

MR 203 (2) Sec. 16 - "War Department Operational Summary"

MR 203 (2) Sec. 16 - "War Department Operational Summary"

May, 1943

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

(May, 1943)

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 537

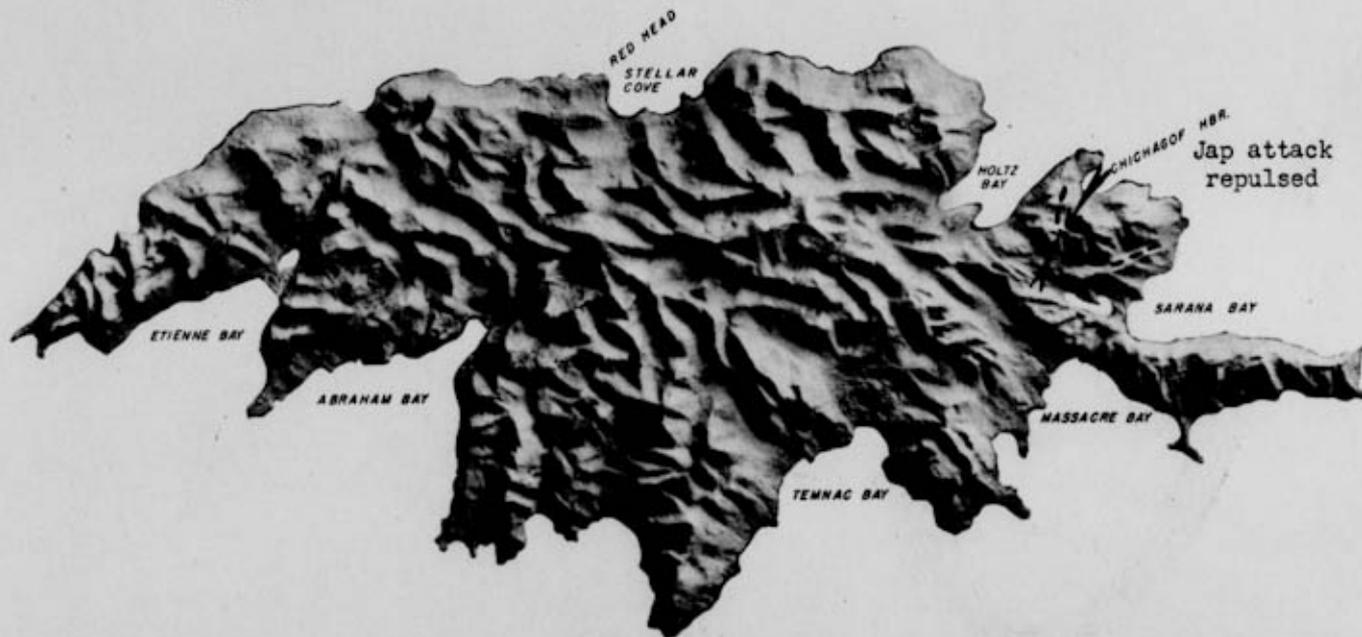
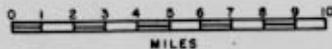
0700 May 30 to 0700 May 31, 1943

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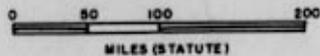
THE WHITE HOUSE

From Official Sources Reporting Activities to 7 P.M. 29 May, 1943 ATTU time.

ATTU ISLAND



ATTU
AGATTU



BASE MAP NO. 2300
7 MAY 1943 (FREE)

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

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On Attu our progress toward Chichagof harbor continued during May 29 with our forces fighting downhill. Weather again prevented air operations. Reports of enemy casualties for the period May 11-25 set the known total of his dead at 550, or more than one-quarter of his estimated original strength; between May 25 and 30, further heavy losses were inflicted on his forces.

EUROPEAN THEATER

On May 29, 139 B-17's dropped some 278 tons of high explosives on submarine installations at St. Nazaire with good results. These airplanes were escorted by seven "flying fortresses" equipped with additional weapons; thus they could accompany the mission continuously and protect it against hostile fighters. Fighter opposition was found to be weak but antiaircraft fire was intense. Fifty-three other B-17's dropped 132 tons of bombs on the Rennes naval warehouse with fair effect. In another mission, 34 B-24's used 114 tons of bombs on the submarine base at La Pallice reporting good results. Preliminary reports indicate that 17 (probably 35) enemy fighters were shot down; our loss was 14 B-17's.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On the night of May 28-29, enemy aircraft raided Bone, causing a few casualties.

The next day our fighters and medium bombers again attacked Pantelleria, scoring hits in the dock area and causing fires and explosions in the town. Our P-38's successfully raided the harbor area at Porto Ponte Romano (Sardinia).

The communique reports that on May 30 a large force of B-17's attacked an aircraft factory and airfield at Naples; large explosions were caused in an oil storage depot. The attacks on Pantelleria were renewed during the day.

2. General Eisenhower has stated his policy, based on his experience in the Tunisian campaign, for affording equitable news coverage in future operations in his theater. In substance he proposes that US newspapers generally be limited to one representative who will remain at Allied Force headquarters; generally, also, only a few selected agency reporters will accompany the assault forces, their copy being pooled for the use of all. Copy from this pool will be sent to the War Department and London for release rather than to individual papers or agencies. British correspondents will be treated in a similar manner giving them equitable representation. These measures are largely motivated by communication difficulties; General Eisenhower

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OED Letter, 5-8-78

feels that the overall story available at headquarters is of greater importance to the Press than individual eye-witness accounts of action in limited areas.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On May 29 nine B-24's of the 14th Air Force bombed Ichang (northwest of Lake Tungting) at the request of the Generalissimo; 18 tons of bombs were dropped with observed effect. Three of our P-40's reconnoitering the Hanoi area killed 75 to 100 Japanese, and reported heavy traffic and strong antiaircraft fire in the vicinity of that port. Nine heavily-escorted enemy bombers dropped 63 bombs on the Chinese airfield at Liangshan (approximately 100 miles northeast of Chungking).

2. On May 29 enemy troops and installations north of Myitkyina and in the Hukawng Valley, northwestern Burma, were bombed and machine-gunned by P-40's of the 10th Air Force.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for May 29, General MacArthur reports that four B-17's bombed the town and dock area at Madang. Other Allied aircraft, singly and in pairs, made destructive attacks on airdromes and settlements at Cape Gloucester, and along the northeast and northwest New Guinea coasts; airdromes, towns, and shipping in

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

the islands to the west were also hit. Two enemy aircraft were shot down.

PACIFIC THEATER

A B-24 machine-gunned a Japanese destroyer and a light cruiser on May 30, south of Bougainville Island; no hits were made by its bombs.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

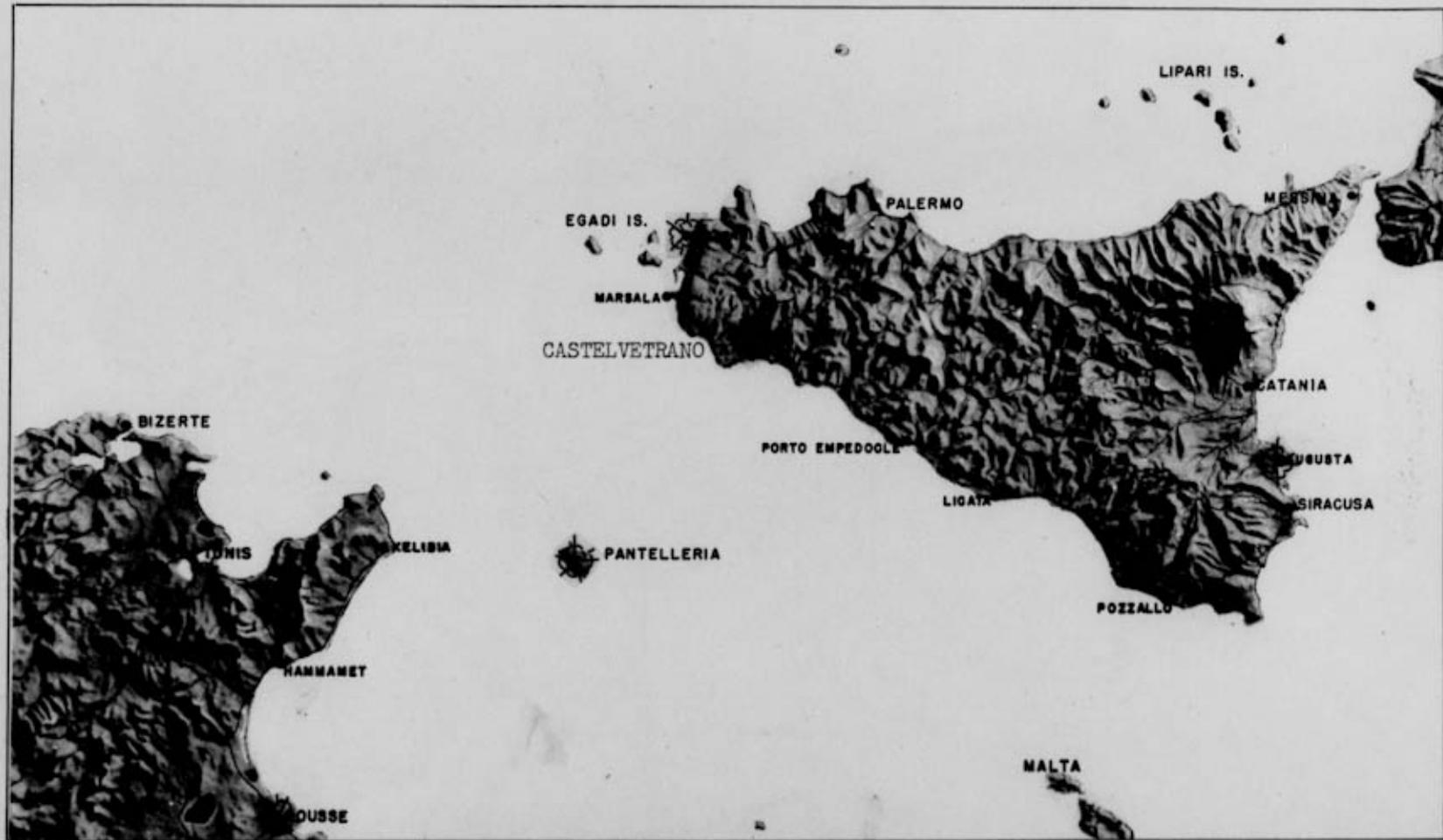
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 536

0700 May 29 to 0700 May 30, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



NORTHEASTERN TUNISIA AND SICILY

BASE MAP NO. 2357 (FREE)
10 MAY 1943

BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OSS
REPRODUCED IN REPRODUCTION SECTION OSS

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. On May 28, slow progress into the Chichagof headland on Attu continued against a tenacious hostile defense; weather restricted air operations. A Tokyo communique of May 30 stated that on the night of May 29 the Japanese garrison at Attu, having decided to carry out a final blow, made a counterattack in which it is believed that all perished. This is borne out by an official report just received from Admiral Kinkaid that an enemy counterattack, passing through our right flank battalion on the floor of Chichagof Valley at dawn on May 29, was met by our reserve and now believed under control ("that is, all were dead except group snipers"). The crevices west of Sarana Pass are now being cleaned up. Initial reports indicate heavy enemy casualties.

Our casualties through May 27 were 168 killed, 763 wounded and 48 missing.

2. An unidentified airplane was reported over the east coast of Greenland on May 25.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

May 28 was a day of increased Allied air activity in the North African Theater.

Thirty-nine bombers of the 9th Air Force dropped 77 tons of explosives and incendiaries on the Foggia airdrome (southern Italy), causing observed effect. Five RAF B-24's, carrying an average bomb-load

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of four tons each, attacked Augusta (Sicily). Leaflets were dropped during both missions.

Ninety-two B-17's of the 12th Air Force bombed the oil refinery, railroad yards, shipbuilding yards, and harbor at Leghorn, dropping 276 tons of high explosives, covering their targets with bursts, and hitting two medium vessels. A total of 76 US medium bombers with escorting fighters made heavy attacks on the Milo, Borizzo (Trapani), and Castelvetro airdromes in Sicily, doing extensive damage to grounded aircraft, airdrome facilities, and one railroad train. Our P-40's, carrying 1,000-pound bombs, continued their attacks on Pantelleria.

In the day's operations, 18 (probably 24) enemy planes were destroyed for an Allied loss of three.

During the previous night, Wellington bombers attacked the Villacidro, Decimomannu, and Elmas airdromes (Sardinia). Seven enemy aircraft raiding Sousse caused a few casualties and minor damage.

ASIATIC THEATER

General Glenn reports that on May 28 two successful missions were flown by a total of 16 P-40's of the 14th Air Force against the Yochow railroad yards and warehouse area (Lake Tungting region). Enemy planes, using delayed action bombs, made a light raid against Enshihhs (200 miles to the east of Chungking); no casualties and only slight damage resulted.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for May 28, General MacArthur reports that ten of our heavy bombers used nineteen tons of bombs in attacks on airdromes in the vicinity of Wewak. Other single Allied aircraft raided enemy-held points in New Britain and along the New Guinea coast.

Eight enemy bombers escorted by six fighters dropped fifty bombs near Millingimbi, 250 miles east of Darwin, causing slight damage. Seven Spitfires intercepted, shooting down three Japanese bombers for a loss of two of their number.

An enemy convoy of four 5,000-ton merchant vessels, a destroyer and a gunboat, was sighted 75 miles northeast of Wewak, heading southeast.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 535

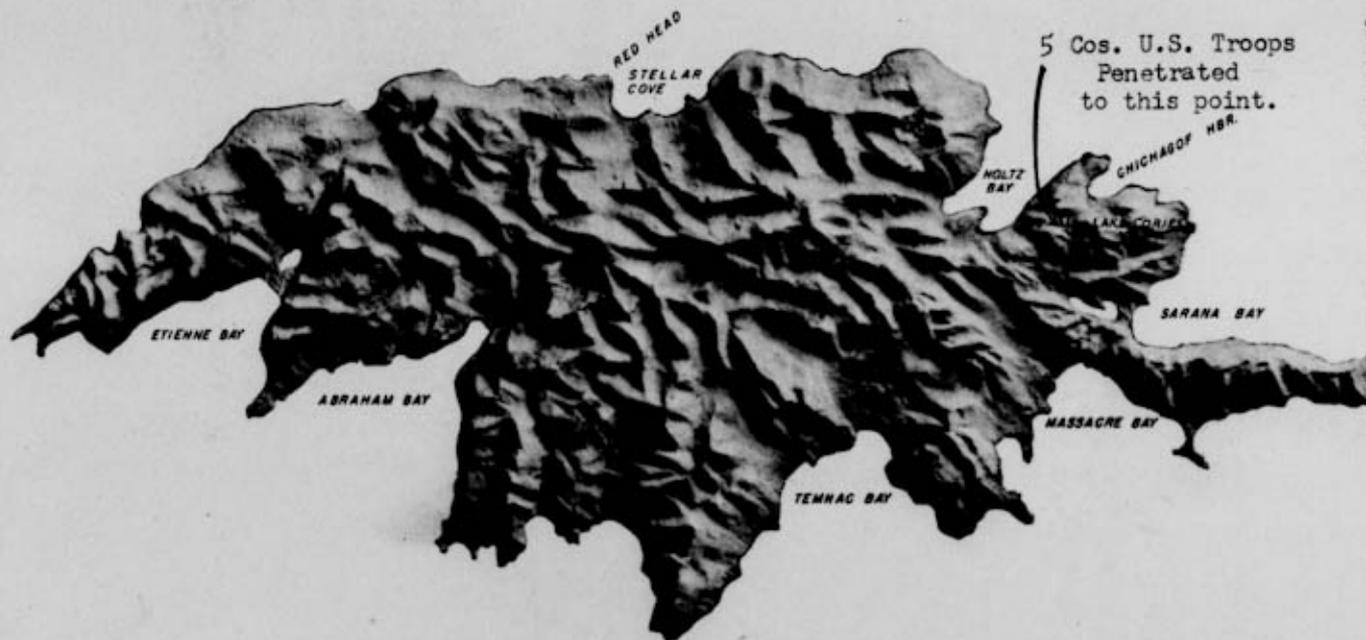
0700 May 28 to 0700 May 29, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

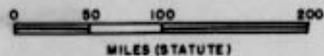
From Official Sources Reporting Activities to 10 P.M. May 27, 1943 ATTU time.

ATTU ISLAND



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

ATTU
AGATTU



BASE MAP NO. 2386
7 MAY 1943 (PRES)

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

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. During May 27 five companies of our troops reached the head of the stream southwest of Chichagof harbor, and are closing in on the Japanese forces between the harbor and Holtz Bay. Repeated air attacks on Kiska continued during the day.

2. Responding to a proposal that Canadian troops participate in Aleutian activities, the War Department has approved the use of a Canadian infantry battalion and an antiaircraft battery as garrison at Amchitka. It is impracticable to use Canadian troops in the current Attu operations. This arrangement is subject to the approval of the Canadian Government.

EUROPEAN THEATER

Several unidentified aircraft were reported over Iceland on May 27.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On May 27 escorted medium bombers of the 12th Air Force attacked Villacidro and Decimomannu airdromes in Sardinia; bursts were observed among dispersed aircraft at both places. Thirteen enemy airplanes of 30 to 40 attempting interception were destroyed, for a loss of one P-40. P-38's and P-40's again attacked Pantelleria.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

2. General Eisenhower has established the Tunisia District with administrative command of all Allied ground forces in Tunisia except those of the services of supply. Its headquarters is at Carthage.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for May 27 General MacArthur reports that on May 26 our medium bombers made a second attack on Madang and neighboring villages. The next day, B-24's and B-25's in a heavy coordinated attack hammered airdromes and other points in the Lae area. Langgoer was again bombed by Australian and Dutch airplanes.

PACIFIC THEATER

On May 28, sixteen US fighter planes again scored hits on targets at Munda.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 534

0700 May 27 to 0700 May 28, 1943

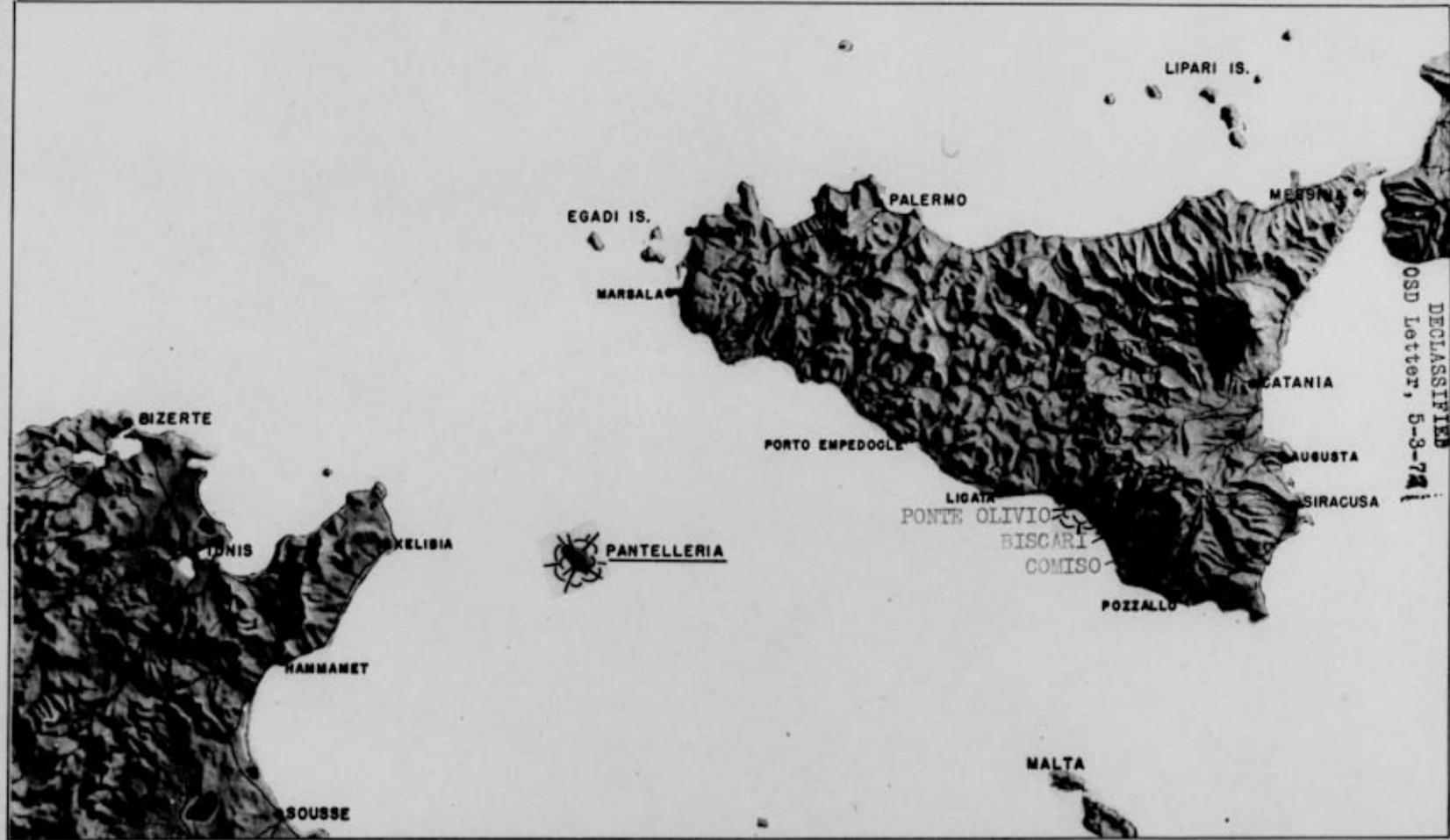
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OSD Letter, 5-3-74

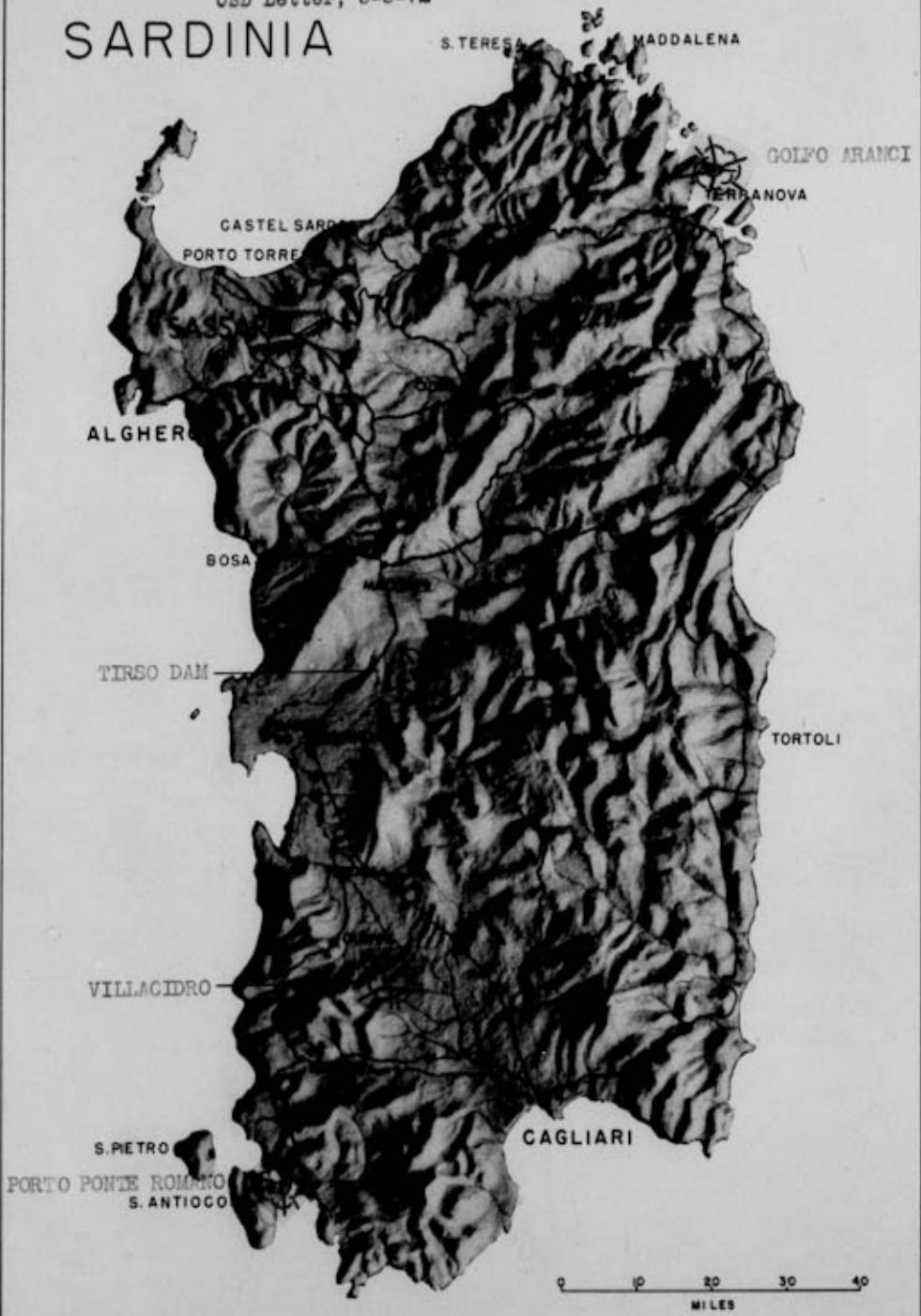
NORTHEASTERN TUNISIA AND SICILY

BASE MAP NO. 2307 (FREE)
10 MAY 1943

BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OSS
REPRODUCED IN REPRODUCTION SECTION OSS

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

SARDINIA



BASE MAP NO. 2368 (FREE)
15 MAY 1943

BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSS
REPRODUCED IN REPRODUCTION SECTION, OSS

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On May 25 our naval gunfire destroyed the remaining buildings in Attu village. During May 26 our forces on Attu continued to edge forward despite fog and snow. Heavy hand-to-hand fighting was reported. The 11th Air Force gave splendid support to the ground troops, dropping 30 tons of bombs in the Chichagof area.

In three missions 11 tons of bombs were dropped on Kiska. Enemy aircraft reconnoitered Amchitka.

EUROPEAN THEATER

An unidentified airplane was plotted over Iceland on May 26.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Maintaining our air attacks on Sicily during May 26, at least 45 B-17's of the 12th Air Force dropped 83 tons of bombs on the Comiso airdrome with good effect; of 40 to 50 enemy airplanes which intercepted the formation, three were shot down without loss to our own force. Two formations of 24 medium bombers each attacked the Ponte Olivio and Biscari airdromes with good results.

Our fighter-bombers also battered Sardinia, covering the harbor area at Porto Ponte Romano with bursts, hitting the dam and power station at Tirso, setting fire to oil tanks and a large transport at Golfo Aranci, and bombing the Villacidro airdrome. Pantelleria was

also heavily bombed by P-40's.

In the day's operations five enemy aircraft were destroyed for a loss of one B-25 and one P-38.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for May 26, General MacArthur reports attacks in the Madang area by four B-24's and eight RAAF Beaufighters, and in the Mubo area by five RAAF Beaufighters. Raids were made by single Allied aircraft on a village in New Britain, and on Langgoer airdrome (Kai Islands).

A raid by enemy airplanes which dropped 16 bombs southeast of Salamsua on May 24 did no damage.

PACIFIC THEATER

On May 25, US aircraft attacked the Rekata Bay area with machine-gun fire and seven tons of bombs; hits obtained on ammunition dumps caused explosions and fires.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 533

0700 May 26 to 0700 May 27, 1943

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COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

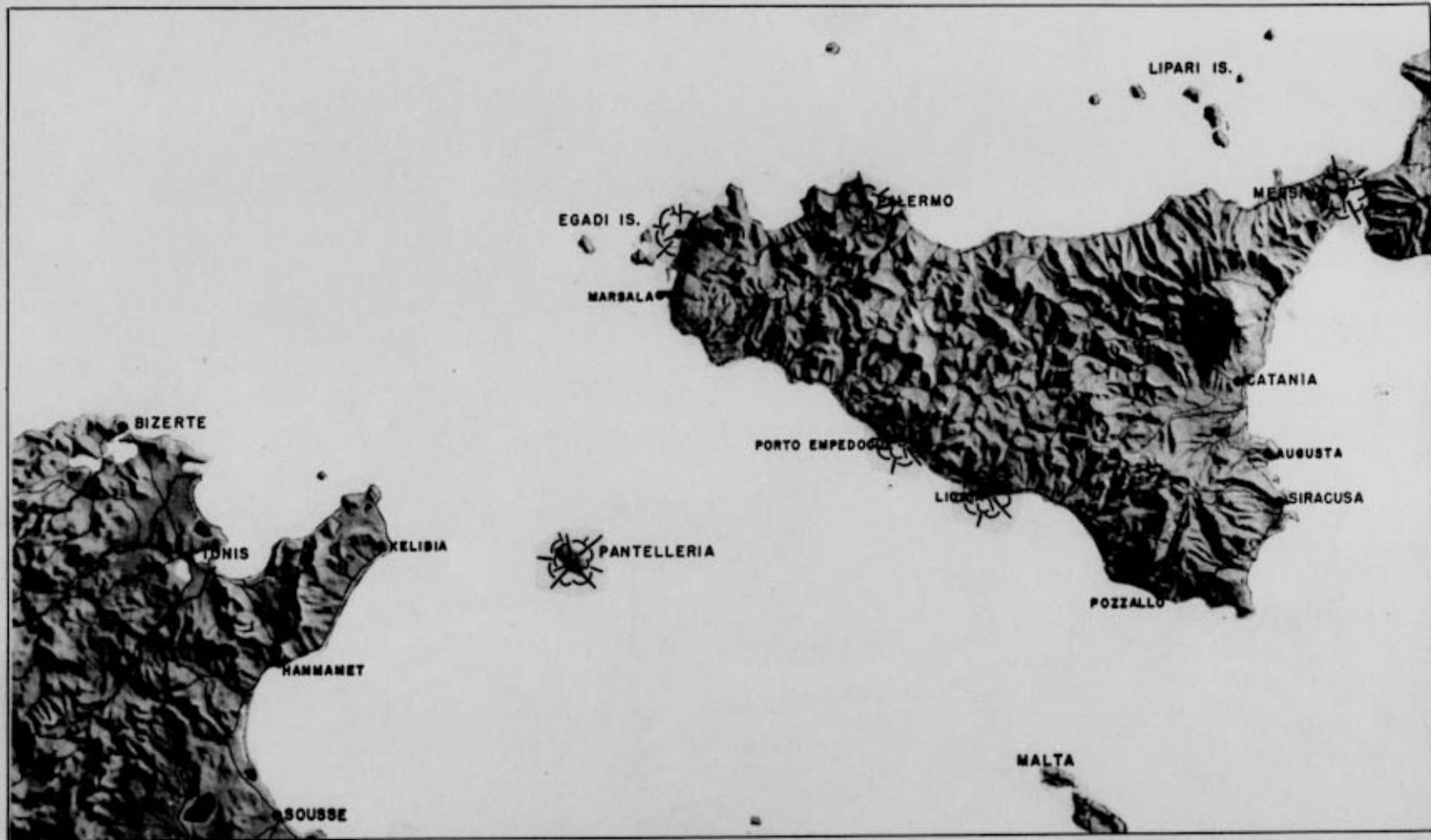
During May 25 the activities of our ground troops on Attu consisted chiefly in patrolling. Our aircraft attacked Attu in five missions, bombing and machine-gunning the enemy's forward positions and installations along the beaches; no antiaircraft fire was encountered. US and Canadian aircraft also bombed Kiska in overcast weather.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. An unidentified airplane sighted over Iceland on May 25 is believed to be the same plane that bombed the Danish ship "Rota" off the coast during the morning.

2. During the week ending May 23, our 8th Air Force destroyed 184 (probably 214) enemy airplanes. During the same period the RAF destroyed 20 (probably 23) enemy planes. In addition, six (probably seven) enemy aircraft were destroyed by antiaircraft fire, and two more were lost from other causes.

3. Final figures for our May 21 attacks on Wilhelmshaven and Emden indicate that 78 (probably 89) enemy airplanes were destroyed for a loss of twelve of our heavy bombers.

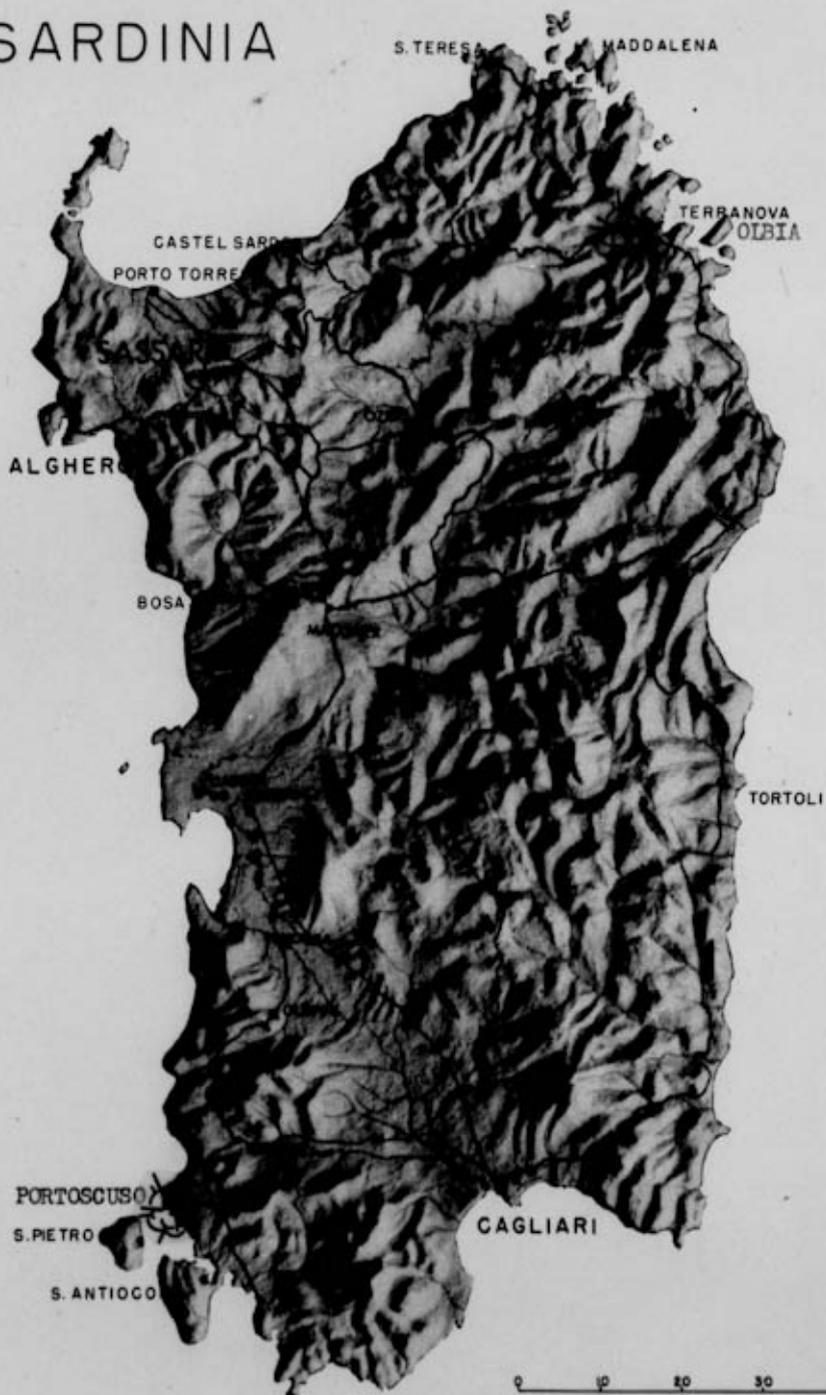


NORTHEASTERN TUNISIA AND SICILY

BASE MAP NO. 2357 (FREE)
10 MAY 1943

BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OSS
REPRODUCED IN REPRODUCTION SECTION OSS

SARDINIA



BASE MAP NO. 2388 (FREE)
15 MAY 1943

BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSS
REPRODUCED IN REPRODUCTION SECTION, OSS

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On May 25 cities, harbors, and airdromes in the Italian islands were again the principal objective of our air operations. On the night of May 24-25, British aircraft attacked Olbia (Sardinia), destroying one ship and setting fire to two others. During the following day our own air force attacked Portoscuso, where a motor vessel, jetty and power station were hit by P-38's, and Terranova.

The same day 89 B-17's of the 12th Air Force, dropping 261 tons of bombs in four missions, again hammered the ferry terminal, railroad yards, power stations and warehouses at Messina while 44 B-24's of General Brereton's 9th Air Force in two attacks dropped 135 tons of bombs on the same targets and also left some leaflets. Another 100 tons of bombs were dropped in successful attacks on the mouth of a tunnel near Palermo, on the factory and harbor areas at Licata, on Porto Empedocle where 34 escorted B-26's blasted the harbor, refineries, railroads, and power house, and on the Boccadifalco and Milo airdromes near Palermo and Trapani, respectively. Pantelleria was again attacked by six B-25's and more than 50 P-40's which scored hits on airfields and barracks. In these operations 27 (probably 36) enemy airplanes were destroyed for a loss of 11 of our own aircraft, including one B-17 destroyed over Messina by bombs dropped from enemy aircraft.

Bone and Djidjelli were again raided by enemy aircraft which caused some damage and several casualties.

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2. General Spaatz reports that the total of abandoned enemy aircraft taken in Tunisia is now 558.

ASIATIC THEATER

On May 25 fighters of the 10th Air Force bombed and machine-gunned enemy-held villages in the Myitkyina area. One medium bomber attacked the railroad yards at Monywa (central Burma), scoring hits on its target.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for May 25, General MacArthur reports that single Allied aircraft bombed and machine-gunned targets in the Gasmata, Cape Gloucester, Madang and Finschhafen areas. Six enemy airplanes attacked an emergency landing ground 24 miles southwest of Madang.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 532

0700 May 25 to 0700 May 26, 1943

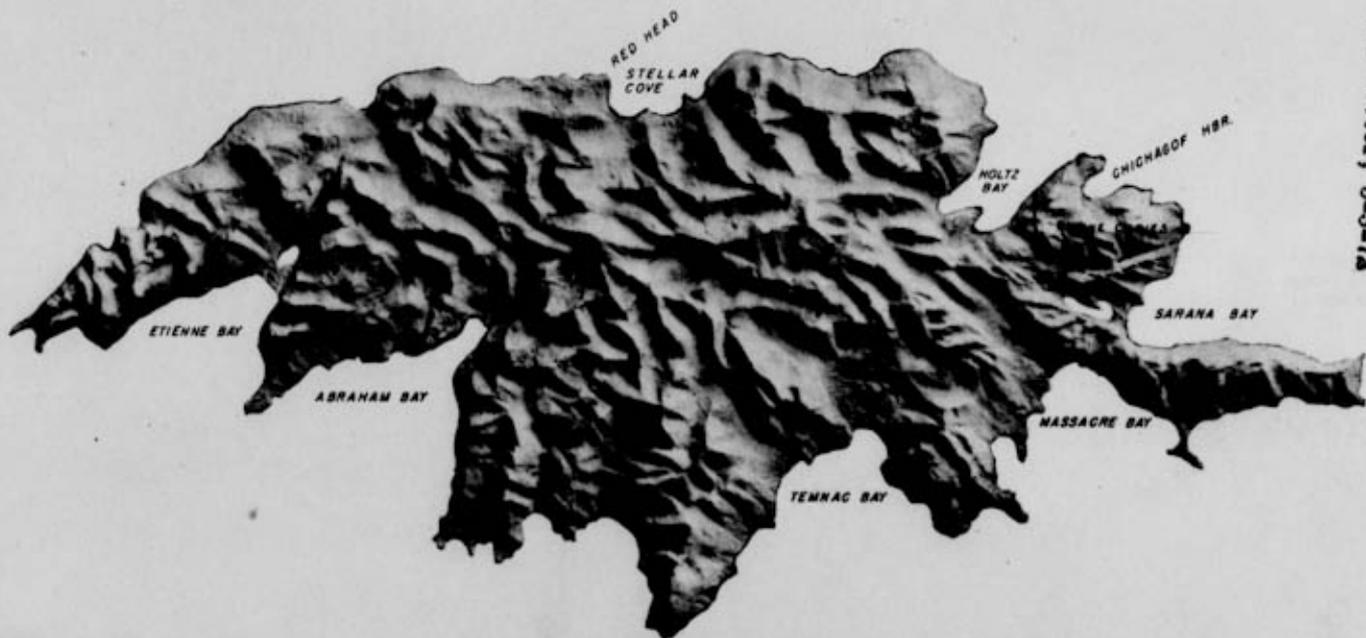
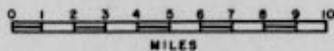
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THE WHITE HOUSE

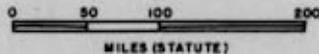
From official sources reporting activities to 7 P. M., May 24, Attu time

ATTU ISLAND



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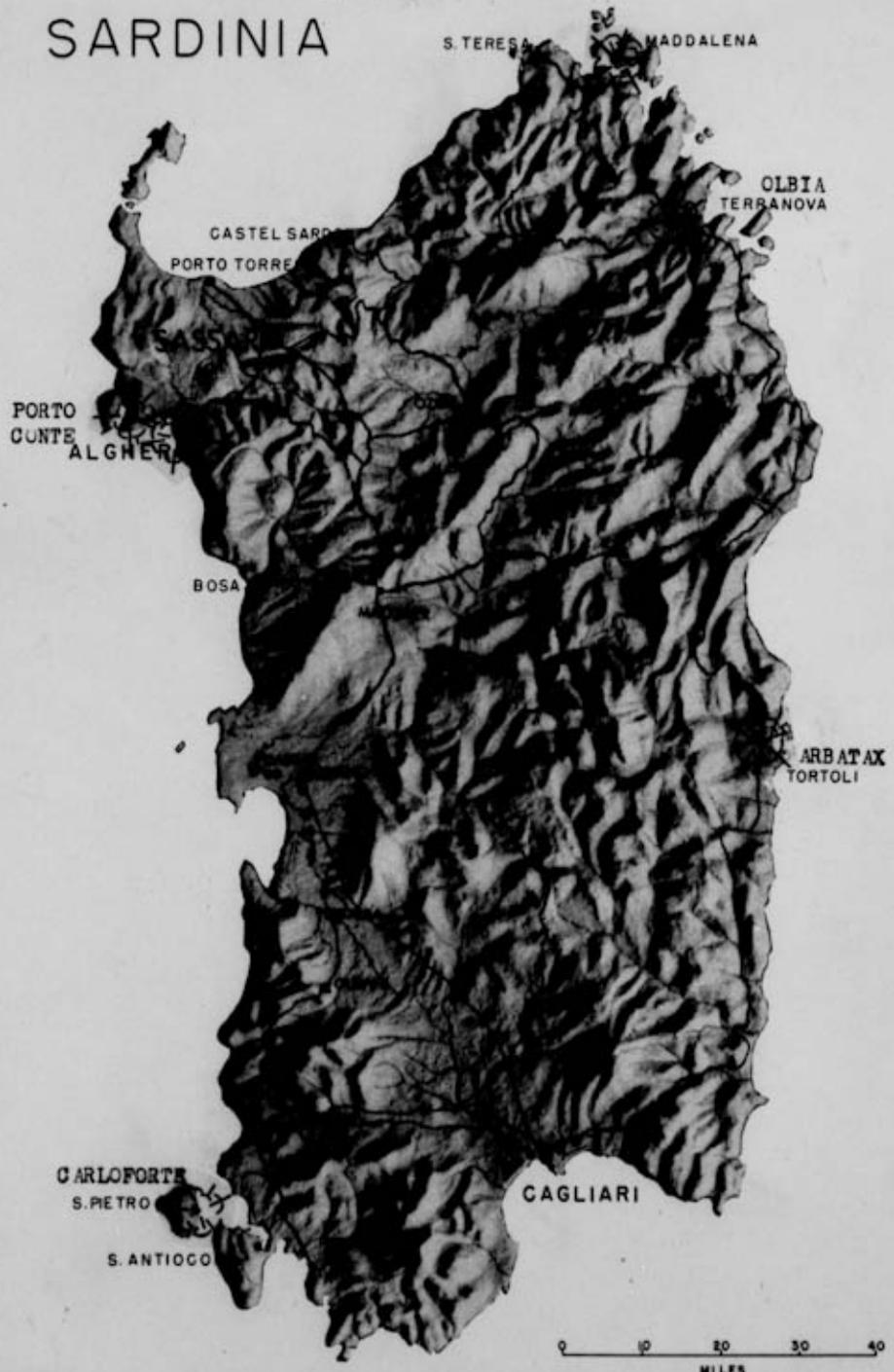


BASE MAP NO. 2355
7 MAY 1943 (FREE)

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

DECLASSIFIED
USD Letter, 5-3-72

SARDINIA



BASE MAP NO. 2368 (FREE)
15 MAY 1943

BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSS
REPRODUCED IN REPRODUCTION SECTION, OSS

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On May 24, our northern force on Attu seized additional vantage points on the hills to the southwest of Chichagof harbor; the southern force pressed northward almost to the shore of Lake Cories; adverse weather continued. During the afternoon, three bombing missions escorted by P-38's attacked enemy positions on the Chichagof peninsula with observed effect. Hostile air and antiaircraft reaction was negligible.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On May 24, heavy and extensive air attacks over Sardinia were repeated. Fifty Flying Fortresses dropped 150 tons of heavy bombs on La Maddalena harbor and naval base, setting fire to the latter. Fifty other B-17's, attacking Terranova, dropped 156 tons on the docks, warehouses, and an ammunition dump which exploded; several motor vessels were hit. Successful raids by formations of our fighter-bombers were directed against the airfield at Olbia, a bridge at Arbatax which was hit, Carloforte harbor where a ship was set afire, the Iglesias zinc works, the seaplane base at Porto Conte, and the Alghero factory and airdrome areas.

Pantelleria was battered by 22 Wellington bombers, which dropped 40 tons of high explosives and incendiaries including three two-ton bombs, and by a flight of eleven of our P-38's.

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Aircraft of the 9th Air Force dropped 53 tons of bombs on Reggio di Calabria where a tanker and two motor vessels were set afire. Over 69 tons were also dropped on San Giovanni where hits were made on the ferry slip and railroad tracks.

During the day's operations, 14 (probably 16) enemy aircraft were destroyed for a loss of four P-38's.

ASIATIC THEATER

On May 24, medium bombers and fighters of the 10th Air Force started numerous fires and machine-gunned a radio station in the Myitkyina area, and destroyed some factory buildings at Monywa (central Burma).

PACIFIC THEATER

On the night of May 23, Guadalcanal was attacked by three Japanese airplanes and Espiritu Santo by one; no damage resulted.

On May 25, our heavy bombers dropped 250 three-hundred pound bombs on Kahili and along the Buin coastal area in diversionary attacks while other aircraft were successfully carrying out mining operations.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 531

0700 May 24 to 0700 May 25, 1943

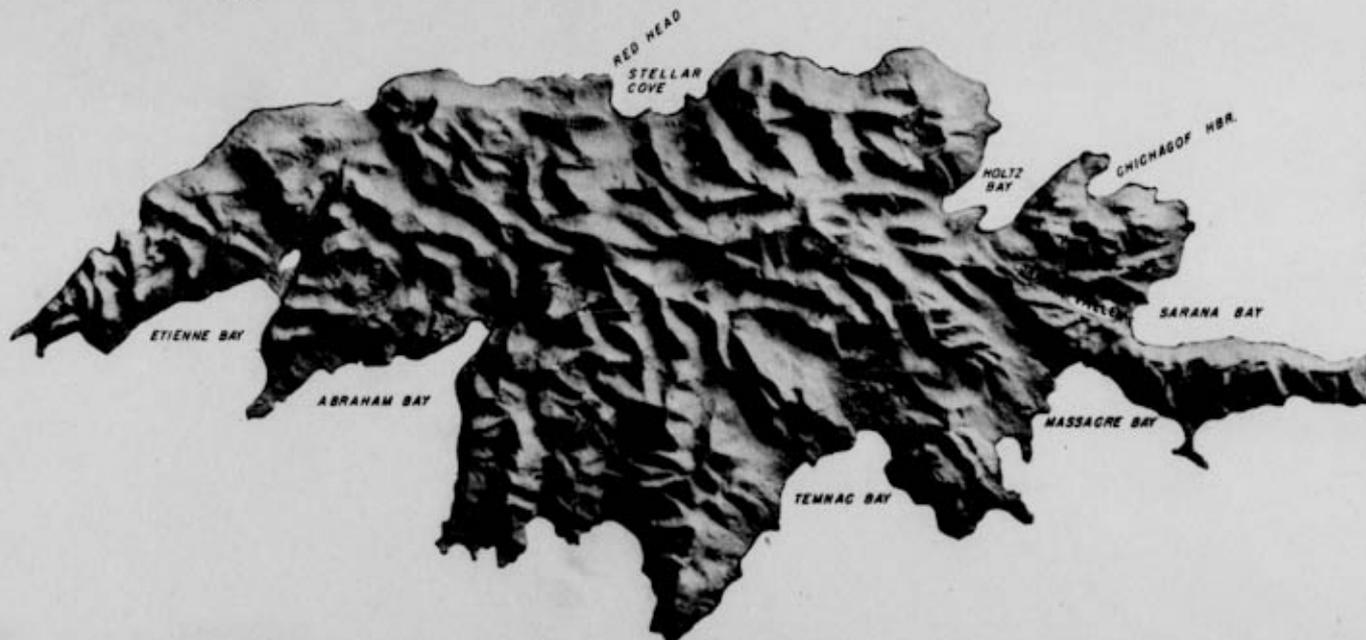
COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

From Official Sources Reporting Activities to 2 P.M. May 23, 1943 ATTU time.

ATTU ISLAND

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GSD Letter, 5-8-72

ATTU
AGATTU

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MILES (STATUTE)



BASE MAP NO-2355
7 MAY 1943 (FREE)

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

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. During May 23, our troops on Attu continued to compress the enemy in the Chichagof area against strong resistance. The Japanese have been cleared from the Sarana Valley and the slope to the north-east.

A low overcast with snow and rain hampered air operations. In the only attack mission reported, one of our airplanes dropped eight 300-lb. bombs on the main camp area at Kiska without observed results.

2. The Army Ground Forces issued directives for the movement of the 79th Infantry Division (Major General Ira T. Wyche) from the Tennessee maneuver area to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, and for the 81st Infantry Division (Major General Paul J. Mueller) from the same area to Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

The 45th Infantry Division (Major General Troy H. Middleton) began its movement on May 23 from Camp Pickett, Virginia, to the Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation for further movement overseas.

EUROPEAN THEATER

An unidentified airplane was sighted over Iceland, on May 23.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On the night of May 22-23 Allied fighters shot down two

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OSD Letter, 8-3-78

enemy airplanes over Djidjelli and two others northeast of Philippeville.

The next day 73 US medium bombers, escorted by P-40's, some of which also carried bombs, pounded the docks, airdrome and town at Pantelleria, scoring a hit on a motor vessel. Thirty-seven P-38's bombed the zinc works at Iglesias and the docks and harbor at Carloforte (Sardinia), where three small boats were sunk. Three US aircraft are missing as a result of the day's operations.

2. General Spaatz reports that for the week ending May 21, our air units of the North African Air Force destroyed 70 (probably 82) enemy aircraft in combat, for a total loss of 19 US airplanes. Corresponding RAF figures are nine (probably 10) enemy airplanes for a loss of six of their own. In addition, over 30 enemy airplanes were destroyed on the ground.

ASIATIC THEATER

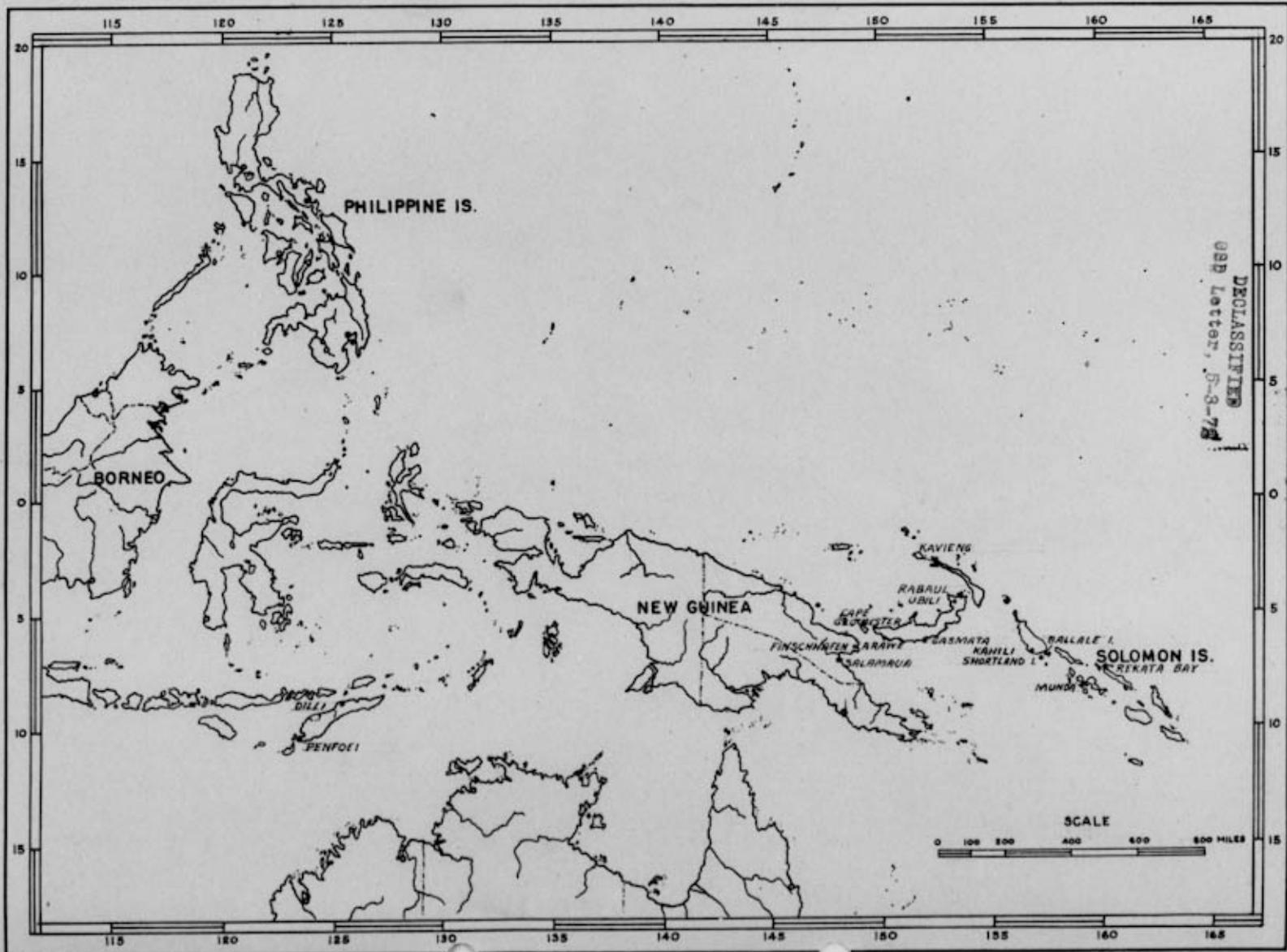
Two B-24's of the 10th Air Force sowed mines in the Rangoon River estuary during the night of May 22-23, while other bombers carried out diversionary attacks which included bombing of the railroad yards at Prome; other attacks were made on Akyab.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for May 23, General MacArthur reports

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OSP Letter, 5-3-78

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that nine light bombers attacked enemy installations in the Salamaua area. Five US heavy bombers attacked Kavieng; five others bombed Gasmata airdrome, shooting down two intercepting enemy airplanes. Attacks were also made by single Allied aircraft on Ubili, Arawe, Cape Gloucester, and Finschhafen. Four Dutch B-25's raided Dilli and the Penfoei airdrome.

The communique reports that on May 24 our heavy bombers dropped over 16 tons of explosives and incendiaries on Japanese airfields in the Rabaul area; the attacks on Gasmata and Penfoei were repeated successfully.

PACIFIC THEATER

1. On May 24 fifteen of our heavy bombers dropped twenty 2,000-lb. bombs and thirty 1,000-lb. bombs on the airfields at Kahili, Ballale, Munda, Rekata and the Shortland Islands; bursts were observed on all targets.

2. The War Department has directed General Emmons to report to Washington for temporary duty prior to reassignment. He is being succeeded in command of the Hawaiian Department by Major General Robert C. Richardson, Jr.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

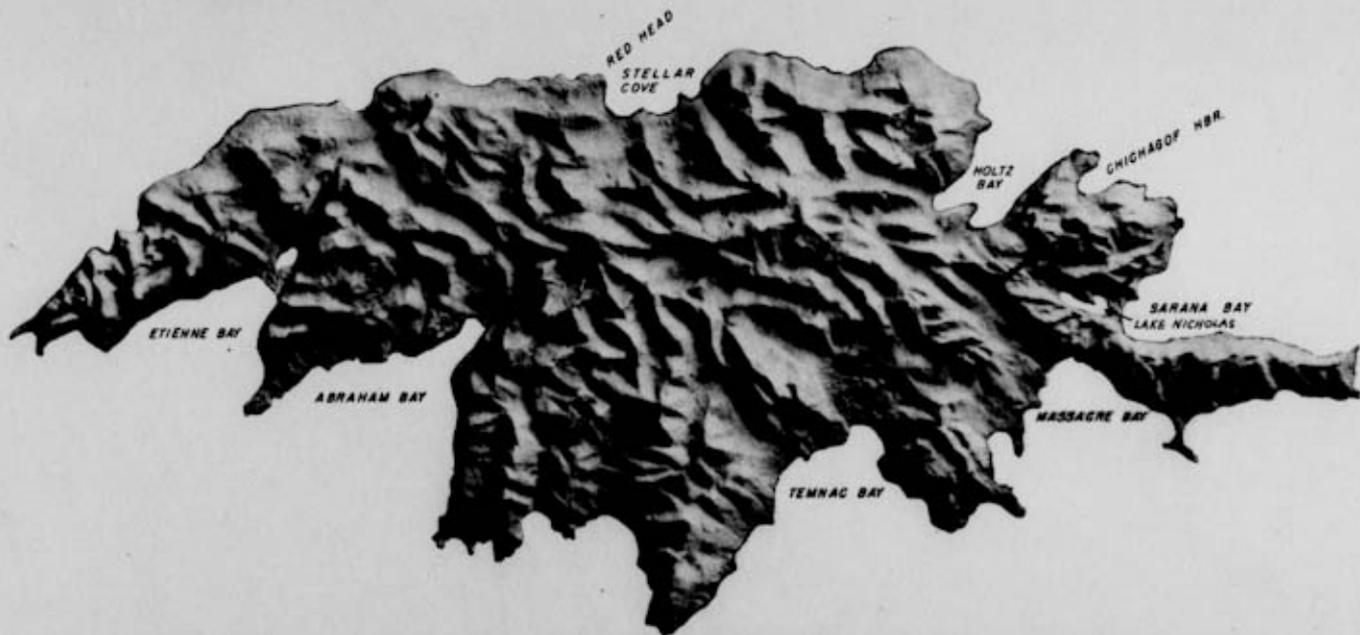
No. 530

0700 May 23 to 0700 May 24, 1943

COPY FOR

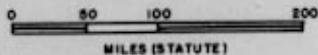
THE WHITE HOUSE

ATTU ISLAND



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

ATTU
AGATTU



KISKA
AMGHITKA
SEMISPOCHNDI
TANAGA
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UMNAK
UMALASKA

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

By the morning of May 23 our forces on Attu had secured a foothold on the northern shoulder of the pass between Sarana Bay and Chichagof, patrols were advancing down the valley floor leading to Chichagof Harbor, and elements of the southern force were at the base of the hills east of Lake Nicholas. Our casualties up to May 22 include 110 killed, 376 wounded, 78 missing and 450 sick, chiefly from frostbite; the local Intelligence estimates that the enemy strength has been reduced by 50%.

In the May 22 air attack against our naval vessels, reported yesterday, 12 to 15 land-type, twin-engined, enemy planes participated; one was destroyed by anti-aircraft fire. Sixteen twin-engined enemy bombers, returning to attack our ground troops on May 23, were intercepted by six P-38's which shot down at least five of the Japanese planes. We lost two P-38's.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. The Northwest African Strategic Air Force again attacked the Sicilian airdromes of Castelvetrano, Sciacca, Milo and Borizzo the night of May 21-22 and repeated their attack on Borizzo during the following day; the targets were well covered and many fires resulted.

During this period, eight (probably 17) enemy aircraft, including two six-engined transports, were destroyed for a loss of three P-38's and one Wellington bomber.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

Ch. 4

2. Commenting on the prisoners captured at the end of the Tunisian campaign, General Eisenhower noted their shortage of ammunition; lack of mines was indicated by the existence of fewer minefields than was expected. Most motor vehicles were found in running order but gasoline supply was very short. The physique, health, and morale of the prisoners, both German and Italian, were excellent; discipline was good. The troops had been living largely on the country and requisitioning their food. In their cages the prisoners appear to be happy that the campaign is over.

ASIATIC THEATER

Twenty medium bombers of the 10th Air Force in three waves attacked railroad facilities at Kanbalu (central Burma) on May 22, destroying engine sheds, warehouses, rolling stock and trackage. Other bombers searching the Rangoon River estuary attacked two small steamers east of the Andaman Islands, destroying one of them.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

General MacArthur reports for May 22 that six B-24's, bombing the town and harbor of Kaimana (southwest coast of New Guinea), destroyed a 500-ton ship, and, on their return trip, sank two launches by machine-gun fire in the Kai Island area. Single Allied heavy bombers made three attacks on Gasmata, one on Finschhafen and one on Cape Gloucester.

Exmouth Gulf, in western Australia, was subjected to a light bombing attack the night of May 21.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 529

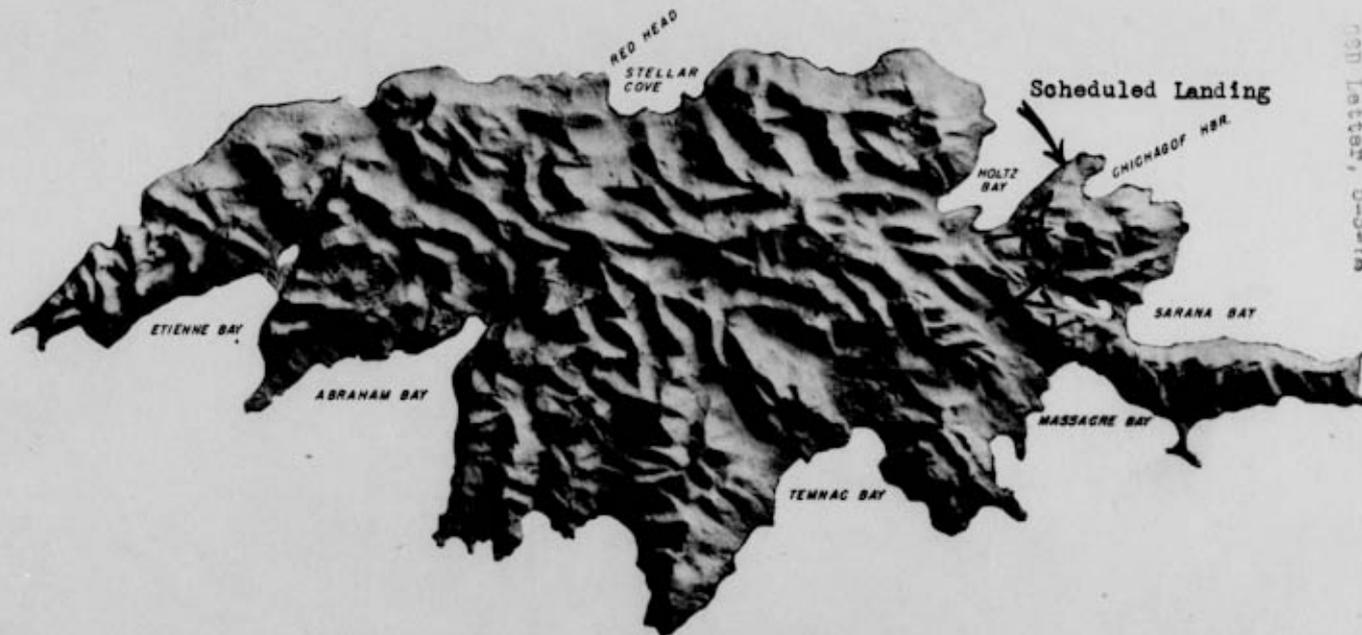
0700 May 22 to 0700 May 23, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

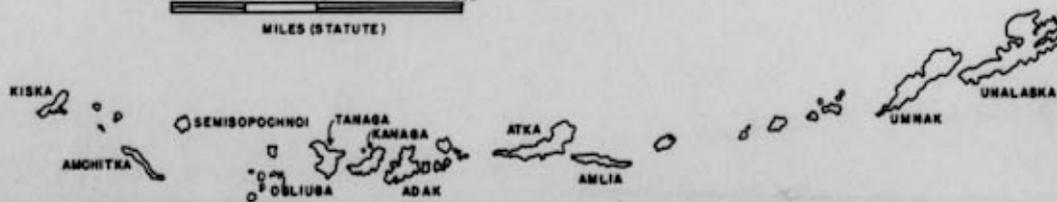
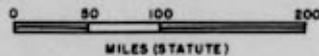
From Official Sources Reporting Activities to 7:30 A. M., May 22, Attu time

ATTU ISLAND



DECLASSIFIED
GPO Letter, 5-3-78

ATTU
AGATTU



BASE MAP NO. 2355
7 MAY 1943 (FREE)

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

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

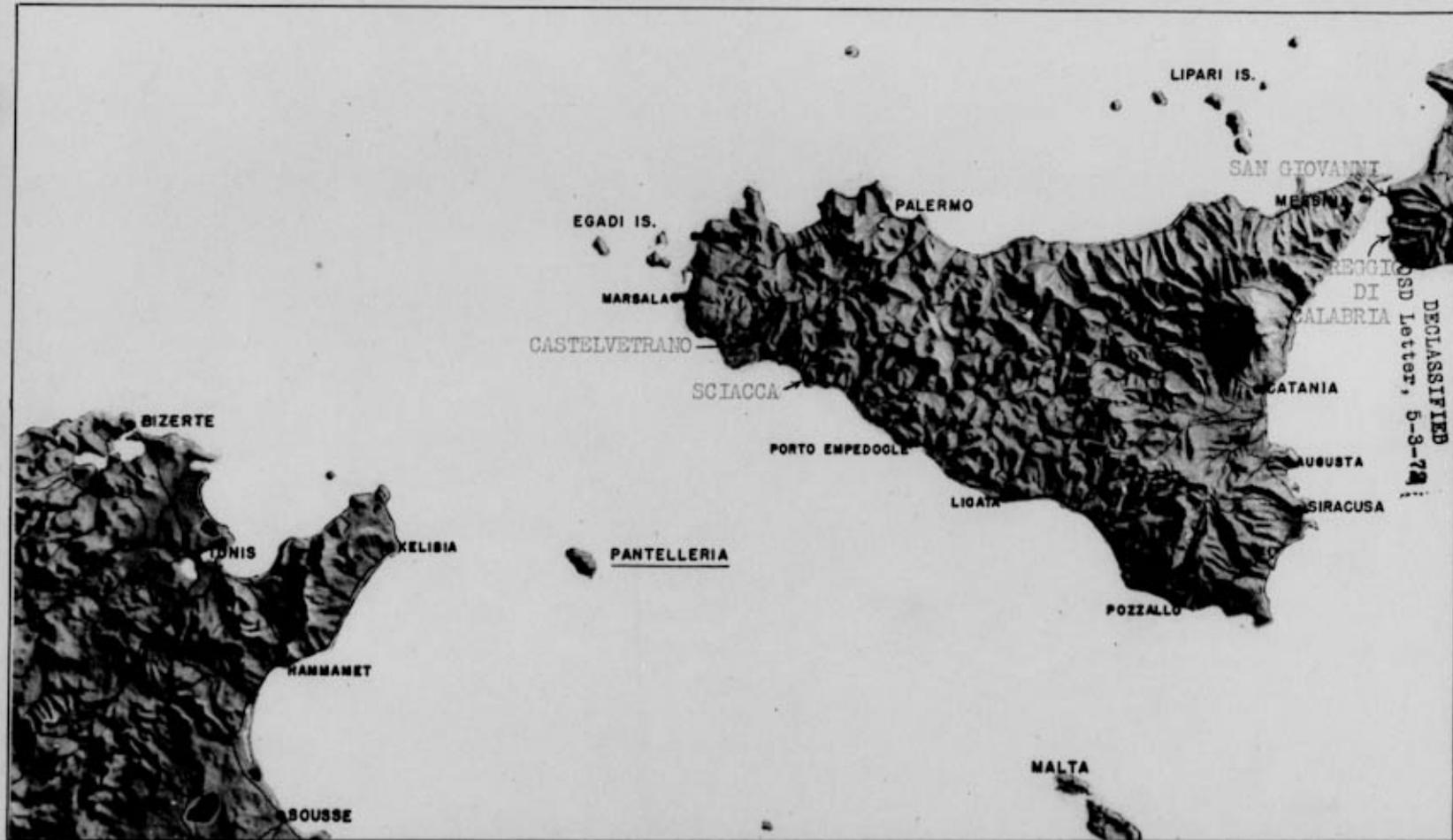
GENERAL

The Army Ground Forces have issued directives for the movement of the 28th Infantry Division (Major General L. D. Brown) from Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida to Camp Pickett, Virginia, for amphibious training. Orders were also issued for the movement of the 84th Infantry Division (Major General S. Jackson) from Camp Howze, Texas to Fort Sam Houston for advanced training, and for the 85th (Major General J. B. Coulter) and 93d (Major General F. W. Miller) Infantry Divisions from the Louisiana maneuver area to Camp Young, California, for desert maneuvers. The 93d Division has colored enlisted personnel.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Fighting their way with bayonets and hand-grenades through the steep pass between the Holtz Bay-Chichagof Harbor areas, our forces on Attu advanced their left on May 21 and 22. On the right, progress was retarded by a strong enemy defensive position which was gradually being flanked. Close air-ground support aided operations on these two days. Heavy antiaircraft fire from the beach area of Chichagof Harbor was silenced by our airplanes. The enemy's Kiska installations also were attacked by two missions of P-38's on May 21 and by one mission the next day.

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NORTHEASTERN TUNISIA AND SICILY

BASE MAP NO. 2357 (FREE)
10 MAY 1943

BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OSS
REPRODUCED IN REPRODUCTION SECTION OSS

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-74

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

On May 22, enemy aircraft approaching from the southwest attacked our naval vessels in the vicinity of Chichagof Harbor; twelve torpedoes were launched at a US destroyer, all being misses.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. Two unidentified airplanes were reported over Iceland on May 21.
2. The final total of enemy fighter planes destroyed during our bomber raids against Kiel and Flensburg, May 19, has been placed at 60 (probably 71).

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of May 20-21, British airplanes resumed their bombing of the airdromes at Villacidro and Decimomannu (Sardinia) starting numerous fires. The next day our own medium bombers again attacked both airdromes. American B-17's scored hits on the hangar at Sciacca, and bombed the hangars, repair shops, and dispersal areas at Castelvetrano airdrome. A force of P-40's bombed and machine-gunned an airdrome on the island of Pantelleria, destroying one gun position.

In all of our own operations 19 (probably 28) enemy planes were destroyed in air combat, and 16, including three six-engined transports, on the ground. The enemy continued to combat our heavy

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bombers by dropping aerial bombs on them, unsuccessfully however. Bombers of the 9th Air Force dropped 61 tons of explosives on San Giovanni and 75 tons on Reggio di Calabria. Harbor installations were damaged at both places and ten (probably 12) enemy planes were destroyed, without any reported US loss.

Twelve enemy aircraft attacked Djidjelli, causing slight damage to the moles; our antiaircraft fire destroyed three enemy airplanes.

ASIATIC THEATER

Nine B-25's of the 10th Air Force successfully attacked work-shops at Chauk on May 21, and shot down five (probably eight) of 25 intercepting Japanese planes; one B-25 was lost. Six British Hurricane fighters, intercepting a force of more than twelve enemy aircraft attacking US B-25's over Ramu (south of Chittagong), destroyed one of the enemy planes. Two Japanese fighters were shot down by antiaircraft fire; one British plane was lost.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

For May 21 General MacArthur reports that there were patrol clashes near Salamaua and that twelve P-38's shot down without loss six (probably 11) of 20 enemy fighters engaged in this area. Heavy attacks were made on enemy airdromes at Gasmata and at Rabaul, three (probably four) intercepting aircraft at the former objective being shot down. Other aircraft destroyed some 13 enemy barges along the

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

northeast coast of New Guinea, started a large fire at Cape Gloucester, and bombed the Nabire airdrome (western New Guinea). Three Dutch B-25's attacked Saumlakki (Tanimbar Islands); one B-25 was shot down.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 528

0700 May 21 to 0700 May 22, 1943

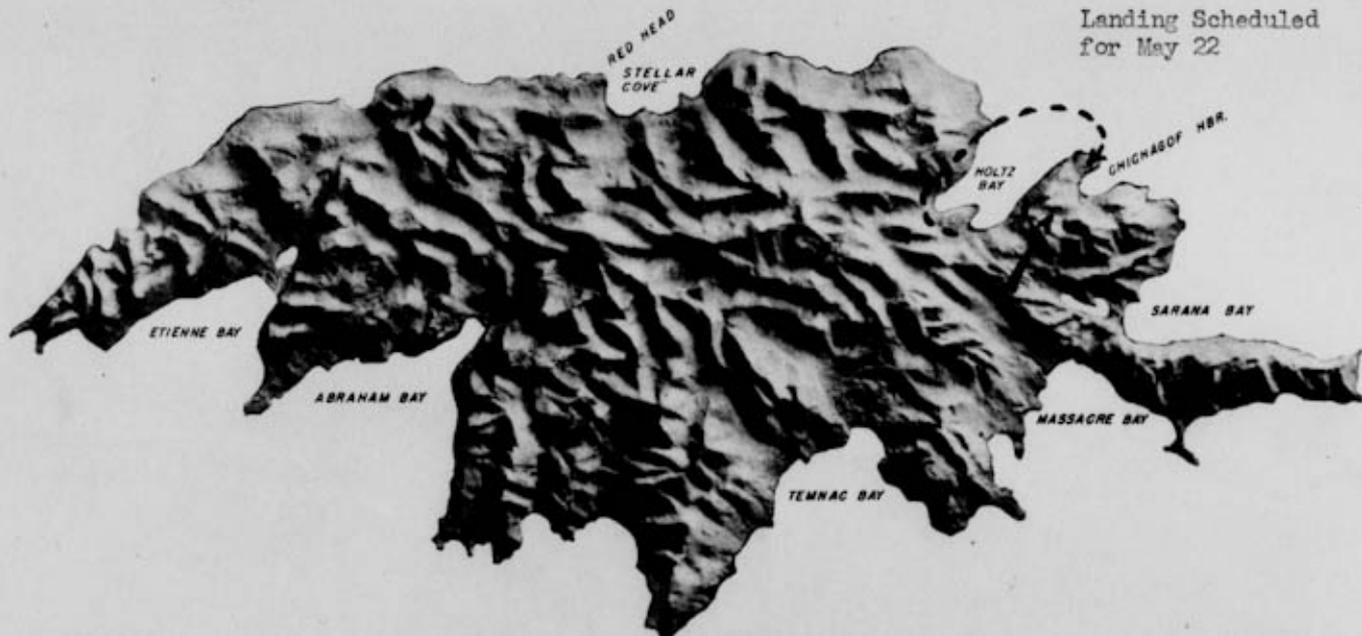
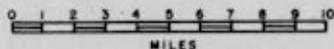
ADDITIONAL

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

From Official Sources Reporting Activities to Midnight, May 20-21, Attu Time.

ATTU ISLAND



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

ATTU
AGATTU



BASE MAP NO 2359
7 MAY 1943 (FREE)

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

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On May 20 our troops made steady progress northeastwards from the Massacre-Sarana pass, directing their main effort towards the ridge southwest of Chicagof Harbor. Fighting was going on above the snow line. Our air force, machine-gunning enemy positions from low altitudes, greatly aided in the advance of our ground forces. General Landrum plans to land a force beyond Chicagof to take the enemy in rear.

Minor air attacks were made on the enemy submarine base, main camp and barges at Kiska.

EUROPEAN THEATER

On May 21, the 8th Air Force continued its attacks against German ports, 77 B-17's dropping 192 tons of high explosives on the Wilhelmshaven naval base and 45 B-17's loosing 112 tons of bombs on the shipyards at Emden. Although visibility over the target areas was impaired by haze and heavy smoke screens, bombing results were believed to have been good. Strong fighter opposition was encountered and antiaircraft fire varied from moderate to intense; 53 (probably 74) enemy fighter planes were destroyed while 12 of our bombers have not returned.

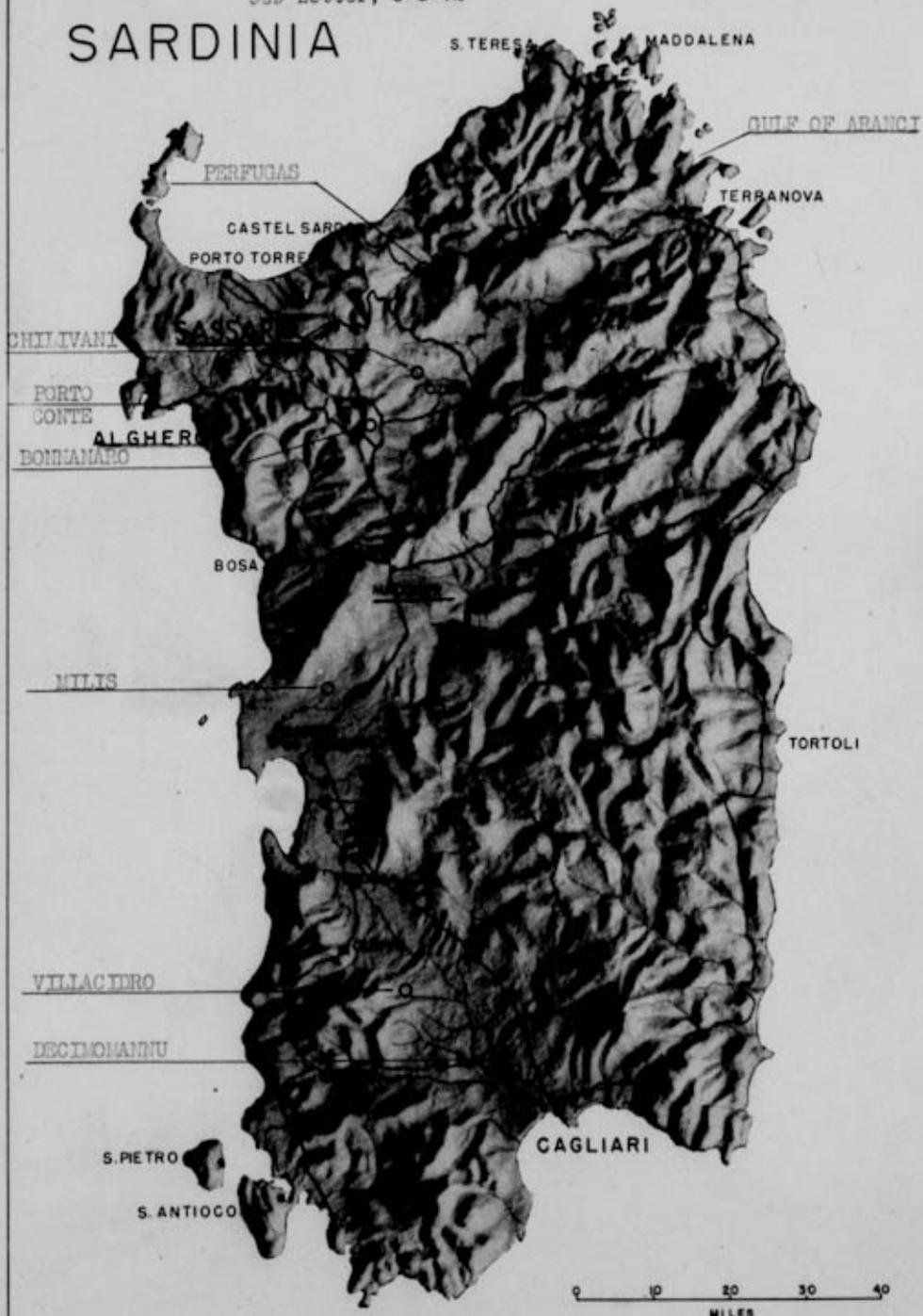
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On May 20, following night raids in which British Wellington bombers dropped some 35 tons of incendiary bombs on the enemy airfields at Villacidro and Decimomannu, 36 US P-38's each armed with a half-ton demoliton bomb visited northern Sardinia. Docks in the Gulf of Aranci,

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SARDINIA



BASE MAP NO. 2368 (FREE)
15 MAY 1943

BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSS
REPRODUCED IN REPRODUCTION SECTION, OSS

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

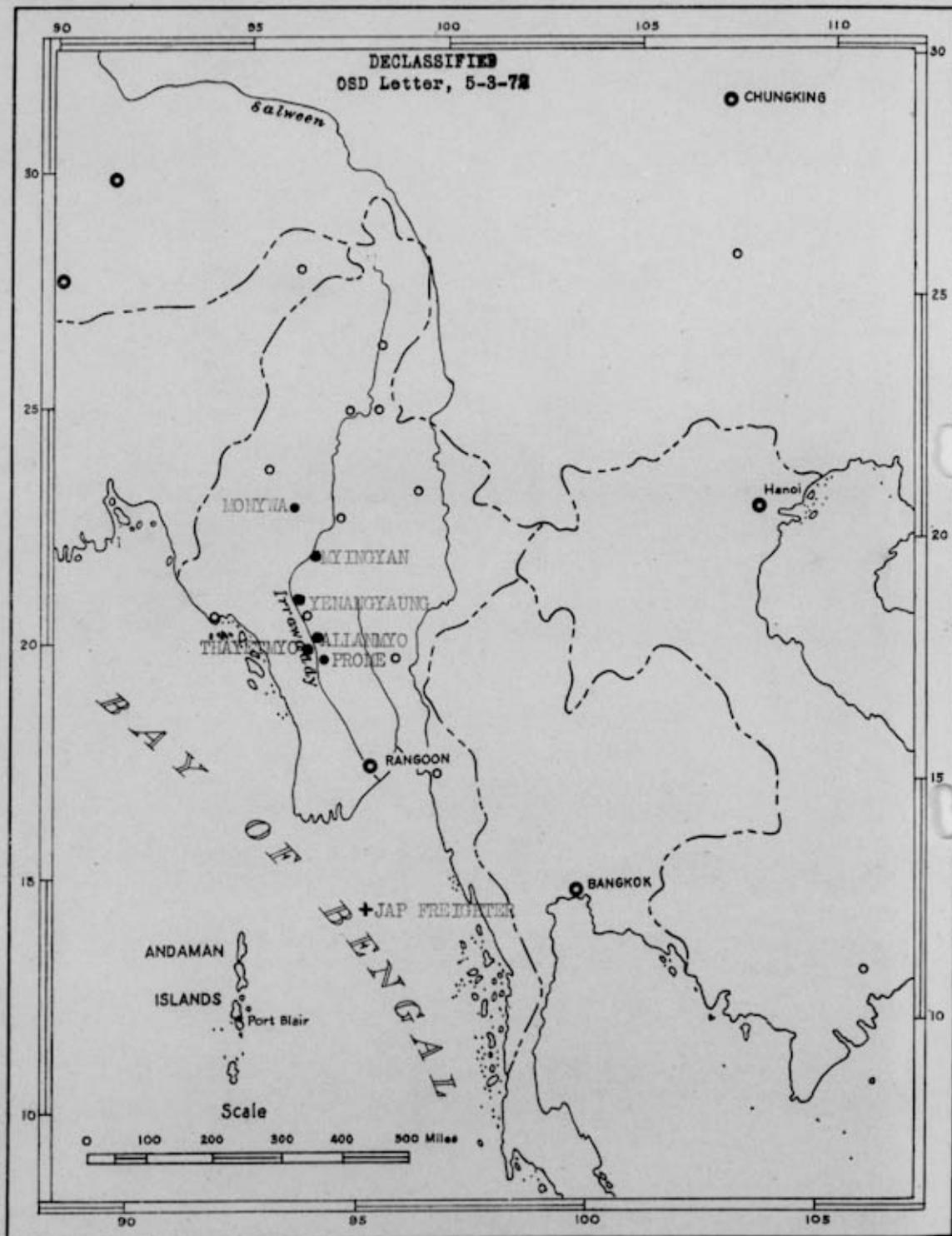
the railroad and highway bridge northeast of Perfugas, and barracks, trucks, and trains at Sassari, Bonnanaro and Chilivani were damaged while large explosions and fires resulted at the Macomer railroad junction and at the airfield at Milis, where 12 enemy planes and a hangar were set afire. Seventy-one medium bombers, escorted by 74 fighter aircraft, dropped 5,280 demolition and small fragmentation bombs on the airfields at Villacidro, Alghero, and Decimomannu and attacked enemy seaplanes in Porto Conte harbor with observed effect. US fighter aircraft bombed the docks at Pantelleria. Fifty-four B-17's attacked the enemy airfield at Grossetto, Italy, dropping 179 quarter-ton demolition bombs and 5,586 fragmentation bombs on grounded enemy aircraft. Enemy planes destroyed during the day totaled 22 (probably 24), including an entire flight of seven six-engined German transports, for a loss of one US P-40 and no British planes.

Enemy aircraft raided Allied port installations east of Oran on the night of May 19-20, damaging three ships, a jetty, and an electric transformer.

2. General Eisenhower recently reported that he has received requests from French authorities for prisoner-of-war labor. Replying to his inquiries concerning our obligations under the Geneva Convention, the War Department stated that there can be no objection to the proposed procedure inasmuch as French forces actively participated in

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

the campaign in which the prisoners were captured. It was emphasized, however, that General Giraud, in case he has not already done so, should immediately announce his intention to abide by the terms of the Geneva Convention governing prisoner-of-war matters. The number of prisoners to be transferred to the French is left to General Eisenhower's discretion.

ASIATIC THEATER

B-24's of our 10th Air Force, continuing their raids on enemy industrial installations in Burma May 20, dropped 28 tons of bombs on the railroad installations and warehouses at Prome, 12 tons on the workshop area at Yenangyaung, 19 tons on the cement plant at Thayetmyo, and 27 tons on the ginning mill at Allanmyo. Large fires and heavy damage resulted. The airplanes participating in these attacks carried an average load of four tons of bombs apiece. Two other B-24's damaged a 200-foot freighter east of the Andaman Islands.

Eighteen medium bombers successfully attacked the factory area at Myingyan and warehouses and a sawmill at Monywa.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for May 20 General MacArthur reports that US heavy bombers made effective attacks on the Vunakanau airfield at Rabaul and at Gasmata. Medium bombers on armed reconnaissance

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

machine-gunned the trails northwest of Finschhafen and an enemy barge south of the town. Two B-24's, on search missions near Wau, shot down two (probably three) of nine intercepting enemy fighter planes; six US dive-bombers operated against enemy positions along the Francisco River, near Salamaua. Enemy planes raided Dobodura twice.

PACIFIC THEATER

Three B-24's hit a searchlight and the runway at Kahili (Bougainville Island) on May 21, also bombing nearby Pupukuna Point and Ballale.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 527

0700 May 20 to 0700 May 21, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. The 11th Air Force contributed to the reduction of enemy resistance on Attu on May 19 by dropping 240 one hundred pound and 87 three hundred pound bombs on enemy installations near the beach at Chichagof Harbor and on the ridge between Chichagof Harbor and Sarana Bay. Hits were observed in the target areas.

8,000 pairs of heavy woolen socks were dropped to our troops by aircraft.

2. Following completion of the training of the units within each division, orders have been issued for the movement of the 31st, 88th, and 95th Infantry Divisions to Louisiana for maneuvers.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. Several enemy planes, including a twin-engined bomber, were observed over Iceland, May 19.

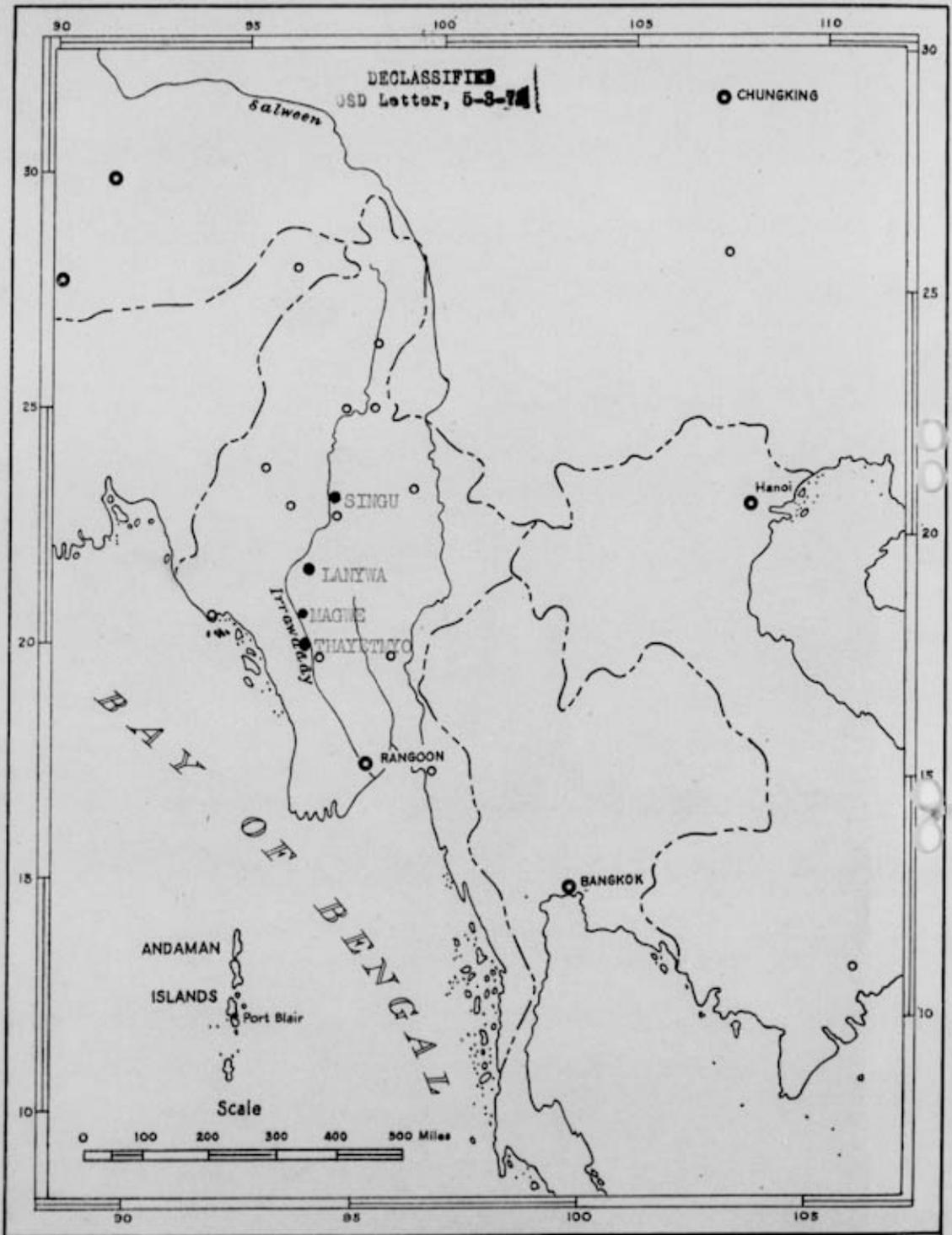
2. In the attacks by our 8th Air Force on Kiel and Flensburg, May 19, the enemy aircraft destroyed totalled 44 (probably 71) instead of 35 as first reported. Six of our bombers were lost.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On May 19, US bombers and fighters attacked the Milo airdrome in Sicily, and Quarto, Cagliari Harbor, and several airfields in Sardinia.

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DECLASSIFIED
GSD Letter, 5-3-78

Buildings and airfields were well covered with bursts, and many fires were started. Reacting to our attacks enemy fighter activity increased; 28 (probably 35) enemy planes were destroyed during the day for a loss of eight US fighters.

ASIATIC THEATER

Maintaining their heavy assaults against Japanese resources in Burma, B-24's of the 10th Air Force on May 19 dropped 110 tons of high explosive bombs on oil installations and industrial plants in the Magwe and Thayetmyo areas; hits were reported in all areas and large fires were started. Fourteen B-25's destroyed workshops and buildings at Singu and started fires at Lanywa.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 19, General MacArthur reports that enemy planes caused minor damage in an attack on one of our airfields at Milne Bay, and machine-gunned and destroyed one small Allied ship and damaged a second in Douglas Harbor (northwest of Buna). Enemy airfields and installations at Gasmata and Cape Gloucester were attacked by our heavy bombers; six US B-24's and six Australian Beaufighters damaged the enemy airfield at Penfoel (Timor), hits being made on the radio installations and grounded aircraft. Intense antiaircraft fire was encountered and three

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

Australian planes are missing. Our B-24's destroyed three (probably five) of eight intercepting enemy fighters.

PACIFIC THEATER

Eight Japanese airplanes, bombing Guadalcanal the night of May 19-20, caused several casualties, but slight material damage. Our night fighters shot down two of the enemy bombers.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

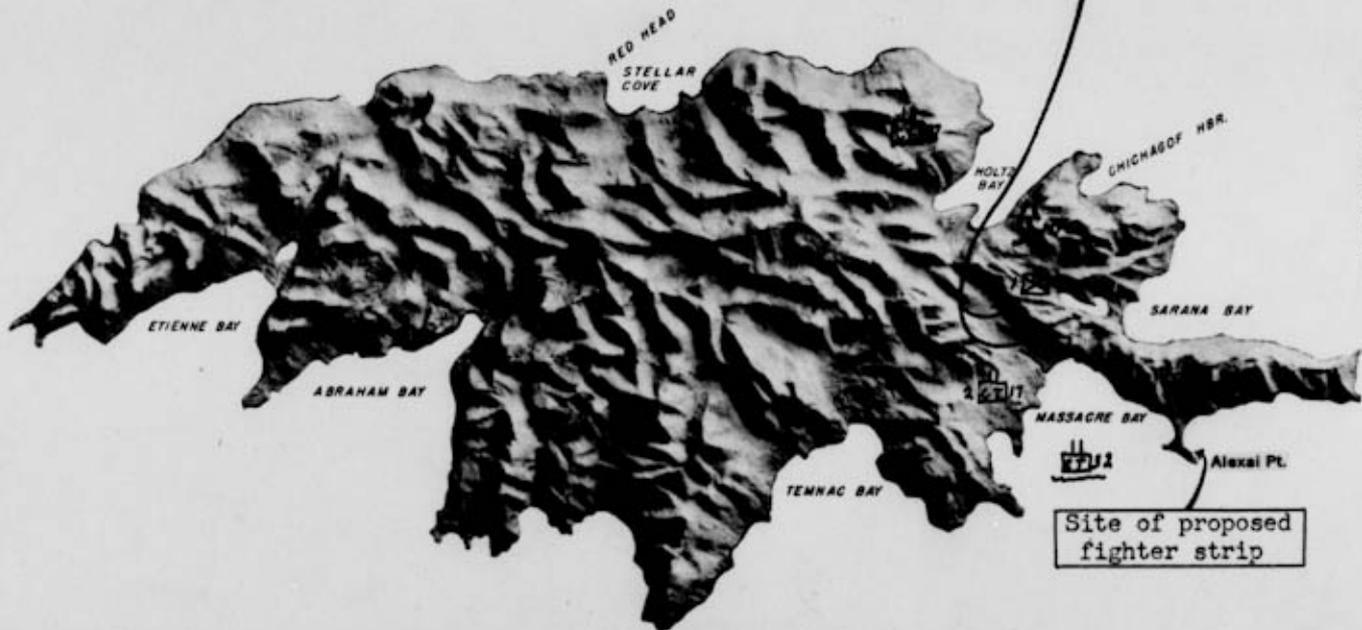
No. 526

0700 May 19 to 0700 May 20, 1943

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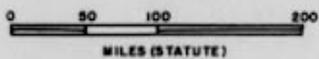
THE WHITE HOUSE

ATTU ISLAND



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On the morning of May 19 our forces attacked and seized the ridge separating the Massacre Bay and Sarana Bay areas. This success was followed by a general advance which brought our forces to within one and one-half miles of the head of Chichagof Harbor by the end of the day. The enemy is being compressed into the rugged headland between Chichagof Harbor and Sarana Bay. Firm contact has been established between our northern and southern forces, and supplies are being brought in to the west arm of Holtz Bay without interference.

Preparations are under way to build a fighter strip on Alexai Point; between two and three weeks will probably be required to complete it.

Continued low visibility and cold weather have impeded our operations; casualties from frost bite are double those inflicted by the enemy.

The 11th Air Force attacked enemy barges at Kiska; six B-24's bombed the camp area at Gertrude Cove.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. A twin-engined German bomber was observed over Iceland, May 18.
2. The submarine-building yards at Kiel were again attacked on May 19; 102 unescorted B-17's, operating under excellent weather conditions, dropped 250 tons of high explosive bombs, good results being

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

reported. Strong enemy resistance was encountered and more than 25 enemy fighters were destroyed; six of our bombers are missing. Meanwhile another force of 55 B-17's, attacking the port of Flensburg on the Danish border, dropped 137 tons of bombs on the submarine pens, ship-building yards, dry docks and other naval installations there. Enemy opposition over the target area was reported as mediocre; ten enemy fighter planes were destroyed and all our bombers returned safely. A diversion sweep over the Dutch coast by 21 B-17's and 117 P-47's was uneventful.

Final results of the encounters with enemy fighters during the bombing raids, May 17, on St. Nazaire, Lorient and Bordeaux, list 47 (probably 56) enemy planes as destroyed. During these attacks we lost six bombers.

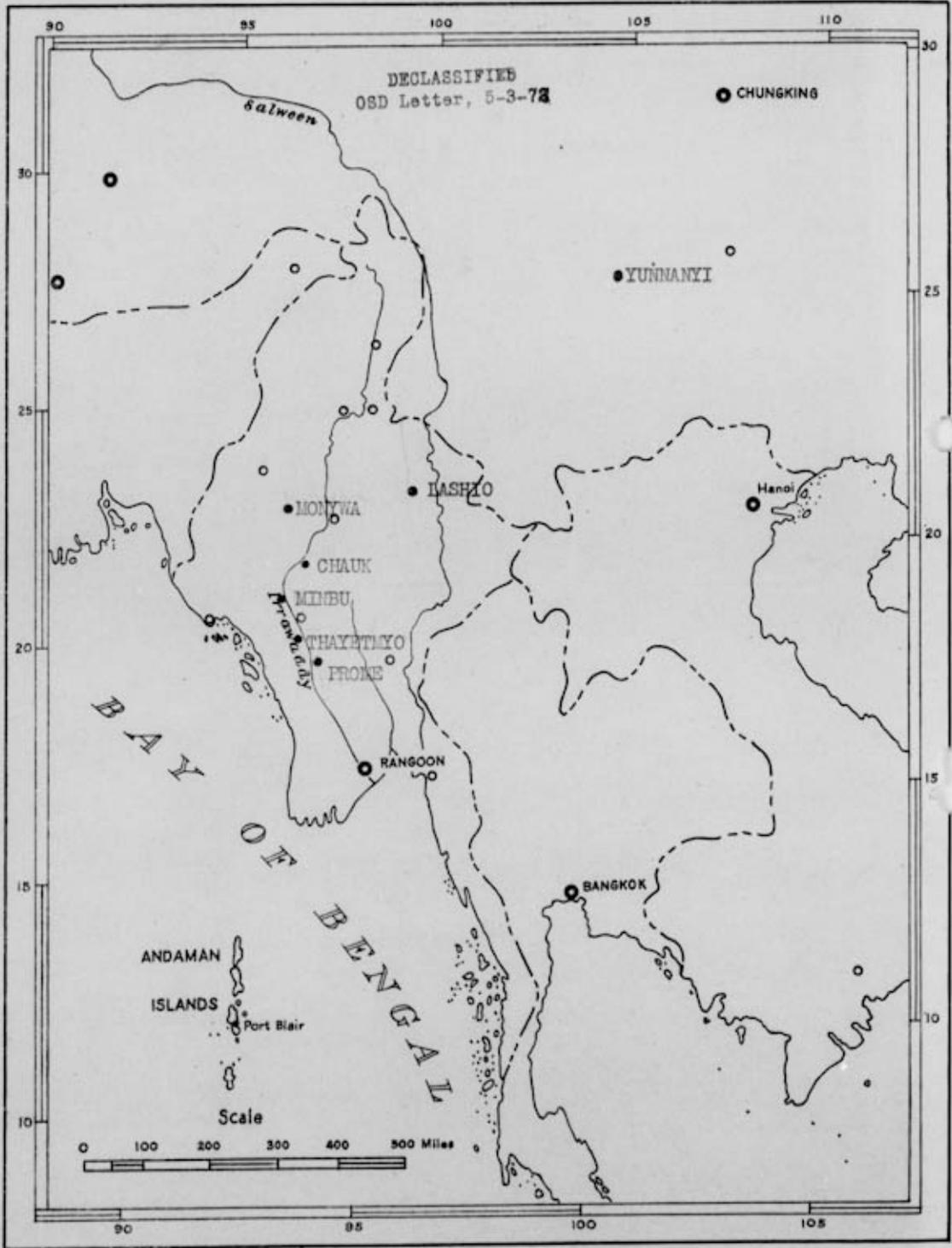
3. During the week ending May 16, our 8th Air Force destroyed 127 (probably 186) enemy aircraft for a total loss, from all causes, of 22 heavy bombers and six fighter planes. British planes during the same period shot down 46 (probably 57) enemy planes for a loss, from all causes, of 105 aircraft. In addition, eight enemy planes were shot down by antiaircraft fire.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On the night of May 17-18, British Wellington bombers dropped more than 32 tons of demolition and incendiary bombs on enemy installations

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OSD Letter, 8-3-72

at Alghero and Sassari in northwestern Sardinia. US bombers and fighters raiding Pantelleria on May 18, dropped 92 tons of demolition bombs on installations there, hitting coastal guns and a ferry and causing extensive damage to the enemy airfield and barracks. Other US planes pounded Trapani with 114 tons of bombs, scoring hits in the town, harbor, dock, and railroad yard areas and hitting ships in the harbor, one of which was seen to explode. During this period Allied planes shot down seven (probably nine) enemy planes for a loss of four P-38's and one B-17.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. In two days of aggressive activity the 10th Air Force attacked several important enemy targets in Burma. Nine B-25's dropped 10 tons of demolition bombs on the railroad yards at Monywa on May 17, scoring hits on rolling stock, tracks, and buildings. The next day 13 B-24's dropped 168 quarter-ton demolition bombs on Minbu, causing extensive destruction in the city. Other B-24's, raiding Prome and Thayetmyo, scored hits on warehouses, rolling stock, and railroad tracks; many buildings were destroyed in the attack on Prome. Eight B-25's attacked the Burma Oil Company's installations at Chauk, hitting the warehouses, oil tanks, and storage installations with incendiary bombs. Over 100 tons of bombs were dropped during all these missions.

2. On May 19 an enemy air mission approached Yunnanyi and withdrew. It was followed to its base at Lashio by two P-40's of the 14th

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

Air Force which destroyed one Japanese fighter as it landed.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 18, General MacArthur reports that 25 enemy fighter planes, bombing and machine-gunning our installations at Wau, damaged one grounded airplane. Nine enemy bombers raided our dump area at Oro Bay and installations along the coast to the north; one enemy plane was shot down by antiaircraft fire. US heavy bombers attacked the Vunakanau airfield at Rabaul and performed reconnaissance missions over New Britain; other Allied planes bombed and machine-gunned the airfield, dump, and dispersal areas at Gasmata.

PACIFIC THEATER

Nine of the ten-man crew of the B-24 forced down at sea after the May 16 attack on Wake Island have been rescued, the tenth member being killed in a crash landing. This crew reports that two additional Japanese planes were shot down in this attack.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

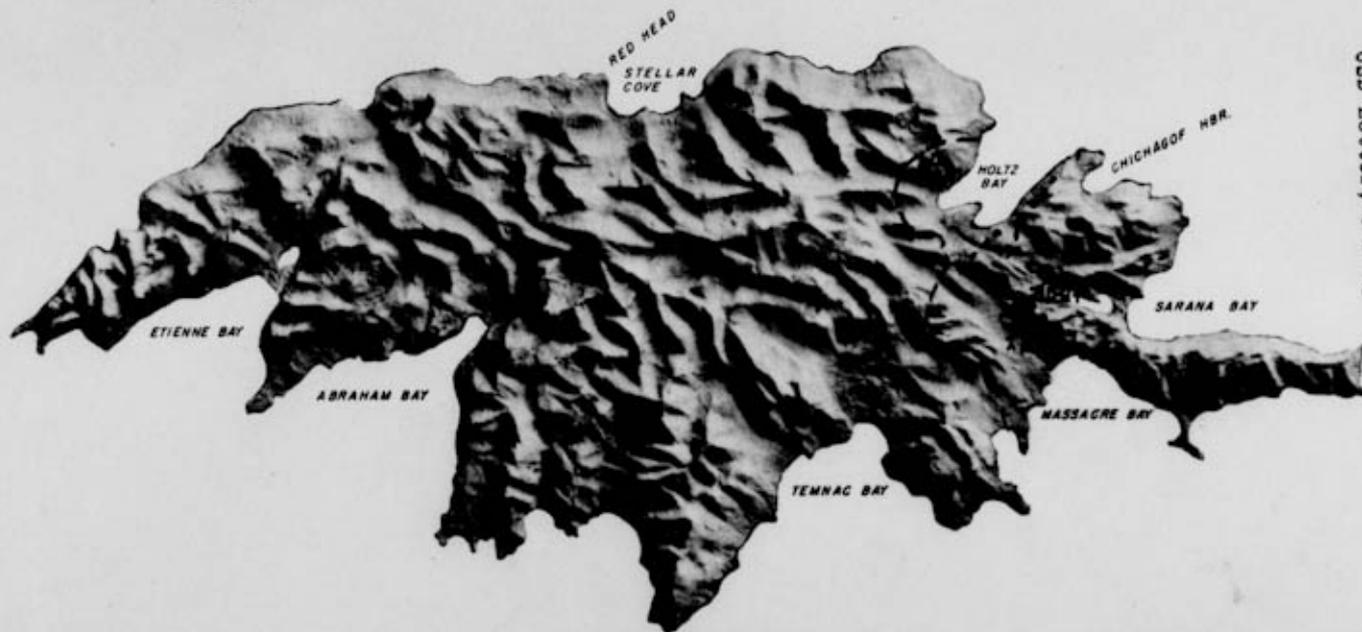
No. 525

0700 May 18 to 0700 May 19, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

ATTU ISLAND



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

By the evening of May 18, the entire Holtz Bay area was in our possession, and our two forces had effected a junction between Holtz Bay and Massacre Bay preparatory to attacking the enemy's defensive position on the hills between Sarana Bay and Holtz Bay. The enemy has abandoned considerable amounts of supplies, ammunition and equipment. //

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. Ten of the B-26's dispatched to attack Velsen, Holland, on May 17, are missing.

2. The Bomber Command, 8th Air Force, has reported that since August, 1942, our aircraft based in the United Kingdom have destroyed 709 (probably 1126) enemy planes for a loss, from all causes, of 226 US aircraft.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

British bombers showered a million leaflets on Rome the night of May 16-17, and dropped more than 45 tons of demolitions on the nearby seaplane base. Hangars and installations were hit and many fires were started.

That same night enemy planes attacked Bone, and the next night raided Djidjelli. Considerable damage resulted from the attack on Djidjelli during which four enemy aircraft were destroyed.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

During the week ending May 14, our 12th Air Force destroyed 50 (probably 77) enemy aircraft in North Africa for a loss, from all causes, of 21 planes. The British in the same period, destroyed 14 (probably 15) Axis aircraft for a loss of 12 planes. In addition, Allied planes in North Africa destroyed 69 enemy aircraft on the ground.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24 hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 17, General MacArthur reports that a raid by 43 Japanese bombers and fighters in the Wau area caused slight damage. Meanwhile US bombers pounded Gasmata with 32 quarter-ton demolition bombs, and British and Dutch planes, operating over enemy-held airfields in Timor and the Kai Islands, destroyed three airplanes on the ground.

PACIFIC THEATER

Four P-39's, with covering protection furnished by Navy fighters, attacked enemy installations at Rekata, May 18, machine-gunning antiaircraft positions and the bivouac areas. Results were not reported.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

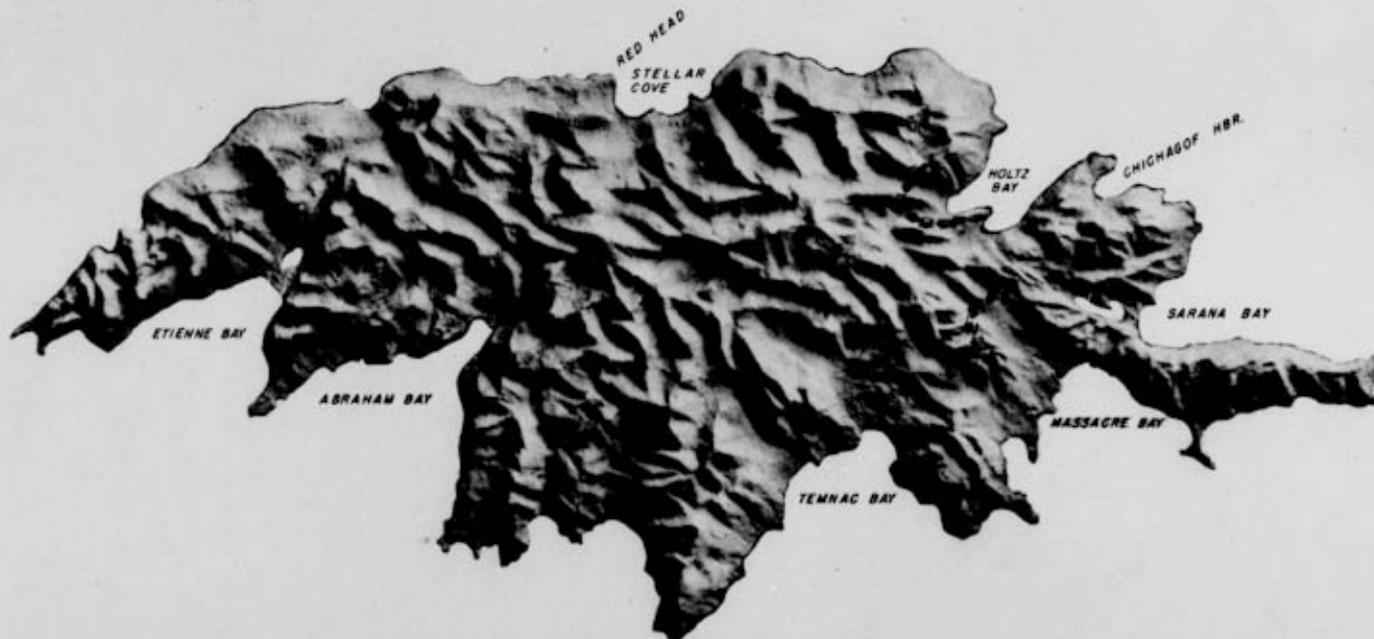
No. 524

0700 May 17 to 0700 May 18, 1943

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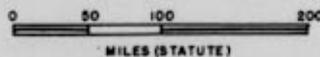
THE WHITE HOUSE

ATTU ISLAND



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OSD Letter, 6-3-78

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

By the night of May 17 our ground troops, with air support, had reached the west shore of the eastern arm of Holtz Bay and, in the south, were making progress toward the pass between Massacre Bay and Holtz Bay. Our planes made a minor raid on Kiska, dropping two tons of bombs on the submarine base and main camp area; an overcast obscured the effects of the attack.

EUROPEAN THEATER

Our 8th Air Force made three coordinated attacks against vital naval targets on the western coast of France, May 17, 80 B-17's dropping 200 tons of high explosives on the submarine base at St. Nazaire, 39 B-17's striking at the submarine base at Lorient with more than 97 tons of bombs, and 35 B-24's dropping 105 tons of explosives on the docks and shipping installations at Bordeaux. The returning crews report that good results were obtained on all missions; six of our bombers have not returned. In the St. Nazaire attack, 18 (probably 32) enemy fighter planes were destroyed. US medium bombers again attacked Velsen, in Holland, but details of this raid are not known; two B-26's are missing.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. British Wellington bombers attacked Trapani the night of May 15-16, direct hits being observed on the railroad yards, barracks,

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

and gas works. Three Allied bombers are missing.

Prisoners taken in the final phase of the Tunisian campaign now total 224,000 of which 125,000 are estimated to be German.

2. Replying to a War Department inquiry, General Eisenhower reports that the question of making the fullest use of captured materiel to equip French units has been under study and that detailed information will be furnished as inventories are completed. He points out that in using such materiel adequate reserves must be set aside since replacements cannot be provided. This will radically reduce the number of units which can be equipped.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

Headquarters of the British Eighth Army has gone back to the vicinity of Tripoli. The bulk of its forces are moving to Egypt.

ASIATIC THEATER

On May 15, B-24's of our 10th Air Force attacked the industrial area of Tavoy, southern Burma; a tin plant was damaged and other bombs fell in the building area. The next day, our B-25's continued their attacks on the enemy railroad installations in central Burma, destroying a considerable length of track at Zigon (110 miles north of Rangoon) and hitting rolling stock, buildings, warehouses, and other installations between Shwebo and Ywataung (near Mandalay).

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 16, General MacArthur reports that US bombers attacked enemy airfields at Rabaul, Lae, and Kendari (Celebes), observing hits on the runways and dispersal areas. One B-25 has not returned. Minor missions were carried out against Kavieng, Gasmata, Cape Gloucester, and Finschhafen.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 523

0700 May 16 to 0700 May 17, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

With improving weather, May 15, our aircraft were able to operate over Attu, bombing and machine-gunning, from low altitudes, enemy-held strong points, supply dumps, antiaircraft positions and other installations. Our troops made minor gains on the north front that day, driving the enemy from the high ground between the two streams which empty into the west arm of Holtz Bay. On May 16 our troops were advancing slowly in both the Holtz and Massacre Bay areas.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. An unidentified airplane was observed over Iceland, May 15.
2. In the May 14 attacks on Kiel and Antwerp, our heavy bombers and fighters shot down 60 (probably 95) enemy fighter planes for a loss of ten of our bombers and three fighters.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On the night of May 14-15, British planes dropped demolition, fragmentation, and incendiary bombs on Palermo. Late the next day, enemy aircraft attacked Bone; the few bombs dropped caused but minor damage and no casualties were reported.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Preliminary figures list 388 enemy planes of assorted types as captured at Tunis and Bizerte. Nine of these will be in operating condition after minor repairs; it is estimated that the total of enemy planes captured in the final phase of the North African Campaign will reach 500.

ASIATIC THEATER

US B-24's attacked river boats, docks, and railroad yards at Promé and the enemy headquarters at Myitkyina on May 14. Bomb hits were reported in the target areas and several fires were started. The next day, the enemy headquarters and barracks at Lashio were bombed by our B-24's, possible hits being made on barracks, power station, and fuel installations.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 15, General MacArthur reports a noticeable increase in enemy air activity. More than 24 enemy planes bombed and machine-gunned Allied positions near Mubo, and later dive-bombers heavily attacked the same area. Twenty enemy medium bombers and 14 fighters bombed Wau. Two raids were reported on Port Moresby, during which two enemy bombers were destroyed; only minor damage to Allied installations was

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reported. During this period, Allied planes pounded enemy airfields at Gasmata and Rabaul and unsuccessfully searched for an enemy convoy reported off the south coast of New Britain. Our dive bombers machine-gunned enemy aircraft and installations at Lae, and several fires resulted, believed to be burning aircraft. Three B-24's started fires in the oil installations at Nabire (northwestern New Guinea). Three enemy fighters were shot down during various missions. Allied patrols continued their aggressive operations in the mountains southwest of Mubo.

An Australian hospital ship was torpedoed and sunk 50 miles northeast of Brisbane early on May 14.

PACIFIC THEATER

1. B-24's harassed the enemy airfields at Kahili, Ballale, and Munda on May 15 with seventy-eight 100-lb. bombs.
2. Eighteen B-24's of the 7th Air Force left Midway, May 15, to attack Wake Island. Seven of our planes, reaching the target, dropped their bomb loads and shot down two (probably three) of 22 intercepting enemy planes. Results of the bombing could not be observed because of weather conditions. One B-24 was forced down, the remainder returning safely.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 522

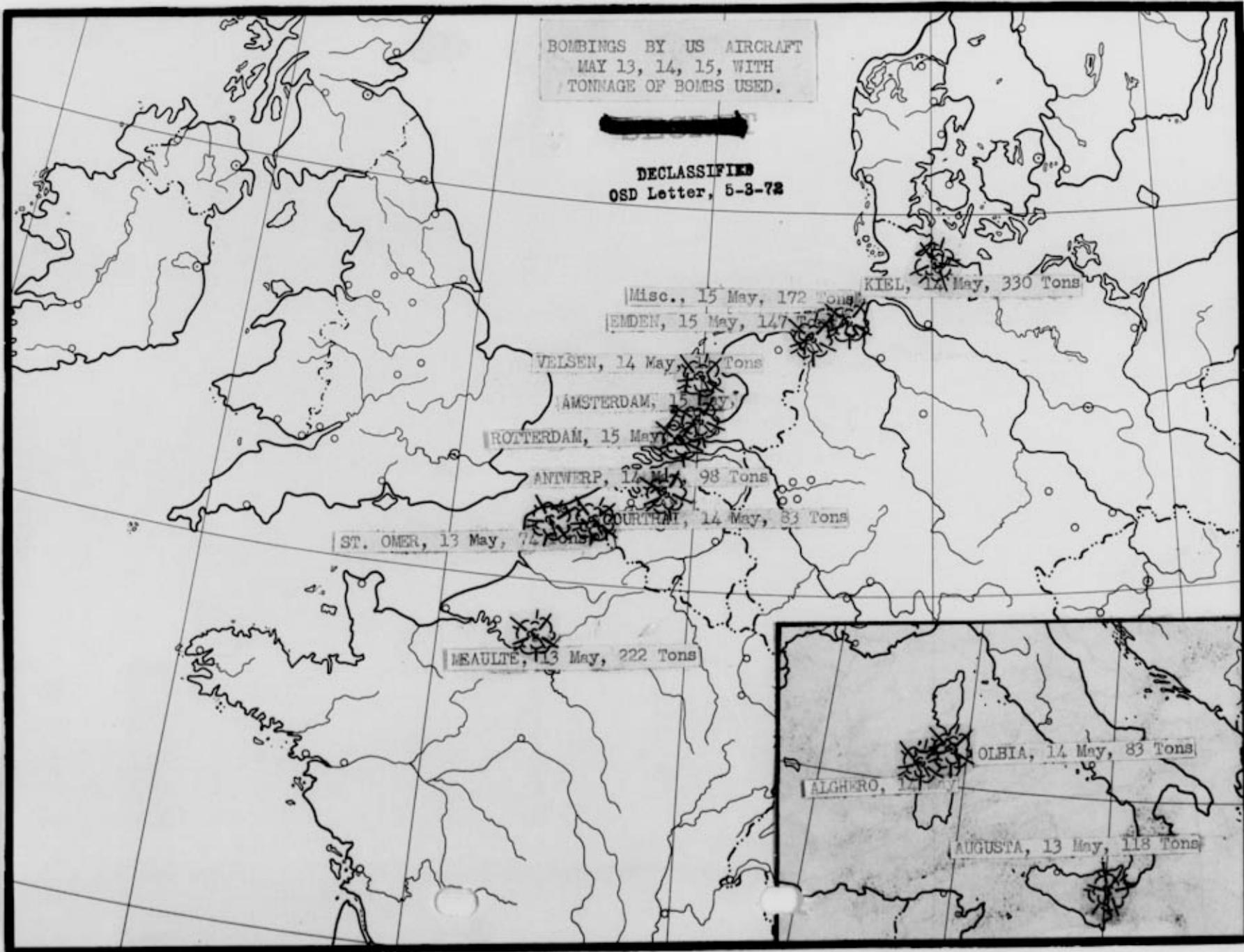
0700 May 15 to 0700 May 16, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

BOMBINGS BY US AIRCRAFT
MAY 13, 14, 15, WITH
TONNAGE OF BOMBS USED.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72



WESTERN HEMISPHERE

By the night of May 14 over 8,500 combat and 2,500 service troops had landed on Attu; unloading operations were proceeding. Three battalion combat teams, supported by naval gunfire, attacked the west arm of Holtz Bay from the north; four such teams are in the Massacre Bay area. Army and Navy aircraft, hampered by the weather, attacked enemy installations, directing their effort on the west arm of Holtz Bay. Kiska and Little Kiska were also bombed. One B-24, dispatched to drop supplies, and four Navy fighter planes are missing.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. An unidentified airplane was observed over Iceland, May 14.
2. The heavy assaults by bomber aircraft of our 8th Air Force against industrial targets on the continent continued May 14 with 175 heavy bombers dropping 330 tons of demolitions on the submarine building center at Kiel, 39 B-17's supported by 118 P-47's dropping 98 tons of bombs on Antwerp, 34 B-17's supported by RAF Spitfires dropping 83 tons of bombs on the Courtrai airfield and 11 unescorted B-26's making a minimum altitude attack on the power station at Velsen on the Amsterdam Canal in North Holland. Good results were reported by all missions. Enemy antiaircraft fire and fighter defense

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

varied from moderate to strong, and our bombers took a heavy toll of enemy fighters. Twelve of our bombers and three P-47's were lost.

On May 15, 59 B-17's dropped 147½ tons of high explosive and incendiary bombs on the harbor installations at Emden, and 73 B-17's, unable to attack the enemy naval installations at Wilhelmshaven because of the weather, dropped 172½ tons of high explosive bombs on industrial targets of opportunity. In aerial combat resulting from these missions, 37 (probably 66) enemy planes were destroyed; six of our bombers have not returned. 111 P-47's swept the Amsterdam-Rotterdam area.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On May 13, 53 B-24's of General Brereton's 9th Air Force, escorted by RAF fighter planes, dropped 118½ tons of demolition and incendiary bombs on shipping in Augusta harbor; hits were reported on 20 motor vessels and on the oil storage tanks and coal yards. Large fires were observed throughout the target area. The next day US P-38's operated over Sardinia, destroying 12 enemy grounded aircraft, bombing a factory and hitting a ship in the harbor at Alghero. Fifty-four B-25's escorted by 87 P-38's struck at enemy shipping in the harbor at Olbia, northeastern Sardinia. Three large and three small enemy merchant vessels were hit and three (probably six) intercepting enemy planes destroyed. One P-38 was lost. That night 16 twin-engined enemy bombers raided Bone; no reports have been received as to damage or casualties.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

ASIATIC THEATER

A strong Japanese air force of 36 twin-engined heavy bombers and 40 Zero fighters attempted to raid our airfield at Kunming on May 15. Our warning service functioned excellently and all of our fighter planes were in the air awaiting the attack. Four intercepting US P-40's caused the enemy's bombing to be inaccurate, the majority of their bombs missing the airfield. Two US bombers and a primary trainer were hit and burned. Twenty-two P-40's engaged in a running fight as the enemy withdrew, and our pilots shot down 13 (probably 21) enemy fighters and two (probably four) bombers without loss.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 14, General MacArthur reports that 45 enemy planes caused minor damage in raids on Oro Bay and Port Harvey. Allied planes intercepting this mission shot down nine (probably 10) enemy fighters and seven (probably 12) bombers; two Allied planes were lost. Other Allied aircraft effectively bombed and machine-gunned the enemy airfield at Gasmata (as already reported) and performed minor offensive missions over New Guinea and islands to the west.

PACIFIC THEATER

On May 13, US aircraft attacked Buin, scoring hits on a freighter. That evening four enemy aircraft bombed our installations on Guadalcanal

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setting an ammunition dump on fire but causing no other damage. At least one enemy plane was destroyed by our fighters. The enemy airfields at Kahili and Ballale were again heavily attacked by our bombers on May 14.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 521

0700 May 14 to 0700 May 15, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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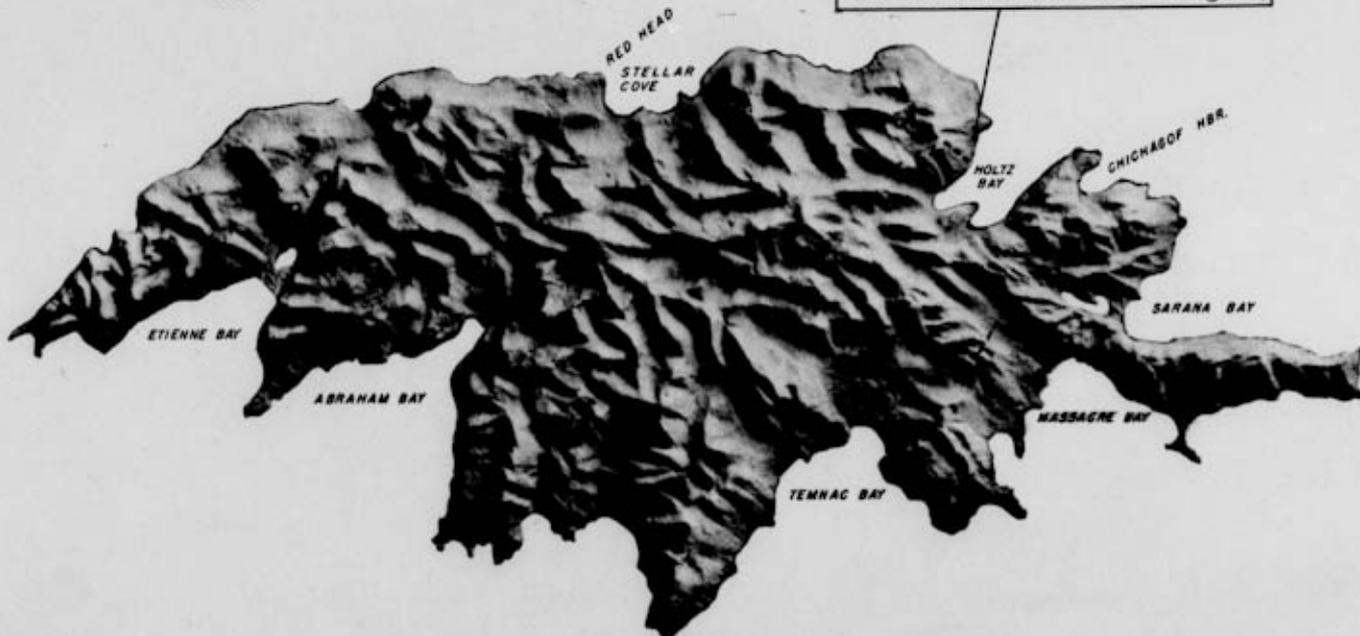
From Official Information Received by 7.A.M. May 15, 1943

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

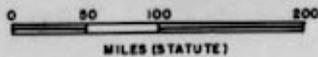
ATTU ISLAND



150 Japs landed 1000 yds.
behind our lines.
Our aircraft attacked barges.



ATTU
ABATTU



BASE MAP NO. 2355
7 MAY 1943 (FREE)

SECRET

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

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

GENERAL

To eliminate waste of manpower and curtail duplication of effort, all senior commanders have been directed to obtain War Department approval before establishing special schools or training centers which require additional equipment or personnel. They have been reminded that ample facilities for training of types common to all theaters are available in the United States.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. During May 13, the advance of our troops on Attu was slowed by fog and enemy resistance. Our aircraft attacked a barge loaded with enemy troops in Holtz Bay and also dropped more than four tons of bombs on enemy installations on the island without encountering anti-aircraft fire; about 150 Japanese landed behind our front lines near Holtz Bay. By night of May 13 the cargo of five transports at Attu was approximately half unloaded. One transport, which hit a rock in Massacre Bay, is now beached. Some 15 tons of demolition bombs were dropped on Kiska during the same period.

2. The leader of the German force operating on the east coast of Greenland has been brought to Scoresby a prisoner after being disarmed by a Danish member of our sledge patrol which he had captured. ||

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

3. A directive has been issued for the movement of the 5th Armored Division (Major General Lunsford E. Oliver) from the Tennessee Maneuver Area (permanent station, Camp Cooke, California) to Pine Camp, New York.

4. Orders have been issued for the movement of the 10th Armored, 80th and 83d Infantry Divisions to the Tennessee Maneuver Area for the second series of maneuvers.

5. An Army and Navy Staff College has been established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, USA, and Captain E. J. Foy, USN, have been selected as Commandant and Deputy Commandant, respectively. The student group will consist of 60 percent Army and 40 percent Navy and Marine officers of corresponding ranks of Lieutenant Colonel or higher. Approximately one-third of the students will be air officers. Initial instruction will be given at the Command and General Staff School, the Naval War College, and the Air Corps School of Applied Tactics, respectively, for the benefit of officers of the other services. For the last two of the four months' instruction, facilities of Georgetown University will be used.

EUROPEAN THEATER

On May 13, 88 B-17's of our 8th Air Force dropped 222 tons of high explosive bombs on the Potez aircraft plant at Meaulte which has been

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

busily engaged in repairing and rebuilding Heinkel, Dornier, and Messerschmitt type airplanes. Photographs of the attack indicate that the target was completely covered and obliterated. Enemy air opposition was mediocre, preliminary reports listing eight (probably 16) enemy planes as destroyed; three of our bombers failed to return. Excellent fighter support was provided by ten squadrons of RAF Spitfires. Coordinated with this attack, 31 B-17's and 124 P-47's attacked the St. Omer airfield, one of the most important fighter bases in northern France; 74 tons of high explosives were dropped on the target; one B-17 was destroyed. The latter attack marked the debut of four new groups which have just arrived in the theater.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

In the raid on the harbor and industrial areas at Cagliari May 13, 107 heavy and 96 medium bombers and 202 fighter aircraft participated. 884 half-ton bombs were dropped on the enemy installations and several ships were set afire in the harbor. Other hits were observed on the submarine base, docks, oil tanks, and chemical plant, and nine (probably 15) enemy planes were destroyed. One P-38 was lost. Thirty to thirty-five enemy bombers raided Algiers, May 13; six were destroyed by antiaircraft fire and night fighters.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 8-8-78

ASIATIC THEATER

1. Replying to a War Department query, General Wheeler reports that all airfield projects in Assam are either under way or are being started, that personnel and machinery are being diverted from the Ledo road construction, and that the British will accord him freedom of action at all times to expedite the completion of the mission.

2. On May 13, B-25's of our 10th Air Force continued their attacks on enemy railroads and airfields in central Burma, striking at Shwebo and Thazi. Ten enemy planes intercepted our attack on Thazi, two (probably four) being destroyed; one of our planes is missing. Six B-24's caused widespread damage to enemy power and communication facilities in the Moulmein area.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 13, General MacArthur reports that 22 Allied planes bombed and machine-gunned the airfield at Gasmata; two enemy medium bombers and one fighter were destroyed, and barges and antiaircraft positions were hit. US heavy bombers caused explosions and fires at Wewak and Cape Gloucester, and bombed airfields at Rabaul with unobserved results.

Enemy air raids on Port Moresby and Dobodura caused no damage. Photographs showed 44 ships at Rabaul and seven ships and 90 barges

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

at Wewak, as well as many aircraft near both places. Allied patrol activity was successful in the Mubo area.

The communique reports that on May 14 the attacks on the Gasmata and Cape Gloucester airfields were renewed, causing great destruction particularly at Gasmata.

PACIFIC THEATER

1. Twenty-five enemy fighter planes were intercepted over Guadalcanal, May 13; sixteen enemy aircraft were shot down for a loss of five US planes.
2. The 147th Infantry Regiment left Guadalcanal for Samoa on May 12. This is the first Army unit to be stationed at Samoa, where it will relieve a Marine regiment. It is a non-divisional regiment and has been on Guadalcanal for four or five months.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 520

0700 May 13 to 0700 May 14, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

NORTH AMERICAN THEATER

US transports are now being unloaded at Attu. During May 12, our airplanes dropped over 28 tons of demolition and fragmentation bombs on the enemy installations in the Holtz Bay area, the airstrip, and Chichagof Harbor; some hits were observed. Strong antiaircraft fire was encountered and one of our fighter planes was shot down.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. A twin-engined German bomber was observed over Iceland on May 12.
2. Conforming to a request by General Devers, the War Department is appointing Major General Idwal H. Edwards as his Chief of Staff.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

General Eisenhower reports that the prisoners taken by our II Corps so far total 37,998 of which 33,498 are German. Among the booty counted are 1,200 guns of all types and 200 tanks. The last remaining enemy elements in North Africa surrendered at 1145 May 13.

A communique reports that on the night of May 12-13, British bombers again attacked the railroad yards and docks at Naples. On May 13 strong forces of heavy and medium bombers attacked the harbor and industrial area of Cagliari, obtaining hits on several vessels,

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

one of which was seen to explode; nine enemy aircraft were destroyed for a loss of one of our own. The same day a naval force successfully bombarded Pantelleria.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

Heavy bombers of our 9th Air Force dropped more than 113 tons of demolition and incendiary bombs on Catania Harbor, May 11, hitting the mole, destroying at least three vessels, including an ammunition ship, and shooting down two enemy planes. One US bomber was lost.

ASIATIC THEATER

On May 12, bomber aircraft of our 10th Air Force caused considerable destruction along the riverfront and jetty area at Bassein, made three direct hits with half-ton bombs on a railroad bridge 40 miles south of Mandalay, and dropped 96 - 100 pound demolition bombs on the Mandalay railroad yards, destroying warehouses and rolling stock and hitting the railroad station. P-40's continued to harass the enemy in northern Burma, bombing and machine-gunning trails, supply dumps, barracks, and enemy-held towns.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operation summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 12, General MacArthur reports that seven B-25's bombed and machine-gunned the enemy airfield at Finschhafen, and four B-24's started large

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From Official Information Received
by 7 A.M., May 14, 1943

51443-3
PROVISIONAL EDITION



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

REF ID: A66666
4 APRIL 1943

From Official Information Received by 7 A.M. May 14, 1943

COMPILED AND DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSO
REPRODUCED IN THE REPRODUCTION SECTION, OSO

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

fires at Saumlakki. Single Allied bombers attacked Gasmata, Cape Gloucester, and Salamaua. An enemy party was successfully ambushed in the Mubo area, and forward Allied elements have occupied the ridge four miles southwest of Salamaua. A British freighter, torpedoed off New South Wales, reached port under her own power.

PACIFIC THEATER

B-17's harassed enemy forces at Ballale and Kahili on May 12, and eight P-40's participated in a Navy air attack against enemy installations near Munda.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 519

0700 May 12 to 0700 May 13, 1943

COPY FOR

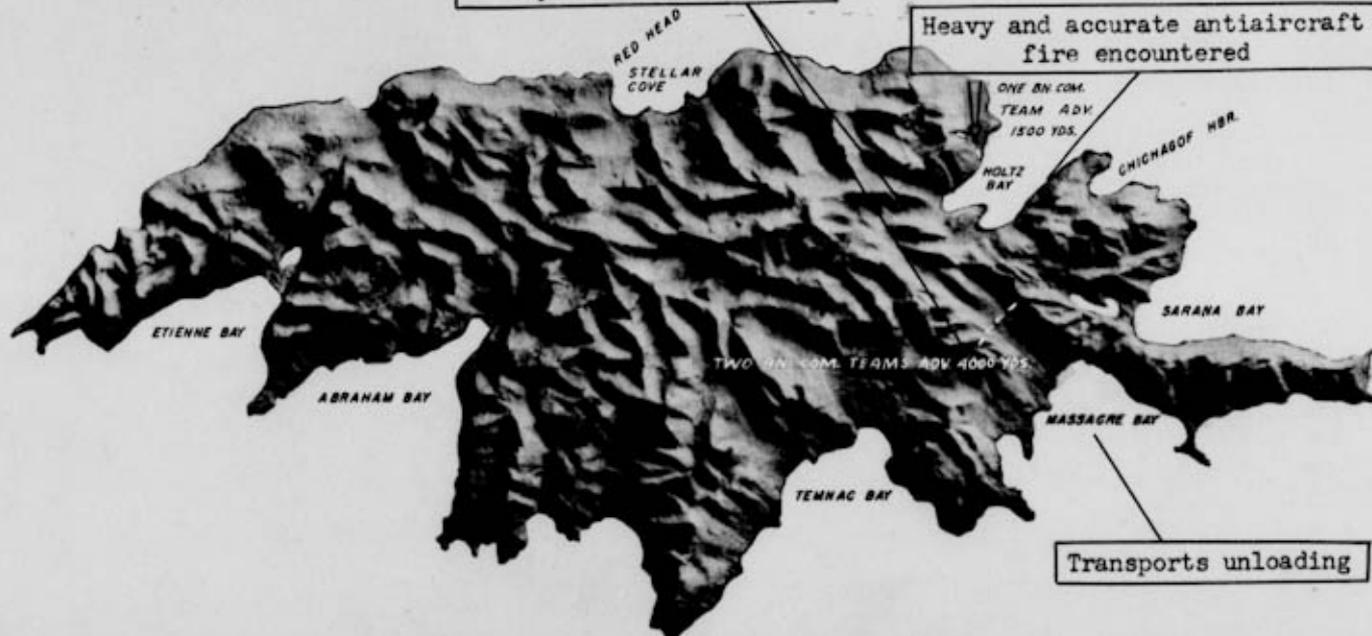
THE WHITE HOUSE

ATTU ISLAND



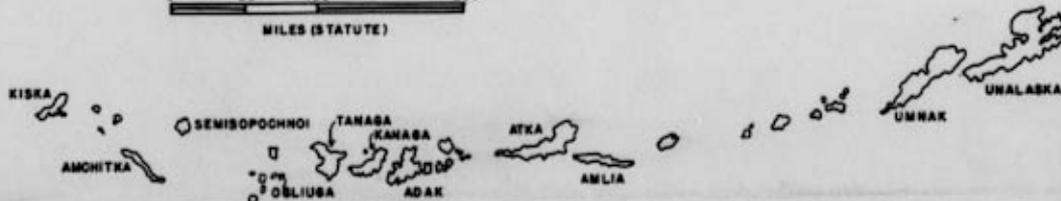
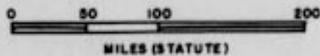
Gun positions neutralized
by Naval Gun Fire

Heavy and accurate antiaircraft
fire encountered



Transports unloading

ATTU
AGATTU



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Army forces, operating in a dense fog, landed unopposed on Attu during the early hours of May 11, following a reconnaissance and spearhead force which had come ashore during the night. By noon all of our assault force had landed and was meeting with stubborn enemy resistance. Our troops, assisted by naval gunfire which neutralized enemy gun positions, have advanced 4,000 yards inland from the beach at Massacre Bay and 1,500 yards from the head of the west arm of Holtz Bay. Our transports, now in Massacre Bay, are unloading. While heavy weather prevented heavy or accurate bombing of enemy installations during the initial phase of the operation, conditions improved during the day and our air force soon joined in the effort to capture the island.

The enemy main camp, submarine base and runway at Kiska were pounded during the day by missions which were unable to unload their bombs over Attu.

EUROPEAN THEATER

During the week ending May 9, our 8th Air Force based in the United Kingdom destroyed 11 enemy aircraft in aerial combat for a loss, from some unknown cause, of one P-47. Similar figures for the RAF are: 17 (probably 20) enemy aircraft destroyed for a loss of 60 of their own.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

British and US planes destroyed or damaged nine additional enemy aircraft on the ground.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Communicues received from General Eisenhower's command post state that organized resistance collapsed on May 12 and has now ceased. General Von Arnim, the commander of the Axis forces in Tunisia, was captured on May 12 and it is estimated that prisoners captured since May 5 total about 150,000. Vast quantities of materiel of all kinds have been taken, a great deal being in serviceable condition. Naval forces are watching the shores of Cape Bon peninsula to prevent any escape of the enemy.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. Nine B-25's of the 10th Air Force, attacking a railroad junction 100 miles south of Mandalay on May 10, scored many hits on the target. Eight other B-25's demolished the railroad sheds at Ywataung, west of Mandalay. P-40's on harassing missions, bombed and machine-gunned enemy-held villages near Myitkyina. The next day US B-25's attacked the enemy railroad installations at two towns west of Mandalay, obtaining many hits on tracks and rolling stock and in the warehouse areas. Thirteen B-24's, bombing the oil refinery at Syriam, near Rangoon, started several large fires and destroyed one of four intercepting enemy fighter planes.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

2. Aerial photographs taken after the May 8 raid by the 14th Air Force on the Tien Ho and White Cloud airfields at Canton, China, reveal that three large and six small enemy planes were burned and a main hangar and four other buildings in the operations area destroyed at the Tien Ho field. The runways at both airdromes were badly cratered.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

1. In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 11, General MacArthur reports that eight US planes bombed enemy airfields near Rabaul, starting fires visible for sixty miles. In the northeastern area other Allied planes bombed and machine-gunned barge hideouts, and buildings at Arawe, New Britain, and a new runway at Cape Gloucester. Koepang, Timor, was also attacked.

Enemy bombers raided Merauke, New Guinea, causing some damage; a single enemy float plane bombed an Allied convoy off Cape Wessel, off northern Australia, without reported result.

2. The War Department has notified General MacArthur that as a result of an agreement whereby the Australian government is to furnish ground crews, the air echelons and aircraft of one Dutch B-25 squadron and one Dutch fighter squadron will be sent to his theater during the summer. These units and aircraft are in addition to previous commitments to his theater.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 518

0700 May 11 to 0700 May 12, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

51243-1



MAY 12 1943

REPRODUCED BY THE OSS REPRO. SECTION

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers assumed command of the European Theater of Operations May 10, 1943.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. By the night of May 11, British armored forces had cut the neck of the Cape Bon Peninsula and, turning south, were threatening the enemy units north of Enfidaville. Infantry patrols are reported to have completed a circuit of the Cape Bon Peninsula without encountering any major opposition. The French continued to advance north and east of Zaghuan.

Our air attacks on Pantellaria and on enemy shipping in Tunisian waters continued. The enemy forces northwest of Enfidaville and on Cape Bon were continually harassed by Allied medium and light bombers; a large force of our heavy and medium aircraft attacked Marsala, Sicily, starting many large fires in the railroad yards and the warehouse, harbor, and seaplane base areas.

2. During the week ending May 7, our 12th Air Force in North Africa destroyed 25 (probably 30) enemy planes for a loss, from all causes, of 15 fighter planes and three bombers; nine other fighter planes and five bombers are listed as missing. During this period, US and British planes also destroyed 29 enemy aircraft on the ground.

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DECLASSIFIED
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, 5-3-72

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 10, General MacArthur reports that Allied planes carried out five attacks over northeastern New Guinea and New Britain, bombing roads, runways and buildings and machine-gunning enemy barges and barge hide-outs. Other Allied aircraft hit at enemy positions in northwestern New Guinea and on islands to the south, causing huge fires at Babo, damaging the wharf and dispersal areas, and destroying at least three grounded aircraft there.

Japanese planes, striking at the Allied airfield at Millingimbi for the second time within two days, destroyed one Beaufighter, damaged two others and sank a small Allied vessel off the coast. Five Spitfires, intercepting the Japanese attack, shot down at least two of the enemy planes. One Spitfire was lost in this action. An enemy air attack on Milne Bay was ineffective.

PACIFIC THEATER

Three B-17's started fires on the enemy landing field at Kahili on May 11; two B-17's attacked the Shortland Islands area with unknown results.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

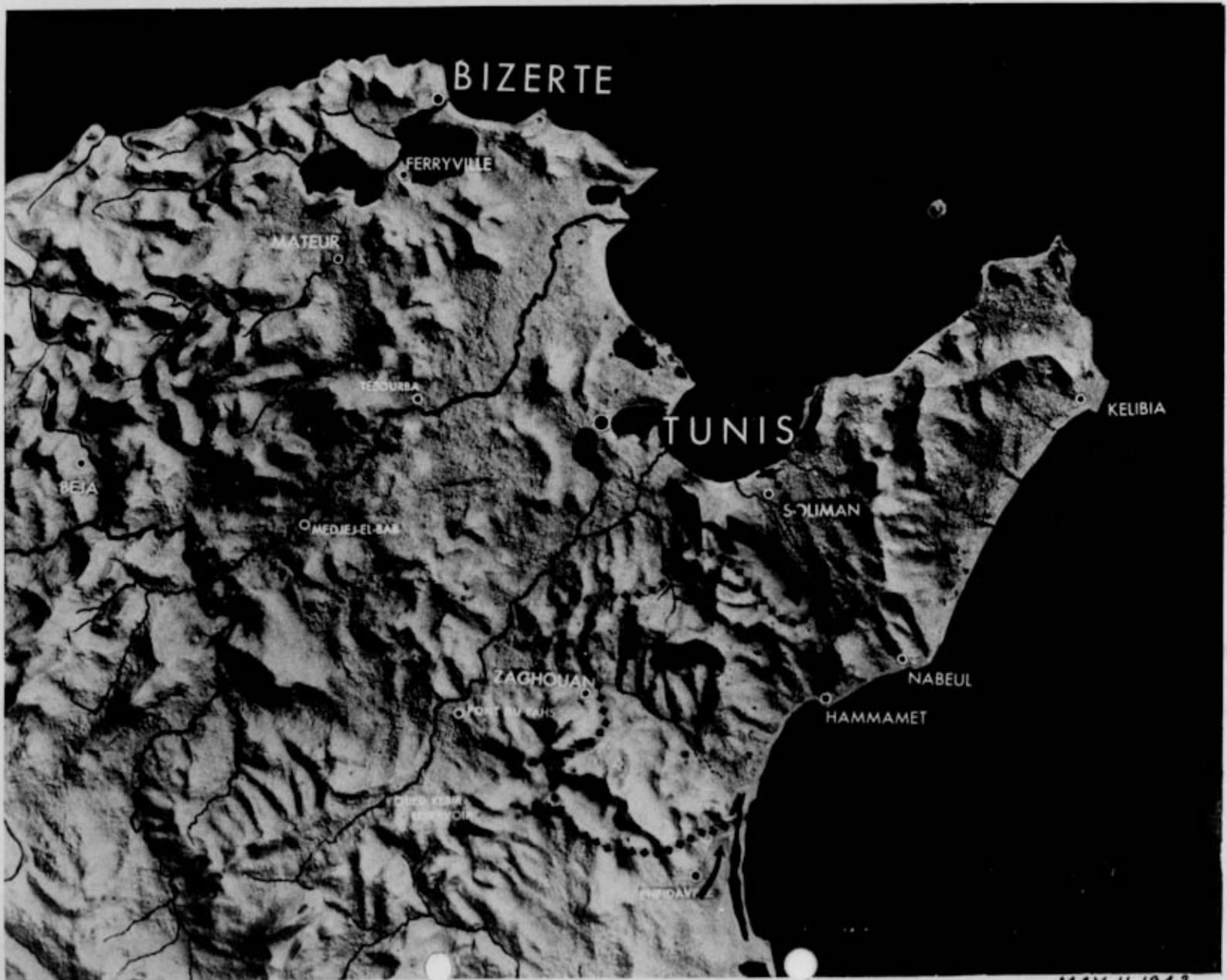
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 517

0700 May 10 to 0700 May 11, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



AIRCRAFT
 DECLASSIFIED
 OSD Letter, 5-8-74

MAY 11 1943

REPRODUCED BY THE OCS REPRO SECTION

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DECLASSIFIED

OSD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

All enemy resistance in northern Tunisia ceased May 9; the Germans negotiated an unconditional surrender which included an agreement to cease destruction of materiel. By 1800 May 10 British armored units had driven halfway across the neck of Cape Bon Peninsula. (A late communique reports their arrival in the outskirts of Hammamet). The French Corps had advanced to a line running roughly northwest-southeast through Zaghuan, and operations on the front of the British Eighth Army were reported as progressing satisfactorily.

Bombers of the 9th Air Force dropped 125 tons of demolition and incendiary bombs on the enemy railroad and ferry installations at Messina, May 9, hitting the tracks, roundhouse, and two ferries in the ferry slip. Approximately 25 enemy planes attacked Allied shipping at Bone; there were no casualties, but several fires were started in the town and on Allied ships. That night, British bombers pounded Palermo. On May 10 Sicilian airfields were bombed, with hits observed among grounded aircraft. Allied planes continued their relentless attacks against Pantellaria, and on enemy troops on Cape Bon and shipping in Tunisian waters.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On May 7 eight B-25's of the 10th Air Force scored 12 hits on the Myitnge Bridge (south of Mandalay) and its approaches. On May 9 seven B-25's of the 10th Air Force effectively bombed the barracks at

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

Maymyo (near Mandalay), while six others successfully attacked railroad yards in that vicinity. Our fighters flew harassing missions in northern Burma.

2. On May 10 eight P-40's of the 14th Air Force damaged four locomotives, three river boats, two tank cars, a flat car loaded with troops and equipment, and at least five trucks in an offensive reconnaissance mission over northern French Indo-China.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for May 9, General MacArthur reports that US bombers attacked enemy installations on New Britain and along the northeastern New Guinea coast. Our dive-bombers operated against enemy strong points in the Mubo area. B-24's again bombed Manokwari, starting fires in the building and water front areas and destroying one of three intercepting enemy fighters over the Kai Islands.

Seven Japanese medium bombers, raiding Allied shipping and an airfield at Millingimbi (east of Darwin), caused slight damage.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 516

0700 May 9 to 0700 May 10, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

51043-2



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-79

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On May 8 and 9 Allied units continued their reduction of enemy resistance in northeastern Tunisia. Our armored units pushed eastward from Ferryville to overcome enemy resistance between the Lac de Bizerte and Porto Farina, and on May 9 all German forces in that general area, including panzer units, two regiments of artillery, and other elements, surrendered. The US force which had skirted high ground west of Tebourba joined at Djedeida with British infantry advancing from the southwest. A British armored division drove north from Tunis, cleared the entire area of enemy resistance, captured many prisoners, and joined with our 1st Armored Division near the mouth of the Medjerda River. Two British armored divisions are moving southeast of Tunis against desperate enemy rear-guard action, and to the southwest the French have captured Zaghouan, increasing the threat to the remaining Axis forces opposing the advance of the British Eighth Army. Since the 7th of May, at least 50,000 prisoners have been captured.

During the period, Allied air forces continued their operations against enemy troops, vehicles and airfields, as well as their attacks on enemy shipping. In the heaviest concentrated bombing effort of the North African campaign, 134 B-17's, 90 medium bombers, and 178 fighter planes dropped over 500 tons of bombs on the docks and industrial and commercial areas of Palermo. Forty of our planes returned early; one

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

B-17 was shot down over the target area and five B-26's are missing. Heavy antiaircraft fire was encountered. A photo reconnaissance mission, dispatched to record the results of the bombing one hour after the attack, reported that there was nothing to photograph except intense clouds of smoke and volumes of dust, with the target still completely obscured.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On May 8, seven B-24's of the 10th Air Force made a successful high-altitude attack on railroad yards and a roundhouse at Rangoon. Eight B-25's bombed a siding west of Mandalay, damaging locomotives and tracks. Six others attacked railroad yards south of Mandalay, scoring hits on the yards, the station and warehouses, and probably destroying three Japanese fighters. P-40's destroyed a bridge in central Burma.

2. On May 8, sixteen B-24's, ten B-25's and 24 P-40's of the 14th Air Force made a coordinated attack on the Tienho airport, shops, and factory, and on the Whitecloud Airport at Canton. Major damage was done to the enemy installations and 16 (probably 21) enemy aircraft were shot down. Our loss was one B-25.

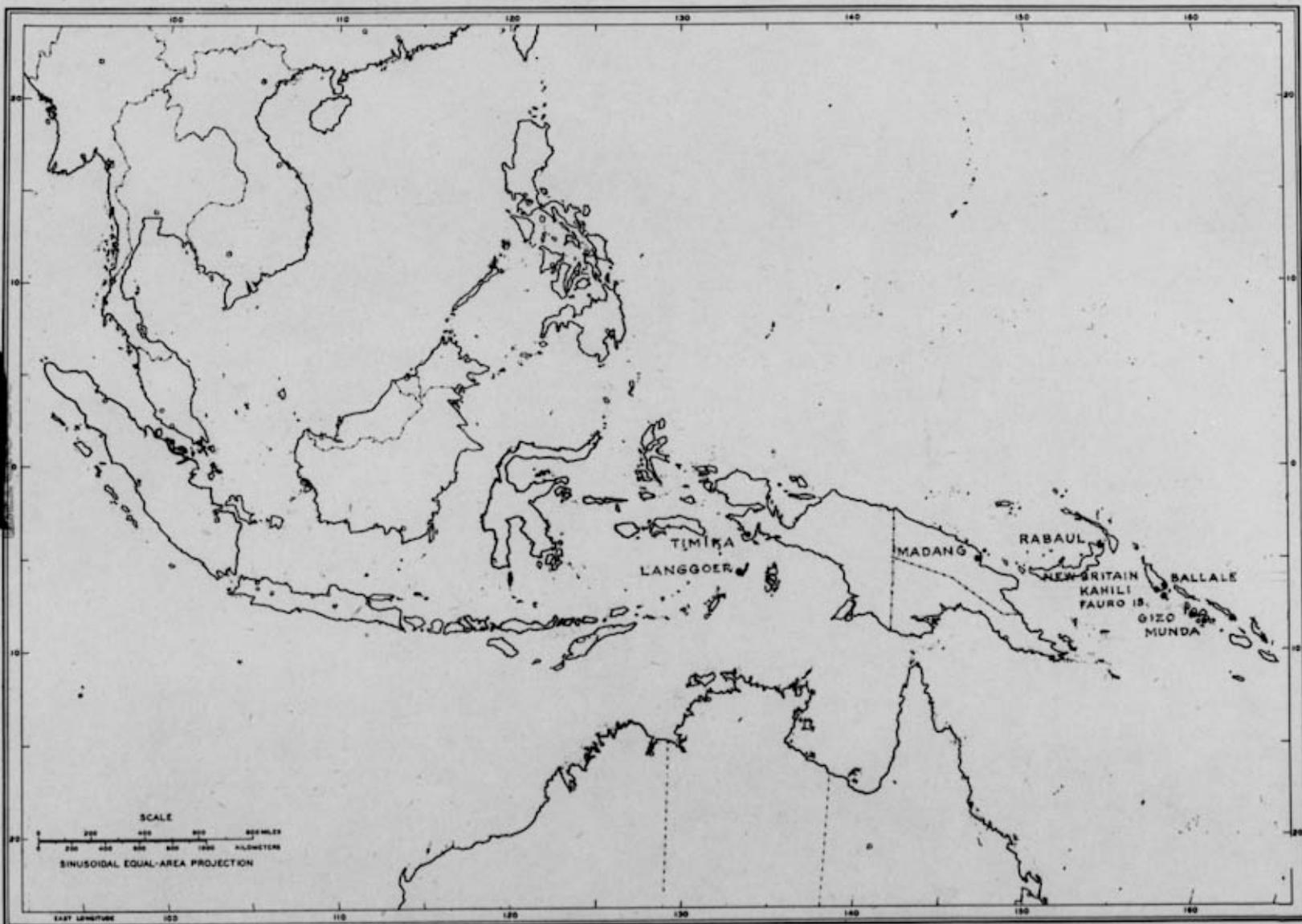
Eight Japanese airplanes bombed our airdrome at Suichwan (southeastern China); the results were not reported.

Next day, P-40's machine-gunned enemy shipping in northeastern French Indo-China and destroyed two locomotives.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT May 8, General MacArthur reports that nine B-25's and 14 fighter planes bombed and machine-gunned a small troop-laden transport and a cargo vessel near Madang leaving both burning and sinking, destroyed one enemy fighter plane on the ground, shot down another and also attacked enemy-held villages in the area. US B-17's attacked the Vunakanau airfield at Rabaul with unobserved results and bombed and machine-gunned enemy installations along the north coast of New Britain. Australian Hudson bombers attacked Timika and Langgoer.

PACIFIC THEATER

Two B-24's raided Kahili, Ballale and Fauro Island on the night of May 6-7. The next day one of our planes secured a hit on a Japanese destroyer in the Gizo anchorage and some 35 US aircraft bombed Munda; one of our planes failed to return.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 515

0700 May 8 to 0700 May 9, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

5943-1



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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MAY 9 1943
REPRODUCED BY THE OSS REPRO SECTION

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DECLASSIFIED
Letter, 5-3-78

GENERAL

The War Department instructed senior commanders that the President of the United States is anxious that every effort be made to preserve the local archives in towns and seats of government occupied by our forces, in order to avoid the great loss, inconvenience and trouble which resulted from the destruction of such archives in occupied territory in past wars.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Amchitka-based US planes made six raids on Kiska and six on Attu during May 7, scoring hits on the main camp and military installations at Kiska, and on the camp area and gun positions at Attu. Over 60 tons of bombs were dropped.

EUROPEAN THEATER

On May 7 an unidentified airplane was reported over Iceland.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

As a result of Allied operations on May 7-8, enemy forces in north-eastern Tunisia have been split into three pockets with the main group defending the Cape Bon Peninsula, a second group operating between Bizerte and Tunis, and a third practically negligible force isolated west of Bizerte. There was considerable local activity on the Eighth

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Army front; many prisoners and much material being taken.

The British and American advances on the north, and the French advance on the southwest, continued during May 8. Allied troops poured into gaps between the separate enemy pockets of resistance, further compressing enemy positions. At least 20,000 prisoners have been taken since the evening of May 5.

Throughout May 7 Allied bombers of all classes maintained continuous pressure against the enemy withdrawing on roads in the Tunis area. Enemy motor concentrations and airfields were attacked with considerable success and constant fighter sweeps were made over the forward areas. The small-scale enemy air activity was completely unable to meet our attacks. Enemy shipping in the Gulf of Tunis was again attacked, a communique stating that 17 ships were sunk, a destroyer left burning, and several other vessels hit. The previous night, while British North African bombers were attacking docks and shipping at Trapani, Allied aircraft from Malta were conducting a similar attack on Marsala.

On the night of May 7-8 and during the following day, Allied air operations against enemy troops, vehicles and airfields in Tunisia, as well as attacks on enemy shipping in the vicinity, continued on the previous heavy scale. A strong force of Allied bombers and fighter-bombers also made a destructive raid on Pantellaria, hitting several enemy airplanes on the ground.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

On May 6, 51 of General Brereton's heavy bombers again punished the Italian port of Reggio di Calabria with more than 114 tons of high explosives and incendiaries. One of two merchant vessels, which were hit, exploded violently. Our crews describe this raid as the most successful to date; intercepting fighters and antiaircraft fire caused the loss of one of our aircraft, but its crew was rescued by a launch from Malta.

ASIATIC THEATER

On May 6, B-25's of the 10th Air Force attacked railroad installations to the south of Mandalay. The next day six B-24's dropped over 13 tons of demolition bombs on the railroad yards at Toungoo (central Burma) starting a large fire. Our P-40's bombed and strafed Japanese positions in northern Burma.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 7, General MacArthur reports that Allied bombers successfully attacked enemy installations at Madang, Babo, and the Penfoei airfield (Timor). Hits were observed in all target areas and extensive damage

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

was caused. Australian dive-bombers supported Allied ground units near Mubo. Two Japanese fighter float planes intercepted five Australian Hudson bombers south of Dobo (Aroe Is.); one Hudson was shot down. Photographs taken over Manokwari on May 6 indicate that our bombers caused extensive damage to enemy stores in their attack that day.

PACIFIC THEATER

Seventy-seven US airplanes attacked the antiaircraft positions, runways, buildings and dumps at Munda on the morning of May 6, dropping high explosive and incendiary bombs and thoroughly machine-gunning the area. An enemy airplane was shot down that afternoon.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 514

0700 May 7 to 0700 May 8, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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USD Letter, 5-8-74

MAY 8th 1943
REPRODUCED BY THE OCS SUPD SECTION

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

During the 24-hour period ending 0600 GCT, May 7, our aircraft dropped nine tons of bombs on enemy positions in the Kiska area, and 15½ tons of bombs on the camp site and antiaircraft positions on Attu. Hits were observed on all targets. Enemy shelters on Rat Island (east of Kiska) were machine-gunned. Late reports state that 26½ tons of bombs were dropped on Kiska on May 5, instead of 5½ tons as previously reported.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On May 6 in an outstanding day of continuous air action, at least 25 enemy surface craft were sunk in enemy harbors, including Marsala and Trapani, and three destroyers, two merchant vessels, four ferries and several smaller craft were sunk and two destroyers and two merchant vessels were damaged in the Sicilian Straits. The harbors at Tunis and La Goulette were bombed, other enemy installations were battered, and 32 (probably 38) enemy planes were destroyed. From all these operations 13 Allied planes are missing. Approximately two-thirds of the 637 tons of bombs dropped by our planes were in direct support of our ground units. ||

A late communique from General Eisenhower's headquarters indicates that, greatly aided by these air operations, the Allied advance continued, meeting heavy resistance at many points. Ferryville was captured by

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UNCLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

elements of our 1st Armored Division which pushed on and entered Bizerte at 1615, May 7; British armored units also pushed forward and entered Tunis at 1450. Further south French forces captured Pont du Fahs and the commanding terrain east of this town. There was considerable local activity on the Eighth Army front. Many prisoners and much materiel have been captured.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

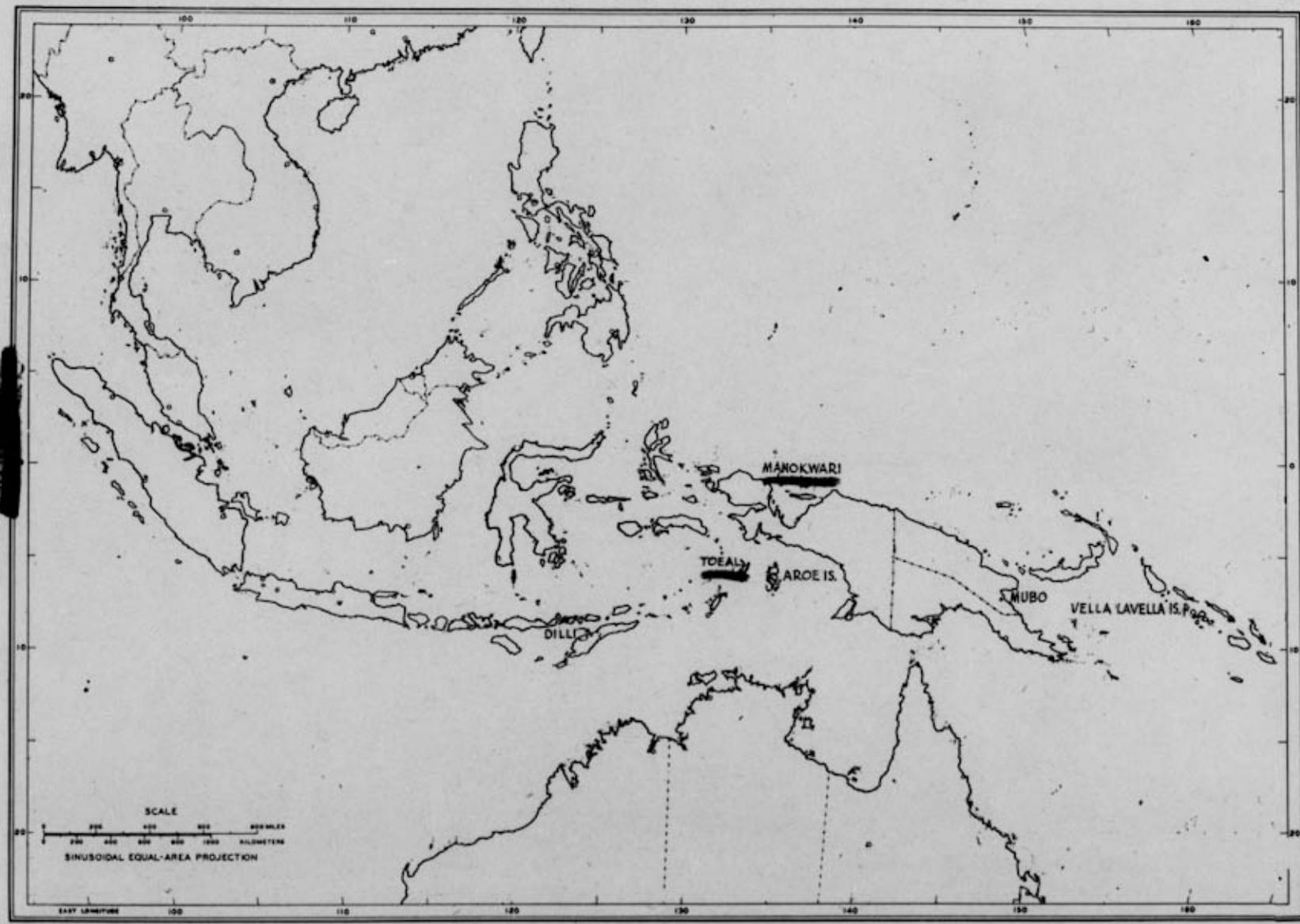
During April, General Brereton's heavy bombers dropped over 868 tons of bombs on the harbor and port facilities, shipping and airfields in Italy and Sicily, destroying or damaging 85 enemy airplanes, sinking one (probably five) tankers and damaging two more. His medium bombers dropped 410 tons of demolitions on enemy motor columns, tanks, railroads, airfields, and ground installations. 9th Air Force fighters dropped 129 tons of explosives on ground targets in addition to destroying 101 (probably 107) aircraft, sinking three destroyers and one ferry and damaging four more destroyers and two small boats. In all these operations five B-24's, three B-25's, and 26 P-40's were lost.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. Eighteen B-24's of the 10th Air Force successfully attacked railroad yards on the Rangoon-Mandalay railroad on May 5; many direct hits were observed in the target areas. US medium bombers attacked

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

oil tanks and warehouses 20 miles west of Myitkyina. On May 6, eight B-25's attacking the railroad junction two miles south of Myitkyina hit the main tracks and started fires in the warehouse area; five B-24's dropped thirty half-ton bombs on the smelter plant at Namtu (25 miles northwest of Lashio). Our fighters continued their harassing missions against ground targets.

2. On May 7 two waves of Jap bombers attacked our advanced air-drome at Kanchow (southeast China), interception was unsuccessful; the damage has not yet been reported.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 6, General MacArthur reports that five B-25's, attacking Manokwari, caused large explosions and fires, and it is believed that the entire northwest section of the town was destroyed. On the return trip our bombers dropped incendiaries on Toeal. Nine enemy beached float planes were destroyed in the Aroe Islands by six Australian Beaufighters and a lugger carrying enemy troops was machine-gunned and sunk. Three US medium bombers started fires at Dilli. Our dive-bombers continued to support the Allied units operating in the Mubo area.

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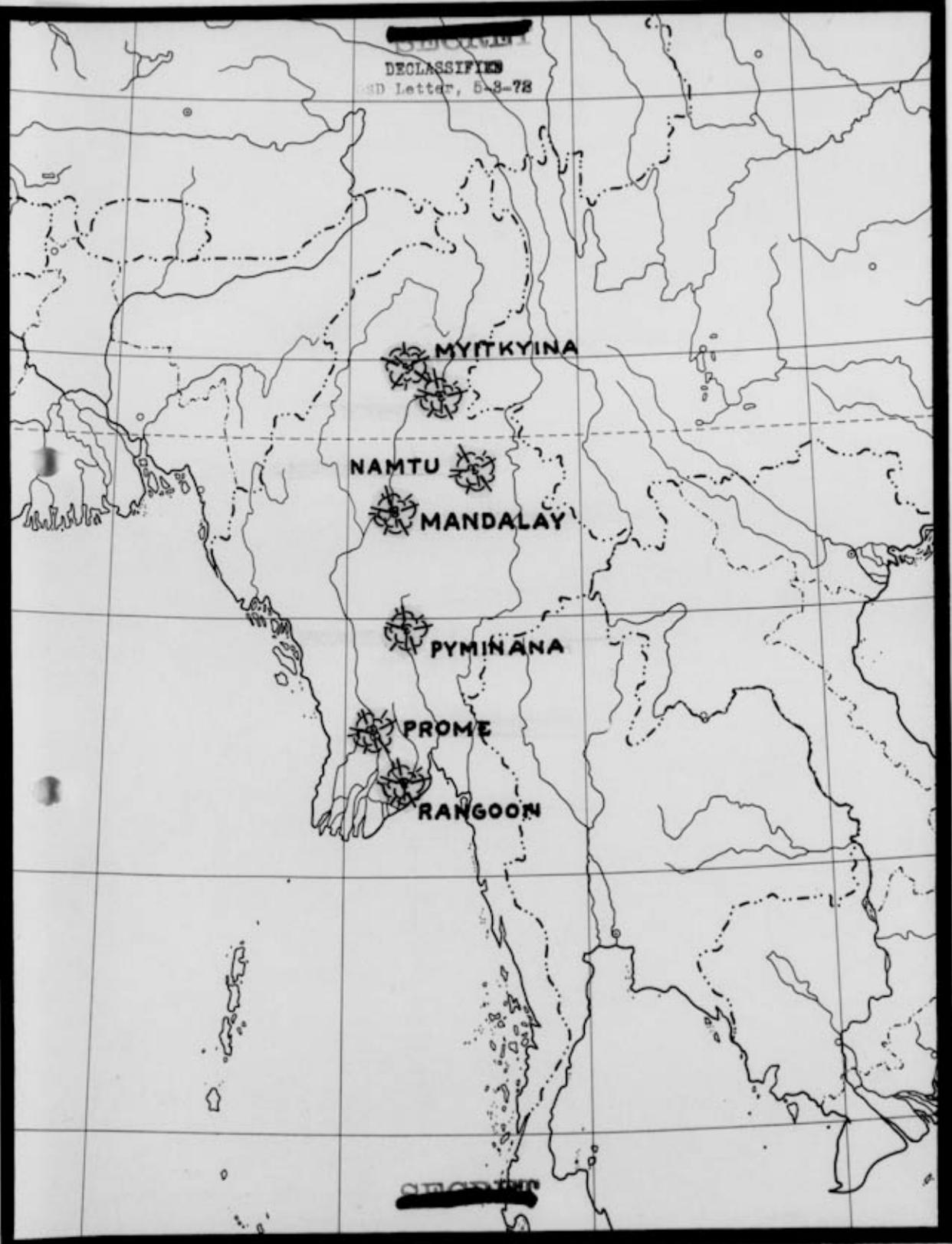
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PACIFIC THEATER

On May 6, sixteen US fighter planes heavily machine-gunned Vella Lavella in the New Georgia Islands.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 513

0700 May 6 to 0700 May 7, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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UNCLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 8-8-74

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

During the two-day period ending 0600 May 6, our 11th Air Force in Alaska dropped over 5½ tons of bombs on the radar and building installations and gun emplacements on Kiska, and over 26 tons of demolition bombs on Attu, hitting antiaircraft gun positions and the enemy tent camp. The enemy installations at Attu were also machine-gunned by our planes from low altitudes, probably causing some casualties to personnel and damage to the positions.

EUROPEAN THEATER

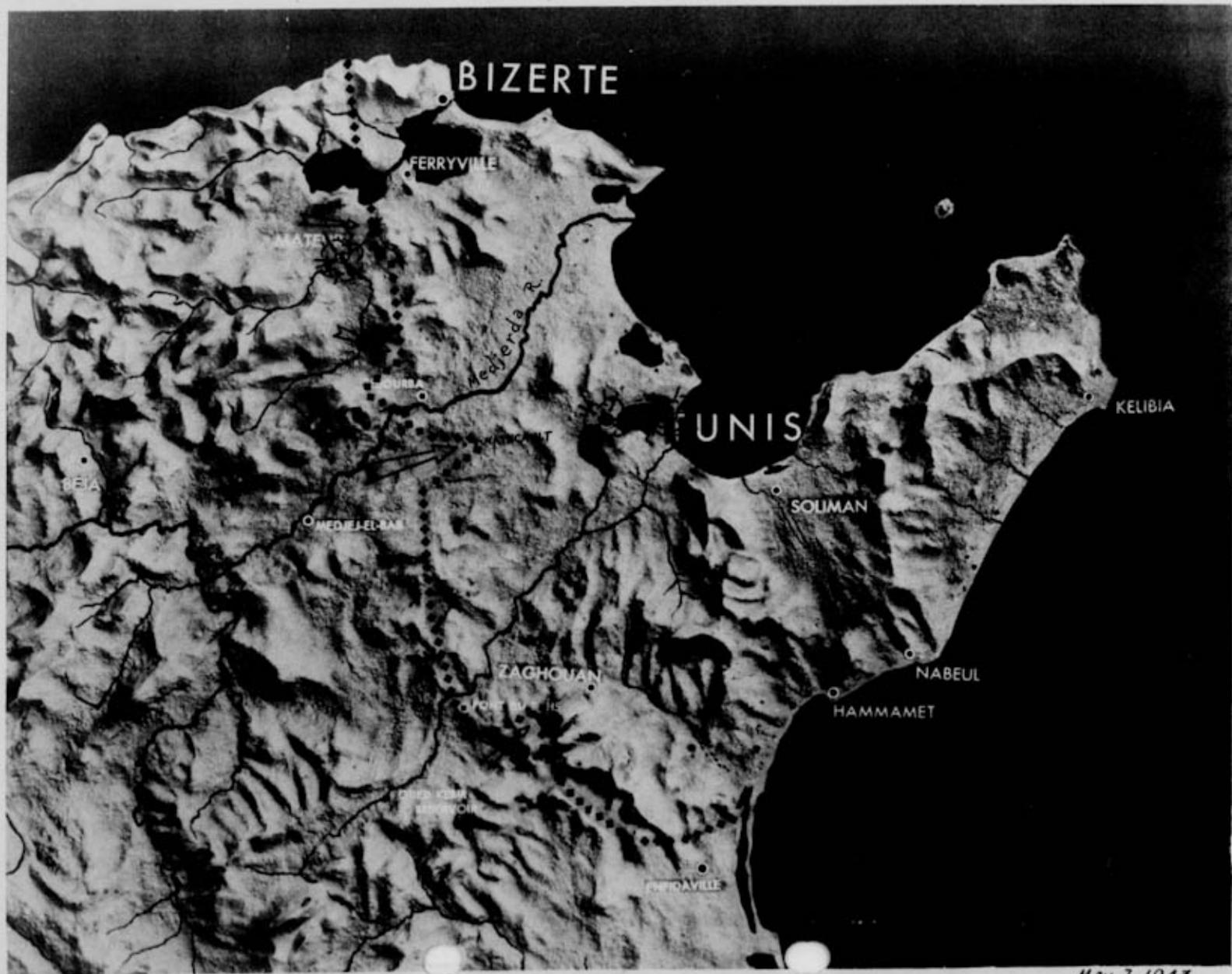
1. Another unidentified airplane was reported over Iceland on May 5.
2. Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers has been designated to replace Lt. Gen. Frank M. Andrews as Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, and will leave the United States on May 8. The temporary theater commander, Maj. Gen. W. S. Key, has been directed to designate Maj. Gen. I. H. Edwards, the War Department's Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, (now in England) as the Acting Chief of Staff for the European Theater.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Enemy counterattacks on May 5 against our II Corps were again unsuccessful. The British regained the important hill mass northeast

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

May 7, 1943
REPRODUCED BY THE OSI REPRO SECTION

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Letter, 5-3-78

of Medjez-el-Bab and a local attack by US troops captured part of the hill south of Garaet Achkel. The next day our II Corps advanced on a wide front against strong opposition. The remaining enemy forces were pushed out of the hills north and northeast of Mateur, the British First Army resumed the offensive south of the Medjerda River capturing Massicault, and a French drive directed on Zaghouan was progressing satisfactorily although meeting with stiff resistance.

The Allied air forces, intensifying their operations with the return of good weather, supported our ground troops, patrolled the forward areas, sank three enemy merchantmen, including one large ship probably carrying ammunition, damaged two others, bombed the harbors of La Goulette and Tunis, and pounded enemy landing fields, destroying or damaging 44 enemy planes. An enemy destroyer was blown up in the course of a shipping sweep over the Gulf of Tunis, and harbor installations in northwestern Sicily were heavily attacked, a number of vessels there being damaged. Enemy planes were active over Enfidaville; Mateur was bombed nine times on May 5.

ASIATIC THEATER

Fourteen B-24's of the 10th Air Force heavily damaged the Toungoo airdrome and railroad yards in southern Burma, May 4, possibly hitting the railway station. On May 5, eight B-25's bombed the Myingyan railway

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

yards (60 miles southwest of Mandalay), scoring hits on the railroad tracks and sheds and completely destroying the turntable.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 5, General MacArthur reports that Allied ground troops captured a native village four miles southwest of Salamaua, forcing the enemy to the northeast. Six B-25's started large fires at Toeal (Kai Is.) and an Australian bomber attacked the enemy airfield at Timika. An enemy submarine torpedoed and sank a Norwegian freighter off New South Wales.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 512

0700 May 5 to 0700 May 6, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

May 6, 1943

REPRODUCED BY THE OSD REPRO. SECTION

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. Two German two-engined bombers and one unidentified airplane were observed over Iceland on May 4.

2. During the week ending May 2, planes of our 8th Air Force destroyed 18 (probably 24) enemy fighter planes. During the same period we lost seven B-17's and two P-47's. Most of these casualties occurred during the May 1 attack on St. Nazaire.

3. Major General W. S. Key, Provost Marshal General, ETO, assumed command of the European Theater of Operations, May 3, 1943, upon the death of Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On May 4, enemy attempts to push back the French forces in the north, and to regain commanding terrain in the center and south were unsuccessful, at least 14 enemy tanks being destroyed in the area northeast of Medjez-el-Bab. The enemy shelled Mateur during the day and his air activity, on an increased scale, was largely directed against our ground troops in this area. Although unfavorable weather hampered our air effort Allied fliers pounded land targets in the Zaghuan area and continued their fighter sweeps and shipping reconnaissance mission. Over 38 tons of demolitions were dropped on

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Letter, 5-8-78

the harbor at Reggio di Calabria, southern Italy, and 16 tons of bombs on Taranto; many hits were observed in the target areas.

2. During the week ending April 30 the 12th Air Force destroyed 22 (probably 25) enemy airplanes in the air plus nine on the ground. In the same period we lost seven bombers and 16 fighter aircraft from aerial engagements, antiaircraft fire, and unknown causes. Similar figures for the RAF are 26 (probably 29) enemy planes destroyed for a loss of six bombers and 21 fighter planes.

3. Replying to War Department queries, General Eisenhower estimates that French infantry divisions and truck companies will require two months to complete their training after the receipt of American equipment. Their existing armored regiments, reconnaissance, tank destroyer, and antiaircraft battalions should be allowed three months. The combat efficiency to be reached by these units will justify their employment in any type of operation except where landings are involved. Existing French units equipped with French materiel will be suitable only for line of communication or similar employment; the French consider that their troops thus equipped should be employed in operations only as a last resort. Their efficiency has been low, partly because of their knowledge that other French units have new US equipment.

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ASIATIC THEATER

On May 4, 10 B-25's again attacked the enemy railroad installations in the general Maymyo-Mandalay area. Hits were scored on machine shops, engine sheds, and railroad cars.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 4, General MacArthur reports that six B-24's, attacking the town and shipping at Wewak, scored two hits on a medium merchant vessel which was left listing and smoking; enemy fighter resistance was encountered. Six other B-24's attacked Babo in northwestern New Guinea, starting large fires in the barracks and buildings areas, destroying one grounded enemy airplane, and shooting down one (probably two) out of six intercepting enemy float planes. Allied reconnaissance planes bombed and machine-gunned enemy targets of opportunity.

In the May 2 attack on Darwin, five (probably nine) enemy fighters and one enemy bomber were destroyed, instead of three (probably five) enemy fighters as previously reported.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 511

0700 May 4 to 0700 May 5, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. During the 24-hour period ending 0600 GCT May 4, Canadian and US fighters and US bombers dropped 14 tons of demolition and fragmentation bombs among tents in the main camp area, on gun positions, and near the radar installations at Kiska.

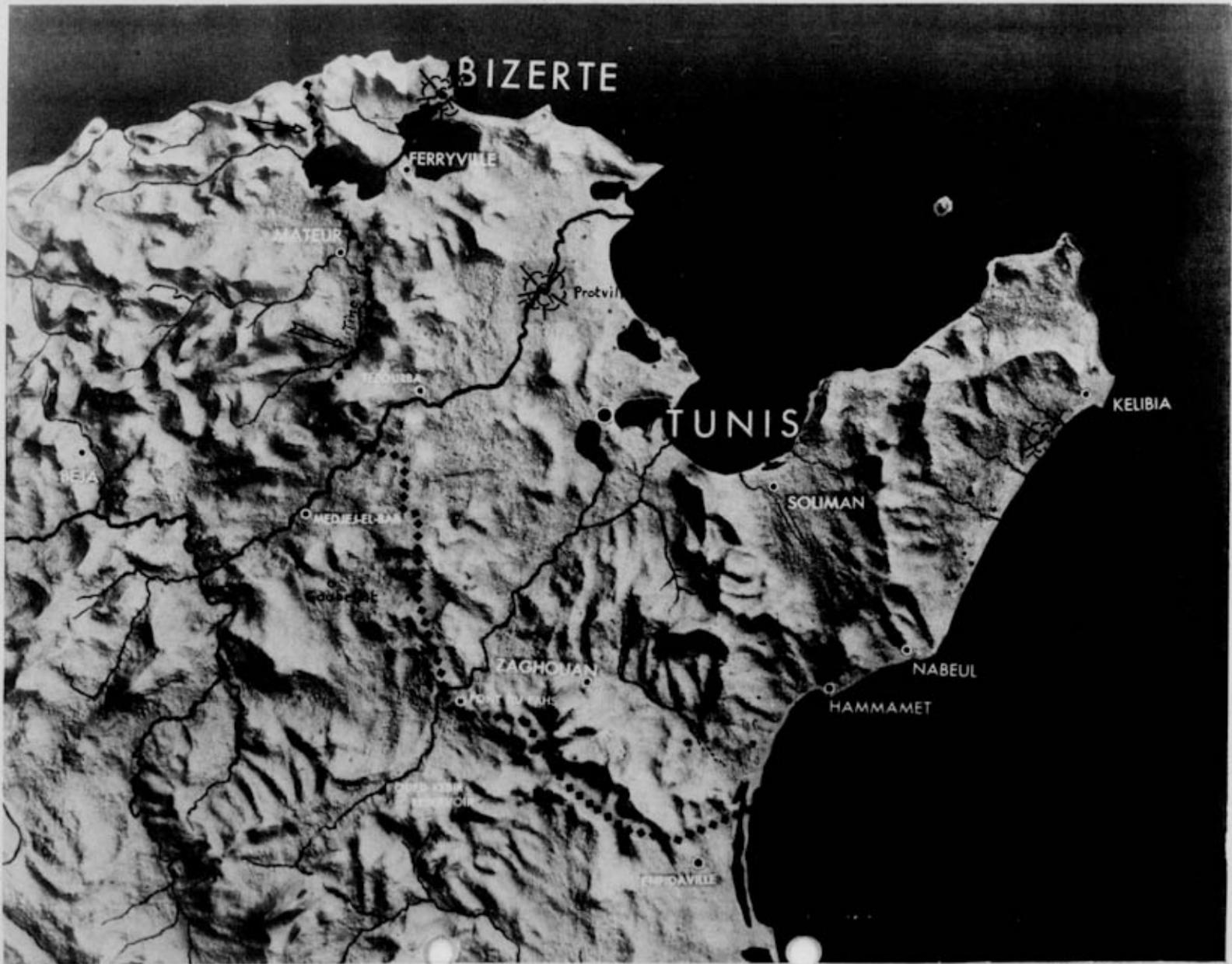
2. An unidentified airplane was reported over the southern tip of Greenland on May 3.

3. Directives were issued for the movement of the 4th Armored Division (Major General J. S. Wood) from Camp Young, California to Camp Bowie, Texas and the 9th Armored Division (Major General J. W. Leonard) from Fort Riley, Kansas to Camp Young, California, for permanent change of station.

EUROPEAN THEATER

Sixty-five B-17's dropped 162½ tons of high explosive bombs on industrial targets, including the Ford and General Motors plants, in the Antwerp area during daylight hours May 5. Enemy antiaircraft and fighter opposition was slight; preliminary reports indicate that six (probably ten) enemy fighter planes were destroyed. All of our bombers returned safely. Sixty-nine P-47's, flying their first support mission, assisted the withdrawal of our bombers. One enemy plane was destroyed and one P-47 was lost, but not due to enemy action. A diversion sweep, by 11 B-24's and 19 B-17's, supported by 49 P-47's, was uneventful.

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OSD Letter, 6-8-74

MAY 5, 1943
REPRODUCED BY THE OIS REPRO. SECTION

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

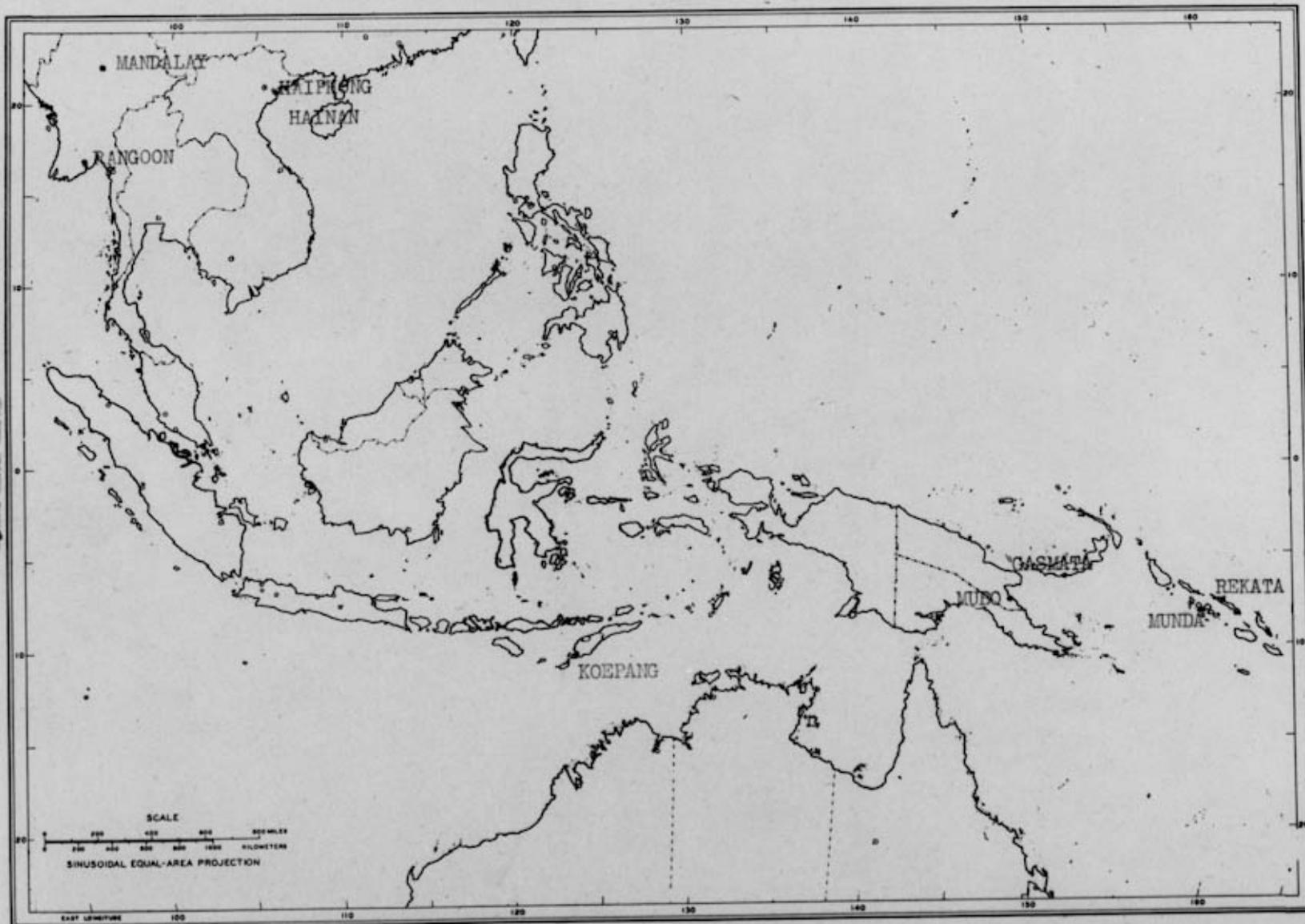
By midnight of May 3-4, French and US units pushing towards Bizerte along the northern coast had advanced to within 14 miles of the city. No enemy forces are known to be operating west of the Tine River or the Garaet Achkel except for small isolated units which are being mopped up. Elements of our 1st Armored Division are concentrating in the Mateur area and our 1st Infantry Division is attacking eastward toward Tebourba. No other major activity was reported.

In previously unreported air missions for May 3, US B-17's and P-40's bombed the enemy airfield at Protville, and General Brereton's bombers started large fires on the jetties at Menzel Temime and bombed and machine-gunned bridges, buildings and docks. Allied anti-shipping sweeps were uneventful. Other than a minor attack by enemy fighters against Allied ground forces near Goubellat and small patrols in the Tunis and Tebourba areas, there was little enemy air activity for the day.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. According to a delayed report, shipping and air installations in the vicinity of Rangoon were repeatedly attacked by heavy bombers of the 10th Air Force between April 27 and May 1. Docks and warehouses were damaged and a small vessel, hit with 500-pound bombs, is believed to have been sunk. One B-24 is missing as a result of interception by

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

enemy fighters.

On May 2 eleven B-25's in an attack on the railroad yards at Ywataung (20 miles west of Mandalay) dropped 13 tons of bombs, hitting tracks and rolling stock. One returning plane crash-landed twelve miles from its base. The same day US P-40's, assisted by one B-25, made extensive attacks in northern Burma on railroads, bridges, and enemy-held towns, destroying two bridges with half-ton bombs, causing fires, and damaging rolling stock and motor vehicles.

Eight B-25's bombed the dock area at Sagaing (near Mandalay) on May 3; nine other B-25's scored hits on the railroad station and warehouse at Myingyan (some 60 miles southwest of Mandalay).

2. On May 4, 18 B-24's of the 14th Air Force bombed enemy dock installations and an oil refinery at Hainan Island, achieving complete surprise, encountering heavy but inaccurate antiaircraft fire, and observing good results. One B-24 was lost and one force landed on its return. Nine B-25's and 19 P-40's accompanied this mission initially, turning off at a designated point to bomb the dock installations at Haiphong, Indo-China. Good effect was believed obtained.

From Summary

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT May 3, General MacArthur reports that our ground forces attacking enemy positions near Mubo have encountered strong resistance. In air

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

operations, four B-25's strafed the runway, dispersal areas and buildings at Gasmata. RAAF Beaufighters which performed a similar mission at Penfoei airdrome at Koepang on the afternoon of May 2, reported the destruction of two bombers and two fighter aircraft.

PACIFIC THEATER

On May 3, in an attack on Rekata, 58 US aircraft machine-gunned and bombed antiaircraft positions, buildings, and bivouac areas, starting one large fire; no planes were lost. The next day three B-24's dropped a total of 38 300-pound demolition bombs on Munda and Rekata, starting another large fire.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

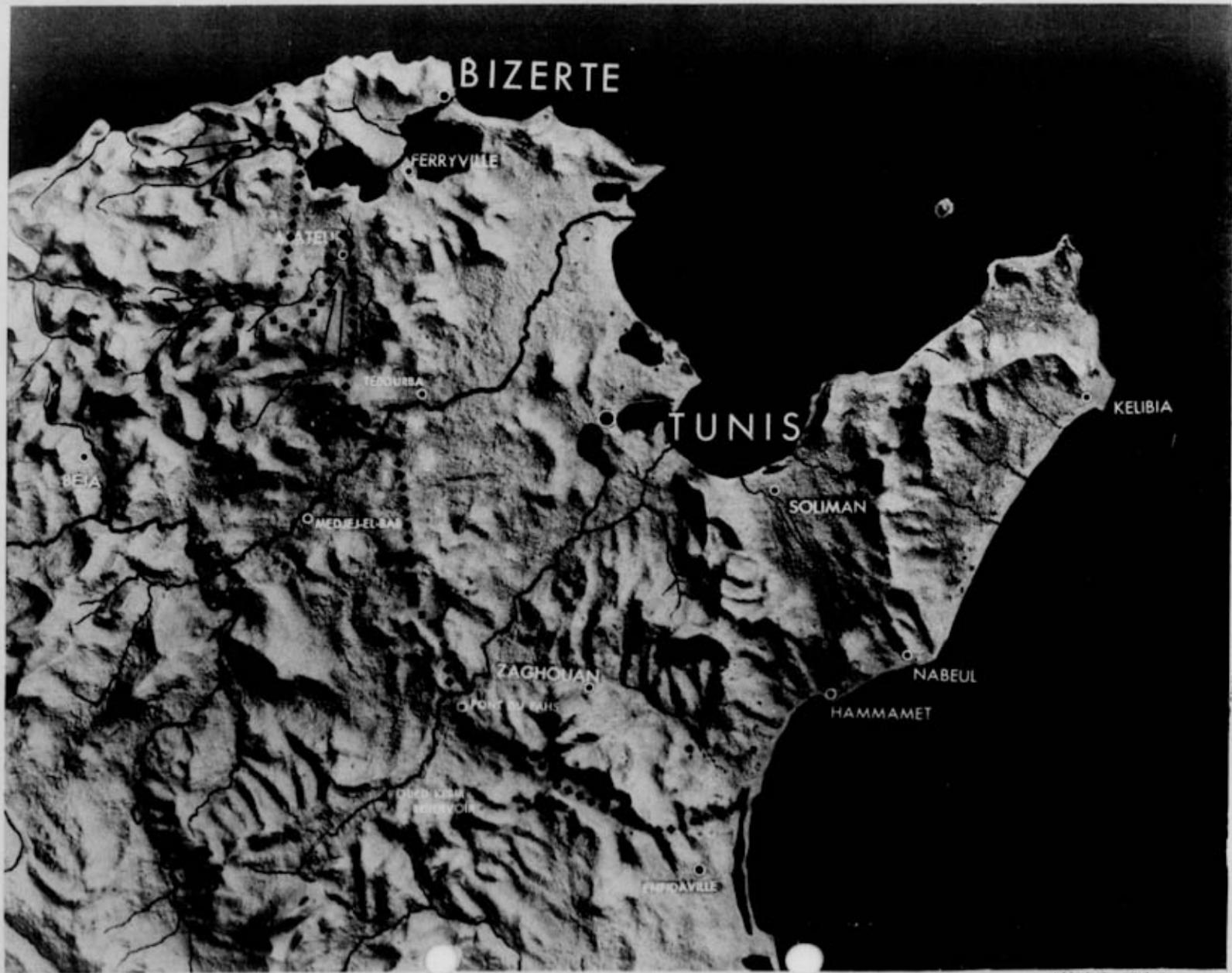
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 510

0700 May 3 to 0700 May 4, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-8-72

MAY 4, 1943
REPRODUCED BY THE ODS REPRO. SECTION

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

During the two-day period ending 0600 GCT May 3, our 11th Air Force sent sixteen missions of fighters, fighter-bombers and bombers over Kiska and Attu. Fifty-seven tons of demolition and fragmentation bombs were dropped on the enemy installations. Several gun positions and buildings were destroyed and an enemy submarine was believed to have been hit and damaged; one of our fighter planes did not return.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

On the morning of May 3, reconnaissance units of our 1st Armored Division entered Mateur and continued to advance to the northeast and northwest. To the north other units of our II Corps, continuing their push to the east, have forced the enemy to evacuate all of his forward positions. British troops in the center are being regrouped; the division which has been engaged constantly in fierce fighting northeast of Medjez-el-Bab has been relieved by a comparatively fresh unit. Considerable artillery and patrol activity was reported on the front of the British Eighth Army. During the past two days enemy air activity has been on a very low scale, offensive raids being carried out in the Enfidaville area and small defensive patrols being reported over Tunis and the battle front. While large-scale Allied operations were prevented by the weather, May 2, our fighters and fighter-bombers were active against enemy shipping and selected ground targets in the battle

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area. Our medium bombers concentrated their attacks against enemy tanks. With better weather conditions on May 3, US B-17's and P-38's bombed the docks at Bizerte, scoring numerous direct hits on port installations. Our medium bombers turned their attention toward the remaining enemy airfields in northeastern Tunisia; bursts were observed among grounded enemy aircraft.

ASIATIC THEATER

Five B-24's, unable to attack enemy shipping off Rangoon, May 1, dropped 45 quarter-ton bombs on an airfield southwest of the city. The majority of the bombs hit in the target area.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 GCT, May 2, General MacArthur reports that 21 enemy medium bombers covered by 25 fighters raided our airfield at Darwin during the morning, causing slight damage. Thirty-two Allied planes intercepted and destroyed three (probably five) enemy fighters. Fourteen of our planes were lost over the sea due to combat and fuel shortage. Dutch B-25's, operating west of New Guinea, dispersed vessels of a small enemy convoy off Toel, causing one ship to run aground, and bombed the Penfoei airdrome at Koepong, starting fires in the runway area. RAAF A-20's again bombed and machine-gunned enemy positions in the Mubo area.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 509

0700 May 2 to 0700 May 3, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. US and Canadian Amchitka-based fighter-bombers raided Kiska three times, May 1, bombing gun emplacements and the main camp and hangar areas.

2. During April General Butler's 11th Air Force dropped over 700 tons of bombs on Attu and Kiska. One B-24 and one P-40 were lost. Although enemy floatplanes were bombed and machine-gunned on the beach at Kiska, none were encountered in the air.

EUROPEAN THEATER

Fifty-four B-17's bombed the enemy submarine installations at St. Nazaire during daylight hours May 1; cloud conditions prevented observation of results. Enemy air opposition, mediocre over the target area, grew in intensity on the return trip; intense antiaircraft fire was encountered over Brest. Seven of our bombers failed to return. A diversion mission of B-24's with Spitfire escort along the coast of the Brest Peninsula was uneventful.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Several minor enemy counterattacks were reported May 1, all of which were ultimately unsuccessful. French units, operating under the control of our II Corps, have patrolled to within 19 miles of

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OsB Letter, 5-3-78

Bizerte. Frequent air sweeps over the Gulf of Tunis and the Sicilian Straits that day failed to reveal any enemy shipping; our fighter and medium bomber attacks in support of our ground units were again unopposed. The US 3rd Infantry Division is now enroute to Constantine from Oran.

ASIATIC THEATER

On April 29 eighteen B-25's of the 10th Air Force attacked railroad bridges and installations at Myitnge and nine B-24's scored hits on the docks at Rangoon. The next day seven B-24's and ten B-25's scored hits on the Gokteik Viaduct, four B-25's hit the railroad yards at Maymyo and nine B-25's destroyed enemy storage buildings at Mandalay. P-40's from Dinjan, supplemented by medium bombers, bombed and machine-gunned enemy positions and installations in northern Burma.

Twenty-four Japanese planes raided our airfield at Lingling, southwestern China, May 2; a final report has not been received but it was believed no damage was caused our installations. Six enemy aircraft were shot down.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT, May 1, General MacArthur reports that Australian dive-bombers again attacked enemy positions in the Mubo area. Reconnaissance B-24's hit

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

and severely damaged an enemy 5,000-ton steamer off the northwestern New Guinea coast and destroyed three of some six to eight intercepting enemy fighter planes between Timor and Java. RAAF Hudsons attacked the enemy-held towns of Langgoer (Kai Is.) and Timika (southwestern New Guinea).

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 508

0700 May 1 to 0700 May 2, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. On April 30 ten Amchitka-based P-38's dropped quarter-ton bombs on the submarine base, hangar, and other enemy installations on Kiska. Hits were observed on antiaircraft positions.

2. The War Department has notified senior commanders that the required method of expressing time in Joint and Combined communications will now apply also to intra-US Army communications. In substance, this change provides that following the six-digit time block, a letter suffix will be used in order to identify the local time zone, similar to Navy practice.

3. The Headquarters of the XIII Corps has been transferred from Providence, Rhode Island, to Fort du Pont, Delaware.

EUROPEAN THEATER

An unidentified airplane was reported over Iceland April 30.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

General Brereton's B-24's dropped 61 tons of bombs on the ferry terminal at Messina on April 30, causing large explosions and fires. Fighter-bombers, in six missions over Tunisian waters, sank several enemy ships, including two destroyers, in spite of unprecedented defensive

efforts by enemy convoy escort aircraft which have been noted during the past few days. An enemy light cruiser, hit three times, was left burning. Objectives in front of the British First Army were bombed without interference. Five (probably seven) enemy planes were shot down; one B-24 and three Allied fighter planes were lost.

ASIATIC THEATER

Brigadier General Glenn has reported that during April, our 14th Air Force in China destroyed 14 enemy aircraft in aerial combat for a loss of one US plane.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

In his operations summary for the 24-hour period ending 1400 OCT, April 30, General MacArthur reports that six Australian dive bombers carried out low-level attacks against enemy positions in the Mubo area and single US B-24's, on reconnaissance missions, bombed Lae, and the Gasmata and Cape Gloucester airfields.

PACIFIC THEATER

1. On April 29 and 30, our B-17's pounded the enemy bivouac area and revetments at Kahili, B-24's bombed Kieta (Bougainville) and Numa Numa (Bougainville), and Navy planes bombed and strafed Vila; one P-38 was lost.

~~SECRET~~

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2. The War Department has directed the Commanding Generals, Army Ground Forces and Army Service Forces to move the 33rd Infantry Division (Major General John Milliken) from the mainland to Hawaii, and to move the 24th Infantry Division (Major General Frederick A. Irving) from Hawaii to Australia. A successive relief of units will be effected by the use of the same shipping as follows: The 33rd Division will relieve the 40th Infantry Division (Major General Rapp Brush) on the outlying islands of the Hawaiian Group. The 40th Division will then relieve the 24th Division on Oahu, freeing the 24th Division for its transfer to Australia. These movements will start probably in early July.

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