

JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITY

January, '45

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of GEOG. Jan. 31, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific.

On January 29 a DD attacked a possible enemy SS 4 miles off E. Cape, Amchitka.

The same day a Catalina strafed a cabin on Alaid Island, the most westerly island of the Semichi group.

II. Southwestern Pacific.

(A) Solomon Islands.

On January 29, 1 CA, 2 DD's and 1 AK were observed in Buha Passage.

The same day, in the Buin - Shortland Island area, 2 CL's, 6 DD's, 18 AK's, and 27 unidentified ships were observed.

Munda was attacked on January 29 by 9 B-26's with 11 P-39's as escort. 10 500-lb. and 30 100-lb. bombs hit in the target area.

The following day 4 B-26's and 7 P-39's bombed the revetment area at Munda. One small fire was started.

On January 29, 62 Japs were killed, 2 were taken prisoner and considerable equipment was captured on Guadalcanal. Our advance has been slowed up by bad weather.

(B) New Britain.

On January 30 the town of Rebaul and shipping in the harbor were attacked by our heavy bombers. Explosions were observed from one enemy vessel which was hit and fires were started in the supply dump area near the shore.

The same day two bomb hits were scored on an enemy AP in Open Bay and troops on the deck were strafed.

Gasmata airdrome was bombed and strafed with unobserved results.

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(C) New Guinea.

The Mabo area received forty-eight 300-lb. bombs from 6 B-25's on January 29.

The following day our planes thoroughly bombed and strafed supply dumps and buildings at Lea. Many explosions and large fires resulted from the attacks.

(D) N. E. I.

On January 30, an enemy float-plane trying to attack an Allied vessel in the Arafura Sea was driven off and damaged by our fighter planes.

R. A. Boone.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 30, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

30 enemy bombers were reported to have arrived at Buka Passage airfield on Jan. 27, and were still there the following day.

The enemy is reported to have occupied Puruata on the W. coast of Bougainville Island.

Kahili airfield was attacked by 5 B-17's at 1920L, Jan. 28. A large fire was started in the revetment area.

On Jan. 29, at 1315L, 29 vessels including 3 cruisers, 6 DD's and 11 other warships were seen in the Tonoloi area.

Jan. 29, 6 DD's were sighted S.W. of Vella Lavella Island. They were on a N.W. course and probably had come from Vila. Enemy vessels are believed to be unloading nightly at Vila.

(B) New Britain.

The airstrips at Cape Gloucester and Gasmata were bombed, Jan. 29, the former by both heavy and medium bombers, and the latter by a heavy bomber.

(C) New Guinea.

3 Bostons strafed the track from Mubo to Komiatum, Jan. 28.

There was an increase in land activity in the Kaisinik-Wandumi area between Wau and Guadagasal on Jan. 28 and Jan. 29. Considerable casualties were reported inflicted on enemy detachments, Jan. 29, causing them to withdraw, with our forces in pursuit.

(D) Gilbert Islands.

On Jan. 26, an allied reconnaissance plane sighted and attacked a large enemy AK at Tarawa Island. One hit and several near misses were scored.

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(E) N. E. I.

1 DD and 3 large AP's were sighted at Ambon, Jan. 28.

R. A. Boone.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 29, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

On January 27, at 1740L, 1 enemy AK and escorting DD were attacked by 9 SED's, 5 TBF's and 9 F4F's between Vella Lavella and Kolombangara islands. 2 direct bomb hits were scored on the AK and 3 near misses on the DD. The DD was later seen smoking and one of our pilots saw the AK sinking. 2 enemy float planes attacked our planes and both were destroyed.

6 B-26's and 8 P-39's attacked Munda the same day, starting fires in the revetment area.

On January 28, 12 SED's, 4 TBF's and 15 fighters attacked two groups of enemy ships N. of N.W. of Kolombangara. Our TBF's attacked 6 DD's and a direct hit was reported on 1 DD which exploded and settled in the water. 1 very near miss with a 1,000 pound bomb and 1 direct hit with a small bomb were reported on 1 AK and 2 very near misses (one was claimed 5 feet off the stern) were reported on an AO. The AK was seen to stop and the AO was dead in the water and smoking. 8 Zeros were seen and 1 was destroyed. All our planes returned.

Vila was attacked by 5 B-26's and 12 P-39's at the same time as the above attack. A large fire was started.

On January 26, a large unidentified SS was sighted 5 miles S. of the S.E. tip of Santa Isabel Island. On January 27, 3 SS's were sighted, one 10 miles S.W. of Vangunu Island, and 2 in the vicinity of Russel Island.

On January 26, 4 enemy land fighters were found in shallow water at Coughlan Harbor, N.W. Guadalcanal Island. They are believed to have landed after the attempted enemy air attack of January 25.

A large number of enemy bombers, dive bombers and fighters were over Guadalcanal from 1020L to 1145L, January 27. No bombs were dropped. 9 enemy fighters were reported destroyed and 6 probably destroyed. 2 P-38's, 2 P-40's and 1 Grumman are reported missing. One pilot is safe.

Land action on Guadalcanal continues, with an enemy pocket in the west, and one to the south being eliminated. A large and well-established command post was taken, along with a 6-inch gun and much other equipment.

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(B) New Britain.

Reconnaissance on January 27, reported possible landing strips under construction near Cape Cunningham, Cape Turner, and Opon Bay.

Gasmata was bombed on January 27, and January 28, and Cape Gloucester was attacked, January 28.

(C) New Guinea.

On January 26, 300 to 500 enemy troops were reported in the Wau area, 450 Japanese were estimated to be in the Kumusi River area, and enemy parties are reported at the mouth of the Mambare River, and on the coast near the mouth of the Waria River.

Malahary airdrome, Lae, Salamana, Finschafen, and the coast S. of Salamau were all attacked by our planes, January 27.

Merauke was attacked by an enemy plane on January 28.

(D) N. E. I.

On January 28, Pulooro in eastern Timor was strafed by Allied planes. The same day an enemy AK was attacked at Ambon by an Allied plane. 5 enemy fighters intercepted and 1 was shot down. Beaufighters also attacked enemy float planes off Dobo (Arce Islands) and destroyed 1 of them.

R. A. Boons.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 28, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific.

On January 26, 2 Japanese planes were over Amchitka but did not attack. On January 27, shipping was attacked at the same place by 2 enemy planes, but no damage resulted.

II. Southwestern Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

On January 26, 3 vessels described as 1 small CV and 2 cruisers were sighted 60 miles southwest of Buka Passage on a northwest course. During the afternoon the same day, a convoy of at least 9 ships including large AP's was seen 40 miles east of Buka on a southerly course.

Munda was attacked on January 26 by 12 SBD's, 12 Grumman's, and 8 P-39's. The bombing was done at elevations of from 1,000 to 3,000 feet. Revetments and AA installations were hit. Ten enemy planes were seen on the ground.

By January 26, our troops had advanced to the northwest and west of the Poha river west of Kokumbona despite heavy resistance. Strong patrols continued in the south and southwest. Considerable enemy equipment was captured during the day.

(B) New Britain.

Our planes which raided Rabaul early January 26 reported very few ships in the harbor. Shipping is now being dispersed between Praed Point and Duke of York Island where a large concentration was seen.

Gasmata and Cape Gloucester airships were bombed, the latter place twice.

(C) New Guinea.

Four Beaufighters swept inland from Madang during the morning of January 26 but saw no signs of enemy activity. Finschafen, Lae, the Mubo-Komiatum trail, and the coast from Salamaua to the Kumusi River were attacked by our planes the same day.

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Port Moresby was raided during the nights of January 25-26 and the following night.

The Allied communique of January 27 reported our losses to have been less than half those of the enemy during the Papuan campaign.

(D) N.E.I.

On January 25, a B-24 over Kendari was intercepted by an enemy plane which dropped small bombs at our plane without success; Photos taken showed 15 bombers and 6 fighters on the field. More were probably present but were obscured by clouds.

At Iaha airfield (Ambon) 8 Zeros were seen.

On January 26, our medium bombers attacked buildings and jetty areas on Kai Island. Dobo on Arce Island was bombed and strafed by our medium bombers the same day. A small lugger was hit with a bomb.

(E) Australia.

An unidentified plane was over Sydney about midnight January 25-26 and there were indications of an enemy SS operating probably within 250 miles of Sydney during the early morning of January 26.

On January 26, a possible SS was sighted about 375 miles southwest of Carnarvon, west coast of Australia.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. SS returning from patrol has reported sinking 2 AK's, 1 AO, and 1 AP.

R. A. Boone.

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Summary as of 0800, Jan. 27, 1943I. Wake Island.

Six B-24's were over Wake Island on a reconnaissance mission January 25. Eight Zeros intercepted and 2 were probably shot down. Clouds partially covered the objective. All our planes returned and no personnel were injured.

II. Southwest Pacific.(A) Solomons.

Our medium bombers attacked Baka the night of January 25-26. Fires visible 25 miles were started in the supply dump area.

Five B-26's and 4 P-38's bombed Ropi Ropi (on the NE part of Vangunu Island) January 25. Bombs were dropped on the landing strips and wharf, demolishing the latter. There was some AA fire but it did no damage.

(B) New Britain.

Photographic reconnaissance on January 24 showed 3 new jetties being constructed at Kokopo (12 miles southeast of Rabaul). Six AK's and 1 AO were seen in the vicinity. Rapopo airfield (near Kokopo) has a new runway 1300 yards long, and probable new AA positions being built nearby. Thirty enemy planes were in the dispersal areas.

Two DD's and 3 AK's were sighted in St. George's Channel on a SW course about midnight January 24.

On January 25, a B-24 scored 2 hits on the Casmeta runway. Light AA fire was accurate and scored hits on our plane. Cape Gloucester air-drome was raided 3 times the same day.

Our heavy bombers attacked airfields and shipping at Rabaul during the night of January 26-27. A large enemy ship (unclassified) was set afire by direct hits. Fires were also started in the airfield area. Two enemy night fighters attempted interception without success.

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(C) New Guinea

On January 25, supply dumps were attacked at Lae by 6 B-25's and 3 Bostons strafed small craft along the coast south of Salamua.

Bostons also bombed and strafed the Huko-Konintan trail on January 25. Pinschafen was bombed, fires being started at the airfield and in the building area the same day.

South of the Kutuni river, our PF boats attacked 4 enemy barges during the night of January 24-25. Three of the barges were destroyed and 1 was beached. The same night enemy troops landed near the mouth of the Waria river south of Morobe Harbor from 4 barges.

Three enemy AK's were attacked by our medium bombers off Cape Van Den Bosch with unknown results January 25.

III. Burma.

A camouflaged Japanese coastal vessel full of troops rammed a British ship in the Kayu river on January 25. The British opened fire and sank the enemy vessel.

R. A. Boone.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 26, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific.

Anchitka harbor was bombed at 0920X January 25, by 2 float type Zero planes. Four bombs fell near our ships, but there was no damage.

II. Southwestern Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

At 0930L, January 24, 1 CL, 6 DD's, 7 AK's and 2 AO's were sighted in the Buin-Tonolei vicinity. At 1042L, a cruiser and 1 DD entered the area from the northwest, and at 1530L, a CA arrived, also from the north.

At 1330L January 25, 40 enemy fighters, a large number of dive-bombers, and 18 two-engined bombers were contacted by our planes between Lunga Point and Savo Island. Sixteen Grummans, 8 P-40's, and 6 P-38's were airborne before the enemy force left at 1502L. There was heavy overcast and the enemy bombers did not drop bombs. Four Zeros were shot down in scattered individual fights.

(B) New Britain.

Reconnaissance over Rabaul the morning of January 24 showed 42 medium and large vessels there.

That night, 3 B-17's attacked Rabaul from a low altitude, encountering intense AA fire and a searchlight screen. One AK was hit and exploded, and a direct hit was scored on another vessel.

Gasmata was reported inactive. AA positions are believed to have been abandoned, and there are bomb craters on the runway.

(C) New Guinea.

On January 24, 7 B-25's attacked Lae, dropping bombs on AA positions and buildings. Salamaua isthmus was bombed and strafed by 4 Bostons

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the same day.

The enemy again attacked Milne Bay and Port Moresby the night of January 24-25, but damage was declared to be negligible.

(D) N.E.I.

Photographic reconnaissance at Ambon January 21 showed 1 CL, 1 possible AV, 1 AO, 11 AK's-AP's and 4 patrol craft there.

A B-24 attacked Dilll January 24, causing large fires. Two Zeros intercepted and 1 was probably shot down.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. submarine returning from patrol has reported sinking an enemy DD.

R. A. Boone.

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Summary as of 0800, Jan. 25, 1943I. Pacific Area.

On January 23, one enemy SS was sighted 35 miles west of Oahu and another, 125 miles southwest of Oahu.

II. Northwest Pacific.

On January 4, two enemy floatplanes dropped bombs at our vessels near Amchitka. Minor damage was sustained by one of our ships.

III. Southwest Pacific.(A) Solomons.

On the night of January 23-24, our cruiser-destroyer task force bombarded Vila-Stanmore plantation (southeast Kolombangara). Apparently the shells hit their target, as several large fires were burning fiercely, and explosions occurred long after the bombardment ceased. The enemy had accumulated fuel dumps and stores here to supply Munda. Enemy planes, using flares and float lights, followed our ships, but there were no casualties.

The following morning, at 0800 L, a force of 61 planes including SED's, torpedo planes and fighters, destroyed a dock and silenced enemy AA positions at Vila. The fires were still burning from the night's shelling.

Kokumbona, north Guadalcanal, was occupied by our troops on January 23rd. Supply dumps, field pieces, machine guns, rifles and other equipment were captured. The enemy is surrounded in small pockets by our troops.

(B) New Britain.

According to a SWPAC communique, Rabaul was subjected to a

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predawn attack by our bombers on January 24. Fires were started in the runway and dispersal areas, and 2 searchlight positions were hit. Gasmata and Cape Gloucester airfields were bombed the same day.

(C) New Guinea.

On January 22, two enemy barges were attacked by our PT's near the mouth of the Kumusi River. The barges were beached, and one was afire.

In the morning of January 23, Milne Bay and Port Moresby were attacked again by enemy planes.

One of our heavy bombers over Wewak on January 24 was intercepted by 9 enemy fighters. Two zeros were shot down.

(D) N.E.I.

On January 24, a CV, 2 other large ships, and 2 DD's were sighted heading east out of Salayer Strait (between the mainland and Salayer Island, southwest Celebes).

IV. U.S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. submarine, returning from patrol in the southwest Pacific, reports damaging and probably sinking an enemy AK or AP, with 2 hits.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, January 24, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On January 21, 7 B-17's searched for the enemy convoy arriving from the north at Bougainville Strait. Some bombs were dropped but observation was impossible because of bad weather. Two of the B-17's raided Munda on the return trip.

At 1945L January 23 Kahili Airdrome, Buin, was bombed by B-17's on reconnaissance. 17 100 pound bombs fell on the runway area. Fifteen minutes later Ballale runway received 3 bombs from the same planes.

Two enemy AK's southeast of Vella Lavella Island were attacked by SBD's and fighters on January 22. The ships were not hit.

On January 23 Munda was bombed 4 times by our planes: (1) A Catalina on reconnaissance at 0400L caused one large explosion probably on an ammunition dump; (2) at 1200L 6 B-26's dropped 84 100 pound bombs on Munda. This attack was immediately followed by 8 SBD's which dropped bombs on A/A positions which had fired on the B-26's. 12 P-39's and the same number of P-40's escorted the bombers. All our planes returned safely. (3) At 1400L, 8 B-17's accompanied by fighters dropped 60 500 pound bombs on the runway and taxi strips. Some fires were started. (4) 6 B-26's escorted by 10 P-39's dropped 100 pound bombs on the runway area at 1730L. A/A fire was not heavy, no planes intercepted, and all our aircraft returned.

On January 22 a bomber on reconnaissance attacked Bekata Bay. Fires were started near the shore.

An SBD intending to raid supply dumps at Tassafaronga has failed to return on January 22.

On the night of January 22-23 Jap planes continued their nuisance attacks over Guadalcanal. Approximately 20 bombs were dropped near Henderson Field damaging a Catalina and B-26. One man was killed on the ground. The following night 3 enemy bombers raided the same air field. 15 to 20 bombs were dropped but damage and casualties have not been reported.

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(B) New Britain

According to SWPac communique Rabaul shipping and airdromes were attacked by our heavy bombers before dawn January 23. A fuel dump at Vunakanau was afire from a direct hit. Other explosions and fires were visible for many miles. Search lights prevented observation of the bombing on enemy shipping. Later the same day a heavy bomber on reconnaissance seriously damaged a 12000 T. AP in the harbor by a direct hit and 5 near misses. The same plane scored 2 hits on an 8,000 ton ship north of Rabaul. 12 enemy fighters intercepted of which 5 were destroyed and 2 damaged, while our plane returned safely.

(C) New Guinea

On January 21 there was no longer any organized resistance in the Sanananda area.

Merauke was bombed at noon January 21 by a Jap float plane. No casualties or damage resulted. The following night Milne Bay and Port Moresby were subjected to attacks by 3 or 4 enemy planes. No damage was caused by either raid.

According to SWPac communique one of our bombers on reconnaissance was intercepted by 18 enemy fighters near Wewak January 23. Our plane returned after shooting down 3 Zeros and damaging 2 others. The warehouse area at Madang, storage and supply dumps at Lae and Pinsohhafen, the Salamaua-Mubo track and enemy positions along the coast south of Salamaua were bombed or strafed by Allied planes.

(D) NEI

On January 22, Hudsons unsuccessfully attacked 3 enemy merchant vessels just north of Kai Islands. The following day Fulloro airdrome was raided by our fighters. A/A positions, roads and buildings were strafed. Many fires were started. At the same time other Allied aircraft bombed search-light positions at Koepang.

(E) New Hebrides

The night of January 21-22 Espiritu Santo was attacked for the second successive night by an enemy plane.

(F) Australia

Two enemy medium bombers were over Darwin the night of January 21. Bombs were dropped but no damage resulted.

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1. On 21-22 Jan 54, 24 B-29 Superfortresses were dispatched to attack the Japanese airfield at Hahaione, Okinawa. The attack was successful and the airfield was destroyed. The B-29s returned to their bases on 23-24 Jan 54.

2. On 23-24 Jan 54, 24 B-29 Superfortresses were dispatched to attack the Japanese airfield at Hahaione, Okinawa. The attack was successful and the airfield was destroyed. The B-29s returned to their bases on 25-26 Jan 54.

3. On 25-26 Jan 54, 24 B-29 Superfortresses were dispatched to attack the Japanese airfield at Hahaione, Okinawa. The attack was successful and the airfield was destroyed. The B-29s returned to their bases on 27-28 Jan 54.

4. On 27-28 Jan 54, 24 B-29 Superfortresses were dispatched to attack the Japanese airfield at Hahaione, Okinawa. The attack was successful and the airfield was destroyed. The B-29s returned to their bases on 29-30 Jan 54.

5. On 29-30 Jan 54, 24 B-29 Superfortresses were dispatched to attack the Japanese airfield at Hahaione, Okinawa. The attack was successful and the airfield was destroyed. The B-29s returned to their bases on 31 Jan 54.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 23, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific.

The only reconnaissance reported Jan 21, was the continued search for the enemy SS reported contacted off Atka, Jan. 20.

II. Southwestern Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

Assembly work is reported continuing on aircraft at Buka.

2 enemy AO's were sighted just N. E. of Vella Lavella Island on Jan. 21. They were on a S. E. course.

3 B-26's raided the bivouac area at Munda, Jan. 21.

A B-17 reported a probable airfield 300 x 5,000 feet in size in the Vila area (S. E. Kolombangara). Photos were taken.

Land action continues on Guadalcanal. Two hills were reported captured by our troops on the S. W. flank on Jan. 20, and our road construction was reported sufficient to warrant a full scale advance in the Left Division zone.

(B) New Britain.

60 ships including 20 small naval vessels, 1 AO, 1 AH and 38 AK's and AP's were seen at Rabaul, Jan. 21. The airfields at Wunakanau Lakunai and Kokopo were bombed with good effect by 12 B-17's and 2 Catalinas.

Rabaul was attacked by our planes early Jan. 22, according to a SWPAC communique. The attack was carried out at low level and 4 ships were claimed destroyed. 1 vessel was reported sunk in 4 minutes, a second in 12 minutes. The third exploded, and the fourth which received 3 direct hits, was left burning after a series of explosions. Two searchlights were put out by strafing. All our planes returned safely.

Casmata was bombed Jan. 21.

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(C) New Ireland.

1 cruiser, 1 DD and 2 large AK's were sighted 15 miles SW of Cape St. George on a southerly course during the afternoon of Jan. 21.

(D) New Guinea.

3 DD's and 2 AP's were seen at Wewak the afternoon of Jan. 21. 4 enemy fighters intercepted but did not damage our plane.

Lae and Salamaua were attacked Jan. 21, and again on Jan. 22. Madang was also bombed on Jan 22.

The SWPAC communique reports that by Jan. 22, all organized resistance was overcome in the Sanananda Point area and that mopping-up is in progress. 725 enemy dead have been reported found in addition to those already reported, with many more yet to be counted. Field guns, trucks and considerable ammunition were captured.

Milne Bay airfields were attacked by 2 groups of enemy planes the night of Jan. 20-21. 1 Hudson was destroyed and another damaged.

(E) N. E. I.

Lautem on N. E. Timor was attacked Jan. 20 by 3 B-25's.

On Jan. 22, our medium bombers attacked an enemy AK off Cape Van Dem Bosch with unobserved results.

(F) Australia.

Darwin was attacked by 2 enemy bombers early Jan. 21. 4 P-40's intercepted and 1 enemy plane was possibly destroyed.

The SS P.H. BURNETT (7100 ton U. S. freighter) was torpedoed 420 miles East of Newcastle, Jan. 22, but is expected to remain afloat. The extent of damage and casualties are not known.

R. A. Doone.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 22, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific.

(A) New Hebrides.

On the night of January 20-21, Espiritu Santo was raided by one Japanese plane. No casualties or damage resulted.

(B) Solomon Islands.

On January 19, a B-17 dropped 2 2,000-pound bombs on Ballale Island. The results were not observed.

The same day, 6 Zeros intercepted a B-17 on reconnaissance off the northwest coast of Choiseul Island. Air combat for an hour and a half resulted in the destruction of 2 Zeros, while the B-17 received slight damage.

Ballale runway was bombed again January 20 by a B-17.

An enemy force of 2 DD's and 4 AK's was sighted January 21, northeast of Bougainville Island, heading toward Buin. On January 21, one of 2 B-26's dropped bombs at an AK and 2 DD's just northwest of Vella Lavella. No hits were scored. These ships were returning to Faisi from Kolombangara.

Munda was raided by a B-17 the same day. Results were not observed.

During the night of January 21-22, Japanese planes on nuisance missions dropped occasional bombs near Henderson Field, Guadalcanal. AA fire brought down one plane.

Supply barrels were seen floating in the water near Tassafaronga, indicating that the Japanese are still maintaining supply contacts with their forces.

(C) New Britain.

Photos taken January 18 reveal 13 warships, 44 merchant vessels,

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and 4 tankers at Rabaul. A total of 8 medium bombers and 102 fighters are shown at Lakunai and Vunakanau airdromes.

On January 20, a B-24 bombed a gun position and the runway at Cape Gloucester.

The same day, only one of 3 RAF Catalinas reached Lakunai airdrome and dropped bombs. The others attacked airfields at Kokopo and Gasmata.

According to a SWPAC communique, our medium and heavy bombers carried out a low-level attack on enemy shipping and air installations at Rabaul on January 21. Two medium-sized merchant ships were seriously damaged.

(D) New Guinea.

On January 20, 4 B-24's, searching for a Japanese convoy of 1 CL and 2 AP's just northeast of Newak, were intercepted by 25 Zeros from Newak airdrome. Twelve enemy planes were shot down and 6 others were damaged, while our planes, although damaged, returned to our base.

On the same day, supply dumps at Lae and the wharf area at Madang were bombed, and Kurenada was strafed by our planes.

Although resisting strongly, the Japanese forces are breaking up into small parties and attempting to escape northward from the Sanananda area. Some enemy troops may have escaped by barges near the mouth of the Mambare River on the night of January 19.

Enemy planes were reported over Milne Bay and Darwin January 20, but no details were reported.

(E) N.E.I.

On January 19, 3 B-25's were intercepted over Fuliore airdrome by 5 Zeros. One enemy plane was damaged in air combat.

The following day 3 B-25's, with Dutch pilots, dropped 7 500-pound bombs near the jetty at Dobo, Arce Island.

Four ships, including an AP and a cruiser, were sighted by air reconnaissance at Ambon on January 20. The following day, according to

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SWPAC communique, our heavy bombers scored hits on a merchant ship and a cruiser. The cruiser when last seen was listing. Twenty enemy fighters intercepted, 2 of which were shot down. All our planes returned to their base.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports.

An SS, returning from patrol in the south Pacific, reports damaging 2 enemy AK's and 1 AV. The 2 AK's were probably total losses.

R. A. Boone.

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GSDJAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 21, 1943I. Southwest Pacific.(A) Solomon Islands.

At 0330 L January 20, 2 B-26's dropped 2 500-pound bombs and scored 1 hit on a DD just east of Tonolei Harbor.

Later the same morning, an enemy AK north of Faisi and another AK escorted by 2 DD's between Fauro and Shortland Islands were attacked by our B-17's. No enemy ships were hit. Eight of 25 intercepting Zeros were shot down by our bombers and escorting fighters. One P-38 crashed northwest of Vella Lavella Island, and 4 B-17's were damaged. Other enemy ships maneuvering in the area included 3 AK's, 9 DD's, 1 AP and 2 unidentified vessels.

On January 19, an enemy convoy moving toward Guadalcanal was first observed just north of Vella Lavella Island. This force included 1 CA and 7 DD's on a course southeast. Later attempts to locate these vessels were unsuccessful because of bad weather. Our aircraft, searching for the enemy ships, bombed Munda at 1645L. Explosions and smoke were reported in the dispersal area.

Three B-26's dropped 42 100-pound bombs on Munda at 0920L January 21st. Results were not observed.

(B) New Britain.

On January 19, a B-24 strafed 3 loaded barges off Cape Hollman (north Willaumes Peninsula). The same day, the runway at Gasmata was hit by 8 500-pound bombs from a B-24 on reconnaissance. The following day Gasmata was again attacked by our heavy bombers. No details were reported.

Two enemy units of 1 cruiser and 3 DD's, on a westerly course, were sighted on January 20. One unit was 38 miles northeast of Cape St.

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George and the other, 25 miles southwest of Cape St. George.

(C) New Guinea.

On January 18, Madang runway was hit by 2 500-pound bombs from a B-24.

At night the same day, 18 Japanese planes participated in a raid on Buna. Two bombs hit the "old strip", but no further damage is reported.

Our land units withdrew from Guadagasel Gap (Mubo area) January 18, but are maintaining harassing patrols. Enemy strength in this area is estimated at 900.

On January 19, 7 B-25's bombed supply dumps at Malahang airdrome near Lae. Bursts were observed in the target area. The same day, a warehouse at Madang and a beached transport at Lae were bombed by a B-24. Strafing attacks were carried out by our aircraft on Mangrove Islands, just off the coast south of Gona, and at Kurenada just south of Kumusi River.

Merauke received 2 bombs from a Japanese floatplane January 19th. No damage resulted.

(D) Australia.

On January 19, two enemy aircraft were reported over Darwin in the afternoon. P-40's unsuccessfully attacked one enemy plane approaching Darwin the same morning.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports.

An SS, returning from patrol in the southwest Pacific, reports 2 hits on an enemy merchant vessel. Another SS reports a hit on an enemy CA in the same area.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 20, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomon Islands.

On January 18 an AK, anchored off the southeast coast of Shortland Island, was attacked by B-17's. Two hits and 4 near misses set the ship afire. Heavy AA fire came from 2 DD's and a CL in the vicinity. Fighters escorting the bombers shot down 2 float Zeros, and one of our fighters failed to return.

During the period January 13 to 17, 1,032 Japs were killed in Guadalcanal. This figure includes 700 previously reported.

(B) New Britain.

An 8,000-ton enemy AK, southeast of the Admiralty Islands, was sunk on January 18 by 2 direct hits. On the same day, 3 B-24's reached Rabaul Harbor and dropped bombs. The results were not observed. A Catalina bombed Gasmata airdrome the same day, with unobserved results.

(C) New Guinea.

On January 18, Finschhafen and the Mubo area were raided by our planes. Supply areas at Lae were subjected to 2 attacks the same day.

Our PT's were active at Cape Ward Hunt, and one enemy barge was sunk.

Milne Bay was raided by 3 Japanese aircraft on January 18, but no damage was reported.

Enemy troops, on January 18, were still putting up strong resistance in a pocket northwest of Sanananda and another area just southeast of Giruwa.

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(D) N.E.I.

On January 16 Leca, South Timor coast, directly south of Laga, was occupied by Japanese troops and hostile natives. Friendly and hostile natives continue fighting in central Timor.

(E) Australia.

The AO MOBILURE was torpedoed by a Japanese SS off Sydney the night of January 18. The ship was still afloat, and a DD and tug were assisting. The same day a small AK was sunk in the same area, probably by a Japanese SS.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports.

An SS, returning from patrol in the southwest Pacific, reports sinking an enemy AK and escort.

R. A. Boone.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 19, 1943

I. Northwest Pacific.

On January 18, three newly arrived ships were observed at Kiska.

II. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

A B-17 on reconnaissance January 17 sighted 11 AK's, 4 DD's, 1 BB, and flying boats in the Buin-Shortland Island area.

On January 16 Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal, was captured by our troops, and additional mopping-up attacks were continuing satisfactorily. Enemy arms and ammunition were destroyed, 150 Japs were killed, and 19 were taken prisoner.

(B) New Britain.

One group of 7 B-17's and another of 8 B-17's attacked shipping at Rabaul the night of January 16-17. Thirty-two 1,000-lb. bombs and 8 500-lb. bombs were dropped. Two AK's and 2 other vessels received direct hits, and possible direct hits or near misses were reported on an AF and another vessel. Forty searchlights and heavy AA fire made accurate observation difficult. A new runway at Vunapope, and the airfields at Vunakanau and Malaguna were bombed and strafed.

On January 17, 9 B-24's bombed the airdromes at Gasmata and Cape Gloucester. On the same day an AK escorted by a DD, south of the Admiralty Islands, was attacked by a B-24. Three near misses on the ships were reported.

(C) New Guinea.

Madang, Finschafen and Iae were bombed by a B-24 on January 17. A direct hit on a warehouse at Madang started a fire. The same day 6 B-25's

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started fires in the stores area at Lae, and the Mambare River area was strafed by 3 Bostons.

Cape Killerton was captured on January 17. On January 18, the Sanananda area along the coast was in the possession of our troops. Some Japanese forces remained pocketed in the area inland from Sanananda.

On January 17, at Milne Bay, 24 enemy medium bombers, escorted by 10 Zeros, scored direct hits on our runway and destroyed some of our aircraft. Six fuel dumps and the same number of vehicles were destroyed, but casualties were slight. Interception by four P-39's was unsuccessful.

Port Moresby was raided on the night of January 17, but no details were reported.

(D) N.E.I.

On January 16, a reconnaissance plane reports enemy aircraft at Laha airdrome, Ambon, and 2 AK's in the harbor at Macassar.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports.

An SS returning from patrol in the southwest Pacific reports sinking two combined cargo-passenger vessels. A second SS reports damaging an AO, scoring hits on two large AK's and a small AK in the same area. Another SS reports sinking 1 DD, 1 AV and 2 AK's in the west Pacific.

R. A. Boone.

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5-3-78JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 18, 1943I. Southwest Pacific.(A) Solomon Islands.

Two Catalinas bombed installations at Kahili airdrome, Buin, the night of January 16 and early in the morning January 17. One fire was started. Five B-17's bombed Kahili airdrome January 16, scoring hits on the runway and starting two large fires.

The same day, 4 B-17's attacked Ballale, bombing both revetment areas and the runway. One large fire was started. AA fire was encountered from the Shortland Island area, and 15 enemy planes intercepted, but there was no damage to our planes.

At 1725L January 16, 4 B-26's attacked Munda, but no results were reported.

The results of the attack against the Japanese force of 9 DD's which arrived at Guadalcanal the night of January 14-15 are summarized as follows: One DD was hit by an aerial bomb, and torpedo hits on two were claimed by PT boats at Cape Esperance. One DD was severely damaged and one DD damaged when 9 DD's were attacked by 15 dive bombers early on January 15 off northeast New Georgia. An AK was hit in another strike and left burning. Thirty enemy planes were shot down, and 8 of our planes are missing.

On January 16, there was another enemy air raid over Guadalcanal, but no details were reported.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland.

Gasmata airdrome was attacked by 3 B-24's on January 15, and by 1 B-24 the following day. The airdrome at Cape Gloucester was bombed by the same B-24. Results were not observed.

On January 16, an enemy CA sixty miles south of Cape St. George was unsuccessfully attacked by one B-24. One of four intercepting fighters

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was shot down.

(C) New Guinea.

Our troops had withdrawn from Mubo on January 16 and were consolidating at approximately four miles south of the village.

Wewak, Madang, Finschafen and Lae were subjected to air attacks on January 16.

Milne Bay was attacked by 23 enemy bombers on January 16.

Our patrol craft off Cape Ward Hunt area, January 13, were subjected to a torpedo attack by submerged enemy SS. None of our ships were hit.

(D) N.E.I.

A B-24 over Amboina on January 16 was intercepted by 2 Zeros, one of which was possibly destroyed.

II. Bay of Bengal.

On January 15, heavy U.S. bombers attacked an enemy convoy south of Rangoon. A 7,000-ton AK was hit. The crew was abandoning ship, the vessel was in a sinking condition when our planes left. Another AK, of 5,000 tons, was damaged, but continued under its own power.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports.

One of our SS's, returning from patrol in the western Pacific area, reports sinking 14,000 tons of enemy shipping.

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I. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomon Islands.

At 1915 L January 15, an enemy plane, with landing lights on, sneaked in with our returning flights at Guacalcanal, and dropped 4 to 6 bombs close to the strip where our planes were landing. One Grumman was damaged, and 3 men were injured. A second raid, at 2050L, consisted of 2 enemy planes which dropped 3 bombs. No damage resulted.

The following day, at 1255L, 6 B-26's escorted by fighters bombed the runway at Munda. Lots of black smoke filled the target area. AA fire was heavy, but no planes intercepted the attack.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland.

Two of 7 B-17's detailed to attack Rabaul reached their objective, on January 15. These dropped 16 500-lb. bombs, with unobserved results. One B-17 attacked a small vessel off the southeast coast of New Ireland, and another dropped bombs on the runway at Gasmata. The other three bombers were forced to return because of bad weather.

(C) New Guinea.

The raid on Mubo by our patrols, January 11 to 14, has been successfully completed. Enemy headquarters, the W/T station, stores and huts were destroyed. Their casualties were heavy, while ours were negligible.

On the nights of January 14 and 15, one enemy medium bomber raided Port Moresby. No damage or casualties were reported from either raid.

On January 15, one B-24 bombed Finschafen and Madang airdromes. Off Lae, 6 Zeros intercepted, of which 2 were destroyed and 1 damaged.

On the same day, Beaufighters strafed enemy positions in the Mambare River delta, and supply dumps at Lae were bombed by B-25's. Results

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were not observed.

||| An encircling operation at Sanananda, on January 15, resulted in the clearing out of a large pocket of enemy troops. Supplies and arms were captured, and 152 Japs were killed; but 200 escaped.

It was reported, on January 14, that 450 Japanese engineering troops are ashore at Kaukanan, southwest Dutch New Guinea, probably constructing a new fighter strip.

(D) H.E.L.

On January 15, 3 Hudsons bombed Matkus Island (east Egeron Strait), Tanimbar Islands.

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(B) New Britain

On Jan. 14, 1 B-24 bombed Gasmata.

(C) New Guinea

Salamsua, Madang, Finschafen, and Lae were bombed Jan. 14, by our planes. At Lae, stores and supplies were fired on the beach and large fuel fires were reported. AA fire was inaccurate. There was no enemy interception.

4 Bostons bombed and strafed the Salamsua - Komiatum track and 6 Bostons made a sweep along the coast from Salamsua to Bakumbari and strafed native canoes at Sachen Bay.

(D) N. E. I.

A B-24 on reconnaissance to the Kendari area in S Celebes reported 1 12,000 ton AK at Kendari and fighters and bombers at the airdrome. The same plane sighted 12 to 15 float planes at Laca Bay (in Toworo Strait). Several float planes were anchored at Baubau on the SW tip of Buton Island. Over Muna Island, the plane was intercepted by 2 enemy fighters and shot 1 down.

1 DD was sighted 25 miles E of Sermatta Island.

R. A. Boone.

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Summary as of 0800, Jan. 15, 1943I. Southwest Pacific.(A) Solomons.

The enemy was reported to be using Queen Carola Harbor for shipping on January 13, with activity toward Sohana Island at Buka passage.

A Catalina bombed Sorum (3 miles east of Buka) at 0100L January 13.

At 1445L January 14, 4 DD's and 3 AK's left Faisi on a south-east course. Nine DD's were sighted at 1640L that day about 10 miles north-west of Vella Vekalla Island travelling southeast at high speed.

One Catalina was over Munda for an hour beginning at 0130L January 14 and dropped bombs and mortar shells. There was heavy AA fire which did no damage to our plane.

Enemy troops and positions near Kolumbona, Cape Esperance, and at Visale Mission were bombed and strafed by our planes on January 14.

(B) New Britain.

On January 13, 1 B-24 shot down 2 and possibly a third enemy fighter out of 6 encountered over Gasmata.

An enemy DD was sighted on the same day southwest of Gasmata on an easterly course.

(C) New Ireland.

On January 13, 1 B-17 was intercepted by 8 enemy fighters over Kavieng, but returned safely. Seven ships including 2 possible CA's, 3 smaller naval vessels and 2 AK's were in the harbor.

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(D) New Guinea.

On January 11, our troops attacked Mubo, and 116 enemy casualties have been reported with action continuing.

January 13, 3 B-17's, 4 B-25's, 7 Beaufighters and 8 P-38's bombed and strafed Lae airdrome, stores, barges and docks. Fires were started on the jetty and direct hits were made on buildings. There was no interception. Large barges are active between Lae and Salamaua.

Six Bostons bombed and strafed the Sanananda track where strong enemy defense positions have been encountered. Heavy rains are hindering our operations.

Merauke was raided on January 13 by 9 enemy bombers with some damage reported on the jetty.

(E) Timor.

On January 13, Beaufighters attacked Fuloro, strafing aircraft, AA positions and personnel shelters. Laga was bombed and strafed the same day.

R. A. Boons.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 14, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

Delayed reports say 8 enemy DD's were involved in the action off Guadalcanal during the night of January 10-11. Three torpedo hits were scored on 2 DD's and 2 possibles on a third by PT boats. Landings were attempted from Cape Esperance to Aruligo with 4 of the DD's releasing towed boats filled with troops. At daylight January 11, large quantities of floating supplies were destroyed in the area. Enemy troop movements from the northwest coast toward Kokumbona indicate the landing was partly successful.

Our air and ground forces continue to advance.

An enemy DD was sighted by a Catalina just northeast of Russel Island at 0130L January 13.

Six B-26's, 8 P-39's and 5 P-38's attacked Rakata Bay at 1500L January 13. There was no AA fire and no enemy planes were seen.

One Catalina was over Munda the night of January 12-13 dropping bombs and flares.

(B) New Britain.

On January 11, 2 DD's were escorting a CV north from Rabaul at 1045 L, leaving 10 DD's, 1 AO, 45 AK's and numerous small craft at Rabaul.

Allied reconnaissance planes were intercepted by enemy fighters at Gasmata and at Cape Orford on January 12. Three enemy planes were destroyed and 1 was possibly destroyed. Our planes returned safely.

(C) New Guinea.

On January 12, it was reported that enemy activity was increasing

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around Madang and that barges were still operating between Lee and Salamaua.

Lee was attacked by bombers and fighters on January 12. The airdrome, harbor installations, stores and barges were bombed, and supply dumps and barges along the shore were affectively strafed. One enemy fighter at Mala-bang was destroyed.

Bombing and strafing attacks were carried out by our planes at Madang, Finschafen, Salamaua, Killerton, and at the mouth of the Mambare River on January 12.

A Catalina reported encountering 4 probable enemy flying boats at 0450K January 12, 50 miles east of Buna.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports.

One of our SS's returning from patrol has reported possible damage to an enemy AK in the southwest Pacific area.

R. A. Boone.

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Summary as of 0800, Jan. 12, 1943I. Southwest Pacific.(A) Solomons.

On January 9, Rekata was strafed by 5 P-38's and 5 P-40's. Results were not reported although little AA resistance was met.

On January 10 it was announced that our land forces were continuing progress in the Mt. Austen area, against light opposition.

On January 11, 5 B-26's and 8 P-39's attacked Munda. Results were not seen because of clouds, but no enemy planes or activity were noted.

A force of 12 SB2C's and 16 Grummans was attacked by 12 Zeros between Santa Isabel and New Georgia Islands on January 11. Four Zeros were shot down and 2 others were possibly destroyed. One Grumman is missing.

(B) New Britain.

On January 9, 1 B-24 bombed the convoy from Lae south of Casmeta and claimed 1 direct hit on an AP with a 1,000-pound bomb. Eleven enemy fighters intercepted but 2 were shot down. During the evening, 5 Beauforts attacked the convoy and claimed 1 torpedo hit on a CL. Two Beauforts are missing from the attack. During the night of January 9-10, 2 Catalinas attacked, and claimed 1 direct hit on an AP with a 250-pound bomb which started a small fire. Later 3 B-17's scored 1 very near miss on an AP off Jacquinot Bay.

(C) New Guinea.

On January 10, a B-24 attacked Finschafen landing strip, Wewak and Madang. The same day 6 B-25's and 9 P-38's attacked supply dumps and AA positions at Lae. One building was blown up, and 2 large fires visible 40 miles resulted. Later on January 10, 11 Beaufighters strafed Lae airdrome, destroying

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1 grounded fighter and a machine gun position. There was no enemy interception and only 4 or 5 serviceable enemy fighters were seen at Lae.

GHQ, SWPA estimates enemy air losses in the Lae convoy operations from January 6 to January 9 inclusive to be 81 planes destroyed and 36 probably destroyed.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. SS returning from patrol in the southwest Pacific Area has reported sinking 2 AK's and damaging 1 other.

R. A. Boone.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0600, Jan. 11, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

On January 9 the following sightings were made:

1. Two DD's east-northeast of Kieta.
2. One DD headed toward Kieta from Tonolei.
3. One CL and 3 planes northeast of Choissul Bay.
4. One AK in Choissul Bay.

During the night of January 10-11, 1 Catalina attacked Munda, causing a large explosion and fire.

At 0030L January 11, a Catalina discovered 1 cruiser and 3 DD's between Cape Esperance and Savo Island. The ships were later lost in a smoke screen and at 0400L had not yet been relocated.

On Guadalcanal Island, our ground troops and 24 planes coordinated in a successful attack on enemy positions January 10.

(B) New Britain.

Seven ships of the convoy leaving Iae were attacked south of New Britain by B-17's and B-24's without result on the morning of January 9.

(C) New Guinea.

A beached AP and stores along the shore at Iae were attacked repeatedly on January 9, with explosions and many fires resulting. Interception was reported ineffective. Bombing and strafing attacks were made on Madang, Iae, and Salamaua on the same day.

A possible SS was reported sighted off the Mambare river at 0130L January 8.

R. A. Boone.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, January 10, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomons

2 DD's were sighted anchored west of Buka on Jan. 8.
 1 Cruiser and 2 DD's in a 7 ship convoy were reported east of Buka pass-
 age headed north and a large AK was seen headed north on the west coast
 of Buka Island the same day.

On the afternoon of Jan. 8, 2 DD's and 1 AK were sighted
 heading E.N.E. from Faisi and were sighted periodically until they were
 last seen just off the east coast of Vella Lavella Island on a N.E. course
 at 0850 L Jan. 9.

Catalinas harassed Munda the night of Jan. 8-9 with bombs
 and flares, with 1 possible direct hit reported on AA battery at Munda
 Point. On the morning of Jan 9, 2 B-28's, 6 SBD's, 8 P-39's, and 8
 Grumman's bombed and strafed Munda. 3 fires were started, and all guns at
 Munda Point were silenced, but the extent of the damage could not be
 ascertained.

New AA gun positions were located east of Munda. All
 our planes returned safely.

2 Zeros were sighted flying north in the vicinity of the
 Russel Islands area at 1030 L, Jan. 7, and on Jan. 8, 5 B-17's bombed
 Rekata.

(B) New Britain

There were no observations of shipping at Rabaul on
 Jan. 8 and Jan. 9.

Early in the morning of Jan. 8, our planes attacked an
 enemy CC (or large DD) off Arava with unobserved results. It is possible
 this ship was part of the convoy attacked enroute to and at Lae.

(C) New Guinea

6 ships of the convoy at Lae left at 0830 L on Jan. 9 and
 were last sighted about 30 miles S. W. of Finschhafen on a N.E. course.
 During the fighting from Jan. 6 to the morning of Jan. 9, the Japanese air
 losses were 69 fighters definitely destroyed, 28 probably destroyed, and
 40 damaged. Our own losses were announced at 6 planes lost and 31 damaged.

Lae and Madang were bombed and strafed Jan. 9. Malahary
 airdrome (2 miles N.E. of Lae) is being prepared for service.

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A possible SS was sighted off the Mambare River mouth at 0130 L on Jan. 8.

Inland and adjacent islands off Morobe Harbor are not used by the enemy.

(D) N. E. I.

Japanese have been reported building a base at Waincapoe on the north coast of Soemba Island, (180 miles west of Timor).

(E) China

On Jan. 1, 16 vessels including 2 AO's were observed in the Kowloon area at Hongkong.

II. Indian Ocean

The 4816 ton Greek freighter S. S. Eugenie Livanos is overdue at Bombay, having left Capetown Nov. 27. The ship was travelling independently.

On Jan. 5, photographic reconnaissance showed 7 AK's and 1 torpedo boat destroyer in the vicinity of Port Blair in the Andaman Islands.

R. A. Boone

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Summary as of 0800, Jan. 9, 1943I. Northwest Pacific.

At 1353X, January 7, 4 B-24's dropped 25 250-lb. bombs at the sub base at Kiska. The results were not observed. Fighters and B-25's on the same mission turned back because of weather conditions. Five planes were observed on the beach at Kiska, while 4 unidentified planes were in the air.

II. Southwest Pacific.A. Solomons.

Small villages south of Kista (east Bougainville) were bombed by 5 B-17's on January 8. Two of 12 zeros which intercepted were shot down. All our planes returned safely, but three were damaged.

On January 7, 12 P-39's and 6 B-26's dropped 72 100-lb. bombs on Rekata Bay. This attack was scheduled for Munda, but as Munda was closed in, the planes proceeded to Rekata. Two of 6 zeros on the water were damaged, and a large fire started. Heavy AA fire shot down the leading B-26, and three others were damaged.

B. New Britain.

Gasmata was bombed and strafed by one Catalina on January 7, causing one fire in the vicinity of 3 grounded aircraft, in addition to several smaller fires.

C. New Guinea.

At 1400L, January 7, the Japanese convoy previously reported as made up of 2 CL's, 4 DD's and 4 AP's was driven into Lae. Strong air coverage was furnished by planes operating probably from Lae and Gasmata. Two enemy AP's were definitely sunk, and others damaged. According to the Southwest Pacific communique, an additional AP was sunk. The landing area, barges,

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and the beach-head were constantly subjected to bombing and strafing attacks.

Las airdrome was bombed twice on January 7. One medium bomber was set afire on the ground, and a blast bay containing 2 zeros and a medium bomber received a direct hit, starting a large fire on the runway.

Thirteen Beaufighters sank a small whaler off Finschafen the same day. Fifteen zeros intercepted, of which 2 were damaged.

D. Timor.

On January 7, 2 small vessels and a possible AO were observed unloading supplies at Lauten (northeast Timor, 20 miles east of Laivai).

At Fulloro airdrome, the completion of a crushed-rock surfaced runway is in progress.

R. A. Booms.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 8, 1943

I. Northwest Pacific.

At 1345 W, January 6, 5 B-24's bombed the enemy SS base at Kiska. Some smoke was seen, but bad weather prevented further observation of results.

II. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

Recent bombings at Buka damaged 11 medium bombers and destroyed a large search light. Timber and building materials have been taken to Kieta.

Four B-26's and 9 P-39's bombed Munda airfield and vicinity during the morning of January 7. Possible hits were scored on 1 bomber and 2 AA guns, and large fires were seen in the area. AA fire was light and inaccurate. There was no damage to our planes.

Correction: In yesterday's Summary for "44 flying boats" read, "4 4-engined flying boats".

(B) New Britain.

According to GHQ SWPA reports of January 6 and the communique of January 7, the enemy convoy sighted south of New Britain on January 6 was attacked several times that day and the following night by B-17's, B-24's, B-26's and P-38's. One AP of 14,000 tons was sunk, another disabled by a direct hit was enveloped in flames and later sunk, and a third large AP was heavily hit. Eighteen enemy fighters were claimed definitely destroyed, 5 probably destroyed, and 4 were damaged. Our losses were described as relatively light, and our attacks are continuing.

One B-24 bombed Gasmata the night of January 6-7, starting a large oil fire.

(C) New Guinea.

On January 6 work was being done on the airfield at Wewak, where

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7 probable fighter blast bays were under construction. AA fire was noted from the town as well as the airdrome.

Villages near Finschafen have been occupied by the enemy, the native inhabitants evacuated, and prohibited from entering Finschafen proper. Two thousand men are reported in the area, and continual small boat activity has been noted between Lae and Finschafen.

The official SWPA communique of January 7 reported Sarananda as being completely enveloped, and the enemy forces there gradually being reduced. The communique states that with the elimination of this point, Papua will have been cleared of the enemy.

(D) H.E.I.

An enemy torpedo boat was bombed by 3 Hudsons off Toel, Tai Island on January 6. One direct hit amidships was reported.

Photo reconnaissance on January 2 showed an elaborate trench system at Saumlaki on Tanimbar Island.

R. A. Boone.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0600, Jan. 7, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

Villages in the Buin area are being raided by enemy parties accompanied by natives.

On January 6, 4 B-17's attacked the Buin-Faisi area with the following results:

1. An enemy AP was attacked off Fauro Island. One possible hit on the stern, and 3 near misses were reported.
2. Buin airdrome was attacked. Damage could not be ascertained.
3. Two large and 2 small warships were seen in Tonolei Harbor.
4. One DD was seen off Fauro.
5. Forty-four Marine flying boats were reported sighted in Shortland Harbor.
6. Twelve enemy float biplanes over Shortland Island and 8 Zeros over New Georgia followed our planes when they were returning to base, but did not attack.

On January 6, 1 B-17 attacked Munda. Large calibre AA fire was encountered, one of the guns being located on the west tip of Munda Point.

(B) New Britain.

Further details have been received on our raid on Rabaul previously reported as taking place on January 4. The raid was at about noon on January 5. Direct hits and near misses were scored on 3 AK's. Two additional very near misses were scored on a ship with a DD alongside. Two B-17's are reported missing and 3 damaged instead of the previously reported one, but the crew of 1 plane is safe. Enemy plane losses are now put at 3 definitely

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destroyed, 1 probable and 1 possible.

Photo reconnaissance at the time of the above raid showed a total of 87 ships including 13 possible DD's in Rabaul Harbor and vicinity. Two of these ships were shown to be afire and a third was listing and smoking.

Three miles east of Kokopo (southeast of Rabaul), the Japanese are constructing a new 6,000 foot landing strip. Ten to 12 fighters and 10 medium bombers were seen at Wunakanau on January 6.

On January 5, Gasmata was bombed by 1 B-17 while on reconnaissance. Two cruisers and 4 DD's escorting 4 AP's were sighted near Gasmata, on January 6, proceeding southwestward.

(C) New Guinea.

Japanese are now reported holding Tarakena village about 2 miles northwest of Buna. Air activity continued throughout January 6, with our planes over Lee, Salamaua, Sanananda and the mouth of the Amboga river.

Port Moresby had an air raid alarm about noon on January 6. Details are lacking.

(D) Timor.

Photo reconnaissance confirms reports of improvement on the airdrome at Dilli and the presence of fighters there. Enemy air activity and reconnaissance were noted from Koepang.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports.

U.S. submarines returning from patrol in the Western Pacific reported sinking 2 enemy DD's, 3 AK's, 1 AP and 4 barges.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
SUMMARY as of 0800, Jan. 6, 1943

I. Northwest Pacific.

An enemy AK of 3,000 tons, approaching Kiaka, was discovered by a Catalina on reconnaissance. Three B-25's bombed the ship and left it burning about 50 miles north of Kiaka. The trailing Catalina reported the ship sank.

A B-24 weather plane scored a direct hit and 2 near misses on another enemy ship about 150 miles south of Agatua.

II. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Solomons.

On January 4, our planes bombed an AP at Fauru, in the Butu-Palasi area, scoring 1 direct hit. On January 5, 5 B-17's and 6 P-38's bombed 1 OA (with no hits observed) and sighted 4 DD's and 4 AK's at Shortland. One BB was reported sighted off Tomolai. About 25 enemy float planes intercepted, of which 3 to 5 were shot down. Two P-38's were shot down.

Kine B-26's attacked Munda on January 5, bombing targets on and around the airfield. Small craft continue to move nightly from Kolobengara southward through the Diamond Harrows toward Munda.

In Guadalcanal, mopping-up action continued on January 5, with 84 more Japanese reported killed in the Mt. Austen area.

(B) New Britain.

According to reported official southwest Pacific press releases, our heavy bombers attacked Rabaul on January 4. Nine enemy vessels were destroyed for certain, and possibly a 10th, for an aggregate estimated 50,000 tons loss to the enemy. Enemy planes intercepted and 6 were destroyed. One of our bombers is missing.

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Gasmata was bombed by one B-24 on armed reconnaissance on January 4, and the same plane strafed a small schooner at Cape Kwoi, 80 miles south of Rabaul. Results were not seen.

(C) New Guinea.

On January 4 our planes were in the following actions:

1. Bombing attack on Sanananda point.
2. Strafed the Sanananda-Soputa track and west bank of the Amboga river.
3. Six B-25's and 6 Bostons attacked Lae, bombing and strafing the airfield and surrounding areas.
4. A B-24 on armed reconnaissance bombed Lae.
5. Finschafen and Madang were attacked by a B-24. At Finschafen a schooner was bombed and strafed.
6. Mubo and Komiatum (inland and southwest of Salamaua) were strafed by 7 Beaufighters.

Cape Nelson was attacked by enemy bombers on January 4, and one was shot down.

(D) Timor.

Roads and villages in the Laivai-Baucau-Beaco area were strafed by 2 Beaufighters with unobserved results on January 4. AA of the Bofors type was encountered at Laga. One zero and 1 transport vehicle were destroyed on the ground at Fulgoro airfield by 4 strafing Beaufighters the same day.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 5, 1943

I. Southwest Pacific Area.

(A) Solomons.

Twenty-six ships, including 6 BB's (or CA's), 5 CL's, 6 AK's and 9 unclassified vessels were reported in the Buin-Tonolei area January 3. Five B-17's attacked a BB (or CA) of this group scoring near misses but encountering heavy AA fire from the ships. All our planes returned, although 2 were badly damaged. A later search was unsuccessful because of bad weather.

Japanese were reported still at Tiniputs (northeast tip Bougainville Is.) and were seen loading lumber into schooners.

On January 3, native information reported barges being unloaded nightly at Vila Plantation (tentatively located on the southeast end of Kulambangara Island). Two gun positions are located near Vila Point and AA batteries are active there.

January 3, 7 B-26's and 8 P-39's attacked Munda. No enemy planes were intercepted but 1 B-26 was shot down by the heaviest AA fire yet encountered in the area. Two Catalinas and 1 B-17 raided the field during the night of January 3-4 and on the afternoon of January 4, 12 SED's and 16 fighters made another raid. AA fire was lighter than the previous day. One plane, probably destroyed, was seen on the ground. From 0030L to 0215L, January 5, 2 Catalinas patrolled Munda, dropping bombs and flares in the vicinity of the runway.

On January 3, our ground forces on Guadalcanal were reported continuing attacks in the Mt. Austen area, gaining high ground in the enemy rear. Six enemy counter-attacks were turned back with 150 of the enemy killed.

(B) New Britain.

There is still a considerable concentration of shipping at Rabaul.

(C) New Guinea.

In the Buna area our troops now hold all positions except for

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a small area inland from Samananda Point on the track to Soputa.

(D) N.E.I.

New AA and machine-gun positions have been discovered at Saumlaki on Tanimbar Island.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports.

One of our submarines, returning from patrol, reports sinking one and possibly 2 enemy AK's in the western Pacific.

R. A. Boone.

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JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 4, 1943

I. Northwest Pacific.

A study of photographs taken at Kiska, December 30-31, reveal that the old beached AK in Trout Lagoon has been moved to mid-harbor, and one of the newly arrived AK's was placed in exactly the same position, on the beach which the damaged vessel previously held. Our planes, in raids conducted on December 30 and December 31, were apparently fooled by this maneuver, and directed all their attacks at the derelict.

II. Southwest Pacific.

(A) Fiji Islands.

The S.S. THOMAS EDISON (7,100-ton U.S. cargo vessel), which has been stranded since early December on Fishuata Votoa Island where salvage operations were proceeding, was completely destroyed by a hurricane, January 2.

(B) Solomon Islands.

At 2340 L, on January 2, 11 U.S. PT's encountered 8 enemy DD's in isolated attacks off Guadalcanal. Eighteen torpedoes were fired, and one hit was claimed on a DD and three probable hits on 2 others. One PT was damaged during a bombing attack by enemy aircraft. No enemy troops are believed to have landed, but supplies were thrown in the water to drift ashore. Our PT's and PG's destroyed all visible supplies in the water the following morning.

On January 2, a force of 8 B-26's escorted by 11 fighters strafed enemy float planes at Rakata Bay.

(C) New Britain.

It is now reported that a large enemy warship was hit during

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the attacks on Rabaul, January 1.

On January 3, 53 AK's, 18 warships and 21 smaller vessels were sighted in Rabaul harbor by our air reconnaissance.

A SWPAC communique reports a U.S. heavy bomber attack on shipping and harbor installations at Rabaul the same day. No results were observed.

(D) New Guinea.

A force of 38 of our medium bombers and fighters attacked Lae airdrome, January 2. Several fires were started and one enemy plane was destroyed on the ground.

Salamaua and Sanananda were attacked by our planes the same day, but no details were given.

Buna Mission has fallen to our troops. Enemy positions between Senimi Creek and the dispersal bays northwest of the "old strip" have been cleared out. Just west of Giropa Point, one small pocket of enemy troops remains, and these are completely surrounded by our forces.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. submarine, returning from patrol in the southwest Pacific area, reports attacking a small enemy convoy escorted by a DD and 2 corvettes. Two torpedo hits were scored on the DD and one on an AK. Results were not observed.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 3, 1943

I. Northwest Pacific

Our air reconnaissance over Kiska January 1 reported 6 float Zeros on the beach and 6 float Zeros in the air. No other changes were reported except this increase of enemy air strength.

II. Southwest Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On January 2, 2 CL's or large DD's, 6 DD's, and 3 AK's were observed in the Buin-Faisi area.

At 1705L of the same day, 10 DD's, course 120°, were sighted 30 miles N.W. of Rendova Island. At 1800L, 9 SBD's escorted by fighter planes attacked the 10 DD's approximately 20 miles S.W. of Munda. A direct hit was scored on two ships, and a near miss on another. One DD was left burning badly and a second appeared to be sinking. The ships changed from a 130° course and headed toward Munda. 10 Zeros protected the ships. One Zero was destroyed and two Grummans are missing. The force of DD's was reported off Cape Esperance (N.W. Guadalcanal) during the night of January 2-3.

6 B-26's and 9 dive bombers escorted by fighter planes bombed Munda on January 2. Hits were made on gun emplacements, runways, and a building.

On the morning of January 3, a force of our planes were unable to locate the Japanese DD's believed retiring from Cape Esperance. At 0725L these planes bombed Munda. No enemy planes were in the air or on the field, and all our planes returned safely. Hits were scored on AA emplacements and other installations.

On January 1 a coast watcher saw a large SS surface West of Vella Lavella Island.

Our forces, concentrating on Jap strongholds, are forcing the enemy to readjust positions in the Mount Austen area. On January 3, it was reported that an additional 30-35 enemy troops had been killed.

(B) New Britain

The airdromes and shipping at Rabaul were subjected to four predawn attacks on January 1. Heavy bombers raided Vunakanau airdrome, Lakunai airdrome and enemy shipping in the harbor. 3 AP's were hit and set afire. Some of these planes on the return trip bombed the airdrome at Gasmata destroying

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an enemy plane on the ground.

Two 10,000 ton vessels were observed the same day at the south of St. George Channel on a course of 230°.

(C) New Guinea

Salamaua was bombed on January 1 and again on January 2. The customs building was destroyed by direct hit, and fires were started in other buildings.

On January 1, heavy fighting was continuing in the area between the mouth of the Senint Creek and Giropa Point where our forces are trying to clear out the remaining Japs.

It is reported that Tufi (S.E. of Buna) was raided by 12 enemy dive bombers on January 1.

(D) Timor

On January 1 Beaco and Lore (S.E. Timor) had been occupied by the enemy. Large enemy supply dumps are reported at Laga and Laival (N.E. Timor).

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. submarine returning from patrol duty in the Southwest Pacific area reports sinking an enemy AK of 8360 tons and possibly damaging another of 4,000 tons.

R.A. Boone

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Summary as of OBOO, Jan. 2, 1945.I. Northwest Pacific.

At 1340X, Dec. 31, 6 B-24's and 9 P-58's again attacked Kiska. Photos of the action showed bombs dropped within 50 feet of the smaller of the 2 AK's bombed the previous day. The larger AK showed evidence of fire.

II. Southwest Pacific.(A) Solomon Islands.

On Dec. 31, Catalinas made nuisance raids on Buks, Buin, and Munda.

On Jan. 1, a B-17 on reconnaissance sighted 4 HB's (or CA's) and 6 DD's on a N.E. course just west of Shortland Island. 2 DD's, 2 AK's, and 1 AP were seen in the Shortland-Tonolei area.

On the same day, 9 B-26's, 3 P-58's, 4 P-59's and 4 P-40's raided Munda, dropping bombs on the runway and living areas.

Our dive bombers dropped over 4 tons of bombs on what was believed to be an enemy division Headquarters near Kolombona on Guadalcanal.

(B) New Ireland.

Photographic reconnaissance at Kavieng on Dec. 31, showed 3 DD's (or CL's) and 1 AK. Intense activity was noted on the airfield where additional revetments and dispersal areas were being constructed. 30 bombers and 23 fighters were on the field.

(C) New Britain.

Gasmata was bombed on both Dec. 30 and Dec. 31, an old-type bomber or air-transport being set afire in the latter raid. On Dec. 31, a B-24 on armed reconnaissance attacked an enemy ship in St. Georges Channel, and an enemy SS in Wide Bay. On the same day, photos showed construction work progressing on a runway parallel to the old strip at Cape Gloucester.

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On Jan. 1, Rabaul was attacked by 1 allied plane; others failed to reach the target. The concentration of shipping is still large, but is mainly composed of merchant vessels.

(D) New Guinea.

On Dec. 31, photos of Lae revealed 5 enemy medium bombers (1 of which was afire) and 42 fighters (38 of which were definitely destroyed or damaged, and the rest apparently unserviceable). 1 dive bomber and 1 unidentified plane were seen also, and were both reported as damaged.

18 twin-engine enemy army bombers again attacked Merauke on Dec. 31. Heavy damage was reported on the barracks and the empty hospital.

Material progress was made by our troops toward Giropa Point on Dec. 31.

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ON Letter, 6-8-72JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES
Summary as of 0800, Jan. 1, 1943I. Northwest Pacific.

At 1030 X December 30, 14 P-38's and 3 B-25's discovered 2 recently arrived enemy AK's or AP's and 3 probable midget subs in Kiska harbor. Our fighter attack was intercepted by 4 float Zeros, and two P-38's were shot down, and 1 Zero crashed in the water. One B-25 was shot down, while the other two unloaded bombs on the enemy ships. The results were unobserved. At 1447 X the same day, a U.S. force of 5 heavy and 8 medium bombers struck again at the enemy ships, and 3 direct hits were scored on one and 2 on the other. One float Zero intercepted, but all our planes returned safely although some minor damage and casualties were sustained. A Catalina on a rescue mission landed in the vicinity of the crashed B-25, but has not returned to its base.

II. Southwest Pacific.(A) Solomon Islands.

At 0950 L, December 29, 12 SBD's and 4 P-39's protected by 10 fighters attacked 2 enemy AK's off the southeast portion of Vangunu Island (New Georgia). No direct hits were scored by bombs, but the ships were set afire by strafing. At 1305L a second attack by 12 SBD's, 8 P-39's and 8 Grumman's resulted in 8 direct hits on the vessels. Explosions and fires made both ships a total loss. There was no interception and no A/A fire. All our planes returned safely.

A U.S. reconnaissance plane observed 5 submerged possible midget subs at Marovo Lagoon (north of Vangunu Island) on December 30.

The following day Munda airdrome was attacked by 6 B-25's protected by 4 P-38's, 4 P-39's and 4 Grumman's. Results were unobserved. No Jap planes were seen, and A/A fire was heavy but ineffective. One P-39 landed in the water on the way to the target, but the pilot reached shore safely.

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(B) New Britain.

Air photos, December 30, reveal 75 large and medium-sized enemy ships in Rabaul harbor, including 7 DD's, 3 PT's, 2 SS's, 1 CM, and 5 patrol craft. Twenty enemy bombers, 13 fighters, and a newly completed runway appeared in an air photo of Vunaknanau airdrome.

(C) New Guinea.

On December 30, Wewak airfield was strafed by a B-24 on reconnaissance, and 4 trucks on the runway were set afire.

Iae airdrome was attacked twice on December 30 by a B-24. One enemy bomber and other probably unserviceable planes were destroyed on the first raid, and three enemy aircraft were destroyed and one damaged on the second attack.

The same day the Salamua area was strafed by 3 Bostons, and a building was destroyed at Madang by a B-24.

Merauke (south Dutch New Guinea) was bombed and strafed by 22 enemy bombers. There were no military casualties, but half the township was destroyed. These were the first definitely Japanese army air types in this area.

On December 31, according to a SWPAC communique, our fighters and bombers strafed Iae airdrome destroying 4 enemy bombers and 1 Zero on the ground and inflicting additional heavy damage to ground installations. In an engagement between 11 P-38's and 12 Zeros, 9 of the enemy planes were shot down and two were damaged. Two of our planes were damaged but returned safely.

On December 31, our ground troops in the Buna area were holding both landing strips, and most of the enemy positions along the beach had been eliminated.

(D) Timor.

Five enemy vessels were observed at Laivai, December 30. A large unidentified vessel passed Laivai heading east.

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III. U.S. Submarine Reports.

An SS, returning from patrol in the southwest Pacific area, reports sinking 2 enemy AK's and a DD.

R. A. Boone.

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