

MR 203 (2) Sec. 15 - "WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY"

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APRIL, 1943

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(APRIL, 1943)

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 507

0700 April 30 to 0700 May 1, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

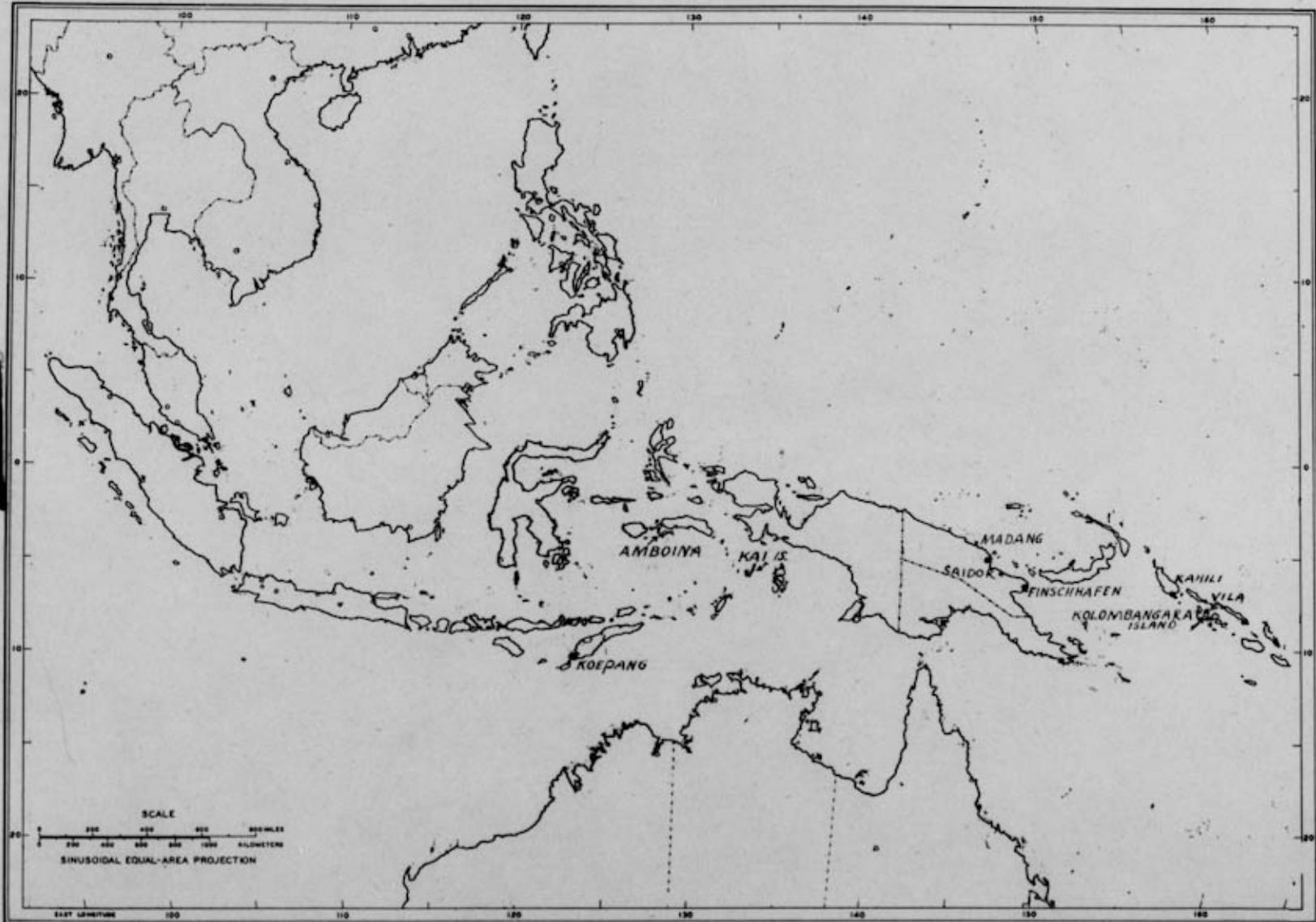
The Army Ground Forces have issued a directive for the movement of the 1st Cavalry Division (Major General Innis P. Swift) from Fort Bliss, Texas to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation and thence to the Southwest Pacific Theater.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On April 28 and 29 Allied aircraft sank a 3,000-ton merchant ship and a 3,000-ton tanker and also damaged at least six other enemy ships. Despite inclement weather they lent valuable support to the ground troops by hammering enemy defenses and truck columns; they also flew normal escort missions. During the two days 27 (probably 35) enemy planes were destroyed for a loss of six Allied aircraft. Enemy airplanes raided the harbor at Philippeville on April 29 but caused no damage or casualties. The enemy is now providing heavy air escorts for his shipping.

By nightfall on April 30 US and French troops pushing along the north coast had advanced to about 20 miles from Bizerte; forcing their way through the hills southwest of Mateur, our 1st Infantry and 1st Armored Divisions had progressed to about 13 miles from Mateur. East and northeast of Medjes-el-Bab the British met fierce opposition during the day but made some advance southeast of Coubellat.

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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, April 29, General MacArthur reports that six B-24's attacked an enemy seaplane base on Amboina, causing large explosions and fires in the barracks and hangar areas and probably destroying two of 15 intercepting enemy fighter planes. Four Dutch B-25's bombed Koepong, and other Allied bombers attacked enemy installations in the Kai Islands, and in the Madang, Saidor, and Finschhafen areas.

In his communique General MacArthur reports that the enemy has launched a submarine attack in some force in the waters east of Australia.

PACIFIC THEATER

On April 28, 34 Army and Navy planes bombed and machine-gunned Kolombangara (New Georgia), 30 Army and Navy planes bombed and machine-gunned an enemy position nearby, and B-17's and B-24's harassed Kahili and Vila.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

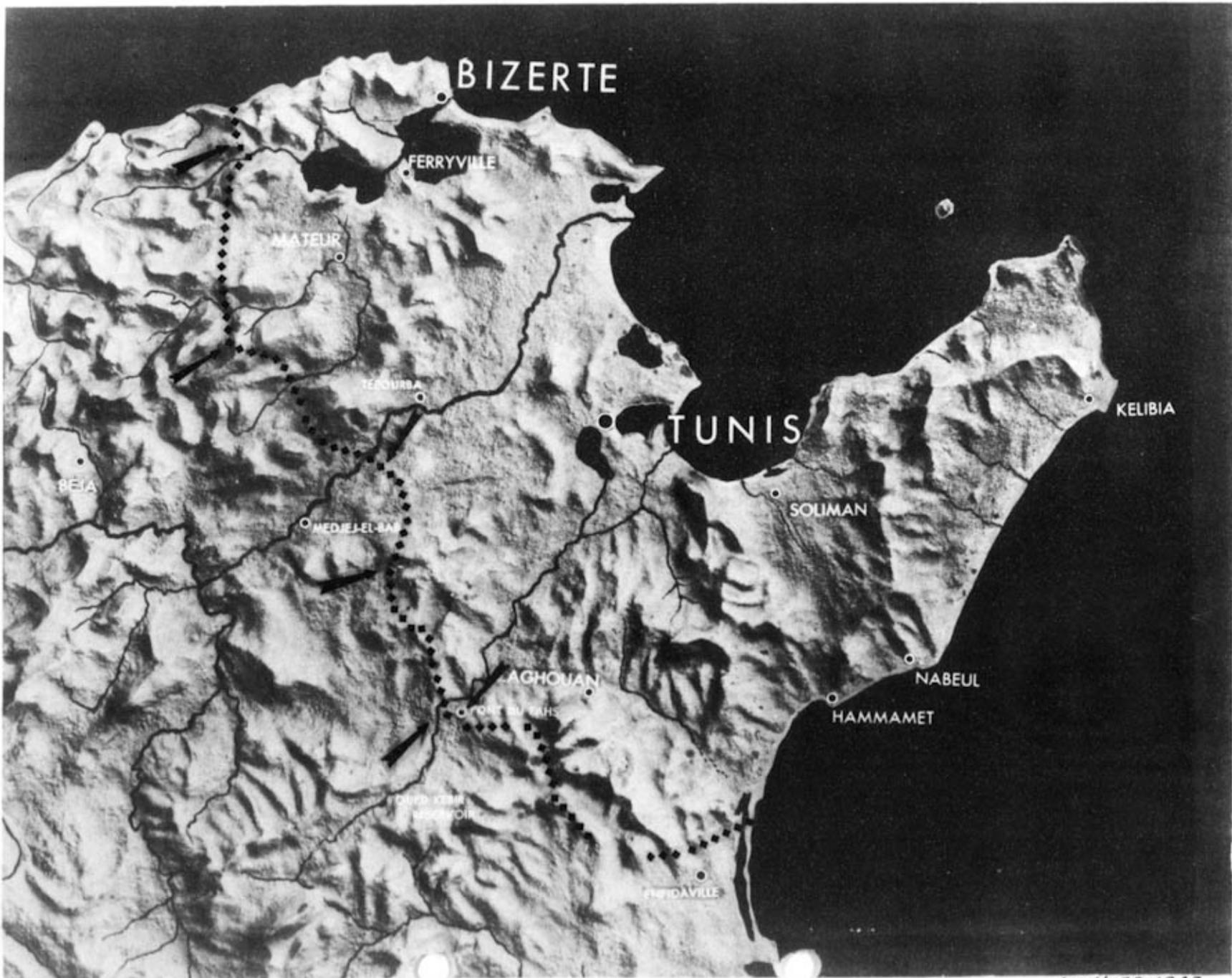
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 506

0700 April 29 to 0700 April 30, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



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April 30, 1943
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NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On April 28 twenty-nine B-24's of the 9th Air Force dropped over 87 tons of demolition and incendiary bombs on Messina ferry installations. Many hits were observed and four enemy aircraft were destroyed; two of our bombers were lost. Twenty B-24's dropped 47 tons of bombs on Naples, hits being observed. British airplanes blew up one enemy landing craft and set two afire. An enemy 3,000-ton motor vessel was hit and set afire off the northeastern tip of Tunisia. Light bombers of the Western Desert Air Forces supported the attacks of the British Eighth Army.

Strong enemy counterattacks on the afternoon of April 28 recaptured from the British the dominating heights eight miles southwest of Tabourba. Renewing their attacks east of Medjes-el-Bab, the British made appreciable gains against heavy resistance and destroyed ten enemy tanks. That night enemy counterattacks near Pont du Fahs were broken up by artillery fire. In the north our II Corps continued its advance, strong enemy resistance being encountered in the hills southwest of Mateur.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. General Bissell's 10th Air Force continues its attacks on the enemy communications system in central Burma, battering the railroad yards at Maymyo, Morywa and Ywatsung on April 25, Thazi on April 27 and

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Kanbula and Morywa on April 28. Ten B-25's, attacking river shipping at Katha, April 28, hit the docks, sheds, and a river steamer, and later machine-gunned small boats along the Irrawaddy River south of the city. P-40's operating from Dinjan harassed a variety of enemy targets in northern Burma.

2. On April 29 nine Japanese bombers escorted by 14 fighter planes bombed the city and airdrome at Lingling; the runway was hit.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT, April 28, General MacArthur reports that four Dutch B-25's, attacking an enemy convoy 90 miles northwest of Dobo, hit a 2,000-ton merchant vessel and set a 1,200-ton ship afire; one B-25 was shot down by antiaircraft fire. Single B-17's struck at enemy-held towns along the north-central New Guinea coast.

2. General MacArthur reports that Philippine guerilla troops have successfully raided Iloilo city on the south coast of Panay, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and capturing the puppet governor Caran. These units are operating under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Relunia.

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PACIFIC THEATER

On April 27 five B-17's and 12 B-24's dropped demolition, fragmentation and incendiary bombs on Kahili; results were not observed. The same day our planes bombed Ballale and Vila, starting several fires at both places.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 505

0700 April 28 to 0700 April 29, 1943

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

In addition to the raids on the Aleutians already reported for April 26, Canadian pilots flew fighter-bomber missions against enemy installations on Kiska and Little Kiska.

On April 27 four Anchitka-based P-38's again bombed Kiska.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On April 28 the US II Corps continued its advance on Mateur and on its right the British captured vantage points 7½ miles southwest of Tebourba, relieving the menace to Medjez-el-Bab. Enemy counterattacks in this area indicated the importance of our gains. French patrols entered Pont du Fahs. Resistance was weakening in the extreme north, but elsewhere the enemy was fighting stubbornly.

On the night of April 25-26, Allied aircraft attacked enemy airfields in southern Sardinia and struck an enemy convoy, hitting four ferry craft and an escort vessel; one ferry was blown up, two were left ablaze and the other two vessels left sinking. US bombers attacked the enemy airfield at Grosseto, Italy, and battered enemy communications in Tunisia. On April 27 our B-17's attacked the Villacidro airfield, Sardinia. Large numbers of bomber and fighter-bomber missions were carried out in support of our ground troops, while Allied medium bombers concentrated on enemy tanks and troops in the forward areas.

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Enemy planes were active over our coastal area, bombing Bone and Philippeville, but other enemy air activity was mainly defensive, their fighters showing reluctance to engage our aircraft.

2. During the week ending April 23 our 12th Air Force in North Africa destroyed 58 (probably 80) Axis aircraft for a total loss, from all causes of 25 US planes. The British, during the same period, destroyed 29 (probably 36) enemy planes for a loss of 18 of their aircraft. In addition, 29 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground by the British and American air forces.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On April 23, twelve B-25's of the 10th Air Force dropped more than fourteen tons of demolition bombs on the railroad installations at Kanbalu, central Burma, destroying tracks, sheds and rolling stock. Eight B-25's hit enemy airfields south of Mandalay on April 26, destroying revetments and the south end of one runway. The next day P-40's performed attack missions east of Suprabum in support of General Wheeler's ground troops, and seven B-25's attacked the enemy railroad yards and installations at Thazi.

2. On April 28, Japanese fighter and bomber aircraft attacked our airfield at Kunming. While damage caused our installations was negligible, heavy Chinese casualties resulted in the neighboring village. Brigadier

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General Edgar P. Glenn, in temporary command of the 14th Air Force during the absence of General Chennault, was slightly injured by a bomb fragment. Two other officers and a non-commissioned officer were killed. After the bombing nine P-40's intercepted the raiders 100 miles southwest of Kunming destroying five (probably eight) enemy fighter planes without loss.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT, April 27, General MacArthur reports that B-24's dispatched to attack an enemy convoy southwest of Kavieng, were unable to contact the enemy because of unfavorable weather but bombed the enemy airfield at Lae instead. Other attacks were made on enemy installations in New Britain and along the northeast coast of New Guinea. A B-24 on reconnaissance scored a direct hit on a 4,000-ton enemy vessel northwest of Dobo and other Allied airplanes attacked enemy-held villages in Timor and the neighboring islands.

A Liberty ship was torpedoed 83 miles off Newcastle.

PACIFIC THEATER

On April 20, twenty-two US bombers, under the command of Brigadier General Willis H. Hale, struck the phosphate refineries and airfields on Nauru Island. Aerial photographs clearly indicate that the

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refineries were destroyed and that extensive damage was inflicted on the other installations. On April 23, these same bombers successfully raided Japanese airfields on Tarawa Island. In accomplishing these missions our aviators, who were bombed by the Japanese while based at Funafuti, flew over 8,000 miles within a period of eight days.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 504

0700 April 27 to 0700 April 28, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

GENERAL

The Judge Advocate General informed commanders of US forces outside of the United States of the approval by the President of an Act of Congress which amends previous legislation governing foreign claims. It is now provided that Foreign Claims Commissions may settle claims for damages caused by our forces in foreign countries up to the amount of \$2,500; with the approval of the theater commanders or the Judge Advocate General, claims up to \$5,000 may be settled. Claims for higher amounts will be forwarded to The Judge Advocate General. This Act is retroactive with respect to certain outstanding claims.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

During the 24 hours ending 1200 GCT, April 27, thirteen missions, comprising 70 planes which dropped 48 tons of bombs on the runway, camp area and other enemy installations, were flown against Kiska. During this period an American light cruiser group shelled enemy installations at Attu; the fire was not returned.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On April 27 the Allies continued their eastward advance. Our 34th Division has now entered the front line, adding impetus to the drive of our II Corps towards Mateur. The enemy resisted stubbornly

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

at many points, but marked progress was made northeast of Medjeh-el-Bab, and south of Pont du Fais where French forces have made considerable progress through difficult country. During the period April 21-26, 88 enemy tanks were destroyed.

General Brereton reports that 62 bombers of the 9th Air Force dropped over 117 tons of demolition and incendiary bombs on the enemy airfield and fuel storage depot at Bari, Italy, on April 26. Bursts were observed throughout the entire area and many hits were noted near the hangars; the railroad north of the field, and oil tanks and dispersal areas in the vicinity were also hit hard. Thirty-one other bombers of General Brereton's force dropped 65 tons of demolition bombs on the enemy airfield at Soliman. Fighter-bomber and escort missions were also flown during the day. Strong forces again attacked the Soliman airfield that night and hit two motor vessels off Cape Bon.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 25 eleven B-25's of the 10th Air Force attacked the railroad yards at Ywatsung (near Mandalay), dropping more than 13 tons of bombs with many direct hits observed in the target area.

On April 26, eleven B-25's successfully attacked the Heho airdrome (100 miles southeast of Mandalay). Six B-24's heavily damaged some warehouses in Bangoon. Five other B-24's exploded one large tank at the Thilawa oil refinery and started fires visible for 40 miles.

A surprise attack on our airfield at Yunnanyi by a force of about

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12 Japanese medium bombers and 15 fighters destroyed five P-40's and a transport on the ground and caused major damage to seven P-40's. Five enlisted men were killed. //

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, April 26, General MacArthur reports that an 8,700-ton British freighter was sunk by a submarine 200 miles SSE of Brisbane. Minor attacks were made by Allied aircraft on the northeast New Guinea coast and on New Britain. Allied light bombers carried out missions in the Mubo area in support of our ground troops.

PACIFIC THEATER

On April 26 three B-24's attacked Kahili (Bougainville I.), starting small fires; light and inaccurate antiaircraft fire was encountered.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 503

0700 April 26 to 0700 April 27, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On April 25 eight P-40's from Amchitka attacked the enemy radar station at Kiska. On April 26 some 36 tons of bombs were dropped on Kiska in eleven missions, enemy antiaircraft opposition being feeble.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On the night of April 23-24 the Allied air forces bombed Naples and the docks and railroad yards at Bizerte. Although inclement weather prohibited bomber activities on April 24, the Allied air effort was effectively employed to assist the progress of our ground units, enemy troops and columns being heavily punished. On April 25 our bombers resumed their attacks on enemy airfields, meeting increased but predominantly defensive enemy air activity; General Brereton's flyers pounded enemy airdromes and troop concentrations. British bombers attacked the enemy airfield at Soliman and enemy positions in front of the British Eighth Army, and our medium bombers attacked Milas airdrome in Sardinia. During April 24 and 25 the Allies destroyed nine enemy aircraft for a loss of 23.

On April 26 the enemy was cleared from the heights north of Takrouna. French armored elements reached the Pont du Fahs plain and other French troops were fighting east of Oued Kebir reservoir. The British armored drive southeast of Goubellat continued to gain ground

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despite desperate enemy resistance. The US 1st Infantry Division, advancing northwest of Medjez-el-Bab along the ridges toward Mateur, was making satisfactory progress. In the far north patrols of the French troops operating under command of our II Corps pushed forward rapidly along the coast.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, April 25, General MacArthur reports that three Allied light bombers attacked enemy positions in the Mubo area, while three B-17's bombed the Wewak airdrome. Minor air attacks were made on enemy installations along the northeast New Guinea coast, in western New Guinea and in islands to the west. A British freighter was sunk by a submarine 150 miles north of Brisbane.

On April 24 an Allied unit surrounded and attacked a well-prepared enemy position on a ridge near Mubo.

PACIFIC THEATER

General Breene, Commanding General of the Services of Supply in the South Pacific Area, reports that, in compliance with a Joint Chiefs of Staff directive, action has been taken to procure locally some 70,000 tons of supplies for our forces yearly. By agreement with the Navy a food depot for the entire South Pacific Area will be

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established in New Zealand, from which rations will be shipped to all bases except Bora Bora, Aitutaki, and Tongareva; these remote islands will be supplied directly from the US. Such supplies as cannot be obtained locally will be requisitioned from the San Francisco Port of Embarkation.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 502

0700 April 25 to 0700 April 26, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. Two P-38's from Anchitka bombed and machine-gunned enemy installations on Kiska, April 24.

2. The War Department informed Generals Drum and Brooks that it has concurred in the transfer to the Canadians of the operational control of all anti-submarine warfare in the Labrador-Newfoundland-Canada area, effective 1200 Z, April 30. Our Army Air Forces have three squadrons operating on anti-submarine activities in this area.

3. Army Ground Forces directed the movement of the 96th Infantry Division from Camp Adair, Oregon, to Fort Lewis, Washington, in order to make additional training facilities available for a new division which is to be activated at its previous station.

4. The War Department has decided to establish its jungle training center in Hawaii instead of in Panama. Use of Hawaii for this purpose will effect an economy in shipping and will permit the simultaneous training of an entire division. The 14th Infantry and miscellaneous units, now in Panama for jungle training, will be returned to the US in the near future.

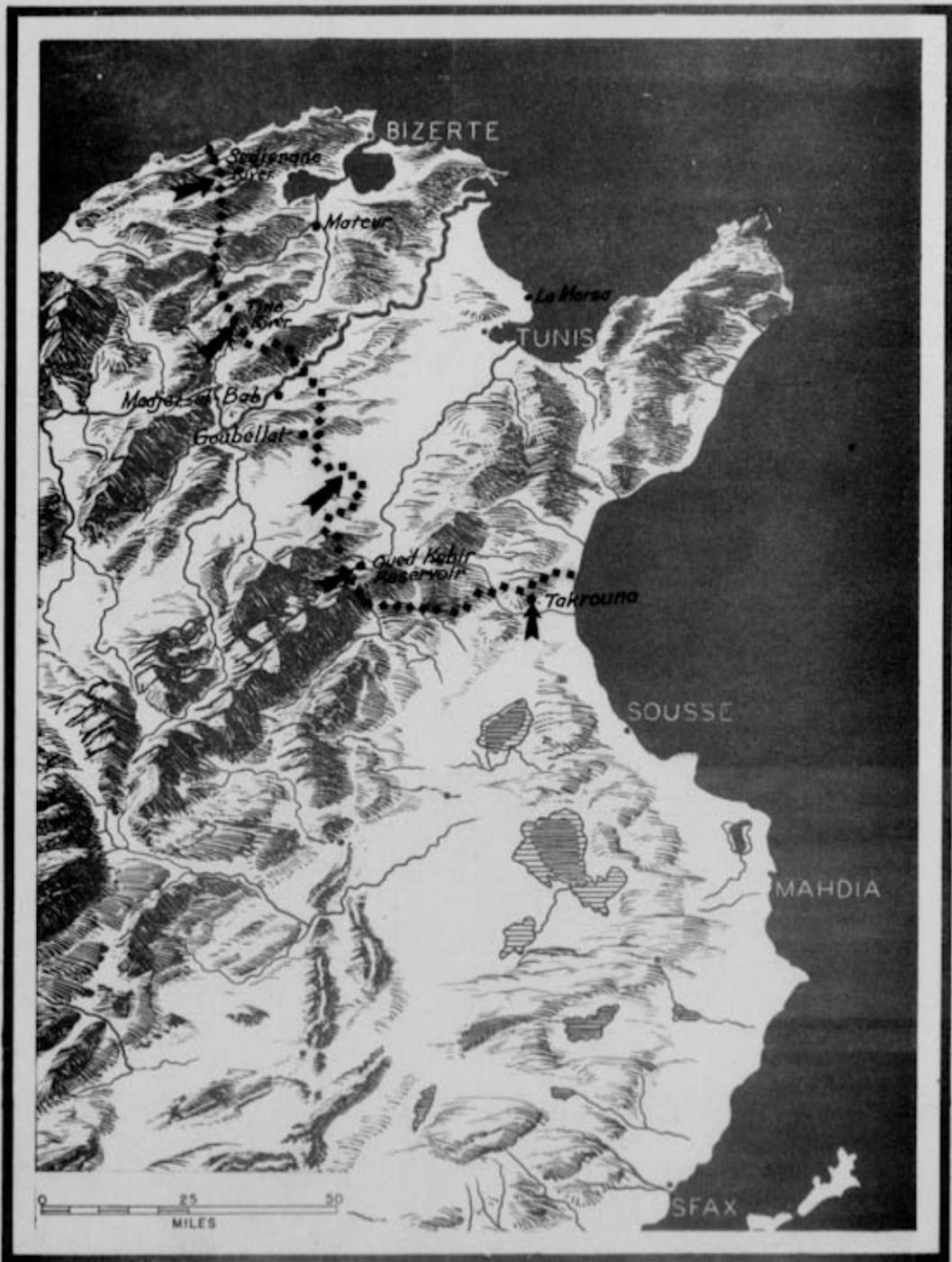
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On the night of April 22-23 British Bisley bombers attacked

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

several enemy installations in northeast Tunisia, while French bombers again hit the La Marsa airfield. The next day US bombers struck at shipping at Arbatax, Sardinia, blasted the enemy railroad yards and bivouac areas at Mateur, and set fire to an enemy motor vessel north of Sicily. Allied fighters and fighter bombers furnished continuous support to our advancing ground units and also bombed and machine-gunned enemy truck columns. During this period three (probably four) enemy planes were destroyed; three Allied bombers and three fighters were listed as lost or missing. Enemy air activity was concentrated against our ground units, particularly in the Medjez-el-Bab area.

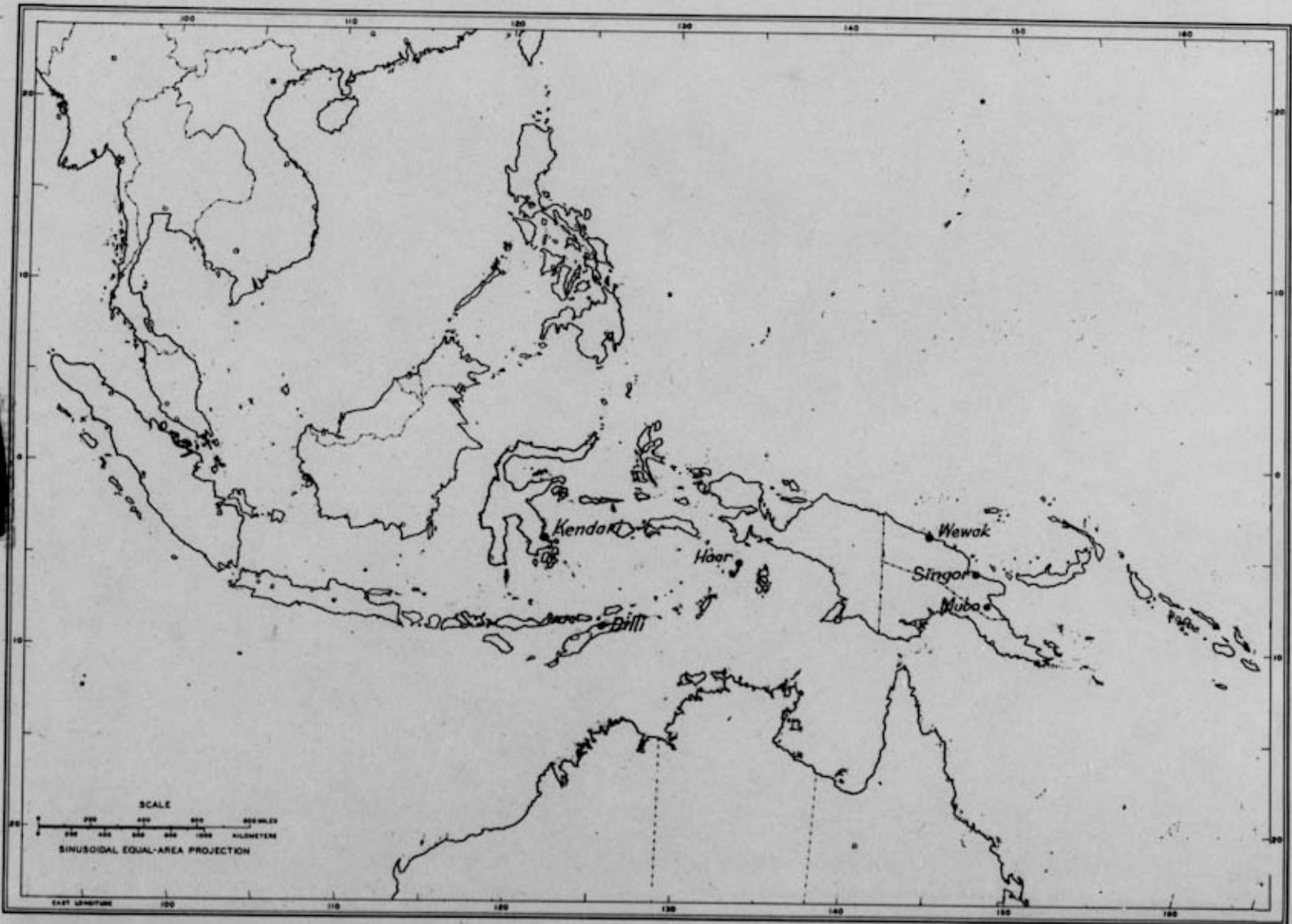
Allied units pushed forward along the entire front on April 24 and 25 against stubborn resistance. The US 9th Infantry Division advanced down the valley of the Sedjenane River, and the US 1st Infantry Division assisted by elements of our 1st Armored Division forced its way over the crest and into the valley of the Tine River. East and northeast of Medjez-el-Bab, British forces seized new points of vantage, successfully repulsing enemy counterattacks. British armored units forged ahead through dense minefields southeast of Goubellat, the French edged forward towards the Oued Kebir reservoir, and the Eighth Army gained new ground north of Takrouna.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 2⁷ nine B-25's of the 14th Air Force, escorted by 11 P-40's, attacked the important Japanese cobalt and lead mines at Nantu

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in northern Burma, as well as the nearby railroad yards; three hits were made on reduction plant.

The ~~same~~ ^{same} day thirteen P-40's intercepted 25 Japanese planes two miles south of our Ling Ling airdrome (250 miles northwest of Canton) in China. Five (probably nine) of the enemy planes were reported destroyed. Only one of the enemy planes succeeded in reaching our airfield and it was immediately shot down.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATRE

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT, April 24, General MacArthur reports that nine B-24's attacked the enemy airfields at Kendari, destroying five enemy grounded planes and starting fires visible for 75 miles; five (probably six) enemy airplanes which intercepted our bombers were destroyed. Kendari is one of the larger Japanese air installations in the East Indies. Four Australian bombers attacked two enemy vessels off Haar Island, sinking one and damaging the other. Seven Dutch medium bombers made an effective raid on the enemy airfield at Dilli, while other harassing attacks were made on other islands west of New Guinea. Two US B-24's bombed and machine-gunned enemy villages in the Singor area; another B-24, on reconnaissance over Wewak, destroyed five out of twelve intercepting enemy fighters in a thirty-minute engagement despite the loss of two of its four engines. An enemy convoy of two destroyers, two

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large transports and two medium cargo ships 300 miles north of Wewak were unsuccessfully attacked by reconnaissance bombers. Enemy positions northeast of Mubo were subjected to dive-bombing and machine gun attacks.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 501

0700 April 24 to 0700 April 25, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

EUROPEAN THEATER

Two intercepting P-38's destroyed a German JU-88 over Iceland April 24. One of the German crew members parachuted and was captured.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On April 22, while Allied fighters and medium bombers heavily attacked the enemy airfields and ground targets in northern Tunisia, our heavy bombers hit the docks and shipping at Carloforte, Sardinia.

Heavy fighting continued along the entire west face of the enemy zone the next two days, the British armored drive southeast of Goubellat gaining considerable ground. Our 9th and 1st Infantry Divisions, advancing in the north, captured 100 prisoners. Bombers of the 9th Air Force dropped over 97 tons of bombs on enemy airfields, artillery and troops; one B-25 was lost. Enemy air forces carried out extensive operations against our troops along the western front.

ASIATIC THEATER

On the night of April 22-23, sixteen B-24's successfully attacked the railroad yards and warehouses and buildings in the vicinity at Rangoon. Two other B-24's, unable to locate the target, bombed the Thilawa oil refinery. The next day nine B-25's, attacking the warehouse areas at Mandalay, obtained many hits on installations there.

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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 Z, April 23, General MacArthur confirms the successful bombing, announced yesterday, of an enemy cargo ship near Kavieng and adds that heavy bombers on reconnaissance attacked Ubili and enemy-held towns on the northeast New Guinea coast. Thirteen fighter-bombers harassed the Salamaua area; small scale attacks were made on Toeal (Kei Is.) and Dobo (Aroe Is.).

PACIFIC THEATER

On April 22 three B-24's dropped sixty 100-lb. bombs on Kahili, hitting the north end of the runway.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

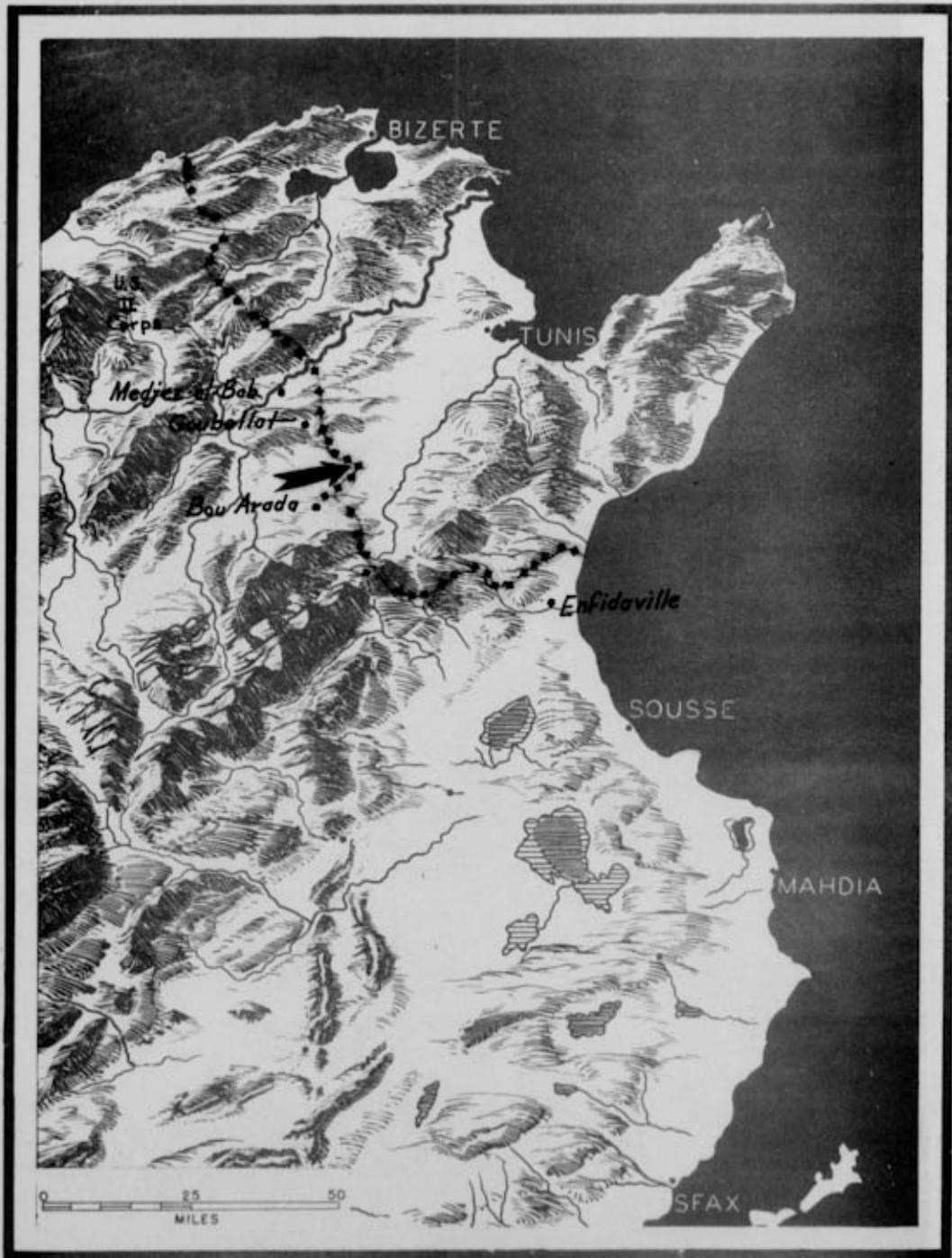
No. 500

0700 April 23 to 0700 April 24, 1943

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NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On April 22 the British Eighth Army held its gains, repulsing all counterattacks. British attacks between Medjes-el-Bab and Bou Arada which started on April 21 developed into fiercely contested actions in which ground changed hands more than once; by April 22 an armored wedge had been driven into enemy territory southeast of Goubellat. General Eisenhower reports that our II Corps now occupies the line from the north coast to a point about nine miles northwest of Medjes-el-Bab, with two infantry divisions in contact with the enemy and one infantry and one armored division in support.

Allied fighter patrols operated over the Gulf of Tunis, destroying 31 enemy planes, including 21 transport-type aircraft. Enemy air activity was entirely defensive.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 21 nine B-25's of the 10th Air Force, in a renewed attack on the Myitnge railroad bridge south of Mandalay, damaged buildings and tracks in the vicinity.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT, April 22, General MacArthur reports that four B-25's and four A-20's bombed and machine-gunned the Nassau Bay area (south of Salamaua).

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Allied bombers on reconnaissance missions attacked enemy installations in New Guinea, Aroe and Tanimbar. Photographs show a light cruiser, two destroyers and 43 other ships including 105,000 tons of merchant shipping at Rabaul.

A communique from General MacArthur reports an attack on April 23 by a heavy Allied reconnaissance bomber on an 8,000-ton enemy cargo ship near Kavieng. A direct hit by a 500-lb. bomb set the vessel on fire and left it in a sinking condition.

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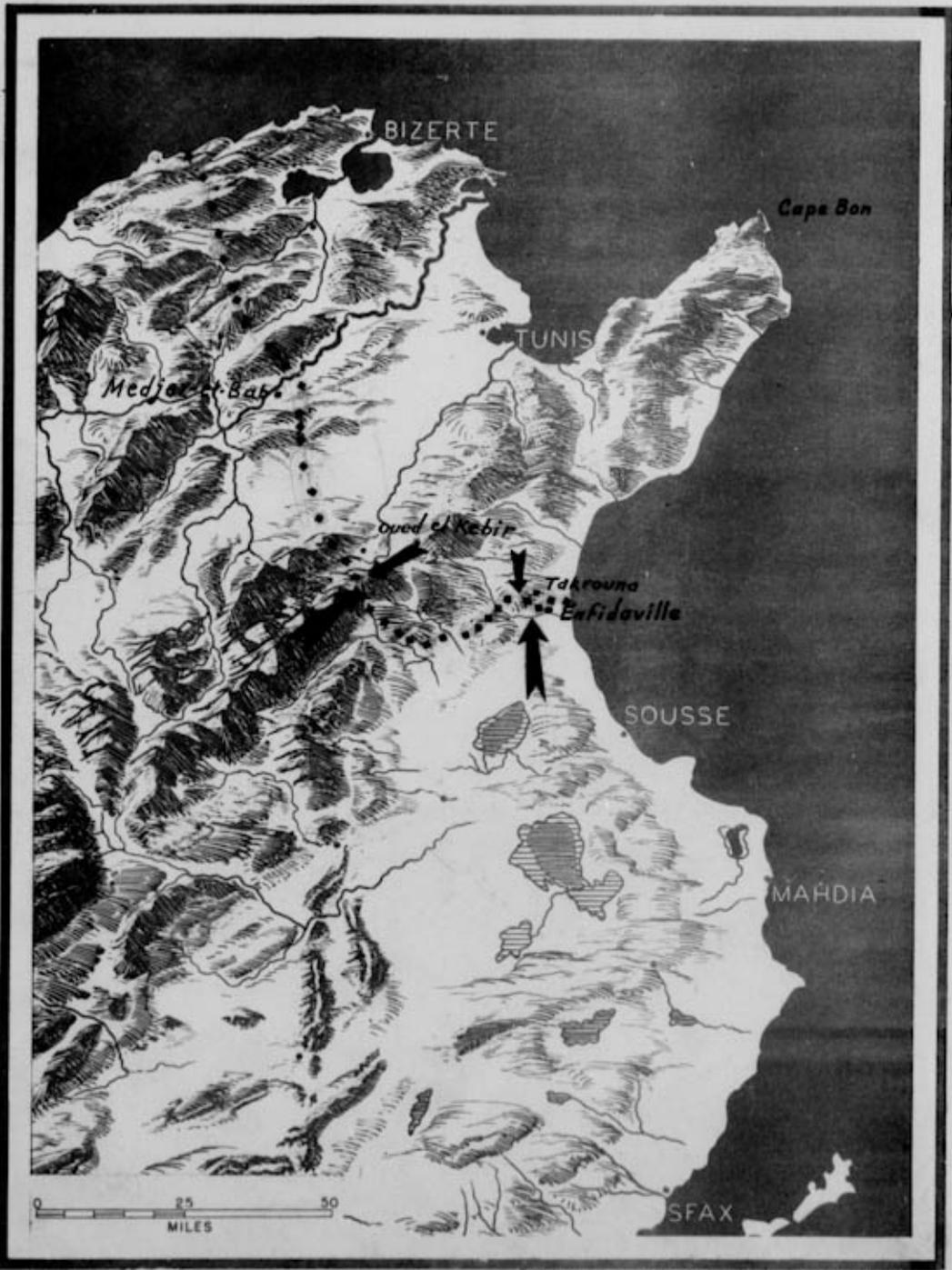
WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 499

0700 April 22 to 0700 April 23, 1943

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MAP NO. 2311

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. General Butler has reported that during the first 20 days of April, bomber and fighter aircraft of his 11th Air Force dropped over 533 tons of demolition, fragmentation and incendiary bombs on enemy installations at Kiska.

2. The War Department informed General Drum that in furtherance of the strategic deployment of US forces for 1943 established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff following the decisions reached in the Casablanca conferences, the garrison of Newfoundland must be reduced from nearly 8,600 to about 6,000. Army Air Force units, including those assigned for air transport and anti-submarine activities, will not be affected by this reduction.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Enemy counterattacks against the British Eighth Army, April 21, were repulsed by massed artillery fire, and by night the enemy had been driven off the commanding heights west of Takrouna. Fighting was reported in the Oued el Kebir area.

During the day, and the preceding night, Allied medium and light bombers and fighter aircraft, despite adverse weather conditions, attacked enemy airfields and lines of communication, and furnished support to our ground units. British bombers operating under General

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Brereton's command dropped 15 tons of bombs on Naples, bursts being observed in the target area. British fighter planes attacked a port and an airfield in southwestern Sardinia. During the period a total of ten (probably 13) enemy planes were destroyed for a loss of two B-25's and three fighters.

A captured document dated March 19 bears General von Arnim's signature as commander of the German forces in Africa; this confirms the suspicion that Rommel is no longer there.

ASIATIC THEATER

Early on April 20 one B-24 of the 10th Air Force bombed Bangkok--making a 1,090-mile flight each way--while four others bombed the secondary target, Hangoon station, with unknown results. The same day eight B-25's attacked the Mawmyo railroad yards, destroying tracks and buildings near the target.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT, April 21, General MacArthur reports that B-17's on reconnaissance missions shot down one of four intercepting enemy fighter planes over New Britain, destroyed a large building at Ubili, a grounded bomber at Casnata, and machine-gunned enemy villages along the north New Guinea coast. Allied bombers flew reconnaissance and attack missions against enemy-held portions of western New Guinea and the islands to the west.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 498

0700 April 21 to 0700 April 22, 1943

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OBD Letter, 5-8-72

GENERAL

The War Department has reminded all senior commanders that chaplains and medical and sanitary personnel forfeit immunity from attack or capture if they engage in combat or commit acts injurious to the enemy, and that if they do so while wearing a Red Cross brassard (a serious misuse of this emblem) they expose themselves to punishment by the enemy if captured. These commanders have been instructed to issue appropriate instructions to the personnel in question.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

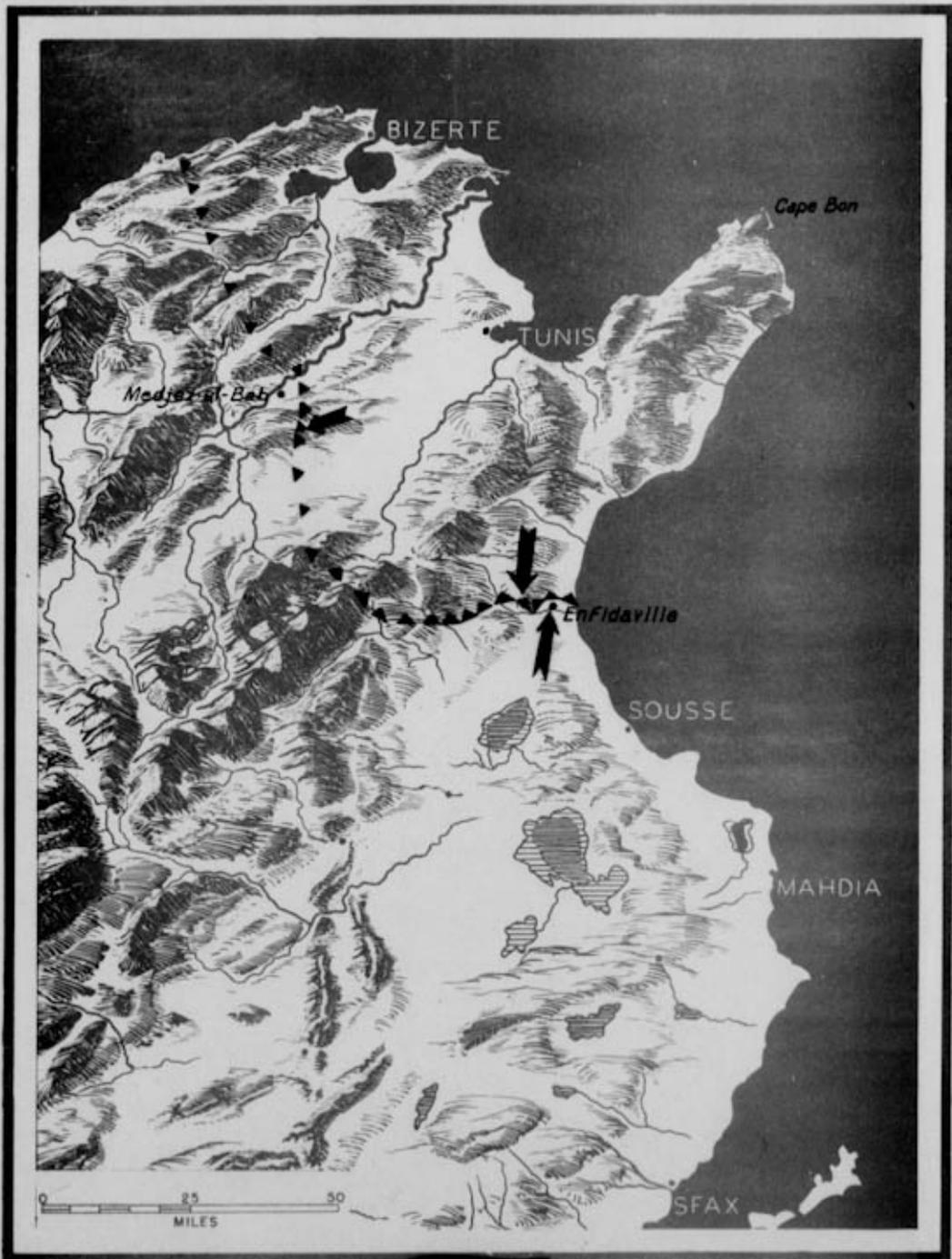
During the 24-hour period ending 1200 GCT, April 21, in ten attacks some 61 tons of bombs were dropped on Kiaka. Clouds prevented complete observation of the results; one vessel in the harbor was believed hit several times.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. In the raid by US heavy bombers against Bremen on April 17, 63 (probably 78) enemy fighters were destroyed, instead of the 40 indicated by preliminary reports.
2. During the week ending April 18, US aircraft based in the United Kingdom destroyed 77 (probably 99) enemy planes for a total

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MAP NO. 2311

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OSD Letter, 8-3-78

loss from all causes of 20 of our heavy bombers and five fighter-type planes.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of April 19-20 and the next day, Allied aircraft continued their attacks on enemy airfields in northeastern Tunisia and destroyed 19 (probably 20) enemy planes in the Cape-Bon region. Three British bombers are missing.

The British Eighth Army, which attacked northwards on the evening of April 19 and entered Enfidaville the next morning, beat off all enemy counterattacks, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and capturing many prisoners. A heavy Axis attack in the region south of Medjex-el-Bab was held, 25 enemy tanks being destroyed.

Operating over Allied ports along the Mediterranean coast, three (probably four) enemy airplanes were destroyed; the Luftwaffe also reacted against the British attacks in the Enfidaville area.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 19 three B-24's of the 10th Air Force attacked the Thilawa oil refinery (south of Rangoon). The next day eight B-25's attacked the engine sheds at Thazi (south of Mandalay), scoring some hits on nearby tracks. A delayed report states that heavy damage was done to the Maymyo railroad yards (north of Mandalay) by nine B-25's on April 16.

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PACIFIC THEATER

Five B-24's dropped over 14 tons of demolition bombs in the Numa Numa area (Bougainville), April 20. Bad weather precluded observation of results.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

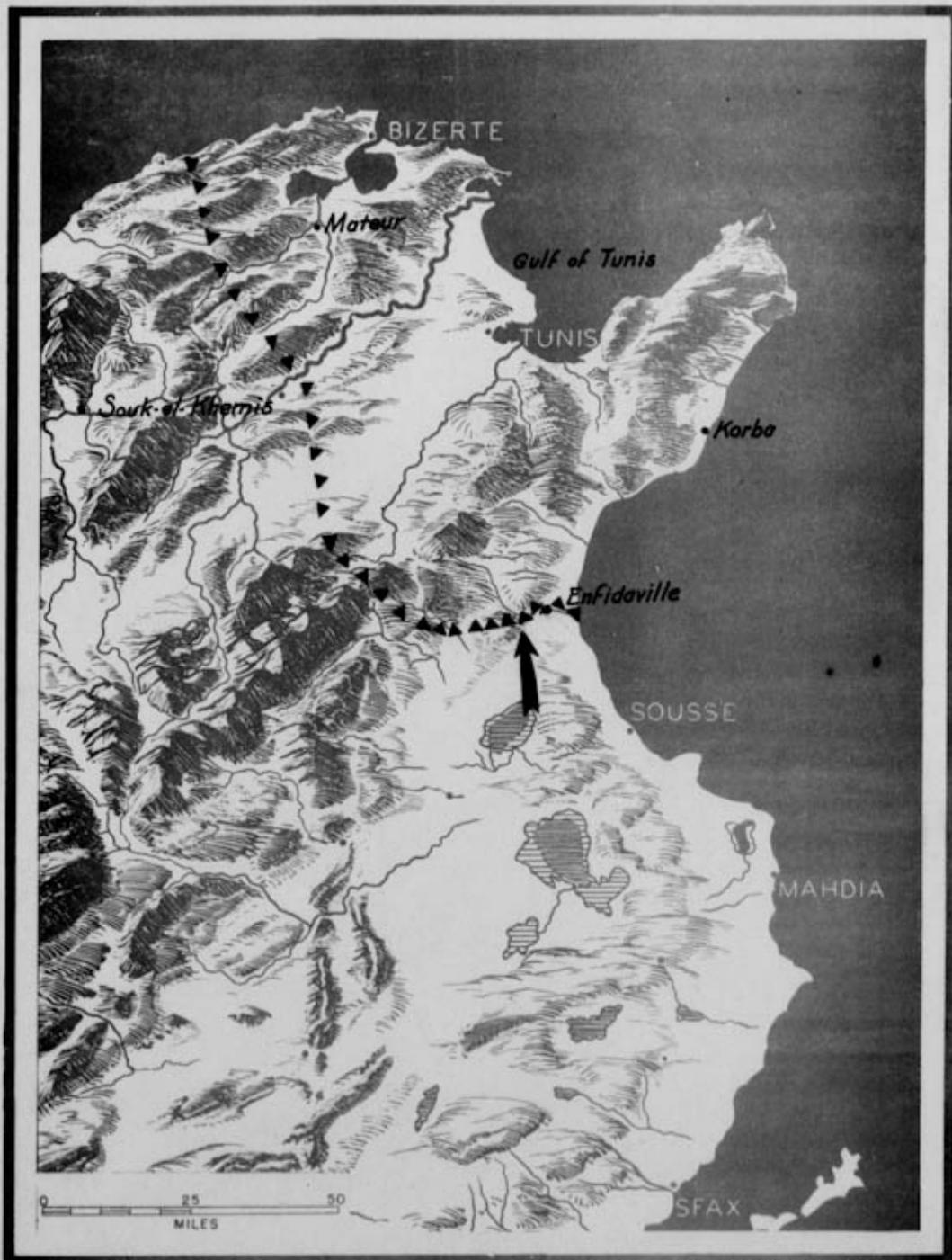
No. 497

0700 April 20 to 0700 April 21, 1943

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



MAP NO. 2311

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

During the 24-hour period ending 1200 GCT, April 20, eight missions from Amchitka and two from Adak dropped some 21 tons of bombs on Kiska. Heavy and accurate antiaircraft fire was encountered. According to a delayed report a ship in Kiska harbor was set afire during the bombings of April 19.

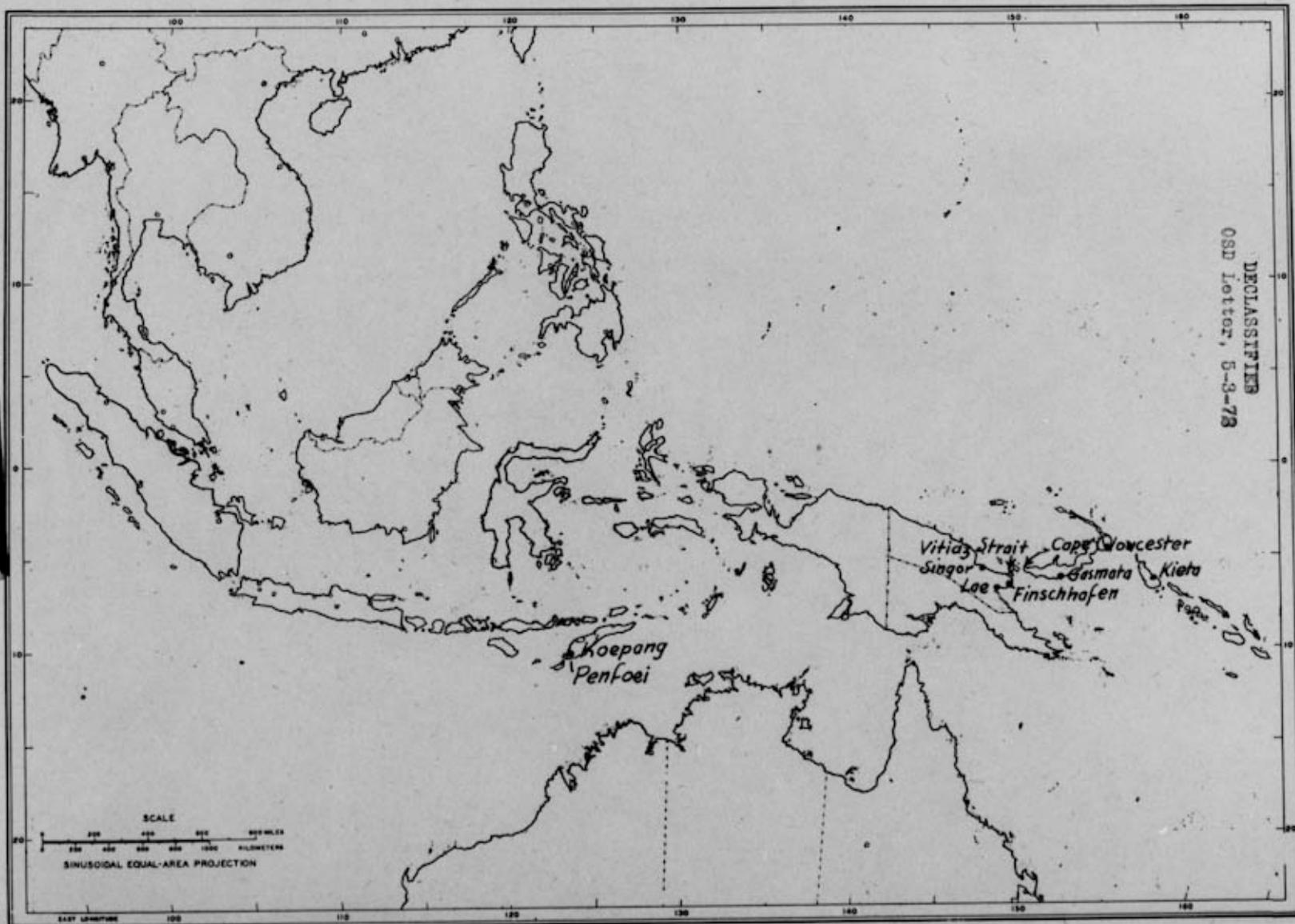
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On the night of April 18-19 Allied aircraft continued their neutralization of enemy airfields in the vicinity of Tunis. The next day the airfield at Korba was again attacked, while Allied fighter sweeps over the Gulf of Tunis destroyed twenty (probably 26) enemy aircraft including twelve more German transports; we lost eight airplanes. The usual convoy, escort and combat missions also were flown. Enemy planes again raided Souk el Khemis.

The US 1st Infantry Division, moving to the north, began on April 19 to relieve British units in the line southwest of Mateur. The Kerkenna Islands east of Sfax have been occupied by Allied forces. A communique reports that Enfidaville was occupied by the Eighth Army on the night of April 19-20.

2. During the week ending April 16, US aircraft of the North African Air Force destroyed 119 (probably 146) enemy planes in the air, including 66 transports, and 70 on the ground. In the same

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period we lost six planes as a result of aerial engagements, two by antiaircraft fire, three from unknown causes and two are listed as missing. Corresponding RAF figures are twenty-five (probably 42) enemy planes for 25 of their own.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 19 sixteen P-40's of the 10th Air Force, using 1000-pound bombs, wrecked two railroad bridges near Myitkyina. Nine B-24's in successive approaches dropped 15 tons of bombs on the central railroad station at Rangoon, causing fires visible for 90 miles.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1100 GCT, April 18, General MacArthur reports that twenty-one Dutch and Australian bombers in coordinated attacks caused large fires at Koepang and the Penfoei airdrome. Single US B-24's bombed and machine-gunned the enemy-held towns of Singor and Finschhafen, and shot down an enemy twin-engined fighter over Vitiaz Strait. The next day US and Australian reconnaissance bombers attacked enemy airfields at Gasmata, Cape Gloucester, Lae, and Finschhafen. One large and seven small vessels as well as some barges were seen at Wewak; the enemy is adding to his air installations in this vicinity.

A communique reports that on April 20 General MacArthur's heavy bombers executed a pre-dawn attack on the airdrome and the shipping reported in the harbor at Wewak. The bombers struck at mast-height

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a 6,000-ton freighter, apparently loaded with fuel, completely destroying it.

PACIFIC THEATER

On April 19, seven B-17's dropped over 17 tons of demolition bombs on Kieta; results were not observed. The next day four P-39's furnished air cover for a naval task force.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 496

0700 April 19 to 0700 April 20, 1943

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MAP NO. 2311

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

During the 24-hour period ending 1200 GCT, April 19, seven Amchitka-based attack missions dropped 14 tons of bombs on the enemy installations at Kiska, obtaining hits on the air strip, buildings, gun emplacements and the main camp area. Our recent attacks have caused much damage to the enemy's landing strip. Antiaircraft fire encountered by our missions varied from moderate to intense.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. General Andrews reports that in the raids in which our heavy bombers dropped over 250 tons of bombs on Lorient and Brest on April 16, eleven (probably 18) enemy airplanes were destroyed. Four of our bombers failed to return.

2. An unidentified airplane was reported over Iceland April 18.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On the night of April 17-18 Allied bombers effectively attacked the La Marsa, Soliman, Korba and Ste. Marie du Zit airfields, and the docks and railroad yards at Tunis.

Retaining their initiative on April 18, the Allied Air Forces intercepted and destroyed an aerial transport armada heading for Europe

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

from Tunisia, as reported yesterday. Among other achievements, 78 escorted B-17's dropped 84 tons of bombs on the Palermo railroad yards, and 66 tons on the nearby Boca di Falco airfield, hitting many buildings and grounded aircraft. Escorted B-25's attacked an airdrome in northwestern Sardinia, striking buildings, gasoline storage dumps, and grounded aircraft of all kinds; they also attacked the docks, railroad yards and shipping at Porto Torres where a 350-400 ft. merchant vessel was sunk and a smaller ship set afire. During this period Allied planes performed the usual convoy-escort and combat missions.

Enemy air offensive operations were stepped up, fighter-bombers and FW 190's carrying out raids on Algiers (where five enemy aircraft were destroyed), on Souk-el-Khemis airfield, and on our motor transport near Pont du Fahs.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

On April 18 bombers of the 9th Air Force, in four missions, dropped over 112 tons of bombs on Catania, a tanker being hit and bursts being observed on other pinpoint targets.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that on April 17 six B-24's of his 10th Air Force bombed a railroad bridge across the Pazundaung River at Rangoon.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

PACIFIC THEATER

Late on April 17, fourteen heavy bombers dropped 25 tons of demolition and incendiary bombs on the enemy runway at Kahili, causing large fires and explosions; all our planes returned. The next day P-38's operating over the Kahili area shot down three Japanese bombers and three Japanese fighter planes. One of our P-38's was lost.

On the night of April 18-19 four US B-24's dropped 24 one-quarter ton demolition bombs on the runway and revetments at the enemy airfield on Munda.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 495

0700 April 18 to 0700 April 19, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. During the 24-hour period ending 1200 GCT, April 18, attack missions from Amchitka and Adak dropped 18 tons of demolition bombs on the enemy runway on Attu and 14 tons on gun positions and the main camp and submarine base areas at Kiska; hits in all target areas were observed. Late reports raise by 8½ tons the total of bombs dropped on Kiska during the preceding 24 hours.

2. Three members of our Greenland (native) sledge patrol were captured by Germans near Eskimonass (east coast of Greenland on 74th parallel) during the latter part of March. One of these prisoners escaped and reports that the enemy force consists of one officer and nine men with dogs, automatic weapons and small arms. Their mission is to furnish weather reports, destroy our depots along the coast and, at a later date, bomb the Ella Island and Scoresby radio stations. Eskimonass has already been burned. The Germans are now on Sabine Island, northeast of Eskimonass. Our sledge patrol is concentrating at Scoresby; other appropriate measures will be taken.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. Two unidentified airplanes were reported over Iceland, April 17.

2. On April 17, one hundred US B-17's dropped 250 tons of high explosives on the Focke-Wulf airplane factory at Bremen. Good results were reported. Enemy fighters, attacking repeatedly after intense

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O&D Letter, 8-3-78

and accurate antiaircraft fire had caused our bomber formations to spread, chased our planes during the entire return trip over Germany and out over the sea. Preliminary reports indicate that more than 40 enemy planes were destroyed; 16 B-17's are missing.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

The battle for Tunisia moved into the air during the past few days. On the night of April 16-17 Allied bombers torpedoed an enemy tanker, attacked the docks and freight station at Bizerte, enemy airfields at La Sebala (near Tunis), Ste. Marie du Zit, and other targets.

These relentless attacks on enemy installations continued April 17 when 16 escorted B-17's dropped 48 tons of demolition bombs on the docks at Ferryville, and 44 escorted B-17's loosed over 130 tons on Palermo; at the latter port six ships, the power house and all of the piers were hit, and eleven (probably 19) of sixty intercepting enemy aircraft were destroyed. One of our P-38's was shot down. Twenty-seven other P-38's, on a fighter sweep, shot down five enemy planes; eighteen B-25's and 36 P-40's bombed the enemy railroad yards at Mateur. Twenty-four (probably 31) enemy aircraft were destroyed during the day; three US aircraft were lost. General Brereton's heavy bombers again attacked Catania, making two hits on a tanker. In shipping sweeps east of Tunis seven enemy airplanes were

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OSD Letter, 5-3-73

destroyed for a loss of four fighter aircraft.

A communique reports that our aerial offensive was maintained during April 18, the highlights being the destruction of 45 enemy air transports and 16 of their escorting fighters off the Tunisian coast, a renewal of the battering of Palermo where the railroad yards and airfields were heavily damaged, and the destruction of two merchantmen in the harbor at Porto Torres (Sardinia). These operations cost us 11 aircraft. The enemy bombed Algiers and its airport, causing some damage to civilian property.

ASIATIC THEATER

Fighter aircraft of General Bissell's 10th Air Force continued their attacks on enemy railway communications in northern Burma on April 17, causing minor damage to two bridges northwest of Myitkyina and Lashio. Ten B-25's, dropping all of their eighty 300-pound demolition bombs squarely in the target area, destroyed the railroad shops at Myitnge (south of Mandalay); seven other B-25's obtained direct hits on the Myitnge railway bridge with 1,000-pound bombs.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT, April 17, General MacArthur reports that four B-24's caused large fires and explosions in the coaling jetty at Ambon (where nine enemy

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

ships were sighted) and destroyed four of the enemy fighter planes. Other Allied bombers attacked the Timika and Gasmata airfields with unobserved results, and a B-24 on reconnaissance along the northern coast of New Guinea started large fires in an enemy-held village near Humboldt Bay and bombed a small cargo ship in Bogia harbor.

An Allied patrol raided enemy positions south of Salamaua during the night of April 15.

PACIFIC THEATER

General Harmon reports that our Air Transport planes are now operating via the Penrhyn-Aitutaki alternate route to the south and southwest Pacific areas.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 494

0700 April 17 to 0700 April 18, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Incomplete reports, covering the bombing activities of six B-24's, 12 B-25's and 12 fighter aircraft at Kiska during the 24-hour period ending 1200 OCT, April 17, indicate that over 45 tons of bombs were dropped on enemy installations, with hits in the seaplane and other target areas; our fighter aircraft used their machine guns from very low altitudes. Enemy installations at Attu also were bombed. Ineffective anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

EUROPEAN THEATER

On April 16, heavy bombers of our 8th Air Force attacked the enemy submarine base at Lorient and the port at Brest; results were reported as good. Enemy fighter reaction to the Lorient mission was moderate; at least seven enemy fighters were reported destroyed and only one B-17 failed to return. The attack by 17 B-24's on Brest encountered many enemy fighters, and three of our B-24's are missing. RAF Spitfires provided excellent fighter support for both missions.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

The Allied air forces in North Africa bombed the Oudna airfield, on April 16, attacked Palermo where they hit the power station and warehouse area and probably four merchant vessels, hit two cargo ships

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GND Letter, 5-5-78

and a barge off the northeastern coast of Tunisia, and continued their support of front line units. General Brereton's bombers repeated their attack of the previous day on Catania, obtaining hits on the mole and on a tanker. Enemy air activity was again concentrated on the Medjel-Bab sector where continuous fighter patrols were maintained; other enemy airplanes raided our airdrome at Souk el Arba. During all of these missions eight (probably 10) enemy planes were destroyed; three of our aircraft were lost.

There was no unusual ground activity to report.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. Fighter aircraft of General Bissell's 10th Air Force were especially successful in attacks on enemy railway communications in northern Burma on April 16. Using 1,000-lb. bombs they completely destroyed a railway bridge 10 miles northeast of Pinbaw and severely damaged another five miles south of Mogaung. Nine B-25's put 107 100-lb. bombs in the railroad yards and warehouses at Thazi Junction (south of Mandalay).

2. The War Department notified General Stilwell's headquarters at Chungking and New Delhi that the opening of the northern route to China (via Iran - Turkestan) has been approved and that 1,120 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks are to be made available for this purpose. Since the British are unable to provide sufficient shipping to transport these trucks

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GDP Letter, 8-8-78

in the next three months, Field Marshal Wavell has been requested to supply 520 trucks from his stock on the understanding that they will be replaced from the US at the rate of 200 per month. It is understood that the trucks will be loaded with Chinese cargo at Karachi and moved under British supervision to the Russian railroad, and that the Russians will move them to the eastern terminus of their railroad. General Stilwell was asked to keep in touch with these operations initially.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, April 16, General MacArthur reports that, in the previously reported attacks on the enemy convoy at Wewak, a total of two 8,000-ton cargo ships were sunk, one was damaged and possibly sunk, and a "probable" gunboat was hit and beached. Allied aircraft bombed the enemy landing strips near Ubili and Gasmata, Kaimana (western New Guinea) where a possible ammunition dump was destroyed, and Baucau (Timor), as well as other enemy-held points on islands to the west of New Guinea.

PACIFIC THEATER

On April 16 twenty-five US Army and Navy bombers dropped over 30 tons of demolition and incendiary bombs on Kahili and three tons on Ballale. Fires were started on the airdromes at both places.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 493

0700 April 16 to 0700 April 17, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

During the 24-hour period ending 1200 OCT, April 16, 111 planes of our 11th Air Force in Alaska dropped over 22 tons of bombs on Kiska. All the target areas were hit. A large barge, probably loaded with ammunition, exploded. Heavy antiaircraft fire brought down one of our B-24's. Six enemy planes were observed on the beach.

EUROPEAN THEATER

Several unidentified airplanes were reported over Iceland, April 15.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of April 14-15 and the next day Allied planes maintained their aggressive missions against the enemy ground troops and airfields in North Africa and attacked several enemy airdromes in Sardinia. General Brereton's Air Force bombed Palermo, hitting the oil quay, naval docks, seaplane station and oil storage depot, and Catania harbor where hits were observed near the gas works, port, railway station and power house. The enemy air force operated on a reduced scale.

Allied ground troops maintained their pressure on the enemy. French troops were counterattacked east of the Ousseltia valley, and British units beat back enemy efforts to regain vantage points north of Medjez-el-Bab.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

During the night of April 15-16 British bombers attacked the airfield at Sta. Marie du Zit, dropping 49 tons of bombs, and searched for shipping off the coast of Tunisia, destroying two (probably three) German transport planes. On April 16 Spitfires destroyed two more transport planes and eight (probably nine) other enemy aircraft.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 15 ten B-25's of the 10th Air Force effectively attacked the Mandalay railroad yards, causing fires visible for fifty miles. Nine B-25's scored many direct hits on the nearby railroad yards at Ywataung. Nine B-24's dropped over 13 tons of bombs on Proma (southern Burma), all bursts being reported within the target area; eight other B-24's bombed the Thilawa Oil Refinery (near Rangoon) with unobserved results. Two P-40's on an offensive reconnaissance destroyed two locomotives in northern Burma.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, April 15, General MacArthur reports that while our three B-17's were skip-bombing the enemy convoy at Wewak (as reported yesterday) other B-17's bombed the enemy airfields at Rabaul and Gasmata, three of our dive-bombers machine-gunned enemy positions north of Mubo, and three Australian Hudson bombers destroyed buildings at Ossu, central

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Portuguese Timor.

During the night and early morning hours on April 16 our heavy bombers continued their attacks on the enemy convoy in the harbor at Wewak. The report of the sinking of an 8,000-ton cargo ship was confirmed; another 8,000-ton transport was probably sunk. During these attacks other heavy bombers neutralized the enemy's airdrome. Later reconnaissance missions sighted the remaining ships of the convoy steaming out of the harbor towards the limit of our bomber range.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 491

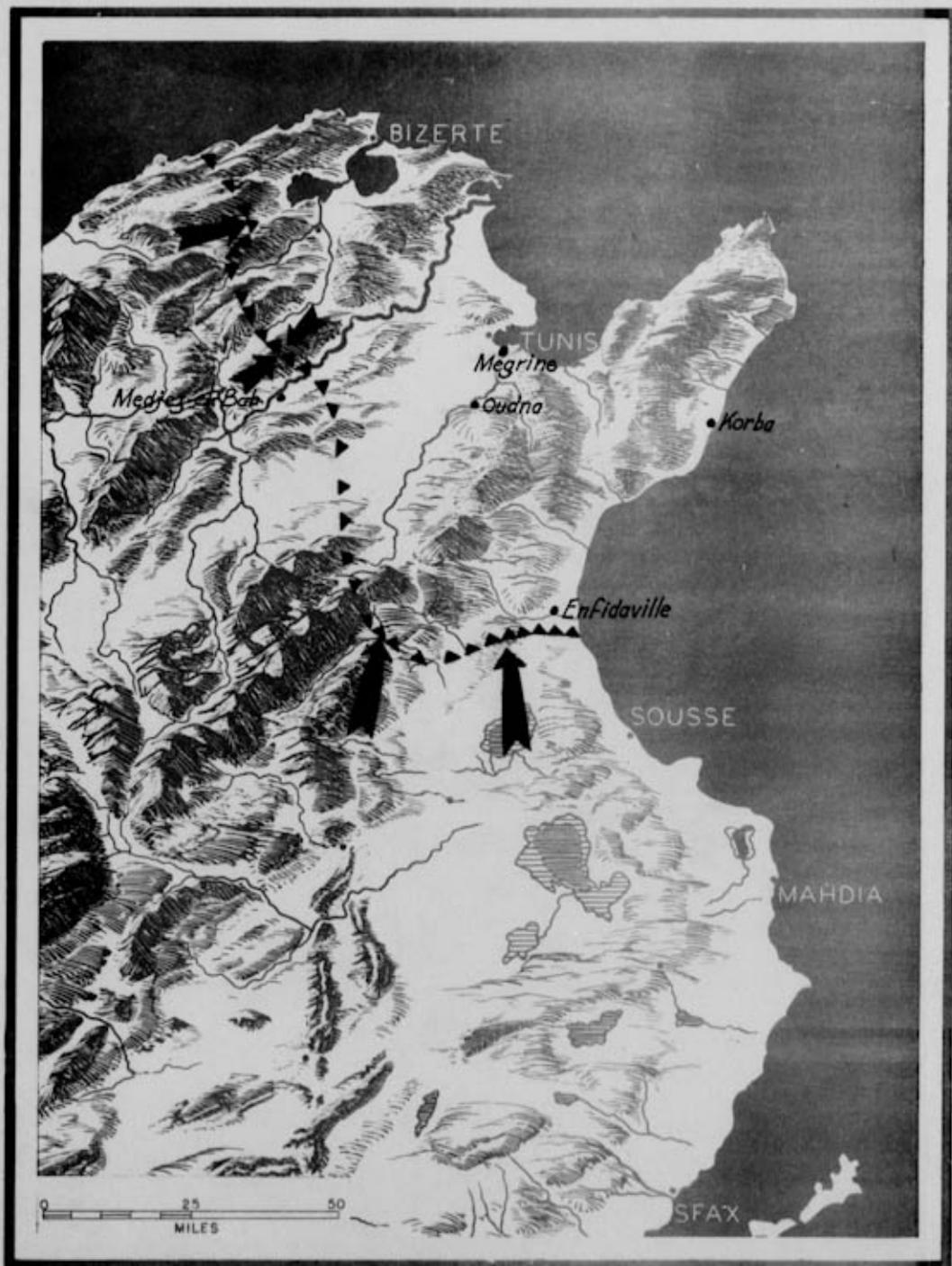
0700 April 14 to 0700 April 15, 1943

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-3-73

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. Between 0134 April 13 and 0330 April 14 (Greenwich Time) planes of the 11th Air Force in eleven missions dropped over 62 tons of bombs on Kiska, obtaining hits in the camp and runway areas despite intense antiaircraft fire. One P-38 was lost.

2. The War Department instructed General DeWitt to modify the existing restrictions on the movement of persons of Japanese origin in his command by extending to soldiers of Japanese ancestry, in uniform and on furlough, the freedom of movement enjoyed by all other American soldiers in his area.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. During the night of April 12-13 and the day of April 13, Allied aircraft pounded the enemy airfields in northeastern Tunisia, furnished protection for a convoy bound for Sfax, and flew numerous fighter sweeps and reconnaissance patrols; Megrine, Korba and Cudna airfields took particularly heavy punishment. Three enemy torpedo bombers, intercepted by Beaufighters off southwestern Sardinia, were shot down and the remainder were forced to jettison their loads into the sea. US B-17's dropped over 7,000 fragmentation bombs on the Milo and Castel Vetrano airdromes in Sicily, where some 150 planes were observed on the ground. Four (probably six) of 15 enemy aircraft engaged over the target were destroyed; three B-17's were lost.

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CSP Letter, 5-3-72

Five P-38's made one hit and two near misses with half-ton bombs on the Italian cruiser Gorizia off Leghorn. Another P-38, skip-bombed a freighter near Porto Torres (northwest coast of Sardinia); the projectile passed through the target and exploded in another freighter alongside. Other Allied planes harassed enemy airdromes in Sardinia.

Troops of the British Eighth Army and French units on their left regained contact with the enemy along his defensive positions south of Enfidaville. In the north Allied operations are progressing despite counterattacks by the enemy; elements of our 9th Division relieved British units near the north coast.

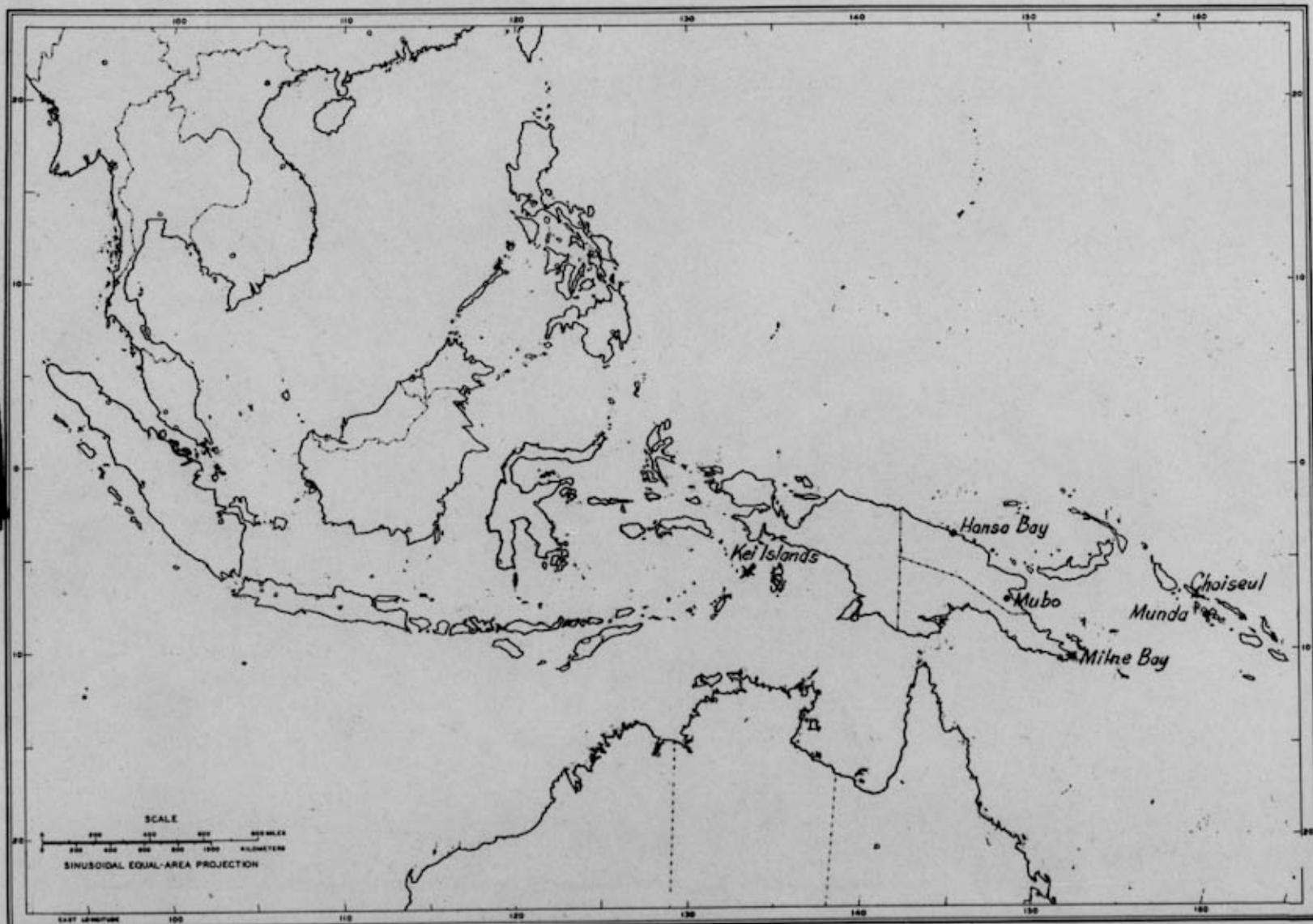
2. During the week ending April 9 US aircraft of the North African Air Force destroyed 89 (probably 112) enemy planes in the air and at least 100 on the ground. In this same period we lost six planes as a result of aerial engagements, five by antiaircraft fire, five from unknown causes and sixteen are listed as missing. Corresponding figures for the RAF component of the North African Air Force are: Enemy planes destroyed: 26 (probably 29); RAF losses: seven.

ASIATIC THEATER

Six P-40's of the 10th Air Force flew an offensive sweep in northern Burma on April 13 during which they destroyed a bridge and attacked other ground targets. The Japanese appear to be working hard on roads and bridge repair in this region.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Reconnaissance P-40's of the 14th Air Force, on patrol missions over southwestern Yunnan Province, China, machine-gunned enemy barracks, warehouses and pack trains.

General Bissell reports that during March the 10th Air Force destroyed nine (probably 13) Japanese aircraft, with a loss from enemy action of one fighter and three bombers. US losses other than those from enemy action were six airplanes.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

General MacArthur reports that our heavy bombers on April 12 set fire to a 10,000-ton merchant vessel, an 8,000-ton cargo vessel, possibly hit a 3,000-ton cargo vessel, at Hansa Bay, and shot down six out of fifteen intercepting fighter planes. Small scale attacks were made on Mubo and the Kei Islands on April 13. A late communique states that another attack on the enemy shipping in Hansa Bay on April 14 set fire to, and probably sank, a 6,000-ton cargo vessel, all that remained of the convoy. Enemy medium and dive-bombers with fighter escort, numbering between 75 and 100, raided Milne Bay at noon April 14, damaging three small Allied vessels and causing some casualties. Thirty enemy planes were shot out of action. Our fighter losses were moderate.

PACIFIC THEATER

Eleven US bombers escorted by 21 fighter planes, attacking Munda

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

April 13, hit the runway, dispersal and bivouac areas and an ammunition dump. Eight other fighter aircraft attacked an enemy barge off Choiseul Island setting it afire. From these two missions one of our fighter planes is missing.

LATIN AMERICAN THEATER

The War Department has approved General Brett's plan to induct Puerto Ricans at the rate of 500 per week beginning May 1; these inductees will not count against his present troop ceiling until they have been assigned to troop units. 12,000 white and 3,000 colored selectees will be called during the period April 16 to September 30, 1943.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 490

0700 April 13 to 0700 April 14, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. Late on April 12 (Greenwich time) three more flights of our Amchitka-based fighter aircraft bombed and machine-gunned the enemy main camp area and other installations at Kiska.

2. A directive has been issued for the movement to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, of the 92nd Infantry Division (Negro enlisted personnel) which is now at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, Fort McClellan, Alabama, and Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The Division, commanded by Major General Edward M. Almond, is being concentrated to undergo combined training of its various components.

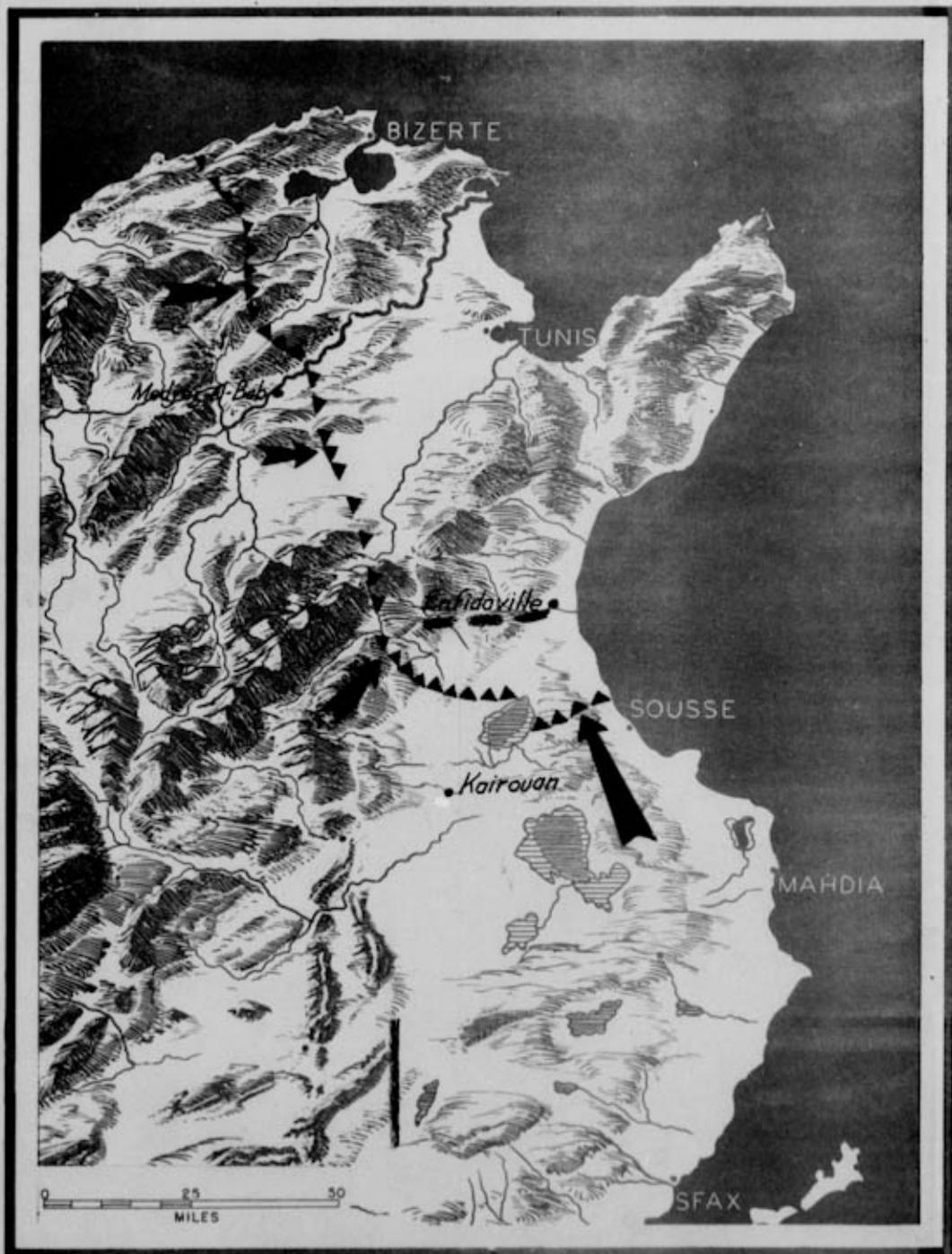
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. Eighteen US B-24's dropped 54 tons of high explosives and incendiaries on Naples, April 11; many hits were observed in the target area and three (probably eight) enemy planes were destroyed. One of our bombers was lost. Allied air forces continued their attacks on enemy airfields in Tunisia that night and the following day, and distributed 49 tons of bombs over enemy installations in Sicily, Naples and southern Italy. Intense enemy air action was directed against the advanced Allied ground units on the southern front.

The pursuit of the retreating enemy forces continued on April 12; patrols of the British Eighth Army advanced north of Sousse and

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MAP NO. 2311

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French units from the west turned northward to regain contact with the enemy. Axis forces are believed to be withdrawing north of an east-west line through Enfidaville. Allied troops are pressing the enemy northwest of Medjez-el-Bab; our 9th Infantry Division is moving to this front.

More than 20,000 prisoners have been taken by the Eighth Army alone since the first attack on the Mareth position; the approximate total for all Tunisian operations is 28,000.

2. Report has been received through the State Department that the German Government has indicated its rejection of the form of our warning to evacuate the buildings marked with Red Crosses at the seaplane base at Bizerte and alleges that the warning is a violation of the generally recognized principles of international law.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 12 four P-40's of the 10th Air Force attacked a reported enemy supply dump near Myitkyina, totally destroying the nearby village. Nine B-25's attacked the Magwe airdrome (south of Mandalay) scoring hits on the target.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

General MacArthur reports that in the April 12 air attack on Port Moresby reported yesterday a total of 20 (probably 30) enemy bombers and 10 (probably 11) fighters were destroyed; two Allied fighter planes

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OSD Letter, 0-3-72

were shot down and three grounded aircraft destroyed, a gasoline dump was set on fire, and there were some casualties. During the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, April 12, US heavy bombers attacked the air-dromes at Ubili, Rabaul, and Gasmata, and shipping in the vicinity. An antiaircraft battery was destroyed, two enemy cargo vessels bombed, a submarine probably sunk and three Japanese aircraft shot down. Offensive reconnaissance missions by our B-17's resulted in damage to two cargo vessels unloading near Wewak. A B-24 on reconnaissance over Wewak destroyed six (probably seven) of twelve enemy planes which attempted to intercept it; minor attacks were made along both New Guinea coasts and on the islands to the west.

At Rabaul photographs showed ten destroyers, 13 other naval vessels, and 36 merchantmen totalling 181,000 tons; 186 airplanes were counted although 100 others were at that moment over Port Moresby.

PACIFIC THEATER

On April 12 six B-17's attacked Kahili and Ballale and six torpedo bombers with 23 fighter escort planes attacked Vila, starting fires in the target area.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

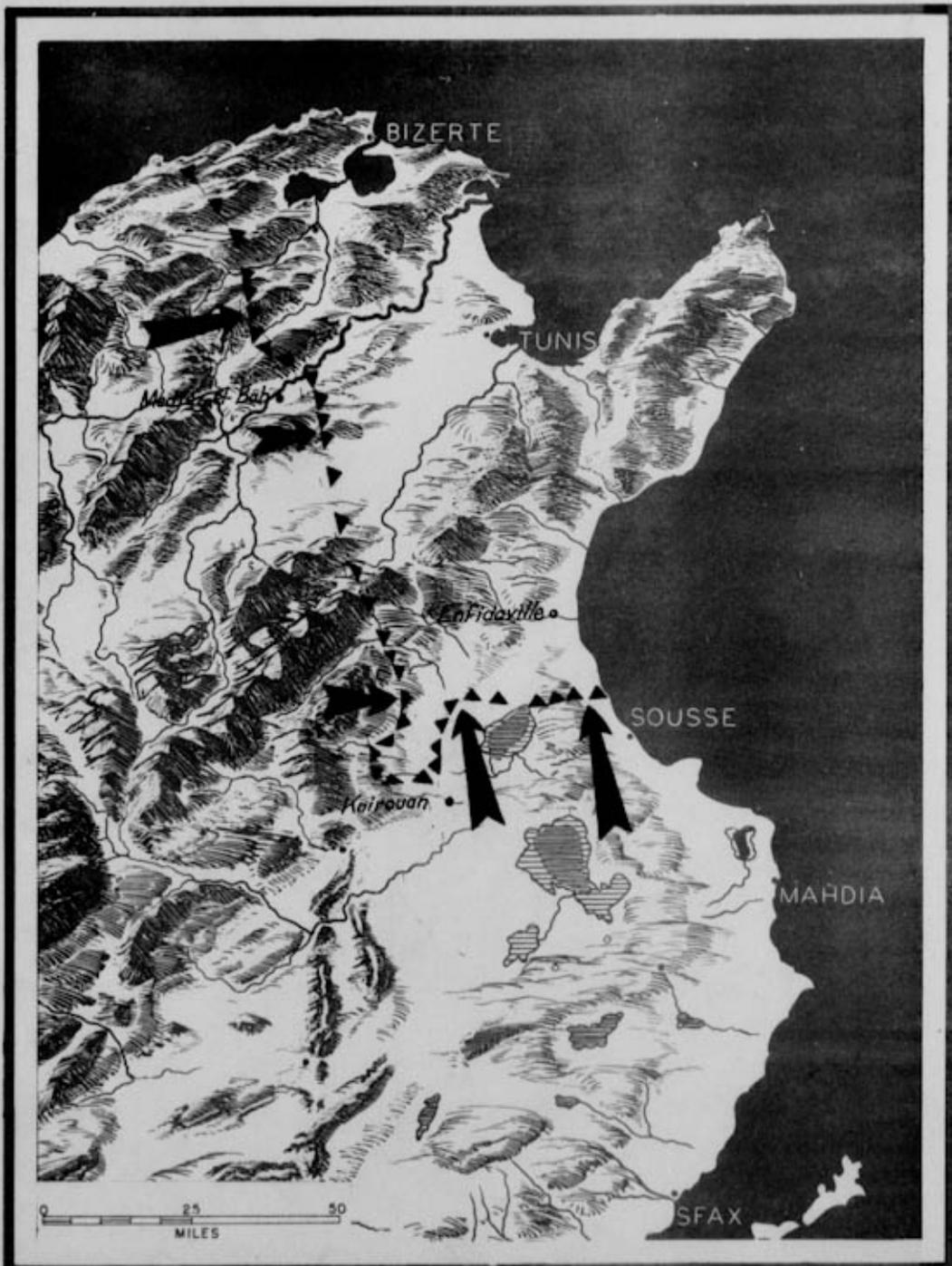
No. 489

0700 April 12 to 0700 April 13, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78



MAP NO. 2311

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DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSS.
REPRODUCED IN THE REPRODUCTION SECTION, OSS

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

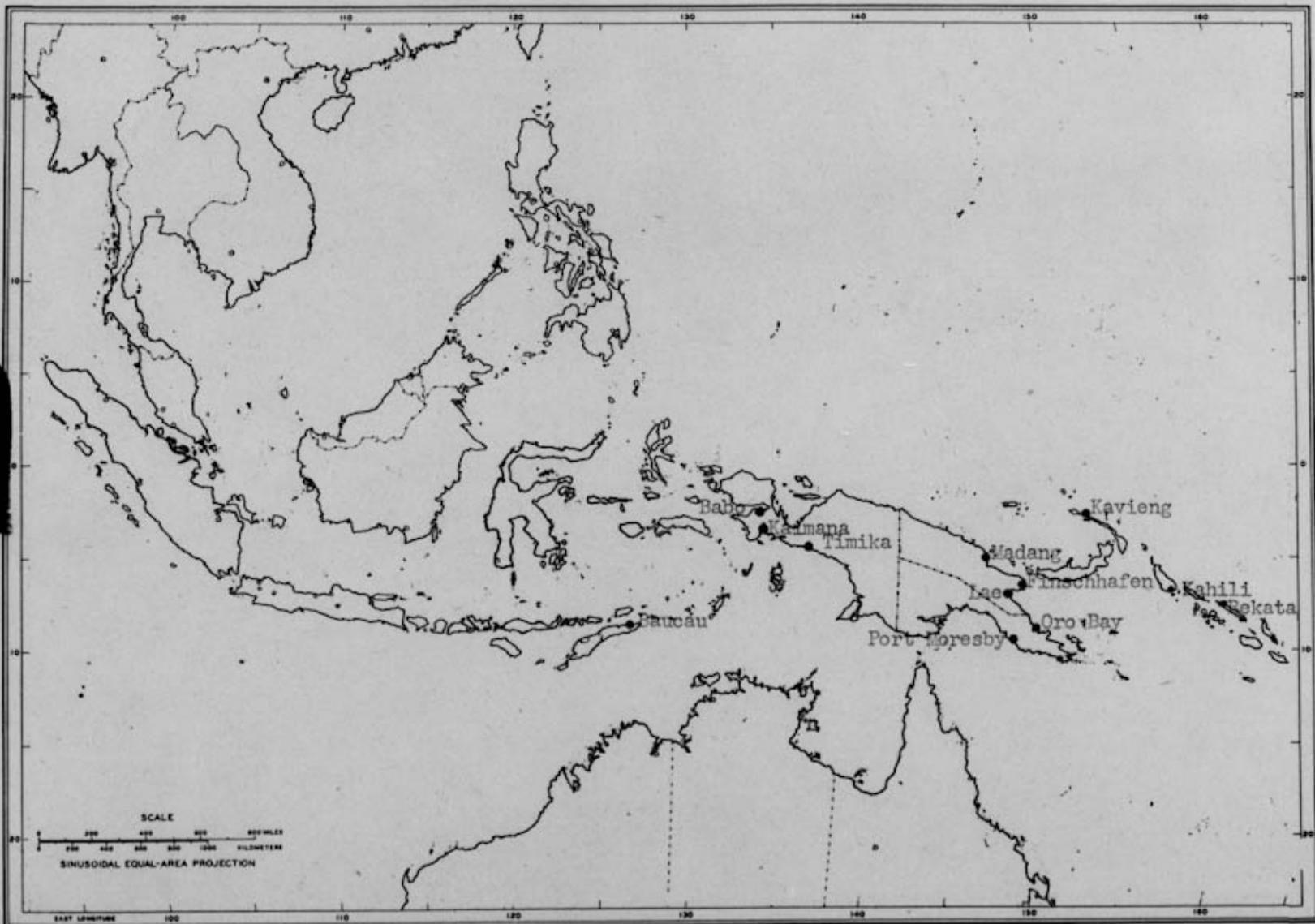
On April 11 and 12 Japanese installations on Kiska Island were attacked by four missions of Amchitka-based airplanes in addition to those reported yesterday; the results which could be observed were good.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On April 11 British troops from the west and the Eighth Army, having joined hands southeast of Kairouan, continued to advance, all those enemy units near the coast being reported north of Sousse by night. The British units which captured Kairouan turned northward and the French Divisions cleared the enemy from the hill masses to their front. To the north British units continued to advance in the Medjel-Bab area. Our 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions and our 1st Armored Division were regrouping preparatory to use elsewhere.

On the night of April 10-11, British bombers caused large fires on enemy airfields in Sardinia, and during the next day the Allied air forces continued their attacks on retreating enemy motor columns in central Tunisia. US fighter aircraft in two sweeps off the northern Tunisian coast destroyed 26 German air transports and five (probably 12) other enemy aircraft while British Spitfires accounted for four more transports; four of our fighters were lost. Allied bombers also hammered the enemy airfields at Enfidaville and elsewhere within their

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diminishing zone. US B-17's hit a large merchant vessel at Tunis, sank a small freighter at Marsala and hit three merchant vessels at Trapani. The dock areas at all three ports were badly damaged.

Enemy air activity was concentrated on Allied motor and troop movements in the Medjez-el-Bab area.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell points out that recent photographic reconnaissances indicate that no shipping has moved in and out of Rangoon since March 8; he suggests that this may be due to our mining of the Rangoon River by airplane.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for April 11, General MacArthur reports that 45 enemy dive-bombers and fighters attacked Allied shipping in Oro Bay, damaging a 2,000-ton merchant vessel, a corvette and a small supply ship and causing some casualties. Fifty intercepting Allied P-38's and P-40's shot down twelve (probably 17) fighters and five (probably six) dive-bombers; one of our P-38's crash-landed. A late communique reports that 100 enemy bombers and fighters, attacking the airdrome at Port Moresby before noon, April 12, were completely defeated, nineteen bombers and ten fighters being destroyed by our aircraft and an additional two (probably eight) enemy bombers shot down

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 8-8-78

by antiaircraft fire. Our losses were relatively light. One of our fighter patrols, intercepting enemy planes retreating from the attack, shot down three more bombers and one fighter without loss.

Allied bombers, failing to locate two enemy destroyers which had been reported to be heading towards Finschhafen, on April 11, attacked the Lae area, setting a fuel dump afire and destroying several buildings. Other heavy bombers attacked Finschhafen and Madang. A B-17 on reconnaissance over Kavieng destroyed three out of ten intercepting enemy fighters.

Operating to the west Allied bombers attacked the Baucau airdrome in Portuguese Timor, hit a power house at Babo, strafed and damaged a small enemy vessel and four float planes at Kaimana, and bombed a supply dump and machine-gun positions at Timika.

PACIFIC THEATER

1. On April 11 fifteen US fighter planes silenced enemy gun positions at Rekata and three B-24's dropped 28 quarter-ton bombs on the enemy airfield at Kahili.
 2. The Americal Division has completed its movement from Guadalcanal to Fiji, its last echelon arriving on April 10.
- [REDACTED]

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 488

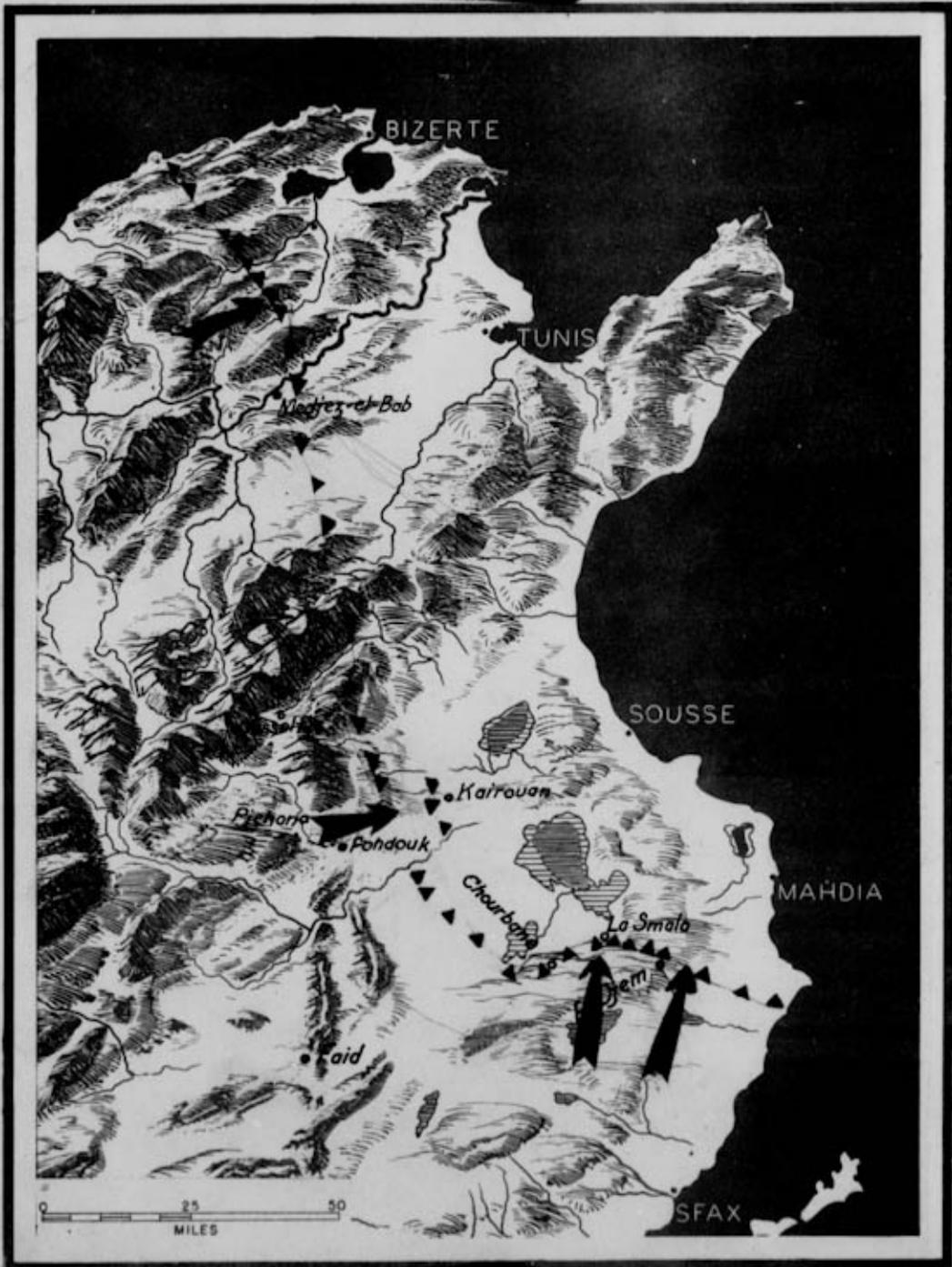
0700 April 11 to 0700 April 12, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

DECLASSIFIED
ORD. 11652
DATE 8-3-78

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MAP NO. 2311

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DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSS.
REPRODUCED IN THE REPRODUCTION SECTION, OSS

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On April 11, two fighter-bomber missions from Amchitka attacked the enemy installations at Kiska. The enemy runway at Kiska is reported to have been completed.

EUROPEAN THEATER

An unidentified airplane was reported over Iceland April 10.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On April 10 the British Eighth Army forged ahead to the line El Djen-La Smala-Chourbane despite the efforts of the enemy's rear guards. As reported yesterday British armored units broke through the enemy positions at Fondouk and reached the vicinity of Kairouan; the US 34th Division reinforced by part of our 1st Armored Division was mopping up in this area. The southern portion of the heights east of the Ousseltia valley was captured by French forces. The advance of the British First Army northwest of Medjez-el-Bab continued.

Allied air forces exerted continuous pressure on retreating enemy columns with excellent results, adding to their disorganization. B-17's attacking La Maddalena (Sardinia) on April 10 scored direct hits on two Italian cruisers, the "Trieste" and "Gorizia", left four merchant vessels afire, and successfully bombed naval shore installations there. B-25's and P-38's on offensive sweeps over

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the Sicilian Straits report the destruction of 40 JU-52 transport planes and 13 other enemy aircraft. Axis air losses for the day, in addition to the above, were six (probably seven) fighter aircraft against an Allied loss of one P-38 and one British bomber.

ASIATIC THEATER

The Army Service Forces have notified General Stilwell and others concerned that, effective May 1, the responsibility for supply of US forces in China, Burma and India will be transferred from the Charleston Port of Embarkation to the Los Angeles subport of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

On April 10 Wewak (north coast of New Guinea), where increased shipping and other enemy activities have been observed recently, was attacked by 10 B-17's and eight B-24's in three flights which destroyed one 1000-ton enemy cargo vessel, damaged another, and set fire to a third. An enemy ammunition dump was hit and an intercepting enemy fighter shot down; we lost one B-24. Nine B-25's made a destructive raid along the northern New Guinea coast, wiping out a heavy machine-gun battery with two direct hits, and six Australian Hudsons attacked enemy-held villages in southeast Timor.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

PACIFIC THEATER

The Headquarters of the 37th Division (Major General Robert S. Beightler), one regimental combat team and other units, which left Fiji April 1 on four transports, arrived at Guadalcanal on April 6.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 487

0700 April 10 to 0700 April 11, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
DD Form Letter, 6-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On April 10 the 82d Airborne Division began its movement from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to the New York Port of Embarkation for overseas movement.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. General Eisenhower reports that on April 9 the British Eighth Army entered Mahares and crossed the Sbeitla-Sfax highway east of Faid. On April 10 New Zealand troops reached La Hencha while an attack from the west through the Fondouk Gap, in which the US 34th Infantry Division participated, carried British armored units to the western outskirts of Kairouan. A late communique reports that Sfax was captured the same day and that the British were continuing their advance northwards. Further progress was also reported by the British First Army northwest of Medjes-el-Bab.

During the night of April 8-9 heavy and medium bombers of the North African and Western Desert Air Forces harassed the retreating enemy columns and despite bad weather lighter aircraft continued the task during April 9, shooting down nine (probably 12) enemy airplanes with loss of one Spitfire. The enemy's air operations in Tunisia continued on a reduced scale, his fighter defense against our sweeps being very weak.

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2. The War Department notified General Eisenhower that his warning to evacuate the buildings marked with the red cross at the Bizerte seaplane base was delivered by the Swiss Foreign Office to the German Government at 1130 Greenwich Civil Time, April 10; attacks may therefore be undertaken after 1130 Greenwich Civil Time, April 12.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports an enemy attack on April 6 on the US airdrome at Agartala which caused 26 casualties and some damage to installations. Only one US airplane was damaged.

On April 8 nine B-25's of the 10th Air Force bombed the Meiktila airdrome (south of Mandalay); hits on the landing strip and dispersal areas were observed.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

General MacArthur reports for April 9 a heavy air attack on Madang, New Guinea, by 13 B-25's, which destroyed five enemy airplanes on the airdrome, started a large fuel fire, and machine-gunned some barges. Ten Australian fighter airplanes also attacked Madang and adjacent coastal points destroying three loaded barges. Small scale attacks were made on targets on the east and west coasts of New Guinea and islands to the west.

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DECLASSIFIED
CSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC THEATER

General Harmon reports that in the action on April 7 four P-38's flying at 35,000 feet encountered eleven Zeros. Our fighters climbed until the enemy began to lose altitude, then turned back and shot down seven. The remaining four were chased down to 25,000 feet where they were shot down by four other US fighters.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 486

0700 April 9 to 0700 April 10, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On April 8 although weather interfered with heavy and medium bomber operations, Allied fighters and light bombers continued their intensive effort against the retreating enemy motor columns, over 300 vehicles being destroyed or damaged; little enemy air opposition was encountered. Five (probably six) enemy planes were destroyed; seven Allied aircraft are missing. Our 1st Infantry and 1st Armored Divisions continued to clear the enemy from the region of our junction with the British Eighth Army, which maintained its advance during the day.

2. In response to a request from General Eisenhower the State Department was asked to take immediate steps notifying the Axis Governments, through diplomatic channels, that the hospital marked with red crosses in the center of the seaplane naval base at Bizerte must be moved within 48 hours after the delivery of the notice, and that failing this action the Allied air force will not be responsible for any damage caused to these buildings.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

Seven B-24's of the 9th Air Force bombed Messina Harbor on April 8, hitting the seaplane station and the docks.

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ASIATIC THEATER

Six B-24's of the 10th Air Force, bombing Japanese headquarters at Toungoo, southern Burma, April 7, caused heavy damage to buildings and started fires visible for 25 miles. The next day one B-25 and four fighter planes attacked enemy stores in northern Burma discovered earlier by aerial reconnaissance; the target was completely destroyed.

Nine fighter planes of the 14th Air Force strafed the Japanese airdrome at Fort Bayard, southern China, on April 8. All planes returned safely.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, April 8, General MacArthur reports that while US B-24's, on reconnaissance, bombed and strafed a new enemy runway at Kavieng, the sawmill near Ubili, and the Finschhafen area, Australian Hudson bombers on similar missions attacked enemy barges and the airfield near Kaukenau and the wharf area at Saumlakki.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 485

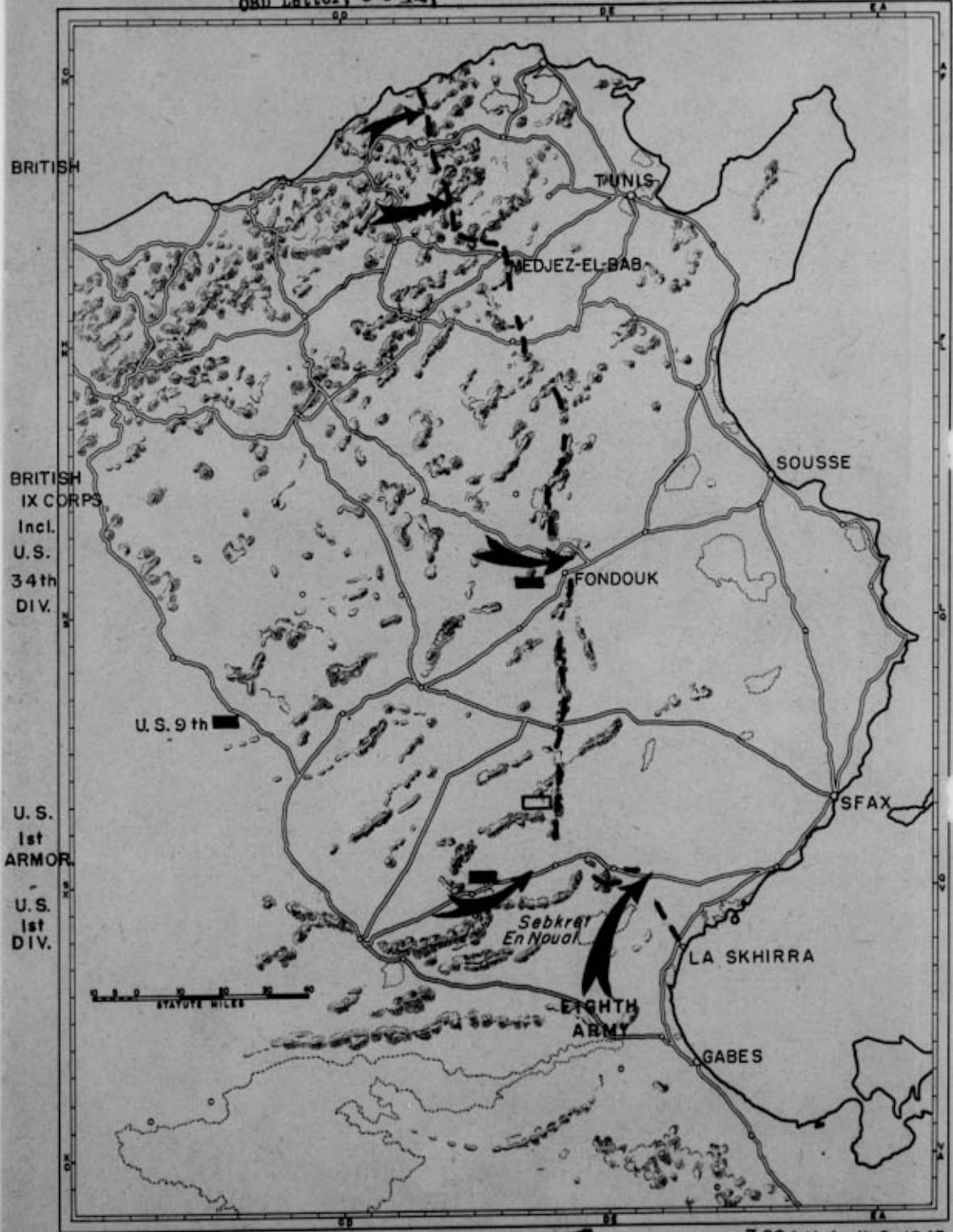
0700 April 8 to 0700 April 9, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

DECLASSIFIED
ORD Letter, 8-8-78

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7:00 A.M. April 9, 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

The British Eighth Army closely followed the Axis withdrawal and by night of April 7 the opposing forces were in contact between La Skhirra and Sebkret en Noual. Large quantities of mechanized equipment and many prisoners were captured. On April 8 pursuit continued, British troops reaching La Skhirra. Our reinforced 1st Infantry Division was clearing the remnants of enemy forces from its front; our 9th Division was moving out of the line to reorganize. Elsewhere along the fronts the Allies were attacking in the Fondouk area, northwest of Medjez-el-Bab where marked progress was made, and along the north coast.

No air transport movements from Italy were reported for April 6. On the night of April 6-7 British bombers attacked railroad yards at Tunis. During April 7 all available aircraft were employed in an attack on the heaviest scale thus far employed against Rommel's retreating forces; a total of 14 (probably 19) enemy planes were destroyed for a loss of seven Allied aircraft listed as missing.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Bissell reports that on April 6 a B-25 flew two missions in support of General Wheeler's ground troops and two other B-25's bombed an enemy-held town in central Burma. Our heavy bombers were also active that day; eleven B-24's destroyed the tracks at the south

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

approach of a bridge at Rangoon and scored hits on rolling stock in the railroad yards nearby.

The next day two flights of nine B-25's each attacked the railroad yards at Ywataung (southwest of Mandalay), scoring a few hits. Four fighter aircraft and a medium bomber again attacked in support of General Wheeler's troops. One enemy reconnaissance airplane was shot down on April 8.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

During the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT, April 7, four B-24's attacked Babo (northwest New Guinea); minor missions were carried out on enemy-held points on New Britain, New Guinea and the islands to the west.

PACIFIC THEATER

Seven P-38's sank an enemy cargo vessel in the New Georgia group, April 6; the same day 16 US dive-bombers attacked Vila. One of our dive-bombers was lost.

On April 7, reconnaissances indicated the presence of 246 enemy fighters and 13 bombers at Ballale, Kahili, and Buka; two B-17's bombed Ballale and Kahili. Sixty-seven US fighter planes destroyed 27 out of 50 enemy bombers and 48 fighter aircraft attacking our shipping off Tulagi; six Navy planes and one Army plane were lost.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

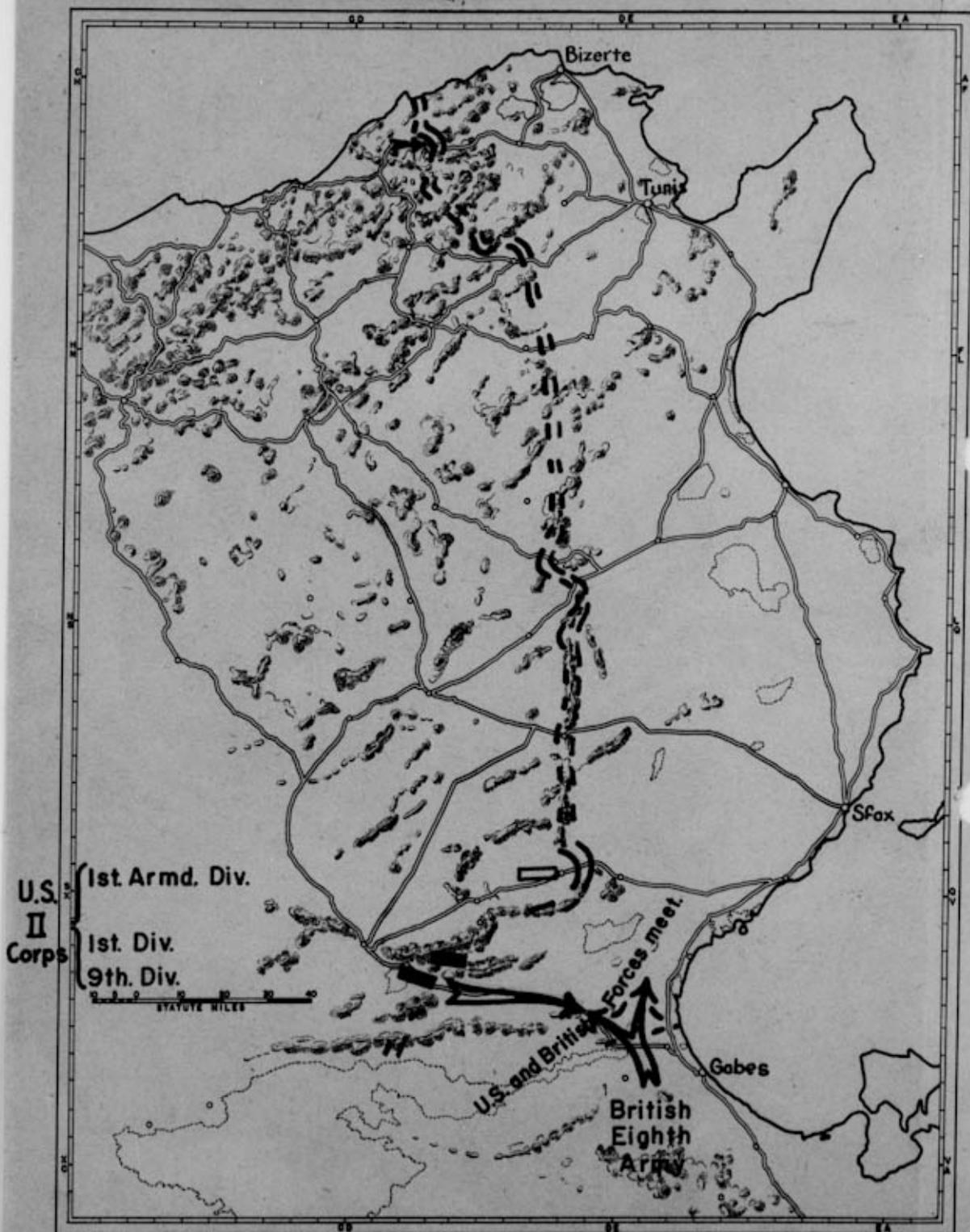
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 484

0700 April 7 to 0700 April 8, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. On April 6, four missions in addition to those reported yesterday, were sent from Amchitka to bomb Kiska. Hits were noted on the air installations.

2. In the 39 attacks during the month of March our fighters and bombers dropped a total of 283 tons of bombs on Kiska.

EUROPEAN THEATER

The final results of our heavy-bomber raid on industrial targets at Antwerp, April 5, indicate that 23 (probably 31) enemy aircraft were destroyed; initial reports stated "more than ten". Four of our flying fortresses failed to return.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. During the night of April 6-7, after a day of fierce fighting, the British Eighth Army forced the enemy to withdraw from his prepared positions northwest of Gabes. The enemy also withdrew northeastwards from the front of the US 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions, which advanced and on the afternoon of April 7 joined hands with patrols of the British Eighth Army about 20 miles from the coast. In northern Tunisia the advance of the British First Army toward Bizerte continued during April 6 and 7.

The Allied air offensive continued against enemy airfields. Enemy concentrations preparing for counterattacks on the British Eighth Army were hit successfully by fighters and fighter-bombers which also attacked the enemy retreating north along the coast.

2. General Spaatz reports that for the week ending April 2 our units with the North African Air Force destroyed 49 (probably 63) enemy airplanes in combat and destroyed or badly damaged 59 on the ground. Our losses from all causes during the period were 23 airplanes; we suffered no losses on the ground due to enemy bombing attacks.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

1. Twenty B-24's of the 9th Air Force, dropping 57 tons of bombs on Messina Harbor on the night of April 6, scored hits on ferry buildings and slips and shot down one of the enemy intercepting fighters. Other missions were performed by the 9th Air Force in support of the Eighth Army.

2. General Brereton reports that during the month of March his heavy bombers, although impeded by the weather, dropped 285 tons of bombs on harbors and dock facilities in southern Italy and Sicily; Naples and Messina harbors particularly suffered. He emphasizes the

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

important damage caused by one single B-24 which dropped three tons of bombs from a height of 50 feet on the Croton Chemical Works. Medium bombers and fighters of the 9th Air Force dropped some 475 tons of bombs in support of the Eighth Army operations. During all these operations 13 (probably 19) enemy aircraft were destroyed for a loss of two B-24's, four B-25's and 18 P-40's.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 483

0700 April 6 to 0700 April 7, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On April 6, six B-24's dropped over 17 tons of explosives on the enemy fighter strip at Attu; ten other heavy bombers, six medium bombers and four fighter planes pounded installations at Kiska with over 12 tons at the same time. Hits were reported in the target areas.

EUROPEAN THEATER

Final results of our heavy bomber raid on the Renault Motor Vehicle and Armament Works in Paris indicate that 47 (probably 60) enemy aircraft were destroyed; four of our bombers failed to return.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On April 5 a full scale offensive opened against the Axis airpower in the North African Theater. One mission by British medium bombers and two by our heavy bombers were performed against enemy air-dromes in Sicily. Near Palermo 50 airplanes on the ground were destroyed, by conservative estimate; near Trapani 30 more were destroyed. 150 transports daily had been arriving in Tunis from Italy, and on April 5 sixteen of them were shot down. Other attacks were made on enemy air-dromes in Tunisia, and Allied medium bombers blew up a destroyer and hit two merchant vessels and other shipping. In addition to the destruction reported above, 22 (probably 27) enemy airplanes were destroyed in combat with a loss of three B-25's and six P-38's.

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OSD Letter, 4-3-72

Enemy air activity consisted of the usual operations against Allied convoys, interception of our attacks on Axis airdromes, and minor activity in the south.

Early on April 6 the XXX Corps of the British Eighth Army launched an attack against the enemy's prepared positions northwest of Gabes. By 0630 resistance appeared to have collapsed; many prisoners have been taken. Later in the morning the X Corps on its left flank also attacked. Enemy tank and machine-gun fire checked an attack south-east of El Cuettar by our 9th Division and attached armored units. The US 34th Division has been withdrawn from the line in the Fondouk area and is reorganizing.

2. Arrangements have been virtually completed to raise the total of replacement battalions in the North African Theater to 23, with four replacement depots to administer them. Each depot has a gross capacity of 5,000 replacements; a total of 20,000 replacements should be on hand in that theater by July 1.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

On the night of 4-5 April, 21 bombers of the 9th Air Force dropped 54 tons of bombs on Palermo with observed effect.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On April 4, nine B-25's scored 30 hits with 300-lb. bombs on the railroad yards at Pyawbwe (south of Mandalay). On April 5, eight

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B-25's bombed the Mandalay railroad yards, hitting the tracks and adjacent warehouses and buildings. Supporting General Wheeler's ground troops engaged in the construction of the Ledo-Shingbwiyang road, twelve P-40's and one B-25 attacked enemy ground forces with unobserved results.

2. Army Day was celebrated in Teheran by the transfer to the Russian Government of the 1200th plane assembled by the Army Air Forces at Abadan.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, April 5, General MacArthur reports an attack lasting 3½ hours by four RAAF flying boats on Buka town and airdrome. Four large fires, considered to be burning airplanes, resulted. Single Allied aircraft bombed other enemy-held points in eastern and western New Guinea and New Britain.

PACIFIC THEATER

On April 5 eight P-40's of the 13th Air Force provided cover for a naval task force. The usual reconnaissance missions were flown.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 482 .

0700 April 5 to 0700 April 6, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. Sixty-five B-17's and 18 B-24's of our 8th Air Force supported by RAF Spitfires attacked industrial targets at Antwerp on April 5. Results were reported as good. Little antiaircraft fire, but many enemy fighter aircraft were encountered, preliminary reports indicating that more than ten enemy planes were destroyed. Four B-17's failed to return.

2. During the week ending April 3, US aircraft based in the United Kingdom destroyed six (probably eleven) enemy fighter planes for a loss of six of our heavy bombers.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On April 4 an enemy counterattack against our 9th Infantry Division achieved a minor local gain east of El Guettar. Remunerative attacks were made by Allied aircraft on enemy airfields and motor transportation, and enemy airplanes heading for the front of our II Corps were successfully intercepted. Ninety-one US B-17's of the 12th Air Force attacked an enemy airfield near Naples, bombed railroad installations nearby and made direct hits on a tanker, one large and two small merchant vessels, and set another ship afire in the port. Our medium bombers set fire to two enemy merchant vessels in a small convoy; a similar anti-shipping mission hit ten small boats and also scored hits in the dock area at Carloforte (southwest Sardinia).

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GAD Letter, 5-3-72

Enemy fighter and bomber aircraft showed renewed activity over the northern and southern fronts, especially strong resistance being offered to our attacks on their airfields; our convoys also were harassed from the air. In the day's operations 12 (probably 13) enemy aircraft were destroyed in aerial combat and 33 on the ground (25 of which were at Naples) for a loss of six Allied airplanes.

The Sicilian Channel was successfully mined during the night of April 4-5.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

On April 4 twenty-five B-24's of the 9th Air Force took off to bomb Naples; incomplete reports state that hits were observed in the dock area.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 4 eight B-25's of the 10th Air Force effectively bombed the railroad and rolling stock at Maymyo (northeast of Mandalay). The same day seven B-24's accurately dropped fifty-four 500-lb. bombs on the Thilawa oil refinery (10 miles southeast of Rangoon) causing very heavy damage; a fire visible for 50 miles was started.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, April 4, General MacArthur reports that a total of twelve US

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OSD Letter, 8-3-78

B-25 medium bombers and six Australian dive-bombers and nine fighters, in three coordinated attacks, bombed and machine-gunned enemy installations at Lae, causing fires and heavy explosions. Six of our own dive-bombers attacked enemy positions near Mubo.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 481

0700 April 4 to 0700 April 5, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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O&B Letter, 6-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

A total of 18 B-24's, six B-25's and forty fighter planes, pounding Kiska in eight attacks April 2 and 3, dropped over 48 tons of explosives on the landing strip and submarine base; many hits on the targets were observed. Four B-24's dropped ten tons of bombs on the landing strip being constructed on Attu.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. On April 4, weather prohibiting attacks over Germany, 85 B-17's of the 8th Air Force attacked the Renault Motor Vehicle and Armament Works in Paris. Operating under good weather conditions our fliers dropped 248 tons of bombs; good results were reported with many large fires observed in the target area. Enemy air opposition was very strong, preliminary reports indicating that more than 25 enemy fighters were destroyed; four of our bombers failed to return. Twenty-five US B-24's and medium bombers of the RAF flew diversion missions and British Spitfires furnished escort and fighter support.

2. During the week ending March 27, US aircraft based in the United Kingdom destroyed 25 (probably 33) enemy fighter planes and three (probably four) bombers, with a loss of three US heavy bombers; most of these were incident to the Wilhelmshaven attack of March 22.

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NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On April 3 the US 1st Infantry Division advanced slowly east of El Guettar; on its right flank the US 9th Division carried out a limited-objective attack with partial success. Two enemy infantry attacks west from Pichon against French units were repulsed. Allied troops occupied Cape Serrat.

Our light bombers successfully attacked an enemy airfield 30 miles south of Tunis, and Allied Spitfires, intercepting increased enemy dive-bomber and fighter-bomber attacks on our airfields and over the El Guettar sector, shot down 19 enemy planes for a loss of three Allied fighters.

2. Replying to a War Department inquiry, General Eisenhower reports that there was a serious drought in Algeria and Morocco during early 1942, but, nevertheless, the natives are hiding undoubtedly substantial stocks of foodstuffs; if these could be dehoarded North Africa would be self-sufficient. General Eisenhower has constantly advocated vigorous dehoarding but has met with inertia.

While it is still too early to estimate new crops, it would appear that less wheat and barley were sown than in previous years; lack of tractor fuel and wet winter weather hampered sowings in Algeria while there has been insufficient rain in Morocco so that total crops may be 17 to 20 per cent below normal. If conditions are favorable, some supplies will be available for use early in June.

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WGE Letter, 5-8-72

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

General Brereton reports that on April 2 eighteen US medium bombers dropped 15 tons of explosives on the headquarters area of the German 90th Light Division north of Gabes causing two large fires.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations report for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, April 3, General MacArthur confirms the communique issued yesterday on the attack on enemy shipping at Kavieng, adding that reconnaissance raids were carried out against Gasmata and Madang, and the Cape Gloucester airdrome. Allied bombers attacked enemy-held territory on the northeastern coast of New Guinea and Japanese installations in Dutch New Guinea and the Kai and Tanimbar Islands.

Today's communique states that, in another successful dawn foray against Japanese shipping at Kavieng, our fliers obtained direct hits on a light cruiser or destroyer, a destroyer and a 6,000-ton cargo vessel. Bombs were also dropped on another destroyer and a submarine tender and an 8,000-ton cargo vessel was possibly hit. During this attack the airdrome was again neutralized. General MacArthur feels that this naval concentration has now been effectively destroyed or dispersed, seven warships, and five merchantmen aggregating 36,000 tons having been sunk or heavily damaged while hits were made on other ships.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD letter, 5-3-72

Our forces consisted of ten heavy bombers in the first attack and eight each in the second and third; these flew 1,100 miles and returned without loss.

PACIFIC THEATER

On April 2, thirteen US fighter aircraft attacked a small well-camouflaged enemy cargo ship in a bay on Vella Lavella, causing considerable damage and leaving it ablaze. P-38's bombed the vessel, first at masthead height with their belly tanks, scoring three hits, then setting the vessel afire with incendiaries.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 480

0700 April 3 to 0700 April 4, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Deliveries of airplanes to Fairbanks for the Russians, between November 1 last (when deliveries were suspended to permit winterization) and April 1, 1943, were as follows:

	25	B-25's
	72	A-20's
	19	P-40's
	172	P-39's
	27	C-47's
	<hr/>	
Total	315	

EUROPEAN THEATER

Enemy aircraft were reported over Iceland on April 2.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

The US 1st Infantry Division was slowly advancing on April 2; enemy tanks, massed southeast of El Guettar, were dispersed by artillery fire. Little activity was reported from other sectors of the front.

Weather severely curtailed operations in the north but our bombers attacked motor transportation and enemy airfields in central Tunisia; five (probably six) enemy aircraft were shot down in combat and more were reported destroyed on the ground. Three British planes and one B-25

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were lost. Bombers of General Brereton's 9th Air Force attacked the ferry installations at Messina, and San Giovanni on the opposite shore of Italy, destroying the terminal buildings and a ferryboat at each point. British bombers also attacked an airfield in Catania.

Enemy air reaction that day was predominantly defensive, with some German fighter activity in southern Tunisia; enemy planes raided Gabes during the late afternoon.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 2 eight B-25's scored thirty-two 300-lb. bomb hits on the tracks and buildings at the Thazi railroad junction (80 miles south of Mandalay).

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1300 GCT, April 2, General MacArthur reports that three of his heavy bombers attacked Gasmata and Cape Gloucester airdromes, while other bombers harassed enemy territory in the Mubo area and other points along the northeast New Guinea coast.

In a late communique, General MacArthur reports that shortly before dawn another powerful low-level attack aided by flares was delivered by his heavy bombers on the warship concentration near Kavieng. Four hits were scored on a light cruiser which sank immediately, and a heavy cruiser,

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likewise receiving four hits, exploded and sank. A large destroyer was hit at least twice and left sinking, while other hits were scored on two more destroyers. Simultaneously with this attack, the airdrome was neutralized, preventing any attempted interception. All of our airplanes returned.

PACIFIC THEATER

Headquarters of the 37th Division (Major General Robert S. Beightler), the 145th Infantry, artillery and other units of that division, totalling 301 officers, 18 warrant officers, and 6,061 enlisted men, left Fiji on April 1 for Guadalcanal. One regimental combat team is still in Fiji, and another has been moved forward to Espiritu Santo.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 479

0700 April 2 to 0700 April 3, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

During the 24-hour period ending 1200 GCT, April 2, US B-24's and B-25's from Adak and P-38's from Amchitka repeatedly hammered the enemy shipping installations at Gertrude Cove as well as gun positions and the main camp, beach and hangar areas on Kiska, dropping over 45 tons of high explosives and incendiaries. Hits were reported on all of the targets and all of our planes returned safely.

An enemy photo-reconnaissance plane was reported over Amchitka on April 1.

EUROPEAN THEATER

Two unidentified aircraft were reported over Iceland on April 1.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

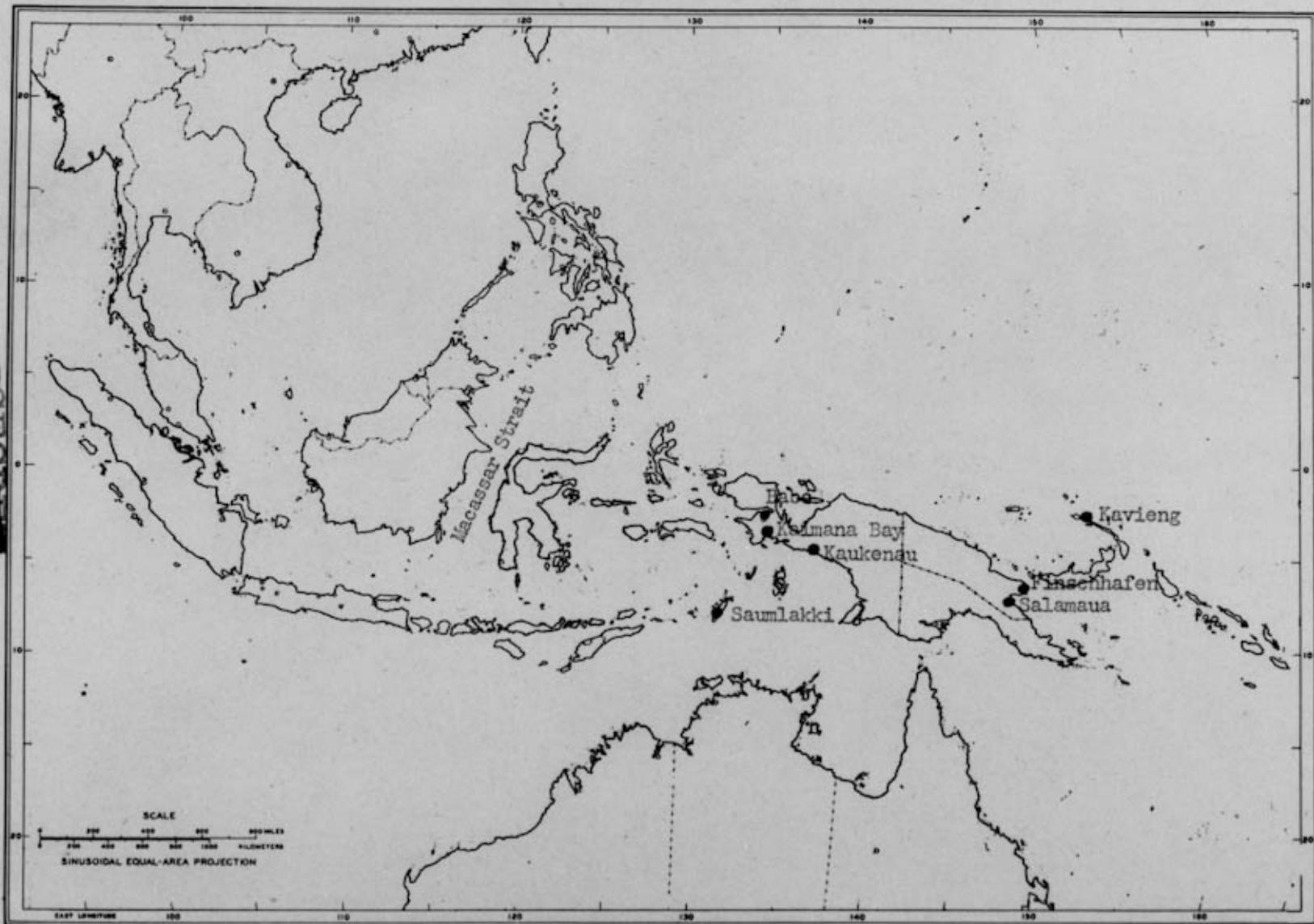
1. On April 1 reconnaissance units of the French XIX Corps again reached the eastern slopes of the Ousseltia Valley and report that the enemy was avoiding close contact. The British continued to make progress in the Cape Serrat-Sedjenane area.

Enemy air activity for that day was concentrated on the Maknassy-El Guettar sectors, where our 1st Armored, 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions are operating. Many offensive sweeps were flown over the roads and against our ground forces in these areas.

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2. General Spaatz reports that during the period March 20-26, inclusive, the 12th Air Force destroyed 59 (probably 82) enemy planes in combat and one (probably five) on the ground; our losses from combat, antiaircraft fire, and unknown causes totalled six bombers and eighteen fighters.

ASIATIC THEATER

Eight US B-25's attacking railroad communications in central Burma on April 1, report increased activity on all lines of communication in that area. Another similar bombing mission secured forty 300-lb. bomb hits on the Maymyo railroad yards (northeast of Mandalay) and maintenance installations.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

General MacArthur reports that a large enemy tanker was sunk by an Allied submarine in the Macassar Strait on March 29. During the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT March 31, Allied bombers and fighters continued their attacks on the water front and building areas at Finschhafen, securing a direct hit on a highway bridge in this region; the fires started by our previous attack burned for eight hours. The Salamaua area was also heavily attacked. Enemy activity continued to manifest itself also westwards from New Guinea. US B-24's heavily bombed Babo, causing fires among fuel dumps and destroying one of two enemy planes encountered; other Allied planes were active against the Kaukenau area.

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In his report for the following day General MacArthur states that three light cruisers, four probable destroyers, one 10,000-ton transport, two 8,000-ton cargo vessels and three 5,000-ton cargo vessels were reported at Kavieng whither a bombing mission was thereupon dispatched; Allied heavy bombers executing a dusk attack scored probable hits on the large ship, and a medium-sized cargo ship was observed sinking after having been straddled by bombs. Darkness prevented accurate assessment of the damage. Allied dive-bombers harassed the enemy on the eastern New Guinea coast and a B-25 attacking enemy shipping at Kaimana Bay shot down one (probably two) enemy fighters. Three Dutch B-25's and three Australian Hudsons bombed Saumlakki with unobserved results.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 478

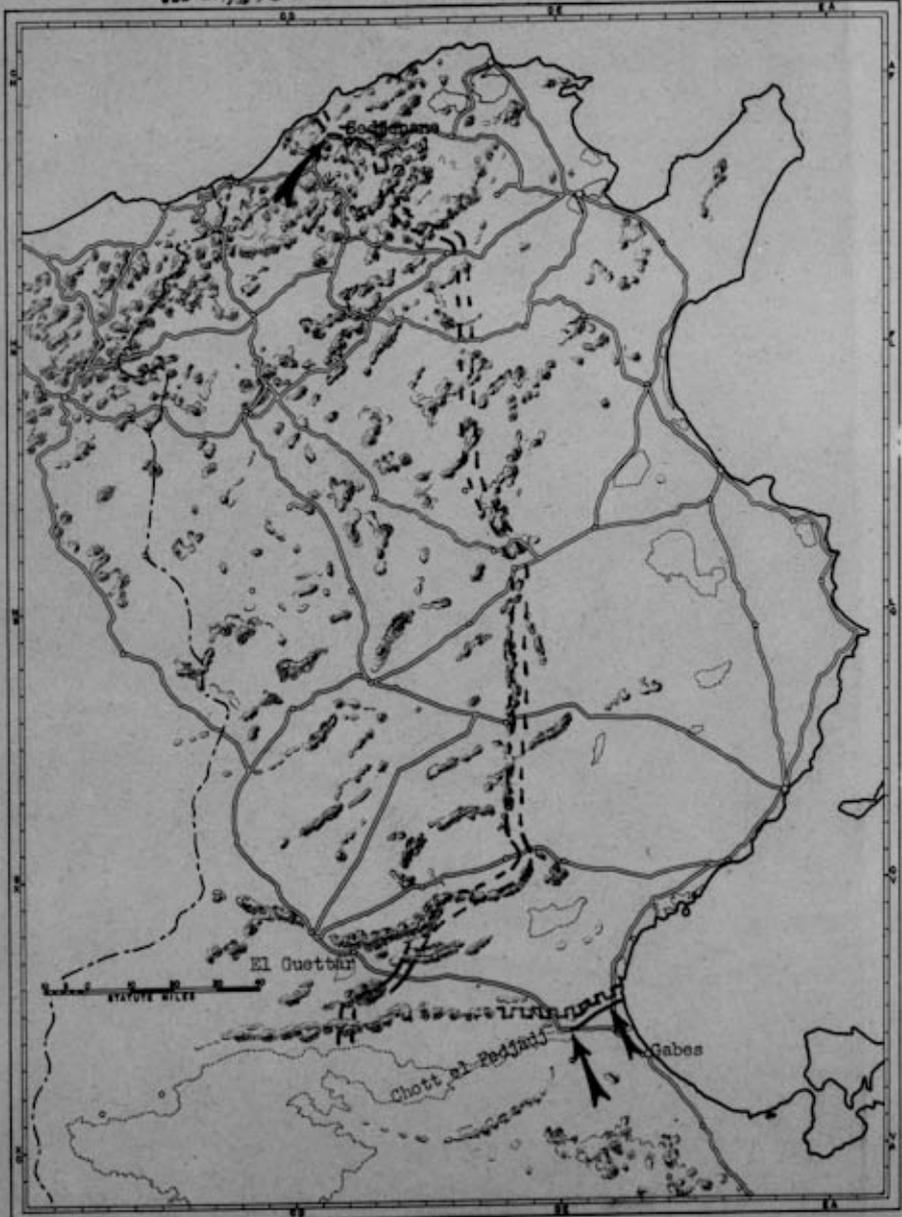
0700 April 1 to 0700 April 2, 1943

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Letter, 5-3-78

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On March 31 the enemy appeared to be extending his defenses to the west of those previously reported between the Gulf of Gabes and the Chott el Fedjadj.

In the bombing of Sardinian airfields and Cagliari harbor reported yesterday, many grounded aircraft were set afire and nine enemy planes destroyed in combat; two large and several small merchant vessels were hit. Twenty-nine B-25's, escorted by P-38's on two shipping sweeps, encountered two enemy convoys heading for Tunisia; one consisted of six merchant vessels, the other of four large merchant vessels, one transport, and four destroyers and another escort vessel. Our bombers sank one large merchantman, scored a hit on another and two on the transport, and left three more ablaze. In the ensuing aerial engagement six enemy planes and two B-25's were shot down; two P-38's are missing.

British aircraft carried out continuous attacks and reconnaissance missions over the entire battle area, being especially successful against enemy motor transportation and armored vehicles. Enemy aircraft during the same period centered their attacks on the British drive in the Sedjenane area. Elsewhere enemy missions were principally defensive against our bomber-fighter sweeps. However several strong

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OSD Letter, 6-8-78

air assaults were made against our ground troops southeast of El Gattar. Heavy enemy air transport movements continued, the landing fields being under heavy attacks by our aircraft. During the day a total of 31 (probably 35) enemy planes were destroyed with a loss of six Allied aircraft.

2. The Army Service Forces asked General Eisenhower to furnish information as to the extent to which local production of foodstuffs in Northwest Africa can meet the needs of his forces and the civilian population during the coming year. Inquiry was also made as to the extent to which production in the area under his control has been stimulated during our occupation and as to the additional acreage of various agricultural products and the increase, in pounds, of meat and dairy products which have resulted.

ASIATIC THEATER

On March 31 twenty-two B-24's of the 10th Air Force attempted to bomb the Pyinmana railroad yards on the Rangoon-Mandalay railroad. Nine were intercepted by seven Japanese fighter planes, and in the ensuing engagement two (probably four) of the enemy planes and one B-24 were destroyed; the fight lasted for thirty-five minutes and our bombers were forced to jettison their explosives outside of the target area. The mission of the other bombers was unsuccessful. Eight B-25's attacking the same yards dropped 72 - 300 lb. bombs all of which landed on the tracks and warehouses.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

PACIFIC THEATER

Forty-one of our Army and Navy fighter planes engaged some thirty to forty Japanese fighters over the Russell Islands on April 1 at from two to four miles altitude. Sixteen enemy fighters were destroyed; we lost six planes (two of our pilots were rescued):

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 477

0700 March 31 to 0700 April 1, 1943

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GENERAL

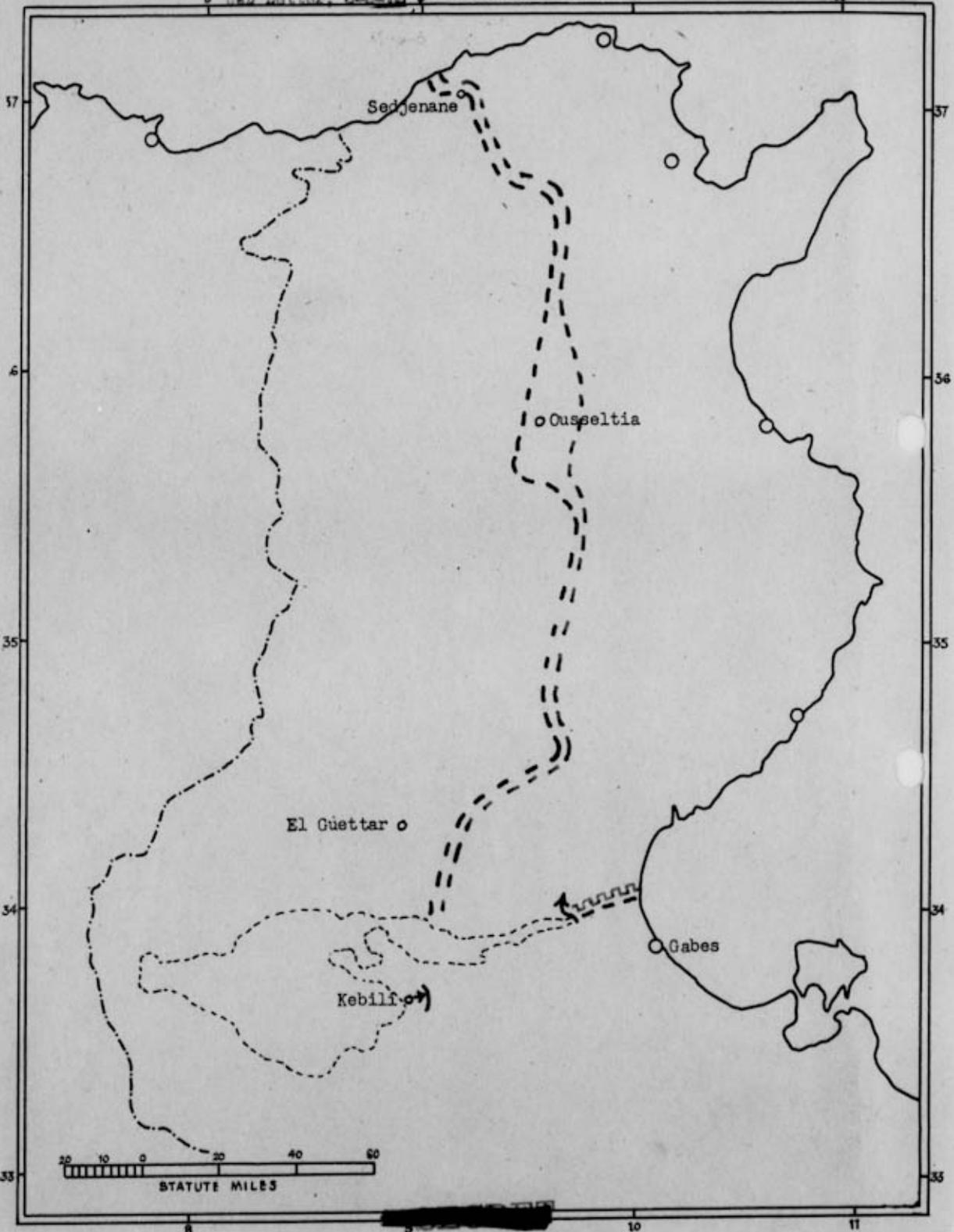
In order to facilitate the exchange of Army and Navy reports, and to aid in assessing the effectiveness of both our own and enemy aircraft types, all overseas Air Force commanders have been requested to furnish a complete description of their present methods of reporting combat losses of enemy aircraft.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. On March 30 five B-24's, five B-25's and four P-38's dropped more than 11 tons of explosives and incendiaries on the main camp and submarine base areas and on the radar installations at Kiska; bursts were observed in the target areas. One of our bombers, hit by antiaircraft fire, was lost. Attu was also bombed, ten tons of explosives being dropped on the runway which the enemy is constructing near Holtz Bay.

2. Directives have been issued activating the 16th Armored Division at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, on July 15 and the 42nd Infantry Division at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, on July 14. The quartermaster and ordnance units of these divisions have already been activated.

3. The War Department notified General Drum and the Commanding General, Newfoundland Base Command, that newly adopted plans for anti-submarine warfare provide for the stationing in Newfoundland of three anti-submarine squadrons which are to be equipped with B-24 airplanes. The two new squadrons involved will arrive during



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the next three months.

EUROPEAN THEATER

Thirty-three US bombers escorted by RAF Spitfires dropped 99 tons of high explosives on enemy shipyards at Rotterdam March 31, weather prohibiting any attacks on Germany. Results were not observed because of cloud conditions over the target. Slight anti-aircraft and fighter resistance was encountered, two enemy fighters being destroyed. One of our bombers has not returned and another was forced to crash land on a beach in England.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On March 31 units of the British Eighth Army penetrated the southwestern end of the enemy position northwest of Gabes; Allied patrols occupied Kebili. The US 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions, reinforced by an armored combat team of two battalions of medium tanks, two battalions of armored artillery and a battalion of motorized infantry, have been slowed by mine fields 12 miles east of El Guettar. French units have retired to their original positions west of the Ousseltia valley. On the north flank a British attack was progressing east and north from Sedjenane, which had been recaptured from the enemy.

Throughout March 30 the Allied air forces repeatedly and successfully attacked enemy ground troops on the El Guettar-Gabes

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

road, enemy airfields, and motor and troop concentrations. P-40's, on an escort mission for dive bombers, destroyed nine (probably 14) enemy airplanes in combat; one P-40 is missing. In the north, German aircraft made many attacks on the advancing Allies while to the south interception and defensive patrols predominated in their air operations.

Ninety-nine heavy bombers of the North African Strategic Air Force raided Sardinia on March 31 with excellent results, all planes returning safely.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

General Brereton reports that bombers of his 9th Air Force scored hits in the railroad yards and on the Crotone Chemical Works on March 30.

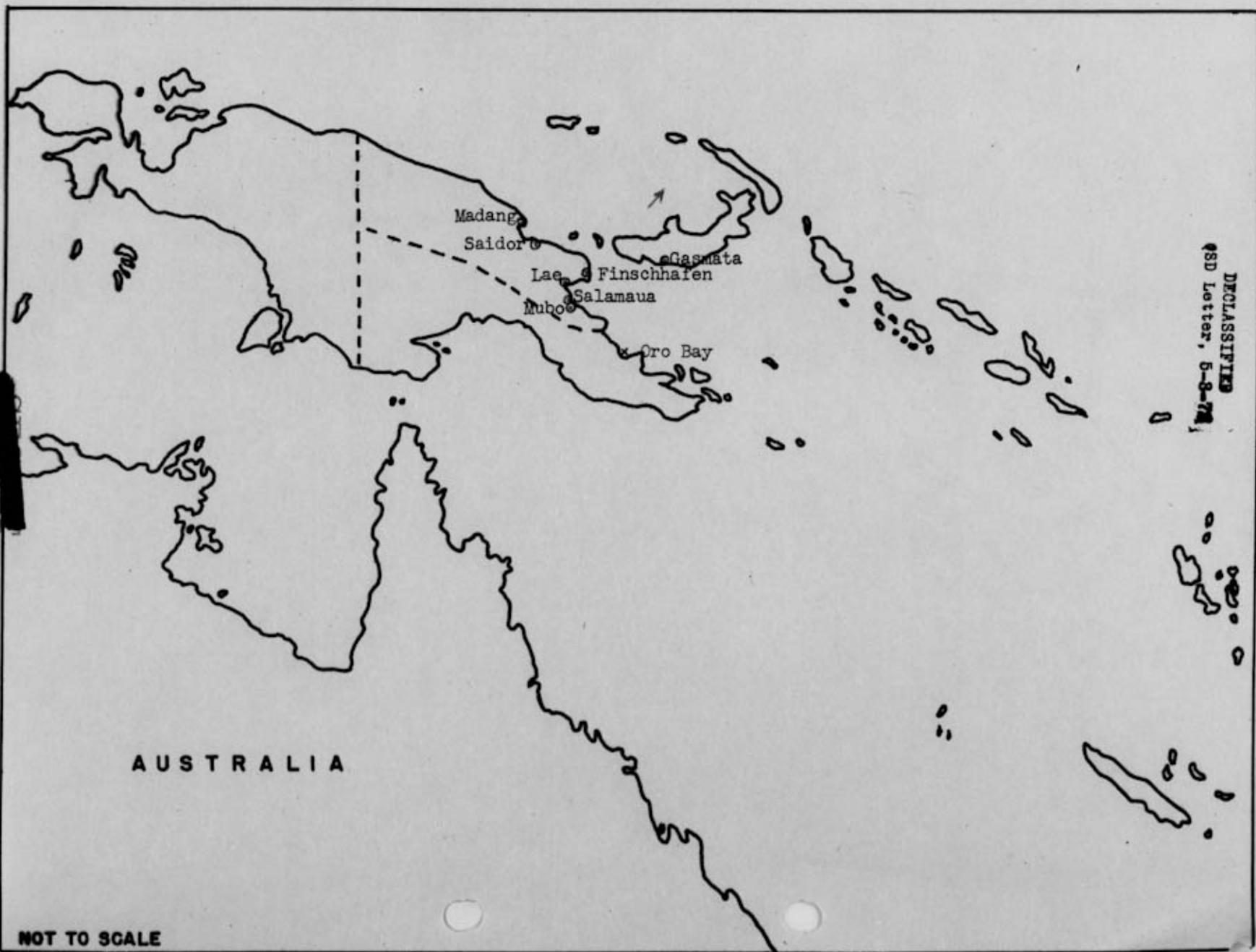
ASIATIC THEATER

Nine B-25's from the 10th Air Force attacked the Maymyo railroad yards (northeast of Mandalay) on March 30, claiming 24 bomb hits in the target area. Fighter aircraft on offensive reconnaissance missions bombed three towns in northern Burma, causing extensive destruction and starting numerous fires.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

1. In his operations report for the period ending 1300 GCT,

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March 30, General MacArthur reports that the four unidentified vessels previously reported southwest of Kavieng were later identified as destroyers attempting to run supplies to Finschhafen. A B-24 shadowing these vessels was attacked by formations of eight, nine and four enemy fighters, respectively, during a three-hour period; two (probably four) of the enemy planes were destroyed. Shortly after midnight three B-17's attacked Finschhafen, scoring a hit on the stern of a large destroyer; the convoy put to sea, heading north. Warehouses were also set afire. Later several other attacks were made on Finschhafen with the object of destroying any supplies which had been landed. Other missions attacked enemy barges northwest of Madang, machine-gunned enemy communications near Saidor, bombed the enemy runways at Gasmata, Lae, and Salamaua and seriously damaged a coastal schooner northwest of New Britain. Three enemy aircraft bombed the Oro Bay area without causing appreciable damage.

Allied ground patrols engaged enemy forces in the Mubo area during March 28 and 29.

2. General MacArthur, acknowledging War Department instructions pertaining to the rehabilitation of rubber resources, states that he contemplates expansion of the present project as the military situation permits. Through secret agents the natives of the Netherlands East Indies rubber districts are to be encouraged to maintain their small estates in condition to produce on short notice. Limited quantities of rubber now being obtained through the Australian New

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Guinea administrative channels will be increased as other Australian possessions are recovered.

PACIFIC THEATER

Aerial photographs taken March 29 indicate that a 175-foot coastal steamer struck one of the mines planted by our aircraft off Buin. On March 30 a B-17 bombed the runway in Kahili; results were not observed. The next day 18 naval airplanes escorted by 10 Army fighters attacked Rekata and returned despite intense antiaircraft reaction. Five destroyers, three cargo ships and other smaller craft were sighted in the Buin-Tonolei area.