

MR 203(3) JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES (Aug-Oct 1943)

Sec. 8

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MR 203 (3), Sec. 8, JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES (Aug-Oct 1943)

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 30 October 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

During the afternoon of 26 October, 6 B-25's and 16 P-38's raided Buka airdrome. The bombers flying at a low altitude strafed the control tower and destroyed a Jap bomber on the ground. 8 P-38's leading the attack sank an auxiliary craft loaded with troops and destroyed 5 enemy fighters and a bomber on the ground. Some 2,500 personnel were seen working on Bonis runway which was attacked, killing at least 200 Japs.

The morning of the same day, Ballale was raided by 2 F6F's and shortly thereafter a force of 49 SBD's, 36 TBF's, 22 B-25's covered by 69 fighters heavily bombed Kahili. An hour and a half after this raid 27 B-24's escorted by 16 P-38's bombed Kahili again scoring hits on the runway, dispersal area and beached ships. No interception was encountered, but heavy A/A fire destroyed 1 TBF. The strip is now unserviceable. The afternoon of the same day, a force of 30 SBD's and 18 TBF's accompanied by 42 fighters bombed Kara airfield which had been recently resurfaced and reported serviceable. Buildings, A/A positions and the runway were hit rendering the field unserviceable. 1 Zero was in the air but no interception encountered.

Prior to our landing on Treasury Island the evening of 26 October 5 B-34 raided enemy positions. The following morning additional New Zealand troops landed on the Island. By the afternoon the situation was reported as quiet. 75 Japs were killed and the rest were retreating to the NE shore of Malsi.

On 27 October, 17 B-24's without escort dropped 62½ tons on Kahili and Kara at 1100L. Both runways were heavily hit. No interception encountered and our planes were not damaged. At 1640L Allied and Jap fighters engaged in combat 15 miles N. of Treasury Island. 12 of 25 Jap planes were destroyed. At 1615L our fighters reported 70 Jap fighters over Kahili. Only 9 of the enemy planes were engaged of which 3 were destroyed. We lost no planes.

The night of 27 October, Jap planes harassed our LST's retiring from Treasury Island. Float lights, colored flares and 2 bombs were dropped causing minor damage to 1 LST.

Early in the morning of 28 October the 2nd parachute battalion landed without opposition on the SW coast of Choiseul near Voza. A Jap plane dropped bombs at a DD off shore during the operation but no damage resulted. The following night an Allied medium bomber strafed 3 small vessels off the SW coast of Choiseul and later strafed 8 small enemy craft just S. of Choiseul

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Bay.

On 29 October the Japs were withdrawing N. on Choiseul in the Warrior River area. A thousand Japs were reported dispersed between Luti and Kakasa on the SW coast of the island while others were reported at the barge depot at Sangigai.

During the night of 28 - 29 October an Allied reconnaissance plane strafed a Jap AK 5 miles N. of Numa Numa (NE Bourgainville). Another reconnaissance plane the following day strafed a sampan loaded with troops near Green Island (NW of Buka). The sampan was left burning.

During the night of 28 October, Jap planes dropped bombs on Guadalcanal but no casualties or damage resulted.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

Additional details of the attack during the night of 26 October on enemy shipping off Ubili indicate that 3 B-24's dropped 12 1000 lb. bombs on a force including 3 DD's and 2 small AK's. Hits were scored on 1 DD causing large fires while near misses resulted on another DD. One of the AK's was attacked and claimed sunk.

6 RAAF Catalinas set out early 28 October to attack Kavieng. 3 of the planes reached the target and dropped 6 tons of bombs causing explosions in the dispersal area. One plane returned because of engine trouble while the others bombed Gasmata and Cape Hoskins. The same day a B-24 on reconnaissance bombed a Jap CL, 200 miles N. of Mussau Island, but the vessel was not hit. Two floatplanes took off from the ship. A single B-24 strafed the road from Jacquinet Bay to the SW and 3 barges on the beach, while another single B-24's bombed Unea destroying a building and bombed and strafed Garove and Mundua Islands (Vitu group). 3 barges near Cape Hoskins were destroyed and the personnel and buildings at Talasea were strafed by 4 P-47's. 2 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed 2 barges and damaged another at Open Bay. 21 RAAF P-40's dropped 5 tons of bombs on Gasmata starting fires.

(C) New Guinea

An Allied patrol on Long Island, 28 October, reports the area cleared of Japs except on the SW coast. Allied artillery shelled enemy positions in the Satelburg area the same day. No further details were reported. 4 P-47's strafed enemy positions and installations on the N. shore of Huon Peninsula causing fires in buildings at Sio and destroying 2 barges.

(D) N. E. I.

Two Dutch B-25's set out to attack the shipping off the Tanimbar Islands, 28 October. One of the bombers reported near misses on a sea truck. The vessel was also strafed.

II. South China Sea

On 28 October a B-25 attacked enemy shipping off the Kwangchowwan Peninsula. One 150 foot AK was sunk and a second damaged.

R. A. Boone.

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On 28 October, NAVY DEPARTMENT
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(C) Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, October 29, 1943.

planes but no damage or casualties resulted. The same day N. of Kirivim I
RAAF I. Southwestern Pacific bombs on a Jap SS with unobserved results. The

(A) Solomon Islands

On the morning of 28 October Kara was twice attacked by Allied
planes. The first time 29 SBD's and 19 TBF's, under an escort of 17 P-40's,
15 F6F's and 14 P-39's, bombed and strafed the runway, scoring 3 direct hits
on Jap A/A batteries. 3 TBF's were damaged by A/A fire and another crash-
landed on the water. The 2nd time, 19 unescorted B-24's scored hits on the
runway and revetment areas. Neither of these missions sighted any enemy
planes on the runway or in the air. About midday the same day 38 SBD's and
21 TBF's, covered by 16 F6F's, 16 P-39's and 16 P-40's, bombed and strafed
Balale. 6 SBD's and 5 TBF's were damaged by A/A fire but all planes returned
safely. There were no Jap planes on the ground or in the air.

32 Allied Plans which covered ground activities on Treasury
Island from dawn to dusk 28 October didn't sight a single Jap plane.

The afternoon of 29 October, 10-12 small troop laden Jap AK's
and many barges in Tonolei Herbor were strafed by 16 F4U's. An AK and a
barge were destroyed, 3 AK's probably burned and 3 barges set afire. That
evening, Allied forces advancing on Sangigai, SW Central Choiseul, ran into
a strong body of the enemy between Vangara and Voza, 16 miles SE of Choiseul
Bay. No details were reported.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 28 October 4 RAAF PBV's dropped over 6 tons of
bombs on Kavieng, starting a number of fires. 1 PBV also dropped a ton of
bombs on Talasea and about 1/4 ton on Gasmata with unreported results. The
same night, 15 miles NE of Cape St. George, a patrolling PBV bombed and
strafed 2 Jap AK's with unobserved results. Light A/A fire was encountered.

(C) New Britain

On 28 October, Jap bivouac areas at Gasmata were raided by a
B-24 while the dump area was bombed by another B-24. 2 tons of bombs fell
with unobserved results. A/A fire encountered was intense but inaccurate.
That night, in Wide Bay, a patrolling PBV dropped 7 bombs on a jetty at
Brown Island. No results were reported.

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On 29 October, 2 RAAF Beaufighters and 2 RAAF A-20's swept Kimbe Bay, bombing and strafing a number of Jap barges of which 3 were set afire and 2 damaged. The same day Gerove Island was hit with a ton of bombs from a B-24 while 4 P-47's strafed coastal villages S. of Cape Gloucester, starting a number of fires.

(D) New Guinea

Early on the morning of 29 October Buna was raided by 4 enemy planes but no damage or casualties resulted. The same day N. of Kiriwina 2 RAAF P-40's dropped 2 500-lb. bombs on a Jap SS with unobserved results. The same day a large Jap barge in Hansa Bay was strafed and sunk by 2 P-47's which also strafed 9 other enemy craft during the course of a sweep N. of Madang. The same day a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Sio and Nambariwa, just E. of Sio.

(E) N. E. I.

The crew of 1 of the 2 B-24's lost on the 26 October raid on Pomelaa has been rescued and the men report scoring a hit on a medium AK - AP off Pomelaa, leaving the vessel in flames. The bomber also destroyed 10 Jap fighters during the course of an hour's running fight before it was shot down over E. Timor.

On 29 October Selaru, Tanimbar Islands, was raided by 3 Allied missions. 6 RAAF beaufighters dropped 3/4 of a ton of bombs on a small vessel anchored in the area and strafed the airfield and dumps. The same small vessel was left sinking by 5 Dutch B-25's which also bombed and strafed shore supply areas. Finally, 3 B-24's bombed the target. These planes also scored direct hits on a Jap sea truck in Waroe Bay, Ceram, leaving it ablaze. All of the missions encountered slight and inaccurate A/A fire over Selaru.

II. U. S. Submarine Report

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports damaging 2 Jap AK's totalling 15,500 tons.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 29 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Reconnaissance photographs 26 October indicate that the enemy is extending and suffacing the runway at Kieta, NE central Bougainville. No planes were observed there, however.

(B) New Ireland

Early the morning of 27 October Kavieng airfield was raided by 2 RAAF PBY's with unobserved results. About the same time, off SE New Ireland, a U.S. PBY scored a near miss on 1 of 2 S. bound Jap DD's.

(C) New Britain

Early the morning of 27 October 2 RAAF PBY's bombed Gasmata, starting a number of fires. Later in the morning, the same target was raided by 4 A-20's which dropped over a ton of bombs and strafed the dump areas. These planes also dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton of bombs on a small vessel in the area, scoring near misses. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered over Gasmata. The same day, off Ubili, NE New Britain, 2 Beaufighters on a coastal sweep destroyed a small enemy launch in a strafing attack. The S. coast was strafed by a patrolling B-24.

Belated reports increase the number of Jap fighter planes destroyed in combat during the 23 - 24 October attacks on Rabaul from 58 to 63.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 25 - 26 October, in the Finschhafen - Sattelburg area, the Japs withdrew further W. under pressure of heavy Allied mortar fire. The afternoon of 27 October, off Finschhafen, about 10 Jap bombers, covered by 30 fighters, were intercepted by 16 P-40's. 12 of the enemy planes -- 6 bombers and 6 fighters -- were shot down and 6 more were probably destroyed. The Jap planes dropped supplies by parachute to their ground forces in the Sattelburg area. 1 P-40 was lost.

(E) N. E. I.

Allied air activity over N.E.I. 27 October was limited to reconnaissance flights. Photographs taken 26 October reveal a new 2400 foot

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runway 3 1/2 miles ENE of Doka, central Trangan, Aroe Islands.

II. U.S. Submarine Report

A U.S. SS returning from a 47 day patrol reports sinking a 5346 ton AK and damaging 2 7500 ton auxiliary AK - AP's.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 28 October 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Photographs the morning of 25 October revealed a total of 18 Jap planes at Kahili - Shortland - Ballale. 20 barges and 2 small craft were in the same area and in Tonolei Harbor were 2 AK's, 20 barges, 14 small craft and 1 PC. That afternoon 11 planes, 9 of them burned or damaged, were photographed at Kara. Pictures showed the runway at Ballale unfit for service, half of the Kahili runway unfit for service and the Kara runway in good shape.

The morning of 26 October, off Green Island, N. of Buka, 3 small Jap AK's were attacked by a U. S. patrol plane. 2 of the vessels were set afire and the other was beached. The same day Buka airfield was hit by 3/4 of a ton of bombs from a RAAF Beaufort. No results were observed. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. That night, Allied forces made a landing on Treasury Island, S. of Bougainville. The troops were met with mortar fire which was silenced after some casualties had been suffered. On 27 October between 100 and 200 Japs were reported $\frac{1}{2}$ mile NW of Sengigai, SW central Choiseul, and many were said to be in the Choiseul Bay area whence evacuation was probably begun by the enemy on 20 October. About noon, 28 October, a patrolling U. S. plane bombed a warehouse in the harbor area at Green Island. No results were observed.

(B) New Ireland

Early the morning of 26 October Kavieng airfield was raided by 3 PBY's which dropped more than 5 tons of bombs and incendiaries. A/A fire, mostly inaccurate, was encountered. No results were observed. That afternoon, in the Hanover area, 3 Jap convoys were sighted.

(C) New Britain

At noon, 26 October, Lakunai airfield at Rabaul was attacked by 61 fighter-escorted B-24's, 43 of which dropped more than 118 tons of bombs from a high level. 21 Jap planes were destroyed on the ground, 23 more were probably destroyed on the ground and installations were damaged. About 70 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 37 were destroyed and 20 more were probably shot down. All but 1 of our planes returned safely although a number were damaged. The same day Garove Island was twice raided by single B-24's. No results were observed. A/A fire was encountered. That night, 30 miles W.

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of Ubill, NE New Britain, a PBV reported near misses scored on 2 of 3 Jap DD's.

(D) New Guinea

On 26 October Jap planes bombed the runway and vicinity at Kiriwina, causing some casualties and some damage. The same day a patrolling B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Tolokiwa Island, E. of Long Island. No results were observed. Allied ground forces maintained contact with the enemy NW of Finschhafen on 26 October.

(E) N. E.I.

At noon 26 October Pomelaa, Celebes, was raided by 4 B-24's under escort of 6 RAAF Beaufighters. 10 tons of bombs were dropped by the heavies and the fighter strafed and dropped 3/4 of a ton of bombs on shipping and villages in the area. 10 Jap planes intercepted and 1 was destroyed and another damaged. Two B-24's were lost. A/A fire encountered was inaccurate. That afternoon villages in the S. Arce Islands were bombed by 6 Dutch B-25's escorted by 6 Beaufighters. Over 4 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped with unobserved results.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. SS reports damaging a large Jap AP.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 27 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 23 October Kakasa, Choiseul, was strafed by 3 flights of 2 B-34's. The results were not observed.

Very early the morning of 24 October off the WNW coast of Choiseul, 11 F4U's strafed 11 Jap barges, leaving 4 of them in flames.

During the morning of 24 October, Kahili was thrice attacked by Allied planes. First 19 B-24's under escort of 10 F4U's and 4 P-38's dropped 76 tons of bombs on the runway and repair areas with excellent results. Despite heavy A/A fire, all our planes returned safely. Next the target was attacked by 47 SBD's and 22 TBF's covered by 16 P-39's, 8 F4U's and 4 P-40's. Over 45 tons of bombs were dropped and a number of hits scored including 1 on 5 planes parked on the runway. Fires were also started. All our planes returned safely although the pilot of 1 SBD was wounded by the intense A/A fire encountered. Finally, the Kahili runway and revetment area was attacked by 36 B-25's under escort of 28 P-40's. These planes dropped 44 tons of bombs. All our planes returned safely but 3 were damaged by A/A fire and 1 man was killed. None of these missions was intercepted by Jap planes and only 29 enemy planes were photographed in the general area about the time of the first attack.

That afternoon the S. coast of Treasury Island, S. of Bougainville, was raided by 3 unescorted B-34's. No results were reported. No Japs were seen along the SW coast. That night, about 45 miles W. of Cape Henpan, Buka, a patrolling PBV bombed 2 ships and some barges. No results were observed.

The morning of 25 October Ballale was attacked by 31 SBD's and 18 TBF's covered by 28 F4U's and 12 P-40's. Hits were scored throughout the target and 1 SBD scored a direct hit on a grounded Jap bomber and 3 A/A positions. The runway, partially repaired since previous raids, was again rendered unfit for service. Many Jap casualties were observed. There was no enemy interception and all our planes returned safely although 2 were damaged.

Before dawn, 26 October, about 15 miles E. of Teop Harbor, NE Bougainville, a patrolling PBV attacked 2 Jap DD's and reported a direct hit on 1.

(B) Baker Island

On 23 October, about 58 miles S. of Baker Island, a Jap 4 engined flying boat was destroyed by U.S. Army fighters.

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(C) New Ireland - New Britain

The afternoon of 24 October, about 50 miles E. by S. of Lorengau, Admiralty Islands, a B-24 attacked a small coastal vessel. No results were observed. That night, in Rein Bay, a PBV dropped 1 500 lb. and 1 250 lb. bomb on Jap A/A positions. Some A/A fire was encountered. No results were observed. The following day, Unea Island, Vitu group, was raided by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs on the jetty with unobserved results.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 23 October Allied PT's destroyed 2 Jap barges in Vitiaz Strait and scored hits on an enemy SS 42 miles SE of Finschhafen. The next day, 8 B-25's bombed and strafed the Alexishafen runway, silencing A/A positions and starting fires in the dump and dispersal areas. The same day villages, trails and Jap positions N. of Sattelburg were bombed and strafed by 9 low flying A-20's which dropped nearly 4 tons of bombs. On 24 October 4 Jap attacks on Allied positions N. of Finschhafen were repulsed. Counted enemy dead in the area since 17 October now number 525.

The morning of 25 October 7 Jap planes bombed Langemak Bay. Some casualties and damage were reported. The same day, 10 miles N. of Finschhafen along the Masaweng River and at Lakona, on the coast S. of the river mouth, Jap positions were subjected to low-level bombing and strafing by 9 A-20's which dropped over 4 tons of bombs. Also the Alexishafen area was attacked by 17 B-25's which dropped over 15 tons of bombs and shelled and strafed villages, dispersal areas and supply dumps. Some A/A positions were silenced and a number of fires started. A/A fire was encountered, but all our planes returned safely. That afternoon, about 53 miles E. of Newak, a patrolling B-24 damaged a Jap sea truck.

The ground situation 25 October in the Finschhafen ^{area} found Allied artillery shelling enemy positions NE of Sattelburg.

(E) N. E. I.

At midday 25 October Manokwari was raided by 3 B-24's which dropped over 2 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the building area, starting a number of fires. The same day Japero village, near Timika, was raided by 3 RAAF A-29's. More than a ton of bombs were dropped and fires started.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 26 October 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

The afternoon of 24 October, about 210 miles W. of Attu, a B-24 encountered a Jap medium bomber. During the ensuing 20 minutes the U.S. plane made 5 passes at the Jap plane scoring hits before the contact was broken. Our plane was undamaged.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Later details reveal that the attack on Kahili by 12 B-24's under escort of 16 P-40's, reported in the Summary of 25 October as having occurred on 23 October, took place on 22 October. The attack on the W. coast of Choiseul by 9 B-24's also took place on 22 October instead of 23 October as previously reported.

Kahili was also attacked the morning of 22 October by 48 SBD's and 24 TBF's under escort of 24 F6F's, 24 F4U's and 20 P-39's. A/A positions, 2 grounded Jap bombers and a control tower were destroyed. 1 Jap fighter was shot down by a P-39. Photographs later in the day showed the field unserviceable. Also on the morning of 22 October, Poroporo N. Choiseul was raided by 9 B-24's under escort of 12 F4U's.

The morning of 23 October, Kara was attacked by 24 SBD's and 18 TBF's under escort of 24 F6F's, 20 P-39's and 16 P-40. Over 33 tons of bombs were dropped. A direct hit on an A/A position and hits on the runway were scored. Despite intense A/A fire all our planes returned safely. Shortly after the Kara attack 11 B-24's escorted by 16 P-38's, dropped 44 tons of bombs on Kahili. A/A fire was inaccurate and all our planes returned safely. 2 hours later Kahili was again attacked. This time by 6 B-24's escorted by 8 F6F's and 8 F4U's, dropping 24 tons of bombs. A/A fire was inaccurate and all our planes returned safely. That afternoon Kara was attacked for the second time that day. 24 SBD's and 18 TBF's, escorted by 19 P-38's and 16 P-40's, dropped 30 tons of bombs scoring hits on 4 A/A positions and an ammunition dump. Heavy A/A fire was encountered. All the fighters returned safely but 1 SBD was downed by A/A fire, the pilot parachuting. That night, E. of Tiniputs Bay, a B-24 scored a near miss on a Jap double barge.

(B) Greenwich (Kapingamarangi) Island

The forenoon of 23 October, on the SW side of Greenwich Island, an Allied patrol plane bombed and strafed a small Jap AK or tender leaving

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the vessel smoking. A/A fire wounded 2 of the plane's crew. The following day, 250 miles NW of Greenwich Island, a B-24 scored near misses on a 2000 ton Jap AK which was left damaged. The attacking plane encountered inaccurate A/A fire.

(C) New Ireland

About noon, 25 October, about 320 miles NE of Kavieng, an Allied patrol plane bombed a Jap AP. No details were reported.

(D) New Britain

Early the afternoon of 23 October, Rapopo airfield at Rabaul was attacked by 49 B-24's under cover of 82 P-38's. 105 tons of bombs were dropped from high level. 20 planes were destroyed on the field and 7 more were probably destroyed. 50 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 16 were destroyed and 11 probably destroyed. 2 P-38's were lost. A/A fire was encountered from shore and shipping in the harbor. 6 other B-24's failed to reach the target and 1 other which set out bombed the wireless station and buildings at Natamo, Borgen Bay. That night in Jacquinot Bay, a Jap DD was left afire after a patrolling PSY released 2 525 lb. depth charges. Intense and accurate A/A fire from the vessel and from shore was encountered.

The following day, 24 October, Vunakanau, Rapopo and Tobera air-fields in the Rabaul area were attacked by 61 B-25's under escort of 84 P-38's. Incomplete details indicate the destruction of 45 Jap planes on the ground at Vunakanau and Rapopo and the probable destruction of 10 more. Ground installations were destroyed and large fires started in the dispersal and dump areas at Vunakanau. 60 - 70 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 43 were destroyed and 16 probably destroyed. 2 B-25's were lost.

For the 2 days, 23 and 24 October, Jap planes losses in the Rabaul area, were 123 destroyed and 45 probably destroyed, as against the total of 4 Allied planes lost.

Also on 24 October, off Cape Orford a Jap floatplane was downed by a RAAF Beaufighter while SW of the Cape 8 P-40's destroyed 5 small craft. The same day, enemy shipping in Rein Bay was bombed by 2 B-24's. No results were reported.

(E) New Guinea

The night of 21 - 22 October, off Kelana about 35 miles N. of Finschhafen, Allied PT's searching for enemy barges were shelled by 2 Jap shore batteries. On 23 October, in the Finschhafen area, Allied PT's downed 1 of 4 attacking Jap planes.

On 24 October, at Finschhafen, Allied shipping was threatened by a strong formation of enemy dive-bombers under escorting fighters. 23 Allied fighter intercepting, destroyed 4 Japs and probably destroyed 6 more. Our losses were nil. In the Saidor area a B-25 shot down an enemy bomber on patrol. The same day, in the Ramu Valley, Allied patrols dispersed Japs N. of Dumpu.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 25 October 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 22 October Kahili was attacked by 10 B-24's which dropped 35 tons of bombs with unobserved results. The following day at noon 12 B-24's under escort of 16 P-40's dropped 48 tons of bombs near Kahili. The results have not yet been reported. Also on 23 October the W. coast of Choiseul was attacked by 9 B-24's which dropped 9 tons of bombs. No results were observed.

(B) New Britain

On 23 October in Open Bay 2 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed a 200 ton Jap vessel and a barge during a sweep of the N. coast. The same day dumps at Cape Hoskins and Gasmata were raided by 5 RAAF Beauforts which dropped a ton and a half of bombs on the first target and an unreported amount on the second. No results were observed. Slight but accurate A/A fire was encountered over Gasmata.

(C) New Guinea

Before dawn, 23 October, 6 Jap planes bombed the Finschhafen Area. No damage or casualties were reported. The same morning Allied shipping at Goodenough Island was raided by a single enemy plane without success. The same day But and Dagua airfields in the Newak area were hit with over 16 tons of bombs dropped by 24 low-flying B-25's under escort of 17 P-47's. 8 serviceable and 12 unserviceable Jap planes were destroyed on the ground numerous fires were started. The same planes also attacked shipping in Musohu Harbor, releasing over 6 tons of bombs there to sink 2 small AK's and 9 barges and damage a third AK. Our planes were intercepted by 28 Jap fighters which 3 were destroyed and 3 more probably destroyed. 3 P-47's were lost. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. Also on Saturday the Bogadjim road was raided by 9 B-25's which dropped more than 8 tons of bombs and also shelled and strafed the area. A/A positions were silenced and a near miss scored on a bridge. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met. The same day a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Sio. Buildings were reported damaged.

On the ground, 23 October, Jap attempts to regain positions along the coast S. of the Song River were repulsed.

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(D) N. E. I.

The night of 22 October 3 RAAF FBY's dropped over 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries on Laha airfield, Ambon. Fires were started in the dispersal area and along the runway.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. SS returning from a 50 day patrol reports sinking a 6500 ton AK and damaging a 5300 ton AK.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 24 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

A. Solomon Islands

On 20 October 24 F4U's attacked Kahili followed approximately 1 hour later by 24 P-40's. The first fighter group shot down 3 of 20 intercepting enemy planes. Two of our fighters were badly damaged and 1 crash landed, while another, smoking, headed for Vella Lavella. 1 of 3 enemy planes made a pass at our P-40's which returned safely to base.

The same day 17 SBD's covered by 8 F4U's and 8 P-40's dropped 17 tons of bombs on Kakasa, Choiseul Island. The fighters also strafed the target and 2 explosions resulted.

On 21 October 3 B-24's bombed and strafed Kakasa. Some rifle fire was received but no Japs observed. 2 SS's were reported off Sumti Head. During the night of 21 - 22 October an Allied reconnaissance plane strafed 24 barges off SW Central Choiseul. The same plane attacked an enemy AK or corvett off the N tip of Choiseul Island and the vessel appeared to settle at the stern.

12 B-25's covered by 36 fighters dropped over 7 tons of bombs on Kara airdrome the morning of 21 October. Several buildings were destroyed and fires were started at both ends of the runway. All our planes returned safely.

Early 22 October an Allied plane attacked a 1/2 ship Jap convoy 35 miles W of Buka. A vessel reported as a carrier received a direct hit.

B. New Ireland

2 near misses were scored on a medium AK SW of Kavieng during the night 21 - 22 October by 2 B-24's.

25 Beaufighters took part in the attack on the CL's previously reported. 6 torpedoes and 3 tons of bombs were dropped. An 8 ship enemy convoy including 1 large whaling factory ship and 1 DD and AK's was sighted and attacked by single Allied planes on 21 and 22 October. When last reported was heading NW 55 miles NW of Mussau Island. On 22 October a Jap AH was sighted W of New Hanover Island and heading NW.

C. New Britain

Before dawn 21 October Allied PT's attacked and sank a loaded ammunition fuel barge off Cape Dampier (E along the coast from Gasmata).

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Jap planes unsuccessfully attacked our PT's.

The following day 33 P-40's dropped 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs on Gasmata, destroying a bridge and starting fires. On 22 October 3 DD's passed Cape Orford heading N while the same day an SS passed heading N and another passed heading S.

The same day single Allied planes on reconnaissance attacked Garove Island, the Wide Bay area and barges in Borgen Bay.

Further details of the B-25 attack on Rabaul, 18 October, indicate 3 additional enemy planes destroyed on the ground and 8 more shot down in air combat. The total enemy planes destroyed in this raid now number 27 on the ground and 32 in the air.

D. New Guinea.

On 20 October a Jap SS unsuccessfully attacked Allied surface vessels near Langemak Bay, near Finschhafen. 4 Jap fighters strafed Allied barges near the Bumi river but no details or damage were reported. Again the following day 5 Jap planes bombed the Finschhafen area. The results were not reported.

19 B-25's heavily bombed and strafed Wareo and Sattelberg 21 October, while 4 P-39's and 2 boomerangs strafed the Bogadjin road shooting up 6 camouflaged trucks.

On 22 October a single Jap plane dropped a bomb on Kiriwina, causing no damage while other enemy planes bombed the Finschhafen area. The same day a B-24 on reconnaissance bombed and damaged a Jap float plane on Lake Wisdom, Long Island. 20 B-25's raided the area N of Sattelberg, destroying an ammunition dump and scoring hits on enemy villages and trails.

Enemy counter attacks near Katika (just S of Song river and north of Finschhafen) were repulsed 21 October. Allied artillery during the night forced the Japs to evacuate the area. 510 Japs have been counted dead in this area since 17 October and many still remain to be counted.

E. N.E.I.

Pomelaa nickel works in Bone Gulf, Celebes, were attacked during the afternoon of 22 October by 12 B-24's. Large fires and explosions resulted on jetties and in the nickel plant area. 108 500-lb. bombs were dropped at the target.

It is reported that Jap troops are moving SE along the W coast of Dutch New Guinea from Kaukenau. 50 enemy troops were reported at a point about 50 miles SE of Kaukenau early in October.

F. New Caledonia

During the night 21 - 22 October gunfire from a surfaced SS

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was reported at a point approximately 250 miles S of Noumea. During the morning 22 October 4 SS's were sighted 13 miles NW of Cape Queen Charlotte (SE tip of the Island).

R. A. Boone.

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(D) New Britain

On 21 October, search sweep areas were relayed by 18 P-40's which dropped over a ton of bombs with unobserved results. A/A Chou was slight and inaccurate. Later the same day the same target was hit by 2 B-24's which dropped nearly a ton of 100 lb. bombs. No results were observed.

The same day a patrolling B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on 12 Jap barges in Borge Bay, destroying or damaging them and starting fires along the beach. Another B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Cape Glemmer with unobserved results.

(D) New Guinea

On 21 October Satalberg and Kapeo, 4 miles E. of Satalberg, were

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attached by 67 B-24's which dropped 25 tons of bombs on Jap positions. Sattelberg was reported completely destroyed and only a few buildings are said to remain standing. The same day 10 B-24's were used to bomb, shell and strafe 2 villages, demolishing 2 bridges and blocking the unreported number of JAP Communications and U.S. B-40's. Jap troops at Davao were reported to be in the mountains of the Upper Iloilo Valley. *It is requested that this document be burned as soon as it has served its purpose and that in the meantime it not be placed in any general file.*

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 23 October 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Early morning photographs of 21 October revealed 34 Jap planes in the S. Bougainville area. At Kahili were 16 barges and 3 small craft, while 3 beached barges and 1 AK were at Shortland - Faisi; 5 barges were at Ballale and 16 barges, 11 small craft, 1 AK and 1 PC were in Tonolei Harbor. The same morning, off the W. coast of Choiseul, 4 Jap barges were observed heading SE.

(B) Gilbert Islands

On 19 October, Tarawa was attacked by a small force of PB4Y's. Considerable A/A fire was encountered. No damage was suffered. No enemy planes attempted interception. The attack was the second on the Gilberts within a week, Makin having been attacked on 13 October by U.S. land base planes.

(C) New Ireland

Early 21 October, off East Cape, New Ireland, patrolling PEY's claim hits on 1 of 4 vessels in convoy. Later the same morning, in the same area, 2 Jap CL's were attacked by 10 RAAF Beauforts. Incomplete reports claim 1 of the vessels was damaged. 1 Beaufort is missing.

(D) New Britain

On 21 October, Gasmata dump areas were raided by 18 P-40's which dropped over 4 tons of bombs with unobserved results. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. Later the same day the same target was hit by 2 RAAF A-20's which dropped nearly a ton of 100 lb. bombs. No results were observed. The same day a patrolling B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on 11 Jap barges in Borgen Bay, destroying or damaging them and starting fires along the beach. Another B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Cape Gloucester with unobserved results.

(D) New Guinea

On 21 October Sattelberg and Wareo, 4 miles N. of Sattelberg, were

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attacked by 57 B-24's which dropped 221 tons of bombs on Jap positions. Satelberg was reported completely demolished and only a few buildings are said to remain at Wareo.

The same day the Bogadjim road was bombed, shelled and strafed by 4 B-25's. The low flying planes dropped over 6 tons of bombs, destroying 2 villages, demolishing 2 bridges and blocking the road with a landslide. An unreported number of RAAF Boomerangs and U.S. P-40's dive-bombed and strafed Jap troops at Daumoina in the same area. No details were reported. The only ground action reported 21 October was the activity of Allied patrols in the mountains of the Upper Ramu Valley.

(F) N.E.I.

The night of 20 October Hainsisi, SW Dutch Timor, was hit with more than 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries dropped by 4 RAAF A-29's. Large fires were reported.

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(G) New Ireland - New Britain

The afternoon of 18 October, off Lolobau Island, 4 RAAF A-29's probably destroyed a barge and also strafed the NE coast of New Britain, dropping a ton and a half of bombs on the Samarai Camp area. No results were reported. That night a B-24 attacked 2 possible Jap HQ's N. of Cape St. George

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 22 October 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

The afternoon of 21 October, about 325 miles E. of Kamohatka, a PBY engaged a Jap medium bomber. Both planes were hit but the PBY reported no casualties or material damage. The Jap plane headed W. after the fight.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Before dawn 19 October Ballale was raided by 4 B-34's which scored hits on the runway and on A/A positions. A great deal of A/A fire was encountered but none of our planes was damaged. At the same time Kara was raided by 4 other B-34's which started fires in the revetment area. 1 of these planes is missing. Later the same morning Kara was again attacked, SBD's escorted by 12 P4U's and 8 P-40's scoring numerous hits on A/A positions, the runway and buildings. No A/A was encountered and there was no interception by Jap planes.

About the same time 24 B-24's escorted by 14 P-38's attacked Kahili, scoring a hit on an A/A position and starting 5 large fires. The planes were intercepted over Tonolei by 15 - 20 Jap fighters of which 5 were destroyed by the B-24's and 1 by the P-38's. 2 P-38's collided in midair and were lost. Kara was raided for a third time 19 October by 2 P4U's which strafed the runway during the afternoon, setting 5 planes afire.

Kakasa was raided 19 October by 3 B-34's. No results were reported. The following morning Kakasa was raided by 4 B-34's. About the same time islands in the Choiseul Bay area were bombed and strafed by 4 B-34's. Hits were scored on villages, buildings, supplies and a dock, and 2 barges were strafed. No A/A fire was encountered and all our planes returned safely. That afternoon Kakasa village and beach area were attacked by 2 more B-34's. No results were reported.

It is reported that there are at least 3000 Japs between Sangigai and Choiseul Bay living in scattered huts and on short rations. Their actions suggest some impending move. Except for Kakasa, there are said to be no Japs S. of Sangigai.

(B) New Ireland - New Britain

The afternoon of 19 October, off Lolobau Island, 4 RAAF A-20's probably destroyed a barge and also strafed the SE coast of New Britain, dropping a ton and a half of bombs on the Gasmata dump area. No results were reported. That night a B-24 attacked 2 possible Jap DD's S. of Cape St. George

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and 1 of them was believed to have been sunk.

The morning of 20 October, 160 miles W. of New Hanover, a B-24 sighted a convoy and 6 vessels heading for Rabaul. 7 covering Jap fighters attacked the bomber which probably downed 2 of them. Over Long Island the same plane was attacked by 15 more enemy fighters and of these 3 were destroyed and 3 were damaged. The plane also dropped a ton of bombs on Unea Island. The same day Gasmata was raided by 2 RAAF A-20's which dropped over a half a ton of bombs on the dump areas with unobserved results. A/A fire was encountered. Also on 20 October, near Matamo, Borgen Bay, a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on 32 beached barges destroying 17.

(C) New Guinea

Early the morning of 20 October Allied positions in the N. edge of Finschhafen were attacked by 30 Jap planes. Casualties and some damage were reported. The same day our ground forces in the area repulsed 3 Jap attacks S. of the Song River and then made a successful counterattack. Supporting our ground forces on 20 October, 9 A-20's and 10 A-36's dropped over 7 tons of bombs on Jap villages and trails just N. of Sattelberg and also strafed the area. Light and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

The morning of 20 October bridges and supply areas along the road S. of Bogadjim were bombed and strafed by 4 B-25's. Over 2 tons of bombs were dropped. A/A fire was slight. The same morning, near Kairiru Island, Newak, 6 Jap floatplanes taking off were destroyed by 4 P-47's. Our planes also strafed a nearby village and a small enemy AK off Newak. That afternoon Jap installations at Sic were hit with a ton of bombs from a B-24. No results were reported.

(D) N. E. I.

20 October 3 B-24's dropped over 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the town and supply areas at Manokwari. No results were reported. The same plane sank a medium AK about 90 miles NE of Sorong. Slight inaccurate A/A fire was encountered from shipping near Sorong.

R. A. Boone.

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and strafed by 4 RAAF bombers. A barge carrying 15 Japs.
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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 21 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 19 October photographs of Buka showed 20 Jap planes while 32 were photographed in the Kahili - Ballale - Shortland - Faisi area. At Buka were 11 barges. At Matchin Bay there were 8 barges and 1 large AK. In the S. Bougainville area were 23 barges, 2 AK's and a small craft.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

The night of 18 - 19 October, in Wide Bay, a PBV bombed and strafed 4 Jap barges and a landing craft. Intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered. The same night another PBV dropped 3/4 of a ton of bombs on enemy installations on Mundua Island. No results were reported. The following morning, photographs of the Rabaul area revealed a total of 211 planes on 4 airfields and 2 CA's, 9 DD's, 1 FG, 6 SS's, 3 PC, 1 AD, 23 merchant vessels totalling 124,000 tons, 2 floatplanes and 1 flying boat in the harbor.

(C) New Guinea

Before noon 18 October, 4 B-25's, flying through bad weather, dropped over 2 tons of bombs on the Bogadjim area, damaging bridges and villages. Before dawn the next day 14 Jap bombers raided Allied positions on the Bumi River at Finschhafen. No damage was reported. The same morning in the Finschhafen area, 200 Jap dead had been counted during 2 days fighting which began the night of 17 October when Allied forces had to withdraw somewhat before a group of the enemy infiltrating to the coast S. of the Song River. The enemy now appears to have been checked although fighting continues. In the Ramu Valley, patrol clashes have cost the enemy 72 dead. During the forenoon, 19 October, near Wewak 3 P-38's engaged 9 Jap light bombers, probably destroying 1. The same day a B-24 scored a near miss on a bridge over the Nankina River, just W. of Saidor, while another B-24 bombed Jap installations at Teliata Point, Sio, with unobserved results.

(D) N. E. I.

Before dawn 19 October, 6 Dutch B-25's dropped 6 tons of bombs on the airdrome at Pullorc while 3 RAAF A-29's dropped over a ton of bombs and incendiaries on the village. Hits were scored on both targets. Inaccurate A/A fire was met. The same day the runway at Trangan, Arce Islands, was bombed

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and strafed by 4 RAAF Beaufighters which also sank a barge carrying 15 Japs.
1 Beaufighter is missing.

R. A. Boons

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The morning of 18 October, 33 miles SE of Cape St. George, a RAAF Beaufighter scored a near miss on a Jap B2C. The same plane also sighted 2 barges apparently headed for Rabaul. That afternoon, off the W. tip of New Hebrides, a B-24 strafed 2 small enemy AT's and destroyed a Jap float-plane which attempted interception. Although not accurate, a Jap fire was answered. That night, about 14 miles SE of Cape St. George, an Allied patrol plane strafed a small enemy vessel. The vessel disappeared and the plane was damaged. The vessel's position, however, an Allied patrol plane recovered a Jap motor launch in which 15 Japs were taken to Cape St. George and another launch of about 10 Japs taken to Cape St. George. No results were reported.

(C) 19 October

The afternoon of 17 October, a great deal of merchant ship activity was observed in Milne Bay Harbor, Rabaul. Photographs reveal 2 SA's, 1 CA, 1 SS, 10 motorships and 15 floatplanes in the harbor while 40 planes were at base and 800 coverage showed to be at Vunakanau.

Before dawn 18 October 5 RAAF Beaufighters dropped nearly 5 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the Cape Hoskins dump area, causing a number of fires. The same day an attack on - 2 - by VB 9-21's was thwarted by weather but B4 D-25's slipped under low hanging clouds to attack shipping and airfields in the area. 1 B2, 1 B4 and 1 C-47-ton AI was sunk and 1 B2

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 20 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 18 October photographs of the Kahili - Ballale - Shortland area revealed 37 planes, 10 barges and 2 medium boats. At Tonolei were 1 PC, 21 barges and 76 small craft. 10 barges were at Ambutuei. That afternoon, near Kahili, 19 F4U's engaged 15 - 20 Jap fighters destroying 8 and damaging 2. Our plane strafed installations along the E. shore of Shortland Island. Over Kara and Kahili intense A/A fire was met. 1 P-40 is missing. That evening Jap concentrations at Kakasa, Choiseul, were attacked by 18 SBD's, 14 P-39's and 11 F6F's. Much black smoke arose from the village and tent areas after the bombing and strafing. Later that night, in the Choiseul Bay area, Allied PT's seeking Jap barges were bombed 6 times by enemy planes. No damage was reported. The following morning Kakasa was bombed by a single Allied patrol plane with unobserved results.

(B) New Ireland

The morning of 18 October, 31 miles SW of Cape St. George, a RAAF Beaufort scored a near miss on a Jap SS. The same plane also sighted 5 vessels apparently headed for Rabaul. That afternoon, off the W. tip of New Hanover, a B-24 strafed 2 small enemy AK's and destroyed a Jap floatplane which attempted interception. Slight but accurate A/A fire was encountered. That night, about 34 miles SW of Cape St. George, an Allied patrol plane twice attacked 4 small enemy craft. One disappeared and the other 3 scattered. The following night, 19 October, an Allied patrol plane attacked 2 Jap vessels, 1 about 35 miles SSW of Cape St. George and another about 40 miles SE of Cape St. George. No results were reported.

(C) New Britain

The afternoon of 17 October, a great deal of merchant ship activity was observed in Simpson's Harbor, Rabaul. Photographs reveal 2 CA's, 1 CL, 9 DD's, 24 merships and 18 floatplanes in the harbor while 58 planes were at Rapopo and 85% coverage showed 44 at Vunakanau.

Before dawn 18 October 6 RAAF Beauforts dropped nearly 6 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the Cape Hoskins dump area, causing a number of fires. The same day an attack on Rabaul by 78 B-24's was thwarted by adverse weather but 54 B-25's slipped under low hanging clouds to attack shipping and airfields in the area. 1 DD, 1 PG and 1 6000 ton AK was sunk and 1 PG

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and 1 6000 ton AK were probably sunk. Another PG was set afire. 36 grounded aircraft were destroyed at Rapopo and Tobera. A/A positions were silenced and fuel dumps set afire at the fields. Following the attack, our medium bombers, which were without fighter escort, were intercepted at Cape Gazelle by 50 - 60 Jap fighters. 24 of the enemy planes were destroyed and 8 probably destroyed. 2 B-25's were destroyed and another is missing.

About the same time, 12 of the 76 B-24's which were unable to reach Rabaul dropped 23 tons of bombs on Cape Hoskins, starting a number of large fires and destroying a grounded Jap plane. 3 other B-24's bombed Cape Gloucester and 6 bombed Sio, N. shore of Huon Peninsula, New Guinea. 1 B-24 was lost and 2 are missing.

(D) New Guinea

The Finschhafen area was attacked the morning of 17 October by 6 Jap bombers under escort of 12 fighters. No damage was done. 3 Jap planes were destroyed by our intercepting fighters. The following day our Allied artillery and ground troops stopped Jap troops infiltrating S. of the Song River. These Japs were presumably remnants of those landed the day before from barges.

(E) N. E. I.

Early the morning of 18 October a Dutch B-25 bombed and strafed villages in the Wissel Lakes area. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. No results were observed.

Later reports reveal that the 3 completed runways reported on Miti Island, Halmahera, are at Kau Galela and near Waisile Bay while there is but the one under construction at Miti Island.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 19 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 17 October, 57 miles W. of Cape Henpan, Buka, a B-24 unsuccessfully attacked 6 Jap barges and an AK, and that night, about 30 miles W. of Buka Passage, Buka, 6 more barges were attacked by a patrolling PBV with unobserved results. The same day, about 7 miles SE of Tetipari Island, SE of Rendova, an SS was reported. Also on 17 October, over Ballale, 21 F4U's destroyed 14 of 30 - 40 intercepting Jap fighters and damaged 2 more. All our planes returned safely. The same afternoon, 15 miles S. of Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, a B-24 bombed and strafed 3 barges driving 2 of them ashore. October 17 photographs revealed but 1 Jap fighter plane on the runway at Kara and 3 at Ballale.

The morning of 18 October Ballale was attacked by 28 B-24's, 32 SRD's and 18 TBF's under escort of 56 fighters. Many direct hits were scored throughout the target area. 12 to 15 Jap fighters intercepted following our planes to Vella Lavella. Our fighters destroyed 3 Jap fighters. The same morning, 8 miles SSW of Choiseul Bay, 40 Jap barges were sighted heading towards shore. It is now reported that a considerable number of Japs remain at Kakasa, SE of Luti.

(B) Nauru

The morning of 18 October, about 142 miles SW of Nauru, an Allied reconnaissance plane attacked a surfaced enemy SS with unobserved results. That afternoon about 420 miles NNW of Nauru, the same plane probably scored a direct hit or near misses on a surfaced Jap SS.

(C) New Britain - New Ireland

A B-24, on 17 October, scored near misses on a medium AK - AP 42 miles NW of Mussau Island while shortly after noon the same day another Allied patrol plane scored a direct hit on a crowded Jap AP headed SE in convoy 80 miles ENE of Mussau Island. The same day, 17 miles NW of Rabaul, a B-24 sank a Jap PC. Along the S coast of New Britain, 17 October, 4 RAAF Beaufighters strafed 2 beached barges while at Garove Island, a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on the Jap camp area.

(D) New Guinea

A delayed report reveals that the Hewak area was raided 18 October

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By 8 B-25's in addition to the 26 previously reported as having attacked. The 8 planes dropped over 3 tons of bombs, destroying 15 grounded planes. 4 more Jap planes which attempted interception were destroyed.

The morning of 17 October, in the Finschhafen area, a Jap ground force of unreported strength advanced down the Song River to a point 2 miles above the mouth. About the same time 3 barges landed enemy forces S. of the Song River. 2 of the barges were wrecked by Allied artillery and 37 Japs killed. The rest fled, presumably towards Jap positions to the NW. In the Ramu Valley Allied ground forces were active against enemy positions N. of Dumpu.

The same morning Oro Bay was attacked by an estimated 35 Jap fighters which approached from the NE. 24 enemy planes were destroyed and 6 probably destroyed when intercepted by 42 P-38's and 3 P-40's. 3 P-38's and 1 P-40 are missing. The same day, a road S. of Sattelberg was bombed and strafed by 9 A-20's. Nearly 4 tons of bombs were dropped. Simultaneously Sattelberg itself was attacked by 9 B-25's which dropped nearly 5 tons of bombs, destroying a number of buildings. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. All our planes returned safely.

(E) N. E. I.

The night of 16 October 3 RAAF PBV's dropped over 4 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the waterfront area at Ambon, starting large fires. A/A fire of all calibres was encountered. The following day, Ternate, Halmahera, was attacked by 6 B-24's which dropped 9 tons of bombs. A number of fires were observed. On Miti Island, Halmahera, 3 serviceable runways and another under construction were observed.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 18 October 1943

I. Pacific Area

Early the morning of 17 October an unidentified plane approached Oahu, Hawaiian Islands, from the SW and fled in the direction whence it came after searchlights had been turned upon it. The plane was thought possibly to have come from an enemy SS. It dropped neither bombs nor flares.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 15 October Allied PT's seeking enemy barges off the SW coast of Choiseul were ineffectively bombed by Jap planes. Early the following morning Ballale was raided by 6 low-flying B-25's. Excellent hits on the runway were reported. Slight and inaccurate m/g fire was encountered. Later the same morning, Kara, NW of Kahili, was attacked by 8 B-24's which dropped 16 tons of bombs. Some smoke and an explosion were observed.

Also on the morning of 16 October Buka was raided by 5 B-25's. Fires and explosions were observed in the revetment area and on the runway. The same morning, 5 miles N. of Shortland Island, a B-24 sighted 3 Jap SS's. Shortly after noon, 16 October, a 50-foot Jap barge carrying 25 to 30 men was sunk in Tonolei Harbor by a F4U. The same plane strafed another barge, strafed and set afire a 50-foot junk and attacked a tug with unobserved results.

A number of Japs were reported at various points along the SW coast of Choiseul awaiting evacuation by barge.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

Early 16 October the Cape Hoskins dump area was hit with more than 2 tons of bombs and incendiaries dropped by 4 RAAF Beauforts. Another Beaufort dropped a half a ton of bombs on Gasmata. Results were not observed over either target. About the same time, an Allied PBV on patrol sank 1 of 5 enemy barges near Cape Gloucester, and damaged the others. Later Cape Gloucester airfield was raided by 8 unescorted A-20's which, flying low, dropped over 2 tons of bombs and strafed the area, destroying 7 enemy planes on the ground and silencing A/A positions.

Incomplete photographs of the Rabaul area 16 October showed the 2 CA's, seen there 15 October, still in the harbor. Full coverage showed 31 planes at Tobera and 85% coverage showed 70 at Lakunai. The same day a B-24 destroyed a Jap power barge at Garove Island.

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(C) New Guinea

Early 15 October 2 or more Jap planes bombed Nadzab, causing some casualties and damage. Later details of the previously reported Jap raid on Oro Bay the same morning indicate that a total of 44 enemy planes were destroyed and 11 probably destroyed while the 2 B-25's, believed missing, returned safely. Late reports also raise the total of B-25's which attacked the N. Huon Peninsula, 15 October, from 38 to 65.

On 16 October in the Long Island - Madang area 30 P-38's, escorting 33 B-25's on a vain search for a Jap convoy, destroyed one and probably destroyed the other of 2 Jap fighters engaged. The patrolling B-24, which had earlier reported the convoy, destroyed 2 of 9 Jap planes that attempted interception.

About midday 16 October Wewak and Boram airfields were attacked by 26 B-25's escorted by 15 P-38's and 2 P-47's. Flying low, the bombers dropped about 14 tons of bombs, destroying 10 Jap planes on the ground and damaging 12 more. Hits were also registered on A/A positions, supply dumps and a lugger off shore. Of an estimated 30 intercepting Jap planes, 16 were destroyed and 3 probably destroyed by our planes. A/A fire of all calibres was encountered and 1 B-25 was downed. Simultaneously with the Wewak attack, Alexishafen and vicinity were attacked by 25 B-25's under an escort of 25 P-47's while 12 other B-25's bombed and strafed villages in the Sio area. 2 grounded bombers and a number of buildings were wrecked at Alexishafen and 2 barges were destroyed at Sio. Our planes destroyed 15 of 30 - 40 intercepting Jap fighters and probably destroyed 6 more. 1 B-25 and 1 P-38 were lost in combat. That night in the Long Island area a Jap barge hide-out was lightly bombed by a PBV. No results were observed.

(D) N. E. I.

On 16 October Allied air activity over N.E.I. was limited to reconnaissance.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports damaging a 4000 ton AK.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 17 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Photographs on 15 October showed 16 Jap planes at Buka and 21 at Kahili - Kara. Number of barges were also in the Kahili area. On 15 October villages from Luti to Sangagai, SW Choiseul, were reported evacuated by the enemy. That night, about 50 miles NW of Buka 1 of 2 Jap barges was left listing after an attack by a B-24 on reconnaissance.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

On 15 October Garove Island installations were hit with a ton of bombs from a B-24. No results were reported. The same day off, Gasmata, 8 P-38's destroyed 2 Jap planes. Mid-day photographs of the Rabaul area revealed 23 merchant ships, totalling about 130,000 tons; 2 CA's, 1 CL, 9 DD's, 7 SS's, 1 AD, 1 AS, 1 AM, a large AO, 10 floatplanes and 1 flying boat in the harbor. 59 planes were at Lakunai, none was at Keravat and clouds obscured the other fields.

(C) New Guinea

On 13 October Jap positions N. of Dumpu were bombed and strafed by 12 P-39's and an unreported number of Boomerangs. That night Allied PT's strafed Sio and probably destroyed an enemy dive-bomber.

In the attack on Alexishafen on 14 October, previously reported, later reports reveal that 10 B-26's participated in the attack in addition to the 28 B-25's. That night Lae and Oro Bay were attacked by an unreported number of Jap planes. No damage was done.

Before dawn, 15 October, Langemak Bay was ineffectively bombed by a single Jap plane. The same morning Oro Bay was attacked by 20 Jap dive-bombers under escort of 45 fighters. Little serious damage was done since the attack was intercepted by 43 P-38's and 8 P-40's which destroyed 31 Jap planes and probably destroyed 8 more. 2 P-40's were lost. Later the same morning 38 B-25's dropped over 37 tons of bombs and expended more than 50,000 rounds in strafing in an attack along the N. shore of Huon Peninsula. Number of buildings were destroyed at Sio where light, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. One other B-25 failed to reach the target and 1 crash-landed. Mid-day photographs revealed 11 Jap planes at Alexishafen. In the afternoon, 6 B-26's dropped over 8 tons of bombs on Kiari village, W. of Sio. No results were reported.

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The ground situation on 15 October, found the Japs apparently withdrawing up the Faria River because of increase Allied pressure. Enemy positions S. of Daumoina were bombed and strafed by 8 P-39's and some boomerangs during the day.

(D) N.E.I.

On 15 October 3 B-24's dropped over 2 tons of bombs and incendiaries on Bocla, Ceram Island, starting a number of fires. The same planes dropped a ton and a half of bombs on an AK off Geser, SE Ceram, and a less than a ton of bombs and incendiaries on Taberfane, Aroe Islands, hitting the supply dumps. A/A fire was encountered over all the targets and over Taberfane 7 Jap float-planes attempted interception. Of these 1 was destroyed. That night Manatuto, Portugues Timor, was attacked by 2 RAAF A-29's which dropped about $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton of bombs, starting fires in the building area. A/A fire was accurate.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 16 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 15 October 5 B-25's attacked Buka at night starting 4 fires on the airfield and 3 fires and an explosion NW of the revetment area.

At noon the same day a force of 21 B-24's under escort of 16 F4U's and 12 P-38's heavily raided the Kahili area. Large fires resulted in the supply areas which could be seen from Vella Lavella and Choiseul. 4 F4U's shot down 6 of 10 - 15 Jap fighters while all our aircraft returned safely.

It is reported that 10,000 Japs were on Kolombangara prior to evacuation and approximately 3,000 of these went to Choiseul and the rest are believed to have proceeded directly to Rabaul by DD. It is further reported that the Japs will not evacuate any area in the Solomons W of 156° 20' E.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

On 13 October a force of 73 heavy bombers set out to attack Rabaul. Bad weather forced 63 of these planes to return without striking a target while the remaining planes bombed Gasmata, Cape Gloucester and Cape Hoskins. 79½ tons of bombs were dropped on the 3 targets, rendering the air strips unserviceable as revealed by photographs taken later in the day. The same morning 4 RAAF Beaufighters bombed the dump area at Cape Hoskins with unobserved results.

The following day a B-24 on reconnaissance unsuccessfully bombed 2 enemy AK's near Lorengau. The same plane sighted 4 medium AK's escorted by 2 DD's heading SE at a point approximately 20 miles S of New Hanover Island.

During the morning of 14 October 24 B-25's heavily bombed and strafed villages on W New Britain S of Cape Gloucester. The raid was made from a low altitude and only slight A/A fire was encountered. Only a few barges were seen. That night B-24's on reconnaissance attacked 2 barges NE of Cape St. George and one barge was left listing.

During the night of 15 October a reconnaissance plane attacked 2 Jap vessels in an 11 ship convoy at a point 40 miles SE of Cape St. George. No further details were reported.

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(C) New Guinea

Our forces W of Finschhafen overcame another pocket of resistance on 13 October while other forces continued to press the enemy in the Ramu River area. Over 400 Japs have been killed since 19 September.

Considerable barge traffic is reported from Long Island (Vitiav Strait) to the New Guinea coast in the Saidor area. Enemy barge hideouts are reported on Long Island.

The airfields at Alexishafen were raided 14 October by 28 B-25's. 2 of 5 enemy planes on the ground were destroyed. Many fires resulted from the attack and a fuel dump was possibly hit.

The same morning Buna and Oro Bay were attacked by approximately 12 enemy planes but only slight damage and casualties resulted.

(D) N.E.I.

6 RAAF Beaufighters bombed and strafed Selaru Island in the Tanimbar group on the morning 14 October. At night Dutch B-25's and Hudsons attacked Dilli, Lautam and Koepang (Timor), while 4 other Hudsons and a B-25 bombed Langgoer airfield (Kai Islands). Explosions and fires resulted at all targets.

II. China

On 14 October 4 B-25's attacked shipping at Amoy. A 200-foot vessel was hit and left burning while another 250-foot vessel was also left burning as a result of a direct hit and near miss.

III. U. S. SS Reports

A U. S. SS returning from patrol in the SW Pacific area reports damaging 2 enemy AK's totaling 11,000 tons. A second U. S. SS in the same area reports sinking an enemy AK of 8,572 tons, an AP of 6,000 tons and an AO of 9,181 tons. A 75-ton barge and a 50-ton schooner were also sunk by gunfire, making a grand total of 23,878 tons of Jap shipping downed. A third U. S. SS reports damaging a 5,860 ton enemy AK.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 15 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On the night of 11 - 12 October, Allied ground positions on NW Vella Lavella were sporadically raided by low flying Jap planes which did no damage and caused no casualties. The following night, 26 miles W. of Cape Henpan, Buka, a convoy was bombed and strafed with unobserved results by a PBV on patrol. On 13 October, 10 miles W. of Buka Passage, an Allied patrol plane scored a hit on 1 of 4 Jap barges. The same day 2 Japs were eliminated on NW Kolombangara. That night, off SW Vella Lavella, patrolling Allied PT's were bombed by a single enemy plane. 1 boat was damaged by 2 near misses but there were no casualties. Very early in the morning of 14 October, 10 miles W. of Moli Island, SW Choiseul, a Jap plane was shot down by Allied PT's and the pilot was captured. That afternoon, NW of Vella Lavella, 2 Jap medium bombers were attacked by 2 F4U's. 1 Jap was destroyed and 1 damaged.

It is estimated that between 3 and 9 October 3000 to 4000 Japs passed through Bamatana, SW central Choiseul, on their way NW.

(B) New Hebrides

Night of 14 October, Espiritu Santo was alerted by a single Jap plane which dropped a flare but no bombs.

(C) New Britain

At mid-day 12 October, Rabaul was attacked by 114 B-25's and 69 B-24's covered by 125 P-38's. The medium bombers attacked the airfields in the area, destroying 100 Jap planes on the ground, damaging 51 on the ground and destroying 26 of 40 which endeavored to intercept. 3 other intercepting planes were damaged. The heavy bombers attacked the harbor, sinking 2 PC's, and damaging 1 SS, 1 AS, 1 AD and 1 AK. 19 other heavies failed to reach the target. Our crews were surprised by the lightness or absence of A/A fire. 2 B-24's and 2 B-25's are missing.

During the attack on Rabaul, 2 B-24's dropped 2 tons of bombs on Cape Gloucester and 3 tons on Gasmata, destroying a fuel dump at the latter place. Following the big attack, Tobera and Rapopo airfields, in the Rabaul area, were attacked by 12 RAAF Beaufighters which damaged a Jap bomber, probably destroyed another and damaged 2 fighters in combat. 1 Beaufighter is missing.

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The afternoon of 13 October, the No. 2 Strip at Cape Gloucester was hit with a ton of bombs from a B-24 on reconnaissance.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 10 October off Langemak Bay Allied surface vessels were ineffectively bombed by an unreported number of Jap planes. The following day Allied positions in the Song River Area were bombed by 8 Jap planes. No damage was reported. That afternoon over Newak 4 patrolling P-47's shot down a Jap reconnaissance bomber. That night, S. of Rooke Island, PT's sank a small Jap vessel, damaged 6 to 8 barges and strafed enemy installations on Tuam Island.

Early the morning of 13 October Morobe was unsuccessfully raided by 4 Jap planes. The same day Allied ground forces captured commanding positions in the Sattelberg area and also N. of Dumpu.

Photographs 13 October showed a total of 63 planes in the Newak area.

(E) N. E. I.

The night of 12 October off Cape Laivai, NE Portuguese Timor, a small AK was driven towards shore, smoking, following a strafing attack by Allied PBV's. 1 of the planes also strafed a 70 foot schooner near Seemba Island. Slight A/A fire was encountered over Cape Laivai and Waingapoe, Soemba. The same night, off Tior Island, in the Watoebela group SE of Ceram, 4 B-24's scored a near miss on a Jap AK - AP escorted by a DD. Intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 14 October 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

The evening of 13 October Attu was attacked by 10 Jap bombers which dropped 10 bombs in Massacre Bay near the Alexai runway. No damage was done. U.S. fighters were unable to intercept the enemy.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Hawaiian Islands

On 12 October 2 possible Jap SS's were reported within a radius of 300 miles of Hawaii, NE and SSE and a 3rd was reported about 650 miles NW of Oahu.

(B) Solomon Islands

Photographs the morning of 12 October revealed 20 Jap planes at Buka, 3 floatplanes on the beach at Bonis and 40 planes in the Kahili - Ballale - Shortland area. In addition, 31 barges and 1 AK were photographed in Matchin Bay; 1 AK, 1 PC and 7 barges at Kahili; 2 barges at Ballale, and 6 AK's, 2 AO's, 37 barges and 12 small craft in Tonolei Harbor.

(C) New Ireland - New Britain

At Garove Island, 12 October, a B-17 dropped a ton of bombs on a grounded sea truck. That night off Cape Gloucester a PBV bombed a beached vessel. No details of either attack were reported.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 10 - 11 October off Finschhafen 1 small Jap bomber was shot down by patrolling PT's. The following evening 3 enemy planes raided the Buna area. No damage was reported. On 12 October Allied ground forces maintained pressure against Jap positions in the hills N. of Dumpu and our artillery was active also.

(E) N. E. I.

Dili, NW Portuguese Timor, was bombed the night of 12 October by 4 Dutch B-25's and dropped over 2 tons of bombs, starting numerous fires.

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A/A fire encountered was accurate. The same night at Penfoei, SW Dutch Timor, airfield dispersal areas were hit with over 2 tons of bombs and incendiaries from 3 B-24's. Slight A/A fire was encountered. Penfoei and Keepang, in the same area, were also attacked later the same night by 7 A-29's which dropped nearly 3 tons of bombs, starting fuel fires in both target areas. Near misses were also scored on 1 of 3 probable sea trucks in the vicinity. Intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered over Penfoei.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 13 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Afternoon of 10 October, over Oema Island, NE of Kahili, 11 P-38's destroyed 6 of 10 intercepted Jap fighters. 1 of our fighters crashed returning to base killing the pilot. That evening Allied PT's partolling off N. Vella Lavella were bombed by an unreported number of Jap planes. 1 boat was damaged. There were 3 casualties.

Photographs morning of 11 October revealed 35 enemy planes at Buka, 23 enemy planes at Kahili. In the Buin area were 81 barges, 21 small craft, 2 AO's and 1 small AK.

The same day Kahili was heavily bombed by 22 B-24's, 18 TBF's and 15 SBD's covered by 32 P-40's, 18 F4U's, 15 P-39's and 7 P-38's. 20 to 30 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 2 were destroyed by the B-24's, 7 by the F4U's and 3 by the P-40's. 1 P-40 was damaged but returned safely. The same day it was estimated that there are 2000 Japs scattered in towns and barge depots along the S. coast of Choiseul. Searching New Zealanders reported no Japs on Gizo Island SE of Vella Lavella 11 October although they found evidence of recently evacuated defenses on the NE coast. 1 Jap was captured at Gizo Anchorage. Our patrols continued to search Kolombangara and Vella Lavella without opposition. The night of 11 October, in Matchin Bay, N. Bougainville, 2 B-25's scored hits on 2 large Jap AK's probably sinking them.

(B) New Ireland

On 11 October, E of Cape St. George, a direct hit on a large AK in convoy was scored by a RAAF Beaufort. The vessel was left afire and listing. The same day 4 RAAF Beauforts attacked a convoy in St. George Channel. Near misses were reported but there were no details.

(C) New Britain

The night of 10 October Mundua Island was strafed by an Allied PBV. No details were reported. The next day a B-17 on reconnaissance dropped a ton of bombs on Garove Island with unobserved results. 11 October photographs of the Rabaul area showed 273 planes (84 medium bombers, 44 light bombers and 145 fighters) in the 4 airfields in the area. Shipping was little changed from the 2 previous days. Newly arrived were 1 SS and 2 AK's.

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(D) New Guinea

The night of 10 October Lae was bombed by 5 Jap planes. No results were reported. The following morning SE of Wewak 12 Jap bombers and 33 fighters were intercepted by 4 P-47's. Our planes destroyed 8 enemy fighters and probably destroyed 2 others. The same day Allied ground forces repulsed Jap counterattacks in the Sattelberg area, causing the enemy heavy casualties. In the Ramu Valley our forces drove the Japs from their defense positions on the Uria River, N. of Dumpu.

(E) N.E.I.

The night of 10 October 4 RAAF PBV's dropped over 2 tons of bombs on Ambon, silencing A/A positions and starting great fires in the barracks area and along the waterfront. Slight A/A fire was encountered. The following day Manokwari and Bira were bombed by 3 B-24's which dropped about 1 1/2 tons of bombs on each target. The same planes strafed Fak Fak and scored 2 hits on a 200 ton Jap vessel there. That night 4 Dutch B-25's dropped over 3 tons of bombs on Lautem and Cape Chater starting fires. Slight, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking a 4000 ton
AK.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 12 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 8 October, Segi, SE New Georgia, Munda and S. Vella Lavella were all ineffectively bombed by Jap planes. Early the following morning 4 Jap planes bombed the Munda - Bairoko area without causing any damage. The same morning the Jap radar station and 2 nearby buildings on Poporang Island, Bougainville, were set afire and 3 A/A guns were silenced in a strafing attack by 16 F4U's and 8 P-39's which also strafed tents and buildings on Morgusaia Island in the same area. Intense A/A fire was encountered. On the return flight, these planes strafed and set afire 2 Jap barges off the SW Choiseul coast. That night, Allied PT's, patrolling N. of Vella Lavella, sighted a great deal of oil and debris, including a Jap who could not be rescued.

The morning of 10 October Kahili was attacked by 24 B-24's, 18 SBD's and 12 TBF's under escort of 24 P-40's, 21 F4U's, 16 P-39's, and 16 P-38's. Heavy damage was done the airfield and surrounding area. Intense A/A fire damaged 2 B-24's. Following the attack, the B-24's were intercepted by 23 Jap fighters. 1 B-24 was shot down, Jap fighters strafing the 5 men who bailed out. Another B-24 was damaged and crashed on the return flight, killing 2 men. A TBF landed on the water but the crew was rescued. 15 of the intercepting Japs were destroyed, 10 by the B-24's and 5 by the fighters. Later the same morning 15 Jap planes were photographed at Kahili and Ballale. None was seen at Kara. That afternoon, along the W. coast of Choiseul, a number of targets were bombed and strafed by 6 B-25's under escort of 14 NZ P-40's. 1 barge was sunk and 2 damaged.

Also on 10 October Allied patrols continued to reconnoitre Kolombangara without finding any Japs. One patrol reached Tuki Point on the N. shore. The same day, on Vella Lavella, Allied patrols were active in the NW area where the Jap dead were estimated at 200. The rest are believed to have been evacuated the night of 6 - 7 October. Early the morning of 11 October, off Koli Point, Guadalcanal, 2 Allied AK's were damaged by enemy torpedo planes.

(B) Kapingamarangi Island

The morning of 10 October, about 260 miles NE of Kapingamarangi Island, a B-24 probably sank an enemy SS. An underwater explosion followed the dropping of 4 bombs and thereafter oil and discolored water rose to the surface.

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(C) New Ireland

On 10 October, about 75 miles SE of Cape St. George, a Jap convoy, headed E. and consisting of 3 AK's and 1 PG, was attacked by a B-24 which scored near misses on a 6000 ton AK, setting it afire.

(D) New Britain

Off Lolobau Island, NE New Britain, 10 October, 4 fuel-laden barges were set afire by 3 RAAF Beaufighters. The same day a ton of bombs was dropped on supply dumps at Cape Gloucester by a B-24. No results were observed. Intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered. Photos of Rabaul, 10 October, showed little change in the shipping situation from the previous day, except for the addition of 3 more DD's and another AM. Complete coverage of Tobera, Lakunai and Rapopo airfields revealed a total of 128 planes. No planes were observed at Keravat and Vunakanau was not covered.

(E) New Guinea

The morning of 9 October, off Morobe, a Jap SS attacked a small AK. No details were reported. That night Dobodura was twice raided by Jap planes. The first raid by 2 planes, was ineffective. The second, by 10 - 12 planes, started some fires. One enemy plane was destroyed by A/A fire and 2 others were possibly destroyed. (One raid was briefly reported in the summary for 11 October.) The same night Kiriwina was bombed by 6 Jap planes and the next morning 3 more came over but did no damage.

Allied patrols reported the enemy digging in along the upper Uria River, N. of Dumpu, 10 October. In the Satelberg area Jap resistance continues. Prior to 9 October more than 400 of the enemy had been killed in clashes in this area. At noon 10 October, 11 A-35's and 9 A-20's, supporting ground forces, dropped over 9 tons of bombs and strafed Jap positions in and near Satelberg. Light A/A fire was encountered.

(F) N.E.I.

10 October Saumlaki, Tanimbar Islands, and Langgoer, Kai Islands, were attacked by 5 Dutch B-25's and 1 RAAF A-29 and 4 RAAF A-29's respectively. Over 6 tons of bombs fell on Saumlaki with unobserved results. More than 2 tons of bombs were dropped on the airfield at Langgoer, starting a number of fires. A/A fire was encountered over both targets.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 11 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Photographs 9 October revealed 21 planes at Buka and 8 in the Kara - Kahili - Ballale area. The same day, near Kuku, SW Choiseul, 8 Japs with packs and rifles were strafed by an Allied patrol plane. The plane also strafed a moving 30 foot launch off Rob Roy Island, SE Choiseul. During the day a number of smoke columns from a Jap camp were sighted. On Vella Lavella all resistance was reported at an end and the island in our hands on 9 October.

(B) Wake Island

Late reports of the 5 and 6 October attack on Wake Island by U. S. surface and aircraft reveal that 320 tons of bombs were dropped on the Jap-held island and that 71 enemy planes were destroyed--40 in the air and 31 on the ground. Some of the latter may have been dummies. Our planes losses were 13 in combat and 14 operational. There was no battle damage to our ships.

(C) New Ireland

Early the morning of 8 October, 65 miles E. of Cape St. George, a patrolling PBV bombed and strafed an enemy AK with unobserved results.

(D) New Britain

Early the morning of 9 October, 20 miles N. by W. of Cape Gloucester, PT's on patrol were attacked by a single Jap DD. No details were reported. The same day, N. of Mussau Island, a B-24 on reconnaissance unsuccessfully attacked a Jap CA or CL and 3 probable DD's headed N. A/A fire was intense. About noon the same day, in Wide Bay, 3 enemy barges were destroyed by 3 RAAF Beaufighters. That night Cape Hoskins runway was attacked by a PBV which dropped over a ton of bombs and depth charges. No results were observed. Photographs 9 October revealed 18 Jap warships, 20 merchant ships totalling 99,000 tons, 9 floatplanes and 1 flying boat in the harbor while partial coverage of Vunakanau, Rapopo and Tobera fields showed a total of 94 planes.

(E) New Guinea

On 9 October the Allied path NW of Dumpu was clear for 11 miles

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although some Japs were still reported N. In the Sattelberg area 9 A-20's and 12 RAAF A-35's, supporting Allied ground forces, dropped more than 6 tons of bombs on Jap positions, destroying 2 probable ammunition dumps and some buildings. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. That night Jap planes bombed Dobodura. No details were reported.

(F) N.E.I.

On 9 October Selaru airfield and a number of villages in the Tanimbar Islands were attacked by 6 RAAF Beaufighters. 2 intercepting Jap twin-engined fighters were destroyed as was an enemy bomber attempting to land at Selaru. A/A fire was meagre and inaccurate. That night oil and waterfront installations at Macassar were attacked by 11 B-24's which dropped 25 tons of bombs, causing a number of fires. Light and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, October 10, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

A. Solomon Islands

Photos taken 8 October revealed 1 bomber and 33 fighters at Kahili and 3 fighters at Kara. There were 52 barges and 8 small craft in the Buin area besides 6 small AK's and 2 small AO's in Tonolei harbor. At Buka there were 14 dive bombers, 17 medium bombers and 2 fighters on the airdrome and 3 barges in the passage.

On 9 October an Allied search plane was reported to have completed an attack on a Jap vessel 10 miles W of Buka but no further details were reported.

An enemy barge was sunk off Sasa Point SW central Choiseul 8 October by 4 B-24's and 8 P-40's. Planes also strafed 2 rowboats S of Kakasa.

Some Japs apparently escaped from the Marquana Bay area NW Vella Lavella during the night 5 - 6 October and approximately 500 Japs remained in the N Marquana Bay area 7 October. Allied forces continued to advance S along the coast and through inland trails from Warambari Bay while another force held the SW side of Marquana Bay.

Allied patrols on Gizo Island killed one Jap and captured another 8 October. No other Japs were found on the northern end of this island.

2 Jap planes bombed the seabee camp at Munda during the night 7 October and during the early hours of the following morning Liapari, S Vella Lavells, was also bombed but no damage nor casualties resulted.

On Kolombangara our forces on 8 October proceeded NE up the coast to Surumoni Cove and NW 1,000 yards beyond Hunda Cove. 1 Jap was captured but no other enemy troops were encountered.

At Vila considerable abandoned equipment, A/A guns, ammunition, 8 - 10 destroyed planes, artillery pieces and a damaged search light were found on the field which had 20 camouflaged revetments. Our PT's intercepted 29 Japs attempting to escape from Kolombangara by canoe 8 October, but no further details were reported.

2 P-38's shot down a Jap medium bomber approximately 100 miles SW of Guadalcanal 8 October. 1 of our fighter pilots was wounded. The same day an Allied reconnaissance plane shot down a Jap medium bomber approximately 50 miles E of Ontong Java. After the plane landed on the water it was strafed and set afire. Our plane was damaged and a gunner wounded.

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B. New Britain - New Ireland

Photos taken 2 October revealed 1 fighter on Cape Hoskins airfield. This is the first appearance of aircraft on the strip. 29 completed fighter revetments were also shown. During the night of 7 - 8 October a Catalina bombed and strafed a Jap AK 65 miles E of Cape St. George. Results were not observed. The following morning a B-24 dropped 4 500 pound bombs on A/A positions at Cape Gloucester.

An enemy convoy consisting of 3 DD's and 3 large AP's was sighted and attacked the morning of 8 October by a B-24. The convoy was approximately 250 miles N of Mussau Island and heading north. 4 500 pound bombs were dropped and near misses damaged 1 10,000-ton AP. Intense, Medium and heavy accurate A/A fire was put up by the DD's.

C. New Guinea.

During the night of 7 October 11 Jap bombers and 18 fighters attacked Allied positions in the Song River area, N of Finschhafen. No casualties nor damage was reported. The following night Woodlark Island was ineffectively bombed by 6 Jap planes. Other enemy aircraft dropped about 8 bombs at Good-enough Island, causing slight damage.

On 8 October our forces were in contact with the enemy SE of Satelberg and enemy patrol activity reported 5 miles N of Dumpu. Photos taken same day indicated heavy traffic on the coastal road S of Madang.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 9 October 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of October 6 Allied PBV's bombed and strafed 11 barges in the Bougainville area. One was reported set afire. The same night, 15 miles NW of Vella Lavella, 3 U.S. DD's engaged 4 Jap DD's and a possible CL. Gunfire sank the possible Jap CL and 1 DD while torpedoes sank another enemy DD. The other 2 Jap DD's were possibly damaged and retired as did a second group of 4 DD's and a third group of small vessels which had followed the first group. The Japs were presumably bent on evacuating personnel from Kolombangara.

The morning of 7 October, about 90 miles NE of Choiseul, a B-24 shot down a Jap bomber. The same day off SW Choiseul 4 F4U's and 4 P-39's, covered by the same number of the same type of planes, set afire a barge and strafed 4 others. Evidence of Jap evacuation of Choiseul is reported.

The morning of 7 October, off NW Vella Lavella, 4 P-38's and 3 F4U's destroyed 1 of from 12 to 15 Jap fighters encountered. Later Allied patrol planes sighted a life raft and boats near a wrecked ship 15 miles off NW Vella Lavella. The vessel was not further identified. The same day in the Segi area of SE New Georgia a U.S. patrol reported killing 5 of a total of 12 Japs. 1 other Jap was captured and the rest fled into the jungle. Morning photographs, 7 October, showed 57 fighter planes in the Kahili - Kara - Ballale area. A large number of barges and small craft were also observed. That evening 24 B-25's, escorted by 14 P-38's, dropped 735 parachute fragmentation bombs on Kahili, the first use of this type bomb in this area. 4 gun positions were silenced near the runway and a number of A/A positions in the vicinity were also eliminated. The enemy's A/A fire was intense and accurate. 1 of our P-38's crashed, 1 B-25 crashed, 1 B-25 was shot down over Vella Lavella and 3 B-25's were damaged.

On NW Vella Lavella, 7 October, Allied patrols encountered Jap m/g positions on the S. shore of Warambari Bay. The enemy strength on the N. side is not known. The area was shelled by Allied artillery.

(B) New Ireland

NE of Mussau Island, 7 October, a B-24 unsuccessfully bombed a N. bound Jap convoy consisting of 3 AK's and 3 DD's. 6 Jap fighter planes and 2 floatplanes unsuccessfully attacked our bomber.

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(E) N. E. I.
Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 8 October 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 3 - 4 October, N. of Kolombangara, a lone abandoned Jap PG or PT was destroyed by U.S. DD's.

6 October photographs revealed 31 enemy planes at Buka and 67 in the Kara - Kahili - Faisi - Shortland area. The same day along the W. coast of N. Choiseul a B-24 strafed 12 camouflaged Jap barges and some loose stores, setting 2 of the barges afire. Light m/g fire was encountered. On 6 October Vila was occupied by a Bn. of U.S. Inf. which, under protection of U.S. artillery on Arundel Island, is to develop a beachhead. The same day on NW Vella Lavella, Allied ground forces suffered some casualties in landing at an undisclosed location to which the majority of a unit had been moved by barge.

(B) New Ireland

6 October, 240 miles N. of Missau Island a small Jap sea truck was left burning following a bombing and strafing attack by a B-24.

(C) New Britain

On 6 October the NW coast of New Britain was swept by 3 B-25's which strafed 7 Jap barges while the NE coast was searched by 2 RAAF Beau-fighters which set afire 2 barges off Lolobau Island and sank a landing craft. The same day a ton of bombs was dropped on Garove Island by a B-24. No results were reported. Photographs the same day revealed 25 warships, totalling 130,000 tons, 1 CA, 1 CL, 8 DD's, 4 SS's, 5 PC's, 1 AD, 1 AS, 5 floatplanes and 2 flying boats in the harbor at Rabaul while partial coverage showed 79 planes on Vunakanau and Lakunai airfields.

(D) New Guinea

Pinschhafen airfield was ineffectively bombed by Jap planes on 5 October. There is a possibility that the attacking planes released metallic objects by parachute to throw off aircraft indications. A delayed report reveals that 1 of the B-25's listed as missing in the 5 October attack on the N. shore of Huon Peninsula, previously reported in the summary, has returned to its base.

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On 6 October Allied forces occupied the trails 3 miles NW of Dumpu. Kesawai, 11 miles NW of Dumpu, was reported clear of the enemy. The same day, off Sio, 3 Jap barges were strafed by a B-25. No results were reported.

(E) N. E. I.

Allied air activity over N. E. I. 6 October was limited to reconnaissance flights.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking an 8,150 ton AP, an 8,600 ton AK, a 500 ton AK by gunfire, a PT, damaging a 5,800 ton AK and shelling a beached AO. Another SS returned from patrol reports possibly damaging an anchored AK.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities

Summary as of 0800, 7 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

It is reported that 51 Japs surrounded in the Marquana Bay area of NW Vella Lavella were evacuated by sea 2 October.

The afternoon of 4 October Kahili was heavily attacked by 23 B-24's escorted by 16 P-38's and 6 F4U's. A number of grounded enemy aircraft were destroyed by the fires which were started along each side of the runway. 2 of our planes were damaged by A/A fire. On the return from this attack our planes were intercepted over Vella Lavella by 20-30 Jap fighters, 7 of which were destroyed in the ensuing engagement. The same day, off N. Choiseul 3 Jap barges were damaged or destroyed by U.S. fighters while 300 Japs were reported to have paused at Bambatana, central SW Choiseul, on their way NW.

5 October photographs revealed 18 Jap planes at Buka and 48 at Kahili and Shortland. Before dawn the same day a possible Jap SS was reported off the SW coast of Choiseul. In the same area, later in the day, 1 of 6 intercepting Jap planes was destroyed and another damaged by a B-24 on reconnaissance. During the day 16 barges were destroyed and others possibly destroyed by Allied fighter planes sweeping the area.

The afternoon of 5 October 150 miles NE of Santa Isabel a Jap bomber crash landed on the water following an attack by an Allied reconnaissance plane which also strafed the enemy plane before leaving the scene.

Over Parapatu Point, SE Kolombangara, E. of Vila, an Allied photo plane on 5 October encountered light A/A fire and observed a Jap barge in Webster Cove, W. of Vila. However, Allied patrols advanced to the NW boundary of Vila runway without encountering any Japs. The Vila and Stanmore Plantation areas are declared completely evacuated. On NW Vella Lavella another Jap m/g position was knocked out by Allied artillery and 20 of the enemy killed. Allied units are now only about 200 yards from the enemy defense area.

(B) New Ireland

At noon 4 October 22 miles S. of Mussau Island a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on a possible Jap CL with unreported results. The next morning 90 miles W. by N. of Mussau 2 large AP's, 2 medium AP's and 2 probable CA's were observed heading N. by W. 1 floatplane escorted the vessels.

(C) New Britain

The evening of 4 October 21 P-40's dropped 5½ tons of bombs on

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the Gamata dump areas, starting 8 fires. The following morning buildings and a jetty on Garove Island were set afire by a PBV on patrol which dropped about a ton of bombs and incendiaries. 1 October photographs indicate the presence of a great number of Jap troops at Tobera runway, about 12 miles SSE of Rabaul.

(D) New Guinea

5 October Allied ground forces captured Dumpu and Wampun in the Upper Ramu Valley. The same day 50 Japs were killed when our forces repulsed an enemy attack E. of Setelberg in the Finschhafen area. Before noon 5 October the N. shore of the Huon Peninsula was attacked by 11 B-25's which dropped over 9 tons of bombs, destroying or damaging enemy barges and buildings. A/A fire was encountered. 1 of our bombers was downed by it and another is missing. About the same time 8 B-24's and 5 B-17's dropped 39 tons of bombs along the Bogadjim road, destroying 2 warehouses and damaging the Gori River bridge. A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned safely. That afternoon over Astrolabe Bay patrolling P-38's shot down a Jap bomber on reconnaissance. That evening 6 Jap planes bombed Kiriwina, causing a number of casualties and some damage. Later, a Jap SS was reported off Sio.

(E) N.E.I.

Manukwari was bombed the night of 4 October by a PBV. Fires were started in the waterfront and building areas. The next day, Kokas and Bira, on McCluer Gulf were each bombed by 3 B-24's which dropped over 3 tons of bombs on the 2 targets, starting a number of fires in both. A/A fire was encountered over Bira.

R. A. Boons.

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5 barges were strafed. Unea Island was also strafed by these planes. That night Lindenhafen, 11 miles E. of Gasmata, was attacked by a PBV which dropped a number of incendiaries on buildings in the area. No results were reported.

(E) New Guinea

On 3 October Kaigulan, 7 miles SE of Dumpu, was occupied by Allied ground forces while advance patrols pushed 3 miles further NW. In the Finschhafen area Allied patrols reported contact with the Japs on the Song River, about 6 miles N. of town. The afternoon of 3 October, off Morobe, Allied shipping was subjected to a torpedo attack presumably from a Jap SS. No details were reported. The following morning, photographs revealed 46 serviceable Jap planes on the 4 airfields in the Wewak area.

(F) N.E.I.

The night of 4 October the Pamela waterfront was attacked by an R.A.A.F. PBV which dropped 2 tons of bombs with unobserved results.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 5 October 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 1 October the Jap barge base at Kakasa, Choiseul, was attacked by 19 SBD's, 12 TBF's and 6 B-25's covered by 8 P-38's. A large fire and explosion resulted. This attack may be the same reported in the summary for 4 October as being carried out by 6 B-25's or it may supplement that report. Bombers which attacked Vila the same day reported encountering no A/A fire. Also on 1 October, off E. Kolombangara, an F4U strafed 2 Jap barges.

Further details of the previously reported attack on Jap barges on the night of 1 October by U.S. DD's off N. Kolombangara, revealed that of an estimated 35, 20 enemy barges were sunk. A Jap SS was also sunk. Attacking enemy planes damaged 1 of our DD's.

Munda was ineffectively bombed the night of 1 October by 4 Jap planes.

2 October off Vella Lavella Allied shipping was attacked by Jap planes of which 5 were destroyed by Allied warships and fighter planes. The same day, Japs in the Umomo area, NW Vella Lavella were shelled by our advancing forces.

That night, N. of Kolombangara 20 large Jap barges, a number of small ones and 7 PT's were attacked by U.S. DD's which destroyed all the large barges, many of the small ones, sank 1 PT and damaged others. 3 Jap DD's approaching the scene retired hastily.

The same night 35 miles W. of Buka a B-24 scored a hit and a near miss on 1 of 4 enemy vessels while the same night, about 50 miles N. of Cape Henpan, another P-24 scored a direct hit on a Jap barge.

3 October, off SW Choiseul, a number of Jap barges were observed and ineffectively strafed. The same day Jap installations at Hambari Cove and nearby vicinity were attacked by 25 SBD's, 12 TBF's and 6 B-25's. No details were reported. The same day Allied headquarters on Vella Lavella were ineffectively bombed by Jap planes.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 2 October 26 miles SW of Cape St. George a PBV on patrol bombed 5 large ships, headed S. by E., with unobserved results. A/A fire was intense. At noon the next day 9 Jap DD's, headed S. by N., were sighted by Allied planes 11 miles SE of Cape St. George.

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(C) New Britain

Supply and bivouac areas at Cape Hoskins were hit with 12 tons of bombs from 9 B-26's on 2 October. Clouds obscured results of the attack. That night Gasmata was strafed by a PBV which also dropped some incendiaries. No results were observed. The following day a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on Cape Gloucester destroying a A/A position. Accurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day, the same area, a number of barges, one of which was destroyed were attacked by 9 B-25's while a PBV bombed Garove Island with unreported results.

(D) New Guinea

On 3 October Allied positions at Finschhafen were ineffectively bombed by 4 Jap planes.

(E) N.E.I.

The night of 2 October Saumlaki and Selaru in the Tanimbar Islands were each bombed by single PBV's one of which also attacked Seloe Island in the Tanimbars and Dewaloer Island in the Babar group. 7 large fires were observed at Solaru but no other results were reported. The following day Japs occupied villages in the Wissel Lake region of Dutch New Guinea were bombed and strafed by 2 Dutch B-25's. No results were observed.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 6500 ton AK in addition to the vessel which was reported to have been sunk in the summary for 4 October. The SS also reports possibly sinking a PC instead of possibly damaging a DE as previously reported.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 4 October 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 1 October, Vila was bombed by an Allied PBV. No details were reported. Early the following morning, off the W. coast of Buka, a PBV on patrol sighted 3 large AK's headed S. while that evening, about 35 miles E. of Tiniputs, Bougainville, 4 Jap DD's were observed headed SE. The same evening off the N. tip of Choiseul Island, 10 Jap DD's, in 2 groups were sighted. A barge or SS was in contact with these vessels which headed towards Bougainville.

The Jap strength in the Timbala - Marquana Bays area of NW Vella Lavella was estimated at 500 armed men on 2 October.

The 37th Bn CT less 1 company, was reported just E. of Sokasova Island, NW Vella Lavella, on 2 October, while its artillery was at Doveli Cove.

(B) New Ireland - New Britain

Early the morning of 2 October the Garove warehouse area was hit by $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs from a PBV on patrol. No results were observed. About the same time a B-24 dropped 1 ton of bombs on Jap A/A positions on the SW shore of Rooke Island. The plane observed 6 large barges, mounting m/g's, heading N. 3 hours later, 16 miles N. of Finschhafen, 14 barges were observed heading SW.

The same day, 4 RAAF Beaufighters failed to find any barges along the S. coast of New Britain but did destroy an enemy bomber about 40 miles S. of Gasmata. The same day, 7 B-25's also searched the same coast, strafing 2 unserviceable luggers at Gasmata where they met A/A fire. The N. coast was vainly searched by 9 B-25's which strafed Talasea. 14 escorting P-38's shot down a Jap reconnaissance plane.

A Beaufort on reconnaissance 2 October, SE of Cape St. George, sighted a 3,000 ton AK-AP headed W. under escort of a single DD; 6 DD's headed E., and 10 merchant ships headed E. 2 Jap fighter planes were also observed and others were believed covering the shipping.

(C) New Guinea

With Allied forces in possession of Finschhafen, our troops in the Ramu Valley were reported nearing Dumpu, about 35 miles NW of Kaiapit, on 2 October. This force was advancing without meeting any opposition.

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(D) H.E.I.

At midday 2 October, 12 B-24's bombed Ambon barracks and waterfront areas, starting a number of fires.

II. U. S. Submarine Report

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking an 8,600 ton Jap AK-AP and possibly damaging a probable DE.

R. A. Boons.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 3 October, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 29 September, 28 B-24's returning from fruitless search of the N. Bougainville area were attacked by 15 Jap fighters. All our planes returned safely although 1 was damaged. The same morning, off NE Kolombangara, 2 Jap barges were destroyed, 1 was left burning and another was badly damaged by Allied PT's, while the Jap barge base at Kakasa, Choiseul, was bombed by 17 SBD's and 12 TBF's. 7 buildings were destroyed and a number of fires started. Also on 29 September Jap planes bombed Allied positions on NW Vella Lavella Island. That evening 2 Jap barges off NW Choiseul were strafed by 12 P4U's. Early the morning of 30 September Jap planes again bombed Allied positions on NW Vella Lavella. About the same time bombs and leaflets were dropped on Vila by an Allied PBY while another bombed Jap positions on NW Vella Lavella. That afternoon Kahili, Bougainville, was attacked by 16 B-24's under escort of 14 P-38's, 8 P-40's and 5 P4U's. 18 tons of bombs were dropped on the runway and vicinity. 4 of 30 to 40 intercepting Jap fighters were destroyed. 1 P-38 is missing. That night, 50 miles W of Buka Passage, 1 of 3 Jap AK's headed NW under an escort of a DD were unsuccessfully bombed by a PBY. Late the same night a PBY sighted 4 Jap DD's about 33 miles W of Buka.

1 October photographs revealed 51 Jap planes at Buka, 56 at Kahili, 11 at Faisi and none at Kara. The same day 24 unescorted B-24's dropped over 3 tons of bombs on Vila supply and bivouac areas, starting a fire. That night at Vella Gulf 6 - 9 Jap barges enroute from Choiseul to Kolombangara were turned back by U.S. DD's which destroyed 1 large barge and possibly destroyed 3 small barges. A Jap plane which dropped flares during the action was also destroyed by a DD.

The ground situation 1 October found N. Point, Timbala Bay and Marquana Bay, NW Vella Lavella, cleared of Japs. ?

(B) Nauru

The morning of 30 September, about 15 miles N. of Nauru, a U.S. search plane was attacked by 9 Jap fighters 1 of which was destroyed.

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(C) New Ireland

1 October a B-24 attacked a single Jap floatplane on the water SW of Missau Island, damaging the aircraft. 1 of 2 intercepting floatplanes was damaged. The same day in the same area another B-24 scored 2 near misses on a sea truck or small AK. Slight A/A fire was encountered.

(D) New Britain

1 October, Jap installations on Grove and Unsa Islands, in the Vitu group, were attacked by a single B-24. No results were reported. The same day 6 RAAF beaufighters strafed Jap barges on the Itai River, Cape Busching, while a B-24 on patrol dropped 1 ton of bombs on Cape Gloucester with unobserved results.

Complete photographic coverage of Rabaul 1 October revealed 47 ships in the harbor, 22 of them merchant ships totalling 118,000 tons. Included among the warships were 2 cruisers, 5 SS's and 10 DD's. There were also 11 seaplanes in the harbor while a total of 170 planes were observed on Vunakansu, Lakunai and Rapope airfields. In addition 13 planes were seen on the relatively new Tobera runway. No planes were observed at Keravat runway which appeared serviceable.

(E) New Guinea

The night of 30 September, off Vincke Point, about 50 miles NW of Finschhafen, 2 of 3 Jap troop laden barges were destroyed by 2 Allied PT's. Many of the enemy were killed in the barges and on shore. 1 of the PT's went aground but the crew was saved.

On 1 October Allied ground forces advanced to a point $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile W of Finschhafen after inflicting heavy casualties on the Japs. Advancing from the S., our forces reached the S shore of Langemak Bay without opposition. Supporting the ground forces, 2 missions of Allied planes bombed and strafed enemy defenses along the shore. Over 3 tons of bombs were released by 8 low-flying A-20's while 5 tons of bombs were released by 10 RAAF A-35's. Both missions also strafed the targets.

The morning of 2 October Finschhafen fell to forces of the Australian 9th Division, and, all organized Jap resistance at an end, the area is now in Allied hands.

(F) N. E. I.

The night of 30 September Manokwari was attacked by a PBV which strafed the town and radio station.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 2 October 1943.I. Southwestern Pacific(A) Solomon Islands

Additional details of the attack on the 11 ship convoy off West Cape (NW tip of Choiseul) during the night of 28-29 September, indicate that several B-24's attacked the vessels. 2 direct hits were scored on 1 large vessel and 2 hits on a straggler from the same convoy causing a large explosion and fire. E. of Kieta (E. Bougainville) 3 or 4 hits were scored on a possible DD and 1 or more hits were scored on another vessel which turned over and sank. 1 B-24 was damaged by slight A/A fire.

On 27 September the 35th NZ CT had surrounded the 300 remaining Japs on NV Vella Lavella (Umomo Area). Heavy casualties were inflicted on 90 Japs who attempted to escape to Maruana Bay and those not killed returned to Umomo. The following day Umomo was shelled and a possible signal station was set afire. Although surrounded the Japs continued to resist stubbornly.

Munda was raided by a single enemy plane the night of 28 September and although no material damage resulted, 2 of our personnel were killed and 6 wounded. The same day, 2 F4U's strafed a small boat off SE Kolombangara and killed or wounded 12 to 15 Japs.

On 29 September 8 P-40's strafed a burning barge off the coast of W. Choiseul. The following day, 6 B-25's bombed Kakasa.

(B) New Britain

During the night of 29-30 September, a Catalina bombed and strafed a small AK at Garove Island. The vessel was not hit.

Photographs taken the morning of 30 September showed the airstrip at Cape Hoskins serviceable but no enemy aircraft. 1 of the 2 Cape Gloucester fields is serviceable and 2 Jap bombers were shown. The afternoon of 30 September, 2 B-24's on reconnaissance bombed and destroyed houses on Rooke Island. During the evening of the same day, a Catalina over Gasmata reported Jap troops landing from an SS.

(C) New Guinea

On 30 September there were 25 fighters and 30 bombers on Dagua and But and 4 fighters in the air. The same day, Allied troops advanced E. along the S. coast of the Huon Peninsula to Kasanga (3 miles from Cape Kretin).

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Our troops W. of Finschhafen encountered enemy artillery and m/g fire which delayed progress. Jap aircraft unsuccessfully bombed and strafed Sattelberg and 8 P-38's shot down an enemy bomber over Finschhafen.

(D) N.E.I.

Boela (NE Ceram), Sorong jetty and a medium AK off the N. shore of MacCluer Gulf were bombed by 3 B-24's, 30 September. 2 Dutch B-25's bombed Manatuto (Portuguese Timor, E. of Dili), the same day.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking or damaging 5 AK's of approximately 30,000 tons while 2 other large AK's were attacked with unknown results.

Another SS returning from a trial cruise reports damaging an 8,000 ton AK and sinking 2 AK's for a total of 1,500 tons. An enemy PC was also damaged by gunfire.

A 3rd SS reports probably sinking a 6,000 ton AK.

R. A. Boone.

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