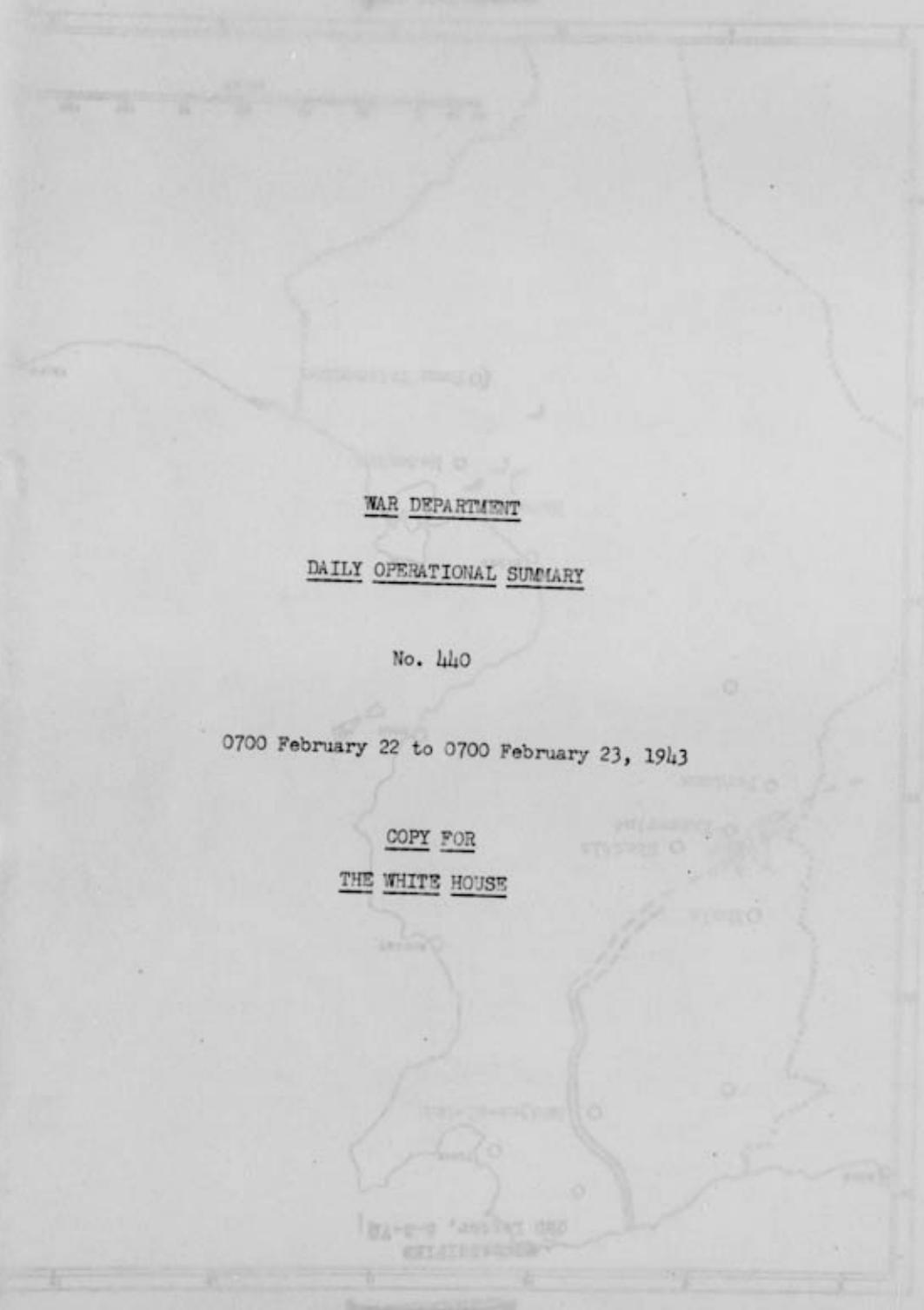
2. The War Department notified General Stilwell, on February 19, of the organization, under his command, of the 14th Air Force, to be commanded by General Chennault.

General Stilwell replied on February 21 that he had notified the Generalissimo.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 22, General MacArthur reports that enemy airplanes raided Fort Moresby twice on the night of February 21-22 but caused no damage. Australian flying boats and US B-17's attacked the Rabaul area where 79 ships were noted; results were unobserved. Ballale airdrome was bombed, while Australian and US aircraft attacked Butibum, Mubo and other enemy-occupied localities in the Las area.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

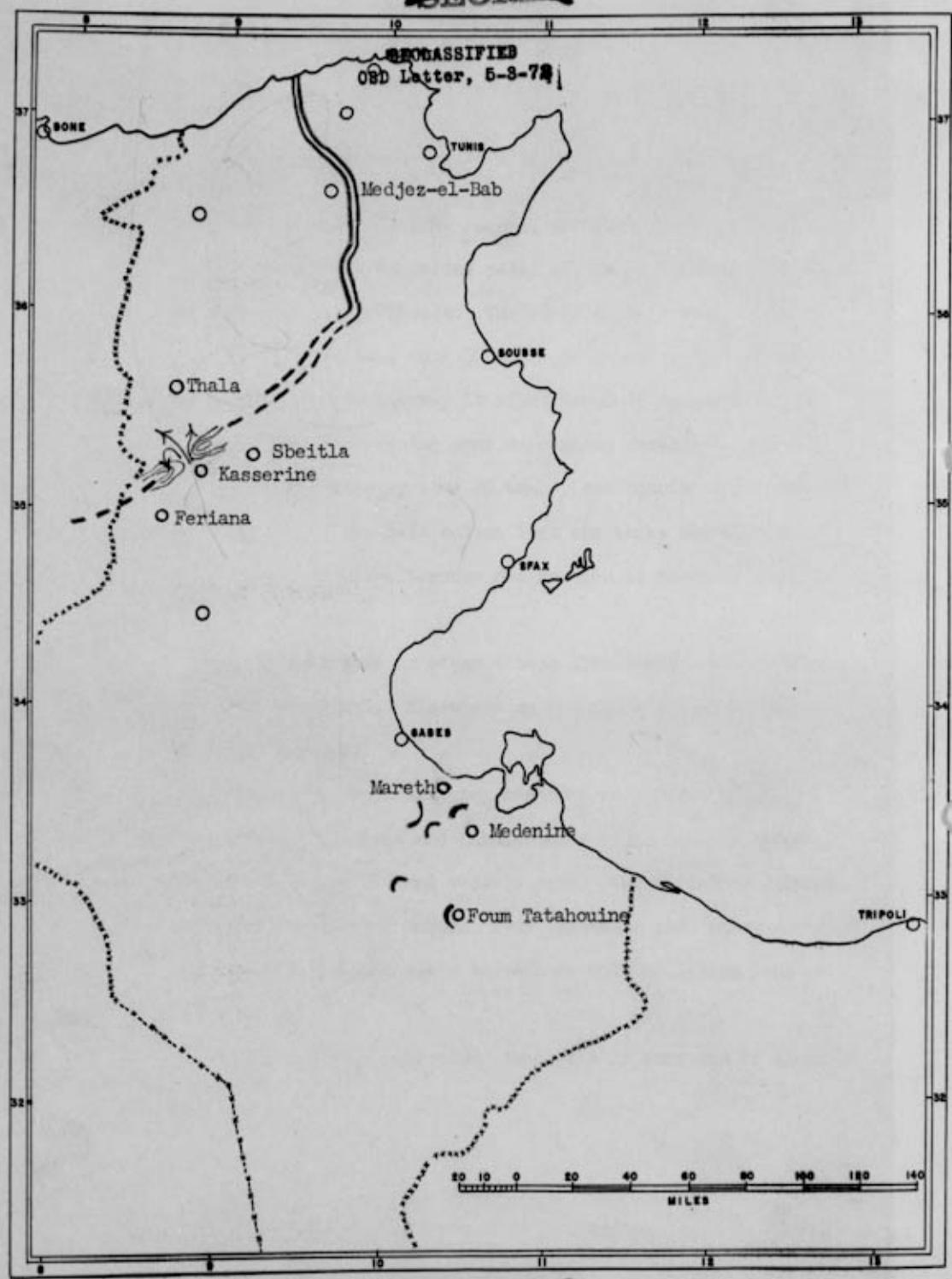
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0700 February 22 to 0700 February 23, 1943

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NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

At 0200 February 21, Axis forces, from a 4,000 yard front six miles northwest of the Kasserine pass, launched a two-pronged offensive aimed north and northwest. The right force pushed to the Kasserine-Thala road and, with 30 tanks in support, by 1630 had reached a point on the highway 18 miles north of Kasserine. The left force, after progressing some nine miles developed into two columns, each supported by some 20 tanks, one heading north and one heading northwest. The left column lost six tanks and withdrew. The right column by mid-afternoon had reached to about 21 miles northwest of Kasserine.

In northern Tunisia an enemy attack five miles east of Medjez-El-Bab was unsuccessful. Elsewhere on the front there was only local patrol activity.

On February 21, anti-shipping missions were flown by Allied aircraft from North Africa and Malta, three enemy vessels being damaged, and two small escort vessels sunk. Ten US medium bombers bombed the Gafsa railroad yards. Four (probably six) enemy aircraft were destroyed during the day's operations with an Allied loss of three airplanes.

Air losses for the past eight days were 23 Axis and 22 Allied airplanes.

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AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On February 21, B-24's of the 9th Air Force dropped 15,000 lbs. of bombs on shipping and dock installations at Naples and 25,000 lbs. on other enemy installations at Amantea, Palmi, Necotera and Rosanno, Italy. Hits were obtained on two ships, docks, oil storage tanks and a warehouse. One of our airplanes is missing.

ASIATIC THEATER

P-40's continued their offensive reconnaissance over Burma and China on February 21, at the same time attacking enemy communications.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 21, General MacArthur reports two attacks by Japanese aircraft, one on Milne Bay and one on an Allied convoy near Darwin; no damage resulted. Allied air attacks were made on shipping at Ambon, with unobserved results, on the Ballale and Kahili airdromes, and on enemy installations in the Mibo area. Two (probably six) Japanese aircraft were destroyed without US loss.

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WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

On February 20, 1943 enemy and British bombers and fighter aircraft attacked the enemy air and fighter strip areas at Bizka without loss.

NIGHT AIRFIELD INCIDENTS

On February 20, an WAR DEPARTMENT unit at two installations reinforced with tanks, attacked our positions in the pass northwest of Caserine and forced our withdrawal northwest. Although British and US armored units entered the engagement, loss that day was heavy and the pass still remained in enemy hands.

No. 439

Further enemy infantry and tank attacks north and southeast of Bizka were repulsed with the reported loss of many tanks.

0700 February 21 to 0700 February 22, 1943

On the night of February 19-20 British bombers attacked Bizka. The next day US P-39's flew missions against enemy motor vehicles near Caserine. COPY FOR Other planes have not returned. THE WHITE HOUSE Further air activity was curtailed by the weather.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On February 19, British B-24's under command of the 1st Air Force bombed the Sardinian and Sicilian Poenale airbases on Crete.

On February 20, other aircraft of the 1st Air Force reported these attacks and in addition bombed Gortosa, in southern Italy. No losses were reported.

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On February 20, US heavy and medium bombers and fighter aircraft attacked the enemy camp and fighter strip areas at Kiska without loss.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 20, an enemy force, estimated at two battalions reinforced with tanks, attacked our positions in the pass northwest of Kasserine and forced our troops back to the northwest. Although British and US armored units entered the engagement, late that day the pass still remained in enemy hands.

Further enemy infantry and tank attacks south and southeast of Sbiba were repulsed with the reported loss of five enemy tanks.

On the night of February 19-20 British bombers attacked Gafsa. The next day US P-39's flew attack missions against enemy motor vehicles near Kasserine; two of our fighter planes have not returned. Further air activity was curtailed by the weather.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On February 19, British B-24's under command of the US 9th Air Force bombed the Herakleion and Kastelli Pediada airdromes on Crete.

On February 20, other aircraft of the 9th Air Force repeated these attacks and in addition bombed Crotona, in southern Italy. No losses were reported.

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ASIATIC THEATER

US P-40's attacked enemy-held towns and railroads in north and central Burma on February 20.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

General MacArthur's summary for February 20 reports that his bombers were again dispatched to attack enemy installations and shipping in the Buin-Faisi area. As no enemy shipping was located Allied aircraft bombed Kahili, Ballale and the Faisi seaplane base. The results of repeated attempts to strike an enemy convoy off Gas-mata were not observed. The runway and dispersal areas there were bombed and two (probably three) enemy planes destroyed. Enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Dobodara and Hariko, northeastern New Guinea; no damage was reported.

PACIFIC THEATER

On February 20, our B-24's harassed Vila and Munda. Later in the day thirty light bombers escorted by thirty-two fighter planes attacked the runway and antiaircraft positions on the enemy-held Munda airfield. One light bomber was forced down in the water; all our other aircraft returned safely.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

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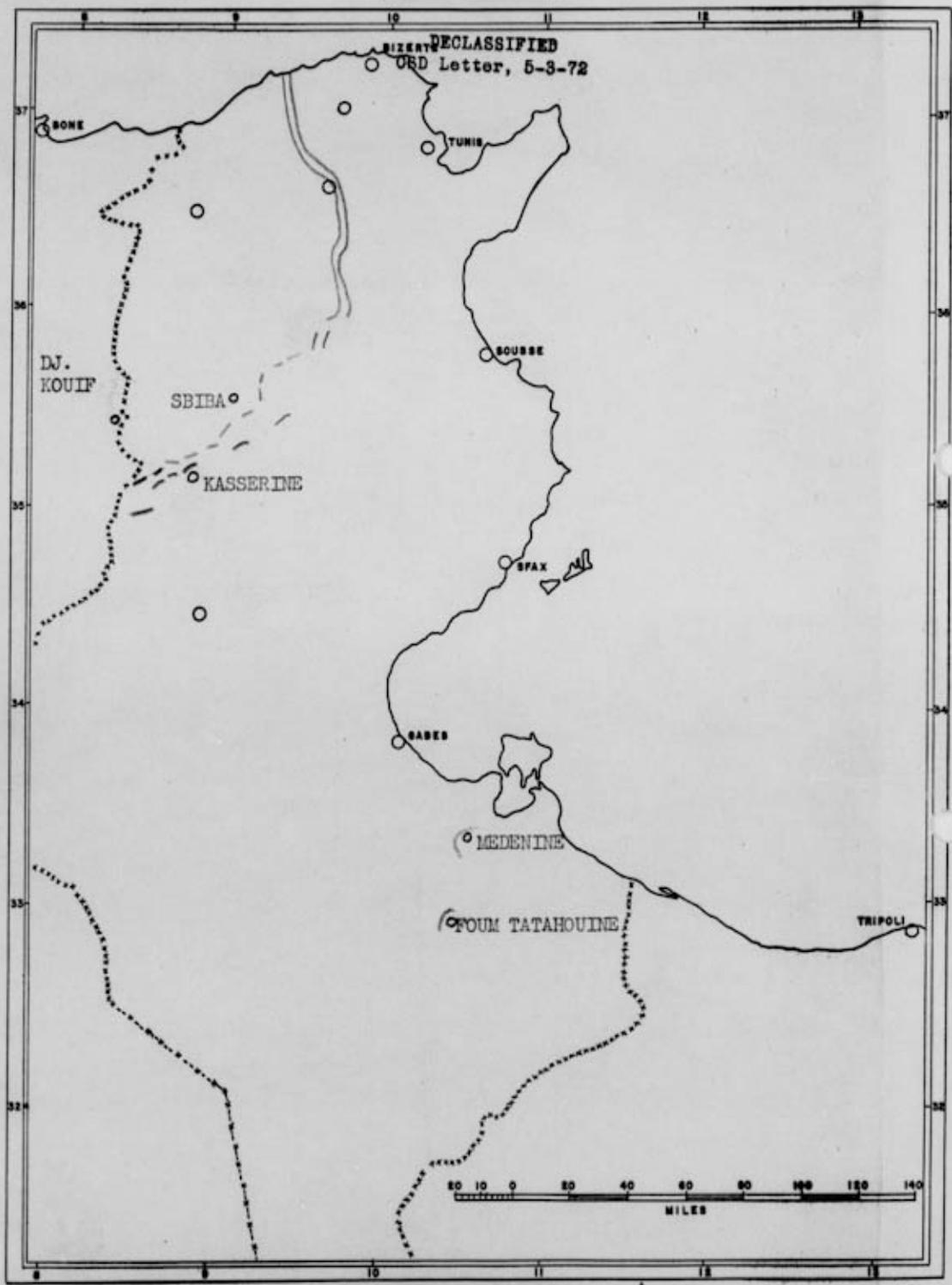
0700 February 20 to 0700 February 21, 1943

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NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. The enemy infantry attack from Kasserine on February 19, supported by tanks and artillery, was held at a point some six miles to the northwest. Advanced enemy units are active in the passes west and southwest of Kasserine. Two enemy tank attacks that same afternoon were repelled south of Sbiba and eight enemy tanks were destroyed. The Command Post of the US II Corps has been established in the vicinity of Djebel Kouif. Inclement weather caused all bomber and ground support missions to be cancelled.

Foum Tatahouine, in Southern Tunisia, is now in Allied hands.

2. The new system of operational command in North Africa, effective February 20, is as follows:

Allied Force Headquarters (General Eisenhower)

Commander in Chief, Mediterranean (Admiral Cunningham)

Eighteenth Army Group Headquarters (General Alexander)

First Army
Eighth Army
Reserve

Mediterranean Air Command (Air Chief Marshal Tedder)

Malta Air Command (Air Vice Marshal Park)
Northwest African Air Force (General Spatz)
Middle East Air Command (Air Chief Marshal Sholto Douglas)

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 19 our P-40's from Dinjan attacked targets of opportunity

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

in Northern Burma, causing a landslide in a railroad cut and strafing and bombing a strongly held enemy village. All our aircraft returned safely.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 19, General MacArthur reports that after Australian bombers had started fires in the Kahili area, 12 B-17's successfully carried out high-level and skip-bombing attacks on shipping in the Buin area. Direct hits were secured on three 7,000 to 9,000-ton vessels, which were left afire, and a possible hit was obtained on a 3,000-ton vessel. The Kahili and Ballale airdromes and the Shortland seaplane anchorage were also attacked. Allied light bombers and fighter aircraft strafed the enemy-held area near Malahang (Lae), and two US heavy bombers on individual reconnaissance missions shot down three (probably four) of 13 intercepting Japanese aircraft. No Allied losses were reported.

PACIFIC THEATER

On February 19, 12 heavy bombers attacked shipping at Vila, and the Munda and Vila airfields. Results were not reported.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 437

0700 February 19 to 0700 February 20, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. The Army Ground Forces issued directives for the movement of the 35th Infantry Division from Camp San Luis Obispo, California, to Camp Rucker, Alabama, the 6th Motorized Division from the Desert Training Center, Camp Young, California, to Camp San Luis Obispo, and the 8th Motorized Division from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to the Desert Training Center. These movements will be effected with a reduced number of trains since the 6th and 8th Divisions will take over the heavy equipment left by other units at their destinations; moreover, the same trains will be used for all three movements.

2. Our P-40's destroyed two Japanese monoplanes over Amchitka on February 19.

EUROPEAN THEATER

In our bombing of St. Nazaire on February 16 about three acres on each side of a lock leading to the inner basin were devastated; it is not known whether the lock itself was damaged. 160 tons of bombs were dropped. Twenty (probably 32) enemy fighter aircraft were destroyed; we lost two B-17's to antiaircraft fire, two to enemy fighters and two from unknown causes.

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NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

In the evening of February 17 an Axis attack in the Pichon area was repulsed and the Allied troops completed their withdrawal from the salient, conforming to movements further south. During February 18 our II Corps continued the occupation and organization of its new positions while enemy forces gathered at Feriana and patrolled to the north and northwest. Bad weather prevented bomber missions, but our lighter aircraft were aggressive over the battle area. At 1300 on February 19 an enemy infantry attack was launched from Kasserine.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

1. On February 18, patrols of the British Eighth Army were operating in the areas shown on the map.

2. A British heavy bombardment squadron, operating under the US 9th Air Force, dropped 15 tons of bombs on the Herakleion airdrome, Crete, on February 16.

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 18, our P-40's from Burma and China attacked targets of opportunity in northern Burma. All planes returned safely.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the period ending 1300, OCT, February

18, General MacArthur reports continued patrol activity near Wau. Allied aircraft carried out offensive sweeps along the New Guinea coast, attacked Madang and caused large fires at Kahili.

While bombing an enemy cruiser or transport at Dilli, Dutch B-25's shot down one or two Japanese Zeros but lost one of their own airplanes.

Nine ships, including one of 10,000 tons, were sighted at Buin.

PACIFIC THEATER

On February 18, US B-24's attacked the Ballale and Kahili air-dromes, while A-24's and fighter aircraft raided Vila. The airplanes from these missions returned safely but a reconnaissance plane is missing.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

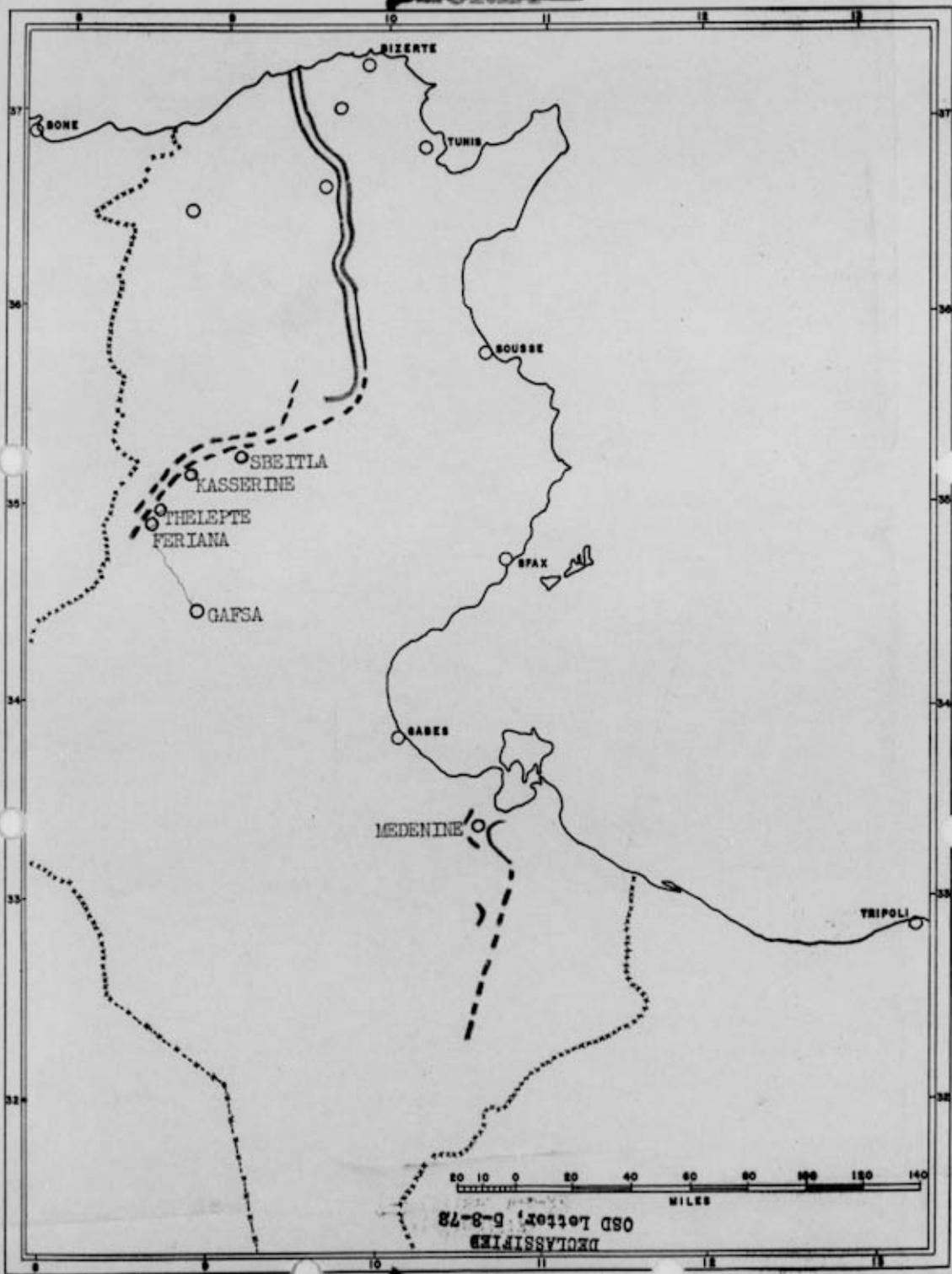
No. 436

0700 February 18 to 0700 February 19, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

By February 17, eight P-40's and four P-38's (fighter aircraft) and one C-47 (transport) had landed and taken off from the new fighter strip on Amchitka, and the first fighter patrol, composed of eight P-40's, operated from Amchitka that day.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

By the evening of February 17 the enemy had occupied Kasserine and Thelepte and was reconnoitering to the north of Sbeitla and to the west of Feriana. On the Gafsa-Feriana road there was considerable enemy motor transportation and artillery which were attacked by our light bombers and fighters, some 35 vehicles being destroyed. Armored vehicle and troop replacements and reinforcements are moving forward from the west; other tanks are en route from the US.

Thirty-six B-17's and 29 medium bombers escorted by P-38's bombed airdromes in Sardinia. Throughout the day our aircraft were active over the battle area, in all some five enemy airplanes being destroyed with loss of seven of our own. Enemy air activity consisted of the usual transport and reconnaissance missions and attacks on convoys; a few bombs were dropped in the Algiers area.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

1. On February 15, fifteen US B-24's, in two raids on shipping in the harbor at Naples, obtained direct hits on two large vessels

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

and destroyed four (probably ten) of 22 intercepting German and Italian fighter airplanes. One of our B-24's is believed to have been shot down.

2. On February 17 the British Eighth Army had reached the line shown on the map.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 16, General MacArthur reports local skirmishes near Wau. Six B-25's bombed the Malahang airdrome (Lae) and destroyed enemy fishing craft near the Salamaua Peninsula. A single B-24, on reconnaissance, February 15, hit an enemy cargo ship in Stettin Bay (New Britain) leaving the vessel burning furiously. Four RAAF bombers attacked Dilli (Timor).

2. For February 17, General MacArthur reports that small enemy parties, near Wau, were falling back on Mibo. US P-T boats sank three enemy barges on the night of February 15.

US bombers attacked Babo in northwestern New Guinea (some shipping being reported in this vicinity) as well as Ubili, and a barge and possible submarine off Gasmata. Australian fighter aircraft attacked an enemy-held village near Lae.

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PACIFIC THEATER

On February 17, thirteen US dive-bombers (A-24's) escorted by 24 fighter planes started fires at Munda. All of our aircraft returned safely.

PACIFIC THEATER

On February 17, thirteen US dive-bombers (A-24's) escorted by 24 fighter planes started fires at Munda. All of our aircraft returned safely.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 435

0700 February 17 to 0700 February 18, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
AD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

General Buckner has reported that our first fighter aircraft landed on Amchitka on February 16; mat laying operations on the field will proceed while it is being used.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On February 16, about noon, enemy armored forces renewed their attacks east of Sbeitla. US troops northwest of Faid, cut off from their main body, succeeded in withdrawing to the west but lost most of their transportation; other US troops were still isolated on Djebel Ksaira early on February 17. Confused armored and infantry fighting continued all day to the southeast of Sbeitla, and in the afternoon our troops were ordered to withdraw to the general line, shown on the map, which covers the passes in the hills to the west.

Shortly after midnight February 16-17, the enemy forces, attacking by moonlight, pierced this line east of Sbeitla. An hour later a withdrawal from that town was ordered, a covering force strong in anti-tank weapons being directed to hold the line eastwards from Kasserine at all costs until mid-day, February 17, with a smaller force holding the ridge covering Feriana, while the remainder of the armored division moved north through Kasserine toward Thala. Plans were made to remove our aircraft from Thelepte.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-3-78

By dawn the holding forces were in position and Thelepte airdrome had been abandoned. Our forces were blocking the passes northwest of Feriana and Kasserine while the 1st Armored Division was moving through Sbeitla to Thala. About 1⁵0 tanks, as well as considerable vehicles and guns, have been lost.

Further north in Tunisia the enemy was especially active, particularly southwest of Mateur and in the Bou Arada area.

During the day US fighters and light bombers attacked enemy ground concentrations, gun emplacements and roads in the Gafsa-Faid-Kairouan area claiming to have put out of action six enemy howitzers. British bombers joined in these operations. Enemy air activity over the Tunisian battle area was slight.

2. British units entered Ben Gardane unopposed, February 15; the line of the British forward units is as indicated on the map.

3. The Command Post of the British First Army is now at Djerissa.

4. In response to a request from General Eisenhower for anti-submarine aircraft to cover the Casablanca area and the Mediterranean coast, the War Department directed General Andrews to dispatch to North Africa one squadron of 12 B-24's equipped for anti-submarine operations with combat crews and key ground personnel.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 16, P-40's made harassing attacks on enemy activities in North Burma; one airplane was lost.

PACIFIC THEATER

General Harmon reports that, on February 16, US B-24's in the South Pacific repeated their attacks on Kahili, Ballale and Vila. Two B-24's are missing.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 434

0700 February 16 to 0700 February 17, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. The Army Ground Forces issued directives for the following movements:

5th Armored Division - Major General Jack W. Heard
From: Camp Cooke, California To: Tennessee Maneuver Area
Remark: To receive new equipment and final training preparatory to overseas movement.

6th Armored Division - Major General Wm. H. H. Morris, Jr.
From: Camp Young, California To: Camp Cooke, California
Remark: Permanent Change of Station.

7th Armored Division - Major General Lindsay McD. Silvester
From: Camp Polk, Louisiana To: Camp Young, California
Remark: Permanent Change of Station.

8th Armored Division - Major General Wm. M. Grimes
From: Camp Campbell, Kentucky To: Camp Polk, Louisiana
Remark: Will move at cadre strength and be filled at its new station.

The 6th, 7th and 8th Armored Divisions, respectively, will take over the heavy equipment of the Division which each replaces, thus greatly reducing the proportions of the movements entailed.

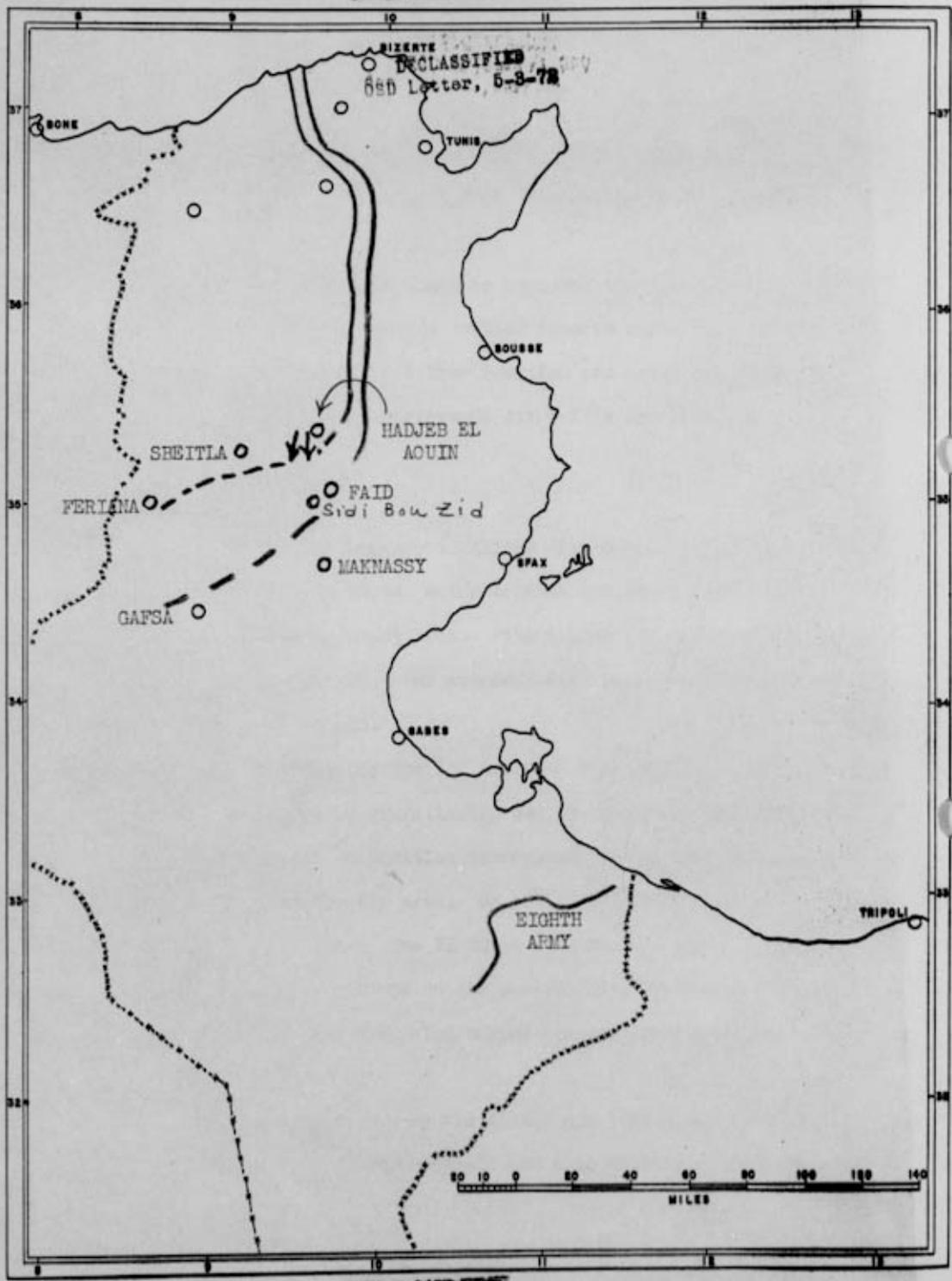
2. On February 16, six enemy planes dropped a total of ten bombs on our landing strip area at Amchitka killing two soldiers. Damage to the landing strip was negligible.

EUROPEAN THEATER

In a daylight attack on an enemy raider near Dunkerque, February 15, 21 US B-24's, supported by RAF Spitfires, dropped 62 tons of ex-

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DECLASSIFIED
68D Letter, 5-8-78

EIGHTH
ARMY

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DECLASSIFIED
CGO Letter, 5-8-78

plosives in the dock area and near the vessel. Enemy fighters and moderate to heavy antiaircraft fire were encountered; two B-24's were lost.

The next day 65 heavy bombers hammered the enemy submarine installations at St. Nazaire; initial reports state that the results were good. Strong enemy fighter reaction and heavy and accurate antiaircraft fire were experienced; six B-17's are missing.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. Throughout February 14, Allied dive-bombers and fighter aircraft attacked enemy tanks, motor columns and troop concentrations in the Faid-Gafsa-Maknassy area. Five Allied and one enemy fighter aircraft were destroyed. Our armored units suffered material losses from enemy dive-bombers.

On February 15, the 1st Armored Division, after concentrating at Hadjeb el Aicun, counterattacked southward against the enemy advancing westwards on Sbeitla; throughout the day heavy fighting raged in the Sidi bou Zid area. US forces were still reported north and south of that town. The II Corps withdrew its right flank to take up defensive positions on the general line Feriana-Sbeitla, while Gafsa, which had been evacuated during the previous night, was entered by an enemy armored unit.

Aggressive action by the Allied air forces was reported during February 15. Enemy aircraft were also active, attacks on

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Medjez-el-Bab and our airfields being reported. 21 B-17's of the 12th Air Force attacked the docks and shipping at Palermo with 54 tons of bombs, hitting one ship and setting fire to an oil tank; all of our planes returned. Two powerful attacks were made on Kairouan by US medium bombers escorted by P-38's, during which at least seven enemy airplanes were destroyed and at least six hit while on the ground, with loss of one US medium bomber. Other aircraft losses for both sides were reported. Aircraft from Malta were active against railroads in Calabria and Sicily. On the night of February 15-16, 12 British bombers attacked the docks at Bizerte.

2. The War Department notified General Eisenhower that, effective with UGS-6, the size of UGS and GUS convoys will be increased from 48 to a maximum of 60 ships, which must be capable of sustaining a speed of nine knots without smoking.

3. On February 14, patrols of the British Eighth Army had reached the general line shown on the map.

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 13, US medium bombers from India attacked enemy-held railroad installations in Burma.

PACIFIC THEATER

On February 13, six B-24's and 11 fighter planes were attacked

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-8-78

by 45 Zeros while bombing an enemy merchant vessel near Buin. Although one hit was obtained on the vessel and eight Zeros shot down, we lost three bombers and three fighter planes. The next day an attack by 21 bombers and 11 fighters on Munda was successful, all planes returning. Nine US bombers and 22 fighters secured three direct hits on a large freighter off Kahili. In an ensuing aerial engagement with 45 Japanese fighter planes, two bombers and six fighters were lost; eleven of the Japanese planes were destroyed.

Munda was attacked twice on February 15 by US bomber and fighter aircraft, our fighters sweeping the runways at extremely low altitudes. Nearly 40 airplanes participated in each raid. Vila was also attacked. All of our aircraft returned.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 15, General MacArthur reports three attacks by our "flying fortresses" on Rabaul where many fires and a large explosion, probably that of an ammunition dump, resulted. Meanwhile our medium and dive-bombers and fighter aircraft pounded the enemy dump area at Malahang (near Lae). West of New Guinea, Dutch, British and US bombers attacked Dobo (Aroe Is.), Dilli and also Ambon where large buildings, a possible ammunition dump, and an 8,000-ton merchant vessel were hit.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 433

0700 February 15 to 0700 February 16, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

W.D.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On February 13, five B-24's, seven B-25's and ten P-38's attacked the enemy installations at Kiska and shot down four Japanese airplanes; one of our bombers, forced to return after an engine was hit by antiaircraft fire, crash-landed at its base. That same day P-38's shot down a Japanese reconnaissance plane over Amchitka. Early on February 14, seven Japanese airplanes attacked our shipping in Constantine Bay, Amchitka, and later machine-gunned our troop positions on the island without causing damage or casualties.

EUROPEAN THEATER

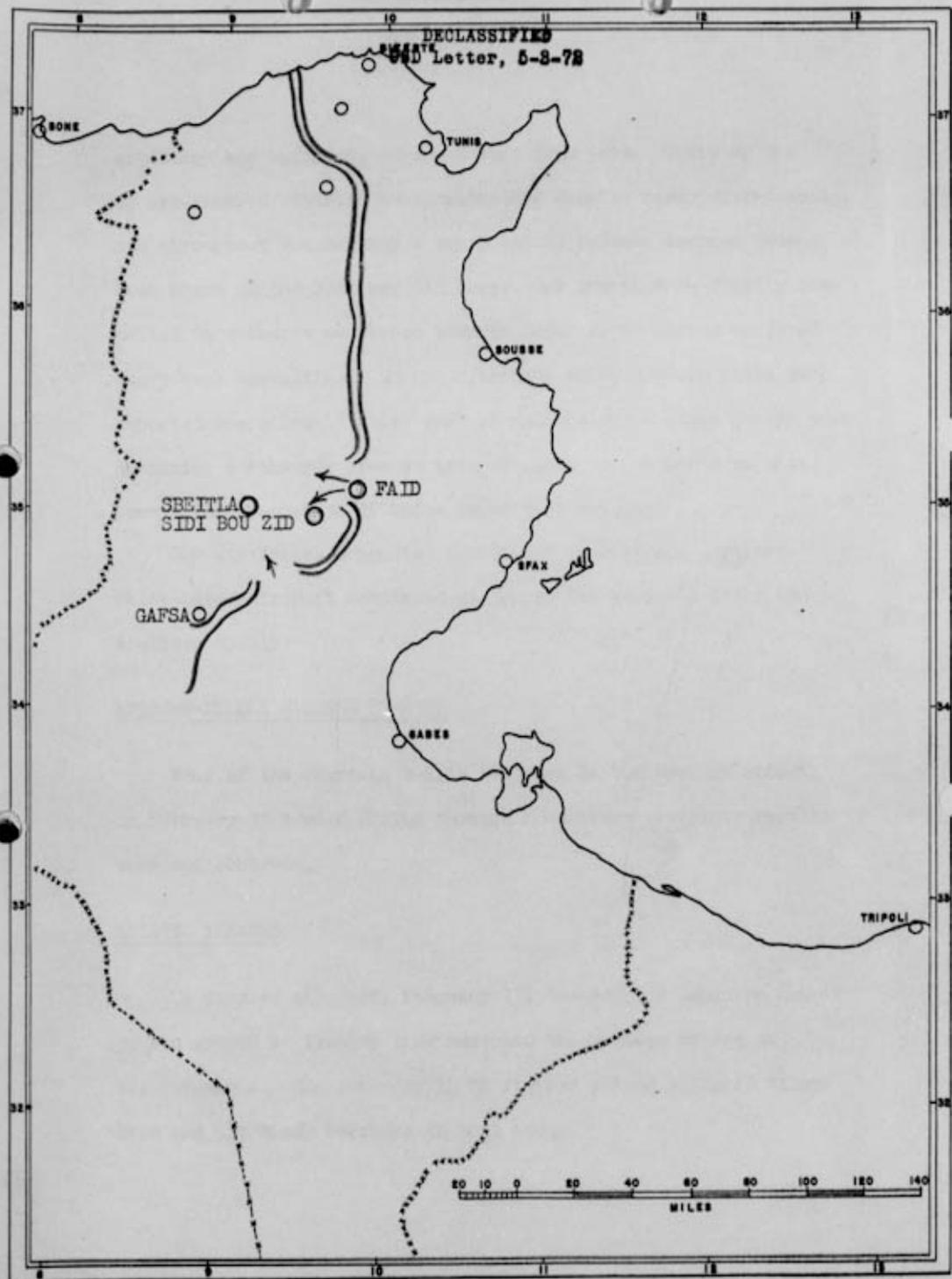
The Commanding General, Army Air Forces, informed Generals Spaatz and Andrews that two night fighter squadrons (less aircraft) with ground control personnel will be sent to the UK in March for two months' training, upon completion of which they will take over British equipment in North Africa. Two squadrons will follow in April; replacement crews will be trained to insure a steady flow of personnel.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 14, strong enemy armored units, reinforced by

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E.O. 13526, Letter, 5-8-78



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artillery and infantry, advanced west from Faid. Units of the US 1st Armored Division counterattacked despite enemy dive-bombing, and throughout the morning a heavy battle between armored troops took place in the Sidi bou Zid area. Our troops were finally compelled to withdraw southwest towards Gafsa after having suffered heavy tank casualties. In the afternoon enemy armored units were reported operating 15 miles east of Sbeitla while other groups were advancing northwards from an area 20 miles to the south of that town. The evacuation of Gafsa began that evening.

Our air forces supported our ground operations. British Malta-based aircraft continued to harass the enemy in Italy and southern Sicily.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

Four of the fourteen B-24's reported in the Crotone attack on February 13 bombed Naples through a complete overcast; results were not observed.

ASIATIC THEATER

US fighter aircraft, February 13, destroyed a Japanese bomber on the ground at Lashio; they reported the Myitnge bridge as unserviceable. The next day 14 US fighter planes attacked Maing-kwan and the enemy barracks in that town.

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CSB letter, 5-3-78

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 14, General MacArthur reports that Rabaul and its water-front installations were attacked by four formations of US heavy bombers which dropped 50 tons of bombs; other targets were the 45 merchantmen, totalling 202,000 tons, a light cruiser, ten destroyers, three submarines and 12 other naval vessels in the harbor. Huge fires resulted, an ammunition dump was exploded, and probable hits were obtained on two enemy ships. Another large attack was carried out against the airdrome and installations at Lae, where hits were obtained on two grounded enemy planes and on enemy buildings. Minor Allied air raids were also made on the Kahili airdrome, Ubili, and Madang.

Allied patrols were mopping up enemy centers of resistance near Wau.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 432

0700 February 14 to 0700 February 15, 1943

COPY FOR
THE WHITE HOUSE

WAB

GENERAL

The Commanding General, Army Air Forces, notified senior overseas commanders of the early availability, at the rate of 110 a month, of a B-25 medium bomber whose armament has been so modified as to include a fixed 75 mm cannon, as well as ten .50 caliber machine guns. This extra armament has been added without interfering with the normal bomb capacity or performance characteristics of the airplane. These commanders were requested to specify the percentage of their future monthly deliveries which should be represented by this new airplane.

EUROPEAN THEATER

The War Department authorized General Andrews to appoint General Eaker to the command of the 8th Air Force, by direction of the President.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 13, US medium bomber and fighter aircraft attacked the El Aouina airdrome at Tunis; four (probably seven) intercepting enemy planes were destroyed. Attacks were also made on the numerous transport aircraft operating between Italy and Tunisia, four of them being destroyed.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

It is estimated that during the week's operations 38 enemy and 10 Allied aircraft were destroyed in the North African Theater.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

1. On February 13, 14 heavy bombers of the 98th Group dropped over 31 tons of bombs on Crotona (Calabria) and its airdrome. Five British B-24's, under US command, bombed the Heraklion and Kastelli Pediada airdromes in Crete.

2. General Brereton reported on February 14 that Tripolitania has been cleared of all enemy organized forces.

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 12, seven B-24's attacked the freight yards at Rangoon, scoring 34, out of a possible 45, 500-lb. bomb hits in the target area.

The next day, 12 P-40's successfully bombed and machine-gunned an enemy-occupied town near Myitkyina; six barracks were burned.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 13, General MacArthur reports that Allied patrols were active in the Wau area and that an enemy landing force was ambushed and 25 Japanese killed. Allied air raids were carried out

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

against Rabaul, Ubili (New Britain), Mubo, Lae, Fuiloro (Timor), and Australian Beaufighters swept the Finschhafen-Madang area, strafing the town and runway at Madang and setting fire to a hangar.

2. The War Department authorized General Harmon to assign General Patch as Commanding General, XIV Corps, by direction of the President.

3. On February 13, US aircraft again attacked the enemy installations on Munda, obtaining hits on ammunition dumps and antiaircraft gun defenses. On Guadalcanal our troops continued their salvage work and manned their defenses.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

During the hours of darkness there is a strong possibility that
operations in the Department of War will be disrupted if the
communications system is interrupted.

On February 13, all lines between the Department of War and
the Department of Defense were disrupted for a period of
approximately 24 hours.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 431

0700 February 13 to 0700 February 14, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

RELATIVE STRENGTH

Our operations were disrupted for a period of 24 hours
beginning at 0700 on February 13. In February 13, 1943,
the Department of War and the Department of Defense
were disrupted for a period of 24 hours.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of February 11-12 a strong enemy patrol was repulsed in the Cusseltia sector; there was vigorous patrol activity elsewhere along the front.

On February 12, six light bombers escorted by twelve US fighters attacked enemy ground positions west of Sened, claiming four 88 mm guns destroyed and three silenced. Bad weather prevented heavy bomber operations.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

It is now learned that, in the attacks made by the 9th Air Force on February 10, seven B-24's dropped 35 1,000-lb. bombs on Palermo without opposition of any kind; clouds prevented observation of the effect. Eight B-25's dropped 83 300-lb. bombs on Heraklion airdrome in Crete without being able to observe the results, while another attacked Kastelli Pediada airdrome on that island; heavy antiaircraft fire was encountered.

ASIATIC THEATER

Our air units were active in Burma on February 11, one fighter crashing after an attack on a truck convoy. On February 12, seven B-24's again attacked the Myitnge bridge (south of Mandalay) demolishing one span.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

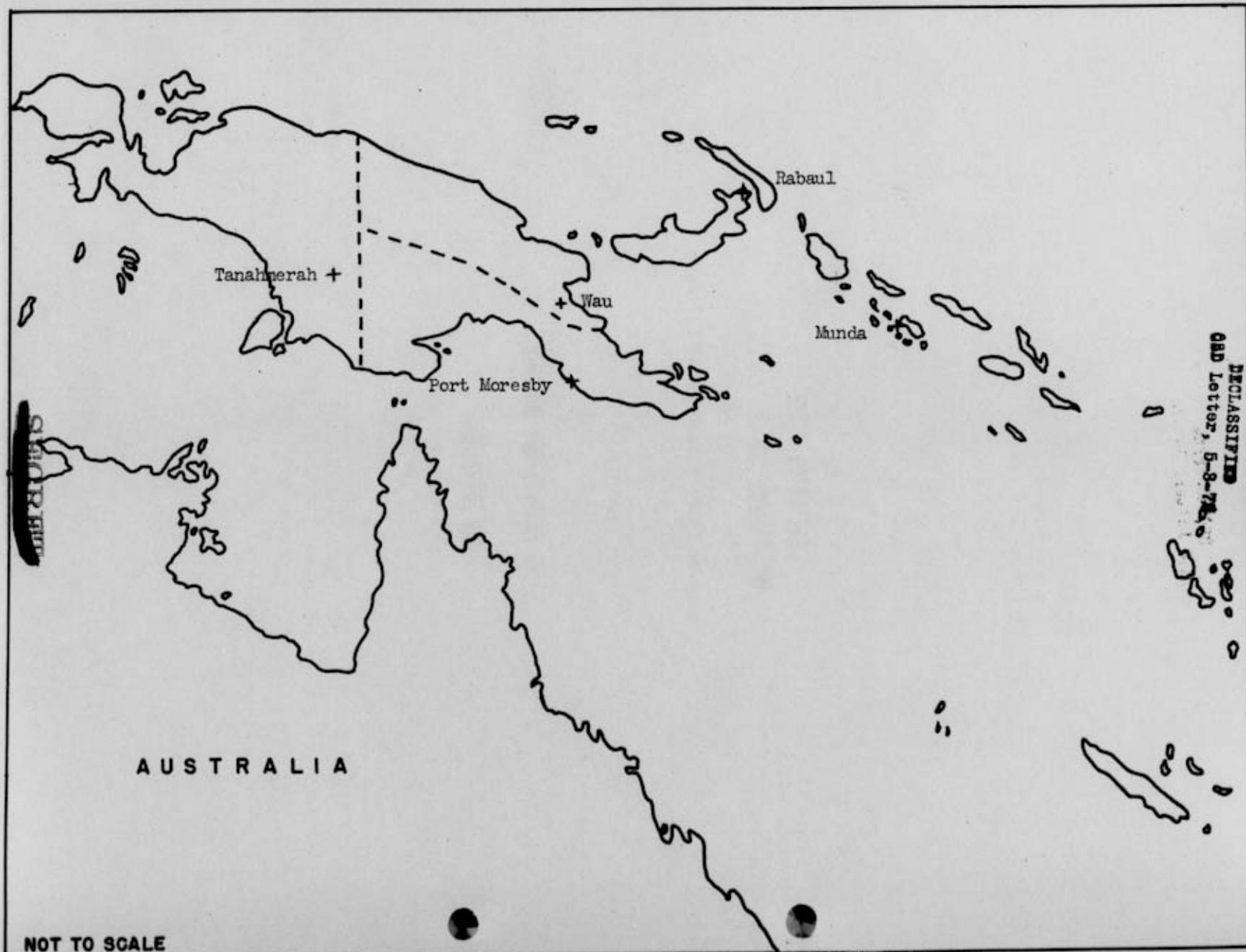
1. General MacArthur's operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 12, reports attacks made by single heavy bombers, one of which hit Rapopo airport (Rabaul) while another damaged a 6,000-ton merchant vessel in that area.

Tanahmerah and Port Moresby were bombed by enemy aircraft on February 10 and 12, respectively; no damage was reported.

Allied patrols were active near Wau.

2. On February 12, Munda was attacked by three medium bombers.

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Tanahmerah +

Port Moresby +

+ Wau

Rabaul

Munda

A U S T R A L I A

NOT TO SCALE

DECLASSIFIED
GND Letter, 5-8-74

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WAR DEPARTMENT

In January 1943, the Army and Navy War Relocation Authority...
of the War Relocation Authority...
of the War Relocation Authority...

On February 12, 1943, the War Relocation Authority...
of the War Relocation Authority...
of the War Relocation Authority...

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 430

0700 February 12 to 0700 February 13, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

The War Relocation Authority...
of the War Relocation Authority...
of the War Relocation Authority...

WAR DEPARTMENT

In the operations summary for the War Relocation Authority...
of the War Relocation Authority...
of the War Relocation Authority...

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DECLASSIFIED
CSD Letter, 5-8-78

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 10, the enemy was reported driven from two points 12 miles west-northwest of Mateur, 21 prisoners being taken. Four enemy bombers attacked Tripoli with unreported results.

On February 11, 12 Allied light bombers escorted by 22 fighters attacked Sened, securing hits on the highway and in the town. The 1st Ranger Battalion is reported to have made a successful raid from Gafsa on the night of February 11-12; no further details are available.

The 34th US Infantry Division has completed its movement from Oran to the Tunisian area, being replaced at Oran by the 9th US Infantry Division from Port Lyautey. The 3rd US Infantry Division, less a regiment, is in turn replacing the 9th at the latter station.

ASIATIC THEATER

Two P-40's strafed enemy motor transport and damaged a ferry in Western China on February 10.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 11, General MacArthur reports that Allied patrols

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy, who was withdrawing in the direction of Mibo. One B-17 dropped anti-personnel and incendiary bombs on Rabaul, starting fires on the Lakunai airdrome.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 429

0700 February 11 to 0700 February 12, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On February 10, our weather plane, scouting Kiska, found excellent weather, no enemy aircraft on the water or in the air, and only light and inaccurate anti-aircraft fire. Six heavy bombers, eight medium bombers, and eight fighter aircraft were therefore dispatched and attacked the enemy camp, fighter strip, and installations at Kiska from low altitude. No enemy fighter opposition was encountered.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Inclement weather hampered air operations in Tunisia on February 10. Enemy fighter and fighter-bomber aircraft attacked the Beja area and Bone, Allied airplanes intercepting and turning back the enemy at the latter place. Our airplanes flew reconnaissance missions in the forward areas, where enemy targets of opportunity were engaged, and sank one of four enemy vessels between Sicily and Tunisia, leaving another in a sinking condition.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On February 10, bombers of the Ninth Air Force attacked Palermo Harbor as well as airdromes in Crete.

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ASIATIC THEATER

Three B-24's attacked the enemy airdrome at Rangoon, February 8, obtaining direct hits on the runway and starting fires. The next day four P-40's, operating on reconnaissance missions from Yunnanyi, destroyed three enemy trucks on the Burma Road and sank a small barge near Kutkai. On February 10, eight B-25's bombed enemy railroad equipment and installations at Maymyo (near Mandalay).

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations report for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 10, General MacArthur reports that the enemy is withdrawing from the Wau area. There was minor Allied bomber action in the northwest area.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

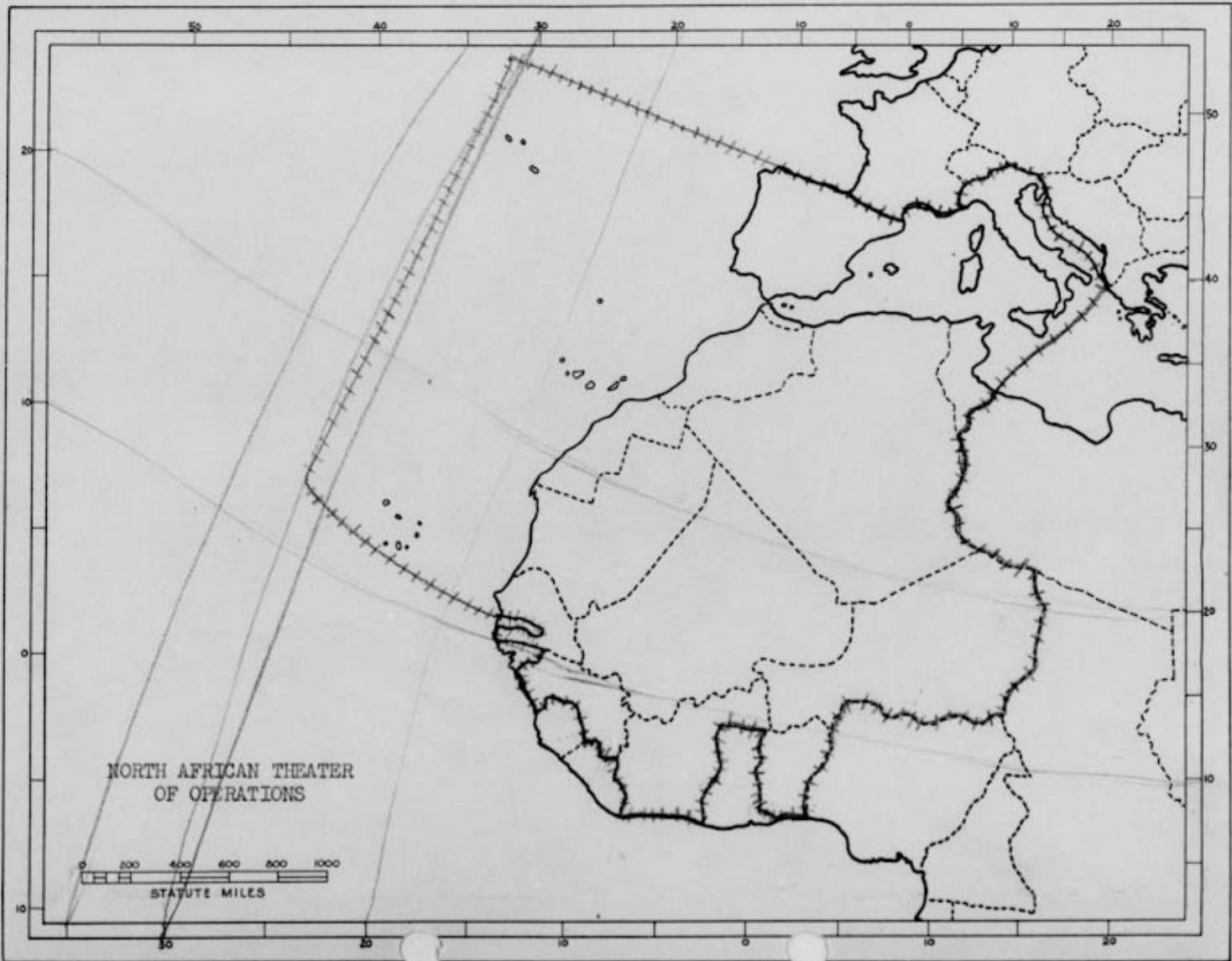
No. 428

0700 February 10 to 0700 February 11, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
GAD Letter, 5-8-78

EUROPEAN THEATER

An unidentified aircraft was over Iceland, February 9.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

While patrols of both sides were active in Northern Tunisia on February 9, enemy activity to the south, in the vicinity of Gafsa, was increasing. Twenty-four B-17's attacked the enemy railroad yards and airdrome at Kairouan and destroyed one of six enemy planes attempting interception. A US fighter reconnaissance mission over Ousseltia-Pichon destroyed two of seven attacking enemy fighters. Other Allied missions were flown in the forward areas, during which attacks were made on enemy motor transportation near Enfidaville (northwest of Sousse) and enemy columns near Maknassy.

Enemy aircraft attacked Bone, were active over Souk el Arba, and flew transport missions between Italy and Tunisia, and Sicily and Gabes.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 9, General MacArthur reports that there was considerable patrol activity by both sides southeast of Wau and in the vicinity of Wandumi. Allied light bombers and fighter aircraft

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WFB Letter, 5-3-72

attacked enemy installations near Lae, and eight US heavy bombers successfully attacked Kendari (Celebes).

2. On February 9, our ground forces after overcoming organized resistance on Guadalcanal reduced isolated enemy groups and continued the organization of the defenses of the island against any possible attacks.

On February 10, US fighter aircraft shot down an enemy two-engine medium bomber over Choiseul, sank a barge and destroyed oil stores in the Russell Islands. Fighter and bomber aircraft pounded Vila and Munda.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

1. The Navy and Marine Corps in the Atlantic region have
16 days of leave on file for February 9, available only to the rank
and above.

2. The Commanding Officer of the Naval Base Command was
informed that the War Department has agreed to make all leave in
accordance available for a period of 15 days for the purpose of leave.

WAR DEPARTMENT

3. The War Department has agreed to make all leave in
accordance available for a period of 15 days for the purpose of leave.

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 427

0700 February 9 to 0700 February 10, 1943

The Navy and Marine Corps in the Atlantic region will be in charge of the
entire day.

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

1. On February 9, 1943, a formation of 15 fighters plus
approximately attacked the enemy aircraft of base and destroyed, in
total count, 15 (probably 15) enemy aircraft. Four of our fighters
and one of our plane were shot down. The 2-9-43 was an
fighter-plane, attacking the shipping and dock installations of
base with 30 tons of bombs, obtained hits on one enemy vessel.
The ship was completely base, and probably destroyed the attacking

WHS

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. Our heavy and medium bombers in the Aleutians dropped over 16 tons of bombs on Kiska on February 9, obtaining hits in the main camp area.

2. The Commanding Officer of the Greenland Base Command was informed that the War Department has agreed to make air bases in Greenland available to the British for operation of long-range bombers on anti-submarine patrol. The details are to be arranged later.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. General Eisenhower was notified that the boundaries of the North African Theater of Operations will be as shown on the adjacent map.

2. On February 8, 33 US bombers escorted by 18 fighter planes successfully attacked the enemy airdrome at Gabes and destroyed, in aerial combat, 18 (probably 19) enemy aircraft. Four of our bombers and one fighter plane were shot down. Forty-two B-17's and 24 fighter planes, attacking the shipping and dock installations at Sousse with 90 tons of bombs, obtained hits on two enemy vessels, the docks and seaplane base, and probably destroyed two attacking

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

enemy fighters. Enemy troops and transportation ten miles east of Faid were hammered by US attacks involving a total of 72 dive bombers and 46 Spitfires. Twenty-four US fighter planes were dispatched to attack the enemy landing ground at Kebili (southern Tunisia). Allied fighter craft also flew reconnaissances in the Sened-Maknassy area where enemy transportation was attacked.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On February 8, 15 B-24's of the Ninth Air Force dropped over 30 tons of bombs on Messina Harbor. One enemy airplane was claimed as destroyed.

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 8, twelve B-24's, operating from Gaya and Pandesveswar, bombed railroad installations at Rangoon. Six other heavy bombers, unsuccessful in an attack on the dock area there, shot down one of six intercepting enemy planes. Two of our bombers were damaged.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 8, General MacArthur reports that Allied patrols in the Wau area attacked toward the east supported by artillery.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

Allied air attacks were made on Finschhafen, Kahili, Mubo, and Dobo, where 15 Allied aircraft succeeded in wrecking three-fourths of the town. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground.

A raid by one enemy airplane on Merauke did no damage.

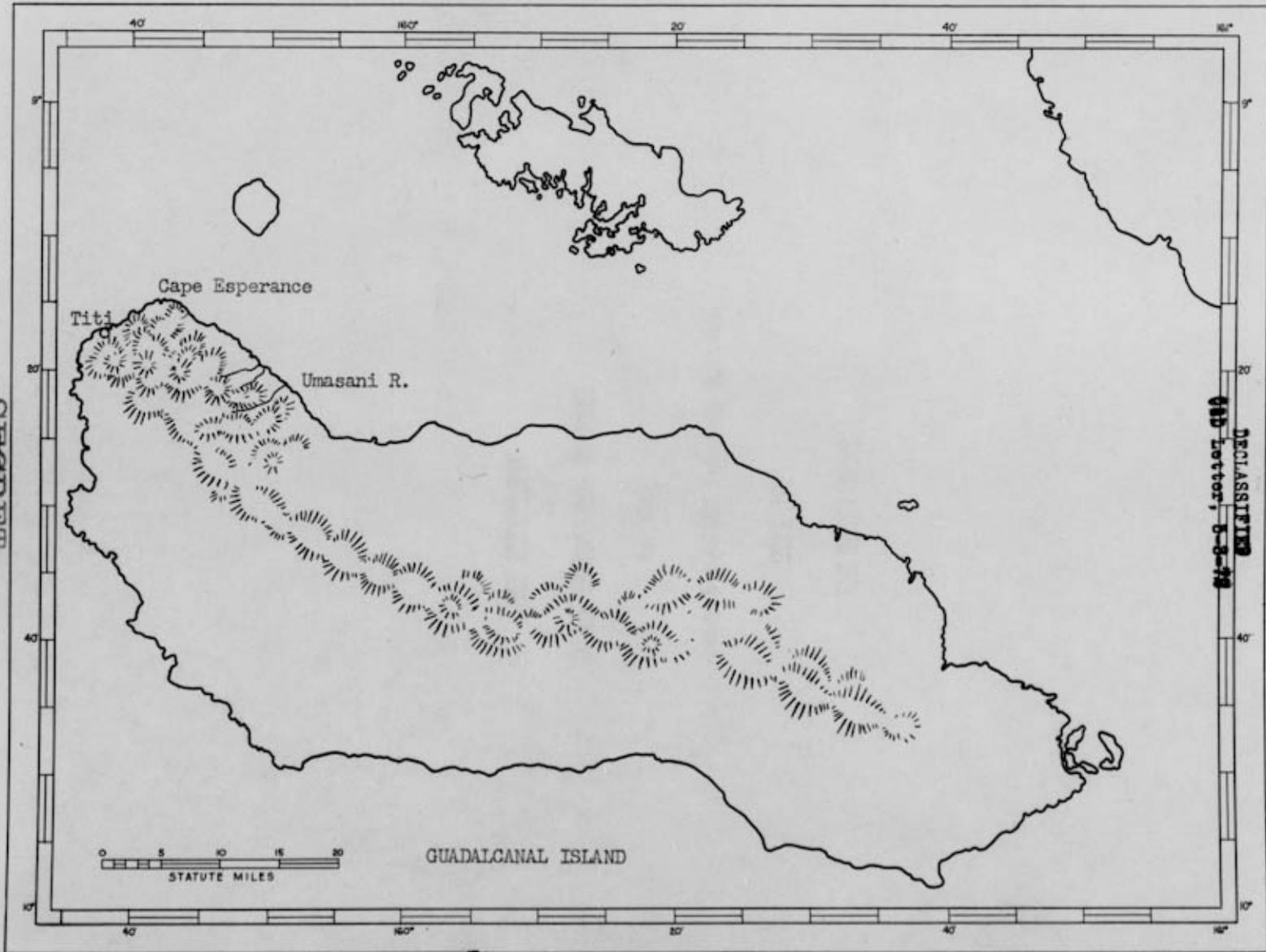
2. On February 8, 32 US airplanes, unsuccessful in an attempt to locate an enemy surface force, pounded Munda.

In the ground fighting on Guadalcanal the advance of our two forces, one northeast from Titi and the other northwest from the line of the Umasani River, encountered scattered and weak enemy resistance, the Japanese retreating whenever pressure was applied. The advance of our units on the east was assisted by supporting naval gunfire.

Late on February 9 the two pincer forces made contact at Cape Esperance and completed the destruction of organized enemy resistance on Guadalcanal.

3. The War Department informed General Harmon that a British order in Council has been issued extending to all colonial dependencies, including Tonga, the Visiting Forces Act (USA) of August 6, 1942, which recognizes US court-martial jurisdiction over our armed forces in Fiji and Tonga.

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DECLASSIFIED
GPO Factor 5-8-79

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SYSTEM OPERATIONS

Operations were tested for the movement of the Headquarters of Corps from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to Fort Belvoir, Washington of the Headquarters of Corps from Fort Belvoir, Washington, to the Army Training Center at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and of the Headquarters of the Army from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. All for movement of stations.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 426

0700 February 8 to 0700 February 9, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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Operations of the Army from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to Fort Belvoir, Washington, and of the Headquarters of the Army from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. All for movement of stations.

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OBD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Directives were issued for the movement of the Headquarters IV Corps from Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, to Fort Lewis, Washington; of the Headquarters IX Corps from Fort Lewis, Washington, to the Desert Training Center at Camp Young, California; and of the Headquarters IV Armored Corps from Camp Young, California, to Camp Campbell, Kentucky; all for permanent change of station.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 7, US bomber and fighter aircraft twice successfully attacked the Elmas airdrome and the seaplane base at Cagliari, Sardinia. Hits were observed on the airdrome, hangars, dispersal areas and among the buildings; large fires were started. At least four enemy planes were destroyed. That night, Wellington bombers also pounded airdromes on Sardinia. Enemy ME-109's bombed our airfield at Youks Les Bains, destroying one dive-bomber on the ground. Allied Beaufighters intercepting enemy aircraft approaching an Allied convoy in the Mediterranean shot down one enemy plane and broke up the attempted attack.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

Twenty B-24's of the Ninth Air Force, in two missions flown February 7, dropped 45 tons of bombs on the harbor at Naples, scoring hits on moles, quays, and motor vessels.

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OSD Letter 1-3-77

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 6, General MacArthur reports that of the enemy aircraft attacking our installations at Wau, 26 (probably 39) were destroyed with loss of only one Allied light bomber, reported missing after an attack on enemy ground positions in the area. Other Allied planes harassed Rabaul, Lae, Kahili, and Buka, and set a 500-ton ship afire at Finschhafen. An Allied fighter plane intercepted and shot down an enemy bomber on a reconnaissance mission over Darwin.

On February 7, our ground forces encountered strong opposition southeast of the airdrome at Wau. Single B-24's on reconnaissance bombed enemy-held villages in western New Guinea and the Aroe Islands. An RAAF Hudson effectively strafed two luggers off southern Celebes.

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WESTERN FRONT THEATER

In February 6 British units after withdrawing from Rebel
Barrage, reorganized on a general line two miles to the northwest.
The enemy suffered 300 casualties in the process on the Rebel
Barrage area, February 6 and 7. A French yard in the Rebel Barrage
area (two miles east of Rebel) captured 30 prisoners.

Weather was continuing to improve. On February 7
the 1st Airborne Division completed a major transport plan over Low
ground.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 425

FACING AND BATTLEMENTS

0700 February 7 to 0700 February 8, 1943

positions and all installations were secured. In
February 4 our outposts were operating 50 yards northwest of
the Rebel Barrage. In THE WHITE HOUSE our forces have advanced
to the line of the Channel River, 1/2 mile west of the Rebel Barrage.

General Smith supervised the ground activity in the Channel
area from January 10 to 21 by visiting the 1st Airborne Division
headquarters and 100 captured, our own casualties were the British
being 100 killed, 200 wounded, and 100 missing.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 6 British units after withdrawing from Djebel Mansour, reorganized on a general line two miles to the northwest. The enemy suffered 300 casualties in his attacks on the Djebel Mansour area, February 4 and 5. A French raid in the Djebel Touila area (ten miles east of Robaa) captured 30 prisoners.

Weather has continued to curtail air activity. On February 7 Malta-based Spitfires destroyed a German transport plane over Lampedusa.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

Our troops near Titi have established themselves in strong positions and all installations have been moved forward. On February 6 our outposts were operating 500 yards northwest of Marovovo Mission. On the northwest coast our forces have advanced to the line of the Umasani River, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the Bonegi River.

General Harmon summarized the ground activity on Guadalcanal over the period January 16 to 31 by stating that 4,000 Japs had been killed and 105 captured, our own casualties over the period being 189 killed, 390 wounded, and five missing.

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WESTERN FRONT

In a supplementary report on the situation in the West, General Eisenhower states that 25 or more enemy planes (including some formation of (probably 75) were destroyed. Four of the B-17's were shot down by enemy aircraft and one was lost due to engine trouble.

WESTERN FRONT (Continued)

Enemy attacks on February 5 forced the British units which had been holding Divesal Mountain. On the night of February 5-6 enemy aircraft, probably 100, attempted to attack an allied convoy near a

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 424

WESTERN FRONT

0700 February 6 to 0700 February 7, 1943

On February 6 and 7 the heavy and fighter aircraft of the Ninth Air Force repeatedly bombed enemy sites on the enemy railway bridge at Wyllega (south of the THE WHITE HOUSE the enemy lines of communication in Central Sector, including a railroad and destroying enemy communications near Longwyg.

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

EASTERN AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1:00, PTT, February 6, General MacArthur reports that allied patrol activity is

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DECLASSIFIED
DND Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

In a supplementary report on the attack by US B-17's on Emden, General Eaker states that of 50 or more enemy planes intercepting this formation 25 (probably 33) were destroyed. Four of our B-17's were shot down by enemy aircraft and one was lost from unknown causes.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Enemy attacks on February 5 forced the British units which had been holding Djebel Mansour to withdraw. On the night of February 5-6 enemy aircraft, probably torpedo bombers, attempted to attack an Allied convoy near Algiers. Inclement weather over the battle area seriously restricted further air activity.

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 4 and 5 US bomber and fighter aircraft of the Tenth Air Force repeatedly secured direct hits on the enemy railway bridge at Myitnge (south of Mandalay), and pounded the enemy lines of communication in Central Burma, blocking a railroad and destroying enemy motor transportation near Kengtung.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300, GCT, February 5, General MacArthur reports that Allied patrol activity is

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

increasing near Wau. Allied aircraft pounded the airdromes at Rabaul, attacked shipping at Ambon, where a 10,000-ton transport was hit and left burning and five intercepting Zeros destroyed, and set fire to buildings and ammunition dumps at Dobo (Aroe Is.). A US heavy bomber while on a reconnaissance mission attacked and sank a 1,000-ton vessel near Talasea (New Britain). Light raids were carried out on villages on the northeastern coast of New Guinea and on Gasmata (New Britain). //

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WESTERN FRONT

On February 2, our fighter airplanes were down on enemy lines
over France. The next day, more than three dozen of these were
dropped on various installations at ELLEN by our heavy and medium
bombers.

SOUTHERN THEATER

US military aircraft regularly flew at a Green under over islands
on February 2.

WAR DEPARTMENT

WEST AFRICAN THEATER

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

On February 5, our fighters were down on enemy airbases

at No. 423 which had to be serviced day by day by trucks to
bring. Our heavy bombers from their positions at Ghatia in
Sudan.

0700 February 5 to 0700 February 6, 1943

In three attacks by US fighters on enemy airbases
near Elzen, 25 (probably 10) of the interesting enemy planes were
destroyed, one of our fighters was shot down, and while
four P-51s were reported missing. In the morning attacked the
dock at Elzen on the night of February 4-5 with high explosive
and incendiaries. Three only were shot down during the attack
over the forward area, being which one of the enemy airplanes were
destroyed.

Many air attacks on Ghatia were prevented by Allied
fighters; two out of five enemy planes approaching Ghatia were shot
down by ground fire.

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DECLASSIFIED
OAD Letter, 5-3-74

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On February 4, our weather airplane shot down an enemy Zero over Kiska. The same day, more than eleven tons of bombs were dropped on harbor installations at Kiska by our heavy and medium bombers.

EUROPEAN THEATER

US antiaircraft artillery fired at a German bomber over Iceland on February 4.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On February 4, British units held Djebel Mansour (southeast of Bou Arada) which had been captured the previous day by parachute troops. Our troops withdrew from their positions at Station de Sened.

In three attacks by US bombers and fighters on enemy airdromes near Gabes, 25 (probably 37) of the intercepting enemy planes were destroyed; one of our B-17's and two P-38's were shot down while four P-38's are reported missing. Medium bombers attacked the docks at Bizerte the night of February 4-5 with high explosives and incendiaries. Three Spitfires were shot down during encounters over the forward areas, during which one or two enemy airplanes were destroyed.

Enemy air attacks on Souk El Arba were prevented by Allied fighters; two out of five enemy planes approaching Bone were shot down by ground fire.

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AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On February 3, B-24's of the Ninth Air Force twice attacked the shipping and harbor installations at Palermo, where an 8,000-10,000 ton motor vessel was hit. Other heavy bombers attacked Messina. All aircraft returned safely.

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 1, seven B-24's operating from Pandavaswar, India, attacked enemy docks and shipping at Rangoon.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 4, General MacArthur reports a succession of Allied air attacks against Lae airdrome. Minor bombing attacks were made on ground targets in the Mubo area, on a village in the Tanimbar Islands and on airdromes near Rabaul, Gasmata, and Cape Gloucester. One B-17 made a direct hit on a 1,000-ton enemy cargo ship near Arawe (New Britain).

2. On February 4, our troops on northwestern Guadalcanal, overcoming light resistance, advanced about 1,000 yards beyond the Bonegi River. Our troops at Titi have encountered resistance from a strongly organized enemy force estimated at 1,000 men. A lone B-17 bombed Kahili.

WRB

GENERAL SITUATION

1. General situation reports and activities are being obtained by every phase of February 4, 1943.

2. The Army Ground Force issued orders for the withdrawal and redeployment on February 15 of the headquarters of the 17 Corp at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 422

0700 February 4 to 0700 February 5, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

SOUTH AFRICA OPERATIONS

In February 3, enemy forces operating in the Orange River valley northwest of Namaqualand withdrew toward West of Bethulie. The Allied parachute division captured several hundred prisoners and equipment of the Afrika Korps, but the situation remaining clear and unthreatened in Orange.

On the night of February 3-5, British forces took White Water the entrance to their sector and attacked enemy installations in

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. General Buckner reports that Amchitka was being attacked by enemy planes on February 5 (GCT).
2. The Army Ground Forces issued directives for the constitution and activation on February 15 of the Headquarters of the XV Corps at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (LESS TORCH)

On February 4, despite overcast weather, intense cold and persistent attempts at interception by enemy fighters, 33 heavy bombers from the Eighth Air Force succeeded in bombing Emden with unobserved results. Of other bombers despatched on attack missions, eight jettisoned their bombs over Germany and 21 were forced to return because of frozen equipment; five are as yet unreported.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On February 3, enemy forces operating in the Kebir River valley northeast of Robaa broke off contact and withdrew toward Pont du Fahs. An Allied parachute battalion captured Djebel Mansour (seven miles southeast of Bou Arada) but the situation resulting from enemy counterattacks is obscure.

On the night of February 2-3, British bombers from Malta mined the entrance to Sfax harbor and attacked enemy installations in

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Sicily. US aircraft, on February 3, attacked Bizerte, the airdrome at Gabes, the aircraft escort of enemy shipping between Tunisia and Sicily, and enemy road and railway bridges, tanks and vehicles north of Maknassy. In the attendant air combats six (probably nine) enemy aircraft were destroyed for a loss of five of our planes. Other air attacks were made on enemy ground targets. Enemy aircraft bombed two of our airdromes, destroying two Spitfires on the ground, and intercepted an Allied reconnaissance formation near Kairouan; one of our reconnaissance planes crashed and three are reported as missing.

ASIATIC THEATER

On February 2, five of General Bissell's P-40's destroyed two enemy 3" antiaircraft gun positions and burned ten Japanese grounded airplanes at Kengtung (Central Burma).

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

Our ground forces on Guadalcanal, assisted by effective fire from US naval craft, have occupied the heights north of the Bonegi River and have captured important amounts of enemy war material, including a large mobile machine shop in excellent condition.

Four medium bombers escorted by ten fighter aircraft attacked Munda with unobserved results. A B-17 on reconnaissance shot down one of three attacking Zeros, but suffered considerable damage.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 421

0700 February 3 to 0700 February 4, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OBD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

1. On February 2 the enemy forces opposing the British in the hills south of Bou Arada were driven back at two points. Faïd and two passes in the hills to the south thereof are still in enemy hands, but Station de Sened was captured by US troops.

There was considerable air activity over the combat zone. US B-25's and B-26's attacked Sfax airdrome and destroyed four enemy planes on the field; one of our bombers was lost. Other medium bombers escorted by fighters destroyed seven (probably eight) of the 21 airplanes covering an enemy convoy; one P-38 crashed into the sea. In other aerial combats involving some 40 US and 48 enemy aircraft 11 of our planes were either shot down or are missing; four enemy airplanes were destroyed. An enemy ammunition dump east of Faïd was exploded by US light bombers and fighters.

Enemy aircraft operated against Allied shipping between Algiers and Bone and also bombed several of our airdromes and the harbor at Bone. Enemy air transport operations between Sardinia and Tunisia continued.

2. After an exchange of views with General Eisenhower, the War Department notified him that, on each convoy leaving the US for North Africa, it will reserve 25,000 ship tons of space to be used for military equipment for French ground, air and naval forces as this equipment becomes available.

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DECLASSIFIED
AD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. General Harmon reports that on February 1, 33 US aircraft attacked a transport, a destroyer, and a corvette north of New Georgia, scoring two hits with 1,000 lb. bombs and one with a torpedo on the transport, and two hits with 500 lb. bombs on the destroyer. All three vessels were left burning. Of ten intercepting Japanese airplanes, five were shot down with loss of three US airplanes.

Forty-one Allied airplanes, attacking four enemy destroyers, sank two and set fire to a third. Of 40 intercepting Zeros, two were shot down; three Allied aircraft are missing.

Nine B-17's with fighter escort made three hits on a large transport off Shortland Island. Four other B-17's bombing shipping at Buin were attacked by 20 Zeros; three B-17's were lost.

On February 2, B-17's and fighter aircraft, attacking shipping in the Shortland area set afire a large cargo ship near Ballale and shot down nine (probably ten) of 20 intercepting enemy planes. All of our aircraft returned. Our fighter aircraft also attacked new enemy landing boats on the northern coast of Guadalcanal.

2. On February 1 a battalion combat team of the US 132d Infantry with destroyer escort landed unopposed at Verahue (south of the west end of Guadalcanal) and, moving north along the coast against slight enemy resistance, on February 2, secured the small village

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DECLASSIFIED
GND Letter, 5-3-72

of Titi at the northwest tip of the island where it is establishing its base. On the east coast our forces are continuing their advance northwards after softening up enemy strong points with heavy and accurate artillery and mortar fire. Our advanced units crossed the Bonegi River on February 2.

3. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 2, General MacArthur reports that in aggressive patrol activity, Allied units killed 50 to 60 Japanese near Wau. Near Rabaul, six B-17's made an effective dawn attack on Wunakanau and Rapopo airdromes, one B-24 on reconnaissance effectively machine-gunned three motor barges, each loaded with about 75 Japanese, and another hit a small cargo ship. In other attacks, Allied aircraft harassed enemy positions in the Mibo area, started extensive fires on Toeal (Kai Is.) and bombed enemy stores near Kaukenau (Dutch New Guinea).

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-74

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Increasing enemy air activity has been reported by our forces in Alaska. After the attack on Amchitka, February 1, eight to ten single float enemy fighter planes were observed over Constantine Harbor. Our weather plane, reconnoitering the outer Aleutians, reported that it was attacked by five enemy Zeros near Holtz Bay, Attu.

The first attempt to refloat the "Middleton" was unsuccessful. The rains are slowing the construction of the fighter strip on Amchitka.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On February 1 an attack by the US armored column near Faid made little progress. This force reports that their artillery, the previous day, destroyed 22 enemy tanks. Our tank loss was six. Patrols from the other two armored columns have made contact northwest of Maknassy. In central Tunisia, near Sidi Said, the British 36th Brigade, counter-attacking, restored the original lines. On the other portions of the front activity consisted chiefly of Allied reconnaissances and raiding missions.

The command post of the British First Army opened at Tebessa, February 1.

US B-17's and P-38's, attacking shipping in the harbor of Tunis,

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set three vessels afire and destroyed nine (probably eleven) of the intercepting enemy aircraft. One "flying fortress" was lost and one was severely damaged. Near Maknassy 12 US fighter aircraft attacked an enemy formation of 24 JU-87's escorted by 15 ME-109's which were bombing and strafing our ground troops. In the resulting engagement three (probably five) JU-87's were destroyed and two of our fighters were lost. US fighter planes, operating in support of ground operations, successfully attacked vehicle concentrations near Faid. On the night of February 1-2, nine medium bombers heavily damaged Elmas airdrome, Sardinia.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, February 1, General MacArthur reports that Allied patrol activity is continuing near Wau. Many fires were started at Lakunai and Rapopo airdromes (Rabaul) by our B-17's, and small-scale air attacks were carried out by Allied planes on the Finschhafen and Cape Gloucester airfields and on enemy installations near Mabo.

WAR DEPARTMENT

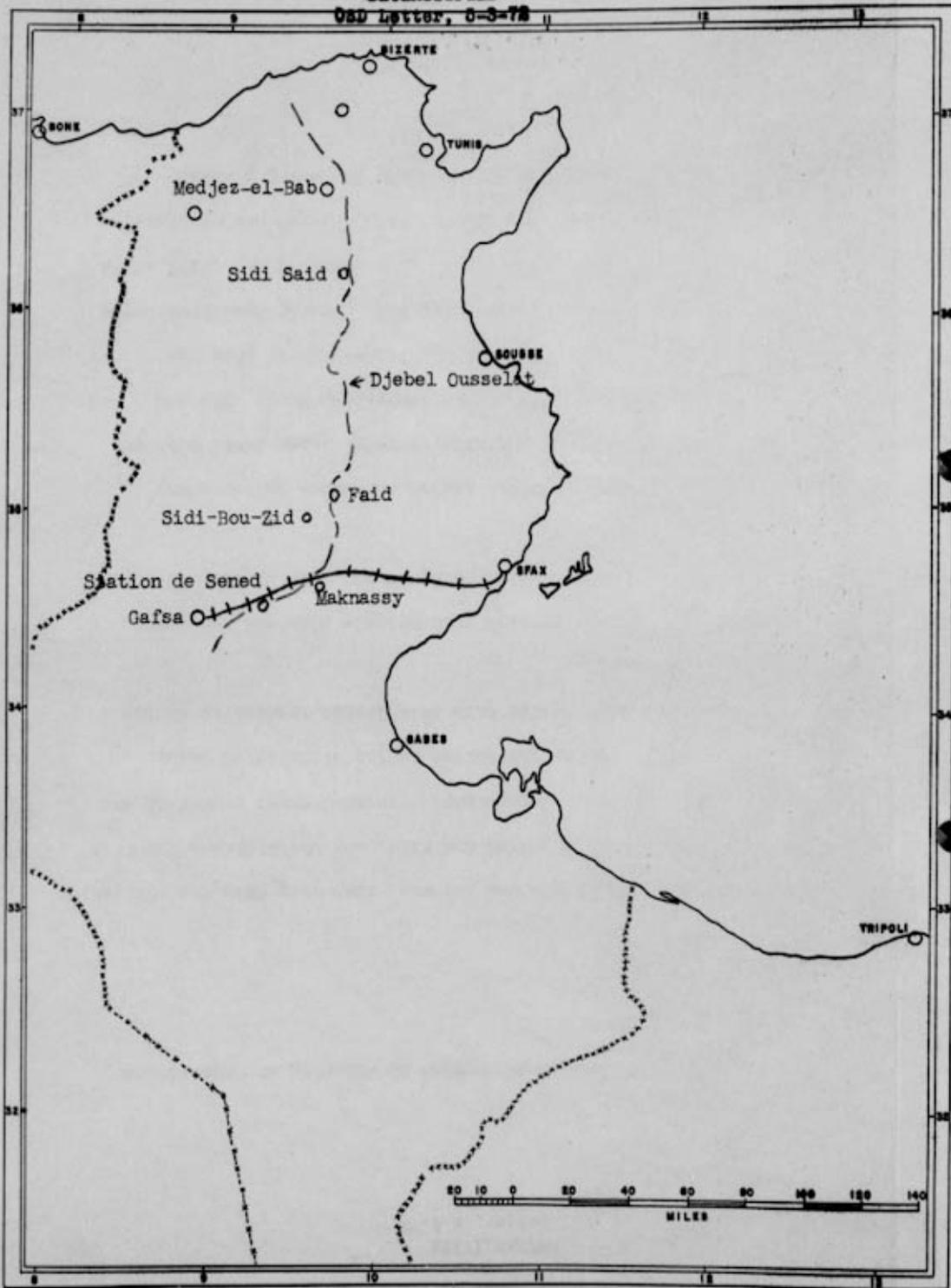
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 419

0700 February 1 to 0700 February 2, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-7#

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Two Japanese float-monoplanes bombed US shipping in Constantine Harbor, Amchitka, February 1.

NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 31 three US armored columns, advancing from the vicinity of Gafsa, attacked Station de Sened and Faid, cut the Sidi-Bou-Zid--Maknassy road, and advanced on Maknassy. Prepared enemy positions and stiff resistance have held up our forces in the vicinity of Faid.

North of Pichon enemy forces have established themselves on the crest of Djebel Ousselat.

In Central Tunisia the British 36th Brigade repulsed two enemy infantry and tank attacks near Sidi Said, losing some ground but destroying six enemy tanks.

On the night of January 30-31, Allied airplanes bombed enemy railroad installations east of Maknassy, strafed enemy tanks east of Faid, and attacked other targets in the enemy-held area. Sixteen enemy aircraft bombed Bone. The next day the attack on Bone was repeated, three of the enemy planes being shot down by Spitfires. Two Spitfires were destroyed on the ground. US bombers set aircraft afire at the Gabes airdrome, scored hits on the shipping and harbor installations at Bizerte and shot down 15 (probably 18) enemy planes.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Five US fighter aircraft and one "flying fortress" are missing. Thirteen medium bombers attacked Trapani airdrome, Sicily, the night of January 31-February 1.

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

On January 31 aircraft of the Ninth Air Force successfully carried out two bombing missions on the train ferry terminal at Messina, during which sixteen B-24's dropped 36 tons of bombs. All our aircraft returned safely.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, January 31, General MacArthur reports that Allied patrols operated near Wau; our artillery in the area shelled Wandumi village. US and RAAF bombers attacked shipping at Rabaul, Wewak and Ambon, and enemy airdromes at Penfoei (Timor) and Cape Gloucester. RAAF A-20's pounded enemy positions near Mubo.

2. General Harmon's operations report for January 31 describes two attacks on Vila airdrome by single "flying fortresses", each of which dropped more than two tons of bombs; an ammunition dump was believed hit.

On Guadalcanal, our ground forces have encountered organized resistance along the Bonegi River (west of Kokumbona).

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

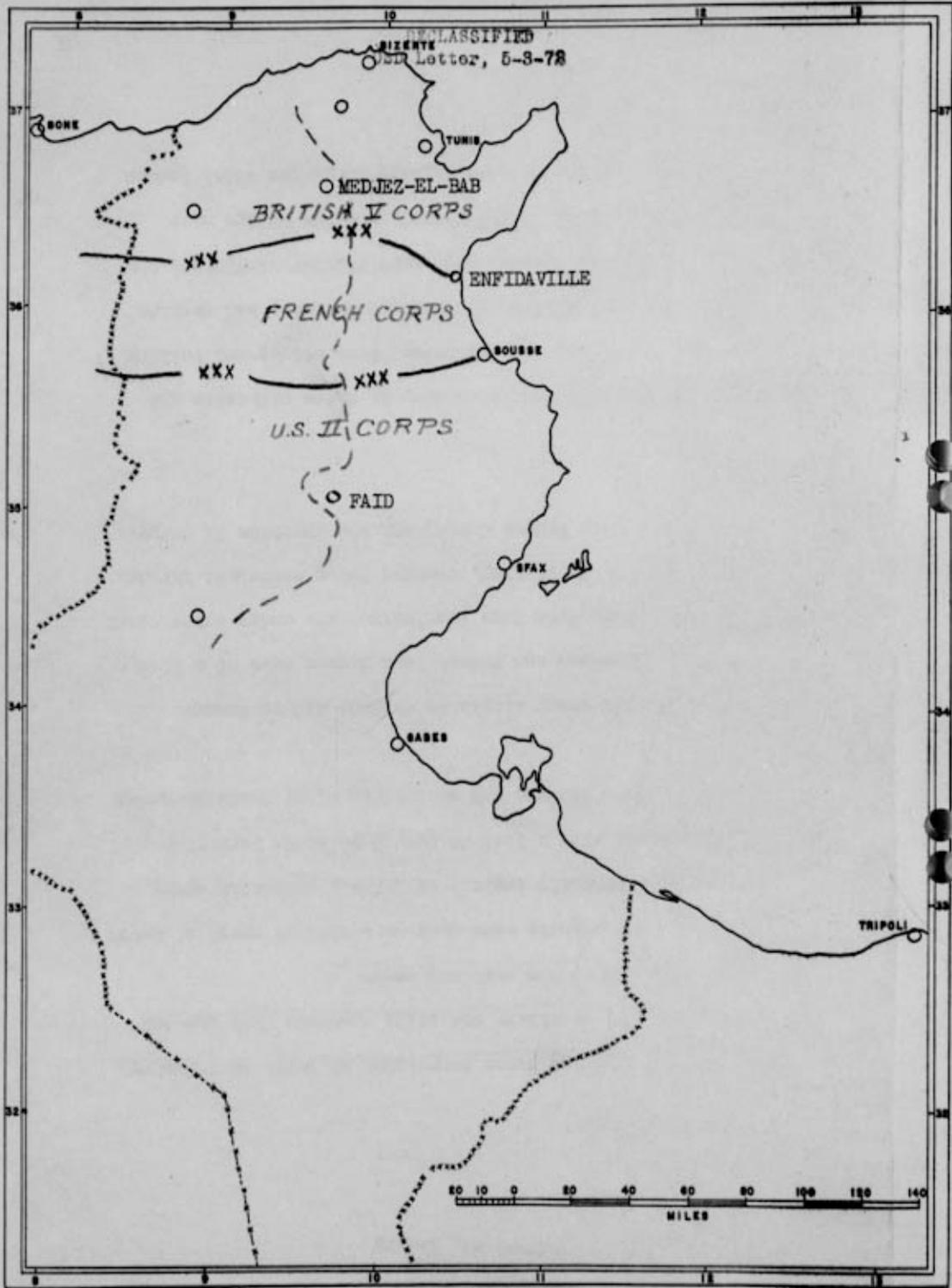
No. 418

0700 January 31 to 0700 February 1, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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NORTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

On January 30 an enemy force comprising at least an infantry battalion supported by artillery and tanks captured Faid and continued its penetration to the west and south.

Heavy Allied air attacks were made on a station north of Gabes during which eight (probably twelve) of fifteen attacking enemy planes were destroyed with a loss of four P-38's, on Ferryville docks and shipping, on Bizerte and on traffic along roads in enemy territory.

An attack by five enemy airplanes on Bone did no damage.

All British, American and French land forces east of a line running generally south from Bone (exclusive) are under operational command of the British First Army, command being exercised through the British V Corps, the French Corps, and the American II Corps.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reported on January 27 three offensive air missions during which the railroad yards, locomotives and rolling stock at Naba (north of Katha) were damaged by bombs and machine gun fire from two medium bombers and eight fighter airplanes, the railroad near Meza unsuccessfully bombed, and the bridge near Shadzup seriously damaged by four fighter airplanes which bombed and strafed that town.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREAS

1. In his summary of operations for the 24-hour period ending 1300 OCT, January 30, General MacArthur reports that a strong enemy force, estimated to be a regiment, attacked the Allied position at Wau (thirty miles southwest of Salamaua) shortly before dawn. By noon the Japanese had been repulsed leaving 250 dead, including their regimental commander; Allied losses were light. US B-17's attacked shipping at Rabaul, obtaining hits on an enemy vessel and shore installations. A B-24 scored probable hits on a small enemy transport in Open Bay, New Britain. Other Allied air attacks were carried out against Lae, Mubo and in support of ground operations near Wau.

2. On January 30 Allied air attacks on Munda continued, some ten tons of bombs being dropped. The ground advance on Guadalcanal continued slowly.

3. Canton Island was shelled for 27 minutes by two enemy submarines during the early morning hours of January 30. No damage to buildings or casualties resulted although two hits were scored on the "President Taylor" grounded near the channel entrance.

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