

137
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

MR 203 (2) WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
SECTION 21

MR 203 (-) WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
SECTION 21

Box 56

CONTINUED

No. 654 to No. 691
(Sept. 24, to Oct. 31 Inc.)

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 660

0700 September 30 to 0700 October 1, 1943

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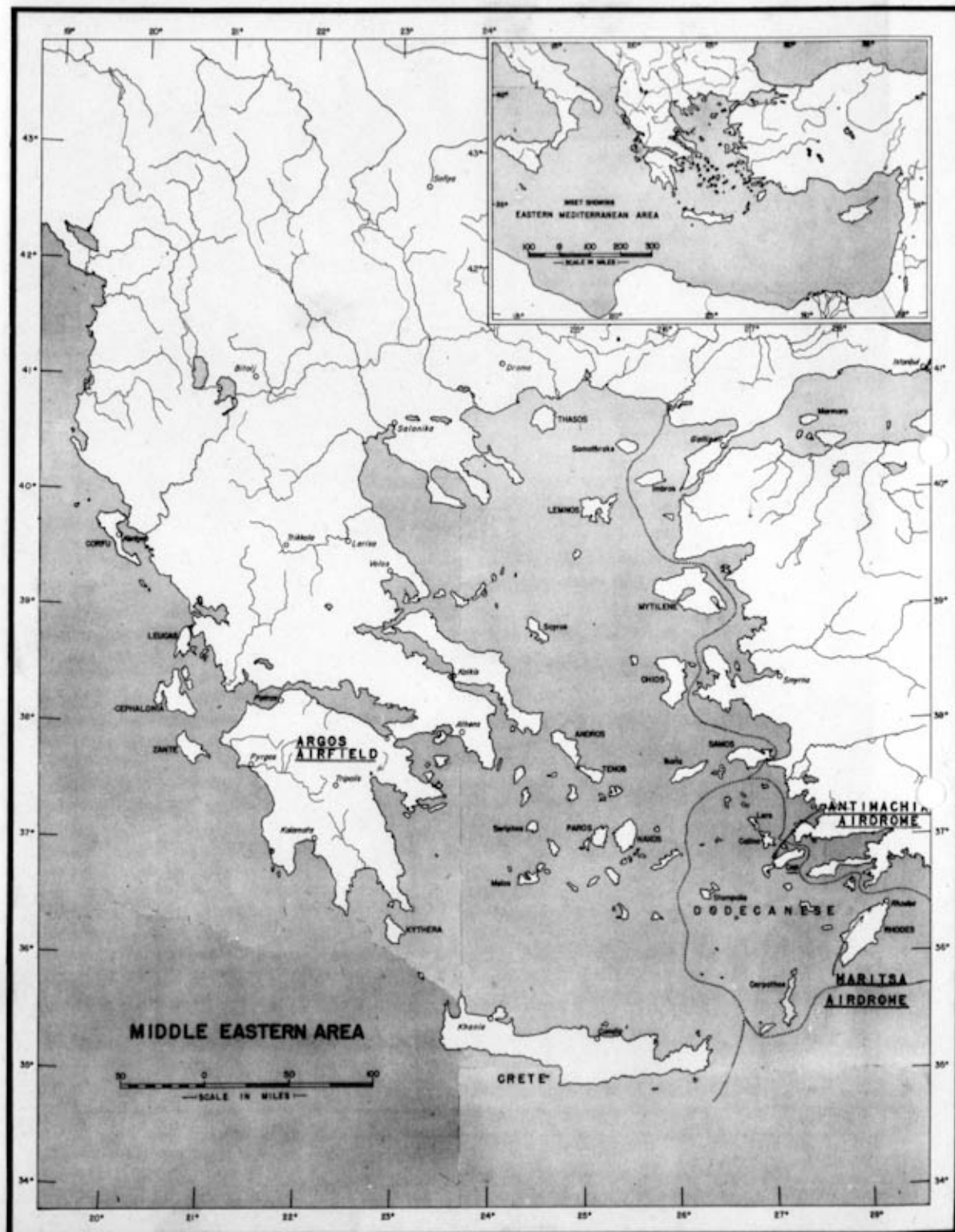
THE WHITE HOUSE

[REDACTED]



BASE MAP NO. 2672 (FREE)
28 SEPTEMBER 1943

RBA, OSS
LITHOGRAPHED, OSS



EUROPEAN THEATER

Five B-17's accompanied the RAF heavy bomber mission to Hanover the night of 27-28 September, as a training flight for future operations. One B-17 was lost, probably as the result of AA gunfire.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

The US 3rd and 45th Divisions, advancing some three miles on 29 September, reached the line: Frigento-Luogosano. Medium bomber missions totaling 130 planes attacked bridges to the north of Naples with more than 150 tons of explosives. Twenty-two P-38's bombed the Ausonia defiles with 11 more tons and other Allied planes attacked Benevento and nearby lines of communications. One B-25 and one P-38 were lost.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

During the night of 28-29 September, Allied aircraft attacked the Argos airfield, in southern Greece, and the Maritsa airdrome, Rhodes. On 29 September, a total of 41 escorted German medium bombers made two raids on the Antimachia landing ground, on Cos Island, putting two of the three runways out of service. Intercepting Spitfires destroyed one (probably two) enemy bombers.

ASIATIC THEATER

10th Air Force B-25's continued their offensive against



BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)
20 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

MUSSAU I.

0 40 80 120
Miles (approximate)

MANUS I.

KAVIENG

NEW
IRELAND

BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO

RABAUL

GAROVE I.

CAPE
GLOUCESTER

TALASEA

NEW
BRITAIN

GASMATA

VITIAZ STRAIT

CAPE CRETIN

LAKE
HUON GULF
SALAMAU

WAI

KEREMA

GULF
OF
PAPUA

KAIRUKU

GONA
BUNA

KOKODA

PORT MORESBY

RIGO

GOODENOUGH I.

TROBRIAND IS.

WOODLARK I.

FERGUSON I.

NORMANBY I.

BANARIA

SAMARAI

LOUISIAD
ARCHIPELAGO

CORAL SEA

CAPE YORK
PENIN.

AITAPE

WEWAK

MARUI

NUBIA

MADANG

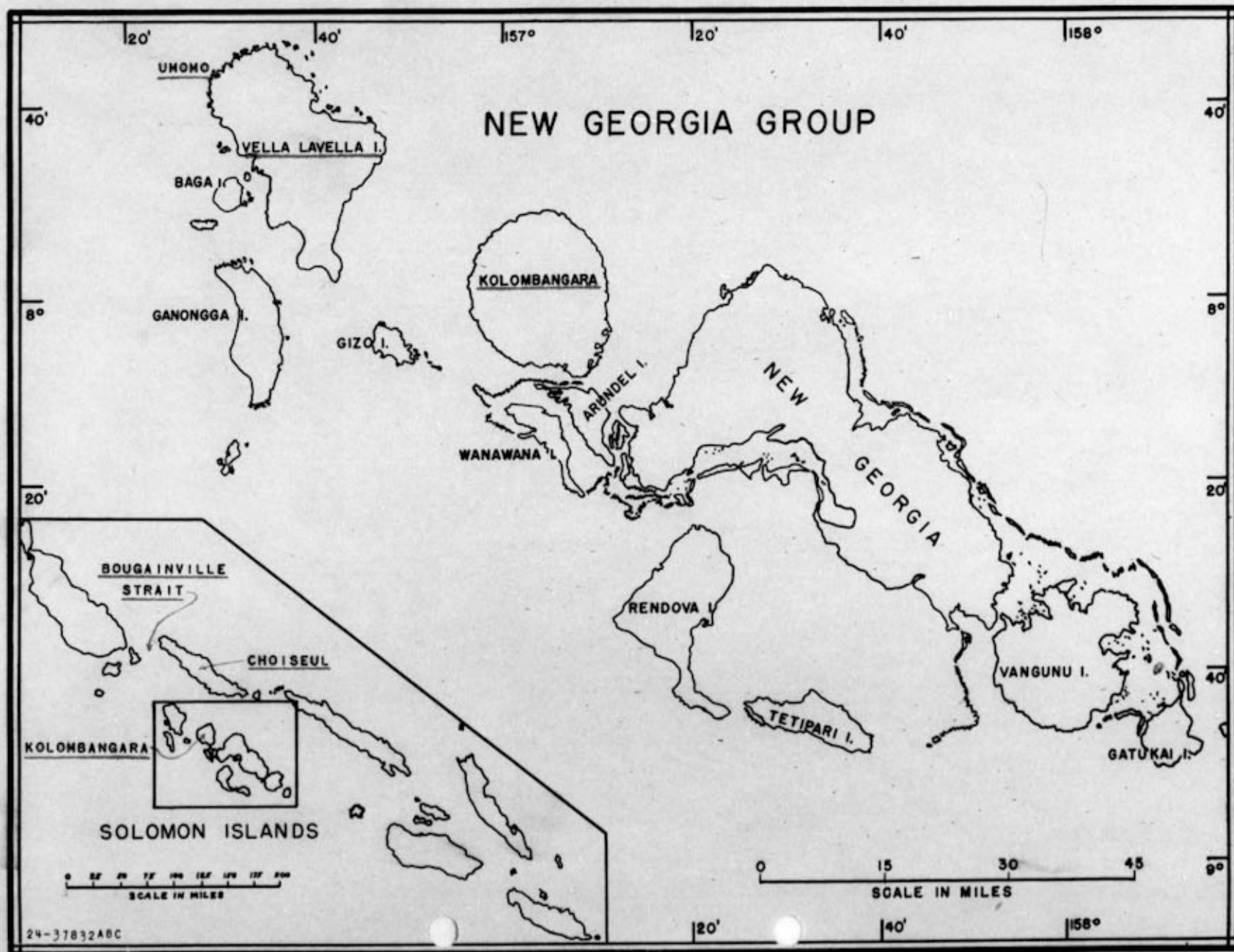
BOGADJIM

OBENA BENA

KIKORI

FLY
RIVER

DARU



communications in Burma on 29 September by attacking the railroad towns of Alon, Tantabin and Ye-u. Single heavy bombers secured observed effect in attacks against Akyab and Bassein.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Four Australian flying boats started fires in the barrack and wharf areas at Pomelaa (Celebes) on 28 September. The next day 20 Allied bombers attacked targets in the Finschhafen region, and eight P-39's again harassed Bogadjim road movements. Other Allied planes bombed a dump area and destroyed nine motor barges in the northern New Britain area, and bombed buildings on Garove Island.

Allied ground forces captured a spur 800 yards west of Finschhafen. Other Allied forces three and a half miles west of the Finschhafen airdrome repulsed three attacks. Our units along the Huon Gulf coast are now ten miles west of Cape Cretin.

2. During the night of 28-29 September our B-24's attacked an eleven-ship convoy in Bougainville Straits, sinking one vessel (a possible auxiliary aircraft carrier) and damaging another. The following day 29 escorted Navy bombers dropped over 19 tons of explosives with good effect on the barge depot on the south coast of Choiseul Island where landing activities had been reported. Other Navy planes sank three loaded barges and a 100-foot boat in the Kolombangara-Choiseul area.

Allied forces on the west coast of Vella Lavella have

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surrounded between 250 and 300 Japanese in the region of Umomo Island
and are closing in against stiffened enemy resistance.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 659

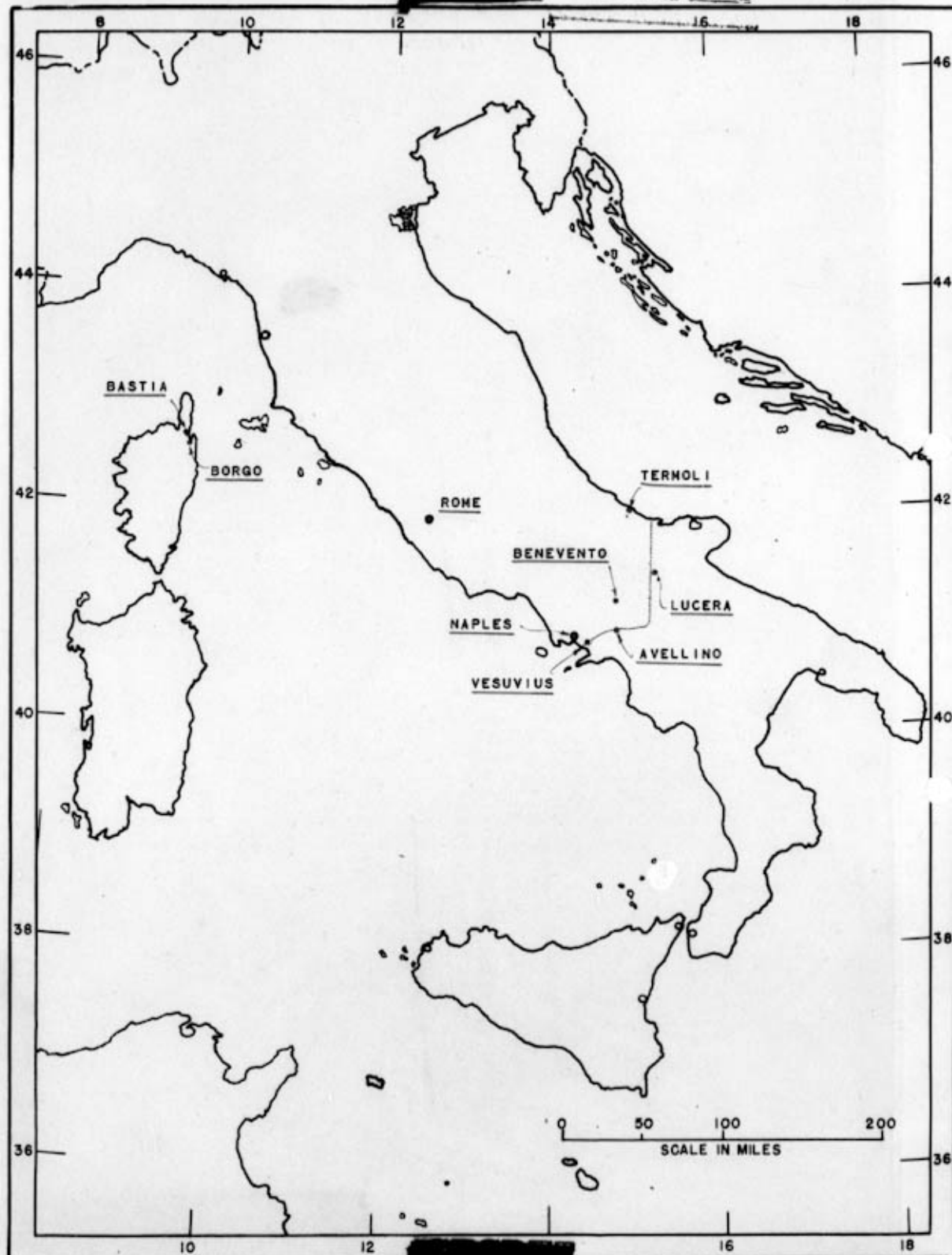
0700 September 29 to 0700 September 30, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET~~

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OSD Letter, 5-9-72



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

For the week ending 26 September, the 8th Air Force reports 36 (probably 41) enemy aircraft destroyed for a loss from all causes of four B-17's and three other airplanes. Corresponding RAF figures for the same period were 52 (probably 71) enemy aircraft destroyed for a loss of 107 airplanes.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

Weather again hampered air operations during 28 September, but Allied fighter bombers flew armed reconnaissance and harassing missions in the Benevento area and northwest of Termoli.

East of the watershed the enemy had withdrawn west of a north-south line through Lucera and on the west side to the general line: Avellino-Vesuvius.

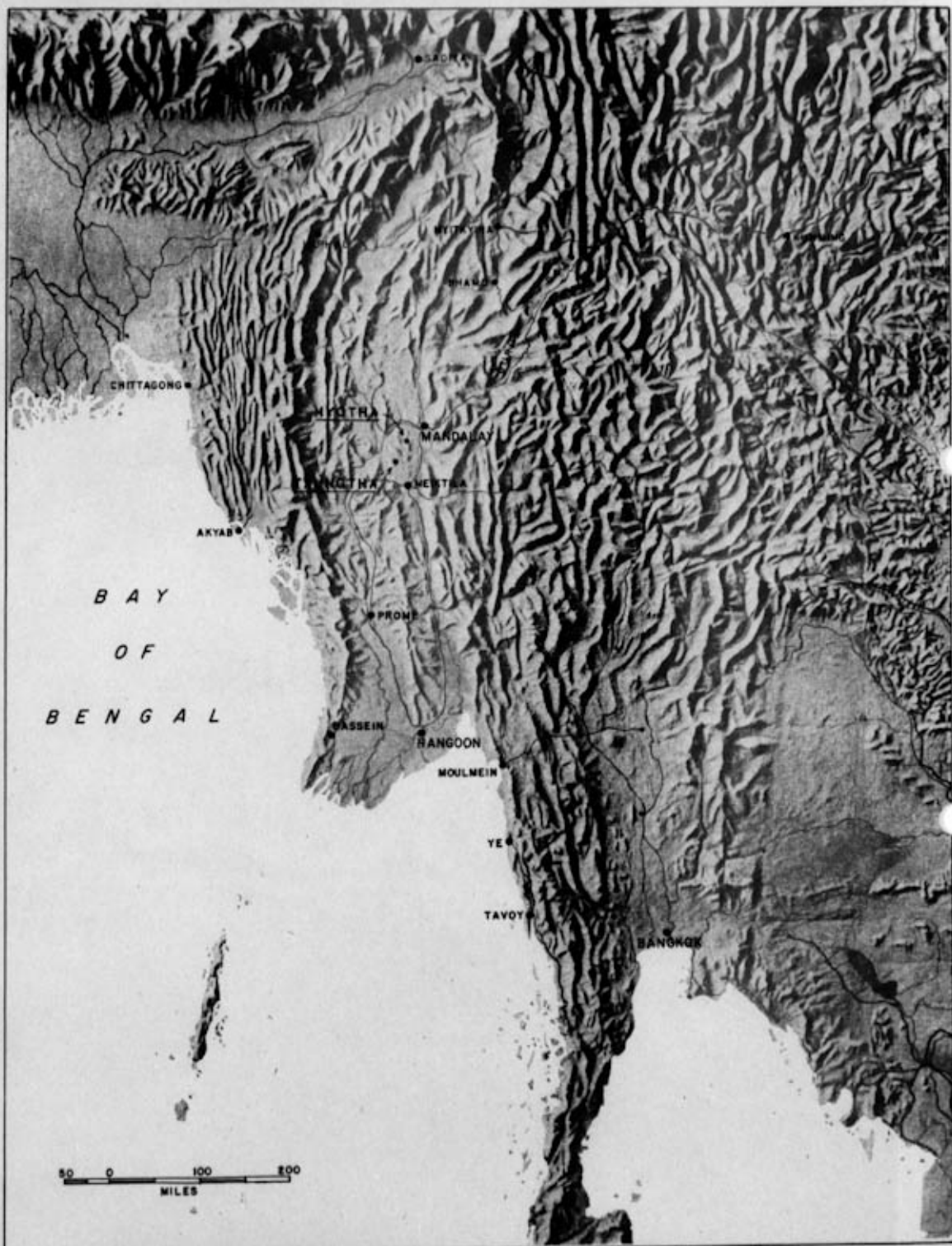
In Corsica the German evacuation from Borgo and Bastia is now almost complete.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

German air action
WS.

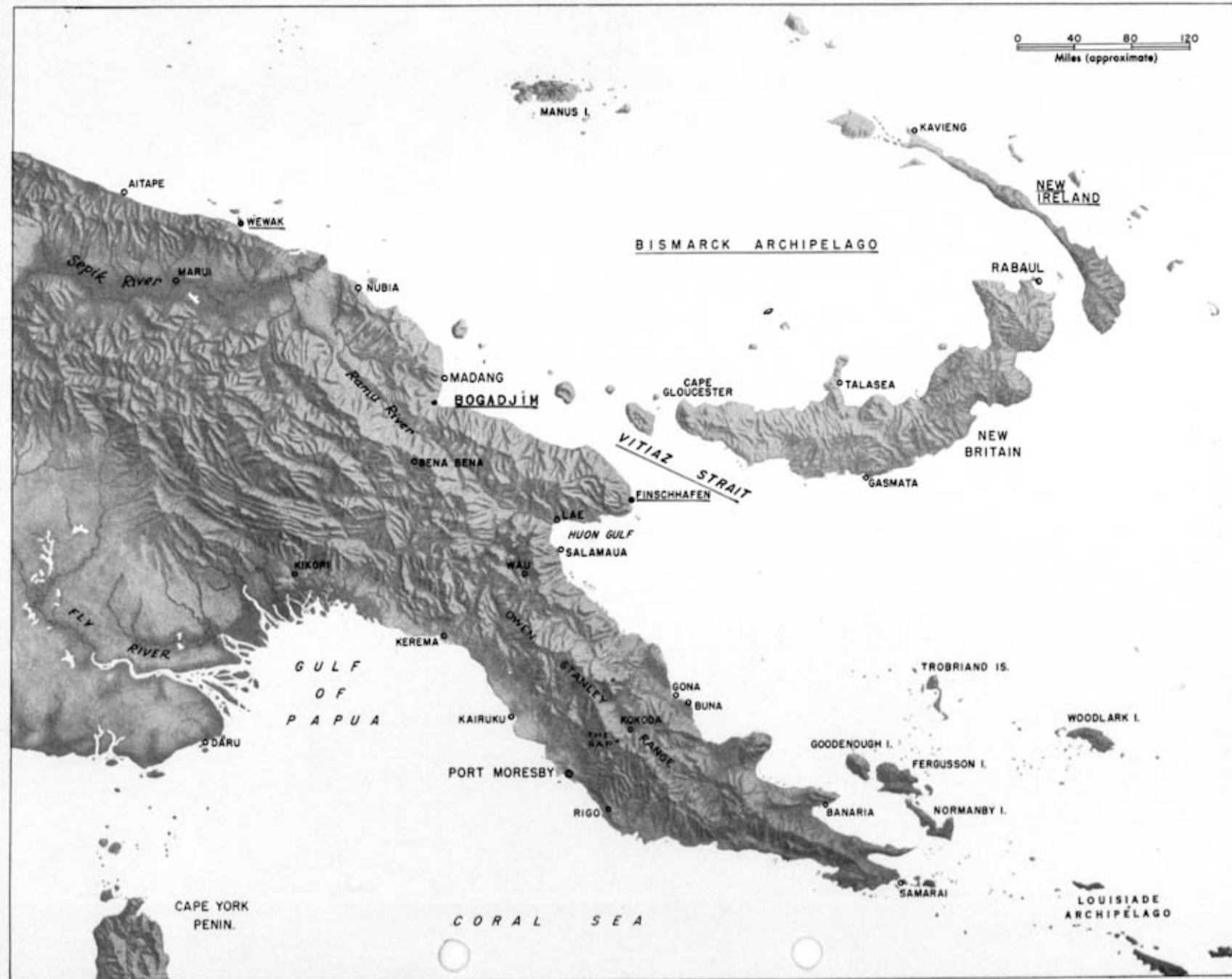
On 27 September, a large force of German fighters and bombers damaged the seaplane base at Leros. Allied bombers attacked Larissa airdrome (eastern Greece) and Kattavia airdrome (Rhodes) with unobserved results; they scored hits on the runway at Heraklion airdrome (Crete), and at Syros Harbor where the attack was repeated the next day.

On 28 September 24 German medium bombers attacked Cos Island,



BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS



0 40 80 120
Miles (approximate)

MANUS I.

KAVIENG

NEW
IRELAND

BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO

RABAUL

NEW
BRITAIN

MADANG

BOGADJIM

CAPE
GLOUCESTER

TALASEA

GASMATA

VITIAZ STRAIT

FINSCHHAFEN

LAE

HUON GULF
SALAMAU

WAU

OWEN

KEREMA

GULF
OF
PAPUA

KAIRUKU

PORT MORESBY

RIGO

GONA
BUNA

KOKODA

THE
SAP

STANLEY

RANGE

TROBRIAND IS.

WOODLARK I.

GOODENOUGH I.

FERGUSON I.

NORMANBY I.

SAMARAI

LOUISIADE
ARCHIPELAGO

CAPE YORK
PENIN.

CORAL SEA

leaving the new landing strip temporarily unusable. Later in the day, 15 escorted German medium bombers returned to Cos Island, but no damage was reported. Eight German medium bombers attacked the harbor at Leros.

ASIATIC THEATER

On 28 September, eight B-25's of the 10th Air Force destroyed many buildings at Myotha. Other medium bombers dropped nine tons of demolitions on the Taungtha railroad yards, damaging rolling stock, tracks and warehouses.

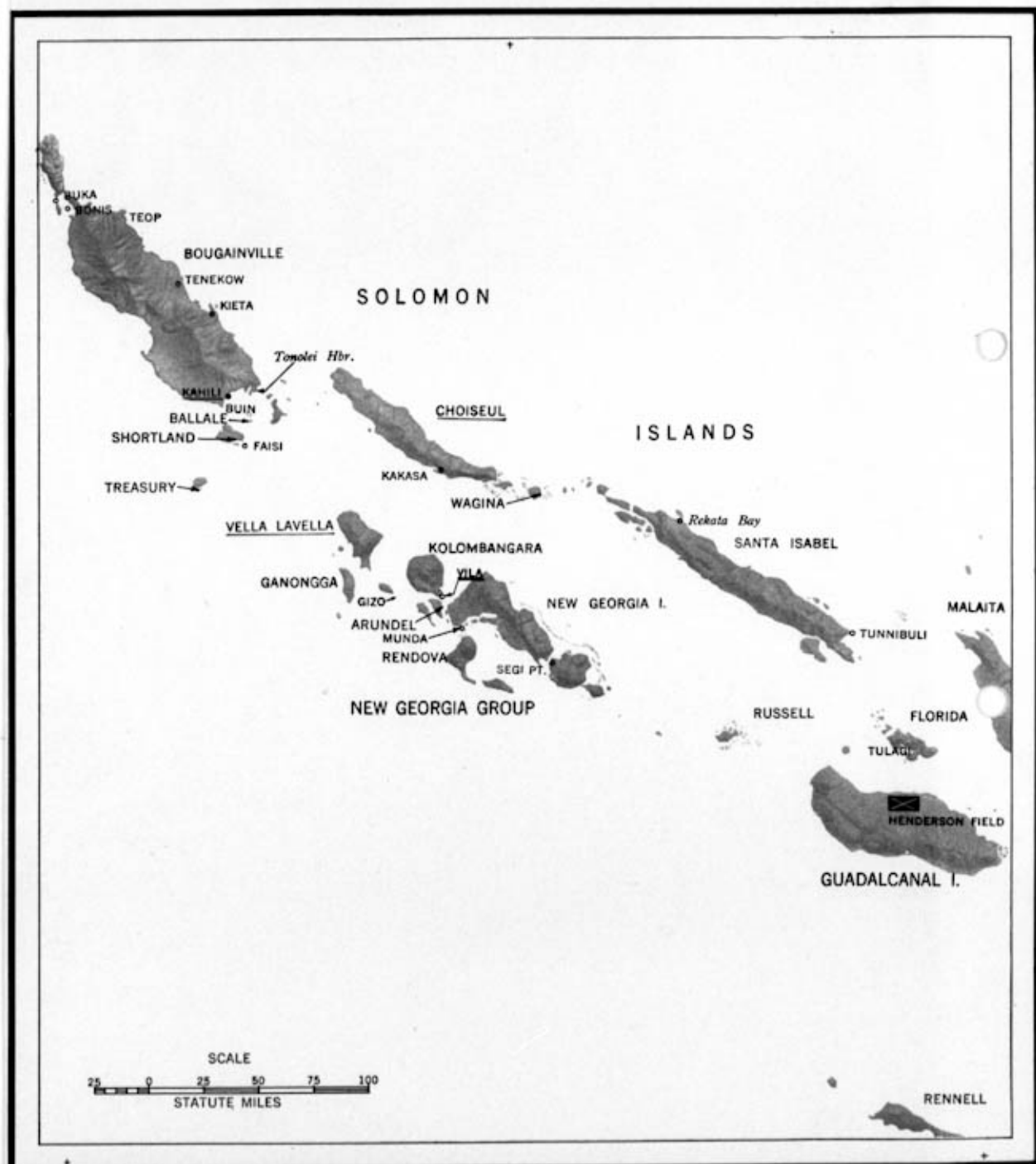
PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 28 September, 40 B-24's, escorted by 37 fighters, bombed the enemy's supply areas near Wewak; huge explosions and numerous large fires indicated the destruction of his principal ammunition and fuel dumps. Of 30 to 40 enemy fighters encountered, eight (probably 11) were destroyed. Fifteen heavy and light bombers attacked roads and trails in the Bogadjim and Finschhafen areas. Other heavy bombers attacked islands in the Vitiaz Strait and Bismarck Archipelago.

Allied ground forces continued to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy while capturing the dominating terrain northwest of Finschhafen.

2. On 28 September a mission of 27 B-24's, covered by 36 Allied fighters, bombed Kahili airdrome with excellent results. Between 25 and 35 Japanese fighters were encountered; 12 were shot down; we lost two fighters. Forty-eight Army and Navy bombers intensified our artillery

SOLOMON ISLANDS AREA



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bombardment by attacking enemy gun positions, bivouac areas and the landing strip at Vila; they scored many hits. An Allied reconnaissance plane shot down two (probably three) enemy fighters northeast of New Ireland. Another Allied plane machine-gunned barges off southwest Choiseul Island.

WAR DEPARTMENT

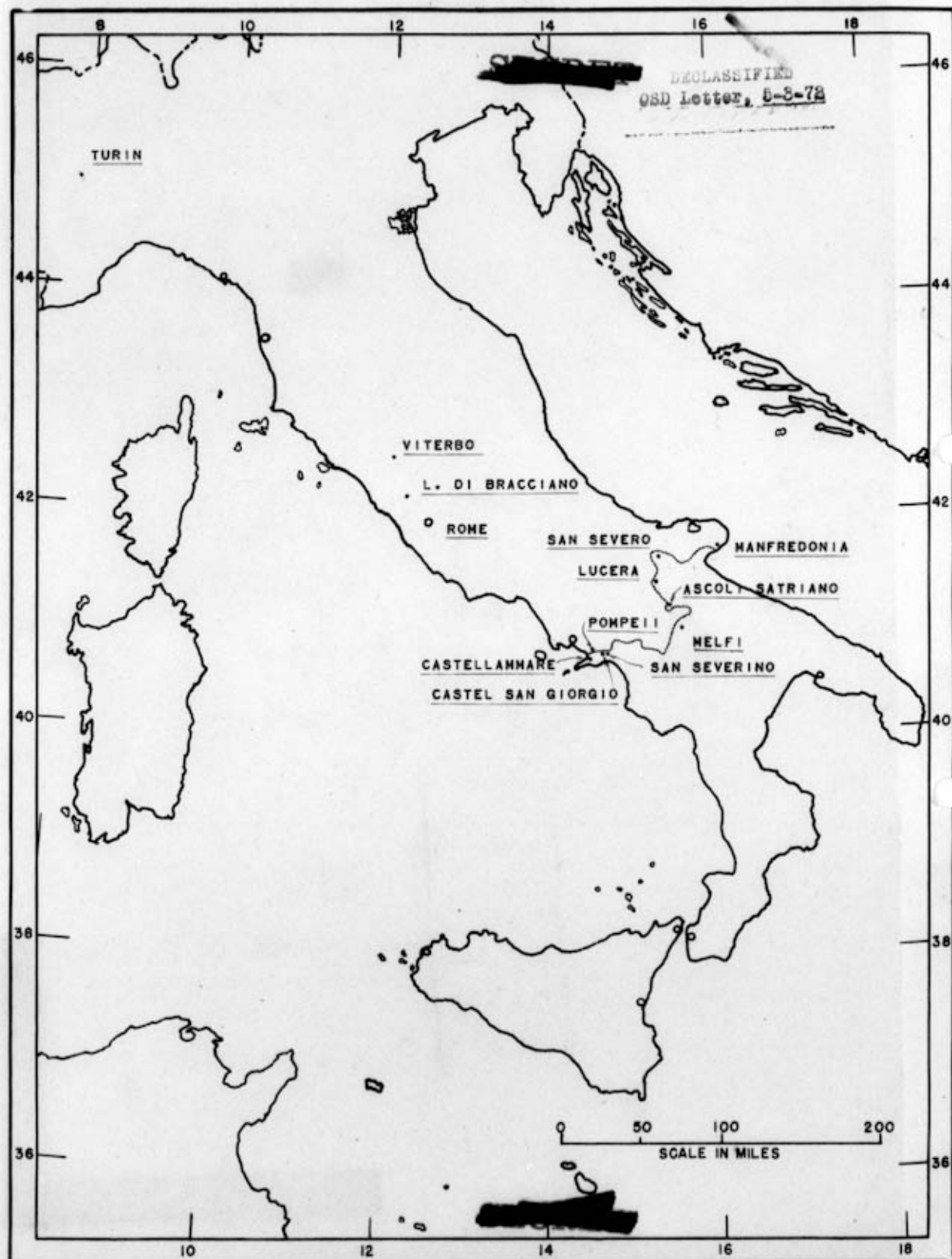
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 658

0700 September 28 to 0700 September 29, 1943

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THE WHITE HOUSE



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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Orders have been issued for the movement of the 85th Infantry Division (Major General John B. Coulter, commanding) from Camp Young, California, to Fort Dix, New Jersey for further movement overseas.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

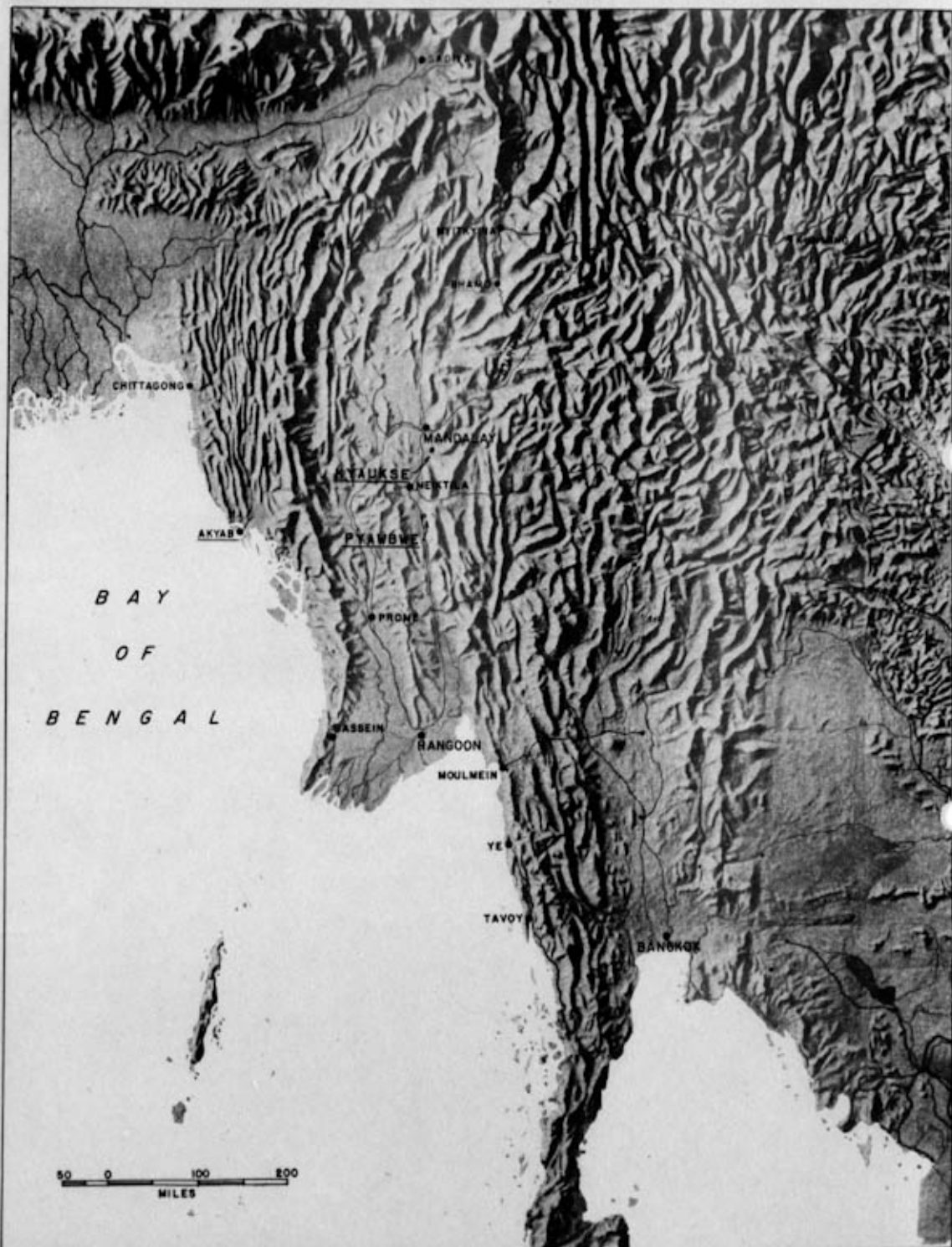
On 27 September, Canadian troops at the center of the Allied line pushed through Melfi. Extensive gains were reported on both flanks of the Allied line for 28 September, as well as minor advances in the center. On the east flank reconnaissance elements reached Manfredonia, San Severo, Lucera and Ascoli Satriano, while on the west flank a general advance of some three miles freed the Sorrento peninsula and reached the line: San Severino, Castel San Giorgio, Pompeii and Castellammare.

Weather hampered air activities on 27 September. However, Tactical Air Force missions included attacks by A-36's on enemy traffic in the San Severo area, on the airdrome at Viterbo and on seaplanes at Lago Di Bracciano. Seven enemy aircraft were burned and a train wrecked north of Turin. One enemy plane was shot down.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

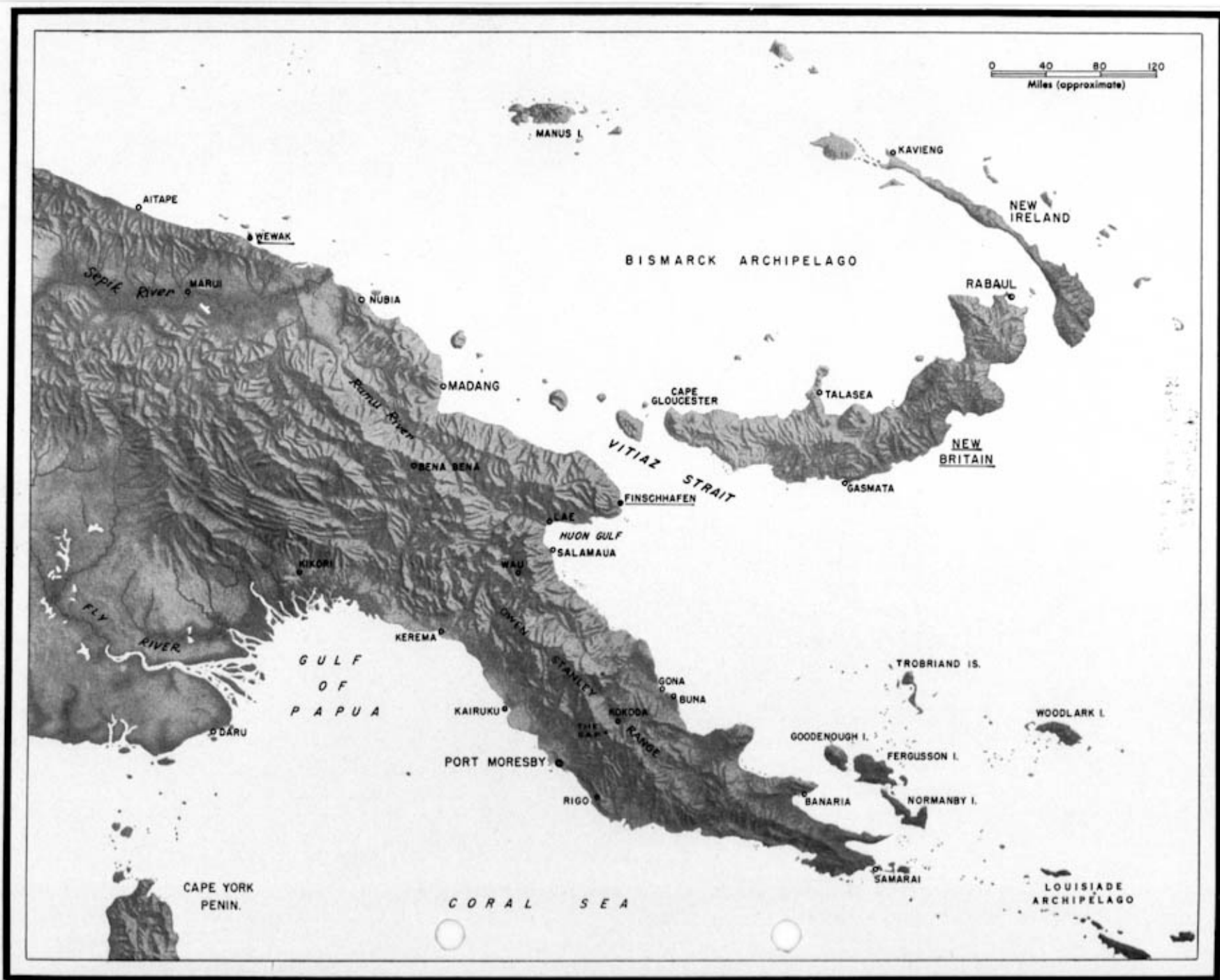
On 27 September, 15 escorted German dive-bombers attacked the Antimachia airdrome, Cos Island, leaving it temporarily unusable. One German bomber was shot down and two Spitfires were destroyed.

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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

That night British bombers started fires at the airdrome at Pediada Kastelli, Crete.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. Nine B-25's of the 10th Air Force bombed Kyaukse junction on 27 September while eight others hit the railroad yards at Pyawbwe where they destroyed some 25 cars. One B-24 made an accurate attack on the waterfront at Akyab.

2. On 27 September, a B-25 of the 14th Air Force destroyed a 200-ft. tanker in the Tongking Gulf.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Mass attacks were made on Wewak and adjacent airdromes on 27 September by 17 B-24's and 93 B-25's, covered by 121 Allied fighters. Attacking a newly arrived convoy at mast-head height our aircraft set three tankers afire, sank or severely damaged four freighters of 1,000 to 5,000 tons as well as some smaller craft, and destroyed an estimated total of 50 grounded enemy aircraft. Eight (probably eleven) enemy planes were shot down in combat. Our loss was three B-25's brought down by antiaircraft fire. Other missions were carried out over New Britain and over the Kai Islands.

Enemy air action consisted of two raids on Allied positions at Finschhafen, and an attack by 21 medium bombers against Drysdale Mission in northwest Australia which caused some damage.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Our troops in the Finschhafen area inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese with the assistance of artillery which also drove off an enemy submarine.

2. One hundred and thirty-four Allied bombers and fighters attacked the Kahili area on 26 September, demolishing several buildings and hitting enemy positions and hangar, supply and bivouac areas. Our missions encountered more than 65 Japanese planes, two of which were destroyed for the loss of one P-38. On 27 September our planes shot down one (probably two) of five intercepting aircraft in the vicinity of Nauru.

WAR DEPARTMENT

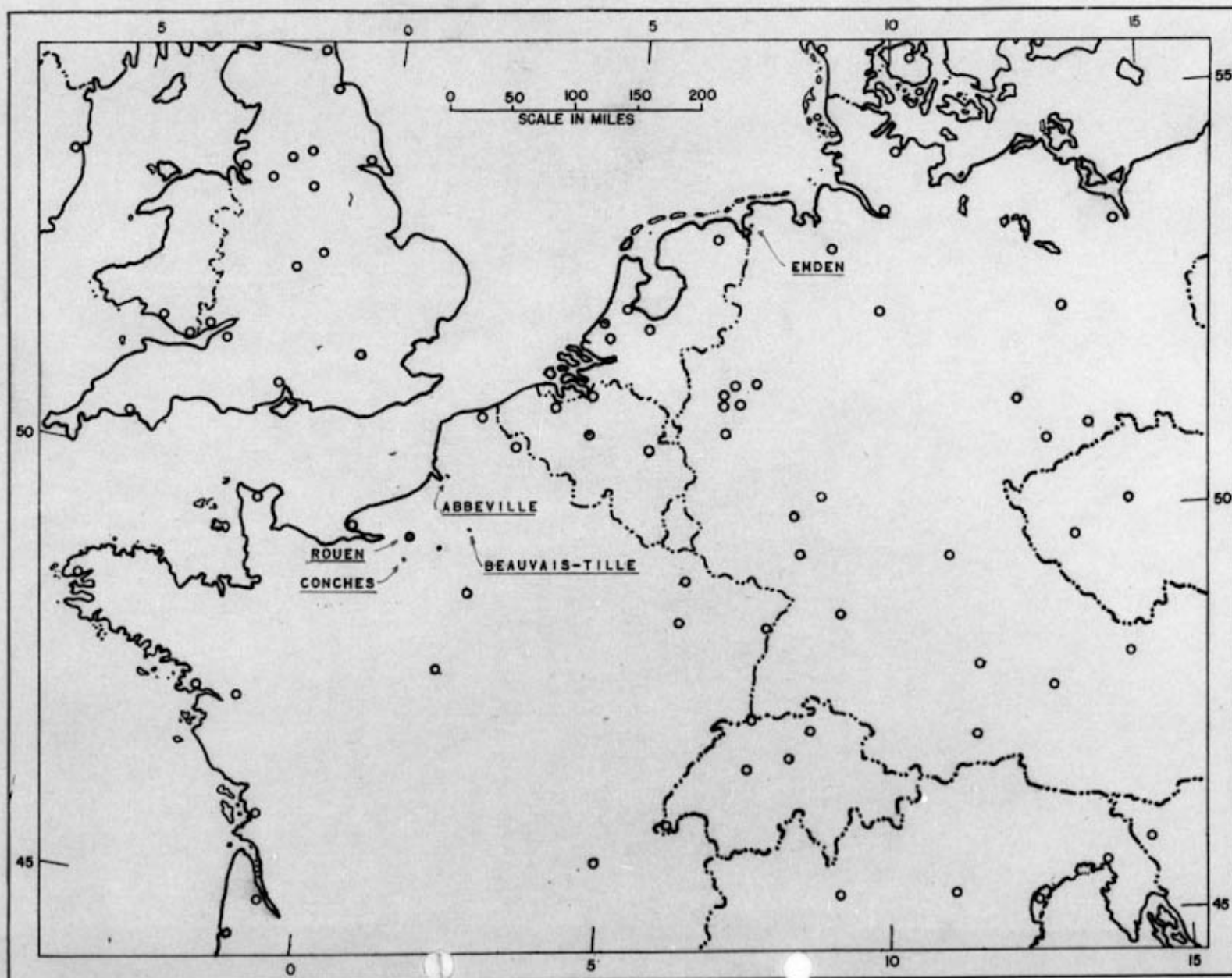
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

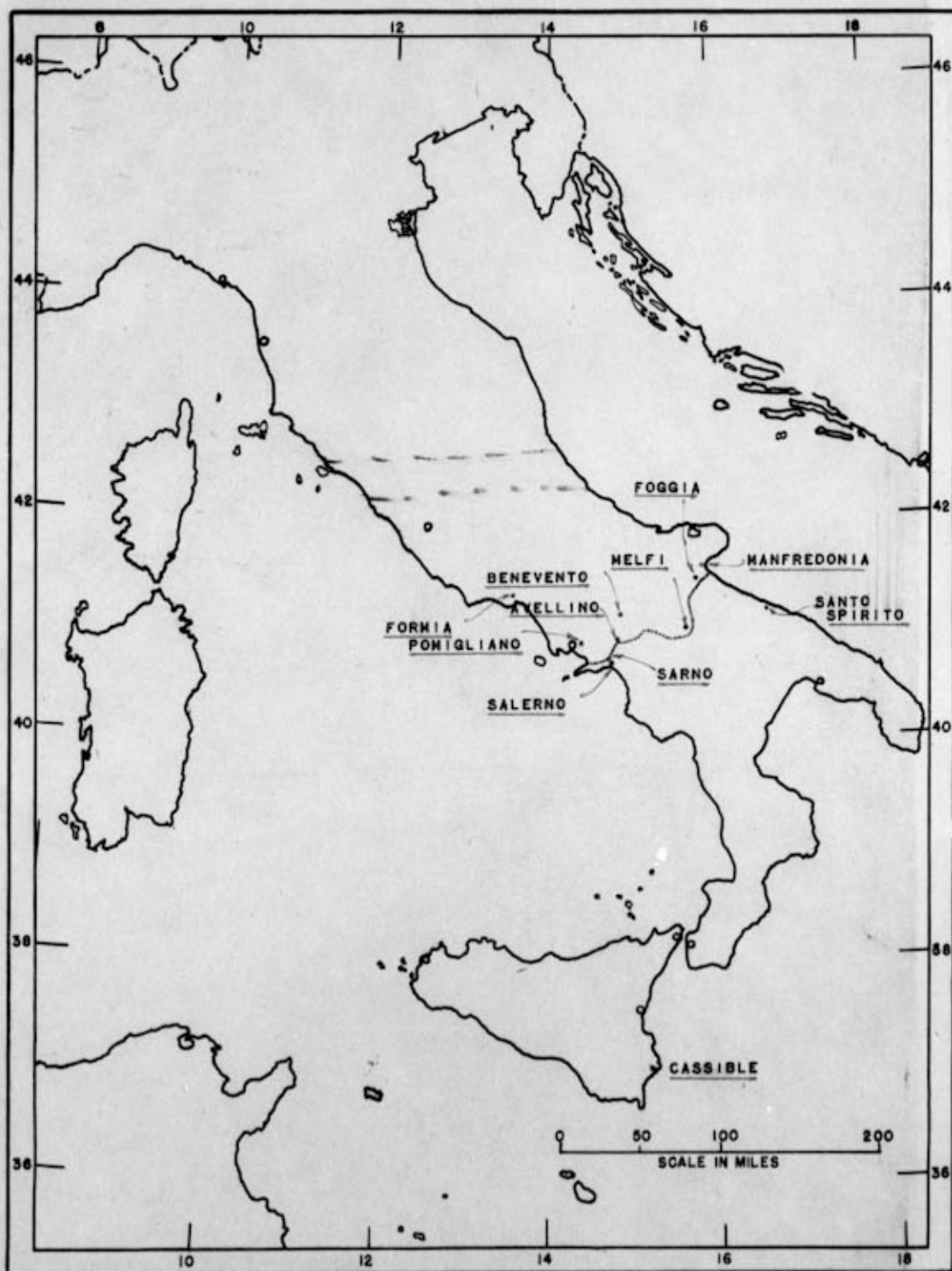
No. 657

0700 September 27 to 0700 September 28, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE





24-47384ABCD

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The Army Ground Forces issued a directive for the movement of the 95th Infantry Division (Major General Harry L. Twaddle, Commanding) from Camp Polk, Louisiana, to Camp Young, California, for maneuvers and field conditioning.

EUROPEAN THEATER

On 27 September, 322 B-17's, accompanied by 184 P-47's, attacked Emden. Enemy opposition was strong, our fighters claiming 19 (probably 21) enemy planes destroyed. Preliminary bomber claims add 18 more enemy planes to the score for the mission. Escorted medium bomber and fighter missions attacked French airfields at Beauvais-Tille, Conches, and Abbeville, the Rouen-Sotteville railway yards and flew supporting sweeps, destroying 18 additional enemy aircraft. Eight B-17's, one medium bomber and seven of our fighters are missing from these operations.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. Formia was the target for 49 British Wellingtons on the night of 25-26 September. Ninety-one tons of bombs were dropped and hits obtained on road and railroad installations. The following day 24 B-26's hit Sarno with over 44 tons of bombs; Allied fighter missions scored hits on the Pomigliano landing ground and attacked road movements at Benevento and near Foggia.

The enemy has withdrawn from the commanding heights northwest

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BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)
26 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

of Salerno and has retired toward Avellino. It is reported that the Germans are evacuating the whole Foggia area, leaving rear guards along the general line Manfredonia-Foggia-Melfi. A late communique reports the capture of Foggia.

2. Headquarters, Fifteenth Army Group will close at Cassibile, Sicily, at 0700, GCT, 4 October, and open at the same time at Santo Spirito (northwest of Bari).

3. Eleven Allied heavy bombers made a destructive attack on the Hasani airdrome near Athens during the night of 25-26 September. The following day German twin-engined bombers twice attacked Leros harbor, sinking one British destroyer, damaging another and setting fire to the dock area.

Corfu capitulated to the Germans on 26 September. //

ASIATIC THEATER

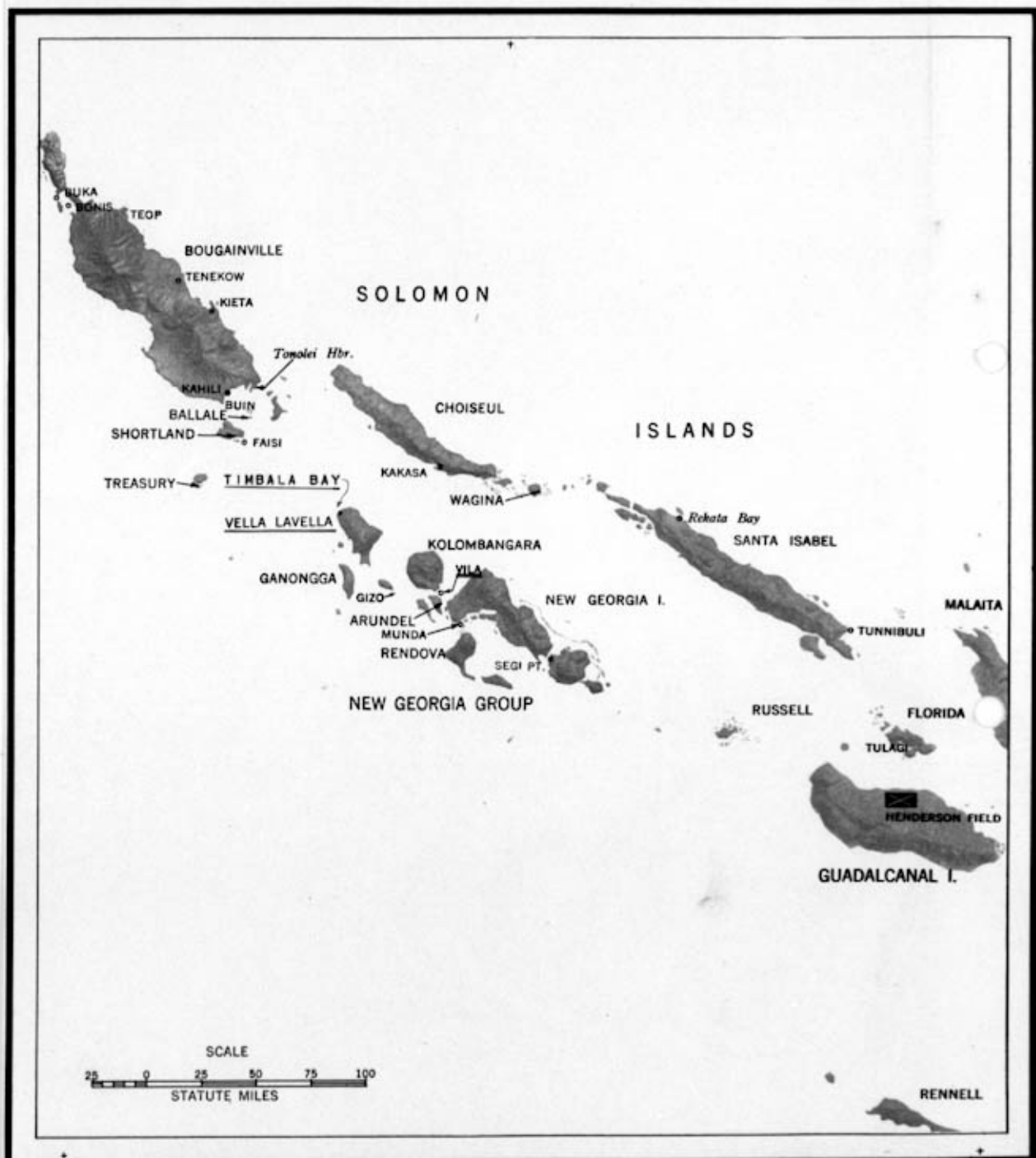
1. Seven B-24's dropped 42 quarter-ton bombs on the Thanbyuzayat railroad yards on 25 September.

The next day, sixteen B-24's attacked rail communications in Burma and the town of Akyab. Eight medium bombers hit the sidings at Kyaukse and the railroad running northwest from Mandalay.

2. A total of 23 Japanese aircraft attacked our airfields at Kian, Suichwan and Kanchow (southeastern China) on 26 September, causing some damage.

~~SECRET~~

SOLOMON ISLANDS AREA



GREENWICH I.

0 40 80 120
Miles (approximate)

MANUS I.

KAVIENG

NEW IRELAND

AITAPE

WEWAK

HANSA BAY

BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO

RABAU

GAROVE I.

NUBIA

MADANG

CAPE GLOUCESTER

TALASEA

NEW BRITAIN

OBENA BENA

VITIAZ STRAIT

GASMATA

FINSCHHAFEN

LAKE

MUON GULF

SALAMAU

KIKORI

WAO

KEREMA

OWEN

STANLEY

GONA

BUNA

TROBRIAND IS.

WOODLARK I.

GULF OF PAPUA

KAIRUKU

THE GAP

KOKODA

GOODENOUGH I.

FERGUSON I.

NORMANBY I.

PORT MORESBY

RIGO

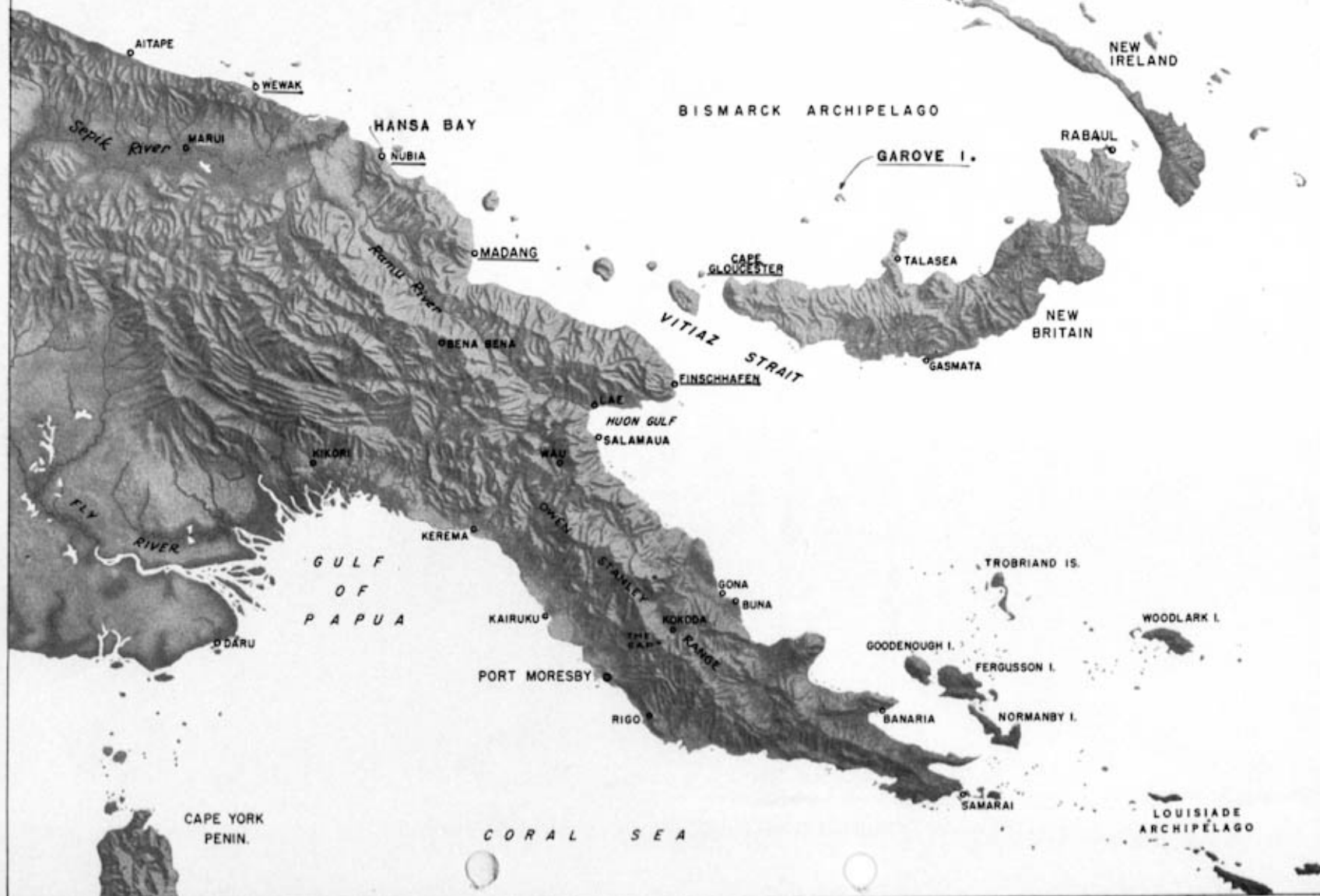
BANARIA

SAMARAI

LOUISIAD ARCHIPELAGO

CAPE YORK PENIN.

CORAL SEA



PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Allied ground forces outside of Finschhafen were subjected to four air raids on 25 September. Australian dive-bombers attacked enemy installations in the town. The next day heavy bombers, escorted by P-38's, attacked airdromes near Wewak with 33 tons of bombs. Three of 15 to 20 enemy interceptors were shot down. Eight B-24's bombed the Hansa Bay area starting many fires and destroying a bridge. Other Allied aircraft bombed installations on Garove Island and damaged two small merchant vessels 300 miles west of Greenwich Island.

2. On 25 September, 58 US bombers, covered by fighters, attacked gun positions near Vila with 29 tons of explosives. A reconnaissance plane hit an enemy cargo ship northwest of Nauru, causing an internal explosion; the vessel when last seen was afire and trailing an oil slick.

A third New Zealand battalion combat team has landed on north-western Vella Lavella.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 656

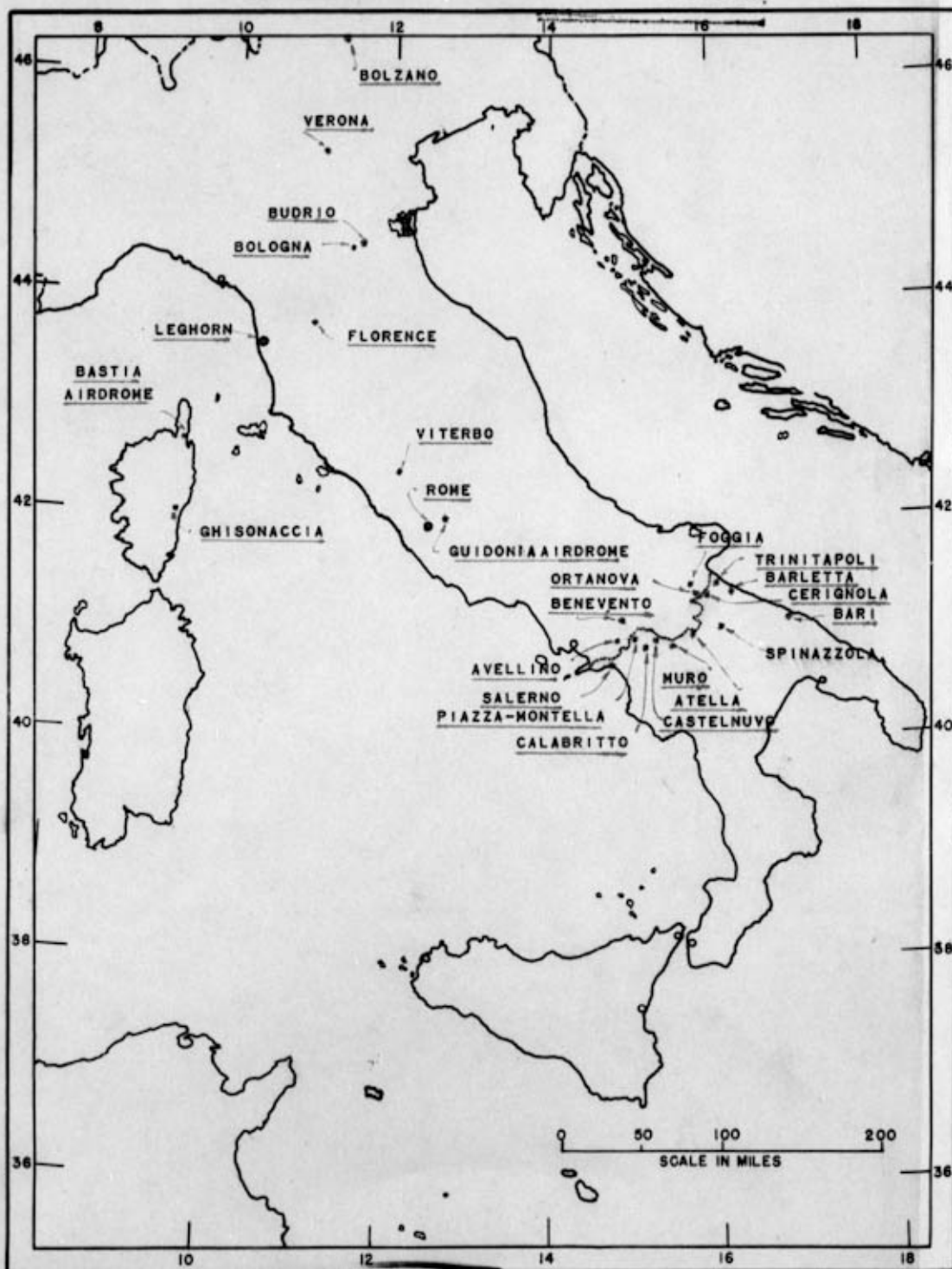
0700 September 26 to 0700 September 27, 1943

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72



24-47384ABCD

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CSD Letter, 8-8-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

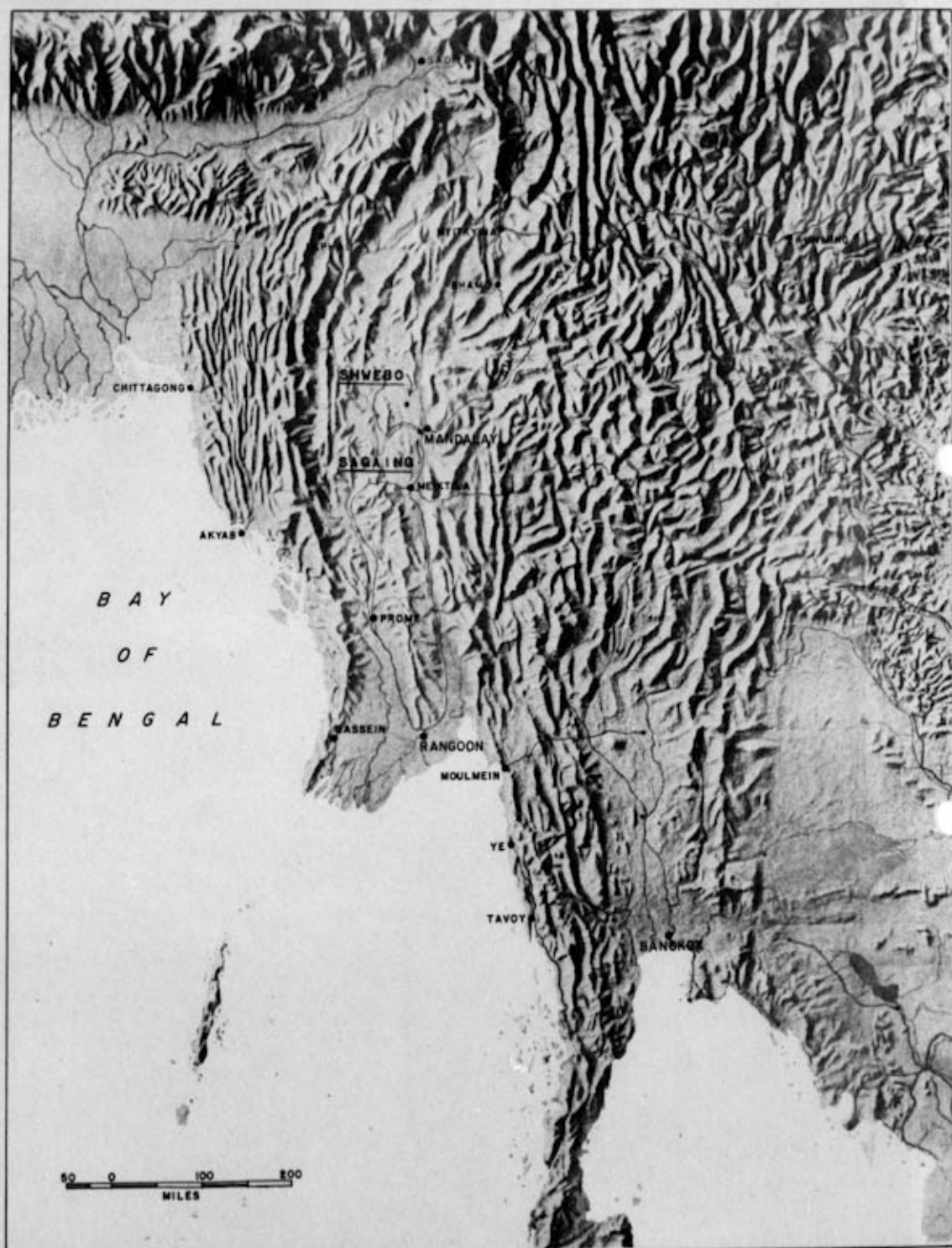
B-17's of the US 8th Air Force, escorted by US and Allied fighters, attacked an airfield at Rheims on 26 September; all planes returned safely.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

British Wellingtons bombed harbor installations at Leghorn on the night of 24-25 September with 107 tons of demolitions, covering the entire area and scoring hits among the enemy vessels; light bombers raided roads and a bivouac area between Benevento and Avellino and British Mosquito bombers attacked the Guidonia airdrome northeast of Rome and targets in the vicinity of Viterbo. The next day 92 B-17's bombed Budrio and the railroad installations and gas works at Bologna; 31 other B-17's attacked the railroad yards at Verona, Florence and Bolzano. Medium and light bomber sorties were carried out against the airdrome at Bastia, Corsica, and on enemy positions, motor traffic, road junctions and high-ways near the Salerno battle area.

On 25 and 26 September the British 78th Division, driving northwestward from Bari, cleared the enemy from Barletta, captured Cerignola, and at last report was within 13 miles of Foggia. Allied forward units pushed through Atella and Muro to cut the east-west highway four miles north of Montella. On the west flank British

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BASE MAP NO. 2447 (FREE)
28 JUNE 1943

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OSS
LITHOGRAPHED IN THE REPRODUCTION BRANCH OSS

REF ID: A66117
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OSD Letter, 6-8-78

units made minor gains in the rugged terrain north and northwest of Salerno.

The enemy abandoned the Ghisonaccia airfield in Corsica on 25 September.

MIDDLE EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

Ten British bombers raided the Pediada Kastelli airfield in Crete during the night of 24-25 September, starting several fires.

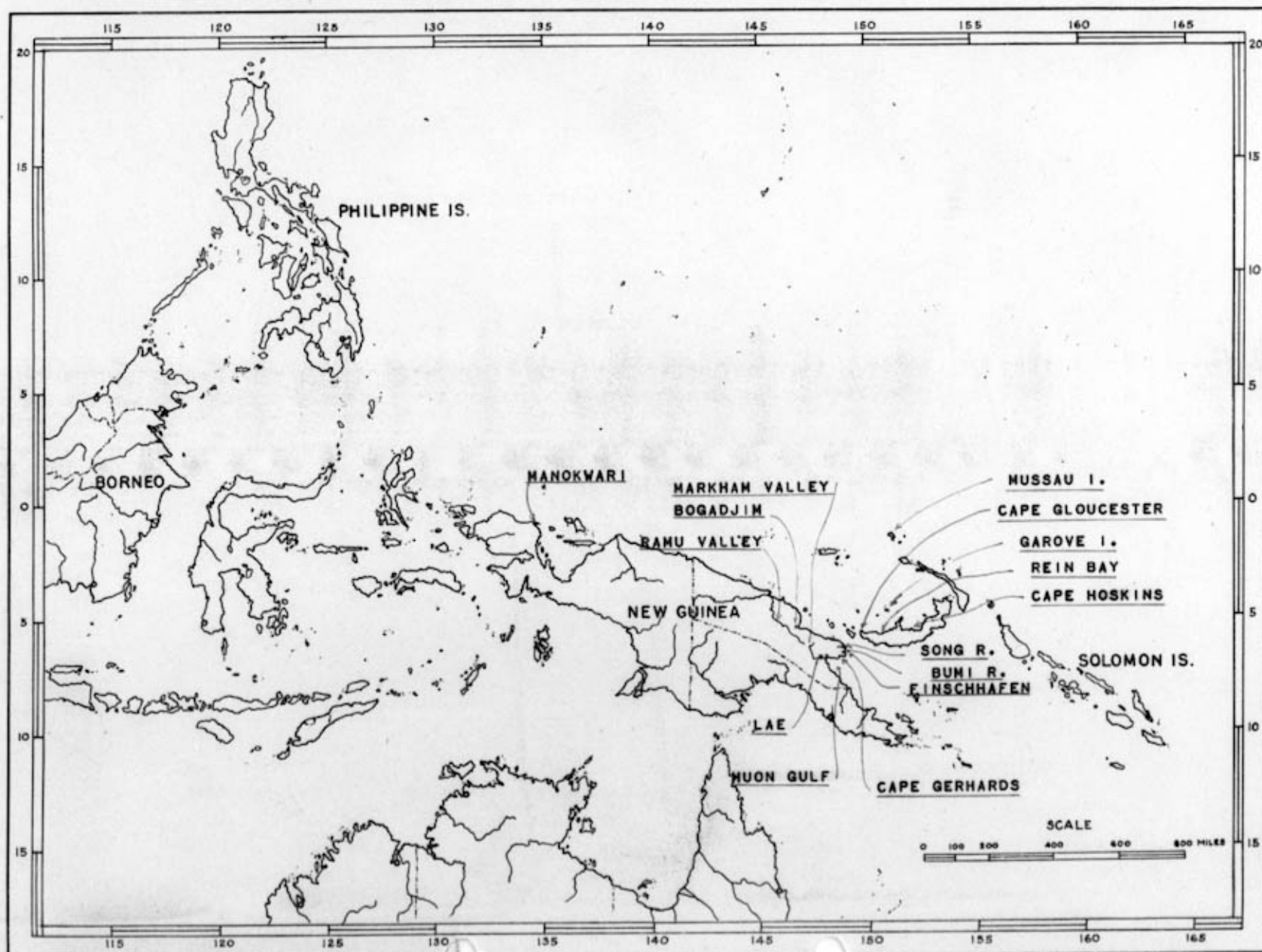
ASIATIC THEATER

Ten B-25's of the 10th Air Force attacked railroad yards in the vicinity of Sagaing, and destroyed barracks and bombed railroad yards southeast of Shwebo, on 25 September.

During the month of August, the 10th US Air Force destroyed two (probably five) enemy fighters for a loss, from all causes, of eight airplanes. Corresponding RAF figures for the period in this area are five airplanes lost and no enemy planes destroyed.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

Allied troops driving on Finschhafen forced a crossing of the Bumi River on 24 September against stiff opposition. Enemy bombers



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and fighters attempting to attack our ground units in this area were intercepted and forced to jettison their bomb loads harmlessly before reaching their targets. One enemy fighter was shot down and another probably destroyed; two P-38's are missing. Other enemy planes bombed our gun positions at the Finschhafen airdrome. Our advance below the Bumi River continued the next day, and in the Lae area our forces have pushed 35 miles eastward along the Huon Gulf to Cape Gerhards. Nine enemy bombers escorted by ten fighters bombed Allied positions along the Song River, six miles north of Finschhafen.

On 24 and 25 September, air missions other than those in support of our ground forces attacked enemy lines of communications near Bogadjim and in the upper Markham Valley, freshly prepared enemy positions in the upper Ramu Valley, and barracks and the administration building at Manokwari. A 2,000-ton cargo vessel bombed by a reconnaissance B-24 south of Mussau Island was left sinking. In the New Britain area, our aircraft attacked enemy gun positions at Rein Bay and Cape Gloucester, and bombed the Cape Hoskins runway.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

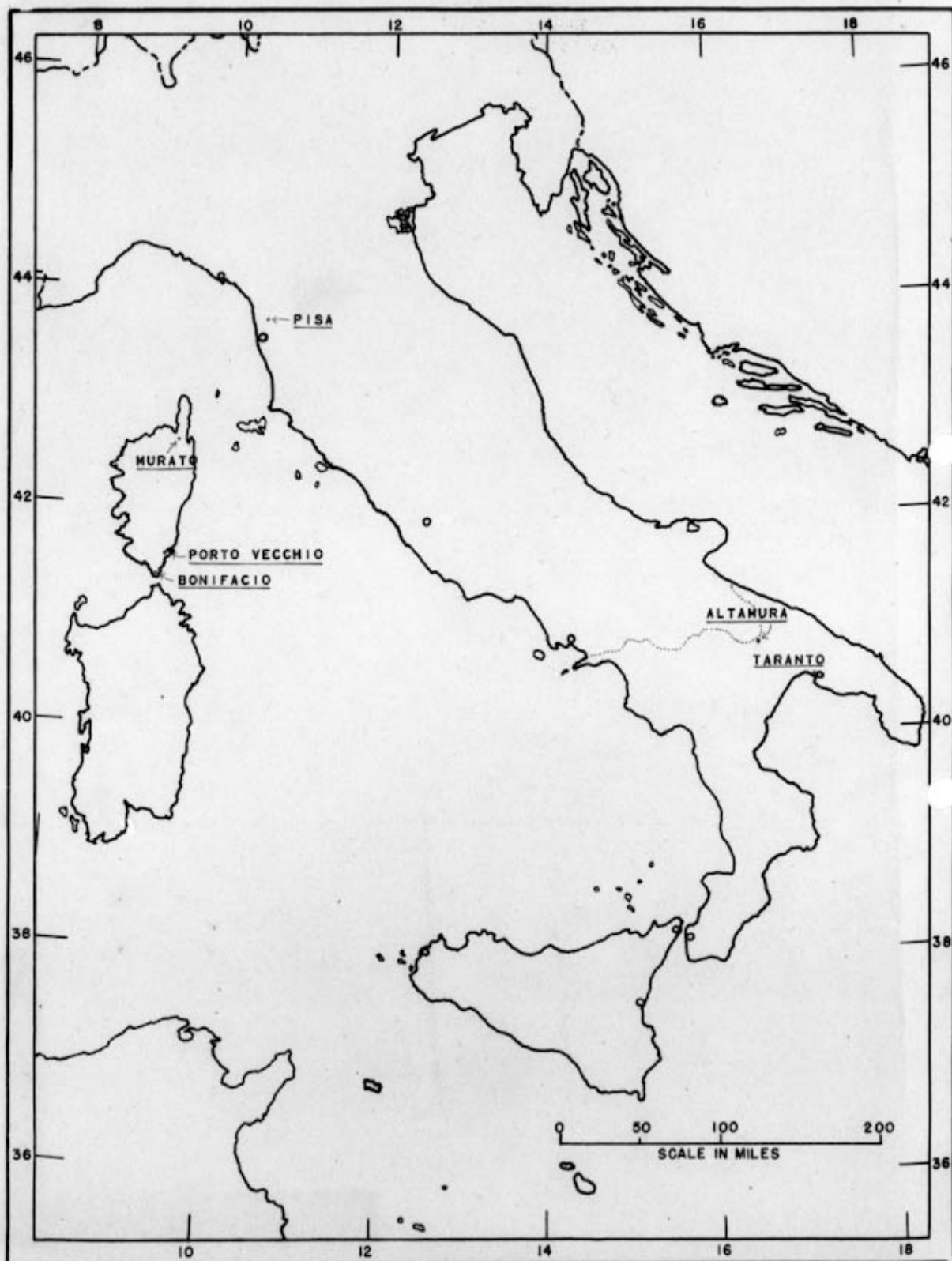
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 655

0700 September 25 to 0700 September 26, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



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ASD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

8th Air Force medium bombers, escorted and supported by Allied Spitfires, continued their attacks on German airfields in France on 25 September. All our planes returned safely.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

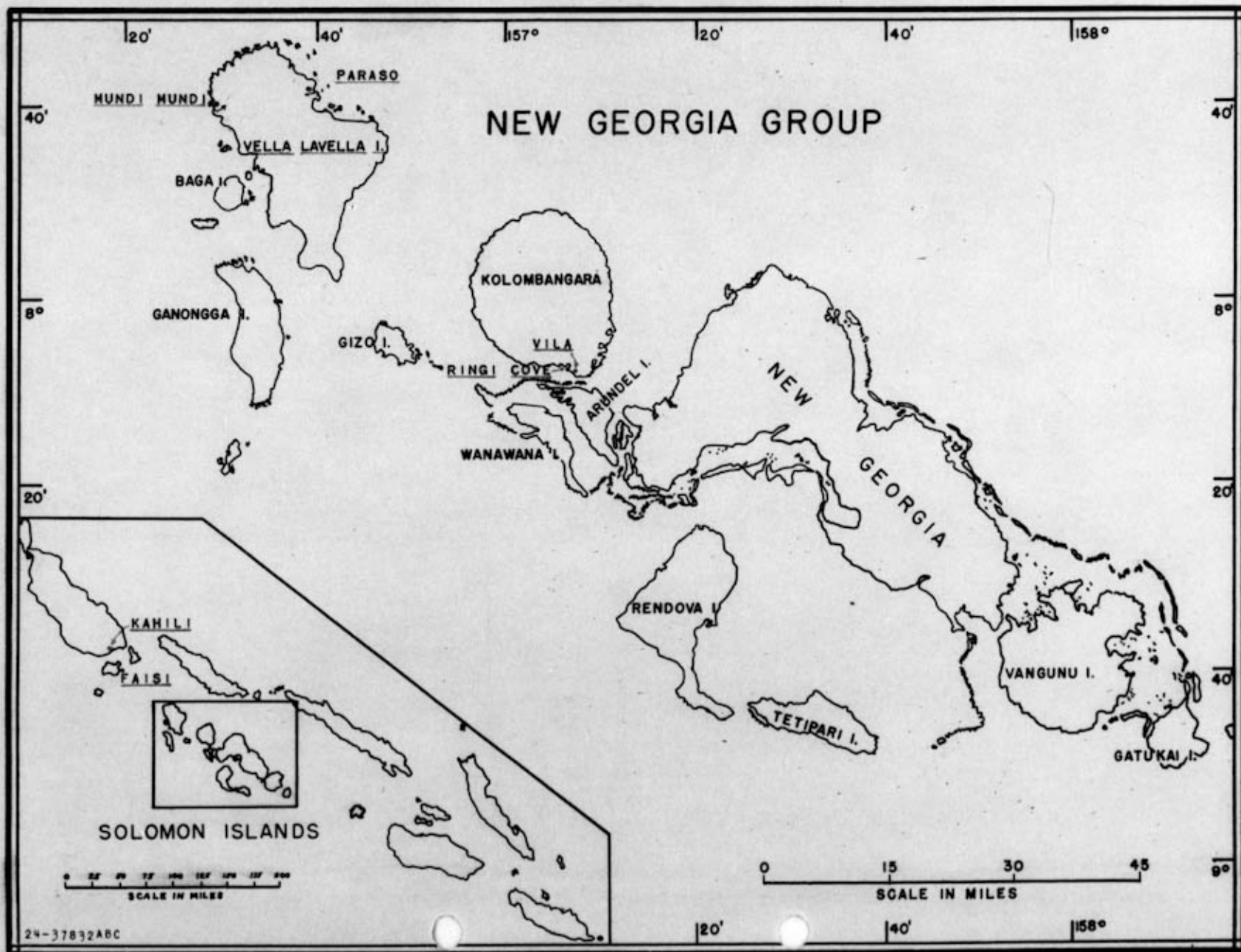
On the night of 23-24 September and the following day 80 Wellingtons and 52 of our heavy bombers hit airdrome and railroad targets at Pisa. Our medium bombers flew a total of 178 sorties against roads and railroads adjacent to the battle area while 84 medium and light bombers attacked highways to create road-blocks. Hostile troop concentrations and gun positions were also heavily raided. Fighter bombers destroyed 22 enemy motor vehicles.

In Corsica the enemy abandoned Bonifacio and Porto Vecchio and was forced out of Murato. Allied aircraft shot down 19 (probably 22) of the German planes aiding in the evacuation.

The British Eighth Army was strengthened on 24 September by the arrival at Taranto of the 8th Indian Division. A communique states that Allied troops have occupied Altamura.

MIDDLE EAST - CENTRAL AFRICAN THEATER

RAF bombers successfully attacked Calato and Maritsa airdromes on Rhodes during the night of 23-24 September and also raided the Maleme airdrome, Crete.



ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 24 September B-25's of the 10th Air Force, operating over northern Burma, scored hits among five large river boats at Katha and on several buildings near the center of the Naba railroad yards.

2. Nine Japanese planes, bombing our advance airbase at Kienow on 24 September, hit the runway; further details have not been reported.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

On 22 September additional troops of two New Zealand battalion combat teams landed at Paraso and Mundi Mundi with the mission of driving the enemy out of northwest Vella Lavella.

In the Kahili area on 23 September, gun positions and barges were strafed and bombed by more than 100 Allied aircraft. Nine of 50 to 60 intercepting enemy fighters were destroyed; four of our fighters were lost and another crash-landed upon its return. B-24's, returning from this mission, dropped 34 tons of bombs near Vila with unobserved results. Navy fighters sank a small steam launch off Faisi Island. The following day 52 Army and Navy planes used 18 tons of bombs on gun positions and barges near Ringi Cove. Fires were started and it is believed that two barges were destroyed.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

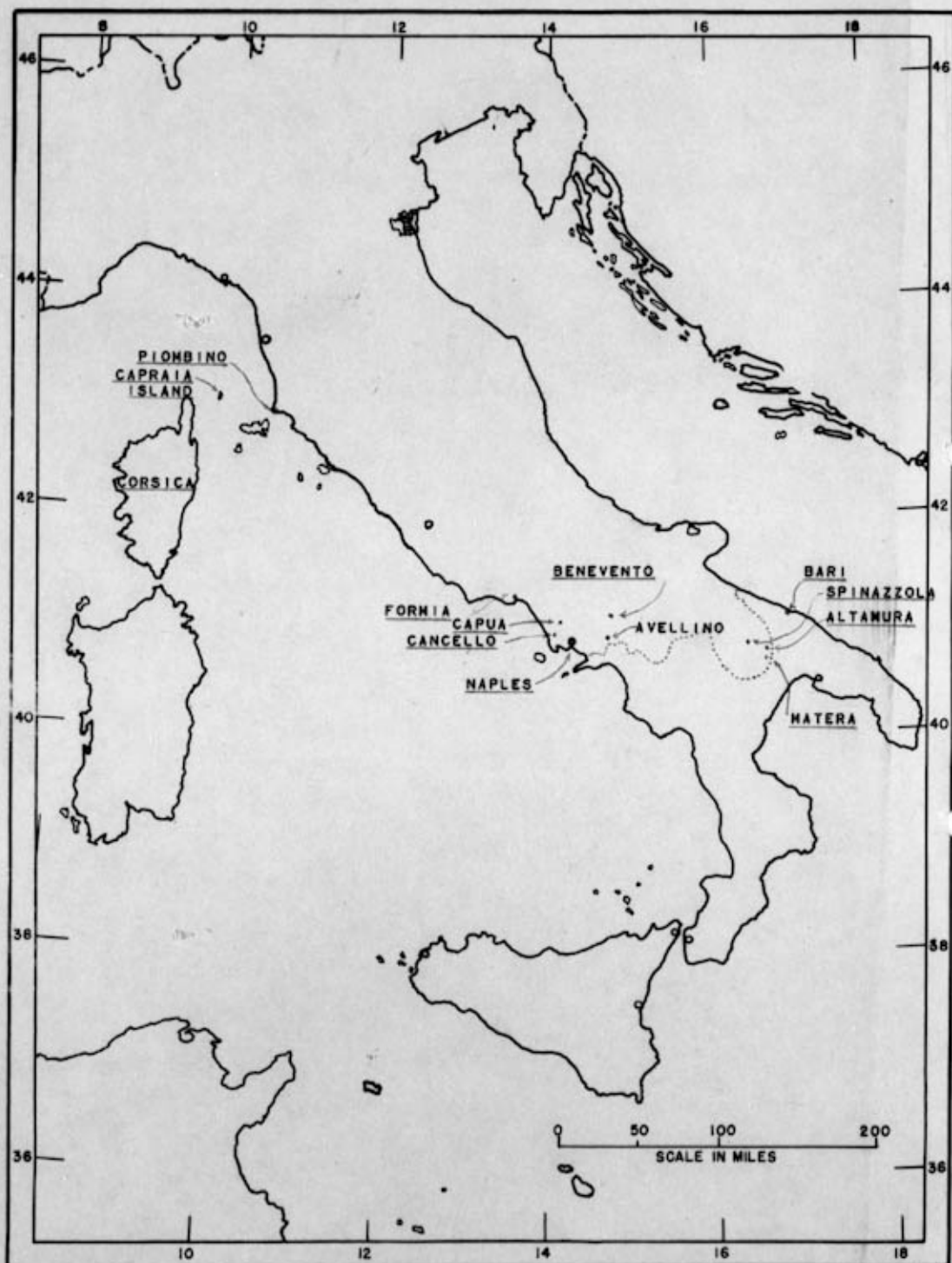
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 654

0700 September 24 to 0700 September 25, 1943

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



SECRET
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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

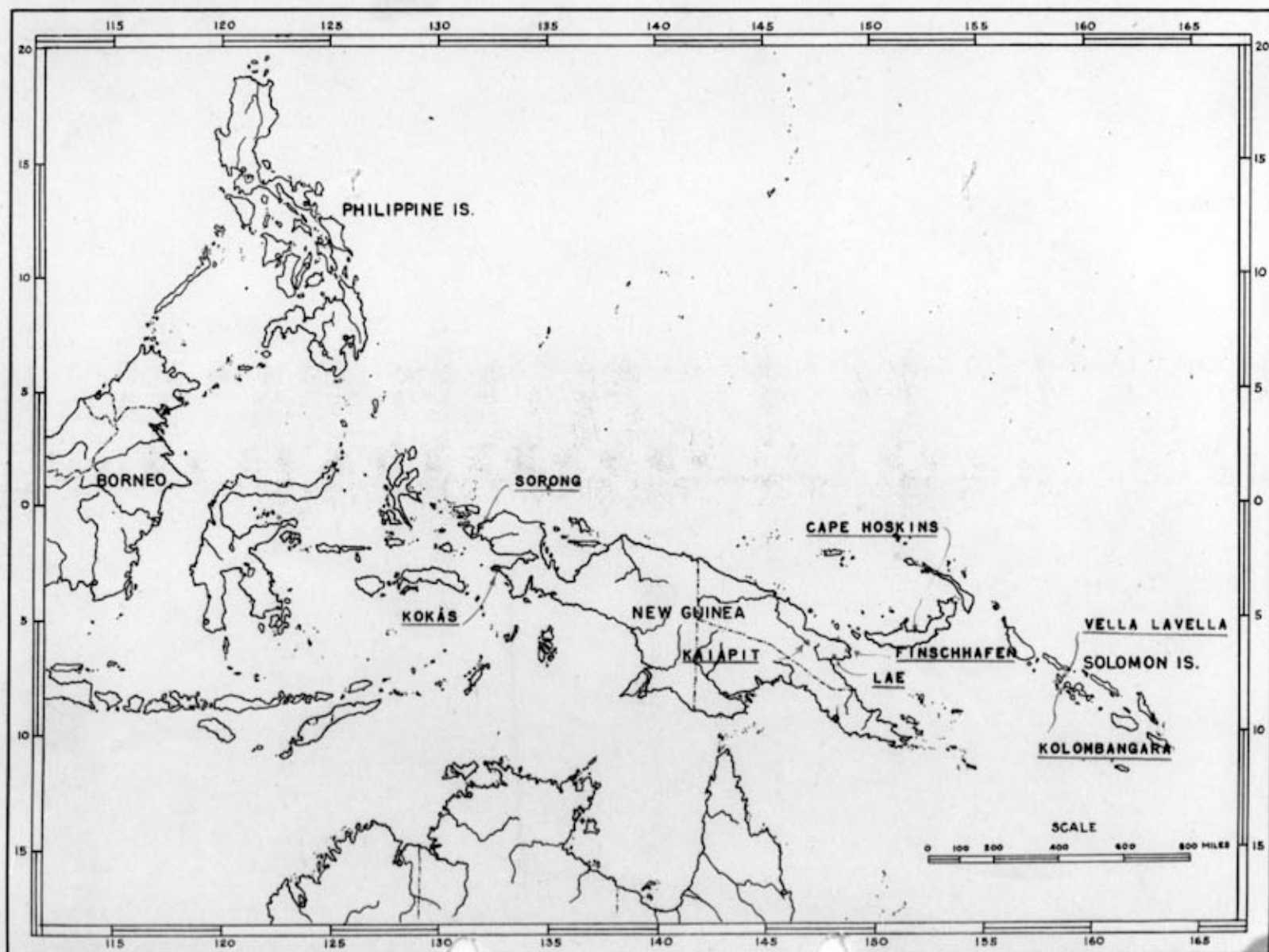
US and British medium bombers, escorted and covered by Allied fighters, attacked airfields in France and the railway center at Amiens on 24 September; 21 enemy aircraft were destroyed for a cost of nine of our fighters.

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER

1. During the night of 22-23 September, British planes hit railroad installations, roads and a factory at Formia, attacked shipping off Capraia and caused explosions at Piombino. The following day US medium bombers attacked bridges at Cancelllo and Capua and the Capua railroad yards. Allied planes raided gun positions and motor vehicles near Benevento and targets in the Naples area. British Beaufighters destroyed seven of eleven German and Italian transport planes intercepted between Corsica and Italy; one Beaufighter was lost.

2. On 24 September the Fifth Army, exerting increasing pressure north of Salerno, encountered stiff resistance but the US 3rd Division made some progress in the direction of Avellino. A communique states that Matera has been captured by Allied forces operating on the east. The British 78th Division is disembarking at Taranto and will concentrate near Bari.

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SECRET

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the night of 22-23 September, our flying boats attacked Kokas and Sorong, both in western New Guinea.

On 23 September, Allied ground forces were moving southward in the Finschhafen area. Our B-25's bombed and machine-gunned villages in the Kaiapit area and four Australian planes attacked the runway and dump area at Cape Hoskins, northern New Britain, starting fires.

2. Allied patrols made landings in the northeastern and northwestern parts of Vella Lavella Island, on 21 September. Our troops on Arundel are now displacing artillery to shell Kolombangara.