

U. S. JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE  
DAILY SUMMARY

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JANUARY, 1943.

{Discontinued on January}  
{ 7, 1943. }

Also includes WEEKLY SUMMARIES

Nos. 1 and 2.

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\ JCS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date

MAR 14 1974

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JOINT U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

DAILY SUMMARY

No. 392      Copy 1 of 71  
0800      January 6, 1943.

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JCS memo, 1-4-74  
By RHP, NLR, Date  
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By RHP, NLR, Date

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U.S. JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

NOTE: Unless there is definite indication to the contrary in the text, it may be assumed that information reported is from competent official sources.

1. ASIATIC THEATER

Burma. Japanese strength at RATHEDAUNG is estimated as 600 men with six wheeled mortars. British troops continuing their advance in the MAYU PENINSULA have encountered no opposition except that of natives at THAYETPYIN.

2. PACIFIC THEATER

New Guinea. On 4 January, a U.S. heavy bomber attacked MADANG, where the airdrome appeared to be serviceable. LAE was attacked by one heavy and six medium bombers and six dive bombers, with unobserved results. Seven light bombers strafed KOMIATUM and MUBO.

Allied forces maintained pressure on SANANANDA and continued mopping up at BUNA.

Enemy bombers again attacked CAPE NELSON. One was shot down. A reconnaissance plane was also destroyed off GOODENOUGH ISLAND.

Solomons. On BALLALE ISLAND a third landing strip appears to be ready for use by enemy fighters and dive bombers.

On 5 January, five Fortresses attacked a heavy cruiser at BUIN. No hits were observed. Six escorting Lightnings engaged twenty-five enemy fighters attempting to intercept and destroyed three to five of them, with a loss of two. During the mission, four enemy destroyers and three cargo vessels were observed in the BUIN - SHORTLAND area.

On 5 January nine Marauders dropped 4.5 tons of bombs on enemy installations at MUNDA. Results were unobserved. Enemy small craft continue active near KOLOMBANGARA and WICKHAM ISLANDS. Enemy strength on VANGANU ISLAND is estimated at 200. A confirmed report states that an enemy light cruiser or large destroyer was sunk near WICKHAM ISLAND during the period 26-29 December.

On 3 January, U.S. ground forces on GUADALCANAL continued attacks in the MOUNT AUSTEN area, gaining high ground in the enemy rear. Six counter-attacks were repulsed, during which 150 of the enemy were killed. On the following day mopping up continued and 84 of the enemy were killed.

Aleutians. Three Mitchells successfully bombed and sank an enemy merchant vessel (3,000 tons) about 50 miles north of KISKA. One Liberator scored one direct hit and two near misses on an enemy vessel (type unreported) about 150 miles south of AGATTU.

Submarines. One of our submarines, returning from patrol, reports sinking one and possibly two enemy cargo ships in the Western Pacific.

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3. ATLANTIC THEATER

Submarines. The number of enemy submarines estimated to be at sea in this Theater is 113. Of this number, 49 appear to be on passage.

No ship has been sunk within two hundred miles of our eastern coast since July, although attacks took place in September, October, and November. There have been no attacks in the GULF OF MEXICO since September.

German Naval Vessels. Aerial reconnaissance on 23 December showed a ship, thought to be the GRAF ZEPPELIN (aircraft carrier), in the floating dock at KIEL. Most of the guns had been removed from SEYDLITZ (heavy cruiser) which was still at BREMEN.

4. MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Submarines. The number of enemy submarines now active westward from BIZERTA is believed to be eight or nine Italian and not more than seven German.

Air operations. Reconnaissance, 2 and 3 January, indicated the presence of 38 Axis planes, all types, at SIDI AHMED, 4 at MATEUR, 119 at EL AOUINA, 16 (mostly fighters) at KAIROUAN, and 17 at GABES.

Eleven B-25's bombed KAIROUAN, 4 January. Other bombing missions on that and the preceding day were prevented by adverse weather conditions.

On 4 January, eleven unescorted B-26's were attacked by five ME-109's at 4,000 feet, the first such test of the B-26's defensive capabilities. Two or three ME-109's were destroyed; one B-26 was slightly damaged.

Tunisia. FONDOUK was seized (Summary No. 391) by thirty tanks with hurried infantry. After losing ten to fifteen tanks, the enemy withdrew eastward to regroup.

Only normal patrol activity is reported for 4 January.

Tripolitania. There is no change in the enemy situation.

5. EUROPEAN THEATER

Russian Front. The Soviets report a continuing advance in north central CAUCASIA and claim to have recaptured NALCHIK, KOTLYAREVSKAYA, and PROKHLADNAYA, each important in the communications system of this area. (PROKHLADNAYA is at the junction of the southern and eastern spurs of the main railway leading northwest to ROSTOV.) The extent of German resistance is not clear.

In and around STALINGRAD there appears to be little change in the situation, though Russian dispatches indicate that the Soviets are slowly improving their positions. The enemy continues a passive defense in this sector.

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South and southwest of STALINGRAD and in the Lower and Middle DON areas the Soviets apparently continue to press forward, but again, the extent of the enemy's opposition is obscure. The Russians now report the capture of TSIMLYANSKAYA (on the DON about 125 miles northeast of ROSTOV) and of MOROZOVSKAYA (on the STALINGRAD - LEKHAYA railroad about 80 miles east of its junction with the VORONEZH - ROSTOV railroad).

The situation on the Central Front appears unchanged.

*Ludwell L. Montague*

LUDWELL L. MONTAGUE  
Lieutenant Colonel, G.S.C.  
Secretary, J.I.C.

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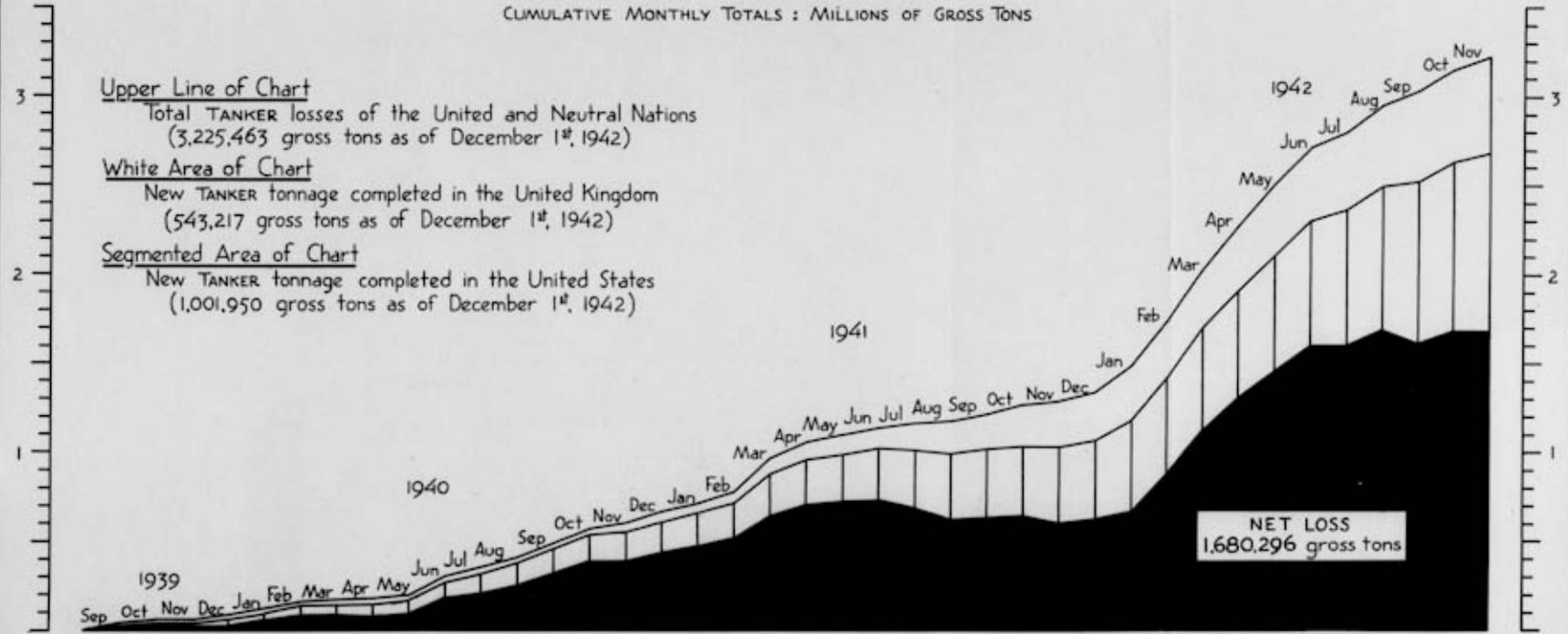
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OSD Letter, 8-8-72

# TANKERS

## In the BATTLE OF THE SEA LANES

As of December 1-1942

CUMULATIVE MONTHLY TOTALS : MILLIONS OF GROSS TONS



Upper Line of Chart  
Total TANKER losses of the United and Neutral Nations  
(3,225,463 gross tons as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1942)

White Area of Chart  
New TANKER tonnage completed in the United Kingdom  
(543,217 gross tons as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1942)

Segmented Area of Chart  
New TANKER tonnage completed in the United States  
(1,001,950 gross tons as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1942)

NET LOSS  
1,680,296 gross tons

Statistical Section      Division of Naval Intelligence      December 30, 1942

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OSD Letter, 8-8-72

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OSD Letter, 8-8-72

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JOINT U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

DAILY SUMMARY

No. 391 Copy 1 of 71  
0800 January 5, 1943.

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JCS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date MAR 14 1974

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U.S. JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

NOTE: Unless there is definite indication to the contrary in the text, it may be assumed that information reported is from competent official sources.

1. ASIATIC THEATER

Bengal. At CALCUTTA, labor is reported to be rallying, but municipal services are not yet normal. During the period 20-30 December, 350,000 departed.

Air operations. On 30 December, twelve Blenheims bombed the airfields at SHVEBO; on the 31st, seven Wellingtons attacked AKYAB town and airfield. On 1 January, six B-25's bombed a railroad bridge near MANDALAY; next day, six B-25's attacked the MONYWA airdrome.

2. PACIFIC THEATER

Tanimbar Islands. Aerial reconnaissance reveals that the Japanese are consolidating and expanding their positions. At MAUPLAKI five new antiaircraft guns and many new machine-gun positions have been installed.

New Guinea. On 3 January, all organized resistance in the BUNA area was destroyed, and Allied ground forces were engaged in rounding up individual stragglers. Allied fighters machine-gunned about 75 Japanese who attempted to escape by swimming.

On the same day, Allied forces made slight advances against enemy positions in the SANANANDA area (the only remaining pocket of resistance in PAPUA).

On 3 January six U.S. medium bombers attacked the LaE airdrome. Three grounded aircraft were hit and three fires were started in the hangar area.

One U.S. heavy bomber attacked the town square and the airdrome at MADANG, which is already being used by enemy aircraft. There are indications that the enemy are extending land operations from both MADANG and WEWAK.

Bismarcks. On 3 January one U.S. heavy bomber attacked shipping at RABAU, with unobserved results. A large fuel dump on land was set afire. A large concentration of shipping still exists in this area.

Solomons. On 3 January, 26 enemy vessels were sighted in the BUIN-TONOLEI area. Included were six heavy warships, five light cruisers, and two destroyers. Four four-engined flying boats were also sighted. This enemy concentration was attacked by several flights of heavy and medium U.S. bombers escorted by fighters. Our planes met very heavy antiaircraft fire, which destroyed one of them and damaged others. Only near misses were scored on the enemy.

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JCS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date MAR 14 1974

MUNDA was subjected to a series of attacks by U.S. planes on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th and was frequently covered by patrol bombers.

Early in the morning of the 5th MUNDA was heavily bombarded by a U.S. surface task force, after aircraft illuminated the target area with flares. No enemy vessels were encountered. Later in the morning this task force was attacked south of GUADALCANAL by ten enemy dive bombers and fifteen fighters. Four intercepting U.S. fighters shot down four dive bombers and probably destroyed two more. The remaining enemy planes retired.

3. ATLANTIC THEATER

Submarines. No great changes are apparent in the number or disposition of enemy submarines. The number estimated to be at sea in this theater is 105, disposed principally as follows: in the area ICELAND - IRELAND - AZORES - NOVA SCOTIA - NEWFOUNDLAND, about 50, mostly in the south-central and southeastern parts; in the area GIBRALTAR - CANARY ISLANDS - AZORES, about 5; within 1,000 miles to the westward of the last named area, about 12; in the area between WEST AFRICA and LESSER ANTILLES - GUIANAS - NORTHERN BRAZIL, about 15, mostly in the southwestern and western parts. In the area west of the line HALIFAX - TRINIDAD there appear to be only 2 submarines, one in the vicinity of CAPE SABLE and the other in the WESTERN CARIBBEAN. In the vicinity of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE there appears to be none.

No new reports of submarine attacks on shipping have been received since the last Summary.

In the report of shipping losses given under this heading in Summary No. 388 (January 2) the 300,000 gross ton losses which occurred during December were erroneously stated to have occurred during November, and the 755,000 gross ton losses which occurred during November were erroneously stated to have occurred during December. In the other statements there made regarding December losses the month was correctly stated. A diagram showing monthly shipping losses through November was appended to that Summary (the November losses shown in that diagram were about 745,000 gross tons). The losses now reported to have occurred during December amount to about 270,000 gross tons for the ATLANTIC Theater and about 40,000 gross tons for other theaters, or a total of about 310,000 tons for all theaters. During November, losses in the ATLANTIC Theater alone amounted to about 660,000 gross tons.

4. MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Air operations. Enemy air attacks on BONE continue, with damage to shipping. During daylight, 1 January, 107 German planes (JU 87's, ME 109's, FW 190's) attacked, of which 4 or 5 were destroyed and 9 damaged. Next day the attack was continued by 89 enemy aircraft, of which 6 or 7 were destroyed and 4 damaged. Six enemy aircraft were over BONE during the night of 2/3 January; one was destroyed.

During 2 January BISKRA also was bombed by nine enemy aircraft, causing slight damage. THESSA and GAFSA also were bombed.

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JCS MEMO, 1-4-74

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By RHP, NLR, Date MAR 14 1974



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JOINT U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

DAILY SUMMARY

No. 390 Copy 1 of 71  
0800 January 4, 1943.

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By RHP, NLR, Date MAR 14 1974  
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By RHP, NLR, Date MAR 14 1974

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U.S. JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

NOTE: Unless there is definite indication to the contrary in the text, it may be assumed that information reported is from competent official sources.

1. ASIATIC THEATER

Burma. The Japanese in the MAYU PENINSULA have disappeared. Aerial patrols report the entire west coast to be apparently clear of the enemy; inland, no movement has been detected. At RATHEDAUNG, however, the enemy has established a defensive position.

2. PACIFIC THEATER

New Guinea. On 2 January, LAE was heavily attacked by twelve medium bombers, thirteen light bombers and thirteen fighters. Many fires were started, including a fire in a supply dump, and one enemy fighter was destroyed on the ground.

Three medium bombers on the daily attack missions along the BUNA-SALAMAUA coast strafed 20 - 30 fugitive Japanese swimming about a half-mile offshore from SANANANDA POINT.

BUNA MISSION was captured on 2 January. The only enemy remaining in the BUNA area are now confined to a small pocket west of GIROPA CREEK, which has been completely surrounded.

On the same day, the government station at TUFI (CAPE NELSON) was unsuccessfully attacked by nine enemy planes, reported to be dive bombers.

Bismarcks. The concentration of enemy shipping at RABAU is now smaller than that previously reported. Photographic reconnaissance on the 3rd revealed 56 ships in the harbor, including six destroyers, four submarines, two torpedo boats, and a minelayer. Another minelayer was sighted off MICKI ISLAND (DUKE OF YORK GROUP).

Solomons. On 1 January enemy troops were landed at TEOF (north-east tip of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND).

On 2 January eight medium bombers escorted by eleven fighters strafed enemy float planes and supply installations at REKATA BAY.

The enemy appears to be strengthening his positions throughout the SOLOMON area, particularly in the NEW GEORGIA ISLANDS. Enemy parties were observed at ROVIANA LAGOON and KUVUKUVU ISLAND. The south-eastern part of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND is being occupied in force and an estimated strength of 400 men were observed at VILA. Enemy barges were sighted in KOLO LAGOON and a midget submarine near VANGUNU ISLAND, where a base for such craft probably exists.

On GUADALCANAL our ground forces continue patrolling, with increased activity in the MOUNT AUSTIN area. Enemy casualties are estimated at 30 to 35.

During the evening of 2 January, eleven U.S. motor torpedo boats engaged eight enemy destroyers (believed to be those referred to in Summary No. 389) in isolated encounters in the northern GUADALCANAL area.

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By RHP, NLR, Date MAR 14 1974

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One torpedo hit is reported on one destroyer, and three probable hits on two others. One torpedo boat was slightly damaged by a bomb from an enemy plane. It is believed that no troops were landed, but that a large quantity of supplies, including rice in drums, concentrated foods in water proof containers, and six-inch ammunition were thrown into the water to drift to the beach. After daylight, all visible supplies in the water were destroyed by our motor torpedo boats.

3. ATLANTIC THEATER

Submarines. Little change is apparent in the disposition of enemy submarines in this Theater. The number estimated to be at sea is 103. About one-third of this number appears to be on passage.

On 3 January an 8,000-ton tanker in an eastbound trans-Atlantic convoy was torpedoed and sunk about 950 miles northeast of BARBADOS.

4. MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

Air Operations. CASABLANCA was again bombed, on the night of 31 December, by about six FW 200's. BONE harbor was also twice attacked on that date by dive bombers, fight-bombers, and fighters, with some damage to shipping.

During 31 December, twelve B-26's bombed the GAERES airdrome, sixteen B-17's bombed harbor installations at SFAX, twenty-one dive bombers attacked docks and railroad yards at SOUSSE, and five B-26's attacked bridges and shipping between TUNIS and BIZERTA. That night Wellingtons bombed BIZERTA harbor.

During 1 January, nine B-26's bombed the railroad yards at TUNIS and eighteen B-17's attacked the harbor. Adverse weather prevented further attack in that area. That night Wellingtons bombed PALERMO.

The results of these bombings range from very satisfactory to excellent. Reports indicate intense and accurate heavy and light anti-aircraft fire at BIZERTA, TUNIS, and SOUSSE; moderate heavy and intense light anti-aircraft fire at SFAX and GAERES.

Four enemy gliders are known to have landed behind Allied lines in TUNISIA during the last four days of December. The crews of two have been captured, as have some enemy parachutists.

Tunisia. Slight artillery fire in the extreme north is the only enemy activity reported, 1 January, in addition to normal patrolling. Enemy forward positions in the north remain unchanged. Southward they follow the general line POINT DU FAHS - CUED KEBIR RESERVOIR - DJEBEL FAR NA (13 miles south of POINT DU FAHS) - edge of the escarpment to DJEBEL OUSSELAT - eastern outskirts of PICHON - SIDI NACEUR ALLAH.

Tripolitania. The situation remains unchanged.

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5. EUROPEAN THEATER

Air Operations. ST NAZAIRE submarine pens were attacked 3 January by a strong force of B-24s and B-17s. Details are not yet available, but the attack is reported successful, despite accurate and intense heavy antiaircraft fire and strong fighter opposition. Preliminary reports indicate that the enemy suffered heavy losses.

Russian Front. The Russians report the occupation of ELKHOTOVO (20 miles north of ALAGIR) and MOZDOK and state that their advance is continuing to the north and northwest.

The Soviets apparently now hold the initiative on all the remaining active sectors, but recent gains have been comparatively small, except for those south and southwest of STALINGRAD and in the VELIKIE LUKI area. Southwest of STALINGRAD, the Russians are reported to have taken REMONTNAYA (about 25 miles southwest of KOTELNIKOVO) and to be moving forward. Enemy resistance in this area does not appear to be very strong. Soviet dispatches concerning the fighting near VELIKIE LUKI indicate that the Russians have made further gains and are approaching NOVOSOKOLINIKI.

*Ludwell L. Montague*

LUDWELL L. MONTAGUE  
Lieutenant Colonel, G.S.C.  
Secretary, J.I.C.

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JOINT U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

DAILY SUMMARY

No. **389** Copy **1** of 71  
0800 January **3**, 1943.

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1. ASIATIC THEATER

No reported change in the situation.

2. PACIFIC THEATER

Timor. HEACO and LORE, both on the southeast coast, have been occupied by the Japanese. ILICMAR remains unoccupied. Large supply dumps are reported to be at LAGA and LAIVAI.

New Guinea. On 1 January, our tanks drove a 400-yard wedge into the enemy positions between SINEMI CREEK and GIROPA POINT. Severe fighting continues near the old strip. In the BUNA MISSION area the wedge in the enemy position has been expanded.

On 31 December photographs of LAE revealed five medium bombers (one of which was afire) and 42 fighters (36 of which were definitely destroyed or damaged, and the rest unserviceable). On 1 January our dive bombers strafed and bombed SANANANDA POINT and SALAGUA with effective results.

Bismarcks. On 1 January coordinated attacks were carried out against enemy shipping and airfields at RABAU. One large and one medium size transport were hit and left burning. The concentration of shipping in this area is still large, but is mainly composed of merchant vessels. Three heavy bombers raided the airfield at GASMATA and shot down one of five intercepting fighters.

Solomons. Our planes continue to raid the enemy airfield at MUNDA.

On 2 January five heavy bombers attacked ten Japanese destroyers near GIZO ISLAND (NEW GEORGIA GROUP), without result, the enemy vessels continuing on their course. Subsequently these destroyers were attacked by nine dive bombers escorted by ten fighters. Direct hits were scored on two of them and a near miss on a third; one was heavily afire, another apparently sinking. The enemy changed course and withdrew toward MUNDA. One enemy fighter was also shot down, out of ten which intercepted.

Submarines. A U.S. submarine returning from patrol in Far Eastern waters reports having sunk a transport (HOKKAI MARU Class, 8,360 tons) and having possibly damaged a cargo vessel (4,000 tons).

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3. ATLANTIC THEATER

Submarines. Little change in number or disposition is apparent. Except for one enemy submarine in the vicinity of CAPE SABLE and one on the EASTERN CARIBBEAN, none is believed to be west of a line from HALIFAX to TRINIDAD. Little new in the way of activity against shipping is reported.

Blockade Runners. On 1 January a 10,000-ton blockade runner from the FAR EAST were sighted by a British aircraft and subsequently overhauled northwest of CAPE FINISTERRE by a British cruiser. The blockade runner was scuttled by her crew. This is the third blockade runner (or submarine supply vessel) sunk in this area and the fifth sunk in all areas during the past six weeks. Of the other two, one was intercepted and sunk in the SOUTH ATLANTIC and the other in the INDIAN OCEAN.

4. MEDITERRANEAN THEATER.

Morocco. The attack on CASABLANCA, early on 31 December, was made by five or six FW-200's from BORDEAUX. Except for rare minor attacks on ICELAND last summer, this type has not been used to bomb land targets for about two years. The raid caused no damage other than to civilian persons and property in the Arab quarter.

Tunisia. There is no reported change in the situation. Air attacks continue against railroad and port facilities and shipping at SOUSSE and SFAX. The GABES airdrome was also bombed.

Tripolitania. The enemy defensive position extends from a point on the coast five miles northwest of BUERAT westward and southwestward fifty miles to the vicinity of BIR UMM ER-RAML. British patrols were in contact, 1 January.

5. EUROPEAN THEATER

Russian front. No further development of the situation is reported. The German communique is passively defensive in tone.

*Ludwell L. Montague*

LUDWELL L. MONTAGUE  
Lieutenant Colonel, G.S.C.  
Secretary, J.I.C.

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By RHP, NLR, Date

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JOINT U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

DAILY SUMMARY

No. 388 Copy 1 of 71  
0800 January 2, 1943.

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U.S. JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

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1. ASIATIC THEATER.

Burma. In the MAYU PENINSULA advancing British troops encountered two Japanese companies with mortars and machine-guns at THITKADO, 28 December.

The Japanese reoccupied RATHEDAUNG, 27 December. Three days later British units counterattacked and seized an enemy position five miles north of that place.

It appears that the enemy, having overestimated the strength and rapidity of the British advance, have now reconsidered.

Allied planes continue active in this area. On the 28th, MAGWE was attacked by six bombers and seven fighters, and hits were scored on a runway and on dispersal pens there. There was no opposition. The following day B-24's attacked shipping in the RANGOON vicinity, apparently disabling a 6000-ton oil tanker nearing the RANGOON river and setting afire a 5000-ton freighter, RANGOON bound, in the GULF OF MARTABAN. One enemy plane, but no anti-aircraft, was encountered. On 30 December P-40's and P-43's on reconnaissance attacked six Japanese Zeros as they were taking off from LASHIO field, probably destroying one and damaging another. The same day B-25's raided the airfield at SHWEBO, scoring hits on revetments, hangars, and dispersal areas and starting an oil fire on the edge of the runway.

Yunnan. On the 30th, B-25's escorted by P-40's attacked enemy troops and supplies six miles east of LUNGLING. All bombs hit the target and several fires were started. Enemy personnel and barracks were strafed by the P-40's.

2. PACIFIC THEATER.

Timor. The Japanese are consolidating and extending their positions in the eastern part of the island. Reconnaissance reveals that they are moving troops from BAUCAU on the northeast coast to BAGUIA and other points in the interior and to ILICMAR on the southeast coast.

New Guinea. On 31 December MERAUKE, in Dutch NEW GUINEA, was again bombed by eighteen twin-engine army heavy bombers. There was some damage but the dock area was not hit. This raid and the one of the previous day are the first instances known of the use of army type aircraft in this area. It is probable that these planes were based either on BOBO or BOELI (on the west and north coasts of Dutch NEW GUINEA, respectively).

On 31 December Allied ground forces occupied the coastal spit southwest of BUNA MISSION and contact was established between our forces in the Government Garden Area and those in the Landing Strip Area.

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On the same day an Allied striking force of six light bombers and twelve medium bombers, escorted by eleven fighters, attacked the LAE airdrome. Fires were started, and six grounded aircraft were strafed. Twelve enemy fighters intercepted. Of these, eight, probably nine, were shot down and others were damaged. All our aircraft returned.

Bismarcks. On 31 December one U.S. heavy bomber attacked GASMATA airdrome, damaging the runway and setting fire to one enemy bomber.

On the same day aerial reconnaissance of the KAVIENG airdrome revealed intense activity. The runway was being resurfaced and the dispersal bays enlarged. Twenty-three fighters and thirty medium bombers were sighted. A cargo vessel and three light cruisers or destroyers were in the harbor.

A new type of large submarine with a long conning tower was sighted in WIDE BAY (southeast NEW BRITAIN).

Solomons. On 31 December, BUKA and BUIN were each attacked by a U.S. patrol bomber.

On the same day, the KOKUM'BONA area on GUADALCANAL (where enemy division headquarters are believed to be located) was attacked by U.S. dive-bombers.

Aerial reconnaissance, 1 January, revealed four enemy battleships or heavy cruisers and six destroyers in the FAISI-BUIN area. Also observed were two destroyers at SHORTLAND HARBOR, two cargo vessels at TONOLEI, and one transport near MAIFU ISLAND.

Aleutians. On 1 January, the two recently arrived cargo vessels at KISKA again were attacked. Six heavy bombers, escorted by nine fighters, straddled the smaller vessel with bombs, causing probable damage. The larger vessel showed evidence of fire. One of six intercepting enemy fighters was shot down. Six enemy float fighters were observed on the beach in the harbor.

### 3. ATLANTIC THEATER.

Submarines. A 5000-ton tanker is now reported to have been torpedoed in the westbound Trans-Atlantic convoy mentioned in yesterday's and preceding Summaries, bringing the total number of vessels torpedoed in this convoy to fifteen. Of this number eleven (with a gross tonnage of 56,000) are now considered as sunk.

On 1 January a U.S. Navy patrol plane made a promising attack on an enemy submarine, about 200 miles north of PARAMARIBO.

The reported losses of shipping during the month of November now amount to about 300,000 gross tons. This compares with losses of about 755,000 gross tons during December (including losses incurred in connection with operations in NORTH AFRICA) and with a monthly average for the first eleven months of the year of 692,000 gross tons. Delayed reports will undoubtedly increase the December losses over the amount now reported, possibly by as much as 100,000 gross tons. About 260,000 gross tons of the reported December losses occurred in the ATLANTIC Theater, principally as the result of submarine attack.

-2-DECLASSIFIED

JCS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date

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4. MEDITERRANEAN THEATER.

Tunisia. The weather remains clear and ground conditions are improving. In the MTDICUS area, hostile artillery was active, 31 December, but no further advance is reported. Intensive hostile patrolling is indicated in the PICHON area and, for the first time, enemy artillery activity is reported in that sector. French artillery fire has apparently forced the enemy to abandon a pass about 17 miles northeast of PICHON. No material change in the general situation is evident, however.

Tripolitania. There is no reported change in the enemy situation. The numbers given in yesterday's Summary as a British maximum estimate of Axis strength in TRIPOLITANIA refer to total ration strength as of 31 December. The previous estimate referred to was of strength available in the EL AGHEILA area only, 25 November. There is no indication of reinforcement having arrived in TRIPOLITANIA during December.

5. EUROPEAN THEATER.

Russian Front. Soviet dispatches report gains southeast of NALCHIK. Elsewhere in CAUCASIA the situation is unchanged.

The Russian advance south and southwest of STALINGRAD apparently continues. The Soviets now report the capture of ELISTA in the south, and they appear to have further widened their advance to the southwest of STALINGRAD.

No notable change is apparent in the situation at STALINGRAD and in the MIDDLE DON area. On the central front, however, the Russians claim to have taken the important rail junction, VELIKIE LUKI.

*A. Sidney Buford III*

A. SIDNEY BUFORD, III  
Major, F. A.  
Deputy Secretary, J.I.C.

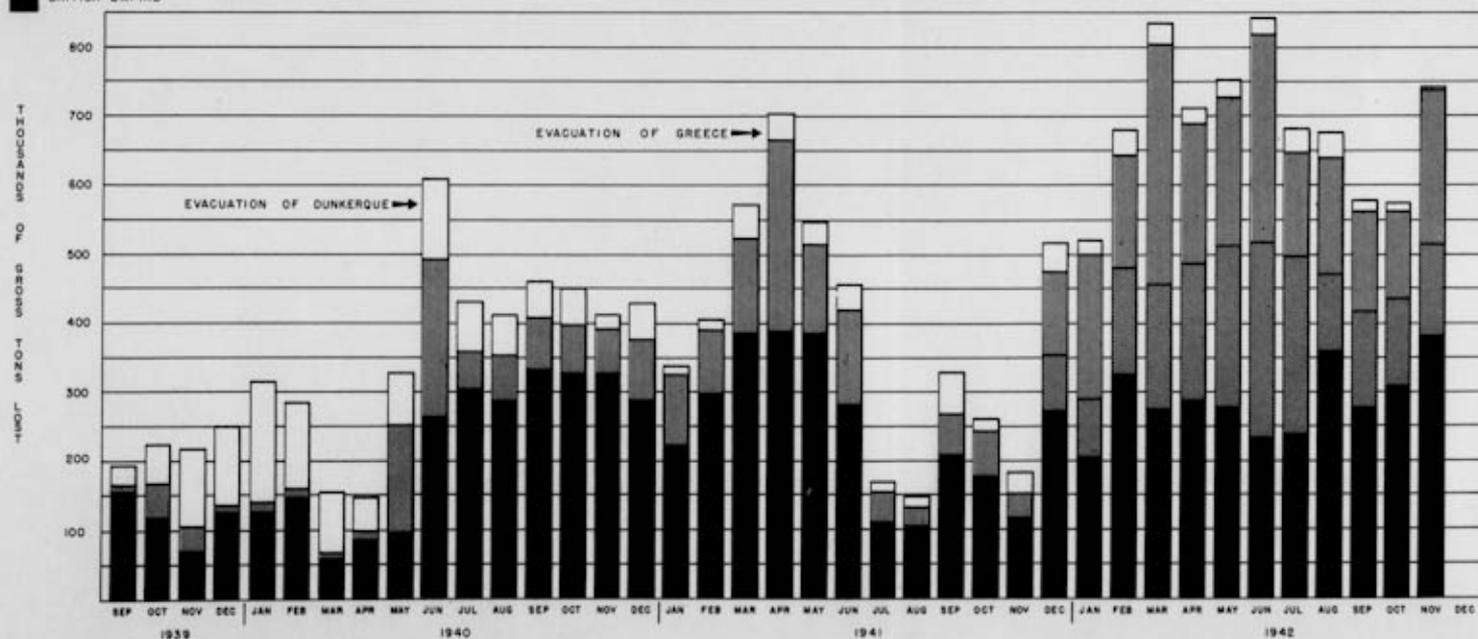
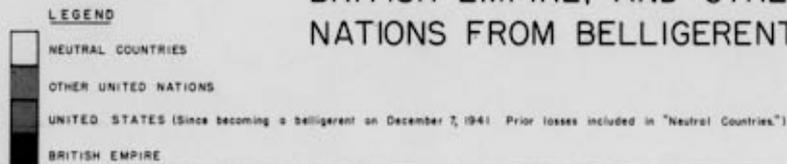
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JCS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date MAR 14 1974

MERCHANT MARINE LOSSES OF THE UNITED STATES,  
BRITISH EMPIRE, AND OTHER UNITED AND NEUTRAL  
NATIONS FROM BELLIGERENT AND MARINE CAUSES

DIVISION OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
OP-16-P-10



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

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JOINT U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

DAILY SUMMARY

No. 387                      Copy 1        of 71  
0800                              January 1, 1943.

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Date MAR 14 1974  
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U.S. JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

NOTE: Unless there is definite indication to the contrary in the text, it may be assumed that information reported is from competent official sources.

1. ASIATIC THEATER.

No reported change in the situation.

2. PACIFIC THEATER.

Timor. On 28 December, one enemy force of 400 attacked Allied troops in the MAOBISSE and BETANO areas. One Allied detachment withdrew eastward and another was isolated.

There is continued evidence of enemy shipping activity at LAIVAI.

New Guinea. On 30 December, 22 enemy bombers destroyed half of the village of MERAUKE, but caused no military casualties.

U.S. heavy bombers on armed reconnaissance attacked WEWAK, MADANG and LAE, where fires were started and four planes were destroyed on the runway.

Allied ground units continued pressure in the SANANANDA-BUNA area without material change in positions. Captured enemy equipment in the SANANANDA area includes British and American small arms.

Bismarcks. A concentration of 75 large and medium vessels at RABAUL was attacked on 30 December by seven U.S. heavy bombers. Explosions and fires were started on two large unidentified vessels; direct hits were made on an 8,000-ton transport, and a near miss on a 10,000-ton transport.

A new runway and other improvements were observed at VANAKANAU air-drome. Twenty medium bombers and thirteen fighters were there.

Solomons. On 29 December our dive bombers and fighters carried out two bombing and strafing attacks on two enemy cargo vessels near VANGUNU ISLAND (NEW GEORGIA GROUP). Both vessels were last observed afire and were a total loss.

On 30 December, dive bombers and fighters attacked enemy installations at REKATA BAY. Enemy barges at VANGUNU ISLAND were also strafed by fighters. Reconnaissance of the FAISI-BUIN area revealed only slight shipping activity.

On 31 December, six medium bombers escorted by twelve fighters attacked enemy installations at MUNDA. No enemy aircraft were observed on the field or in the air. Antiaircraft fire was heavy, but ineffective.

Activity on GUADALCANAL was confined to patrolling.

Submarines. A U.S. submarine returning from patrol in Far Eastern Waters reports having sunk two enemy cargo vessels and one destroyer. Another submarine sank an enemy cargo vessel or transport (6,000 tons).

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Aleutians. On 30 December three medium bombers escorted by fourteen fighters attacked enemy installations at KISKA. Enemy fighter float planes intercepted and shot down two U.S. fighters. One enemy fighter was seen to crash. A U.S. bomber was also shot down, probably by anti-aircraft fire. Two enemy cargo vessels were bombed, with unobserved results.

Next day five heavy bombers and eight medium bombers attacked the two cargo vessels at KISKA. Observed results were three hits on one and two on the other, with smoke and heavy explosions. During this attack our planes encountered only one enemy fighter float plane.

Later photographic reconnaissance at KISKA revealed six enemy float planes on the beach and the two cargo vessels in the harbor.

### 3. ATLANTIC THEATER.

Submarines. No great change is apparent in the number or disposition of enemy submarines. The estimated number at sea in the Theater is 112. Nearly 60 are in the area ICELAND-IRELAND-AZORES-NOVA SCOTIA-NEWFOUNDLAND, mostly in the south-central part. About 20 are in the area between WEST AFRICA and LESSER ANTILLES-GUIANAS-NORTHERN BRAZIL, with concentrations in the southwestern and northwestern parts. About 15 are in the area GIBRALTAR-CANARIES-AZORES or nearby. Only one appears to be in the vicinity of CAPE TOWN. There have been no recent reports of any in the eastern vicinity of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No reports have been received indicating that any additional vessels in the westbound Trans-Atlantic convoy mentioned in recent Summaries have been lost or damaged; considerable numbers of enemy submarines are in the vicinity if not in contact. Another cargo vessel (5,000 gross tons) is reported to have been recently sunk by submarine attack off the north coast of BRAZIL, bringing the December total of reported sinkings in that area to 14.

The total loss of shipping during December appears to have been well below the monthly average for the year.

North Norwegian Waters. Action between British and German surface forces resulted in gunfire damage to a German cruiser - presumably HIPPER, KOLN, or NURNBERG - and the probable sinking of a German destroyer before contact was broken off.

### 4. MEDITERRANEAN THEATER.

Morocco. An attack on CASABLANCA by German long-range bombers caused no damage to U.S. naval ships or shore installations.

Tunisia. There was considerable enemy activity in the JEFNA area during the night of 29/30 December, but no offensive action developed during the following day. The enemy is entrenching in the DJEBEL BOU TOUIL area (18 miles southwest of MATEUR).

The enemy occupied HEIDOUS during the night of 28/29 December, after severe fighting on the two preceding days (Summary No. 385). Some infiltration southwestward from HEIDOUS is reported.

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Enemy reinforcements are reported to have reached forward areas to the southward, but no further offensive action has developed. Recent activity in the GABES area is believed to have been related principally to the passage of supplies.

Tripolitania. The enemy continues his activity within positions along the general line of the WADI ZEM ZEM. To the south his forces were reported withdrawn (afternoon, 30 December) from BU NGEM, after setting fire to the fort. On that day British patrols were operating along a line extending from Axis positions eleven miles WSW of BUERAT southwestward and southward to BU NGEM. The enemy lost 16 planes, 29/30 December, as he increased the scale of attacks on forward positions and landing grounds.

According to British maximum estimate, enemy strength in TRIPOLITANIA, 31 December, consisted of 62,000 men (of which 40,000 were Germans), 100 tanks (including 70 German), 370 antitank guns, and 330 field and medium guns. As compared with the last general estimate (Summary No. 359), these figures represent a doubling of personnel and a fifty percent increase in tanks and guns. The estimated increase consists principally of German troops and materiel.

5. EUROPEAN THEATER.

Air Operations. About 80 tons of H.E. were dropped during the B-17 attack on LORIENT submarine pens, 30 December (Summary No. 386). The bombs are reported to have been well placed, many hits being scored on the target. Enemy losses from our bomber action are now placed at 28 aircraft destroyed, 9 probably destroyed and 4 damaged.

Russian Front. No reported change in CAUCASIA.

Southwest and south of STALINGRAD, the Russians report a continuing advance which has overrun additional but unnamed villages. On the lower DON, they claim the capture of NIZHNE-CHIRSKAYA, near the DON-CHIR confluence, and of OBLIVSKAYA, about 30 miles to the northwest on the STALINGRAD-LIKHAYA railway. In STALINGRAD and northwest of the city, the Soviets appear to have made further slight gains.

The situation in the MIDDLE DON sector is apparently unchanged. Supply difficulties have proved to be a major Russian problem in this area.

Soviet attacks continue against the German garrison surrounded at VELIKIE LUKI, but without appreciable gain. Attacks and counterattacks west of RZHEV have apparently failed to materially alter the situation.

*Ludwell L. Montague*

LUDWELL L. MONTAGUE  
Lieutenant Colonel, G.S.C.  
Secretary, J.I.C.

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JCS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date

MAR 1 1974

# THE BATTLE OF THE SEA LANES

As of December 1 1942

CUMULATIVE MONTHLY TOTALS : MILLIONS OF GROSS TONS

