

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

Sec. 8

193

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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, 1 October 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Off central W. Choiseul Island, the afternoon of 28 September, 3 Jap barges, 1 of them a 100 foot craft laden with troops, were sunk by U.S. fighter planes (F6F's). That night, off West Cape, N.W. tip of Choiseul, an 11 vessel convoy was attacked by a U.S. B-24 on patrol. Early reports indicate the probable sinking of a Jap DD, the setting afire of 1 AK, the damaging of a vessel and the scoring of a near miss on a 4th vessel. The same night, off N. Kolombangara, 3 U.S. F4U's sank a laden enemy barge.

At 0708 L, 29 September, about 18 miles NE of Buka, headed NW, 10 Jap DD's were sighted. The same morning near Kakasa, central W. Choiseul, 5 barges were observed landing enemy troops. Off Cap Mutupina, W. Bougainville, the same day, an Allied reconnaissance plane destroyed a Jap medium bomber.

(B) New Ireland

29 September 47 miles SW of Kussau Island a patrolling B-24 scored a near miss on a medium AK-AP in a 5 vessel convoy. A/A fire was slight and an escorting Jap floatplane did not intercept. The same day, about 80 miles SW of New Hanover, a probable PC, headed NW, was strafed by a B-24. No results were reported.

(C) New Britain

The morning of 29 September near Lolobau Island NE New Britain, 9 fuel and supply laden Jap barges were destroyed by 3 RAAF Beaufighters. That night the dump area at Cape Hoskins and buildings at Garove Island were bombed by an Allied PBV. No results were observed.

(D) New Guinea

On 29 September Allied ground forces in the Finschhafen area were about 800 yards W. of the town.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles W. of the airfield, near Setelberg, our forces successfully repulsed 3 Jap counterattacks. SW. of Finschhafen our forces are 10 miles W. of Cape Cretin. The same day Langemak

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Bay and trails in the same area were bombed and strafed by 12 RAAF A-35's and 8 A-20's which dropped over 9 tons of bombs and expended over 16,000 rounds in strafing. The ground situation NW of Lae 29 September was highlighted by an Allied patrol's ambush of 100 Japs 11 miles W. of Dumpu which is about 35 miles NW of Kaiapit. 45 of the enemy were killed and many wounded. Our casualties were slight. The main body of Allied forces in the area have reached Wankon, 14 miles NW of Kaiapit. The same day the road S. of Bogadjim was attacked by 8 P-39's which dropped a ton of bombs and strafed the target. No results were reported.

(E) N.E.I.

The evening of 28 September Pomelaa, Celebes, was attacked by 4 RAAF PBY8s which strafed the waterfront and Jap barrack areas, starting fires, and also damaged a medium AK and 2 barges.

II. U.S. Submarine Report

A U.S. SS reports sinking 1 AO and 3 AK's for a total of 25,000 tons.

R. A. Boons,

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Japanese Naval Activities

Summary as of 0800, 30 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The afternoon of 26 September a Jap barge base in Elliott Cove, W. of Vila, Kolombangara, was heavily bombed by 18 SBD's and 15 TBF's. 2 fires were observed following the attack. The same day Jap installations on Gizo Island, SW of Kolombangara, were strafed during the morning by 4 P4U's and again during the afternoon by 8 P4U's. That night Allied positions on Munda, New Georgia Island, and on NE Vella Lavella were ineffectively bombed by Jap planes.

The following night off NE Vella Lavella 3 enemy barges were sunk and 4 possibly sunk by Allied DD's. During the action flares were dropped by enemy planes.

At 1305 L, 28 September, about 70 miles N. of Cape Henpan, Buks, an Allied reconnaissance plane sighted 8 Jap DD's headed SE under an escort of fighters 3 of which attacked our plane. 2 of the enemy were shot down and a third was probably destroyed.

Kahili was also attacked 28 September when 27 B-24's escorted by 15 P-40's, 13 P4U's and 8 P-39's, dropped 37 tons of bombs, scoring hits on buildings and starting a number of fires. A/A fire was heavy. 25 to 35 Jap fighters intercepted. 5 were destroyed by our bombers and 7 by our fighters. 1 P4U is missing and 1 P-40 crash landed. The same day, Vila was attacked by 26 TBF's, 18 B-25's and 4 SBD's which dropped over 46 tons of bombs, scoring hits on 7 gun positions and starting a number of fires. Accurate but not intense A/A fire was encountered. That evening off SE Moli Island, SW Choiseul, 8 to 10 Jap barges, headed SE, were strafed by an Allied patrol plane.

On shore in the New Georgia area on 28 September Allied artillery continued to bombard Vila while the Japs bombarded our positions on Ondongo. The same day in an undisclosed location on Vella Lavella, 13 Japs were killed by an Allied patrol.

(B) Nauru

At 1255 L, 28 September, at Nauru a U.S. reconnaissance plane was slightly damaged when attacked by an unreported number of Jap fighters.

(C) New Ireland - New Britain

On 28 September Jap installations on Manus Island (Admiralty Islands) Rooke Island and Mundua Island (Vitu Islands) were each bombed and strafed by single Allied heavy bombers. Fires were started on Mundua but no results were reported over the other targets.

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(D) New Guinea

On 27 September Allied ground forces in the Finschhafen area were twice ineffectively bombed by Jap planes.

On 28 September in the Finschhafen area Allied troops made some advances against Finschhafen on the N. and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. On the S. our forces advanced to Mange Point, SW of Finschhafen. In support of the ground forces 7 low-flying A-20's dropped nearly 3 tons of bombs on trails and enemy barges along the coast S. of Finschhafen to Kasanga.

On the morning of 28 September 40 B-24's escorted by 37 P-38's dropped 145 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons of bombs on supply dumps and other enemy installations at Newak. The main Jap ammunition dump was said to have been destroyed and a large fuel dump was also demolished. Many fires were started. Some A/A fire was encountered. About 40 Jap planes intercepted of which our fighters destroyed 7 and probably destroyed 2 while another was shot down by our bombers. 4 of our bombers and 3 fighters were damaged but all planes returned safely. The same day the road running S. from Bogadjim to the Ramu Valley was attacked by 8 B-24's which dropped 24 tons of bombs, causing landslides to block the road.

In the Upper Markham Valley, Allied patrols were reported active.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 29 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 1410 L, 26 September, Kahili, Bougainville, was attacked by two missions of Allied planes consisting of 21 B-24's, 24 SBD's and 12 TBF's under escort of 20 P6F's, 15 P4U's, 14 P-39's, 14 P-38's and 14 P-40's which dropped over 50 tons of bombs with good results. Both missions encountered heavy A/A fire. 2 of about 50 Jap planes which intercepted in 2 groups were destroyed. We lost 1 plane but hope is held out for the pilot. That night Allied positions on New Georgia Islands were shelled by Jap artillery.

Morning photographs on 27 September revealed 54 Jap planes at Buka but no serviceable ones at either Kahili or Kara runways on Bougainville. The same morning many Japs were reported landing at the barge base at Bambatana, Choiseul. That night the area was strafed by a PBV which observed 10 barges beached after arrival from the NW. The ground situation on Vella Lavella, 27 September, indicated NZ patrols had found no Japs at Liang Anchorage or Bai Point on the N shore of the island nor between Matu Soroto and Pakoi Bay on the NW shore.

(B) Nauru

At 1110 L, 27 September, about 20 miles E. of Nauru, an unreported number of U.S. reconnaissance planes were intercepted by 5 Jap fighters. In a running fight 1 enemy plane was destroyed and another probably destroyed.

(C) New Ireland - New Britain

27 September 4 RAAF Beaufighters set a launch afire and damaged a barge during an otherwise uneventful sweep over New Britain. That night the Gasmata warehouse area was bombed by a single Allied PBV. No results were reported.

(D) New Guinea

Allied positions in the Finschhafen area were twice attacked by Jap planes the night of 26 September. Along the coast of the Huon Peninsula toward Finschhafen a night movement of barges is reported.

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On 27 September in ground fighting less than a mile N. of Finschhafen heavy casualties were reported suffered by the enemy while the Allied casualties were light. 20 miles SW of Finschhafen, our forces advancing from the W. have crossed the Mongi River without opposition.

On the morning of 27 September Jap shipping and Boram and Wewak airfields in the Wewak area were attacked by 3 waves of Allied planes totalling 231 and consisting of 93 B-25's, 17 B-24's and a fighter escort of 121. Incomplete reports show that over 158 tons of bombs were dropped, destroying an estimated 50 Jap planes on the ground; sinking or setting afire 3 small AO type vessels; sinking or probably sinking 3 AK's (2,000 to 4,000 tons), and destroying or badly damaging 1 sea truck, 9 luggers, 5 launches and 10-14 barges. In addition 8 of 20 intercepting planes were downed and 3 probably downed. We lost 3 B-25's as a result of A/A fire which was encountered over all the targets. A delayed report reveals that, in addition to those already reported destroyed, 6 of 15-20 intercepting Jap fighters were shot down and another probably destroyed by our fighters during the 26 September raid over the same area. On 27 September in Hansa Bay 1 Jap barge was set afire and another was damaged by 4 P-38's which also set afire a truck at Nubia.

(E) N.E.I.

The night of 26 September 3 RAAF PBV's dropped over 3 and 1/2 tons of bombs on Langgoer in the Kai Islands, causing a number of fires. The same night an Allied patrol plane strafed the vicinity of Pomelaa, Celebes.

(F) Australia

Drysdale Mission was attacked by 25 enemy planes the morning of 27 September. Considerable damage to the mission and some damage to the airfield was reported. There were several casualties.

R. A. Boons.

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

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1655 W, 25 September, about 7 miles W. of Chichagof Harbor, Attu, a surfaced Jap SS, headed W., was sighted by a U.S. B-24.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Between 1003-1025 L, 25 September, Vila gun positions were bombed and strafed by 10 B-25's, 29 SBH's and 19 TBF's under an escort of fighters. Over 29 tons of bombs scored hits on the targets. The same day, at 1113 L, 38 Jap planes attempting to attack a U.S. convoy off Barakoma, were dispersed by 8 F6F's. One enemy plane was shutdown. Three of the enemy attacked an IST, as reported in the summary for 27 September, and 4 others strafed our positions at Biloa, S. of Barakoma. There was 1 casualty.

The ground situation 25 September found the Japs continuing to shell our positions on Arundel Island while our artillery there continued to shell Vila. On Vella LaVella NZ patrols advanced W., from their concentration at Doveli and N. from their base in the Mundi Kundi area without meeting any Japs.

On 26 September the ground situation in the New Georgia area was unchanged while NZ patrols contacted the enemy at Banganang Ana, in the Timbala Bay area, NW. Vella LaVella. The NZ patrols on the N. shore of the island continued to advance on Liang Anchorage, about 3,000 yards NW. of Doveli and some elements landed on Vango Island, NW. of Liang Anchorage. In Vella Gulf a Jap SS unsuccessfully attacked a U.S. surface force.

(B) Nauru

At 1245 L, 26 September, about 170 miles NNW. of Nauru, a U.S. patrol plane bombed and strafed a 2500 ton Jap AK, leaving the vessel listing and barely underway.

(C) New Ireland-New Britain

The morning of 26 September, 140 miles N. of Mussau Island, a B-24 strafed 2 small Jap AK's which were headed S. The same afternoon 2 AK's

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probably the same ones, 60 miles N. of Pussau Island, were unsuccessfully bombed by another B-24. The same day a third B-24 bombed a warehouse on Garove Island with unobserved results.

(D) New Guinea

On 25 September, in the Finschhafen area, Allied ground forces reported 4 raids by Jap planes. The same day Sagerak, on the Yati River about 8 miles NW. of Kaiapit, was captured by our forces. Buildings at Finschhafen were bombed and strafed by 10 RAAF A-35's during the morning. 5 tons of bombs were dropped. No activity was observed in the town and no A/A fire was encountered.

But and Dagua airfields were attacked the morning of 26 September. Covered by 15 P-38's, 5 B-24's flew through bad weather to drop 15 tons of bombs on the runway and dumps at Dagua while 6 B-24's dropped 18 tons of bombs on the supply dump area at But. At Dagua 6 grounded aircraft were destroyed or damaged and a number of fires started. At But heavy smoke prevented observation of results. During the attack the 15 P-38's shot down 3 of 15-20 intercepting Jap planes. We lost no planes. Other enemy planes in the air did not attempt interception.

The same morning Nubia was hit with 28 tons of bombs from 8 B-24's which failed to locate the Wewak area targets. Photos showed the destruction of a bridge and a number of fires. Intense A/A fire was encountered.

III. U.S. Submarine Report:

A U.S. ss returning from a 35 day patrol reports sinking an AK and possibly damaging another.

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Japanese Naval Activities

Summary as of 0800, 27 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The Jap barge route from Choiseul Island to Kolombangara Island appears to run from Sambi Head, Central W. Choiseul, to Tuki Point, N. Kolombangara, and then down the W. coast.

The afternoon of 25 September off Luti, just E. of the mouth of the Virulata River, Central W. Choiseul, a sampan was left sinking by an Allied reconnaissance plane which also attacked 2 barges off West Cape. The same day, off Ruravai, E. Vella Lavella, a U.S. LST was set afire as a result of a bombing by Jap planes.

(B) New Britain

On 25 September A/A positions in Rein Bay were bombed and strafed by 9 B-25's which also conducted a vain search of W. New Britain for Jap barges. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. The same day, Cape Gloucester A/A positions were hit with a ton of bombs from a B-24 on reconnaissance. Intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. No results were reported. That night Cape Hoskins runway and the Jap camp areas on Garove Island were bombed with unobserved results by a PBV on patrol.

(C) New Guinea

On 25 September Allied ground forces continued to advance on Finschhafen from the N., having crossed to the S. bank of the Bumt River, and from the E., having reached Hanisch Harbor beyond Cape Gerhards. During the morning our positions on the Song River, 5 miles N. of Finschhafen, were bombed by 9 enemy bombers under a cover of 10 fighters. The same day, villages in the Finschhafen area were bombed and strafed by 8 low-flying Allied A-20's which dropped 3 tons of bombs. No results were reported.

On 25 September 2 missions, totalling 4 Allied P-39's and 5 B-24's, dropped 21 tons of bombs on Jap communication lines in the area S. of Bogadjim, scoring hits on a road, destroying 1 bridge, damaging another and causing a number of landslides. 6 trucks were also strafed. The same day 2 missions, consisting of 24 Allied B-25's, 3 B-24's and 6 B-17's, dropped nearly 39 tons of bombs on enemy positions, villages and trails in the Upper Markham Valley. A number of fires were started. A/A fire encountered was light, slight and inaccurate. In the Lower Markham Valley, the Japs were said to have evacuated Boana, about 20 miles NW of Lae.

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(D) H.E.I.

On 25 September the Selaru runway was bombed by an Allied B-24 on reconnaissance. No results were reported. Recent photographs reveal new Jap airstrips under construction at Doeroe Island, in the Kai Islands, and at Haroeke Island, off SW Ceram.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports damaging an AP while a second reports sinking 2 AK's and possibly damaging another. A third reports damaging an ACV.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 26 September 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

A Catalina on reconnaissance 21 September was fired on by a 60-foot enemy fishing boat near Bering Island (E. of Kamchatka).

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

3 Jap medium AK's were bombed by a Catalina, night 23 September at a point approximately 20 miles W of Cape Henpan (N tip Buka Island). The following day photos of the Buka area revealed 13 dive bombers, 7 medium bombers, and 9 fighters at the airdrome and 1 medium AK and several barges in the Passage.

A force of 23 B-24's, 22 SED's and 12 TBF's, covered by over 60 fighters, bombed the Kahili area the morning of 23 September. Enemy gun positions E and W of Buin received many heavy bombs including 1,000 and 2,000 pounders. Several buildings were destroyed and 6 fires started. Barges at the mouth of the Uguimo River at Buin were strafed with unobserved results. 50 - 60 Jap fighters engaged our planes after the bombing and 9 were destroyed. 2 of our fighters were shot down, 2 others were missing and another crash-landed at Barakoma, but the pilot was not injured. One of the fighter pilots shot down was also saved. On the return trip 21 B-24's dropped 3 1/4 tons of 100 pounders on Vila. The results were unobserved.

The afternoon of the same day 4 F4U's strafed a 70-foot enemy launch off Faisi and the launch exploded.

On 24 September photos of the Buin area revealed 46 fighters and 2 bombers at Kahili, 7 fighters at Ballale, 14 float planes at Faisi and 15 fighters at Kara. This was the first time enemy planes have been observed at Kara runway, which was serviceable to 4,000 feet. A large AK, 3 medium AK's and 2 auxiliaries were seen in Tonolei Harbor and 2 small AK's and many small craft and barges were in the Buin-Faisi area.

An Allied patrol killed 2 Japs and wounded 2 others of 7 which reached the shore of NE Choiseul when their barges were destroyed the morning of 23 September. The afternoon of the same day 8 P-39's strafed 2 oil-laden barges off the W coast of Choiseul and both barges burned.

Enemy artillery shelled Ondongo Island (Between Arundel and New Georgia Islands) the night of 23 - 24 September. No damage resulted. The same night a New Zealand patrol at Paraso (N Vella Lavella) was bombed by

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enemy planes but no casualties nor damage resulted. Our patrols are in contact with the enemy at both Paraso and Mundi Mundi (NW Vella Lavella).

30 SBD's, 18 TBF's and 4 B-25's raided Vila in the afternoon of 24 September. Installations and gun positions at Ringi Cove, Bambari Harbor and Cape Harbor were attacked. Fires resulted and 2 barges were believed destroyed. Other results were unobserved. The enemy base at Vila is reported being supplied by float plane and submarine.

345 Jap dead have been counted on Arundel Island, indicating probably 500 to 600 enemy casualties.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

On 24 September a search plane sighted an enemy convoy at a point approximately 140 miles NE of Kavieng. The vessels which included 2 large AP's, 6 DD's, 1 auxiliary and 1 ACV or landing craft tender were heading south.

A B-24 on reconnaissance the same day left a large sea truck settling near Mussau Island as a result of a near miss with a 500 pound bomb. The same plane bombed buildings at Rooke Island.

(C) New Guinea

Allied troops in the Finschhafen area crossed at BUKI river during the afternoon of 23 September. Enemy resistance was stubborn. Patrols found no enemy troops in Satalburg (5 miles NW Finschhafen). Other ground forces moving E from Hopoi eliminated Jap resistance at Hanisch Harbor and are advancing toward Finschhafen. Other contacts with the enemy have been made at Huseon (12 miles NW of Lae) and at a point 6 miles NW of Kaiapit. The evening of the same day enemy planes unsuccessfully attacked our beachhead at the mouth of the Song River, N of Finschhafen.

At noon, 24 September, 9 B-25's, covered by 15 P-38's, encountered 9 Jap medium bombers with 30 fighters over Finschhafen. The enemy bombers jettisoned their load and headed for New Britain. 1 Jap fighter was destroyed and another probably destroyed while 2 P-38's are missing.

(D) H. E. I.

Photos of Ambon Island on 22 September reveal a new enemy airfield at Liang (NE tip of the island). The runway is apparently serviceable for 4,000 feet.

Sorong and Manokwari (NW Dutch New Guinea) were bombed at noon, 24 September, by 3 B-24's. Hits were reported on buildings at Manokwari.

R. A. Boons.

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Japanese Naval Activities

Summary as of 0800, 25 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On the night of 22-23 September a possible Jap GL was sighted off S. Bougainville. The following morning one GL and four DD's were observed at Buin while four AK's were sighted in Tonolei Harbor just E. of Kahili. The same morning at Cape Alexander, N. tip of Choiseul Island, U.S. planes strafed and drove ashore two Jap barges.

On 23 September Allied ground forces on Arundel Island consolidated positions preparatory to artillery bombardment of Jap positions on Kolombangara across Blakett Strait. The same day on Vella Lavella about 300 Japs were reported heading S. from Warambari to Umomo Strait, while another group of about 85, previously reported heading toward Warambari, were also reported heading for Umomo Strait. At 2139 L, 20 miles WNW of Buia Allied patrol plane bombed 3 medium AK's with unreported results.

(B) New Ireland

On 22 September, four barges in Jacquinot Bay and one off Long Island were strafed with unobserved results by a B-24. At 0300 L the following morning, a possible Jap GL was unsuccessfully attacked 25 miles SE of Cape St. George by an Allied patrol plane.

(C) New Britain

Before dawn, 23 September, Cape Hoskins runway was bombed by four RAAF Beauforts which dropped nearly three tons of bombs and incendiaries on the target, starting a number of fires. That night off Garove Island an Allied PBY on patrol scored a near miss on a Jap DD.

(D) New Guinea

On 23 September, Allied ground forces captured the airfield about 2 miles N. of Finschhafen and pushed to the N. bank of the Buni River, less than one mile above the town. The same day Jap-held villages in the Yati River area of the upper Markam Valley were bombed and strafed by 12 B-25's. More than 14 tons of bombs were released and 41,000, 100 rounds were expended in strafing. A dump exploded and a

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number of fires were started. Slight, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered but no enemy planes intercepted. All our planes returned safely.

Rooke Island was attacked, 23 September, by a B-24 on reconnaissance. A ton of bombs fell on buildings with unobserved results.

(E) N.E.I.

The night of 22 September, Sorong and Kokas were each slightly bombed by single Allied patrol PBV's. A building at Sorong was set afire. A/A fire, encountered over Sorong, was slight and inaccurate.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking 27,000 tons of enemy shipping and damaging a 9,500 ton passenger vessel.

R.A. Boons.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 24 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 19-20 September, Munda was ineffectively bombed by Jap planes, 1 of which was destroyed by 3 F4U's. At 0235 L, the following morning, Jap planes bombed the Barakoma Strip without damage or casualties. It was erroneously reported that 2 of the 6 enemy planes which raided Guadalcanal on the night of 20 September were shot down by an Allied fighter. These 2 Jap planes were shot down by an F4U on the night of 21 September when 12-16 bombers attacked Guadalcanal.

At 1710 L, 20 September, 8 F4U's set 3 Jap barges afire and damaged 5 more off SW Choiseul.

At 0915 L on 21 September, 6 F4U's strafed and set afire a bridge off Central W. Choiseul. These planes also attacked and left burning a 170 foot Jap AK off Redman Island, N. Choiseul. Early the same morning, the Munda area was effectively bombed by Jap planes. At 1630 L, the same day, Kahili was strafed in a surprise raid by 4 F4U's under cover of 24 more. 6-8 Jap fighter planes on the ground were destroyed or damaged.

On 22 September, 4 Jap PT's were reported in the Shortland area. The same day, New Zealand patrols on N. and NW Vella Lavella reported, without details, contacting the enemy.

(B) New Ireland

On 22 September, N. of Mussau Island, a B-24 on reconnaissance dropped a ton of bombs on an enemy AK.

(C) New Britain

Before dawn, 22 September, Cape Hoskins runway was bombed and strafed by a PB1 on night patrol. No results were observed. Early the same morning, 73 tons of bombs were dropped on Cape Gloucester by 21 B-24's and 12 B-25's. A/A positions, fuel dumps, and a grounded aircraft were destroyed and both strips rendered unserviceable. 15,150 rounds were expended in strafing. A/A fire of all calibres was encountered. The same day Gasmata airfield and Jap positions were attacked by 12 P-40's which dropped 5 tons of bombs with unreported results. A/A fire was slight.

(D) New Guinea

On 21 September 120 of a 200- man Jap patrol were killed by Allied forces in the Kaiapit area. The remainder fled. That night off

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Reiss Pt., near Sio, a large Jap power barge was sunk by U.S. PT's.

Early the morning of 22 September Finschhafen was attacked by 18 B-25's and 7 A-20's which dropped over 20 tons of bombs on Jap installations and expended 34,500 rounds in strafing. Only the 1st squadron met A/A fire and that was light. The same morning our fighters downed a Jap reconnaissance plane over the area.

Two hours after the air attack, Allied surface vessels, participating in the landing of ground forces 6 miles N. of Finschhafen, were attacked by 20-30 Jap bombers covered by 40-50 fighters. Not a ship was damaged and there were no casualties. 88 of 104 Allied fighter planes in the area destroyed 29 Jap fighters and 10 bombers and probably destroyed 5 other fighters, although some of the latter may have been accounted for by A/A fire from the ships. Our losses were 3 planes and 2 pilots. The Allied ground force landing the same day was completed by afternoon and our troops advanced as far as the N. runway at Finschhafen, which is under artillery fire.

The same day Nadisab and Buna were attacked by Jap planes. No damage was done at Nadisab, but casualties and damage resulted from the raid on Buna by 6 Jap planes.

In the Lae-Salamaua area it is reported that 6,382 Jap dead have been counted since 30 June.

(E) N.E.I.

On 22 September Halong airdrome, Amboina, was attacked by 12 B-24's which dropped 23 tons of bombs, scoring hits on the hangars and nearby buildings and starting fires. A/A fire was encountered but 5 Jap airborne planes failed to intercept. All our planes returned safely. The same day Langgoer in the Kai Islands was attacked by 9 B-24's. Three did not bomb the target, 3 have not reported, and 2 dropped over 8 tons of bombs. 6 of 12 intercepted Jap fighters were destroyed, 1 was probably destroyed, and 2 were damaged. 1 B-24 is missing.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports.

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking 2 loaded AO's and 2 AK's, totaling 33,000 tons, and damaging a 7,000 ton AK. Another reports sinking a 5,600 ton AK, a third reports sinking an AK and 2 AP's and damaging a 4,000 ton AK.

R. A. BOONE.

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

1. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On the night of 18-19 September, Arundel Island and Munda were each hit by 2 bombs from enemy planes. No damage resulted.

At 1015 L, 20 September, gun positions in the Vila area were bombed and strafed by 24 SBD's and 12 TBF's under an escort of fighters. No details were reported but results were said to be good. A TBF and an SBD made forced landings but the crews were rescued. Between 0308 L and 0433 L the same day, Guadalcanal was attacked by 6 Jap planes. Some damage was done. 2 of the planes were shot down by a P-38.

At 1105 L, 21 September, the airfield at Buka was attacked by 23 B-24's. 640 fragmentation clusters and 2 tons of bombs were dropped, hits being scored on the runway, dispersal and revetment areas and at least 10 fires started. A/A fire encountered was inaccurate. 2 of 15 to 18 intercepting Jap planes were destroyed. 2 of our bombers made safe landings before reaching their base. All other planes returned safely. The same day a ton and a half of bombs were dropped on Fauro Island, Kahili - Ballale area, by a B-24 on reconnaissance. No results were reported. The same afternoon Jap resistance on Arundel Island ceased and Allied forces found themselves in control of the whole S. side of Blakett Strait. On Vella Lavella there was no reported change in the ground situation. Off shore, U.S. PT's downed a Jap floatplane.

(B) Gilbert Islands

Details of the 18-19 September raid on the Gilberts, reveal that the night of 18 September, a half ton of bombs were dropped on the runway, barracks and supply dumps at Tarawa by 7 U.S. land-based bombers. A lone Jap plane was destroyed as it took off. A/A fire was encountered but none of our planes was damaged. The following morning, the same target was hit by 36 tons of bombs from 20 B-24's. 95% of the bombs hit the target. Of 8 to 10 intercepting Jap planes, 1 was destroyed, 1 was probably destroyed and 2 were damaged. 1 of our bombers, damaged by A/A fire, was forced to land before reaching its base.

(C) New Ireland

On 21 September off Cape St. George and in the Mussau Island vicinity, 2 convoys and 3 single AK's were attacked by Allied planes. 1 of

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the AK's was reported smoking after a B-17 had released a ton of bombs. The same day, a 1,500 ton AK was left sinking 56 miles N. of Garove Island by a B-24 which scored a hit and near miss on it after releasing 2 tons of bombs.

(D) New Britain

14 RAAF Beauforts and 3 RAAF A-20's dropped over 12 tons of bombs on Gasmata 21 September. No results were observed. Slight, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day, 22 B-24's dropped 66 tons of bombs on bivouacs and supply dumps at Cape Gloucester. No results were observed because of clouds and dust. Slight A/A fire, some of it accurate, was met over the target but all our planes returned safely.

(E) New Guinea

Over Hopoi, 21 September, a force of Jap bombers and fighters attacking Allied shipping was intercepted by 18 P-40's which shot down 4 enemy bombers and 5 fighters and probably destroyed another bomber. No damage was done our shipping but 1 P-40 is missing. The same day, 12 Jap bombers attacked Marilinan, damaging some of our planes and inflicted some casualties. 8 P-47's encountered 25 Jap fighters and 18 bombers in the same area the same day and damaged 1 enemy fighter.

Jap communication lines S. of Bogadjin were again attacked 21 September. 16 B-25's dropped over 15 tons of bombs, destroying 4 bridges, damaging a jetty and strafing villages and camps in the area. No enemy planes were encountered and the only opposition was slight m/g fire. All our planes returned safely. The same day 12 A-35's, 9 B-26's and 7 A-20's dropped 6 tons of bombs on enemy occupied villages and installations in the Tami Islands, a few miles SE of Cape Cratin. No results were observed. Finschhafen was strafed by a single P-39 which also sank a barge 9 miles S. of the town.

(F) N.E.I.

On 21 September, 2 Dutch B-25's dropped nearly a ton of bombs on the dispersal areas at Penfoei airdrome, SW Timor. A number of fires were started. The same day, 4 RAAF A-29's dropped nearly 2 tons of bombs on Wetar Island and Cape Chater and Lautem, NE Timor. No results were observed.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 22 September 1943.

1. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Photographs taken at 0915 L, 20 September, over the Kahili-Ballale area revealed 113 Jap planes. Shipping in the area was light, the only Jap naval vessel being a PC. On the night of 19 September, in the New Georgia area, considerable Jap barge traffic between Vila and Arundel was reported. Allied infantry sank 2 barges while Allied artillery shelled 4 others with unobserved results. The following day all the enemy had been cleared from Sagakarsa Island, off NE Arundel. The enemy continued ineffective shelling of our Arundel positions. On Vella Lavella, Allied patroling continues without opposition and we are consolidating our positions.

On 20 September, Webster (Vovohe) and Elliott (Ringi) Coves, just W. of Vila, were attacked by 4 B-25's which dropped about 2 tons of bombs with unobserved results.

(B) Nauru

Further details of the 19 September raid on Nauru reveal that about 12 tons of bombs were dropped on or near a radio station and phosphate plant and on the 2 runways by 12 B-24's and 2 PB4Y's (naval B-24's). Accurate and intense A/A fire damaged 3 B-24's. 1 or 2 enemy night fighters unsuccessfully attempted interception. All our planes returned.

(C) New Ireland

On 20 September, 162 miles NE of Mussau Island, a B-24 on reconnaissance bombed and strafed a convoy of 7 vessels with unobserved results. The same morning, another reconnaissance plane bombed a small AK about 300 miles NE of Mussau Island, leaving the vessel afire, abandoned and sinking.

(D) New Britain

On 20 September, a B-17 dropped about a ton of bombs on Gasmata airfield while a B-24 dropped the same load on Rooke Island. No results were observed over either target. Over Gasmata a single burst of inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day, 167 Jap planes were photographed on airfields in the Rabaul area and 45 vessels, including 1 CA, 1 CL, 9 DD's, 5 SS's, 4 PC's and 2 tenders, and 7 floatplanes and 1

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flyingboat were in the harbor.

(E) New Guinea

On 19 September, Allied ground forces occupied Kaiapit, 53 miles NW of Lae. The troops were landed by transport planes. Early the following morning, 2 Jap planes bombed Port Moresby ineffectively. The same morning, Kadsab was raided by 9 enemy bombers under cover of 10 fighters. Casualties and damage resulted. 3 enemy fighters were destroyed and 1 probably destroyed when 16 P-38's intercepted. The same day Marilinan and the mouth of the Bumbu River (at Lae) were both bombed by single Jap planes. No damage was done.

Mewak and Boram airfields were attacked 20 September by 12 fighter escorted B-24's which dropped over 46 tons of bombs on the 2 targets, causing large fires and destroying grounded Jap planes. 2 of 7 enemy planes in the air over the target were shot down. The same day Jap positions and lines of communication, S. of Bogadjim, were attacked by 3 Allied bombing missions totalling 47 B-25's, 8 B-17's and 2 P-39's (used as dive bombers), all under fighter escort. 65 tons of bombs were dropped and about 120,000 rounds expended in strafing. 3 bridges and 5 trucks were destroyed and other bridges, barges, trucks, roads and buildings were damaged by near misses. Intense but generally inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. None of our planes is reported missing.

(F) N.E.I.

Early 20 September, Namlea, NE Boeroe Island, was attacked by 4 RAAF PBV's which dropped over 5 tons of bombs and incendiaries. 9 fires were observed following the raid. The same morning, Langoor, Kai Islands, was bombed by 4 RAAF A-29's and Doela was hit by 2 RAAF A-29's. 2½ tons of bombs and incendiaries were released over the two targets and a number of fires started.

(G) Australia

87 miles N. of Cape Wessel on 20 September, an RAAF Beaufort shot down an enemy floatplane.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

*OK* A U.S. SS reports sinking a 36 ton fishing boat and probably sinking an enemy SS during the course of a 34 day patrol.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 21 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Between 1245 L and 1300 L, 18 September, over Barakoma, SE Vella Lavella, 30 Jap dive bombers and 20 fighters were intercepted by 17 F4U's and 4 P-40's. 12 Jap dive bombers and 5 fighters were shot down, 2 dive bombers were destroyed by a U.S. crash boat and another was shot down by Barakoma A/A fire. 1 F4U was destroyed and 2 are missing. That night, Allied positions on Arundel Island and at Munda were ineffectively bombed by a single Jap plane.

Allied ground force action on Arundel Island, 19 September, was checked by increased Jap resistance. Jap artillery continued to shell our positions on Ondongo and Arundel without success. On Vella Lavella Allied patrols were active but encountered no enemy.

At 0234 L, 19 September, Gunda Canal was bombed by 2 or 3 Jap planes. Our casualties were 18 and some material damage was also suffered.

Between 1337 L and 1412 L, 19 September, Jap gun positions at Vila and Disappointment Cove, Kolombangara, were attacked by 10 B-25's, 28 SBD's and 14 TBF's under an escort of fighters. A total of 34 tons of bombs were dropped. A number of hits were scored on gun positions E. of the cove and a possible ammunition dump exploded. Large fires E. of Vila runway were also started. A/A fire was accurate and intense and 1 of our TBF's was damaged and a gunner wounded.

(B) New Ireland

On 18 September, S. of Cape St. George, an RAAF Beaufort bombed and strafed an AK. No results were observed. The following day, an RAAF Beaufort strafed a barge S. of Cape St. George after failure to release its bombs. No results were observed.

(C) New Britain

On 18 September, 2 barges in Mein Bay were set afire by a PBV while buildings on Ritter and Rooke Islands, were strafed by a B-24 on reconnaissance. No details were reported.

The following day Cape Gloucester airdrome and surrounding area was the target for over 80 tons of bombs dropped by 24 B-24's and 11 B-17's under escort of fighter planes. 6 grounded Jap planes were destroyed.

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the runway left unfit for service and a number of fires started. A/A fire encountered was accurate. All our planes returned safely, however. No enemy were encountered. Also on 19 September, A/A positions, supply dumps and a beached vessel on Poskins Peninsula were strafed by 4 RAAF Beau- fighters. Slight but accurate A/A fire destroyed 1 of our planes. At Aruwe, the same day, 1 building was destroyed and another damaged by a bombing and strafing attack by a single B-24.

(D) New Guinea

On 18 September Jap positions at Finschhafen were bombed and strafed by 14 RAAF A-35's which released 7 tons of bombs and expended 7,000 rounds in strafing. Finschhafen was attacked the same day by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs, and by 9 B-26's which dropped nearly 12 tons of bombs. Off Cape Crotin, 9 A-20's bombed and strafed the Tami Islands.

On 19 September, Finschhafen and Sio and a number of villages along the Huon Peninsula coast were bombed and strafed by 4 Allied missions comprised of 12 B-25's, 1 B-24 and 7 B-26's. About 13 tons of bombs were dropped and nearly 25,000 rounds expended. 2 of the missions met no A/A fire over Finschhafen. Results were not observed.

(E) N.E.I.

On the night of 17 September, a single B-24 on reconnaissance dropped 3/4ths of a ton of bombs on Dili, Timor, with unobserved results. A/A fire encountered was inaccurate and slight. Early 19 September, Ambon and Namlea, NE Boeroe Island, E. of Coram, were attacked by 12 B-24's which dropped over 25 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the 2 targets. A number of fires were started at Ambon and direct hits were scored on the airbase, workshop and possible fuel dump at Namlea. Slight, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered over Ambon. About the same time, Solaru, Tanirbar Islands, was attacked by 2 Dutch B-25's. 2 fires were observed following release of an unreported number of bombs.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports possibly damaging an AK and a Jap naval auxiliary.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 20 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On the night of 15-16 September, Munda, New Georgia area, was raided 3 times by Jap planes. Minor damage was done. 1 enemy plane was shot down.

On the night of 17-18 September, Munda was again raided, this time by 4 missions of about 12 Jap planes which dropped over 35 bombs. Some fell on the runway but no great damage nor any casualties resulted. The same night there were 5 air alarms over Barakoma, Se Vella Lavella. No damage was reported when 5 bombs hit near the runway. This reference would indicate that Allied forces have constructed an air strip in this locality. Also that night, U.S. PT's patrolling the W. coast of Kolombangara were ineffectively bombed and strafed by an enemy floatplane.

At 0245 L, 18 September, Vila was bombed with unobserved results by a patrolling PBV. At 1355 L the same day, Jap gun positions at Bamberi Harbor, SE Kolombangara, were attacked by 30 Allied TBF's and SBP's under escort of an unreported number of fighters. Fires and explosions were observed. Enemy gun positions at Parapatu Point, in the same area, were strafed. No A/A fire was encountered over either target.

R.A. Bocne.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 19 September 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of 16-16 September, 9 B-25's made a surprise attack on Kahili. Lights were still burning when the bombers came over the target at tree top height. Over 100 100-lb. bombs were dropped with unobserved results. 3 of our planes were damaged by intense accurate A/A fire. The same night, 5 B-34's raided Ballale and 7 other B-25's attacked Kahili causing fires. 1 B-25 and 1 B-34 is missing.

The following day, 30 SBD's and 24 TBF's covered by 73 fighters bombed Ballale scoring hits on revetments, gun positions and the supply and bivouac areas, causing fires. 2 TBF's failed to return. 50 to 60 Jap fighters were engaged by our fighters and 14 enemy planes were shot down while we lost 3 F6F's and 1 F4U but 3 of the pilots were rescued. 1 F4U pilot shot down 5 of the Jap planes. An unidentified vessel was afire off the S. end of Ballale runway which was reported unserviceable with many bomb craters still unfilled.

On 17 September, a Beaufighter strafed a barge with oil drums approximately 50 miles W. of Buka.

During the night of 16 September, a large party of Jap troops were reported to have landed at Warambari Bay (NW Vella Lavella). The same night, enemy guns at Bombari Harbor (NE of Vila) fired on and hit 1 of our PI's on patrol injuring a member of the crew. A P-40 on patrol over Vella Lavella, 16 September, shot down an enemy floatplane.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

Off Cape St. George, a PBV attacked 3 small vessels during the night of 16 September. 1 vessel was left burning and sinking and another was damaged. The following day, a B-24 on reconnaissance strafed and skip-bombed small AK's W. of Mussau Island. 1 AK was left listing and stationary. 6 Beaufighters attacked other AK's in Kimbe Bay, E. New Britain, and 4 vessels were set afire and 3 others damaged.

A B-24 on reconnaissance, 16 September, reported a new 5,000 foot serviceable runway on Los Negros Island, NE Admiralty Islands.

(C) New Guinea

2 Jap planes bombed Hopoi during the night of 16 September but no damage resulted. The following day, 6 B-25's bombed and strafed the

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E. coast of the Huon Peninsula. 1 barge was reported damaged. A B-25 over the Markham River was intercepted by 5 Jap fighters, 1 of which was shot down. Allied forces moving N. from Salamaua killed 60 Japs 17 September.

(D) N.E.I.

During the early morning of 17 September, 5 Hudsons followed by 7 Beaufighters bombed and strafed the Taberfane seaplane base, Aroe Islands. Fires and explosions resulted and a floatplane, barge and A/A position were destroyed.

It is reported that Sabang, NW tip of Sumatra, is being developed into an important enemy air and naval base.

(E) Gilbert Islands

According to a communique, released by Admiral Nimitz, our Pacific forces heavily raided Tarawa Island and Nauru.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800 18 September, 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 14 September, Kahili and Ballale were bombed by 24 B-24's and 6 B-34's. No details were reported. The same night, Munda and Barakoma, SE Vella Lavella, were bombed by 40-60 Jap planes. At Munda, 5 of our grounded planes were damaged and there were some casualties. At 1144 L. the following morning, the Buka runway was bombed by 8 unescorted B-24's which dropped 500 fragmentation clusters on the runway and revetment areas. 2 fires were started. 10 to 14 Jap bombers were seen on the field. Heavy and accurate A/A fire was encountered.

At 0455 L. 15 September, the new Jap air strip at Kara, 10 miles NW. of Kahili, was attacked by 6 low-flying B-25's which dropped 72 100-lb. bombs starting a fire and putting out a searchlight. At the same time, 5 other B-25's dropped 60 100-lb. bombs on Kahili, starting a number of fires and also putting out a searchlight. About an hour later, 1 B-25 dropped 12 100-lb. bombs on Kahili with unreported results.

The same day, 24 TBF's and 31 SBD's, covered by 42 PCF's, 12 P-39's and 7 F4U's, attacked Ballale. Direct hits were scored on 6 parked planes and among some trucks. 12 of 50 intercepting fighters were destroyed by 28 F6F's and 2 F4U's. 2 F6F's and a P-39 were lost but 1 pilot was saved.

(It is not clear whether these raids supplemented or were included in the attacks on the area reported in the Summary for 17 September.)

The afternoon of 15 September, about 110 miles ESE. of San Cristobal, a U. S. DD and a patrolling PBY probably sank a Jap SS.

At 1130 L. 16 September, Kahili was attacked by 16 B-24's, escorted by 20 P-40's and 6 F4U's. 320 fragmentation clusters were dropped scoring hits on the runway and starting a number of fires. 2 of our planes were damaged by A/A fire and 1 man killed. The same day, Parapatu Pt., near Vila, was bombed by 5 B-25's with unobserved results. On Vella Lavella, Jap movements to the NW. were reported. Enemy air attacks continue and 3 planes were shot down.

(B) New Ireland

N. of Mussau Island a B-24 scored 2 very near misses on a medium AK in a convoy which later photographs showed to be lacking 1 vessel. The same day off Cape St. George, a RAAF Beaufort scored a near miss in a bombing and strafing attack on 2 luggers while a B-17 bombed and strafed an AK with unobserved results.

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(C) New Guinea

About noon 10 September, Lae was occupied by Allied ground forces. Prior to the capture of the town, 12 B-17's, 9 B-26's, 8 B-25's, and 9 A-20's, escorted by fighters, in four waves bombed and strafed Jap positions around Lae, dropping a total of 44 100-lb. instantaneous demolition, 4 1,000-lb. aerial burst, 6 500-lb. instantaneous demolition, 6 500-lb. 1/10 second delayed, 378 25-lb. parachute fragmentation, and 351 20-lb. parachute fragmentation bombs. In addition, 30,000 rounds were expended in strafing.

The same day, 4 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs were dropped on the Finschhafen warehouse area by a B-24. No results were observed. Alexishafen airdrome, bivouac and supply dumps were bombed the same day by 17 B-24's which dropped 4 1,000-lb. aerial burst, 82 1,000 and 72 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs, starting a number of fires and putting 1 runway out of commission. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

The same day over Hansa Bay, a Jap reconnaissance plane was shot down by P-38's.

(D) N. E. I.

The night of 15 September, 3 B-24's dropped 27 300-lb. bombs on Sorong, starting fires in the building area. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

(E) Australia

Early the morning of 16 September, Onslow in W. Australia was ineffectively raided by 2 Jap planes.

H. A. Boons

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 17 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The early 13 September clash between 15 Jap fighters and 7 U.S. fighters reported in the summary for 16 September as having occurred over Buka is revealed by later reports to have taken place over Baga Island. The Jap "force" reported 1,000 yards S. of Buri Village on Ganonga appears, in later reports, to have been an evacuated bivouac area prepared by an enemy Naval landing party from Kolombangara.

On the night of 13 September, SE of Kolombangara, a Jap bomber trying to bomb U.S. PT's was attacked by a U.S. fighter. During the clash, the Jap plane released a bomb near 1 PT, wounding 1 man. The same night Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, was ineffectively bombed by Jap planes and Russell Island was attacked by a single Jap bomber. No damage or casualties resulted.

On 14 September, Kahili was attacked during the day 4 times by a total of 43 heavy bombers, 34 SBD's and 25 TBF's under a total of 127 covering fighters. Early reports said the attacks were very successful. The same day, Munda was attacked by 2 Jap planes. 2 F4U's were wrecked by 2 small bombs. There were no casualties.

On 15 September, 3 missions, totalling 32 B-24's, under a total escort of 40 F4U's, 24 P-40's and 15 P-39's dropped 888 fragmentation clusters on the runway, revetments, dispersal and supply areas at Kahili. Intense A/A fire was encountered and about 42 Jap planes intercepted. Of these, F4U's destroyed 5, the B-24's 2 and the P-40's 1.

The same day on Arundel Island a Bn. of Inf. and tanks were reported moving in from Bomboe Village to support our troops facing strengthened enemy forces on the NE shore of the island. Our forces checked Jap counter-attacks in that area, inflicting casualties. Jap shelling of Bairoko, Arundel and Sunday Inlet from Vila continued and increase in enemy air activity was noted. The same day Vila was bombed by 2 B-24's but no results were reported. On Vella Lavella no Japs were encountered by our patrols but 15 of the enemy, killed by our artillery, were found. The Japs are reported putting up buildings at Suanatalia, on the N. coast, and a possible radio installation at Umoro Island, on the NW coast. That night Guadalcanal was bombed by 4 Jap planes. No details were reported.

(B) New Guinea

The night of 14 September, 6 Jap planes ineffectively bombed Korobo.

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On 15 September, 9 B-17's dropped 32 1,000-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs on the Chinese town at Lae, silencing a Jap battery. Clouds prevented further observation of results. 1 of the bombers crashed near Wau. Our ground forces advanced from the E. to Malahang Anchorage, S. of the airfield of that name, and from the N. 1 mile E. of Edward's Plantation, which is about a mile S. of Heath's Plantation. Heavy Jap casualties were reported. Large numbers of the enemy are also reported about 3 miles SE of Yalu. 10 miles E. of the Markham, Allied reinforcements were landed.

The same morning, Boram and Newak airdromes were attacked by 22 B-24's under escort of an unreported number of fighters. 144 500-lb. semi-armor piercing and 120 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs were dropped. About 10 Jap bombers on the ground were destroyed and additional planes set afire. Further observation was prevented by clouds and by the interception of an estimated 60 to 70 Jap fighters. Of these 39 were downed by the B-24's while 9 were destroyed and 1 probably destroyed by our fighters. All our bombers returned safely but 1 P-38 is missing. A/A fire over the targets was intense.

The coast from Madang to Finschhafen was swept on 15 September by 23 B-25's which bombed and strafed the area, destroying 15 Jap barges, damaging others, and setting native villages afire. 174 500-lb. 4-5 second delay bombs were dropped. Intense A/A fire was encountered. The same day 2 B-24's on reconnaissance dropped 8 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs on Finschhafen with unobserved results.

(C) N.E.I.

On the night of 14 September, 3 RAAF PBY's dropped 12 500-lb. demolition, 12 250-lb. general purpose and 50 30-lb. incendiary bombs on Ambon, starting a number of fires in the waterfront, town and barracks areas. Intense A/A fire was encountered. The same night, 12 B-24's dropped 108 500-lb. demolition bombs on Kondari, starting fires in the town, waterfront and airdrome areas. Slight A/A fire was encountered.

(D) Australia

On the night of 15 September, the Darwin area was raided by 10 to 15 Jap planes. No details were reported.

R.A. Beane.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 16 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 2350 L, 12 September, off Kieta, Bourainville, a PBX on reconnaissance dropped 6 500-lb. bombs on a convoy of 4 Jap AK's escorted by 2 DD's. 1 bomb hit the bridge of 1 of the DD's and a heavy explosion resulted. The plane was subjected to intense A/A fire throughout the attack and narrowly escaped 6 to 7 Jap fighters. The same night a U.S. PT found no Jap barges in a sweep of Kula Gulf but did exchange fire with enemy shore batteries.

At dawn, 13 September, 7 F4U's engaged 15 Jap fighters over Buka, destroying 3 of them with no U.S. losses. The same morning, Allied positions in the Larbu Lambu area on EE Vella Lavella were bombed by 3 Jap planes but little damage resulted. Our patrols were active in the area. Another patrol which returned from Ganongga reported a large Jap force 1,000 yards inland from Buri Village on the E. tip of the island. Destruction of considerable enemy equipment and arms was also reported. The same day Jap artillery shelled our positions on Arundel and Ondongi Islands. No damage was reported. At 2241 L the same day, 115 miles SW of Rendova, an Allied reconnaissance plane dropped 3 500-lb. bombs on a surfaced Jap SS. 1 of the bombers hit the tail of the SS which disappeared 10 seconds later leaving a large oil slick.

Vila was bombed early the morning of 14 September by C B-25's which dropped 36 100-lb. bombs with unobserved results. Allied ground activity on Arundel on 14 September continued against strong Jap opposition. The Japs are believed to total 200 to 300. Our positions on Arundel, Ondongi and at Bairoko were shelled ineffectively by the enemy. On Vella Lavella ground activity was limited to patrolling.

On the evening of 14 September, 30 miles SW of Buka, a PBX scored near misses on a large AK, a small AK and a DD, while 20 miles N. of this location, the plane successfully strafed 2 medium AK's.

(B) New Guinea

On 14 September in the Lae area, Allied forces advancing from the NW reached a point within 4 miles of the airfield while the troops advancing from the E. pushed to a point less than 2 miles from the town of Lae. The advance down the Markham Valley road was supported by 9 B-25's which dropped 57 300-lb. 4-5 second delay bombs and strafed the area. Evidence has been found to indicate the Japs planned to evacuate Lae, fleeing to the H. However, it would appear as if the time has passed for the success of such a move.

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Along the EE coast, 13 B-25's swept the Sepik River and shore SE to Hansa Bay. 51 500-lb. 4-5 second delay demolition bombs were dropped and nearly 20,000 rounds expended in strafing. Jap buildings at Ankorum, about 60 miles up the Sepik, and Marenberg, about 40 miles up the river, were destroyed while large fires were started and A/A positions were silenced at Nubia and Iwar on Hansa Bay.

(C) New Britain

About noon 14 September, 80 miles E. of Lorengau, Admiralty Islands, a B-24 on reconnaissance dropped 4 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs on a small enemy vessel. No results were reported. The same day, a PBV dropped 4 250-lb. general purpose bombs on Jap bivouac areas on Garowo Island, Vitu Group, and strafed a barge and tug in Bergen Bay. No results were reported. On Rooke Island, enemy installations were successfully bombed by 2 B-24's which dropped 4 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs.

(D) M.E.I.

On the night of 13 September, 4 RAAF PBV's dropped 7 500-lb., 8 1,000-lb. instantaneous demolition, 3 250-lb. general purpose instantaneous bombs and 40 30-lb. incendiaries on the town of Ambon and Balong seaplane base on Arboina, starting a number of large fires, silencing A/A positions and damaging 3 enemy floatplanes. Intense A/A fire was encountered. The same night, 2 RAAF PBV's dropped 4 500-lb. instantaneous bombs, 12 20-lb. fragmentation bombs and 10 30-lb. incendiaries on Babo, starting a number of fires. A 3rd PBV, which had started out with the others, dropped 18 20-lb. fragmentation bombs on Langgoer, Kai Islands. The following day, Selaru was raided 3 times by a total of 3 RAAF A-29's and 6 Beaufighters which dropped 3 250-lb. 11 second delay bombs, 10 100-lb. demolition bombs and 60 4-lb. incendiaries. Fires were started in warehouse areas. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate.

II. U. S. Submarine reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 10,000 ton AP and probably sinking a 7,000 ton AP.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 15 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 1215 L, 11 September, Kahili was bombed by 25 B-24's under escort of an unreported number of F6F's, P4U's, P-38's and P-40's. Hits were scored on the runway, revetments W. of the runway and on enemy shore installations. Over the Shortland area 15 to 20 Jap fighters intercepted. Our fighters destroyed 7. 1 F6F is missing. At 1850 L the same day revetments, tents and an A/A position at Kahili were strafed by 4 P4U's. 1 P4U heavily strafed a Jap DD off shore. The same day about noon, Vila was bombed by 2 B-24's while 3 more B-24's, coming in singly and at different times, bombed the area that night. No results were observed after any of these raids.

At 1035 L, 12 September, 10 miles off Tinupuz Harbor, NE Bougainville, 2 Jap AK's and 4 DD's were reported by a U.S. plane but 6 U.S. DD's were unable to locate them. At 1245 L the same day, 70 miles SW of Rendova, a Jap SS was sunk by a U.S. reconnaissance plane.

(B) New Guinea

On 13 September, Allied ground forces advanced to a point about 1 mile from the Malahan; runway and less than 4 miles from the airfield at Lao. NW of Lao our forces advanced down the Markham Valley, reported no Japs at or N. of Heath's Plantation when they reached that point at nightfall. The Markham Valley ground forces were supported during the day by 12 B-25's which dropped 72 300-lb. 4-5 second delay fragmentation bombs and strafed the area. The planes also strafed Labu Island and set afire a native village.

About 45 miles N. of Lao, at Marilinan in the Latut Valley, 12 Jap bombers under an escort of 30 fighters bombed the runway with little success. 13 P-47's and P-40's intercepted, destroying 1 enemy bomber and 1 fighter, probably destroyed 1 fighter and damaged another. 1 of our fighters is missing.

At Salamaua on 13 September, Allied troops were in possession while the few remaining groups of Japs were reported fleeing into the bush NW of the town in the vicinity of Asini. Considerable enemy equipment was captured at Salamaua.

On the afternoon of 13 September, 2 B-24's on reconnaissance dropped 7 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs on buildings at Finschhafen. No results were reported. The same day in the Wovak area, Dajus and But

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airfields were bombed simultaneously by a total of 21 B-24's under cover of 4 squadrons of P-38's. 16 of the bombers dropped 125 100-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs and 72 500-lb. semi-armor piercing instantaneous bombs on Dagua and also strafed the area. Photographs showed fires, explosions and 16 grounded aircraft ablaze after the raid. A/A fire was encountered. 5 of the bombers dropped 60 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs on But which was also strafed. Some grounded aircraft were hit, a number of fires were caused and a large explosion was observed. A/A fire was encountered. 30 to 40 Jap planes attempted to intercept these bombing missions and our fighters destroyed 7 of them and probably destroyed 2 more.

The same day, 13 September, Morobe was bombed by an unreported number of Jap planes. No damage resulted.

(C) N.E.I.

On the morning of 13 September, a Jap occupied village on Panial Lake, in the Wissel Lakes region of Dutch New Guinea, was raided by an RAAF PBV which dropped 8 250-lb. general purpose bombs and 15 30-lb. incendiaries on the target, causing a number of fires.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking approximately 27,000 tons of enemy shipping and damaging 14,000 tons. Included in the bag were 2 large AK's sunk and 1 AO damaged. 1 Jap cruiser was possibly sunk.

H.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 14 September 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

Further details of the 12 September raid on Paramushiro reveal 2 Jap ships probably sunk, 1 damaged and 2 possibly damaged while many small craft were also damaged. 9 500-lb. clusters, 18 500-lb. demolition bombs, 4 500-lb. bombs and 2 500-lb. incendiaries were dropped on Kashiwabara and Shimushu by the B-24's. Enemy shipping was attacked at deck-level heights by our medium bombers which dropped 18 500-lb. bombs and hit a large AK and left a large AP sinking. Another small AK exploded and 2 more AK's were possibly hit. Fishing boats and barges were strafed and some set afire.

3 B-25's and 1 B-24 were lost, 4 B-25's and 2 B-24's reached Kamchatka. 8 of the 10 planes which returned to their base were damaged and 7 crew members were wounded. A total of 10 of about 25 intercepting Jap fighters were shot down and 3 were probably shot down.

Photographs taken over the area revealed 1 CA, 1 CL, 1 ACV, 1 DD, 5 AK's, about 100 small boats and lighters and 50 landing barges.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 0045 L on 11 September, a B-24 on reconnaissance about 40 miles NW of Buka Passage scored a near miss or hit on 1 of 5 Jap ships after releasing 5 500-lb. bombs. A number of other enemy vessels were sighted in the area during the day. In the New Georgia area on 11 September, Jap artillery ineffectively bombarded our positions on Ondongi, SE of Vila. On Arundel our forces prepared for the final drive to oust the enemy. On Vella Lavella, action was limited to patrol clashes.

On 11 September, 18 B-25's dropped 187 fragmentation clusters on Jap gun positions NE of Vila runway and W. of Disappointment Cove. A number of hits and 1 fire were observed. That night, in Kula Gulf, U.S. PT's damaged 2 and drove 3 more Jap barges on the beach.

On 12 September, 18 B-25's, 24 SBD's and 15 TBF's bombed and strafed Jap positions along the S. coast of Kolombangara, causing a number of fires and explosions. The same vicinity was swept by 4 F4U's which destroyed some barges and strafed fuel dumps.

(B) Baker-Howland Islands

At 0023 X on 9 September about 50 miles SE of Baker Island a Jap 4-engined flying boat was destroyed by a Naval air patrol.

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(C) Ellice Islands

At 2127 N, 12 September (0027 Z, 13 September) Funafuti was raided by 15 Jap planes which came over in 5 flights, dropping a total of 70 bombs. 2 of our patrol planes were set afire, 3 men were wounded but little material damage was done. A/A fire destroyed 1 Jap bomber.

(D) New Britain

On the morning of 12 September, the wireless station at Gas-mata was bombed by 4 M. F. A-20's, 1 of which made a forced landing. The same day 4 barges were destroyed and a power launch damaged near Cape Busching by 9 B-25's which dropped 8 250-lb. 4-5 second delay bombs. Aerial searches of the NW and SE shores of New Britain during the day sighted nothing. A single B-24 on reconnaissance dropped 4 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs on Cape Gloucester runway. Slight inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. No results were observed. That night a PBV dropped 2 250-lb. general purpose bombs, 2 325-lb. depth charges and an unreported number of fragmentation and incendiary bombs on buildings at Garove Island. No results were reported.

(E) New Guinea

On 11 September, Allied ground forces, having already taken the Salamaua airfield earlier in the day, captured the town, isthmus and Kela Village to the NW. The Japs continued to occupy the high ground SW of Kela.

The following day, 12 September, Allied ground forces captured Jap equipment on the W. bank of the Busu River, E. of Lae. Allied operations were handicapped by high water in the river. N. of Lae, our forces continued their advance along the Markham Valley. 10 B-24's and 12 B-17's dropped 50 1,000-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs and 48 1,000-lb. 1/10 second delay bombs on Jap positions E. of Lae airfield. A bridge and a number of houses were destroyed and A/A positions silenced. A/A of all calibres was encountered. The same day, Allied shipping at Morobe was attacked by 10 Jap dive bombers escorted by fighters. 1 of our vessels was damaged. A/A guns destroyed 2 enemy bombers. Buildings at Finschhafen were also bombed on 12 September by a B-24 on reconnaissance, and villages along the E. coast of the Huon Peninsula were strafed by 9 B-25's which conducted a vain search for barges.

(F) N.E.I.

On the night of 11 September, Makassar was attacked by 13 B-24's which dropped 107 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs and a number of incendiaries on the waterfront and barracks areas. Fires were started in the barracks, fuel tanks and warehouses. A/A fire was intense. 1 B-24 is missing. The following morning, Selaru runway and nearby villages were bombed and strafed by 6 RAAF Beaufighters which dropped 6 250-lb. general purpose bombs and expended 10,900 rounds in strafing. Light accurate A/A fire was encountered.

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R.A. Boone.  
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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of OSOC, 13 September 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

On the morning of 12 September, Paramushiru was attacked by 8 B-24's and 12 B-25's from Attu. No details have been reported but fighter plane opposition appears to have been encountered by our planes.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The afternoon of 10 September, Jap barge and bivouac areas at Dulo Cove, N. of Vila, Kolombangara, were bombed and strafed by 20 SBD's under an escort of fighters. A number of hits were scored and a possible ammunition dump destroyed. Our ground forces at Arundel were preparing for the final assault on the enemy on 10 September and on Vella Lavella our troops reported taking a large quantity of Jap equipment and supplies.

(B) New Ireland

Early on the morning of 11 September, a single vessel was attacked by a PBX B. of Cape St. George. 1 250-lb. anti-SS bomb and 1 850-lb. depth charge were dropped. Results were not reported. The same day, another PBX dropped 2 500-lb. and 2 50-lb. bombs on a freighter N. of Green (Nissan) Island, N. of Buka, starting a number of fires and leaving the vessel damaged.

(C) New Britain

On the night of 10 September, Jap bivouac areas on Garove Island were bombed and strafed by a PBX on reconnaissance. 3 250-lb. general purpose bombs and 15 20-lb. fragmentation bombs were dropped. Hits were scored and fires resulted. The same night 3 barges headed NW were attacked and damaged in Dampier Strait by another PBX. The following morning, Cape Gloucester runway was bombed by a B-24 which dropped 2 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs. Moderate A/A fire was encountered. No results were reported.

(D) New Guinea

On the night of 10 September, N. of Finschhafen, 3 Jap barges were sunk and 1 was damaged by U.S. PT's. 6 enemy 3" guns on shore drove off the PT's which were also unsuccessfully bombed by Jap planes.

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At Salamaua on 10 September the Jap radio ceased to operate. The following morning, Allied ground forces successfully forded the swollen Francisco River and took possession of the Salamaua airfield. At Lae Allied forces knocked out strong Jap positions on the W. bank of the Busu River and repulsed an enemy counter-attack on our left flank, killing 40 Japs. The flooded Busu River is handicapping operations in the area. NW of Lae our forces have encountered enemy positions at Heath's Plantation.

(3) N.E.I.

On the morning of 11 September, Salaru, Tanimbar Islands, was raided by 3 flights consisting of 9 RAAF Beaufighters. The runway was strafed, villages bombed and a number of fires started and a lugger sunk by the planes which dropped 5 240-lb. general purpose, 11 second delay bombs. That evening, 2 Dutch B-25's dropped 24 100-lb. demolition, 1 250-lb. incendiary bomb and 1 incendiary cluster on Laha airdrome, Amboina. Because of clouds, results were not observed. Slight A/A fire was encountered. The same evening, 5 RAAF A-29's dropped 36 100-lb. special demolition bombs and some incendiaries on Langgor, Kai Islands. A number of fires were started in the dump area. 2 of 4 Jap planes unsuccessfully attempted interception. Strong A/A fire was encountered.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS reports possibly sinking a 8900 ton AK while another reports damaging a 6000 ton AP or AK.

H.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0600, 12 September 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

Another Jap surrendered on Attu 6 September, making the total number of prisoners captured 28.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of 8-9 September, our PT's destroyed and damaged Jap barges on the N. and E. coast of Kolombangara. 3-inch gun fire was encountered from Paraputu Point 6 miles NE of Vila. F4U's strafed other enemy barges in the same area the following day.

A force of 65 SBD's, TBF's and B-25's, escorted by fighters, attacked Vila 9 September. 3 enemy guns were destroyed, many enemy troops killed, and a bridge damaged. A TBF damaged by AAA fire was forced to make a crash landing. The same morning, 19 U.S. fighters and 22 Jap fighters engaged in air combat over the Shortland Islands. Each side lost 2 fighters but both our pilots are safe.

During the night of 8 September, an enemy barge landing on NE Arundel was repulsed and the following morning our forces began to advance on enemy positions in this area.

Shortly after noon, 10 September, 18 B-25's dropped fragmentation clusters on the barge depot and bivouac area at Dulo Cove, W. of Vila.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

A B-24 on reconnaissance NE of Kavieng shot down a twin engined Jap bomber 9 September. Photos taken the same day show a new enemy airstrip with 9 revetments on Hoskins Peninsula (N. New Britain, E. of Stettin Bay).

(C) New Guinea

During the night of 8 September a Catalina strafed beaches on Long Island (Vitiaz Strait) and the following day another Catalina strafed barges between Hansa Bay and Saidor. 9 B-25's damaged 2 barges off the N. coast of Huon Peninsula 9 September. On 10 September a B-24 bombed Pischhafen, destroying a building. Bad weather prevented other air attacks.

On 10 September Allied forces advanced along the coast and down the Francisco River toward Salamua. Supported by strong artillery fire, our troops captured the main enemy defense positions on the heights S. of Tuk Nuk.

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210 enemy dead were counted.

Our forces E. of Lae continued to cross the Rusa River in the face of enemy fire while our artillery engaged enemy positions. Another Allied patrol moving down the Markham River toward Lae encountered a small enemy force N. of Heath's Plantation.

D. Ellice Islands

On the afternoon of 8 September, 12 enemy planes attacked Nanomea (most N. Island of the Ellice group). No damage or casualties were reported.

R. A. Soone

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of OSOC, 11 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 0111 L, 9 September, about 15 miles W. of NE Vella Lavella, in the New Georgia area, a B-24 scored a direct hit on 1 of 3 AK's, silencing all but 1 A/A gun and causing an explosion. 4 Jap fighters vainly pursued the bomber for 30 minutes.

Vila, Kolombangara Island, was attacked 3 times on 9 September. A reconnaissance plane dropped 3 500-lb. bombs on Vila with unobserved results. 2 B-24's dropped 60 fragmentation clusters on the same area, also with unobserved results. 12 B-25's dropped 14 tons of fragmentation clusters NW of the runway scoring hits thereon. The reconnaissance plane which raided Vila also dropped a 500-lb. bomb on a barge off NE Kolombangara with unobserved results.

The ground situation in the New Georgia area on 9 September found Allied forces establishing artillery positions 2400 yards SE of Bamboo Village, NE Arundel, while on Vella Lavella, the 1st. Bn. of the 35th Inf. began an advance against the Japs at Boko. Only enemy work patrols were encountered. The Japs ineffectively shelled Allied positions on Arundel.

The same day, at 0949 L, Kahili, Bougainville area, was attacked by 18 B-24's under an escort of 14 P4U's, 12 P-40's and 2 P-39's. Hits on the runway and a number of fires along the sides and at the S. end were observed. 1 of 10 intercepting Jap fighters was downed. 1 P4U is missing. Over the target and over Ballale, A/A fire was encountered. Photographs indicate the new strip at Kara, 10 miles NNE of Kahili, will probably be fit for limited use within a few days. 6 new revetments have been completed. The same morning, about 100 miles W. of Bougainville, an Allied reconnaissance plane destroyed a Jap bomber.

(B) Marcus Island

A delayed report states Marcus Island was attacked at dawn 1 September in a surprise raid by U. S. carrier-based planes. 80% of the island's installations were believed destroyed, 7 grounded Jap bombers were wrecked and a small AO sunk. Heavy A/A fire at the beginning of the raid was silenced thereafter. We lost 3 planes.

(C) New Britain

On 9 September, RAAF Beaufighters strafed A/A positions at Jacquinet Bay. 1 plane was destroyed by A/A fire. The same day, 5 other RAAF Beaufighters strafed A/A positions over Carove Island and the tent

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area there was hit by 4 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs dropped by a single B-24 on reconnaissance. No results were observed.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 8 September, the Finschhafen shore area was strafed by Allied PT's. No results were reported.

On 9 September, Allied ground forces crossed the Busu River, 4 miles E. of Lae, meeting enemy resistance. In the Selamaua area our forces also advanced, capturing N. Lokanuridge, S. of the Francisco River. (Since our occupation of Nuknuk, N. of this ridge, was reported on 26 August, it would appear as if Allied forces had been forced to withdraw somewhat during the last fortnight.)

On 9 September, 21 B-25's under an escort of 14 fighters swept the coast of the Huon Peninsula from Finschhafen to Alexishafen, dropping 52 500-lb. 4-5 second delay bombs and expending 36,600 rounds in strafing. 6 trucks were destroyed at Alexishafen, 15 Jap barges were probably destroyed in Bostrom Bay (westward extension of the waters of Alexishafen), 11 other barges along the coast were damaged, and buildings and a fuel dump were wrecked. A/A fire was encountered but no Jap planes appeared on the scene. 1 of our bombers crashed. 2 were damaged.

In the Newak area photographs revealed 24 barges and 107 planes on the 4 airfields. Most of the strips have been repaired since the heavy raids last month. 16 more Jap planes were seen in the air.

(E) N.E.I.

On the night of 7 September, 4 Dutch B-25's dropped 50 100-lb. demolition bombs on Laha airdrome, Amboina, starting a number of fires. Further observation of results was prevented by clouds. The following night, a single RAAF PBV dropped 4 500-lb. and 2 250-lb. general purpose bombs on Langgoer airdrome, Kai Islands. No results were reported.

During the early morning of 9 September, the Ambon jetty and warehouse areas were attacked by 3 RAAF PBV's which dropped 12 500-lb. and 6 250-lb. general purpose bombs, scoring hits on the docks and setting some warehouses afire. Later, the same morning, Selaru, Tanimbar Islands, was bombed and strafed by 2 Dutch B-25's which dropped 8 500-lb. 11 second delay bombs with unobserved results. The same day, Morauke airfield was attacked by 16 Jap bombers and 15 fighters. 14 P-40's and 14 Boomerangs intercepted, possibly destroying 1 Jap fighter. Another was probably downed by A/A fire. 1 Boomerang was destroyed on the ground. No damage resulted from the raid.

R.A. Boono.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of OSOC, 10 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On the morning of 7 September, off Tambuana, NE Vella Lavella, 3 Jap barges were damaged by 4 PT's, 2 of which went aground and were destroyed. The same morning, 23 B-25's bombed Jap supply areas and barge depots at Ringi Cove, W. of Vila, Kolombangara, starting a number of fires. That afternoon, Dulo Cove, W. of Vila, was bombed and strafed by 12 SBD's and 12 TBF's. No details were reported.

The ground situation in the New Georgia area appeared little changed on 8 September. Fighting continued on M. Arundel Island and in NE Vella Lavella. At 1522 L, 8 September, 12 B-25's attacked Vila, scoring hits on the runway and in supply dumps with 144 fragmentation clusters. At 1850 L, the same afternoon, a burning Jap barge was observed 4 miles N. of Naugh Rock, NE coast of Kolombangara.

At OSOC L, 8 September, a Jap bomber was attacked and damaged about 65 miles N. of Choiseul Island. No details were reported. The same day, 9 or 10 Jap floatplanes were observed in the anchorage at Rekata Bay, Santa Isabel Island. They were believed unfit for service since the island has been reported evacuated by the enemy. No personnel were seen.

(B) New Guinea

On 6 September, 2 B-24's bombed Finschhafen with unreported results.

On the night of 7 September, the Finschhafen shore area was strafed by PT's, 1 of which was ineffectively bombed by Jap planes. Early the following morning, 8 September, 8 U.S. DD's bombarded the Malahang area, just E. of Lae. No results were observed but 2 of 3 attacking Jap planes were destroyed and the 3rd probably destroyed. The same day, ground forces continued advances in all sectors in the Lae area. Lopol was occupied and troops advanced to the E. bank of the Busu River, only 4 miles from Lae. Artillery is now being brought up.

NE of Lae, patrols pushed 4½ to 5½ miles SE and E. of Nadzab, to Marekapor and Nunun, without meeting opposition. Nor was opposition met by patrols pushing N. to Camp Diddy, 6 miles above Nadzab.

During the morning, Lae was bombed by 10 B-17's which dropped 12 1,000-lb., 26 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs and 8 1,000-lb. and 12 500-lb. 1/10 second delay bombs. Buildings were destroyed. A/A fire was encountered. The same morning, Lae airrome and surrounding

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vicinity was bombed by 14 B-24's which dropped 4 1,000-lb. and 162 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs and 5 20-lb. fragmentation bombs. A number of fires were started. A/A fire was encountered. About the same time, 7 B-26's dropped 42 500-lb. instantaneous bombs on the area, scoring a direct hit on an A/A position. A/A fire was encountered. 12 B-25's bombed and strafed the lower Markham Valley road. 28 300-lb. and 12 500 4-5 second demolition bombs and 4 500-lb. 12 hr. delay bombs were dropped from a minimum altitude. 19,700 rounds were expended in strafing. Light A/A fire was encountered. 41 fighter planes covered these bombing operations in which all our planes returned safely although some were damaged by A/A fire.

In the Salamaua area, the trail S. from the town was bombed and strafed by 6 A-20's. 48 100-lb. 4-5 second delay bombs were dropped. M/G positions were silenced. Inaccurate M/G and accurate A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned safely.

The only enemy planes encountered during the day were 6 Jap bombers, escorted by 6 fighters, over Hanoi. 7 P-39's intercepted the enemy but no damage was done.

(C) New Ireland

Late the night of 7 September, SE of Cape St. George, a PBV scored a near miss, with a 650-lb. depth bomb, on a Jap AK, badly damaging it. 2 other vessels with the AK were unsuccessfully attacked. Later the same night, the PBV dropped 8 20-lb. fragmentation bombs and expended 500 rounds on a PC 65 miles SE of the Cape. The PC was believed damaged.

(D) N.E.I.

On the morning of 8 September Babo, S. shore of Bintuni Gulf, was attacked by 9 B-24's which dropped 54 500-lb. general purpose instantaneous demolition and 27 20-lb. fragmentation bombs and an unreported number of incendiaries on the airfield, barracks and administration buildings. A number of hits were reported and large fires, one an oil fire, were observed. 8 Jap planes in the air avoided our planes. A/A fire was inaccurate. That night, Langger, Kai Islands, was the target for 5 RAAF A-23's. 40 100-lb. demolition bombs and 150 4-lb. incendiaries were dropped. Results were unobserved. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 9 September 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Early the afternoon of 6 September, a possible radar site at Torusasia, S. of Shortland Island, Bougainville area, was bombed by 18 TRF's, while 32 F4U's and P4U's and 7 P-39's strafed the area. 5 of 20-25 intercepting Jap planes were destroyed. 2 P-39's are missing.

On 7 September, photographs taken at 1020 L revealed 30 Jap fighters and 1 dive bomber at Kahili. The same morning, Jap installations at Kakasa, S. Choiseul, were bombed by 7 B-25's. 3 fires were observed.

In the New Georgia area, Jap resistance continued along the N. shore of Arundel Island, while Jap artillery shelled our positions on Udenoqi and at Bairoko. Our forces suffered some casualties in clashes with the Japs at Arundel. On Vella Lavella, Allied reinforcements were successfully landed at 0800 L at Barakora. On the NE coast, near Boko, strong Jap defenses are reported and 1 regiment is believed in the area.

At 1145 L, 7 September, 2 B-25's dropped 250 fragmentation clusters on Jap supply and barge areas E. of Ringi Cove, Kolombanara Island. Heavy clouds of black smoke were observed following the raid. In the afternoon, 24 B-24's bombed Jap defense positions at Vila. No detailed results were reported. That night in a sweep along the S. coast coves of Kolombanara, an unreported number of F4U's damaged 3 Jap barges.

(B) New Britain

During the afternoon of 7 September, 4 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed 3 and damaged other barges at Garove Island while 4 other RAAF Beaufighters set 2 other barges afire off the N. coast of New Britain. 4 RAAF A-20's dropped 8 500-lb. delay and 8 250-lb. delay anti-SS bombs on Gasmata, scoring a hit on a gun position and damaging buildings in the area. The planes also strafed a small vessel off Lindenhafen, E. of Gasmata. 3 Jap fighters unsuccessfully attempted interception. On the same day, 9 B-25's dropped 10 500-lb. delay bombs on Long Island, Vitiaz Strait, and strafed and damaged a lugger and some barges. The planes also strafed and damaged a barge N. of Finschlafen.

(C) New Guinea

On 7 September, advance units of Allied ground forces were

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reported 6 miles E. of the airfield at Las while paratroops and ground forces had established a road block 1700 yards E. of the Nadsab airfield. During the morning, 8 B-25's escorted by 8 fighters dropped 80 clusters of 6 23-lb. fragmentation bombs and 72 clusters of 3 23-lb. parachute fragmentation bombs on the Markham Valley road between Yalu and Hoath's Plantation, NE of Lao. The same area was bombed during the afternoon by 10 B-25's, under a cover of 12 fighters, which released an unreported number of bombs. In both of these raids native huts and Jap outpost positions were destroyed.

In the morning, Lao was attacked by 24 B-24's and 9 B-26's escorted by fighters. 54 500-lb. instantaneous, 120 1,000-lb. instantaneous and 72 1,000-lb. delay bombs were dropped. A/A fire was encountered. None of our planes is missing from any of these operations.

During the afternoon, over Morobe, 16 P-38's and P-40's intercepted 27 Jap medium bombers under an escort of 30 fighters. 4 enemy fighters were reported destroyed after the bombers had jettisoned their loads in an effort to evade our fighters. No Allied plane was lost. That night, near Dobodura, about 8 miles SW of Buna, 6 to 8 Jap planes dropped some bombs without causing any damage.

(D) N.E.I.

On the evening of 6 September, 3 of 4 Dutch B-25's dropped 4 clusters of incendiaries and 40 100-lb. demolition bombs on Dili, Portuguese Timor. Fires were observed following the attack. The same evening, 2 Dutch B-25's dropped 8 500-lb. bombs on Fuloro, Portuguese Timor, while a third dropped 7 300-lb. demolition bombs on Cape Chuter. No results were observed. Slight A/A fire was encountered over Fuloro and Dili. (The 5 September Jap air raid on Tanamerah, previously reported and then cancelled, has now been confirmed.)

(E) Australia

On the morning of 7 September, 21 Jap planes, thought to be reconnaissance craft under fighter escort, were intercepted over the Darwin area by an unreported number of Spitfires. 5 Japs were destroyed, 2 were probably destroyed and 7 damaged. 3 Spitfires were downed but 2 pilots were rescued.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 8 September 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On the afternoon of 6 September, hits were scored on Jap gun positions at Parapatu Point, about 2 1/2 miles NE of Vila, Kolombangara, when the area was attacked by 13 TBF's and 21 SBD's. A possible ammunition dump was exploded, also. The same day, U.S. PT's report thwarting several Jap attempts to leave by barge from the vicinity of Soesorum Island, N. Kolombangara.

The ground situation in the New Georgia area on 6 September, was little changed. Along the NE coast of Arundel Island the Japs were still holding out. 1 enemy unit was partially surrounded by elements of the 43rd Div. while one company of that division occupied Bomboe village, about 4,200 yards S. of Lobster Cove, S. Kolombangara. At 0800 L, 7 September, U.S. reinforcements were scheduled to arrive at Barakoma, SE Vella Lavella.

Makasa, SE Choiseul Island, was twice attacked by Allied planes on 6 September. At 0230 L, 11 F4U's dropped 4 500-lb. and 10 experimental 3-lb. anti-personnel bombs with unreported results, while at 1005 L 64 100-lb. bombs were dropped by 7 B-25's under an escort of 12 P-39's. Shore installations and 1 gun position was hit by the second mission which encountered light A/A fire.

(B) Baker-Nowland Islands

At 0050 Z on 4 September, 60 miles W. of Baker Island, a Jap 4-motored flying boat was shot down by 1 of a 4 plane, carrier-based, patrol of FGF's.

(C) New Ireland

On the afternoon of 5 September, E. of Cape St. George, 2 small AK's were strafed by a B-17 on reconnaissance. No results were reported. The following morning, 6 September, SE of Cape St. George, an LST Beaufort bombed, strafed and left listing a 100 ton vessel.

(D) New Britain

On the morning of 6 September, Jap barge hideouts on New Britain were swept by 8 RAF Beaufighters which left burning 7 of 8 barges strafed.

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(E) New Guinea

On 6 September, the area between the Buhem River and Singaua Plantation, 9 miles E. of Lae, was in Allied hands. In the Markham Valley at Nadzab, Allied transport planes were already making use of the airfield. During the morning, 18 B-24's and 6 B-17's dropped 80 1,000-lb. instantaneous demolition and 80 1,000-lb. delay bombs on Jap defense positions at Jacobsen's Plantation, 1,700 yards N. of the Lae runway. Installations and buildings were completely wrecked and a number of fires started. The planes encountered moderate A/A fire. The same morning, Malahang Plantation and airdrome, E. of Lae, were attacked by 48 B-25's which dropped 246 500-lb. delay bombs and expended 75,900 rounds in strafing. Heavy fires were started in Jap positions but smoke prevented complete assessment of the damage. Over Lae there was no interception by enemy planes but over Huon Gulf 20 Jap bombers and 10 fighters were intercepted by an unreported number of Allied fighters. 2 Jap bombers and 5 fighters were destroyed and 5 Jap bombers and 1 fighter were probably destroyed as against the loss of a single Allied fighter.

On 7 September, it was reported that about 14,000 Allied troops had been landed in the Lae area from surface vessels so far, and that the operation was continuing.

(F) N.E.I.

On 6 September, Jap barracks at Celaru, S. Tanimbar Islands, were strafed by 2 RAAF Beaufighters and 2 trucks were set afire. That night, Atamboea, NE Dutch Timor, and Dili, N. Portuguese Timor, were attacked by 5 RAAF A-29's. 40 100-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs and 150 4-lb. incendiaries were dropped on the 2 targets. A number of fires and explosions were observed. (A late dispatch requests cancelling the Jap raid on Tanamerah, 5 September, as reported in the summary for 7 September.)

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking 2 Jap AK's totaling 3,700 tons and damaging 1 DD.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of CSCC, 7 September 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 5 September, Allied positions on Arundel Island, in the New Georgia area, remained unchanged while the Japs continued resistance. On Ondongi Island our positions were shelled by Jap artillery but no damage was reported. The same day on Vella Lavella, the killing of 12 Japs and capture of 39 mortars in a clash near Roko Village, N. of Roko Point, NE Vella Lavella, was reported. That evening, near Baga Island, on Soagle Channel, W. Vella Lavella, some blimps were observed.

The same day in the Bougainville area, a B-24 on reconnaissance SE of Kieta and N. of Bougainville Strait reported probably sinking an enemy barge while in the same general vicinity no hits were observed after 500-lb. bombs had been dropped on a larger vessel.

(B) New Ireland

Early 5 September in St. George Channel, NW of Buka, a PBV on night reconnaissance dropped 2 325-lb. and 2 650-lb. depth charges on an AK but no results were observed. 42 miles SE of Cape St. George, a large Jap barge was left damaged after an RAAF Beaufort had dropped 1 250-lb. anti SS bomb and strafed the vessel the morning of 5 September.

(C) New Britain

(The 2 attacks on Gasmata reported in the summary for 6 September, as having occurred on 4 September, are now revealed to have taken place on 5 September. 15 rather than 16 planes participated in the 2 missions and 2 were downed by A/A fire and another is missing. An attack on Cape Gloucester, reported as taking place on 4 September, also took place the following day and was carried out by 9 B-25's instead of 3 B-24's as previously reported.)

On 5 September, Gasmata was attacked by a single PBV which dropped 2 clusters of 4-lb. incendiaries, starting fires in the barracks area. The same plane also dropped 4 325-lb. depth charges and 8 20-lb. fragmentation bombs at Cape Gloucester. Cape Gloucester was attacked the same day by 6 RAAF Beaufighters which strafed the airdrome and Jap barge concentrations along the NW coast. 4 barges were set afire and a grounded bomber was damaged. 1 Beaufighter was lost.

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(D) New Guinea

Early 5 September, near Madzab, about 21 miles NW of Lae, an Allied parachute regiment was dropped from 82 transport planes under a cover of 92 fighter planes. This unopposed surprise operation was preceded by extensive aerial bombardment and strafing of the area by 36 Allied B-25's which dropped 263 clusters of 6 20-lb. fragmentation bombs and 104 150-lb. fragmentation bombs. Prior to the parachute landing, 7 Allied A-20's covered the area with a smoke screen and strafed Labu Island in the Markham River, Lae.

During the landing, and thereafter, 32 Allied B-25's dropped 263 clusters of 6 25-lb. fragmentation bombs on villages and trails in the Markham Valley between Lae and Madzab. The planes also strafed the area. Simultaneously 23 B-24's and 1 B-17 dropped 186 1,000-lb. bombs on Jap defense positions at Heath's Plantation, about 6 miles NW of Lae on the road to Madzab. The defenses were reported completely devastated.

148 Allied fighter planes escorted all of the bombings in this area. In addition to the more than 125-tons of bombs dropped, over 55,000 rounds were expended in strafing. No enemy planes were encountered.

The same day, Finschhafen was strafed by 9 B-25's returning from the attack on Cape Gloucester. No results were reported.

Allied ground forces moving from the S. were reported to have crossed the Markham River 3 miles W. of the field at Madzab to join the parachute forces. In the Hopoi area our forces are reported to have advanced to the Buien River without meeting serious resistance. In the Salamaua area Allied artillery is reported shelling Jap positions at the airfield and town.

(E) N.E.I.

On 5 September, 5 Jap Army bombers attacked Tanamerah, about 100 miles N. of Moresue in Dutch New Guinea, and 8 attacked Mappi, about 100 miles SW of Tanambrah. No damage was reported. The same day at Manokwari, NE corner of the Vogelkop, 3 B-24's on reconnaissance scored near misses on an enemy AK in the harbor and strafed a PG. 18 300-lb. bombs were dropped. 1 of 2 intercepting Jap twin-engined fighters was damaged.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 6 September 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Details of the attack on Kahili the afternoon of 2 September (as reported without details in the Summary for 4 September) indicate that 18 B-24's under a cover of 36 P4U's, 18 P6F's, 13 P-40's and 11 P-39's dropped 35-tons of bombs scoring hits on 2 bridges N. of the strip, 2 possible searchlight positions, both sides of the runway and shore installations. 30 to 35 Jap fighters, of which only a few were eager for a fight, intercepted and 5 were destroyed by our fighters. 1 P-39 was forced to land on the water but the pilot was saved.

Late in the day, 3 September, 4 B-25's escorted by fighters attacked Webster Cove, N. of Vila, and at 1845 L, 5 fighter escorted TBF's attacked Vila, releasing bombs on the runway where no planes were observed although some had been sighted earlier in the day. That night, U. S. DD's and PT's destroyed 3 and possibly destroyed 2 Jap barges in Vella Gulf. 1 PT was damaged by Jap floatplanes.

Kahili, Bougainville Area, was attacked at midday on 3 September by 23 B-17's under an escort of C1 fighters. A number of fires were started in the target area and some enemy planes were observed afire. 2 of 20 intercepting Jap fighters were destroyed. 1 P-40 was destroyed. In the afternoon, the same area was strafed by 7 P4U's in 2 flights which destroyed 4 Jap planes on the ground. Photographs show that the Japs have a 3,000 foot graded runway in a 5,000 foot clearing 10 miles N. of Kahili.

Late on the morning of 4 September, Vila and Dulo Cove, N. of Vila, were attacked by 51 TBF's, SBD's and B-25's. There were no results reported. 1 SBD was shot down by A/A fire but the crew was rescued. At 1251 L the same day, Vila and Dulo were attacked by 9 PB4Y's. A number of fires were started. Ground action in the general area consisted of delaying tactics by Japs armed with M/G's and light mortars on Mt Arundel, and the shelling of the S. shore of Bairoko by Jap artillery.

On 4 September, Ballale was attacked by 5 B-24's under an escort of 41 fighters. Fires and explosions were observed along both sides of the runway and cross-strip.

(B) New Ireland

Early on the morning of 4 September, a small Jap AK loaded 50 in St. George Channel, was attacked by a PBY on reconnaissance. 4 325-lb. depth charges were dropped, scoring near misses on the vessel which was also strafed and set afire.

(C) New Britain

On the night of 3 September, 11 RAAF FBV's dropped 12 1,000-lb., 56 500-lb. and 595 20-lb. fragmentation bombs on Rebaul and the Lakunai and Vanakanau airfields. Fires and explosions were observed in all the target areas. The following morning, 10 RAAF Beauforts and 3 A-20's bombed and strafed Gasnata airdrome while 3 more A-20's repeated the performance during the afternoon. 34 500-lb., 14 250-lb., 4 250 12-hour delay and 3 250 36-hour delay bombs were dropped. Fires were started, an A/G silenced and the runway left unfit for use. 1 Beaufort was shot down by A/A fire. Cape Cloucooster was bombed and strafed the morning of 4 September by 9 fighters escorted B-24's. 102 clusters of 623-lb. parachute fragmentation bombs were dropped. Fires were observed in dump and bivouac areas. 4 barges were destroyed, 16 were damaged and 2 launches were also damaged in a sweep by unspecified planes over the New Britain and Garove Island, Vitu Group.

(D) New Guinea

On 4 September Allied forces landed about 15 miles E. of Lae in an unopposed surprise operation preceded by U. S. escorting B-24's bombardment of the area. Subsequently, 9 B-25's dropped 64 100-lb. delay bombs in the area around Hopeni, about 24 miles E. of Lae. The planes also strafed the vicinity. During the morning, 96 tons of bombs were dropped on Jap gun positions and installations at Lae by 24 B-24's. Buildings and vehicles were hit but heavy smoke prevented any real assessment of the damage. During the morning, over Huon Gulf near Morobe, Jap bombers and dive bombers, escorted by 35 fighters, were intercepted by 46 A-38's and an unreported number of F-47's. 21 enemy planes were shot down, 1 enemy plane was probably destroyed and 4 were damaged. 2 B-39's are missing. The same day, a B-24 on reconnaissance dropped 4 500-lb. bombs on Finschhafen. No results were observed.

(E) N.E.I.

On the night of 3 September, 5 Dutch B-25's dropped 24 500-lb. delay bombs on Keeping and Tonau, Dutch Timor, starting a number of fires. Later the same night, 5 RAAF A-29's dropped 12 250-lb. and 120 4-lb. incendiaries on Tonau. Fires and explosions were observed in the building area.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 5 September 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 1601 L, 2 September, 16 B-24's under an escort of 36 P4U's, 16 P6F's, 13 P-40's and 11 P-39's dropped 700 100 lb. bombs along both sides of the runway at Kahili, Bougainville Island. Hits on 2 bridges, 2 possible searchlight positions and installations along the shore were observed. 5 of 30 or more Jap fighters which shunned combat were destroyed. 1 P-39 crash-landed in the sea but the pilot was saved.

Webster Cove, Kolombangara Island, was strafed by 4 B-25's under an escort of 6 P-40's at 1735 L, 3 September, after the planes had bombed Vila, dropping 9 300 lb. bombs on a wharf. Fires were observed. The same day, Allied ground forces on Arundel Island advanced 2700 yds. on the N. coast and 2500 yds. on the E. coast where they are now 3000 yds. from the mouth of Vila River.

At 1240 L, 3 September, Kahili was attacked, 17 B-24's bombing the target. Details were not reported. Photographs indicate the Japs have a new 3000 foot runway in a 5000 foot clearing 10 miles W. of Kahili.

(B) New Ireland

During the night of 3 September Missen Island, about 60 miles N.E. by E. of Cape St. George, was attacked by a PBV on patrol. 2 500 lb. bombs were dropped on some warehouses which were also strafed. No results were reported.

(C) New Britain

Before dawn 3 September a PBV dropped 4 500 lb. bombs on the warehouse and jetty areas at Gasnata and then went on to strafe Arwe and the Vitu Islands. No results were reported. Later the same morning Cape Gloucester was attacked by 16 B-25's and 5 B-26's under an escort of 25 P-39's. 28 tons of bombs were dropped and hits scored on A/A positions. Large fires were also caused in supply and personnel areas. A/A fire was slight. On the return flight these planes strafed Jap barge hideouts near Hanisch Harbor, N.E. New Guinea.

The same morning a number of barges in Borgen Bay and the Vitu Islands were destroyed or damaged by 12 Beaufighters which also strafed some enemy trucks at Gasnata. Unea Island, Vitu group, and Tuan Island, in Vitiaz Strait, were each hit by 4 500 lb. bombs from 2 different B-24's on reconnaissance during the day. No results were observed.

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Photographic reconnaissance over the Rabaul area revealed the presence of 126 Jap planes on 3 September.

(D) New Guinea

On the morning of 3 September Jap installations at Lae were attacked by 21 B-24's and 2 B-17's under cover of 12 P-47's. 160 1000 lb. bombs were dropped, destroying many buildings, gun emplacements and supply dumps. A/A fire was heavy but all our planes returned safely. No enemy planes appeared. The same day a number of villages in the Markham Valley about 15 miles N.W. of Lae were bombed and strafed by 9 B-25's under an escort of P-39's. 106 150 lb. fragmentation clusters were dropped. V/O emplacements were damaged and a number of buildings and native huts destroyed. In addition fires were started throughout the target areas.

(E) N. E. I.

During the afternoon of 3 September 6 B-25's dropped 54 500 lb. bombs on Laha airdrome and Halong seaplane base, Amboina. A 4 engine Jap flying boat was destroyed and installations damaged. All our planes returned safely.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 4 September 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 2 September, 7 F4U's made a surprise attack on Kahili air-  
drome and personnel and planes on the runway were strafed. 4 enemy aircraft  
were reported destroyed. 2 launches in the harbor were destroyed and a  
trawler damaged. 1 of our fighters was shot down by A/A fire. The after-  
noon of the same day, 18 B-24's dropped many 100-lb. bombs on Kahili air-  
drome but no further details were reported.

14-tons of bombs were dropped on A/A positions and supply dumps  
at Vila, 2 September. 24 B-25's and an unreported number of navy planes took  
part in this raid. Other fighter planes destroyed 2 enemy barges off the N.  
coast of Vella Lavella the same day.

An F4U shot down an enemy bomber near Rennel Island.

(B) New Britain

On 2 September, 12 B-17's and 9 B-26's covered by 13 P-38's  
made a coordinated attack on Cape Gloucester. 1,000-lb. bombs were dropped  
throughout the runway area but clouds prevented accurate observation of re-  
sults. 7 of 11 enemy fighters attempting interception were shot down and 2  
others were probably destroyed. 1 B-17 is missing.

The same day, a Catalina bombed barracks at Gasmata causing  
explosions and 6 B-25's destroyed 3 barges in Bergen Bay.

An enemy convoy SE of Cape St. George was attacked during the  
night of 1 September by a Catalina. 1 of the larger vessels was possibly  
damaged and 2 other ships were strafed. The following afternoon, a Beau-  
fighter strafed a small AK in the same area.

(C) New Guinea

Enemy vessels unloading in Newak Harbor, 2 September, were at-  
tacked from a low level by 16 B-25's covered by 40 P-38's. Photographs taken  
during the raid disclosed 2 7,000-ton AK's, 1 DD and 1 PG burning and near  
misses on other vessels. Bombers returning from the attack reported hits  
and near misses on 2 7,000-ton AK's and 1 6,000-ton AK which set the vessels  
afire and left them in a sinking condition. Other smaller craft were reported  
burning after the attack. Interception was attempted by 25-30 enemy planes

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of which 12 were destroyed, 8 others probably destroyed and 5 damaged. We lost 3 B-25's and 2 P-38's. On the return trip our fighters shot down 2 enemy reconnaissance bombers SW of Madang.

The same day, 6 B-17's returning from the Cape Gloucester raid dropped 1,000-lb. bombs on buildings at Leo and strafed barges at Pischhafen while other single reconnaissance bombers attacked enemy shore installations and barges along the New Guinea coast.

The Japs suffered heavy casualties, 2 September, from our ground attacks SW of Salamaua airdrome.

(D) M.S.I.

2 AK's at Waingapoe (Soemba Island) were bombed 2 September by 2 B-24's. A near miss on 1 vessel was reported. A power barge near Timika was bombed and strafed by an RAAF Hudson the same day.

R.A. Boone.

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

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Allied ground reinforcements were landed at Barakoma, SE Vella Lavella, at 0800 L, 31 August. U. S. DD's covering the retiring LCT's were attacked by 18 Jap fighters. 4 Allied P-40's intercepted and 5 of the Japs were destroyed. We suffered no loss. 4 more enemy planes were downed over Vella Lavella during the day by A/A guns. The following day, 1 September, a Jap plane dropped a bomb near a U. S. battery on Ondongi Island, across Mathorn Strait from Arundel Island, and only slight casualties resulted. Allied artillery positions were fired upon by guns from an unreported Jap source. There were no casualties or damage. During the afternoon at Timbala Bay, NW Vella Lavella, hits were scored on 2 Jap barges by 4 Allied P-40's.

(B) New Ireland

On the night of 31 August, S. of Cape St. George, a PBV bombed and strafed a number of small vessels, scoring a near miss or hit on 1 small AK. The following afternoon, W. of New Hanover, a large AP in a 7 ship convoy was unsuccessfully bombed by an Allied B-24 on reconnaissance. 4 500-lb. bombs were dropped. A/A fire was encountered.

(C) New Britain

During the night of 31 August, a PBV dropped 2 clusters of 4-lb. incendiaries and 520-lbs. of fragmentation bombs on Gasmata. No results were observed. The following day, the SE coast of New Britain was swept by 12 RAAF Beaufighters searching for enemy barge hideouts. 3 barges and a fuel dump were left burning. 12 B-25's dropped 16 300-lb. bombs and 1 500-lb. bomb in a bombing and strafing attack on villages along the NW coast. 3 barges were destroyed or damaged. That night, a PBV bombed Gasmata, dropping 4 500-lb. bombs, 2 clusters of 4-lb. incendiaries and 10 20-lb. fragmentation bombs. An explosion in the storage building area was observed.

(D) New Guinea

On the morning of 1 September, 43 Allied B-25's bombed and strafed the Alexishafen area. 311 300-lb. bombs were dropped and over 92,000 rounds expended. Along the coast, a number of barges were destroyed or

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damaged. 1 grounded aircraft was destroyed and a number of heavy fires in fuel and ammunition dumps, and in the town, were observed. A/A fire was encountered. Cooperating with the B-25's, 2 B-24's bombed the same area starting a number of fuel fires and destroying most of the buildings in the mission and sawmill area. The same morning, Jap installations in the Madang area were attacked by 24 B-24's which dropped 128 1,000-lb. bombs, wrecking most of the buildings in the area and starting a number of fires. Active A/A positions were also strafed. Labu Island, Lae, was also attacked on 1 September. 11 B-17's dropped 19 500-lb. bombs on the target but heavy smoke prevented observation of results.

(B) N.E.I.

During the night of 31 August, 4 RAAF A-29's dropped 32 100-lb. bombs and 120 4-lb. incendiaries on Taberfane, causing numerous small fires. On the same night, 3 other RAAF A-29's dropped 23 100-lb. bombs and 30 4-lb. incendiaries on Langgoer airfield. 2 explosions and a number of fires resulted. Intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered. Wainapoe, NE Soomba Island, was attacked the following day by 3 B-24's which dropped 18 300-lb. bombs and 3 boxes of incendiaries. 2 B-24's, on the same mission, bombed Bira, NE Soombawa Island, but no details were reported.

Manatuto, Laga and Baucau, E. Portuguese Timor, were bombed and strafed the same day by 6 Dutch B-25's. 4 300-lb. delay bombs were dropped on Baucau, 32 100-lb. bombs and 8 incendiary clusters were dropped on Laga and 18 100-lb. bombs, 3 incendiary clusters and 4 300-lb. delay bombs were dropped on Manatuto. No results were observed over any of these targets.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 2 September 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

At 1350 W the afternoon of 1 September, a twin-engine Jap plane, heading W., was observed over Attu.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On the morning of 29 August, NE of Vella Lavella Island, U. S. F4U's set afire a small Jap steam vessel and 2 barges.

On 30 August, S. of Santa Isabel Island, a single Jap fighter plane was shot down by a U. S. F4U. Reassessment of the raid on Kahili, reported in the summary for 1 September, indicates that 20 to 36 enemy planes, of an attacking force of 50 to 60, were destroyed.

On 31 August, Vila, Kolombangara Island, was bombed at 0842 L by 22 B-25's and an unreported number of naval bombers. Gun positions and a radio station were reported hit and a 5" coastal gun position near the beach destroyed as a result of the release of 132 300-lb. bombs. Heavy A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned safely. The same day, Allied 165 MM. guns on Arundel Island, opposite Kolombangara, shelled Vila with unobserved results. Howitzers of the same calibre are being moved in to reinforce these guns. On Vella Lavella, 31 August, the areas around Supato and Loti Loti, on the W. coast, were reported cleared of the enemy. H. of the island PT's sank a Jap barge while 2 more S. of Kolombangara, were damaged.

The same day, Rekata Bay was bombed by 2 Allied B-24's and strafed by a single reconnaissance T-38. No A/A fire was encountered and there is evidence that the Japs have evacuated the area. Photographs of the Kahili - Shortland - Ballale area on 31 August revealed 80 Jap planes (66 fighters, 1 heavy bomber, 4 medium bombers, 8 dive bombers and 1 unidentified) ; 4 AK's, 24 barges and 2 boats.

(B) New Britain

On 30 August, the shore of New Britain from Borgen Bay in the N. to Cape Busching in the S., was swept by 9 Allied B-25's which destroyed or damaged 3 beached enemy barges and strafed a number of Jap-held villages S. of Dorf Point, N. tip of New Britain. The planes expended only 4 of 16 500-lb. bombs and also returned with 28 300-lb. bombs. The following afternoon, an Allied B-24 on reconnaissance unsuccessfully dropped 4 300-lb. bombs on 3 barges along the shore of Garve Island, Vitu Group, while another B-24 dropped 4 500-lb. bombs and strafed a jetty on Unca Island in the same group.

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(C) New Guinea

On 31 August, along the NE shore of the Huon Peninsula from Finschhafen to Saidor, 3 Allied B-25's conducted a vain search for Jap barges. 1 of the planes dropped 1 300-lb. bomb and straddled the jetty at Reiss Point, S. of Saidor. No results were reported. Along the S. coast of the peninsula, Allied P1's claimed destruction of 10 and probable destruction of 2 Jap barges in the course of night patrols for the week ending 30 August. The ground situation in the Salamaua area was little changed on 31 August, our forces being engaged in cleaning out Jap pill-boxes 2 miles SW of the airfield while the coastal force pushed N. Photographs taken at noon the same day, revealed 14 Jap fighter planes possibly fit for service and 4 light bombers on Newak area fields.

(D) N.E.I.

On 31 August Boela, Jap-held oil port on NE Ceram Island; Sorong, NE Vogelkop, and Kokas, S. shore of Mac Cluer Gulf, were attacked by 2 of 3 Allied B-24's on reconnaissance. Less than a ton of bombs and incendiaries was dropped on each target and no results were observed. Light A/A fire was encountered.

A.A. Boone.

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(D) New Guinea

On 30 August, Dagua and But airfields in the Nowak area and Tadj, a runway 7 miles SE of Aitape, were attacked by a total of 27 Allied B-24's escorted by an unreported number of fighters. 17 B-24's dropped 144 500-lb. and 43 1,000-lb. bombs on Dagua, destroying a fuel dump, setting 9 grounded aircraft ablaze and starting large fires in the area. A/A fire was encountered. 4 B-24's dropped 32 1,000-lb. bombs on But. 3 fires were observed and believed to be burning grounded aircraft. A/A fire was encountered. 8 B-24's dropped 8 1,000-lb. and 65 100-lb. bombs on Tadj with unobserved results. No A/A fire was encountered over this target. The same day, 5 camouflaged Jap barges in the Kape River, were set afire or damaged by 6 A-20's which dropped 48 100-lb. delay bombs.

(E) I.S.I.

On the afternoon of 30 August, Taberfane, Aroe Islands, was attacked by 6 RAAF Beaufighters which destroyed 1 of 7 Jap floatplanes in the air over the base and damaged 2 others. The mission also set afire a 100-ton vessel off the coast. 1 Beaufighter is missing.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS reports sinking an unidentified Jap vessel while another, just returned from patrol, reports sinking 16,000-ton and damaging 14,000-ton. A third SS reports sinking 1 AO and damaging a CV and 2 AK's. A fourth reports sinking an 8,600-ton AK.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities

Summary as of 0000, 31 August 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 27 August, Allied F4U's destroyed 2 barges in Hamberi Cove, Kolombangara Island. That night U. S. PT's, operating in waters SE of Ganongra Island, were bombed and strafed by enemy planes for two hours but there were no casualties.

Early in the morning of 28 August, E. of Faisi, a small Jap AK was bombed and hit by an Allied B-24 on reconnaissance, while another B-24 bombed the Shertland Island area. No results were reported. Early the same morning, Makili was strafed by a single F4U, covered by 2 other F4U's. 8 grounded Jap planes were left allaze and numerous explosions and fires were observed in the target area. That night, 3 Allied B-25's on reconnaissance dropped 9 500-lb. bombs on Rekata Bay but no results were observed.

On the morning of 29 August, a Jap ship 12 miles N. of Kieta, Bougainville Island, was bombed by an Allied B-24 on reconnaissance. No results were reported. The same day, Allied F4U's strafed the coves N. of Vila on Kolombangara Island. 2 barges were set afire and a 3rd damaged. Our ground forces consolidated positions on Arundel Island. Some of our barges, presumably in Hathera Strait, were fired on by a Jap large caliber gun at Vila.

(B) New Ireland

Early the morning of 28 August, about 130 miles N. of Kavieng, an Allied heavy bomber on reconnaissance bombed and damaged a Jap PG or PC. That afternoon, about 210 miles NE of Kavieng, a 4-engined Jap bomber was attacked by an Allied reconnaissance plane and 20 seconds later the enemy crashed in flames. The same day, in the same area, Allied B-24's attacked and damaged a 7,000-ton Jap AK/AP. No results were reported. Early the next morning in St. George Channel, an Allied PTB bombed and damaged a Jap CI with a hit or near miss after 2 500-lb. bombs had been dropped. The plane also caused possible damage to an accompanying enemy DD which it bombed and strafed.

(C) New Britain

In a sweep along the S. coast on 29 August, 5 NAAF A-20's dropped 10 500-lb. and 10 250-lb. bombs on the Gasrata dump area, scoring hits on a gun emplacement. The same day, 6 NAAF B-24's strafed and destroyed 2 barges near Cape Bocheby, about midway between Jacquinot Bay and Gasrata.

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(D) New Guinea

On the morning of 28 August, 27 B-25's bombed and strafed the Fansa Bay area, destroying a power launch, 8 barges and 9 luggers, setting afire a small AK and damaging other coastal craft. Fires in fuel and ammunition dumps were also started. 22 500-lb. and 127 300-lb. delay bombs were dropped. 1 of our planes was shot down by A/A fire. The same day, a B-24 bombed and strafed 6 camouflaged Jap barges on the W. coast of Long Island. No results were reported. The same day, 13 B-17's dropped 116 500-lb. bombs on the Lae waterfront area, destroying 3 jetties and a number of barges. Also on 28 August, Sarua Harbor, Salamaua, was bombed and strafed by 6 A-20's which dropped 48 100-lb. delay bombs. Destruction of 1 barge was the only result reported. Over Laughlan Island, E. of Woodlark Island, an Allied P-39 shot down a Jap reconnaissance plane. On the night of 28 August, Allied positions at Nassau Bay were bombed by an unreported number of Jap planes. There were no details reported.

The following day, 29 August, 35 Allied B-24's, under an escort of 44 P-39's, attacked the Nowak and Boream airdromes, dropping 113-tons of bombs in the dispersal areas. At least 12 grounded aircraft were destroyed and a number of fires and explosions were observed. 30 to 40 Jap fighters intercepted and in the ensuing engagement 25 of the enemy were destroyed, 12 were probably destroyed and 17 were damaged. A/A fire was encountered. The same morning, Jap positions in the Alexishafen and Bogadjim areas were bombed and strafed by 45 B-25's, escorted by an unreported number of fighters. 182 300-lb. and 99 500-lb. delay bombs were dropped. Barges, buildings and fuel dumps were destroyed or damaged. Light A/A fire was encountered. About the same time, 2 B-17's dropped 10 500-lb. and 14 300-lb. bombs on bridges E. of Bogadjim. No results were observed.

Ground activity in the Salamaua area on 29 August resulted in Allied ground force destruction of Jap pillboxes SE of Bobubi and heavy casualties to the enemy.

(E) N.S.I.

Early on 28 August, 6 B-25's dropped 18 300-lb. and 48 100-lb. bombs and 10 incendiary clusters on Dili, starting a number of fires. Another B-25 dropped 10 100-lb. bombs and 2 incendiary clusters on Capo Chater. A number of fires were observed. The following afternoon Babo was attacked by 9 Allied B-24's which dropped 17-tons of bombs and incendiaries on buildings, fuel and supply dumps. Grounded aircraft was left burning and a number of fires were started in the target area. Another B-24, which did not reach Babo, bombed a village on Moloe, E. Tanimbar Group. No results were reported.

A... Boone.

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

I. Northwestern Pacific

Some damage at Kiska and Attu was reported as a result of a storm and gale in the area on 28 August but there were no personnel losses. All cargo has been brought to Gertrude Cove and Kiska Harbor from the W. side of the island but some artillery has as yet to be brought in.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Arundel Island, W. of New Georgia across Hatter Strait, was occupied without opposition by Allied ground forces on 27 August. Apparently the Japs had withdrawn.

(The attack of 2 P-40's on 3 possible enemy TB's off the Choiseul coast on 25 August, reported in the summary for 29 August, and the attack on 3 TB's by 10 P-40's off the S. coast of Choiseul on 26 August, reported in the summary for 28 August, appear to be two different versions of the same attack.)

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0000, 29 August, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On Vella Lavella Allied positions were attacked 6 times on 25 August by Jap planes. There were 13 casualties. U.S. Marine A/A gunners claimed destruction of 10 Jap planes and probable destruction of 12 more since our landing on the island, 15 August. Also on 25 August, off the Choiseul coast, 3 possible enemy LST's were attacked by 2 P-40's. 2 of the boats exploded and the 3rd was set afire.

During the afternoon of 26 August, off north Ganongga, a 100-foot steam vessel and 2 of 3 motorboats were set afire by 2 P-40's. That night the steamer was reported still burning by a PBV on patrol. In the Allied raid on Mahili, the same afternoon, previously reported, later reports reveal that 14 instead of 9 Jap planes were destroyed.

On 27 August houses on NE and N Gizo Island were strafed by 3 P-39's on reconnaissance but no results were reported. The same day Kakasa, S central Choiseul Island was attacked by 3 B-25's, escorted by 3 P-40's and 3 F4U's. 72 300 lb. and 3 100 lb. bombs were dropped. 2 barges were set afire and fires were observed on shore. Light A/A fire from boats in the harbour was encountered.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

On 27 August, NE of Mussau Island an Allied B-24 on patrol unsuccessfully dropped 4 500 lb. bombs on a large AK, while another B-24 scored 2 near misses on a small AK off New Manover. The same day shipping in the Garuve Island area was strafed by 5 B-25's which destroyed 1 launch, 1 patrol boat and 1 40-ton vessel and damaged other small vessels and barges. In Jacquot Bay, New Britain, barges were strafed and an ammunition dump bombed by an Allied B-24. 4 500 lb. bombs were dropped on the dump but no results were observed.

(C) New Guinea

Finschhafen was attacked on 27 August by an Allied B-24 which dropped 2 500 lb. bombs with unreported results. The same day 3 B-25's dropped 3 300 lb. bombs on bridges over the Mindjim and Gori rivers (Dogadjin area), scoring 3 hits on the Gori bridge. Also on the same day, along the south coast of the Iron Peninsula, a B-25, bombing and strafing 6 barges, scored near misses on 5. 4 300 lb. delay bombs were dropped. The same day barges in Langerak Bay, near Finschhafen, were attacked by 6 A-20's, which dropped 4 100 lb. delay bombs, scoring 2 hits. A plantation north of Lao was attacked on the same day

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by a B-24. 4 500 lb. bombs were dropped but no results were reported.

(D) E.E.I.

Atamboea, Portuguese Timor, was bombed during the night of 27 August by 5 RAAF A-29's. A number of fires were observed. Another A-29, which failed to locate the target, bombed Dilli with unreported results.

(E) U.S. SS Reports.

A U.S. SS reports sinking an undescribed Jap vessel.

R. A. Boons.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 28 August, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

2 CL's and 4 DD's were sighted heading E. off the N. tip of Buka Island on 25 August. On the following day, 9 B-24's attacked 3 DP's NE. of Buka scoring a direct hit on 1 of the vessels. The ship stopped and then proceeded at a slower rate.

At 1050 L. 26 August, 11 B-25's, 29 SPD's and 26 TBF's covered by fighters bombed enemy gun positions and barge hideouts W. of Vila and on the W. coast of Kolombangara. All our planes returned safely. The afternoon of the same day Kahili was raided by 23 B-24's covered by 7 fighters. 15 tons of bombs fell on both sides of the runway and on shore installations. 9 of 30 intercepting Jap fighters were shot down. 4 of our planes were damaged and 3 men were injured but all planes returned to their base.

The same day the Rekata Bay area was bombed by 7 Allied planes and 10 fighters strafed barges and motor boats off the S. coast of Choiseul Island. 2 motor boats exploded and another was afire.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

An enemy AH was sighted at noon 25 August at a point approximately 270 miles N. of Kavieng. On 27 August, one of our planes unsuccessfully attacked a DD and 2 small AK's NW of New Hanover Island.

(C) New Guinea

Later details of the raids on Hansa Bay 25 August revealed 2 enemy AK's sunk and many luggers destroyed or damaged. On 26 August, Finschhafen, Salamaua and the Markham River area were bombed by single heavy bombers on reconnaissance. 2 large explosions resulted at Salamaua.

(D) N. E. I.

At noon 25 August, 3 B-24's unsuccessfully bombed shipping at Sorong (NW. tip of New Guinea). The evening of the same day, 6 Dutch B-25's raided Keopang and Tenu (SW. Timor) causing explosions and fires. On 26

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August, the Taberfane seaplane base (Arce Islands) was hit by 7 Beaufighters. 1 enemy plane was destroyed on the beach and 1 was probably destroyed and another damaged when attempting interception. A lugger was strafed and damaged.

R. A. Boone

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The same day, 2 RAAF Beaufighters strafed a number of enemy patrol boats and barges at Garuve Island, Vitu Group. 1 patrol boat was set afire.

(D) New Guinea

The Hansa Bay area, about 95 miles NW of Madang, was attacked during 25 August by 5 missions consisting of 11 B-17's, 35 B-24's, 39 B-25's and an unreported number of fighters. A fuel dump and 6 barges were destroyed, direct hits on 2 large luggers and near misses on 6 barges were scored, and a number of fires and explosions were reported in the bay area itself. At Nubia, on the W. shore of the bay, 12 fires were started in Jap bivouac areas which were also strafed, and near Condor Point, about 3 miles N. of Nubia, Jap gun emplacements were bombed and strafed with unreported results. Altogether 180-tons of bombs were dropped on the area. Moderate A/A fire was encountered over the targets but no Jap planes were seen. All our planes returned safely. That night, a FBY on patrol strafed a beach near Finschhafen but no results were reported.

(E) N.E.I.

On the night of 25 August, Lautem, NE Portuguese Timor, was bombed by 3 of 4 RAAF A-29's, the 4th failing to locate the target. A number of fires were observed following release of 100 24-lb. incendiaries and 24 100-lb. demolition bombs.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities

Summary as of 0800, 26 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

On 23 August, a lone Jap Army pfo. was captured on Attu. The following day, a thorough search of Buldir Island (about 60 miles NW of Kiska) revealed no evidence of Jap occupation although a 3-seater, radial engine, Jap monoplane, complete except for tail assembly and undercarriage, was discovered. At Kiska, unloading was progressing on 24 August.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 1250 L 23 August, a tin hut on Wagina Island, in Manning Strait, SE Choiseul Island, was strafed with unobserved results by 2 B-25's under an escort of 2 P-39's.

At 0100 K 24 August, a PBV attacked 2 Jap DE type vessels heading NW at 12 knots in St. Georges Channel. The same morning, 10 ships headed due N. in St. Georges Channel, were attacked by Allied aircraft. No damage was reported in either attack.

Advances on the W. and E. sides of Bairoko Harbor were made by units of the 25th Div. on 24 August, while at Leland Lagoon, NE of Bairoko, our forces from Enogai clashed with the Japs and 2 of our men were killed.

On Vella Lavella, patrols continued active on 24 August. The same day, 11 Japs were captured in the Sandfly Bay area, W. shore of Kolombangara Island. At 1400 L the same day, Ringa Cove, S. coast of Kolombangara, was attacked by 12 B-25's, 26 SED's and 21 TBF's, escorted by 24 fighters. 72 500-lb. bombs were dropped with results termed "good" but otherwise not detailed.

(B) New Britain

On 24 August, an Allied B-24 on reconnaissance dropped 4 500-lb. bombs and strafed Wide and Jacquinot Bays, SE New Britain. No results were reported. That night Aruwe was the target for a 500-lb. bomb and a 325-lb. depth charge released by a PBV on night reconnaissance. No results were observed.

(C) New Guinea

In the Salamaua area, Allied ground forces consolidated 1,400-yards W. of the airfield on 24 August. The same day, Lewak town and airdrome

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were bombed by 36 B-24's under an escort of P-38's. A number of buildings were demolished and several fires were started. At least 1 of 12 to 20 intercepting Jap planes was destroyed. During the attack, 34 more Jap fighters and 14 bombers, all serviceable, were photographed on the ground. Another B-24, which failed to locate Newak, bombed Salamaua with unreported results.

That night, Nassau Bay was attacked by 2 Jap planes. A few bombs were dropped without causing any damage. The planes were damaged by A/A fire.

(D) N.E.I.

During the morning of 24 August, 2 B-25's bombed and strafed barges in the Tanimbar Islands while villages in the same islands were strafed during the day by 2 flights of 2 Beaufighters.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 25 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

Unloading operations were continuing at Kiska on 23 August. Complete search of Rat Island (about 25 miles SE of Kiska) failed to disclose any evidence of past or present occupation by the Japs.

II. Southwestern Pacific(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of 22-23 August, only 2 small Jap ships N. of Vella Lavella and several barges SW of Choiseul Island were contacted by 7 U.S. DD's. Jap planes attacked the DD's from time to time but there were no details reported.

Munda airfield, New Georgia Island, was attacked before dawn 23 August by 2 Jap planes which dropped 2 bombs 1 of which badly damaged an F4U. There were no casualties. 15 other Jap planes retired without attacking. The same day, elements of the 25th Div. advanced 1,600 yards N. of Cutter Point at Piru Plantation, on the W. coast of New Georgia Island. Only light opposition was met.

On 24 August over Vella Lavella, 2 formations of Jap fighters attempting to raid Allied positions during the early afternoon were intercepted by Allied fighters which destroyed 9 enemy planes and damaged 2 more.

(B) Howland-Baker Islands

In the vicinity of Howland-Baker Islands, during the afternoon of 23 August, a U. S. PBV observed Jap 4-engined flying boats and was once unsuccessfully fired upon by the enemy. It is believed that all of the sightings were of the same Jap reconnaissance plane rather than of different ones.

(C) New Hanover

A 7,500-ton Jap AK-AP and escorting DD W. of New Hanover were unsuccessfully attacked on 23 August by a B-24 which dropped 4 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs.

(D) New Britain

On 23 August, 3 RAAF A-20's bombed the dump area at Gasmata with unobserved results while, also with unobserved results, 3 RAAF Beaufighters attacked A/A positions at the airdrome.

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(E) New Guinea

Early on the morning of 23 August, 4 U. S. DD's bombarded targets in the Finschhafen area. 540 rounds were fired. There was no return fire. That night, Allied positions in Nassau Bay were unsuccessfully attacked by 2 Jap planes which dropped 3 bombs. At daybreak 23 August, a surfaced SS headed N., 40 miles NE of Morobe, was strafed by an Allied B-26 on reconnaissance. Possible hits were reported. The same morning in the Marawasa area, about 60 miles NW of Lae, 4 B-25's each dropped 48 clusters of bombs on Jap positions. A number of grass fires were observed. Villages on Rooke Island, were attacked by a B-24 on 23 August. 4 500-lb. bombs were dropped with unobserved results. The same day, 6 B-25's dropped 4 100-lb. delay bombs, 3 of which failed to explode, on Finschhafen. No results were observed. Also on 23 August, 7 B-26's dropped 48 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs on Kela Village (Salamaua), destroying some buildings. Allied ground forces in the Salamaua area consolidated their positions about 2,200 yards W. of the airfield on the N. bank of the Francisco River, while other elements were mopping up Jap remnants in the Komiatum area.

(F) N.E.I.

5 RAAF A-29's dropped 150 4-lb. incendiaries and 40 100-lb. demolition bombs on Langgoer airdrome and 2 other Jap-held villages in the Kai Islands early 23 August. The same day, 2 Dutch B-25's bombed and strafed a number of villages in the Tanimbar Islands. A trawler type vessel in Adodo Harbor (Moloes Island) was also strafed. No results were reported. Also on 23 August, 7 B-24's dropped 36 500-lb. demolition bombs, 450 20-lb. fragmentation bombs and 27 incendiary clusters on the town and airdrome at Kendari, E. Celebes. Heavy clouds prevented observation of results.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS returned from 43 days patrol reports sinking a 6,600-ton AK and damaging a 5,700-ton AK.

Another U. S. SS reports possibly sinking a 7,000-ton AK in a convoy of 10 ships and 2 escorts.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 24 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

The amphibious stage of the occupation of Kiska ended at 1400 W 22 August. Search of other islands in the area is being continued. At 1430 W, an unopposed landing was effected at Gunners Cove, Central NE coast of Rat Island (about 25 miles SE of Kiska).

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 21 August, 2 Jap artillery pieces, set up to cover the airfield at Munda, were captured by members of the 43rd Div. occupying Southern Beanga Island, just W. of Munda. The same day, Jap barges in Maruana Bay (NW Vella Lavella), Dovelu and Paraso (N. Vella Lavella) were strafed by Allied B-25's.

During the early morning of 22 August, 8 U. S. PT's swept a number of coves on the S. coast of Kolombangara on a search for Jap barge hide-outs. 6 barges in Ringa Cove, just E. of Vovohe Cove, were attacked but heavy fire from shore prevented observation of the results. No barges were found in other coves including Sambira and Hunda, W. of Vovohe Cove. 1 PT was badly damaged and there were 10 U. S. casualties. During the afternoon of the same day, TBF's and B-25's bombed Jap barge concentrations at Oula and Supato, SW Vella Lavella, opposite Eaga Island, but no results were observed.

(B) Greenwich Island

Before noon on 22 August, a B-24 strafed a 500-ton AK 350 miles W. of Greenwich Island and during the afternoon another B-24 attacked a 2 to 4,000-ton AK escorted by another small vessel. No results were reported.

(C) New Guinea

Before dawn on 22 August, a PBY bombed and strafed a small AK and 2 barges headed SE 40 miles E. of Newak. 1 barge was probably sunk and the other 2 craft were beached. In the Salamauz area, Allied ground forces occupied positions overlooking the airfield and artillery shelled the isthmus from Allied coastal positions. No results were reported.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 23 August 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Before dawn on 20 August, Munda was ineffectively attacked by 3 Jap planes which dropped 5 bombs. That night, in addition to the 6 Jap barges already reported attacked in Kela Gulf by U. S. PT's, 6 barges bound for Bairoko were attacked. Some were damaged. Shore batteries and barges turned heavy fire on the PT's. During the same day, the Shortland Island Jap sea-plane base was attacked by Allied fighters which shot down a Jap floatplane and started a number of fires on shore. Enemy installations on Suavau Point, Rekata Bay, were also strafed on 20 August by 8 F4U's. No results were reported.

On 21 August, U. S. reinforcements reached Barakoma, SE Vella Lavella, but no details were reported. Early the same day, W. of Turovilu Island (in Beagle Channel between Baga Island and Vella Lavella) a Jap 50-foot barge was attacked with gunfire by 8 PT's. The enemy craft was abandoned after being set afire. At 1330 L on 22 August, 15 miles NE of Buka Passage, 1 CA and 3 DD's were sighted heading S. at 25 knots.

(B) New Guinea

On 20 August, the S. bank of the Francisco River was bombed and strafed by 6 A-20's. No results were observed. The following morning, Dagua and But airfields, in the Kewak area, were attacked by 18 Allied B-25's escorted by 60 P-38's. 34 Jap aircraft were destroyed or badly damaged on the ground. A/A positions were strafed and, offshore, a launch and 4 barges were destroyed. 36 of an estimated 50 intercepting Jap fighters were reported destroyed and 6 more were probably destroyed. 3 of our fighters were lost. The same day, 11 Allied B-17's dropped 23-tons of bombs on the road S. of Bogadjim. No results were observed.

(C) N.E.I.

Pomelaa, E. shore of Gulf of Bone, Celebes, was the target for 27-tons of bombs dropped by 11 Allied B-24's during a daylight raid on 21 August. Damage to mills and warehouses, fires at the loading plant and damage to a Jap AK in the harbor were reported. Some surface craft in the area were also destroyed and a Jap air transport was shot down. 2 of 12 intercepting Jap fighters were destroyed and 3 probably destroyed. All our planes returned

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safely. The same day, 2 RAAF A-29's dropped 16 100-lb. bombs and 45 incendiaries on Betano (S. Portuguese Timor) and 3 RAAF A-29's dropped 24 100-lb. bombs and 75 incendiaries on Beaco (S. Portuguese Timor). No results were observed. During the early afternoon of 21 August, Taberfane was attacked by 7 RAAF Beaufighters which strafed and damaged a small boat, sank a lugger, destroyed 2 of 5 intercepting floatplanes and probably destroyed a 3rd. 2 of the Beaufighters were lost as a result of a collision. About 50 miles SE of the Damar Islands, an RAAF A-29 on reconnaissance unsuccessfully bombed a 1,000-ton AK accompanied by a barge.

During the early morning of 22 August, 7 Allied B-25's bombed the town and airdrome at Dili, N. Portuguese Timor. Fires were started but no detailed results were reported.

(D) Australia

Early on the morning of 21 August, 18 Jap bombers raided Darwin but only minor damage was caused and there were no casualties.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 22 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

According to a Navy Department communique, an unopposed occupation of Kiska, begun 15 August, is being completed by U. S. and Canadian forces put ashore by a Task Force of the Pacific Fleet. Hasty evacuation of the enemy was indicated and it is believed they escaped under cover of heavy fogs although the means of their escape is not known. At 1100 W on 19 August, an unopposed landing on Segula Island, about 20 miles E. of Kiska, was made and complete reconnaissance revealed no enemy activity of any kind. The same day, search of Kiska revealed no Jap installations at Vega Point or at Cape St. Stephen although, near the latter point, some tracks, believed to be about 20 days old, were found. On S. Head and along the beach S. of Volcan Point booby traps and mines were found. On 21 August, landing operations were continuing at Kiska as was reconnaissance of all areas. 3 Jap midget SS's, apparently damaged by demolition bombs, were reported on the marine railway at the SS base. What appeared to be 1 20 mm. A/A gun was found at N. Head.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At midnight 19-20 August, a 500-ton Jap PK was strafed and left in a sinking condition, but still underway, by a PBV 20 miles NE of Buks. The vessel was headed S.

On the evening of the same day, at 2020 L, 6 Jap barges bound from Bairoko to Vila were attacked by 7 U. S. PT's. 1 barge was sunk and others were damaged. On 21 August Allied reinforcements reached Barakoma, SE Vella Lavella.

(B) New Britain

On the night of 19-20 August, a PBV strafed 6 barges in Rein Bay sinking 1. Another barge was sunk near Cape Busching by the same plane.

(C) New Guinea

On 20 August, 13 small craft or barges were observed at Hansa Bay and 16 more were sighted at Ulingan, between Dove and Magnus Points,

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about 30 miles SE of Hansa Bay. It is believed, as a result of study of photographs of the area, that Ulingen may be an important center of Jap barge activity in New Guinea. The same day, around noon, 24 B-24's under an escort of 46 P-38's dropped 276 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs on the Boram airdrome and dispersal area. At least 5 planes were destroyed on the ground and a number of fires started. 19 of 30 to 35 Jap fighters which attempted interception were destroyed while 6 more were probably destroyed and 3 others damaged. 1 B-24 was shot down. A/A fire was intense. Allied ground forces captured Komiatum and Mt. Tambu. 350 Jap graves and a large amount of equipment were found by our forces.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 21 August 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 18 August, over Kahili 2 F4U's were intercepted by 6 Zeros 2 of which were destroyed while our planes were not damaged. Photographs of the airfields revealed 90 Jap fighters on Ballale and Kahili.

The following day our patrols of the 25th Division were active in the Bairoko area but no contacts were made with the enemy. On Baanga Island 1 patrol of the 43rd Division advanced 600 yards southward around enemy resistance.

A total of 8 B-25's in teams of 2 searched Vella Lavella and the Choiseul Island area for enemy shipping. Near Kekasa (S. coast of Choiseul) a 100-foot barge was bombed and sunk. 3 barges near Timbala Bay (NW. Vella Lavella) and a sea truck on the beach at Parao Bay (N. coast of Vella Lavella) were attacked. Supato (SE. Vella Lavella) is reported to be the Jap concentration on the island.

During the night of 19-20 August, 2 small fast Jap surface craft were encountered by 4 U.S. DD's on patrol near Doveli (N. Vella Lavella). 1 of the enemy vessels was destroyed by gunfire. From time to time enemy planes attacked our ships but no damage resulted.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

Near Mussau Island (NW. of Keviang), a Jap vessel was bombed by a B-24 on reconnaissance. No further details were reported.

Mundua and Garove Islands (Vitu Group, NE. of Cape Gloucester) were bombed by a single B-24. A launch in the area was also strafed.

Besufighters bombed a supply dump near Gaamata and strafed barges along the S. coast of New Britain the same day.

(C) New Guinea

Single B-24's on reconnaissance bombed Finschhafen, Salamaus, and barges near Lee on 19 August. No further details were reported.

Our landing craft in Nassau Bay were shelled by an enemy SS the same day. No casualties resulted.

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(D) H.E.I.

On 19 August, Keepang was bombed by 3 B-25's while 3 others attacked Pulloro and one hit Leuten. A 50-foot enemy vessel was strafed and sunk by a B-24 40 miles SW. of Pak Pak. Single B-24's also attacked Manokwari, Saumlaki and Lerat. No further details were reported. Off Damar Island an enemy lugger was strafed by a Hudson.

R. A. Booms.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 20 August 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On the night of 17-18 August, 4 U. S. DD's engaged 4 Jap DD's, escorting a number of barges southeastwards, N. of Vella Lavella. During the half-hour clash, 2 enemy DD's were badly damaged and possibly sunk and a 3rd was hit. Some of the barges were also sunk while others may have landed on NE Vella Lavella. During the engagement, the U. S. DD's were ineffectively attacked by 8 Jap planes. The same night, an unreported number of Jap planes attacked 2 Allied DD's escorting landing craft returning from Vella Lavella. 1 small Allied vessel was lost.

The following day, 4 Jap barges were sighted landing at Sunday Inlet, about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles SW of Bairoko Harbor, and 4 more were sighted landing on Baanga Island. On Baanga Island Jap artillery continues to harass Allied ground forces. The U. S. 43rd Div. has advanced about 400 yards since landing on the island. At Bairoko, elements of the 26th Div. are reported occupying high ground W. of the harbor and approaching high ground E. of the harbor while elements of 1 U. S. Bn. are reported 2,000 yards N. of Zieta River. Progress in the area generally is handicapped by bad weather and the lack of enough engineers.

At 0103 L on 18 August, a single B-24 dropped 10 500-lb. bombs on Rekata Bay. A fire was observed following the attack. In Matchin Bay, along the E. coast of Toioh Island, about 5 miles SSW of Buka Passage, 2 AK's, 6 barges and 1 DD were sighted the same day at 1940 L, by 2 B-24's which unsuccessfully attacked 1 of the AK's. Photographs taken during the morning of the same day over the Kahili-Ballale-Shortland area revealed a total of 111 Jap planes, 5 AK's and 24 barges. The same day at Kakasa, W. side of Sumbi Head, S. coast of Choiseul, 3 B-24's bombed and strafed a Jap barge with unobserved results.

(B) New Ireland

6 miles SE of Cape St. George, about noon on 18 August, a medium AK, headed NW, was unsuccessfully bombed by a B-24 on reconnaissance.

(C) New Britain

During the early morning hours of 18 August, a PBV on patrol successfully strafed 17 barges encountered near Cape Busching.

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(D) New Guinea

On 18 August, 9 B-17's, 51 B-25's and 10 B-24's, escorted by 95 P-38's, attacked the 4 Jap airfields in the Wewak area for an hour, destroying an estimated 50 planes on the ground and 25 of 45 Jap fighters in the air. In addition, 3 more Jap fighters were probably destroyed. 2 B-25's and 1 P-38 were lost. 3 medium AK's were set afire in Wewak Harbor and many barges were sunk.

(E) N.E.I.

Balikpapan, SE Borneo, was attacked during the night of 17 August by 9 B-24's, 6 of which bombed and strafed, from masthead height, shipping in the harbor, probably destroying 4 medium sized vessels and damaging 2 others. At the same time, the other 3 B-24's attacked the town, starting fires. The same night, another B-24, which failed to locate Balikpapan, bombed Makassar with unobserved results.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 19 August, 1943

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The Allied landing at Barakoma, SE Vella Lavella, on 15 August, consisted of about 4,600 men including 700 naval personnel. Also put ashore were 2,300-tons of supplies and equipment. During the course of 5 Jap air attacks on that day, our casualties were 12 killed and 40 wounded.

On 16 August, Jap artillery on Baanga and Karapahtah Islands, just NW of Munda airfield, put several shells near the Munda airfield. These enemy positions were bombed by Allied planes, 17 SBD's and 13 TBF's attacking Baanga and 19 SBD's Karapahtah. No results were reported. That night, 6 TBF's attacked Rekata Bay, Santa Isabel Island, and Haycock Island in Manning Strait, between Santa Isabel and Choiseul Islands. No results were reported.

At 0100 L, 17 August, 4 barges and Jap shore batteries at Bairoko, New Georgia Island, were engaged for 20 minutes by 7 U. S. PT's. No results were reported. About noon the same day, 45 miles W. of Bougainville, 4 DD's headed SE were sighted by a U. S. patrol plane.

(B) New Ireland

A B-24 unsuccessfully dropped 4 500-lb. bombs on a merchant vessel near Mussau Island on 17 August. That night, off Cape St. George, a PBY unsuccessfully bombed a medium AK, dropping 4 500-lb. bombs.

(C) New Britain

A B-24 dropped 4 500-lb. bombs on Cape Gloucester airfield on 17 August. Fires were started as a result.

(D) New Guinea

During the night of 16-17 August, 37 B-24's and 12 B-17's attacked the Jap airfields at Wewak, Boram, Dagua and But, dropping over 70-tons of fragmentation clusters and incendiaries. Explosions and fires were observed on all of the targets. A/A fire of all calibres was met. 3 of our planes are missing. Of this mission, 1 bomber attacked Jap installations at Hansa Bay. Following this attack, the same targets were hit by 36 B-25's under an escort of 83 P-38's. These planes dropped parachute fragmentation bombs from low level and strafed grounded planes including 60 lined up on 1 runway. Of 204 aircraft photographed in the area prior to the raid, 120 are considered destroyed or permanently unserviceable and others are reported

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damaged. Of 10 intercepting Jap fighters, 2 were damaged and 1 was destroyed. Inaccurate A/A fire of all calibres was met. The same night, 3 of 6 barges were destroyed and the rest damaged near Madang after a PBV had dropped 4 500-lb. bombs.

On 17 August, 4 RAAF Beaufighters strafed Jap barges in the Finschhafen area with unreported results. The same planes also strafed barges on the Itne River, New Britain. The same day, near Salamaua, 6 A-20's damaged an unreported number of Jap barges. 1 A-20 was destroyed by A/A fire.

(E) N.E.I.

On the morning of 17 August, 2 of 8 RAAF Beaufighters set fire to a lugger off Taberfane, Arco Islands. The other 6 Beaufighters destroyed 4 and damaged 1 of 5 intercepting Jap floatplanes. The same morning, 3 RAAF A-29's dropped 23 100-lb. demolition and 180 4-lb. incendiary bombs on Ossu, Portuguese Timor. Results of the attack were not observed.

(F) Australia

At midnight, 16 August, a Jap plane dropped 8 bombs on Fort Hedland, about 220 miles SW of Broome. Neither damage nor casualties were caused. During the morning of 17 August, an unreported number of Spitfires shot down 3 Jap reconnaissance planes and another Jap was downed over the same area during the afternoon.

R.A. Boone.

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I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On the early morning of 15 August, a reinforced regiment was landed at Vella Lavella and Jap positions at the SE end of the island were mopped-up. DD's and landing craft which aided in the landing, were attacked without success by an unknown number of Jap torpedo bombers while the vessels were returning to Guadalcanal from Vella Lavella.

At 0250 L early the following morning, 16 August, the Buka airfield was bombed by a single B-24 which released 20 100-lb. bombs on the strip, revetments and supply areas. Smoke was observed rising from a place where 3 Jap bombers were parked. Later at 0365 L, 9 B-24's attacked Rekata Bay, Santa Isabel Island, dropping 24 100-lb. bombs. Fires were observed as a result. That afternoon at 1520 L, Vila, Kolombangara Island, was attacked by 12 B-25's, 5 B-17's, 12 TBF's and 25 SBD's which dropped about 30-tons of bombs, scoring hits on supply areas and A/A guns. The Kape Harbor naval depot was also hit. Vila was again attacked during the night by 2 PBY's on reconnaissance. No results were observed.

On New Georgia Island, Allied ground forces converging on Zieta from the E. and S., cleared the position and units of the 25th Div. advanced W., reaching the coast at Piru Plantation.

According to Jap prisoners captured on Vella Lavella, the Jap DD's Kawakaze, Arashio and Hagikaze were sunk in the 6-7 August night surface vessel engagement in Vella Gulf and a 4th unnamed DD was also believed sunk.

(B) Ellice Islands

On the morning of 16 August, over Nanomea, NW Ellice Islands, a Jap plane twice evaded a U. S. patrol plane but near Vaitupu, SE of Nanomea, another U. S. plane clashed with a second Jap plane and was badly damaged although there were no personnel injuries. Damage to the enemy plane could not be determined. Both Jap planes were 4-motored flying boats of a new type doing better than 200 knots.

Nanomea reported what sounded like heavy calibre gunfire to the E. during the early afternoon of 16 August.

(C) New Ireland

On the morning of 16 August, 25 miles W. of Mussau Island, a medium AK and an escort of 2 DD's, headed S., were unsuccessfully attacked by a single B-24. The same morning, another B-24 unsuccessfully attacked a 1,000-ton AK headed SW 160 miles N. of Mussau.

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(D) New Guinea

During the morning of 16 August, Jap installations at Voco Point, Lae, were bombed by an Allied B-24 which dropped 2 1,000-lb. bombs starting fires in the area. The same morning, 25 Jap fighters unsuccessfully attacking an Allied transport plane, were intercepted by 32 P-47's and 16 P-38's over the Marialinan area in the Watut Valley, about 50 miles SW of Lae. In the ensuing engagement, 12 Jap planes were destroyed and 2 others were probably destroyed. 1 P-47 was lost and 4 other fighters were damaged.

Allied ground forces, on 16 August, were reported to have control of Tambu Bay and to have surrounded Jap forces at Mt. Tambu and S. Komiatum. Over 200 enemy dead were left in Allied lines.

(E) N.E.I.

2 B-24's on photo reconnaissance attacked Balikpapan (SE coast of Borneo) on the morning of 16 August. A medium tanker and oil tanks ashore were set afire after 6 300-lb. bombs and 6 boxes of incendiaries had been dropped. 4 of 6 enemy fighters which attacked singly for over an hour were destroyed, 1 was probably destroyed and 1 was damaged. During the night, Saumlaki, SE Tanimbar Islands, Langgoer, Kai Islands, and Taberfane, Aroe Islands, were attacked by Allied medium bombers. No results were observed over Saumlaki and Langgoer. Fires and explosions were reported at Taberfane after 4 A-29's dropped 32 100-lb. bombs and 120 incendiaries.

(F) Australia

Broome was attacked on 16 August by a single Jap plane which dropped 5 bombs in the area. Neither damage nor casualties were caused.

R.A. Booms.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 17 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

No reports from this area have been received.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 15 August, 3 enemy formations, composed of dive bombers and fighters, were intercepted over Vella Lavella - 2 during the morning and 1 in the afternoon - by P-40's and F4U's. 17 Zeros and 10 Jap dive bombers were destroyed while our losses consisted of 1 P-40 and 1 F4U lost. The pilot of the F4U was recovered. On the same day, 8 F4U's intercepted 20 Jap planes returning from Vella Lavella and shot down 5 fighters and 2 dive bombers with no losses to our planes. The F4U's had previously strafed grounded planes on Kahili airfield where dust clouds prevented observation of results. During the same afternoon, Rekata Bay, Santa Isabel Island, was bombed by 11 B-25's. Fires in the supply area were observed.

The following evening, 16 August, Cape Esperance, NW tip of Guadalcanal, was shelled by a possible Jap SS. No other details were reported.

(B) New Britain

At midday on 14 August, 12 B-25's destroyed or damaged 5 barges near Talasea and 5 more in Rein Bay. The following afternoon, a B-24 strafed 6 barges in Borgen Bay while 4 A-20's and 2 Beaufighters swept the S. coast setting afire a barge in Wide Bay and a small AK in Jacquinet Bay, and bombing the Gasmata dump area.

(C) New Guinea

On the afternoon of 14 August, 6 A-20's strafed a number of barges along the coast of the Huon Peninsula. Results were not reported. That evening, a single Jap plane unsuccessfully bombed the airfield on Woodlark Island. 8 bombs were dropped.

The morning of 15 August, 21 B-24's and 1 B-17 dropped 120 1,000-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs, 6 1,000-lb. delay bombs, 24 1,000-lb. aerial burst bombs and 2 1,000-lb. demolition clock fuse bombs on Salamaua Isthmus, Kela Village and Komiatum. Hits along the trails and fires in the villages were reported. Later in the morning, 12 enemy medium bombers under

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an escort of about 25 fighters were intercepted over the Watut River Valley, about 40 miles SW of Lao, by 26 P-58's. 10 Jap dive bombers were destroyed before their objective, the runway at Marilinan, was reached and the other 2 were destroyed after ineffectively dropping their bombs. 3 Jap fighters were also destroyed while our losses consisted of 3 P-58's destroyed and another crash landed. That night, near Saidor on the N. coast of the Huon Peninsula, a PBV destroyed or damaged 5 Jap barges.

(D) N.E.I.

Kaukwa was attacked by 1 of 2 A-29's sent on the mission. 5 100-lb. demolition bombs were dropped with unobserved results. The other A-29 is unreported.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 16 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

A PBV bombed Kiska 3 times during the night of 13-14 August with unobserved results and the same night 4 single DD's bombarded the same targets at hourly intervals. The Japs did not return the fire. During the day of 14 August, 8 B-24's, 1 B-25 and 14 P-38's from Shemya attacked Kiska but no details of the bombing are yet available.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of 13-14 August, Rekata Bay was attacked by 12 TBF's which struck the target in pairs. No results were observed.

(B) New Britain

Early on the morning of 14 August, 2 Beaufighters on a sweep of the coast E. of Gasmata strafed a small barge and Jap A/A positions while the coast W. from Gasmata was attacked by 2 A-20's which bombed a bridge. A surfaced Jap SS was unsuccessfully bombed by a B-24 at noon 14 August. The attack occurred 18 miles SE of Cape St. George where the SS was headed SE. During the morning, 90 miles NW of Mussau Island, a B-24 on reconnaissance sighted 2 sea trucks, a medium AK and a DD heading E. and another B-24, 5 hours later, unsuccessfully bombed what may have been the same convoy 50 miles further E.

(C) New Guinea

During the night of 13 August, 6 Jap planes ineffectively bombed Allied gun positions in the Tambu Bay area.

On the following day, 34 B-24's, 14 B-17's and 24 B-25's dropped 172-tons of bombs on Jap positions at Bobdubi, Salamaua and Tambu Bay. Enemy positions on Bobdubi ridge were demolished and fires were started near Salamaua airfield.

Allied ground forces in the Tambu Bay area attacked Jap positions inflicting many casualties and destroying enemy pillboxes. Wau was attacked at night by 3 Jap planes but the raid was unsuccessful.

(D) N.E.I.

On the night of 13 August, 9 B-24's, which flew over 2,500 miles to make the raid, bombed Balikpapan (S. coast of Borneo). 2 oil refineries

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were set afire and at least 7 large fuel tanks exploded after 57 500-lb. demolition bombs and a number of incendiaries had been dropped. A vessel in the harbor was set afire by a direct hit with a 500-lb. bomb. All our planes returned safely. On the return flight 1 of the planes attacked Dili (Timor) starting fires. Before dawn of 14 August, 3 RAAF A-29's bombed Penfoei airfield while a fourth bombed Tenau. 24 100-lb. bombs and a number of incendiaries were dropped and fires and explosions were observed. On the night of 14 August, the waterfront and Jap barracks at Koepang were attacked by 8 Dutch B-25's which dropped 12 320-lb. depth charges, 9 1,000-lb., 17 300-lb. and 40 100-lb. bombs. No results were observed. 3 or 4 Jap fighters followed the Allied planes but did not try to engage them.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0000, 15 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

Enemy positions at Kiska were bombed by 2 U.S. DD's at 0337 W, 13 August. In the afternoon of the same day a total of 55 planes, including 4 B-24's, 21 B-25's, 15 A-24's and 15 P-38's dropped over 50 tons of bombs on the island and also strafed many enemy targets. Buildings at Gertrude Cove and North Head were destroyed by direct hits and fires were observed in many parts of the island. Only slight AA fire was encountered.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

8 B-24's attacked Ballale at 1913 L, 13 August and 7 minutes later 13 B-24's bombed Kahili. A total of 23 tons of bombs were dropped on the 2 enemy airbases. 4 enemy planes attempted to intercept each group and one was probably shot down. 2 of our bombers were damaged by AA fire. An enemy AK just south of Kieta was unsuccessfully bombed by 2 B-24's at the same time.

During the morning of the same day a force of 9 B-17's, 31 SB'D's and 22 TB'F's with a fighter escort of 32 F4U's attacked Vila while 25 Jap Zeros were intercepted by 5 P-39's and 3 P-40's over Munda. 10 enemy planes were destroyed while we suffered no losses. Enemy gun positions just east of Vila airfield were bombed with unobserved results by a single B-24 at 1950 L.

During the night of 13-14 August our PT's operating in the New Georgia area were constantly attacked by enemy planes. They succeeded in landing troops at Barokoma (SE Vella Lavella) and it was reported that 330 Japs had been captured on this island up to 13 August.

The Rekata Bay area was bombed by 12 B-25's during the morning of 13 August and again at 2030 L by 2 B-24's. The results were not reported.

(B) New Britain

Enemy shipping in the Rabaul area as revealed by photographs, 13 August, included a total of 42 vessels of which there were 19 AK's,

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aggregating 95,000 tons, 5 DD's, 2 cruisers, 1 DD tender, 6 SS's, 1 AS, 1 CM, 3 PT's and 4 PC's. A total of 271 enemy planes were shown at Vunakamau, Lakundi, and Rairopo airdromes, of which 102 were fighters, 119 medium bombers and 50 light bombers. 20 of these planes were possibly unserviceable. There were also 4 flyingboats and 24 floatplanes in the harbor.

A B-24 on reconnaissance in the afternoon 13 August bombed Casarua destroying 1 fighter and 1 bomber on the ground.

(C) How Ouhua

During the afternoon of 12 August Catalinas bombed and strafed barges in Howa Bay and along the coast of the Huon Peninsula. 3 barges were reported destroyed and 7 others damaged.

The following morning a force of 35 B-24's, 13 B-17's and 9 B-26's attacked the Salama area. 173 tons of bombs which included 320 1,000 pounders were dropped during the raid. Many buildings and installations were destroyed and fires and explosions were observed throughout the whole area. 2 B-24's bombed the same area again during the afternoon and photos taken at the same time showed only 10 buildings standing.

13 August. Slight damage and casualties resulted.

Allied and Jap patrols have clashed at a point approximately 50 miles SW of Hedang in the Namu River valley. Heavy enemy casualties were reported for 12 August.

(D) Australia

18 enemy planes attacked our airdromes at Durrin at four dark, 13 August. No casualties nor damage was reported and our intercepting fighters were unable to contact the enemy planes.

(E) Howland Island

At 1145 Y, 13 August, a Jap plane made 4 attacks on one of our PT's near Howland Island. Although our plane was damaged no casualties resulted and the plane returned safely.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 14 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

On 11 August, Kiska was bombed and strafed by 5 additional missions to those already reported. 3-tons of bombs were dropped in the target areas.

On 12 August, the Kiska area was attacked by a total of 104 planes in 20 attacks, 15 of which were from Amohitka, 4 from Adak and 1 from Attu. 87-tons of bombs were dropped on enemy positions and installations. Many fires were started.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Kahili airdrome was attacked about midday on 12 August by 25 B-24's and 30 fighters. 26-tons of bombs were dropped on the Southern part of the runway and in the dispersal area. Fires and a large explosion followed. Photographs taken during the attack showed some 42 bombers and fighters caught on the ground. 20 enemy planes were burning and 8 others were shown to be badly damaged. Over 30 enemy fighters intercepted our planes and 11 enemy planes were destroyed. 2 of our planes were lost but 1 of the pilots was rescued. A Jap communique reporting on an Allied raid on Kahili (possibly this same raid) has claimed shooting down 34 Allied planes out of 56 with the loss of 1 Japanese plane. Some damage to ground installations was admitted.

On the SE coast of Vella Lavella, 140 enemy troops and naval survivors have been captured.

On 12 August in the same area as that mentioned in the last paragraph, U. S. PT boats attacked an enemy barge and forced it ashore. There was no sign of movement in the barge when the PT boats left the scene.

On New Georgia Island, enemy resistance near Zieta Village (5 miles N. of Munda airfield) was overcome by 12 August and Allied troops had pushed on to a point approximately 1 mile further N. toward Bairoko Harbor.

Allied patrols on Baanga Island, just NW of Munda Point, encountered heavy enemy fire on 12 August.

(B) New Britain

A supply dump at Gasmata was bombed by 2 A-20's on 12 August. Damage inflicted was not ascertained. The same day, Cape Gloucester airdrome was bombed by a B-24 on reconnaissance. 2 bombs hit in the target area.

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(C) New Guinea

Kiriwina was attacked by 3 enemy planes on 11 August. No damage or casualties were inflicted by the 4 bombs dropped.

On 12 August, the road construction S. of Bogadjim, bridges and construction camps were bombed and strafed by 12 B-25's. The same day, a building at Finschhafen was strafed by an A-20 and the Salamaua Isthmus was bombed by a B-24.

(D) N.E.I.

On 12 August, enemy surface craft off the coast of Ceram were bombed and strafed by a B-24 on reconnaissance. The same afternoon, buildings in Timika were bombed and strafed by 2 RAAF Hudsons. Shipping at Kaimana was attacked by 3 B-24's and a village in the Tanimbar Islands was also attacked. Fuel fires visible for 80 miles resulted from the attack on Kaimam.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 13 August 1943

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I. Northwestern Pacific

During the night of 10-11 August, a PBV was over Kiska for 4 hours. A few bombs and incendiaries were dropped throughout the area. From 0035 W to 0145 W, Kiska was bombarded by 2 U. S. DD's causing fires.

Kataoka Naval Base (SW Shimushu) and Kashiwabara (NE Paramushiru) Army Base were bombed from 1211 W to 1231 W, 11 August, by 9 B-24's from Attu. 72 500-lb. bombs and 25 incendiary clusters were dropped on the target areas. Heavy but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered from the Jap ships in the area and approximately 40 Jap fighters intercepted although no planes took off before the first bombs were dropped. 5 Jap planes were shot down in air combat which lasted for over 45 minutes and others were probably destroyed. 2 B-24's are missing. Many enemy AK's and warships were seen in Paramushiru Straits and 15 AK's and other probable DD's were observed at Araido (NW of the Straits).

A total of 98 planes including 17 B-24's, 51 B-25's, 16 A-24's and 14 fighters dropped over 91-tons of bombs on Kiska during the day. Gertrude Cove, Reynard Cove, Little Kiska and North Head as well as other targets were bombed and strafed and fires broke out over the entire area. Only slight A/A fire was encountered.

A PBV was over Kiska during the night of 11-12 August and dropped a few bombs and empty beer bottles on the main camp and Gertrude Cove, while a DD shelled the area between 0135 W and 0335 W, 12 August.

Gertrude Cove and Bukhti Point and other beach areas along the S. coast of Kiska, were bombarded by a cruiser-destroyer task force at 0700 W, 12 August. There was no return fire.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Shortly before noon, 11 August, a force of 27 B-24's set out to attack Kahili but bad weather forced them to return. The Rekata Bay area was bombed by 5 of the B-24's on the return trip and hits were reported in the supply dump area.

At night, a Catalina on reconnaissance bombed the airdrome at Vila.

(B) New Ireland - New Britain

2 small AK's at a point approximately 90 miles NE of Kavieng were bombed and strafed by a B-24 on reconnaissance. A near miss was scored

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on 1 vessel.

Reconnaissance bombers located 6 separate groups of enemy shipping N. and NW of Kavieng near Mussau Island and New Hanover Island during the morning of 11 August. Some of the shipping was attacked and 1 1,500-ton AK was sunk and other vessels were strafed and damaged. An enemy CL was bombed but no hits were scored.

A B-24 on reconnaissance bombed and strafed 2 small AK's and 2 barges off Cape St. George 10 August. A near miss damaged 1 AK which was almost overturned. 4 barges at Montagu Harbor (E. of Gasmata) loaded with oil drums were damaged and possibly destroyed by 3 Bostons at dawn, 10 August.

(C) New Guinea

Enemy barges along the coast of the Huon Peninsula, were attacked by 12 B-25's during the morning of 10 August. 9 barges just S. of Finschhafen were destroyed or damaged. 2 other barges were reported destroyed in Wald Bay. Barge hideouts in Labu Lagoon at Lae were strafed during the afternoon by 6 Bostons. On the following day, 2 more barges were strafed by a B-24 near Rooke Island.

15 enemy planes bombed our positions on Woodlark Island during the evening of 11 August. No damage or casualties resulted.

(D) N.E.I.

The enemy seaplane base at Taberfans (Aroe Islands) was raided during the afternoon of 11 August by 6 Beaufighters. 3 small fishing vessels were destroyed and 2 others and a barge damaged. 1 floatplane was destroyed on the water and 1 of 6 intercepting floatplanes were shot down while 2 others were damaged.

Lautem town and waterfront were bombed by 4 Hudsons after dark the same day. Fires resulted.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 12 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

Kiska was attacked 24 times 10 August by a total of 115 planes including 14 B-24's, 18 A-24's, 14 B-25's, 36 P-40's and 33 P-38's. The area was thoroughly strafed and 63-tons of bombs were dropped causing many fires. Only slight A/A fire was encountered. 2 U. S. DD's bombarded Gertrude Cove and the main camp between 0100 W and 0240 W, the same day.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Our ground forces in the Munda area encountered stiff enemy resistance at a point 7,000 yards NW of the airfield. The forces on the right flank by 10 August, had reached a position 4,000 yards SE of Bairoko and had made contact with patrols from Enogai. 30-40 damaged enemy planes were found on the Munda airfield.

During the night of August 9-10, 6 U. S. DD's attacked and probably sank 2 of 4 enemy barges in Vella Gulf. The following afternoon at 1530 L, a force of 50 Jap bombers and fighters attempted to raid Rendova. 11 P-40's and 3 P-39's intercepted and shot down 2 Zeros while we lost 1 P-39 but the pilot was rescued.

At night, a FBY attacked an enemy convoy including 3-4 medium AK's and 3 small escorted vessels at a point approximately 30 miles W. of Cape Henpan (N. tip of Buka Island). A near miss with depth charge was scored on a 8,000-ton AK.

(B) New Britain

On 9 August, buildings at Unea Island (Vitu Group) were bombed by 2 B-24's on reconnaissance. Results were not reported.

Barges on Siassi Island (S. of Rooke Island) were strafed by a single B-25 on morning reconnaissance, 10 August. In the afternoon, barges and gun positions along the coast at Borgen Bay were bombed and strafed by 6 more B-25's. Results were unobserved.

During the evening, 2 Jap SS's were sighted offshore 15 miles E. of Gasmata. Before the plane could make an attack, the SS's submerged.

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(C) New Guinea

6 enemy personnel, probably Jap airmen, were discovered and killed on Gawa Island, Marshall Bennett Group (W. of Woodlark Island).

170 1,000-lb. bombs were dropped by 25 B-24's on Salamaua and nearby villages during the morning of 10 August. 2 possible fuel dumps exploded and many buildings were destroyed. Fuel fires were observed throughout the area.

(D) Australia

2 enemy floatplanes patrolling the shipping lanes N. of Millingimbi, were attacked and shot down during the morning of 10 August by 2 Spitfires.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 11 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

Gertrude Cove, the main camp and a hill N. of Reynard Cove on Kiska, were bombarded by 3 DD's between 0039 W and 0335 W, 9 August.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 1100 L, 8 August, gun positions at Vila were bombed by 24 SBD's and 12 TBF's with a fighter escort of 31 F4U's. Intense A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned although 1 SBD was damaged. 24 hits were reported on the enemy gun positions.

Bairoko Harbor area was raided by 21 SBD's and 12 TBF's escorted by 30 F4F's during the morning of 9 August. 22-tons of bombs were dropped. Further details were not reported.

The same day, Vila was attacked by 10 B-25's covered by fighters and a force of 22 B-24's bombed the same target when they were unable to reach Kahili because of bad weather. The heavy bombers dropped 54-tons of bombs causing large fires on the runway and in dump areas.

Allied fighters searched the Austria Sound area (NE coast of Santa Isabel) during the morning of 9 August. No barge activity was observed although a photo plane over the area the night before reported many moving lights near Kia Passage.

(B) New Britain

On 9 August, a B-24 on reconnaissance near Talasea (N. New Britain) was attacked by 5 Jap fighters, 1 of which was destroyed and 3 were damaged.

(C) New Guinea

Enemy barge traffic along the N. coast of Huon Peninsula and buildings, bridges and enemy camps in the Bogadjim area, were attacked by 24 B-25's during the afternoon of 9 August.

The same day, a total of 7 B-17's, 33 B-24's and 1 B-25 dropped 240 1,000-lb. and 85 500-lb. bombs on Salamaua and neighboring villages. Fires and explosions resulted. 1 B-24 bombed Lae.

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(D) N.E.I.

On 9 August, a single B-25 bombed and strafed a village near Saumlaki (Tanimbar Islands). The Kai Islands were raided after dark by 5 Hudsons and 2-3 Jap fighters unsuccessfully attempted interception. Fires and explosions resulted from both of these raids.

1 B-25 and 9 B-24's bombed Ambon during the evening, 9 August, causing explosions and large fuel fires.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS returned from patrol in the Southwest Pacific area reports sinking an I class Jap SS and damaging a 10,000-ton AO.

R. A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 10 August 1945

I. Northwestern Pacific

Kiska main camp and Gertrude Cove were each bombed by single different U. S. DD's during the early morning hours of 8 August. 50 rounds were expended against each target. There was no return fire from the Japs. Bad weather cancelled all air attacks on Kiska during the day.

II. Southwestern Pacific(A) Solomon Islands

Vila was attacked at 1645 L on 8 August by 12 TBF's and 18 SBD's which dropped nearly 20-tons of bombs on the naval depot and gun positions scoring a number of hits and near misses. These planes were followed over the same target at 1615 L by 23 B-25's which dropped 138 300-lb. bombs on bivouac and supply areas. Heavy fires were observed following this attack. Both attacks were covered by 62 fighters, 12 of which strafed a fuel dump at Rekata Bay, Santa Isabel Island, on their return from the Vila raid. Along the shoreline of Austria Sound, NW Santa Isabel, 200 Jap barges were sighted by Allied photo reconnaissance planes. That night, Vila was attacked by 2 PBV's on reconnaissance and explosions were observed as a result.

(B) Greenwich Island

275 miles NNW of Greenwich Island, a U. S. B-24 on reconnaissance on 8 August, attacked a Southbound Jap convoy consisting of 1 DD, 3 medium AK-AP's and 2 probable PG's. No results were reported.

(C) New Guinea

On the night of 7-8 August, an Allied PBV strafed Finschhafen with unobserved results.

(D) N.E.I.

On the afternoon of 8 August, an RAAF A-29 dropped 5 100-lb. demolition bombs on Kaukenau while another RAAF A-29 dropped 5 100-lb. bombs on Timika. 2 buildings were destroyed and 1 damaged at Timika while no results were reported from Kaukenau. On the same day, 5 small ships in McCluer Gulf were unsuccessfully attacked by 3 B-24's. These same planes scored direct hits on the building area at Larat, Tanimbar Islands, starting fires.

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III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS reports sinking a 500-ton AK and probably sinking another AK.

R.A. Boone

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

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 7 August, Allied ground forces repairing the airfield and pushing N. from Munda towards Bairoko had, as yet, encountered no Jap resistance. The field was expected to be ready for use by 9 August. Jap installations and positions at Bairoko were attacked during the morning of 7 August by 10 B-24's, 6 B-17's, 24 B-25's, 10 TBF's and 3 SBD's covered by 30 F4U's and 7 P-40's. 45-tons of bombs were dropped on both sides of the harbor which was also strafed. A/A positions were silenced and fires started. 1 SBD is missing.

During the afternoon of the same day, U. S. positions at Rendova were attacked by a force of 30-60 Jap dive bombers and fighters. Some casualties were caused at a field hospital. 3 enemy dive bombers were destroyed by A/A defenses and 3 Zeros were shot down by 12 of 16 intercepting U. S. fighters, none of which were lost.

In the Buka area on 7 August, a DD and an AK were reported on a Southerly course 55 miles SW of Buka Passage.

(B) New Ireland

105 miles NE of Kavieng, a DD and an AK headed S., were unsuccessfully attacked by a B-24 during the morning of 7 August.

(C) New Britain

In the Cape Gloucester area, 9 Allied B-25's shot down 1 of 3 intercepting Jap fighters while on a sweep of the coast in search for Jap barges on 7 August. Off Lagunen Point, several camouflaged barges were bombed and strafed with unobserved results. A little after noon, the same day, about 100 miles NNW of Mussau Island, an enemy convoy, in 2 groups, was sighted. The first group consisted of 2 CA's and 3 CI's heading SE at 28 knots. The second group, about 25 miles to the rear and also heading SE, consisted of 1 whaling factory type vessel, 3 large AP's and a medium AK all escorted by 2 DD's and making about 15 knots. The convoy was apparently headed for Rabaul.

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(D) New Guinea

On the morning of 7 August, Allied B-25's on reconnaissance strafed enemy barges near Finschhafen with unobserved results. The same morning, 23 Allied B-24's dropped 92-tons of HE on the Salamaua area, starting a fuel fire at the airfield and scoring direct hits on A/A positions and buildings in nearby villages. Ground activity was confined to artillery duels. During the afternoon, a lone B-24 on reconnaissance bombed Salamaua with unobserved results. Since 1 August, 62 Japs have been killed in the Bobdubi area.

(E) N.E.I.

Penfoei, Lautem and Cape Chater airfields on Timor were all attacked before dawn on 7 August by Allied medium bombers. Fires and explosions were observed over all 3 targets. Over Lautem and Cape Chater, 7 Zeros unsuccessfully attempted to intercept 2 B-25's.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 8 August, 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

Because of unfavorable weather conditions there were no air attacks against Kiska on 7 August.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Over Shortland Island, Bougainville area, on the morning of 5 August, 16 F4F's escorting a reconnaissance plane were attacked by 30 Zeros. 7 Jap fighters were destroyed and 1 F4F was lost. That night, in Wilson Strait, off Vella Lavella, in the New Georgia Island area, a Jap troop laden barge was destroyed by a PBV while 2 barges near Gizo Island were also bombed by a PBV. The following day, U.S. ground forces continued mopping up operations in the Munda area.

Rekata Bay was attacked by 7 B-17's, 17 B-24's, 13 TBF's, 25 SBD's, 24 B-25's and 35 F4U's on the afternoon of 6 August. 65 tons of bombs were dropped on Jap bivouac and supply areas. Much damage was done and A/A positions were silenced.

In Vella Gulf, New Georgia area, at 2335L, 6 August, a Jap surface force consisting of 4 ships was attacked with torpedo and gunfire by U.S. surface vessels. The enemy vessels, at least 1 of which was a cruiser while the others were DD's or larger, were all believed to have been sunk in the hour long engagement. 3, including the cruiser, were definitely sunk. We sustained no casualties.

(B) New Guinea

On the morning of 6 August 12 B-25's attacked a concentration of 15 Jap barges and 3 escort boats at Alexishafen. 1 motor boat and 1 barge were set afire and a number of other barges were damaged. The same morning 12 B-25's swept the coast from Madang S. and E. to Wald Bay, destroying 6 Jap barges, damaging a bridge, a supply dump and strafing the airfield at Madang. 1 B-25 was destroyed by A/A fire.

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(C) N. E. I.

Keaukwa Village, in the Timika area, was bombed by an RAAF A-29 during the afternoon of 6 August while a 400 ton AK and 3 barges W. of Kaukenau were attacked by another RAAF A-29. The AK was left damaged and stationary after 5 100-lb. bombs had been dropped. That night, Laha airdrome, on Ambon, was attacked by 6 B-24's which dropped 100 100-lb. bombs on Jap barracks and dispersal areas. Thick weather obscured the results.

(D) Australia

A 2500 ton British AK was attacked by 2 Jap floatplanes 60 miles NW of Millingimbi at 1005I on 6 August and hits were scored in the engine room which resulted in the vessel's sinking at 1400 that afternoon despite attempts to tow it to safety.

(E) U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returned from patrol reports sinking a 2,000 ton enemy naval auxiliary vessel and damaging a 1000 ton AO.

R. A. Boone

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 7 August 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

On 6 August, Kiska was bombarded by 2 U. S. DD's between 0024 W and 0350 W. Each ship expended 50 rounds and some hits were observed in the target area. We suffered no casualties as the Japs did not return our fire. There were no air attacks on Kiska during the day.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of 3-4 August, our PT's attacked and sank 2 enemy barges NW of Munda. Off the W. coast of Kolombangara, our PT's sank a small Jap coastal vessel the following night.

At 1015 L, 5 August, a force of 19 B-24's and 48 fighters set out to raid Kahili but bad weather forced them to return to their base. On the return trip, 9 B-24's bombed the Rekata Bay area where heavy A/A fire was encountered. The Japs are reported strengthening the defenses of this base.

The afternoon of the same day, 3 barges and shore installations at N. Gizo Island were attacked by 7 B-25's escorted by 16 P4U's. The same planes later strafed 2 barges and shore positions at Webster Cove (SW Kolombangara).

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

An enemy village in the Vitu Islands was bombed by a B-24 at noon, 5 August. 1 fire resulted.

A small enemy vessel at a point approximately 40 miles NW of New Hanover Island was bombed and strafed by a B-24 the same day. No further details were reported.

A large enemy DD, at a point approximately 35 miles SW of Greenwich Island (between New Britain and Truk) was attacked at noon, 5 August, by our aircraft. The vessel, which was headed NNE, was not hit.

(C) New Guinea

A single B-24 attacked Finschhafen during the morning of 5 August. 1 building was destroyed. At the same time, 9 B-25's strafed Saidor and Bogadjim villages.

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(D) N.E.I.

During the evening of 5 August, Lautem (NE Portuguese Timor) was raided by 6 B-25's. Many fires and explosions resulted from the attack.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

*Peto*  
A U. S. SS returned from patrol in the Southwestern Pacific reports sinking a 2,000-ton enemy naval auxiliary and damaging a 1,000-ton enemy AO.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 6 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

The main camp and SS base at Kiska were bombed at 0030 W on 4 August by a PBV which dropped over a ton of bombs and incendiaries and 3 cases of empty bear bottles. Large fires followed the attack. Between 0830 and 2026 W, 5 missions from Adak and 13 missions from Amchitka, consisting of 133 planes, dropped 153-tons of bombs on North and South Head, the runway, the main camp, SS base and Little Kiska. The targets were also strafed. Many explosions and fires were observed. Only sporadic A/A fire was encountered. Photographs taken on 2 and 4 August indicate that about 32 buildings have been dismantled and removed to other sites as the structures are gone but the revetments are intact and there are neither bomb nor shell craters.

Early on 5 August, between 0150 and 0348 W, the main camp and Gertrude Cove were each bombarded by a single DD. 50 rounds were expended by each DD. The Japs did not return the fire.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Before dawn on 1 August, about 250 Japs were landed on the N. shore of Gizo Island from camouflaged barges.

At Munda on 3 August, the left flank of the U. S. ground forces advanced along the S. coast to a point opposite the center of the airfield, while the right flank clashed with heavy Jap resistance on the W. slopes of Bibolo Hill.

On the night of 3-4 August, the Vila waterfront was bombed by a single PBV. No results were observed.

On 4 August, our ground forces reached the waterfront 600 yards N. of Gurasai, NW of the Munda airfield, and thus surrounded the enemy. This encirclement was accomplished in the afternoon. Earlier in the day, the Gurasai area had been heavily bombed by 24 B-25's, 24 TBF's and 25 SBD's covered by 62 fighters. All planes returned safely.

In running fights over Rendova and New Georgia Islands the same day, 7 F4U's, 8 F4F's and 10 P-40's clashed with from 10 to 18 Jap fighters. 12 Zeros were destroyed and 1 was later seen to land on fire at Vila. 2 F4F's were lost.

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Shortland Harbor Jap seaplane base was attacked by 16 F4U's on the morning of 4 August. 7 floatplanes were destroyed, 2 barges were set afire and 1 small boat was sunk. A/A positions, supply dumps and docks on Poporang Island were also strafed during the surprise raid.

On the night of 4-5 August, Vila was attacked by 8 PBV's on night patrol. Only 4 bombs were dropped with unobserved results.

All Jap organized resistance at Manda ended at 1500 L on 5 August after 12 days of fierce fighting. The known enemy dead total 1,671 but heavy additional casualties are known to have been inflicted by U. S. naval, artillery and air bombardments. 28 Japs, of whom 1 died, were captured. 7 Chinese and 1 Malay were rescued. Reconstruction of the airfield is being started. U. S. forces began moving N. toward Sunday Inlet and Bairoko where additional enemy forces may offer resistance.

(B) New Britain

During the night of 3-4 August, 1 RAAF PBV dropped 4 250-lb. depth charges, 4 250-lb. general purpose bombs and 20 20-lb. fragmentation bombs on the runway, dispersal and building areas at Gasmata. No results were observed. The following morning, Cape Gloucester airdrome was bombed by a B-24 on reconnaissance. A heavy explosion and 4 fires in the revetment area were observed after 4 500-lb. bombs had been dropped. Jap barge hide-outs along the Itni River, near Cape Busching, were attacked by 9 B-25's which bombed oil drums and strafed a native village. 3 300-lb. delay bombs were dropped. No results were observed.

(C) New Guinea

On the S. bank of the Francisco River, on 1 August, a B-24 on reconnaissance dropped 4 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs which started fires in enemy supply dumps.

(D) N.E.I.

Selaru airdrome and nearby villages were bombed and strafed, on 4 August, by 3 Dutch B-25's which dropped 18 500-lb. demolition delay bombs and 4 clusters of incendiaries. No results were reported.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 5 August 1943.

I. Northwestern Pacific

Kiska was attacked on 3 August by 1 Adak and 3 Amohitka missions, totalling 5 B-25's, 7 P40's and 12 P-38's. 15-tons of bombs were dropped on N. Head, the runway, the main camp, seaplane hangar area, radio and power station. Hits were observed on all but the last 2 targets where near hits were registered. Little Kiska and S. Head were strafed.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) New Britain

On the night of 2-3 August, an RAAF PBY attacked 2 unidentified vessels 14 miles WSW of Cape Gloucester, scoring hits on 1 of them after releasing 2 260-lb. general purpose bombs and 3 250-lb. depth charges. On the afternoon of 3 August, 10 of 20 Jap barges in Borgen Bay, just E. of Cape Gloucester, were destroyed by 9 B-25's which released 84 300-lb. demolition delay bombs. The other 10 barges were damaged and destruction of a possible ammunition cargo was indicated by heavy explosions.

(B) New Guinea

Woodlark Island was raided during the early evening of 1 August by 3 Jap bombers. There was no damage and Allied casualties were slight.

9 A-20's strafed Buiambun and Lokanu Villages, S. of Salamaua, and damaged barges off the coast on the morning of 2 August.

14 B-17's and 9 B-24's, under an escort of fighters attacked Bogadjim and construction camps along the Mindjim and Kofebi Rivers to the S. of Bogadjim on 3 August. Over 55-tons of bombs were dropped and buildings at Bogadjim were destroyed and fires were started along the trails and in the camps. 1 B-17 was lost over Bogadjim and 2 of 3 intercepting Jap fighters were destroyed. 9 barges in the Finschhafen area were destroyed the same day in an attack by 8 B-25's. A launch was also set afire.

Kela Village and the isthmus in the Salamaua area, were bombed and strafed by 9 B-25's which dropped 54 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs. Fires and explosions in a probable ammunition dump were observed.

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(C) N.E.I.

Manokwari, NE corner of the Vogelkop, was bombed on 3 August by 1 B-24 which dropped 10 500-lb. instantaneous bombs and 3 boxes of incendiaries. 3 fighters unsuccessfully attempted to intercept the plane. Another B-24, the same day, dropped 2 500-lb. instantaneous bombs on Jap barracks and stores at Larat Island, E. Tanimbar Group. No results were observed.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 4 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

8 B-24's from Amohitka dropped 28.3-tons of bombs, through the overcast, on North Head, Kiska, at 1555 W, 2 August. Hits were reported in the area. From 1600 to 1700 W, the same afternoon, the main camp, SS base, North and South Head were bombarded from the NE by U. S. BB's and DD's, while cruisers and DD's bombarded the main camp, Gertrude Cove and Little Kiska from the S. An estimated 120 14 inch, 200 8 inch, 600 6 inch and 1,400 5 inch rounds were fired. There was no return fire from the Japs. At 1830 W, 9 B-25's and 8 P-38's from Amohitka, bombed and strafed Little Kiska dropping 160 100-lb. bombs and 11 23-lb. parachute fragmentation bombs. Between 0040 and 0403 W early the next morning, 2 DD's each fired 100 rounds at Gertrude Cove and the main camp area. Light and brief return fire was met by 1 DD.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

The E. end of Munda airfield, New Georgia Island, was reached on 2 August by the left flank of the 43rd Div. while the right flank advanced to the NE end of Bibolo Hill. To the N. of the 43rd Div., the 37 Div. advanced along the entire front. Elements of the 25th Div. have been dispersed in the assembly areas on the N. flank. U. S. forces at Enogai are making every effort to thwart a Jap attempt to flee Munda to the N.

On Kolombangara Island, Vila was bombed on the night of 2 August by a single PBV. No results were observed.

(B) New Britain

The night of 1-2 August, 60 miles S. of Gasmata, an RAAF PBV on reconnaissance bombed a DD and another warship, dropping 4 250-lb. depth-charges. Hits on the DD were reported. On 2 August, 5 RAAF Beaufighters strafed Gasmata airdrome, silencing 1 A/A position and damaging 2 others. The airdrome was also attacked by 18 RAAF P-40's and 6 RAAF A-20's which sank 2 barges, damaged others and partially destroyed 3 jetties along the coast.

Photographs of the Rabaul area that morning, showed 264 planes in the area and 15 warships (including 2 CA's of the "Atago" and "Mogami" class and 1 CL of the "Jintsu" class) and 14 AK's.

(C) New Guinea

On 2 August, 6 B-17's dropped 32 500-lb. instantaneous demolition bombs on Jap supply installations at Hansa Bay. 2 large fires were started. 13 B-25's, covered by 14 P-38's, swept the coast of Huon Peninsula, from Saidor to Lae the same day, destroying 6 barges and a launch. 11 of 14 intercepting Jap fighters were destroyed and 1 probably destroyed. 1 B-25 crashed.

During the morning of 2 August, Finschhafen airdrome was attacked by a B-24 which dropped 4 500-lb. bombs with unobserved results. The same day, 11 B-24's sank 2 barges, destroyed a fuel dump and started a number of fires in the Lae Harbor and waterfront area. 98 500-lb. bombs were dropped. At mid-day, 8 B-17's and 17 B-24's dropped 84-tons of bombs on Jap positions in the Salamaua area. Salamaua airdrome was shelled by Allied artillery and Jap guns, grounded aircraft and the Francisco River bridge were damaged.

(D) N.E.I.

Boela, Ceram, was bombed on the night of 31 July by a single RAAF PBV which dropped 10 20-lb. fragmentation and 2 30-lb. incendiary bombs. There were no observed results. Keaukwa Village, near Timika, was bombed and strafed by 2 RAAF A-29's on 2 August. 10 100-lb. bombs were dropped. No results were observed.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking a 4,000-ton Jap AK.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 3 August 1943

I. Northwestern Pacific

Through solid overcast, 7 B-24's from Adak dropped 83 250-lb. bombs on the main camp area at Kiska at 1443 W, 1 August.

II. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At Iringila, just S. of Pakoi Bay on NW Vella Lavella Island in the New Georgia area, the Japs were reported, on 30 July, to have retired, leaving only an observation post where 100 men have previously been reported.

On 1 August, U. S. ground forces were reported to have advanced along the Munda line generally. The L. flank of the S. portion of the line, held by the 43rd Div., progressed 1,200-yards and the R. flank 500 yards. A large amount of Jap booty was seized. On the N. flank, the 37th Div. advanced about 200-yards on its L. flank and about 500-yards on the R., except for the extreme R. flank held by the 148th Inf. The 27th Inf. CT. has reinforced our forces. U. S. positions on Rendova were the objective of a 2 plane Jap raid on the evening of 31 July. 1 raider was shot down. The following day, these positions were twice attacked by Jap dive bombers and fighters. No damage was done and there were no casualties. 3 Jap dive bombers were destroyed by U. S. fighters and A/A fire.

On the afternoon of 1 August, shipping in the Buin area was attacked by 18 TBF's and 11 SBD's under an escort of 12 P-40's, 12 F4U's and 31 F4F's. The planes reported setting afire an AK or AP, hitting 1 AO and sinking 8 barges. Subsequent photographs indicated 2 less vessels in the area than shown in photographs taken prior to the attack. 1 of 25 to 30 intercepting Zeros was destroyed. 1 P-40 was also lost. About the same time, 20 B-24's under an escort of 8 P-40's, 8 P-38's and 16 F4U's attacked Kahili airdrome. 6 fires were started. Another B-24, failing to reach Kahili, dropped its bombs on Webster Cove, Kolombangara Island. Vila was bombed that night by 2 PBY's. No results were observed.

The following day, 2 August, at 0745 L, the E. and W. shores of Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia Island, were attacked by 12 B-25's and 6 B-17's under an escort of 21 F4U's and 8 P-40's. 72 300-lb. bombs were dropped by the B-25's and 48 500-lb. bombs by the B-17's. A number of fires and 1 large explosion was reported. At 1240 L the same day, near Webster Cove, 4 B-25's

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escorted by 16 F4U's strafed a burned out hulk which had previously been considered a possible camouflaged AK. Later in the afternoon, at 1608 L, Jap supply areas along the W. side of Webster Cove were bombed by 12 B-25's and 8 B-24's under an escort of 8 P-40's and 24 F4U's. Fires were started after approximately 140 bombs fell in the target area.

(B) New Britain

On the afternoon of 31 July, 9 A-20's attacked Jap barge concentrations in the Cape Gloucester area and bombed and strafed enemy villages. 5 barges were destroyed and fires were started at 1 village. The next morning, 2 RAAF A-20's bombed buildings at Gasmata, dropping 4 500-lb. bombs and 4 250-lb. delay bombs. Direct hits were scored on 2 buildings and a small boat was strafed.

(C) New Guinea

At Salamaua, the night of 25-26 July, 300 Japs were reported to have arrived in 4 barges. Las airdrome was bombed on 1 August by a single B-24 on reconnaissance which dropped 6 500-lb. demolition bombs. No results were observed.

(D) N.E.I.

1 RAAF PBV strafed buildings at the oil port of Boela, Ceram, during the early hours of 1 August. Small fires were reported.

R.A. Boone.

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 2 August 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

Jap A/A positions on Bibolo Hill, Munda area of New Georgia Island, were the targets for 34 TBF's, which dropped 500-lb. bombs, and 35 SBD's, which dropped 1,000-lb. bombs, between 0755 and 0800 L on 31 July. 1 direct hit on an A/A gun was reported. 4 F4U's, 20 F4F's, 18 P-39's and 13 P-40's escorted the attacks. 2 P-40's were shot down when 30 Zeros intercepted. 1 pilot was rescued.

Vila was attacked at 1518 L the same day, by 5 B-17's followed by 22 TBF's. Bivouac areas and A/A positions were bombed. Later, 25 SBD's bombed Stanmore Plantation, NE of Vila airfield and 22 B-25's bombed A/A positions near Vila runway and bivouac areas. 4 SBD's and 2 TBF's were damaged by A/A fire but all planes returned safely. 16 P-40's, 32 F4F's and 16 F4U's escorted these attacks.

At Buka airdrome, photographs taken at noon on 31 July, revealed 3 fighters and 6 medium bombers. 40 miles W. of Buka, 3 Jap DD's heading SE, were unsuccessfully attacked by a B-24 on reconnaissance. 8 covering Zeros were also unsuccessful in their attack on the B-24.

At 0945 L on 1 August, Jap gun positions and dumps in the Munda area were attacked by 18 SBD's and 18 TBF's escorted by 12 P-40's and 16 F4U's. The SBD's dropped 500-lb. bombs, hitting an ammunition dump and silencing an A/A gun. The TBF's also hit dump areas with 1,000-lb. bombs. All our planes returned safely.

(B) New Britain

On 31 July, 7 B-25's swept the coast of New Britain from Borgen Bay to Cape Busching, destroying 7 barges and setting fire to a supply dump.

(C) New Guinea

On the night of 29-30 July, Finschhafen town and installations and 4 barges in the harbor were bombed and strafed by an Allied PBV. The following morning, 7 barges in Hanisch Harbor were destroyed by 9 B-25's and 9 A-20's which also bombed other Jap barge concentrations in the area. Camouflage and dense foliage prevented accurate observation of results. The next day, 31 July, Hanisch Harbor was attacked by 9 B-25's which dropped 16 300-lb. bombs and destroyed a building. The planes also strafed Jap buildings and positions at Finschhafen.

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(D) N.E.I.

Waingapoe, Soemba Island, was attacked on 31 July by 6 B-24's which dropped 51 500-lb. bombs and 18 boxes of incendiaries. Fires were started in the town and jetty area. Wetar Island, N. of Portuguese Timor, was attacked by 1 of 7 B-25's which vainly sought Lautem. The Wetar radio station was believed to have been bombed.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

*Previously reported*  
A U. S. SS returned from patrol reports damaging a 4,500-ton enemy APA and possibly damaging a 3,700-ton enemy AK.

R.A. Boone.

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WASHINGTON

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Japanese Naval Activities  
Summary as of 0800, 1 August 1943.

I. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

At 1430 L, 29 July, the Munda area was raided by 36 TBF's covered by 16 F4F's. 500 lb. bombs were dropped on the target area from a low altitude.

There are indications that enemy reinforcements will arrive to assist in the defense of Munda. Some progress was reported toward Munda on the south flank and in the center by the 43rd Division but no advance was made in the north. On 31 July, our patrols were active in the area between Bairoko and Munda in order to discover enemy supply lines between these positions. The Japs show no desire to counter attack in the Bairoko area and are waiting in strong defensive positions.

During the night of 29-30 July, our PT's strafed and possibly sank 2 enemy barges off Meresu Cove, West Kolombangara, and the following night our PT's sank an enemy auxiliary vessel approximately 100 feet long in the same area.

At Buri (N. tip of Ganongpa Island) the Japs are reported in strength.

The new air strip on Bonis Plantation (S. side of Buka Passage) has been cleared an additional 1200 feet. There <sup>was</sup> 3 medium bombers, 3 dive bombers and 10 fighters on Buka airdrome on 30 July.

6 enemy barges with <sup>an</sup> escort vessel were attacked at a point approximately 50 miles W. of Buka by a Beaufighter on 30 July. One barge was reported hit.

A force of 9 B24's covered by 62 fighters heavily bombed Ballale during the afternoon of 30 July causing 6 fires near the runway. 25 Jap fighters were in the air but no effective interception was attempted. 1 F4U crashed near Gizo on the return trip. There were 2 DD's, 2 medium AK's and 9 barges in the Buin-Faisi area. Some clearing and surfacing is indicated on the new air strip at Tenekau (30 miles NW of Kieta).

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(B) New Britain

During the afternoon of 30 July, Gasmata building area was bombed by 4 A20's which later attacked a loading barge off Cape Dampier (E. of Gasmata). The barge was set afire and was settling.

Enemy barge concentrations off W. New Britain, between Borgen Bay and Cape Busching, were attacked 29 July by 8 B-26's, 4 B-25's and 1 B-24. 4 barges were destroyed and enemy shore installations were also attacked. The following day, Unea Island (Vitu group) was bombed by a single B-24.

(C) New Guinea

During the early morning of 29 July, our PT's attacked 30 enemy barges in Vitiaz Strait and 7 were reported sunk.

The following day, 6 enemy bombers escorted by 19 fighters ineffectively bombed and strafed Bena Bena. No casualties or damage resulted.

On 30 July, 24 B-24's set out to attack Salamaua. Bad weather forced 18 of the bombers to release their load in the sea while 6 B-24's dropped 48 1000 lb. bombs on the south end of Salamaua Isthmus. Another B-24 bombed the Salamaua area during the afternoon. At the same time 2 enemy dive bombers attacked our positions in the Bobdubi area. Allied ground forces captured strong positions overlooking enemy positions at Orodubi.

Finschaufen and 4 barges in the harbor were bombed and strafed in the night by a Catalina.

(D) N. E. I.

2 small islands off the SE coast of Ceram were strafed during the night of 29-30 July by 2 Catalinas. Results were not reported.

II. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returned from patrol in the SW. Pacific area reports damaging a 4500 ton enemy AP and possibly damaging a 3700 ton enemy AK.

R. A. Boons

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