

MR 203 (3) Sec. 10 JAPANESE NAVAL ACTIVITIES

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1944

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

January-February, 1944

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 29 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

On 28 February Rongelap, Mejit and Utirik were bombed by Allied search planes. Buildings at both Rongelap and Utirik were demolished by a ton of bombs.

(B) Ocean & Nauru

Nauru was bombed by an Allied search plane 26 February.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On the night of 25 February, Kessa Plantation, El. Buka, was raided by U.S. Navy PBY's, which also bombed Poporang and Motupena Point, and attacked barges S. of the Jaba River.

On 26 February, in EN Bougainville, enemy-held villages (Monoitu, Mawaraka and 2 others) were attacked by 12 fighter bombers. The same day, near Mawaraka, enemy coastal guns were hit by 6 U.S. Navy SBD's.

On 27 February, N. part of Magine Island, off Torokina River, was occupied by U.S. ground forces.

(B) New Ireland and Admiralty Islands

Later reports of the U.S. DD action off Kavieng on 24 February during the night state that 1 small AK, 1 schooner and 1 tug were sunk. (It is not clear whether this is in addition to reports in previous Naval Summaries).

On 27 February Los Negros Island was raided by a single B-24 on patrol. 2 tons of bombs and 15 bottles were dropped.

On 28 February Momote was attacked by 11 B-24's which dropped 32 tons of bombs on supply dumps and the airfield. Later the same day, Momote and Lorengau were raided by 2 B-24's on patrol. More than 3 tons of bombs and 50 bottles were dropped, and the targets strafed. Also 28 February, off Duke of York, 1 enemy barge was sunk and another damaged in a strafing attack by F4U's.

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(C) New Britain

On the morning of 26 February, Rabaul was again heavily attacked by Sopac planes, with Vunapope as the concentration point. For the 5th consecutive day, there was no enemy air interception.

In the first attack, Vunapope was hit by 22 TBF's and 52 SRD's covered by 59 fighters (16 P-40's, 8 P6P's, 35 F4U's). 43 tons of bombs were dropped on shipping targets and supply dumps. A possible ammunition dump, warehouses, buildings, a pier and several barges were hit, and explosions caused. A/A fire brought down 1 SRD, but its crew was rescued.

In the second attack, Vunapope fuel and supply dumps and buildings were hit by 22 B-25's and 16 F4U's. 31 tons of bombs were dropped.

In the third attack, the same target was hit by 24 B-24's covered by 16 F4U's. 86 tons of bombs were dropped starting fires. 3 piers were probably wrecked and 4 big warehouses were destroyed. 8 B-24's were damaged by A/A fire.

In the fourth attack, at midday, Vunapope was again hit by 17 P-38's which hit gun positions with 500-lb. bombs, and then strafed Rapopo targets.

Also 26 February N. of Arawa minor patrol activity was reported near Mielelek and the airfield. An enemy m/g post was reported destroyed.

Preliminary reports on 27 February on the damage caused to Vunapope in the air attacks showed the power house, a repair shop, 3 warehouses and 119 buildings destroyed.

(D) New Guinea

On 25 February Alexishafen airfield was attacked by 12 A-20's covered by 7 P-47's which dropped over 2 tons of bombs and strafed the target. Buildings were hit, and 1 bomber on the ground was wrecked and another plane damaged.

On 26 February, Kepler Point, 15 miles N. of Saidor, was reached by advanced U.S. patrols, which reported meeting some Japs and finding 20 more dead Japs. Meanwhile, in the Timbe River area, 40 more enemy dead were found by Australian units. The same day Muschu Island was raided by PBV's on patrol. 3 tons of bombs were dropped on buildings and barracks. Only rifle fire from the ground was encountered.

Also 26 February Sepik River villages were attacked by 12 A-20's which strafed with .50 calibre, while SW of Newak, Marui and Burui were raided by 4 Allied P-40's which dropped over 1 ton of bombs and strafed. Fires were started and buildings hit. Slight A/A fire was met.

The same day, in the Madang area, 3 enemy barges were attacked by 8 strafing P-39's.

On 27 February N. of Saidor a large enemy barge was sunk by U.S. PT's. The same day Tadjai airfield, E. of Aitape, was attacked by 20 B-24's

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which dropped 80 tons of bombs. 9 planes on the ground were wrecked and 9 more damaged. An explosion and fires were caused.

Also 27 February Modilon Plantation near Madang was raided by an unstated number of B-24's. The same day, Nubia was hit by 5 B-25's which dropped more than 6 tons of bombs on the runway and dispersal areas. Intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

Alexishafen and Madang airfields were attacked by 23 Allied A-31's and 14 Allied P-40's the morning of 27 February. A total of 14 tons of bombs were dropped and the targets were strafed. 2 planes on the ground were wrecked, while offshore, a barge and a schooner were set afire. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met.

(E) N. E. 1.

On 27 February at midday, Waingapu, Sumba Island, was attacked by 7 B-24's which dropped 13¹/₂ tons of bombs on the town and radio station. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0000, 28 February 1944

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

On 26 February 3 U.S. B-34's attacked enemy positions in Southern Paramushiru (Suribashiwan and Karabuzaki) through heavy overcast. A/A fire and searchlights were observed. All planes returned.

II. Central Pacific Area

(A) Caroline Islands

On 27 February revised estimates on enemy shipping loss figures due to the U.S. attacks on Truk on 17 - 18 February increase the vessels sunk by 4, for a total of 23 sunk. Vessels probably sunk have been reduced by 1 to a new total of 6. In addition, 6 vessels are now shown as burning, 3 burning and beached, and 2 beached.

Details are:

Sunk: 2 light cruisers (CL), 3 Destroyers (DD), 1 Ammunition Ship (AS), 7 tankers (AO), (4 large, 1 small), 2 gunboats (PG), 8 cargo vessels (AK). The seaplane tender (AV) previously reported sunk, now is shown as not sunk.

Probably sunk: 1 light cruiser or destroyer (CL or DL), 1 large tanker (AO), 4 cargo vessels (AK). The total is reduced by 1 tanker.

In addition, 2 large tankers (AO) and 1 very large transport (AP) were reported to be burning furiously, 3 cargo vessels were reported to be burning, one small tanker and 2 cargo vessels (AK) were reported burning and beached, and 2 cargo vessels (AK) were reported as beached.

(B) Marshall Islands

At midday, 26 February, at 1325H Tarao was bombed by 6 B-34's. 7 tons of bombs were dropped. Some A/A fire was encountered.

The morning of 27 February at 1005H Mille was attacked by 12 fighter-bombers. 5 tons of bombs were dropped, and small craft were strafed. The same day at 1159H Motje was bombed by 12 B-25's which dropped 11 tons of bombs in the runway area resulting in 1 large explosion. There was no A/A fire.

III. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

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On the morning of 26 February, in the Torokina area, enemy troops E. of the Sava River were attacked twice by 12 TBF's which dropped 7 tons of bombs. Good results were reported in this air support for ground activity.

(B) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

On 25 February Momote airfield was attacked by 9 B-25's which dropped 9 tons of bombs and strafed. No enemy activity was seen. The same day off New Hanover a lugger was set on fire in an attack by B-25's. These planes also destroyed a Jap bomber about 50 miles S. of Kavieng.

Also 25 February, in the Feni Islands, 2 beached enemy barges were damaged in a strafing attack by 24 Sopac fighters. The morning of the same day, SW of Kavieng, U.S. DD's sank 2 80-ft. vessels. (It is not clear whether this is in addition to sinkings previously reported.)

On 26 February, off Duke of York, a 150-ft. AK was left sinking after an attack by a medium bomber (Ventura) on patrol. 3 direct hits were made on the ship, and the stern was blown off.

Borop airfield was raided the afternoon of 27 February at 1400L by Sopac heavy bombers (B-24's) on patrol. 2 tons of bombs and 24 hand grenades were dropped on A/A gun positions.

(C) New Britain

The morning of 25 February, Bangula Bay villages were attacked by 7 Allied A-20's which dropped almost 4 tons of bombs and strafed. Huts were wrecked. Meanwhile, off Millaumez Peninsula, 12 Jap barges were strafed by 2 Beaufighters.

The Rabaul area was attacked again 25 February. Matupi was hit by 18 Sopac B-25's which dropped 27 tons of bombs, hitting gun positions. Rapopo was hit by 21 Sopac B-24's and 6 B-25's with excellent results reported. The heavy bombers dropped 76 tons of bombs. 16 F4U's and 17 P-38's escorted our bombers. There was no enemy air interception. Also the morning of the same day, S. of Adler Bay, in the Rabaul area, 5 bombs were dropped by a B-24 on patrol.

During the night of 25 February Rabaul area was raided by a Sopac bomber, which bombed Lakunai, Rapopo, Koravat and Cape Gazelle lightly.

(D) New Guinea

Markar Island was raided by a single B-24 on patrol 25 February.

At noon, 25 February, Newak was attacked by 18 B-24's which dropped 68 tons of bombs on gun positions. In addition, an ammunition dump exploded. Large fires were caused. At the same time, Newak airfields, particularly Boram, were hit by a total of 48 B-25's, 21 A-20's and 31 fighters (16 P-40's, 15 P-47's). More than 67 tons of bombs were dropped and the target was strafed. Gun positions and supply dumps were hit, and many fires started.

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At least 3 Jap planes were destroyed on the ground. Our planes reported that in the area were 2 small AK's, 3 floatplanes and 50 - 75 barges.

The same day, Atemble and Brima Plantation areas were raided by 6 P-39's, which strafed and killed some enemy troops.

On 26 February, N. of Gauss Point, 74 more dead Japs were found by Australian units, while N. of Sador, 20 dead Japs were found by U.S. units.

The same day Newak airfields were hit again -- But and Lagua received 68 tons of bombs from 17 B-24's. 10 planes on the ground were wrecked, and others damaged. Large fires were started. Slight to moderately intense A/A fire was met.

Madang was raided by a B-24 26 February. 4 tons of bombs were dropped on the area. Madang and Alexishafen were also hit by 9 B-25's which dropped almost 10 tons of bombs and strafed supply dumps and bivouacs. Fires were caused. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met.

Alexishafen airfield was attacked the morning of 26 February by 22 Allied A-31's covered by 15 P-40's. More than 14 tons of bombs were dropped. A lugger off-shore was also strafed.

(L) N. E. I.

In the afternoon of 26 February, Bandanaira, in the Banda Islands was attacked by 5 B-24's which dropped 5 1/2 tons of bombs. Explosions and fires were caused.

IV. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 7000 ton AK, a 8500 ton AK, a 9500 ton AO, and a 5000 ton AK. (Total sunk: 30,000 tons).

A second U.S. SS reports sinking 2 AK's. (This may be the same as a U.S. SS report in the Daily Summary for 25 February 1944).

A third U.S. SS reports damaging a 10,000 ton AO.

A fourth U.S. SS reports damaging a 7500 ton AK.

A fifth SS reports sinking a large naval AO, 1 AE and 3 AK's, for a total of 40,000 tons.

A sixth SS reports sinking 2 AK's for a total of 11,000 tons, and a sampan. In addition, a 9000 ton AK was probably sunk.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 27 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Caroline Islands

On 24 February at 1310M Kusaie was attacked by 11 B-24's which dropped 19 tons of bombs on the dock area, radio station and barracks, causing explosions. No A/A fire was met.

At 0831M, Kusaie was hit by 4 PB4Y's which sank a 1500-ton AK and damaged a 100-ton escort vessel. Shore targets were also strafed. Accurate A/A fire caused slight damage to all 4 bombers. (This is evidently a later report of the Kusaie raid reported in the (Daily Summary, 26 February 1944).

At midday 26 February (1133M - 1230M), Ponape was attacked by 24 B-24's which dropped 30 tons of bombs. The seaplane base, fuel supplies, a hangar and the dock area were hit, and a medium AK was damaged. Intense, heavy-calibre A/A fire caused slight damage to 3 B-24's.

The same day at 1025M Kusaie was raided by a single B-24 which dropped 1½ tons of bombs. No A/A fire was met.

(B) Marshall Islands

On 24 February at midday, 1145M, Wotje was attacked by 5 B-34's which dropped 6 tons of bombs. At 1500M, Taroa received 12 tons of bombs from 12 B-25's. At 1405M, Mille was raided by 4 P-40's which strafed small boats. No A/A fire was met in any of the above attacks.

At 1217M - 1820M, Enidj, Jaluit, was attacked by 17 B-24's which dropped 25 tons of bombs. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met. The barracks area was hit and fires started.

Wotje was attacked the morning of 25 February at 1109M by 9 B-25's which dropped 6½ tons of bombs on the runways. No A/A fire was met.

At 1125M, Taroa was raided by 2 B-34's which dropped 2 tons of bombs on the airfield. No A/A fire was met. At 1020M, Jaluit atoll was hit by 12 A-24's covered by 14 P-40's. Enybor and Aineman Islands received 13 tons of bombs, and fires were started.

The morning of 26 February at 1142M Wotje was attacked by 9 B-25's which dropped 9 tons of bombs on the runways. No A/A fire was met. At 1215M the same day Taroa and the island to the N. was hit by 5 B-34's which encountered moderately intense A/A fire.

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At 0856M, 28 February, Tinian Island, Jaluit Atoll, was attacked by 11 P-40's which dropped 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs. Fires were started. In the lagoon a 35-foot boat was strafed and sunk. No A/A fire was met.

At 0636M and again a few hours later, Mille was raided by 2 B-25's which dropped 2 tons of bombs in each raid. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered, but our planes suffered no casualties or damage.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 24 February Piano Mission was raided by Sopac planes on patrol. 6 huts were destroyed. The same day, on the NE coast of Bougainville, Katsinkoveri was raided by U.S. planes, which also hit and damaged a barge off SW Bougainville.

During the night of 24 February Mosiga was shelled by a LCI. The following day Buksa and Sarime were raided by strafing F4U's which encountered some A/A fire. 1 F4U was damaged.

Monoitu and Aitara were raided by 6 P-39's with unobserved results 25 February.

The morning of 25 February at 1050L, in the Torokina area, enemy positions NE. of Piva between the Torokina and Laruma Rivers were bombed by 12 TBF's and 18 SED's. Excellent results were reported. At 1140L, this target was hit again by the same number of planes. About 14 tons of bombs were dropped, with direct hits reported. No A/A fire was met.

The night of 28 February, off Matsunki, Motupena Point, 2 enemy barges were sunk and 3 more probably sunk by U.S. PT's. These barges were loaded with men and supplies. The PT's suffered no damage or casualties, although fire was received from the barges and the shore. Later, 2 of the damaged barges on the beach were strafed and 1 was left burning, in an attack by a PBT.

(B) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

On 23 February Manus Island was bombed by 5 B-25's on patrol. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs were dropped. The following day Momote was raided by a single B-24 which dropped 4 tons of bombs. Results were not observed.

Lorengau was raided 24 February by B-25's on patrol. Also the same day, 12 miles N. of Cape Matanalem, New Hanover, a medium AK was attacked by B-25's on patrol. 2 500-lb. bombs were dropped and the ship was strafed. The ship was reported left sinking.

On 25 February Lorengau airfield was raided by 2 B-25's which dropped 2 tons of bombs.

(C) New Britain

On 24 February, in the Gasmata area, enemy-held islands were raided by 4 Allied P-40's which strafed gun positions. The same day, Gasmata was also hit by B-25's on patrol.

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Also 24 February, in Jacquinot Bay, Mal Mal Mission was raided by 2 Allied Beauforts which dropped about 1 1/2 tons of bombs. The same day, E. of Samarate, Tui Island was raided by an Allied A-20 which bombed and strafed the target.

Gun positions near Ubili were hit and an unreported number of barges sunk by 2 Allied Beaufighters 24 February. The same day, Cape Darpier was attacked by 4 Allied Beauforts which dropped 2 1/2 tons of bombs and strafed buildings.

On 25 February Iboki Plantation was reached by U.S. advanced patrols, which reported meeting no Japs. Also the same day Tui Island was raided by Allied P-40's, which strafed supply dumps.

(D) New Guinea

On 21 February, according to delayed reports, HANSA BAY bivouacs and gun positions were hit by 15 P-47's. Accurate A/A fire was encountered.

On 22 February, according to delayed reports, Madang area was hit by 8 P-39's which bombed and strafed roads and bridges.

Manam Island was raided by a single B-24 23 February. Also the same day, W. of Saidor, Singor village was attacked by 11 Allied A-31's which dropped 5 1/2 tons of bombs and strafed. Most of the village was wrecked.

On 24 February Karker Island was raided by 3 B-24's which dropped 12 tons of bombs on buildings. Explosions were caused. Alexishafen was hit by 4 B-24's which dropped 18 tons of bombs and strafed. 1 Jap bomber on the ground was wrecked. Weather conditions diverted these planes from their primary target, Momote. The same day, W. of Madang on the Ramu River, Annanberg area was raided by 4 P-39's.

On 25 February, Cape Iris and Warai, 3 miles N. of Cape Iris, were captured by our ground units. Sindaman, 8 miles S. of Cape Iris, was also captured. No enemy resistance was encountered.

Also 25 February, Boram airfield was attacked by 21 A-20's and 28 B-25's covered by P-47's and P-40's. Almost 54 tons of bombs were dropped and the target was strafed, with excellent results. 9 Jap planes were destroyed and 5 more strafed. Supply dumps and gun positions were hit, and many fires started.

The same day Hansa Bay gun positions were hit by 17 B-24's which dropped 52 1/2 tons of bombs. At the same time, Madang was attacked by 6 B-24's which dropped 21 tons of bombs on supply dumps.

During the night of 25 February, N. of Madang, 6 enemy barges were sunk by our PT's which encountered slight fire from shore guns.

(E) N. E. I.

On 25 February the S. coast of Timor Island was raided by 9

Allied long-range Beaufighters which attacked observation posts between Bebeloe

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and Benain Rivers.

Also 25 February, H. of Ceram, a 3000 ton AK-AP was attacked by 7 B-24's which dropped 6 tons of bombs and scored near misses.

During the night of 25 February, Saumlaki, Tanimbar Islands, was raided by Allied planes. Results were not reported.

W. L. Dales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 28 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Marianas

Details of the 22-23 February U.S. Task Force attack on
Tinian, Saipan and Guam are:

The U.S. Task Force was first contacted by enemy planes on
the afternoon of 22 February before reaching the objective area and was under
almost constant attack throughout the night and early 23 February morning by
torpedo and low-level bombing attacks. 14 of the enemy planes were shot down
by A/A fire alone during these attacks. Our ships suffered no combat damage.
A total of 24 enemy fighters and 10 medium bombers were shot down by our
planes over the target areas. In addition, 76 bombers and fighters, 3 trans-
port planes, 5 float planes and 3 patrol planes were burned or heavily damaged
on the ground. Included in the enemy losses were 15 medium bombers that landed
at Tinian between attacks. A large ship (previously wrongly identified as a
CV) NW of Saipan was sunk. 1 6,000-ton AK at Tinian exploded and probably sank
and another previously damaged AK was probably sunk. A medium AK was grounded
at Saipan and a small AK was burning. A patrol craft blew up. 5 small escorts
and 2 tugs were damaged. In addition, enemy installations were very heavily
hit. Airdrome areas, radio stations, fuel oil storage and small boats were
all bombed and strafed.

Guam was also attacked by 12 U.S. fighter planes with unreported
results.

Our plane losses were five fighters and 1 TBF.

Our attacks were terminated in the afternoon and our forces
retired with no further enemy attacks that night.

B. Caroline Islands

On 24 February, Kusaie was twice attacked by U.S. search planes.
One of the planes scored a near miss on a small AK and the second search plane
exploded an ammunition dump on Lele Island.

On 25 February Greenwich Island received 1 300-lb. bomb from
a patrol bomber. No activity was observed.

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C. Marshall Islands

As of 25 February, further details of enemy defenses at Eniwetok indicate the enemy had not completed his preparations prior to our landings; nor were the preparations as complete as at Kwajalein. Very little concrete had been used in fortifications, no beach mines, underwater wire nor obstacles were encountered, and some anti-tank mines were encountered away from the beaches.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On the night of 23-24 February U.S. fighter planes on patrol set a barge afire at Kangu (SW of Kahili). The same afternoon 3 U.S. P-39's exploded buildings at Piano Mission (W of Kara). The same day 4 U.S. planes bombed villages SE of Bonis, setting 2 large fires. 4 U.S. P-39's destroyed 2 barges in the Matchin Bay and a patrol plane (Catalina) bombed barges at the Mibo River, destroying 1 and beaching 3 others of 6 sighted.

On 23 February, enemy bivouac areas in the upper Saua River were bombed by B-24's.

On 24 February, at Kuraio Mission, our ground forces were holding the S bank of the Tsinaimutu River, after being given air support to overcome heavy enemy resistance. Patrols to House Kiape made no contacts.

At Rekata Bay, in the Santa Ysabel area, on 21 February, 8 floatplanes covered by 2 Jap fighters were sighted.

B. New Britain

On 22 February, Pora Pora was raided by 18 RAAF Beauforts covered by 12 P-40's and 6 Spitfires.

On 23 February it is reported that the enemy is apparently building trenches and other ground defenses with m/g posts around the SW approach to Gazelle Peninsula.

On the same day Keravat airfield received 20 tons of bombs from 10 Soupac B-25's while 9 other B-25's dropped 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons on Vunakanau airfield. 16 P4U's as cover saw hits on dispersal areas and the runways, causing fires. At the same time 16 P-38's dropped 4 tons of bombs on Vunapope starting fires. No Jap interception was attempted.

Photos the same day disclose only 30 land-based planes, including 7 bombers, on the Rabaul airfields. 1 flying boat and 5 floatplanes were in the harbor in addition to 2 escort vessels, 12 small craft and 360 barges. This is the smallest Jap concentration of shipping and planes seen in this area since enemy occupation.

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During the night of 23 - 24 February, 15 100-lb. bombs were dropped on Rabaul by a bomber on patrol over the area.

On 24 February the Rabaul area was attacked 4 times by Allied planes. The first raid was at 0835 by 60 SBD's and 22 TBF's escorted by 16 P-40's, 11 P6F's and 32 F4U's. 45 tons of bombs were dropped on Vunapope, causing large fires and explosions. An ammunition dump was hit and there was also a possible hit on a power plant. 40 other buildings were claimed damaged. 3 SBD's were damaged by A/A fire. 20 of our fighters strafed an SS heading toward Rabaul off Cape Gazelle.

At 1023 L Tobera airfield received 15 tons from 10 B-25's while 6 other B-25's bombed Keravat. Results were not observed.

At 1040 Rabaul town was raided by 6 B-25's covered by 19 F4U's. 9 tons of bombs were dropped, causing fires. 4 B-25's were slightly damaged by Vunakanau A/A fire.

At 1230 14 P-38's dropped over 3 tons of bombs on Vunapope, causing 10 small fires.

On the morning of 24 February, 5 RAAF A-20's bombed and strafed the Cape Hoskins area with good results.

The same day Allied patrols E of Arawe encountered groups of Japs up to 100 strong in the Pulie River area. Marines from Cape Gloucester reached 4 1/2 miles SE of Cape Raoult toward Rein Bay. Only a few Japs were reported in this area.

The same day a B-24 on patrol dropped 5 500-lb. bombs on the Duke of York Islands with unobserved results.

C. New Ireland and Admiralties

On 22 February, Momote airfield was raided by a B-25 which dropped 1 ton of bombs, while the same day Namesi Bay was raided by 4 medium bombers which hit buildings. The Cape St. George radar station was strafed by 3 B-34's. 1 of our planes was downed but the crew was picked up by U.S. DD's operating in the area.

On the night of 22-23 February, 2 B-34's destroyed a pier and bombed 10 buildings at Labur Bay, W of Namatanai.

The Cape St. George Area was bombed on 24 February by 24 B-24's escorted by 19 F4U's, when the Vunakanau airfield was covered by clouds. 28 tons of 100-lb. bombs were dropped. On the same day a 60 ft. barge off Kabakadas, S of Borpop on the T coast, was strafed by 11 F4U's. This barge was set afire and another was smoking. 1 F4U was seen down off New Ireland.

Early on the morning of 25 February, U.S. DD's sank a large AK 10 miles N of Cape Matanalen, New Hanover Islands. This was previous to the shelling of Kavieng.

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On 25 February U.S. search planes saw no aircraft at Kavieng and the airfield was not operational. Some heavy A/A fire was encountered which caused slight damage to our plane. Only wrecks of vessels were seen on the harbor.

D. New Guinea

On 23 February Wewak was attacked by 16 B-24's covered by 27 P-38's and 31 P-47's. Over 50 tons of bombs were dropped at A/A positions. Guns were silenced and fires started. 23 RAAF Vengeances and 18 P-40's bombed and strafed the Mubia-Hansa Bay area. A/A positions and Jap grounded planes were the targets. 2 Vengeances were lost due to A/A fire.

On the morning of 24 February But and Dagua airfields were raided by 36 A-20's. A/A positions, supply centers, barges and 14 planes on the ground were damaged by bombing and strafing attacks.

Sien (S of Gabuni), Saidor area, was entered by troops of the U.S. 120th Infantry. On the trails inland from Gabi 50 dead Japs were found by Australian troops.

On the night of 24-25 February Maschu Island received about 20 fragmentation bombs from an Allied patrol plane. The same plane met heavy enemy A/A fire near the mouth of the Sepik River.

E. Netherlands East Indies

On 23 February at Balikpapan 4 large AO's and 1 large and 2 small unidentified vessels and many barges were seen by Allied patrol planes.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS has reported sinking 2 enemy AP's and an AK by torpedo, and a motor sampan and a sailboat by gunfire for a total of 16,500 tons. In addition the SS damaged a large AO and 2 AK's for a total of 11,000 tons.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 25 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Jaluit atoll was twice attacked by a U.S. Task group 20 February. At Emidj, hangars were hit, and 2 large fuel fires were started. A hit on the radio station also started a fire. Barracks and munition buildings were also hit, and 1 exploded. A small AK was beached near the island and left burning.

Then Ennybor storage area was hit with unobserved results. The Jabor power station and boat yard areas were hit. Heavy A/A fire was encountered and damaged 4 planes, but we had no losses.

(B) Ocean and Nauru

Search planes were over both Ocean and Nauru Islands 22 February. At Ocean, trenches and barbed wire were sighted near South Point. Some A/A fire was encountered. At Nauru, 1 ton of bombs was dropped. Here too some A/A fire was encountered.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 21 February the Puriata River area was bombarded by U.S. LCM's. The following day targets outside the Torokina perimeter were hit by 5 dive-bombers (A-31's or SED's) which wrecked a bridge over the Puriata River. Also 22 February at Tonolei supply dumps and gun positions were attacked by 4 P-39's, which started fires. On the night of 22 February the Puriata River area was again bombarded by LCM's.

On 23 February in the Torokina area, Kuraio Mission was reached by U.S. ground units traveling by boat. An unreported number of enemy troops were met here, but further details were not reported.

N. Buka Passage and Lomanmanu Mission were shelled with mortars by our PT's the night of 23 February. Meanwhile, Motupena Point was shelled by a LCM.

The same night, Mibo and Camai Rivers areas were shelled by a LCM. Also 23 February during the night in the same area, 4 Jap barges out of 6 - 8 sighted were driven ashore in an attack by a PBV.

In the afternoon of 24 February at 1505L, Kuraio Mission area was attacked by 20 dive-bombers (Dauntless) to aid ground forces in that area. 10 tons of bombs were dropped, and enemy fire in that region ceased.

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(B) Green Islands

On 24 February U.S. ground forces landed on Minipel and Sau Islands. An enemy bivouac area was reported on the NE tip of Minipel, while at Sau, our forces engaged the enemy, killing 14 Japs. Our casualties were only 4 slightly wounded men.

(C) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

During the night of 21 February between Duke of York and New Ireland an enemy AK was attacked by a Sopac patrol plane. Results were not reported.

On 22 February the Cape St. George radio station was strafed by 63 Sopac fighters (20 P-40's, 43 P4U's) on their homeward trip from the Rabaul strike. The morning of the same day photos of Kavieng showed only 4 barges in the harbor. Both runways at the airfield were unserviceable and only 7 planes were seen on the ground.

On 23 February observation of Manus and Los Negros indicated that enemy forces there may have been evacuated. There was no Jap activity noticeable, and airfields were unserviceable and overgrown.

On the night of 23 February, 70 miles NE of Kavieng, an enemy ship was attacked and hit directly by a Sopac patrol bomber. This ship was one of 5 headed NE.

Kavieng was once more shelled by U.S. DD's the morning of 25 February (L time). It was reported that 1 enemy ship was sunk, 2 were set afire, and several more hit. Fires were also started in the Kavieng stores area. Enemy shore batteries were apparently present in much greater number than previously, and caused minor damage to our ships. However, some of these shore batteries were evidently put out of commission.

(D) New Britain

On the night of 21 February Rapopo and Duke of York were raided by a single patrol plane, which encountered slight A/A fire but met no searchlights.

Later reports of the 3 strikes on Rabaul on 22 February (Naval Summary for 24 February 1944) state that 70 U.S. Navy dive and torpedo bombers (23 TBF's 47 TBD's) participated in the Keravia Bay attack on shipping at 1020 L. 18 hits were reported scored on 8 ships. 2 ships were observed afire after the attack. We lost 1 TBF and 1 TBD (whose crew was rescued) and 5 TBF's were damaged - all by accurate and intense A/A fire.

At 1035 L, Lakunai was hit with 35 tons of bombs from 24 medium bombers (B-25's) covered by 36 U.S. Navy fighters (28 P4U's, 8 P6F's). There was no enemy air interception.

At 1057 L, Keravat was attacked by heavy bombers (B-24's) covered by 35 fighters (16 P-38's, 19 P4U's). 83 tons of bombs were dropped on revetments and runways. Explosions and fires resulted. There was no enemy air interception.

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On 22 February Iboki Plantation, Roin Bay, was again attacked by 42 B-25's and 18 B-24's. About 108 tons of bombs were dropped, with excellent results reported. Weather conditions prevented those planes from reaching their primary target, Komote.

On 22 February Pora Jora was raided by 9 more A-20's, which started fires, while Talasea was raided by 2 P-39's.

Talasea area was raided by 4 P-39's 23 February, while off Gusmata enemy-held islands were attacked by 4 strafing Allied fighters (Spitfires).

The same day N. of Arawe U.S. ground forces landed at Mielelek, and were reported mopping up a small Jap unit. Also 23 February Talasea area was strafed by U.S. PT's. In Open Bay at Torive Mission enemy defense works were reported being constructed 23 February.

Before dawn 25 February, L time, Vunapope was shelled by U.S. DP's for 30 minutes with 2,000 rounds. In addition, Matupi and Cape Gazelle were lightly shelled. Fires were started and several explosions caused. Sporadic fire was received from enemy shore batteries, one of which was knocked out. We suffered no damage or casualties.

(E) New Guinea

On 19 February according to delayed reports, Hensa Bay targets were attacked by 21 P-40's which dropped more than 6 tons of bombs and strafed. A jetty was hit, a gun battery silenced, and a barge and a lugger were sunk.

Alexishafen was heavily attacked by 17 B-24's which dropped 56 tons of bombs on supply dumps and personnel areas 20 February. A lugger was also hit. Fires were started. Meagre and inaccurate A/A fire was met. The same day, Mintjim Roads were hit by another B-24, which dropped 7 bombs. (These appear to be different attacks than those previously reported (Naval Summaries, 23 and 24 February), although it is not clear.)

Also 20 February SE of Gabumi enemy-held villages and trails were attacked by 9 A-31's which dropped $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs.

On 22 February, near Ladang, Modilon Road was attacked by 18 more B-24's which dropped 60 tons of bombs. The same day off Bagabag Island boats were attacked by 2 strafing P-39's.

Karkar Island was raided by a B-25 and a B-24 on patrol 22 February. Buildings were hit with 2 tons of bombs.

On 23 February in the Saidor area, Teteri was captured by U.S. ground forces which launched an attack from their bridgehead at the Mot River. 42 Japs were killed and 50 more found dead. At the same time, our patrols in the area S. of Gabumi were active. It was reported that the track westward from Cape Iris was being heavily used. Meanwhile, SW of Gali, 57 more Japs were killed by native units.

Also 23 February, S. of Snidor, villages were attacked by 22 Allied dive-bombers (A-31's) and 12 fighters (P-40's). $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs were dropped and the targets strafed. Moderate to intense A/A fire was encountered.

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The same day, SN of Newak on the Sepik River, Burui airfield was attacked by 20 A-20's which dropped almost 29 tons of bombs and strafed. Fires were started and buildings wrecked.

At Alexishafen it was reported that both runways were unserviceable and that 9 - 15 unserviceable planes were near the fields.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS has reported 3 possible torpedo hits in an already damaged enemy CV. The same SS has reported sinking an AK.

A second SS has reported sinking a large enemy AP, and an AK. The same SS also reports damaging a large AK and a large AO.

A third SS reports sinking a 6000 ton AK.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 24 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marianas Islands

According to a Pacific Fleet communique, a strong Pacific Fleet task force, including several hundred carrier-based aircraft, struck Saipan and Tinian Islands in the Marianas group on 23 February, E. longitude time. Further details are not now available.

(B) Caroline Islands

The morning of 22 February (1027 - 1210 L.) Ponape was attacked by 21 U.S. B-24's. Many fires and an explosion in the town and on the waterfront areas resulted from the 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs dropped. A/A fire encountered was slight. 1 large and 1 medium AK, and many small craft were observed in the harbor.

The same morning Kusaie was bombed by 3 B-24's. No A/A fire was encountered. 3 AK's were noted in the harbor. Late the same afternoon at 1845 L the shipping was attacked by 1 B-24 which dropped 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs with unobserved results, because of darkness and overcast. Intense A/A fire was encountered.

A U.S. search-plane bombed and strafed Pingelap on 22 February.

(C) Marshall Islands

The morning of 22 February our forces landed on Parry Island, last of the islands of Eniwetok atoll to remain in enemy hands. The landings were preceded by extremely heavy bombardment both from the air and from naval vessels. By evening at 1930 M the whole island was captured.

The enemy forces on Eniwetok atoll prior to our attacks have been estimated in excess of 3000 men. Because of thorough preparation and bombardment, our casualties were reported to be light.

At midday 22 February at 1300 M 3 medium bombers (Venturas) attacked Motje. 5 tons of bombs were dropped on the barracks and runway areas. 1 explosion resulted but there was no A/A fire.

The morning of 22 February at 1005 M Taroa was bombed by 3 medium bombers (B-25's) which started a large fire and explosion with 5 tons of bombs.

The same morning at 1100 M 4 P-40's bombed and strafed Mille. 2 tons of bombs were dropped and a small boat was destroyed by strafing.

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A/A fire was encountered.

Our planes suffered no damage at any of these targets.

Utirik was bombed by a U.S. search-plane on 22 February. A fire was started and some A/A fire was encountered.

The morning of 23 February at 0930 K Mille was bombed and strafed by 9 P-40's. 3 small boats were sunk by strafing and 1 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped on the runways. Some A/A fire was encountered but did no damage.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Kara was raided the morning of 21 February at 0600 L by 3 B-24's, which encountered intense A/A fire. The same day in Matchin Bay, Pau Plantation was attacked by 4 P-39's which strafed 10 previously damaged barges and damaged the jetty. In the same area that day, a pier was wrecked in a rocket and bomb attack by 4 U.S. Navy torpedo-bombers (Avengers).

Also at noon 21 February in NE Bougainville villages were raided by 2 strafing P-39's, while in the Mibo River area targets were attacked by 2 U.S. Navy dive-bombers. Results were not reported.

The same day a patrol of the 37th Division returned to Torokina from House Kiape and reported killing about 120 Japs.

On 22 February NE of Torokina a large enemy force was reported along the Numa Numa trail. Our artillery units moved forward to cover the Laruma River Valley. Minor patrol contacts were reported N. and NE of the Torokina perimeter.

(B) New Ireland and Admiralty Islands

On the afternoon of 19 February, W. of Kavieng, an enemy DD and PG were reported sunk in an attack by 9 A-20's.

Los Negros Island was raided 20 February by a B-24 on patrol.

Further details of the attack 20 February on shipping in the Kavieng area (Naval Summary for 22 February 1944) state that 6 B-24's and 6 B-25's participated.

Later reports of the attack on 21 February by our planes off New Hanover (Naval Summary for 23 February 1944) state that 2 B-24's and 6 B-25's attacked throughout the day, and claimed the sinking of 1 escort vessel and 2 small AK's, the probable sinking of another escort vessel, and the damaging of a third escort vessel.

On the afternoon of 21 February, 12 miles SE of Kavieng, a sea truck was damaged by a B-25 on patrol.

The same day, off W. central coast of New Ireland, an unidentified vessel was set afire and a transport barge was damaged in a strafing attack by 2 U.S. Navy F4U's returning from the Rabaul strike.

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Lorengau airfield was raided 21 February by a patrolling heavy bomber and medium bomber (B-24, B-25).

Later reports of U.S. DD's in action off New Ireland on 22 February, state that during the night at 2115 L off S. Steffen Strait, a large enemy AK and most of 9 barges were sunk by our ships, which were not damaged.

During the night of 22 February and early morning of 23 February, the .. coast of New Ireland was searched by U.S. DD's aided by planes, but no results were reported. Then, Duke of York Island was shelled with 1,500 rounds. Targets were installations, docks and the airfield. Jap shore batteries at Duke of York and Cape Gazelle returned the fire, but no damage to our ships was reported.

At the same time, before dawn, Kavieng harbor area was shelled again by U.S. DD's. Results were not observed. Our ships were not damaged by accurate fire from shore batteries.

(C) New Britain

On 20 February Talasea area was attacked by 5 B-24's which dropped 15 tons of bombs on buildings.

On the morning of 21 February Iboki Plantation, Rein Bay, was heavily attacked by 37 B-24's covered by P-38's. 118 tons of bombs were dropped and the target was strafed, with excellent results reported. Weather conditions prevented these planes from reaching their primary target, Kavieng.

Also 21 February in Eleanora Bay, Linga Linga Plantation was attacked by 8 B-25's which dropped almost 9 tons of bombs. Explosions were caused.

The same day E. of Cape Hoskins enemy bivouacs were attacked by 5 Allied A-20's and 2 Beaufighters. 4 Jap barges were damaged in the attack.

In addition to the previously reported heavy-bomber attack on Rabaul fields 21 February, (Daily Summary for 23 February 1944), at 1255 L, Rapopo was attacked by 4 B-24's which bombed revetments and dispersal areas. 2 B-24's were damaged by intense, heavy-calibre A/A fire.

On 22 February U.S. ground patrols arrived at a point 1 1/2 miles SE of Cape Raoul. At the same time, our patrols in the Itne River area have reported that the area is clear of Japs. According to a SWPA communique, the W. portion of New Britain from Rottoek Bay to Arawe is now completely in our hands, with no organized enemy resistance remaining.

The morning of 22 February, Pora Pora area was attacked by 9 Allied Beauforts, while another Beaufort raided Rano Plantation near Cape Beechey.

The same day Keravia Bay shipping was attacked in rough weather by U.S. Navy SBD's and TBF's. It was reported that hits were scored on 8 ships as well as on barges, PT's, and buildings. There was no enemy air interception. Keravia was also attacked the same day by B-24's, while Lakunai was hit by B-25's. Weather conditions obscured results.

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(D) New Guinea

On 18 February Nubia was attacked by 9 Allied A-31's which bombed gun positions.

On 19 February the Hansa Bay area was hit by 9 Allied A-31's which caused fires.

Alexishafen and Hansa Bay were attacked 20 February by 13 B-24's which dropped 8 tons of bombs on Hansa Bay targets and 27 tons of bombs on Alexishafen supply dumps. (It is not clear whether this is the same attack reported in the Naval Summary for 23 February 1944).

Early the morning of 21 February off Nubia an enemy sea truck was sunk in an attack by a B-24 on patrol.

Also the same day Pormern Bay villages were attacked by 9 A-20's which dropped 7½ tons of bombs and strafed. Fires were started.

Singor was shelled with mortars by our PT's 21 February.

On 22 February, SW of Gali, 57 Japs were killed and 16 more found dead by Australian ground units. The same day, W. of Saidor, units of the 32nd Division enlarged our bridgehead W. of the Mot River, and reported that Jap pressure there was increasing.

In the Madang area Jap barge hideouts were attacked by 24 Allied A-31's the afternoon of 22 February. Almost 14 tons of bombs were dropped, starting fires. At the same time, Siar Island was hit by 12 escorting P-40's which strafed targets. Slight A/A fire was met.

In the same area the afternoon of 22 February, roads around Madang were attacked by 6 heavy bombers (B-24's) which dropped 18 tons of bombs.

(E) N. E. I.

On the afternoon of 22 February Timika, Dutch New Guinea, was attacked by 8 Allied Beauforts which dropped more than 4 tons of bombs on barracks, fuel stores, and the radio stat on. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was met.

Also 22 February, the Tanimber Islands were raided by 8 Allied Beaufighters which hit the Selaru area. 1 lugger was sunk and 7 barges were strafed heavily and probably at least 4 were sunk. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS has reported sinking an enemy AK. A second U.S. SS has reported sinking an enemy SS. A third U.S. SS reports sinking a large enemy AK. A fourth U.S. SS reports sinking an armed trawler. A fifth U.S. SS reports sinking a 6000 ton AK, damaging an 8000 ton AK and a 1000 ton AK and possibly damaging a fourth AK of 8000 tons. A sixth U.S. SS reports sinking an enemy AK and 1 DD.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 23 February 1944

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I. Northwestern Pacific Area

The previously reported night raid on Shimushu and Paramushiru 20 February, reported in the Naval Summary for 22 February, now appears to have been carried out by 6 U.S. Navy PV's.

II. Central Pacific Area

(A) Caroline Islands

A U.S. patrol plane damaged an enemy radio station on E. Kusai Island by bombing 20 February. The following day a U.S. search plane reported that at Truk 17 enemy AK's and 1 DD were caught attempting to leave by the S. pass by our attacking forces on 17 February. Very few were able to get out. Fires were visible over the area the nights of 17 - 18 February.

(B) Marshall Islands

Rongelap was bombed by a U.S. patrol plane 20 February. 2 500-lb. bombs destroyed a building.

Further details on the capture of Eniwetok Island are:

The first wave of assault troops landed at 0900H on the SE end of the island from the lagoon side. Opposition was light. By 2000H the S. half of the island had been captured except for one small pocket on the ocean side of the SE tip. On 21 February the whole of the island had fallen.

The same day, E. longitude time, Taroa was bombarded by heavy U.S. surface vessels. The bombardment was from minimum range and the target areas were well covered. 1 very small fire resulted and there was no return fire. Apparently previous attacks had devastated the area. Also the same day Wotje was bombarded by U.S. surface forces, but here too, results were poor because of previous heavy damage inflicted. A fuel dump was hit and burned.

Kille was bombed and strafed the morning of 21 February at 0953H by 14 U.S. P-40's. 7 tons of bombs were dropped. 4 small boats were strafed. Some A/A fire was encountered. At noon the same day, 6 medium bombers (Venturas) dropped 8 tons of bombs on installations and runways at Taroa. A large explosion resulted. A/A fire was encountered.

Wotje was bombed 21 February by 9 B-25's which dropped 8 tons of bombs on installations. No A/A fire was encountered.

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III. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 20 February targets in NE Bougainville (Mikmik I., Sarime) were raided by our planes on patrol. Also the same day in Latchin Bay, 20 Jap barges were attacked and sunk by 13 strafing P-39's. Fires and explosions were caused. In the afternoon of the same day Monoitu Mission and bridges over the Mongorai and Puriata Rivers were attacked by 61 U.S. Navy dive and torpedo bombers (24 TBF's and 37 SBD's). We lost 1 TBF.

During the night of 20 February, off Motupena Point, 2 Jap barges were sunk by our PT's.

On 20 and 21 February in the Torokina area, minor patrol activity was reported. However, it was reported that large enemy forces may be moving S. through Teopasino and from Soraken.

(B) Green Islands

On 21 February Gau Island and NE Pinipel Island were searched by our patrols which landed on the lagoon side of the islands. No Japanese were seen. The following day at Green Island the last remaining pocket of Japanese resistance on the SW corner of Hissan Island was eliminated.

(C) New Ireland and Admiralty Islands

On the afternoon of 19 February, according to delayed reports, in Caselle Channel, a Jap corvette was damaged in an attack by 7 A-20's escorted by P-38's. 3 direct hits were scored on the vessel.

A Jap convoy NE of New Hanover was attacked by a patrol plane the afternoon of 21 February at 1620L. 2 AK's were reported afire after the attack. 2 DD's escorted the AK's. The following morning at 1016L, about 140 miles E. of Mussau Island, our surface units shelled and sank a Japanese ship, probably an AP-AK. This ship was carrying about 400 aircraft personnel, and was bound for Truk or Palau from Kavieng. About 73 Japs were taken aboard and made prisoners. We suffered no damage or casualties.

In the afternoon of the same day at 1720, just W. of Tingwon Island, our surface units met and sank a Jap DD, after shelling it for 30 minutes. We suffered no damage or casualties. The enemy DD sank in shoal water and its masts were showing above water. Kavieng was again shelled by U.S. DD's the evening of the same day. Targets were supply dumps, the airfield, the town and the dock area, but results were in general not observed. Our ships set up a smoke screen to evade intense and accurate fire from apparently newly-established Jap coastal guns W. of North Cape along the waterfront. However, no damage to the DD's has been reported.

(D) New Britain

On 20 February our PT's were active along the New Britain coast, sinking 1 and damaging 1 barge off Cape Boechev and sinking 2 more in Rein Bay. Jap shore guns and barges fired on the PT's.

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The same day Carove Island was raided by 2 P-39's which silenced gun positions in a strafing attack. Also the same day, E. of Cape Hoskins, Comodore Bay villages were hit by 3 Beaufighters which dropped bombs and strafed.

Again in the evening of 20 February Cape Hoskins was attacked by 5 Allied Beauforts which dropped bombs on the enemy headquarters area, while another Beaufort raided Fulleborn Harbor. 2 more Beauforts attacked 3 barges and 2 small unidentified vessels off Cape Hoskins, dropping 1 1/2 tons of bombs. Results were not reported. These light-bombers were assisted by 6 more Beauforts which dropped flares to illuminate the target areas.

In the Arawe area the same day Jap positions N. of Lupin airfield were shelled by our artillery, while some patrol activity was reported.

Photos on 20 February of Rabaul Harbor show over 450 barges, 2 PC's, 1 medium AK, 1 AO and 18 small coastal vessels. In addition, 1 small AK was seen badly damaged as a result of the U.S. DD's attack last week.

Our PT's sank 3 more Jap barges E. of Rein Bay on the night of 20 February. The following day Pora Pora photos revealed that the airfield was not serviceable and no work was being done on it. However, at Cape Hoskins, it was observed that re air work was being done on the runways.

Photos of the same day of Tobera and Lakunai show a total of 21 Jap fighters. There were no planes at Rapopo and Koravat. The same day Rabaul fields were again heavily attacked by our heavy and light bombers and fighters. There was almost no enemy air interception, although 5 Jap fighters were airborne. At 1235L, Lakunai was attacked by 24 TBPs and 47 SED's. Hits were scored on the runway, gun positions, and buildings, starting fires. The bombers were escorted by 8 F6F's, 20 P-40's and 43 P4U's. At 1244L, Lakunai was hit again by 15 heavy bombers (B-24's) escorted by 37 fighters (23 P4U's, 14 P-38's). 60 tons of bombs were dropped. Before these attacks early 21 February Rabaul was raided by a single B-24.

(B) New Guinea

On 19 February S. of Hansa Bay along the coast 6 Jap barges were damaged in a strafing attack by 2 Allied P-40's. Intense but inaccurate A/A fire was met. The same day in the Newak area, Cape Mom and Brandi Plantation were attacked by 11 A-20's which dropped more than 6 tons of bombs and strafed. Fires were started and buildings wrecked. Meagre and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

The following day Karkar Island was raided by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs. Also the same day Vitar Plantation, N. of Alexishafen, was attacked by 7 B-24's escorted by fighters. 8 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped on supply dumps. These planes also hit Nubia, where gun positions were bombed. Madang area and the Wintjim River area were also raided 20 February by 6 strafing P-39's which hit m/g positions, starting fires in buildings, and strafed troops.

N. of Seider our ground forces moved on to occupy Gabumi, while Jap troops withdrew westward across the Mot River 20 February. Previously our artillery units shelled enemy troops in the Cape Iris area, forcing them to disperse. The same day 3 Jap barges were sunk by our PT's N. of Seider.

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The following day Karkar Island was attacked by 6 A-20's which bombed and strafed, wrecking houses. At the same time Manam Island was hit by 12 more A-20's which sank 2 barges and a lugger and hit villages. A total of 8½ tons of bombs were dropped in the 2 attacks.

Mindiri at Herwath Point was hit by 7 P-40's and 13 Allied A-31's escorted by 3 more fighters (P-40's) 21 February. About 7 tons of bombs were dropped and more than 56,000 rounds of m/g fire were expended. The bivouac area was hit, and a barge was wrecked and huts were destroyed.

IV. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reported sinking a 6000 ton enemy AK and damaging a 5000 ton AK. A second U.S. SS has reported damaging an enemy CV.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 22 February 1944

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

On the night of 20 February, L. longitude time, Shimushu and Paramushiru were raided by 4 U.S. PV's on an offensive - reconnaissance mission. 3 tons of bombs and 60 fragmentation clusters were dropped but except for 1 fire in an airfield area the results were for the most part obscured. Heavy A/A fire and effective searchlights were encountered but all our planes returned safely.

II. Central Pacific Area

(A) Caroline Islands

At noon 20 February at 1200L Ponape was bombed by 22 B-24's. 20 tons of bombs were dropped with unobserved results because of overcast. In the harbor at Ponape, there was considerable shipping present. In the afternoon of the same day at 1500M Kusaie was hit by 6 B-24's as an alternate target to Ponape. Many hits were reported with 9 tons of bombs. Fires were started in target areas. No A/A fire was encountered, and we had no losses or casualties.

(B) Marshall Islands

On the morning of 18 February, about 180 miles E. by N. of Kotje, our surface units attacked an LC. An oil slick and debris were observed afterward.

U.S. forces landed on Eniwetok Island on the morning of 20 February. The landings were preceded by very heavy aerial bombing and ship bombardment. The initial landings were weakly opposed, and our casualties very light. Behind the beaches, enemy opposition was met from mortar fire and m/g fire from deep foxholes. By that night (2000L) a majority of the island had been captured and U.S. artillery was pounding remaining enemy positions in the NE end of the island.

A later report has indicated that the whole of Eniwetok has been captured and that mopping-up operations are being conducted. Enemy troops are using well-concealed, inter-connecting numerous foxholes, which delayed our operations.

It was estimated there were approximately 1,000 enemy troops at Engebi and Eniwetok before our attacks. 25 prisoners were taken.

All islands of the atoll with the exception of Parry have now been secured, and that island is being subjected to naval and aerial bombardment.

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At 1302M 20 February Kotje was bombed by 9 B-25's. 8 tons of bombs were dropped on barracks and runways. No A/A fire was encountered. The same morning at 1054M Kille was bombed by 4 P-40's, which dropped fragmentation bombs in the barracks areas. No A/A fire was encountered.

III. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 19 February targets outside the Torokina perimeter were attacked by 4 SBD's and 6 TBF's which used rocket bombs and strafed. A Hongorai River bridge was wrecked. Again the same day N. of the Torokina perimeter, an advanced post was set up by our ground units to protect our patrols. During the night of the same day Ballale was raided by PBY's on patrol. 4 bombs were dropped. The following morning in Matchin Bay, off Bau, 10 - 12 Jap barges were attacked by a strafing P-40. Results were not observed.

In Buka Passage a Jap barge was sunk by U.S. Navy F4U's in the afternoon of 20 February.

In the Torokina area our patrols and artillery units were active. Our guns fired at enemy positions near the Tekessi and Jaba rivers and E. of Mavavia. 2 Japs E. of the Torokina River mouth were killed by our patrols.

(B) Green Island

On the night of 20 February, over Green Island, 1 Jap floatplane was shot down by our patrols. The following day, on the SW part of Nissan Island, our forces aided by tanks attacked the enemy troops pocketed there. At least 30 Japs were killed, but a few more may still be alive.

(C) New Ireland and Admiralty Islands

On the afternoon of 19 February, off Gazelle Channel, an enemy 1500 ton AK was sunk, and a second AK and a sea truck were damaged in an attack on a convoy by a B-25 on patrol. Later that afternoon, the convoy was hit in a low-level attack by 12 B-25's escorted by fighters. 15 tons of bombs were dropped and the targets heavily strafed. A 2000 ton AK was sunk, and it was claimed that 3 PC's and 1 small sea truck were also sunk. Also another small AK was damaged. During the night of the same day in the Kavieng area 1 medium AK was seen abandoned and on fire by a PBY on patrol.

The following day in the Kaviang area according to incomplete reports, the enemy convoy was again attacked by SWPA bombers and fighters. Fighter-escorted B-24's sank 1 small AK and 1 sea truck. A patrolling medium bomber sank another small AK, and damaged 2 others.

(D) New Britain

Later reports of the air attack on Rabaul fields 19 February (Daily Summary for 21 February 1944) state that the 23 U.S. Navy TBF's and 48 SBD's were escorted by 88 fighters (P-40's, F6F's, F4U's). The dive bombers shot down 1 Jap fighter; while of 50 intercepting Jap planes, our fighters shot down 22, and probably shot down 1 more. On the homeward trip, a Jap floatplane was also shot down. We lost 1 F4U. Added to the 3 certainties and 2 probabilities of the B-24 strike of the same day, this brings the score to 27 Japs shot down and 3 more

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probably shot down.

On the afternoon of the same day, Arawe was ineffectively raided by Jap planes. The following day Cape Raout was reached by our ground patrols from Cape Gloucester, which took 7 Jap prisoners. The same day in the Arawe area, our forces near the Itne River captured a quantity of Jap supplies and equipment.

Tabaul fields were hit again the morning of 20 February. At 0924L Lakunai was struck by 35 B-25's covered by 56 fighters. 52 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs were dropped on the runway and revetments, causing fires. There was no enemy air interception. A/A fire damaged 7 medium bombers.

(E) New Guinea

On 20 February, S. of Gauss Point, 12 Japs were killed by Australian ground forces which also found 208 enemy dead. The same day, at Hansa Bay, Nubia Plantation was bombed and strafed by 15 Allied A-31's and 12 P-40's. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs were dropped, and 5 gun positions were silenced. Also the same day, about 23 miles W. of Bogadjim in the Kulau area, Jap positions were attacked by 6 fighter-bombers (P-39's), while in the Mintjim Valley, NE of Aiyau, supply dumps were hit by 6 Allied A-31's.

(F) N. E. I.

Early 20 February near Ambon, Laha airfield was attacked by 18 B-24's which dropped about 33 tons of bombs on the runway and dispersal areas. Fires were started and explosions caused. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 21 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Caroline Islands

On 17 and 18 February, E. longitude time, U.S. Task Forces attacked Truk atoll. The attacks were conducted over a two day period during which time enemy installations, shipping and aircraft were heavily hit. Conservative estimates show the following 19 vessels sunk: 2 CL's, 3 DD's, 1 AV, 1 AE, 2 AO's, 2 PG's and 8 AK's. In addition to these, the following 7 were probably sunk: 1 CL or large DD, 2 AO's and 4 AK's. Approximately 10 AO's or AK's were still afloat at the end of the second day's attacks, but all were bombed repeatedly, and 5 of them were reported afire. Searches did not reveal that any large ships escaped during daylight.

A total of 272 enemy planes were seen during the attacks but none were airborne the second day. Of the total number seen, 201 were destroyed, 127 being shot down and 74 destroyed in the water or on the ground. Included in those destroyed in the water or on the ground were 4 - 4-engined flying boats and 17 twin-engined land planes. Of the remaining 71 planes seen, it was estimated that 50% to 70% were unserviceable before our attacks were completed. Our plane losses for the whole period were: 8 fighters, 6 torpedo bombers, and 3 dive bombers.

Enemy installations and runways were attacked repeatedly and the airfields made unserviceable by bomb hits. An ammunition dump and the fuel oil tanks were located early but saved for the last strike, when they were destroyed.

At the end of the second day it was reported there were no more worthwhile shipping targets remaining and our forces were retiring.

On the afternoon of 20 February, about 60 miles SW of Truk, an enemy surface force consisting of a CVE, 3 DD's and a PT were sighted, heading W.

(B) Marshall Islands

On 18 February Jaluit was attacked by 2 B-24's. 3 tons of bombs were dropped. A/A fire was encountered but caused no damage.

Details of our landings at Eniwetok are:

The morning of 18 February at 1130L our forces landed on 5 islands SE of Engeb1 (Bokanaarappu, Yeiri, Rujijoru and 2 unnamed islands). Artillery

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was set up on one of them (Bokanarappu). After dark the same day, a scouting company landed W. of Engebi on Bogan Island.

The area was under attack from the air and bombardment by ships the whole day, and during the night of 18 - 19 February artillery set up continued the bombardment. The landings were made from the lagoon side of the islands.

The assault on Engebi Island began 19 February. Weak opposition was encountered at the beach, and our troops moved rapidly inland. The island was captured by that afternoon, 1700L with mopping up continuing. Our casualties were not yet ascertained but were believed to be light, and all inlands in the vicinity of Engebi were searched.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 17 February, off Ovau Island, SE Bougainville, an enemy barge was strafed by 2 F4U's. During the night Mosiga was again bombed by U.S. PT's.

On the night of 18 February at Matsunki, S. of Motupona Point, our PT's and LCM's shelled Jap guns which had fired on them. A PBV also assisted in the attack, helping to silence the guns. The same night in NW Buka, Lemanmanu Mission and Jessa Plantation at Tangole Bay were also attacked by our PT's assisted by PBV's. Also the same night, in Choiseul Bay, near Kondakanimboko, an 80-foot barge on the reef was bombed and strafed by our PT's and PBV's.

On 19 February Fiji companies withdrawing from Ibu arrived at the Torokina perimeter. During the withdrawal, at least 120 Japs were killed. 1 Fijian was said to be wounded. This force brought with them 150 natives. During the night of the same day Lemanmanu Mission, NW Buka, was shelled again by our PT's which also shelled Nawa Inlet. The same night Mikmik I. and Sarime were bombed and strafed by our PBV's.

(B) Green Island

Our troops captured almost all of the S. part of Nissan Island, including the Catholic Mission, having caught the Japs in a pincers movement on 19 February. We suffered only 1 man wounded. A small number of Japs were still at the SE corner of the island by evening.

(C) New Ireland and Admiralty Islands

On 18 February Los Negros Island was bombed by B-24's on patrol. During the night of the same day Feni Island was raided by our patrol planes which dropped 1 bomb. The following day Lorengau was raided by a B-24. It was reported that the Momote airfield was usable by fighters, but that the Lorengau field was unserviceable.

On the afternoon of 21 February, L time, N. of New Hanover, a Jap surface force consisting of 2 CA's, 2 LV's, 1 PC and 2 other ships were sighted on a NW course.

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(D) New Britain

On 18 February Tamuniai Point, E. Rottlock Bay, was reached by U.S. patrols. 15 dead Japs were found along the way. About noon the same day Arawe was ineffectively raided by 1 Jap plane. The following day in Commodore Bay 2 Jap launches were sunk by 2 strafing Beaufighters, while the Talasea - Cape Hoskins area was raided by 12 Allied P-40's which strafed jetties and sank another launch.

Early 19 February W. of N. Gazelle Peninsula, 1 of 2 probable lighters seen was possibly damaged in an attack by a B-24 on patrol.

Rabaul was again hit on the morning of 19 February when 23 TBF's and 48 A-24's attacked runways and gun positions at Lakunai. Direct hits were scored on A/A positions at Sulphur Creek were also hit with rocket fire from 6 TBF's. Shortly afterwards Lakunai was also attacked by 6 B-24's, which dropped bombs on the runways.

Shortly afterwards Tobra was hit with 52 tons of bombs from 14 B-24's escorted by 14 P-39's and 21 F4U's. The runway was hit and made unserviceable, and fires were started. Of about 16 intercepting Jap fighters, 3 were shot down, and 2 more probably shot down. 6 B-24's were damaged by A/A fire.

(E) New Guinea

On 19 February Madang area was raided by 2 P-39's which strafed supply dumps, starting fires and causing explosions. A Jap fighter on the ground was probably set afire and a truck was wrecked.

In the Saidor area the same day, our artillery units and patrols were active. It was announced that the command of the Saidor task force had been assumed by the Commanding General of the U.S. 32nd Division.

(F) N. E. I.

In the evening of 19 February, the Mina River bridge, 40 miles E. of Koepong, was attacked by 6 Dutch medium bombers (B-25's) covered by 7 Allied fighters. Almost 11 tons of bombs were dropped, and it was confirmed that the northern half of the bridge was damaged. The fighters also strafed the target.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 20 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Caroline Islands

At 0840 H, 19 February, Kusaie was attacked by 4 B-24's. The harbor area was hit with 6 tons of bombs. A 200-ton vessel was sunk. Only slight A/A fire was met.

B. Marshall Islands

Beginning on 14 February, Wotje was shelled each day for 4 days by U.S. surface forces. It was reported that the targets received a good cover of fire. DD's also bombarded at night, causing fires. The only activity noted was return fire once by a shore battery.

On 18 February Rongelap and Utiirik atolls were raided by U.S. patrol planes. The same day a search plane over Nauru observed no planes or ships. However, slight A/A fire was encountered. That afternoon (M time) at Eniwetok atoll, U.S. assault forces made successful landings on 5 small islands SE of Engebi Island. On the evening of the same day they landed on the island just W of Engebi. Heavy shelling by ships, planes and artillery went on during the day and that night.

The following day, 19 February, at 1300 H Wotje was attacked by 6 B-24's which dropped 7 tons of bombs on the runway and adjacent areas, causing explosions. There was no A/A fire encountered. The same day at 0935 H Jaluit was hit by 8 fighter bombers (P-40's) which dropped 4 tons of bombs and strafed. Our planes were not damaged by the intense A/A fire. At 1335 H, the same day, Mills was raided by 4 patrolling P-40's, which encountered slight A/A fire.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On 16 February along the Laruma River Allied patrols killed 30 Japs. The same day Allied PT's shelled Mosiga, SE Bougainville and Buin Island. 1 barge was sunk off E Bougainville. Also the same day the Mibo area and Kahili, Kara and Ballale airfields were strafed by 2 SB's and 2 P-40's, while other patrolling planes strafed Buin targets and sank 2 barges off SE Bougainville. One Jap bomber was shot down over Buin.

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The night of 16 - 17 February patrols NE of Torokina contacted Japs and killed 16, while Allied artillery continued to hammer enemy positions E of Torokina River and into the Kolaris, Jaba and Tekesi areas. The same night troops of the 37th Division proceeded N to House Kape to assist the Fiji patrol moving to the W coast.

On 17 February at Queen Carola Harbor (N Bulka) F4U's set a barge afire and 4 P-39's strafed Keesa. The same day, in the Empress Augusta Bay area, 2 TBF's and 4 A-24's attacked enemy positions and hit a bridge. That night undesignated targets on Bulka were bombed by our PDY's.

The following day our patrols 5,000 yards N of the Torokina perimeter reported meeting no Japs. Our artillery continued to pound enemy positions. The same day Fiji companies withdrawing from Sisivei were reported to have killed at least 155 Japs. Also on 18 February a small island N of Soraken was hit by F4U's returning from the Rabaul strike. Large fires were started after 100 fuel drums were strafed.

B. Green Island

During the afternoon of 17 February a B-24, 200 miles NE of Green Island, shot down a Jap bomber. The same day an Allied patrol destroyed 2 serviceable barges on the beach of the N side of Pinipel Island.

The following day Sirot Island was completely occupied by our forces, which found 6 more dead Japs. The remaining Japs on Nissan Island were being driven to the S end of the island, near the Catholic Mission, where they were being caught in a pincers movement.

C. New Britain

On 17 February Talasea was attacked by 16 B-24's which failed to locate the Kavieng target. 45 tons of bombs were dropped, with excellent results reported. Further details of the attack by dive and torpedo bombers on Rabaul shipping the morning of 17 February state that 74 fighters escorting our planes destroyed 8 intercepting Jap fighters and probably shot down 2 others. We lost 2 A-24's and 2 F4U's. Photos after this action showed 2 small DD's damaged, 1 with stern awash; 1 PC and 1 AO damaged; and 4 AK's missing. That morning Arawa was ineffectively raided by enemy planes.

That night Jarove Island installations were bombarded with mortars by U.S. PT's which entered John Albert Harbor. There was no opposition. Results were not observed.

The following day, 18 February, the Gavutu area, E of Cape Hoskins, was attacked by 5 A-20's followed by 28 Allied B-24's. About 27 tons of bombs were dropped by the B-24's. The bombers were escorted by 12 Spitfires and 20 P-40's. Talasea was raided by 2 strafing P-39's the same day. Also the same day photos of Rabaul fields at midday show that only 2 runways are still serviceable -

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1 at Lakunai and 1 at Papopo.

Later reports of the shelling early the morning of 18 February of the Rabaul area by U.S. DD's state that Rabaul town and Præd Point were shelled for about 30 minutes. Then Cape Gazelle was shelled. There was only sporadic fire from Jap shore batteries, which did no damage. Our planes were in close cooperation with the DD's, bombing the targets at the same time. None of our planes was damaged by the A/A fire encountered.

The morning of the same day Rabaul fields were again heavily attacked 3 times by SOPAC bombers and fighters. In the first attack, Tobara was raided by 2 B-25's escorted by 4 P-38's. The planes came in at tree-top height, surprising the Japs. 1 Jap fighter taking off was destroyed and another was destroyed on the ground. Our planes returned safely.

At 1115 the same day, Vunakana was hit by 34 B-25's covered by 36 F4U's. 51 tons of bombs were dropped on the runway and revetments. Of about 15 intercepting Jap fighters, 1 was shot down and another probably shot down. 2 B-25's were damaged by A/A fire. At about the same time Vunakana was again hit by 13 B-24's escorted by 47 fighters. 71 tons of bombs were dropped on the runway, which was left unserviceable, and the revetments. 7 intercepting Jap planes were shot down, 1 was probably downed and a medium bomber destroyed. All our planes returned, although A/A fire slightly damaged 2 B-24's.

At 1110 L, the following day, off Blanche Bay, a Jap DD was seen heading H. Shortly afterward, a large AK was seen near this point heading NW.

D. New Ireland and Admiralties

On 17 February Panapai airfield was attacked by 18 B-24's which dropped 57 tons of bombs on the runway, leaving large craters. Slight to moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. That afternoon the Cape St. George radar station was strafed by 4 F6F's.

Later reports of the morning attack on Kavieng Harbor, 18 February, by U.S. DD's state that 1 AO exploded violently after being hit, and the main wharf, shore batteries, supply dumps and the runway were hit, starting many fires. The DD's were ineffectively attacked afterwards by 1 enemy floatplane. The same day the Cape St. George radar station was attacked by 9 A-24's which dropped 3 tons of bombs. That evening about 1930 L this target was bombarded by U.S. surface units.

The following day it was reported that 2 Jap AK's were stranded on the reefs off New Hanover.

The morning of 20 February, SE of Cape St. George, an SS was attacked by a patrolling U.S. plane, which dropped 4 depth charges.

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E. New Guinea

On 16 February, S of Saidor, villages in the Yoga Yoga area were attacked by 18 Allied A-31's and P-40's which dropped more than 8 tons of bombs and strafed. Fires were started. Meagre, light-calibre inaccurate A/A fire was met. The same day, in the Wewak area, gun positions and the Boran runway were hit by 16 P-40's and 31 P-47's which dropped almost 5 tons of bombs and strafed the target. The same planes attacked a small seatruck off Kairiru Island, probably damaging it with near misses. Intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered.

The following day buildings at Manas Day and Karikar Island were the target for 2 reconnaissance B-25's and 1 B-24. 6½ tons of bombs were dropped.

On 18 February, S of Gali, about 155 Japs were killed by units of the 5th Australian Division which also found 83 more dead Japs. The same day, SW of Saidor, American forces repulsed 2 light enemy attacks. Also the same day the Madang area was attacked by 6 P-39's and 7 P-40's which hit gun positions, villages and buildings with more than 1½ tons of bombs and .50 calibre strafing. That night, W of Maschu Island, 6 Jap barges were sunk or badly damaged in a strafing attack by F4U's.

The following morning at 0920 L, off Manas Island, enemy barges were bombed by our planes. Details were not reported. The same morning Alox-shafon area was attacked by P-40's which damaged villages.

The morning of 20 February at 0345 L, NW of Wewak, a medium AK capsized after being bombed by a U.S. patrol plane.

F. N. N. I.

The night of 13 February Manatuto, Timor, (N of Dilli) was raided by 3 Allied A-29's which bombed and strafed the target. A bridge was set afire. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

III. U. S. SS Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 6,000-ton AP-AK and a 1,500-ton AK, and damaging 2 6,000-ton AK's.

Another U.S. SS reports sinking a large Jap DD and a large AO.

W. L. Balos.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of USCC, 19 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Caroline Islands

The morning of 19 February at 1040L Ponape was attacked by 8 U.S. B-24's which dropped a total of 10 tons of bombs in the Ponape town area. All bombs were claimed to have hit the target area, and many fires were started in the warehouse and dock areas. 2 of our planes suffered some damage from A/A fire which was heavy. 1 man was slightly wounded. 3 AK's were seen in the harbor.

(B) Marshall Islands

On 16 February a U.S. CA bombarded Rongerik Island, near Taroa. 19 explosions were caused and flames were 2,855' high. The fires started were burning 3 1/2 hours later and it is believed the enemy's ammunition and other supplies moved to this island from Taroa have been destroyed. There was no enemy activity seen except efforts to repair the runway.

On the morning of 17 February at 0945M Eniwetok, Jaluit was bombed by 15 Allied P-40's. 7 tons of bombs were dropped. Gasoline dumps were set afire and 3 small boats at Aineran Island were destroyed by strafing. A/A fire damaged one plane slightly. The same morning at 0540 - 1011Z the airfield at Taroa was bombed by 4 B-24's. 12 tons of bombs were dropped. A/A fire damaged 2 planes slightly.

The same morning at 0940M Kille was attacked by 10 A-24's. 7 tons of bombs were dropped and one enemy gun emplacement was hit. One U.S. plane was shot down by A/A fire and 2 planes were damaged. Also that morning at 0544M Kotje was attacked by 4 B-24's which dropped 12 tons of bombs. No A/A fire was encountered.

On the afternoon of the same day at 1540M a small enemy AK was attacked in Jaluit harbor by 12 U.S. P-40's. 2 hits were made with 500 pound bombs by skip-bombing. A/A positions were strafed. 2 planes were downed by A/A fire.

According to a communique issued by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz on 18 February the capture of Eniwetok atoll has been undertaken by forces of the Pacific Ocean areas. Army and Marine assault troops have landed and established beachheads. Initial landings took place after strong preliminary attacks by carrier-based aircraft and by heavy ships of the Pacific Fleet. Troops went ashore under the cover of battleship gunfire and with the close support of low flying naval aircraft.

At noon the same day at 1200M Kusaie was hit by 10 U.S. B-24's. The airstrip was hit with 3 tons of bombs while the Port Lattin and Lale Harbor areas were struck with 10 1/2 tons of bombs. Over half the bombs were in the

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target areas. No damage was reported to our planes. 1 large and 4 small AK's were seen in Lela Harbor and 1 AK was seen at Port Lattin.

The same day at 1315H Jaluit was bombed by 2 U.S. B-24's which dropped 3 tons of bombs, most of which hit the target areas.

Also the same day Enidj, Jaluit was strafed by 4 U.S. P-40's. 2 beached enemy float planes were strafed and our planes encountered intense A/A fire which caused our pilots to believe the beached planes were being used as a trap. The previously damaged AK was found to be still afloat and was strafed.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 15 February, N. of Torokina, our ground units arrived at a point 1,000 yards inland from Cape Moltke and 11,600 yards S. along the coast. The same day a Laruma River valley reconnaissance was begun by units of the 37th Division.

The same day in the Ibu area a Jap trail block was set up to prevent 2 reinforced Fiji companies from withdrawing to Sisivie. The number of Japanese in this area is reported to have increased considerably. However, the Fijis eluded the Japs and were on their way to Atsinima Bay.

On 16 February at 2350L, off SE Bougainville about 15 miles E. of Tarau Bay, an enemy ship and 3 possible barges were strafed by a U.S. Navy PBY which also unsuccessfully bombed the vessels. Small-calibre A/A fire slightly damaged our planes.

Also the same day, in ground action in the Torokina area, our artillery units shelled the beach 1000 yards past the mouth of the Torokina River, and at the Tekessi River near the east-west trail. The Jaba River area was also shelled.

Early the morning of 18 February at 0340L, Lomanmanu, NW Buka, was raided by a Sopac U.S. Navy PBY, which bombed and strafed the target. In that area at about the same time, Tandeki was also raided.

(B) New Ireland

On 16 February at 1120L, 30 miles W. of New Hanover, a convoy of 6 ships was sighted heading SE. Enemy shipping off New Hanover was skip-bombed by 43 B-25's after reports of 2 DD's, 1 large AP and 4 small vessels were reported in the area. It was reported that a 7,500 ton AO, 2 2,000 ton AK's and 2 Corvettes were destroyed in this attack. These are probably the same vessels which were attacked during the night 15 - 16 February.

The same day 28 B-24's dropped 76½ tons of bombs on Kavieng airdrome and 6 more B-24's dropped 21 tons on Panapai airdrome. No further details were reported.

The following morning a B-24 on patrol scored near misses on a 2,000 ton AK. 45 miles W. of New Hanover. The vessel was left sinking. A SC was also damaged by near misses.

At 0740L the same day 2 CL's and 2 unidentified vessels were seen off Dyaul Island heading SE. At 0845L off the N. end of New Hanover 2 DD's, 1 SC and 2 unidentified enemy vessels were seen at anchor. Near New Hanover 2 2,000 ton enemy AK's and 1 500 ton vessel were sunk by attacking B-25's. A Jap SS was probably sunk.

On the afternoon of 18 February 3 Jap barges S. of Dyaul Island were strafed by one of our planes. The following day at 0900L a 6 ship Jap convoy was reported 50 miles E. of Kavieng headed SE. The same afternoon a convoy was located N. of Dyaul Island and S. of Kavieng.

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(C) New Britain

On 16 February Garove Island buildings and Talasea were bombed by 2 B-24's each. These were part of a force which failed to locate the Kavieng target. Garove Island was later bombed by 22 B-25's of a larger force which struck at New Hanover shipping.

Arawe and Cape Gloucester were raided the same day by Jap planes. Some damage to shipping and some casualties were reported at Cape Gloucester, but the Arawe raid was ineffective.

Also the same day enemy gun emplacements and possible camp near the Pulie River, Arawa, were shelled by our PT's. Results were unobserved.

On 17 February men of the 128th infantry encountered enemy troops $\frac{1}{2}$ mile NE of Gabuni, Arawa area.

The following day Rabaul was attacked by units of a U.S. task force. Enemy shore batteries were silenced and fires were started in the Rabaul - Vunapope areas. Ships in Keravia Bay were hit by torpedoes. An enemy DD appeared for a short time but retired after being subjected to shelling. Our ships were not damaged.

(D) New Guinea

The Upper Mindjim River valley was attacked 15 February by 8 RAAF P-39's. Also the same day some 350 Japs were reported passing through Tarikngat in an attempt to bypass Saidor.

The following day Jap troops trying to bypass Saidor were bombed and strafed by vengeances and P-40's.

Alexishafen was raided 17 February by 5 RAAF Vengeances and 8 RAAF's P-40's covering the bombers later bombed and strafed the area causing fires. An enemy lugger was also damaged. Unron Mission, Madang area was attacked by 2 RAAF P-40's while the Bogadjim area was attacked by a squadron of RAAF P-40's.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports having sunk 1 Fubgki class, 1,700 ton DD with 4 hits out of 4 shots.

W. L. Bales..

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 18 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Caroline Islands

On 15 February, off Ponape, a U.S. search plane attacked an enemy DD and AK. The AK was left damaged and possibly grounded off the harbor.

According to a U.S. Naval communique, at daylight 17 February (local time at Truk) powerful Naval task forces of the U.S. Pacific Fleet commenced an attack on the Japanese Naval base at Truk, with several hundred of our planes participating. No further details are available.

B. Marshall Islands

On 14 February, Taroa was bombarded by U.S. Naval vessels and on 15 February, at Aur, S. of Taroa, an Allied search plane strafed and bombed a small enemy boat with unobserved results. Another search plane bombed and strafed Utirik the same day, starting several fires.

Also on 15 February, Wotje and Taroa were bombarded by U.S. surface vessels. On the same day, no shipping was seen at Jaluit by a search plane.

On 16 February, both Taroa and Wotje were bombarded by U.S. Naval vessels. Over 90% of the shells landed in target areas. The only evidence of enemy activity was some A/A fire at spotting planes. Both airfields were being repaired and were in use periodically.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On the night of 14-15 February, Allied patrol planes bombed and strafed Siposai Island with unreported results. The same night, Allied patrol planes and PT boats attacked enemy positions in Eastern Buka, the planes bombing the area while the PT's strafed. Also the same night Pororan Island and Motupena Point were bombed by patrol planes.

On 15 February, Motupena Point and islands E. of Buka Passage were raided by patrolling U.S. planes, but details were not reported. The same night, in NE. Buka, a Jap medium bomber was destroyed by F4U's.

The enemy occupied Tokmo (central Bougainville) on 15 February, after suffering heavy losses in an encounter with an ambushing Fiji patrol. The Ibu garrison has been reported evacuating to Sisiwei. Patrols reported

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very heavy enemy patrols in SW Bougainville. A new road was observed in the Mibo - Mobial River areas. The road appeared well maintained, but used heavily and defended by booby traps, mines and trip wires.

On 16 February, Treasury Island was ineffectively raided by 2 Jap planes.

About midnight, 16-17 February, 1 PBV and 1 B-24 and an undisclosed number of PT boats attacked a 1,200-ton coastal transport and 4 to 6 smaller craft off Oema Atoll. Depth charges and fragmentation bombs were dropped and the vessels were strafed. 2 of the smaller vessels were left sinking, one of them badly. One of our planes was hit by A/A fire.

B. Green Islands

Early on the morning of 15 February, LCI gunboats strafed barges on the lagoon side of Polonian Plantation, in support of Allied landings there. Return fire was received from the barges on our LCI's and on our troops landing. 70 enemy troops were reported to be near Torohatup, South Nissan I.

On the night of 16-17 February, Green Island had several alerts but no bombs were dropped. Our patrolling planes shot down 2 Jap planes.

Sorot Island was occupied by our forces on 17 February, after an engagement in which 14 Japs were killed.

On 18 February, enemy units were being forced into the S. end of Nissan Island.

C. New Britain

On the night of 14 February, between Rebaul and Kavieng, an Allied patrol plane sank 1 enemy barge.

At Talasea, on 15 February, an enemy fighter was shot down by an Allied plane.

The same day, Vunakanau was attacked by 23 B-25's which dropped 30 tons of bombs on the runway and dispersal areas. Escorting our bombers were 15 P-38's and 28 F4U's. Of about 50 intercepting Jap planes, 9 were destroyed and 2 more probably destroyed, while 5 of our planes were damaged by A/A fire.

On the morning of 14 February, Cape Gloucester was ineffectively attacked by 2 Jap planes.

At Cape Hoskins on the morning of 16 February, the airfield and Jap headquarters there were attacked by 5 Allied A-20's which came in at a low level to drop 3 tons of bombs and strafed. Bombing was reported excellent.

The same day, Wumung Plantation at Jacquinot Bay was hit again

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by 26 Allied Beauforts escorted by 12 Spitfires and 30 P-40's. About 20 tons of bombs were dropped on supply dumps and a bridge was also hit.

Also the same day, our ground patrols reached a point E. of the El River where they met a small enemy force of 8 Japs, 5 of which were killed and 3 taken prisoner. A Jap m/g position in the Arawe area was destroyed the same day by our artillery.

On the morning of 16 February, Vunaknanau was attacked again by 12 B-24's escorted by 16 P-38's and 28 F4U's. 45 tons of bombs were dropped on runways and revetment areas. The runway was unserviceable. There was no enemy air interception and only slight, inaccurate A/A fire. 3 Jap dive-bombers on the ground were damaged. 1 F4U was missing because of weather conditions.

Further details of the attack on 17 February, by dive and torpedo bombers on Rabaul shipping, state that 3 hits were scored on a large DD and that a large AO was set afire.

D. New Ireland

On 15 February, at Kavieng, 2 A-20's were lost in addition to the 6 B-25's already reported. Details of the February 15 raid on Borpop are: 2 B-24's attacked Borpop during the morning. 15 tons of bombs were dropped on the runway area and 22 tons in revetments. Very little A/A fire was encountered.

On the night of 15-16 February, in the Mussau Island - New Hanover area, enemy shipping was attacked by 3 U.S. Navy PBX's and 4 B-24's. W. of Mussau Island, 1 DD and 1 AK were damaged by a B-24 and 1 possible AO was hit by a PBX. S. of New Hanover, 2 small AK's were damaged after another B-24 scored near misses. Another PBX attacked near New Hanover a large AO which was beached. The 2 small AK's and the AO were part of a southbound convoy.

On the morning of 17 February, Kavieng shipping and installations were shelled by U.S. DD's assisted by a plane. Our ships were not damaged by enemy shore batteries. Hits were reported on runway, supply dumps, shipping and gun emplacements.

E. New Guinea

On 15 February, the Hansa Bay area was raided by 4 strafing P-47's which wrecked a truck.

From 13 to 15 February it was reported that enemy forces totaling 985 men were retreating westward from a village 12 miles S. by N. of Saidor.

Early 16 February, off Misaki Island, 10 Jap barges were badly damaged in a strafing attack by a U.S. Navy PBX.

Also the same day, SW. of Saidor, our ground patrols came up against an enemy defense position. Details were not reported.

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P. N. E. I.

On the morning of 16 February, the Aros Islands were attacked by 5 Allied Beaufighters which dropped more than a ton of bombs and strafed Doka Barat runway (Terangan Island). There was no A/A fire.

Photos on 16 February, of the Talmahora area reveal a probably serviceable strip 4,500 feet long at Cape Lolobeta, while 3 new jetties were observed at the head of Masile Bay.

III. Allied Attacks Against Enemy Shipping

A. U.S. SS has reported sinking an enemy AP and 4 AK's for a total of 24,350 tons, while a second U.S. SS has reported hitting and damaging a large unidentified ship.

A British naval vessel has reported sinking a Japanese SS in the Indian Ocean.

N. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 17 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Caroline Islands

On the morning of 15 February, Ponape was bombed by 42 U.S. B-24's and 3 photoplanes. 56 tons of bombs were dropped on the area, but an almost complete overcast prevented observation of results. There was no enemy interception and our planes encountered only moderate and inaccurate A/A fire which damaged 1 plane. An enemy DD, 4 small AK's and many barges were observed.

B. Marshall Islands

On 14 February, an Allied search plane attacked Rongelap, starting fires, while a second search plane bombed buildings on Majit, NE of Wotje, with a half-ton of bombs. On the same day, the enemy was reported to be repairing the airfield runways at Wotje.

On the morning of 15 February, Enidj, Jaluit Atoll, was bombed by 2 U.S. heavy bombers which dropped 3 tons of bombs. The same day, Teros was attacked by 4 B-24's which dropped 12 tons of bombs. One plane was damaged. Mille was also attacked this same day by 1 B-24, while Wotje was attacked by 3 B-24's which dropped 9 tons of bombs.

On the morning of 16 February, Mille was attacked by 10 P-40's, and 2 1/2 hours later by 11 A-24's. 11 tons of bombs were dropped near the air-strip. Some A/A fire was encountered and 1 A-24 was damaged.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

Early 13 February, Ondonga was raided by enemy planes which caused minor damage.

On 14 February, a Fiji patrol preceded a reinforced platoon in a march northward with the object of setting up an observation post near Mageriaopai, while an Allied patrol in the Torokina area contacted 20 enemy NE of the Torokina River mouth.

On 15 February, our B-24's hit both Kahili and Kara airfields, Kahili being attacked by 11 B-24's and Kara by 8. A total of 75 tons of bombs was dropped, leaving Kahili unserviceable and Kara serviceable for only

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1500 feet. On the same day, 7 Allied dive bombers attacked Jap positions in the Jaba River - Puriata area.

In the early morning of 15 February, off W. Bougainville, an enemy fighter was destroyed by an Allied Ventura.

On the same day, an Allied reinforced platoon, moving N on the Laruma River Trail, was attacked by a large enemy platoon, causing our forces to withdraw. However, during the afternoon, the Allied forces attacked and the enemy withdrew, leaving at least 20 dead. Our forces continued N with reinforcements to contact the enemy.

Early on 15 February, Sterling Island was attacked by 2 enemy planes which dropped 4 bombs without inflicting damage.

About midnight, 15 - 16 February, Allied PT boats encountered an enemy coastal transport accompanied by 5 barges, 4 miles NW of Coma Atoll. No reports of the results have been received.

B. Green Islands

In the early morning on 16 February, The Tanjanlan area was attacked by from 10 to 15 enemy planes which bombed and strafed our positions from a high level. The only casualties were 5 natives wounded. 5 P4U's and 4 P-39's intercepted the enemy before and after their attack. 6 enemy planes were destroyed.

C. New Britain

Early on the morning of 14 February, Simpson Harbor was attacked by 25 U.S. Navy TBF's, 6 of which were shot down by A/A fire. The same day, off Ubili, an enemy barge was attacked and damaged by 2 RAAF Beauforts.

On 14 February, the Rabaul fields were heavily attacked by large forces of Allied planes. Tobera was attacked first by 4 B-25's which shot up 18 Jap fighters on the ground, wing to wing, and also hit buildings. From this attack all our planes returned safely. Tobera was again attacked the same day by 59 SBD's and 10 TBF's which hit enemy gun positions, destroyed 1 Jap bomber on the ground, and damaged 2 other enemy planes. 4- 6 Jap planes were in the air and 1 was shot down by our cover of 20 P-40's and 25 P4U's. 5 of our planes were damaged.

The same day, Vanakana was raided by 30 B-25's covered by 25 P4U's, but the results of the bombing were not observed. Some 5 - 10 Jap fighters ineffectively intercepted and 1 was probably destroyed. No Allied planes were reported lost.

Rapopo airfield was bombed this same day by 28 B-24's covered by 18 P-38's and 24 P4U's which prevented any effective interception. 108 tons of bombs fell on the runway and revetment area. 1 Jap plane was seen to crash.

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On the night of 14 - 15 February, near the Vitu Islands, Allied PT's destroyed 2 enemy barges.

Talasea was bombed on 15 February, by 9 B-24's which hit this target when Kavieng was not reached. Over 18 tons of bombs destroyed buildings. Another B-24 bombed the Rein Bay area, while a P-38 shot down a Jap fighter over Cape Hoskins, and 24 RAAF Beauforts raided Wumung Plantation at Jacquinot Bay where over 22 tons of bombs were dropped to cause fires and explosions.

On the same day, Carove Island was strafed by 3 P-38's, while the Cape Hoskins area was hit by 6 RAAF A-20's. The Jap headquarters was the target. 1 large explosion resulted. 2 other RAAF A-20's attacked a Jap SS submerged off SE New Britain, but results were not known.

On the morning of 17 February, shipping at Rabaul was attacked by 23 TBF's and 47 SBD's. Five ships were reported hit 10 - 12 times by the TBF's, while the SBD's reported 10 direct or effective hits on 7 ships. Shipping in the area was estimated at 10 to 15 AK's and AO's, and 3 DD's.

D. New Ireland

On 14 February, Kavieng was raided by 19 B-24's covered by P-38's, and Panapai was hit at the same time by 17 additional B-24's. 53 tons of bombs were dropped at Kavieng while Panapai received 60 tons. Fires were started and gun position hit.

On 15 February, Kavieng was again heavily attacked by 7 squadrons of B-25's and 4 squadrons of A-20's. A 3,500 ton AK was hit and the vessel left sinking. Several small vessels and 3 luggers were sunk or left sinking, and fires resulted all over the town area. 2 enemy floatplanes were destroyed and 3 others damaged. 6 B-25's were lost due to heavy fire but 15 of the personnel were rescued. These crews were rescued by a PBV which made 7 landings just off Kavieng in the face of heavy fire from shore batteries. The same day, Panapai airfield was raided by 7 B-24's which dropped 21 tons of bombs, and Borpop was attacked by an unstated number of U.S. B-24's. At Borpop a total of 77 bombs were seen to fall in the target area, 8 hits being made on the runway, making it unserviceable.

E. New Guinea

On 14 February, Dagua airfield was hit by 2 additional squadrons of A-20's. 8 Jap planes on the ground were reported destroyed and 19 others damaged. The A-20's were covered by 18 P-47's which strafed Uligan and Malas. Gun positions were silenced. Enemy villages S. of Saidor were bombed and strafed by RAAF Vengeances and 5 P-40's, but no further details were reported. Buildings NW of Newak were strafed by 4 P-47's which also damaged 2 enemy boats by strafing attacks.

On 15 February, over Newak, Allied fighters destroyed 7 Jap planes in combat and 2 more were probably destroyed. We lost no planes.

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On the same day, Alexishafen was attacked by 12 RAAF Vengeances, covered by 8 P-40's, which bombed and strafed huts. The P-40's further damaged 8 - 10 already unserviceable planes. Enemy villages S of Saidor were bombed and strafed by 6 RAAF Vengeances and 4 P-40's and large fires were started. NW of Vitape a B-24 on reconnaissance sank a 1,000 ton Jap AK. 2 tons of bombs were dropped. The same plane bombed Bag Bag Island, while E. of But an enemy petrol vessel was bombed and strafed by a PBV on night patrol.

F. M. E. I.

On the night of 15-16 February, at Ambon, the Halong seaplane base was attacked by 8 B-24's while 3 more B-24's hit enemy installations at a point E. of Halong, at Saumlaki on Tanimbar, and on Ceram. Several large fires were started at Halong.

Before dawn, on 16 February, Ambon was again attacked. This attack was made by 11 U.S. B-25's which also started many fires.

G. Cocos Island

On 13 February 1 Jap bomber flew over Cocos Island but no action was reported. Again on 15 February Cocos Island was visited by 1 enemy bomber which dropped 1 bomb.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports having sunk 1 AK and damaging another vessel of unreported size, while another U.S. SS reports having sunk 1 large AK/AK, 2 large AK's, and damaging 2 medium AK's.

Still another U.S. SS has reported sinking or damaging 3 enemy AK's with 6 hits.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 16 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Marshall Islands

Three times on 10 February, Engebi, Eniwetok was raided by Allied carrier-based planes.

On 11 February, Engebi, Eniwetok was twice hit by Allied carrier-based planes.

Engebi, Eniwetok was again bombed on 12 February by Allied carrier-based planes. At the end of this day's bombing, the runways were believed unserviceable, although some repairs were being made. Some trenches had been added but otherwise there was no indication of activity. All installations that could be seen were destroyed. Japten and Parry, Eniwetok were also bombed, but no installations were noted.

On 13 February, search planes bombed both Ujelang and Utirik atolls. Fires were started at each place.

The same afternoon, Ujae was attacked by 15 SBD's and 12 P6F's. Enemy installations on the NW point of the island were attacked and appear to have been destroyed.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On 13 February, Aitara was raided by 4 A-24's which hit buildings.

On the night of 13-14 February, at Mosiga, a Jap shore gun fired 6-8 rounds of 3" or larger on our PT's, but caused no damage. Later, Mosiga was bombarded and strafed by a LCM assisted by a U.S. plane. Also the same night, enemy positions at Sarime River and Lemammanu Mission were strafed by our PT's.

On the morning of 14 February, 30 miles SSW of Tauu Islands, an enemy SS was attacked by a Sopac patrol plane. Details were not reported.

The same day, N. of Buka, our PT's were attacked by enemy planes which caused slight damage.

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Also the same day, Treasury Island was raided by enemy planes which caused some damage.

On the night of 14 February, about 110 miles W. of Empress Augusta Bay, our surface units sustained minor damage and some casualties in an attack by 6 enemy dive bombers. 2 Jap planes were shot down.

B. Green Islands

On 13 February, off Babase Island, an enemy barge was sunk by a patrolling U.S. plane.

During the night of 14-15 February, our forces landed on Nissan Island, Green Islands, without opposition. According to a GHQ SWPA communique, this operation "for all strategic military purposes, completes the campaign for the Solomon Islands." The communique stated that enemy forces, estimated at 22,000 men, in Choiseul, Shortland, Bougainville and Buka, are now isolated from their sources of supply at Rabaul.

C. New Britain

On 13 February, the heavy attacks on Rabaul continued with 4 bombing attacks by Sopac planes.

Before dawn on 13 February, Rabaul was bombed by 6 TBF's. Just before midday the same day, 3 coordinated attacks were carried out.

Vunakanau was hit by 24 TBF's and 59 A-24's escorted by 64 P-40's and F4U's. Runways and gun positions were hit, and 2 Jap bombers on the ground set afire. Of 30-40 intercepting enemy fighters, 7 were shot down and 4 probably shot down. We lost 2 P-40's and 1 F4U.

Tobara was attacked at the same time by 20 B-25's escorted by 30 F4U's. Fires were started in the dispersal areas and the runway was hit. There was no enemy air interception.

Lakunai was hit at the same time by 23 B-24's covered by 26 P-38's. Runways and buildings were hit, and 6 enemy fighters on the ground were damaged. There was no enemy air interception.

Photos of Rabaul fields on 13 February, before the attacks, showed a total of 141 Jap planes -- 23 medium bombers, 20 dive-bombers and 98 fighters. After the attacks, Lakunai runways and 1 Vunakanau runway were unserviceable.

On 14 February, Pora Pora was attacked by 23 Allied Beauforts covered by 25 P-40's and 6 Spitfires. About 22 tons of bombs were dropped on supply dumps and bivouacs, with excellent results reported.

The same day, Cape Beechey was raided by 3 Allied A-20's which dropped a ton of bombs to start fires and cause explosions. Slight, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

Also the same day, Talasea area was raided in a strafing attack by 1 P-47 and 3 P-38's. Details were not reported.

A patrolling B-24 raided Garove Island the same day.

Early on the morning of 14 February, Arawe and Cape Gloucester were each raided twice by enemy planes which caused no damage. Our A/A fire

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at Cape Gloucester shot down 1 Jap plane.

Also on 13 February, in ground action E. of Cape Gloucester, U.S. Marine patrols pushed forward E. of Cape Mensing, having established their lines at Corissi.

D. New Ireland and Admiralties

Early on the morning of 14 February, Kavieng was raided by a B-24.

At midday the same day, Kavieng airfield was attacked by 19 B-24's covered by P-38's. The runway was hit with 53 tons of bombs.

At the same time on 14 February, Panapai airfield was attacked by 23 B-24's covered by P-38's. The runway here, after the attack, still appeared serviceable. Slight to moderately-intense A/A fire was met.

On the morning of the same day, Momote was heavily attacked again by 84 B-25's covered by P-38's. The runway was damaged further after about 89 tons of bombs were dropped. Fires were started. The planes met only slight A/A fire from the ground.

E. New Guinea

Photos on 12 February of Hollandia showed a total of 154 enemy planes on 3 airfields -- 56 medium bombers, 65 light bombers and 33 fighters.

On the morning of 14 February, off Broken Water Bay, near the Sepik River, an enemy sea truck, which had a probable oil barge in tow, was strafed and bombed by a U.S. Navy PT. The sea truck was left beached and probably sinking.

Early the same day, about 50 miles N. of Tadjil, a U.S. B-24 on patrol attacked without results a small AK and 5 small vessels.

Also the same day, N. of Koror Island, our PT's were attacked without success by Jap planes.

Dagua airfield was attacked on 14 February by 22 A-20's covered by fighters. Fires were started. Of 20 intercepting Jap fighters, 6 were shot down, and 1 more probably shot down. In addition, 2 enemy planes on the ground were damaged. Previously this same day, reconnaissance of Newak airfields showed 25-30 planes at Dagua, 5 at Newak, and none at Boram and But.

Also on 14 February, Erima Plantation was raided by 2 Allied P-40's which started fires after strafing supply dumps and the village.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS has reported sinking a large enemy AP.

N. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 15 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Caroline Islands

On the morning of 14 February, an Allied search plane shot down an enemy bomber about 150 miles SE. of Kapingamarangi Island.

The same morning, another search plane reported an enemy convoy of 1 CL, 1 DD and 4 large AK's on a SW. course about 175 miles SW. of Truk.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On 11 and 12 February, E. of the Torokina River, there were slight contacts between our patrols and the enemy. 2 Japs were probably killed. Jap positions along the beach were shelled by our artillery.

On 12 February, Siposai Island and Mosiga were bombed by our PBV's, assisting our PT's.

Also the same day, our medium and dive-bombers attacked targets outside the Torokina perimeter and along the coast. Berges S. of Motupena Point and buildings at Kekere and Kieta were hit by 3 A-24's. Muma Muma huts were bombed by 2 B-24's. Jaba River berges and buildings were attacked by 2 TBF's and 4 A-24's.

On the night of 12 - 13 February, Torokina was raided by enemy planes. Slight casualties were caused after 4 bombs were dropped.

On 12 and 13 February there was small-scale patrol activity along the Torokina perimeter. About 4 Japs were killed and 3 wounded.

B. New Britain

On the night of 11 February, Cape Gloucester was raided by enemy planes which caused some damage and casualties.

At midday on 12 February, Rabaul was the target again for 3 coordinated heavy attacks. Lakunai was hit first by 23 TBF's and 59 A-24's.

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covered by 57 fighters (P-40's and P-4U's). 52 tons of bombs were dropped on the runway and gun positions. Tobera was then hit by 23 B-25's escorted by 42 P-4U's. 51 tons of bombs were dropped on the runway. Shortly afterward, Vunakanau was attacked by 21 B-24's covered by 20 fighters (P-38's and P-4U's), dropping 76 tons of bombs. About 30 fighters intercepted the planes making the first and third attacks. 7 Jap planes were shot down, and 2 probably shot down. We lost 3 planes (1 B-24, 1 P-4U and 1 A-24).

On the night of 12 - 13 February, Arawe was ineffectively raided by enemy planes. Cape Gloucester was raided at the same time, and some damage and casualties were caused.

E. of Arawe, on 13 February, our artillery units fired on enemy positions at the mouth of the Pulle River.

The same day, Gerove and Unea Islands were raided by a B-25, but details were not reported.

At midday the same day, buildings at Cape Beechey (60 miles E. of Gasmata) were attacked by 11 strafing Spitfires, while that afternoon, Gasmata waterfront area was hit by 16 Allied P-40's which dropped 4 tons of bombs.

Also the same day, S. of Talasea, a Jap barge was bombed by 2 Allied A-20's, while Wide and Open Bays were patrolled by 2 P-47's which hit a building and strafed a barge.

Early on 13 February, N. of St. George Channel, a large enemy barge was sunk by a U.S. patrol plane.

Cape Hoskins was also raided this same day by a single B-24 which dropped 3 tons of bombs.

C.- New Ireland and Admiralties

On the night of 10 - 11 February, 40 miles NW. of Kavieng, a large AK was attacked by patrolling Sopac PBV's. Details were not reported. These planes also attacked 3 barges 20 miles NW. of Rabaul.

On the morning of 13 February, Momote airfield was heavily attacked by 82 B-25's escorted by P-38's. 87 tons of bombs were dropped on the runways and supply dumps, with excellent results reported. Explosions were caused and fires started. The runway was made unserviceable. There was no enemy air interception.

Later the same day, Kavieng airfield was heavily attacked by 42 B-24's covered by P-38's. 147 tons of bombs were dropped, leaving the runway unserviceable. Again there was no enemy air interception. 2 Jap bombers on the ground were wrecked.

Photos on 13 February, of Kavieng, showed only 8 enemy planes there. In the harbor were 14 barges and 3 small AK's.

D. New Guinea

Early on 13 February, E. of Bogadjim, enemy gun positions at

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Singer and Herwath Point were shelled by 2 U.S. DD's, which met no opposition.

On the morning of 13 February, according to incomplete reports, Tadji airfield, 5 miles SE. of Mitape, was attacked by 24 A-20's escorted by P-40's and P-47's. A 3,000-ton AK and a lugger were set afire, and the airfield was made unserviceable. 7 Jap planes on the ground were destroyed, and 4 others probably destroyed. There was no enemy air interception.

The same morning, Sier Island, off Madang, was hit by 16 Allied A-31's which dropped more than 7 tons of bombs on the target, scoring direct hits. Madang was raided at the same time by escorting P-40's which started fires after strafing with .50 calibre.

Also the same morning, Cape Iris, N. of Saidor, was attacked by 6 P-39's which bombed and strafed Jap positions.

At the same time, in the upper Mintjim Valley, enemy positions at Saipa #2 were attacked by 5 strafing P-39's.

On the night of 13 - 14 February, N. of Saidor, Jap shore batteries fired on our PT's. Details were not reported.

III. U.S. and Allied Attacks on Enemy Shipping

A U.S. SS returned from patrol reports sinking a 6,000-ton AK, and damaging 1 Fubuki-class DD, and 2 small AO's. (Total damaged -- 11,300 tons).

A British DD has reported sinking an enemy tankor in the Indian Ocean.

A British SS has reported torpedoing an enemy cruiser and a second British SS has reported sinking an enemy schooner and tug.

W. L. Beles.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 14 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Caroline Islands

Reconnaissance at Ponape on 11 - 12 February showed the run-ways rough and apparently unserviceable. Enemy defenses in the area were observed.

B. Marshall Islands

On 11 February search planes found Mille and Taroa fields operational. No A/A fire was encountered at Wotje.

Early on the morning of 13 February, our supply dumps at Roi, Kwajalein Atoll, were attacked by 12 - 14 Jap planes. The attack caused some casualties.

The afternoon of the same day Taroa was attacked by 6 B-25's. 75mm cannon and 5 tons of bombs were hurled at the enemy. 2 planes were damaged and 1 man was injured.

At noon, 13 February, Wotje was bombed by 6 B-25's which dropped 7 tons of bombs on objectives. 1 plane was shot down.

Also on the morning of 13 February, Mille was bombed and strafed by 22 A-24's and 4 P-39's. 15 tons of bombs were dropped. 1 A-24 was shot down and one crash-landed on return to our field. In addition, 2 planes were damaged in the intense A/A fire encountered.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On the night of 10-11 February, Mawaraka was bombed by Sopac PBV's.

On the afternoon of 11 February, S. of Kihili in Moisuru Bay, 4 enemy AK's were attacked by a Guadalcanal patrol plane which made 3 near misses on 1 AK.

On 11 February, Choiseul Island targets were attacked by 6 A-24's, while the same day, outside the Torokina Perimeter, enemy positions were attacked by 5 more A-24's and 2 Venturas. At Pipipala, N. of Numa Numa, 15 huts were wrecked and gun positions attacked. Hits were also scored on the Numa Numa road and Puriata River bridge.

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During the night of 11 - 12 February, S. of Motupena Point, Matsunki was strafed by our PT's.

On 12 February, over Munda, an enemy reconnaissance plane was seen.

Early on 13 February, Stirling airfield was raided by a single Jap plane which dropped 3 bombs. 1 of our medium bombers on the ground was destroyed and another damaged.

B. New Britain

On 11 February, Garove Island was attacked by 3 B-24's which dropped 11 tons of bombs. 10 buildings were wrecked. These planes were among those which set out for Kavieng.

The same day, Rabaul was heavily attacked again 4 times. Early that morning, Tobera and Vunapope were each raided by 2 torpedo bombers which started fires. Just before noon this same day, Rabaul was hit 3 times within 20 minutes. In the first attack, Vunapope was the target for 24 U.S. Navy torpedo bombers, 36 A-24's, and 66 fighters (P-40's and P-4U's). 42 tons of bombs were dropped, 6 barges were destroyed, a power plant and warehouses damaged, and a breakwater and fuel dump hit. Of 30 Jap fighters in the air, 2 were shot down and 4 more probably shot down. We lost 1 P-4U.

A short time later, Tobera was attacked by 15 B-24's covered by 25 fighters (P-4U's and P-38's). 60 tons of bombs were dropped through the clouds.

At almost the same time, Vunakanau was attacked by 22 B-25's with an escort of 24 fighters (P-4U's, P-51's). 32 tons of bombs were dropped, but results were not observed. Again, about 30 Jap fighters were airborne, 1 of which was shot down and 1 other probably shot down. We lost 1 B-25 but the crew was rescued.

Photos on 11 February of Rabaul fields before these attacks showed all 4 fields serviceable, but after the strike, Tobera was at least partly unserviceable.

Also on the same day, in Wide Bay, an enemy barge was left on fire and the coast to the N. was strafed by PV's on patrol. Also the same day, boats along the N. New Britain coast were attacked by P-39's which sank 2 boats off Cape Racoul and off Talasea strafed a launch.

Also on 11 February, SE. of Gasmata, an enemy SS was attacked by 2 Allied fighters, but results were not reported.

On 12 February, Rooke and Sakar Islands were occupied without opposition by U.S. Marines.

On the same day, the Talasea coastal area was attacked by strafing P-39's on patrol. Talasea was raided the same day by a B-24 which dropped over a ton of bombs on buildings.

Early on the morning of 12 February, Arawa was ineffectively raided by enemy planes.

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On the morning of 13 February, about 40 miles SE. of Jacquinot Bay, a small enemy SS was attacked by a Sopac patrol plane which reported a probable hit.

C. New Ireland and Admiralties

On 12 February, Momote was raided by a patrolling B-24 which dropped 1½ tons of bombs on the waterfront area. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met.

Early on the morning of the same day, 30 miles NNW. of Rabaul, several enemy barges were sunk by a U.S. patrol plane.

Early 13 February, off the SW coast of New Ireland, 2 small ships were attacked by a Guadalcanal-based patrol plane, which scored a direct hit on 1 ship.

D. New Guinea

On 10 -11 February, S. of Saidor, about 800 Jap troops were reported retreating westward.

On 11 February, over the Tadjil airfield near Aitape, a Jap bomber was destroyed by 2 P-38's.

On the night of 11 - 12 February, at Wewak, a 3,000-ton AK was hit and left listing in an attack by a PT. Also the same night, buildings in Migil Harbor, Cape Croisilles, were strafed with rocket fire from our PT's. These PT's also attacked Maraga, S. of Madang, where they strafed a floating drydock with unobserved results.

On 12 February, in Murik Lagoon, E. of Wewak, 3 villages were heavily attacked by 46 light bombers (A-20's) escorted by 12 P-40's. More than 21 tons of bombs were dropped and the target was strafed. Fuel stores were exploded and a floatplane on the beach was wrecked. The fighters on the homeward trip strafed the airfield at Alexishafen and A/A guns in the Bunabun vicinity.

The same day, a Karker Island village was hit with a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24.

Also the same day, the Bogadjim Road was attacked by 12 P-40's and 18 A-31's, which dropped 12 tons of bombs and strafed supply dumps and bridges.

Teteri Village, N. of Saidor, was also attacked on 12 February by 8 strafing P-39's which started fires.

E. N. E. I.

On the night of 11 February, Kenderi airfield, Celebes, and Dilli, Timor, were attacked by B-24's. Kenderi was hit by 5 B-24's which started fires visible 60 miles away and caused explosions. Intense but

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inaccurate A/A fire was met. At Dilli, fires were caused, and our planes met no A/A fire.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 13 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Caroline Islands

On the afternoon of 10 February, Greenwich (Kapingamarangi) was raided by a U.S. search plane which bombed and strafed the seaplane base, buildings and radio towers. Several fires were started.

B. Wake Island

Early on the morning of 11 February, Wake was attacked by 7 PB2Y's (Coronados) which scored hits on the runway, barracks, dispersal and service areas. Results were not observed. There was no A/A fire. 2 other PB2Y's returned to their base because of engine trouble.

C. Marshall Islands

On the morning of 11 February, Mille was attacked by 16 P-40's and 12 A-24's which dropped 10 tons of bombs. 2 of our planes were slightly damaged by moderately-intense A/A fire. It was observed that repair work is continuing on the runways, which on the previous day appeared operational.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On the night of 9 February Soraken Plantation, NW. Bougainville, was raided by a medium bomber (PV).

On the night of 10 February, Torokina was ineffectively raided by Jap planes.

On 10 February, Jaba River pillboxes and a bridge over the Puriata River were hit by 11 A-24's. The same day Bonis was raided by 4 P-39's, while 2 Jap barges in Matchin Bay were set afire by 3 other P-39's.

On the night of 10 February, targets in SW. Bougainville and Choiseul Bay were hit by our Sopac PB2Y's, which bombed Siposai and Redman Islands, strafed Puriata River Positions, and bombed 21 barges E. of Kieta Harbor. Results of the barge attack were not observed. The same night, S. of Cape St. George, 4 Jap fighters were engaged by our PV's on patrol, which shot down 1 fighter.

On Thursday afternoon, in Buka Passage a Jap motor launch was

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probably destroyed in a strafing attack by a Guadalcanal-based patrol plane.

Ground operations on 10-11 February included minor encounters in the Torokina perimeter, in which at least 1 Jap, possibly an officer, was killed.

Near the Mibo River on 11 February, a B-24 drew A/A fire, this being the first instance of such fire in that area.

B. New Ireland and Admiralties

On 10 February Momote was raided by a B-24 on patrol, which dropped a ton of bombs.

At noon, 11 February, Kavieng airfield was heavily attacked by 47 B-24's covered by P-38's. 186 tons of bombs were dropped on gun positions, runways, supply dumps and buildings, causing explosions and fires. 10 Jap planes were wrecked on the ground. In this area, 1 large and 3 medium AK's and 1 probable DD were seen. There was no enemy air interception. Slight to moderately-intense, but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

Also the same day, Tingwon Island was raided by B-24's on patrol.

C. Green Island

On 10 February, during the afternoon, S. of Green Island, a Jap barge was set afire in a strafing attack by 4 P-39's.

Photos taken of Green Island on 11 February revealed no Jap activity but showed 3 more wrecked barges.

D. New Britain

On the night of 9 February, Cape Gloucester was ineffectively raided twice by enemy planes.

At noon, 10 February, Angen River supply dumps were again attacked by 24 Allied Beauforts escorted by 32 P-40's and 16 Spitfires. Almost 23 tons of bombs were dropped with excellent results. The same day, buildings at Gasmata were strafed by 2 patrolling P-39's which also searched the coast to Arawe.

Also the same day, Rabaul fields were attacked 4 times. At dawn, Tobera, Lakunai and Rapopo were hit by U.S. Navy torpedo bombers. At 0900L, 24 U.S. Navy torpedo bombers and 59 A-24's escorted by 69 fighters (23 P-40's, 46 P4U's) bombed gun positions and the runways at Vunakana, scoring several direct hits. Large gas and oil fires were started, with smoke columns seen 40 miles away. 11 Jap fighters out of about 40 intercepting planes were shot down, and 3 more probably shot down, while 1 medium bomber was destroyed on the ground and 6 probably destroyed. We lost 3 planes (1 P4U, 1 SBD, 1 TBF), while several more were damaged.

At 1300L, the same day, Vunakana was again hit, this time by 24 U.S. B-25's escorted by 30 P4U's which dropped 36 tons of bombs on revetments and the runway. Fires were started. About 40 Jap planes tried to intercept and ineffectively used aerial bombs. 1 Jap fighter was set afire.

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We lost 1 F4U, while A/A fire caused minor damage to 2 B-25's.

At 1312 L, Tobera was attacked by 21 B-24's covered by 9 F4U's and 17 P-38's. Revetments and the runway were effectively bombed with 84 tons of bombs. About 60 Jap fighters intercepted our planes, of which 20 were shot down, and 5 more probably shot down. Aerial bombs caused minor damage to 2 B-24's, but all of our planes returned safely. On the homeward trip, a 100-ft. Jap schooner off Pondo Point was left sinking after an attack by our F4U's.

On the night of 10 February, Cape Gloucester was ineffectively raided 4 times by enemy planes. Also on the same night, our PT's W. of Casmeta were raided by a single enemy plane which caused no damage.

Photos of Rabaul Harbor on 10 February revealed about 400 barges, 14 small AK's, 2 DE's, 2 SS's, 3 PC's, 1 medium AK, and 1 AO.

On 11 February, Unea Island was raided by 2 B-24's on patrol, which also hit buildings at Talasea. The same day at Cape Dampier, enemy installations were hit with a ton of bombs from a single B-25.

Early, 11 February, in Jacquinot Bay, a Jap sea truck was probably sunk by patrolling PBV's which dropped 3 depth bombs.

Also the same day, Pora Pora, N. of Cape Hoskins, was attacked by 24 Allied Beauforts which dropped about 23 tons of bombs on supply dumps. Fires were started. At the same time, the Cape Hoskins airfield was reported unserviceable, but at Pora Pora, construction work was continuing.

Early on the morning of 11 February, Tobera and Vanapope were each raided by 2 torpedo bombers which started fires.

Also on 11 February, At Cape Mensing, E. of Cape Gauffre, our patrols killed 16 Japs, took 6 prisoner and found 52 Japs dead due to disease and starvation. At Kokopo, ammunition and supply dumps were taken.

E. New Guinea

On 10 February, in addition to the previously reported attack by heavy bombers on Boran, 10 more B-24's hit the airfield there with 35 tons of bombs. Heavy-calibre, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Alexishafen was attacked on the same day by 5 B-24's which bombed supply dumps.

On 11 February, W. of Gali, a count of 800 dead Japs brought to 4300 the number of known enemy dead in the Huon Peninsula campaign, according to a GHQ SWPA report. In addition it was estimated that 7,000 more had been killed.

The same day, SW. of Saidor near Yoga Yoga, villages on the Jap evacuation path were heavily hit by 12 A-31's escorted by 4 strafing P-47's. Much damage was reported caused.

Also the same day, off Buna, an LST was slightly damaged in an attack by a Jap plane.

Early 11 February, in Dogumur Bay, SE. of Hanea Bay, 5 Jap barges were destroyed and 2 damaged in an attack by our PBV's. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 12 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area.

A. Caroline Islands.

At 0200 K, 11 February, 150 miles NW of Truk, a large Jap CV and 2 DD's were seen heading toward Truk.

B. Mauru Island.

On the morning of 10 February, observation of Mauru showed the runways in good condition. 10 of 12 planes on the ground were seen to be wrecked. Earlier, W of Mauru, our search planes destroyed an enemy medium bomber.

C. Marshall Islands.

On 9 February, Eniwetok fuel stores and runways were hit by U.S. carrier-based planes. Very meagre A/A fire was encountered. Almost the only sign of life on the entire atoll was at Engebi Island. Slight repairs have been made on the airfield.

The afternoon of 10 February at 1420 K, Rongerik and Kabbenbock islands in the Jaluit atoll were bombed by 23 B-24's and 16 P-40's. 15 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped. Large fires were started in an oil storage area. Radar and gun positions were hit. 1 dive bomber was lost. The same day, Taroa was bombed by 2 B-24's on photo reconnaissance. No shipping was seen and no A/A fire was encountered.

The night of 10 - 11 February (1351 - 0522 K) Totje was bombed by 14 B-24's which dropped 42 tons of bombs. Fires were started. A/A fire encountered was meagre. The same night (2032 - 0625 K) Taroa was bombed by 10 B-24's. 30 tons of bombs were dropped. One large explosion was noted. A/A fire was light.

The morning of 11 February (1000 - 1200 K) Taroa was bombarded. 200 rounds of 8" were used, and dump areas as well as the air facilities area were hit repeatedly. There was no return fire from the enemy.

At noon the same day Totje was hit by 9 B-25's. 7 tons of bombs were dropped, and the area was hit by cannon fire. 4 of our planes were damaged.

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by A/A fire and 4 men were injured. Early the same afternoon at 1319 H, Taroa was bombed and strafed by 9 B-25's. 6 tons of bombs were dropped, and fires were started. 2 planes were lost, one crashing near the target area, and the second making a water landing on the return trip. In addition, 3 men were injured. Just before noon the same day at 1139 H, Jaluit was bombed by 2 planes on photo reconnaissance. 1 ton of bombs were dropped. Also the same day U.S. search planes saw landing craft and 2 barges at Kusaie; strafed Rongelap, starting fires; and encountered some A/A fire at Eniwetok.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area.

A. Solomon Islands.

The night of 8 - 9 February, off Choiseul Bay, an enemy barge and patrol craft were strafed by an Allied floatplane.

On 9 February beached barges SE of Kieta were attacked by a PTBY. The same day Donis supply buildings were raided by 4 SBD's while 6 other SBD's hit the Puriata Bridge and strafed enemy craft on the Jaba River. Tiaraka village, NW of Muna Muna was bombed and strafed by 8 P-39's.

The same day near Green Island 2 Jap barges were destroyed by our PV's on patrol. 2 - 4 other barges were damaged.

The night of 9 - 10 February, off Mosiga, SE Bougainville, a large Jap coastal gun scored near misses on a PT and LCI but no damage resulted. Jap installations between Mosiga and Aitara were shelled by the LCI and bombed by a covering PTBY.

Ground operations on 9 - 10 February included one Allied patrol ambushed by the Japs NE of the Torokina perimeter. Another patrol killed 8 of 35 Japs outside the Torokina perimeter. 3 more Japs were killed by the same patrol later in the same area. Allied artillery continued to shell Jap positions.

The morning of 10 February, at 0205 L, off SE Bougainville, beached Jap barges were attacked by a patrol plane. The same morning 3 - 6 Jap planes raided Torokina. Later 2 more Jap bombers were over the area and a PV shot one of the planes down.

The night of 10 - 11 February Mosiga was shelled and bombed by Allied small surface craft covered by a patrol plane. The same night W Buksa and NW Bougainville were strafed by our PT's. Also the same night barges in Choiseul Bay were attacked by our PT's. The target vanished after 3 runs.

B. New Ireland and Admiralties.

The night of 9 - 10 February 160 miles N of Massau Island a Jap convoy of 3 auxiliaries and 2 escorts was bombed by Allied aircraft on patrol. The vessels were heading N. The same vessels were again bombed at noon, 10

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February, 60 miles farther N. Also 10 February Manus Island and Momote airstrip were bombed by 2 medium bombers. The following morning at 0200 L, 2 unidentified Jap ships were attacked 13 miles N of New Hanover Island by our reconnaissance planes.

C. New Britain.

At 1240 L, 9 February, Vunaknanu airfield was heavily attacked by 53 SBD's and 24 TBF's covered by 74 F4U's and P-40's. The runway was hit and strafing probably destroyed 2 Jap aircraft. 2 of 15 - 20 airborne enemy planes were shot down by our fighters, 1 probably destroyed and we lost 1 P-40. Fires were burning in the building area and 10 large enemy gun positions were hit. This attack was followed at 1300 L by 19 B-24's and 24 B-25's with an escort of 20 P-38's and 37 F4U's. Fires were started at both Vunaknanu and Tobera. 10 of 45 - 65 intercepting Jap fighters were shot down and 6 more were probably destroyed. We lost 1 F4U and some others were damaged. Early that morning a B-24 on reconnaissance bombed 3 barges heading N, 10 miles N of Rabaul.

The following day, N of Talasea, 2 small enemy surface craft were strafed and destroyed by 4 RAAF Seafighters. 4 P-39's were over Talasea; 2 of which strafed buildings in the area while the other 2 shot down a Jap medium bomber.

The same day (10 February) the Cape Hoskins and Angon River areas (E of Gasarata) were bombed and strafed by 4 RAAF A-20's, while 5 other A-20's hit the Mal Plantation (S Kimbe Bay area). Early that morning Rabaul airfields were attacked by 6 TBF's. The same day 13 P-40's bombed the enemy supply area near the Angon River.

Also the same day Allied patrols reached Didmap, 8 miles N of Arawe. No Japs were encountered.

Photos of Rabaul airfields show Tobera and Vunaknanu unserviceable. Napopo, Lalunai and Korauat were serviceable. Additional surfacing appeared at the Duke of York strip.

D. New Guinea.

On 10 February Doran airfield was bombed by 63 B-24's, covered by fighters. About 200 tons of bombs were dropped but results were unobserved. A/A fire was encountered but no planes were reported lost.

The same day 5 P-39's and 5 P-40's strafed the enemy positions at Kronprinz Harbor, causing fires. A m/g position was silenced. 8 additional B-24's en route to Doran did not attain their objective, so dropped bombs on enemy buildings at Madang and Gragat Island. 10 buildings were destroyed.

Also the same day about 150 enemy barges at Muschu Island near

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Monak were bombed and strafed by a PDY. 13 barges were reported damaged.

Also 10 February off Brim Plantation a large Jap barge was destroyed by Allied PT's.

Minor patrol clashes were reported SW of Saidor.

R. H. G. I.

The morning of 9 February Doka Barat airfield, Aroo Islands, was bombed by 6 LAAF Beaufighters. 2 trucks were destroyed and fires were started in the supply dump area.

That night 4 of 14 B-24's reached Ambon and bombed the target with unobserved results. 1 B-24 hit the Amahai jetty area and 3 others bombed Lautem, NE Tinor. 20 tons of bombs were dropped at enemy installations. 5 planes jettisoned their bombs and another returned with its load. 1 Jap plane was shot down near Lautem.

III. U. S. SS Reports.

A U.S. SS on patrol in the West Pacific reports scoring 3 probable hits on a Jap CV.

W. L. Dales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 11 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

On the night of 9-10 February, Wake was bombed by 8 U.S. PB2Y's. Hits were scored on the runway and nearby. Slight medium calibre A/A fire was met. No enemy planes were seen.

Wotje was shelled by a patrolling U.S. DD on the night of 7-8 February. No activity was seen.

On 8 February our search planes saw no activity at Eniwetok and Neuru, and no planes or ships at Kusaie. At Ujae and Ujelang, buildings were strafed. It was reported that the Milil runways were being repaired.

On the night of 8-9 February, Wotje was again shelled by a patrolling U.S. DD. No activity was seen. Also on the same night, Taroa and Milil were bombed. 42 tons of bombs were dropped on Taroa by 19 B-24's and 15 tons of bombs were dropped on Milil. No A/A fire was encountered.

At midday on 9 February, Wotje was shelled with 100 rounds of 8" by a CA. Runways here are reported unserviceable.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On 8 February, Teop Island was attacked by 3 strafing P-39's on patrol. A large fire was caused. The same day, Serime Plantation was raided by patrolling B-24's but results were not reported.

In addition to previous reports of shelling by our PT's and LCI's on the night of 8-9 February, along the Bougainville coast, enemy positions on Mikmik Island and Sale Island, NW. Bougainville, were also strafed. Also on the same night, Cape Lalahan, W. Buka, and Motupina Point area were bombed by our planes working in conjunction with our PT's.

On 9 February, E. of the mouth of the Torokina River, enemy units used knee mortars against one of our patrols, wounding 7 men. This patrol then retaliated against the enemy position with mortar fire. On the same day, NE. of Torokina, near the headwaters of the Saua River, a Jap blockhouse was shelled by our artillery.

Also the same day, Tieraka Village, NW. of Numa Numa, was attacked by 4 P-39's which destroyed 6 buildings.

During the night of 9-10 February, enemy installations and positions off NW. Bougainville and W. Buka were strafed by our PT's. On NW. Bougainville, Amun, Sipai, Tola, Cog and Sal were attacked and on NW. Buka, Femanmanu Mission was attacked.

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On the morning of 10 February, Tieraka, NW. of Numa Numa, was shelled by our DD's. 30 minutes later, the DD's shelled Teopasino area. Good results were reported. There was no opposition.

B. New Britain

Early on the morning of 8 February, about 20 miles NE. of Rabaul, a patrolling plane attacked 4 Jap barges, but results were not reported. Again early the same morning, Lakunai airfield was attacked by 5 US. Navy torpedo bombers. Fires were started.

On the night of 8 February, Cape Gloucester was ineffectively raided by 6 Jap planes.

Weather conditions on 8 and 9 February hampered air activity.

On 9 February, Kokopo, 2 miles E. of Cape Gauffre, was taken by our ground patrols, which also reached the W. bank of the Itne River. No enemy forces were met at either place. Photos on 9 February, of Rabaul, showed a total of 48 enemy planes at 4 fields. Tobora was unserviceable and had no planes. Vunakanau was also probably unserviceable. One of the Lakunai strips was unserviceable. Rapopo was serviceable. At Simpson Harbor there were 225 barges, 8 AK's, 15 floatplanes and 1 flying boat.

Off Rooke Island, on 10 February, our surface units were ineffectively attacked by a single Jap plane which dropped 5 bombs but caused no damage.

C. New Ireland and Admiralties

Early 9 February, Kavieng airfield was raided by a single Allied PBX which dropped almost 2 tons of bombs. Results were reported excellent. Searchlights, evidently radar-controlled, and intense accurate A/A fire were encountered.

D. New Guinea

On 8 February, Alexishafen was attacked by 18 dive-bombing P-40's which dropped 4 1/2 tons of bombs on the airfield and jetty area. 2 enemy fighters on the ground were wrecked. No A/A fire was encountered.

On 9 February, on the Rai coast, Australian troops advancing westward effected a junction with American forces advancing eastward at a point a mile S. of Yagomai, thus completing the occupation of the Huon Peninsula area. 27 Jap troops were killed in the last drive. Since the beginning of this phase of the New Guinea campaign, starting with the landing at Finschhafen, the great bulk of the Japanese force in this area - totalling about 14,000 men - has been destroyed, according to a SWPA communique.

The same day, 20 miles S. of Saidor, it was reported that a force of about 400 Japs was retreating westward.

Also the same day, Mindiri Village, 25 miles E of Bogadjin,

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was attacked by 24 A-20's covered by P-40's, which hit Jap positions with 23½ tons of bombs and strafed with .50 calibre. Several huts were destroyed. Buildings on Kerker Island were hit the same day with a ton of bombs by patrolling B-24's which also dropped a 500-lb. bomb on a patrol craft with unreported results.

Early on the morning of 9 February, between Wewak and the mouth of the Sepik River, at least 9 barges out of 14 were sunk and 2 damaged by strafing by a patrolling PBV. Some light-calibre, accurate ~~P/A~~ fire was encountered. Barges off Mischu Island were also attacked. Also early the same day, 7 miles N. of Hansa Bay, 2 fast, small vessels were attacked without results by our patrolling B-24's.

The same day over Wewak airfields, our patrol reported 11 Jap planes - 6 in the air and 5 on Dagua field.

E. N. E. I.

At midday, 9 February, off Eilanden River, a single Jap plane was seen.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a large AP and a DD of a convoy of 2 DD's and 3 AP's.

Another U.S. SS reports scoring 1 or 2 hits on an enemy CA.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0000, 10 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Marshall Islands

The morning of 7 February (0900 Y) Jaluit was attacked by 16 B-40's each carrying a ton of bombs. Supply dumps were hit. Slight inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Later the same day (1245 Y), Motje was attacked by 9 U.S. B-25's which dropped 9 tons of bombs and strafed the runway at low level. 1 bomber was slightly damaged by the meagre A/A fire. Also the same day (1130 Y), Taroa was hit with 8 tons of bombs from 8 U.S. B-25's. A barracks was wrecked, gun positions were hit and fires started. 2 of the bombers were slightly damaged by the meagre A/A fire encountered. Further attacks were made in the afternoon of the same day, during which 1 of our fighters was shot down but the pilot rescued by a seaplane. That night Taroa was shelled by a U.S. DD which started a large fire, probably an ammunition dump. There was no enemy activity seen. The following afternoon (1300-1500 Y) Taroa was shelled with 200 rounds of 8", causing a large fire. It was announced that the capture of Kwajalein Atoll has been completed.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On the 6th of February, in Choiseul Bay, continued enemy activity on Siposai Island was reported. That night Teop Island was strafed by our patrolling planes, which also bombed the Puriana River area. The following day, at the Tavenu River in Express Augusta Bay, enemy pillboxes and huts were attacked by 2 dive-bombers. Also on 7 February, 1 mile SW of Pipiaia in the Muma Muma area, enemy units tried to ambush a Fiji patrol but lost 2 Japs killed and no Fiji casualties. The night of 8 - 9 February, Siposai Island was shelled by our PT boats which also damaged a barge between Redman and Taro Islands. The same night the Mibo River area was shelled by other PT's. That same night, S of Motupena Pt., the bush area near the beach was shelled by our gunboats.

B. New Ireland and Admiralties

The afternoon of 8 February Monote was raided by 2 U.S. patrolling heavy bombers which dropped 2 tons of bombs on the airfield.

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C. New Britain

The morning of 7 February Tobera was attacked by 59 A-24's and 22 torpedo bombers escorted by 13 P-40's, 46 FMJ's and 3 P6F's. 50 tons of bombs were dropped on the airfield and A/A gun positions. Of 30 - 40 Jap fighters which intercepted our planes 11 were shot down and 3 more probably shot down. 7 Jap planes on the ground were probably destroyed. All of our planes returned safely. Photos on the same day of 3 Rabaul fields (Rapo, Lakunai, and Tunkanau) revealed 68 enemy planes (25 medium bombers, 20 dive bombers and 20 fighters). In Rabaul Harbor were 223 barges, 9 small AK's, 16 floatplanes and 1 flying boat.

Early the morning of 8 February Rabaul shipping was attacked by 5 torpedo bombers. 1 enemy SS suffered a direct hit and 1 AK was left smoking. Vunapope was bombed by 1 of these planes. The same morning Arawa was raided 3 times by enemy planes which also raided Cape Gloucester. No damage was reported. At noon the same day Angen River supply dumps were attacked by 17 Allied Beauforts escorted by 10 Allied Spitfires and 15 P-40's. More than 16 tons of bombs were dropped with excellent results. Fires were started. Also the same day, at Talasea, buildings, storehouses and 3 barges were hit by patrolling fighters (2 P-39's and Allied Beaufighters).

D. New Guinea

Early the morning of 8 February, 7 miles W of BLUP BLUP Island (N of Sepik River mouth), 3 small boats (possibly enemy PT boats) were attacked without results by FBX's. The same day, on the Rai coast, Australian ground units pushed forward past Weber Point, and are now only about 5 miles from Old Yagorai, E of Saidor, where American units are. During the advance 49 Japs were killed and 4 captured. Also the same day Cape Croatin, S of Pineshafen, was raided by a single enemy bomber, which caused minor damage. Also on 8 February, W of Cape Croisilles, buildings were attacked by 4 strafing P-47's, while near Amelo Mission, Madang, 3 Jap barges were strafed, and buildings and a tank attacked by P-39's on patrol. The same day Madang was attacked by 24 P-25's escorted by P-47's and P-33's, which hit installations and supply dumps with 27 tons of bombs. Results were reported excellent, with fires and explosions caused. Only slight, light-calibre, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Also the same day Alexishafen airfield and vicinity were the target for 11 A-20's, escorted by fighters, which dropped 10 tons of bombs. Fires in oil stores were started. Moderately intense, light-calibre A/A fire was encountered.

E. N. B. I.

The night of 8 February Toel, Kai Islands, was attacked by 7 Dutch B-25's which dropped more than 10 tons of bombs on the waterfront area and barracks. Fires were started. Slight but accurate A/A fire was encountered.

W. L. Dales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 9 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Caroline Islands

At midday, 7 February, Satawan Island, Momoi, was raided by a SoPac search plane which killed a gun crew, strafed buildings, blew up 100 oil drums, and damaged 4 barges. The airfield was reported in good condition although no planes were seen. Slight A/A fire was encountered. Later the same day Kapingamarangi was raided by the same plane which sank a sailboat in the lagoon.

B. Marshall Islands

On the morning of 6 February Taroa was attacked by 8 B-24's which dropped 24 tons of bombs on the airfield, starting fires. No A/A fire was encountered. Later the same day Wotje was attacked by 9 B-24's which hit the airfield with 27 tons of bombs. Again no A/A fire was met. Also the same day Mille was hit by dive-bombers and fighters. 20 tons of bombs were dropped and gun positions and the airfield were strafed. Only slight A/A fire was met. The airfield here was still unserviceable, although being repaired.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On 6 February the Jaba River area was attacked by 8 A-24's which dropped bombs on bridges and pillboxes.

Bonis was raided by 1 B-24 on the morning of 7 February. The same day, E. of the central E. perimeter of Torokina, 5 Japs at an enemy outpost were killed by our ground patrols, which suffered 1 man wounded. On the NE. a Fiji patrol contacted an unknown number of Japs, but details were not reported.

During the night of 7-8 February Mikmik Island, NW. Bougainville, was shelled by our PT's. Only rifle fire was encountered. At Queen Carola Harbor, NW. Buka, these PT's also strafed a schooner.

B. New Britain

On the morning of 6 February, Lakunai was heavily attacked by

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32 U.S. B-25's escorted by 24 Allied P-40's, 39 P4U's, and 9 P6F's. 48 tons of bombs were dropped and the runway made unserviceable. Fires were started in adjacent areas. Of 40 Jap fighters which intercepted our planes before and after the bombing, 13 Jap fighters were shot down and 4 probably shot down. All of our planes returned safely, although intense A/A fire slightly damaged 8 B-25's. A short time later the same morning, Lakunai was again attacked by 19 B-24's escorted by 29 P4U's and 18 P-38's. 76 tons of bombs were dropped, all but 1 bomb falling within the target area. Fires and explosions resulted. 3 of the B-24's were slightly damaged by moderately intense A/A fire but all our planes returned. Of 12-17 intercepting Jap planes, 3 were probably shot down.

At the same time, Tobera was raided by 1 B-24 which dropped 4 tons of bombs. Results were not observed.

On the night of 6 February, Cape Gloucester was raided by enemy planes.

Also on 6 February, in the Arawe area, our ground units arrived at the mouth of the Sigul River without encountering the enemy, while other patrols near the Itne River met enemy units. Details were not reported. Also the same day, near Cape Gauffre, 8 Japs were killed and 3 captured in an encounter with a patrol of Marines.

On the morning of 7 February, over Cape Gloucester, a single enemy fighter was shot down by a P-47. The same morning, Vunakanau was attacked by 17 B-24's. Hits were scored on the runway. 1 Jap plane was shot down and 7 probably shot down. 3 of our B-24's were damaged by A/A fire and another by fire from an enemy fighter. On the afternoon of the same day, Arawe was raided by a single enemy plane which bombed the jetty area.

On 7 February, at Talasea, Carua Harbor was raided by a patrolling B-24 which dropped 4 tons of bombs, while the same day, Cape Dampier was raided by another patrolling B-24 which dropped 4 tons of bombs on buildings. Also on the same day, the Angen River area was attacked by 16 Allied P-40's which dropped over 3 tons of bombs on supply dumps. Also on 7 February the Rein Bay and Gasnata areas were raided by patrolling P-39's.

C. New Ireland and Admiralties

At noon, 6 February, Missan Island was raided by 2 B-34's which damaged 4 barges. Later the same day, at Pinopil Island, 4 P-39's strafed installations and 4 barges. On the night of 6 February, Kavieng and Penapai airfields were raided by 1 Allied PBV. Some accurate A/A fire was met. On the same night, Cape St. George was raided by patrolling planes.

On the morning of 7 February, 40 miles S. of Cape St. George, an enemy SS was sighted.

D. New Guinea

On 6 February, Sunabun was attacked by 3 patrolling B-25's which dropped a ton of bombs to destroy 4 barges and an ammunition dump. A/A fire brought down 1 of our bombers. The same day in this area, an enemy

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bomber was shot down by 4 P-47's. Also the same day, on the Rai coast, Allied ground patrols moved forward 3 miles N of Lepsius Point, heading for Ruinji Village #2. On the night of 6 February, Pinschhafen was raided by 4 enemy planes. Slight damage was caused by the 1 bomb which was dropped.

On the morning of 7 February, our air patrols over Newak airfields saw no enemy planes at Newak, Boram, Dagua and But. The same day, in the Ramu Valley, Allied ground units from the Kenkiry area arrived at Amason without meeting the enemy. Also the same day, near Bogadjim, Jap-held buildings were the target for 5 A-31's which dropped 2 1/2 tons of bombs and strafed, while in Melanus Harbor, an enemy M/G post was strafed by P-39's which also raided the Cape Croisilles area, sinking 1 barge and damaging 2.

E. N. E. I.

Photos on 7 February of Kaimana, Dutch New Guinea, revealed a new runway, 3,600 feet long, being constructed. On the night of 7 February, Ambon was attacked by 13 B-24's which dropped 13 tons of bombs on the jetty area, supply dumps and barracks. Large fires and explosions resulted. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. At the same time, Lauten on Timor Island was raided by a B-24 which dropped 4 bombs to cause explosions.

IV. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol has reported sinking a large enemy AK and a medium AK, an enemy torpedo boat and 3 schooners. An enemy CVS was very heavily damaged and probably sunk and an enemy DD was damaged. The large AK was sunk together with an escort while the second escort was damaged.

The CVS was attacked in 6 different surface attacks at night. 5 hits were made and the target was last seen bow well down with the stern out.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 8 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Caroline Islands

On the afternoon of 6 February, Ponape, Ant, and Pakin Islands were observed by a SoPac search plane. At Ponape 1 AK and 10 - 15 small vessels were seen. In the vicinity were 1 PC and 1 LST type. A serviceable airfield was seen on Jokaj Island, NW of Ponape Town, but no planes. On the E side of Takatik Island, a large probable hangar for seaplanes was seen. In the Kiti area, a cleared space was not an airfield. There was no enemy air interception. At Ant and Pakin, no enemy installations were observed.

B. Marshall Islands

On 5 February at Mille, our patrolling planes saw a ship sunk in Tokowa Channel, probably the result of a mine. At Enidj, Jaluit Atoll, 4 small boats and 2 seaplanes were observed. The Taroa runways were reported to be not badly damaged. At Wotje, A/A fire was encountered and machinery seen on the airfield. It was announced by Admiral Nimitz that enemy casualties at Kwajalein Atoll totalled 8,122 dead and 264 taken prisoner. Our casualties were 286 killed, 1148 wounded, and 82 missing.

During the morning of 6 February (1000 - 1200 Y), Taroa was shelled with 200 rounds of 8". No airborne Jap planes were seen.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

Later reports of the attack of 4 February off Motupina Point by PT's and gunboats on 4 Jap barges state that all 4 barges were destroyed. The same night, 1 mile NW of Purjata River, other PT's forced another Jap barge to the beach.

On 5 February the Mawaraka area, N of Motupina Point, was raided by 2 U.S. dive-bombers while at Buka, the Nova floatplane base was hit by 4 fighters (P-39's) which also damaged a barge. On the night of the same day Torokina was raided by enemy planes, while Treasury Island was ineffectively bombed for the 2nd night by 12 enemy planes. The same night, about 75 miles E of San Cristobal, our surface units attacked an enemy SS. No damage was reported.

On 6 February, NW of Torokina, Kurao Mission was occupied by our forward patrols which contacted the enemy, killing 1 Jap. In the Torokina area the previous day, 2 other Japs were killed by our ground units. The vicinity of the Jaba River mouth was shelled again.

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On the night of 6-7 February, Mosiga, SW Bougainville, was bombarded by an LCI gunboat.

B. New Britain

On 5 February at 1045 L, Lakunai was attacked by 139 planes (24 torpedo bombers, 44 dive-bombers and 71 fighters). A/A gun positions and fuel stores were hit. Of 20 - 40 intercepting Jap planes, 5 were shot down and 3 others probably destroyed. We lost 1 torpedo-bomber and 3 fighters. At 1102 L the same day, Lakunai was again attacked. 13 B-24's escorted by 15 P-38's and 19 P4U's dropped 39 tons of bombs on the target area, starting large fires. 2 of 25 intercepting enemy planes were shot down. 8 of our bombers were slightly damaged by intense A/A fire.

Photos taken of Lakunai airfield on 6 February revealed that the runway was still unserviceable. 37 enemy planes were seen - (35 fighters, 2 dive-bombers). In Rabaul harbor there were 277 barges, 8 AK's (7 small, 1 medium), and 3 SS's. On the same day, NW of Rabaul, 2 enemy DD's were attacked by 3 patrolling medium bombers (B-25's). A ton of bombs was dropped without result. Accurate, moderately heavy A/A fire was encountered. Also on the same day, off Cape Dampier, 3 enemy barges were sunk in an attack by 3 B-25's which also hit M/G positions ashore. At the same time, Talasea was raided by a patrolling B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs.

Early on the morning of 7 February, 30 miles N of Rabaul, 2 small enemy boats were attacked by a patrolling U.S. plane. Results were not reported.

C. New Ireland and Admiralties

On 6 February, Momote airfield was attacked by 25 B-24's which dropped 80 tons of bombs on the target.

D. New Guinea

Later reports of the attack on 5 February on shipping in Hansa Bay state that a barge and a lugger were sunk and buildings wrecked when 12 more A-20's dropped 9 1/2 tons of bombs and strafed.

On 6 February, about 18 miles E of Saidor, advance units of the 8th Brigade pushed forward to Lepsius Point. The same day, near Madang, supply dumps at Gragat Island were attacked by 12 B-24's while 6 more heavy bombers attacked Erimahafen Plantation. 68 tons of bombs were dropped. Also on the same day, near Tewak, 25 A-20's with fighter escort attacked Muschu Island and dropped more than 25 tons of bombs. A 2,000-ton AK, an escort vessel and 2 sea trucks were set afire, 2 luggers sunk, and many barges damaged. Moderately intense A/A fire, both accurate and inaccurate, was met. Our P-40's and P-47's destroyed 4 Jap planes. The same day, the New Guinea coast, from Cape Croisilles to Cape Gourdon, was hit by 14 B-25's which dropped more than 16 tons of bombs. Villages, trucks and barges were strafed and 2 bridges wrecked. Mubia was also raided on 6 February by 9 P-39's which damaged 5 barges.

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E. N. E. I.

On 6 February the Tanimbar Islands were raided by 3 Dutch B-25's which dropped 2 tons of bombs and strafed Selaru Island villages.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 7 February 1944

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

A. Paramushiru Area

On the night of 5-6 February (0155 I) Tomari Zaki, Kataoka and Kashiwabara, on the NE tip of Paramushiru, were bombed by 2 Catalinas and 2 Venturas. Results were unobserved because of heavy overcast.

II. Central Pacific Area

A. Marshall Islands

On the night of 4 February Motje was attacked by 9 B-25's which dropped 8 tons of bombs to cause clouds of smoke visible 15 miles away. 4 of our planes were damaged by slight but accurate A/A fire. A short time later Motje was hit with 48 tons of bombs dropped by 16 B-24's. Fires were started.

Earlier on the evening of 4 February, islands in the Maloelap Atoll were attacked by 9 B-25's which dropped 7 tons of bombs. Guns positions and the airfield were hit. 2 of our planes were damaged by intense but generally inaccurate A/A fire. A short time later Tarca was the target for 12 B-24's which hit the airfield with 36 tons of bombs. This time almost no A/A fire was met, and all of our planes returned safely.

At the same time on 4 February, Mille was hit by 3 B-24's followed by 8 Warhawks. 13 tons of bombs were dropped to add to the craters which now pit the whole island. Only slight A/A fire was met. In the harbor a large AK was observed sunk.

It was announced that Japanese casualties in the southern section of Kwajalein Atoll totalled 1240 killed and 51 captured.

On 5 February it was announced that the southern half of Kwajalein Atoll has been secured and offensive operations completed. Up to this date, total enemy casualties were 4,654 dead, 40 Japanese and 122 Koreans taken prisoner, and 178 Marshall Islanders held in custody.

III. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On the night of 4-5 February, S. of Motupina Point, in the Buks-Bougainville area, a Jap barge was destroyed by PT boats.

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On 5 February, in the Torokina area, 4 enemy houses located 700 yards NE of Mavavia were destroyed by our artillery, while in the Jaba and Dolaris River areas, our 155 mm. guns shelled enemy positions and also fired on Jap emplacements and stores in the Tokessi River area. The same day, our artillery also shelled Hagine Island where an enemy observation post is believed located.

On the night of 4-5 February, Treasury Island was attacked by 5-6 enemy planes, 1 of which was reported downed by our A/A. About 30 bombs were dropped, most of them in the water.

B. New Britain

Photos on 5 February of 4 Rabaul fields show a total of 67 enemy planes (15 fighters, 32 medium bombers, 18 dive bombers and 2 light bombers). Rapopo, Wunakana and Tobera were serviceable; Lakunai was not. In addition, at Simpson Harbor, 10 floatplanes were observed.

Early on the same day, in the Cape Gloucester area, an Allied AK was ineffectively attacked by a single enemy fighter.

Also on the same day, at noon, Cape Hoskins airfield was heavily hit by 47 B-24's escorted by P-38's. 167 tons of bombs were dropped. These bombers did not attack their primary target, Kavieng, because of weather conditions. The same planes hit Lindenhafen with 8 tons of bombs.

C. New Ireland and Admiralties

Early on 5 February, Kavieng airfield was raided by a single Allied FBV. Also on the same day, near Tingwon Island, a sea truck was attacked by 3 patrolling medium bombers which scored near misses.

Early on the morning of the same day, near Green Island, our surface units sank a large barge.

D. New Guinea

Later reports of the attack of 4 February on But and Dagua airfields stated that they were hit by 26 more B-24's escorted by fighters.

Also the same day in the Ramu Valley near Mataloi Village #2, Allied ground forces repulsed a Jap counter-attack, allowing 2 Allied platoons which had been cut off, to regain contact. At the same time, patrols in the Kankiryo area did not contact the enemy.

The same day at Boram, an enemy bomber was shot down by 4 P-47's, while Alexishafen targets were strafed and a barge on the Gogol River destroyed by 2 P-39's.

On the night of 4 February, near Hansa Bay, an enemy sea truck was attacked by a patrolling B-24.

On 5 February, 10 miles W. by S. of Seidor, our artillery shelled Jap troops. Also the same day, enemy installations at Hansa Bay were attacked by 39 B-25's and 24 A-20's which dropped almost 63 tons of bombs and strafed. Many fires were caused, 3 barges and a sea truck sunk, fuel stores destroyed, and a bomber on the ground destroyed.

On the afternoon of 5 February, shipping in the Newak area was

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attacked by 3 patrolling B-25's which reported sinking a probable gunboat and an AK probably carrying ammunition, as well as 5 barges. In addition, a fuel dump ashore was destroyed and 2 floatplanes strafed. About 150 barges were seen in this area.

Again on the same day, in the Ramu Valley near Atemble, supply dumps were strafed by 2 P-39's.

Early on 5 February, about 20 miles NW of Hansa Bay, a small AK was attacked without results by a patrolling PBV. Also on the same day, about 5 miles up the Ramu river, 6 large Jap barges were sunk in an attack by a squadron of A-20's.

E. N. E. I.

On the night of 4 February, Amboina was attacked by 6 B-24's which dropped more than 6 tons of bombs on Liang airfield. Fires were started. The same night, Namlea airfield on Boeroe Island was hit by 5 more B-24's which dropped more than 4 tons of bombs to cause large fires.

On the morning of 5 February, Timor was raided by 6 Allied long-range fighters which strafed enemy troops and buildings in the Betano area with 20 'I' and M/G. On the afternoon of the same day, Kaimana, Dutch New Guinea, was raided by 3 B-24's which dropped 3 tons of bombs in the jetty area, causing fires visible 50 miles away.

IV. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS reports sinking a 10,000-ton AO.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 6 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Gilbert Islands

On 4 February Nauru was observed by a patrolling U.S. plane which reported that the air strip there is believed to be operational. 25 small boats were seen, some A/A fire was encountered.

B. Marshall Islands

On 3 February, Mill was attacked by 8 Warhawks which dropped 4 tons of bombs. It was observed that no repair work is being done on the runways. The same day, off Enidj Island at Jaluit atoll, a 2,000-ton AK was sunk in an attack by 6 U.S. B-34's. There was no enemy air interception but A/A fire slightly damaged 3 of our planes.

On 4 February, Kwajalein, Ebeye and 2 nearby islands were captured by troops of the 7th Division. It was announced that our forces have completed the occupation of Majuro atoll. It was estimated that the preparatory naval bombardment of Roi and Namur Islands had killed 50-75% of the Japanese garrison of about 2,500 troops. Only 1 or 2 blockhouses were not put out of action by the bombardment. Early 4 February, about 30 miles SW. of Ailinglapalap, our surface units attacked an SS. An oil slick appeared shortly afterwards.

Also 4 February Eniwetok was attacked by carrier-based planes which wrecked dropped 35 tons of bombs. Fuel stores and runways were hit, and 2 Jap planes on the ground. It was observed that the runway is not being repaired. On 4-5 February Wake was attacked by 18 U.S. PB2Y's. Results were not reported. All of our planes returned safely.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On 4 February at Namatua, W. of Numanuma, friendly natives eliminated an enemy post by clubbing 5 Japs to death without casualty to themselves. Small arms were captured. On the afternoon of 4 February Sarine Plantation, NW. Bougainville, was attacked by 6 A-24's which hit huts and started small fires. No activity was observed. The same day, targets in SW. Bougainville were raided by 6 patrolling dive-bombers (A-24's) which wrecked bridges over the Mobai and Mibo rivers and

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attacked Sovele Mission and Toko. On 4-5 February, Piva, N. of Cape Torokina, was raided by 3-5 enemy planes which dropped 2 bombs to damage 3 of our planes on the ground. On 5 February, in the morning, Hahaila Plantation, at the E. end of Buka Passage, was shelled by 3 Allied DD's. The same target was strafed by several F4U's which met moderately intense A/A fire.

B. New Britain

On 4 February near the Amgen River, supply dumps were attacked by 16 Allied fighters (P-40's) which dropped 4 tons of bombs. Fires were started. Also, on 4 February, Rabaul fields were heavily hit by 3 coordinated attacks within an hour. At 1116L, Tobera was attacked by 25 U.S. B-25's covered by 45 fighters. At 1130L, Vunakanau was hit by 2 squadrons of heavy bombers (B-24's) escorted by 34 fighters. From 1140 - 1212L 17 F4U's swept the Rabaul area. In the 1st attack (on Tobera), 10 direct hits were scored on the runway, and smoke clouds rose over the target. A/A fire damaged 1 B-25. 3 Jap fighters were in the air but did not close. In the 2nd attack (on Vunakanau) 54 tons of bombs were dropped. Weather conditions obscured results. A/A fire slightly damaged 6 B-24's, while 1 Jap fighter shot down 1 bomber. The 34 fighters (22 F4U's, 12 P-38's) escorting our heavy bombers met 20-30 Jap fighters, shooting down 2. We lost 2 F4U's. The 17 F4U's on the Rabaul sweep shot down 1 of 3 intercepting Jap fighters.

Also 4 February, Arawe was raided by enemy planes. No damage was caused. Early 5 February (0515L), N. of Rabaul, a probable hit was scored on 1 of 2 ships attacked by a patrolling U.S. plane.

C. New Ireland and Admiralties

On 3 February, N. of New Hanover, 3 Jap fighters intercepted a patrolling B-24 which damaged 1 of the fighters.

D. New Guinea

On 3 February near Bogadjim, truck transports were strafed by 2 P-39's on patrol. Later reports of attack of 3 February on Newak airfields state that our fighters (P-38's, P-47's, P-40's) destroyed 6 Jap bombers in the air and 1 more enemy fighter, and that 12 more heavy bombers (B-24's) were sent against Boram, while Dagua was hit by 23 more medium bombers (B-25's).

On 4 February, But and Dagua airfields were attacked by 31 B-24's escorted by P-40's and P-47's which dropped 67 tons of bombs on But and more than 40 tons of bombs on Dagua. 30 Jap planes on the ground were attacked and fuel stores set afire. Also 4 February, Marienberg on the Sepik River was hit by 23 attack bombers (A-20's) escorted by P-47's which dropped about 24 1/2 tons of bombs. The barge slipway was badly damaged, buildings were wrecked and fires started. Meagre, inaccurate A/A fire was met.

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The same day, Alexishafen was the target for 42 B-25's escorted by P-38's. Supply dumps and bivouacs were hit with about 44 tons of bombs and 65,000 rounds of M/G were expended. 3 Jap planes on the ground were hit. Meagre and generally inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Also 4 February, Madang supply and bivouac areas were attacked by 29 B-25's which dropped 35 1/2 tons of bombs and strafed with almost 70,000 rounds of M/G. Fires were started. Only meagre, light-calibre A/A was met.

The same day, in the Ramu Valley, 16 fighters (P-39's) started fires in a bombing and strafing attack on Atemble and villages in that vicinity. 3 tons of bombs were dropped. Also, 4 February, 8 miles W. of Reiss Point, our ground forces crossed the Sari River. The same day in the Ramu Valley near Matalio Village #2, 2 Allied platoons were reported out off by a Jap counter-attack. Further details were not reported.

E. N.E.I.

On 3-4 February night, at Ambon, Laha airfield was raided by 2 Allied (Dutch) medium bombers (B-25's). Fires were started after incendiary and fragmentation bombs were dropped. Meagre and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 5 February 1944

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

2300K, 4 February enemy installations at the S. end of Paramushiru were bombarded by 2 U.S. CL's and 7 DD's. A Jap ship was possibly hit and a large fire and several columns of smoke were observed. Our forces were apparently undetected before they reached the target area at which time they drew rapid but inaccurate fire from enemy shore batteries. Vessels withdrew after the mission without damage. 6 PBV's and 3 PB's were over Paramushiru the same night, but no further details were reported.

II. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

A new attack was launched on enemy troops on Kwajalein 4 February. U.S. forces landed on S. Ebeye after heavy shelling flattened almost all structures and trees. No opposition was encountered until our troops were 300 yards ashore. Later reports claim the island as ours. Gagan, Edjell, Lebou and other small atolls were reported captured by U.S. forces. Most of the small atolls which have been attacked have been reported defended by the enemy.

(B) Caroline Islands

Greenwich Island seaplane area was bombed and strafed by an Allied searchplane the morning of 4 February.

III. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

During the night of 2 - 3 February Allied artillery shelled enemy positions NE and E. of Empress Augusta Bay. The following night Allied DD's W. of Buka were bombed by 6 enemy medium bombers and floatplanes. No damage was sustained but near misses were scored on our vessels. 1 Jap plane was shot down. Also the night of 3 February a B-24 bombed Faisi, starting a fire. The morning of 4 February Sarime Plantation, NW Bougainville, was shelled by 3 Allied DD's. 1 of our vessels was hit by 2 shells which exploded and badly damaged the ship and wounded 4 men.

(B) New Ireland - New Britain

Kavieng was raided before dawn 3 February by a single RAAF PBV. Fires resulted in the airfield. Also on the same day the Angen River area, E. of Gasmata, was heavily bombed by 25 RAAF Beauforts covered by 15 P-40's and

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16 RAAF Spitfires. Over 21 tons of bombs were dropped in the supply dump area, causing fires. At noon 3 February 24 SBD's and 23 TBF's searching for shipping at Rabaul heavily bombed Tobera airfield. The bombers were covered by 39 F4U's, 11 P-40's and 8 F6F's. Weather conditions were unfavorable but many hits were scored on the target and 1 enemy plane on the ground was seen to explode. Trucks on the field were also strafed. 7 of 10 - 15 Jap fighters which intercepted were shot down and 4 probably destroyed. 3 F4U's are missing and 4 bombers are damaged. Shortly afterwards 15 B-24's covered by 14 P-38's and 17 F4U's bombed Lakunai airfield, causing fires and explosions. Some 25 - 30 Jap planes attempted interception and our fighters and bombers shot down 6 enemy planes and claimed 2 probables. All our planes returned safely, although 2 B-24's were damaged. On 4 February an Allied searchplane attacked an unidentified vessel in St. George Channel.

(C) New Guinea

A late report reveals that 2 A-29's strafed Alexishafen airfield on 31 January, destroying 2 enemy planes on the ground and setting 2 - 3 fuel trucks afire. On 3 February Hansa Bay and other New Guinea targets along the coast were bombed and strafed by 12 A-20's and 16 P-47's. Shortly afterwards 12 other A-20's bombed the Madang area. Heavy raids were carried out in all the airfields in the Newak area 3 February. The first attack on Newak was by 13 P-47's followed shortly afterwards by 52 B-24's covered by P-47's. At least 12 planes were destroyed on the ground. No interception was encountered over the target but 40 Jap fighters attacked our planes returning home. 7 of the enemy were shot down, 1 probably destroyed. 52 B-25's escorted by P-47's and P-40's later bombed But and Dagua airfields. Jap fighters returning from combat were caught on the ground and around 60 enemy planes were reported destroyed at the 2 airfields by strafing and bombing. A patrolling P-38 shot down another Jap plane. At least 171 tons of bombs were dropped and no Allied planes were lost in these attacks.

Continued rain and flooded rivers hampered ground operations in New Guinea. However, Allied forces in the Upper Ramu captured positions 5 miles W. of Daumcina. No opposition was encountered and prepared positions had apparently been evacuated. Patrols moved 2 miles further but encountered no Japs.

(D) N. E. I.

Timooka airfield and Keaukwa Village were bombed by 2 RAAF PBV's during the night of 2 - 3 February. Fires resulted.

IV. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS patrolling the Southwest Pacific area reports scoring 2 hits on a Jap DD.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 4 February 1944

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

On the night of 2 - 3 February 2 U.S. Navy PBV's bombed Paramushiru, with unobserved results. 1 of our planes made 6 runs over the SE part of the island, while the other dropped bombs on the NE coast of the island.

II. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Later reports of the attack on 30 January near Ujae atoll by a U.S. DD on 1 medium AO, 1 medium AK and 2 smaller ships (summary for 2 February 1944) state that all 4 ships were sunk by gun fire.

On 30 January our planes struck Eniwetok atoll, destroying 15 Jap medium bombers and 4 floatplanes on the ground, and leaving 2 medium AK's and 4 other smaller ships sunk or burned and beached. There was no enemy air interception and our planes returned safely. The same day our planes bombed and strafed Ujelang and Bikini atolls.

On 1 February U.S. patrol planes scored 2 hits on a 100-ft. AK which was beached at Namu atoll.

By 2 February, air strikes on Eniwetok atoll were reported to have left no more worthwhile targets there. Almost all buildings on the islands of Parry, Engebi and Eniwetok were wrecked, and supply dumps hit, causing explosions. There was a total number of 488 sorties from 30 January to 2 February.

Rongelap atoll was attacked at noon on 2 February by 4 U.S. B-24's which dropped 7 tons of bombs within the target area, probably destroying radio installations. Only slight, light-calibre A/A fire was encountered.

That afternoon 20 U.S. Navy dive-bombers escorted by 12 fighters dropped 14 tons of bombs on Mili airfield and A/A positions. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered. No shipping or planes were seen.

By 1800Y on the afternoon of 2 February our forces had secured two-thirds of Kwajalein Island.

That night enemy counter-attacks were broken up by artillery and ship's fire. On 3 February steady progress was made by our troops at Kwajalein Island against increasing but poorly organized resistance. Attacks by our troops were proceeding satisfactorily during the day. Of an original garrison estimated at 2,000, enemy casualties to date total 1,250 dead and 43 prisoners. Our forces continued the occupation of small islands on the atoll.

The area still held by the enemy at the NE tip of Kwajalein Island was bombed and strafed by our air units, which scored direct hits on gun positions. During the day 146 sorties were made and 26 tons of bombs were dropped. None of our planes were lost, although some were slightly damaged by bullets.

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III. Southwestern Pacific Area(A) Solomon Islands

Correction to summary for 3 February 1944: On the morning of 1 February (instead of 2 February) as previously reported a U.S. DD attacked an enemy SS about 25 miles W. of Buka Passage. Also 1 February (instead of 2 February) our DD's exchanged fire with enemy shore batteries E. of Buka Passage.

Enemy positions a mile E. of the Torokina River were shelled by our artillery on 1 and 2 February, while artillery of the 3rd Marine Battalion bombarded enemy positions in the Jaba River area. On 2 February, the Fiji patrol engaged the enemy W. of Numa Numa, killing 40 - 50 of the enemy without loss to themselves.

(B) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

On 3 February at midday, 1 of our patrol planes reported that a medium enemy AK was burning and sinking about 35 miles SW of Kavieng, while 2 enemy DD's which had been escorting it had left and were heading northwards.

The same day an enemy convoy, 120 miles W. of Kavieng, was attacked by an Allied search-plane which reported 1 hit on an unidentified vessel. The same day, about 105 miles E. of Kavieng 3 Jap fighters covering 2 enemy DD's and 2 AK's attacked 1 of our patrolling bombers.

(C) New Britain

On the night of 1 February a single enemy plane ineffectively raided Arawe. The same day NE of Arawe our ground patrols reported that the enemy had evacuated Lupin airfield, and had taken up positions 250 yards to the N.

The same day a Japanese camp 1 mile W. of Natamo Point, near Nakarop, was found evacuated. The same day 2 P-39's sank a barge carrying Jap troops and strafed 2 other barges in Rein Bay.

The area W. of Rein Bay was bombed and strafed on 2 February by 5 B-25's, while the same day 12 U.S. medium bombers escorted by 30 P-38's attacked enemy installations and barges from Borgen Bay to Rein Bay. The same day 2 P-39's sank 1 barge near Talasea and strafed 2 others.

3 B-25's bombed a Jap SS, 110 miles E. of Gasmata, at noon on 2 February. An oil slick was observed but possible damage was unknown. The same planes strafed 3 enemy barges E. of Gasmata.

It was reported on 3 February that the Japs were withdrawing from the area E. and SE of Borgen Bay.

(D) New Guinea

Enemy positions in the Cape Iris area were bombed and strafed on the afternoon of 1 February by 16 dive-bombing P-40's escorted by 7 other P-40's. The next morning 23 U.S. B-24's escorted by 11 P-47's dropped 77 tons of bombs on Alexishafen airfield and supply dumps, causing explosions and large fires. No A/A fire was encountered.

At the same time, near Madang, 48 light bombers dropped more than 40 tons of bombs on Nobanob and Amele villages, destroying several buildings and damaging others. Also on 2 February 23 P-40's attacked enemy positions W. of Saidor.

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In the Ramu Valley Allied patrols occupied the last enemy defense positions in the Kankiryo Saddle area on 2 February, and continued their advances down the Mintjim River for 3 miles, finding that the enemy had abandoned elaborate installations there. In the Bogadjim area the same day 2 P-39's damaged 3 Jap barges, and set afire 3 trucks in a strafing attack on motor transport.

(E) N. E. I.

12 B-24's attacked Sorong, NW Dutch New Guinea, on 2 February, dropping 10 tons of bombs. Fires were started. Moderate to intense A/A fire was encountered.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 3 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

(For uniformity all times given for the current operations will be Y time unless otherwise specified.)

Roi Island was captured by the afternoon of 1 February and mopping up was in progress. At the same time all but the northern part of Namur Island had been captured. The SW third of Kwajalein Island was believed to have been captured by our forces by the evening of 1 February, and another landing had been made near the wharf. The second forces also started moving toward the NE end of the island. By the evening of 1 February transport and supply ships were moving inside the lagoon.

From details received the landings on Kwajalein Island started at 0930Y 1 February after heavy naval and shore battery artillery bombardment and continued aerial attacks from dawn. By 0939Y there were 4 waves of troops ashore. No organized resistance was encountered for the first 300 yards and by 1800Y 1 February our troops had advanced 1300 yards against some artillery, mortar, machine gun and rifle fire. By 1800Y 11,000 troops were ashore with medium and light tanks. Enemy installations, ammunition dumps and storehouses were blown up on Bigoj and Gugegwe Islands. At the same time Ebeye Island was heavily bombarded. In the afternoon of 1 February considerable resistance developed on Namur Island. Mined areas ashore and blockhouses on the NE and E. coast were delaying progress. By 1700Y 1 February engineers were being sent ashore at Roi Island to repair the airfield. 212 sorties had been flown by U.S. aircraft by the evening 1 February to support the landings in the area. Our only losses were 1 fighter destroyed and 2 damaged. No enemy planes were encountered. The airfields at Motje and Tarca have been completely neutralized after both places had been bombarded by our surface forces and bombed and strafed by planes. No planes were seen at either field and both areas appeared very badly damaged.

Both Roi and Namur Islands were captured by 1400Y 2 February and all organized resistance had ended. Small islands SE of Namur were occupied with no resistance.

(B) Caroline Islands

Kapingamarangi (Greenwich Islands) was attacked by a U.S. B-24 on 1 February. 2 bombs totalling 800 lbs. were dropped. Slight but accurate light-calibre A/A fire damaged the bomber slightly.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

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The night of 1 - 2 February enemy positions in the Mibo area, S. Bougainville, were shelled by an LCI gunboat with unobserved results. Early the morning of 2 February Allied surface units attacked a possible submarine W. of Buka. 2 explosions resulted which were reported as definitely not depth charge explosions. The same morning other Allied DD's exchanged fire with enemy batteries on the shore of eastern Buka Passage.

(B) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

1 February off Mussau Island a 5 ship enemy convoy was attacked by 3 B-25's which dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs with unobserved results.

(C) New Britain

On 30 January there was a light enemy raid on the Cape Gloucester area. On 31 January and 1 February light enemy raids were carried out on our positions at Arawe.

(D) New Guinea

On 31 January enemy planes attacked and slightly damaged an Allied AK at Langemak Bay, Finschhafen. The same morning an enemy AK was attacked 30 miles NW of Aitape. The same day Allied forward units had reached the vicinity of Reiss Point, 20 miles W. of Sio, on the Rai coast. Before dawn 1 February N. of Vanimo an enemy AK exploded and was claimed sunk by 2 B-24's which dropped over 2 tons of bombs. The same morning at Madang a small enemy AK was strafed by P-39's with unannounced results, while Rai coast targets and Bogadjim Road trucks were strafed by 4 patrolling P-39's and P-40's. The morning of 1 February gun positions and villages were strafed by 8 P-47's in the Hansa Bay area.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 2 February 1944

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Near Ujae atoll on the afternoon of 30 January 4 enemy vessels were intercepted by a U.S. DD. 2 of the vessels were observed stopped and afire. The ships apparently were trying to escape from Kwajalein atoll.

On 31 January islands in the N. end of Kwajalein atoll next to Roi Island were captured. These islands were Ennubirr, Ennumennet, Mollu, Ennuebing and an unnamed islet just E. of Namur, and landings were made on Ennugarret. No mines were found in the entrance to the lagoon. The same day Majuro atoll was found unoccupied by the enemy.

In air activity in the Marshalls area on 31 January 10 enemy fighters and 8 bombers were destroyed in the air while 21 enemy bombers and 30 single engine planes were destroyed on the ground. Our losses were 2 fighters and 1 torpedo bomber. Enemy ammunition dumps, fuel drums and buildings on Kwajalein were destroyed.

On the night of 31 January 9 U.S. B-24's dropped 27 tons of bombs on Rottje, while main islands in the Kwajalein atoll were hit with 33 tons of bombs from 11 B-24's. Kwajalein Island and 4 ships in the lagoon were seen on fire. The same night Taroa, Maloelap atoll, was attacked by Catalinas and Mariners while fighters were over Mili.

On 1 February successful landings were made on the southern beaches of Namur and Roi Islands. Resistance was light. Advances to the northward were being made a short time later.

The same day landings were made on Kwajalein Island without opposition on the beaches, and rapid advances were made against slight opposition. However, organized resistance was encountered later. A U.S. Navy communique states that troops of the 4th Marine Division made the landings in the Roi Island area, while troops of the 7th Infantry Division made the landings in the Kwajalein Island area.

On the morning of 1 February 19 SRD's escorted by fighters dropped 13 tons of bombs on Mili. The runways were seen to be unserviceable. The same day no planes or shipping were seen at Jaluit.

(B) Wake Island

On the night of 30 - 31 January 8 PB2Y's (Coronados) dropped 9 1/2 tons of bombs on Wake Island dispersal and service areas. An hour later 9 Coronados dropped almost 11 tons of bombs in the service areas, on runways and at Peacock Point. A/A fire was meagre and inaccurate and there was no enemy air interception.

(C) Nauru

On 1 February 5 B-34's dropped 4 tons of bombs on Nauru starting fuel storage fires. There was no enemy air interception.

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II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Later reports of the attack on 30 January (summary for 1 February 1944) on Jap positions E. of the mouth of the Torokina River by our infantry and tanks state that 20 pillboxes were destroyed and 80 Japs killed. The Japanese were reported to be part of the 13th Infantry. We lost 19 killed and 23 wounded.

On the night of 30 - 31 January, a reconnaissance party raided Green Island, withdrawing early on 1 February. It was reported that the party fully accomplished its task. An Allied officer (New Zealand) and 3 Navy enlisted men were killed. On the morning of 1 February Choiseul was bombarded by 3 U.S. DD's, but details were not reported.

(B) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

An enemy sea truck off Tingwon Island near New Hanover was attacked on 30 January by 3 patrolling B-25's, which dropped over 2 tons of bombs. Results were not reported.

(C) New Britain

On the morning of 31 January Tobera field in the Rabaul area was attacked twice, and it was reported that a great pall of smoke was hanging over the field after the attacks. In the first attack 17 B-24's, 4 P4U's and 61 P-38's dropped 16 tons of bombs. There was no enemy air interception. In the second attack a short time later, 4 A-24's, 18 TBF's and 46 escorting fighters scored direct hits on the runway. 1 A-24 and 2 P4U's were lost, and 2 A-24's and 4 TBF's were slightly damaged. Our fighters downed 8 Jap planes. There was moderately intense A/A fire.

The same day near Cape Gloucester our patrols blew up 2 enemy ammunition dumps E. of the Natamo River. It was reported that the enemy was evacuating the bivouac area and emplacements in this area. The same day in Jacquinot Bay a patrolling B-25 badly damaged an enemy barge, while in Rottbock Bay patrolling P-39's attacked a barge and enemy personnel.

(D) New Guinea

Condor airfield at Hansa Bay was attacked on 30 January by 5 B-25's which dropped 2 1/2 tons of bombs. A/A positions were also hit. The same day at Alexishafen 6 B-25's scored near misses on a small AK, and caused an explosion ashore.

On 31 January in the Ramu Valley Australian troops occupied 3 villages 6 miles E. of Daumoina (Oreguna #1, Kisa and Asake), and captured supplies. No contact with the enemy was reported by patrols to the N. and E. The same day in the Kankiryo area an enemy counter-attack was repulsed. The same day in the Ramu Valley near Atemble, 5 Allied A-31's scored 4 direct hits in a bombing attack on supply dumps. These planes also strafed the area and hit m/g positions.

Also on 31 January 12 A-20's escorted by 8 P-47's dropped 10 tons of bombs to silence 11 A/A guns at Uligan Harbor and wrecked 2 bridges along the coast. Alexishafen airfield was strafed.

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The same day W. of Saidor, our patrols killed 43 Japs and withdrew across the Mot River, while our artillery shelled Jap positions at Cape Iris.

On the afternoon of 31 January a single enemy plane caused slight casualties in a raid on Finschhafen.

(E) N. E. I.

On 31 January 4 enemy barges in Flamingo Bay, W. of Milanden River, were destroyed in an attack by 3 Allied A-31's and 4 Allied fighters. The same day near Gorong Islands, Ceram, 12 B-24's scored a direct hit on a medium Jap AK which was set afire. 8 - 10 Jap planes ineffectively intercepted our bombers.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking 1 small AK. Another U.S. SS reports sinking 1 large possible AP and 1 unidentified ship. A third U.S. SS reports sinking 1 7000 ton AK.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 1 February 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Nauru was attacked by 6 U.S. B-25's on 28 January. 5 tons of bombs were dropped but results were not observed. On 31 January a patrolling U.S. B-29 observed no activity at Nauru, and no A/A fire was met.

On the afternoon of 29 January Wotje was shelled with 350 rounds of 8". Excellent results were reported. There was only a small amount of return fire from coastal batteries. Reports on 1 February state that U.S. forces have captured 5 islands in the Kwajalein atoll - Ennylabegan, Enubuj, Goa, Ninni and Gehh. Our planes bombed the target and 2 U.S. BB's shelled at close range (2000 to 8000 yards). It is stated that there were few casualties. Artillery is reported being put ashore at Ennylabegan. Another report of the same day states that 2 Fuso class BB's at about 20 miles NW of Truk were heading NW.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On the afternoon of 29 January an enemy SS was attacked without results 120 miles E. of Duka Passage by a patrolling U.S. plane. The same day 2 villages, Sikurai and Kunrai, on supply trails in SW interior Bougainville were strafed by patrolling P-39's, while 20 P-39's attacked Kanaroi Village in Central Bougainville. The same day a single P-38 strafed searchlights at Kahili.

At Torokina on the morning of 30 January our infantry units aided by tanks moved forward to clear the area 300 yards E. of our positions E. of the Torokina River mouth of enemy troops. A 30 minute artillery bombardment preceded the assault and our troops reached their objective in the face of strong enemy resistance, and are now consolidating their position. The same day a gunboat bombarded Mosiga, SW Bougainville. On the night of 30 January a U.S. PG prevented 3 possible enemy barges from leaving the Jaba River at Empress Augusta Bay.

(B) New Ireland & Admiralties

Off Ambitle Island on 30 January an enemy barge was bombed and probably damaged by a U.S. patrol plane. That night 10 miles E. of Cape St. George an Allied patrol plane scored a near miss on an enemy SS. Early the morning of 31 January 2 possible enemy barges off the coast of New Ireland opposite Rabaul were attacked by a U.S. patrol plane.

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(C) New Britain

Early the morning of 29 January about 30 miles NW of Rabaul, 2 enemy ships, believed to be DE's, were attacked by a patrolling U.S. plane. No hits were scored. The ships sent up heavy A/A fire. On the night of 29 January a single enemy plane dropped 2 bombs on Arawe but caused no damage.

In addition to the previously reported (summary for 31 January 1944) attacks on 30 January on Rabaul, there were 2 more attacks. Vunakanau was hit by 18 B-24's, 5 F4U's and 15 P-38's which bombed the runway. Moderate to intense A/A fire slightly damaged 6 of our heavy bombers. 4 Jap fighters took to the air but only 1 tried to attack our planes. Later that day shipping in Rabaul Harbor was attacked by 16 A-24's, 18 TBF's and 50 fighters. 1 AK was sunk, and 1 DD and 1 medium AK were set afire. Out of 30 intercepting Jap planes 21 were shot down. Very heavy A/A fire was reported. 1 TBF and 2 F4U's were lost.

On the morning of 30 January 2 strafing Allied fighters badly damaged 2 enemy barges off the N. tip of Willaumes Peninsula, while the same day in Rein Bay 2 of 3 Jap oil barges were set on fire by 2 strafing P-39's. At noon the same day 3 U.S. B-25's strafed A/A guns at Gasmata. Also on the morning of 30 January Arawe was twice ineffectively raided by a single Jap plane.

(D) New Guinea

On the afternoon of 28 January 1 of our ships was slightly damaged by an enemy dive bomber off Cape Ward Hunt, while the next afternoon 1 AK was slightly damaged by enemy planes SE of Huon Peninsula.

On the morning of 30 January 2 small enemy AK's in Hansa Bay were sunk in an attack by 14 B-25's. In addition 2 barges were destroyed and a sea truck was left burning. At the same time at Biliau Bay, 15 miles SE of Hansa Bay, 13 P-38's sank 2 loaded barges and a lugger. Alexishafen was attacked at noon the same day by 2 squadrons of B-25's escorted by P-47's, which bombed supply dumps and bivouacs. The same day patrolling P-39's raided 2 Rai coast villages and strafed fuel stores at Bogadjim. In the Ramu Valley Australian troops occupied Oroguna Village No. 2, 8 miles W. by S. of Daumoina. No opposition was encountered. The same day in the Saidor area, enemy troops were reported to be evacuating the area E. of Saidor.

On the night of 30 January patrolling PBY's bombed a small AP about 70 miles NW of Aitape, but no damage was reported.

(E) N. E. I.

An Allied post at the Ellanden River was attacked by enemy units in 8 barges, but they were repulsed. Enemy planes attacked the post that afternoon.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 31 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

On the night of 29 - 30 January Rai and Kwajalein Islands, Jaluit and Wotje were raided by U.S. B-24's while Taroa was hit by a U.S. PBX. There was no interception by enemy planes. 1 B-24 was lost. In detail: 5 bombers dropped 13 tons of bombs on Rai. 9 bombers dropped 27 tons of bombs on Wotje. 2 B-24's dropped 3 tons of bombs on Jaluit. 4 bombers dropped 12 tons of bombs on Kwajalein.

On the afternoon of 30 January islands of Maloelap atoll were bombed and strafed by 9 U.S. medium bombers which encountered slight A/A fire. While the same afternoon Enidj, Jaluit atoll was attacked by 18 A-24's and 12 P-40's. Also the same afternoon 9 B-25's attacked Wotje, sinking a 125-ft. vessel. On the night of 30 - 31 January U.S. B-24's attacked Rai, Kwajalein, Wotje and Jaluit, starting fires. The same night 5 B-24's and 3 B-34's hit Mill.

A communique from Admiral Nimitz reports that U.S. Task Forces have attacked enemy held positions in the Marshall Islands. Wotje, Maloelap, Kwajalein and Eniwetok atolls have been bombarded, bombed and strafed by ships and planes. No further details are yet available.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 28 January 16 P-39's attacked the Shortland Island area 4 times. On the night of 28 - 29 January Torokina was raided by 3 enemy planes but all bombs dropped fell in the water. On 29 January a coastal gun at the Mibo River fired 7 rounds at patrolling U.S. PT's, but caused no damage. Enemy positions on NW Choiseul were raided by 2 B-34's and 3 P-39's on the morning of 29 January.

(B) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

A later report of the attack by our planes on a 12 - 15 ship convoy S. of Kavieng on 28 January states that an attacking patrol plane scored hits on a large DD or CL.

(C) New Britain

A single Jap fighter dropped 1 bomb on the Cape Gloucester airfield early the morning of 28 January, but caused no damage. The same day 2 P-39's strafed the Gasmata airfield.

Rabaul airfields were attacked on 28 January by 48 A-24's and 18 TBF's escorted by fighters. Fires were started and A/A gun positions were

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were hit. 20 - 30 Jap planes were reported destroyed on the ground, while out of 70 intercepting Jap fighters 30 were destroyed in the air. We lost 5 P-38's. Later the same day Tobra airfield in the Rabaul area was attacked by 23 U.S. B-25's and 12 P-38's which started many fires and destroyed 1 Jap plane on the ground. Light A/A fire caused the loss of 1 B-25. There was no enemy air interception.

The next day our bombers and fighters returned to attack Rabaul airfields. In 1 attack 19 B-24's, 23 A-24's and 17 TBF's escorted by 28 fighters (a total of 87 planes) dropped more than 16 tons of bombs. At least 7 Jap planes were destroyed on the ground and an additional 7 were destroyed in the air. All of our planes returned safely, but intense A/A fire slightly damaged 12 bombers. Again that day 8 U.S. bombers and 60 fighters hit Tobra, destroying 5 and damaging 5 Jap planes on the ground, and shooting down 16 of the 30 - 50 Jap fighters which intercepted our planes. Buildings and gun positions were hit. 1 F4U was lost.

Also on 29 January enemy planes ineffectively raided Cape Gloucester area. The same day 9 A-20's dropped over 7 tons of bombs on enemy positions near the Natamo River, while 36 A-20's and 8 P-38's dropped about 36 tons of bombs on the Cape Busching and Itne River areas. 2 other A-20's dropped 1/2 a ton of bombs on the Lindenhafen area, while 12 Allied P-40's strafed the Ubili area. The same day in Rottok Bay 4 patrolling P-39's damaged an oil barge.

Rabaul was the target again on 30 January when 26 B-25's and 47 fighters dropped 39 tons of bombs on Lakunai about noon time, starting large fires. 2 out of 26 Jap fighters which intercepted our planes were shot down, while we lost 1 plane and intense A/A fire slightly damaged 6 medium bombers.

(D) New Guinea

2 squadrons of U.S. B-25's dropped almost 17 tons of bombs on Bogia Village, Hansa Bay area, on the morning of 29 January, while the same afternoon 2 more squadrons of B-25's escorted by P-47's hit the Nubia airfield. The same day 4 P-40's raided supply dumps in Sarang Harbor and 4 patrolling P-39's set huts on fire and strafed the enemy along the Rai coast.

The same day in the Ramu Valley 16 P-40's dropped 4 tons of bombs on enemy positions, while Allied ground forces N of Kankiryo attacked enemy positions. Also on 29 January enemy concentrations W. of Bogadjim road were attacked by a squadron of P-40's and a squadron of A-31's.

(E) N. E. I.

Photos of Sorong on 28 January show a new road, jetties and A/A gun positions, while at Salawati Island a new strip 4000' long is under construction.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking 2 60 ton enemy sampans by gun fire.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 30 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Extensive reconnaissance over the Marshall Islands on 28 January disclosed only small vessels at Eniwetok and Utirik. About 50 miles S of Eniwetok 3 medium AK's were attacked by U.S. planes which started fires on 2 of them, and near Utirik, a small AK was sunk. A U.S. plane the same day at Nauru saw no planes, ships or barges but met 1 burst of A/A fire. The airfield there was serviceable. The afternoon of 29 January U.S. planes raided Taroa, dropping 4 tons of bombs on defense positions and buildings. Of about 20 planes seen on the field 5 were 2-engine bombers, 8 - 10 Jap fighters intercepted our planes and followed them 100 miles out. 2 Jap planes were shot down and 2 damaged. 2 U.S. B-24's were damaged, 1 badly. A/A fire was intense.

Later the same afternoon 7 U.S. B-25's again hit Taroa, dropping 4 1/2 tons of bombs on barracks, hangars and exploding a supply dump. In addition a 100-ft. vessel was set afire. 1 out of 6 enemy fighters intercepting our planes was shot down, while 1 Jap medium bomber, 1 fighter and 9 single engine planes were damaged on the field. 1 B-25 was lost and 2 damaged. Intense A/A fire was encountered.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Buka was raided by 1 U.S. B-24 on 27 January, but results were not reported. That night U.S. PT's destroyed an enemy barge at Choiseul Bay. Photos taken of Kahili airfield on 28 January showed no aircraft present but the airfield serviceable. That night a U.S. LCM bombarded an enemy supply dump at Kakurua, S. Bougainville, but results were not observed.

(B) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

On 27 January a U.S. B-24 bombed East Cape, but results were not reported. The next day S. of Kavieng U.S. PBV's attacked a 12 - 15 ship Jap convoy, scoring 2 direct hits with 1000 lb. bombs on an 8000 ton AK which burst into flames. Another patrol plane, a B-24, also attacked the convoy, leaving 2 ships burning.

(C) New Britain

Photos on 28 January of Rapopo and Tobera fields in the Rabaul area showed 32 Jap planes on them. Also on 28 January 12 A-20's dropped almost

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12 tons of bombs and strafed Jap troops in the Borgen Bay area, starting fires. 7 Jap barges in Rein Bay were badly damaged after a strafing attack by 2 Allied P-39's, while 2 Jap planes were destroyed in a strafing attack at Cape Hoskins by 16 Allied P-40's, which encountered slight A/A fire. Also on 28 January near Cape Gloucester, strong enemy resistance was met by Allied patrols which crossed the Natano River.

(D) New Guinea

On 27 January 9 Allied A-31's attacked the Bogadjim Road, dropping 4 1/2 tons of bombs on bridges and strafing the area. The same day 7 B-25's dropped over 7 tons of bombs on Brima Plantation, starting fires. The same day 12 Allied P-40's strafed the Jakob Jomba Islands near Madang, setting huts on fire, while 12 A-20's dropped over 4 tons of bombs on buildings at Nobanob village, NW of Madang. Explosions were caused.

Also on 27 January 7 U.S. B-25's dropped over 8 tons of bombs on the Mugil plantation area near Cape Croisilles, but results were not reported. In ground action on 27 January advance Allied patrols, SW of Vincke Point, reached the Asiwa River 8 miles N. of Sio.

On 28 January 14 U.S. B-25's escorted by P-47's attacked the coast near Cape Croisilles. Several barges, 3 bridges and buildings were destroyed after 15 tons of bombs were dropped. Some intense and accurate A/A fire was met, and A/A gun positions were strafed.

(E) N. E. I.

On 27 January 5 Allied PBV's dropped more than 8 tons of bombs on Laha airfield at Ambon, causing explosions and large fires. The same day 6 Allied B-24's attacked shipping at Sorong, Dutch New Guinea, meeting moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire. 3/4 ton of bombs were dropped. 7 Jap fighters covering 1 AK at McClellan Gulf ineffectively intercepted the bombers.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking 1 large and 1 medium AO, and damaging 1 medium AK. Another U.S. SS reports sinking 1 large AO. A third U.S. SS reports sinking 2 6000 ton AK or AP and 2 9000 ton AK and probably sinking a 7000 ton AK.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800 29 January 1944

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I. Central Pacific Area

A. Marshall Islands

The afternoon of 27 January Wotje was attacked by 9 B-25's which dropped 6 tons of bombs causing several large fires. Intense and accurate A/A fire downed 1 of our planes and damaged 2 others. There was no enemy air interception. Wotje was again raided 27 January by an unstated number of U.S. planes on a photo mission. More than 1 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped, most of which fell within the target. Again there was no enemy air interception and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. At dusk, 27 January, Milil was attacked by 23 A-24's and 10 P-39's which dropped 14 tons of bombs on a radio tower and enemy gun emplacements. A/A fire was encountered and 1 A-24 was lost and 6 others damaged. No enemy air interception was encountered. That evening enemy barracks at Taroo, Maloelap atoll, were attacked by 7 B-24's which released 21 tons of bombs to start 4 fires. Meagre A/A fire was encountered but there was no enemy air interception.

B. Nauru

The morning 27 January 6 B-25's released 5 tons of bombs on Nauru with unobserved results. Inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

The night of 26 - 27 January Purlata and Namagata, SW Bougainville, were bombed and strafed by a PBX and shelled by PT's. Namagata was also bombarded by an LCM and a PG. In the House Kiepe area, NW of Torokina, a U.S. Army patrol found no evidence of Jap occupation after reconnaissance 27 January. The same day about 7500 yards N by S of the Torokina strip a U.S. Army combat patrol broke contact with the Japs who were then shelled by our artillery. Also 27 January U.S. Army patrols were active along the Torokina river.

Jap positions near Numa Numa were attacked 27 January by 6 SB2C's and 6 TBF's. Early the same day 4 Jap planes raided Torokina. Later Malial village, Shortland Island, was raided by a B-25 while Mutupona and Gazelle Harbor, S Express Augusta Bay, and Balu were strafed by 3 P-39's.

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B. New Ireland and Admiralty Islands

Early the morning of 26 January, about 30 miles NNW of Kavieng, a U.S. plane damaged a PG and a DD with hits. The same day Momote village, Lorengau area, was hit with a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was met. No results were reported. That night W of Mussau Island a patrolling B-24 scored a near miss on an enemy AK. Moderately intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered from an escort vessel.

Preliminary reports reveal that 41 B-24's escorted by an unstated number of P-39's attacked Lorengau 27 January, dropping 123 tons of bombs on A/A positions, supply dumps, buildings and jetties. At Momote 2 grounded Jap fighter planes and a barge were destroyed and m/g's were silenced. A/A fire was slight.

C. New Britain

W of Gasmata, 26 January, 4 P-47's destroyed 2 small boats in a sweep along the coast and about noon the same day Lakunai airfield was attacked by 39 SED's and 17 TBF's, covered by 38 fighters. The target was effectively bombed and off shore a direct hit was scored on an AK. 22 of 40 - 80 Jap fighters were destroyed. 3 of our planes were lost. The following morning Arawa and Cape Gloucester were ineffectively raided by Jap aircraft and the same day near Cape Raoult 3 enemy barges were strafed and damaged by 3 P-39's.

Also the morning of 27 January Lakunai airfield was again attacked. 19 B-25's escorted by 52 F4U's and 12 P-40's heavily bombed the runways and revetments. Of 30 - 40 Jap fighters intercepting 23 were downed. 5 B-25's were slightly damaged by A/A fire. We lost 6 fighters but 2 pilots were rescued.

27 January morning photographs after the Lakunai attack reveal 181 Jap planes on the 4 airdromes, while in Simpson Harbor were 240 barges, 14 floatplanes, 13 small and 1 medium AK. The same day on the E shore of Borgen Bay a Jap 75 mm gun was silenced by U.S. artillery. Jap supply dumps at Sulphur creek were bombed the afternoon 27 January by 2 squadrons of B-24's. 56 covering fighters did not engage 7 to 30 reluctant Japs. 4 of our bombers were damaged by A/A fire. 1 B-24 bombed the E tip of New Ireland and another hit Bulka. That night an 8,000-ton Rabaul-bound AP, apparently loaded with gasoline, was set afire by a patrolling Allied aircraft.

D. New Guinea

The night of 26 - 27 January the coast S of Madang was swept with m/g fire from U.S. PT's. The following day Bogia, Hansa Bay, was attacked by 2 low-flying squadrons of B-25's escorted by an unstated number of P-47's. 7 of the planes dropped 7½ tons of bombs in the dump areas. In Hansa Bay escorting P-47's strafed a sea truck. The same day Uligan and Kronprinz Harbors were strafed by an unstated number of P-39's on patrol. 2 barges and shore installations were damaged. Also 27 January Amele Mission, SW of Madang was bombed and strafed by 11 A-20's which destroyed some buildings and strafed trails and coastal villages to the S.

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E. N. E. I.

Dili, Portuguese Timor, was attacked, 27 January, by 7 B-24's which damaged a jetty and some buildings and sank an enemy sea truck. The same day the mouth of the Milanden River, about 100 miles W of Frederick Henry Island, Dutch New Guinea, was raided by 2 Jap planes but no results were reported.

W. L. Hales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 28 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Mili was attacked the morning of 25 January by 23 A-24's and 12 P-39's which dropped 14 tons of bombs, causing 4 fires and explosions. There was no interception by enemy aircraft but intense A/A fire caused slight damage to 4 A-24's. That afternoon Tarao, Malcelap atoll, was hit by 9 B-25's which came in at a low level to drop 5 tons of bombs on the airfield and installations, starting fires. Of 30 - 35 Jap fighters which intercepted our planes 1 was shot down and 5 were damaged and 1 grounded enemy medium bomber was also destroyed. 4 B-25's were damaged. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. Kwajalein was attacked by 18 B-24's at dusk 25 January. Large fires were started after 36 tons of bombs were dropped. 1 of our planes was damaged by intense A/A fire, but there was no enemy air interception. Many AK's and small vessels and 1 - 3 warships were seen in the harbor. The same day a Jap escort vessel was sunk by a U.S. plane about 20 miles ESE of Eniwetok atoll. A medium AO was also probably sunk. On 26 January Tarao, Malcelap atoll, was hit by 9 low-flying U.S. B-25's which also shelled the area with 75 MM, starting large fires. Of 20 intercepting Jap fighters, 6 were destroyed in the air and 5 more as they were taking off. 7 of our planes were slightly damaged. The Jap fighters followed the U.S. bombers S about 50 miles where 12 U.S. fighters awaited. 6 Jap fighters were destroyed (it is not clear whether 6 additional fighters were destroyed or whether this refers to the 6 previously mentioned). In the afternoon of 27 January Emidj, Jaluit atoll, was hit by 9 low-flying U.S. B-25's which dropped 7 tons of bombs and shelled the area with 75 MM. Results were not observed.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 25 January 8 SBD's and 2 TBF's attacked enemy positions E of Motupena Point. The same day flying conditions over Bougainville were generally unfavorable. In the afternoon U.S. DD's shelled Mawaraka and Gazelle Harbors and the mouths of the Tekessi and Jaba River. Enemy fuel and ammunition dumps were apparently set afire after 1400 rounds of 5" were fired. On 26 January a U.S. ground patrol was reported active about 1 mile N of Kuraipaia, about 8 miles N of Cape Torokina. The same day a combat patrol contacted the Japs about 7500 yards E by S of the Torokina bomber strip and about 1500 yards E of the Torokina River. In the same area about 350 yards E of the Torokina River mouth U.S. ground units continued strengthening their newly-won positions.

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(B) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

On 25 January 17 Allied B-25's hit Lorengau, dropping more than 31 tons of bombs, destroying a jetty and a barge and leaving a large lugger in flames. There was only slight A/A fire. On 26 January Lorengau and Momote airfield were attacked by 41 Allied B-24's escorted by fighters. 30 direct hits with $\frac{1}{2}$ ton bombs on the center runway of the Momote field left it unserviceable, while 120 tons of bombs were dropped on supply dumps, buildings and bivouacs. Explosions and fires were caused, and a number of buildings and a jetty were destroyed. A/A fire was slight. Photos on 26 January showed 8 fighters, 7 dive-bombers and 7 medium bombers at Kavieng while 4 enemy fighters were at Panapai. Kavieng, Panapai and Borpop were all serviceable. In Kavieng Harbor were 31 barges and 3 AK's.

(C) New Britain

8 U.S. F6F's and 42 F4U's swept the Rabaul area on the afternoon of 25 January but not a single enemy plane rose to intercept them. 30 Jap fighters were seen near the runway at Rapopo. That night 19 U.S. B-24's bombed Lakunai airfield and installations after 3 B-24's dropped flares over the area. 30 searchlights hampered the bombing, and 2 enemy night fighters ineffectively intercepted the bombers. Rabaul town was hit at the same time by another B-24 while another B-24 started fires at East Cape. 1 of our heavy bombers was lost while another crash-landed. On the night of 25 - 26 January enemy planes ineffectively raided Arawe and Natamo. Photos on 26 January showed 8 Jap medium bombers on the serviceable Vunakanau field while the Lakunai runway was also serviceable, and before the strike had 4 fighters, 10 light bombers and 1 medium bomber on it but after the strike had only 1 fighter, 3 light bombers and 1 medium bomber. The same day at Simpson Harbor 220 barges, 7 small AK's, 1 SS, 1 flying boat and 11 floatplanes were seen. Also on 26 January Skaar Island, about 20 miles W of Cape Gloucester, was reported free of the enemy. The same day 2 Allied P-39's destroyed 2 barges on the N coast of the Willaumez Peninsula, and 8 A-20's attacked enemy troops E of Natamo, Cape Gloucester area. An Allied ground patrol on 26 January came up against a strong Jap position 1500 yards S of Natamo Point.

(D) New Guinea

Some later reports of the attack on Gragat Island, off Madang, by 18 B-25's state that it occurred on 24 January instead of 25 January as reported previously (Summary for 27 January). The exact date is still undetermined. On 24 January 8 P-39's strafed Karkar Island, damaging buildings and piers. On 25 January Alexishafen, Madang and Gragat Island were attacked by 37 B-25's which caused large fires and explosions after dropping 30 tons of bombs and expending 43,000 rounds of m/g fire. Intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day 12 Allied P-40's hit 4 barges in the Gogol River area near Madang. Early 26 January Alexishafen and Madang were again shelled by 2 U.S. CL's and 3 DD's, which started fires at Madang. Only 1 gun at Alexishafen returned the fire. The same targets were attacked that day by about 36 A-20's and 18 B-25's, which scored direct hits on 4 grounded enemy planes. Also on 26 January the Bongli - Gali area was raided by 22 A-20's escorted by P-47's. More than 13 tons of bombs were dropped on enemy troops and supply dumps, with excellent results. The same day 2 U.S. P-39's damaged

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4 barges in the Melanau Harbor. Advance Allied patrols on 26 January reached Kwama River, W of Sio, and pushed forward past Vincke Point, while our ground patrols SW of Saidor ambushed an enemy patrol, killing 4 and capturing 2 of the enemy. In the Ramu Valley units of the 18th Brigade successfully carried out an out flanking movement and captured high ground about a mile N of Kankiryo Saddle.

(E) N. E. I.

Allied air activity over N. E. I. on 26 January was confined to reconnaissance.

(F) Australia

A single enemy reconnaissance plane was sighted on the morning of 26 January over the Broome - Derby area of NW Australia.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports probably damaging an AK.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 27 January 1944

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Nauru

A reconnaissance plane on 25 January saw no enemy planes on the apparently serviceable airfield at Nauru, but some A/A fire was encountered.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Torokina was ineffectively bombed in the early morning of 25 January by 8 enemy planes 1 of which was downed by our A/A fire. The same day Japanese positions E of the Torokina River between the river mouth and Mavavia were attacked by U.S. ground forces. After a half hour shelling of the enemy by our artillery our troops advanced 350 yards E of the river mouth and organized defenses there, in spite of continuous mortar, m/g and rifle fire from the Japs. 5 U.S. personnel were wounded while 1 Jap was reported killed and an enemy pillbox was destroyed. Photos taken on 25 January showed airfields at Bonis, Kahili, Kara and Ballale all were unserviceable and no enemy aircraft were seen on these fields.

(B) Pinipel Island

A beached barge was bombed and strafed by 2 PV's 24 January at Pinipel Island just N of Nissan Island.

(C) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

A U.S. patrol plane attacked 2 enemy PC's on 24 January in St. George Channel. 5 bombs were dropped but results were not observed. At noon on 25 January 39 U.S. B-25's escorted by fighters attacked Momote airfield and the Lorengau area hitting A/A gun positions, barges, buildings and jetties, starting fires and destroying 8 Jap planes caught on the ground. A lugger or a small AK was damaged. About 42 tons of bombs were dropped and more than 100,000 rounds of m/g fire were expended. 3 of our bombers were lost to A/A fire. Photo reconnaissance on the same day showed no aircraft at Borpop and Namatanai airfields but at Kavieng there were 4 fighters and 1 dive bomber. The same day patrolling B-24's raided gun positions at Lorengau and a warehouse on Garove Island dropping a ton of bombs on each target. In the early morning of 26 January a patrolling U.S. plane claimed hits on 1 out of 5 ships about 10 miles NW of Kavieng.

(D) New Britain

Later reports raised the total number of Jap planes downed in the fighter engagement over Rabaul on 23 January to 16. Rabaul Harbor was attacked.

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at noon 24 January by 18 TB's escorted by 84 fighters. Our planes came in at Masthead height against enemy shipping sinking a 6000 ton and a 1000 ton AK with direct hits. 1 3000, 1 7500, 1 6000 ton AK and 1 8000 ton AO were left sinking. In addition 1 10,500 ton AO and 1 5000 ton AK were damaged. Of the 55 - 60 Jap planes which intercepted our fighters 24 were shot down. 1 U.S. fighter plane was lost but the pilot was rescued. On the night of 24 January 6 enemy planes raided Arawe but no damage resulted. The same night 2 barge loads of enemy troops were reported landed at Cape Gauffre in the Cape Gloucester area. In the early morning of 25 January Jap planes again raided Arawe but only 1 bomb was dropped. In the same area that day Umtinjala and the airfield were freed of Japanese by our ground forces which cleared the ground 5000 yards beyond the main line. The same day our artillery sank a barge off Cape Gauffre, while at Cape Dampier 2 Allied A-20's and 8 P-40's hit Japanese gun positions. 3 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped but results were not reported. Photographs taken on 25 January showed a total of 75 planes on 4 Rabaul airfields - 18 fighters, 4 light-bombers and 4 dive-bombers at Lakunai; 5 medium bombers, 3 fighters and 1 lighter bomber at Rapopo; 31 medium bombers, 5 dive-bombers, 3 fighters and 1 light bomber at Vunakanau and no planes at Keravat.

(E) New Guinea

49 B-24's escorted by fighters attacked Hansa Bay gun positions and supply dumps at noon on 25 January. More than 128 tons of bombs were dropped, starting fires in the supply dumps. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was met. These planes were diverted from their primary target Newak because of weather conditions. The same day Gragat Island, off Madang, was attacked by 18 B-25's. Large fires were caused after 16 1/2 tons of bombs were dropped on supply dumps and villages. Along the Rai coast the same day 4 P-39's badly damaged 5 barges by strafing while 8 P-47's strafed enemy concentrations in the Gali area. At Uligan 3 Japanese barges were damaged by 6 strafing P-39's 1 of which was lost. Off the Sepik River a patrolling B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on a probable PC of about 100 tons and claimed the damaging of the vessel. In the Ramu Valley the same day an Allied ground patrol moving down the Mintjim Valley contacted the enemy and inflicted casualties. Also on 25 January Alexishafen and Bogadjim were raided by 2 Allied aircraft.

(F) N. E. I.

No Allied air activity was reported over N. E. I. on 25 January.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 7250 ton AO, and damaging a 4467 ton AP. Another U.S. SS reports sinking a 8000 ton AP - AK and a 9900 ton AO, and damaging a 6000 ton AK.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 26 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Mili was attacked the morning of 24 January by 24 A-24's, 12 P-39's and 7 P-40's which dropped 17 tons of bombs on gun positions and supply dumps and also strafed the target. There was no enemy air interception but 3 A-24's were damaged by the moderately intense A/A fire encountered. That afternoon Wotje was attacked by 8 B-25's which dropped 7 tons of bombs and strafed the target. Large fires were started. Again there was no enemy air interception but intense A/A fire damaged 5 of the bombers. Later the same afternoon Taroa, Maloelap atoll, and small vessels there were attacked by 9 B-25's. Of 30 intercepting Jap fighters 1 was shot down and another grounded fighter was also destroyed. 9 tons of bombs were dropped and the area was strafed. Fires and explosions resulted. A/A fire was intense. 1 B-25 crashed on the return flight and 2 were damaged.

Also the afternoon of 24 January a patrolling PB4Y was attacked by 5 Jap fighters over Ailinglapalap. 3 of the enemy were downed. That night 13 B-24's dropped 24 tons of bombs on Taroa, Maloelap atoll, causing many fires and explosions. There was no enemy air interception and all our planes returned safely. The same night Mili and Wotje were each raided by single B-24's but no results were reported.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Kieta, NE central Bougainville, was bombed by a Guadalcanal patrol plane on 23 January. No results were reported. From the harbor light A/A fire was encountered. The same day 20 P-39's strafed Shortland Island with unreported results. The afternoon of 23 January to the afternoon of 24 January a U.S. Army patrol killed 2 Japs in the NE Torokina area while 2 other Army patrols near the mouth of the Torokina River drew Jap mortar fire from a position E. of the river mouth. Jap positions in the Numa Numa area were ineffectively attacked 24 January by 8 SBD's and 2 TBF's and that night Jap positions 2 miles S. of Motupena Point were subjected to gun and mortar fire from U.S. PT's. No results of shelling were reported.

(B) New Ireland & Admiralty Islands

The night of 23 - 24 January Lorengau, NE Manus Island, and Unea Island, Vitu group, were each hit with a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24. No results were reported. From Lorengau slight A/A fire was encountered. Following day 38 fighter-escorted B-25's dropped 38 tons of bombs on and Momote airfields and shipping in Lorengau Harbor. The targets

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were heavily strafed. 3 1000 ton sea trucks were sunk, 7 grounded planes were destroyed, 2 sea trucks were damaged and a number of small vessels, barges, buildings and gasoline trucks were left ablaze. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

(C) New Britain

Cape Hoskins dump areas were hit with about $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton of bombs from a RAAF A-20 on 22 January. No results were reported. That night 25 miles NE of Rabaul a Guadalcanal patrol plane attacked a possible Jap DD and a large AK but no results were reported.

The morning of 23 January 45 SBD's and 18 TBF's, escorted by 80 fighters attacked Lakunai airfield. Later photos showed the runway unserviceable: a minimum of 17 gun positions destroyed or damaged, 8 grounded planes destroyed or damaged and a fire in a probable fuel dump. Our planes downed 32 intercepting Jap fighters. 4 of our planes were lost. That afternoon over Rabaul 48 fighters destroyed 14 of 60 Jap fighters encountered. That night Arawe was twice lightly and ineffectively raided by Jap planes which caused no damage.

Early the morning of 24 January 3 B-25's raided Lakunai airfield and 1 hit Tobera. No results were reported. Photographs later in the day revealed a total of 75 Jap land and float planes in the Rabaul area. The same day Natamo, Borgen Bay, U.S. patrols killed 40 Japs, destroyed 20 m/g's and captured considerable supplies. Cape Hoskins was attacked 24 January by 25 RAAF fighter escorted Beauforts which dropped over 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs on the dump areas with excellent results. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 23 - 24 January in Pommern Bay PT's destroyed a barge while near the mouth of the Sepik River Jap positions were hit by a single B-24 with unobserved results. The same night enemy planes attacked Finschhafen but no results were reported.

About midday 24 January Boram and Newak airfields and supply dumps were hit with nearly 25 tons of bombs from 30 B-24's. Large fires were started and 4 grounded Jap planes were destroyed. There was no enemy air interception. A/A fire was encountered. About the same time Amele Mission, SW of Madang, was raided by a single B-24 which dropped 3 tons of bombs. Also 24 January Hansa Bay area was attacked by 23 fighter escorted B-25's which dropped more than 21 tons of bombs, starting fires in supply dumps and damaging barges. The area was also strafed. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was met. 2 P-39's strafed the Gali area 24 January with unreported results.

In the Ramu Valley 24 January Allied ground forces consolidated positions N. of the Faria River and 1 company captured Jap position above Paipa, about 15 miles S. of Bogadjim. The same day in the Sio area Allied patrols killed 23 Japs while in the Saidor area no contacts were reported.

The night of 25 - 26 January 2 U.S. cruisers and 3 DD's bombarded Alexishafen and Madang, fires were started at the latter target.

(E) N. E. I.

Villages in the Tanimbar Islands were hit with 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs from 6 B-24's on 24 January. Results were not reported. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was met.

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III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 7000 ton AK and 2 unknown vessels and damaging a large DD and an AO.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 25 January 1944

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I. Northwestern Pacific Area

A. Kuriles Area

Wike
The morning of 24 January, W longitude date, Paramusiru was attacked for the fifth consecutive day. 3 U.S. Navy PBX's and 3 PV's reached the target and, after dumping their bombs through the overcast, strafing and taking photographs, all returned safely. Only scattered A/A fire was met.

II. Central Pacific Area

A. Marshall Islands

The previously reported action of 21 January at Ailinglapalap by 2 U.S. PV's against 2 small vessels was cancelled by latest reports from 1 source.

Kaven Island, Maloelap atoll, was bombed and strafed at noon 22 January by 12 U.S. B-25's which dropped 24 tons of bombs in a low-level attack intended for Taroa Island. 2 fires were observed. 25 - 30 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 2 were destroyed and 1 damaged. A/A fire was light. 3 of our planes were lost and 4 damaged. Early that evening Mili was raided by a single B-24 which dropped 2 tons of bombs to start fires in the barracks area. Neither air interception nor A/A fire was encountered.

At noon 23 January Taroa, Maloelap atoll, was attacked by 21 U.S. B-25's which came over the target in 2 waves to drop a total of 14 tons of bombs and strafe the airfields, grounded planes, installations and shipping. Each wave was intercepted by 25 Jap fighters of which 3 were downed and 4 damaged. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered. 4 of our planes were damaged. The same day 35 miles SE of Kwajalein an 8,000-ton AK was attacked and left sinking by a U.S. patrol plane while at Ailinglapalap direct hits on a beached vessel and 1 near miss on an anchored vessel were scored by 2 U.S. PV's. The beached vessel was left in flames. One of our planes was damaged. That evening Wotje was attacked by 24 U.S. B-24's which dropped 48 tons of bombs. 90% of them fell within the target area to start a number of fires. There was no air interception and our planes were not harmed by the A/A fire encountered.

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III. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On 22 January a possible Jap radio installation at Mamagata, SW Bougainville, was bombed and strafed by 2 PV's while the same day 2 miles E of Motupena Jap defense positions were effectively attacked by an unstated number of SED's. The morning of 22 January in the NE Torokina area a U.S. Army patrol contacted the Japs about 6,000 yards E of the Torokina bomber strip and 2 U.S. personnel were wounded. The same day about 7,000 yards E of the Torokina strip another U.S. Army patrol encountered Jap rifle fire from the E bank of the Torokina River. That night at the mouth of the Reini River a possible Jap barge hideout was shelled by an LCM gunboat. A fire was started. Early the morning of 23 January Jap planes dropped 25 - 30 bombs on Torokina, causing some casualties. The same day targets in the Numa Numa area were attacked by 5 TBF's and 8 SED's but no results were reported. Also 23 January in the Ibu area 2 Japs and 2 hostile natives were killed by a Fiji patrol.

B. Feni Island

At Feni Island, 22 January, a launch was destroyed by a B-24 on reconnaissance.

C. New Ireland and Admiralty Islands

The night of 21 January in St. George Channel a Jap barge was attacked by a Guadalcanal patrol plane. The following day's photographs revealed no Jap aircraft at Borpop or Namatanai although both fields were serviceable. That night Borpop was raided by a B-24 which dropped 15 incendiaries. No results were observed. Early the following morning 74 miles E of Lorengau an AK was damaged by a patrolling B-24, while about 65 miles E of Lorengau a possible DD was damaged by a PBV.

D. New Britain

Late reports increase the totals of Jap fighters downed 18 January over Rabaul to 19 and over the same target 20 January to 16.

Before dawn 22 January Jap planes raided Arawe. The same day in the Matamo area, Borgan Bay, U.S. patrols killed 10 Japs. That afternoon Lakunai airfield was bombed by 27 B-25's. 54 hits on the runway were reported as were a number of fires. 92 escorting fighters downed 18 of 40 - 70 Jap fighters. A/A fire downed a B-25 and damaged 2 others. 5 of our fighters were lost but one pilot was rescued. Later the same afternoon photographs revealed 79 enemy planes at Vunakanau, Lakunai and Tobera. None was at Kerauat. In Simpson Harbor were 230 barges, 10 AK's and 1 SS. That evening Jap positions 15 miles E of Arawe were strafed, with unreported results by 16 P-47's.

The night 22 January 6 B-25's bombed Rabaul by the light of flares dropped by 3 B-24's. 2 of the B-25's are missing. Later 35 B-24's hit

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the same target dropping over 20 tons of bombs and incendiaries to start many fires in addition to those started by the B-25's. 1 B-24 was damaged by A/A fire. There was no enemy air interception. Early the following morning Jap planes raided Arawe, causing some casualties while at Natamo, Borgen Bay area, U.S. Marines killed 10 more Japs. Also 23 January Jap positions in the Natamo area were hit with more than 6 tons of bombs from 13 A-20's. The same day at Arawe U.S. ground patrols were active and at Cape Dampier a Jap gun position was silenced by 2 RAAF A-20's. Also 23 January 63 miles W of Cape Pomas a Jap DD was damaged by a B-24 on reconnaissance.

E. New Guinea

Late reports indicate Australian ground forces which captured Jap positions N of the Faria River 22 January claimed at least 130 dead Japs and captured a number of guns. The same day, in addition to previously reported action, roads N of Aloxihafen were hit by 7 tons of bombs from 7 B-25's. 2 bridges were destroyed, 4 were damaged and some buildings were destroyed. That night 30 miles E of Wewak an enemy DD was set afire by U.S. PBV's.

The forenoon 23 January Doram airfield, Wewak, was attacked by 34 B-24's escorted by an unstated number of fighters, which dropped 101 tons of bombs, destroying 1 gun position, damaging others and starting large fires. 50 intercepting Jap fighters were destroyed. 5 of our planes are missing. About the same time Amele Mission, SW of Madang, was raided by 1 B-24 which dropped some bombs, destroying some buildings. The same day 6 P-39's escorted by 12 P-47's strafed Jap barges at Uligan Harbor. 1 plane was lost. Also 23 January Jap troops along the Rai coast were bombed and strafed by 9 A-29's and enemy positions SW of Yaula were hit with 5 1/2 tons of bombs from 12 RAAF A-31's covered by fighters. In the Saidor area 23 January Allied patrols were active to the SE and SW. That night W of Karkar Island 3 Jap troop-laden barges were destroyed by PT's.

F. N. E. I.

The morning 23 January about 60 miles SW of Cape Valsch 2 P-40's destroyed 2 Jap planes. About noon the same day a village on Flores Island was attacked with unreported results by 2 B-24's.

IV. U. S. SS reports.

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking a 4,000-ton AK and damaging a 3,824-ton AK. Another SS reports destroying one large ship.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 24 January 1944

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

The morning of 23 January, P. longitude date, Paramushiru was attacked for the 4th consecutive day. 3 PBY's and 3 PV's, 1 of which turned back before reaching the target, took part and all returned safely. Bombs were dropped through the overcast and no results were reported. Scattered, moderately intense A/A fire was encountered.

II. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

At Ailinglapalap 21 January 2 near misses were scored on 2 small vessels by 2 PV's. The following day 9 low-flying B-25's dropped 9 tons of bombs on Motje and also strafed the target with 75 M's. A 150' AO, hangar buildings and runways were hit and a medium AK was probably sunk. There was no enemy air interception but intense and generally accurate A/A fire slightly damaged 3 of our planes.

After sunset 22 January Roi Island, Kwajalein atoll, was attacked by 10 B-24's which dropped 20 tons of bombs. 50% hit the target area to start some fires and damage some of the 20 - 25 Jap medium bombers on the ground. Of 12 - 15 Jap fighters intercepted 1 was destroyed and 3 were damaged. 3 of our planes were damaged by the moderately intense A/A fire encountered. Also late the same afternoon Eniwj Island, Jaluit atoll, was attacked by 7 B-24's and 6 B-34's which, flying low over the target released 21 tons of bombs to hit an A/A position, a seaplane, buildings and barracks. 3 fires were also started. A/A fire was inaccurate and there was no air interception.

(B) Gilbert Islands

The night of 21 January an unstated number of Jap planes ineffectively raided Tarawa.

III. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Before noon 21 January Kara and Kahili airfields were both strafed by 6 P-39's. Kara was reported probably serviceable but Kahili was not. 2 of our planes were damaged by A/A fire but all returned safely. The same day Monoitu Mission was bombed by 3 TBF's and an unstated number of Sopac bombers turned back from Rabaul by bad weather dropped 30 tons of bombs

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on Kara. 4 of these planes were damaged by A/A fire. Also 21 January Bonis and Buka were each raided with unreported results by single B-24's and on the SW central coast of Choiseul Island a radio station was bombed and strafed by 2 PV's.

(B) New Ireland and The Admiralties

Shortly after noon 21 January 38 B-24's dropped about 95 tons of bombs on Borop airfield, New Ireland, to hit revetments and gun positions. That night off Condor Point, SE New Ireland, a fuel laden Jap seatruck was sunk by 2 P-58's. The following day 11 B-25's attacked the Lorengau, NE Manus Island, waterfront to sink a 2500 ton AK - AP and a 500 ton AK. A jetty was also destroyed and 125 Japs killed by the planes which dropped more than 10 tons of bombs. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day about 50 miles N. of New Hanover patrolling B-24's damaged an AK in a 4 ship convoy.

(C) New Britain

The morning of 21 January Arawe was twice raided by Jap planes. Some casualties were reported. The following day in the Arawe and Cape Gloucester areas only ground patrol activity was reported. The same day 16 B-25's dropped more than 13 tons of bombs on beached Jap barges and Iboki plantation in Rein Bay. No results were observed. The same day the same target was hit with nearly 3 tons of bombs from 12 A-20's. No results were reported. Also 22 January a barge was destroyed off Cape Dampier, another was destroyed off the Willaumez Peninsula and an unstated number were damaged in Rein Bay and off the Itne River by 4 RAAF A-20's and 4 P-39's. The same day along the Amgen River Jap dumps were hit with more than 23 tons of bombs from 27 RAAF Beauforts. Fires were started and results were called excellent. Rooke Island was reported deserted 22 January. The Japs left behind much equipment.

(D) New Guinea

The night of 21 - 22 January about 65 miles E. of Newak a 1500 ton AK was strafed with unreported results. The following day Australian ground troops captured a number of commanding positions N. of the Faria River. From these positions the enemy had fled N. The same day the coast between Cape Gourdon and Cape Croisilles was bombed and strafed by 7 B-25's which dropped over 7½ tons of bombs to destroy 6 bridges and a barge. Over Uligan Harbor intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Also 22 January bridges along the Bogadjim - Yaula road were bombed by 12 RAAF A-31's while villages in the vicinity were strafed by 7 P-40's. No results were reported. Krina Plantation was raided 22 January by 4 P-39's which strafed supply dumps and enemy groups along the coast with unobserved results. The same day 15 miles E. of Newak an AK was bombed with unreported results by a B-24.

(E) N. E. I.

Off the N. coast of Timor 22 January 3 coastal vessels were destroyed by 9 RAAF Beaufighters which also strafed villages with unreported results. S. of Cape Valsch a Jap bomber was downed by a P-40.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 23 January 1944

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

A. Kuriles Area

On 21 January, W longitude date, 3 U.S. Navy PBY's and 3 PV's attacked Paramushiru. 1 of the planes jettisoned its bombs and the other 5 released a total of 4 1/2 tons of bombs on various targets in the area. Some A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned safely with personnel unharmed. The following day, W longitude date, 3 U.S. Navy PBY's and 3 PV's attacked Paramushiru targets for the third consecutive day. Moderately intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered but all our planes returned safely. 1, unable to locate the target, jettisoned its bombs.

II. Central Pacific Area

A. Marshall Islands

Early the morning of 21 January Roi and Kwajalein Island, Kwajalein atoll, were hit with 30 tons of bombs from 15 B-24's. At Roi a fire was started but no other results were observed. There was no enemy air interception. Light A/A fire damaged one of our planes. At noon the same day 9 B-25's dropped 3 tons of bombs on Rii and also strafed the target. There was no enemy air interception but A/A fire was intense. 3 of our planes were damaged. The same morning Jaluit was raided by 23 A-24's and 11 P-40's. 12 tons of bombs hit Rii and Tiniot islands, starting fires, damaging a PC and probably destroying 2 small vessels. A/A fire was light but 2 dive bombers were damaged. No Jap air interception was reported.

III. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

On 20 January 2 squadrons of B-24's bombed S Bougainville targets with unobserved results. The same day in the Torokina River forks area 45 Japs had been killed in the action previously reported as having resulted in 6 dead Japs. Early the morning of 20 January a B-24 raided Bonis supply dumps, starting a fire. The same day 2 other patrolling B-24's bombed NW Choiseul Island targets with unobserved results. The night of 20 - 21 January Managata, SW Bougainville, was shelled with unobserved results by an LCM gunboat and the Jaba River and Sale Island, SW Duka, were bombarded by PT's. No results were reported. The same night a Jap OP in the Torokina area was reported evacuated by barge. NW Choiseul was raided by a single U.S. patrol plane, 21 January, but no details were reported.

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B. New Ireland and Admiralty Islands

On 21 January about 47 miles SE of Lorengau, NE Admiralty Island, a 3000-ton AK was sunk by a patrolling B-24 which scored 2 direct hits. About midday the same day off NE New Hanover a medium AK was observed aground and afire by 2 different patrolling B-24's.

C. New Britain

Early the morning of 20 January 5 SOPAC B-24's bombed the Rabaul town area, starting 5 large fires. There was no enemy air interception. Later details of the previously reported attack on Vunakana airfield reveal that 70 SOPAC fighters escorted the 18 B-25's and that of about 60 intercepting Jap fighters 14 were destroyed and 2 probably destroyed. 1 P-38 and 3 F4U's are missing. In the Cape Gloucester area, 21 January, an Allied patrol reached Matano, S Borgen Bay, without encountering any Jap opposition. The same day at Cape Hoskins airfield a control tower was hit with a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24, but no results were reported. Also the same day a barge and a power boat off the N tip of the Willaumez Peninsula were strafed by 2 RAAF Beaufighters while in Henry Reid Bay another enemy barge was strafed by 2 other Beaufighters. No results were reported. Lindenhafen was bombed with unreported results, 21 January, by 2 RAAF A-20's and at Cape Raoul 4 barges were damaged by 2 P-39's. The same day the coastal area in the Cape Raoul vicinity was strafed by 16 P-47's but no results were reported. The afternoon of 21 January enemy bivouacs along the Angen River, E of Gosnata, were hit with 29½ tons of bombs from 31 RAAF Beauforts escorted by P-40's and P-38's. Clouds over the target obscured results. That night off Cape Dampier a loaded Jap barge was sunk by PT's.

D. New Guinea

Late the night of 20 - 21 January about 50 miles E of Newak a S bound 7000-ton AO was sunk by a patrolling B-24. The same night the Hansa Bay area was raided by a B-24 which released over 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries, 150 beer bottles and a number of pieces of lead pipe. No results were reported. Moderately intense A/A fire encountered was inaccurate. The following forenoon 6 B-25's dropped more than 7 tons of bombs on Prima Plantation, Bogadjin area, with excellent results and that afternoon the coast from Alexishafen to Hansa Bay was strafed by 11 P-40's, escorted by an unstated number of P-47's. 6 boats were destroyed.

The same afternoon Jap bivouacs at Gali and Sarouak Bay were bombed and strafed by 25 A-20's which dropped more than 18 tons of bombs. A number of explosions were caused and the village of Roinji, N shore of Sarouak Bay, was destroyed. 6 P-39's strafed Jap troops along the Rai coast the afternoon of 21 January, which also destroyed a boat at Gali and started some fires in dumps at Prima Plantation.

In the Upper Ramu Valley, 21 January, Jap positions along the N bank of the Faria River were dive bombed by 22 P-40's, which dropped 5½ tons of bombs with results termed excellent. The same day in the Saidor area the bulk of the enemy was reported concentrated at Gauss Point, about 15 miles SE of Saidor. That night off Madang patrolling PT's were attacked by 7 Jap planes of which 1 was claimed destroyed and 3 probably damaged.

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E. N. N. I.

Wainyapoe, Soomba Island, was attacked by 2 B-24's, 21 January. 3 tons of bombs hit the waterfront area starting large fires and possibly destroying 10 praus.

IV. U. S. SS Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking 2 AK's.

W. L. Dales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 22 January 1944

I. Northwestern Pacific Area

Early 20 January 2 Navy PBV's followed by 3 B-34's attacked the Paramushiru area. 2 other PBV's were unable to locate the area and jettisoned their bombs. 3 tons of 500 lb bombs, fragmentations and photo bombs were dropped. Enemy searchlights were accurate. A/A fire was moderate and inaccurate. Enemy installations appeared unchanged.

II. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

On the morning of 20 January Enidj, Jaluit atoll, received 11 tons of bombs from 12 PV's. A/A fire destroyed 1 and damaged 2 of our planes. The afternoon of the same day 13 B-24's attacked Wotje and 25 tons of bombs were dropped causing 1 fire. Results for the most part were unobserved. We lost 1 plane. Other U.S. search-planes bombed 2 100 ton AK's SE of Kwajalein and a 4000 ton AK W of Maloelap received a direct hit.

III. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

17 SBD's bombed enemy positions in SE Empress Augusta Bay on 19 January. The following day Stirling Island and Torokina were bombed by enemy aircraft which damaged Allied planes and killed 3 and wounded 5 Allied personnel. During the night of 19 - 20 January U.S. PT's and small enemy craft engaged W of Choiseul Bay and later near Fauro Island PT's were reported to have sunk 2 barges in Choiseul Bay. Enemy gun fire hit our vessels and 2 men were wounded. The following night 2 U.S. DD's set 5 barges afire and damaged others in Bougainville Strait. An enemy PG was also reported sunk. These DD's continued to harass enemy barges and small craft NW of Choiseul. Enemy m/g fire hit our vessels but no casualties resulted. The same vessels shelled enemy positions in the Empress Augusta Bay area.

(B) New Ireland

On 19 - 20 January Allied planes attacked barges off Cape St. George and 2 AK's W of New Hanover Island. Other small vessels were strafed.

(C) New Britain

During the night of 19 - 20 January Lakunai airdrome was raided by Allied aircraft which started 5 fires. Vunakanau was heavily bombed the

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afternoon of 20 January and many gun positions and a possible dump area were hit. 10 - 12 enemy fighters attacked our bombers and 50 - 60 enemy fighters encountered our fighter cover of 14 P-38's. We lost 2 B-25's and 2 P-38's. Their losses were 1 fighter destroyed, 1 probable. The same day 22 A-20's bombed the Borgen Bay - Rein Bay area while light raids were carried out on Lindenhafen, Cape Dampier and Montague Harbor. Allied patrols were active in both Arawe and Cape Gloucester areas.

(D) New Guinea

On 19 January an addition of 7 B-24's and 7 B-25's hit the Boram and Upper Faria areas respectively. The following day a small Jap AK was bombed and damaged by B-24's on patrol 8 miles N. of Aitape. Also on 20 January a force of 37 B-25's covered by P-40's made a surprise raid on Hansa Bay, sinking 20 barges and causing damage to 2 Jap fighters at Hulia and gun positions and trucks in the area. Over 41 tons of bombs were dropped causing many fires and explosions. 62 B-25's, 12 Vengeances and 19 RAAF P-40's dropped over 83 tons of bombs on enemy positions N of the Faria River. The area was also thoroughly strafed. 2 P-39's strafed enemy parties along the Rai coast. Our ground forces consolidated positions in the Sio area and were pressing the Japs N of the Faria River. A patrol encountered an enemy party 11 miles S. of Saidor.

(E) N. E. I.

Ambon was hit at noon 19 January by 14 - 16 B-24's. No enemy shipping was hit but fires and explosions resulted at Halong seaplane base. 16 or more Jap planes intercepted of which 6 were destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 2 damaged. We lost 2 B-24's, but the crew of 1 was rescued. Photos of Ambon revealed over 100 barges and small craft which is the largest concentration of these types yet seen here. There were also a few seatrucks and small AK's in the harbor as well as 25 floatplanes and 1 flying boat. At Iaha there were 25 enemy aircraft.

(F) S. China Sea Area

20 January 2 B-24's bombed and sank 1 350-foot AK and 1 225-foot LO.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 21 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Caroline Islands

The report of the 17 January attack on Kusaie was incorrect. Later details revealed that this attack was carried out by 12 PB4Y's which escorted 6 photo planes. Shore and harbor installations were bombed. No A/A fire was encountered and there was no enemy air interception. The airfield was not operational and there was no shipping in the harbor.

(B) Marshall Islands

The afternoon of 17 January Mili was bombed by 9 B-25's. The runway, radio installations, warehouses and A/A positions were well covered. Accurate A/A fire damaged 3 of our planes but there was no enemy air interception.

The morning of 19 January 17 low-flying U.S. B-25's hit Mili with 11 tons of bombs. 5 of 6 grounded enemy planes were damaged and fires started. There was no Jap air interception but intense A/A fire downed 2 of our bombers and damaged 7. No shipping was seen at the target. The same morning at Jaluit a Jap corvette was strafed and left afire by 9 P-40's which also probably sank a small sailing vessel. There was neither A/A fire nor air interception.

(C) Gilbert Islands

The early evening of 17 January Tarawa was raided by enemy planes. 29 bombs fell in the lagoon.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Malial village, Morgusala Island was attacked by a B-24 18 January. 4 hits caused a large fire. The same day on the central coast of Choiseul Island a Jap OP was bombed and strafed by U.S. patrol planes which scored 3 hits. The night of 18 - 19 January the Aitara area, SW Bougainville, was shelled by a LCM gunboat with unobserved results. There was no return fire. The same night in Choiseul Bay, NW Choiseul Island, a dock was bombed by a Sopac patrol plane.

The Kahili runway was shown serviceable for 800 yards on 19 January. The same day a patrol of U.S. Army Infantry landed on the N bank of the Laruma River. A company and a platoon advanced along the N bank, N of the mouth of the Torokina River while, in the vicinity of the forks of the

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Torokina River 4 companies of U.S. infantry broke contact with the Japs and withdrew. The evening of 19 January DD's bombarded the NE coast of Bougainville but no details were reported. Also 19 January a Jap barge, a beached boat and island positions, in the Choiseul Bay area, NW Choiseul Island, were attacked by U.S. patrol planes but no results were reported. The night of 19 January Jap positions at the Jaba River mouth were fired on by an Allied PT but no results were reported.

(B) Feni Island

At Feni Island 18 January 2 beached Jap barges were strafed by a U.S. patrol plane. No results were reported.

(C) New Britain

At noon 17 January, 85 miles E of Lorengau, Admiralty Islands, a B-24 damaged an AK. Early the following day Lakunai airfield was bombed by 3 B-24's which started fires in revetments. Later the Tobera airfield was attacked by 34 B-25's escorted by 72 fighters. A number of fires were started, 12 grounded planes were strafed and another was destroyed. Intercepted by about 80 Jap planes, our bombers and fighters destroyed 21. We lost 1 bomber and 1 fighter. The same day in Rein Bay a Jap barge was set afire by 2 strafing P-39's which, off the Pulie River mouth, Arawe, also strafed 6 Jap lifeboats with unreported results.

The night of 18 - 19 January 65 miles E of Lorengau, Admiralty Islands, a 5000 ton AE was sunk by a U.S. PBY while, an hour later at the entrance to Seeadler Harbor another small AK was sunk by other PBY's. The same night Lakunai and Vunakana airfields were bombed with unreported results by 5 B-24's. 70 miles SW of Mussau Island an SS was possibly destroyed by a patrolling B-24.

Early the morning of 19 January Lakunai airfield was attacked by 4 B-24's but no results were observed. The same day in the Cape Gloucester and Arawe areas no ground action was reported but Arawe was lightly raided by Jap planes. In Rottok Bay 19 January a Jap barge was sunk and another left burning by 2 P-39's.

(D) New Guinea

Alexishafen airfield was strafed by 2 P-39's the night of 17 - 18 January which hit 2 Jap bombers, believed unserviceable, and left the building in flames. Over Newak 18 January, in addition to those previously reported, 6 Jap planes were downed by 35 P-38's. The same day in the Faria River area Jap positions were hit with nearly 20 tons of bombs from 16 B-25's in addition to those previously reported. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Also 18 January Gali village and possible enemy hideouts along the Rai coast were strafed by 2 P-39's but no results were reported. The night of 18 - 19 January near Cape Croisilles U.S. PT's sank 4 Jap barges each carrying 40 troops. The same night N of Hansa Bay a 3000 ton AK - AP was bombed and destroyed by U.S. PBY's.

Jap positions on the upper Faria River were bombed and strafed 19 January by 53 B-25's and 11 B-24's. More than 66 tons of bombs were released with results called good. The same day 48 fighter-escorted B-24's dropped 138 tons of bombs on Boran airfield, silencing 3 A/A positions destroying grounded planes and causing a number of fires. No enemy air interception

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A/A fire was moderately intense to intense. Also 19 January Gali and the Rai coast were strafed with unobserved results by 4 P-39's. The same day in the Sidor area there was a light enemy air raid but ground patrols made no contacts with the Japs. In the Sio area mopping up continues.

(E) N. E. I.

Over N. E. I. 19 January only Allied aerial reconnaissance was reported.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports probably damaging a CV and another SS reports sinking 1 AK and probably sinking another.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 20 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

A. Caroline Islands

The afternoon 17 January Kusiae, E. Carolines, was attacked by 9 U.S. B-25's. This was the first U.S. air attack on the Carolines. The runway, radio installations, warehouses and A/A positions were hit and large explosions and fires followed. Accurate A/A fire damaged 3 of our planes but all returned safely. No enemy air interception was reported and there were no casualties.

B. Marshall Islands

On 18 January Jabor, Jaluit Atoll, was attacked by 25 U.S. A-24's and 8 P-40's. 16 tons of bombs were dropped on fuel installations, causing a fire. A/A fire was intense and 2 A-24's were lost. 1 crew was rescued. No enemy air interception was reported. The following noon Mili was attacked by 12 U.S. B-25's which dropped 9 tons of bombs on shore installations, gun positions and the runway. There was no Jap air interception but A/A fire damaged 9 planes slightly and wounded 3 men.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

The afternoon of 17 January TRF's bombed a bridge at Monoitu Mission, SW Bougainville with unreported results and the same day a small boat and a dry dock in the W entrance to Choiseul Bay, NW Choiseul Island, were hit with depth charges from a U.S. patrol plane but no results were reported. The following day, E of the Torokina River, U.S. Army patrols were reported active 500 yards E of the river and about 1000 yards inland.

B. Ambitle Island

At noon 17 January NE of Ambitle Island a U.S. patrol plane attacked a Japanese medium bomber, scoring probable hits although no details were reported.

C. New Ireland

The afternoon of 16 January in St. George Channel a U.S. PV attacked

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a Jap SS with unreported results and that night 60 miles NW of Kavieng a patrolling B-24 attacked and set afire a 1500-ton AK. Slight, inaccurate A/A fire was met by the plane. The afternoon of 18 January a large village between Borpop and Hamatanai airfields, NE New Ireland, was bombed and strafed by a U.S. patrol plane. Some buildings were destroyed. The same day W of New Hanover a near miss was scored on an AO in a 3 vessel convoy by a patrolling B-24.

D. New Britain

According to a belated report Allied ground forces in the Borgen Bay area successfully repulsed a Jap attack, killing 126 of the enemy. The following afternoon 3 AK's at Rabaul were attacked by 42 U.S. dive and torpedo bombers, escorted by 70 fighters. 3 large AK's were sunk, 1 left burning and another was left probably sinking and 3 were damaged. 100 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 18 were downed by our planes; we lost 10 planes. That night 6 B-24's attacked Rabaul town, causing large fires. Early the following morning Cape Olouocoster and Arawe were both lightly raided by enemy aircraft. The same day in the Arawe area Allied ground forces cleared out enemy pockets while our artillery shelled Umtinagalu. Also 18 January off Cape Pomas direct hits were scored on a 2000-ton AK by a patrolling B-24. The vessel exploded.

E. New Guinea

On 16 January Alexishafen was strafed by 2 P-38's which silenced 7 m/g's. 1 P-38 was lost. Early the following day about 40 miles NW of Wewak an AK was bombed with unreported results by a B-24. The same day, in addition to previously reported attacks, Hansa Bay was hit by 12 B-24's which dropped 41 tons of bombs, starting fires. Slight to moderately intense A/A fire encountered was largely inaccurate. Also 17 January 2 P-39's and 2 Boomerangs destroyed 1 and damaged 1 of 2 barges at Molamua Harbor, about 10 miles E of Bogadjim and 9 B-25's dropped 10 tons of bombs on Gali to destroy some buildings.

Early the 18th of January N of Wewak an AK was damaged by a B-24 and the same day over Wewak an unstated number of U.S. P-47's and P-38's downed 8 of 60 - 70 Jap planes. 3 P-38's were lost. Also 18 January 40 escorted B-24's dropped 126 1/2 tons of bombs on Hansa Bay with excellent results. A/A fire encountered was slight to moderately intense and generally inaccurate. The same day Jap positions at the headwaters of the Faria River, about 9 miles N of Dumpu, were attacked by 38 fighter-escorted B-25's which, supporting Allied ground forces, dropped 45 tons of bombs to start a number of fires. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. About the same time Yaula was attacked by 7 other B-25's which released more than 10 tons of bombs, causing a large explosion.

F. H. E. I.

A village on Banda Island, off SE Ceram Island, was attacked by 4 B-24's on 18 January. 10 buildings were destroyed. That night Laha airfield,

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Ambon, was bombed by 4 B-25's. Explosions and fires resulted.

III. U.S. SS Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking 2 AO's for a total of 14,035 tons and reports another U.S. SS probably damaged another AO.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 19 January 1944

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I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 16 - 17 January 6 - 12 Jap aircraft dropped 25 - 35 bombs on Torokina, causing some casualties and damage. The same night at Luti, SW central Choiseul, Jap stores were successfully raided by Allied scouts. Early the following morning a small fast enemy plane landed at Kahili. By the afternoon of 17 January the Torokina River had been crossed at its mouth by an reinforced Army platoon, supported by artillery fire. The troops dug in at the E. lagoon. That night just N. of the Kurur River, NW Bougainville, U.S. PT's encountered artillery fire from shore but no damage resulted.

(B) Greenwich Island

The afternoon of 17 January about 150 miles S. of Greenwich Island an empty Jap barge was sunk by a Guadalcanal patrol plane.

(C) New Britain

At Arawe Allied ground forces, supported by tanks, extended their perimeter 1000 yards, capturing a Jap 75 MM gun and some m/g's. At Cape Gloucester no ground action was reported. Early the morning of 17 January both Arawe and Cape Gloucester were raided by Jap planes and at Cape Gloucester some casualties resulted. The same day along the Angon River, E. of Casmeta, 30 RAAF Beauforts, escorted by Spitfires and P-40's dropped over 37½ tons of bombs on a new Jap camp causing some fires. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day photos revealed 25 planes at Tobara and Rapopo airfields.

(D) New Guinea

Erima Plantation was attacked by 28 B-25's 16 January in addition to those previously reported. More than 22 tons of bombs were dropped but smoke over the target obscured results. That night 2 U.S. DD's bombarded Gali, about 20 miles SE of Saidor, but no results were reported.

In the Sio and Saidor areas no ground action was reported 17 January. Before dawn the same day 6 B-25's dropped 6 tons of bombs on Kobia, causing explosions and a fire. A/A fire encountered was light. Later the same target was hit by 25 fighter-escorted B-24's which dropped more than 85 tons of bombs. A/A guns were silenced. Slight, inaccurate A/A fire was met. Off Hatzfeldt the planes strafed an SS with unreported

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results. About the same time Erima Plantation was hit with about 7 tons of bombs from 2 B-24's. Also 17 January the Rai coast was swept by 6 P-39's which strafed Jap troops, gun positions and boats with unreported results. In the Rama Valley 17 January enemy positions along the Faria River were dive bombed and strafed by 9 RAAF A-31's, 12 RAAF P-40's and an unstated number of Doormerange supporting Allied ground forces. The same day photos with 70% coverage of Newak showed 120 planes on the 4 airfields.

(E) N. E. I.

8 RAAF Beaufighters raided villages and sank a boat in the Tanimbar Islands on 17 January.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS is reported to have sunk an AK while another reports sinking a 6000 ton AK.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 18 January 1944

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

A small AK was destroyed 15 January at Likiep atoll by a U.S. patrol plane and near Jaluit atoll another small AK was attacked and left sinking by a U.S. patrol plane. The following day about 15 miles N. of Kwajalein a small AK was hit by a U.S. patrol plane which probably destroyed 1 of 4 intercepting Jap fighters. At dawn the same day over Mili 2 Jap bombers were destroyed by 4 P-39's and at noon the same day Mili was attacked by 25 U.S. Army A-24's, 18 P-39's and 8 P-40's. 90% of the 21 tons of bombs were dropped on the target. A/A fire was intense and a fighter was lost while the pilot of another bailed out on a return flight. 4 other planes were damaged.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 12 - 13 January over Treasury Island 2 raiding Jap planes were downed by A/A fire while another was destroyed by a Sopac night fighter. The enemy planes participated in previously reported raids on our positions. The following night Torokina was bombed by an unstated number of Jap planes but no damage resulted. 15 January Jap bivouacs and A/A positions and bridges on the Hongorai River, SW Bougainville, were bombed by 8 TBF's while P-39's strafed 11 camouflaged barges and 3 trucks in the Chabai area, destroying 2 barges. The same day Maviriri SE Empress Augusta Bay, and bridges over the Tekessi River, NE Empress Augusta Bay, were attacked by SBD's while in the NE Torokina area other TBF's and SBD's attacked Jap positions with good results.

Also 15 January on NW Choiseul Island were bombed by a single PV with unreported results. The evening of 15 January F4U's picked up a single Jap plane over Torokina and chased it nearly to Rabaul before shooting it down.

The 14th Echelon was unloaded at Treasury on 16 January and the 19th Echelon was unloaded at Torokina on 16 January.

(B) Nissan - Feni - Ambitle Islands

At Ambitle Island 6 abandoned Jap barges were strafed by a Guadalcanal patrol plane 16 January and the same day at Nissan and Feni Islands no enemy barges were observed by another patrol plane.

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(C) New Ireland

The afternoon of 13 January East Cape was attacked by 24 B-25's escorted by CO fighters. No results were observed. That night about 45 miles N. of Kavieng 2 Jap convoys were attacked by 5 FBY's. 1 10,000 ton AK was destroyed, 1 8000 ton AK and 1 6000 ton AK were damaged.

(D) New Britain

Late reports of the previously reported 12 January Rabaul strike confirm 2 additional Jap planes destroyed. The night of 14 - 15 January, in addition to the previously reported raid, Lakunai was bombed by 3 B-24's, Tobera by 1 B-24 and Rabaul by 1 B-24. There was no air interception only meagre A/A fire was encountered. In the Arawe area 16 January no ground contact with the Japs was reported while in the Cape Gloucester area consolidation of newly won Allied positions continued. The same day E. of Amalut Plantation, about 4 miles N. of the Arawe airfield, 17 B-24's supporting Allied ground forces dropped 65 tons of bombs on Jap defense positions with excellent results. 20 B-25's followed, hitting the same area outlined by smoke shells with more than 21 tons of bombs. Results were termed excellent. Also 16 January along the S. New Britain coast a Jap barge was strafed by 2 RAAF Beaufighters while Gasmata dumps were bombed and Taruk Mission, about 34 miles E. of Arawe, were strafed by 2 RAAF A-20's. No results were reported. The same day villages between Wide and Jacquinot Bays were bombed and strafed by 3 B-25's, 1 of which was lost to A/A fire. The following night near Arawe patrolling PT's destroyed 3 Jap barges.

(E) New Guinea

Saidor was raided by 4 Jap planes 15 January. That night N. of Newak 3 N. bound enemy seatrucks were attacked with unobserved results by a B-24. The same night 2 P-38's damaged a grounded Jap fighter in a strafing raid on Alexishafen airfield.

At Sio 16 January consolidation of newly won lines was carried out by Australian ground forces. The same morning the coast from Alexishafen N. to Cape Gourdon was bombed and strafed by 18 B-25's covered by an unslated number of P-38's. Nearly 15 tons of bombs were released and the area was heavily strafed and shelled. A bridge and buildings were destroyed and some barges and trucks were damaged. 30 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 3 were destroyed and 3 were damaged. 1 B-25 was lost. The same day Brima Plantation and villages to the N. were bombed by 27 B-25's. 12 tons of bombs and 94 incendiary clusters were released with unobserved results. The same day the Bogadjim - Yaula road was attacked by 36 A-20's and 12 P-40's. Nearly 20 tons of bombs were dropped and nearly 60,000 rounds of 50 calibre were expended. Over Yaula light by moderate A/A fire was encountered. The Rai coast was also swept by 10 P-39's which strafed Jap troops and barges moving N. 16 January. No details were reported. The same day, in the morning, Saidor was attacked by 30 Jap planes and early reports indicate 19 were destroyed by intercepting P-40's which suffered no loss.

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(F) N. E. I.

The night of 16 - 17 January Ambon was attacked by 7 B-24's. Nearly 7 tons of bombs were dropped on the harbor and a large unidentified vessel was left smoking. Our planes downed 3 of 8 intercepting Jap float-planes. Intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 17 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

The afternoon of 16 January 9 U.S. B-25's dropped 8 tons of bombs on enemy shipping at Maloelap, possibly sinking 1 medium AK and damaging a small AK. In addition hangars, the runway, an oil dump and 4 or 5 grounded medium bombers were damaged. 40 - 50 Jap fighters intercepted and 2 of these were probably destroyed. 1 B-25 was shot down. 1 was badly damaged and 7 were slightly damaged.

(B) Gilbert Islands

The night of 15 - 16 January Makin, Tarawa and Apamama were raided by Jap planes but no details were reported.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 13 January 2 B-24's raided Kahili and that night Jap planes 4 times raided Torokina, destroying 1 and damaging another grounded plane. 1 Jap plane was reported downed by a F4U. The same night 2 Jap planes ineffectively raided Russell Islands and an unstated number raided Segi without causing any damage.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

At midday 14 January Simpson Harbor was attacked by 32 Sopac SED's and 16 TBF's escorted by 73 fighters. A direct hit was scored on a possible Jap CL, 4 near misses were scored on a possible DD and 9 direct hits and 16 near misses were scored on 7 AK's. In addition 29 of 60 - 70 intercepting Jap fighters were downed and 16 probably downed. We lost 9 planes but 4 pilots were saved. That night the Rabaul area was attacked by 12 B-25's which bombed Vunakanau, Cape Gaselle and East Cape, New Ireland, while 15 B-24's bombed the Rabaul airfields. 1 B-25 is missing. The same night the Rabaul area searchlights were hit with 15 fragmentation clusters from a single B-24 but no results were observed. The following day the S. coast of New Britain was swept by 2 B-25's which destroyed a bridge and silenced a gun in the Jacquinot Bay area while the Itne river area was strafed by 4 P-39's. An m/g was hit. The same day U.S. planes captured a vital hill position SW of Silimati Point, overcoming stubborn resistance. Allied casualties in

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the area to date total 228 dead and 694 wounded. The enemy dead are estimated at 3,100. 11 Japs have been captured.

(C) New Guinea

N. of Madang a small schooner was strafed and damaged 14 January by 2 P-38's which also set afire a grounded Jap bomber and strafed enemy troops at Alexishafen while W. of Sio Jap troops were strafed by 2 Boomerangs. 10 enemy bombers were sighted on the Alexishafen field. The following day Gusap and Nadsab were strafed by unstated numbers of Jap fighter planes which damaged some Allied planes on the ground. 2 enemy planes were claimed by A/A fire and 1 other was probably thus downed. The same day in the Sio area Australian patrols were reported W. of Vinko Point while NW of Dumpu in the Ramu Valley Allied and Jap artillery exchanged fire. Also 15 January S. of Daumoina, in the Ramu Valley, 13 tons of bombs were released along the road by 10 B-25's and 12 P-40's. A bridge was damaged and hits were scored on a number of villages. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

Uligan Harbor was attacked 15 January by 24 B-24's which hit gun positions and supply areas with more than 95 tons of bombs to destroy a number of buildings. A/A fire encountered was mostly inaccurate. In the harbor a seatruck and 16 - 20 barges were sighted. The same day in the same area 2 bridges and an A/A position were destroyed and villages heavily strafed by 10 low-flying B-25's which dropped nearly 11 tons of bombs. Over Uligan Harbor intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered by these planes. 12 P-47's strafed the runway at Alexishafen 15 January, leaving 2 bombers and some dumps afire.

(D) N. E. I.

The night of 14 - 15 January at Halmahera shipping and barges in Wasile Bay were attacked by 5 RAAF PBV's. No details were reported beyond the fact that 1 CL, 1 DD, 17 merchant vessels and 22 barges were observed.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U. S. SS reports sinking a laden Jap AP.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 16 January 1944

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

On 14 January 3 B-25's attacked enemy shipping at Wotje. A medium AK was reported sunk and 2 others probably damaged. Intense A/A fire damaged 1 plane but no casualties resulted. The following morning at 0300L Roi and Namur, N. Kwajalein, were raided by 12 B-24's which dropped 12 tons of bombs causing many fires and explosions. Heavy damage was believed inflicted. Our planes suffered no losses or casualties and only moderate A/A fire was encountered.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

13 January 3 SBD's destroyed a bridge in S. central Bougainville and 4 P-39's strafed Tiniputs causing a fire. Our ground forces during 13 - 14 January encountered enemy opposition 1200 yards E. of the mouth of the Torokina River and on hill positions in the N. Torokina area. 12 SBD's bombed Numa Numa 14 January. The same day Treasury Island was attacked at 0610L by a single Jap plane which dropped 3 bombs near the control tower, causing no material damage but killing 1 man and wounding 9 others. At 0021L 13 January enemy aircraft ineffectively raided Barakoma strip, Vella Lavella. No damage resulted. The afternoon of the same day 1700L a Jap bomber dropped 10 "daisy cutters" on Munda which badly damaged a B-24 and 2 P-39's and 7 other planes were also damaged, some fuel dumps set afire, 1 man was killed and 23 wounded. Also on the morning of 14 January an Allied reconnaissance plane strafed 2 beached barges at SE Feni Island.

(B) New Britain

2 - 3 enemy planes lightly raided Arawa and Cape Gloucester the night of 13 January but no damage resulted. During the early hours of 13 January 16 Sopac B-24's individually attacked Lakunai airdrome. Total of 30 tons of bombs was dropped. This raid was followed by 11 B-25's which bombed and strafed Rapopo and Tobera. Results for the most part were unobserved. About the same time 6 TBF's dropped torpedoes on shipping in Simpson Harbor but no explosions were seen. In these raids only 1 B-24 was damaged by A/A fire.

Our patrols in the Cape Gloucester area on 14 January encountered no Japs near the airdrome but stubborn resistance was encountered by our forces SW from Silimati Point. Air attacks the same day included 7 B-24's over Cape

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Busching area where 21 tons of bombs were dropped. 10 A-20's bombed and strafed Borgen Bay area and 11 B-25's attacked Rottock Bay area and E. along the N. New Britain coast. Buildings were destroyed when 3 B-25's bombed and strafed villages on the SE coast of New Britain. On 14 January there were 151 enemy fighters, 56 bombers on the 4 main fields in the Rabaul area. 13 floatplanes and 1 flying boat were in Rabaul Harbor as well as 4 SS's, 3 DD's, 5 PC's, 7 medium AK's, 16 small AK's, 3 medium AO's and 365 barges.

(C) New Guinea

On 13 January 13 RAAF P-40's bombed the Erima area and 2 P-38's strafed Alexishafen, destroying an enemy plane on the ground. On 14 January 18 B-24's and 26 B-25's heavily bombed Nagada and Aaron Missions, midway between Madang and Alexishafen. Large explosions and fires resulted and buildings were destroyed. 14 P-40's hit supply dumps and silenced gun positions at Madang the same day. Bogadjin was hit by a B-24 on reconnaissance and 13 RAAF P-40's again bombed Erima Plantation. An Allied patrol reached Sio without any enemy resistance on 14 January. Considerable equipment and ammunition was captured and many enemy dead seen. Only 2 Japs were discovered alive in the area and both were taken prisoners. Another patrol in the Saidor area encountered some Japs near Galék, 5 miles NW of Saidor.

(D) N. E. I.

7 - 8 RAAF Beaufighters attacked shipping off the N. coast of Portuguese Timor on 14 January. A 1000 ton AK was strafed and when last seen was down at the stern and all afire. Another smaller vessel was damaged. The same planes strafed Atamboea. A B-24 on reconnaissance hit the area W. of Dili the same day.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol in the South Pacific reports damaging an 8,500 ton enemy AP - AK. Another SS in the S. China Sea area reports sinking an enemy vessel of 1,868 tons. The same SS reports damaging 25,290 tons of enemy shipping and probably damaging 5,800 tons.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 15 January 1944I. Central Pacific Area(A) Marshall Islands

The afternoon of 12 January 21 A-24's and 2 P-39's attacked Mili. 6 tons of bombs hit the storage area at the N. end of the island, starting a small fire. There was no enemy air interception but heavy A/A fire slightly damaged 2 A-24's. No enemy shipping was observed. The following forenoon Mili was again attacked. 21 A-24's and 16 P-39's dropped 14 tons of bombs, starting fires in the barracks area at the S. end of the island. 6 Jap planes on the ground were strafed with unobserved results. Again there was no enemy air interception but light A/A fire slightly damaged 1 A-24. That evening Wotje was bombed and strafed by 9 U.S. B-25's. Shore installations and some small vessels were hit. There was no air interception and A/A fire encountered was light. Following the attack a Jap DD was observed SE of the lagoon.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area(A) Solomon Islands

The NE Bougainville coast from Teop to Numa Numa was bombed by an unstated number of P-39's 12 January. Some buildings were set afire in the area which is reported but lightly held by the enemy. The same day Nawa Harbor, N. Bougainville, was strafed with unobserved results by 4 P-40's. That night a lone Jap plane ineffectively raided Torokina while another single enemy plane raided Munda airfield, New Georgia Island, causing some slight damage to grounded aircraft.

The morning of 13 January U.S. DD's bombarded the Tiniputz and Ruri Bay areas of N. Bougainville. Both targets were reported well covered. The same day an unstated number of U.S. planes bombed the Choiseul Bay area, Choiseul Island, causing a large fire and at House Kiaspe, SE of Cape Moltke, N. Bougainville, a U.S. Army patrol was withdrawn.

(B) New Ireland

Early the morning of 12 January a single P-70 dropped 6 bombs on Borpop airfield to start 4 - 5 fires. The following day W. of Cape Matanalem, New Hanover, an enemy cargo vessel was damaged by a B-24 on reconnaissance.

(C) New Britain

In the Cape Gloucester area 13 January U.S. Marines resumed their attack in the direction of Natamo, S. Borgen Bay. Our artillery destroyed 1

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enemy landing barge. The same day in the Arawe area no ground activity was reported but 12 A-20's dropped more than 5 tons of bombs on Didmop village, NE of Arawe. No results were observed. In the Gasmata area 13 January 7 RAAF P-40's strafed the Anwek River mouth with unreported results and 2 RAAF Beau- fighters strafed Tavelo village and Jacquinot Bay along the S. coast.

(D) New Guinea

In addition to previously reported attacks in the area the Bogadjim area was bombed 12 January by 13 B-25's. Several fires resulted from the release of 12½ tons of bombs. That night Pinschhafen and Woodlark Island were lightly raided by unstated numbers of Jap planes and N. of Newak a PBV reported a probable hit on a small Jap AK which was left dead in the water.

The following day Nambariwa was occupied by Australian ground forces which found many enemy dead in the area. The same day coastal villages and roads N. of Alexishafen were bombed and strafed by 9 B-25's which dropped over 4 tons of bombs to destroy some boats, buildings and a bridge. The same day Alexishafen was hit with 75 tons of bombs from 28 B-24's. The runway was damaged, houses were destroyed and a number of fires were started. Also 13 January villages and bridges along the Bogadjim - Yaula road were bombed and strafed by 22 A-20's while in the Bogadjim coastal area 7 enemy barges and some supply dumps were damaged in a strafing sweep by 20 P-39's. That night 2 patrolling P-38's downed a Jap bomber over Alexishafen.

(E) N. E. I.

The night of 12 - 13 January 6 B-24's dropped 9 tons of bombs on the oil refinery area at Balikpapan, causing a number of fires and explosions. The same night the Macassar waterfront area, other unstated Celebes targets and Dili Timor, were each bombed by different pairs of B-24's which had started on a Balikpapan mission. 3 tons of bombs hit each of these latter targets. Over Balikpapan intense and accurate A/A fire was encountered and over Macassar an intercepting Jap fighter plane was destroyed. 1 of our planes is missing. The following day Amahai airfield, Ceram, was hit with an unstated number of incendiaries from 4 B-24's after the planes had unsuccessfully bombed shipping off the N. coast of the island. No results were observed. The same day Gesor, SE Ceram, and Keaukwa, Dutch New Guinea, were bombed by 4 other B-24's. A total of 4½ tons of bombs were dropped on all targets and a number of fires were observed. Slight, and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

III. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports destroying a gasoline laden medium AK and another SS reports sinking a 10,020 ton AO and probably sinking a 10,800 ton AP and an 8000 ton AK. A second SS report is very probably the same one reported in the Summary for 10 January as having sunk 2 large vessels and damaged a third.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 14 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Mili was raided by 4 U.S. P-39's on reconnaissance 10 January. 1 plane dropped 2 bombs and 1 plane was shot down, presumably by A/A fire, but the pilot was rescued. The following day 4 more P-39's on a similar flight dropped 2 bombs on Mili and strafed the target. No results were reported. That night the same target was hit with 5 tons of bombs from 5 U.S. B-24's. Also the night of 11 January Taroa, Maloelap atoll, was attacked by 15 U.S. B-24's which dropped 31 tons of bombs. 93% fell on the target area, causing many explosions and fires and destroying 2 twin engined enemy planes on the ground.

(B) Gilbert Islands

The night of 11 January Makin was ineffectively raided by a single Jap plane and an unstated number of enemy planes bombed Apamama, causing no damage. The following night some casualties and damage resulted when Tarawa was attacked by 12 - 15 Jap bombers.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 11 January the E. Bougainville coast from Numa Numa - Koromira was strafed with unobserved results by 2 flights of P-39's while that night a P-70 started 4 - 5 fires in Bonis bivouacs. The following day in the E. Torokina perimeter an undetermined number of Japs withdrew, leaving 2 dead, after clashing with a U.S. Army patrol. The same day villages in the Numa Numa area were strafed with unreported results by 4 P-39's and Buka and Kahili supply dumps were each raided by single B-24's. 10 SBD's harassed Jap artillery in the NE Torokina area during the successful unloading of the 18th Echelon. on 12 January and these same planes also bombed SE Empress Augusta Bay targets as did 2 TBF's later in the day. That night Treasury Island was raided 3 times by Jap aircraft. There were some casualties but no material damage.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 10 - 11 January the Cape St. George radar station was bombed by a Guadalcanal patrol plane. The following day on the W. coast of New Ireland 5 Jap barges or sampans were attacked by a patrolling B-24 but little damage was done. That afternoon 18 TBF's and 48 SBD's escorted by

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92 fighters attacked Cape St. George. A/A positions near the radar station were hit, a building was wrecked and a fire was started after 36 tons of bombs had been released. There was no air interception and only meagre A/A fire. However, over the area 28 of the fighter escorts encountered Jap fighters and downed 10. (Earlier reports claimed only 1 enemy fighter). All our planes returned safely.

Early the morning of 12 January S. of New Hanover A/A fire from an attacked DD was silenced by near misses from a PBV.

(C) New Britain

The morning of 12 January 13 low-flying B-25's bombed and strafed Vunakanau, destroying 7 of 36 grounded planes. In Keravia Bay the planes also strafed 6 small ships and barges. A/A fire was slight and there was no air interception. Later Tobera was attacked by 19 B-24's which reported hits. 52 escorting fighters downed 3 of about 34 intercepting Jap fighters and our bombers destroyed 2 more. 3 of our bombers were damaged.

The same day in the Arawe area U.S. patrols successfully attacked Jap positions to the NE after these had been softened up by artillery. 11 of the enemy were killed. Also 12 January at Gasmata a boat was strafed and damaged by 4 P-39's and Garove Island was raided by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs to damage A/A positions.

(D) New Guinea

The afternoon of 11 January Uligan Harbor was bombed and strafed by 14 B-25's in addition to those already reported as having attacked the target. Clouds obscured the results of release of 14 tons of bombs. The same afternoon Bunabun Harbor, about 30 miles NW of Alexishafen, was dive bombed by 4 P-39's which destroyed 9 huts. That night about 10 miles off Hansa Bay a small coastal vessel was set afire by a PBV which also bombed the Awar airstrip and destroyed a barge.

The morning of 12 January 18 B-24's and 50 B-25's escorted by P-47's attacked Alexishafen. More than 100 tons of bombs were dropped wrecking the jetty and starting many fires. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day N. of Bogadjim 2 P-39's strafed a bridge but no details were reported. Also 12 January in the Cape Iris area, about 12 miles W. of Saidor, Jap stores were bombed and strafed by 12 low-flying A-20's which dropped 7 tons of bombs, badly damaging a village. In the same area a barge was damaged by 2 P-39's. The same day Australian patrols reached a point about 6 miles SE of Sio which was shelled by Allied artillery.

(E) N. E. I.

The night of 11 - 12 January 6 PBV's dropped over 7 tons of bombs on the waterfront and warehouse areas at Ambon, starting 4 large fires. Slight to moderately intense A/A fire was encountered but it was largely inaccurate.

(F) Malaya

11 January off Penang Island, N. Malay Peninsula, a Jap cruiser was reported torpedoed and sunk by a British SS.

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III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking 16,000 tons -- an AK and the vessel
towing it.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 13 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

The afternoon of 11 January Kwajalein was attacked by 10 PB4Y's accompanied by 2 photo planes. 2 small AK's were sunk and 4 damaged. On the island gun positions were silenced and 2 grounded planes burned. Shore installations were also set afire. There was no air interception and A/A fire was weak. We suffered no damage or casualties and all our planes returned safely. At dusk the same day Taroa, Maloelap atoll, was attacked by 9 U.S. B-25's which bombed shipping and shore installations, probably sinking a 500 ton AK, damaging a CL or DD and sinking 150' sloop. Installations on islands in the vicinity were damaged. Only moderate and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. 2 of our planes were slightly damaged.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

Kahili supply dumps were bombed with unreported results on 9 January by 5 B-24's. The following afternoon SE Empress Augusta Bay supply dumps were attacked by 5 TBF's, which destroyed 5 huts. On the same day Sopac fighters bombed and strafed the Chabai area with unobserved results. The SE Empress Augusta Bay area was bombed with unobserved results the morning of 11 January by 6 SBD's and in the afternoon by 4 SBD's. 2 TBF's hit the target again that evening. No results were observed.

(B) New Ireland

Cape St. George gun positions were bombed and strafed 10 January by 22 SBD's and 12 TBF's which were prevented by bad weather from striking Rabaul. 6 fighters escorted. 1 hit was scored on a gun position. A/A fire was meagre and there was no interception by the 3 - 5 Jap planes sighted. All planes returned safely. That night the same target was strafed by a Sopac P-70 and an unspecified target was bombed by 3 B-25's.

(C) New Britain

The night of 9 January Lakunai airfield was bombed with unobserved results by 6 B-25's. Final report of the 9 January attack on Tobera raises the total enemy planes downed to 21.

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Before dawn 10 January a Sopac P-70 started a number of fires in a raid on Rabaul. Later the same day 4 P-39's strafed Didmop Village in the Arawe area but no results were reported. That afternoon 10 B-24's bombed Vunakanau with unobserved results. The night of 10 January Lakunai, Vunakanau and Tobera airfields were attacked by 20 individual B-24's which observed no results. There was no enemy air interception but A/A fire slightly damaged 1 of our planes.

In the Arawe area 11 January no action was reported. At Cape Gloucester U.S. forces continued their attack on the enemy in the Borgen Bay area. (To 10 January U.S. casualties at Cape Gloucester number 180 dead and 236 wounded compared to enemy dead estimated at 2400.) Also 11 January 1 of 4 Jap barges in Rein Bay was destroyed by 2 P-39's while an unserviceable Jap fighter plane on Cape Hoskins airfield was strafed and destroyed by 2 RAAF Spitfires. The same day a patrolling B-24 bombed Garove Island with unreported results.

(D) New Guinea

In the Saidor area 10 January 3 enemy barges were strafed by 3 P-39's but no details were reported. The same day the coast from Bogia to Cape Grisilles, about 20 miles N. of Madang, was attacked by 9 B-25's and 12 P-40's. 3 luggers, 2 barges, 2 bridges and a number of buildings were destroyed, gun positions were silenced and 2 trucks were damaged. 9 tons of bombs were dropped. Moderately intense and accurate A/A fire was met. The same day A/A positions at Madang were hit with 62 tons of bombs from 18 B-24's escorted by P-38's. A number of explosions and fires resulted. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. The same day the Bili Bili - Bogadjim - Yaula area was bombed and strafed by 9 B-25's and 4 P-39's. 9 tons of bombs damaged a bridge and started fires. 2 barges in Pommern Bay were damaged by 4 other P-39's the same day and 12 A-20's dropped over 5 tons of bombs on the Sio - Nambariwa area but no results were reported.

The night of 10 - 11 January off Reiss Point patrolling PT's sank 3 troop laden Jap barges and near Sio destroyed 2 more barges and several enemy personnel. The next day at Saidor an Allied transport plane landed indicating the airfield there is now operational. The same day in the Kalasa area Allied patrols advancing NW reached the Gneisenau area. Also 11 January 31 B-25's escorted by P-47's dropped 29 tons of bombs on Uligan Harbor and heavily strafed the target. 11 barges and 1 lugger were destroyed, m/g positions were silenced and numerous fires were started. The same day 69 tons of bombs were released on A/A positions at Alexishafen by 23 B-24's, escorted by 31 P-38's. No A/A fire was encountered. A grounded Jap bomber at Alexishafen was later damaged by 6 patrolling P-39's and these planes also damaged 2 barges near Bogadjim.

(E) N. E. I.

Christmas Island, S. of SW Java, was raided by a B-24 on 10 January. A little more than half a ton of bombs was dropped. Little activity on the island was noted.

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III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A corrected report reveals that the vessel reported damaged by a U.S. SS (Summary for 12 January) was one of 5000 rather than 500 tons. Another U.S. SS reports damaging a 7000 ton AO.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 12 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Kwajalein was the object of a 9 January photo mission carried out by 2 U.S. photo planes and 4 PB4Y's. There was no air interception over the target but A/A fire damaged 1 plane slightly. 18 bombs were dropped on Kwajalein Island but no results were reported. 24 vessels were observed in the anchorage. The following night, in addition to a previously reported attack, Motje Island was bombed by 7 PB4Y's and 7 PV's in a surprise attack. 1 small MO, 1 PC and a grounded plane were destroyed and some large fires were started.

(B) Gilbert Islands

At Tarawa and Apanama air raid alarms were reported the night of 10 January but there were no details.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The 3rd Echelon of the Americal Division reached Torokina on 9 January. The following day in the Kuria Mission area, NW of Torokina, a U.S. patrol reported finding some dugouts and barbed wire but no evidence of occupation by the enemy. Working along the beach N. and S. the patrol came upon some more dugouts and a meal apparently hastily deserted by Japs indicated to be Naval personnel. The same day near the E. Torokina perimeter a U.S. Inf. Co. killed 25 Japs. That night in the Choiseul Bay area a Sopac patrol plane attacked enemy barge traffic, sinking 1 and damaging another.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 9 - 10 January S. of Kavieng a PB4Y scored a hit on an AK and left a DD smoking. (Another report claimed the hit was scored on the DD). Off S. Mussau Island 11 January a Jap medium bomber was destroyed by a U.S. patrol plane.

(C) New Britain

The Wide Bay and Cape Hoskins areas were strafed by Allied fighters on 9 January but no results were observed. The same day 24 B-24's bombed

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Vunakanau with unobserved results. About 85 escorting fighters downed 16 of 40 intercepting Japs. The following day in the Arawe area Allied patrols reported no contacts with the enemy and in the Cape Gloucester area no contacts were reported in the vicinity of the airfield but in the Borgen Bay sector our forces repulsed 2 counter attacks by the Japs. Allied artillery also shelled enemy positions, destroyed 2 troop filled barges, and Jap positions in the area were bombed and strafed by 12 A-20's which dropped nearly 7 tons of bombs. No results were reported. The same day the Wide Bay - Cape Beechey area was strafed by 8 RAAF P-40's. No results were reported.

(D) New Guinea

Over Newak 9 January 4 P-47's engaged 18 Jap fighters, shooting down 1 and probably downing another. The same day in Uligan Harbor a Jap gun position was silenced and 2 barges were left burning after a strafing attack by 9 P-40's and 16 P-38's while at Alexishafen 2 grounded Jap fighters were destroyed and some gun positions were hit by 2 strafing P-38's. The same day the Bogadjim - Brima - Billi Billi area was bombed and strafed by 30 B-25's, 9 B-26's and 2 P-39's. More than 38 tons of bombs destroyed m/g positions and supplies and started fires. The same day . of Gauss Point a Jap barge was damaged by 2 P-39's and the Gali barge base was hit with nearly 9 tons of bombs from 10 B-25's. Results were not observed.

That night in the Saidor area U.S. PT's sank 9 enemy barges and damaged or possibly destroyed 11 more. 14 of the craft were reported N. bound filled with troops. The same night about 30 miles N. of Hansa Bay 1 of 2 AK's was left afire and stationary after an attack by a PEY. Also on the night of 9 - 10 January 2 boats at Alexishafen were bombed by a B-24, but no results were reported. The following day advancing NW of Pinschhafen, Allied ground forces reached a point 9 miles SE of Sio while the same day 10 miles SE of Saidor an Allied patrol advancing from the NW continued contact with the enemy. The same day 40 B-25's, escorted by P-47's, dropped more than 37 tons of bombs on the Boradjim - Yaula area destroying 2 bridges, damaging 2 more and starting numerous fires. The same day over Newak 6 P-38's downed 1 of 12 Jap fighters sighted.

(E) N. E. I.

The night of 9 - 10 January Kospang was attacked by 6 Dutch B-25's. Over 6 tons of bombs were dropped in the town area, causing explosions and fires. A/A fire encountered was moderately intense and inaccurate. The following evening Lautem, Portuguese Timor, was bombed with unobserved results by 4 Dutch B-25's.

(F) Australia

About 130 miles SW of Exmouth Gulf, W. Australia, an Allied vessel reported a torpedo attack 9 January, but no details were offered.

III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking 1 5600 ton AK - AP, 1 9000 ton AK - AO and 1 6500 ton AK and damaging 1 500 ton AK. A second

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SS reports sinking 1 AK and a third reports sinking an AO and an AK, totalling 15,000 tons.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 11 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

A near miss on 2 100' vessels was scored by 2 U.S. B-25's which raided Enidj, Jaluit atoll, before noon 9 January. Intense A/A fire was encountered and 1 of the planes was damaged. The following day Totje was bombed with undetermined results by 2 U.S. B-24's, the only planes of a flight of 17 which reached the target through bad weather.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 8 - 9 January an unstated number of PV's bombed Poporang Island. Fires in the area presumably resulting from the previously reported bombardment by surface vessels were observed. The following morning 8 B-25's bombed the Buka seaplane base with unreported results while 1 B-25 raided the enemy supply area at Kahili. The same day NE Bougainville and Cape Dunganon were strafed by Sopac fighters, but no results were observed.

Some buildings were destroyed and fires started at Kia Rea, SW Bougainville, during a raid by 2 TBF's the afternoon of 9 January. The same day U.S. Army patrols reported 2 wounded men missing after a clash with some Japs E. of the Torokina perimeter and, in the Numa Numa area, a Fiji patrol destroyed a Jap radio. The Japs in this area are said to be short of rations.

Before dawn 10 January 2 U.S. DD's bombarded the Choiseul Bay area, starting several fires.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 8 January Cape Siar and Cape St. George were each hit with 2 tons of bombs from single RAAF Beauforts, part of a mission which attacked airfields at Rabaul. No results were reported.

(C) New Britain

The afternoon of 8 January in Wide Bay 2 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed 5 Jap barges while 12 RAAF P-40's strafed a sawmill at Waterfall Bay. The same day at Lindenhafen some buildings were destroyed when a patrolling B-24 dropped a half a ton of bombs. That evening 8 A-20's bombed and strafed Didmop Village, in the Arawe Area, but no results were reported after release of nearly 3 tons of bombs. The same evening Jap planes twice raided the Cape Gloucester area. Later that night Tobera and Lakunai airfields and defense positions on Matupi Island, Rabaul, were hit with nearly 18 tons of bombs and

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incendiaries from 18 RAAF Beauforts. A number of large fires were started. A/A fire encountered was slight to moderately intense but inaccurate.

The morning of 9 January a light Jap air raid at Arawa was reported. The same day in the same area Allied ground patrols met little organized Jap resistance but enemy snipers were active. In the Cape Gloucester area our forces consolidated a new line S. of Silimati Point in the Borgen Bay area while S. of the airfield only isolated patrol contacts were reported. The same day off Cape Lampier 2 RAAF Beaufighters destroyed a launch.

(D) New Guinea

According to a late report a Jap plane was downed by Allied A/A fire and another was probably downed on 5 January. Other belated reports reveal that the Bogadjim road was attacked 8 January by 14 B-25's in addition to the 14 previously reported and Erima Plantation was hit with 16 tons of bombs from 4 B-24's and, later, with 6 tons of bombs from 7 B-25's. Results were termed good.

Early the morning of 8 January Cali Point, Jap barge base about 25 miles SE of Saidor, was bombarded by 2 U.S. DD's, and that night the same target was again shelled by the same 2 DD's. Small but vigorous fires were observed. Also 8 January 16 P-47's shot down 1 of 30 Jap fighters over Wewak, while at Uliggan Harbor 16 P-40's left 3 Jap barges afire after a strafing attack. The same day the coast from Kronprinz Harbor to the Kumil River mouth was bombed and strafed by 12 B-25's, escorted by P-38's. More than 12½ tons of bombs were released, silencing A/A guns, damaging 2 luggers and starting fires. A/A fire of all calibres was encountered. Also the same day 5 B-24's dropped 20 tons of bombs on gun positions at Madang where moderately intense, inaccurate A/A fire was met and 13 B-25's dropped 12 tons of bombs on Gorima village. Fires were started in both target areas. 3 other B-25's dropped 3 tons of bombs on Bili Bili with unreported results. The same day 8 P-39's destroyed a barge off Madang while off Kiari an unstated number of P-47's strafed 5 more barges.

On 9 January 10 miles SE of Saidor an Allied outpost was attacked by a small number of Japs 8 of whom were killed. Allied forces advancing NW utilized artillery to silence enemy m/g positions NW of Kelanoe Harbor. The afternoon of 9 January 24 B-24's escorted by P-40's hit Jap gun positions at Alexishafen with 87½ tons of bombs which caused heavy explosions and large fires. Only slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day Erima Plantation was bombed and strafed by 24 B-25's escorted by P-38's. More than 24 tons of bombs started fires in gun positions and supply dumps. A/A fire of all calibres was encountered. That night off the Rai coast 11 Jap barges were sunk by patrolling PT's and near Hansa Bay an unidentified vessel was set afire in a strafing attack by a PBV.

(E) N. E. I.

Kendari, SE Celebes, was attacked 9 January by 13 B-24's which dropped 25 tons of bombs on the airfield and barracks. Weather conditions obscured results. 13 Jap fighter planes intercepted and in a 35 minute engagement our planes downed 6 of the enemy. 1 B-24 is missing. The same day Jap-held villages on Tomea and Binongko Islands, S. Toekangbesi Islands off SE Celebes, were attacked by 1 and 2 heavies, respectively, of the same mission which had set out for Kendari. A relatively small amount of bombs fell on these 2 targets.

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III. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking a 8200 ton AK.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 10 January 1944

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 7 - 8 January off Buka Passage Jap planes bombed U.S. PT's, but no details were reported. Later the same night 5 S. bound Jap barges in Torau Bay, SE Bougainville, were engaged, with undetermined results, by U.S. PT's. Intense fire from shore was encountered by the PT's which suffered some damage. The following day in the Torokina area 8 Japs were killed by U.S. patrols.

The afternoon of 8 January Kahili was bombed by an unstated number of B-24's while near Kia Rae, SW Bougainville, half a bridge over the Puriata River was destroyed in an attack by 6 TBF's which also hit Jap bivouacs. The same day near Buka Passage 3 Jap floatplanes were destroyed and 2 barges set afire by an unstated number of PV's, TBF's and 4 F4U's 1 of which is missing. Also 8 January 10 B-25's bombed enemy concentrations in the Choiseul Bay area. No results were reported. That night the Shortland - Faisi - Poporang area was successfully bombarded by an unstated number of U.S. CL's and DD's. Some opposition was offered by Jap shore batteries.

(B) New Britain

Belated reports reveal that 12 A-20's, supporting Allied ground patrols, dropped nearly 6 tons of bombs in the Arawe area 7 January. The same day a patrolling B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on buildings at Lorengau. No results were observed. A/A fire encountered was slight. That night 26 RAAF Beauforts dropped nearly 23 tons of bombs and incendiaries on the Tobera and Lakunai airfields. A number of fires were started. A/A fire encountered was generally inaccurate. The same night Arawe was raided 3 times by unstated numbers of Jap planes. No damage was reported.

In the Arawe area 8 January active patrolling and consolidation of positions by Allied ground forces continued. In support of these forces 10 B-25's and 8 B-26's bombed and strafed enemy positions NE of Arawe. 27 tons of bombs were dropped. The same day in the Cape Gloucester area Allied patrols S. of the airfields encountered small numbers of the enemy, while in the Borgen Bay area a B-24, supporting our ground forces, dropped 4 tons of bombs on Jap positions with unobserved results. Bad weather and mechanical trouble prevented 5 other B-24's from reaching the target. Lindenhafen was also raided 8 January by a RAAF A-20 on a photo mission. Less than half a ton of bombs were dropped. 4 P-40's escorting the A-20 strafed a bridge E. of Cape Hoskins. No results were reported.

(C) Ambitle Island

At Ambitle Island 8 January a beached barge was strafed and damaged by a B-24 which also bombed Jap bivouacs and the barge staging area

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with unobserved results.

(D) New Guinea

Belated reports indicate that in addition to a previously reported attack the Bogadjim road area was bombed and strafed 7 January by 11 B-25's which dropped 20 tons of bombs. The same day 7 tons of bombs from 7 B-25's hit Madang with unobserved results and 20 miles NE of Saidor a Jap SS was bombed, strafed and probably sunk by 3 other B-25's. That night off Nambariwa another Jap SS was possibly sunk by Allied PT's which also sank 5 barges and 2 rafts.

NW of Kelanua advancing Allied patrols 8 January encountered enemy opposition but in the Saidor area no contacts were reported. The same day at Sarang Harbor, N. of Madang, 2 of 3 Jap barges were damaged by a PBV and Madang itself was hit with 24 tons of bombs from 6 B-24's. 2 gun positions and some buildings were destroyed and a number of fires were started. Moderately intense, accurate and inaccurate, A/A fire was met. Ulignan Harbor, 60 miles NW of Madang, was also attacked 8 January. 34 B-25's dropped 33 tons of bombs to destroy a number of buildings, destroy or damage 6 barges and start fires. Slight to moderately intense A/A fire, accurate to inaccurate, was encountered. 1 B-25 was lost. The same day 14 B-25's dropped 13 tons of bombs on supply dumps along the Bogadjim - Yaula road. A number of fires were started. That night Finschhafen was ineffectively raided by an unstated number of Jap planes. No damage was reported.

(E) N. E. I.

Over N. E. I. 8 January Allied air activity was confined to reconnaissance.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a Jap AK, damaging a 7000 ton AK and probably damaging an AO.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities

Summary as of 0800, 9 January 1944

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I. Central Pacific Area

A. Marshall Islands

In Jabor Harbor, Jaluit atoll, on 6 January patrolling U.S. aircraft scored a hit on a small enemy AK. The following morning Enidj was attacked by 22 A-24's and 11 F6F's. 9 tons of bombs were released and the target was strafed. There was no enemy air interception but intense A/A fire damaged 3 A-24's. The night of 8 January 3 Jap planes ineffectively raided Tarawa.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

Morgusai, off S. Shortland Island, was raided with unreported results on 7 January by a PV. The same day Kahili was bombed by 2 B-24's and Kieta was bombed by 1. No results were reported. Also 7 January Allied patrols were active in the Torokina area and Allied artillery softened up enemy positions in the upper Torokina River area prior to intensified patrol activity there. In the Kuma Numa area 300 Japs were reported seeking the Fiji patrol operating there. The night of 7 January a Jap plane ineffectively raided U.S. patrol vessels at Torokina.

B. New Britain and New Ireland

On 6 January a B-24 dropped a ton of bombs on a bridge over the Amwek River, Gasmata. No results were reported. The same day 2 barges in Bein Bay were strafed by 4 P-39's while Jap positions on the SW. coast of Borgen Bay were bombed and strafed by 12 B-25's. An unstated number of P-38's covered the mediums which released over 14 tons of bombs with unreported results. The following day in the Cape Gloucester Area Allied ground forces reached a hill 2800 yards S. of Silimati Point, killing 200 Japs. Supporting ground forces in the area, 18 B-24's dropped 54 tons of bombs on enemy positions. No results were reported. The same day Lindenhafen Plantation, Gasmata, was hit with over a ton of bombs from a patrolling B-24. No results were reported. In the Arawe area Allied patrols were active against enemy positions.

The morning of 7 January Cape St. George was attacked by 24 SBD's and 18 TBF's, escorted by about 100 fighters. A/A positions and a radar station were bombed. Incomplete reports indicate 10 of about 40-70 intercepting Jap

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fighters were destroyed. We lost 6 planes - 2 by collision. Later the same morning Vunakanau airfield was bombed with unobserved results by 10 B-24's. Only slight A/A fire was encountered and there was no air interception.

C. New Guinea

Alexishafen was bombed 6 January by 17 B-24's which dropped 51 tons of bombs on Jap A/A positions, silencing a number of guns and starting fires. The bombers were escorted by an unstated number of P-38's. The same day bivouacs and bridges along the Bogadjim Road were bombed and strafed by 10 B-25's and 36 A-20's. 32 tons of bombs were dropped and 2 bridges were damaged. The N. Huon Peninsula coast from Gause Point to Vincke Point was bombed and strafed 6 January by 9 B-25's and 4 P-39's. More than 7 tons of bombs were released. The fighters also strafed m/g positions at Erima Plantation, Bogadjim.

N. of the Dailman River 7 January Allied ground patrols moving N. of Kelanoe contacted no Japs but inland our patrols killed 10 of the enemy and captured 3. In the Saidor area consolidation of Allied positions was continued. The same day 92 tons of bombs from 24 B-24's hit A/A positions at Alexishafen. An unstated number of P-38's escorted the bombers. A number of guns were silenced and fires were started. Slight to intense, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day the Bogadjim Road was bombed and strafed by 12 B-25's which silenced A/A positions and destroyed a bridge with more than 10 tons of bombs. A/A fire encountered was slight, accurate and inaccurate. Also 7 January possible Jap bivouacs from Weber Point to Vincke Point were bombed and strafed by 9 B-25's and 4 P-47's. The bombers released over 5 tons of bombs with unreported results.

D. N.E.I.

On 7 January Boela, N.E. Ceram, was hit with over 3 tons of bombs from 7 B-24's. A number of fires were started. The same planes dropped over 5 tons of bombs on shipping at Manokwari but no results were observed. Over both Boela and Manokwari intense but inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same day Aram village, about 120 miles ESE. of Kaukenau, was bombed and strafed by a single Jap floatplane while off Romang Island, about 50 miles NE. of Timor a patrolling RAAF A-29 strafed some barges, leaving 1 beached. The plane also unsuccessfully attacked shipping in the area.

III. U. S. SS Reports

A U.S. SS returning from patrol reports sinking 2 large Jap vessels and damaging a third.

W. L. Bales.

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(A) Solomon Islands

On 31 Dec 1942, which began dark before reaching Guadalcanal 1 January, several and straddled enemy positions outside our forward perimeter. The same positions were strafed by Allied fighters. The following day 10 P-40's bombed Truk Harbor possibly damaging water tank positions and 8 P-40's raided the Bougainville area. The same day 5 P-40's and 2 P-39's bombed and strafed jetties, buildings and air positions at El Yabandi. During the night of 3 - 4 January our PT's 2, 3 and 4 were bombed 3 times by enemy planes.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

On 3 January a single P-39 bombed harbor in Port Moresby. 7 P-40's attacked targets in the Cassin Peninsula and 2 barges were reported destroyed carrying approximately 100 enemy troops. A small dock was also strafed. The following day a P-40 bombed Samarai and 2 B-24's damaged 2 boats near Cape Gurney. Forces of Allied P-40's over the Rabaul area was intercepted by enemy planes of which 9 were destroyed and 2 others probably destroyed. 2 of our fighters are missing. Three more P-40's destroyed an enemy barge at Samarai and strafed the El Yabandi of New Ireland. Another air activity included an unsuccessful P-40 attack on enemy shipping in Port Moresby and a single P-40 bombing of Lae. 2 P-40's were encountered for the first time in many months.

(C) New Guinea

P-40's and P-39's attacked along the El Yabandi 3 January destroying and damaging many barges. During the night a P-40 attacked enemy barges at Samarai Harbor and 2 lost near Port Moresby. Incoming bomber was strafed by 13 P-40's on 3 January while 3 tons of bombs were dropped on the Bougainville area by 3 P-40's. Allied ground forces along the El Yabandi coast were reported on the 3, where Salamaua Harbor 3 January. Our bomber landed a bomb the enemy 40 was sunk by our P-40's. During the night of 3 - 4 January

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 8 January 1944

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

During the night of 6 - 7 January 6 B-24's attacked Tarca, Maloslap and 8 B-24's hit Kotje. Over 25 tons of bombs were dropped causing large fires at both places. No interception was attempted. A/A fire was weak and we suffered no damage.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

24 SBD's which turned back before reaching Rabaul 5 January bombed and strafed enemy positions outside our Torokina perimeter. The same positions were strafed by Allied fighters. The following day 10 B-25's bombed Tonolet Harbor possibly damaging enemy A/A positions and 3 TBF's raided the Mosigetta area. The same day 6 B-25's and 3 B-24's bombed and strafed jetties, buildings and m/g positions on Mt Choiseul. During the night of 6 - 7 January our PT's S. of Euka were bombed 3 times by enemy planes.

(B) New Britain - New Ireland

On 5 January a single B-24 bombed barges in Rein Bay. 7 P4U's attacked targets in the Gazelle Peninsula and 2 barges were reported destroyed carrying approximately 100 enemy troops. A small dock was also strafed. The following day a PBV bombed Gasmata and 2 Beaufighters damaged 2 boats near Cape Dampier. Force of Allied P-38's over the Rabaul area was intercepted by enemy planes of which 9 were destroyed and 4 others probably destroyed. 2 of our fighters are missing. These same P-38's destroyed an enemy bomber at Borpop and strafed the SE coast of New Ireland. Another air activity included an unsuccessful PBV attack on enemy shipping N. of New Hanover and a single PBV bombing of Kavieng. 2 night fighters were encountered for the first time in many months.

(C) New Guinea

P-40's and P-39's attacked along the Rai coast 5 January destroying and damaging many barges. During the night a PBV attacked troop laden barges at Sarang Harbor and a boat near Hanea Bay. Kronprinz Harbor was strafed by 17 P-47's on 6 January while 7 tons of bombs were dropped on the Bogadjim area by 5 B-25's. Allied ground forces moving N along the New Guinea coast were reported on the N. shore Kelanua Harbor 6 January. Off Karkar Island a 5000 ton enemy AO was sunk by our PBV's. During the night of 6 - 7 January

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an escorting SC was possibly hit.

II. U.S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS in the Southwest Pacific area reports sinking an 9200 ton AK. A second SS reports sinking a 6000 ton AK and a 3000 ton AK. An 8000 ton AE was damaged and a 5000 ton AP was possibly damaged.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0000, 7 January 1944

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I. Central Pacific Area

A. Marshall Islands

In Jabor harbor, Jaluit atoll, an unstated number of U.S. PV's attacked 2 medium AK's on 3 January. 5 tons of bombs were released, scoring hits and near misses on 1 vessel which sank. No observation of results were observed over the second. On 5 January at Jaluit a small Jap AK was bombed by J.S. aircraft and 3 small sailing vessels were strafed. No results were observed.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

A. Solomon Islands

6 F4U's strafed Piano Mission, SW Bougainville, on 4 January and the same day SED's harassed Jap artillery MG of Torokina while the 16th Echelon was successfully unloaded. Also 4 January at Meivo, E Empress Augusta Bay area about 1 mile NW of Mosigetta, and at Kia Rae, about 7 miles farther S, Jap encampments and bridges were bombed and strafed by 24 SED's. 1 bridge was hit and 1 small fire was started at Meivo.

The following day Mahela Mission, S Buka, was attacked by 9 B-25's with unobserved results while Poporang Island was bombed by 6 B-24's, Tonolet was bombed by 2 B-24's, Kahili was bombed by 3 B-24's and Fauro Island was bombed by 1 B-24. No results were observed. In the Torokina area, 5 January, U.S. patrols saw Jap activity outside the SE perimeter but no action was reported. In the Iba sector F4J patrols reported the enemy had been cleared from the Makunai River area, W of Numa Numa; and in the Asitavi area, also W of Numa Numa, 3 Japs were killed by patrols. The same day enemy barges and concentrations in the Choisoul Bay area were bombed and strafed by 6 B-25's which released about 3 1/2 tons of bombs with unreported results.

B. New Ireland

A late report raises the total enemy planes destroyed following Tuesday's U.S. carrier-based plane attack on 2 DD's in W Gazelle Channel from 9 to 10. The night of 4 - 5 January Panapai airfield was attacked by 4 RAAF PBY's. A number of fires followed the release of 8 tons of bombs and incendiaries. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. The same night Cape St. George was hit with 5 tons of bombs from 5 RAAF Beauforts. The morning of 5 January a tug in the harbor at Bairau Island, SE of Massau Island, was strafed and damaged by an Allied patrol plane.

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C. New Britain

On 4 January in St. George Channel 4 Jap barges were strafed by 7 F4U's which also strafed the Gazelle coast starting some fires at Kabanga. That afternoon in Rettook Bay 2 barges and an unserviceable Jap floatplane were strafed by 3 P-39's. That night 14 RAAF Deauforts dropped 16 tons of bombs on Vanakanau and Rapopo airfields, Rabaul. Adverse weather obscured the results. 1 other medium of the same mission dropped a ton of bombs on Cape Cunningham.

The same night in St. George Channel, 25 miles NW of Rabaul, a PBV scored a hit on 1 Jap PC in convoy with 2 AK's and 2 other PC's. The same night Allied ground positions at Arawe were ineffectively raided by Jap planes. The following day in the Cape Gloucester area active ground patrolling continued and Jap positions in Borgen Bay were bombed and strafed by 9 B-25's which dropped 8 tons of bombs with unreported results. 2100 Jap dead have been counted in the area since 26 December while our losses for the same period are 117 killed, 354 wounded and 8 missing.

D. New Guinea

Allied positions at Seidor were attacked by 1 enemy dive-bomber 4 January. Later reports reveal that the same day Madang was attacked by 14 B-24's in addition to those previously reported. That night off Manbariwa 2 Jap barges were damaged by Allied PT's 1 of which went aground and had to be destroyed, and before dawn the following day a PBV sank a small enemy AK about 25 miles N of Madang.

At noon 5 January Alexishafen was attacked by 61 B-24's which dropped 196 tons of bombs. A/A positions were silenced and a number of fires started. The same day Madang was attacked by 7 B-24's, 9 B-25's and 9 B-26's which hit A/A positions, bivouac and supply areas with 47 tons of bombs, starting a number of fires. Slight to intense, accurate A/A fire was encountered. Also 5 January 7 B-25's dropped nearly 6 tons of bombs on Bogadjim road starting fires. The same target was strafed by 4 P-39's.

Vincke Point was bombed and strafed by 29 B-25's on 5 January. 29 tons of bombs were dropped on bivouacs and barge hideouts, starting a number of fires. Slight to moderately intense A/A fire was encountered. The same day 4 P-39's strafed a Jap barge at Vincke Point while the Jap camp area at Kiari was hit with nearly 4 tons of bombs and strafed by 6 B-25's. At W Bangi 2 P-40's bombed and strafed enemy barges and 16 B-26's dropped 15 tons of bombs on enemy supply dumps and bivouacs at Manbariwa. No results were reported. The same day 8 miles W of Seidor Allied ground force patrols encountered enemy opposition while to the SE other Allied troops reached Kelanua harbor, 14 miles SE of Sio, without meeting the enemy.

E. N. E. I.

The Masisi, Timor, floatplane base was raided with unobserved results by a B-24 on 4 January.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0500, 6 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

Jaluit was bombed 4 January by 18 B-24's. 22 tons of bombs fell but no results were observed. Moderate A/A fire was encountered but there was no air interception. 4 of our planes were slightly damaged.

(B) Gilbert Islands

Tarawa, Makin and Apamama were each raided by Jap aircraft the night of 3 January. Only at Apamama was any damage done. The following night 2 Jap planes raided Tarawa.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The night of 3 - 4 January Poporang was raided by a PV, which started some fires, and a P-70 bombed Buka with unobserved results. Early the following morning Mawaraka, S. Empress Augusta Bay, was bombed by 2 TBF's which possibly damaged a bridge while later in the morning an unstated number of B-24's scored hits on the seaplane base at Sohana Island. The same morning 4 B-25's bombed Jap gun positions in Tonolei Harbor with unreported results while Chabai area targets were hit by 12 B-25's which observed a fire. Over Tonolei no A/A fire was encountered.

The same day Baniu Harbor, NE Bougainville, Bonis runway and nearby villages and Papas were bombed and strafed by P-39's. Also 4 January in the Saua River Valley, SE of the Torokina River, a Fiji reconnaissance patrol was reported active while E. of the Torokina River mouth 2 of 4 Japs were killed by a U.S. Army patrol.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 3 - 4 January Kavieng and Panapai airfields were raided by 2 RAAF PBV's which released more than 3 tons of bombs and incendiaries. A number of fires were started in the dispersal areas. Slight to moderately intense A/A fire was encountered. Further details of the previously reported 4 January attack on 2 Jap DD's in W. Gazelle Channel by U.S. carrier-based aircraft reveal that 2 Jap fighters attempting interception were destroyed and 6 more fighters and a bomber were shot down by the U.S. fighter cover as our planes were returning to the carrier. We lost 1 fighter.

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(C) New Britain

Belated reports increase the total number of Jap fighters shot down over Rabaul 1 January by Sopac fighters from 20 - 24.

Early the morning of 4 January W. of the Gazelle Peninsula 2 SW bound Jap vessels were attacked by a B-24 which dropped a ton and a half of bombs with unreported results. Later the same day Vambu Island, Vitu group, was raided by a B-24 which dropped a ton of bombs on buildings. No results were reported. In the Cape Gloucester area 4 January Allied ground forces, supported by tanks, continued to press against stiff Jap resistance in the Borgen Bay area while in the Arawa area patrols encountered Jap fire 600 yards N. of the Allied perimeter. The same day over Rabaul 42 Sopac fighters destroyed 10 of 30 intercepting Japs.

(D) New Guinea

At Saidor Allied positions were twice lightly raided by Jap planes the night of 2 January and once raided the night of 3 January. No damage was reported. The Alexishafen - Madang areas were hit with 120 tons of bombs from 35 B-24's and 14 B-25's, escorted by P-38's, on 4 January. A/A positions were silenced and a number of fires were observed. A/A fire of all calibres was encountered. The same day the Nambariwa - Sio area was hit with 13½ tons of bombs from 9 B-25's and Bogadjim was the target for 15 tons of bombs from 5 B-24's. No results of these attacks were reported.

Despite extensive Allied patrolling no ground activity was reported in the Saidor area 4 January. The same day Allied ground forces N. of Finschhafen advanced to Cape King William. Also 4 January off Weiss Point 12 Jap barges, 3 - 4 of them unloading, were sighted and over the Gusap area in the Ramu Valley 20 Jap fighter planes were reported.

(E) N. E. I.

Koepang shipping was attacked by 9 Dutch B-25's on 4 January. Escorted by 8 RAAF Beaufighters, 7 of the bombers dropped 7 tons of bombs, leaving a medium AK afire and sinking, scoring a hit on a 3000 ton AK - AP and setting it afire also. The escort strafed the area and downed a Jap bomber. A/A fire was met. 1 of the B-25's was lost. The same day off Koepang a Jap escort vessel was attacked by 5 B-24's which released over 11 tons of bombs to score a hit and near miss. A/A fire from the vessel was slight and inaccurate.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 5 January 1944

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I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

45 miles NW of Mili a small AK was left low in the water following the bombing and strafing attack by a U.S. patrol plane on 3 January. The same day Ujelang Island, Ujelang atoll, was raided by a single U.S. patrol plane which encountered only m/g fire. A near miss was scored on a possible W/T installation. The following day 24 A-24's covered by 24 P-39's attacked Mili. 17 tons of bombs were dropped but no details were reported. 1 fighter was lost over the target presumably due to A/A fire. No air opposition was reported.

(B) Nauru

Over Nauru 3 January an Allied patrol plane encountered intense A/A fire from 9 or more large calibre guns on the S. side of the island. The plane was slightly damaged. There was no enemy air interception and no planes were observed on the ground.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

On 2 January Allied patrols were active in the NE Torokina area. The same day the Reasury Island airstrip was reported 99% complete. The following morning Kahili was bombed with unobserved results by 3 B-24's and later a nearby bivouac area was hit by 6 B-25's. Also 3 January 3 Allied planes bombed Sohana Island, starting a fire, and SE Buka Jap supply areas were bombed by 18 B-25's.

At midday 3 January 45 SBD's and 24 TBF's bombed and strafed the Shortland - Faisi area, scoring hits on Jap gun positions. 6 SBD's and 1 TBF were damaged by A/A fire but all returned safely. The same day in the NE Torokina area an Allied patrol found an evacuated Jap bivouac while 600 yards E. of the Torokina River mouth a U.S. Marine patrol killed 2 of 4 Japs encountered.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 2 - 3 January the Kavieng waterfront and dump areas were hit with 10 tons of bombs and incendiaries released by 5 RAAF PBV's. A number of fires were reported. Slight and inaccurate A/A fire was encountered over Kavieng but that over Belgoi was moderately intense and very accurate.

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The following morning 6 B-24's attacked Kavieng. In the cloud obscured harbor no enemy warships were seen but an AP was bombed with unobserved results. 19 Jap fighters intercepted and of these 3 were destroyed. 1 of our bombers was damaged but returned safely. The same day photographs revealed no planes at Panapai and 12 at Kavieng where 10 AK's, 17 barges and 1 small naval craft were in the harbor.

The afternoon of 3 January 57 miles NW of Mussau Island an Allied patrol plane downed a Jap floatplane while another strafed buildings, a jetty and a barge at Mussau Island. Very early the following morning about 15 miles N. of Kavieng an Allied patrol plane reported scoring a hit on a Jap CL.

(C) New Britain

Belated reports of the 1 January clash over Rabaul between Allied and Jap fighter planes increased the total enemy planes destroyed from 20 to 24. The following noon over Rabaul 11 of 30 intercepting Jap fighters were destroyed by an unstated number of attacking Allied fighters of which 1 was lost. The same day photographs showed a total of 136 planes on 3 airfields in the Rabaul area. That night 34 RAAF Beauforts bombed Lakunai. More than 32 tons of bombs released caused a number of fires. Slight to moderately intense A/A fire was encountered. Wunakanau; Cape Siar, NE of Cape St. George, New Ireland; Cape Kwai, and Brown Island were each bombed by a single Beaufort from the same mission. The same night an Allied PBV raided Lindenhafen Plantation.

The morning of 3 January over Ropopo airfield, Rabaul, 38 Allied fighters destroyed 6 of 20 intercepting Jap fighters. 2 of our planes were lost. The same day in the Cape Gloucester area SE of Silimati, Borgen Bay, advancing Allied ground forces encountered Jap gun positions. In a counter-attack against the enemy in this area our forces killed 200 Japs, bringing the total enemy known dead to 1,500 since the 26 December landing. Also 3 January a B-24 dropped 2 tons of bombs on buildings at Lindenhafen Plantation, while 24 A-20's, supporting our ground forces, dropped more than 11 tons of bombs on Jap positions on the E. coast of Borgen Bay. Kalai Plantation, Side Bay, was strafed by 3 RAAF Beaufighters on 3 January while 2 Beaufighters escorted by 3 P-40's destroyed a camouflaged schooner and lighter at Cape Hoskins and also silenced some A/A guns. The same day photographs of the Rabaul area revealed 191 planes on 4 enemy airfields.

(D) New Guinea

The afternoon of 2 January 9 Jap bombers escorted by 16 - 20 fighters attacked Allied shipping and positions at Saidor. 12 intercepting P-40's destroyed 5 Jap planes. 1 P-40 was lost. That night in Vitiaz Strait 4 Jap barges, 1 filled with troops, were destroyed by Allied PT's. Later reports reveal that Billi Billi was hit with 14 tons of bombs from 14 B-25's in addition to the previously reported attack the same day by 14 other B-25's.

In the Saidor area 3 January the Allied beachhead extended 3 miles along the coast and 3 miles inland less than 75 miles SE. Other Allied forces were approaching Kelcnai. The same day over Kewak 2 Jap planes were downed by 6 P-47's and Alexishafen was attacked by 45 B-24's covered by P-38's.

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Over 120 tons of bombs hit enemy A/A positions and dumps, causing a number of fires. A/A fire was encountered. Some of the planes hit Madang but no details were reported. Erima Plantation, Bogadjim, was hit with 14 tons of bombs from 14 B-26's on 3 January and in Blup Blup Harbor, N Hansa Bay, a Jap seatruck was bombed and strafed by a B-24.

(E) N. E. I.

Atambosa, Timor, was raided 3 January by 2 B-24's which hit the Jap barracks with $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs. No results were reported.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 4 January 1944

I. Central Pacific Area

(A) Marshall Islands

On 1 January Enyu Island, Bikini atoll, was hit with less than a ton of bombs from U.S. aircraft, probably a single patrol plane. The following noon Wotje was hit with 15 tons of bombs from 5 B-24's. Heavy clouds prevented observation of results. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered and 30 Jap fighters intercepted. Of those 8 were destroyed. About the same time 9 other heavies dropped 27 tons of bombs on Taroa Island, Maloelap atoll, scoring a number of hits in the N. area. 2 of 30 Jap intercepting fighters were destroyed and 3 of our planes were lost. The crew of 1 was rescued. Jaluit was also attacked 2 January. 9 U.S. B-25's dropped 2 tons of bombs on the target and expended 75 MM shells. A number of fires were observed. Intense A/A fire met our planes and 1 was lost and 1 was damaged.

(B) Gilbert Islands

Late the afternoon of 3 January 10 Jap planes raided Apamama, causing some damage and casualties.

II. Southwestern Pacific Area

The morning of 1 January 18 SBD's and 16 TBF's, supporting the ground forces attacked enemy positions along the Torokina River with excellent results. The same morning 6 B-25's bombed the area NE of Kahili with unreported results while 4 PV's strafed a barge hideout in the Numa Numa area. About the same time 33 SBD's bombed and strafed the Kosigetta area, SE of Augusta Bay. A number of buildings and bridges were destroyed.

Also on 1 January Jap artillery to the NE was attacked by 6 SBD's covering the landing of the 15th Echelon. The same day 4 P-39's damaged 2 Jap barges in Tonolei Harbor and strafed enemy positions at Cape Dunganon, W. central Buka, and Chabai. No results were reported. 8 P-39's strafed the Kieta - Torokina area with unobserved results during the day and NW of Malsi, Treasury Island, 1 of 2 Japs was killed by an Allied patrol. The night of 1 January off Torokina a Jap dive-bomber was destroyed by a P4U.

Early the morning of 2 January a number of barges off the SE Bougainville coast were strafed by a PBY and the same plane attacked 3 Jap PC's 3 miles SE of Oema Island, scoring a direct hit on 1. Later the same morning Jap positions 500 yards E. of the Torokina River were bombed and strafed by 17 SBD's and 12 TBF's which started a number of fires and destroyed 6 huts.

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Somewhat later NE of the Buka airfield 24 B-25's bombed Jap supply dumps, starting a number of fires. From Sohana Island light A/A fire was encountered. Shortly thereafter 2 PV's bombed Numa Numa with unreported results.

(B) New Ireland

Photographs 1 January revealed 17 Jap planes on the airfield and 2 PG's, 2 AK's and 14 small craft in the Harbor at Kavieng while 4 planes were photographed at Borpop. That night 4 RAAF PBY's dropped more than 8½ tons of bombs and incendiaries on Panapai airfield, Kavieng. A number of explosions and fires in the revetments and dumps resulted. 1 grounded enemy aircraft was left ablaze. The morning of 4 January in W. Gazelle Channel, S. of Kavieng, U.S. carrier-based aircraft attacked 2 Jap DD's, sinking 1 and probably sinking another after hitting both with bombs and torpedoes.

(C) New Britain

At noon 1 January 15 B-24's, escorted by 60 fighters, attacked Lakunai airfield, Rabaul. Fires in the revetment area and the town followed the bombing. 30 - 40 of 80 - 90 airborne Jap fighters intercepted. Of these 20 were destroyed. 1 of our planes was downed and 6 parachuting personnel were strafed by the Japs. 4 other Allied planes were damaged by A/A fire. The same day photographs of Rabaul Harbor revealed 16 AK's, 185 barges, 2 SS's, and 19 floatplanes while 61 planes were on the airfields in the area.

The morning of 2 January Allied positions at Arawe and Cape Gloucester were each twice lightly raided by Jap planes. 1 Jap bomber was downed over Arawe by A/A fire. The same day 14 Japs were killed in patrol clashes in the Arawe area and 35 were killed by U.S. Marines pushing SE of the Cape Gloucester airfields. Also 1 January at Dorf Point, SW of Cape Gloucester, U.S. patrols from the Cape Gloucester airfields and from the W. beachhead met.

Gasmata was attacked by 9 RAAF B-34's on 1 January. 4½ tons of bombs started a number of fires in the building area which was also strafed. Moderately intense A/A fire was encountered. The same day Kalai Plantation, Wide Bay, was strafed with unreported results by a patrolling B-25 while Mussau Island, and Garove Island were each bombed and strafed by a B-24. 2 barges were destroyed at Garove and buildings were damaged at Mussau. Cape Hoskins was strafed by 11 P-40's on 2 January and an enemy gun position was silenced.

(D) New Guinea

Early 1 January 2 possible SS's were sighted in Vitiaz Strait. The following day in the Saidor area Allied ground forces consolidated their positions following the previously reported landing. At the same time the areas E. and W. of Saidor were attacked by 41 B-26's and 40 A-20's which dropped more than 169 tons of bombs, starting a number of fires. The same day 14 B-25's dropped 14 tons of bombs on Bili Bili, 6 miles S. of Madang, to start 4 fires while 19 B-25's, 9 B-26's and 8 P-30's attacked Erima Plantation, Bogadjim. Here 39½ tons of bombs were released and the target was heavily strafed. Villages at Ulingan Harbor were strafed with unreported results by 14 P-47's on 2 January, and that night near Vincke Point PT's sank 2 S. bound

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Jap barges in the Finschhafen area. 2 January Allied ground forces occupied Sialum, about 5 miles NW of Nanda. The following morning 900 additional ground forces were landed at Saidor to bring the total to 10,800.

(E) N. E. I.

Pomelaa, Celebes, was attacked 2 January by 9 B-24's which dropped 13½ tons of bombs on the waterfront and nickel plant areas, starting 2 large fires. A/A fire encountered was slight and inaccurate. The same day 8 RAAF Beaufighters strafed villages on Trangan Island, Aroe Islands, with unreported results.

W. L. Bales

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 3 January 1944

I. Southwestern Pacific Area

(A) Solomon Islands

The morning of 1 January 2 B-24's raided Kahili with unobserved results. 1 plane was damaged. Subsequently NE Kahili was attacked by 6 B-25's which dropped 6 tons of bombs. Intense A/A fire was met. At noon the same day at Manob was raided by 4 B-24's which dropped 120 fragmentation clusters. Results were obscured by bad weather. Loose, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered.

Also 1 January in the Torokina area 1 Allied platoon killed 14 Japs about 1200 yards E. of the Torokina River and 300 yards inland from the coast while another patrol about 4000 yards NE of Piva killed 3 more Japs.

(B) New Ireland

The night of 31 December Kavieng was attacked by 12 RAAF PBV's which dropped more than 12 tons of bombs and incendiaries. A number of fires and explosions resulted. A/A fire of all calibres was encountered.

(C) New Britain

The night of 31 December - 1 January a 9000 ton Jap AK at Los Negros Island, Admiralty group, was sunk by a PBV while a 5000 ton AK was probably damaged by another PBV. The same night off Cape Hoskins a PBV scored a hit on 1 or 2 Jap DE's and also bombed the airfield and beach. The same night Cape Gloucester was raided by Jap planes but no details were reported. Early the morning of 1 January, 10 miles SE of Wide Bay, a Jap SS was damaged by a PBV. The same day in the Arawe area there was no change in the ground situation while in the Cape Gloucester area our patrols found Sag Sag, just S. of Lagoon Point, deserted. The same day Gasmata was bombed and strafed by 8 RAAF A-31's which dropped 4 tons of bombs. Moderately intense, inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. Also 1 January 3 RAAF Beau-fighters strafed a beached boat in Wide Bay and in the Natamo area, Borgen Bay, 9 B-25's and 19 A-20's dropped over 32 tons of bombs on Jap troop concentrations with unreported results.

(D) New Guinea

On 1 January 7 B-25's dropped 6 tons of bombs on the Alexishafen runway, starting a number of fires, while 14 B-25's dropped 14 tons of bombs

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on Madang and nearby Beliau Island. Slight A/A fire was encountered over Alxishafen while that over Madang was intense. The same day 8 P-47's started some fires in a strafing sweep of the coast N. of Madang.

Also 1 January Saidor was twice attacked during the day by 66 B-24's, 48 B-25's and 9 A-20's which dropped more than 247 tons of bombs, expended over 100,000 rounds of 50 and 30 calibre and spent 197 rounds of 75 MM. A/A fire was slight and inaccurate. The same day 2 P-38's strafed 6 beached Jap barges at Reiss Point and Allied ground forces advanced N. of Finschhafen to the vicinity of Nuzen.

The morning of 2 January 9,900 Allied ground troops were landed at Saidor under cover of a naval and air bombardment. There was no initial opposition, the enemy apparently being taken by surprise, and only after our forces had advanced from their 3 beachheads to occupy the unserviceable airfield did some slight Jap resistance materialize.

(S) N. E. I.

31 December and 1 January Allied air activity over N. E. I. was limited to reconnaissance.

II. U. S. Submarine Report

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 10,000 ton AP - AK while another SS reports sinking a DD and a 9000 ton AK - AP and probably sinking a 5500 ton AK.

W. L. Bales.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0800, 2 January 1944.

I. Northwestern Pacific

Early 31 December, Attu time, Paramushiro was raided by 4 Catalinas which dropped 2 500-lb. and other lighter bombs on Shimishu and Keshiwabara. Results were unknown. Jap searchlights were active but A/A fire was wild. 1 enemy night fighter was encountered but all our planes returned safely. Ice conditions prevented 2 of the planes from releasing photo flash bombs.

II. Central Pacific

(A) Marshall Islands

Jaluit was raided 30 December by 9 B-25's which dropped 5 tons of bombs and strafed from 65 feet. Radio installations and fuel and storage dumps were hit. No suffered no damage or casualties. The following day, 17 B-24's attacked Kwajalein and dropped 51 tons of bombs. 40% of the bombs hit the atoll and 1 near miss was reported on an AK. 1 B-24 was damaged by A/A fire and no interception was encountered. There were 2 cruisers, 2 DD's, 3 medium AK's and 12 to 15 harbor craft at Kwajalein. The same day, Mili was hit by 25 SBD's covered by 24 P-39's. 2 fires were started by 14 tons of bombs and heavy strafing of A/A positions. 1 SBD was damaged by A/A fire which was reported as weak.

III. Southwestern Pacific

(A) Solomon Islands

On 31 December Kahili was raided by 16 B-24's and 17 B-25's. Supply and personnel areas were the target but results were unobserved. 1 B-24 and 5 B-25's were slightly damaged by intense A/A fire but all planes returned. The same day 3 SBD's and 4 TB's destroyed bridges and damaged the road near Monoutu. A single B-24 bombed Kieta.

Our ground patrols encountered an enemy patrol on the NE coast of Bougainville while another patrol located a Jap platoon 400 yards E. of Torokina and 600 yards inland. A Jap suicide was found on Treasury Island NW of Valsi.

On 30 December 6 B-25's attacked Jap installations on the NW coast of Choiseul. Results were not reported.

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(B) New Britain

During the night of 30-31 December, the enemy made light attacks on our positions at Arawa and Cape Gloucester. The following day a force of Jap bombers and fighters again attacked our positions and 30 P-47's with 16 P-40's intercepted and shot down 4 Jap fighters and 8 bombers while 2 other Jap fighters were probably destroyed. The Borgen Bay area was bombed and strafed by 23 A-20's 31 December. Single B-24's strafed barges near Talasea and a camp on Missau Island.

Allied forces in the Cape Gloucester area now control a perimeter 2500 yards S. and W. of the air strips. 1,000 dead Japs have been counted since the original landing.

(C) New Ireland

During the night of 30-31 December, 4 RAAF Catalinas dropped over 8 tons of bombs on the airfields at Kavieng. Fires resulted in dispersal areas.

At 0830L, 1 January, Allied search planes sighted 2 Jap CA's and 2 DD's at Kavieng. At 1100L carrier-based aircraft attacked the vessels and 4 heavy bombs and 1 torpedo hit 1 CA and 2 heavy bombs and 2 torpedoes hit the other CA. Both vessels were believed sunk or perhaps had to be beached. One was burning badly and the other was also afire. 1 DD was believed sunk and the other badly damaged by bombing and strafing attacks. A fire from the vessels was heavy and 20-30 Jap fighters intercepted and dropped phosphorous aerial bombs. 11 Jap fighters and 1 bomber were reported shot down and 4 other probably destroyed. We lost a bomber and 2 fighters while other planes were damaged. 1 of 2 Jap planes was shot down near our Task Group the same afternoon and other Jap aircraft were in the area, but none got through to our vessels.

(D) New Guinea

On 30 December an additional 7 B-25's raided Bili Bili and each plane dropped 2 1000-lb. bombs. During the night Finschhafen was lightly raided by enemy planes but no details were reported.

On 31 December 35 B-24's dropped over 97 tons of bombs on Alexishafen airfield, town, and A/A positions, causing fires and explosions. The same day 21 B-24's hit Madang and Beliau while 14 B-25's destroyed buildings and started fires at Bili Bili. 77 tons of bombs were dropped. The Bogadjim area was heavily hit by a force of 71 B-25's and 6 B-26's. 93 tons of bombs and heavy strafing started many fires. Barges along the Rai coast were also strafed by 6 P-39's.

IV. U. S. Submarine Reports

A U.S. SS in the Western Pacific area reports sinking a 10,000 ton enemy AP-AK.

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Japanese Naval Activities
Summary as of 0000, 1 January 1944I. Southwestern Pacific AreaA. Solomon Islands

The night 29 - 30 December Shortland Island was raided by a JV while Kahili and Miota were each raided by single B-24's. No results were observed. The following day over Bougainville air activity was handicapped by continued bad weather. However, in the morning 18 unescorted B-25's attacked Mahili, dropping 9 tons of bombs which started a number of fires near the air strip. About the same time Malini village, Morgusaia Island, was raided by a single B-24 which damaged a building. That afternoon Korovo village, Shortland Island, was attacked by 6 B-25's with unobserved results. The same day in the Cape Moltke area a U.S. patrol killed 5 of 9 Japs. Our losses were 3. In the Tokkina area, 300 yards N of the river of that name, another U.S. patrol was turned back by an enemy ambush.

B. New Ireland

The night of 29 December 3 RAAF PRY's raided Havieng. More than 5 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped and a heavy explosion followed 3 fires. Some A/A fire was encountered.

C. New Britain

According to a delayed report Lakunai airfield and the town of Imbaul were attacked the night of 24 December by 9 RAAF Beauforts which dropped nearly 9 tons of bombs. A number of fires were observed. A/A fire was encountered. An additional delayed report revealed that on 29 December Jap positions around the Cape Gloucester airfield were attacked by 3 more B-24's which dropped 12½ tons of bombs.

The night of 29 - 30 December Masnata was raided by a single RAAF PRY which dropped nearly 2 tons of bombs and incendiaries with unobserved results. Before dawn the following day 2 Jap planes lightly raided Arawa. Later the same day in the same area patrol activities were reported. Also 30 December in the Cape Gloucester area Allied ground forces consolidated their positions around the newly won airfield, while other units repulsed a Jap attack S of the beachhead and still others continued to resist Jap pressure on Dorgon Bay below the E beachhead. In support of our ground forces the Sag Sag area, just S of Lagoon Point, and 1½ miles SW of Silinati Point, W Dorgon Bay, were bombed and strafed by 34 A-20's which dropped more than 1½ tons of bombs and expended 49,000 rounds in strafing. Slight to moderately intense A/A fire encountered was inaccurate.

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Also 29 December Rabaul was attacked by 19 B-24's. Most of the bombs landed in the town with unobserved results. 2 B-24's were damaged slightly by intense A/A fire encountered and one other crash landed. Preliminary reports indicate at least 30 Jap fighters intercepted. Of those 12 were destroyed. The same day Garove Island buildings were hit with a ton of bombs from a patroling B-24 while S of Admiralty Island another B-24 bombed a 10,000-ton AK. Neither plane reported any results.

D. New Guinea

Dolated reports reveal that Madang was attacked on 29 December by 30 B-25's which released 30 tons of bombs. A number of buildings were destroyed and fires were started. Slight to moderately intense, accurate to inaccurate, A/A fire was encountered.

In the Finschhafen area 30 December Allied ground forces advanced, against some Jap opposition, to a point 1200 yards NW of Bluscher Point. The same day 27 B-24's dropped more than 142 tons of bombs on Jap gun positions at Alotshafen. 3 guns were silenced and a number of large explosions were observed. Moderately intense to intense, inaccurate A/A fire of all calibres was encountered. Also 30 December Billi Billi, 6 miles S of Madang, was attacked by 30 B-25's which hit enemy installations with 24 tons of bombs. No results were reported. The same day the Manbarima area was attacked by 12 B-25's which destroyed a barge and started a number of fires after releasing nearly 12 tons of bombs. The area was also heavily strafed. Also the same day a single B-24 on patrol dropped a ton of bombs to destroy some buildings in Sio village and the Rai coast was strafed by 16 P-47's and 7 P-40's.

E. N. E. I.

N of Lautem, Timor, 2 boats were strafed by 3 RAAF Seafighters during a sweep of the N coast of the island 30 December. No results were reported.

II. U.S. SS Reports

A U.S. SS reports sinking a 14,000-ton AP and probably sinking a 7,000-ton AO. Another SS reports sinking 3 Jap vessels, including an AO, and probably sinking another.

W. L. Dales.

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