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DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

MR 203 (2) Sec. 20 - "WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY"

September 1943

MR 203 (2) Sec. 20 - "WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY"

(September 1943)

WAR DEPARTMENT

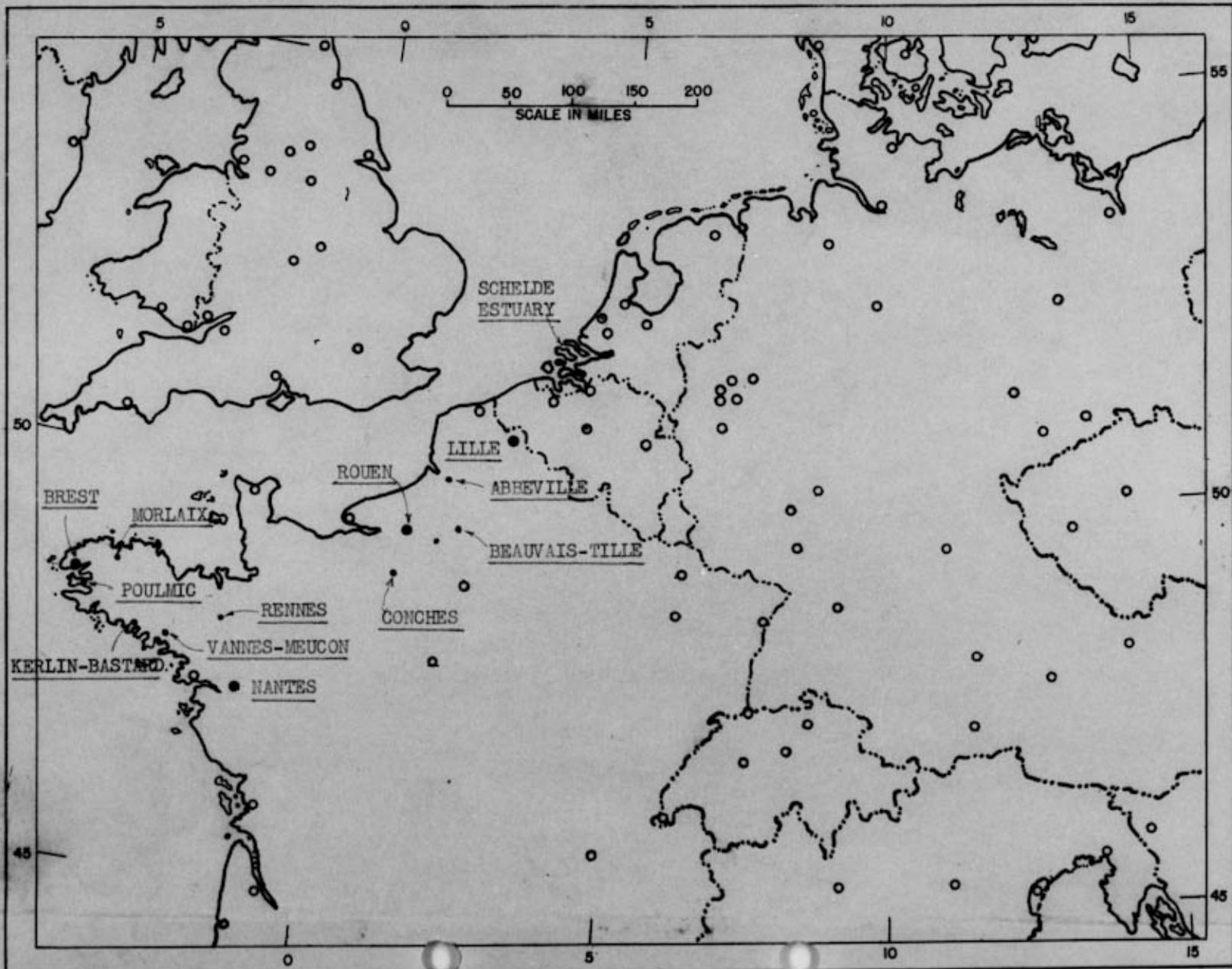
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 653

0700 September 23 to 0700 September 24, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

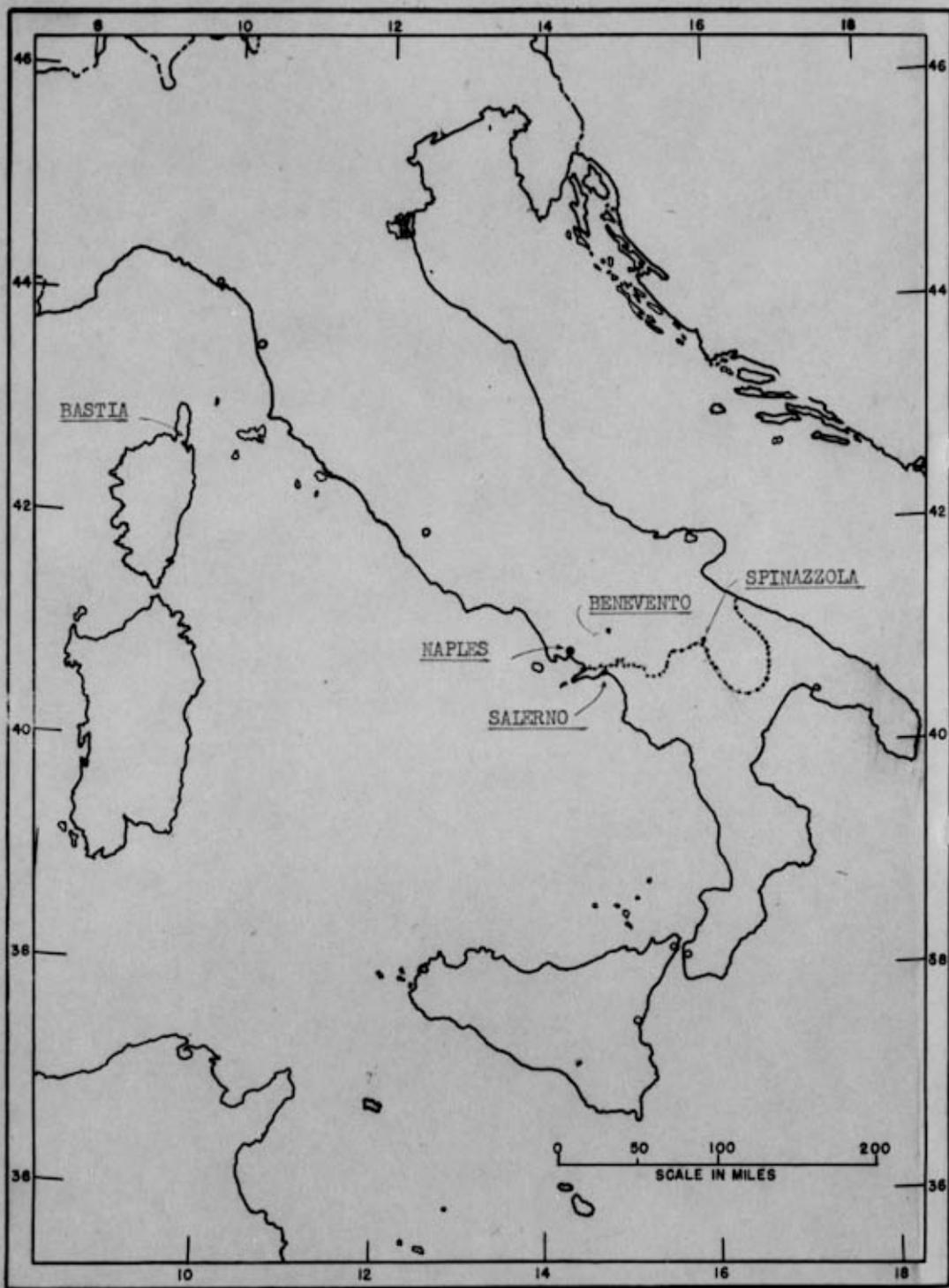


EUROPEAN THEATER

Nantes, the home station of many German submarine tenders and smaller naval vessels, was strongly attacked on the morning of 23 September by 117 B-17's, supported by 100 P-47's operating with long range belly tanks. Preliminary aerial photographs disclose that several ships and port buildings were set afire and a dry dock seriously damaged. Strong fighter opposition was encountered and 13 (probably 17) enemy planes were destroyed for a loss of one P-47. A second force of 67 B-17's, escorted by 56 P-47's, bombed the Vannes-Meucon airfield, and a third mission of 63 B-17's with 52 P-47's providing fighter escort raided the Kerlin-Bastard airport. These two enemy installations are the bases for most of the enemy planes operating against our antisubmarine air missions. Good bombing results were reported and two enemy planes were shot down for a loss of one B-17. An attack on the Conches airdrome by 72 B-26's, escorted by 12 squadrons of RAF Spitfires, was uneventful, 103 tons of high explosive bombs being dropped with good results and all planes returning undamaged.

B-17's again escorted by P-47's returned to Nantes during the afternoon for a second heavy attack on the docks and shipyards, also hitting an airfield near Rennes. Other Allied air missions included attacks on the Morlaix, Poulmic, Beauvais-Tillé, Lille and Abbeville airfields, on industrial targets at Rouen, and against shipping in the Schelde estuary and off the Dutch coast. Allied fighters flew escort

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24-4738ARCD

missions and extensive supporting sweeps over northern France, destroying nine enemy planes. Two B-17's and four fighters have not returned.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

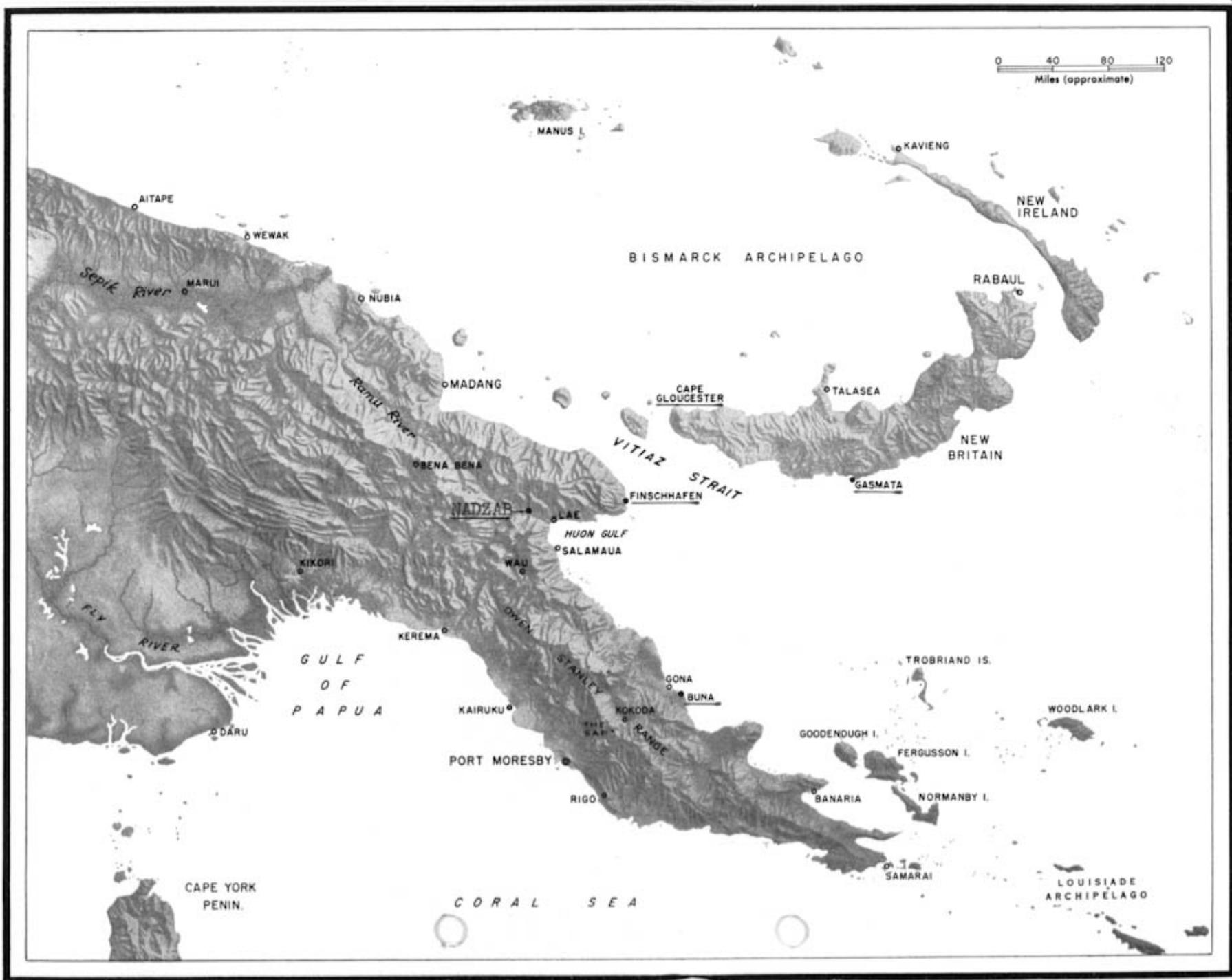
During the night of 21-22 September, 75 British Wellingtons dropped 125 tons of bombs in a destructive attack on the harbor and dock area at Bastia, Corsica, while 35 Allied light bombers harassed communications in the Naples-Benevento area with 23 tons of bombs. More than 200 US medium bombers continued the attacks on the roads and bridges leading to the battle area on 22 September, also hitting enemy gun positions, troop concentrations and road blocks north and northwest of Salerno.

By late afternoon of 23 September gains had been registered generally along the center of our line in Italy; Canadian troops in the British XIII Corps had pushed approximately 20 miles northward to a point south of Spinazzola. Stiff enemy resistance was encountered north of Salerno.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

Twenty-three B-24's of the 9th Air Force attacked the Maritsa airdrome, Rhodes, on 22 September, covering the entire landing area with bomb bursts and damaging at least six grounded enemy aircraft. Another mission of 27 B-24's hit the runway and completely covered the dispersal area at Eleusis airdrome, Athens, with more than 60 tons of bombs, starting several fires.

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OSD Letter, 8-3-78

ASIATIC THEATER

10th Air Force B-25's damaged tracks and the switchback at Sedaw, southeast of Mandalay, on 22 September with quarter-ton demolition bombs.

Medium bombers and fighters of the 14th Air Force attacked Yangtze River shipping east of Tungting Lake, on 22 September. Japanese planes bombed Nanyung, Kukong and Lungsoo, all in southeast China.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

Our B-24's and B-25's neutralized the Cape Gloucester airdrome in a predawn attack on 22 September, leaving both strips unserviceable and destroying anti-aircraft positions and fuel dumps. Following this attack Allied ground forces, closely supported by B-25's, A-20's, and naval bombardment, landed six miles north of Finschhafen, captured freshly prepared enemy defenses, consolidated a beachhead, and reached the north end of the airfield, bringing Finschhafen under our artillery fire.

As our naval units were withdrawing, an enemy force of 20 to 30 bombers, covered by 30 to 40 fighters, attacked. Our fighter planes, together with anti-aircraft fire from our ships shot down 10 of the bombers and 29 (probably 34) of the fighters for a loss of three planes. Our interception was completely successful, no casualties or damage to our vessels resulting.

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Twelve P-40's hit Gasmata Island and airfield. To the west our B-24's raided the enemy float-plane base at Ambon with 23 tons of bombs. During a mission over the Kai Islands other B-24's destroyed six (probably seven) of twelve intercepting fighters; one B-24 is missing.

Six enemy aircraft attacked Buna under cover of darkness causing some damage and casualties.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 652

0700 September 22 to 0700 September 23, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

GENERAL

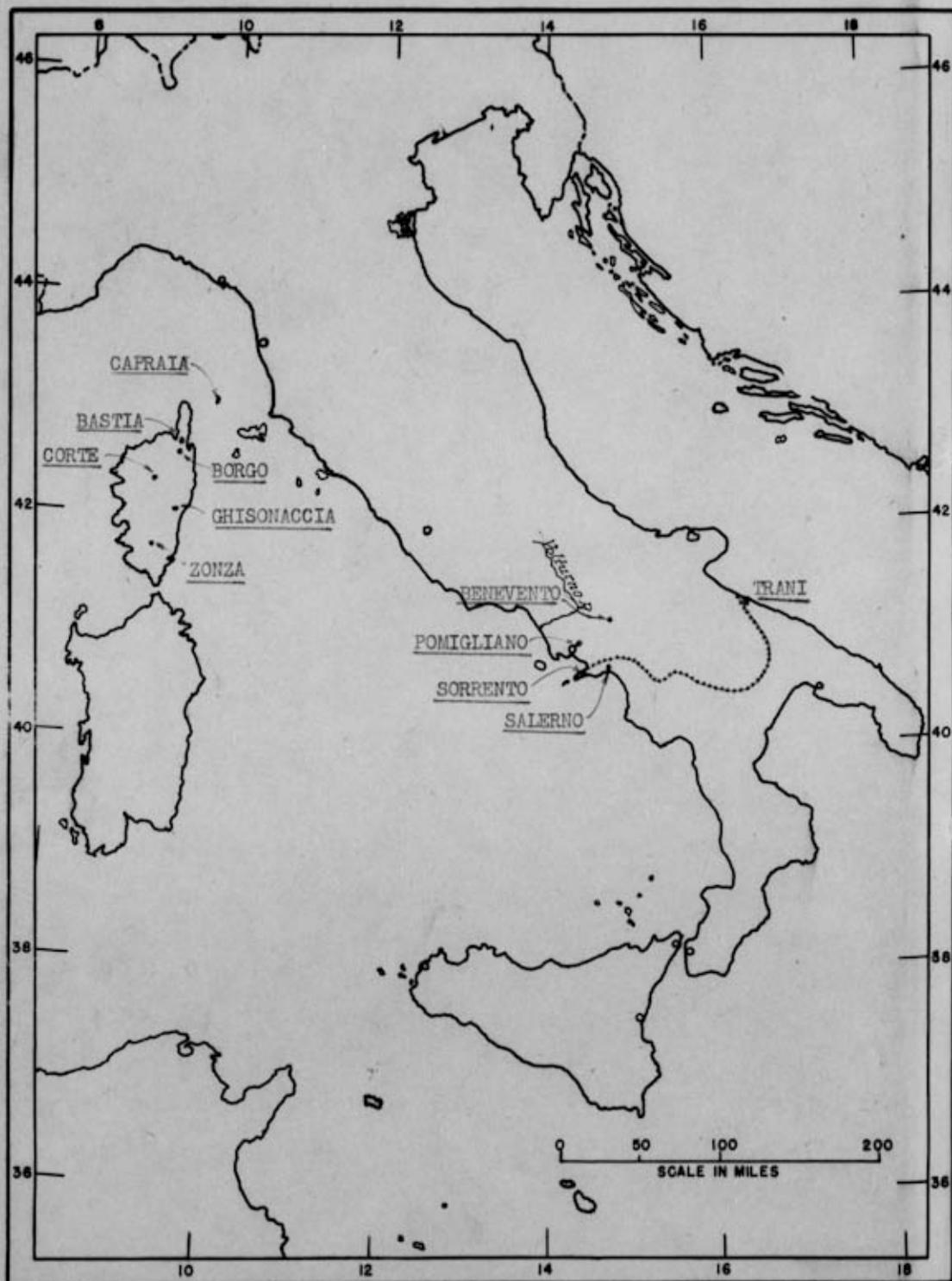
In a message to all senior commanders of US Army Forces the War Department has stressed the seriousness of the manpower situation in the United States, emphasizing that every effort must be made to insure that maximum effective use is made of personnel available to the military forces. Officers of all grades must be continually on the alert to effect economies in the use of manpower for other than purely combat duties. Drastic reductions have already been made by the War Department and additional reductions will be effected in all command installations including overseas bases. For example, early in the war when the situation in the UK was more critical than at present, the garrison of Iceland was built up to 41,000; the garrison now authorized is 16,500, and further reductions are in process, excess units being moved to England.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The 77th Infantry Division (Major General Andrew D. Bruce, commanding) will move from Camp Young, California, to Camp Pickett, Virginia, instead of Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania as previously reported. At Camp Pickett the division will receive amphibious training.

EUROPEAN THEATER

During 22 September, 8th Air Force medium bombers, escorted by Allied fighters, attacked the airfield at Evreux-Fauville, 45 miles west of Paris, and RAF Mitchells bombed the airfield at Brest. In these engagements, four enemy aircraft were shot down. In sweeps over France,



Belgium and Holland, P-47's destroyed two enemy fighters. Our total loss for the day's operations was two fighters.

Our 8th Air Force destroyed 63, probably 70, enemy airplanes during the week ending 19 September for a loss of 17 heavy bombers and two P-47's. The RAF accounted for an additional 20, probably 23, enemy airplanes for a loss of 44 planes.

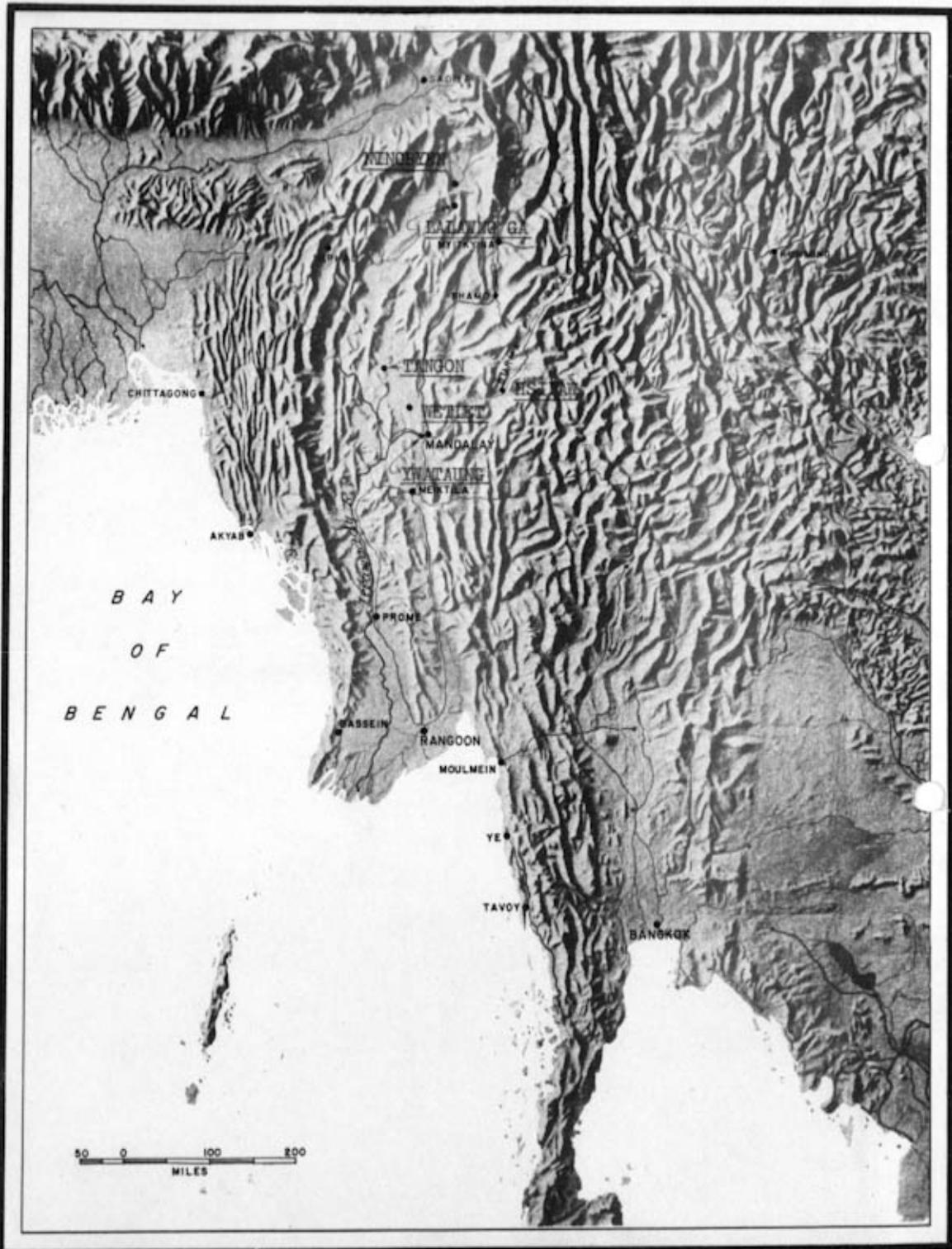
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On the night of 20-21 September, 50 Wellingtons bombed railroad communications at Benevento, and 39 light bombers attacked highway traffic nearby, as well as the Pomigliano airdrome. Other Allied heavy bombers attacked a convoy near Nice, probably sinking two ships; four medium bombers hit a ferry and barge south of Capraia Island. Over 150 medium bombers concentrated on focal points of enemy communications serving the Naples area, as well as enemy troop concentrations, during the next day.

2. On 22 September the Sorrento Peninsula had come under Allied control in large measure. The enemy continued to withdraw, pivoting his line on his strongly-held positions north and east of Salerno; the Germans were reported to be organizing delaying positions north of Naples, which suggests that he may defend north of the Volturno River. Trani was reoccupied by two Italian battalions.

3. In Corsica, the German-controlled coastal strip was considerably narrowed. Transports were operated from the enemy-held Ghisonaccia and Borgo airfields. Approaches to Bastia were being patrolled by the enemy.

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BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

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LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

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OFFICIAL 5-3-72

Patriot forces pushing east from Corte and south from Zonza claim to have killed 1,000 Germans and taken 200 prisoners.

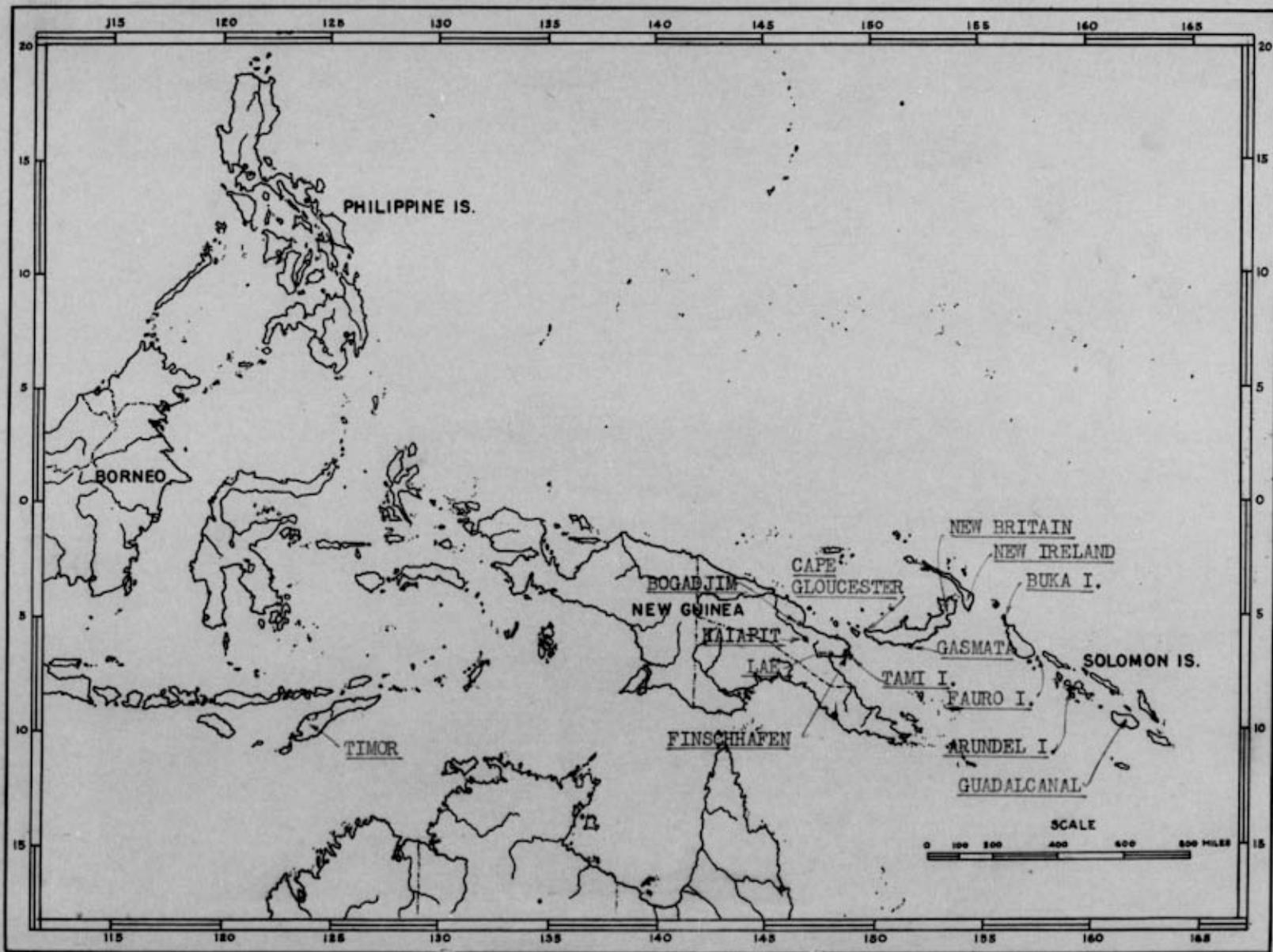
4. On 20 September, enemy planes made three raids on Amtimachia airdrome on Cos Island, causing some damage. That night Allied planes damaged the Maritza airdrome on Rhodes, the Heraklion airdrome in Crete, and an airdrome near Athens. Report is made of the significant destruction of an airdrome in Crete by the Germans.

#### ASIATIC THEATER

On 21 September fourteen heavy bombers of the 10th Air Force attacked targets of opportunity dropping 13 tons of explosives on warehouses, shipping, railroad yards, and enemy communications along the Irrawaddy River and Burmese railroads from Ywataung to Tangon. Eleven P-40's damaged buildings at Lalawng Ga and Ninbyen in the northern Hukawng Valley.

#### PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. In air missions on 21 September, Allied heavy bombers heavily attacked Gasmata, and the bivouac and storage areas at Cape Gloucester, while our medium bombers attacked enemy communications south of Bogadjim; other medium and light bombers machine-gunned installations and villages on the Tami Islands. Dutch and Australian bombers successfully attacked installations on Timor, and Allied reconnaissance aircraft operated successfully against enemy shipping in the New Britain-New Ireland area.



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An enemy raid on one of our runways 45 miles southwest of Lae caused some damage; a Japanese attempt to bomb our shipping near Lae was intercepted by 16 P-40's which brought down four (probably five) bombers and five fighters; one P-40 is missing.

2. A communique reports that our troops, in a coordinated land, sea, and air movement, have landed six miles north of Finschhafen. In the Kaiapit area an enemy 200-man patrol was dispersed by our troops who killed 120 of the enemy.

3. On 21 September, Japanese resistance on Arundel Island ended. While on a search mission, a B-24 bombed a small vessel and targets of opportunity at Fauro Island. On Buka, 23 B-24's bombed the runway, dispersal and revetment areas, reporting excellent results; two out of a score of enemy fighters which intercepted this mission were shot down. That night 12 to 16 enemy medium bombers attacked Guadalcanal; two enemy planes were shot down.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

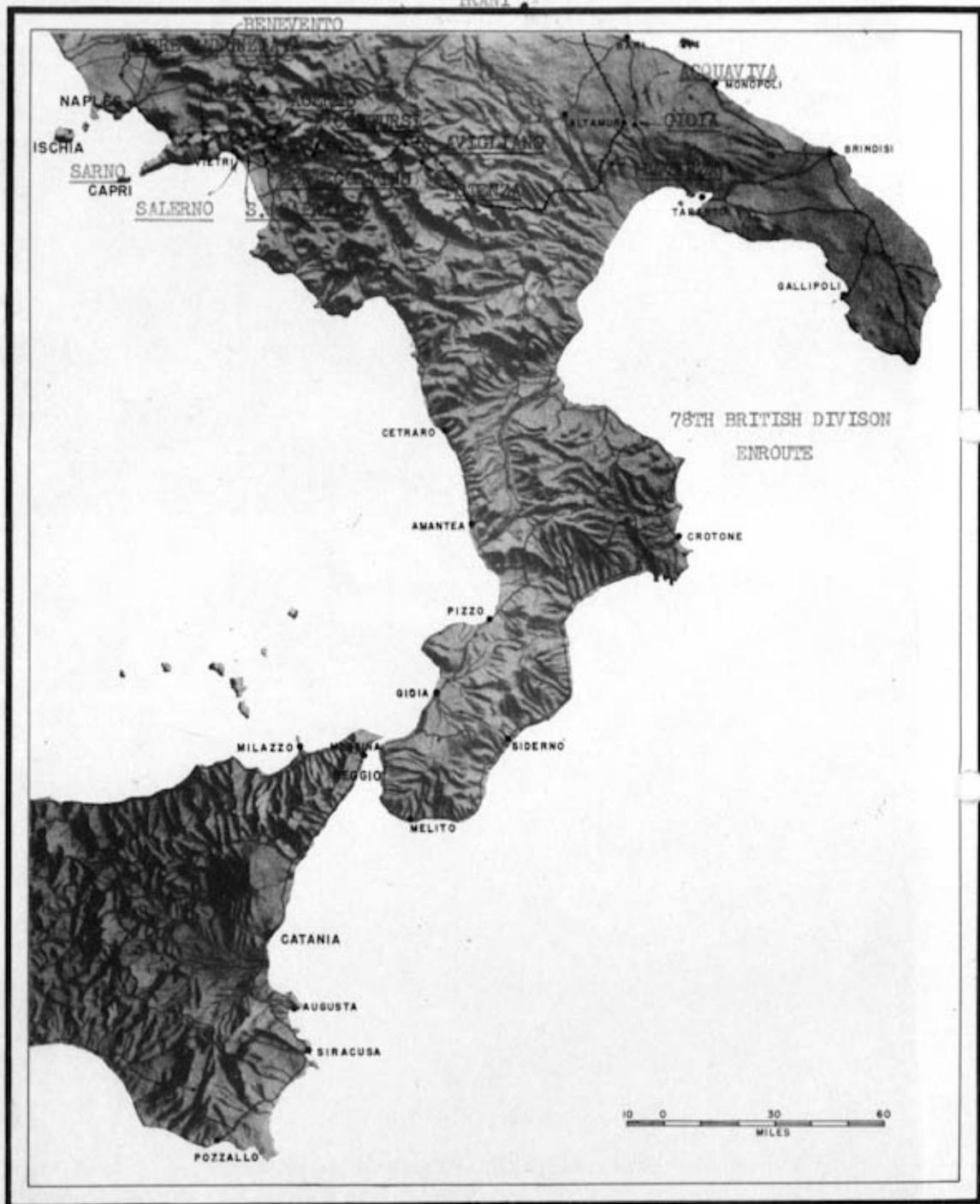
No. 651

0700 September 21 to 0700 September 22, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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BASE MAP NO. 2448 (FREE)  
1 JULY 1943

DRAWN AND COMPILED IN RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
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EUROPEAN THEATER

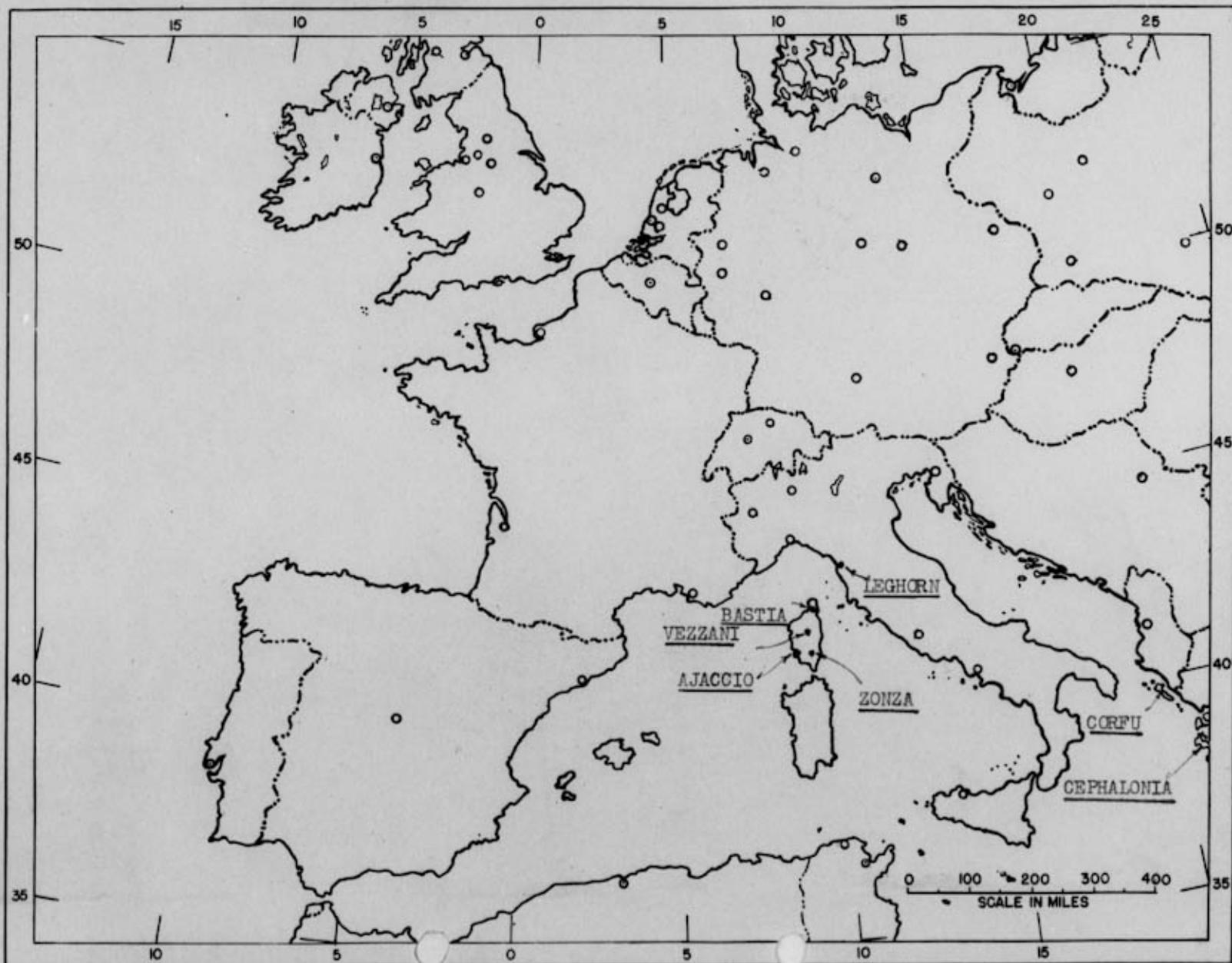
On 21 September 47 B-26's, escorted by ten squadrons of RAF Spitfires, bombed the Beauvais-Tillé airdrome; good results were reported. One of our B-26's was shot down by antiaircraft fire over the target; our planes destroyed one of the few enemy fighters opposing them.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On 19 September, the enemy made several ineffective air attacks on our shipping off Salerno. During that night and the following day 39 Wellingtons and a group of B-17's bombed the bridges at Benevento, 33 B-24's attacked railroad yards near Venice and the yard, town and airfield areas at Pescara, and 31 B-17's attacked roads near Torre Annunziata and Sarno. Allied medium bombers attacked roads and railroads leading to the Naples area. Our attack airplanes dispersed two enemy tank formations preparing to counterattack northwest of Salerno. On the 21st, 60 B-24's which recently returned from the UK attacked shipping at Leghorn and Bastia.

2. The Fifth and Eighth Armies pushed ahead on 20 September; the enemy withdrew his left flank but still held the heights north of Salerno and remained strongly entrenched near Nocera. By 1600 on 21 September, although the Germans recaptured Trani, the Allied forces had made pronounced gains along the remainder of the front. The British 1st Airborne Division, which was cleaning up Gioia, also

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captured Laterza, Ginosa, and Acquaviva while the 1st Canadian Division took Potenza and advanced to Avigliano. Our 45th Division made a general advance along its front, capturing Contursi, and the newly arrived US 3rd Division on its left reached Acerno. The British X Corps occupied Montecorvino and S. Cipriano without opposition.

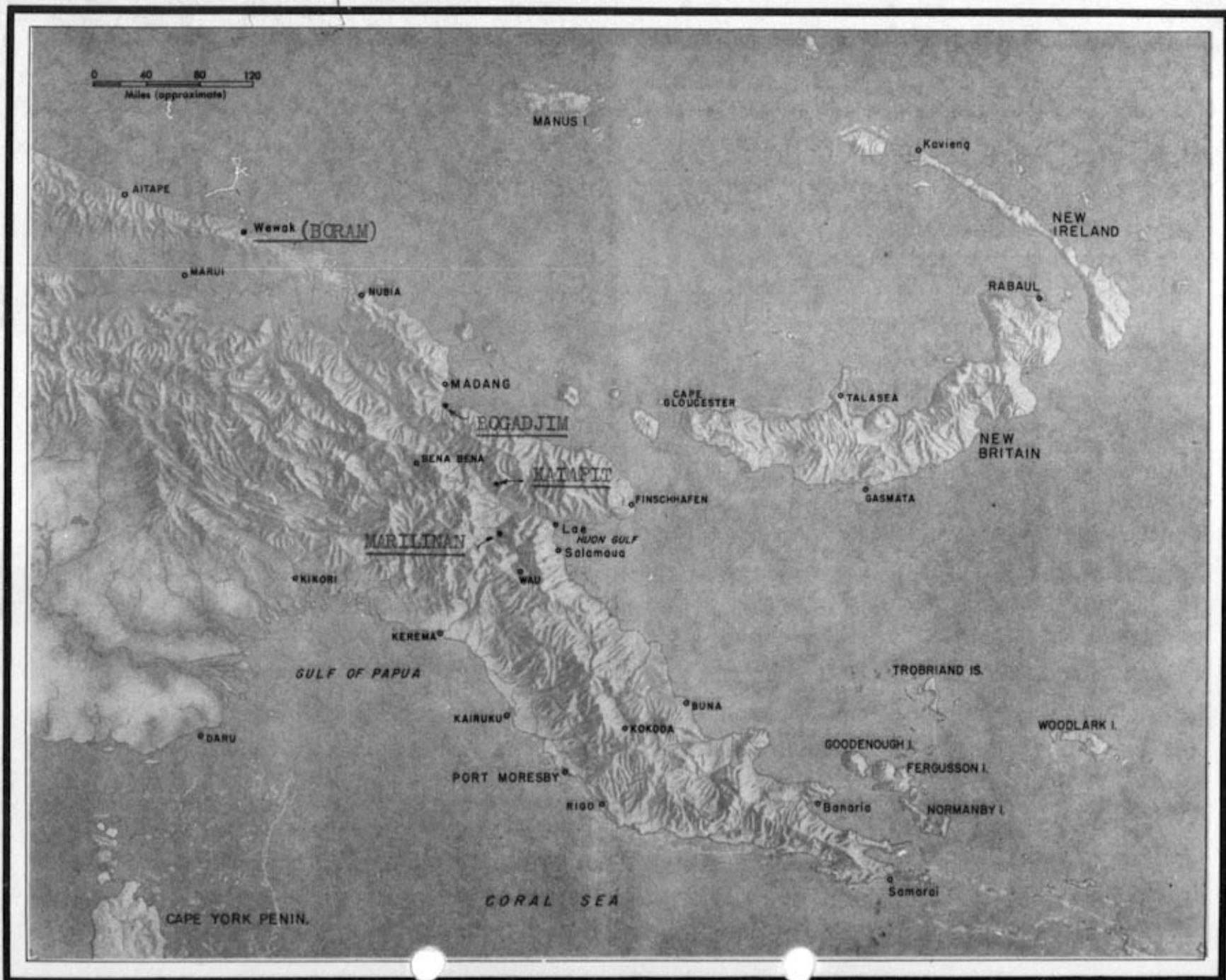
3. Italian destroyers landed personnel and supplies at Ajaccio during the night of 18-19 September; at least 2,700 friendly troops had been landed in Corsica by the night of 20-21 September. Further favorable progress was reported in the operations in that island; Zonza and Vezzani were occupied by the Italians after the Germans had left. The islands of Lero, Cos, Calino, Samos, and Stampalia are in Italian hands. The German garrison on Cephalonia surrendered; Italian resistance is continuing on Corfu.

#### ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 19 September, 14 B-24's of the 10th Air Force added to the efforts of our medium bombers reported yesterday by a successful attack on the Monywa railroad yards and barracks. The next day, a similar mission bombed Sedaw and a nearby bridge; poor results were reported. Ten B-25's destroyed trains, warehouses, and a large river boat in the vicinity of Katha, while nine others damaged rolling stock, tracks and buildings at Naba Junction and Indaw.

2. Nine Japanese aircraft attacked Wuchow on 19 September. The next day more than 47 Japanese planes caused minor damage to

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BASE MAP NO. 2531 (FREE)  
2 AUGUST 1943

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LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

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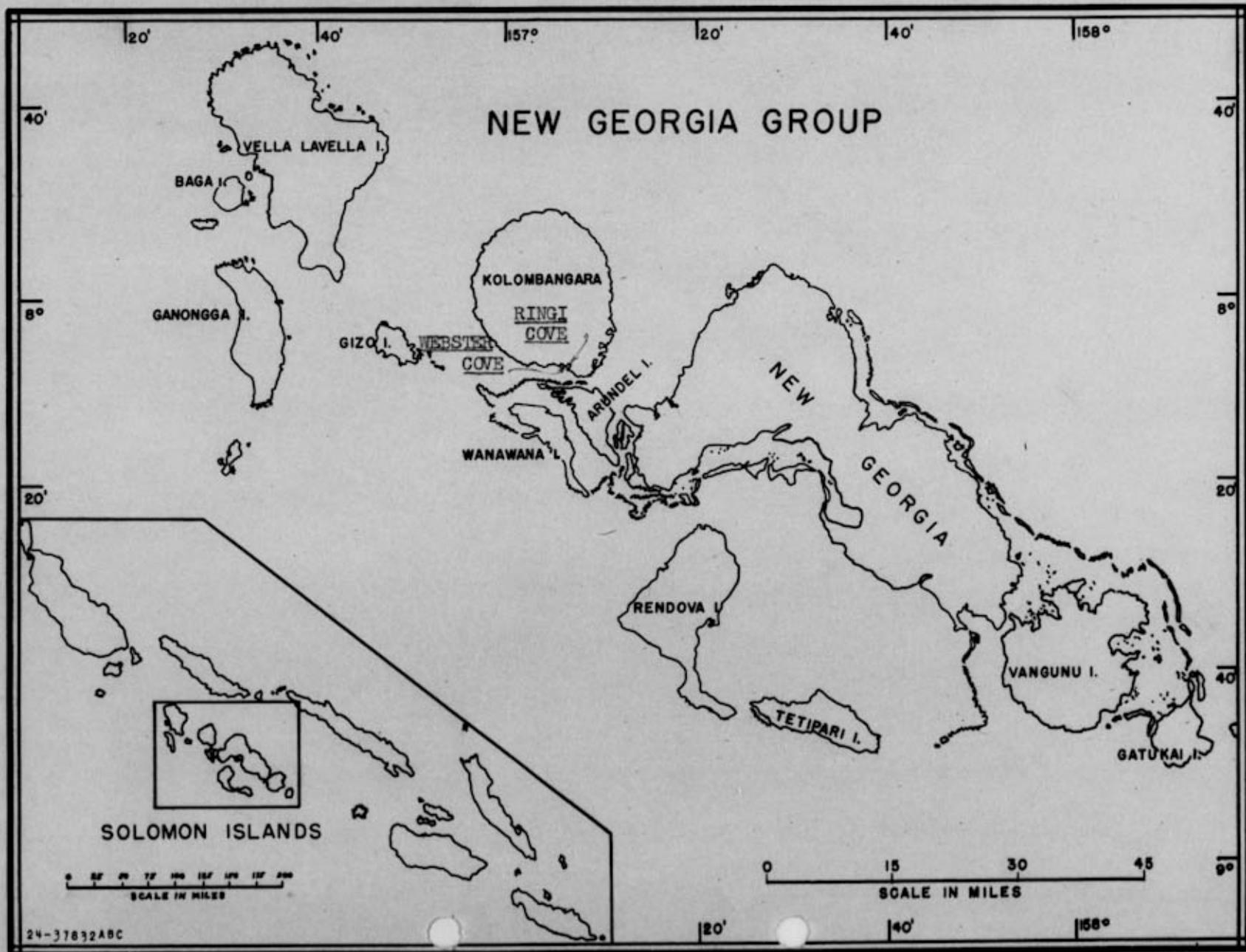


Kunming airfield; 14th Air Force aircraft shot down 15 (probably 22) bombers and two (probably four) fighters for a loss of one of our fighters and a transport. Our airfield at Nanning was also closed as a result of Japanese bombing. Four B-25's escorted by seven fighter planes dropped 24 quarter-ton demolition bombs on shipping at Kiukiang, hitting a destroyer and damaging dock installations; all our planes returned safely.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 20 September, 12 B-24's bombed the Wewak and Boram airfields, starting large fuel fires and destroying three enemy planes. A total of eight B-17's, 47 B-25's and two P-39's bombed and machine-gunned enemy communications in the Madang region, destroying trucks, bridges, barges and buildings near Bogadjim. Australian bombers harassed Namlea (Boeroe I.), Langgoer and Doela (Kai Is.). Nine enemy bombers escorted by ten fighters bombed Nadzab during the morning, causing some damage and casualties. Our intercepting fighter aircraft destroyed three (probably four) of the enemy planes. Other enemy air raids on our installations at Marilinan, Lae, and Port Moresby, were ineffective. Our ground forces transported by air seized and occupied Kaiapit, approximately 60 miles northwest of Lae; they repulsed several counterattacks and forced the enemy to retire.

2. On 20 September, B-25's bombed and machine-gunned barge staging areas in Ringi and Webster Coves on Kolombangara. Enemy



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

positions on Sagakarsa Island, northeast of Arundel, were reported cleared of the enemy.

3. In the attack on Nauru Island on 19 September more than 12 tons of demolition bombs were dropped by twelve Army and two Navy heavy bombers along both runways of the landing strip. A search plane left a small personnel carrier afire and sinking about 350 miles northeast of New Ireland.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

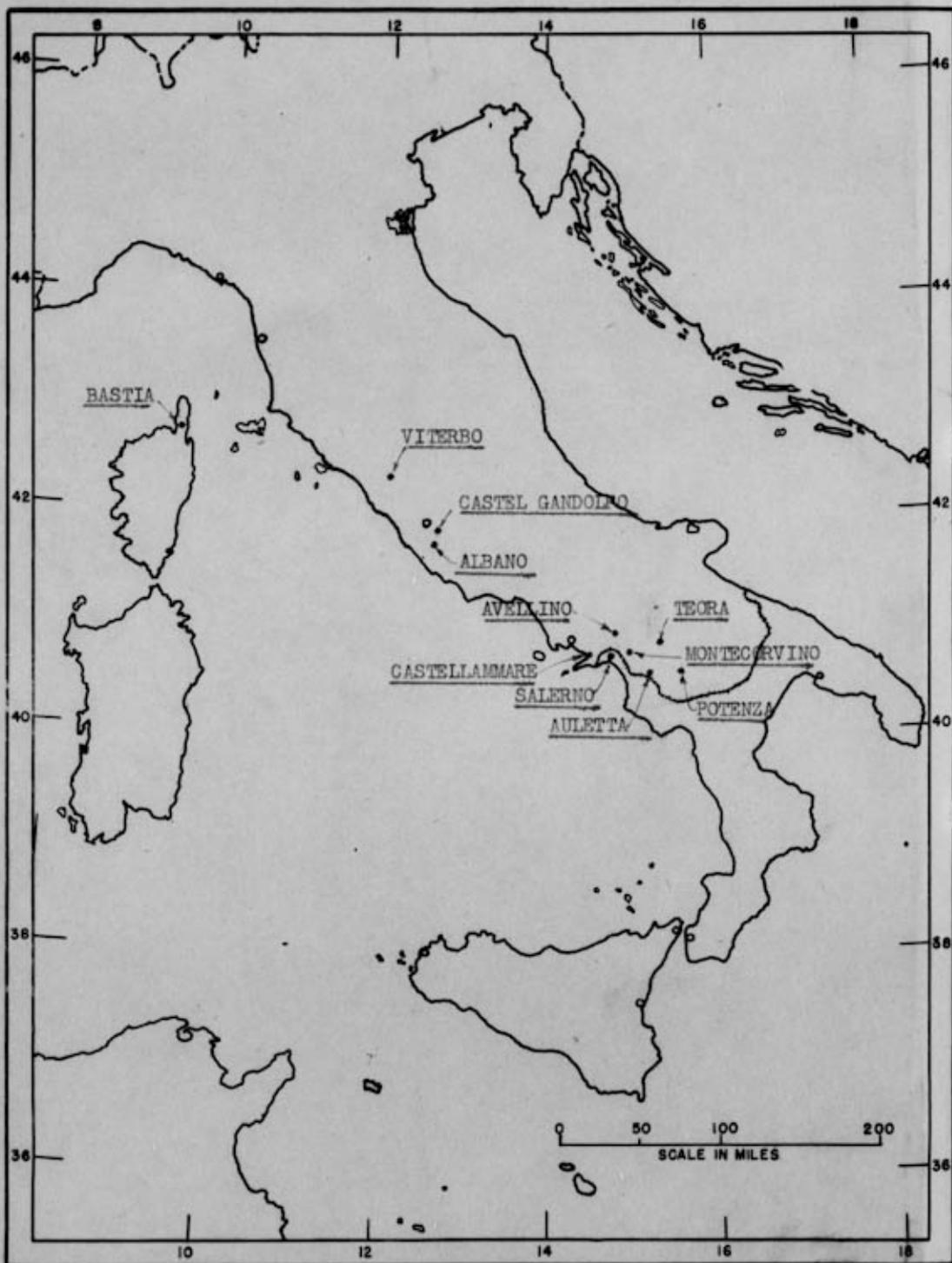
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 650

0700 September 20 to 0700 September 21, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



24-47384ABCD

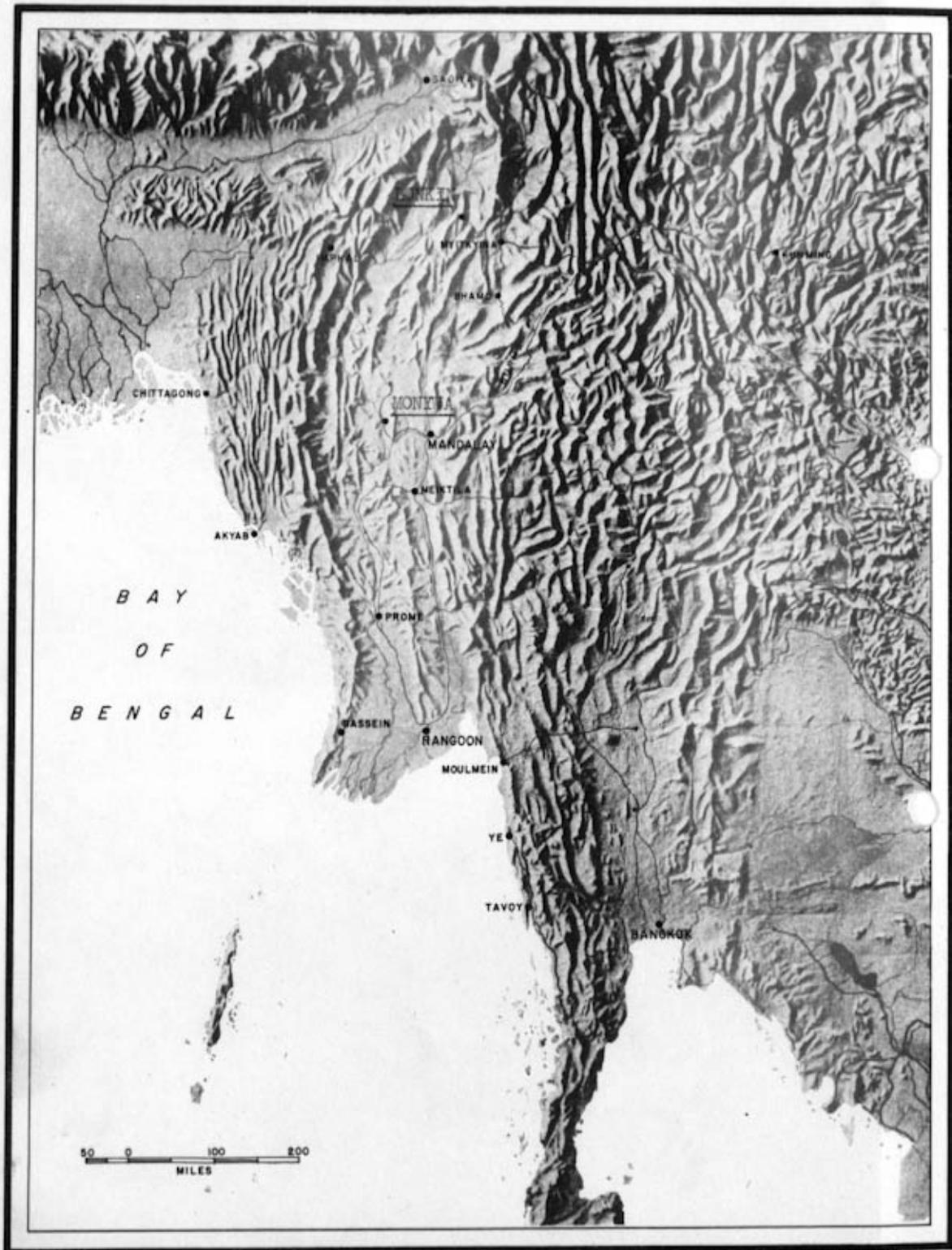
WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The Army Ground Forces issued orders for the movement of the 76th Infantry Division (Major General William R. Schmidt, commanding) from the A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Virginia, to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin for winter training, and for the movement of the 77th Infantry Division (Major General Andrew D. Bruce, commanding) from Camp Young, California, to Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania, for further movement overseas.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. The night of 18-19 September, 55 Wellingtons attacked Viterbo airdrome with 98 tons of bombs. The next day light bombers and fighters operated in force over the enemy road net behind the battle area scoring hits on railways and roads, and destroying over 100 enemy trucks. 183 B-26's attacked roads, railways and transportation still further to the east. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed during this period and six Allied planes are missing. Three of our fighter aircraft were destroyed and six others damaged when enemy planes raided the Montecorvino airdrome and another landing ground late on 18 September.

2. The situation at our Salerno beachhead continued to improve through 19 September, particularly in the central and southern sectors where our forces pushed inland to a general north-south line through Auletta. North and northeast of Salerno the enemy held firm. The Fifth and Eighth Armies have been given the mission of securing the



BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

general line Castellammare-Avellino-Teora-Potenza.

3. On 20 September, remaining German forces in Sardinia were transported to Corsica, disembarking at southeastern ports. German troops are moving by road and railway from southern Corsica towards Bastia in the north, where embarkation operations have begun. French forces were advancing northwards through Corsica to assist the inhabitants who were offering effective resistance to the enemy.

4. The War Department informed General Eisenhower that the Vatican notified our State Department, under date of 4 September, that the village of Castel Gandolfo and vicinity, including Albano, have been demilitarized by Italians and Germans at the request of the Holy See to protect the pontifical villas located there.

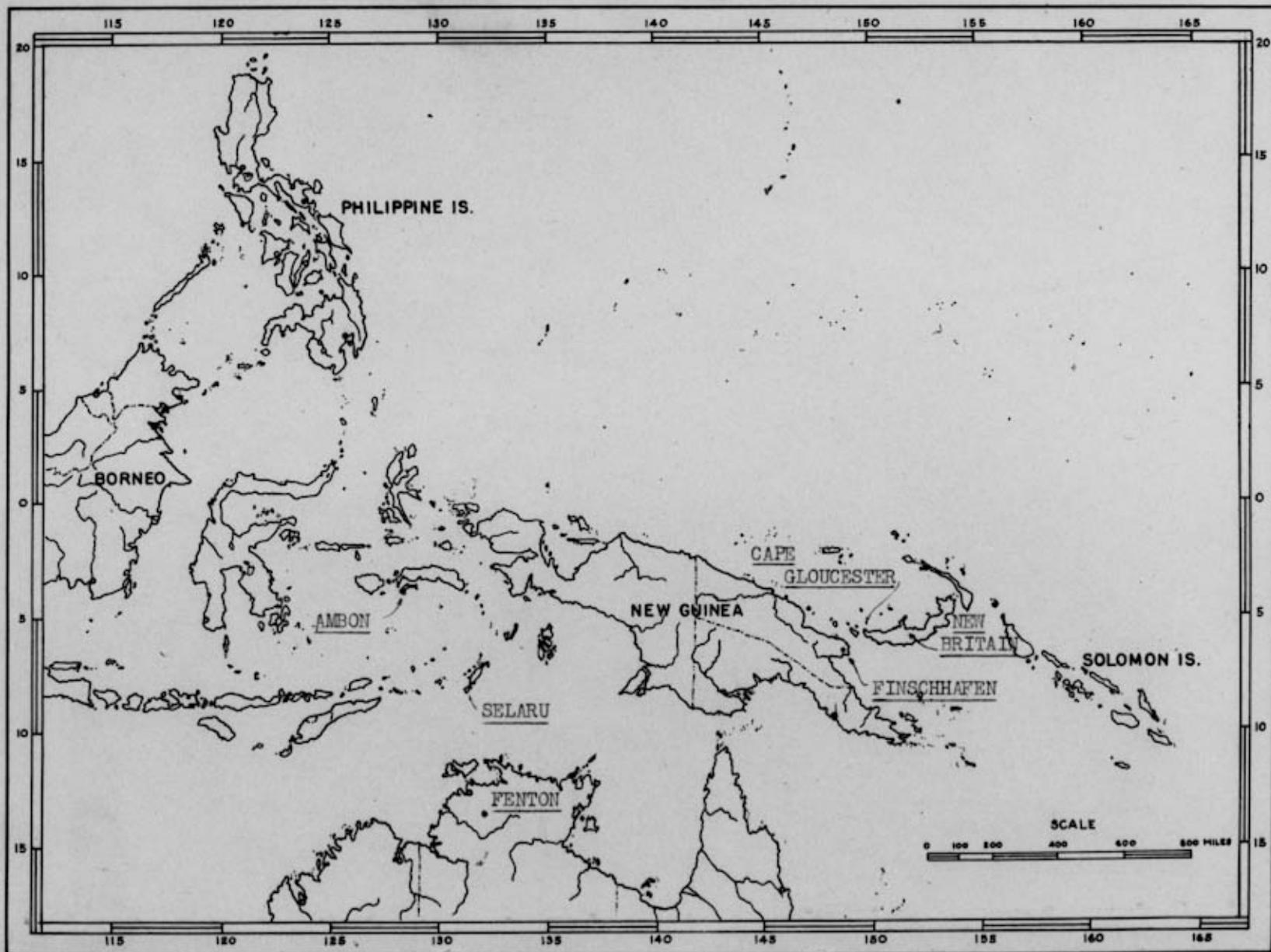
#### ASIATIC THEATER

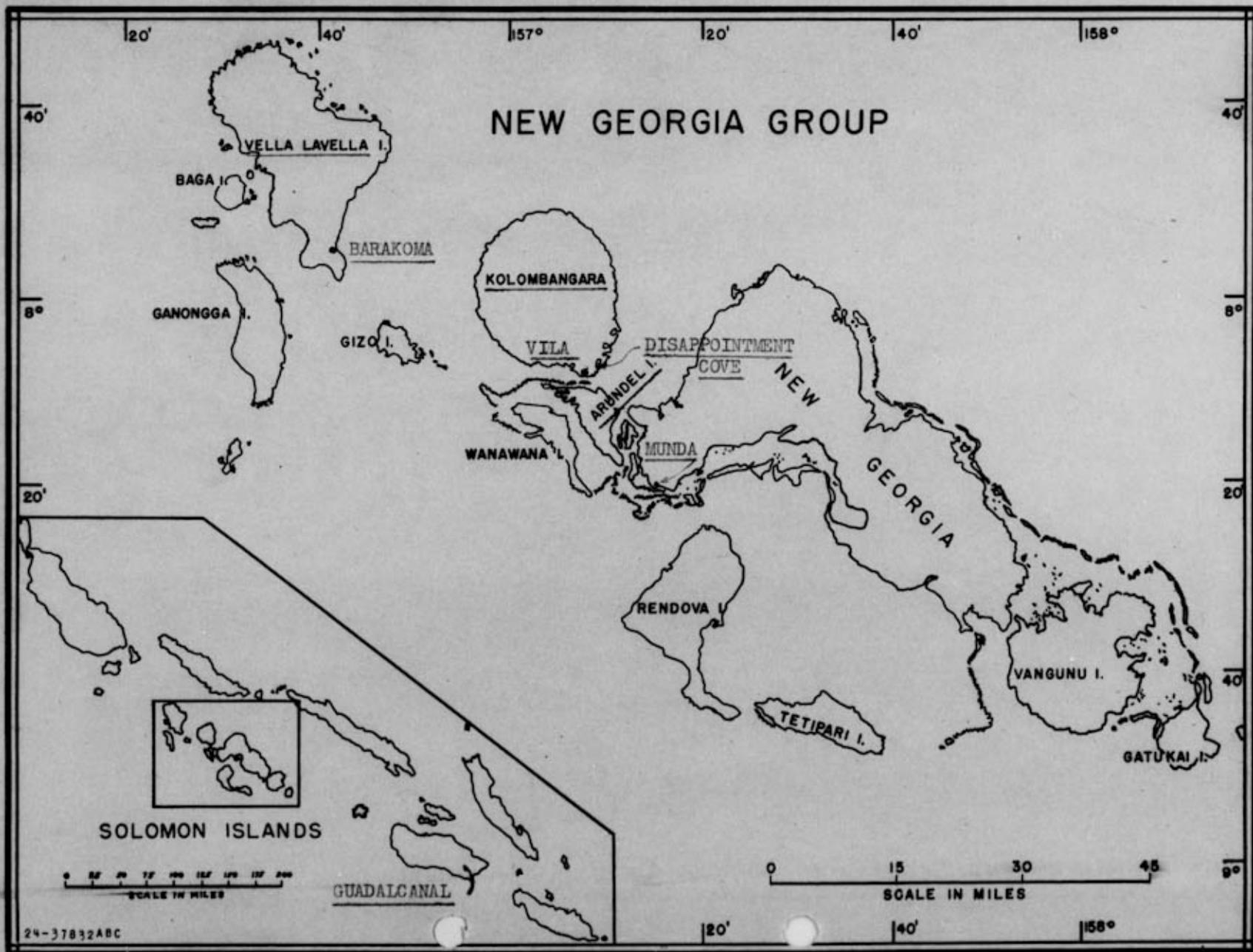
On 19 September, 21 B-25's of the 10th Air Force placed 23 tons of bombs in the Monywa target area, demolishing buildings and starting fires; moderate inaccurate antiaircraft fire was reported. Another medium bomber, escorted by two fighter aircraft, attacked Lonkin, and eight P-40's hit another town in northern Burma with demolition and fragmentation bombs.

#### PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 18 September, 14 Australian dive-bombers attacked Japanese positions and buildings at Finschhafen. The next day 35 heavy bombers

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attacked the Cape Gloucester airdrome and dump area, leaving both runways unusable and probably destroying six grounded aircraft. Other Allied planes attacked coastal villages in northeastern New Guinea and storage points, antiaircraft positions and buildings in New Britain. Twelve B-24's attacked an airdrome near Ambon, hitting the workshop and possible fuel dumps; two Dutch B-25's started fires on Selaru Island.

Nine Jap planes again dropped bombs in the vicinity of Fenton, Australia, without causing damage.

2. During the night of 17-18 September Japanese planes raided Barakoma, southeastern Vella Lavella, without causing damage, and also attacked Munda, where some bombs caused minor damage to the landing strip.

The next day 39 Navy fighters intercepting a mission of 50 enemy planes, destroyed 14 enemy aircraft, three more being brought down by antiaircraft fire; three Navy fighters are missing.

On 19 September, 52 escorted Army and Navy bombers attacked enemy gun positions at Vila and at Disappointment Cove causing large fires and explosions.

A Japanese air attack on Guadalcanal destroyed a gasoline reservoir.

Strong resistance slowed our ground operations on Arundel.

WAR DEPARTMENT

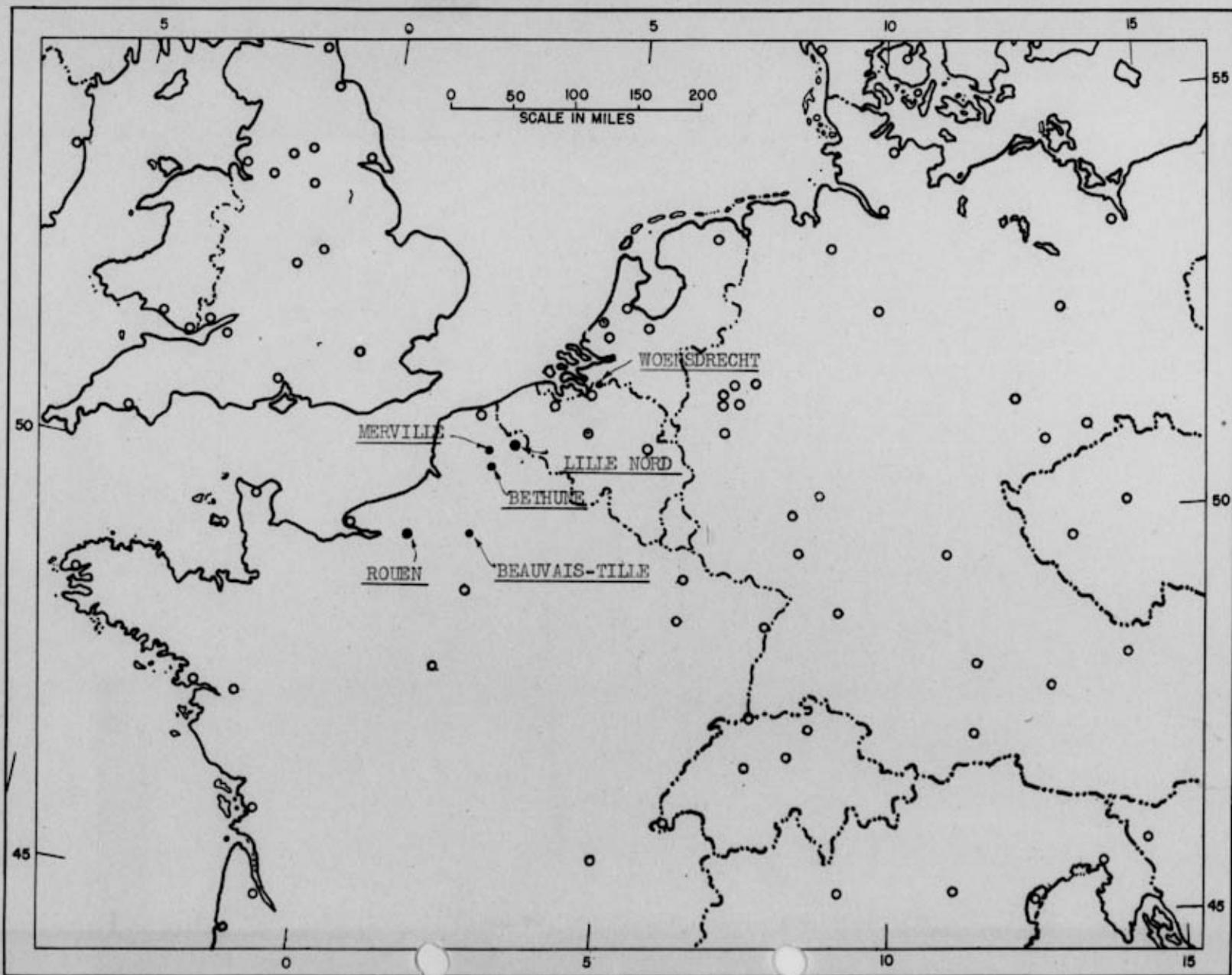
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 649

0700 September 19 to 0700 September 20, 1943

COPY FOR

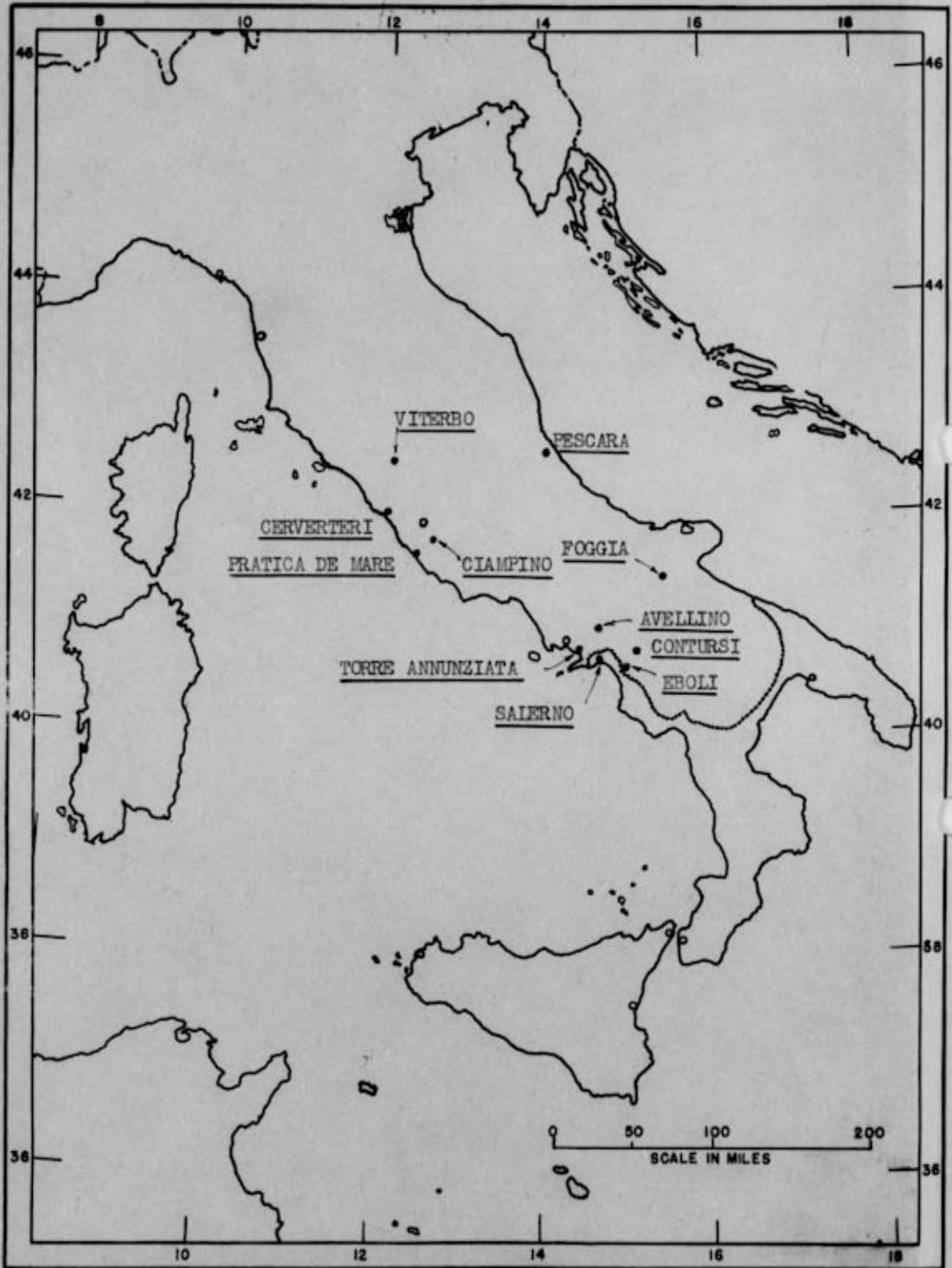
THE WHITE HOUSE



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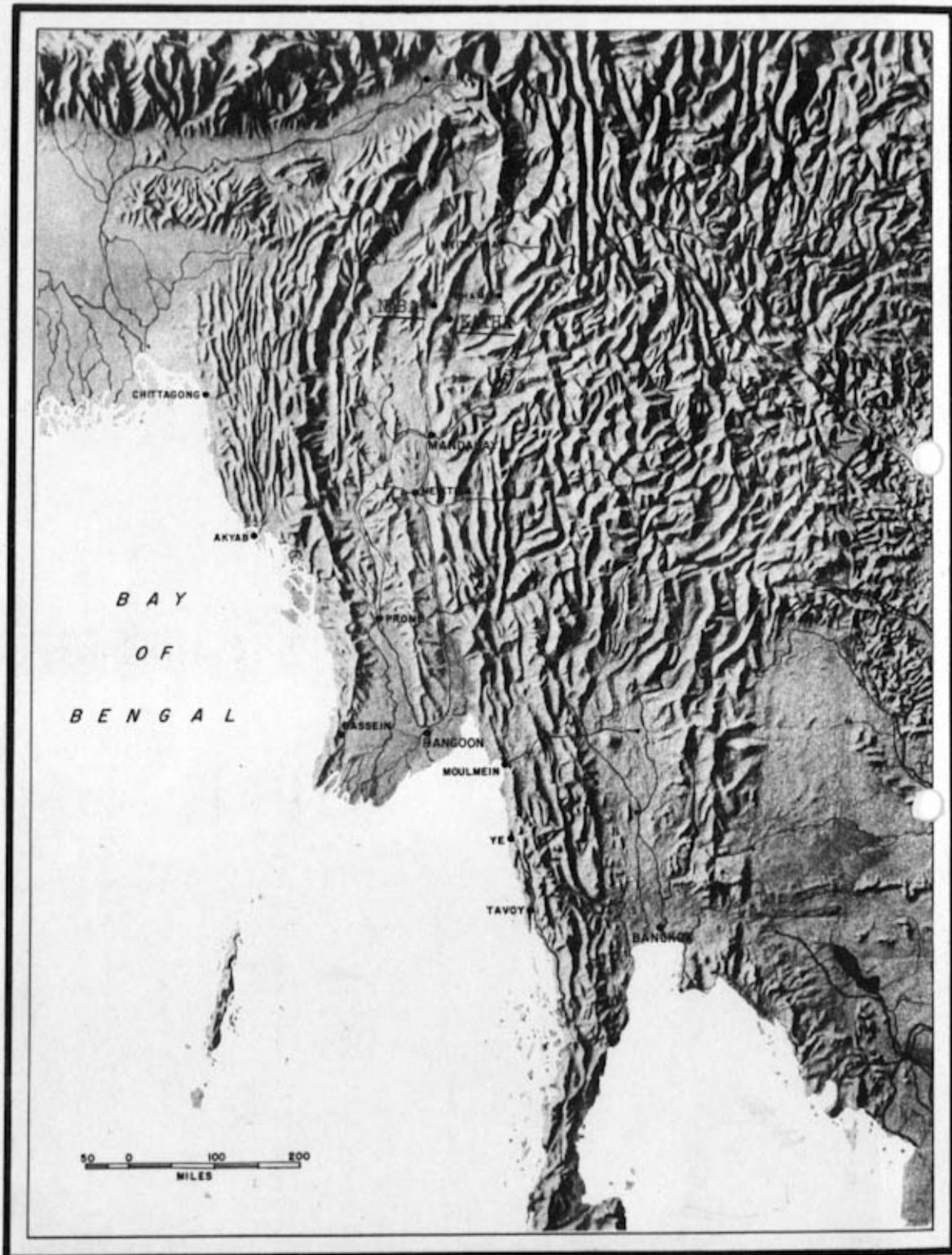
EUROPEAN THEATER

On 18 September, escorted medium bomber missions of the 8th Air Force attacked airfields in northern France at Beauvais (Tille) and Rouen. At the former, 38 tons of bombs were dropped with fair accuracy. Moderate and inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was noted. In the Rouen raid one enemy aircraft was destroyed against the loss of one fighter.

In sweeps over the Continent on the following day, our B-26's, with Allied fighter escort, bombed the Nord airfield at Lille, while RAF bombers struck the airfields at Merville in northern France, and Woensdrecht in Holland. Industrial targets near Bethune were also bombed. In these operations two enemy aircraft were destroyed by the B-26's; four others were shot down by RAF fighters, three of which are missing.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of 17-18 September, 64 British heavy bombers dropped 119 tons of bombs on Cerveteri airdrome with destructive effects on hangars, buildings and grounded aircraft. 44 B-25's laid trains of bombs across the Torre Annunziata rail and highway center. The next day, 72 B-17's and 124 medium bombers made successful attacks against the Viterbo, Ciampino and Pratica di Mare airdromes; destruction of aircraft on the ground and damage to installations was reported at each target. A strafing mission by 94 P-38's destroyed 33 enemy aircraft on the ground at Foggia. Other supporting missions flown that



BASE MAP NO 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

day included an attack by 18 B-17's on the Salerno-Avellino road and an effective raid by 35 B-24's against the Pescara railway yards. Four bombers and six P-38's are missing as a result of these operations.

On 19 September the enemy appeared to be adjusting his line to the high ground north of Eboli-Contursi, pivoting on his strongly-held positions around Salerno.

#### ASIATIC THEATER

1. B-25's of the 10th Air Force attacked railroad installations at Naba Junction on 18 September and dropped 55 quarter-ton demolition bombs accurately on the railroad fifty miles southwest of Katha where it crosses a tributary of the Chindwin.

2. Escorted B-25's of the 14th Air Force bombed enemy foundry installations near Wuchang in the Lake Tungting area the same day, damaging cranes, blast furnaces and ore cars.

#### PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Aside from a raid against Finschhafen by 9 B-26's, air operations in the Southwest Pacific on 18 September were confined to scattered attacks against enemy shipping and barge traffic in the New Britain area. Allied troops inflicted casualties on a small enemy force near Lae.

2. On 18 September a Japanese force of unknown strength was

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driven out of strong positions on Arundel.

Command of Vella Lavella passed to Major General Barrowclough,  
Commanding General of the 3rd New Zealand Division, at 2400, 18 September.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

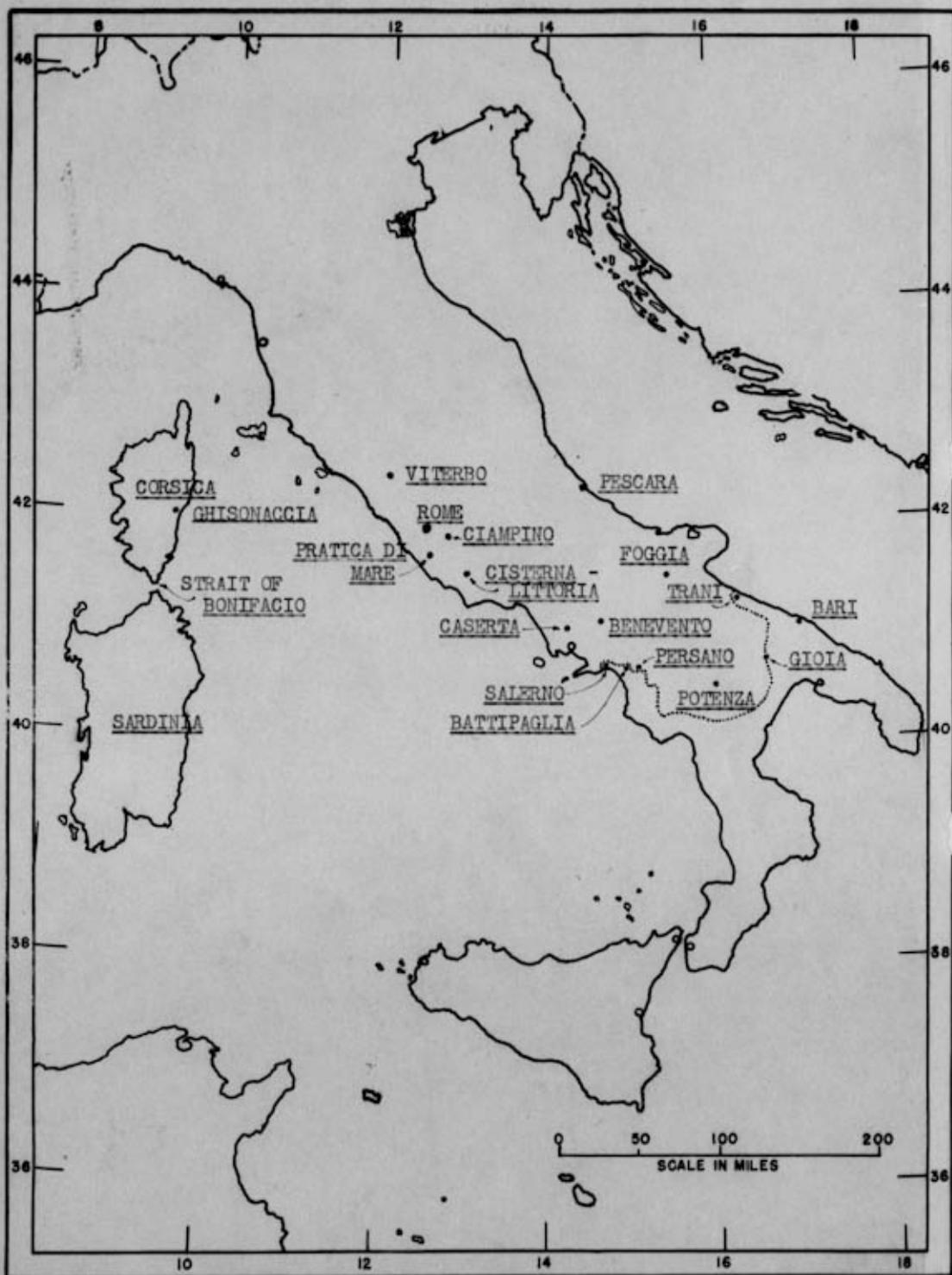
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 648

0700 September 18 to 0700 September 19, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



24-47384ARCO

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

*Italy*  
The Fifth Army improved its positions north of Salerno during 18 September, reoccupied Battipaglia, and continued its advance on Persano. Units of the British 1st Airborne Division entered Gioia after it had been evacuated by the enemy; patrols based on Bari have operated as far as Trani and Potenza. *Potenza*

During the night of 16-17 September, 91 Allied heavy bombers successfully attacked the Cisterna-Littoria airdrome and communications at Potenza. The following day, 50 B-17's pounded the airfields at Ciampino and 135 medium bombers raided Pratica di Mare airdrome, hitting an ammunition dump; in these two attacks a total of 57 enemy planes and 18 gliders were destroyed on the ground. Escorted B-25's were successful in bombing Caserta and a bridge near Benevento; 40 B-24's scored effective hits on the Pescara railroad yards and highway centers. Other Allied air missions, harassing enemy lines of communications in the Salerno area, included the dropping of 539 quarter-ton demolition bombs by US fighters which also patrolled the beach area. During 18 September, Allied heavy bombers hit the enemy airfields at Pratica di Mare, Foggia, and Viterbo with good results and our fighters and fighter-bombers reported successful missions against enemy motor transport, gun positions and trains north and northeast of the Salerno beachhead.

The Germans have practically completed their evacuation of

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*3*



Sardinia after attacks on their garrisons there by two Italian divisions. On Corsica local patriots and Italians have made small gains in the south and the Germans now hold a narrow strip along the east coast where the fighting is continuing. Sardinian-based squadrons of Italian bombers attacked German surface craft in the Strait of Bonifacio on the night of 15 September and also hit the German-held airfield at Ghisonaccia on Corsica.

*N/O* As of noon 15 September, five Italian battleships, eight cruisers, nine destroyers, eight torpedo boats, 17 submarines and one seaplane carrier are known to have arrived at Allied ports or to have come under Allied control.

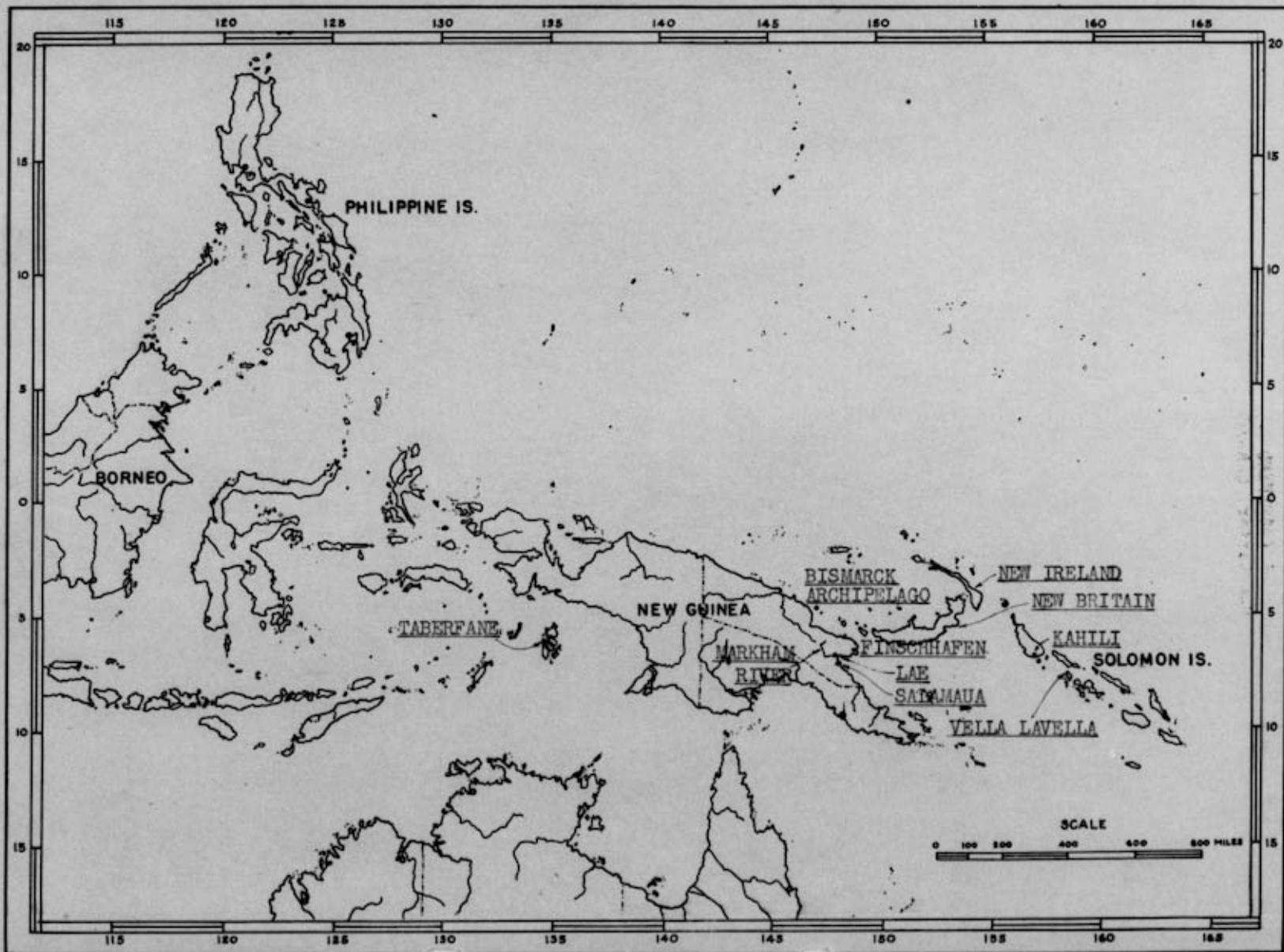
ASIATIC THEATER

10th Air Force P-40's, on offensive reconnaissance missions on 16 September, left fires burning southeast of Maingkwan. In addition 20 B-25's, using a total of 461 demolition bombs, destroyed barracks at Maymyo and rolling stock along the railroad to the northeast of that town and west of Mandalay.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Our Salamaua forces, moving north toward the mouth of the Markham River, killed 60 Japs on 17 September. In the Markham Valley a B-25 intercepted by five fighters shot down one. Allied reconnaissance bombers and fighter planes damaged a small freighter and

*↑ insert 3*



nine other small vessels in the Bismarck area. Medium bombers, attacking along the east coast of New Guinea, harassed Finschhafen and villages in that area. Other Allied missions attacked shipping off New Ireland and New Britain, and the Arce Island seaplane base at Taberfane where one enemy aircraft was destroyed.

2. Medium bombers on 17 September dropped four tons of demolitions around the Kahili runway despite intense antiaircraft fire; one B-25 is missing. In a patrol over Vella Lavella a P-40 accounted for one enemy fighter.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 647

0700 September 17 to 0700 September 18, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



BASE MAP NO. 2448 (FREE)  
1 JULY 1943

DRAWN AND COMPILED IN RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

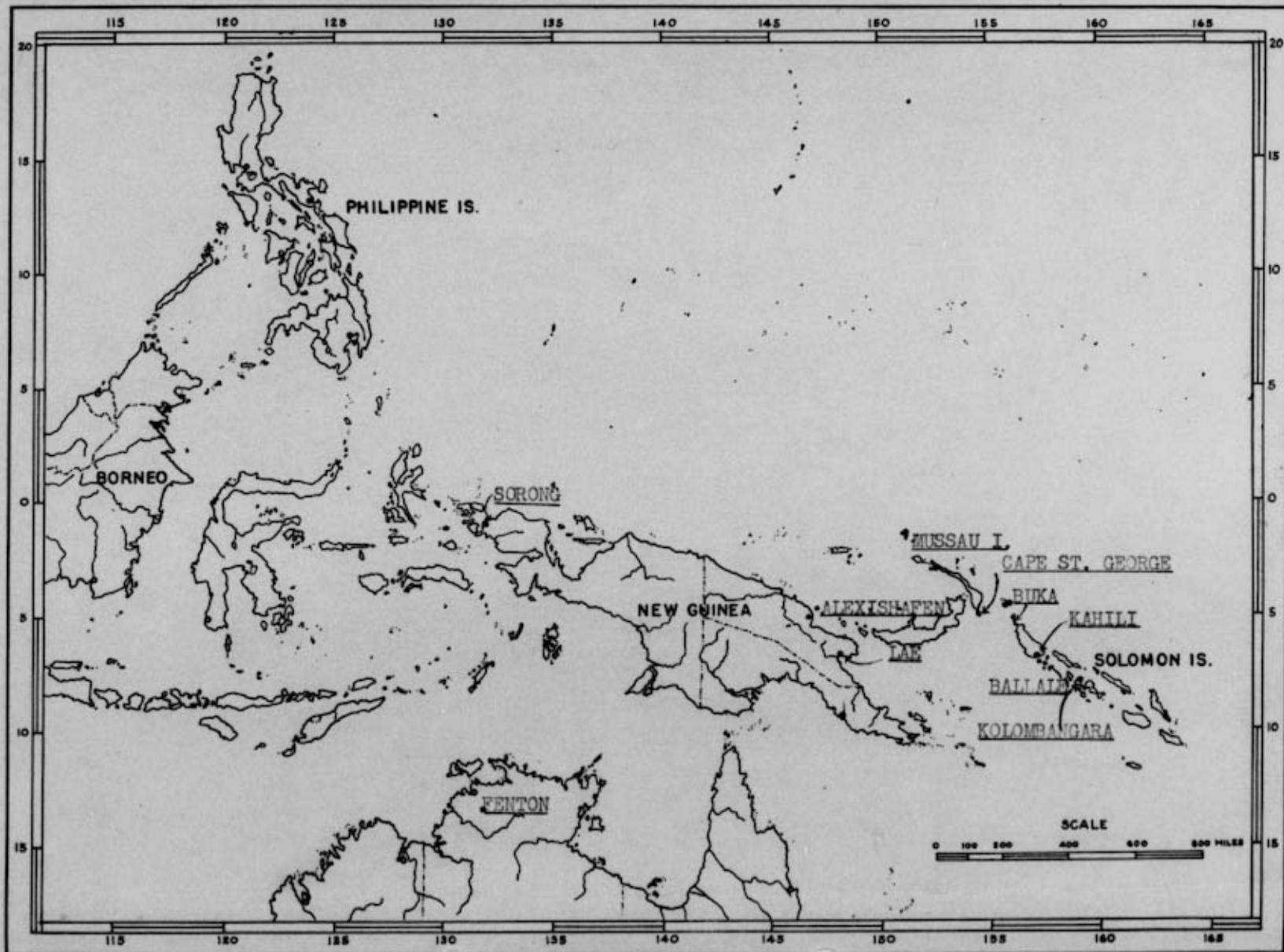
The Army Ground Forces report the arrival of the Headquarters II Armored Corps (Major General William H. H. Morris, Jr.) at the Presidio of Monterey, California, where it will now be stationed instead of at San Jose, California.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. During the night of 15-16 September and the following day, some 500 Allied light, medium and heavy bombers dropped well over 700 tons of bombs on roads and railroads leading into the Salerno area, the heaviest missions being those by 123 Wellingtons near Pompeii, 68 B-17's against the Benevento bridges, 38 B-17's on Caserta and 38 B-24's on Potenza. Tactical Air Force bombers and fighter-bombers reinforced these efforts, P-38's alone flying 239 fighter-bomber sorties. The improved situation now permits the return of the efforts of our Strategic Air Force to its normal missions against the enemy's air force and communications. Allied naval forces continued to bombard enemy targets in the Salerno area. The enemy's air effort on 16 September consisted of about 120 sorties directed principally against our shipping off the coast.

2. The island of Ischia surrendered to naval forces on 16 September. The port of Salerno is now open.

3. On 17 September, while the enemy still held Battipaglia, he



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DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

was losing the initiative. Our forces occupied Roccadaspide, 22 miles to the southeast of Battipaglia, and Controne and reoccupied Altavilla. Patrols of the Eighth Army made contact with patrols of the Fifth Army, and the British 1st Airborne Division in Apulia.

The Italians were attacking the German rear guard in northern Sardinia. French troops were being moved to Corsica under cover of darkness.

4. General Eisenhower was informed of the projected shipment to his theater at the end of September of the French Antilles Battalion Number One, which has been in training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. French Antilles Battalion Number Two is probably to be sent by the French from Fort de France, Martinique, to North Africa toward the end of October.

#### ASIATIC THEATER

Eight B-25's and nine P-40's of the 14th Air Force attacked Lubenba (55 miles southeast of Hankow) on 16 September hitting ammunition dumps, barracks and warehouses.

#### PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

Lae was occupied by the Allies on 16 September after a heavy, coordinated air and artillery preparation. In addition, 17 B-24's struck the Alexishafen airdrome. Enemy shipping was attacked southwest of Cape St. George and north of Mussau Island, and three B-24's damaged buildings at Sorong. The enemy sent 12 to 15 bombers against

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Fenton, Australia, but caused little damage and no casualties.

On 16 September, 16 B-24's escorted by 26 Allied fighter planes started several fires at Kahili. Other B-24's attacked southeastern Kolombangara Island and hit the runway and revetment area at Buka. The P-39 escort for a Navy attack mission against Ballale shot down two enemy fighters; four more enemy planes were destroyed in other scattered actions.

WAR DEPARTMENT

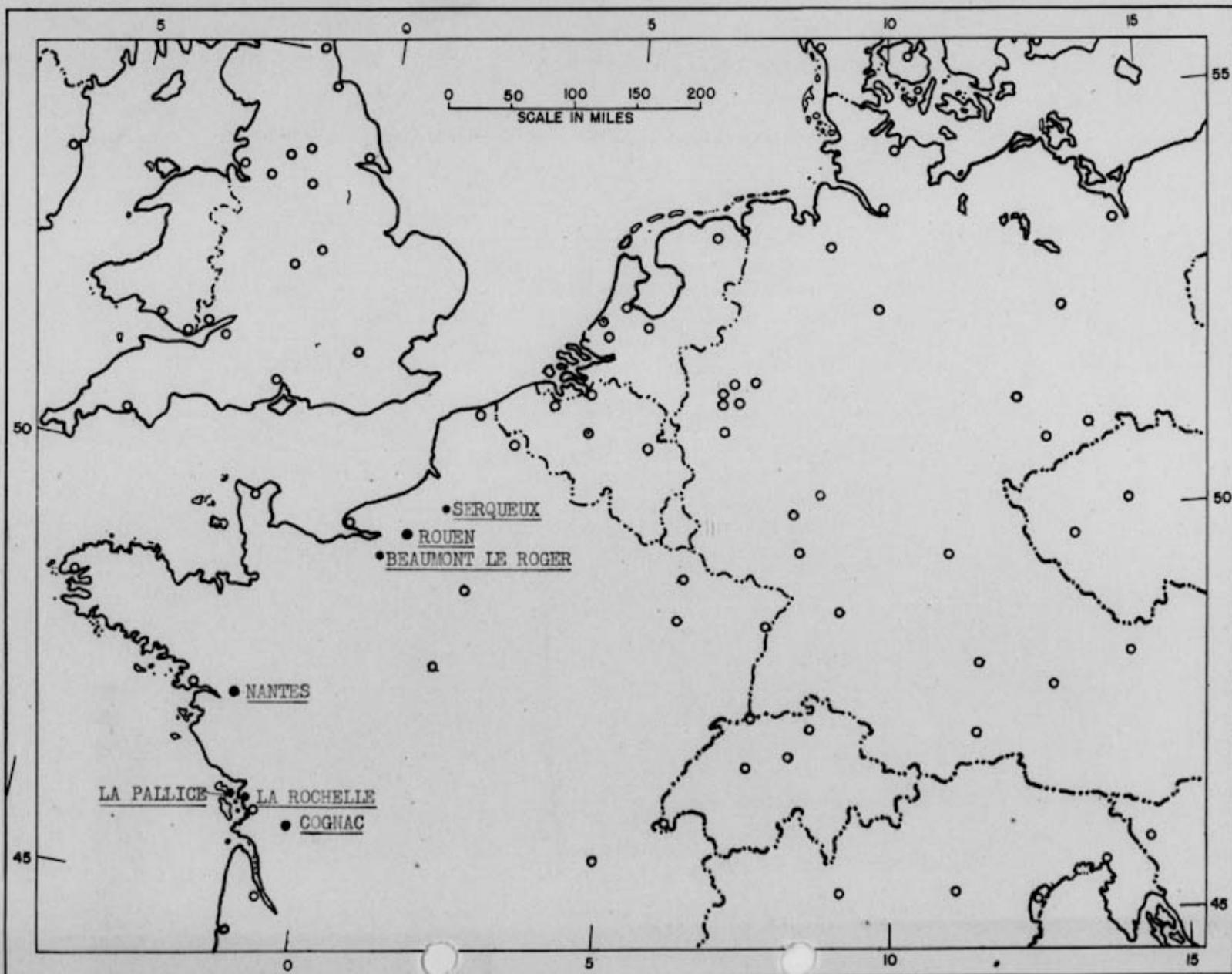
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

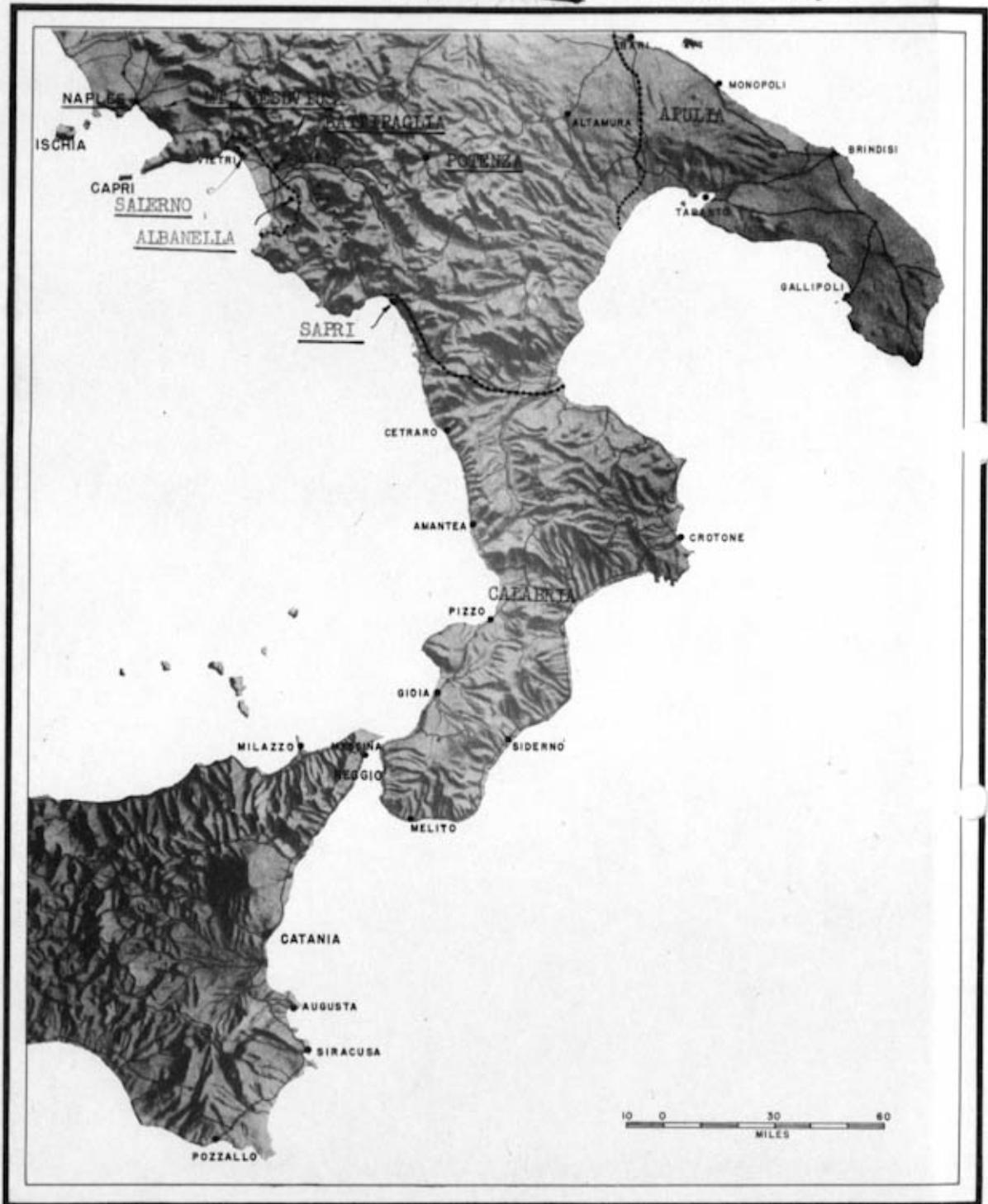
No. 646

0700 September 16 to 0700 September 17, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE





BASE MAP NO. 2448 (FREE)  
1 JULY 1943

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

EUROPEAN THEATER

B-17's of our 8th Air Force attacked port facilities, shipping and an airfield at Nantes, submarine pens and docks at La Pallice and enemy-held airfields at Cognac and La Rochelle on 16 September. In the numerous ensuing aerial engagements 27 enemy fighters were destroyed; 13 of our Flying Fortresses have not returned. US B-26's and British B-25's raided other airfields at Beaumont-le-Roger and Tricqueville, the railroad yards at Serqueux and a power station near Rouen. P-47's supported the operations of our B-17's and Allied Spitfires escorted and covered the missions of the medium bombers. In fighter engagements eight enemy planes were destroyed; three of our fighters are missing.

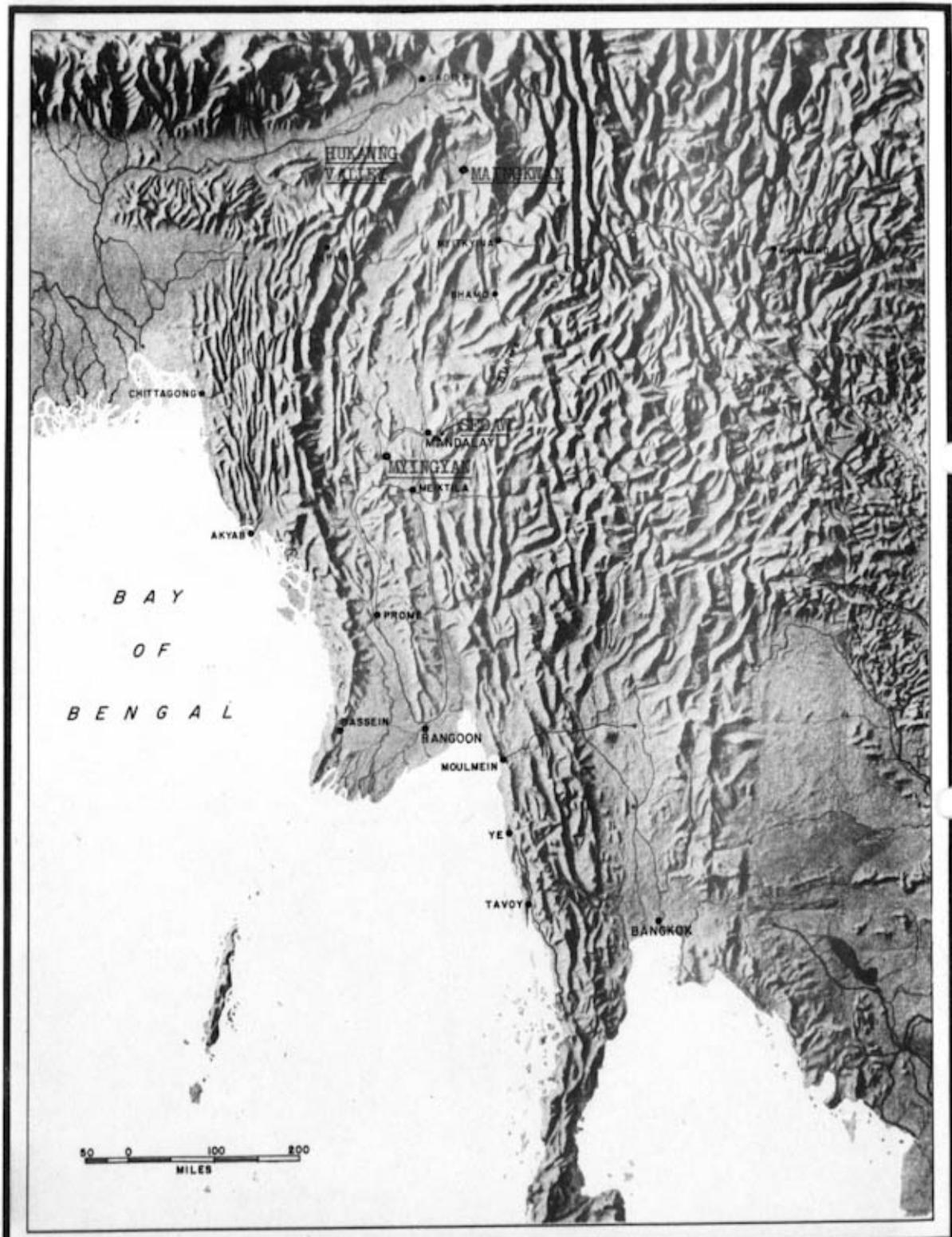
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

The situation in the Salerno area improved rapidly on 16 September with the reduction of the enemy salient between the Sele and Calore Rivers and the reoccupation by our troops of Albanella. Enemy attempts to infiltrate north and west of Salerno during the recent days were effectively held.

There was no change in the situation in Apulia; forward troops of the British Eighth Army from Calabria are believed well beyond Sapri.

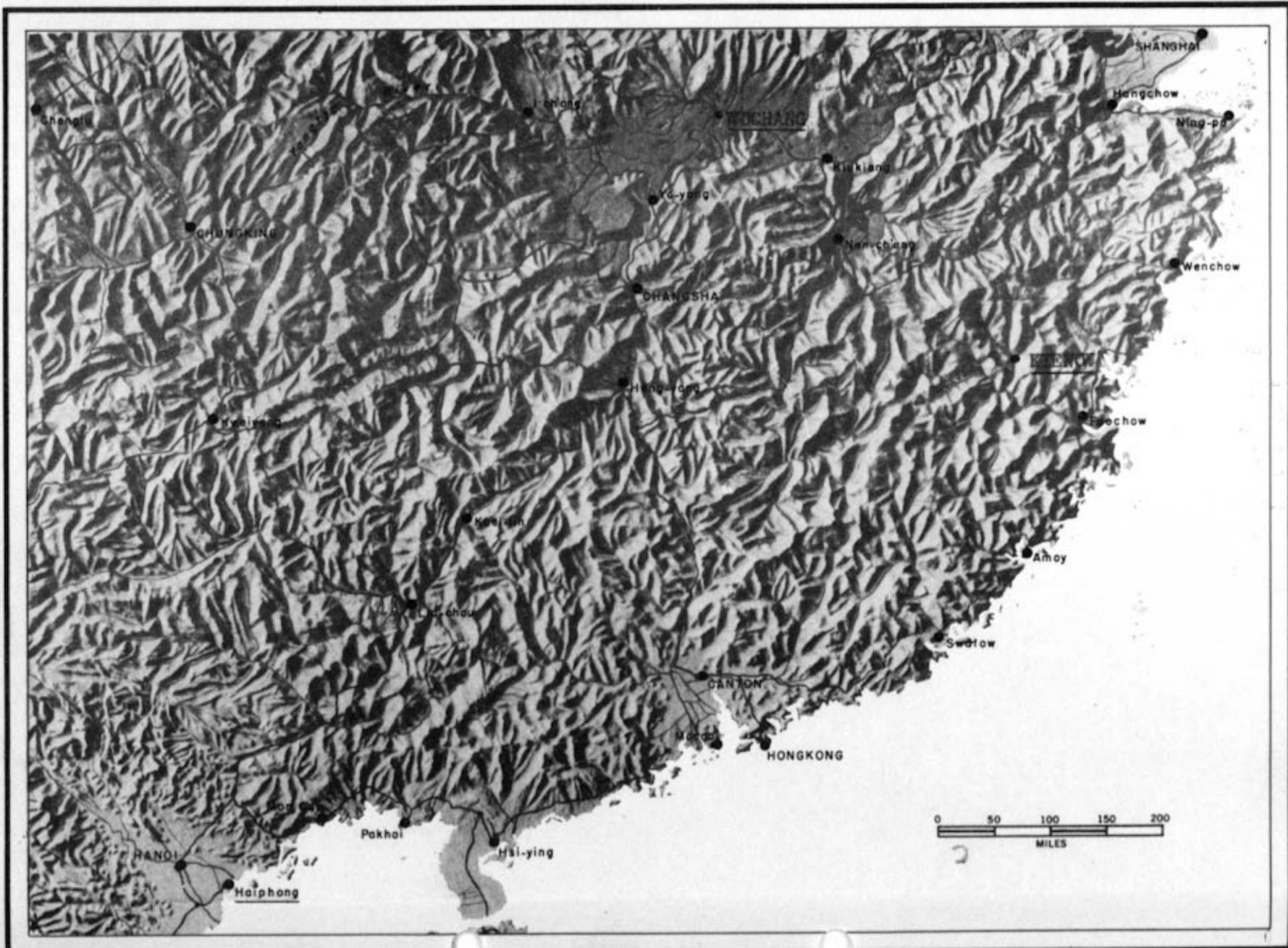
Mediterranean Air Command bomber missions comprising some 450 sorties pounded the lines of communication in the immediate rear of the enemy

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BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS



MAP NO. 2437 (FREE)  
24 JUNE 1943

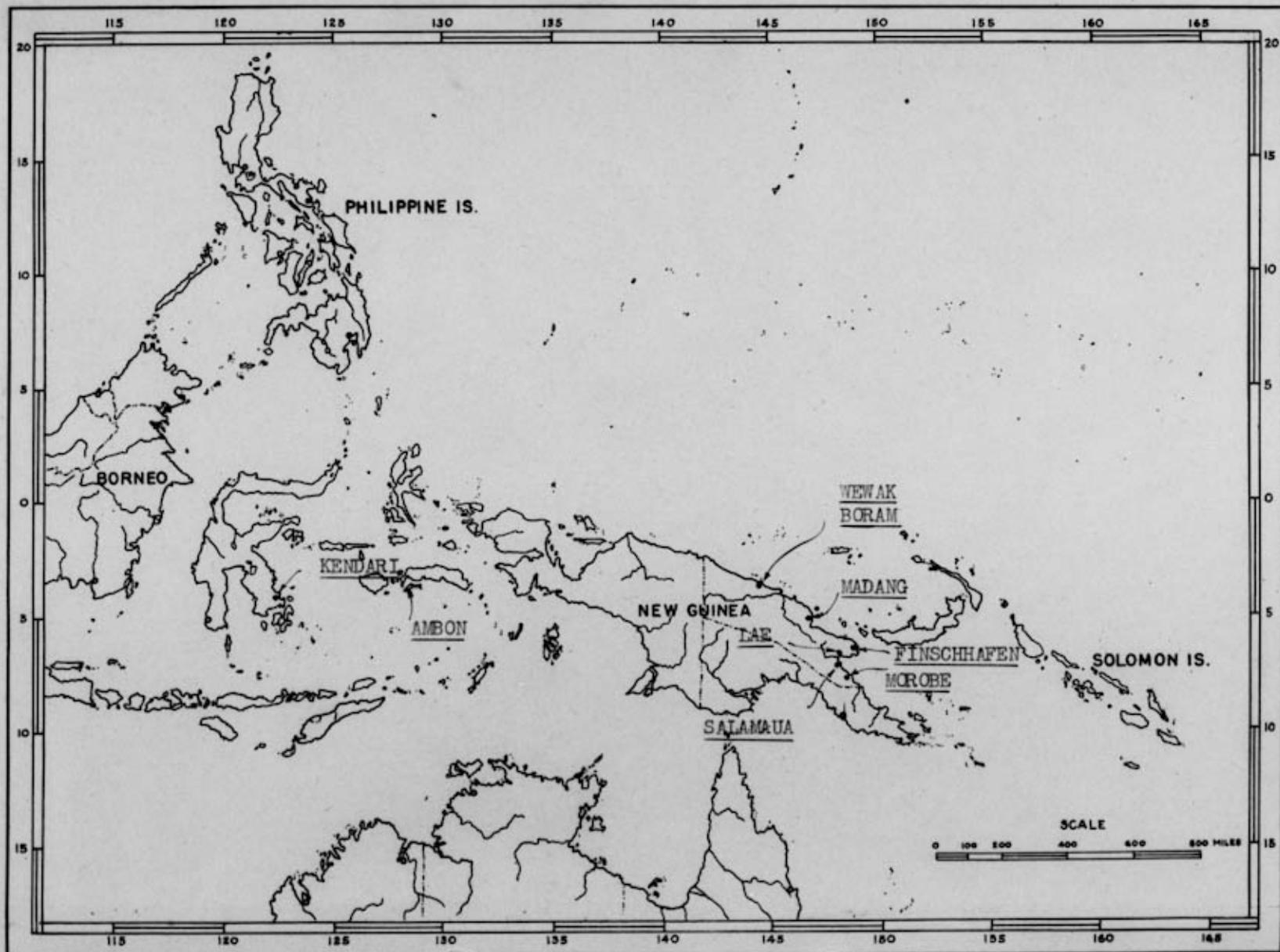
COMPILED AND DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSS  
PRINTED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH, OSS

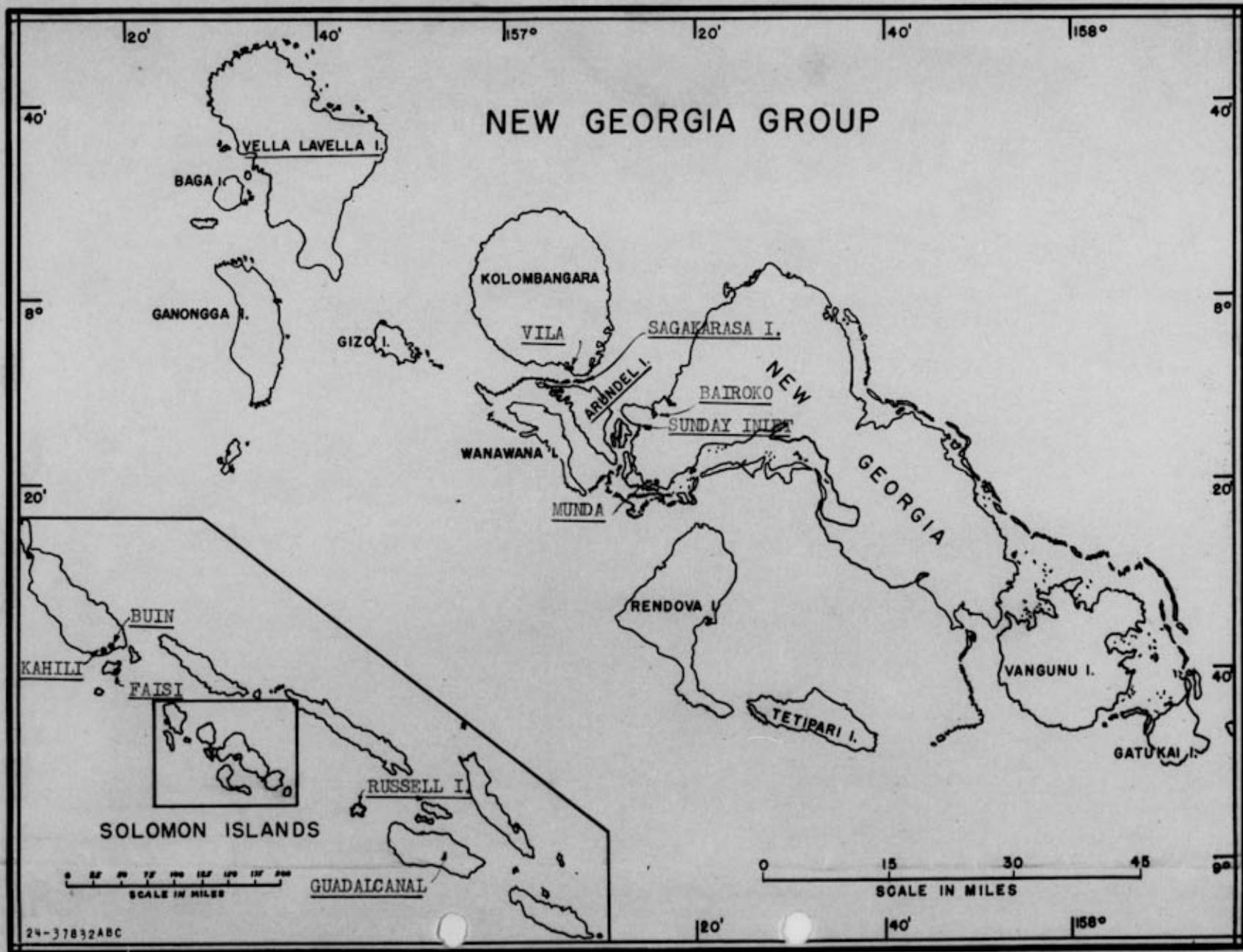
positions near Salerno on the night of 14-15 September and the following day with over 800 tons of demolition bombs, concentrating on Battipaglia and the towns and road to the southeast and on the vital highway between Naples and Salerno, south of Mt. Vesuvius. The railroad yards at Potenza were also successfully raided. Meanwhile tactical missions were flown in the immediate battle area affording all air support possible to our ground units. Enemy sorties over the beaches were on a reduced scale.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. 10th Air Force B-25's successfully bombed targets in Myingyan and railroad installations at Sedaw on 15 September. Meanwhile P-40's, flying fighter-bomber missions, machine-gunned enemy targets of opportunity in the northern Hukawng Valley and set fire to an enemy supply dump and buildings at Maingkwan.

2. Six B-25's and 14 P-40's of the 14th Air Force bombed buildings at Wuchang on 15 September and shot down one of twelve intercepting Japanese fighter planes; one of our fighters was lost. A raid by five B-24's on the cement plant at Haiphong, during which our planes dropped 22 half-ton demolition bombs on the target, turned into an intense running fight when more than 50 Japanese fighter planes attacked our formation. Only one B-24 returned; it claimed 10 (probably 28) enemy aircraft destroyed. Japanese planes attacked our airfield at Kienow, scoring hits on the runway.





PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. In his operations summary for 15 September General MacArthur reports that Allied ground forces advanced another half mile westward along the beach toward Lae against increased enemy opposition. To the northwest of the town our forces have inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Allied barges have now landed midway between Lae and Salamaua.

During the night of 14-15 September, 12 B-24's started large fires at the airdrome and on the wharf at Kendari while three Australian flying boats attacked the barracks area at Ambon. Six Japanese planes bombed Morobe, but caused no damage or casualties. The following day 22 escorted B-24's destroyed approximately ten grounded aircraft in attacks on the Wewak and Boram airdromes and shot down 48 (probably 59) intercepting Japanese planes; we lost one P-38. A force of 23 B-25's destroyed 15 barges, ammunition dumps and an AA position, and set fire to villages in sweeps from Finschhafen to Madang. Finschhafen was also bombed by two B-24's on reconnaissance; nine B-17's silenced a gun battery and did other heavy damage at Lae.

2. Preliminary reports indicate that an attack on Japanese airfields in the Buin-Faisi area by 229 Army and Navy bombers and fighters on 14 September was highly successful. During the previous night Japanese planes caused minor damage at Guadalcanal, and small enemy bomber missions made ineffective raids on the Russell Islands and Munda.

On 15 September missions totaling 40 B-24's covered by 79 fighters dropped fragmentation bombs on Kahili; two B-24's harassed

enemy troops at Vila. Of some 50 enemy fighters and fighter bombers encountered, eight were destroyed for a loss of three P-40's.

The Japanese on Arundel, having been reinforced, counterattacked our positions opposite Vila. Our units repulsed the Japanese efforts, causing some casualties. The enemy shelling of Arundel, Bairoko and Sunday Inlet continued; there has been much Japanese air activity in those areas, as well as over Guadalcanal, with some resultant damage and casualties. No Japanese were encountered by our forces on Vella Lavella.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 645

0700 September 15 to 0700 September 16, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Pursuant to War Department instructions, Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt relinquished command of the Fourth Army at 0001, Pacific War Time, 15 September 1943, to Brigadier General James W. Barnett.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. An unidentified aircraft was sighted over Iceland on 14 September.
2. According to a late communique, B-17's of the 8th Air Force attacked two aircraft plants and a ball-bearing factory in the Paris area, on 15 September. Other heavy and medium bomber missions attacked airfields in northern France. Sixteen enemy planes were destroyed by our bombers and their escorting fighters; nine of our planes are missing including six heavy bombers.
3. During the week ending 12 September, the 8th Air Force destroyed 119, probably 143, enemy planes in combat for a loss from all causes of 58 aircraft. The corresponding RAF claims and losses in this theater are 63, probably 68, German planes destroyed for a loss of 85 from all causes.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Since 11 September, Italian troops assisted by patriotic civilians, have been fighting Germans in northern and western Corsica. They now

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OSD Letter, 6-8-72



BASE MAP NO. 2448 (FREE)  
1 JULY 1943

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DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 8-3-72

control Ajaccio and part of the interior of the island, with the Germans in control of the southeast corner.

During the night of 13-14 September, Allied planes bombed lines of communication in the vicinity of Pompei, Salerno and Potenza. The next day our medium and heavy bombers dropped more than 1200 tons of bombs during the some 600 sorties flown in support of our ground forces in the Salerno area; photographs show the main roads to be badly cratered throughout the area. Thirty-seven B-24's bombed the Pescara railroad yards, hitting the engine shed and causing fires and explosions. While there was little enemy fighter opposition to our bomber missions over the battle area, approximately 72 enemy planes operated against our ground forces and some dive bombers were reported attacking Allied shipping.

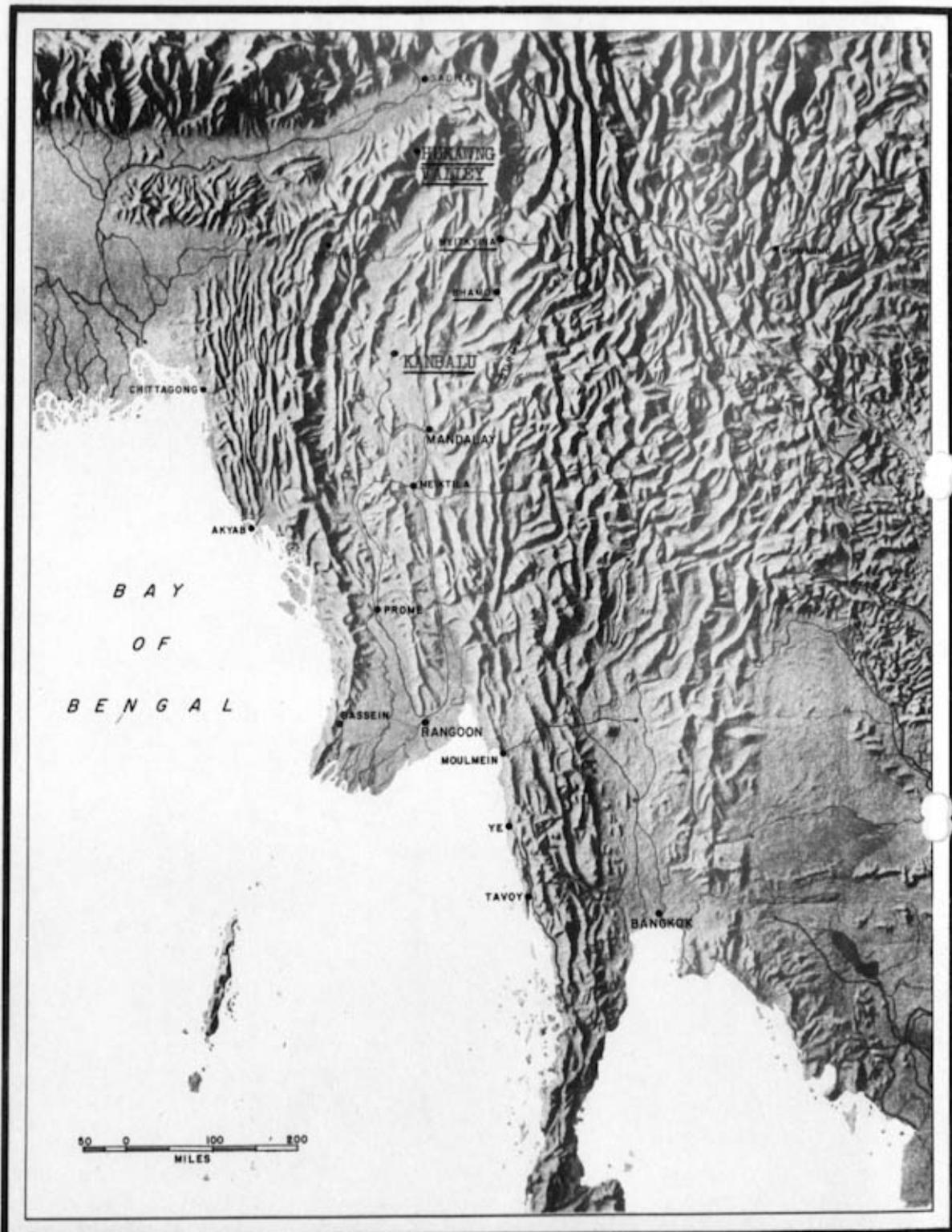
The situation at Salerno reported as of the afternoon of 15 September has developed favorably, although details are lacking. In addition to the parachute reinforcement of our beachhead during the previous night, another parachute drop was made behind the enemy lines on the important road junction of Avellino. Both drops were completed without loss of personnel or aircraft.

To the south, the British XIII Corps has pushed patrols beyond Sapri, scarcely 70 miles from the southern end of the Salerno beachhead.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

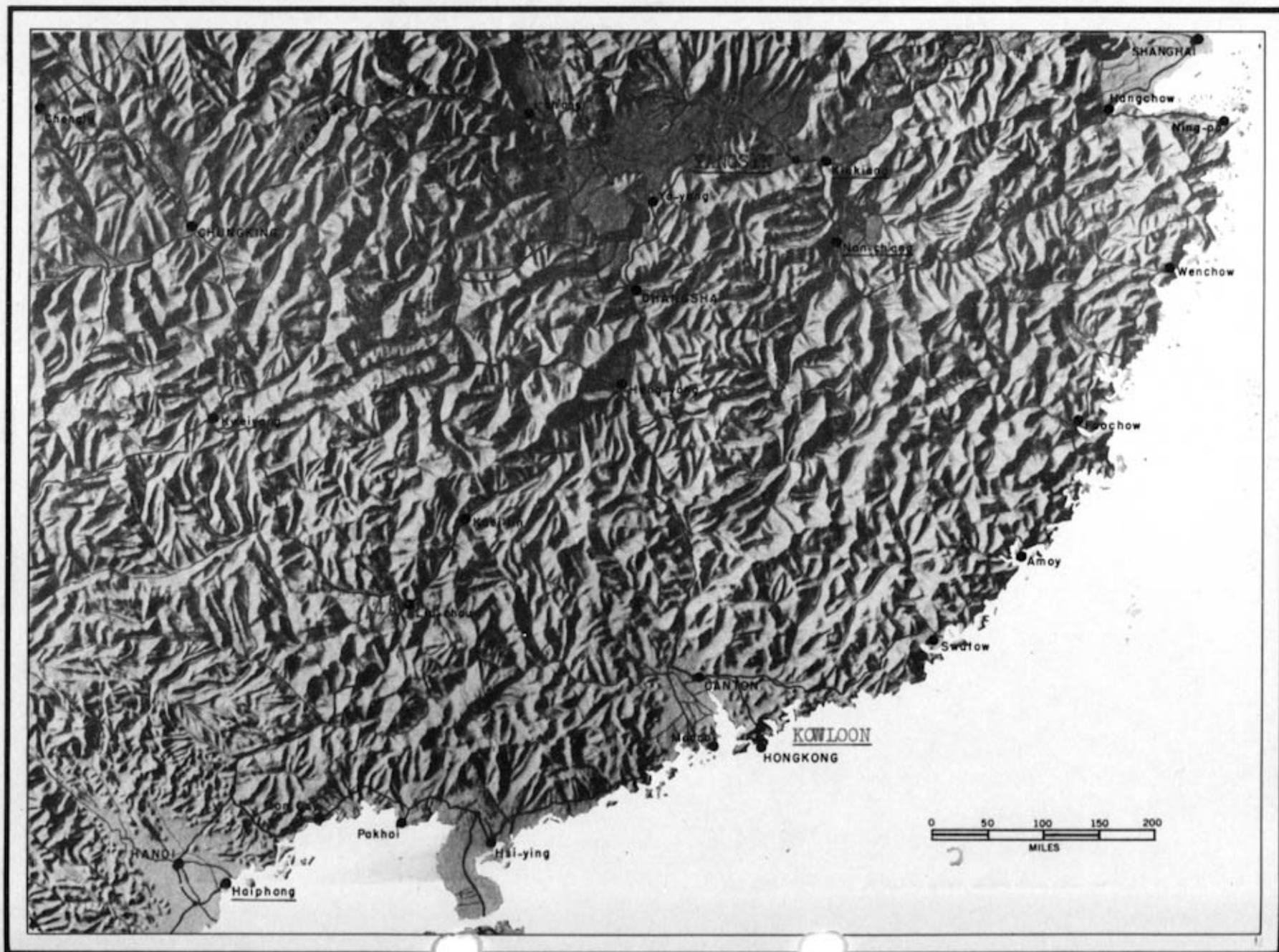
General Royce reports compliance with War Department instructions

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BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1945

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS



MAP NO. 2437 (FREE)  
24 JUNE 1943

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DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

effecting the integration of the US Army Forces in Central Africa into the US Army Forces in the Middle East, as of 15 September 1943.

ASIATIC THEATER

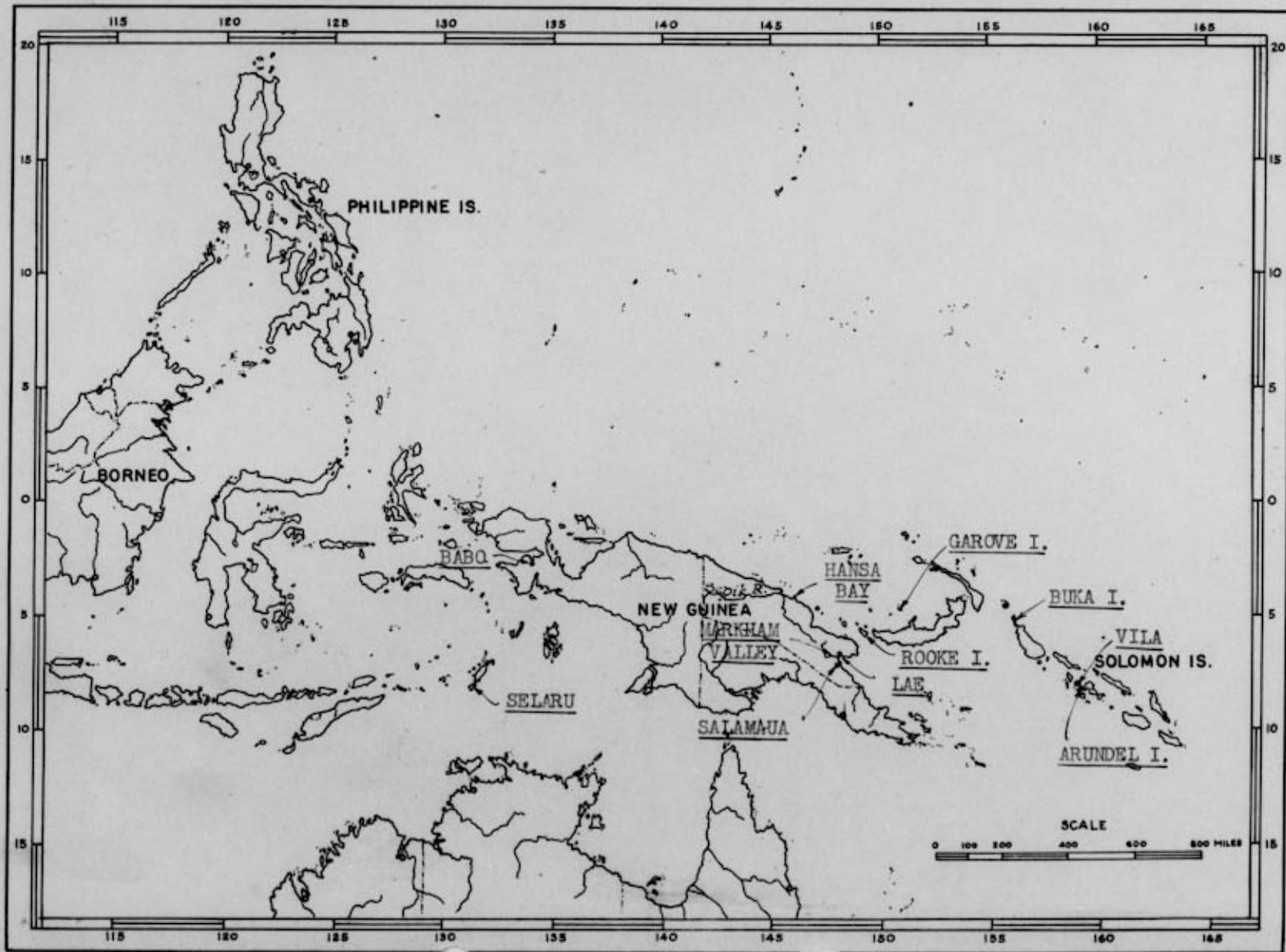
1. During operations on 14 September, 10th Air Force B-25's attacked shipping and shore installations on the river near Bhamo and effectively bombed the railroad yards at Kanbalu; a B-24 mission made a damaging raid on Myitkyina. In the extreme north, P-40's harassed enemy installations in the Hukawng Valley.

2. Seven B-24's bombing Haiphong on 14 September secured direct hits on a drydock, a 200-foot boat and on the warehouse area. Nine escorted B-25's, which were unable to bomb their primary target at Kowloon docks because of bad weather, were intercepted by some ten Japanese fighters; four, probably five, of which were shot down without US loss. US fighters on offensive reconnaissance in the lower Yangtze region strafed barracks at a mine, buildings at Yangsin, damaged two large boats near Kiukiang, and hit an ammunition and storage dump at Nanchang; one of our fighters is missing.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 14 September Allied forces closed to within two miles of the Lae airdrome on the east and four miles on the northwest. In the Salamaua area the Japanese continued to retreat, remnants of their ground units being reported ten miles northwest of the peninsula.

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DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

On the night of 13-14 September, Australian flying boats raided Babo in western New Guinea and enemy-held islands to the west. The following day B-25 missions swept over the Hansa Bay and Sepik River regions and destroyed buildings along the Markham Valley road. Nine Australian planes bombed and machine-gunned Selaru Island, starting fires in the storage area. Our reconnaissance aircraft attacked the tent area on Garove Island, machine-gunned two medium sized cargo vessels off Buka and destroyed buildings on Rocke Island.

2. Our forces on Arundel operated against strongly organized enemy positions on 14 September. B-25's bombed Vila with 100-lb. demolition bombs.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 644

0700 September 14 to 0700 September 15, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



BASE MAP NO. 2448 (FREE)  
1 JULY 1943

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PRINTED IN REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

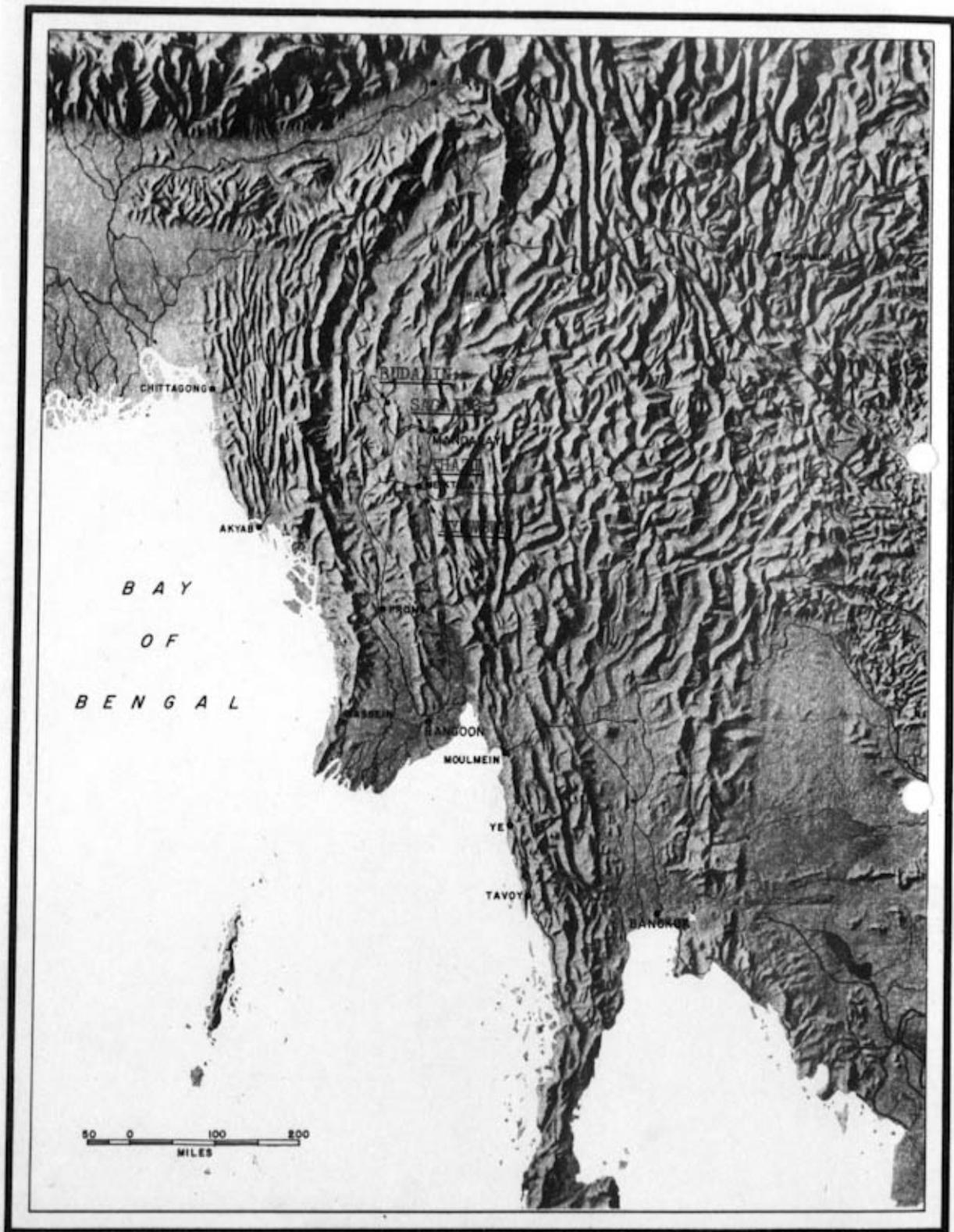
WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The Army Ground Forces have issued a directive for the movement of the Headquarters of the VII Corps (Major General Roscoe B. Woodruff) from Jacksonville, Florida, to the New York or Boston Port of Embarkation for movement overseas.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

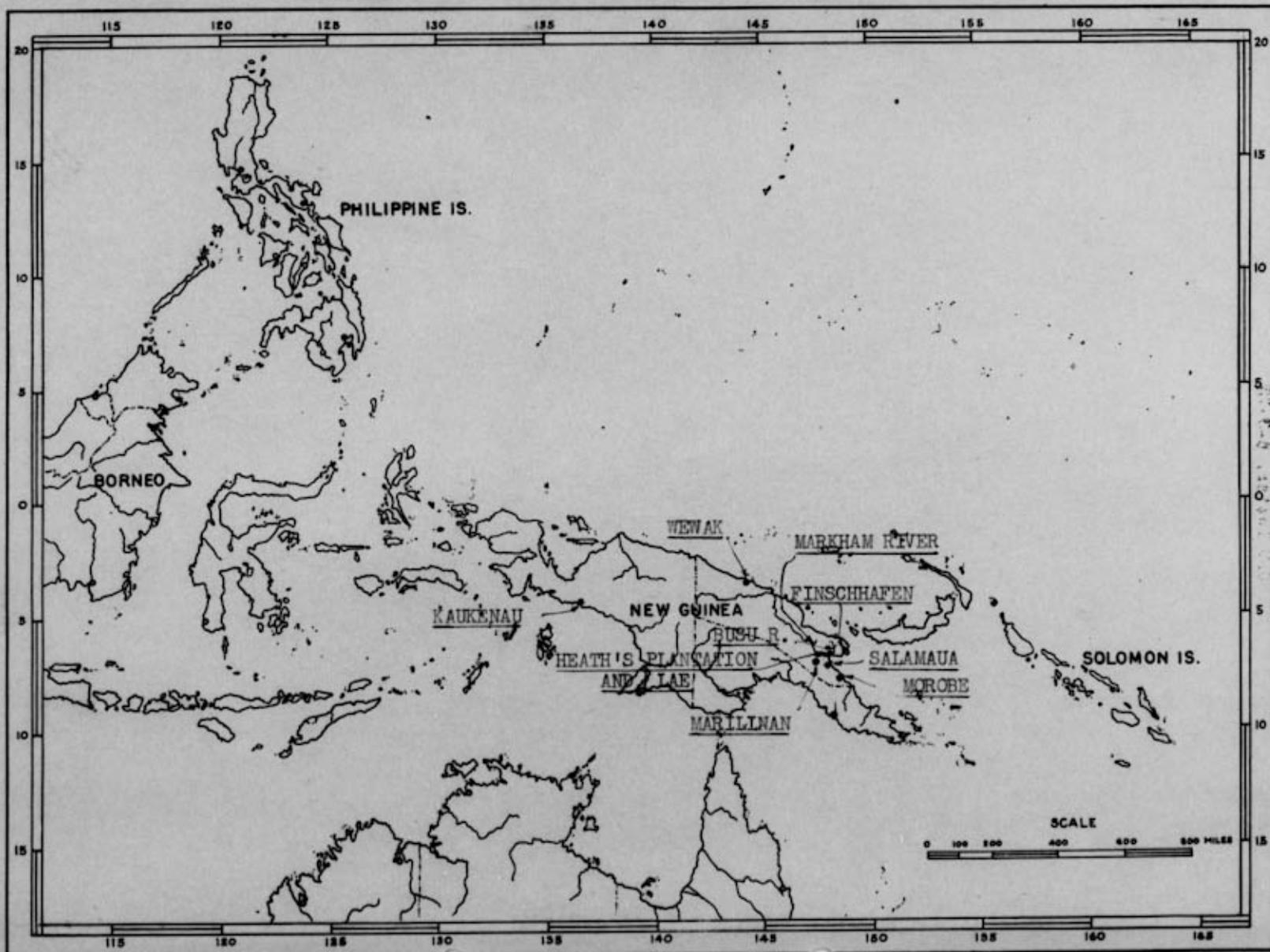
During the night of 13-14 September, two battalions of the US 82nd Airborne Division were dropped as reinforcements at the mouth of the Sele River. A German attack in that area the next day gained some ground, causing the withdrawal of the left flank of the US 36th Division to a river line seven miles inland and parallel to the coast. The positions of the British 56th Division, which was driven from Battipaglia on the 13th, were consolidated. No change was reported in the position of the British 46th Division on the north; port facilities at Salerno, being under enemy shellfire, are not usable. The remaining combat team of the US 45th Division, which was in Army reserve, is going ashore just south of the Sele River. Our forces in this area have been supported by naval gunfire.

On the night of 12-13 September, 65 Wellingtons and other medium and light bombers hit critical road junctions leading into the Salerno area from the north and east. During the following day the maximum effort of the Strategic Air Force was thrown against targets in the immediate vicinity of the battle to prevent further reinforcement and to disorganize enemy concentrations; sensitive points on roads leading



BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS



south from Naples were the principal targets attacked by the 63 B-17, 60 B-25, 36 B-26 and 24 light bomber sorties flown that day. Approximately 120 enemy planes were over the battle area; 11 (probably 12) were destroyed in the day's operations.

Operations by all categories of Allied bombers were directed against the Naples-Salerno beachhead area on 14 September.

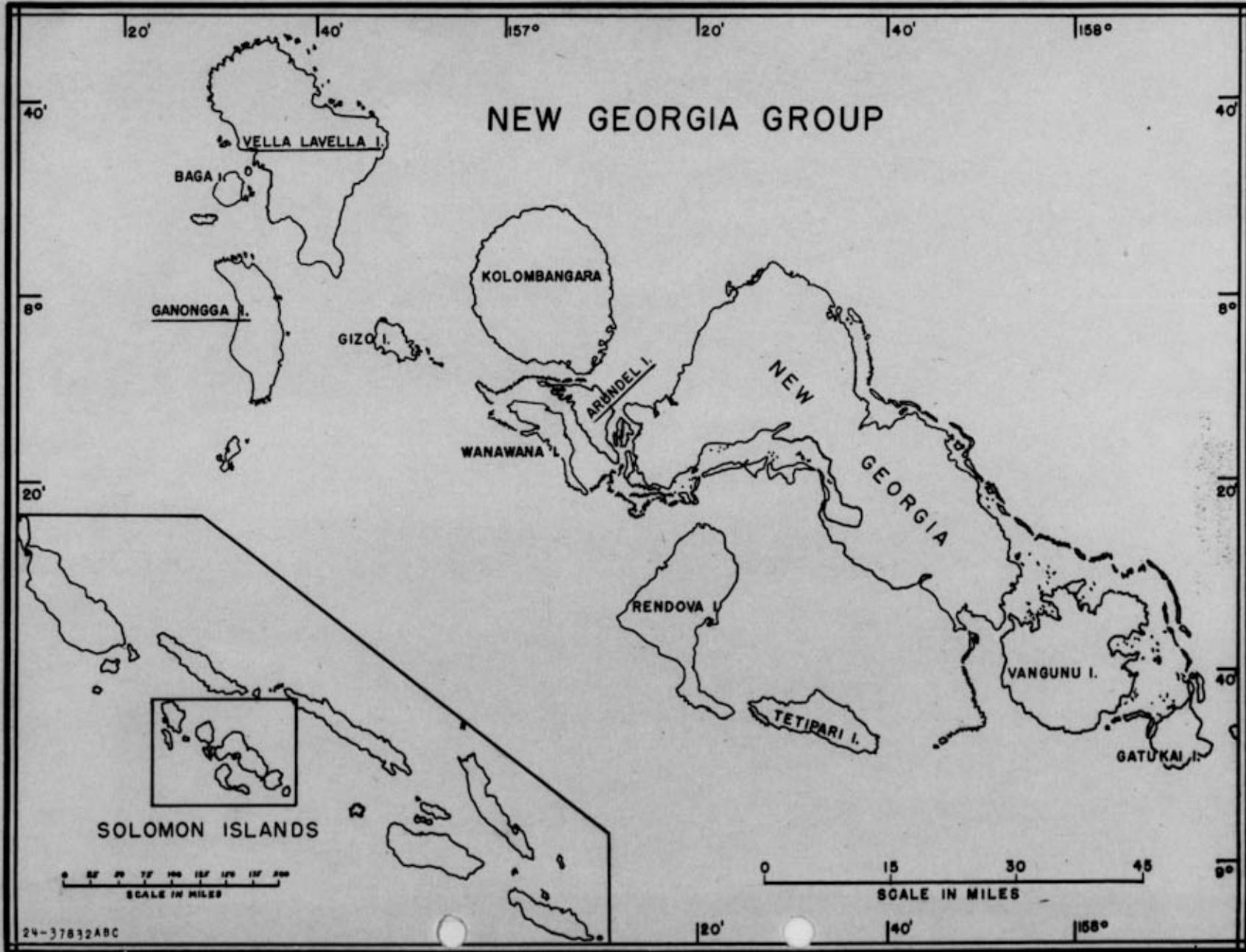
#### ASIATIC THEATER

On 12 September, 12 B-25's of the 10th Air Force scored hits in the barracks and factory areas at Pyawbwe and damaged railroad installations at Thazi and Budalin. The next day 12 B-25's dropped 14 tons of bombs on the railroad and waterfront at Sagaing.

#### PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 12 September, Allied troops east of Lae advanced to within two miles of the town, capturing two enemy strong points. Our forces also successfully attacked positions north of Heath's Plantation which the enemy evacuated next day. Enemy forces are withdrawing north from the Salamaua area.

A total of 21 B-24's, escorted by 4 squadrons of P-38's, attacked two airdromes in the Wewak area on 13 September, setting fire to at least 16 grounded aircraft and destroying eight (probably 12) enemy planes in combat. Twelve B-25's bombed enemy defenses along Markham Road and set fire to a village. Small missions of Allied



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

bombers attacked buildings at Finschhafen and a village 40 miles north of Kaukenau, western New Guinea.

Twelve enemy bombers, escorted by 30 fighter planes, attacked the runway at Marilinan (45 miles west of Lae) where Allied fighters destroyed two (probably three) of the raiders for a loss of one P-40; 12 other enemy planes bombed our forces east of Lae causing damage and casualties. No damage resulted from an enemy raid on Morobe.

2. On 13 September, our artillery intermittently bombed Jap positions on Vella Lavella. On Ganongga Island, our patrol destroyed large quantities of supplies, equipment and ammunition. Our forces on Arundel and a nearby island received spasmodic Jap artillery fire. One of our reconnaissance planes scored an effective hit on the bridge of an enemy destroyer east of Bougainville.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 643

0700 September 13 to 0700 September 14, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. The Army Ground Forces issued a directive for the movement of the 4th Infantry Division (Major General Raymond O. Barton) from Fort Dix, New Jersey, to Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida, for amphibious training.

2. The War Department directed the separation from the Western Defense Command of the Headquarters of the Fourth Army, effective 15 September. This army headquarters, which will move to San Jose, California, during its reorganization, becomes available to the Army Ground Forces for further assignment.

3. At the instance of the Under Secretary of War, the War Department is making preparations for a conference in Washington on 27 and 28 September, to be attended by key industrial and labor leaders and publishers. The purpose is to convince them, and hence the public at large, of the fallacy of the prevalent assumption that the end of the war is imminent, and to urge the utmost effort in production. It is planned to terminate the conference by a military demonstration of a river-crossing at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

EUROPEAN THEATER

A probably hostile plane was reported over Iceland on 12 September.

ISERNIA	CASTELNUOVO	ARIANO	} NORTH OF THIS LINE
PROSINONE	FORMIA	AULETTA	
	MIGNANO		



BASE MAP NO. 2448 (FREE)  
1 JULY 1943

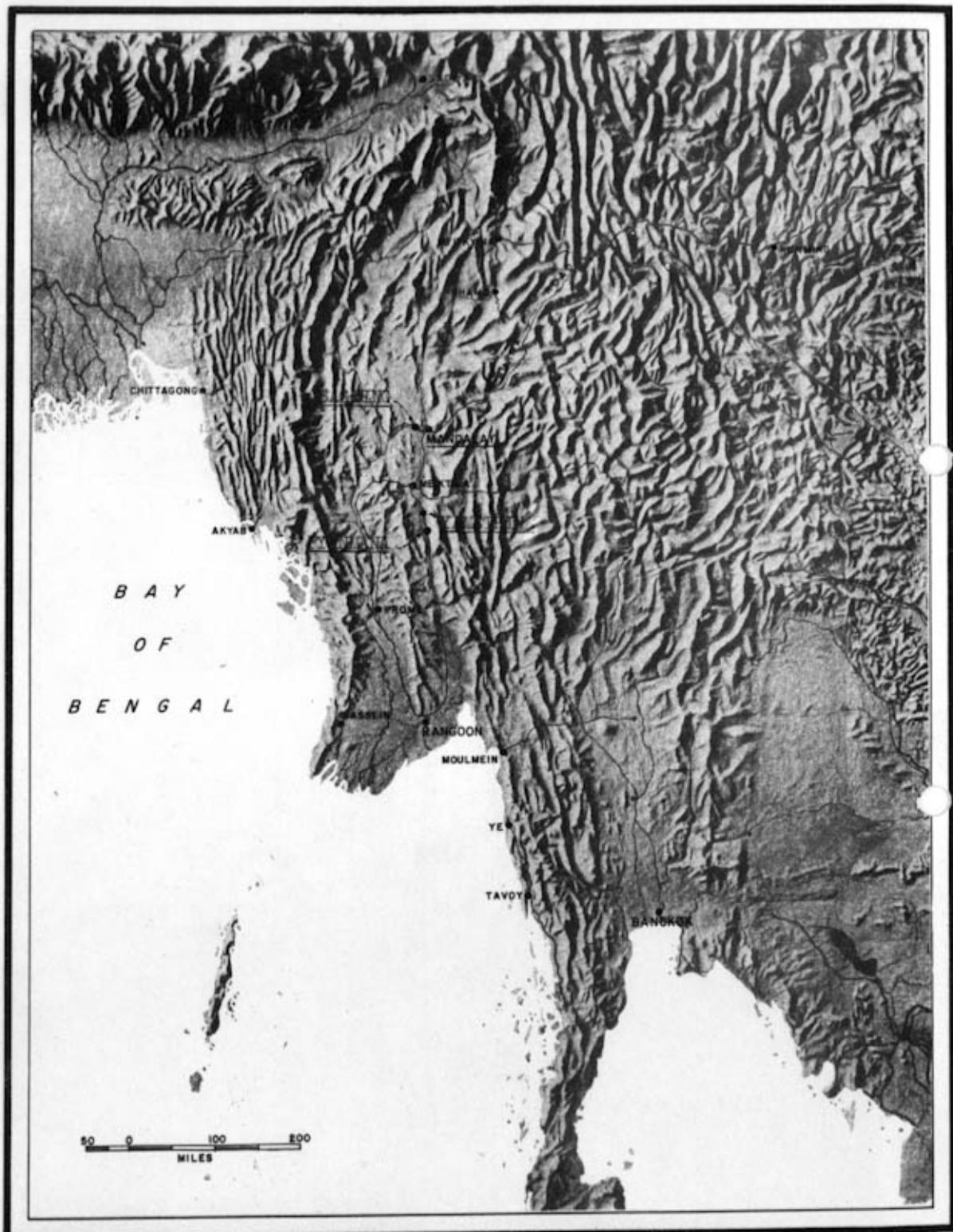
DRAWN AND COMPILED IN RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
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NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. During the night of 11-12 September and the following day, Allied air forces over Italy continued to bomb communication centers affording access to the Naples area from the north and east. Ninety-six Wellingtons also dropped 167 tons of bombs on the hangars and dispersal area at the Frosinone airdrome (45 miles southeast of Rome). This target was also successfully attacked by 122 of our B-17's which hit Benevento and Mignano as well. Four medium bomber missions totaling 75 B-26's and 84 B-25's dropped more than 200 tons of bombs in attacks against Isernia, Formia, Ariano, Auletta, and Castelnuovo. Light bombers successfully attacked targets of opportunity on roads in southern and central Italy, destroying 78 enemy motor vehicles. Eight enemy aircraft were destroyed during these operations for a loss of one A-36. A total of 570 fighters furnished cover for our ground troops in the Salerno area.

2. There was heavy fighting on 13 September on the X Corps front where the British 56th Division, after suffering heavy losses, was forced out of Battipaglia; to the south, the left flank of our VI Corps was withdrawn to conform. The British 46th Division maintained its position north of Salerno despite enemy infiltration. Elements of the British 7th Armored Division are now arriving at Salerno. Montecorvino airdrome was unusable due to the proximity of the enemy, but fighter aircraft were expected to use landing strips near Salerno that day.

In Calabria, the XIII Corps, pushing rapidly northward to the



BASE MAP NO 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

aid of the Fifth Army, now has patrols to the general line: Strongoli, Cosenza, Belvedere. Allied control of the heel is complete and extends north and west to a general line: Taranto-Bari.

ASIATIC THEATER

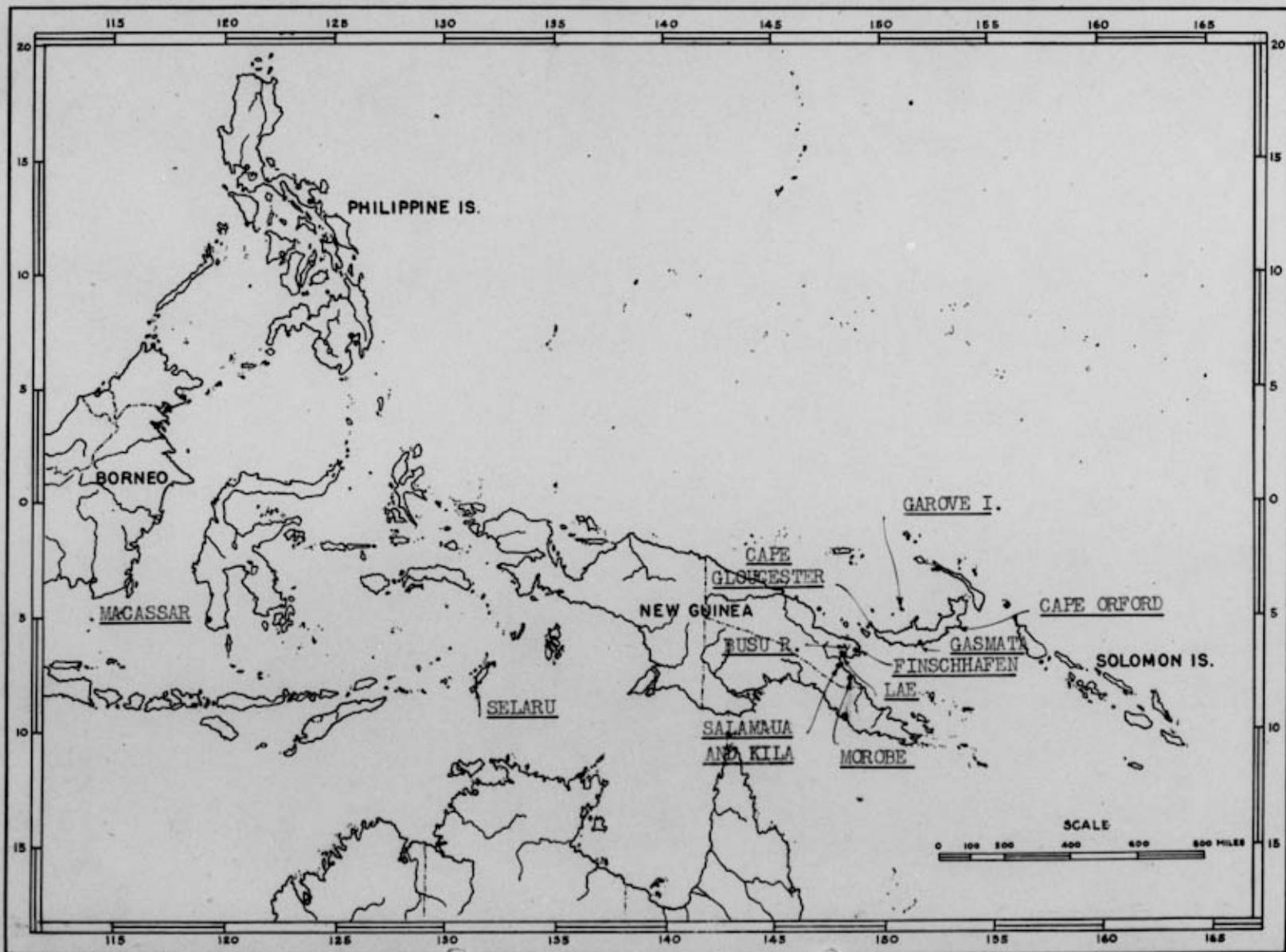
1. The Pyinmana railroad yards and business district were hit by seven B-24's of the 10th Air Force on 11 September. Nine B-25's damaged rolling stock and a river boat at Sagaing. The following day seven B-24's attacked Yamethin railroad yards with 15 tons of demolitions, causing heavy damage to tracks and rolling stock.

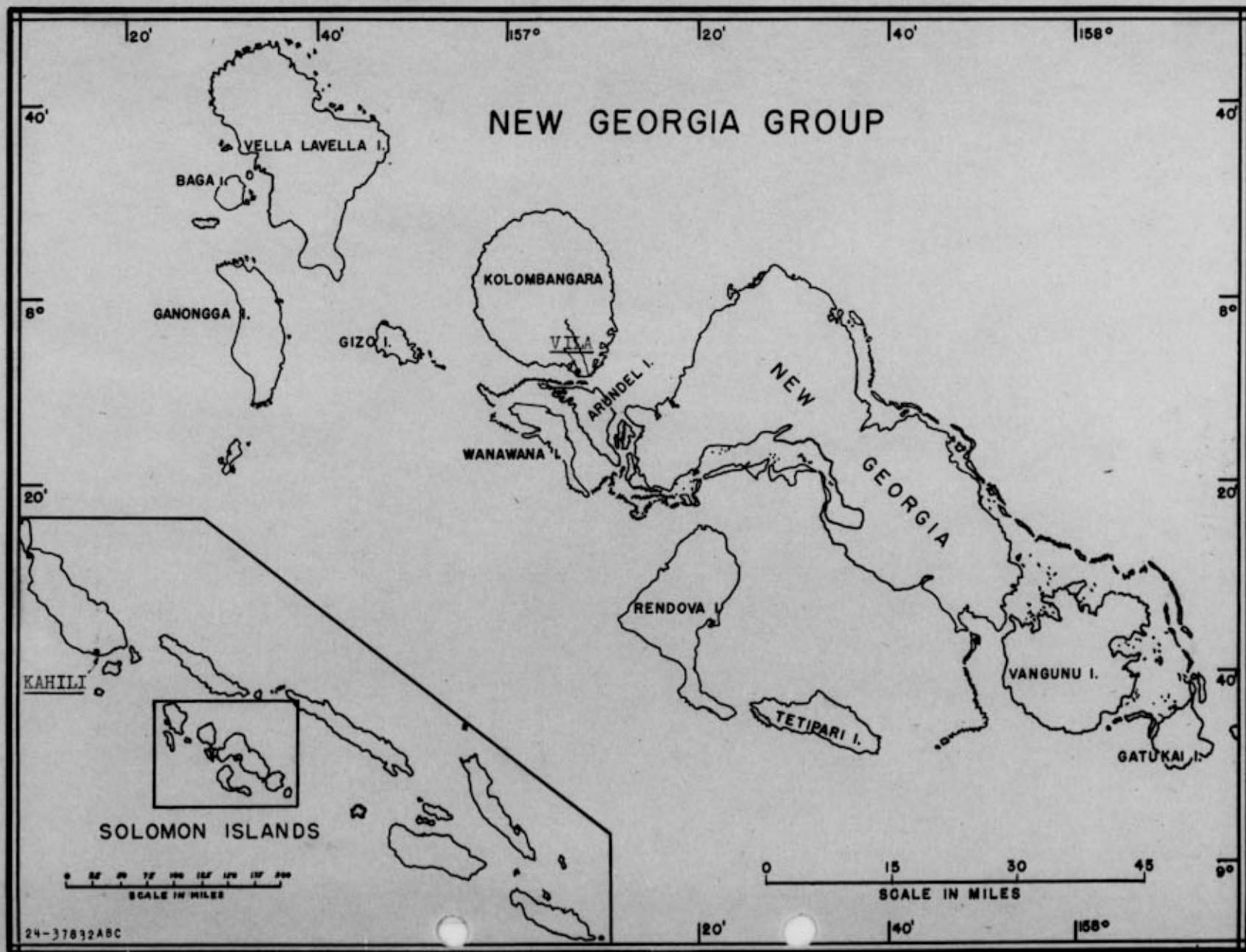
2. On 12 September ten P-38's of the 14th Air Force skip-bombed and damaged one destroyer and two 500-foot boats in Hongkong harbor. Other fighter-bomber missions over the lower Yangtze area damaged rail installations and an enemy rest camp area south of Kiukiang. One P-38 was shot down.

Enemy planes again raided Kienow landing ground without reported damage.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Salamaua, the isthmus to the northeast and Kila village were captured on 11 September, but the enemy still occupied the high ground southwest of that village. During Allied ground operations on 12 September a quantity of enemy equipment was captured on the west bank of the Busu River.





Enemy defense positions north of Lae were effectively raided by 10 B-24's and 12 B-17's which silenced antiaircraft guns and destroyed a bridge. Allied reconnaissance aircraft raided Cape Gloucester airdrome, Finschhafen, installations on Garove Island and attacked a submarine off Cape Orford. Other missions hit a radio station at Gasmata, strafed a runway at Selaru and destroyed barges along the southwest coast of New Britain.

During the night of 11-12 September, 13 B-24's again bombed Macassar starting large fires in the dock, warehouse, fuel tank and barracks areas. One Liberator is missing.

Enemy dive-bombers and fighters damaged an Allied vessel in an attack on Morobe; our antiaircraft fire brought down two bombers.

2. Army and Navy bombers and fighters dropped 46 quarter-ton bombs on enemy gun positions on Kolombangara on 12 September; excellent results were noted in the target area. Twenty-five B-24's escorted by Navy fighter craft, which shot down seven of 27 intercepting enemy planes, raided Kahili with fragmentation clusters and demolition bombs; several fires were started and excellent results were reported. Other B-24's dropped quarter-ton bombs on Vila which is also being pounded by our artillery. Ground troops on Arundel are pocketing the Japanese on the north coast.

WAR DEPARTMENT

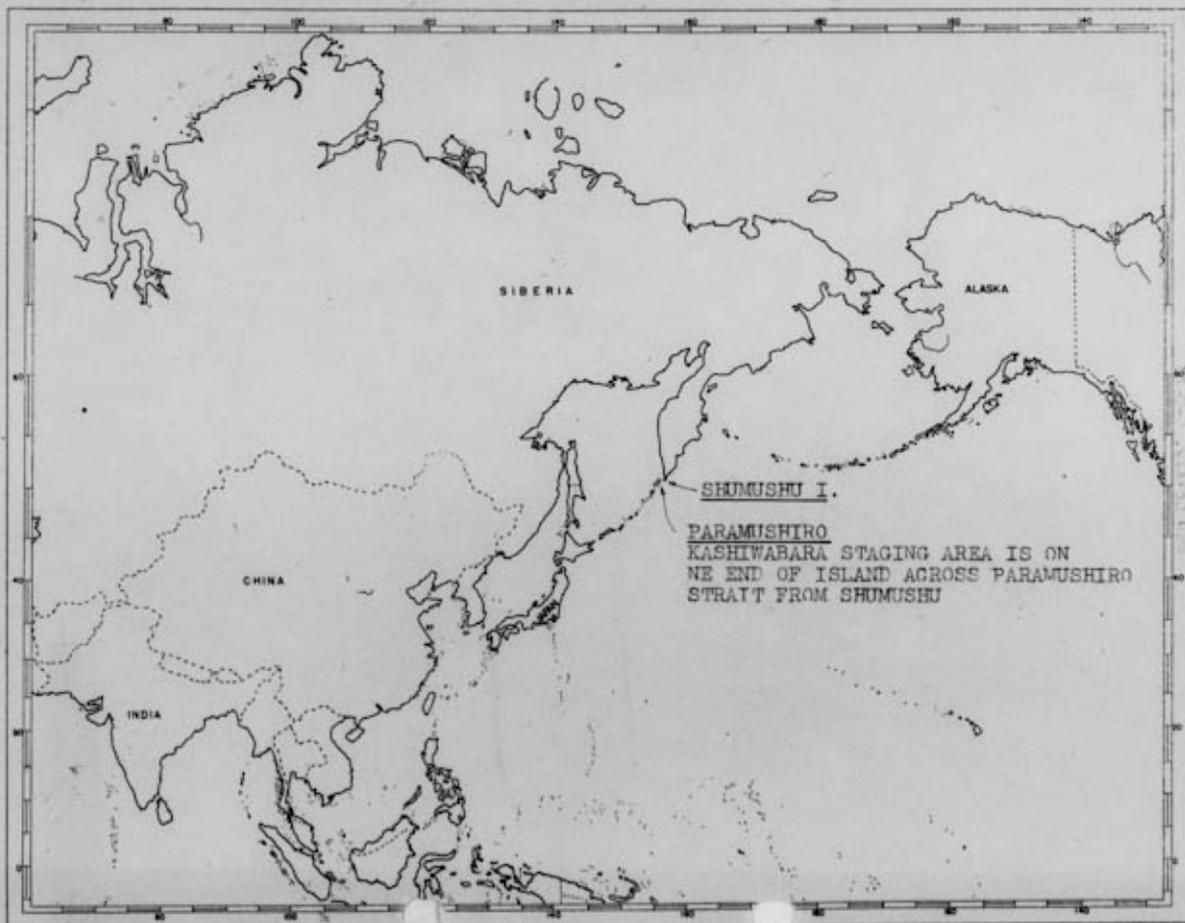
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 642

0700 September 12 to 0700 September 13, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



SIBERIA

ALASKA

SHUMUSHU I.

PARAMUSHIRO  
KASHIWABARA STAGING AREA IS ON  
NE END OF ISLAND ACROSS PARAMUSHIRO  
STRAIT FROM SHUMUSHU

CHINA

INDIA

NAVY 1152



BASE MAP NO. 2448 (FREE)  
1 JULY 1943

DRAWN AND COMPILED IN RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

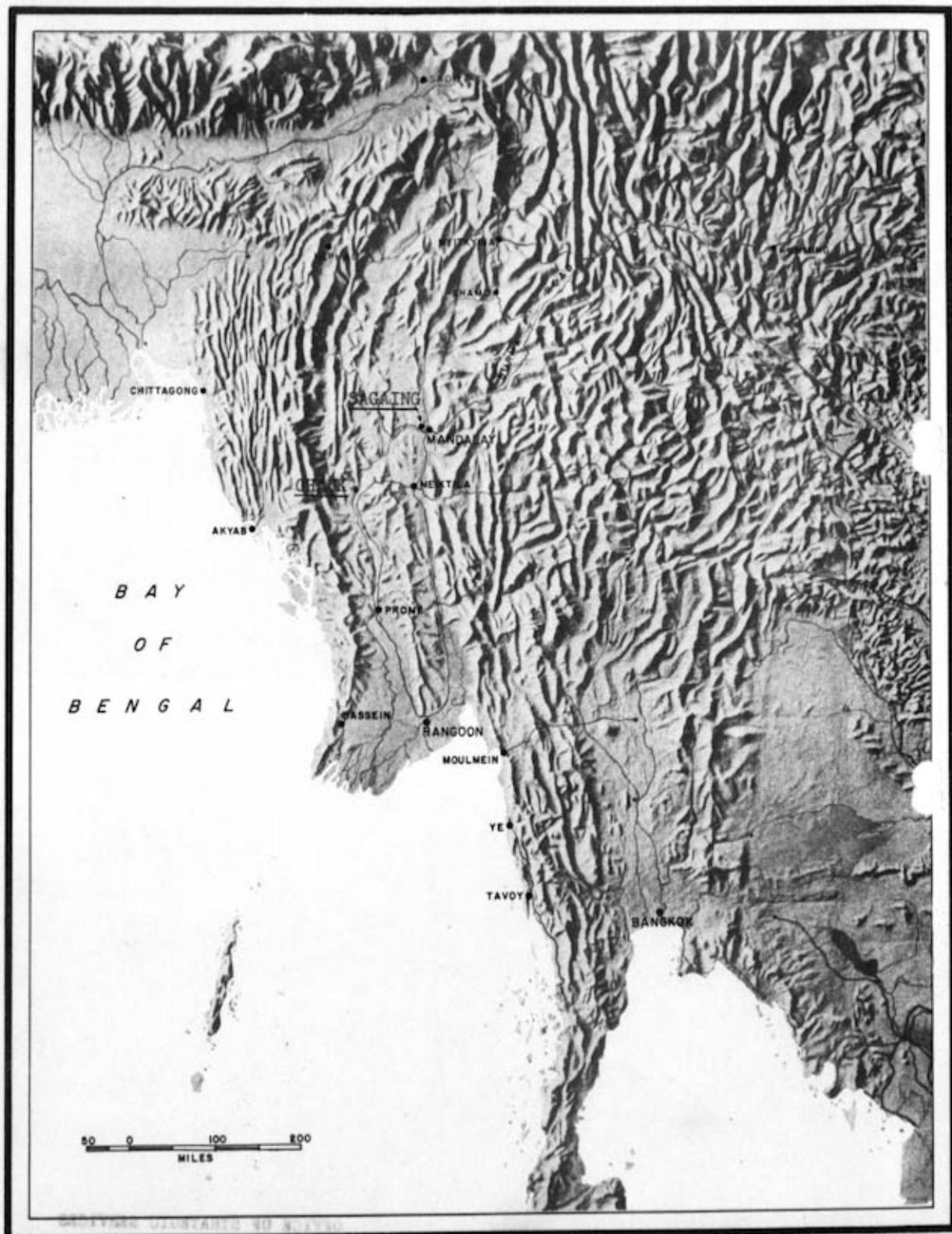
Starting from Attu, eight B-24's and 12 B-25's of the 11th Air Force, on 11 September, bombed Shumushu Island, the Kashiwabara staging area on Paramushiro, and probably sank one large enemy transport and a smaller freighter and damaged many lesser vessels in that area. Bombing results were summarized as excellent. Intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Ten (probably 13) enemy fighters were shot down; we lost three B-24's and seven B-25's, but two of the B-24's and four of the B-25's may have reached Kamchatka.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On the night of 10-11 September, British Wellingtons dropped 94 tons of bombs on the road and rail junctions at Formia with excellent results, and medium and fighter bombers attacked roads and motor vehicles in the vicinity of Auletta and Corleto. The next day, 39 B-17's bombed the Benevento railroad yards while powerful forces of medium bombers effectively attacked road junctions in southern Italy, continuing their isolation of the Salerno beachhead area. 741 fighter sorties were flown over the beaches in the latter area; 120 enemy aircraft were encountered during the day. Thirty-nine P-40's carried out a fighter sweep over Sardinia. British aircraft attacked Maritsa and Calato airdromes on the Island of Rhodes. The enemy lost 27 aircraft; eight of our own were reported lost during the day's activities.

2. On 11 September the center of the Salerno beachhead was

~~SECRET~~



CHITTAGONG VALLEY TO SAGAIING  
BASE MAP NO. 8447 (REV.) 1:50,000

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS

extended inland ten miles, as far as Eboli; the US 45th Division has been assigned to the VI Corps and has entered the beachhead south of that town. The British 46th Division pushed its advance elements four miles north of Salerno. Montecorvino airdrome is now serviceable.

The British Eighth Army moved forward six miles north of Catanzaro on 11 September. Patrols of the British 1st Airborne Division fanned out 20 miles west and 12 miles northwest of Taranto.

#### MIDDLE EAST - CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

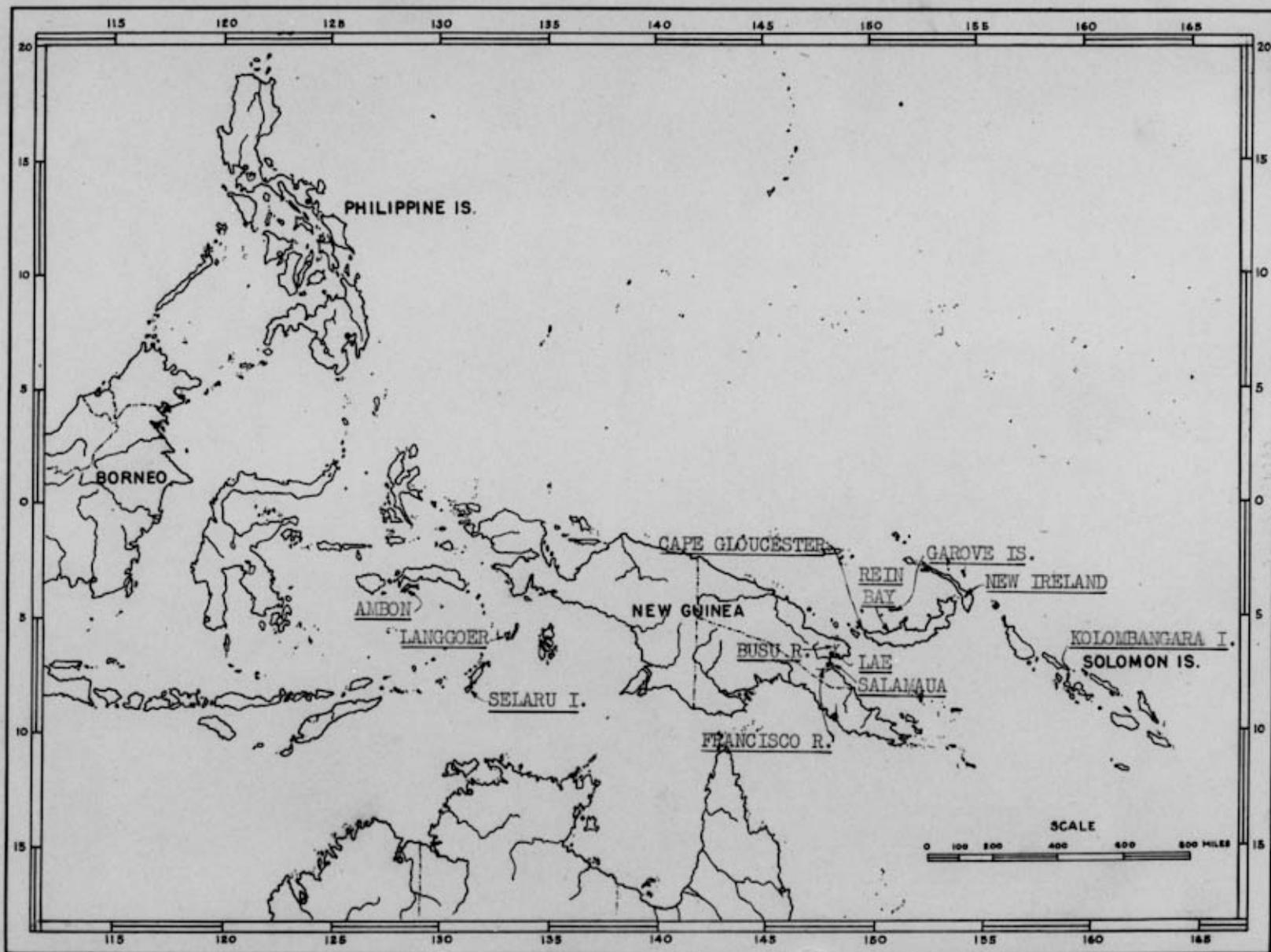
General Connolly reports that the Persian Gulf Service Command delivered 163,000 long-tons of cargo to the Russians during August. The target set for September is 175,000 long-tons.

#### ASIATIC THEATER

On 10 September, nine medium bombers of our 10th Air Force destroyed rolling stock and hit ferry boats and a large river boat in the vicinity of Sagaing. The following day six B-24's started fires at the Chauk airfield installations.

#### PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Allied troops on 11 September were in contact with the enemy some eight miles northwest of Lae. The Busu River is flooded, hampering our ground operations to the east of the town. At Salamaua, Allied ground forces captured the airfield after crossing the flooded Francisco River.



~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Australian planes bombed villages and machine-gunned runways on Selaru Island and started fires in the dump area at Langgoer (Kai Is.). Dutch B-25's bombed Laha (Ambon), and other aircraft harassed the enemy on Garove Island, set fire to a freighter east of New Ireland, bombed the Cape Gloucester runway and damaged barges in Rein Bay (northern New Britain) and along the northeast New Guinea coast.

2. Eighteen B-25's attacked Japanese gun positions on southern Kolombangara Island on 11 September with observed effect.

3. On 7 September, our planes were using the landing field on Baker Island.

Two Japanese four-engined flying boats were shot down, on 8 and 9 September, in the vicinity of Baker Island.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

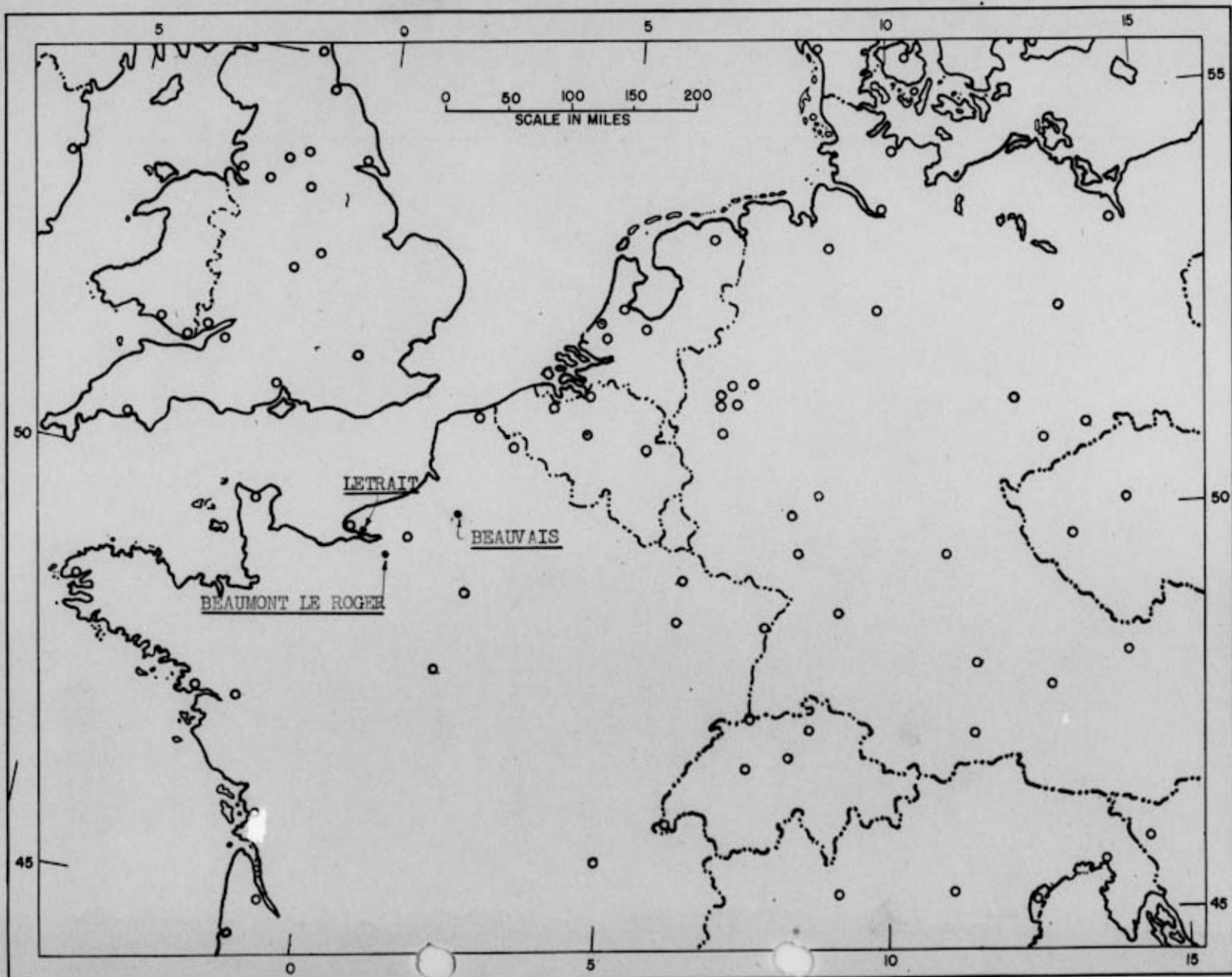
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 641

0700 September 11 to 0700 September 12, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



24-33868

TOP SECRET



BASE MAP NO 2448 (FREE)  
1 JULY 1943

DRAWN AND COMPILED IN RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
PRINTED IN REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

~~SECRET~~

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. An unidentified plane was plotted 25 miles northeast of Hofn, Iceland on 10 September.

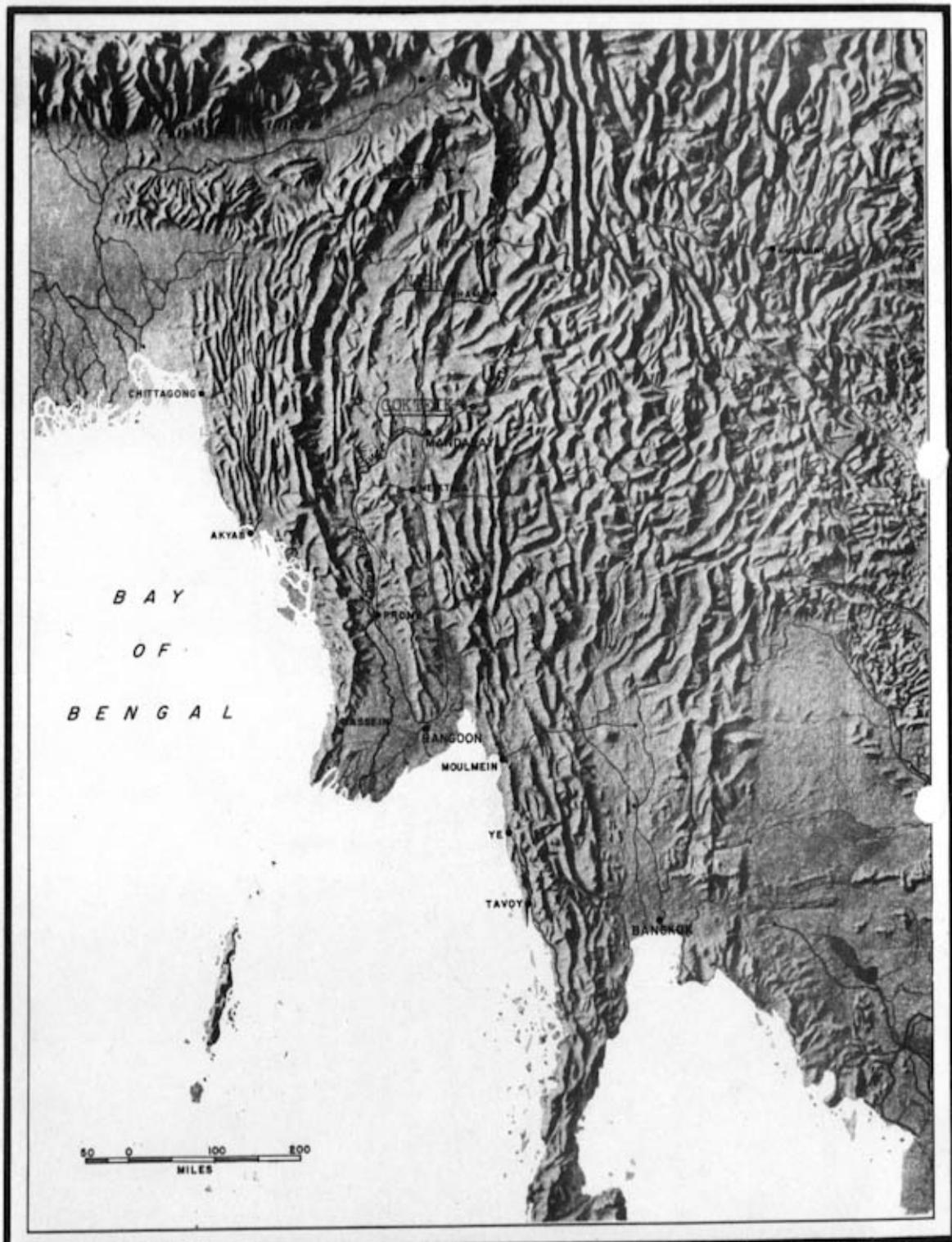
2. Escorted 8th Air Force and Allied medium bomber missions attacked targets in northern France on 11 September, the airfields at Beauvais and Beaumont le Roger and the shipyards at Letrait being bombed with good effect. In attempting interception nine enemy fighters were destroyed; four of our fighters are missing.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. On the night of 9-10 September and the following day 52 British bombers attacked the Grosseto yards (100 miles NW of Rome) with 81 tons of bombs; 116 B-17's, 35 B-26's, and 90 B-25's continued their attacks on focal points of communications surrounding the Naples area. Fighter bombers destroyed 100 motor vehicles and damaged 200 others in attacks against enemy movements beyond our bridgehead. More than 350 tons of bombs were dropped on these missions. Thirteen enemy aircraft were destroyed for a loss of six Allied planes. Twenty-four B-24's struck another blow at one of the satellite fields at Foggia dropping 47 tons of bombs; one (probably three) of 22 intercepting planes were destroyed without loss.

2. On 11 September the Fifth Army made some progress in the Salerno area against strong German resistance. In Calabria British

~~SECRET~~



BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS



~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

and Canadian troops continued their advance to capture Catanzaro and made corresponding gains on the west coast. In the Taranto area the situation is very satisfactory and Brindisi is now under Allied control.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

Major General Ralph Royce assumed command of USAFIME on 10 September.

ASIATIC THEATER

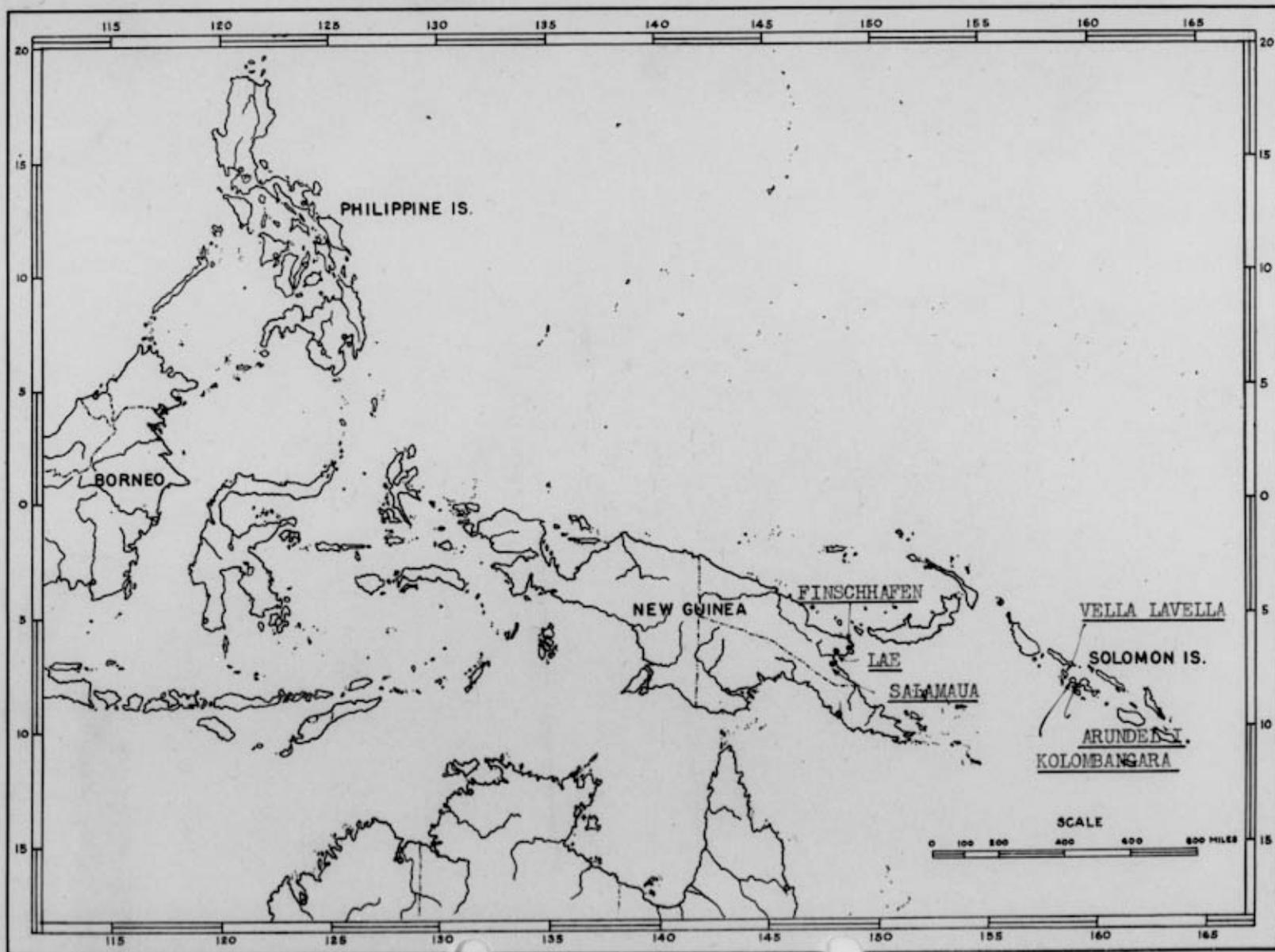
1. 10th Air Force B-25's bombed the Naba railroad junction and shipping in the Irrawaddy River on 10 September; a 400-ft. boat was damaged. Other medium bombers hit the north approach of the Gokteik viaduct on the Mandalay-Lashio railroad, and damaged buildings and tracks at Hopin, northern Burma.

2. On 10 September, 14th Air Force aircraft damaged shipping at Kiukiang and Hukow, buildings at Wuchang and the dock area at Hankow. Of 20 Japanese fighters which intercepted, nine were destroyed without Allied loss.

Japanese planes bombed the Allied airfield at Kienow.

Six P-38's placed two 1000-lb. demolition bombs accurately in the dock area at Canton; one (probably two) of ten intercepting Zeros were shot down. All planes returned safely.

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PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 10 September Allied artillery was in action to the east of Lae. Our troops advancing against Salamaua captured a strongly defended network of positions in the mountains, breaking the enemy's line; he is in full retreat. Weather hampered air missions but Finschhafen and barges along the northeast New Guinea coast were attacked.

2. On 10 September, our troops in the Boko River area of Vella Lavella continued to advance without opposition, capturing food and equipment. On Arundel Island, our units, reinforced with fresh troops, are emplacing artillery and mortars in preparation for an assault on Jap positions. Enemy shelling of the Bairoko area caused no damage.

Sixteen B-25's struck at a barge depot and bivouac area on Kolombangara Island, exploding a possible ammunition dump.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 640

0700 September 10 to 0700 September 11, 1943

COPY FOR

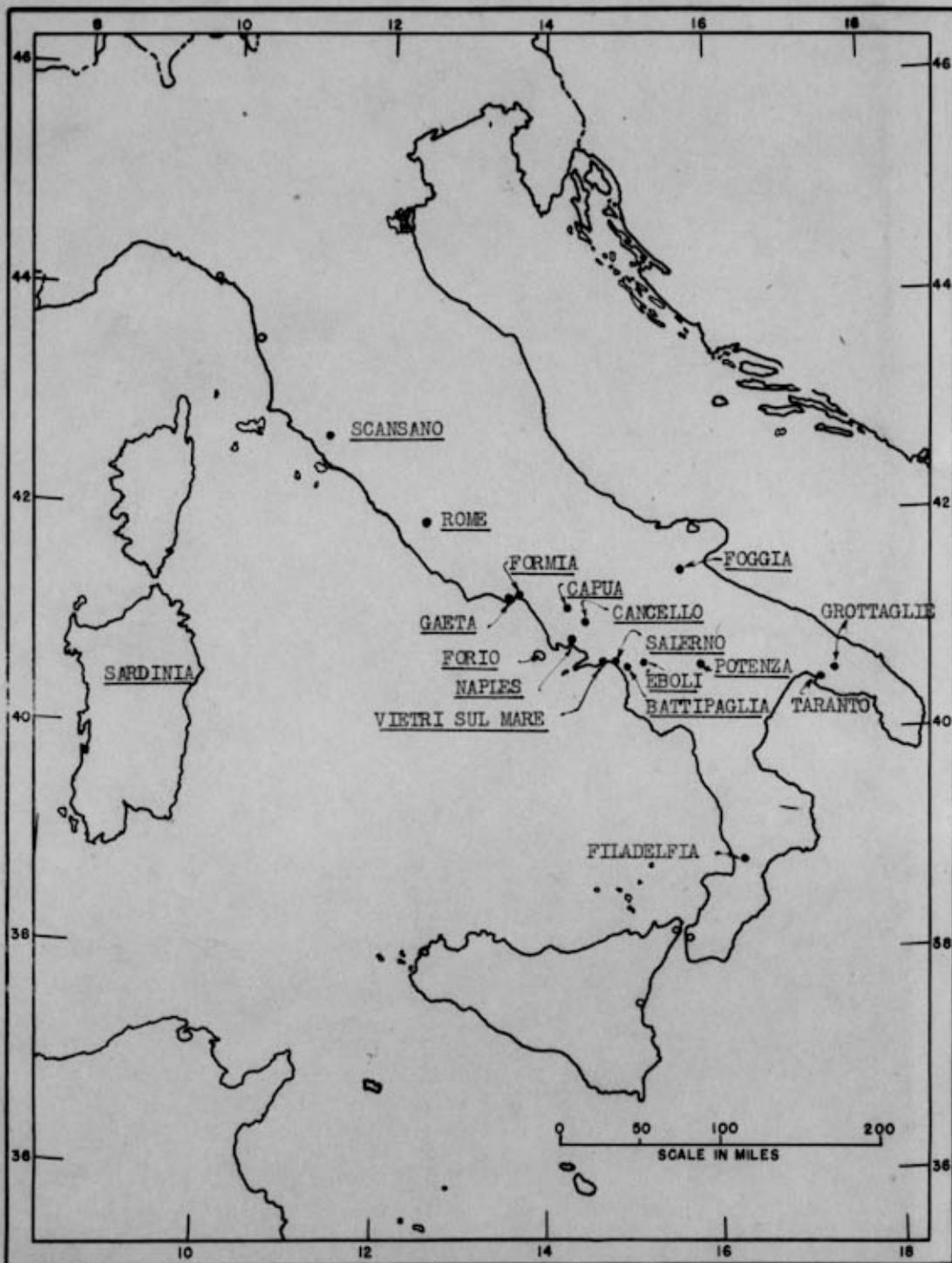
THE WHITE HOUSE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. During the absence of General Buckner, Maj. Gen. Eugene M. Landrum assumed command of the Alaska Defense Command on 10 September.
2. A policy has been set up effecting the rotation of military personnel in Alaska on a two-year basis. The War Department has issued instructions for the preparation of the 125th Infantry to replace the 4th Infantry in that theater.
3. Another Jap was captured on Attu, on 9 September.
4. A four-engine German airplane was sighted 100 miles off the Greenland coast towards Iceland on 7 September.
5. The Army Ground Forces report the arrival of the 83rd Infantry Division (Major General Frank W. Millburn) at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, for permanent change of station.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. On 7 September, a B-24 destroyed two enemy medium bombers intercepted over the Bay of Biscay. The following day one B-24 was destroyed in the same area by enemy aircraft.
2. The 9 September sorties of the 8th Air Force reported yesterday included attacks with 51 tons of bombs on a ball-bearing and airplane engine works at Bois Colombes near Paris and 192 tons dropped on enemy defenses near Boulogne. Results in the first



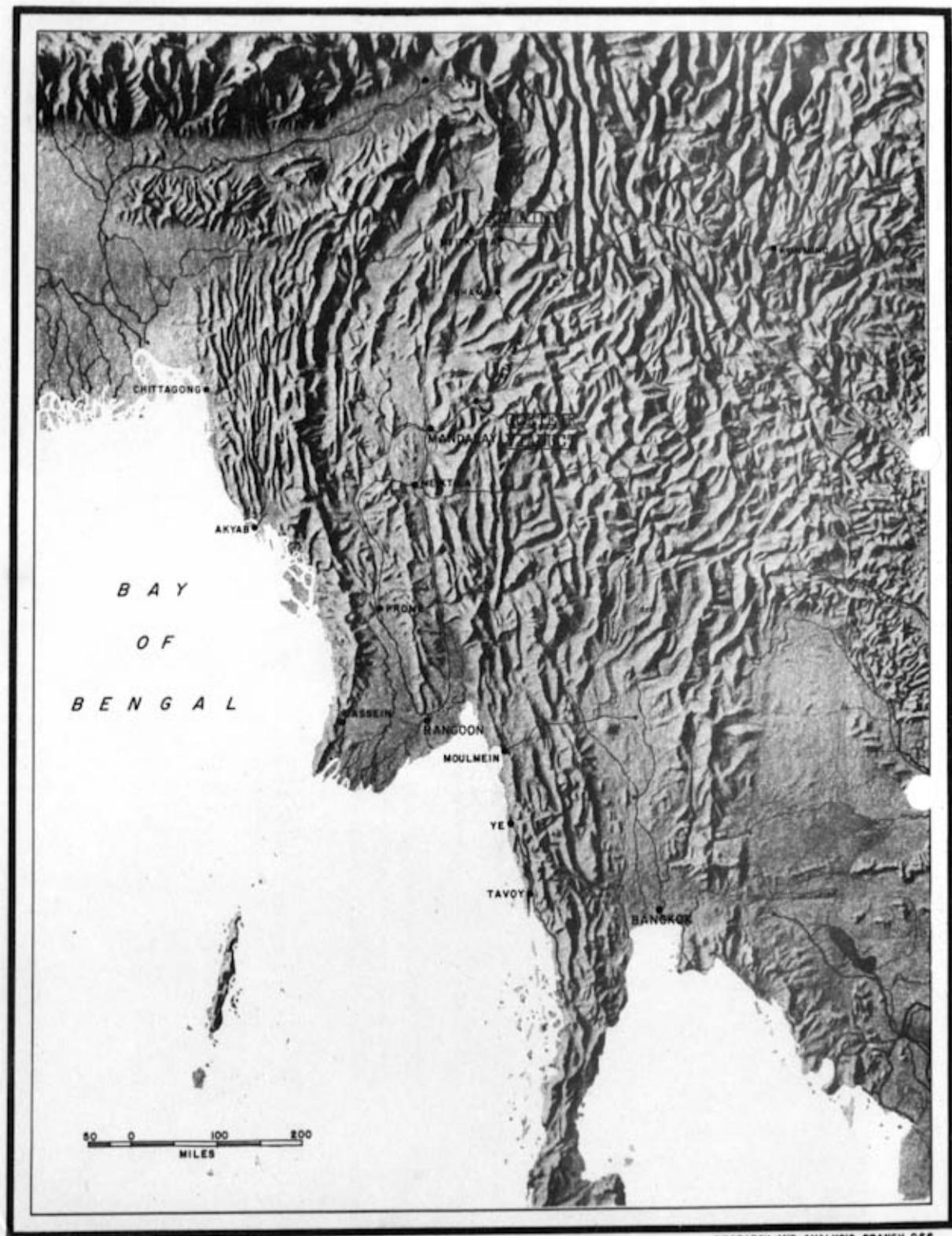
24-4738NABCD

instance were reported as fair and in the second as good. Fighters carried out 2,414 sorties to cover shipping in the Channel and against enemy airfields in northern France. The enemy's activities consisted of about 362 sorties. In the day's operations 18 (probably 24) enemy planes were destroyed; we lost two heavy bombers, three medium bombers and five fighters.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of 8-9 September, British Wellingtons bombed targets in the Naples area preparatory to the landings; these targets included the railroad yards at Battipaglia and Eboli, Forio on Ischia Island, Gaeta harbor and gun positions at Formia. Other Allied planes attacked lines of communications and airdromes elsewhere in central and southern Italy, ten enemy aircraft being destroyed in combat. During 9 September our heavy and medium bombers maintained these assaults destroying bridges and causing other extensive damage at Capua, Cancelli, Potenza and other focal points on the enemy lines of communication in this region. Forty-one B-24's hit repair facilities, buildings, and dispersal bays in attacks on two Foggia satellite airdromes; at least nine intercepting enemy planes were destroyed. Other Allied planes bombed the landing ground at Scansano and flew intruder missions over southern Sardinia.

On 9 September, our forward elements in Calabria had advanced to Filadelfia. No contact with the enemy was reported but progress in the center was hampered by demolitions. The British 1st Airborne



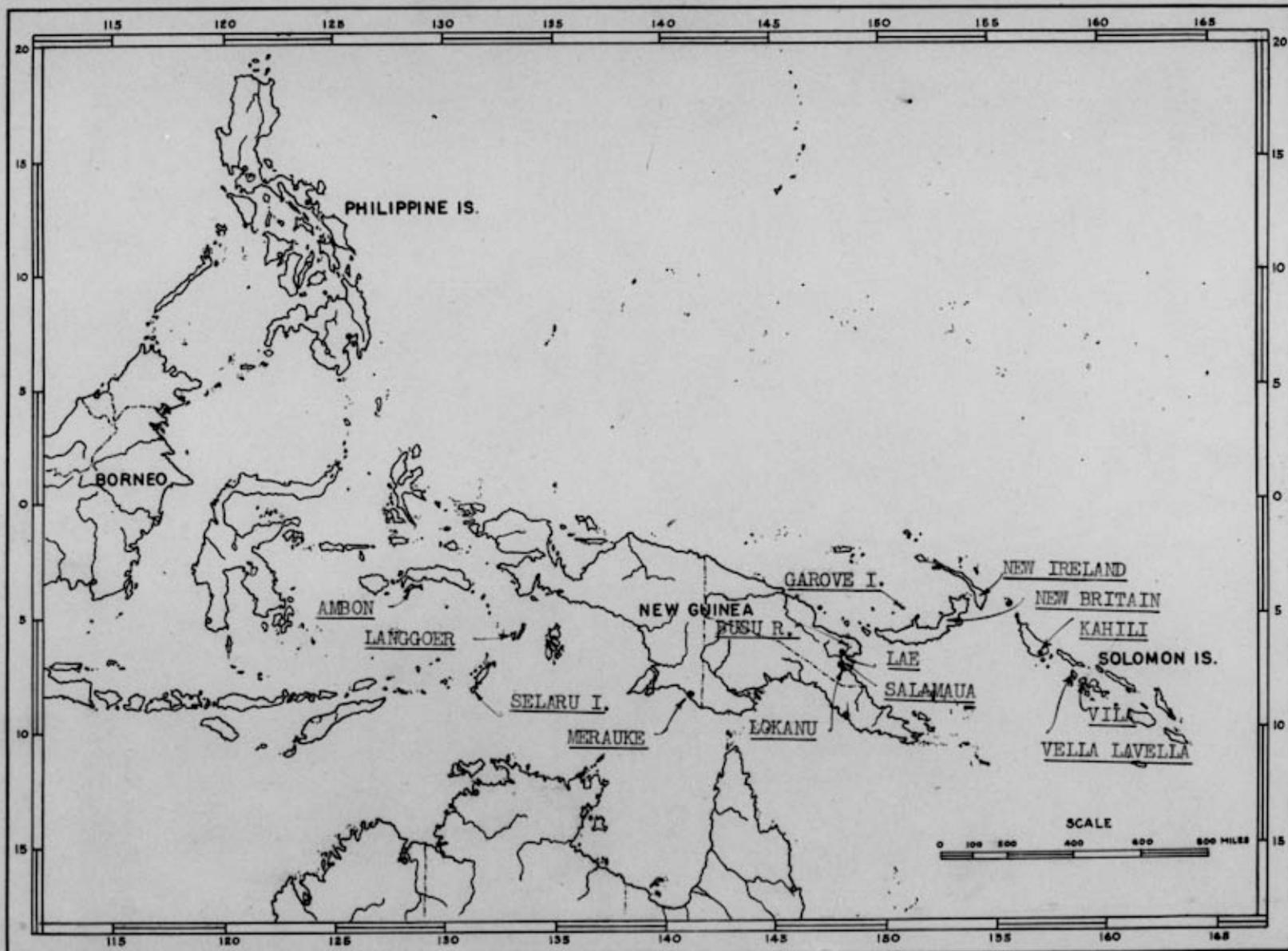
BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
29. JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS



MAP NO. 2437 (FREE)  
24 JUNE 1943

COMPILED AND DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSS  
PRINTED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH, OSS



Division has moved eastward from Taranto to occupy Grottaglie airfield.

In the Naples area, heavy German resistance was met and the enemy reoccupied the commando beachhead at Vietri sul Mare, near Salerno. Salerno itself was occupied by the Fifth Army. The US 36th Division has expanded its own beachhead to a depth of four miles inland.

#### ASIATIC THEATER

1. Nine medium bombers of the 10th Air Force scored direct hits on the Gokteik Viaduct and destroyed several buildings at Kamaing, on 8 September.

2. On 9 September, eight B-25's and eleven P-40's of the 14th Air Force effectively attacked an airdrome at Canton. In the Tungting Lake area other aircraft destroyed four river boats and damaged other shipping, enemy installations and rolling stock. Six (probably ten) enemy planes were destroyed; all of ours returned.

#### PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

On 9 September, Allied troops crossing the Busu River (three miles east of Lae) encountered enemy resistance. Near Salamaua our forces captured a ridge north of Lokanu. Twelve medium bombers in a sweep along the northeast coast of New Guinea destroyed trucks and barges and machine-gunned enemy-held villages. Other Allied planes harassed the enemy tent area on Garove Island, antiaircraft positions in New Britain, a storehouse area on Ambon and targets on Selaru Island.

**SECRET**

Sixteen Jap bombers, covered by 15 fighter planes, bombed our airdrome at Merauke. Fourteen enemy planes possibly were destroyed.

On 9 September, eighteen B-24's, covered by 28 Allied fighters, started several fires on Kahili airfield. Of ten Jap fighters attempting interception, one was shot down; one Navy fighter is missing.

Other Allied planes caused a cargo ship to explode west of Vella Lavella, destroyed a Jap medium bomber north of New Ireland, and attacked Vila.

Major General Fred C. Wallace has been assigned to duty with our forces in the South Pacific Area. He will probably command Espiritu Santo.

WAR DEPARTMENT

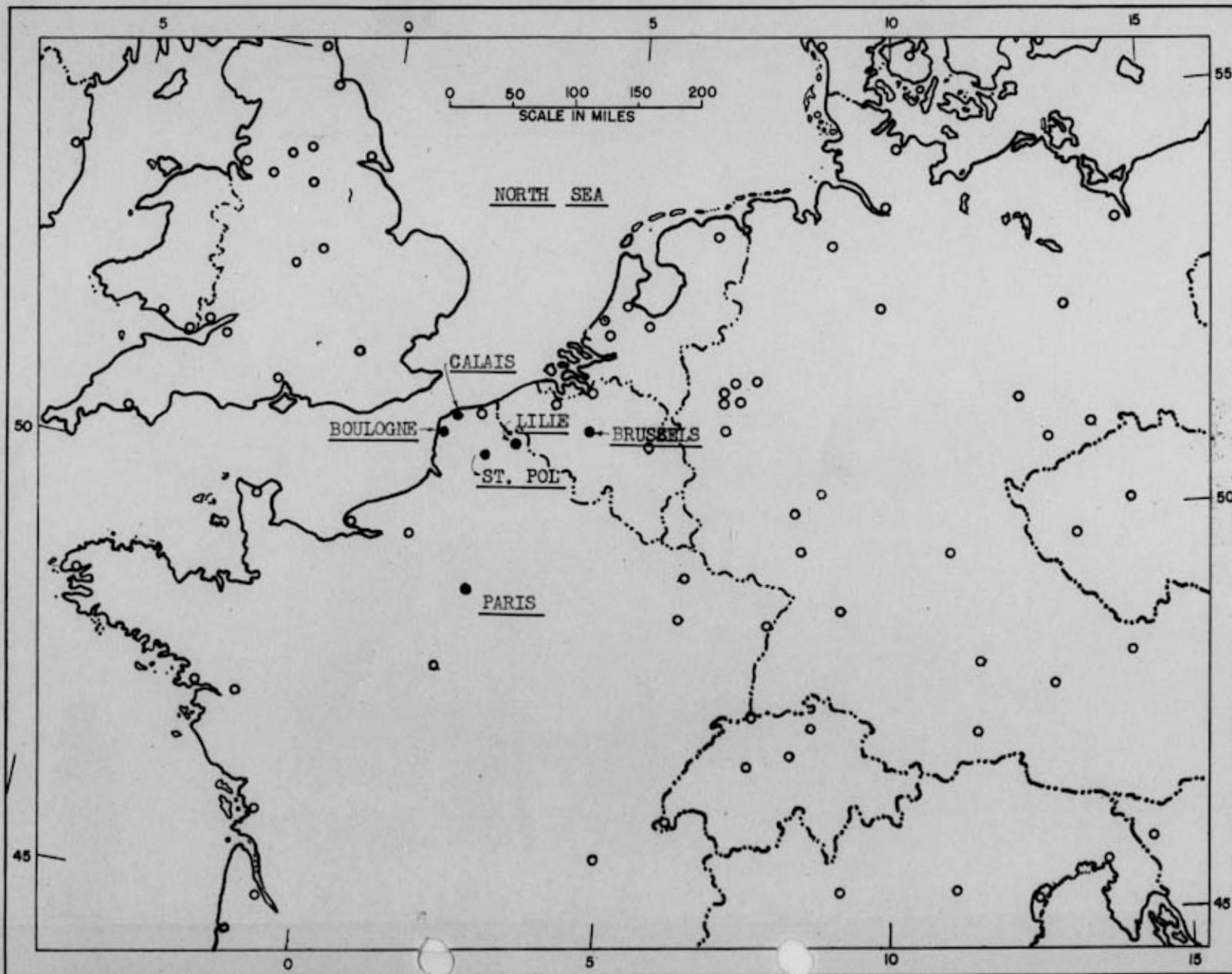
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 639

0700 September 9 to 0700 September 10, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



24-33868

**SECRET**

DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

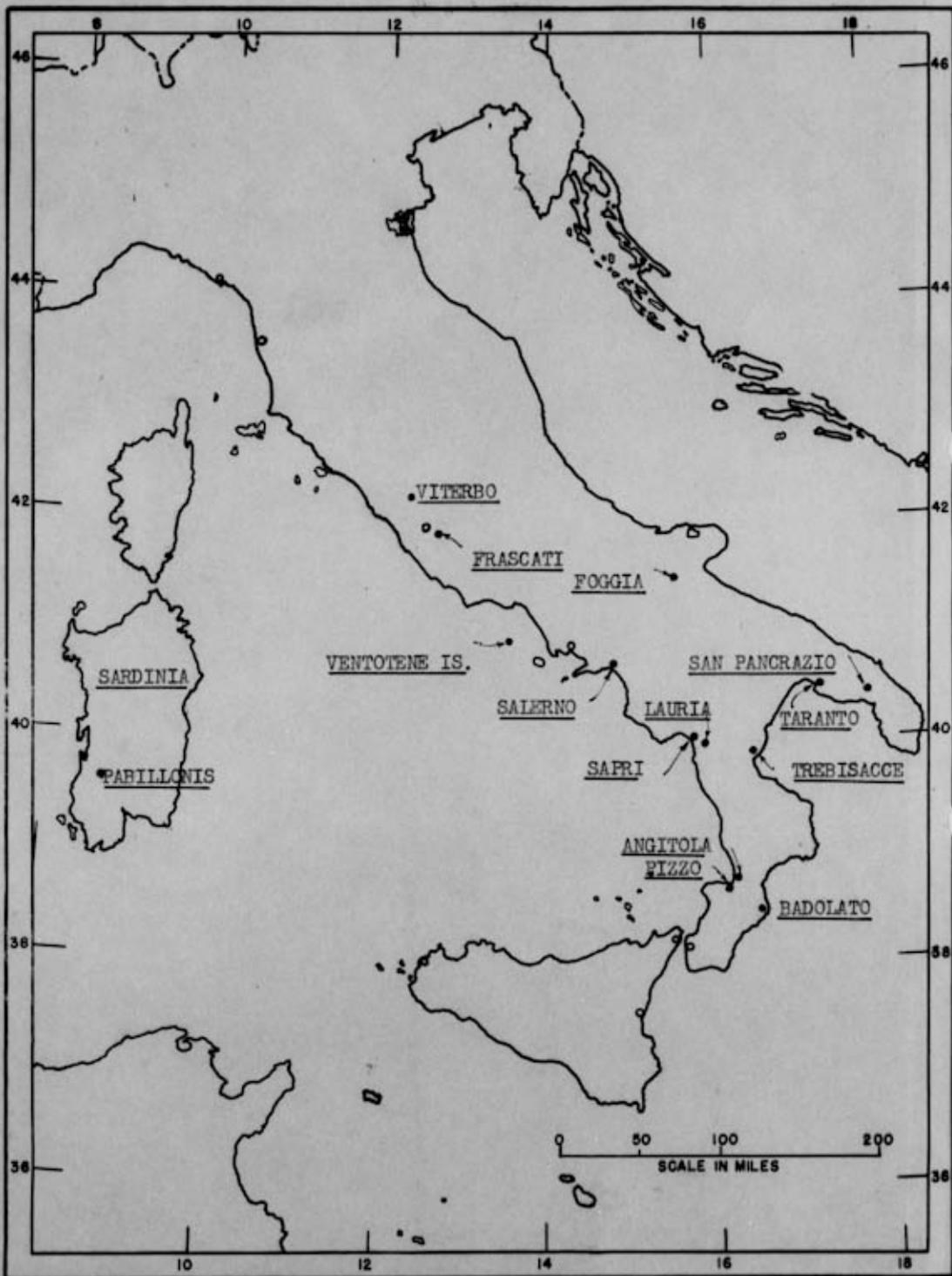
EUROPEAN THEATER

1. 114 escorted B-17's successfully attacked an airplane factory and airdrome near Brussels on 7 September. Other missions that day included a raid by 100 B-17's on targets in the Pas de Calais area and a diversionary sweep by escorted B-24's which bombed an enemy convoy in the North Sea. The railroad yards at Lille and St. Pol were bombed by 144 B-26's escorted by 22 squadrons of RAF Spitfires. The next afternoon 72 B-26's, with 30 squadrons of RAF Spitfires providing escort and top cover, dropped more than 82 tons of high explosive bombs on coastal defense targets in the Boulogne area. No fighter opposition was encountered but the enemy antiaircraft gunfire was intense and accurate. All our B-26's returned.

On 9 September a new high for a single day of American air operations over the Continent was reached, with our bombers and fighters flying more than 1,000 sorties in conjunction with an amphibious exercise. Targets in nine areas in northern and northwestern France were attacked and good results were reported. Little enemy fighter opposition was encountered except over the Paris area where B-17's shot down 15 enemy fighters. Allied planes supported our operations; five bombers and three fighters have not returned.

2. During the week ending 5 September, the 8th Air Force destroyed 38 (probably 47) enemy planes for a loss from all causes of 21 airplanes. Corresponding RAF figures for the period were 49 (probably 59) enemy planes destroyed for a loss of 150.

**SECRET**



NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. The Viterbo and San Pancrazio airdromes were effectively attacked by Allied bombers during the night of 7-8 September. Our light and medium bombardment missions raided railroad yards in southern Italy. The following day the German headquarters at Frascati was smothered by 131 B-17's which dropped 369 tons of bombs and also destroyed 16 (probably 19) of 50 enemy aircraft encountered; one B-17 was shot down by enemy antiaircraft fire. B-24's, attacking one of the Foggia satellite airdromes, destroyed 13 (probably 15) enemy fighters in the air and four aircraft on the ground. Our medium bombers scored direct hits on bridges at Trebisacce and Sapri and bombed the highway at Lauria, 252 tons of bombs being used; three enemy fighters were destroyed at a cost of two B-25's. P-40's flew fighter-bomber missions over Sardinia again directing their attacks on the Pabillonis airdrome.

2. During 9 September the British XIII Corps swept northward through Calabria making contact with the brigade which landed near Pizzo yesterday and pushing advance elements as far as Angitola. On the east coast the Canadians have occupied Badolato; negligible contact with the enemy was reported.

Enemy forces unsuccessfully counterattacked a 46th Division beach position near Salerno during the morning. Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark is in command of the troops landing in this area. All Allied forces on the Italian mainland are under the command of General Sir Harold Alexander.



An Allied naval force arrived safely in Taranto harbor with the 1st British Airborne Division; a friendly reception was accorded our forces.

3. Ventotene Island was captured on 9 September, the Italian garrison surrendering without opposition.

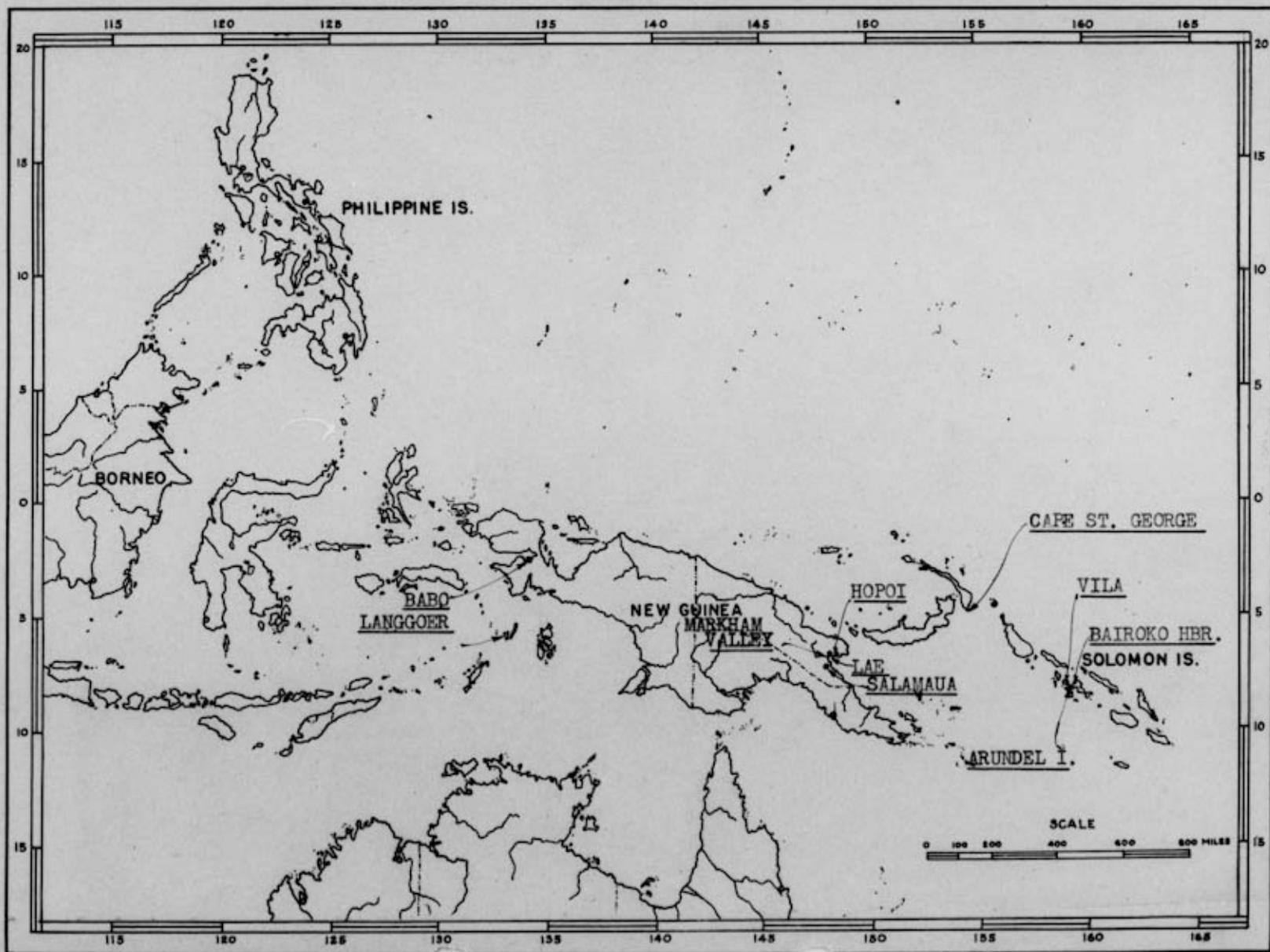
4. General Eisenhower states that no more Italian prisoners of war will be evacuated from his theater. Several thousand remaining Germans will be evacuated at an early moment.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. 10th Air Force B-25's scored direct hits on barracks at Lashio and on the Shwebo airdrome on 6 September. The next day B-25's scored direct hits on the Gokteik Viaduct with quarter and half ton bombs despite accurate enemy antiaircraft fire. Eight B-24's mined the channel southwest of Elephant Point in the Rangoon Estuary.

2. General Chennault reports additional B-24 ferry-bomber missions attacked Myitkyina on 5, 6, and 7 September hitting the town and airdrome. On 8 September two US fighter planes harassed the railroad northeast of Yochow.

3. During August, our 14th Air Force destroyed more than 44 enemy airplanes without loss in action, although of 22 of our planes reported as damaged only eight were listed as repairable.



4. Brigadier General Albert C. Wedemeyer has been designated as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's Southeast Asia Command.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. The Allied forces operating near Lae advanced to within four miles of the town without contacting the enemy on 8 September and also occupied Hopoi without opposition.

The buildings, airport and adjacent antiaircraft installations at Lae were effectively bombed by ten B-17's, 14 B-24's and seven B-26's. B-25's, raiding the lower Markham Valley, destroyed a bridge and silenced antiaircraft positions. South of Salamaua, machine-gun positions were silenced by A-20's.

Nine B-24's bombing Babo started large fires; Australian Hudsons attacked the airfield at Langgoer. A Catalina seriously damaged a freighter southeast of Cape St. George.

Allied destroyers, while shelling Lae waterfront, destroyed two (probably three) attacking enemy planes.

2. A Japanese barge operation on the north coast of Arundel on 8 September was repulsed. Our forces made slight gains along the northeast coast of the island that day. Japanese artillery continued to shell Bairoko Harbor but caused negligible damage. The landing strip and supply areas at Vila were again attacked by our bombers.

Enemy aircraft attacked Nanumea (Ellice Islands) on 8 September.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 638

0700 September 8 to 0700 September 9, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

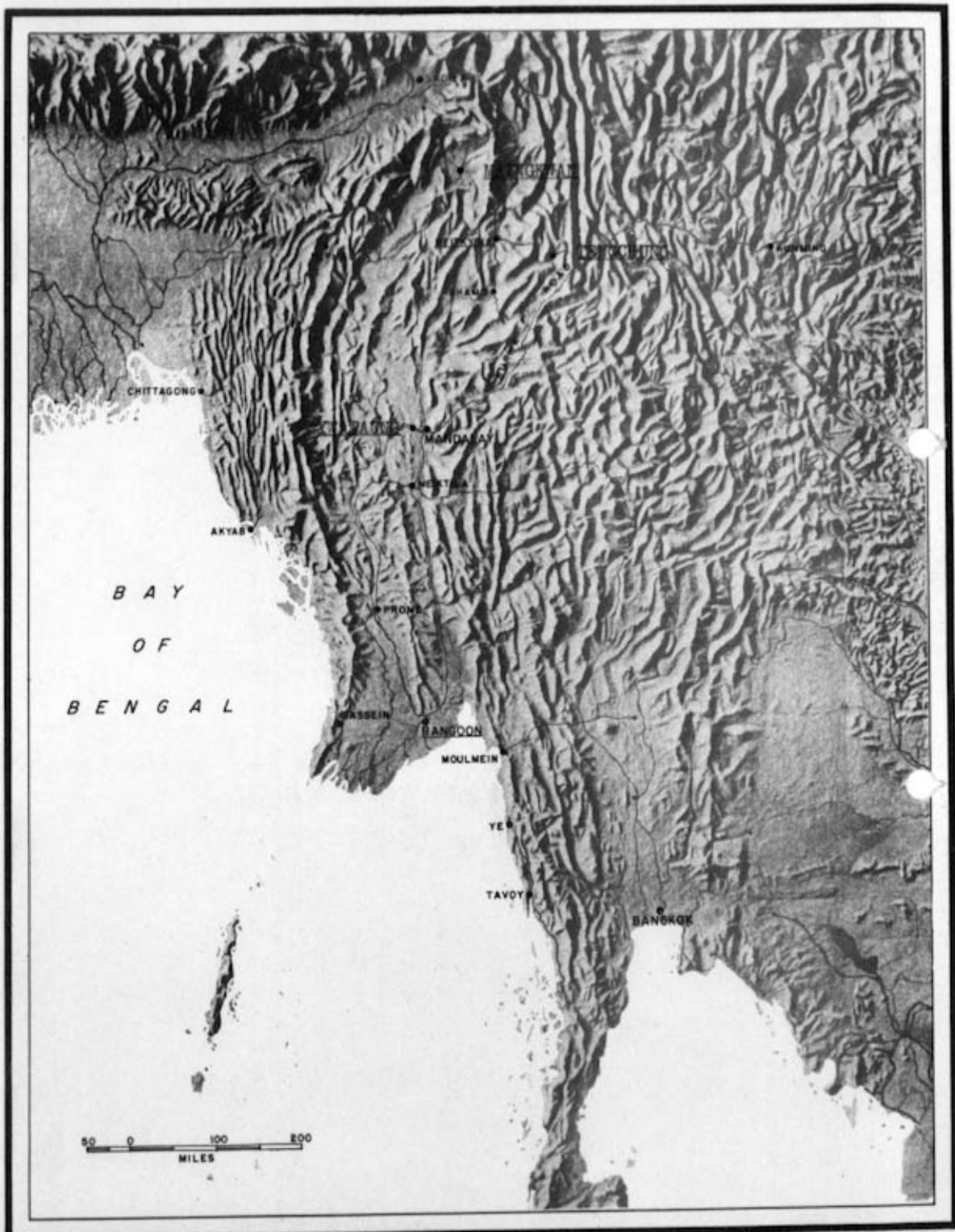
EUROPEAN THEATER

1. An unidentified airplane was plotted over Iceland on 7 September.
  
2. On 8 September, 143 medium bombers of the 8th Air Force, in two missions escorted by RAF Spitfires, attacked the Nord and Vendeville airdromes at Lille. No enemy fighters were encountered and good bombing was reported. Our only loss was a medium bomber which crash-landed in the Channel.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. British Wellingtons bombed the Battipaglia railroad yards during the night of 6-7 September, leaving the entire area afire. Allied light bombers attacked the town of Capua and started a large fire in the railroad yards at Altamura. The next day, two large formations of our B-17's attacked the Foggia landing grounds with 179½ tons of bombs. More than 70 enemy planes aggressively attacked our formations; we destroyed 11 (probably 12) enemy fighters and lost two B-17's. Other Allied planes heavily attacked enemy communications in the Sapri--Trebisacce region, railroad yards at Crotona, targets of opportunity in southern Italy and the Pabillonis landing ground in Sardinia. 200 enemy aircraft attacked Bizerte and lost five of their number; no damage has been reported.

2. General Eisenhower reported Marshall Badoglio's announcement



BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

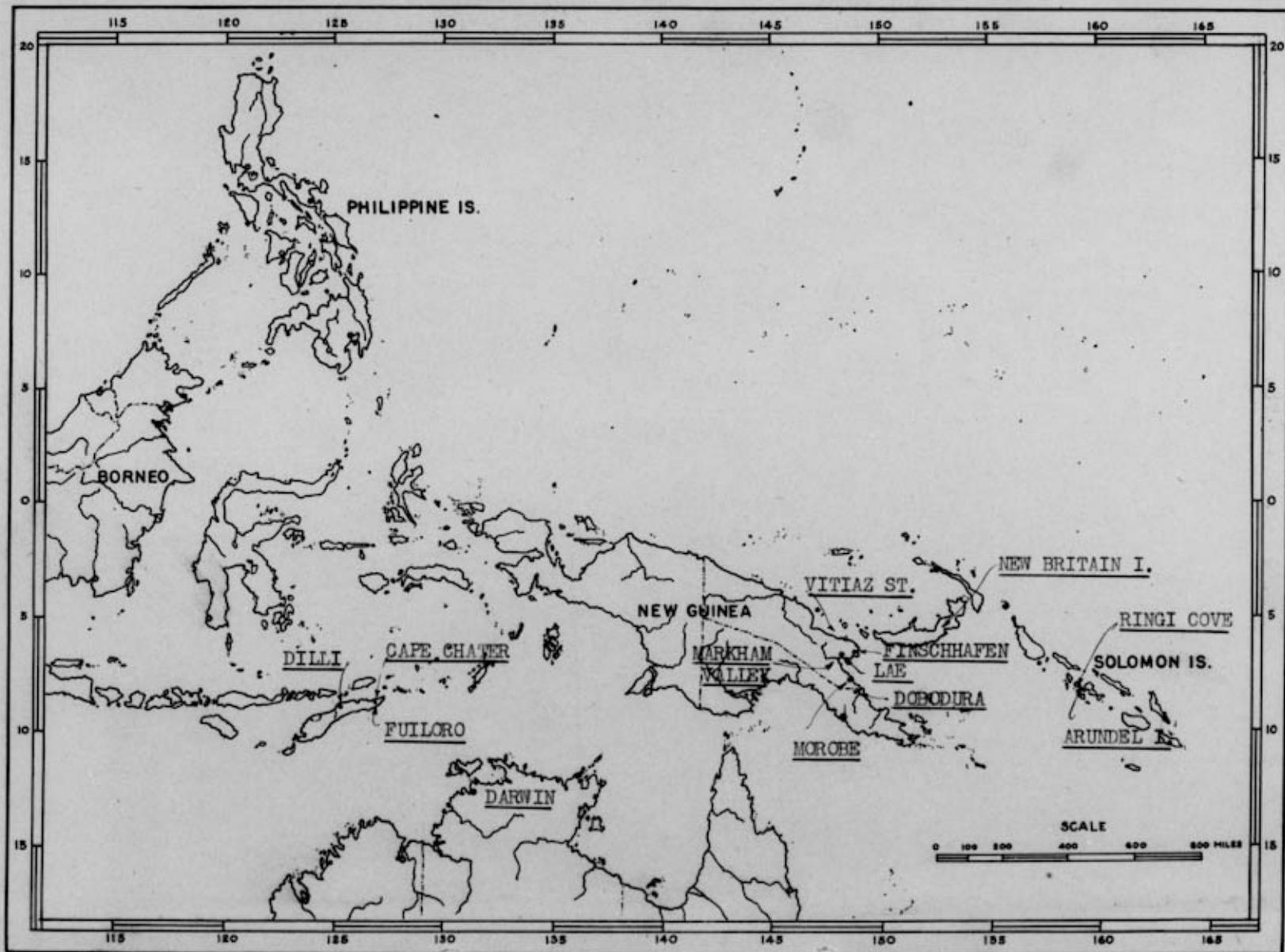
at 1945, 8 September, of the armistice.

3. The US 45th and 36th and British 46th and 56th Divisions began successful landings along the Gulf of Salerno during the early morning hours of 9 September despite some resistance by shore batteries and moderate air opposition. Commandos and Rangers, landing at Maiori, encountered no resistance. On the toe of the Italian boot, British and Canadian units forged ahead, reaching Locri on the south coast and Polistena and Rosarno in the north and meeting German rear guards and demolition parties only. A British brigade plus a force of Commandos landed on the beach southwest of Pizzo.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. Twenty-five heavy bombers of the 10th Air Force carried out a series of effective raids in the Rangoon area on 6 September, during which a warehouse, an oil refinery, and four large freighters were set afire and several smaller craft sunk. Five (probably 15) intercepting enemy planes were destroyed. The following day, nine medium bombers completely destroyed the railroad junction at Ywataung, central Burma, bottling up rolling stock in the yards. Another medium bomber successfully bombed and machine-gunned targets in Maingkwan, northern Burma. All of our planes returned.

2. General Chennault reports that B-24's on ferry missions bombed the enemy airfields at Tengchung and Myitkyina on 3 and 4 September; hits were observed on the runways and installations.



PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. In his operations summary for 7 September, General MacArthur reports that Allied advance units are now six miles west of the Lae airdrome. B-24's and B-26's started fires in the Lae area. Near Morobe, 16 P-38's and P-40's intercepting 57 Japanese aircraft destroyed four enemy fighters and forced the bombers to jettison their bombs; all of our planes returned safely. Other Allied missions attacked enemy barges and other targets in the New Britain, Vitiaz Strait, Finschhafen, and Markham Valley areas.

Five (probably seven) enemy fighters were destroyed when our planes intercepted 21 enemy reconnaissance and fighter aircraft near Darwin; three Spitfires were lost. Six Japanese planes, raiding the Dobodura area, caused no damage.

2. The preceding day Dutch B-25's bombed Fulloro, Cape Chater, and Dilli.

3. On 7 September, our ground forces were meeting increased enemy resistance in the northeastern area of Arundel Island.

Two B-25's bombed with observed effect the barge depot and supply points east of Ringi Cove, south Kolombangara Island.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 637

0700 September 7 to 0700 September 8, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



BASE MAP NO. 2448 (FREE)  
 1 JULY 1943

DRAWN AND COMPILED IN RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
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EUROPEAN THEATER

1. Major General Ira C. Eaker has been assigned to command the US Army Air Forces in the United Kingdom in addition to his duties as Commanding General, 8th Air Force.

2. Photo reconnaissance made late on 6 September showed that Stuttgart was still burning after the raid by the 372 heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force early in the day. It is now reported that our bombers destroyed 84 (probably 114) enemy aircraft for a loss of 35 B-17's of which five landed in Switzerland.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

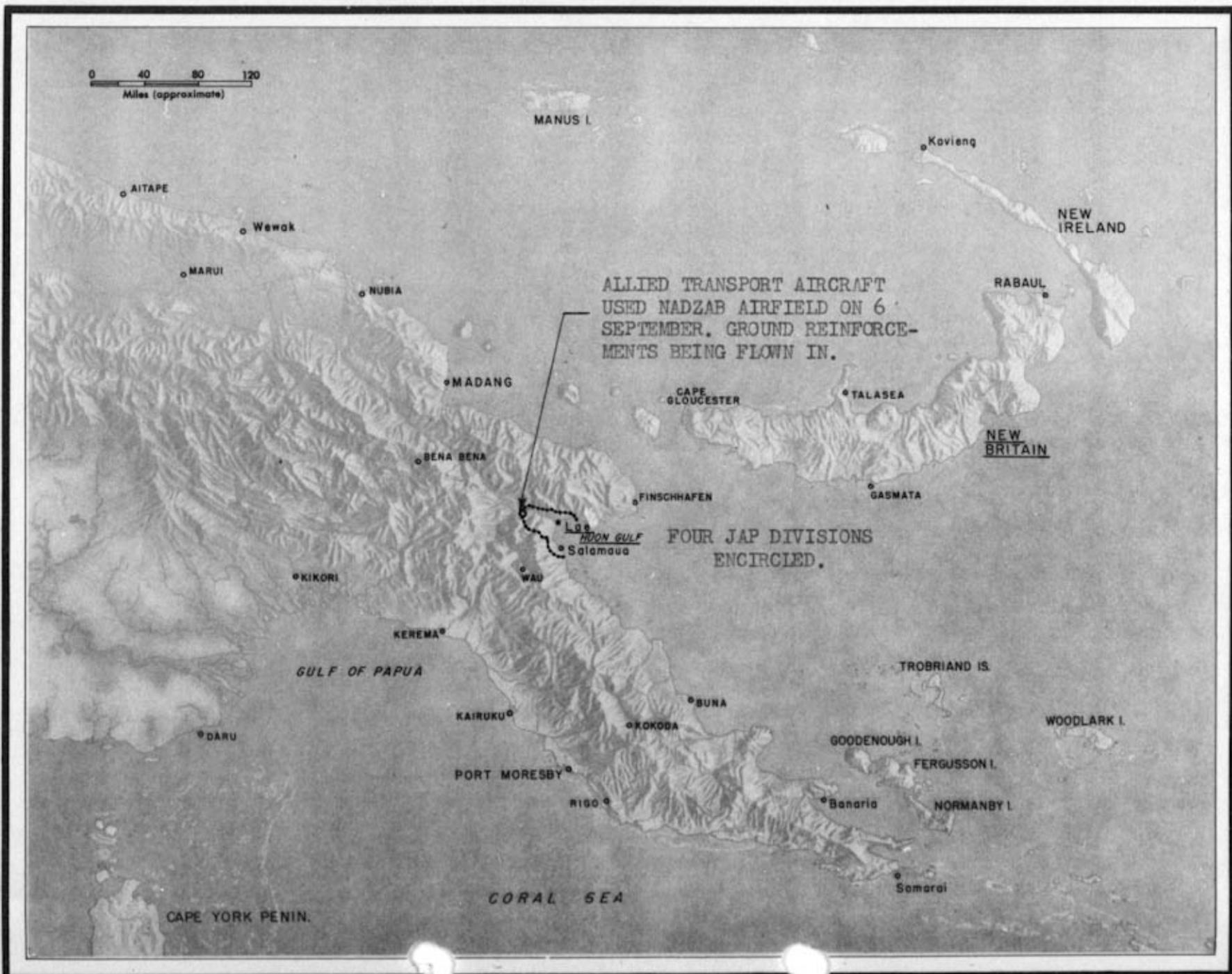
British naval gunfire provided support for the left flank of the British 5th Division during 5 September. Allied troops captured San Stefano on that day and Palmi and Delianuova the next.

During the night of 5-6 September and the following day Allied bombers heavily attacked Gaeta harbor, the railroad yards at Villa Literno and the Pomigliano, Capodichino, Grazzanise and Capua airdromes, all near Naples; more than 200 tons of bombs were used. At least nine enemy planes were destroyed for a loss of two of ours.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 6 September 12 B-25's of the 10th Air Force dropped fragmentation bombs on the enemy barracks at Maymyo, northeast of Mandalay, with excellent results.

~~SECRET~~



BASE MAP NO. 2531 (FREE)  
2 AUGUST 1943

COMPILED AND DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

DECLASSIFIED

2. 14th Air Force fighters sank or damaged four small steamers and several smaller craft, destroyed four small locomotives, an enemy transport plane and other enemy transportation facilities, wrecked an iron foundry and a radio station and inflicted about 100 casualties in raids in the Yangtze valley east of Tungting Lake on 6 September.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Allied landing forces in the Lae area were extending their beachhead on 6 September; pressure was maintained also on the Salamaua front. Transport planes commenced landing on the Nadzab airfield during the afternoon. Our heavy and medium bombers started large fires and demolished enemy defensive areas north of the Lae airfield and pounded the Malahang airfield and plantation to the east. Of 30 enemy planes intercepted over Huon Gulf by Allied fighters, seven (probably 13) were shot down for a loss of only one Allied fighter. Other missions left enemy small craft burning off New Britain and made harassing raids on Selaru and Tinor Islands.

2. The enemy's gun positions at Vila were raided on 6 September by 24 B-24's; excellent results were obtained despite heavy and accurate antiaircraft fire. Seven escorted B-25's dropped 84 100-lb. bombs on Kakasa, Choiseul Island, hitting shore installations and gun positions.

WAR DEPARTMENT

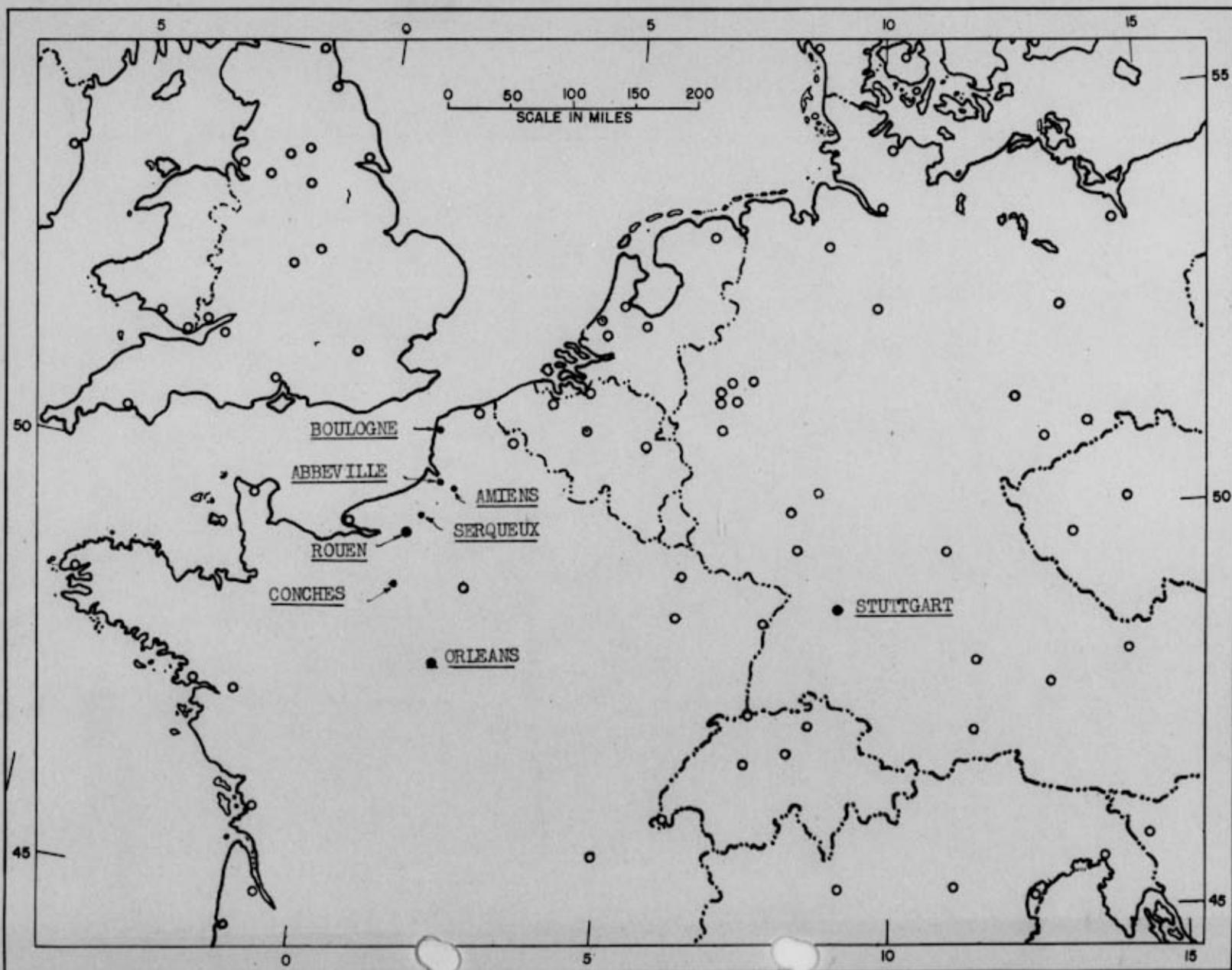
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

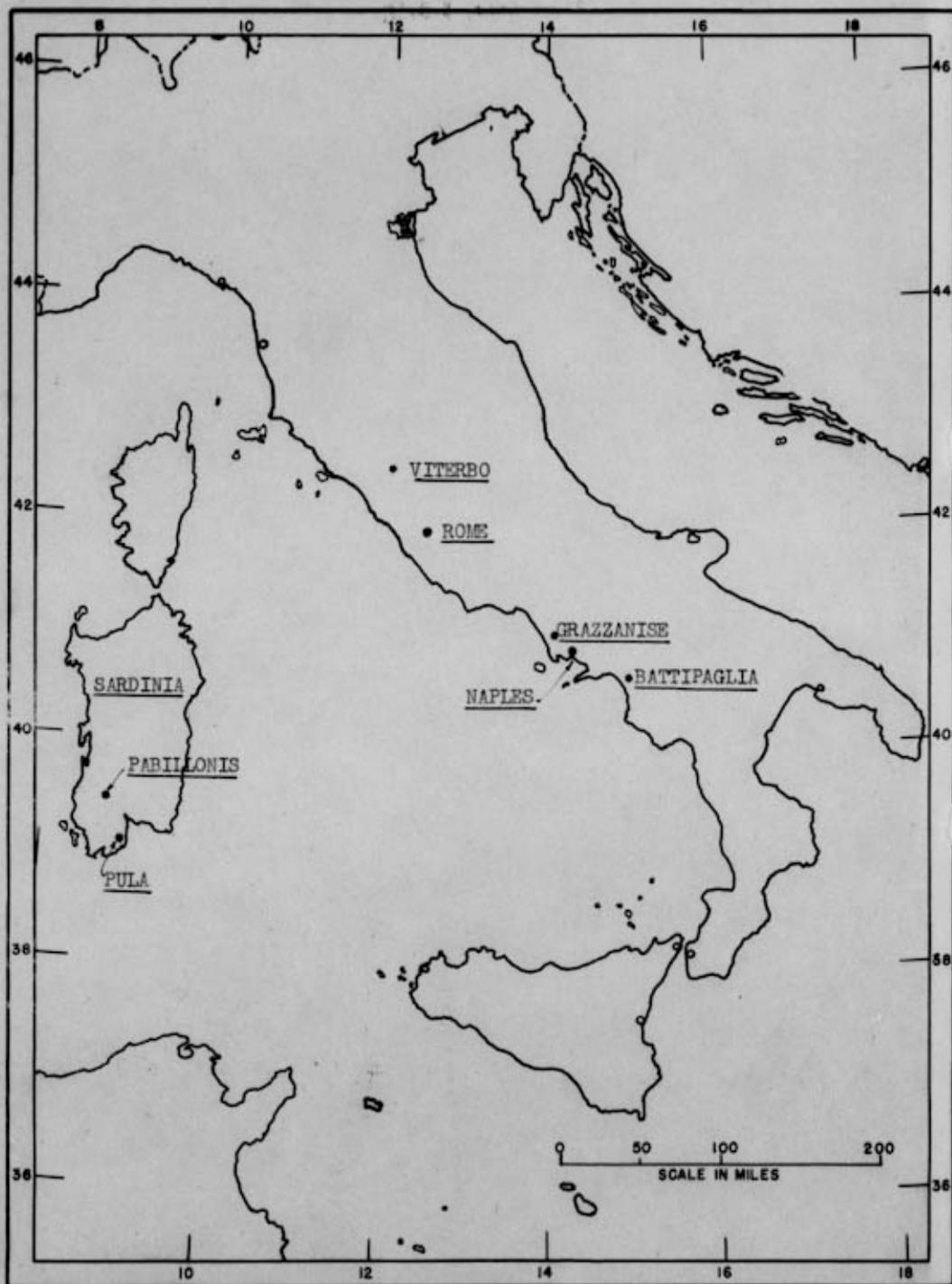
No. 636

0700 September 6 to 0700 September 7, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE





EUROPEAN THEATER

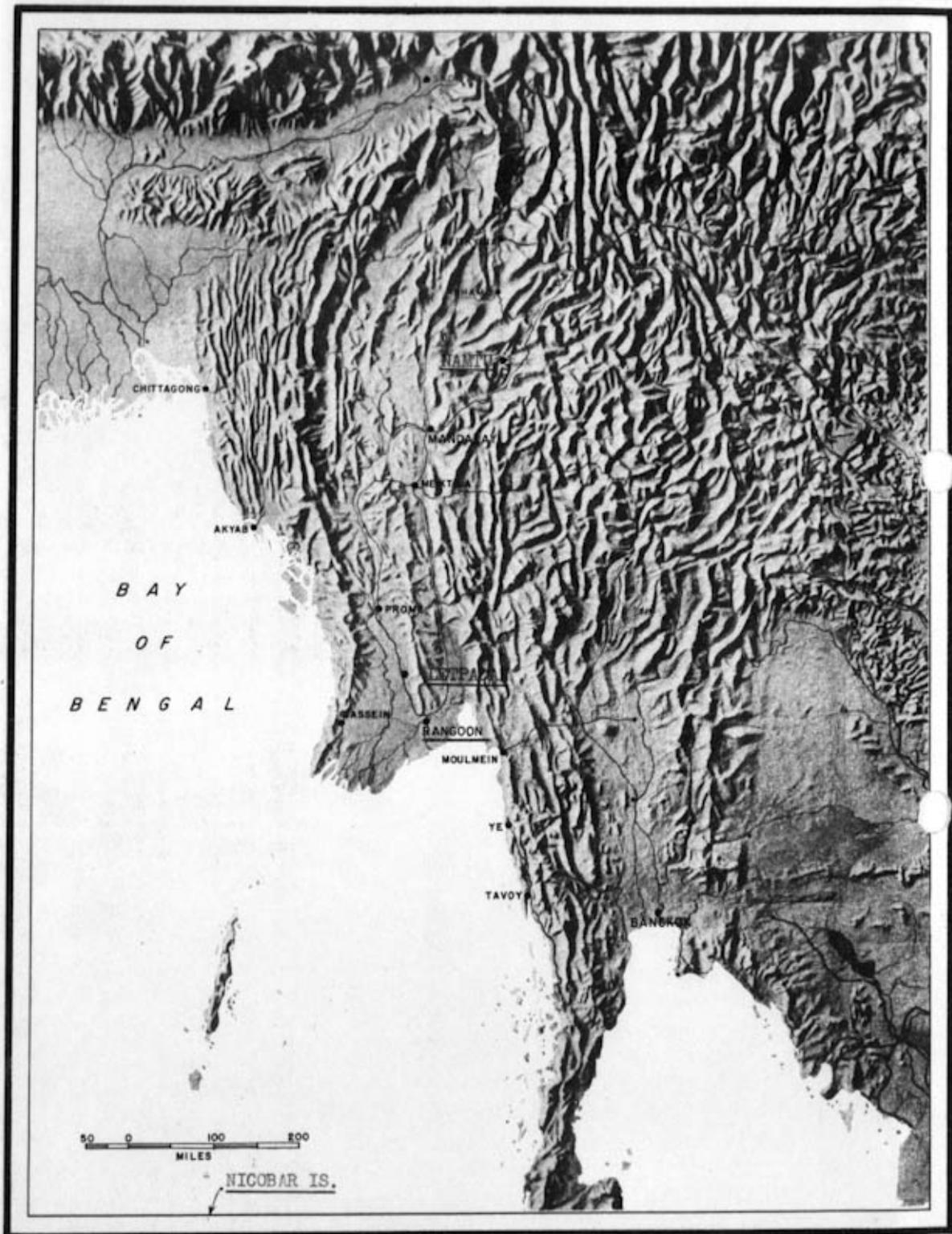
Large formations of 8th Air Force B-17's, escorted by P-47's, bombed Stuttgart and other targets including the French airfields at Orleans and Conches on 6 September. Persistent fighter and anti-aircraft opposition was encountered. US and British light and medium bombers concentrated against railroad yards at Rouen, Abbeville, Serqueux, Amiens, and the docks at Boulogne. Eighty-two enemy fighters were destroyed in these operations which cost the Allies 39 planes.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of 4-5 September and the following day further heavy attacks were made against Grazzanise, on the railroad yards at Battipaglia and on the Viterbo airdrome, where 139 B-17's destroyed at least two of 20 intercepting enemy planes. Targets of opportunity in southern Italy also were hit by our medium and light bomber and fighter aircraft. Over Sardinia, four B-25's mounting cannon and 36 P-40's attacked the radar installations at Pula; other P-40's bombed a landing field near Pabillonis.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. Heavy bombers of the 10th Air Force operated successfully against enemy communications in southern Burma on 3 and 4 September. Two B-24's made an effective attack on the dock area at Nicobar Island; six others struck shipping installations at Rangoon; and two seven-



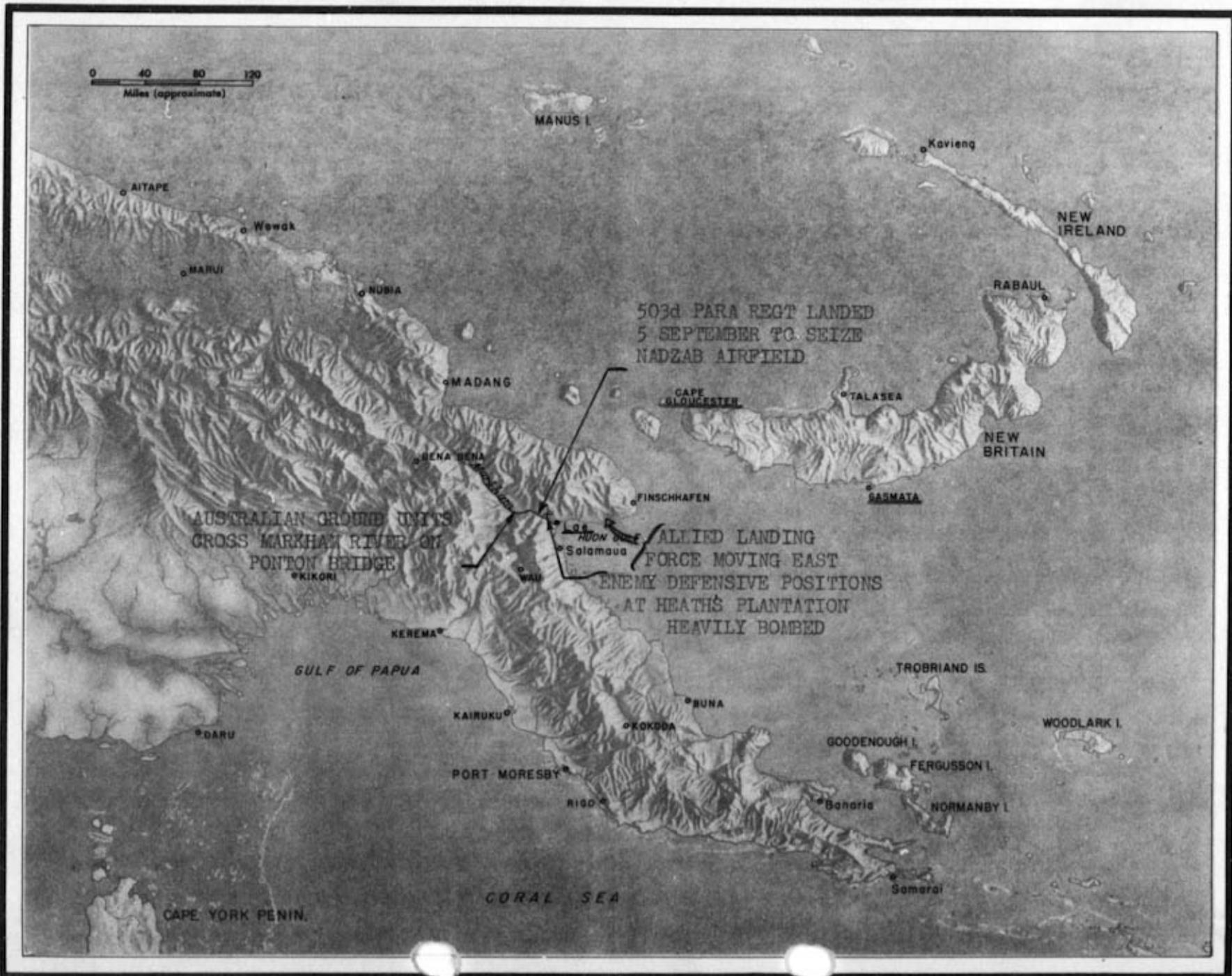
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BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS



BASE MAP NO. 2531 (FREE)  
2 AUGUST 1943

COMPILED AND DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

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plane missions successfully bombed railroad yards at Letpadan.

On 5 September eighteen B-25's scored direct hits on the separation and flotation plants and other installations at the Nantu mines.

2. On 5 September, two 16-plane fighter missions of the 14th Air Force bombed the railroad yards near Lao Kay (150 miles northwest of Hanoi); all planes returned safely. Survivors of a crew of a B-24 forced down in the Hankow raid on 21 August report that they shot down 14 Zeros bringing the total enemy losses for that raid to 57; two of our bombers were lost on this raid.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Allied troops east of Lae extended their bridgehead eastward without resistance on 5 September. Twenty miles northwest of Lae, our paratroops, carried in 82 transports and aided by a smokescreen, captured the Nadzab airfield, while three miles further west ground forces crossed the Markham River by ponton bridge. Simultaneously a heavy bomber attack was made on the Japanese defensive position lower down the river at Heath's Plantation. A heavy aerial bombardment by 24 heavy bombers and 68 B-25's supported the drop of the parachutists. These operations completed the encirclement of Lae and Salamaua where four Japanese divisions are now cut off.

In strategic support of the operation other Allied planes neutralized Gasmata and Cape Gloucester airdromes. In northwestern New Guinea three B-24's raided Manokwari harbor.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Seventeen enemy bombers made ineffective attacks on Tanahmerah and Mappi.

2. On 5 September, our forces made contact with the enemy in northeastern Vella Lavella Island. Scouts confirm that there are no Japanese on Santa Isabel Island.

~~SECRET~~

WAR DEPARTMENT

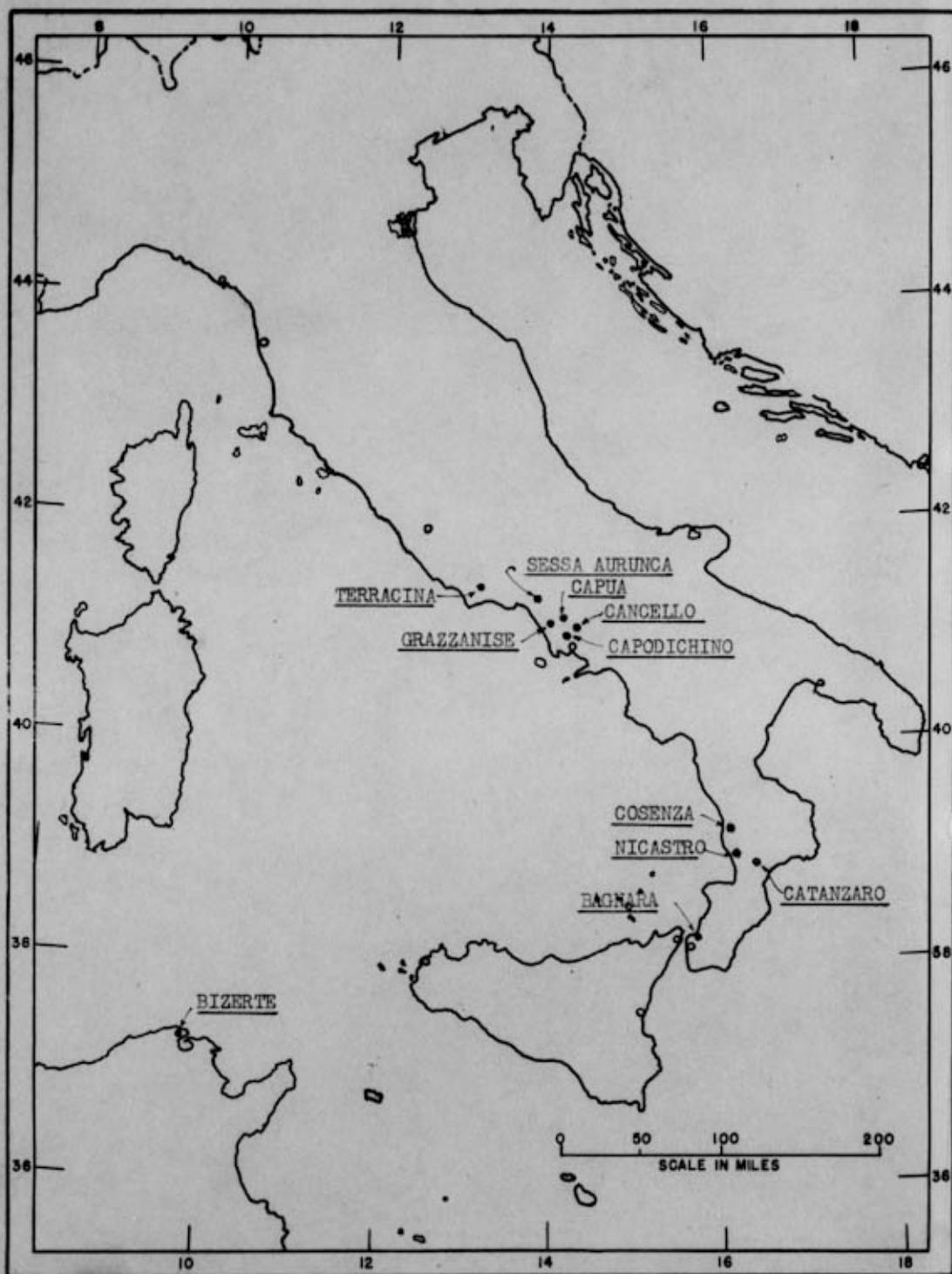
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

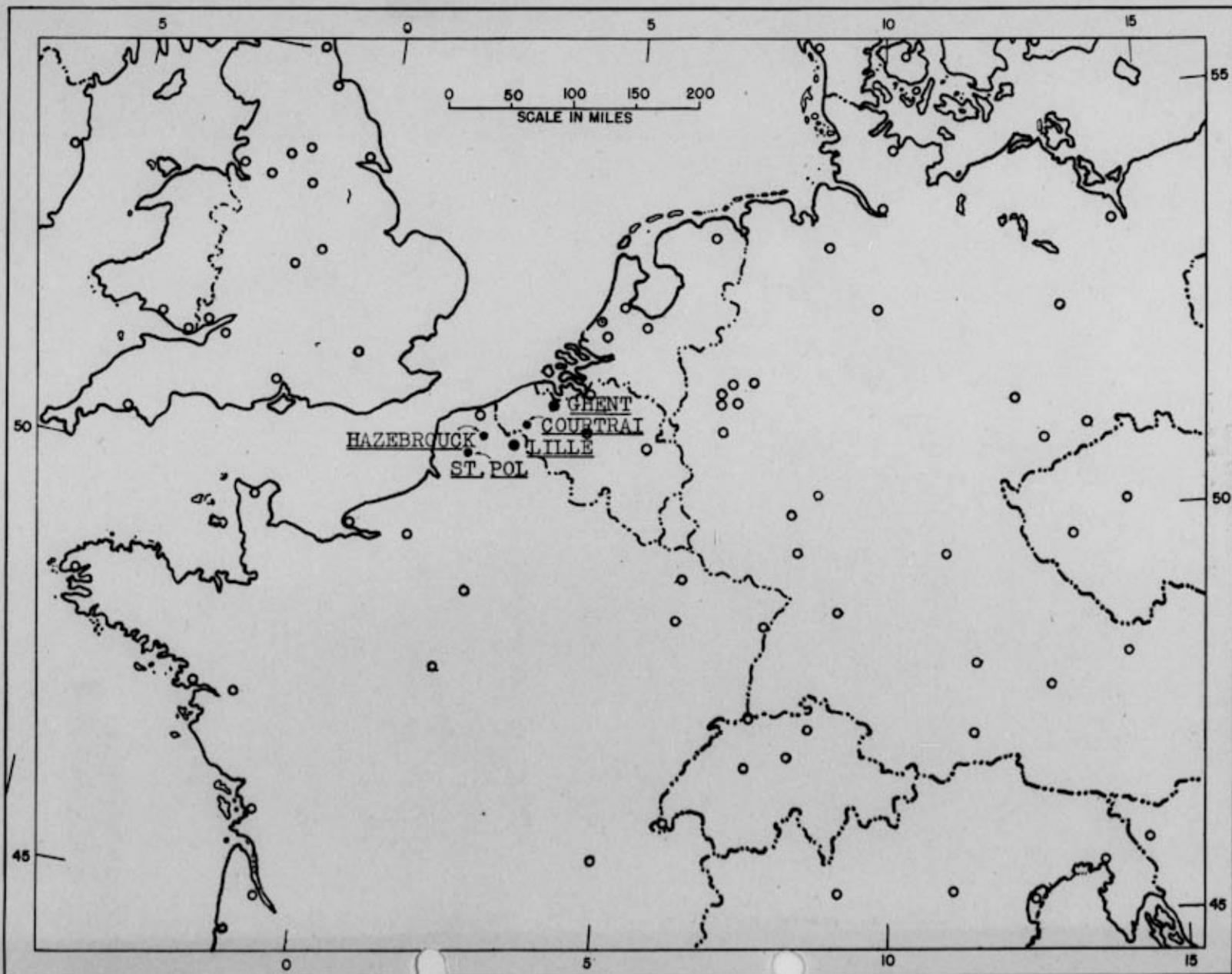
No. 635

0700 September 5 to 0700 September 6, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE





24-33868

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. Lieutenant General Omar N. Bradley has been designated as Commanding General, First Army.

2. The War Department issued orders yesterday assigning Lieutenant General Delos C. Emmons to command the Western Defense Command and appointing Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt as Commandant, Army and Navy Staff College effective on or about 15 September.

EUROPEAN THEATER

During the afternoon of 4 September 144 B-26's, escorted by 33 squadrons of Allied Spitfires, carried out attacks on the Lille, Courtrai, St. Pol and Hazebrouck railroad yards; 195 tons of bombs were dropped with good effect and all our B-26's returned safely. On 5 September 72 B-26's successfully attacked the railroad yards at Ghent. British Spitfires escorted this mission and another against Courtrai which could not be performed due to bad weather; three intercepting planes were destroyed and all of our aircraft returned.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Commandos landed at Bagnara on 4 September without opposition.

During the night of 3-4 September, 27 British Wellingtons dropped 45 tons of bombs on the Capua airdrome and 49 others attacked Capodichino with 92 tons; both missions were successful. Heavy weather the next day interfered with our heavy bomber operations; 19 of the 81 escorted



BASE MAP NO 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS.

B-17's, dispatched to renew the attacks on Capua and Capodichino air-dromes, bombed Terracina with undetermined results. Thirty-six of our fighters machine-gunned enemy lines of communication at Sessa Aurunca and an equal number attacked railways near Cancelllo and a landing strip at Grazzanise. During these operations five enemy planes were destroyed; we lost one bomber and four fighters. Our light bombers attacked road and railway communications at Cosenza, Catanzaro and Nicastro. Fighter patrols over the Messina Strait destroyed eight enemy aircraft. During the day, enemy planes made repeated attempts to carry out reconnaissance missions over Bizerte Harbor; these were prevented by our covering aircraft which destroyed two of the enemy's planes.

ASIATIC THEATER

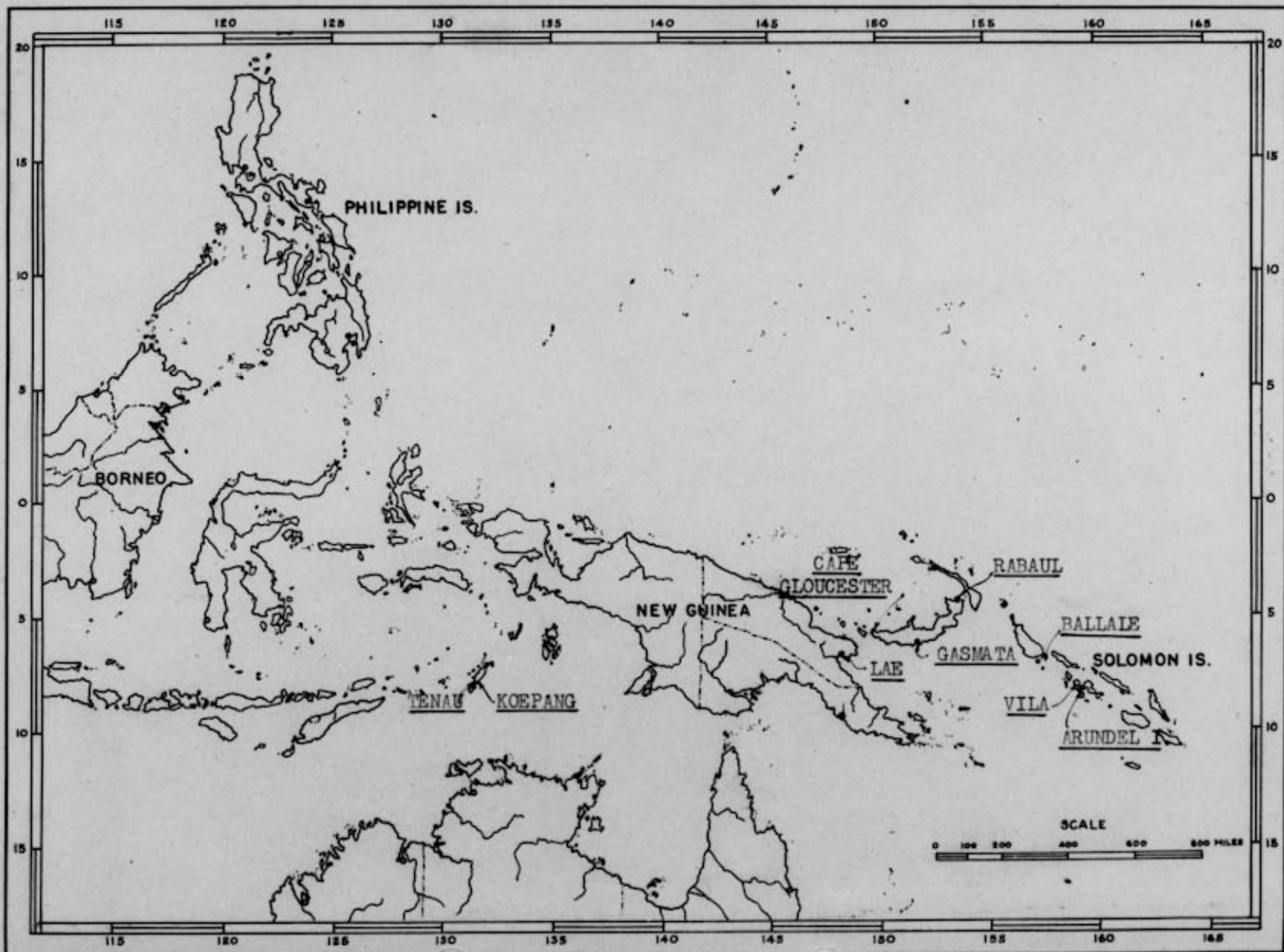
1. A late report indicates that in additional operations on 1 September our 10th Air Force B-24's raided the Mandalay yards, starting fires, one of which was visible for fifty miles. The next day our bombers dropped 27 tons of demolitions with observed effect on railroad tracks, rolling stock, warehouse installations and barracks at Pyawbwe, destroyed work shops and warehouses at Chauk, and scored hits on wharf installations at Toungoo.

On 4 September B-25's bombed Sumprabum, Maymyo, Nantu and Hsipaw; rail installations were damaged at Nantu and several buildings destroyed at Hsipaw.

2. Japanese airplanes bombed and machine-gunned our airfields at

[REDACTED]





Wuchow on 4 September. Ten B-25's and eleven P-40's of our 14th Air Force bombed the Tienho airfield near Canton; three, probably four, of 15 Japanese fighters encountered were shot down. All our planes returned safely.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 4 September, an Allied force, supported by destroyer gunfire, landed unopposed 14 miles east of Lae and advanced on the town through the jungle. Our bombers heavily bombed the enemy installations east and west of the beachhead. Unsuccessful air attacks on our landing craft and naval vessels during the day cost the enemy 21 (probably 22) aircraft shot down and four damaged.

Allied planes started large fires in the town area and on the airdromes at Rabaul, bombed the airfield at Gasmata, and destroyed four barges and damaged 16 others and two launches in shipping sweeps north of New Britain. Nine B-24's started fires in the bivouac and dump areas at Cape Gloucester and ten Allied planes effectively bombed Koepang and Tenau on Timor.

2. US Army and Navy and New Zealand aircraft pounded the enemy positions at and west of Vila on 4 September with more than 20 tons of demolitions; nine B-24's, escorted by 41 Allied fighter planes, dropped 12 tons of bombs on Ballale. Excellent results were reported on all targets.

Our troops have come under Japanese machine-gun, mortar and artillery fire near the northern end of Arundel Island.

WAR DEPARTMENT

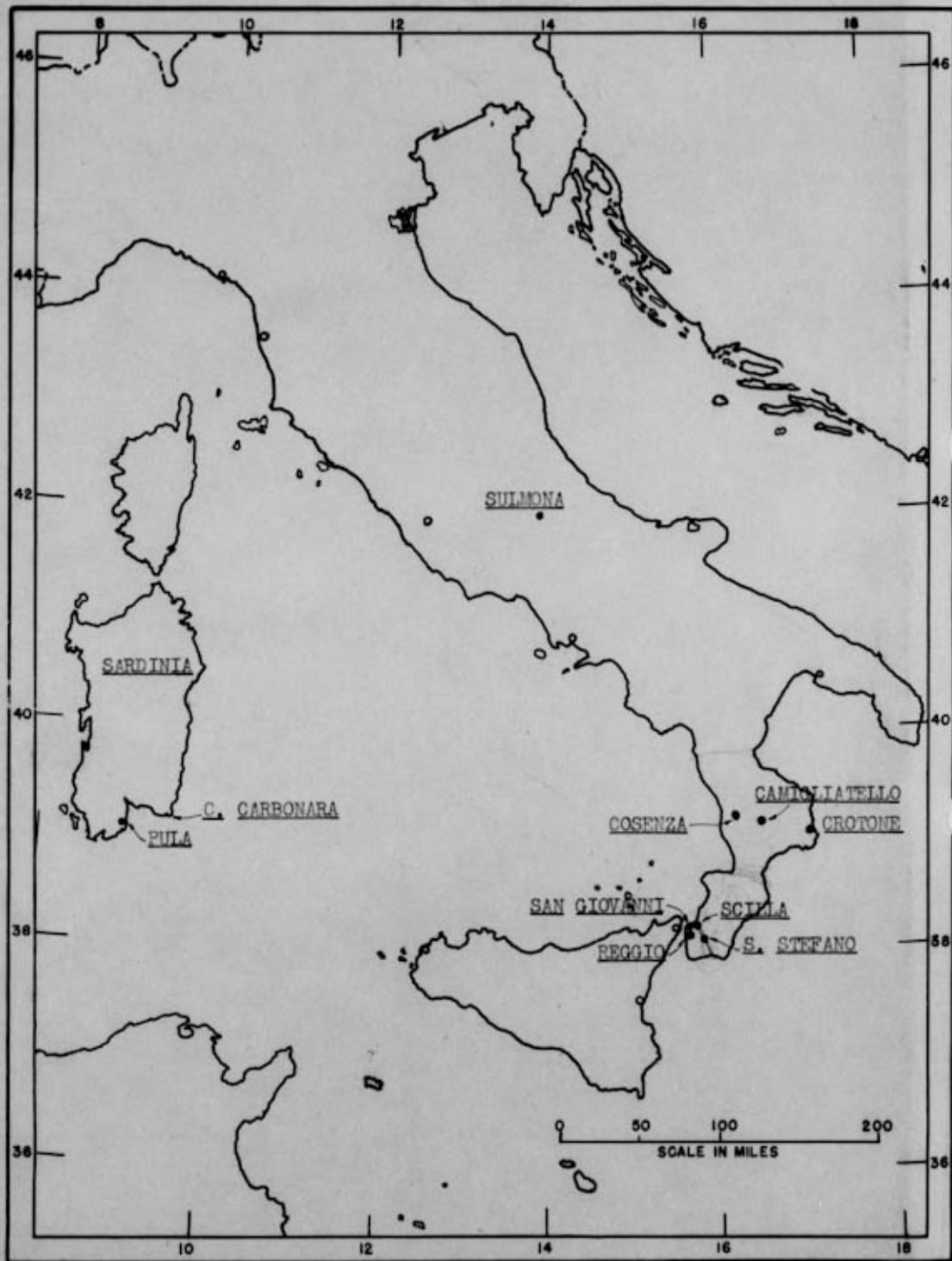
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 634

0700 September 4 to 0700 September 5, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



GENERAL

Arrangements are being completed for the termination of Army anti-submarine operations in the United Kingdom on 15 October, and in North Africa not later than 31 October. This is part of a program under which the Navy is to take over and consolidate all anti-submarine activities.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The War Department issued instructions for the separation of the First Army from the Eastern Defense Command effective 10 September and for the movement of the headquarters and headquarters units of the First Army to a port of embarkation for shipment overseas in October and November.

EUROPEAN THEATER

An unidentified airplane was fired on over Iceland on 3 September.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

British and Canadian troops continued to advance on the toe of Italy; Reggio and San Giovanni have been captured.

B-24's attacked Sulmona with 76 tons of explosives on 3 September, completely covering the railroad yards, station, repair shops and administration buildings, and blowing up a powder storage warehouse. Twenty-seven (probably 33) intercepting enemy planes were destroyed; six of our planes failed to return.

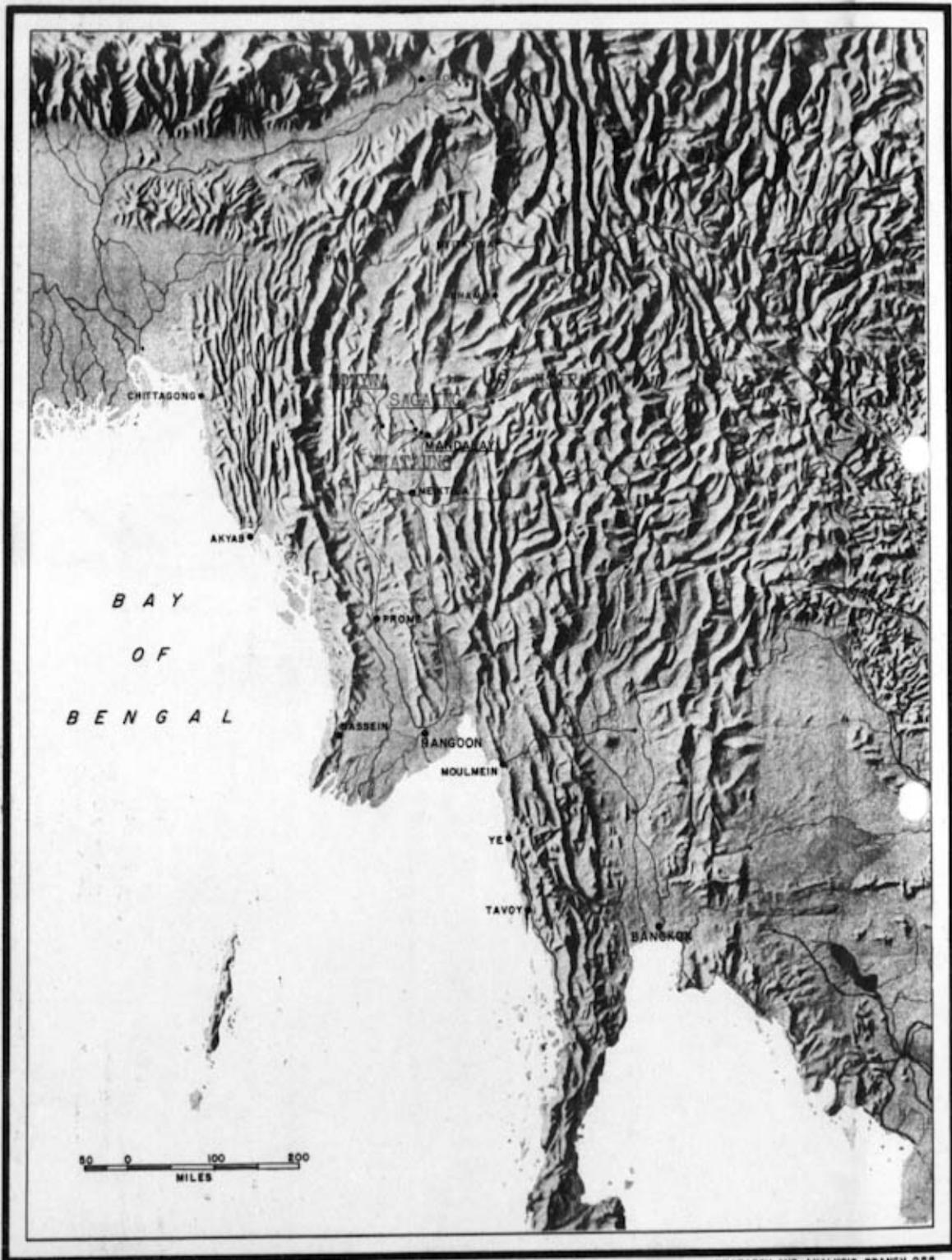
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MAP NO. 2437 (FREE)  
24 JUNE 1943

COMPILED AND DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, OSS  
PRINTED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH, OSS

DECLASSIFIED



BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)  
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

Medium and light bombers hit Cosenza, airdromes at Crotona and Camigliatello, and gun positions near San Stefano and Scilla. Enemy fighters were forced to jettison their bombs over their own territory in southern Italy. Fifty-one of our P-40's bombed and machine-gunned radar stations at Pula and Carbonara in Sardinia.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

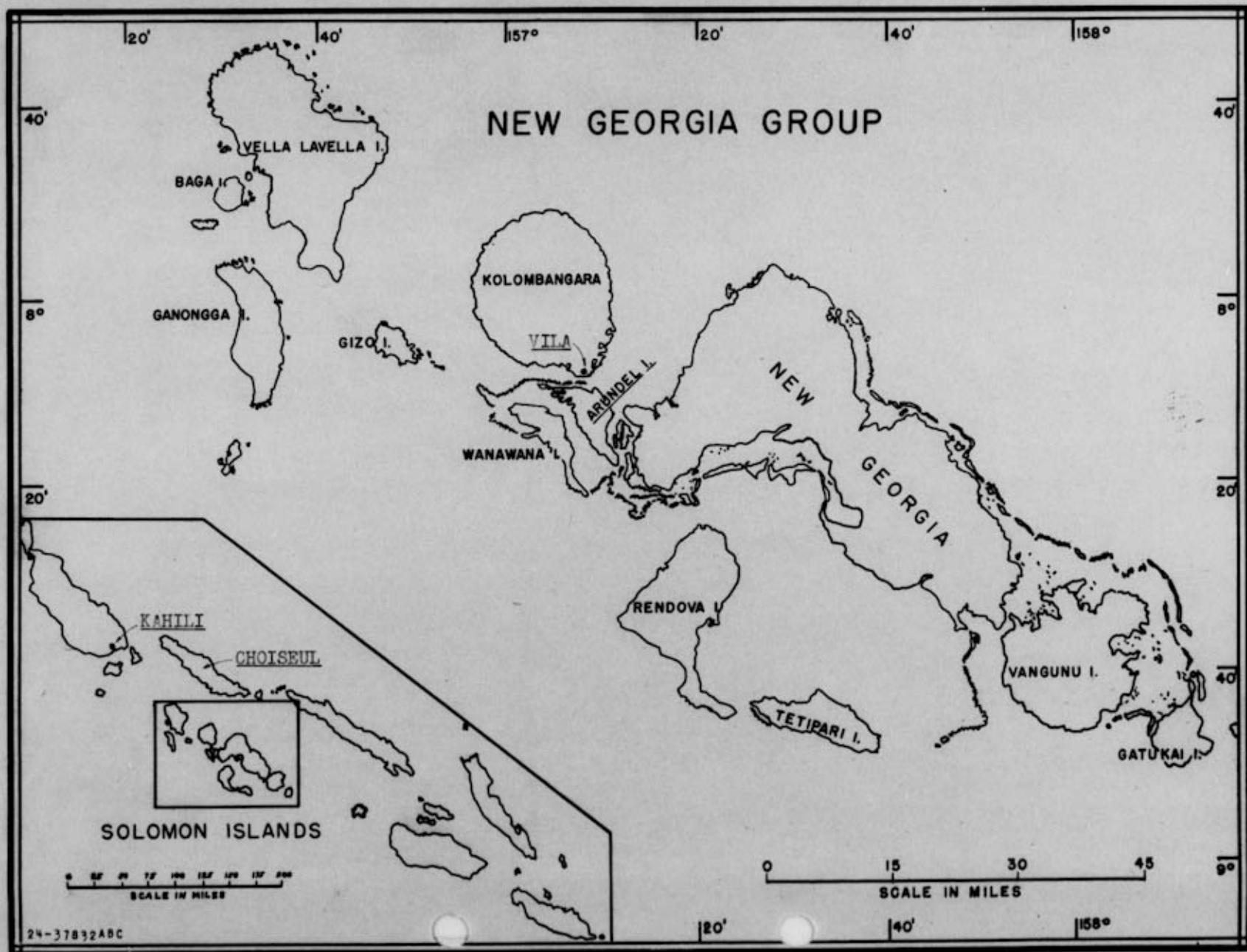
General Connolly reports that the Persian Gulf Service Command assembled during August 5,451 trucks for the Russians.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 1 September, six B-24's and two B-25's of the 10th Air Force bombed Mandalay with excellent results while 26 B-25's started fires in storage buildings at Sagaing, and scored effective hits in railroad yards at Ywataung, Monywa and Hsipaw.

2. Japanese bombers raided the Wuchow and Nanyung airfields on 3 September; no report has been received as to the damage. 14th Air Force fighter aircraft, dropping fragmentation clusters and quarter-ton demolitions, destroyed enemy barracks and installations at Pho Lu.

3. General Wheeler has reported the opening of the northern supply route to China. This route starts at Karachi and runs by rail and road northwest, thence around the Himalayans and southeast to Chungking. 520 trucks provided by the British are now en route to the



[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED  
DD Letter, 6-8-78

railhead at Zahedan in eastern Iran.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

Buildings and defense areas at Lae were heavily bombed on 3 September by 21 B-24's and two B-17's; 27 medium bombers successfully raided the Cape Gloucester area while nine others attacked enemy-held villages northwest of Lae. To the west, six B-24's hit buildings, barracks, and an airfield at Ambon.

Another successful attack was made on Kahili on 3 September; four B-25's, escorted by six Allied P-40's, bombed and machine-gunned Webster Cove, near Vila; and one B-24 on a reconnaissance mission sank two enemy barges southwest of Choiseul. Patrols on Arundel have reached the coast directly opposite Vila River. 11

[REDACTED]

WAR DEPARTMENT

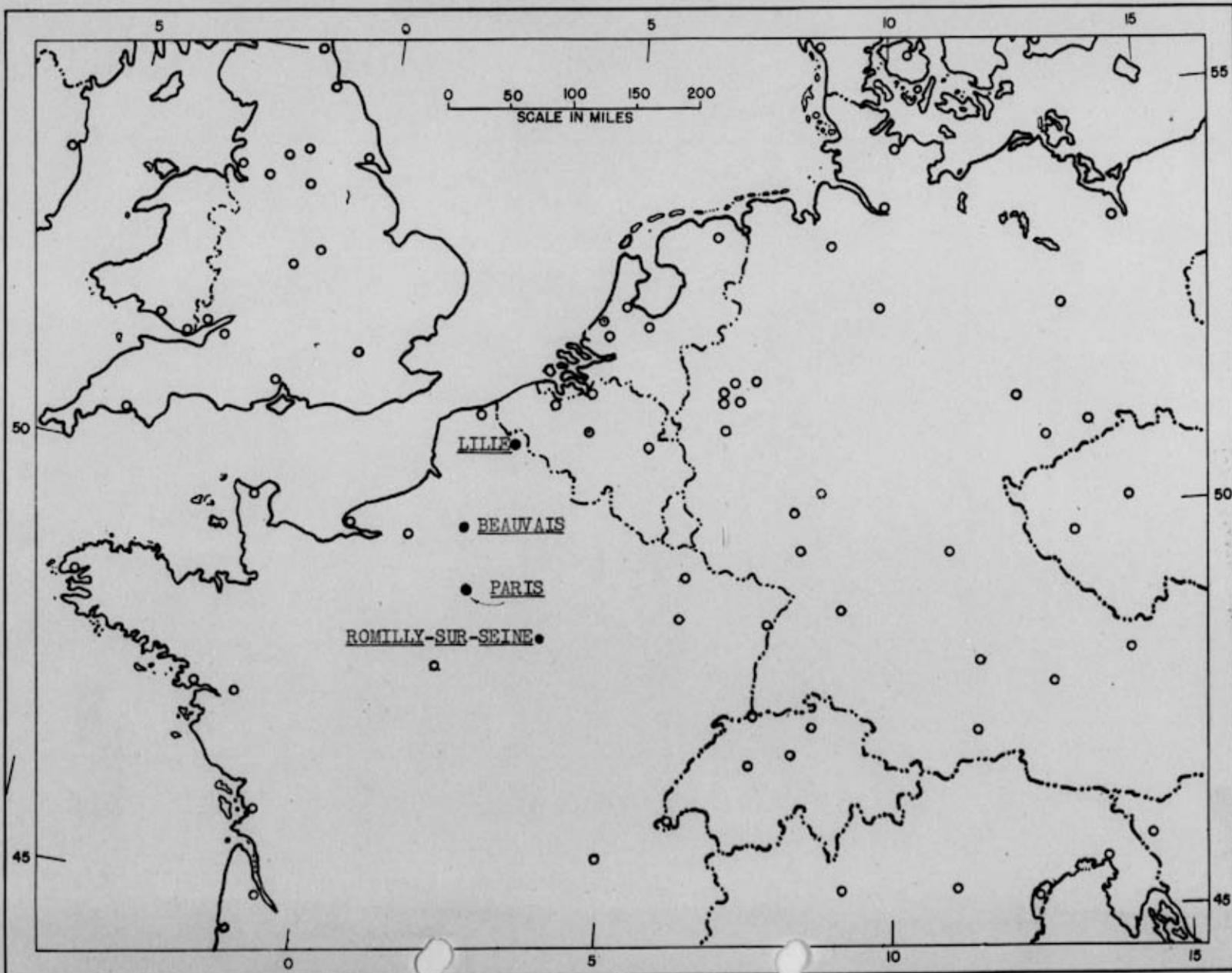
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 633

0700 September 3 to 0700 September 4, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



24-33868

DECLASSIFIED

GENERAL

The War Department informed all theater commanders that since our enemies may construe possession or use of commercial type lead ball ammunition a violation of the Hague Convention, necessary steps must be taken to return all caliber .38 commercial type ammunition to the United States and prevent its use in the meantime.

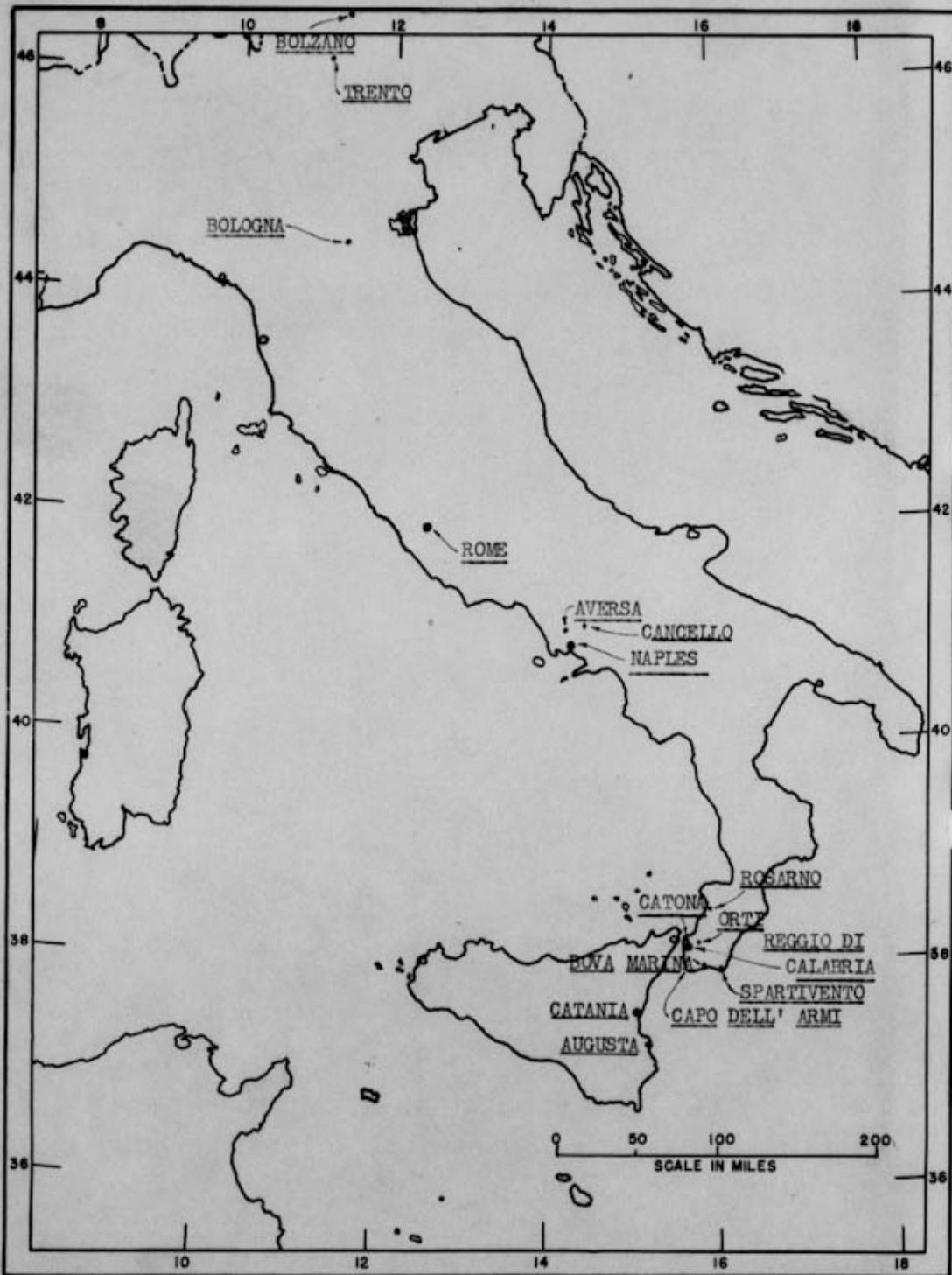
EUROPEAN THEATER

A total of 294 B-17's supported by 172 P-47's attacked seven German Air Force installations, airdromes and airplane factories in the Ile de France on 3 September, the largest raid being one by 102 B-17's against an air depot at Romilly-sur-Seine; the Caudron-Renault factory at Paris was also included in the bombings. Our planes destroyed 27 (probably 41) enemy fighters; nine B-17's (three per cent of the total) and one P-47 were lost. Our medium bombers, strongly escorted by RAF Spitfires, raided airdromes at Lille and Beauvais. Returning crews reported generally good results.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. Yesterday's landings between Reggio di Calabria and Catona were accomplished by the British 5th and Canadian 1st Divisions.

2. During the night of 1-2 September, 39 British Wellingtons bombed railroad yards and buildings at Aversa. The next day 76 B-17's caused severe damage to shops, freight sheds, rolling stock, and tracks



in the Bologna railroad yards. Other Allied planes attacked the railroad yards at Bolzano and Trento on the Brenner line; photographs show excellent results at Bolzano where the Iscaro River bridge was broken, and where the tracks were cut at Trento. The tracks southwards were blocked at Canello where Allied aircraft battered the yards. In Calabria attacks were made on headquarters west of Orti and southeast of Rosarno, troop concentrations at Bova Marina, a radar station at Spartivento, and gun positions east of Reggio. A 1500-ton merchant vessel was hit off the west coast of Greece.

Catania and Augusta were raided by nine enemy planes; three or four of the enemy were shot down. There were no casualties or damage.

#### ASIATIC THEATER

1. A supplementary 10th Air Force report for 29 August states that five B-24's and 18 B-25's dropped 41 tons of bombs with good results on town and railroad installations at Myitkyina and in northern Burma.

2. On 2 September, ten B-25's covered by five P-40's of our 14th Air Force set fire to three fuel tanks, blew up a large camouflaged building, and machine-gunned boats at Hong Kong. Two of the escorting P-40's, in a low-level attack, hit a 200-foot ship in the same area. One (probably three) intercepting enemy planes were destroyed; all of our aircraft returned.

3. The War Department informed Generals Stilwell and Ferris of the establishment of the Southeast Asia Command under Lord Mountbatten.

SECRET



PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 2 September our ground troops inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy west and southwest of the airdrome at Salamaua. Sixteen escorted B-25's attacked shipping which had arrived with reinforcements and supplies in the Wewak area, sinking three large merchant vessels; another freighter, a gunboat, and a number of smaller craft were badly damaged. Our planes on this mission shot down 14 (probably 22) enemy planes; we lost three B-25's and two P-38's. Twelve B-17's and nine B-26's bombed the runways at Cape Gloucester and machine-gunned barges at Finschhafen and Lae. Seven (probably nine) enemy planes were destroyed; one B-17 is missing.

Other Allied planes attacked an enemy convoy near Cape St. George, dropped bombs on the barracks area on Gasmata Island and machine-gunned barges in Borgen Bay.

2. Our artillery continued to shell Vila on 2 September; Army and Navy planes attacked antiaircraft positions and supply dumps at Vila and Kahili with excellent results. Navy fighter planes destroyed four enemy aircraft on the runway and machine-gunned personnel at the Kahili airdrome, destroyed two launches in nearby waters, and shot down an enemy medium bomber off Rennell Island.

3. Santa Isabel Island is reported to be evacuated by the enemy.

4. Major General Oscar W. Griswold extended the command of the XIV Corps to include Vella Lavella at 1300Z, 3 September.

[REDACTED]

WAR DEPARTMENT

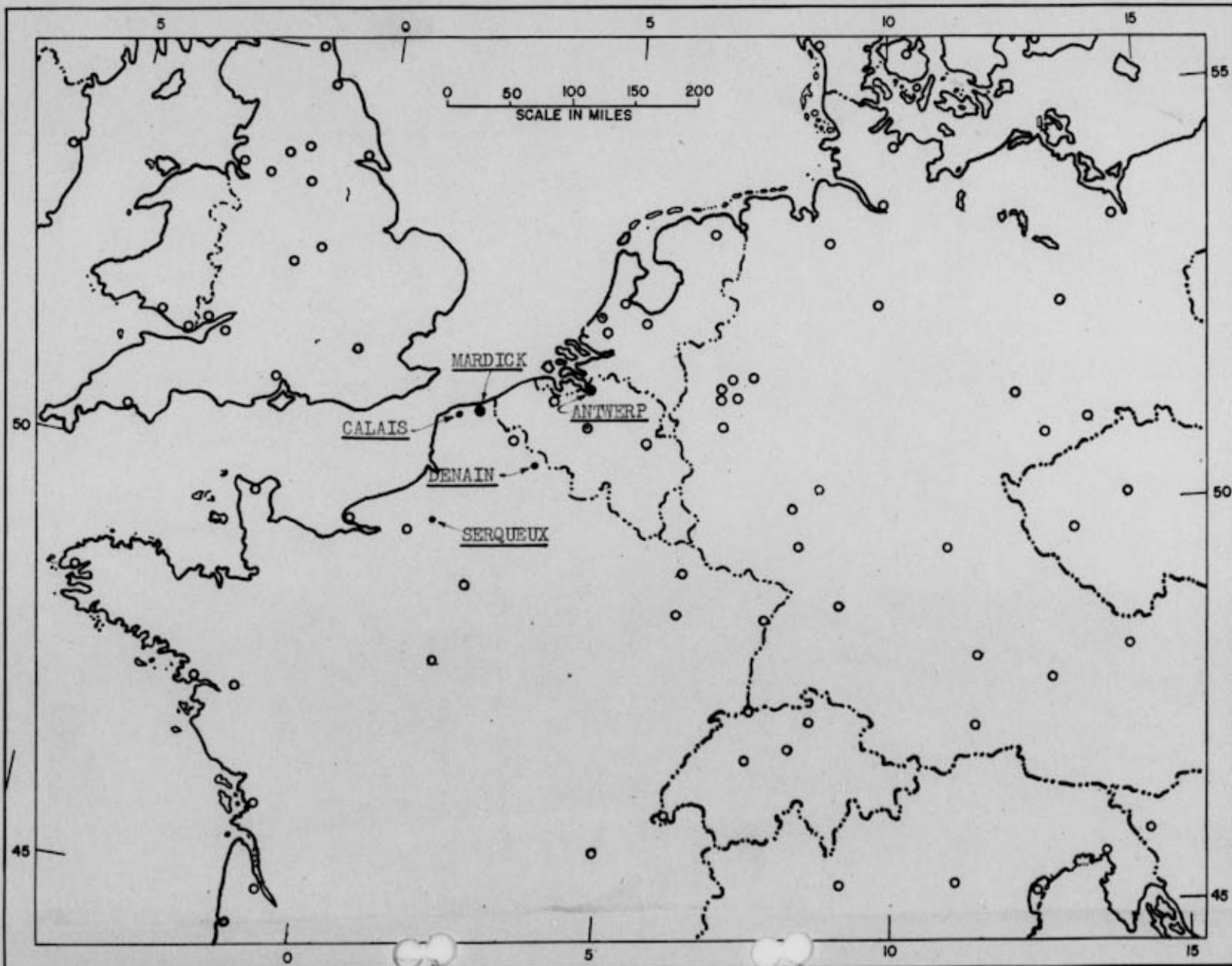
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 632

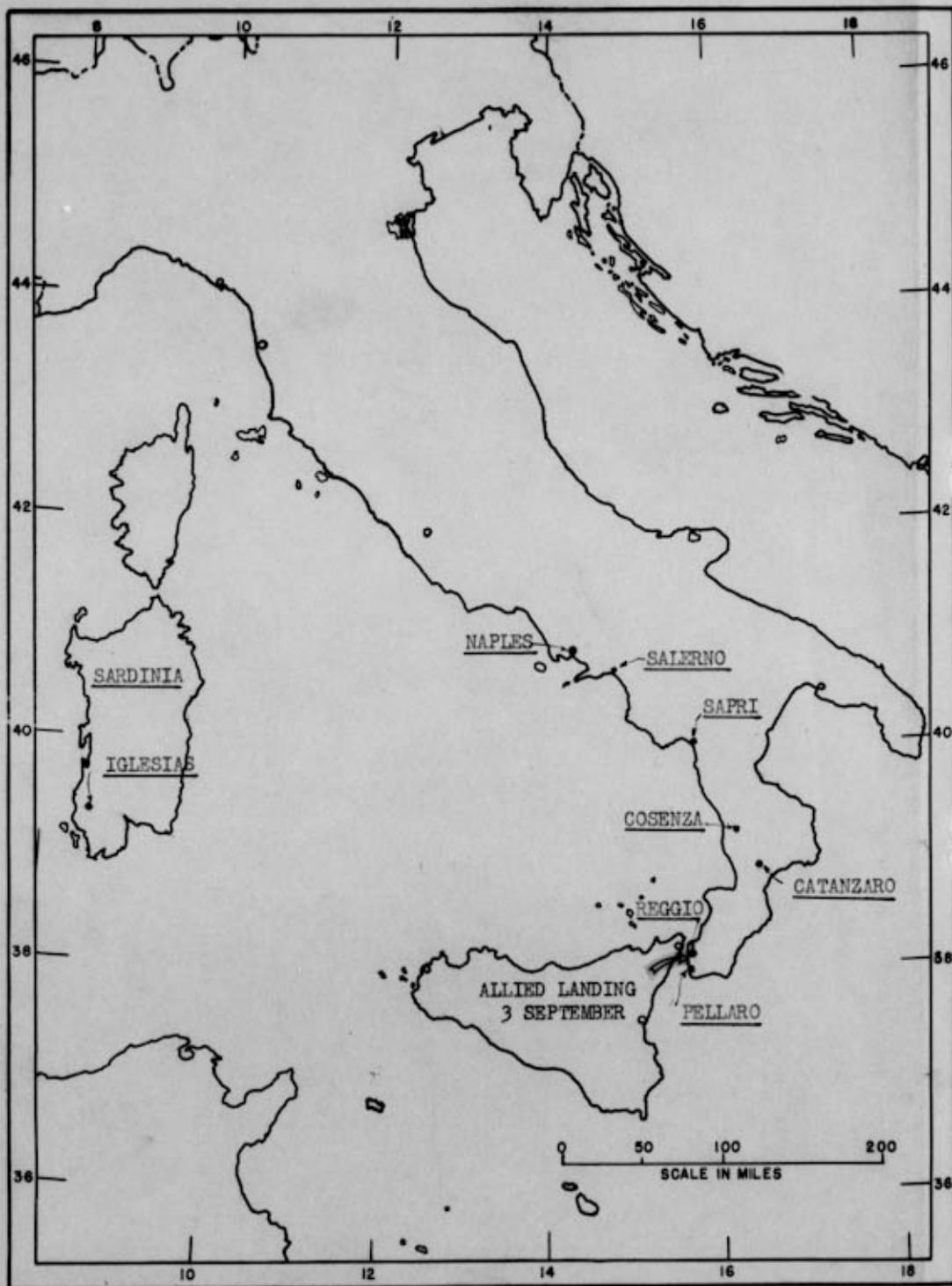
0700 September 2 to 0700 September 3, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



24-33868



WESTERN HEMISPHERE

A Japanese airplane flew over Attu on 1 September; closing weather precluded interception by our fighters based on Shemya and Attu.

EUROPEAN THEATER

On 1 September ten escorted A-20's raided the enemy rail center north of Antwerp.

8 B-17's, escorted by squadrons of P-47's, hit the enemy airfields at Mardick and Denain on 2 September. Allied medium and light bombers, escorted by Spitfires, attacked targets near Calais, a power station, and the railroad yards at Serqueux. Good results were reported on all missions, and four enemy planes were destroyed for a loss of one medium and one light bomber and two fighters.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

8 British and Canadian troops of the Eighth Army, supported by Allied sea and air power, crossed the Straits of Messina early on 3 September and began landing on the mainland of Italy.

On the night of 31 August - 1 September British Wellingtons bombed the Salerno railroad yards and caused a large explosion in the gas works. Other Allied planes attacked the Pellaro region and a bivouac area near Reggio di Calabria. The following day 48 P-40's bombed and machine-gunned industrial targets in Sardinia, including

[REDACTED]

the zinc works at Iglesias. 184 Allied bombers with an escort of 118 Spitfires carried out 13 missions against communication targets on the toe of Italy, and other strong forces of Allied planes pounded enemy rail installations at Sapri, Catanzaro and Cosenza.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

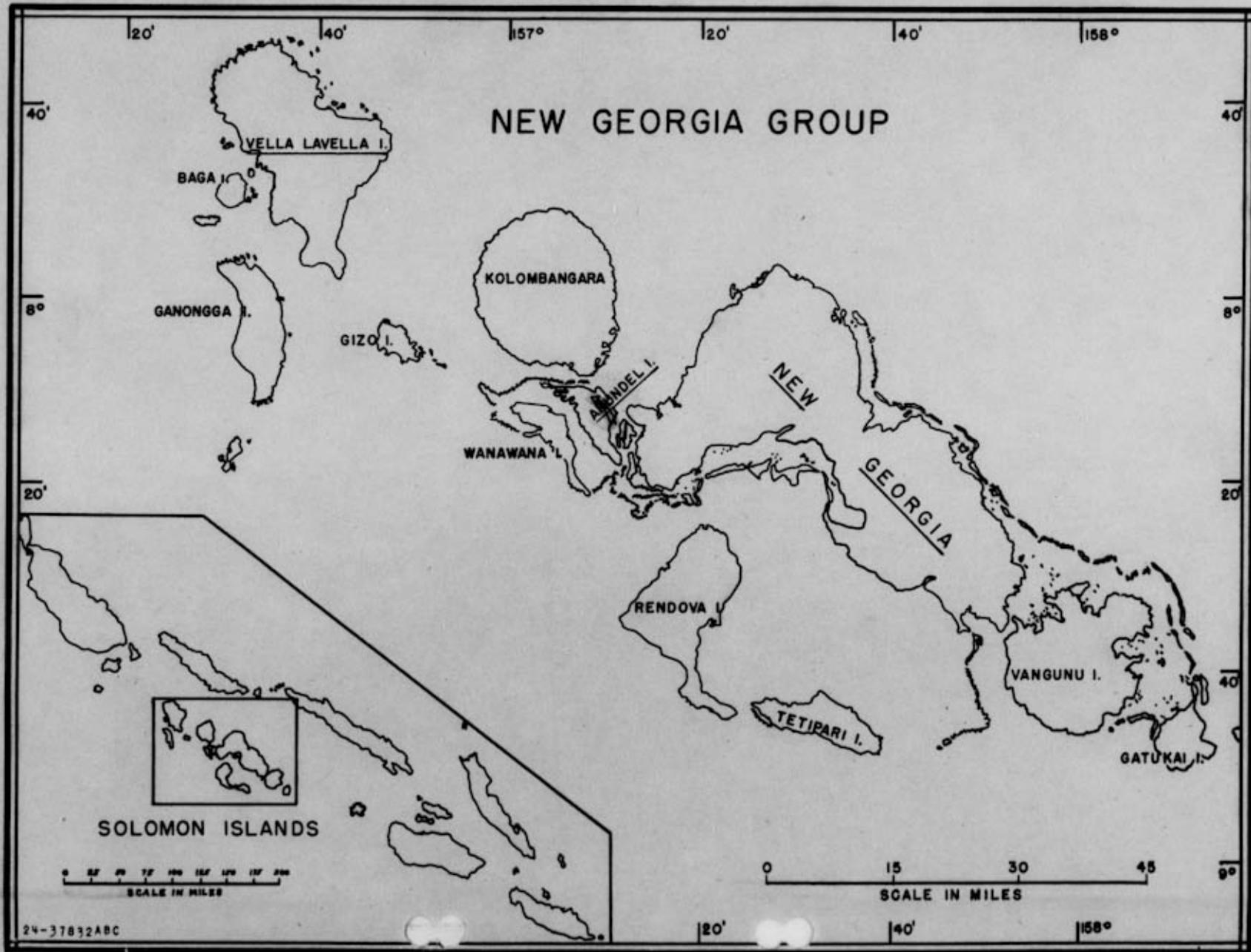
Overseas commanders concerned were notified of War Department approval of the consolidation under the US Army Forces in the Middle East of that command and the US Army Forces in Central Africa.

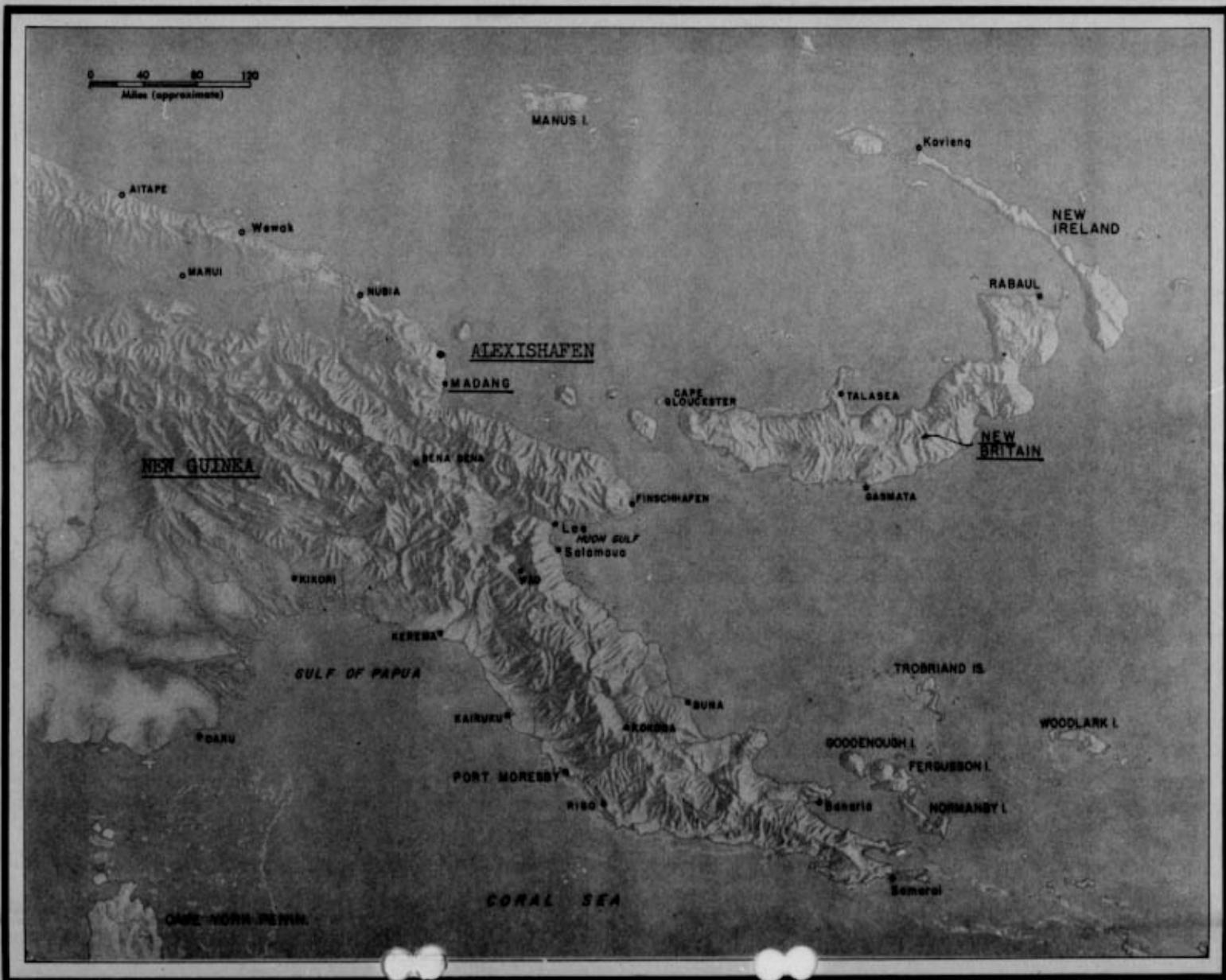
ASIATIC THEATER

14th Air Force fighter and bomber missions on 30 August concentrated on enemy rail equipment and installations in the area northeast of Tungting Lake. Enemy-held towns west of the lake were bombed and machine-gunned, several heavily-laden enemy freighters and an armed escort were hit, and three 75-foot boats were left afire and sinking. All planes returned safely.

On 1 September 14th Air Force planes attacked shipping along the Yangtze River sinking one tanker and several smaller craft, destroyed rolling stock and a grounded transport plane, demolished buildings, and started numerous fires in a series of operations in the area east of Tungting Lake.

[REDACTED]





BASE MAP NO. 5531 (FREE)  
2 AUGUST 1943

COMPILED AND DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. More than 150 Allied bombers swarmed over enemy territory in the Southwest Pacific Area on 1 September, attacking, with demolition bombs and machine-gun fire, Japanese-held villages on the coasts of New Britain and New Guinea and barges in the nearby waters; towns in the Madang area, Waingapoe on Soemba, west of Timor, and Alexishafen were especially hard hit. Other Australian and Dutch aircraft bombed and machine-gunned villages on Timor.

2. US patrols continued their advance on the northeast coast of Arundel on 1 September. Our gun positions on Ondongo Island between New Georgia and Arundel, have received counter-battery fire from an unreported source; no damage or casualties resulted. Four of our fighters successfully attacked two barges off Vella Lavella.

WAR DEPARTMENT

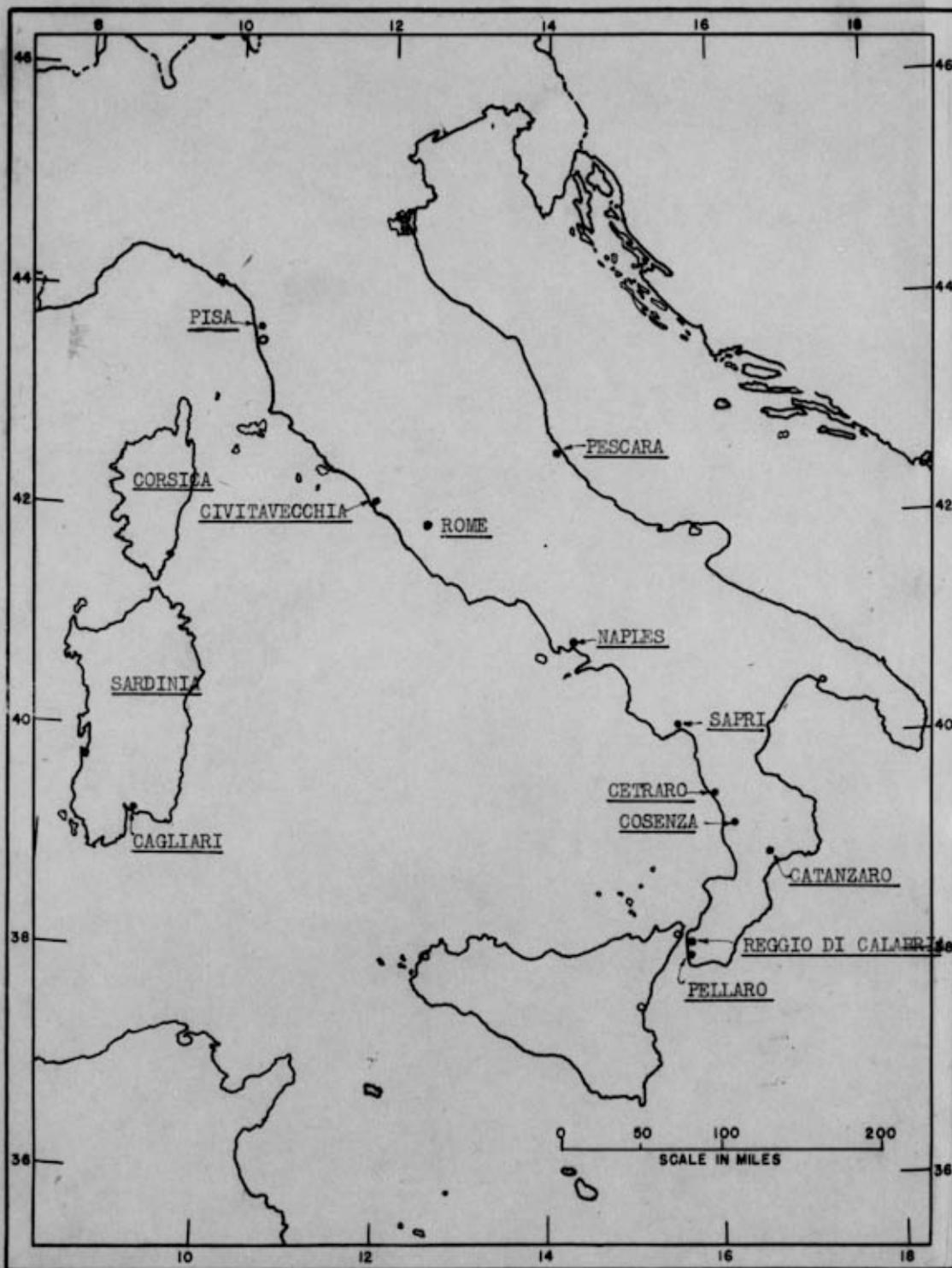
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 631

0700 September 1 to 0700 September 2, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. An unidentified airplane was detected in the vicinity of Iceland on 30 August.

2. The final report of 8th Air Force action for the week ending 22 August lists 394 (probably 445) enemy airplanes destroyed for a loss of 78 of ours. During the week ending 29 August the 8th Air Force destroyed 18 (probably 30) enemy planes for a loss from all causes of ten airplanes. Corresponding RAF figures are 46 (probably 51) enemy planes for a loss of 142.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. During the night of 30-31 August, 47 British Wellingtons followed up our own attack by dropping 84 tons of bombs on railroad installations, a transformer station and chemical works at Civitavecchia. Our light bombers started fires in the bivouac area and gun positions at Reggio di Calabria, and other Allied planes dropped leaflets at Cagliari and on the west coast of Corsica.

On 31 August 152 B-17's dropped more than 450 tons of bombs on the gas works, aircraft factory and railroad shops at Pisa; 25 enemy aircraft were encountered, six (probably seven) being destroyed without loss on our part. Railroad installations at Pescara were severely hit by 45 B-24's; in this operation also, ten (probably 11) enemy aircraft were destroyed without loss. Our medium and light bombers also attacked railroad yards at Catanzaro and Cosenza, railroad



MAP NO. 2437 (FREE)  
24 JUNE 1943

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and seaplane facilities at Sapri, and the railroad yards and harbor at Cetraro.

2. Italian coastal defenses northeast of Reggio di Calabria were effectively shelled by the British battleships Nelson and Rodney on 31 August. Other strong Allied naval forces engaged shore batteries near Cape Pellaro.

3. Estimated casualties of the US Seventh Army to 21 August totaled 8,036; for the British Eighth Army to 25 August, 11,960.

4. General Eisenhower reports that at Palermo the main maintenance depot of our Seventh Army is being set up. The British Eighth Army is using Syracuse, Catania, and Augusta for a similar purpose.

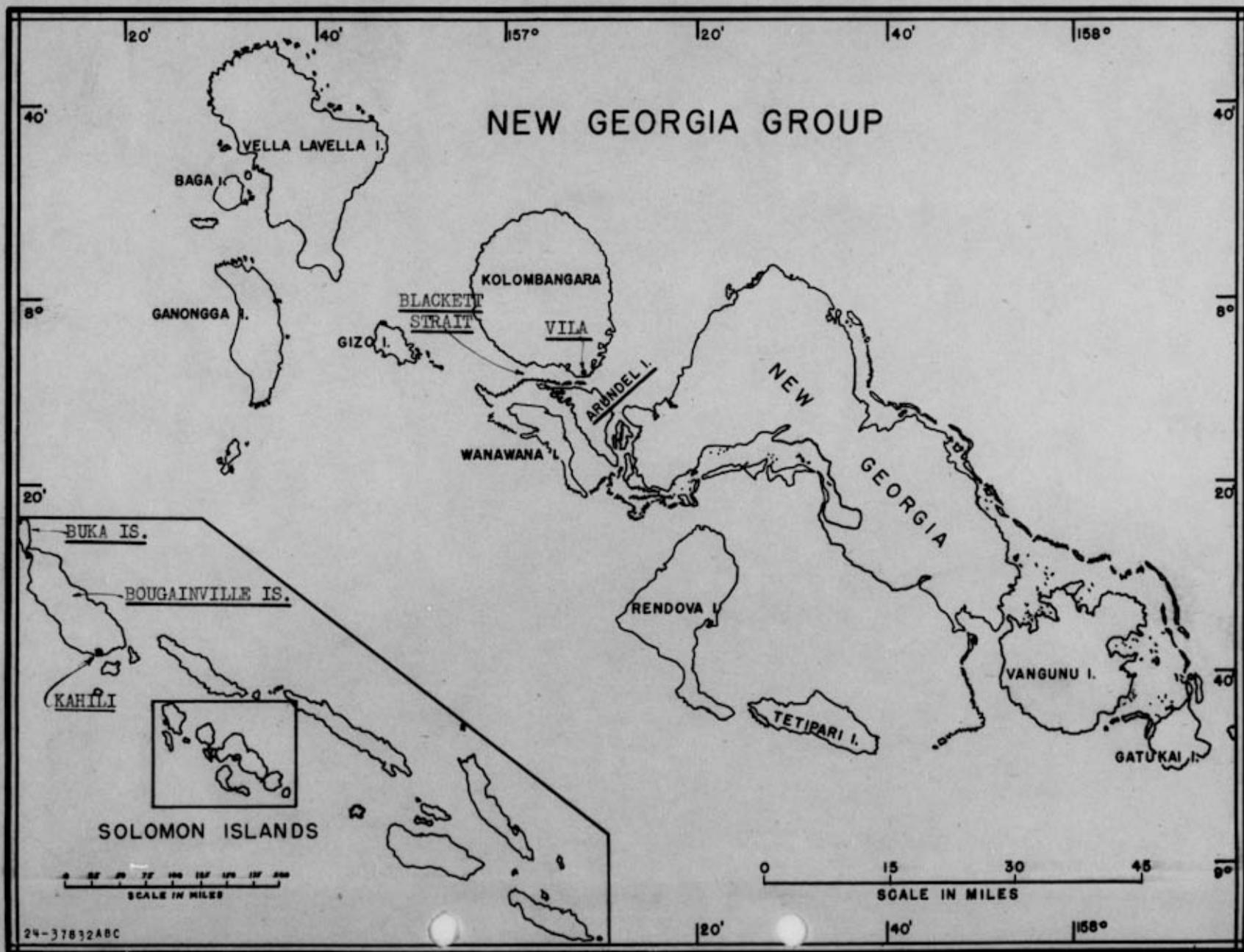
#### ASIATIC THEATER

Seven escorted B-24's of the 14th Air Force attacked Gailam airdrome near Hanoi on 31 August; seven escorting P-40's which lost their way on the return trip are missing. Six B-25's, accompanied by five P-40's, damaged the enemy's new airfield at Ichang. Eight fighters destroyed locomotives in the Kiukiang area, damaged the railroad yards at Yoyang and in a low level attack against shipping in Hongkong harbor left a large vessel sinking.

#### PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Nine B-25's attacked barges and villages on the coast of New Britain, on 30 August. On 31 August our forces continued to close in

[REDACTED]



on the Salamaua airdrome.

2. In the 30 August attack on Kahili by 24 B-24's and 44 fighters 19 (possibly 36) enemy fighters were shot down for a loss of one B-24 and five of our fighters.

On 31 August our combat patrols on Arundel Island were within 3,000 yards of Blackett Strait and our field guns were firing on Vila. Gun positions and the radio station at Vila were also damaged by a mission of 22 B-25's and Navy bombers. Four P-40's intercepted 12 enemy bombers and six fighters attacking our naval vessels and destroyed five of the hostile bombers. One B-24 was lost during the day.

WAR DEPARTMENT

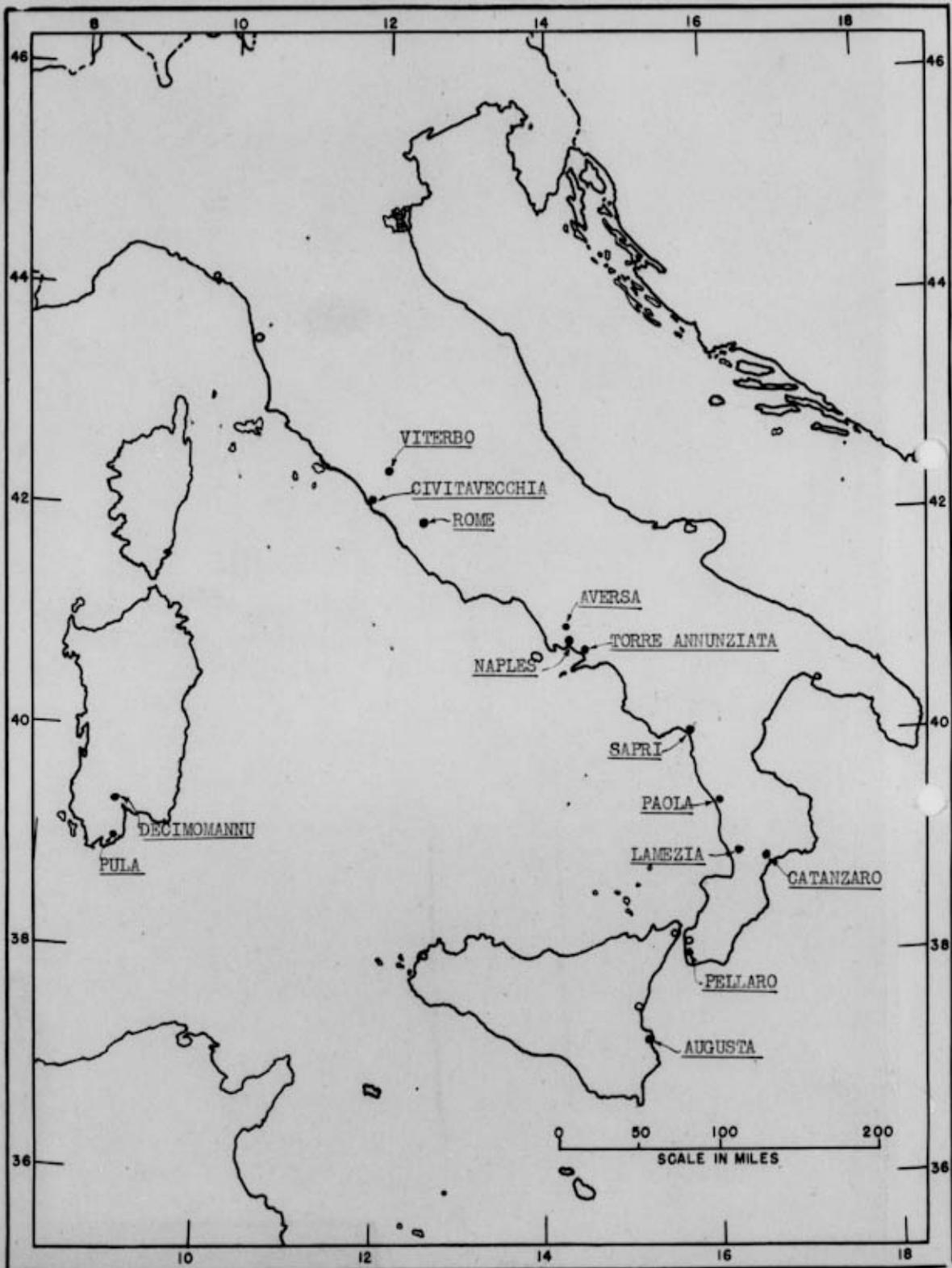
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 630

0700 August 31 to 0700 September 1, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

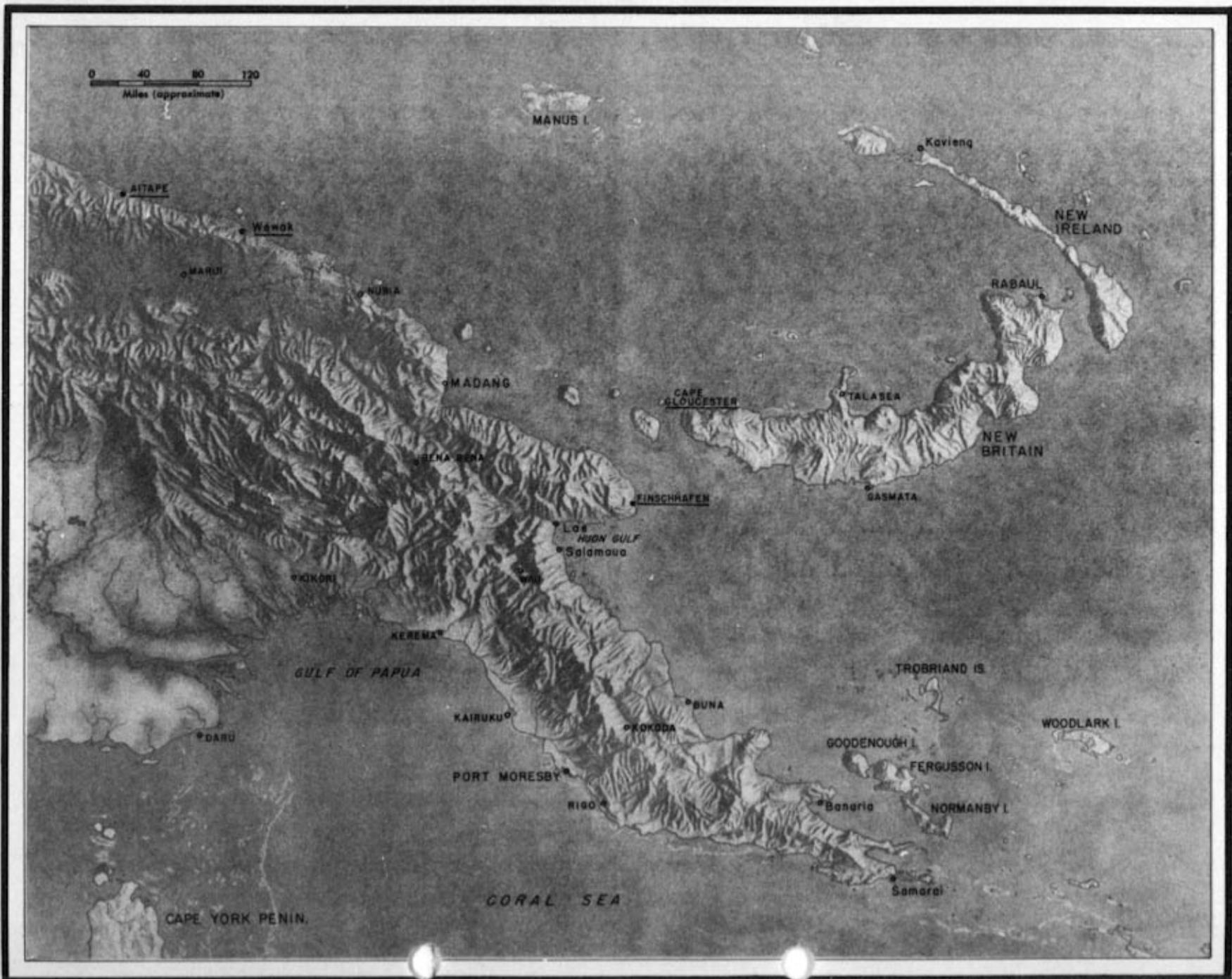


EUROPEAN THEATER

B-17's of the 8th Air Force escorted by P-47's and Spitfires attacked the Glisy airfield at Amiens on 31 August. Good bombing was reported and seven intercepting fighters were destroyed. Escorted medium bomber missions hit enemy airfields near Lille and St. Pol and a power station and chemical works near Bethune. Three enemy fighters were shot down. Our losses on these missions were two bombers and three fighter aircraft.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

British bombers heavily attacked the railroad yards at Torre Annunziata during the night of 29-30 August. The next day 35 escorted B-17's pounded the airdrome at Viterbo, while 19 B-26's escorted by P-38's bombed the railroad yards at Aversa. Of some 70 enemy aircraft attacking these medium bombers 17 (probably 21) were shot down with a loss of 13 P-38's. A large force of our escorted medium bombers hit the railroad yards at Civitavecchia. Other Allied aircraft attacked Paola, Catanzaro, Lamezia, Sapri and Pellaro. On Sardinia 48 P-40's bombed a bridge at Decimomannu and a radar station at Pula. British aircraft damaged a 2500-ton merchant vessel off the west coast of Greece. Enemy attacks on Augusta continued during the day.



BASE MAP NO. 2531 (FREE)  
2 AUGUST 1943

COMPILED AND DRAWN IN THE BRANCH OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OSS  
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

**SECRET**

DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 5-8-73

ASIATIC THEATER

On 29 August, four B-24's of the 10th Air Force, prevented by weather from attacking the Myitkyina railroad station in northern Burma, bombed three other enemy-held towns with observed effect.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Enemy airdromes in the Wewak-Aitape area were effectively attacked by 27 B-24's on 30 August; 20 to 25 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. There was no interception and all planes returned safely from this mission. One of our medium bombers, after raiding the Cape Gloucester airdrome, observed five enemy aircraft burning. Six light bombers damaged five camouflaged barges near Finschhafen, while six fighters shot down an enemy float plane in the Arce Islands (southwest of New Guinea) and set fire to a 100-ton vessel; one Allied airplane is missing.

2. On 30 August 26 B-24's and 44 escorting Allied fighters, intercepted during a mission against Kahili (Bougainville Island) by some 30 enemy planes, shot down eight of the enemy for a loss of five Allied planes; one of these was a B-24 hit by an aerial bomb.

**SECRET**