

MR 203(16), Sec. 3-A -- SUMMARY OF NAVY DEPARTMENT DISPATCHES (Pacific)

1 Nov 1942 - 31 Mar 43

MR 203(16), Sec. 3-A -- SUMMARY OF NAVY DEPARTMENT DISPATCHES (Pacific)

23 ~~November~~ *July* 1942 - 31 March 1943
(Pages ~~117~~ - 316)

337

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

[Navy Classified]

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

9 a.m. August 3, 1945

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

SAILFISH returning from patrol to AUSTRALIA 1 August reports sighting properly marked hospital ship, and torpedoing, probably sinking, one 7,000-ton cargo carrier.

SEADRAGON returning to AUSTRALIA 2 August reports sinking(off INDO CHINA):-

- 12 July - Heavily loaded 6,000-ton cargo carrier.
- 13 July - 4,100-ton cargo carrier.
- 16 July - 7,000-ton cargo carrier.

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Latter 5-1-28

SECRET

10 a.m. July 5, 1942.

Southwest Pacific

Submarine Swordfish returning from patrol. Reported sinking one tanker about 3,500 tons, one cargo ship about 6,900 tons damaged and cargo ship about 6,500 tons damaged and one additional cargo ship damaged in the Dutch East Indies area, all between May 23rd and June 12.

Also SEAL sank tanker about 7400 tons.

WFL

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
08D 100-1-2-78

9 a.m. June 28, 1942.

WAT

MIDWAY ACTION (Cont'd.)

Three Army LB-30's taking off from MIDWAY about dusk bombed the airfield at WAKE about midnight, 27-28 June. Bombs were observed to hit among aircraft reported as being not well dispersed about landing mats. Three enemy planes got off and attacked the Army bombers at long range about thirty miles at sea on their return to MIDWAY. One LB-30 slightly damaged by anti-aircraft fire.

COMBICH FILE

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10-13-78
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5:30 p.m. June 16, 1942

WLL

MIDWAY ACTION (Cont'd.)

Submarine TROUT, returning to PEARL, brought two prisoners picked up from MAKUMA who stated that MAKUMA and MOGAMI had been sunk by bombs on the 6th. of June. Further stated force was to capture MIDWAY, then proceed to capture ALEUTIANS, and then proceed to AUSTRALIA. Also stated that YAMATO displaced 57,000 tons and confirmed MOGAMI's regunning with 10 - 23 centimeter guns.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. June 11, 1942.

MIDWAY ACTION (Cont'd.)

WAT

Our own battleships (seven) with LONG ISLAND are now operating 1,000 miles to the westward of SAN FRANCISCO.

Task Force 16 (HORNET and ENTERPRISE) have rendezvoused with and received planes from the SARATOGA 930 miles northwest of OAHU. Task Force 16 remaining in that area and SARATOGA returning to OAHU.

Submarines searching area where gutted ship was reported could find only an oil slick. Two Japanese were taken prisoners from a rubber boat. Wreckage indicated fire.

COMMON FILE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DEC 25 1942
USN Letter

9 a.m., June 8, 1942.

WAL

MIDWAY ACTION (Cont'd.)

Later reports based on photographs taken indicates that battleship reported as left gutted was a cruiser of the MOGAMI Class. However, it is difficult for a Navy man to mistake a MOGAMI Cruiser for a battleship and it is not considered that this has been cleared up.

At 1 p.m. on the 7th. the CUTTLEFISH was bombed by a bomber reported as enemy 420 miles west of MIDWAY. This may have been one of our own bombers.

Following the action 400 miles northwest of MIDWAY Task Force 16 proceeded east to fuel from the CIMMARON and is to proceed to 480 miles northeast of MIDWAY and 1130 miles northwest of OAHU to rendezvous with SARATOGA at 7 a.m., 10 June, and receive from SARATOGA aircraft, bombs, and personnel. From this rendezvous point Task Force 16:-

- 2 Carriers,
- 5 Heavy Cruisers,
- 1 Light Cruiser,
- 8 Destroyers, and
- 1 Tanker,

will proceed northward for operations against Japanese ALEUTIAN Force, joining up with Task Force 8, Admiral Theobald, now operating in that area.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10/15/83 BY SP-1
GSD

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MIDWAY ACTION (Cont'd.)

3:00 p.m., Sunday, June 7, 1942.

Commander Task Force 16 reported that attacks made on force about 400 miles northwest of MIDWAY were:-

One attack on 2 heavy cruisers;
Three attacks on a battleship, a heavy cruiser,
and destroyers (5?).

Battleship left gutted and abandoned;
One destroyer sunk, others damaged;
One heavy cruiser three bomb hits;
Two other heavy cruisers (one believed to be Flag-
ship of the Commander in Chief, Second Fleet)
received 1000-pound bomb hits.

Search 420 miles northwest of MIDWAY revealed only two small ships, apparently destroyers, which were attacked.

200 mile search in western semi-circle from Task Force 16 failed to locate any carriers. Fourth Japanese carrier believed sunk.

Aircraft on HORNET and ENTERPRISE:-

27 Fighters each;
32 Bombers each; and
3 Torpedo Planes on ENTERPRISE, none on HORNET.

COMMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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MIDWAY ACTION (Cont'd.)

8:30 a.m. Sunday, June 7, 1942.

At 6:15 a.m. of the 6th. Task Force 16 (HORNET, ENTERPRISE Group) had reached a position 365 miles, bearing about 297° from MIDWAY reported one battleship and five destroyers 142 miles, bearing 234°, from Task Force 16, on course 270°, speed 10, and at the same time two cruisers and two destroyers 142 miles, bearing 215°, on course 215°, speed 15. These two forces were 50 miles apart. Second group was apparently heading to rejoin transports.

Task Force 16 made attack on the battleship.

12 B-17 were sent from MIDWAY about 10:30 a.m. to attack cruiser group.

At 12 o'clock patrol plane reported aircraft attacking four unidentified ships 525 miles on bearing 277° from MIDWAY. These ships were on course 200°, speed 30. These ships may have been destroyers that had been accompanying battleship reported above. Twenty-five planes making this attack.

At 1:30 in the afternoon our patrol plane reported our cruisers and destroyers engaging enemy battleship and cruisers 515 miles, bearing 277°, from MIDWAY. (This position may have been somewhat out).

SARATOGA group departed PEARL last night (6-7 June) for MIDWAY to deliver plane reinforcements to Task Force 16.

YORKTOWN was reported as being hit by two torpedoes from submarine. List reduced to 17° and efforts to bring ship in continuing.

HAMMANN, new destroyer, was reported as having been sunk (with YORKTOWN).

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
ON 11/10/00
BY SP-6 BTJ/STP

MIDWAY ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 7:20 in the afternoon June 5th., U.S. patrol planes reported being attacked by enemy fighters 425 miles northwest of MIDWAY. - One Japanese carrier evidently still operating.

At 9 p.m. local time U.S. patrol planes sighted eight to ten ships 420 miles northwest of MIDWAY and heard much gunfire. - This could have been an attack by our destroyers or attack by aircraft.

MIDWAY planes in commission (apparently as of 4 a.m., 5 June):-

- 12 VSB
- 2 VF
- 8 B17
- 8 VP

Japanese submarine reported 24 North, 164 West, at 10 p.m., 4 June, - 550 miles northwest of OAHU.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
S E C R E T

June 6, 1942.

MIDWAY ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 1:30 in the morning, June 5th., MIDWAY reported being bombarded lightly, believed by submarine. Eight rounds fired.

About 8:00 a.m. MIDWAY reported that battleships which were reported as streaming oil were being attacked with 13 dive bombers and all available fortresses.

This attack resulted in one direct hit, plus bomb explosions under stern causing ship to turn in circles. Later these forces were identified as three cruisers (MOGAMI or TONE Class), two streaming oil. They were trailing a group of six transports, which were escorted by one light cruiser on each bow.

Cincpac reports that there had been sighted, bearing 335, distant 250 from MIDWAY, one carrier (presumably Japanese) on course 245 at 8:20 a.m. local time.

Later it appeared that the forces to the northwestward were two battleships of the ISE or FUSO class, two carriers, one burning and one smoking, three heavy cruisers, and five to ten destroyers. This force was on a northwesterly course, generally Great Circle Course, toward YOKOSUKA and away from MIDWAY. Apparently one carrier (HIRYU Class) and one (AKAS Class) had been sunk. One of these by own cruisers after attempt by a Japanese cruiser to rescue personnel. Speed of this force retiring approximately 13 knots. - Eye witness reported three carriers burning fiercely and heavy explosions during the night.

HORNET's Torpedo Squadron Eight in making attack on this formation in forenoon, June 4th., were all shot down by Zero fighters, only one getting in. The one survivor shot down but hiding under cushion observed the large size carriers burning fiercely, also a battleship. During the night he heard many Japanese planes circling overhead.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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U.S. planes suffered heavy losses during attacks on Japanese carriers. Task Force 16, HORNET, ENTERPRISE, 5 cruisers, and 10 destroyers have not reported any damage other than the loss of planes, as yet.

The SARATOGA arrives PEARL HARBOR at 3 p.m. Washington time today, to be refueled immediately for offensive operations.

Summary of Reported Damage to Japanese Ships:-

3 Battleships damaged.
4 Carriers badly damaged.
1 Cruiser afire.
2 Transports hit.
Many planes shot down.

Summary of U.S. Damage:-

YORKTOWN, many carrier and MIDWAY planes, and MIDWAY powerhouse.

MIDWAY aircraft and Task Force 16 are continuing active operations.

Apparently there is still one Japanese carrier in this area not located. If Japanese attack and occupation forces continue toward MIDWAY they could arrive about 12 or 1 o'clock Washington time today, - 4 or 5 a.m. MIDWAY time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED LATER.

At 6 a.m. MIDWAY time, June 5, two MOGAMI type cruisers, one damaged were reported by U.S. submarine as bearing 272, distant 115 miles from MIDWAY, course west, speed 17. - Assume these cruisers proceeding to a prescribed rendezvous. Perhaps they were originally part of the striking force which was attacked northwest of MIDWAY.

Amplifying report adds two battleships 264°, 125 miles from MIDWAY, course 268, speed 15, and two destroyers 100 miles west of MIDWAY.

The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, states that there are strong indications that ORANGE will attempt a landing on MIDWAY in spite of losses.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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ON 12/15/88
BY 1043
SECRET

- 1 Battleship hit with bombs.
- 1 Battleship hit with torpedoes or bombs.
- 1 Carrier hit by dive bombers and left on fire.

About noon YORKTOWN reported attacking two Japanese carriers, with a resulting heavy damage to these two carriers. About 12:35 p.m. YORKTOWN reported having been attacked, this by carrier planes, location of carrier not known. Two to three bomb hits received by YORKTOWN. YORKTOWN's position 150 miles north of MIDWAY. Apparently YORKTOWN with attending two cruisers and destroyers had closed ORANGE force for this attack. At 2:40 p.m. YORKTOWN was again heavily attacked by air, receiving one bomb hit and two torpedo hits. Following this attack personnel moved to cruiser ASTORIA.

Apparently there were two other Japanese carriers in this same general area, since the report from the Commander Task Force 16, including ENTERPRISE, HORNET, 5 cruisers, and 10 destroyers, reported making attack on enemy force of

- 4 Carriers
- 2 Battleships
- 4 Heavy Cruisers
- 6 Destroyers.

Reported all four carriers believed badly damaged, one or two other heavy ships hit.

Later, about 8:50 p.m. MIDWAY time, fortresses en route MIDWAY from PEARL HARBOR reported making two hits on smoking carrier 70 miles northwest of MIDWAY, reported two other ships burning in area, and two additional on fire about 125 miles from MIDWAY.

NAUTILUS, submarine, reported hitting a damaged carrier (10,000 ton SORYU class) with 3 torpedoes about 146 miles northwest of MIDWAY.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 5, 1942.

S. D. 100-100-100
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100-100-100

Subject:

Summary of Situation in the Pacific as of
12 noon, Washington War Time, 5 June.

MIDWAY

About 10 a.m. MIDWAY time, 3 June two groups of a
Japanese Force were discovered by patrol planes 470 to
700 miles east of MIDWAY. Reported composition:-

- 3 Battleships (probably should have been two).
- 1 Carrier (doubtful).
- 2 or 3 Heavy Cruisers.
- 5 Miscellaneous.
- A number of transports, cargo carriers and
tankers.

This ORANGE Main Body and occupation force was later attack-
ed by 9 Army bombers, and 4 PEY's, night torpedo attack.
Damage reported later:-

- 1 Battleship hit by bombs.
- 1 Transport hit by bombs.
- 1 Transport hit with torpedo.

This force continued toward MIDWAY.

At 6 a.m. MIDWAY time, 4 June, a large number of planes
were discovered 150 miles away approaching MIDWAY from the
northwest. An attack took place probably 50 minutes later.
Powerhouse destroyed, slight damage to runway, not preventing
its continued use. Reported 8 enemy planes shot down.

MIDWAY planes somewhat later attacked Japanese forma-
tion composed of

- 2 Battleships,
- Several cruisers,
- 2 Carriers, and
- 2 Destroyers

in a position northwest of MIDWAY. Probable damage:-

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter
SECRET

March 31, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the early morning of March 30th. KAHILI,
BUIN AREA, and VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, were harassed
by two Flying Fortresses.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. March 30, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 6:20 a.m. March 29th, five Lightnings and one Corsair attacked an enemy seaplane base at FAISI, BUIN Area. Five to seven enemy planes were set on fire. This same group of planes, returning to their base, carried out a low strafing attack on an enemy destroyer nine miles southeast of ALU ISLAND (southwest of SHORTLAND ISLAND). The destroyer was left burning. No U.S. planes were lost.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OSD Letter R E T

9 a.m. March 29, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Twenty miles northwest of FUNAFUTI, two of our fighters encountered four enemy bombers at 10:54 a.m., March 28th., apparently en route to bomb FUNAFUTI. In the ensuing engagement one bomber was shot down and another damaged. The remainder turned about and retired to the northward without dropping any bombs. We suffered no losses.

Thirteen Avengers dropped thirteen mines in the BUIN AREA on the early morning of March 29th. Eleven were dropped between BUIN and MOILA POINT and two between SAND ISLAND and EAST POINT. In support of this operation, seven Fortresses bombed BUIN and KAHILI scoring hits on a runway and revetment area. No losses were sustained by our forces.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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6-2-78
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9 a.m. March 28, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Two enemy planes bombed CANTON ISLAND on the night of March 25th-26th. One grounded Catalina (PEY) was destroyed.

From additional information received, it is learned that NAURU ISLAND was bombed twice by our air forces on the night of March 25th-26th. In the first attack, six Catalinas started fires. Later, at about 5:06 a.m., five Liberators attacked scoring hits on the wharf, runway, grounded planes, officers' quarters and barracks where fires were started.

On the early morning of March 27th, approximately seven enemy planes made five raids on GUADALCANAL. In two of these raids bombs were dropped killing one man, injuring thirteen and causing slight material damage.

Nine Avengers escorted by twelve Wildcats bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA at 1:12 p.m. March 27th, blew up a supply dump and started a fire.

On the same day nine Avengers escorted by six Airacobras and four Wildcats attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Six fires were started. In both operations only one plane was damaged.

At 3:30 p.m. March 27th, six Dauntless dive bombers supported by seven Wildcats bombed and strafed enemy installations at UGALI, northeast coast of RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. All planes returned after destroying one building and setting another on fire.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

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4 p.m. March 27, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 1 p.m. March 25th. eight Wildcats strafed an enemy barge in ROVIANA LAGOON (MUNDA), NEW GEORGIA.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OSD. Do Not

9 a.m. March 27, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

From 5:56 a.m. to 6:10 a.m. March 26th, five Liberators bombed NAURU ISLAND (Lat. 00-25 South, Long. 166-57 East). Hits were scored on the wharf, runway, officers' quarters and barracks area where four fires were started. Several grounded enemy planes were also believed destroyed or damaged.

Radar indications of two enemy planes in the vicinity of CANTON ISLAND on the night of March 25th and 26th have been reported. No further details are available.

The submarine KINGFISH returning from patrol of the Luzon and Formosa Area reports sinking one large loaded transport, a trawler and probably a cargo vessel.

The KINGFISH suffered considerable damage by enemy depth charge attacks.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

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9 a.m. March 25, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

KAHILI, BUIN Area was attacked at 8:35 p.m. March 24th by three Flying Fortresses and eighteen Avengers. A fire in the camp vicinity was started. One small enemy ship in the area was bombed with unobserved results. No U.S. losses were sustained.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OSD Letter 100-72

9 a.m. March 24, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On March 23rd, a force of Lightnings (Army P-38's) sprayed with bullets the airbase at REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. All U.S. planes returned.

During the night of March 23rd-24th, two enemy planes attacked the bomber strip on HENDERSON AIRFIELD, GUADALCANAL. A bomb fell on the runway. Three Liberators (Army B-24's) and one Flying Fortress (Army B-17) went up into flames. Other aircraft were damaged but our troops were unscathed.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DEC 13 1943
OSD Letter

4 p.m. March 23, 1943



SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

From an incomplete report dated March 22nd., it would appear that FANNING ISLAND, PACIFIC OCEAN, was shelled by an enemy submarine.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OSD Letter

9 a.m. March 22, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

From a further report, it is now known that no casualties resulted from the enemy bombing of CANTON ISLAND on March 19th, mentioned in yesterday's summary. A building is reported damaged by a near miss.

Forty Avenger torpedo planes successfully concluded the second and final phase of a mine laying project off KAHILI, BUIN Area on the night of March 21st. With the exception of one Avenger, all planes returned. In support of this operation, twelve Liberators and nine Fortresses attacked enemy installations on KAHILI.

A formation of six Dauntless dive bombers supported by fifteen Wildcats attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA at 4:40 p.m. March 21st. At the same time, a second formation of five Dauntless dive bombers attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered and one dive bomber was hit. No losses were sustained by our forces.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OSD Letter 63-72

10 a.m. March 21, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On March 19th. at 4 p.m. nine Dauntless dive bombers and sixteen Wildcats struck VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. All planes returned after encountering considerable anti-aircraft fire, which damaged two planes.

At 7:30 a.m. March 19th. a Dauntless dive bomber attacked what is believed to be an enemy submarine near the RUSSELL ISLANDS, with undetermined results.

On the morning of March 20th. a single Japanese plane unsuccessfully attacked one of our convoys east northeast of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND en route to GUADALCANAL.

At 4:50 p.m. March 20th. six Dauntless dive bombers, supported by sixteen Wildcats, bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

On the same day at 5 p.m. six Dauntless dive bombers and sixteen Wildcats attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. One fire was started. No losses were sustained.

On the evening of March 20th. forty-two Avenger torpedo planes completed mining operations in the vicinity of KAHILI, BUIN AREA. In support of this mission nine Fortresses and nine Liberators attacked enemy installations. With the exception of one Fortress, which made a forced landing on the water 20 miles north of RUSSELL ISLANDS, all our planes returned.

Although full details are not available, it is reported that an unknown number of four-engine Type 97 enemy flying boats bombed CANTON ISLAND at 12:05 a.m. March 19th.

The Submarine HALIBUT, returning from patrol in the vicinity of PALAU-TRUK AREA, reports sinking one and possible two enemy cargo vessels in addition to a combination cargo-passenger ship. Total tonnage reported sunk is 30,000 tons.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OSD Letter

9 a.m. March 20, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of March 18th. eleven dive bombers, escorted by fighters, attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Although heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered, all our planes returned.

On the night of March 18th. TULAGI ISLAND had an air raid alarm. No report of damage has been received.

On March 20th. sixteen Wildcats (F4F-4's) strafed enemy positions on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. All our planes returned.

On March 18th. an enemy plane bombed, without success, one of our tankers escorted by a destroyer en route to ESPIRITU SANTO from GUADALCANAL.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. March 19, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On March 18th, two Flying Fortresses harassed KAHILI, BUIN Area; BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area and VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Results were unobserved. Both of our planes returned.

At 4:45 p.m. March 18th, eleven Dauntless dive bombers escorted by sixteen Wildcats bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND starting a fire. All our planes returned.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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SECRET
OSD

9 a.m. March 18, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

As a result of the recent surface bombardments of VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND by our light surface units, it seems probable that the Japanese lost well over five hundred troops.

On the night of March 16th-17th, three Liberators harassed enemy positions on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA; VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND; KAHILI, BUIN Area and BALLALE, SHORTLAND Area. Results were unobserved.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET
OBD Letter

9 a.m. March 17, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Although accounts of the surface bombardment of VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, reported in yesterday afternoon's Summary, are incomplete, indications are that damage was considerable. A search plane has reported that the VILA runway is in "terrible shape".

Two Flying Fortresses harassed enemy positions on the early morning of March 16th. at KAHILI, BUIN AREA; BUKA, BOGAINVILLE ISLAND; and MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

At 6:35 a.m. March 16th. twenty Dauntless Dive Bombers, escorted by twenty Wildcat Fighters, bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Results were unobserved. All our planes returned.

On March 16th. Lightnings (P-38's) strafed the vicinity of VIRU HARBOR, east coast of NEW GEORGIA.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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IS DESTROYED
OSD Letter # 1

4 p.m. March 16, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The surface bombardment by four destroyers of enemy positions on VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, scheduled for 2 a.m. March 16th. has been carried out in accordance with plan. No enemy shore, air, or surface opposition was encountered. Our task group suffered no casualties.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. March 16, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On March 15th at 5:10 p.m., twelve Dauntless dive bombers escorted by twenty-five Wildcats bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

At 5:35 p.m. on the same day, twelve Dauntless dive bombers escorted by four Wildcats bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. All our planes returned.

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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SECRET

10 a.m. March 15, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On March 13th, four Lightnings strafed and destroyed a small enemy craft at Rendova Island (New Georgia Group).

On March 14th, although hampered by weather, three Liberators bombed Munda, New Georgia; Shortland Area and Vila, Kolombangara Island. All our planes returned.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. March 14, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of March 12th.-13th. two Liberators harassed enemy positions on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA; VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND; KAHILI, BUIN AREA; and BALLALE ISLAND, where a large fire was started. All our planes returned.

At 10:20 a.m. March 13th. eighteen Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by twenty-three Wildcat Fighters, attacked the supply dump and bivouac area on VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Heavy explosions and smoke were observed. No U.S. aircraft were lost.

PACIFIC

The Submarine ALBACORE, returning from patrol, reports as follows:-

February 20 - Sank an enemy minelayer (SIRATAKA Type, 1345 tons) in the vicinity of MANUS ISLAND (ADMIRALTY ISLANDS) and damaged a destroyer of the ASASHIO Class, 1500 tons.

The Submarine SAWFISH on patrol south of HONSHU reports sinking three enemy ships, one of which was a 5,000-ton passenger vessel.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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4:30 p.m. March 13, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No action reports received.

PACIFIC

The Submarine THRESHER, returning from patrol of SUNDA STRAIT and the MAKASSAR AREA, reports as follows:-

- February 21 - Attacked a convoy in the vicinity of KANGIAN ISLAND (north of BALI, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES) and sank a 7,000-ton enemy cargo vessel and probably sank a 12,000-ton transport.
- March 2 - Sank a 7,000-ton loaded tanker off LARI LARIAN (off east coast of BORNEO).

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. March 13, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On March 11th. between 7:47 p.m. and 9:35 p.m. two enemy planes dropped bombs on GUADALCANAL near the METAPONA RIVER (east of KOLI POINT) without damage or casualties.

On the early morning of March 12th. three Liberators harassed enemy positions on BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA; VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, and MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

At 8:08 p.m. March 12th. twenty-one Avenger torpedo planes attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Two fires were started. One plane failed to return.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. March 12, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the early morning of March 11th. three PB4Y's (Navy Consolidated bombers) bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA; BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA; VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND; with unobserved results. All planes returned.

The Submarine PERMIT reports sinking two enemy freighters and damaging one, in addition to destroying an enemy sampan.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. March 11, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the early morning of March 10th. two PB4Y's (Navy Consolidated Bombers) harassed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA; VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND; and KAHILI, BUIN AREA. One of these planes reported three Naval vessels firing from 2:15 a.m. to 3:09 a.m. The locality of these gun flashes is indefinite.

At 7:45 a.m. on the same morning eighteen Dauntless Dive Bombers and eleven Avenger Torpedo Planes, escorted by thirty-one Wildcat Fighters, attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Several large fires were started. All our planes returned.

At 1:10 p.m. March 10th. about ten enemy dive bombers, escorted by twelve Navy Zeros, were intercepted by our planes in the vicinity of the RUSSELL ISLANDS. One enemy bomber and three Zeros were destroyed. The enemy attack, apparently intended for our positions on the RUSSELL ISLANDS, was frustrated.

GUADALCANAL Radio reported gunfire on the horizon north of PAVUVU ISLAND, RUSSELL ISLANDS, at 8:45 p.m. March 10th. Further details have not as yet been received.

PACIFIC

The Submarine SWORDFISH reports two, possibly three, hits on an ASAMA MARU type ship (16,975-ton passenger vessel) 105 miles northwest of the north end of FORMOSA.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. March 10, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of March 7th. a lone Japanese plane dropped four bombs harmlessly in the water off LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL.

Early on the morning of March 9th., three Liberators (B-24's) bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA; BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA; MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA; and VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Results were not observed. All our planes returned.

Later in the morning of March 9th. eleven Avengers (Grumman Torpedo Planes) and eighteen Dauntless (Douglas Dive Bombers), escorted by thirty-one Wildcats (Grumman Fighters), bombed MUNDA Airfield, NEW GEORGIA. The Avengers took as their target the supply and bivouac areas and started three large fires. The Dauntless Dive Bombers blasted anti-aircraft positions dropping 18 - 1000-lb. bombs and scored hits on them. All our planes returned.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. March 9, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the night of March 7th.-8th., our planes from GUADALCANAL harassed enemy airfields at KAHILI, BUIN AREA; BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA; MUNDA in the NEW GEORGIA Group; VILA on KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND; and REKATA, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND.

Heavy and fragmentation bombs were dropped with unobserved results. All our planes returned.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

The Submarine TRITON, operating in the SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, constituted itself a one-ship "wolf pack" and sank four of five cargo ships and damaged a fifth ship in an enemy naval escorted convoy of five ships.

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9 a.m. March 8, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On March 7th. nine PB4Y's (Navy Consolidated Bombers) bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND; BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA; KAHILI, BUIIN AREA; and an enemy cargo vessel at KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Results were unobserved.

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10 a.m. March 7, 1943

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A search plane bombed enemy installations at VIRU HARBOR, NEW GEORGIA, on March 5th.

Enemy planes raided TULAGI ISLAND on the night of March 5th.-6th., killing two and wounding eleven men.

Five Liberators bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA, and three Liberators bombed BALLALE ISLAND in the early morning of March 6th. Fires were started

On March 6th. at 7 a.m. 69 planes of the SARATOGA Group bombed and strafed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. The runway at MUNDA is reported as unserviceable as a result of the surface bombardment.

Twelve enemy dive bombers, escorted by twenty-five Zeros, attacked our positions on RUSSELL ISLANDS on the afternoon of March 6th. Four Aircobras intercepted and shot down four of the enemy dive bombers and probably one other. Our material damage and casualties were extremely light. All our planes returned.

A Dauntless dive bomber on anti-submarine patrol was attacked by five Zeros. Although damaged, the plane returned to its base.

Two of our ships en route from GUADALCANAL to NOUMEA were unsuccessfully attacked by high-level enemy bombers.

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4 p.m. March 6, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The following additional information has been received on the sinking of the two enemy cruisers and the surface bombardment of VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, and MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, reported in yesterday afternoon's Summary:-

Although identification of the enemy ships was difficult due to the range (8,000 yards) and darkness, they are believed to have been two light cruisers or two destroyers. The enemy was engaged in KULA GULF, NEW GEORGIA, at 1:02 a.m. March 6th. at a mean range of 8,500 yards. The first ship blew up within two minutes, burned and sank in approximately twenty-five minutes. The second sank in about five minutes. Fire from the enemy ships was weak apparently due to surprise.

The bombardment of shore installations was completed according to plan. One large and many small fires resulted. The enemy's fire from shore installations was light and sporadic. There were no casualties to our ships or personnel.

On the early morning of March 5th. a Hudson bomber on a search mission bombed BUIN, SHORTLAND AREA.

At 7:15 a.m. March 5th. ten Avenger torpedo planes, escorted by fifteen Wildcats, bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Several small fires were started. All our planes returned.

On the same morning nine PB4Y's (Navy Consolidated bombers) failed to locate enemy shipping in the BUIN AREA, and, as an alternative, two planes of this group bombed BUIN with undetermined results. Two of our planes failed to return.

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4 p.m. March 5, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A brief report indicates that TASK FORCE 68, consisting of the Light Cruisers MONTPELIER, CLEVELAND, and DENVER, and seven destroyers, commanded by Rear Admiral Merrill, successfully completed the surface bombardment of VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND and MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, during the night of 5-6 March and also sank two enemy light cruisers.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. March 5, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 7:40 a.m. March 3rd. two of our fighter planes strafed an enemy cutter in the SOLOMONS AREA. The enemy vessel was left burning.

On the night of March 3rd. two enemy planes dropped bombs on GUADALCANAL. There were no casualties or damage.

On the early morning of March 4th. four Liberators bombed KAHILI and two bombed BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA. Results were unobserved. All planes returned.

At 7:30 a.m. March 4th. twelve Dauntless dive bombers (SBD's), escorted by fifteen Wildcats (F4F-4's), attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Four fires were started. Our fighters on their return to the base strafed VIRU HARBOR, NEW GEORGIA. All planes returned.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. March 4, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the early morning of March 3rd. ten PB4Y's (Navy Consolidated Bombers) on an attack mission against enemy shipping in the BUIN, SHORTLAND AREA, were unable to locate their target. As an alternative, four planes bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA; two attacked VILA KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group; and one bombed BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA, with unobserved results. All planes returned.

At 7:10 a.m. March 3rd. a Flying Fortress attacked an enemy submarine 100 miles northwest of NANDI, FIJI ISLANDS, with unobserved results.

On the same morning at 10:30 a.m. ten Dauntless dive bombers (SBD's), escorted by sixteen Wildcats (F4F-4's), bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A fire was started. All our planes returned.

A later report indicates that the unidentified vessel reported in yesterday's Summary as probably sunk by enemy submarine action made port safely with one torpedo hit on her starboard side.

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9 a.m. March 3, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A Hudson bomber, returning from a weather observation flight, dropped light fragmentation bombs on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, in the early morning of March 2nd.

The Submarine SNAPPER reports sinking an 8,000-ton tanker in the NEW BRITAIN-NEW HANOVER AREA.

An unidentified vessel has been reported as probably sunk by enemy submarine action 445 miles east of NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. March 2, 1943

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On March 1st. at 5:15 p.m. seventeen Dauntless dive bombers (SBD's), escorted by nine Wildcats (F4F-4's), attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A number of fires were started. All our planes returned.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. February 28, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of February 26th. a Kingfisher (OS2U) depth charged a possible enemy submarine with indefinite results off CAPE ESPERANCE, GUADALCANAL.

At 4 p.m. on February 27th. seventeen Dauntless dive bombers (SBD's), escorted by fifteen Wildcats (F4F-4's), attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. One large and two small fires were started. All our planes returned.

At 5:40 p.m. on February 27th. fourteen Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by eleven Lightnings (P-38's), six Warhawks (P-40's), and seven Corsairs (F4U's), attacked an enemy transport escorted by two corvettes off VELLA LAVELLA, NEW GEORGIA Group. Two 1000-lb., two 500-lb. and one 100-lb. bomb hits were scored on the transport which was left burning fiercely. One corvette was hit and left burning and a float Zero shot down with one more probable. Two of our fighter planes are missing and two Corsairs collided upon returning to their base. The pilot of one is reported safe.

The Submarine GATO, returning from patrol of the SOLOMONS AREA, reports sinking three large enemy cargo ships, in addition to a large transport, and damaging a cruiser.

PACIFIC

The Submarine TROUT, returning from patrol of the SOUTH CHINA SEA, reports as follows:-

- January 11 - Scored two torpedo hits and severely damaged a moored 17,500-ton tanker (KYOKUYO MARU) off MIRI, northwest coast of BORNEO.
- January 18 - Sank two 25-ton schooners by gunfire off VANFONG BAY, east coast of FRENCH INDO-CHINA.
- January 21 - Sank a 4,000-ton freighter off CAMRANH BAY, east coast of FRENCH INDO-CHINA.
- February 7 - Possibly damaged a 17,500-ton tanker (NISSHIN MARU) off LUTONG, MIRI, northwest coast of BORNEO.
- February 14 - Sank a 7,700-ton tanker with torpedoes and gunfire 110 miles southwest of MACASSAR, CELEBES.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 27, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On February 26th. at 12:15 p.m. a fighter sweep by six Corsairs (F4U's), eight Warhawks (P-40's), and twelve Lightnings (P-38's) was made over the airdrome at KAHILI, BUIN, SHORTLAND AREA. No enemy planes nor anti-aircraft fire were encountered.

On the early afternoon of February 26th. eighteen Dauntless dive bombers (SBD's), escorted by sixteen Wildcats (F4F-4's), bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. One enemy plane on the ground was destroyed, enemy anti-aircraft fire was silenced, and four large and many small fires were started. All our planes returned.

COMINCH FILE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. February 26, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No action reports received.

PACIFIC

The Submarine GREYLING, returning from patrol, reports as follows:-

- January 15 - Sank 120-ton schooner in night attack with guns in CELEBES SEA.
- January 26 - Sank 3,800-ton freighter with one torpedo hit in night attack off northeast coast of MINDORO ISLAND.
- January 27 - Sank 4,500-ton passenger-freighter with two torpedo hits in daylight attack off northeast coast of MINDORO ISLAND.
- February 11- Scored one torpedo hit in 6,000-ton freighter (believed sunk) in convoy off entrance to MANILA BAY.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 26, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On February 25th. 17 Dauntless (Douglas dive bombers), escorted by 12 Wildcats (Grumman fighters) and 3 Lightnings (Lockheed fighters), hit VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA, with 17 - 1000-lb. bombs from 3,500 feet. One large and two small fires were started. One of the Lightnings made a forced landing in the waters off SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. A rescue plane has been despatched to rescue the pilot.

On February 25th. 8 Liberators (Consolidated B-24's) paired off and bombed KAHILI, FAISI, and other objectives in the SHORTLAND AREA. Visibility conditions over target areas prevented observation of results. All our planes returned.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**SECRET
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9 a.m. February 24, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

In the enemy raid of February 21st. on TULAGI, FLORIDA ISLAND, reported in yesterday afternoon's Summary, five men were killed and light materiel damage was sustained.

A GUADALCANAL search plane on February 22nd. scored depth charge hits on an enemy barge loaded with Japanese off CHOISEUL ISLAND.

In the late afternoon of February 22nd. Lightnings (P-38's), Airacobras (P-39's), and Corsairs (F4U's) strafed REKATA BAY AREA, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND.

On the night of February 22nd-23rd. four PB4Y's (Navy Liberators) singly and at intervals bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA, and MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Fires were started. All our planes returned.

A fighter strip on GUADALCANAL was bombed by a single enemy plane in the early morning of February 23rd. One man was killed and five wounded. Six of our Corsairs on the ground were damaged.

On the morning of February 23rd. a Catalina (PBY) damaged an enemy submarine 300 miles northeast of GUADALCANAL.

The Submarine POMPANO, returning from patrol, reports sinking 10,000 tons and damaging 22,000 tons of enemy shipping.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. February 23, 1943

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 12:45 a.m. February 21st. ESPIRITU SANTO experienced a light air raid by enemy planes.

On the afternoon of February 21st. twelve torpedo planes and twelve dive bombers, escorted by eighteen fighters, attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Fires were started.

An incomplete report indicates TULAGI, FLORIDA ISLAND, was raided by enemy planes on the night of February 21st. and the HALAVO ammunition dump was set on fire.

The Submarine ALBACORE sank a 1350-ton minelayer on February 20th. north of HERMIT ISLAND (northwest of ADMIRALTY ISLANDS) in addition to damaging an escorting destroyer, which was left stopped and burning.

An incomplete report indicates that the Submarine RUNNER torpedoed five cargo vessels and possibly several others. The submarine is returning from the Japanese Empire patrol area due to damage sustained by depth charges and bombs.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 23, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On February 21st. at 4:40 a.m. an Avenger torpedo plane depth charged a suspected enemy submarine with indefinite results 7 miles northeast of LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL.

On February 22nd. from 1:45 a.m. to 3:05 a.m. MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, was attacked by three Liberators. Two fires were started.

VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group, was attacked by two Liberators at 1:35 a.m. and 2:55 a.m. February 22nd. Results were unobserved.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. February 22, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Submarine GRENADIER, returning from patrol of the JAVA SEA, reports as follows:-

- January 10 - Sank by gunfire a 60-ton schooner 25 miles north of SURABAYA, JAVA.
- January 12 - Sank a 750-ton steamer and damaged a 500-ton loaded barge 65 miles south-east of SALEIER, CELEBES.
- January 22 - Damaged two freighters south of BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 22, 1943.

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SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On February 21st. twelve Avenger Torpedo Planes and twelve Dauntless Dive Bombers, escorted by nine Corsairs (F4U's) and eight Warhawks (P40's), bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Fires were started. All our planes returned with the exception of one Warhawk which was forced down southwest of BURAKU ISLAND (30 miles west of RUSSELL ISLANDS).

PACIFIC.

The Submarine TARPON, returning from patrol off HONSHU (Japanese Empire), reports sinking a 9,000-ton loaded enemy cargo vessel and scoring four hits on an unidentified ship.

The Submarine PICKEREL, returning from patrol off HONSHU (Japanese Empire), reports sinking one enemy cargo vessel.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. February 21, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A delayed report indicates that during the night of February 18-19 a force of 26 Liberators (Army B-24's) and 6 Liberators (Navy PB4Y's) harassed MUNDA and VILA Airfields.

At MUNDA a total of 36 - 500-lb. and 60 - 100-lb. bombs were dropped. Two fires were started. The enemy anti-aircraft fire was heavy and accurate.

At VILA two Liberators dropped 12 - 500-lb. and 20 - 100-lb. bombs. One fire was started.

All of our planes in these attacks returned safely.

VILA Airfield was hit during the night of February 19-20 by 8 Liberators (Navy PB4Y's). Our planes were met by searchlight illumination and heavy anti-aircraft fire from the field. A total of 47 - 500-lb. and 8 - 100-lb. bombs were dropped. A large fire was started and the runway was reported hit and put out of commission. All our planes returned.

On the morning of February 20th. MUNDA Airfield was struck by 12 Avengers (Grumman Torpedo Planes) and 18 Dauntless (Douglas Dive Bombers), escorted by 8 Airacobras (P-39's) and 24 Wildcats (Grumman F4F-4's). In spite of heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire, 18 - 500-lb. and 167 - 100-lb. bombs were dropped on the runway and hits were scored on anti-aircraft installations. A large fire was started at the southeast end of the runway. One Dauntless was forced to land in the water, but later the occupants were observed in a rubber boat. All other planes returned.

On the morning of February 21st. the RUSSELL ISLANDS, 25 miles northwest of CAPE ESPERANCE, GUADALCANAL, were occupied by a force of our Army, Navy and Marine troops totaling about 4,000 men. Up to late afternoon of February 21st. the enemy was apparently unaware of our movement.

The Submarine GROWLER, now safely in port, reports that during the night of February 7th. she chased a gunboat making 17 knots. Upon closing, the enemy tried to ram the GROWLER. Instead the GROWLER rammed and probably sank the gunboat. During the encounter the Commanding Officer of the submarine, one other officer, and the seaman lookout were killed and two others wounded by machine gunfire. The GROWLER returned despite a bullet hole in the conning tower hatch, numerous cable leaks and loss of lighting facilities.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. February 20, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The SUBMARINE TUNA returning from patrol reports sinking an 8000-ton cargo ship and damaging one 6500-ton tanker and a 6000-ton cargo ship. These attacks were made in the vicinity of VELLA GULF, NEW GEORGIA ISLANDS.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 20, 1943

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the night of February 19th. ten dive bombers escorted by fourteen fighters bombed MUNDA and VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. We had no losses.

The Japanese torpedo plane attack on our Task Force on February 17th. 20 miles east of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND was a complete failure. Of the seven enemy planes that attacked, five crashed in flames. No damage or casualties were suffered by our ships.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 19, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 11 p.m. February 16th. one of three Liberators
bombed BUIN, SHORTLAND AREA. One plane failed to return.

At 10:45 p.m. February 16th. one of three planes
bombed BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA. Results were not observed.
One plane failed to return.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OSD Letter

4 p.m. February 18, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

An incomplete report indicates that on February 17th. between 8:05 and 8:35 p.m. a Task Force composed of four transports, one oiler, and six destroyers was attacked by seven enemy torpedo planes 20 miles east of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND. Results are unknown. Subsequently, word was received that this Task Force arrived at its destination (GUADALCANAL) at 7:15 a.m. February 18th.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 18, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On February 17th at 5 p.m. thirteen Dauntless Dive Bombers, escorted by sixteen Wildcats (F4F-4's) and eight Aircobras (P-39's), bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Two fires were started. All our planes returned.

During the night of February 17th., VILA PLANTATION, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group, was bombed.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 17, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Operations in the SOLOMONS were limited to minor air activity in the BUIN-SHORTLAND Area. One of three planes reached and bombed BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area on the evening of February 15th. One plane failed to return from this mission.

A Liberator bomber attacked KAHILI, BUIN-SHORTLAND Area on the evening of February 15th. One of several accompanying planes failed to return.

The submarine GUARDFISH returning from patrol reports sinking two enemy destroyers and one 9,000 ton cargo vessel during the period January 12th-23rd in the waters of the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO.

The submarine HADDOCK returning from patrol off HONSHU, Japanese Empire reports sinking one loaded oil tanker and a cargo vessel totalling 13,300 tons.

The submarine FLYING FISH reports sinking two enemy cargo vessels totalling 13,000 tons in the CAROLINE ISLANDS Area.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. February 16, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 10:05 a.m. February 15th. six Marauders (B-26's), escorted by eight Aircobras (P-39's) and two Warhawks (P-40's), bombed VILA PLANTATION, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. Fires were started.

At 11:25 a.m. February 15th. MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, was bombed by fifteen Dauntless Dive Bombers (SBD's) and nine Avenger Torpedo Planes (TBF's), escorted by fifteen Wildcats (F4F-4's). At 4:30 p.m. eleven Dauntless Dive Bombers and seven Avenger Torpedo Planes, escorted by fifteen Wildcats and three Corsairs (F4U's), again bombed MUNDA.

All of our planes returned from these operations, although two Marauders and one Avenger were damaged by anti-aircraft fire.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 15, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On February 14th. at 8:45 a.m. eighteen Dauntless Dive Bombers and three Avenger Torpedo Planes, escorted by six Wildcats (F4F-4's) and five Aircobras (P-39's), bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A large fire was started. All of our planes returned. Later that day five Aircobras and eleven Wildcats strafed MUNDA.

At noon February 14th. nine PB4Y's (Navy Liberators) escorted by twelve Corsairs (F4U's) and ten Lightnings (P-38's), attacked a large enemy cargo vessel off BUIN, SHORTLAND AREA. Three hits were scored. Twenty-five to thirty enemy planes attacked our planes. Eleven Zeros were shot down and two probable. In addition to two of our bombers being shot down, six fighters failed to return.

On GUADALCANAL ground operations consist of patrolling, policing, and salvage. An occasional Japanese is killed or captured by our patrols.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 13, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On February 12th. between 1:25 a.m. and 2:20 a.m. a Catalina made harassing attacks on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Later that morning, at 7:40, seventeen Dauntless Dive Bombers (SBD's), escorted by eleven Wildcats (F4F-4's) and four Lightnings (P-38's), bombed MUNDA. A fire was started and a gun position was destroyed. Again, at 2:30 p.m., three Marauders (B-26's), escorted by six Aircobras (P-39's), bombed MUNDA. From these missions all of our planes returned.

On February 12th. a Catalina harassed VILA PLANTATION, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA, from 2:05 a.m. to 3:25 a.m.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. February 12, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 5 p.m. February 11th. four Marauders (B-26's), escorted by six Aircobras (P-39's) and three Lightnings (P-38's), bombed VILA PLANTATION, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. A large fire was started. One enemy plane was shot down.

The Submarine GATO reports sinking an enemy cargo vessel in BOUGAINVILLE STRAIT on January 29th.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

A U.S. Cargo Vessel (Liberty Ship) was torpedoed on February 9th. 160 miles east by south of SIDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. February 11, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 10:45 a.m. on February 11th. four Marauders (B-26's), escorted by two Lightnings (P-38's) and eight Aircobras (P-39's), attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Fires were started in the vicinity of bivouac areas. No aircraft opposition was encountered. Although our planes received heavy anti-aircraft fire, they all returned to their base.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 11, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On February 9th. the Japanese forces on GUADALCANAL ceased all organized resistance. A junction was effected between our main body of troops and our enveloping force east of CAPE ESPERANCE. Operations against isolated groups of enemy resistance are continuing. The organization of our beach defenses is about completed. We are progressing with the salvage and recovery of captured enemy equipment.

On February 10th. a GUADALCANAL reconnaissance plane shot down a medium twin-engine bomber over CHOISEUL ISLAND.

On the night of February 9th.-10th. a Catalina executed harassing attacks on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

On February 10th. our planes again attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. All planes returned.

PACIFIC

The Submarine TUNNY, returning from patrol of the EAST CHINA SEA, reports sinking one 6,600-ton enemy cargo vessel and damaging 25,000 tons of enemy shipping.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 10, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

In all sectors on GUADALCANAL the enemy withdrew whenever pressure was applied. Our ground troops advanced to one-half mile west of the SEGILAU RIVER against light opposition. Our patrols are active in the vicinity of DOMA COVE. Troops commencing operations several days ago from NUGU POINT (northwest coast of GUADALCANAL) have advanced to VISALE. A large amount of enemy equipment has been captured, including boats, new anti-tank guns, personnel land mines, and ordnance equipment including a spherical gas bomb. The remaining enemy forces are now confined to about ten miles of the coast line.

At 5:35 p.m. on February 9th. two Marauders (B-26's), escorted by three Lightnings (P-38's), and six Aircobras (P-40's), bombed VILA PLANTATION, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group, with unknown results.

At 5:30 p.m. on the same day nine Dauntless Dive Bombers, sixteen Wildcats and three Lightnings attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A large fire was started.

Two Aircobras strafed and sank an enemy barge off HOOPER BAY, RUSSELL ISLANDS. Drums (apparently fuel) were also destroyed north of BAISEN ISLAND, RUSSELL ISLANDS.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 9, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.).

On February 7th.-8th. our ground troops on GUADALCANAL advanced their line along the UMASANI RIVER. In this movement 14 Japanese were killed, 1 captured, and a large radio station came into our possession.

Our position at TITI has been consolidated and reconnaissance from there continues. Our outpost line in this sector is now 500 yards northeast of MAROVOVO MISSION. In this forward push 20 Japanese were killed.

Our air forces bombed MUNDA Airfield, NEW GEORGIA, on February 8th. Results were undetermined.

The Submarine SWORDFISH, while on war patrol in the Southwest Pacific, has been damaged by bombs and is now en route under own power to PEARL HARBOR.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 8, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On February 7th. bad weather in the SOLOMONS AREA prevented air attacks on enemy positions. However, in the late afternoon 15 Dauntless Dive Bombers and 20 Grumman Fighters attacked 19 Japanese destroyers 20 miles south of RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group (approximately 180 miles northwest of HENDERSON FIELD, GUADALCANAL). Hits were reported on two destroyers and two of the fifteen Zeros escorting the formation were shot down. All of our planes returned. A delay, due to local bad weather, forced a cancellation of a follow-up attack on this surface force.

It was reported on February 7th. that the Submarine GROWLER, on war patrol in the SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, had been rammed by an enemy ship. Her bow and forward torpedo tubes were wrecked. Casualties were reported. She is returning, under her own power, to her base.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 7, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Operations on GUADALCANAL limited to patrol activity are progressing satisfactorily. Our forces have established a strong position in the vicinity of TITI (one half mile west of MOROVOVO).

A delayed report indicates that patrol planes from the aircraft carrier SARATOGA destroyed four type 1 Mitsubishi bombers between February 2nd and February 4th.

On the morning of February 6th small groups of our planes bombed VILLA PLANTATION, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4:30 p.m. February 6, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the forenoon of February 5th. an enemy force was reported 400 miles southeast of TRUK consisting of two aircraft carriers, one battleship, four cruisers, and twelve destroyers heading 240^o, speed 25. Up to this time no further information on this force has been received.

On February 6th. at 5 p.m. eleven Dauntless Dive Bombers, escorted by twenty-two Wildcats (F4F-4's), bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, with undetermined results. All of our planes returned.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. February 5, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of February 3rd. GUADALCANAL was raided twice by single enemy planes.

The advance to the northwest on GUADALCANAL continues with patrol units operating as far forward as the UMASANI RIVER.

Delayed reports indicate that MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, was attacked by our planes on the morning and evening of February 3rd. Dive bombers with fighter escort bombed VILA PLANTATION, KOLOMBANGARA, NEW GEORGIA Group, on the morning of February 3rd.

A flying fortress on a search mission was attacked by three Zeros. One enemy plane was shot down and our plane damaged.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. February 5, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the morning of February 4th. MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, was bombed by twelve Dauntless Dive Bombers (SBD's). Hits were scored on runway revetments, dispersal areas, and on a pier. Several fires were started.

Incomplete reports indicate that at 4 p.m. February 4th. thirteen Avenger Torpedo Planes and seven Dauntless Dive Bombers, escorted by eight Aircobras (P-40's), four Lightnings (P-38's), and fifteen Wildcats (F4F-4's), attacked a formation of 20 enemy destroyers protected by 25 Zeros about 200 miles northwest of LUNGA, GUADALCANAL. One enemy destroyer is reported sunk and another badly damaged. Later, a destroyer was observed burning badly. Seven Zeros were shot down and five others probably destroyed. We lost four torpedo planes, one dive bomber, and one fighter.

Later, at 5:30 p.m. thirteen Dauntless Dive Bombers, escorted by ten Wildcats and four Warhawks, attacked 18 enemy destroyers covered by 25 Zeros. Two hits were scored on one destroyer and one hit on another. Ten enemy planes were shot down and two others probably destroyed. We lost three fighters and one dive bomber is missing.

On GUADALCANAL our troops have advanced one-half mile beyond TASSAFARONGA. A force of our troops landed at VERAHUE, northwest coast of GUADALCANAL, and advanced without opposition to TITI (one-half mile west of MAROVOVO) where they established contact with a strong enemy force of approximately 1,000 troops.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 4, 1943 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Submarine TAUTOG, returning from patrol of the BANDA SEA, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, reports as follows:-

- December 25 - Probably sank one 5,000-ton enemy cargo vessel 15 miles northwest of DILLI, TIMOR.
- January 9 - Damaged with two torpedo hits a NATORI Class heavy cruiser off AMBON ISLAND.
- January 11 - Damaged a 5,000-ton naval auxiliary.
- January 22 - Sank a 1,900-ton passenger-freighter east of SALEIER STRAIT.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 4, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The following supplements the night action report of February 1st-2nd included in the morning Summary of February 3rd:-

Our motor torpedo boats engaged a number of enemy destroyers in the vicinity of CAPE ESPERANCE and sank one destroyer definitely and probably another. A third destroyer was damaged. We lost three motor torpedo boats instead of five as previously reported.

An analysis of air and motor torpedo boat reports indicates that probably three destroyers were sunk out of a force of more than twenty that were engaged in the reinforcement operation.

On the night of February 1st-2nd five enemy raids were made on GUADALCANAL by groups of one to four planes. A bomber strip was damaged. Enemy planes again raided GUADALCANAL on the night of February 2nd. Casualties or damage, if any, were not reported.

Our troops on GUADALCANAL have advanced to elevated positions *ie beyond Tassafaronga* beyond the BONEGI RIVER. Considerable enemy equipment has been captured. Our patrols accounted for 39 Japanese on February 2nd. Sixteen enemy barges were strafed by one of our fighters near ARULIGO POINT, northwest coast of GUADALCANAL.

On February 2nd at 5:10 p.m. six Flying Fortresses (B-17's), escorted by seven Lightnings (P-38's) and three Warhawks (P-40's), bombed and scored hits on a large enemy cargo vessel off SHORTLAND ISLAND. The vessel was left listing and burning fiercely. Our planes were intercepted by twenty enemy fighters. Nine or possibly ten enemy planes were shot down. All of our planes returned.

On the evening of February 2nd a force of dive bombers and torpedo planes attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, starting several fires and explosions.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. February 3, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 8 a.m. February 2nd. 10 Dauntless Dive Bombers and 11 Avenger Torpedo Planes, escorted by 20 Wildcat Fighters, attacked 16 enemy destroyers 19 miles northeast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. One 500-lb. bomb hit was scored on one destroyer and near misses on another. One of our torpedo planes was damaged by anti-aircraft fire and its gunner killed.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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08D Let's go

9 a.m. February 3, 1943

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Our advance to the northwest on GUADALCANAL against stiff enemy resistance continues. The BONEGI RIVER was crossed. On February 1st. 60 Japanese were killed. *most successful*

On the night of February 1st.-2nd. our forces at GUADALCANAL sank at least one enemy destroyer and damaged several more of a group of 20 destroyers attempting to reinforce GUADALCANAL.

On the morning of February 2nd. 19 enemy destroyers were observed approaching FAISI, SHORTLAND AREA, including one destroyer in tow. Five of our motor torpedo boats have been lost in a night action off CAPE ESPERANCE, GUADALCANAL.

On February 1st. there were at least 20 enemy planes destroyed. We lost 10 planes.

In a raid by the enemy on GUADALCANAL at noon February 1st. one bomb hit was scored on a bomber strip.

At about 5 p.m. January 29th. the S.S. SAMUEL GOMPERS was torpedoed and sank about 115 miles south of NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA.

The Submarine GREENLING, returning from patrol of waters in the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO, in addition to damages previously reported, reports as follows:-

January 10th. - Damaged by torpedo an empty tanker.
January 16th. - Sank by gunfire a small escort tug.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

S. P. L. S. (1)
888 Letter P. E. T.

9 a.m. February 2, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Delayed reports indicate that:-

On January 26th. Army planes bombed and scored near misses on an enemy cargo vessel at TARAWA ISLAND, GILBERT ISLAND Group.

At 9:50 a.m. January 30th. MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, was bombed by four Marauders (B-26's) and again at 1:45 p.m. the same date by Marauders and Flying Fortresses (B-17's). Fires were started.

On January 31st. one of our destroyers shelled four enemy barges off CAPE ESPERANCE, GUADALCANAL. Our ground troops on GUADALCANAL continued to advance, thoroughly mopping up pockets of enemy resistance.

An incomplete report indicates that about 3:30 p.m. February 1st. 10 enemy dive bombers, escorted by 30 Zeros, attacked and sank the Destroyer DEHAVEN off CAPE ESPERANCE, GUADALCANAL. Three enemy bombers and twelve Zeros were shot down. Two of our fighter planes were shot down.

On February 1st. at 8 a.m. Twelve Dauntless Dive Bombers (SBD's) and four Avengers (torpedo planes), escorted by seven Wildcats (F4F-4), bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. We lost two of our dive bombers.

On February 1st. 17 Dive Bombers and 7 Torpedo Planes escorted by 4 Lightnings (P-38's), 4 Warhawks (P-40's), 4 Airacobras (P-39's), and 5 Wildcats (F4F-4's), attacked a formation of four enemy destroyers (locality not reported, but probably in NORTHERN SOLOMONS AREA). Numerous hits were scored and two destroyers are believed sunk. A third destroyer was left afire. Our torpedo planes were attacked by 10 Zeros. Two Zeros were shot down. One of our fighter planes is missing.

Early on January 29th. a force of 400 light-armed Japanese landed at BAISEN ISLAND (northeast RUSSELL ISLANDS Group).

The Submarine GUARDFISH reports sinking two enemy destroyers off NEW HANOVER, BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO, and an enemy transport off RABAU.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. February 1, 1943.

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SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 8:40 a.m. February 1st. nine Flying Fortresses (B-17's), escorted by five Warhawks (P-40's) and four Lightnings (P-38's), bombed a large enemy cargo vessel off SHORTLAND ISLAND. Three direct hits were scored. All of our planes returned although four Fortresses were damaged by heavy anti-aircraft fire.

A second wave of four Flying Fortresses despatched to attack shipping at BUIN, SHORTLAND AREA, were attacked by 20 Zeros. Three of our planes are missing. The fourth returned badly damaged.

PACIFIC

The Submarine TROUT reports sinking on January 11th. an enemy tanker of the KOKUYO Class (10,020 tons) at its moorings in six fathoms of water at MIRI, northwest coast of BORNEO.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. February 1, 1943 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

was strafed and left apparently burning. The cargo vessel and destroyer were left dead in the water burning and listing. Eight Zeros and two float Zeros attempted to intercept. Three Zeros and the two float Zeros were shot down. Two of our fighters were lost, in addition to one dive bomber, which crashed and burned upon returning. The crew of the crashed plane was rescued.

The Submarine NAUTILUS, returning from patrol of BOUGAINVILLE STRAITS, southern end of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, reports as follows:-

Sank one destroyer and probably sank two transports.
Damaged one heavy cruiser and one tanker.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. February 1, 1943.

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SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Supplementing the report of the night torpedo attack on TASK FORCE 18 mentioned in the afternoon Summary of January 30th.:-

Enemy planes, introducing new employment of marking flares, flashing float lights, and marker planes attacked TASK FORCE 18, less the Auxiliary Carriers SUWANEE, SANGAMON, and CHENANGO, and two destroyers from 7:22 p.m. to 10:35 p.m. January 29th. The CHICAGO received two torpedo hits in the engineering spaces killing 4 officers, 51 men, and wounding 2 officers, 21 men. The CHICAGO was taken in tow immediately by the LOUISVILLE.

The following day at 4:30 p.m. the CHICAGO, in tow of the NAVAJO and in company with six destroyers, was proceeding at six knots toward ESPIRITU SANTO when she was again attacked and sunk, as reported in the afternoon Summary of January 31st.

On January 28th. our troops on GUADALCANAL killed 62 and captured 22 Japanese.

In the early morning of January 29th. enemy aircraft dropped about seven bombs in addition to fragmentary and incendiary clusters on GUADALCANAL. Casualties or damage, if any, have not been reported. One of our fighters shot down one enemy plane.

At 8:45 a.m. January 29th. a force of MARAUDERS (B-26's) bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. VILA-PLANTATION, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group, was also bombed by MARAUDERS at 1:50 p.m.

On January 31st. at 2 p.m. a strong fighter sweep was made over MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, and VILA-PLANTATION.

At 5:45 p.m. January 31st. twelve Dauntless Dive Bombers and seven Avenger Torpedo Planes, escorted by six Wildcats (F4F-4's) and eight Aircobras (P-39's), attacked a formation of one enemy destroyer, one corvette, and a large cargo vessel of 6,000 tons in VELA GULF, west side of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA. One torpedo hit, three direct 1,000-lb. bomb hits, and three near misses were scored on the cargo vessel, and two 500-lb. bomb hits on the destroyer. The corvette

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. January 31, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Further reports indicate that at about 4:30 p.m. January 30th. in a position 130 miles south southeast of GUADALCANAL a Task Group consisting of the Heavy Cruiser CHICAGO being towed by the Fleet Tug NAVAJO, escorted by an unknown number of destroyers, was attacked by 13 Mitsubishi two-engine type enemy bombers armed with torpedoes. The Carrier ENTERPRISE was in a position 50 miles southeast of this Task Group. Ten fighter planes from the ENTERPRISE reached the vicinity of the action too late to prevent the attack, but succeeded in shooting down twelve of the thirteen enemy planes. The CHICAGO and the Destroyer LAVALETTE received torpedo hits. The CHICAGO sank. The LAVALETTE, damaged, was taken in tow by the NAVAJO.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. January 31, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On January 30th. at 9:50 a.m. four Marauders (B-26's) escorted by seven Aircobras (P-39's) bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A small fire was started.

On January 30th. from 4:45 a.m. to 5:12 a.m. two enemy submarines shelled CANTON ISLAND. Apparently the Panair Hotel was the primary objective and three shells fell in the vicinity. There was no damage to buildings and no casualties. Two hits were scored on the grounded Army Transport TAYLOR. The enemy's fire was not returned.

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4 p.m. January 30, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Incomplete reports indicate that Task Force 18 to which the heavy cruiser CHICAGO is attached was subjected to heavy enemy bombing at about 8 p.m., January 29th 70 miles south of GUADALCANAL. The CHICAGO has been damaged and is under tow of the heavy cruiser LOUISVILLE. The bombing attack was reported as still going on at 9 p.m., January 29th.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRETDESIGNATED
05D Let. 1003
SECRET

9 a.m. January 29, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On January 27th. GUADALCANAL ground operations resulted in the capture of a large enemy command post. Thirty-six Japanese were killed and three prisoners taken, in addition to a large amount of enemy equipment. Two enemy pockets, one to the west and one to the south, were eliminated. Due to difficult terrain our advance in the right zone is continuing slowly.

Between 10:20 and 11:45 a.m. January 27th., enemy dive bombers and high-level bombers, escorted by fighters, approached GUADALCANAL. Our fighters engaged the enemy. Incomplete reports indicate nine Zeros destroyed, and, in addition, six were probably destroyed. The bombers, apparently driven off, did not drop any bombs. Four of our planes are missing.

At 3:20 p.m. on January 28th., five Marauders (B-26's), escorted by twelve Aircobras (P-39's), bombed VILA PLANTATION, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. A large fire was started. All of our planes returned.

At 3:20 p.m. January 28th., twelve Dauntless Dive Bombers and four Avenger Torpedo Planes, escorted by two Lightnings (P-38's), six Warhawks (P-40's), and seven Wildcats (F4F-4's), attacked enemy ships about 15 miles northeast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. A torpedo plane scored one hit on an enemy destroyer, causing a large explosion. Our dive bombers scored a hit and a near miss on a cargo vessel and near misses on a tanker. The latter two vessels were left dead in the water with the tanker smoking. Four Zeros attempted to intercept. One Zero was shot down. All of our planes returned.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

082 Letter **SECRET**

5 p.m. January 28, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the evening of January 27th. nine Dauntless (dive bombers) and five Avengers (torpedo planes), escorted by Wildcats (Navy fighters), attacked an enemy destroyer and a cargo vessel in the area between VELLA LAVELLA ISLAND and KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Two hits were scored on the cargo vessel and near misses on the destroyer. The destroyer was left smoking and the cargo vessel was observed sinking.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DEC 28 1943
08D Let

9 a.m. January 28, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On January 26th. our GUADALCANAL ground forces continued their advance northwest and west of the POHA RIVER despite heavy enemy resistance. Five prisoners were taken and forty Japanese were killed. Considerable equipment was captured.

On January 25th. the Submarine WAHOO in a running gun and torpedo battle midway between NEW GUINEA and TRUK sank two enemy cargo vessels, one oiler, and one transport. The following day the submarine was engaged in another action with a six-ship convoy escorted by destroyers. Results of this engagement have not been reported.

SECRET

from Colonel Boone xx Jap ambassador Berlin implies
his government to consider an attack on Russia and
effect a closer war plans liaison with Germany x
other indications point to increased interest by
Tokyo in our contacts with Russians by land sea
and air in North Pacific as well as Russian
strengths and weather conditions Siberia x

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET
05D Letter

5 p.m. January 27, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

In the early evening of January 26th. twelve Dauntless (Douglas Dive Bombers), escorted by twelve Grumman Fighters (Wildcats) and eight Aircobras (P-39's), dropped 8 - 1000-lb., 4 - 500-lb., and 6 - 100-lb. bombs on anti-aircraft installations and revetments at MUNDA Airfield, NEW GEORGIA. All of our planes returned.

COMMONS FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
JSD

9 a.m. January 27, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At dusk on January 26th., seven Flying Fortresses (B-17's) from GUADALCANAL bombed the airfield at BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA, dropping 55 - 500-lb. bombs which covered one-half of the runway and revetment area. Fires were started in the revetments. Only light anti-aircraft fire was received.

Japanese planes were over ESPIRITU SANTO.

PACIFIC

On January 25th. six B-24's (Liberators) conducted a photographic reconnaissance of WAKE ISLAND. Photographs were obtained but, because of cloud conditions, are of undetermined value. The flight was intercepted by eight Zeros, two of which are believed to have been shot down. Only minor damage was inflicted on our aircraft. Our personnel were unscathed. All of our planes returned safely to MIDWAY.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
DECEMBER 1943
085 Letter # 10

9 a.m. January 26, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of January 25th. eight Grumman fighters (Wildcats) and six P-38's (Lightnings) contacted at 18,000 feet 40 Zeros, including Type #2 Zero, between LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL, and SAVO ISLAND. Behind the Zeros were many dive bombers, exact number unknown, and 18 twin-engine bombers.

The twin-engine bombers turned toward TULAGI, FLORIDA ISLAND, and hid in the clouds. The dive bombers were prevented from coming into position over GUADALCANAL by our fighters. The Wildcats shot down three Zeros and the Lightnings one Zero. The Japanese bombers never pressed home the attack and dropped no bombs.

All of our planes returned safely.

At KOKUMBONA on January 24th. units of the right division made a junction with the left division, which took this place on January 23rd. This effectively eliminated an enemy pocket between their fronts. The beach head is now open to KOKUMBONA. This operation resulted in the capture of a large number of guns and ammunition.

Continuous pressure is being exerted to eliminate remaining pockets of enemy resistance.

Yesterday's operations resulted in killing 293 Japanese and 5 were taken prisoner.

The Submarine WAHOO reports sinking one Japanese Destroyer off WEWAK, NEW GUINEA.

COMMCHIEF FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 25, 1943.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
98D Letters

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During January 23rd. MUNDA Airfield, NEW GEORGIA, was bombed in successive waves by our air forces from GUADALCANAL. This was in preparation of the surface shelling of VILA-STANMORE, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA, by units of TASK FORCE 67, which operation was reported yesterday and is again confirmed as highly successful.

At 8 a.m. on January 24th., six hours after the surface shelling of VILA-STANMORE AREA, a total of 61 Dauntless (Douglas Dive Bombers), Avengers (Grumman Torpedo Planes), and Wildcats (fighters) swept over the VILA-STANMORE AREA and dropped 48 light and 92 medium bombs. The dock there was destroyed and the only two anti-aircraft positions which opened fire were silenced. Fires from the surface shelling by our ships were still burning, and the indications are that the VILA-STANMORE AREA was completely burned out. Air observation during the surface shelling reports only one salvo of all shells fired fell in the water. The remainder fell in the target area. It is also reported that on the way back from the shelling our surface bombardment group was attacked by enemy planes. One plane was shot down.

A large enemy destroyer and cargo ship were attacked and damaged on January 23rd. by our air forces. This occurred in the SHORTLAND AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On the night of January 23rd. Japanese planes raided GUADALCANAL for the third successive night.

On January 21st. the Submarine GATO set fire to a Japanese transport ship in the SHORTLAND AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On January 23rd. our ground forces on GUADALCANAL by very aggressive action captured KOKUMBONA. A large amount of rice, field pieces and miscellaneous equipment fell into our hands. Various other pockets of enemy resistance are being mopped up and reduced. In one pocket captured material amounted to 28 machine guns and 62 rifles. During the last 24 hours 91 Japanese have been killed and 40 taken prisoner.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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08D Letter

10 a.m. January 24, 1943 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Additional reports of enemy raids on GUADALCANAL on the night of January 22nd.-23rd. indicate there were eight raids by groups of one, two, or three planes. At least 20 bombs, including 1000-lb. and 500-lb., were dropped. One man was killed and a Catalina and a Marauder damaged.

Three enemy two-engine bombers dropped approximately 15 or 20 bombs on our positions on GUADALCANAL between 10:50 and 11:20 p.m. January 23rd. Damage and casualties are not known.

On the night of January 22nd.-23rd. ESPIRITU SANTO was again bombed. No details have been received.

The bombardment of VILA-STANMORE, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group, by units of TASK FORCE 67 consisting of two light cruisers and three destroyers, and scheduled for 2 a.m. January 24th. is reported as successfully executed. Several large fires were started which were visible from a distance of 25 miles. Apparently the enemy had stored large dumps of fuel and munitions. Explosions kept occurring as the fires spread. A total of 2,044 rounds of 6" and 1,721 rounds of 5" ammunition was expended. There were no casualties.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

S E C R E T

OSD Letter, 1001

10 a.m. January 24, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Reconnaissance reports indicate that MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, improvements are continuing at high speed.

On January 23rd. MUNDA was bombed as follows:-

A Catalina (PBY) dropped four 500-lb. bombs at 4 a.m. A large explosion, believed to be an ammunition dump, was observed.

At noon six Marauders (B-26's) and eight Dauntless Dive Bombers (SBD's), escorted by twelve Wildcats (F4F-4's) and twelve Aircobras (P-39's), dropped 90 - 100-lb., 3 - 500-lb., and 5 - 1000-lb. bombs. Anti-aircraft positions were silenced. All our planes returned without damage.

At 2 p.m. eight Flying Fortresses (B-17's), escorted by five Lightnings (P-38's), dropped 60 - 500-lb. bombs. Several fires were started.

At 5 p.m. eight Marauders, escorted by ten Aircobras, dropped 84 - 100-lb. bombs. All our planes returned.

On January 22nd. at 6:30 a.m. the REKATA BAY AREA was bombed by Flying Fortresses. Fires resulted.

Also at 6:30 a.m. January 22nd. Dive Bombers with fighter escorts attacked two enemy cargo vessels off VELLA LAVELLA (northern island of NEW GEORGIA Group). No hits were scored.

On January 23rd. at 7:45 p.m. a Flying Fortress dropped 17 - 100-lb. bombs on KAHILI, SHORTLAND AREA. Later, at 8 p.m. the same Fortress dropped two 100-lb. bombs on BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA.

On GUADALCANAL our ground forces killed 145 Japanese between January 20th. and 22nd. A Dauntless Dive Bomber on a bombing mission to TASSAFARONGA, GUADALCANAL, failed to return.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET
U.S. Letter

9 a.m. January 23, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL mopping up and patrol operations continue.

On the night of January 22nd.-23rd. enemy planes were over GUADALCANAL. The extent of damage, if any, has not been reported.

COMMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 22, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

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QSD Letter
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In the early morning of January 21st, an enemy plane believed to have been a Mitsubishi 97 dropped approximately eight 60-kilo (132.76 lbs.) bombs on ESPIRITU SANTO. There were no casualties or damage.

There are enemy convoy movements in the NORTHERN SOLOMONS. At 9:30 a.m. January 21st, our aircraft sighted a convoy of four enemy cargo vessels escorted by two destroyers north of CAPE FRIENDSHIP, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On the same day at 11:45 a.m., a Flying Fortress (B-17) attacked two enemy cargo vessels escorted by two destroyers northwest of VELLA LAVELLA (northern island of NEW GEORGIA Group). No hits were scored.

On the night of January 20-21st, harassing attacks were made by Flying Fortresses on BALLALE, SHORTLAND Area, and MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

On GUADALCANAL our troops are mopping up pockets of enemy resistance and in some sectors continue to advance.

There are indications that the Japanese are still getting supplies through to their troops on GUADALCANAL. Barrels were found floating off TASSAFARONGA, GUADALCANAL.

Single enemy planes dropped bombs at irregular intervals in the vicinity of HENDERSON FIELD from 8:20 p.m. January 21st to 4:15 a.m. January 22nd. Anti-aircraft fire brought down one enemy plane. Incomplete reports indicate that damage to our installations was light. Three men are known to have been killed and one wounded.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 21, 1943 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Submarine GRAMPUS later that day sank two enemy transports in the same convoy that was attacked by the ARGONAUT.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 21, 1943.

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SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 3:30 a.m. January 20th. two Marauders (B-26's) bombed and scored one 500-lb. bomb hit on an enemy destroyer off CAPE FRIENDSHIP, SHORTLAND AREA.

On the same day at about 8:30 a.m. in the SHORTLAND AREA six Flying Fortresses (B-17's), escorted by fighters, attacked an enemy cargo vessel. Three Flying Fortresses bombed another cargo vessel escorted by two destroyers. No hits were scored in either attack. A number of enemy Zeros and float biplanes attempted to intercept. Eight of these were shot down. One of our fighters crashed and four Flying Fortresses were damaged. A pilot and a bombardier were wounded.

On January 19th. at 3:07 p.m. an enemy force of one heavy cruiser and seven destroyers was sighted north of VELLA LA VELLA, northern island of NEW GEORGIA group, on a southeasterly course. Apparently these ships were en route to GUADALCANAL under a weather front. An air striking group despatched to intercept was unable to locate its primary target and at 4:45 p.m. bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

At 9:20 a.m. January 21st. MUNDA was bombed by three Marauders. Results were unobserved.

A Flying Fortress on a reconnaissance mission on January 19th. shot down two enemy Zeros and one probable.

The Submarine SWORDFISH reports scoring two hits on an enemy cargo vessel in an escorted convoy north of TONOLEI, SHORTLAND AREA, on January 19th.

On the same day the Submarine NAUTILUS scored one hit on an enemy heavy cruiser (MOGAMI Class) south of BOUGAINVILLE.

The Submarine SILVERSIDES reports three hits on a loaded tanker and five hits on three enemy cargo vessels in the vicinity of TRUK. Action on the part of the escorts prevented observation of results. In addition, one enemy submarine is reported sunk.

The Submarine ARGONAUT is overdue and considered sunk. Apparently the ARGONAUT was sunk by depth charge and gunfire about 80 miles south of RABAU on January 10th. while attacking an enemy convoy composed of two destroyers and five other ships. One of the enemy destroyers was torpedoed. This action was observed by a U.S. Army plane.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

TO: C. I. S. S. F. W. H. T.
FROM: S. S. F. W. H. T.
U. S. D. S. S. F. W. H. T.

9 a.m. January 20, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 2:10 p.m. January 19th. eight Flying Fortresses (B-17's), escorted by fighters, scored two direct hits on an enemy cargo vessel anchored in the SHORTLAND AREA. The ship was set on fire. Our fighter escort shot down two enemy float Zeros in the vicinity. One of our fighters is missing.

On GUADALCANAL it is reported that during the period from January 13th. to 17th. 1,032 of the enemy have been killed.

PACIFIC

The Submarine GREENLING reports sinking a loaded enemy cargo vessel and its escort on January 16th. in the vicinity of NEW HANOVER, BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. January 19, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Three of our submarines returning from patrol areas report as follows:-

The TRIGGER, in addition to laying a minefield off INUBOE ZAKI, HONSHU (JAPANESE EMPIRE), sank one destroyer, one seaplane tender, and two cargo vessels.

The TRITON damaged a tanker on January 13th. and in an attack on a convoy on January 16th. scored two hits on a large cargo vessel and one hit on a small cargo vessel.

The WHALE sank two combined cargo and passenger vessels in the MARSHALLS and CAROLINES AREAS.

COMMING FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

DELIVERED TO
08D Lt. Col. C. B. T.

9 a.m. January 18, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of January 15th. a Flying Fortress (B-17) dropped eight 500-lb. bombs on BALLALE, SHORTLANDS AREA. The following afternoon and evening this area was bombed twice by Flying Fortresses and a large fire visible for 50 miles was started.

Three Catalinas (PBY's) dropped twelve 500-lb. bombs on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, on the night of January 15th.

Five Flying Fortresses bombed KAHILI, SHORTLANDS AREA, from 7:40 p.m. to 8:25 p.m. January 16th. Six 200-lb. and sixteen 500-lb. bombs were dropped. After the bombing two large fires were visible for 50 miles. Although enemy planes were airborne, they did not attack. Later that night Catalinas again bombed the area, starting additional fires.

On GUADALCANAL our ground troops are engaged in mopping up pockets of enemy resistance. The attack is progressing satisfactorily. In addition to 19 prisoners being taken approximately 150 of the enemy were killed, and arms and ammunition destroyed.

COMMON FILE

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 17, 1943

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL our reconnaissance in force continues to advance. Small gains were made against strong enemy resistance. An enemy force of about one regiment is partially surrounded in the vicinity of MOUNT AUSTEN.

Enemy planes raided GUADALCANAL at 7:57 p.m. and 8:50 p.m. January 15th. In between these raids a single enemy plane sneaked in with a formation of our planes and dropped bombs near the airfield. Three of our men were slightly injured and one fighter damaged as a result of this sneak bombing.

Japanese planes were again over GUADALCANAL on the night of January 16th.

At 12:55 p.m. January 16th., six Marauders (B-26's), escorted by eight Aircobras (P-39's) and four Warhawks (P-40's), bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A considerable amount of smoke was seen in the target area after the bombs landed in the vicinity of the runway. A variety of anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

PACIFIC

The Submarine KINGFISH, returning from patrol of the EAST CHINA SEA, reports sinking 14,000 tons of enemy shipping.

COMMENCE FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

5 p.m. January 16, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 7:35 and 8:35 p.m. January 14th. enemy bombers attacked GUADALCANAL. Although there was no damage to our installations, personnel casualties were suffered. Incomplete reports indicate 10 dead, 5 seriously injured, and an undetermined number of shrapnel injuries.

The Destroyer SHAW, which grounded on January 10th. in BULARI PASSAGE, NEW CALEDONIA, has been floated and dry-docked. Examination discloses extensive damage to the bottom, but her structural strength has not been seriously impaired. It is planned to make the vessel watertight and sail or tow her to PEARL HARBOR in about two weeks.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. January 16, 1943 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL our reconnaissance in force, supported by air, continues to advance. An additional 3,000 to 4,000 yards have been gained against stiff enemy resistance. A force of 200 Japanese has been surrounded on the northwest slope of MOUNT AUSTEN, GUADALCANAL. On January 15th, one of our planes patrolling in the vicinity of LUNGA, GUADALCANAL, shot down three enemy Zeros.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

10 a.m. January 16, 1943 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

This reconnaissance plane reported the following enemy vessels in the FAISI AREA:-

- 1 Light Cruiser,
- 1 Transport,
- 2 Cargo Vessels,
- 4 Flying Boats, and
- Some small craft.

Twelve enemy float Zero planes were airborne, but did not attack. Anti-aircraft fire was encountered from ship and shore batteries.

At 3:40 p.m., January 15th., nine Flying Fortresses escorted by four Aircobras, four Warhawks (P-40's), and six Lightnings (P-38's), dropped 72 - 500-lb. bombs on five enemy destroyers 37 miles southeast of FAISI. No hits were scored. However, twelve enemy float biplanes in the vicinity were shot down. All of our planes returned. The enemy surface forces continued on course 300°.

Later in the afternoon of January 15th. twelve Dauntless Dive Bombers, escorted by seven Wildcats and six Aircobras, were despatched to bomb the five enemy destroyers previously attacked by the Flying Fortresses. The dive bombers were unable to locate their targets, but at 5:45 p.m. sighted and bombed an enemy cargo vessel 37 miles northwest of MUNDA. Two hits and four very near misses were scored and the ship set on fire. Our fighters shot down seven of twelve enemy zeros that attempted to intercept. One Wildcat is missing.

A Flying Fortress on an evening reconnaissance flight January 15th. sighted the following enemy vessels in the SHORTLANDS AREA:-

- 6 Destroyers,
- 1 Transport,
- 4 Cargo vessels.

At 5:50 p.m. one destroyer, escorting two enemy cargo vessels, was sighted 12 miles off the southeast coast of CHOISEIL ISLAND on course 300°, speed 15. At 6 p.m. two additional destroyers were sighted about 37 miles northwest of MUNDA on course 300°, speed 25.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. January 16, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of January 14th-15th. a Catalina (PBY) sighted five enemy destroyers escorting three cargo vessels 135 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL. The enemy force was tracked to SAVO ISLAND. Later, at 12:30 a.m. two enemy ships were observed burning and underway at 20 knots on a northwest course in the vicinity of CAPE ESPERANCE. Apparently these ships were attacked by our forces at sometime prior to 12:30 a.m., January 15th. Contact with the enemy force was lost by the search plane when about 65 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL.

At 12:38 a.m., January 15th., another Catalina search plane sighted and attacked five enemy destroyers 16 miles northeast of RUSSELL ISLAND. Four 500-lb. bombs were dropped, scoring one hit and two near misses on one ship, which started to burn. Two additional enemy destroyers were observed between SAVO and RUSSELL ISLANDS. These ships are believed to have been leaving the GUADALCANAL AREA when sighted.

Later that morning, at 7:35 a.m., fifteen Dauntless Dive Bombers (SBD's), escorted by twelve Wildcats (F4F-4's) and four Aircobras (P-39's), attacked nine enemy destroyers 140 miles northwest of LUNGA, GUADALCANAL. Twelve enemy land Zeros attempted to intercept, of which eight were shot down. One of our dive bombers was forced down and five fighters are missing. Our dive bombers pressed home the bombing attack and heavily damaged two enemy destroyers.

A Flying Fortress (B-17) on a photographic reconnaissance mission sighted, at 8:45 a.m. January 15th., two large enemy destroyers stopped and one possibly smoking, screened by three other destroyers, in a position about 150 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL. These ships, when approached by our aircraft, got underway and when last seen at 10:15 a.m. 50-miles west of their previous position were making good about six knots on a course of 300°.

A second group of enemy destroyers was sighted by the same plane at 9:50 a.m. approximately 200 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL on course 300°, speed upwards of 30 knots.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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SECRET
OBD Letter
10-72

9 a.m. January 15, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A Catalina (PBY) dropped four 500-lb. bombs and eight mortar shells on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA on the night of January 13th.-14th. Results were unobserved. Although heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered, our plane returned without damage.

SORUM Village (three miles east of BUNA Airdrome) was bombed by a Catalina at 1 a.m. January 14th.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 14, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Supplementing the report of the motor torpedo boat engagement with enemy destroyers on the night of January 10th.-11th., a further report states that eight enemy destroyers were on the scene of action. Our forces scored three torpedo hits on two enemy ships and possibly two more on a third.

Our ground forces observed enemy troop movements from the northwest coast toward KOKUMBONA which probably indicates that the Japanese completed at least a partially successful landing by means of small boats loaded with troops towed by four of the destroyers. The following morning a large quantity of enemy supplies floating in the vicinity were destroyed.

The rainy conditions on GUADALCANAL are somewhat delaying our operations. However, our ground troops supported by the air force continue to advance. On January 12th. one of our dive bombers was shot down by enemy small arms anti-aircraft fire while dropping propaganda leaflets over enemy lines.

A report received indicates that at least twelve enemy aircraft on MUNDA Airfield were burned in a bombing attack by our forces on January 12th.

At 3 p.m. January 13th., six Marauders (B-26's), escorted by eight Aircobras (P-39's) and five Lightnings (P-38's), bombed REKATA BAY. Due to poor visibility, results of the attack are unknown.

On January 13th. a reconnaissance plane over BUIN Harbor, SHORTLANDS AREA, observed fourteen enemy ships, including at least four cargo vessels. On the same day at 9:25 a.m. an enemy cargo ship escorted by a destroyer was observed north of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND proceeding on a southerly course.

Native reports indicate that enemy shipping is located in KESSA (QUEEN CAROLA Harbor, BUKA ISLAND).

On January 11th. a reconnaissance plane attached to the Southwest Pacific command reports sighting 62 ships, including a possible aircraft carrier, in SIMPSON Harbor (RABAUL, NEW BRITAIN).

The Submarine AMBERJACK reports possible damage to an enemy cargo ship southeast of SHORTLAND ISLAND on December 15th.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 13, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

There is no further report of results on the early morning action of January 11th. between enemy destroyers and our motor torpedo boats reported in the morning Summary of January 11th. However, it is believed by Commander South Pacific that the enemy force probably consisted of four destroyers with another force of four destroyers covering, though not sighted in the vicinity of the action.

Four enemy destroyers were observed returning to FAISI, SHORTLAND Area, and three straggling enemy destroyers were also seen at 3:20 p.m. on January 11th. about 70 miles southeast of SHORTLAND ISLAND. One ship in the second group was trailing oil.

On the morning of January 11th. a lone enemy raider over GUADALCANAL dropped five bombs on the area southwest of the airfield, killing one and wounding sixteen.

Offensive reconnaissance operations in force are continuing satisfactorily on GUADALCANAL. Some enemy strong points have been pocketed. Preparations are underway for a coordinated attack by the Twenty-Fifth Infantry Division and the Second Marine Division.

On the night of January 12-13th. a Catalina dropped four 500-lb. bombs and thirty mortar shells on MUNDA.

At 7:30 a.m. January 13th. six Marauders (B-26's), escorted by eight Aircobras (P-39's) and three Lightnings (P-38's) bombed MUNDA. Results were not determined. No air resistance was encountered. However, heavy anti-aircraft fire was observed. All of our planes returned without damage.

The Submarine GRAMPUS, patrolling north ST. GEORGE'S CHANNEL, reports the following:-

Sank one enemy cargo vessel and one enemy destroyer (date unknown).

On January 10th. sank two or possible three enemy transports.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. January 12, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On January 10th., at 6:15 a.m., while approaching NOUMEA, the U.S.S. SHAW, Destroyer, grounded in BULARI PASSAGE. The forward part of the ship is dry, but the engine and firerooms are flooded to about five feet and both screws are broken. While all salvage facilities are being employed to refloat the ship, there is a possibility that she may be lost.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. January 11, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Eleven Dauntless dive bombers (SBD's) and twelve Wildcats (Grumman's) from GUADALCANAL were attacked midway between the islands of SANTA ISABEL and NEW GEORGIA at 8:40 a.m. January 11th. by a force of twelve Japanese Zeros. Four Zeros were shot down and the probability of an additional two being destroyed appeared to be confirmed by later reports that only six Zeros landed at MUNDA Airfield. One Wildcat failed to return.

At 9:30 a.m. January 11th., five Marauders (B-26's) escorted by eight Aircobras (P-39's) were over MUNDA Airfield, NEW GEORGIA. Because the target was obscured by clouds, the damage inflicted by the few bombs dropped is unknown.

COMMON FILE

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. January 10, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 10:20 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. January 8th., three Marauders (B-26's) escorted by eight Aircobras (P-39's) and six Dauntless dive bombers (SBD's) bombed MUNDA Airfield, NEW GEORGIA.

Three fires were started and a direct hit was made on a gun emplacement. The dive bombers, concentrating upon another section of the field's anti-aircraft protection, silenced it but the extent of the damage is not known.

The raid revealed a new anti-aircraft emplacement on MBILIMBILI ISLAND, two miles east of MUNDA POINT.

During the night of January 8th-9th. MUNDA was bombed by our Catalina's (PBV's). One plane is believed to have scored a direct hit on an anti-aircraft battery of four guns on MUNDA POINT.

In both instances all of our planes returned safely.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 9, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 3:45 p.m. January 7th. six Marauders (B-26's) and twelve Aircobras (P-39's) attacked REKATA, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. A fire was started and two enemy float planes were damaged. Two of our planes were shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

A number of our planes strafed a camouflaged enemy sloop off KOLOKALE POINT (south coast of SANTA ISABEL ISLAND).

Native reports indicate that the recent bombings of BUKA, north end of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, damaged eleven twin-motored enemy planes and blasted a searchlight.

On the morning of January 8th. five Flying Fortresses (B-17's) bombed the villages of POKPOP, TOBROI, and PIDIA on BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Twelve Zeros attacked our bombers. Two Zeros were shot down. All of our planes returned, although three of our bombers were damaged. The bombing of these villages was undertaken at the request of a coast watcher who reported that the population had taken unfriendly action against him and were making his position untenable.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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January 7, 1942.

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MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN McCREA

O.N.I. estimates for Japanese merchant vessels sunk or damaged by U.S. submarines are as follows (gross tons):-

<u>Period</u>	<u>Sunk</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Total</u>
7 Dec-1 Jan 1943	823,165	800,000	1,623,165
7 Dec-1 Nov 1942	739,270	676,000	1,415,270
1 Oct-31 Oct 1942	110,991	62,000	172,991

C. M. Cooke, Jr.

C. M. COOKE, Jr.,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Assistant Chief of Staff (Plans).

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. January 7, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 7:30 a.m. January 7th. four Marauders (B-25's) dropped 50 - 100-lb. bombs on MUNDA Air Field, NEW GEORGIA. Two enemy anti-aircraft guns were possibly destroyed and an enemy bomber on the ground possibly damaged. Enemy anti-aircraft fire was light and inaccurate. Our planes returned undamaged.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 7, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 12:30 p.m. January 6th. eight Flying Fortresses (B-17's) escorted by four Lightnings (P-38's) and six Warhawks (P-40's) bombed an enemy transport anchored off FAURO ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA. Three near misses were observed, one of which may have been a possible hit on the stern of the vessel. The ship was seen to list. Bombs were also dropped on KAHILI Airport, BUIN. Observation of the damage was obscured by haze. The following enemy ships were observed by our fighter planes in the SHORTLAND AREA:-

2 large and 2 small warships in TONOLEI Harbor;
1 Destroyer off FAURO ISLAND.
In addition, 44 flying boats in SHORTLAND Harbor.

All of our planes returned.

At noon January 6th. a Flying Fortress dropped four 1000-lb. bombs on the MUNDA Airport. This plane encountered large caliber anti-aircraft fire.

PACIFIC

Our submarines returning from patrol report the following:-

- HALIBUT - Sank one enemy transport and three cargo vessels off the northern tip of HONSHU (Japanese Empire).
- GRAYBACK - Sank an enemy submarine south of RENDOVA ISLAND (west of NEW GEORGIA) and destroyed by machine gun fire four enemy barges.
- PLUNGER - On December 16th. sank an enemy destroyer and another enemy destroyer on December 17th.
- SARGO - Sighted an enemy aircraft carrier 35 miles south-east of LORENGAU, MANUS ISLAND (BISMARCK ARCHIPELLAGO Area).

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 6, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Supplementing the report on the MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, bombardment of January 5th:-

The bombardment was executed as scheduled from 1 a.m. to 1:50 a.m. 2800 - 6" and 1300 - 5" shells were fired, all of which landed in the target area.

In an attack by five enemy medium bombers at 9:35 a.m. January 5th southwest of GUADALCANAL, the Australian Light Cruiser ACHILLES received one bomb hit on No. 3 turret. In addition to the turret being put out of action, six men were killed and seven wounded. (This apparently is the same enemy air attack south of GUADALCANAL as reported in yesterday's Summary).

Air attacks on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, continue. At 10:40 a.m. January 5th, nine Marauders (B-26's) bombed MUNDA. The damage could not be observed.

At 4 p.m. January 5th, five Flying Fortresses (B-17's) escorted by six Lightnings (P-38's) dropped 20 - 1000-lb. bombs on an enemy heavy cruiser at BUIN, SHORTLAND AREA. No hits were scored. Our fighters were attacked by 25 enemy Zeros and float biplanes. Two enemy planes were shot down and probably two additional. We lost two of our fighter planes.

The following enemy ships were observed in the SHORTLAND AREA:-

- 4 Cargo vessels;
- 4 Destroyers;
- 1 Battleship off PUPUKUNA POINT, TONOLEI Harbor, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Enemy infiltration into NEW GEORGIA Areas apparently continues. Small craft and barge traffic is active. 200 Japanese are reported on VAGUNU ISLAND, Southern NEW GEORGIA, and 40 more on WICKHAM ISLAND, southern end of NEW GEORGIA.

Coast watchers have reaffirmed the sinking of an enemy light cruiser or destroyer on December 26th near WICKHAM ISLAND.

Flying Fortresses attacked an enemy transport in the SHORTLAND AREA and scored a single hit.

On GUADALCANAL our troops are engaged in mopping up the enemy in the MOUNT AUSTEN Sector. 84 Japanese are reported killed. (This number probably included in the 150 enemy killed reported in yesterday's Summary).

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. January 5, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, was bombarded from 1:00 a.m. to 1:50 a.m. January 5th. instead of from midnight to 1:50 a.m. as previously reported.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 5, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Air attacks on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, continue. The area was bombed by two Catalinas at 2 a.m., January 4th. and again at 5 p.m. by a Flying Fortress. In the evening at 5:45 twelve dive bombers, escorted by fighters, dropped twelve 500-lb. bombs on anti-aircraft positions, taxiways, and runways. Only one plane was observed on the ground which was probably destroyed. There was no shipping present. The anti-aircraft fire was considerably lighter and all of our planes returned.

A bombardment group consisting of the NASHVILLE, LOUISVILLE, and HELENA bombarded MUNDA from midnight to 1:50 a.m. January 5th. Two Catalinas over MUNDA observed our naval shelling. They reported that the area from the tip of MUNDA POINT to the northeast end of the runway and the bivouac area were thoroughly bombarded. Three fires were started. Flares were observed over our ships although no enemy vessels were sighted. Our bombardment group was seen returning 20 miles due south of MUNDA on a southerly course at 25 knots at 2:30 a.m.

At 9:40 a.m. this bombardment group was attacked by ten enemy dive bombers and fifteen Zeros off the southern coast of GUADALCANAL. Four Wildcats (F4F-4's) intercepted and shot down four enemy bombers and probably two additional. Our planes returned safely after the enemy planes retired. There have been no reports of damage to our ships.

Our forces on GUADALCANAL attacked and gained the high ground in the vicinity of MOUNT AUSTEN and captured an enemy field piece. Six enemy counterattacks were thrown back with 150 Japanese killed. Patrols in other sectors killed 20 additional Japanese and captured howitzer mortars and light machine guns.

The vessel THOMAS EDISON aground on TURTLE ISLAND (equidistant between SUVA and TONGATABU) and considered a total loss was completely destroyed by a hurricane on January 2nd.

PACIFIC

The Army photo plane forced down 200 miles southwest of MIDWAY ISLAND is now considered lost.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 4, 1943. •

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On January 2nd. at 11:40 p.m. eleven of our motor torpedo boats (PT'S) from GUADALCANAL engaged eight enemy destroyers in isolated engagements. Six of our PT'S attained firing positions and report scoring one hit on a destroyer and three probable hits on two other destroyers. One PT was slightly damaged by splinters from bombs dropped by enemy planes.

It is believed that no enemy troops were landed but a considerable amount of supplies were thrown into the water by the enemy to drift ashore. Supplies included rice packed in drums, concentrated foods in waterproof containers and six inch ammunition.

Whatever supplies that were visible in the water after daylight were destroyed by our torpedo boats and subchasers.

The second increment of the 25th. Division, U.S. Army, completed landing on GUADALCANAL on January 3rd. The third and last increment arrives on January 4th.

On January 3rd. five Flying Fortresses in a bombing attack on the BUIN AREA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, scored near misses only. They observed 23 ships, 11 of which were combatant.

Also on January 3rd. six Flying Fortresses bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, and received heavy anti-aircraft fire.

PACIFIC

The Submarine PORPOISE on patrol in the waters north-east of HONSHU (Japanese Empire) reports sinking one and possibly two enemy cargo vessels on January 1st.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. January 3, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On December 31st. at 4:30 p.m. the Submarine SEARAVEN attacked an enemy convoy of three small Marus escorted by a destroyer and two corvettes 15 miles west of AMBON, CERAM (NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES). Two torpedo hits were scored on the destroyer and one on a Maru. Observation of final results was prevented by counter attack of the corvettes.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9:30 a.m. January 3, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Patrol activity on GUADALCANAL continues. An additional 30 to 35 of the enemy have been killed. Japanese soldiers engaged by our patrols appear healthy and well equipped.

Our forces are about to resume attacks from positions on MOUNT AUSTEN, GUADALCANAL (three miles south of LUNGA shore line).

Japanese artillery shelled our positions. Increased enemy activity has been observed in the vicinity of KOKUMBONA, GUADALCANAL.

Fortresses attached to the SOUTH PACIFIC command hit a large warship during the bombing of RABAU, NEW BRITAIN, on January 1st.

At 5:05 p.m., January 2nd., our search planes observed ten enemy destroyers 30 miles northwest of RENDOVA ISLAND apparently headed for GUADALCANAL.

At 6 p.m., the enemy ships, protected by ten Zeros and one dive bomber were attacked by nine of our dive bombers escorted by four Wildcats (F4F-4's) and five Lightnings (P-38's). One enemy destroyer was left burning badly and another appeared to be sinking. The formation was seen to change from a southeasterly course towards MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

Evidently a part of the enemy destroyer force reached GUADALCANAL as reports indicate enemy destroyers to have been retiring from CAPE ESPERANCE, GUADALCANAL, since 1:56 a.m., January 3rd. Our attack planes have been unable to locate these retiring ships.

At MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, enemy activity continues. Their aircraft have been heard landing during the night of January 2nd. A small transport was observed at the MUNDA Wharf. A radar installation was also seen.

At 7:25 a.m., January 3rd., nine dive bombers, four Lightnings, four Aircobras, and seven Wildcats bombed MUNDA Airport. No enemy planes were in the air or on the field. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy from the north of the west end of the runway. Three guns received direct hits. All of our planes returned, although some were slightly damaged.

PACIFIC

MIDWAY forces have not as yet found any survivors from the Army photo plane forced down 200 miles southwest of MIDWAY ISLAND.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 2, 1943 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Six Marauders, nine dive bombers, escorted by eight Wildcats (F4F-4's), four Aircobras, and four Kittyhawks dropped 28 - 500-lb. and 17 - 100-lb. bombs on anti-aircraft installations and taxiways at MUNDA Airfield. Hits were scored on six anti-aircraft implacements off the eastern end of the field and one direct hit on a building. The anti-aircraft fire encountered was moderate. Photographs were obtained.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. January 2, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 8:05 a.m. January 1st. our dive bombers dropped 12 500-lb. and 24 100-lb. bombs on a position near KOKUMBONA, GUADALCANAL, reported to be the location of enemy division headquarters. Observation of the results was prevented by jungle growth.

On January 1st. at 7 a.m. nine Marauders (B-26's) from GUADALCANAL escorted by four Aircobras (P-39's), three Lightnings (P-38's) and four Kittyhawks (P-40's) bombed the runway and living area on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Although heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered, all planes returned undamaged.

At 9 a.m. January 1st. a search plane from GUADALCANAL reports sighting four cruisers or battleships and six destroyers in the SHORTLAND AREA, between MOILA POINT and SHORTLAND ISLAND. In addition, two destroyers were sighted in SHORTLAND Harbor, two cargo vessels in TONOLEI Harbor, and one transport near MAIFU ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area.

Five Fortresses from GUADALCANAL escorted by five Lightnings at 2:26 p.m. January 2nd. dropped 40 500-lb. bombs on ten enemy destroyers 30 miles south of SHORTLAND ISLAND. The destroyers continued undamaged on a southeasterly course at a high speed, - apparently toward MUNDA.

The Submarine GROUPEL returning from patrol of the waters west and southwest of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND reports the following:-

- December 8 - Possibly damaged a 4,000-ton enemy cargo vessel 25 miles off the northwest coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.
- December 17- Sank an enemy cargo vessel of 8,360 tons (HOKAI MARU Class) 20 miles northwest of BUKA ISLAND.

The auxiliary-ocean going tug GREBE which grounded early in December on TURTLE ISLAND (equidistant between SUVA and TONGATABU) while attempting to salvage the cargo vessel THOMAS EDISON is considered a total loss. The EDISON is also reported a total loss, but the major part of her cargo has been salvaged.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. January 1, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Our air attacks on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, continue. At 4:30 p.m. December 31, six Marauders (B-26's) from GUADALCANAL escorted by four Lightnings (P-38's), four Aircobras (P-39's) and four Wildcats (F4F-4's) bombed the MUNDA Airfield. Anti-aircraft fire encountered was heavy but not effective.

On GUADALCANAL our patrols on December 31st. killed twenty more Japanese.

The Submarine GREENLING returning from patrol reports sinking two enemy cargo vessels off the ADMIRALTY ISLANDS and an enemy destroyer north of BOUGAINVILLE STRAIT, SOLOMON ISLANDS.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. December 31, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 2:00 a.m. on December 30th. four Aircobras (P-39's) and seven Wildcats (F4F-4's) from GUADALCANAL attacked and destroyed five small enemy barges at VAGUNU ISLAND (south end of NEW GEORGIA Group). There was no opposition encountered.

On the same day at 6 a.m. seven Dauntless (SBD's) dive bombers escorted by seven Wildcats bombed REKATA BAY (SANTA ISABEL ISLAND). 500 and 100-lb. bombs were dropped on new buildings on PAPATURA ISLAND (east side of REKATA BAY). Fighters strafed other buildings. Although there was little sign of activity, slight anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

On December 29th. search planes strafed three enemy float planes on the water in REKATA BAY.

At dawn on December 30th. a Dauntless dive bomber destroyed an enemy 5" or 6" gun on GUADALCANAL.

Catalinas harassed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, on December 29th. and 30th., dropping bombs and mortar shells. Heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

There is indication of barge activity and unloading in the MUNDA Area, NEW GEORGIA.

A native patrol on SANTA ISABEL ISLAND attacked 24 Japanese, killing 21.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. December 30, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL patrol activity continues. On December 27th. Marines killed 110 of the enemy. An Army patrol killed 4 Japanese and lost 2 killed.

Our Marines in an exchange of artillery and mortar fire destroyed one machine gun, one mortar, and probably killed 30 to 40 of the enemy. They subsequently ambushed and killed 11 more Japanese. Marine losses 2 killed, 1 wounded.

On December 29th. GUADALCANAL air forces twice bombed, strafed and sank two enemy cargo vessels in WICKHAM Anchorage (southeast end of NEW GEORGIA Group).

An Army photo plane returning from WAKE ISLAND is reported down at sea 200 miles southwest of MIDWAY ISLAND. Rescue operations are underway.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. December 29, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Submarine TRITON reports sinking an enemy cargo vessel near MOKIL ISLAND (CAROLINE ISLANDS), and an oil tanker off WAKE ISLAND.

The Submarine ALBACORE reports sinking one enemy transport of 6,000 tons off MADANG, NEW GUINEA.

The Naval Cargo Vessel ALCHIBA twice torpedoed (November 28 and December 7) and aground near LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL, since November 28, has been floated and towed to TULAGI for further repairs.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. December 28, 1942

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.).

At dawn, December 27, search planes discovered 30 parachutes with cargo at TASSAFARONGA, GUADALCANAL. These enemy supplies were subsequently bombed and strafed by P-39's (Aircobras).

Twelve Dauntless Dive Bombers and fourteen Aircobras at 1:45 a.m. December 27 bombed and strafed an enemy bivouac area fifteen miles above KOKUMBONA on GUADALCANAL.

A coast watcher reported that a second ship sank as a result of the dive bombing attack on enemy vessels near WICKHAM ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA. This attack was executed at 2:10 p.m. December 26th. GUADALCANAL time and not on December 25th. as previously reported.

On December 26th. a force of GUADALCANAL dive bombers and fighters bombed and strafed MUNDA Airfield, NEW GEORGIA.

Enemy barge and small craft activity in the WESTERN NEW GEORGIA Group continues.

At REKATA, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND and BUKA, north end of BOUGANVILLE ISLAND, according to natives, our recent air raids have been highly effective. There has been considerable destruction of enemy aircraft, fuel dumps and shore installations. In REKATA BAY a direct hit was scored on an enemy submarine on December 16th.

The Submarine WAHOO returning from patrol of the SOLOMONS sea area reports as follows:-

December 10th. - Sank a 5,644-ton cargo or passenger vessel.

December 14th. - Sank a Japanese submarine of the I-2 Class (1950 tons).

The Submarine SAILFISH reports torpedoing a Japanese submarine near NEW BRITAIN, BISMARCK Archipelago.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 27, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On December 25 a force of dive bombers from GUADALCANAL in an attack on a small group of enemy ships, sank a 3,000-ton vessel near WICKHAM ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA.

The Submarine SEADRAGON reports sinking an enemy submarine (I-68 type, 1400 tons) and a cargo vessel.

Six motor torpedo boats operating from MILNE BAY, NEW GUINEA and TUFU BAY, NEW GUINEA, since December 17th. report the following.

On the night of December 23rd. they destroyed by gunfire and grenades a 100-ft. enemy schooner. They also strafed six enemy landing barges off HOLNICOTE BAY, NEW GUINEA.

On the night of December 24th. they sank two loaded Japanese barges in DOUGLAS Harbor (1/2 mile south of CAPE WARD HUNT, NEW GUINEA).

On December 25th. they sank an enemy submarine off KUMUSI, (Near GONA, NEW GUINEA). The submarine was attacked on the surface and was seen to break in half after being struck by at least two torpedoes.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9:30 a.m. December 26, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the attack on WAKE ISLAND on the night of December 22/23, 138 - 500 lb. bombs and 18 incendiary clusters were dropped from a height of 4,000 feet. Photographic mission after attack was unsuccessful due to bad weather. Every indication shows attack a complete surprise and only two bombs reported as missing the island. Extensive damage was done to enemy installations. We suffered no casualties and all of our planes returned with only two slightly damaged.

A report has been received (originator as yet undetermined) states that 11 Flying Fortresses took off between 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. on the night of 25-26 December to attack enemy ships in RABAUH Harbor. The first two planes arrived at 3:30 a.m. and dropped 16 - 500 lb. bombs on the ships in the inner harbor. Three hits were reported on a large transport or cargo carrier and seven near misses on three small cargo carriers. Four additional planes arrived over target area between 4:15 and 5:00 a.m. No ships in harbor were sighted. One of these planes bombed LUKUNAI Airfield, one bombed the wharf area, one missed a heavy cruiser in ST. GEORGE CHANNEL, and one plane failed to release its bombs. Of the five planes not reaching the target area, one bombed BUKA and the others jettisoned their bombs. All planes returned safely.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. December 25, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

On the morning of December 24th, nine Dauntless's with an equal number of Airacobras and four Wildcats from GUADALCANAL, attacked MUNDA Aerodrome. Our planes encountered eight Japanese zeros at 12,000 feet but only four attacked and they were shot down by the Airacobras. About twenty more planes were caught attempting to take-off and ten of these were shot down in the air by the Wildcats. The remaining ten, grouped at the end of the runway, were destroyed by our dive bombers. Two other Japanese planes were strafed in their revetments.

Weak anti-aircraft fire was silenced when our Dauntless's dived. All of our planes returned undamaged.

Later in the day at 6 p.m., nine Dauntless's accompanied by four Wildcats and four Airacobras bombed thirteen landing barges with troops and supplies nearing MUNDA. Four of the barges reached shore but few of the Japs escaped. A return visit was made to the MUNDA Airfield at an altitude of 50 feet but no anti-aircraft fire was received and no planes were seen. Four 500-lb and eight 100-lb bombs were dropped on the runway and gun emplacements. Wreckage from earlier visits was still present.

COMINCH FILE

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. December 24, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

On December 23rd at 12.10 and 12.24 p.m. local time, twelve dive bombers and five Flying Fortresses from GUADALCANAL bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Eighty-six 100-lb bombs and eight 500-lb bombs were dropped on the runway, coastal gun positions, and in the vicinity of the flying field. Two zeros and a truck were strafed and damaged.

About fifteen zeros intercepted, two of which were definitely destroyed and three probably destroyed. We suffered the loss of three fighter planes and three dive bombers damaged.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 24, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

PACIFIC.

At 11.14 p.m., December 23rd, local time, WAKE ISLAND was bombed by twenty-four Army B-24's (Liberators).

Initial estimates of the attack are that about 90% of the bombs were placed in the target area. Many fires were started which were visible 75 miles.

Apparently the attack was a complete surprise as no anti-aircraft fire was encountered until after passage of the first plane.

All planes returned with only minor damage. There was no injury to personnel.

COMINCH FILE

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 23, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

On December 22nd, MUNDA Airfield, NEW GEORGIA, was bombed and strafed by eleven dive bombers from GUADALCANAL. No enemy activity was observed. Several minutes later a Flying Fortress received heavy anti-aircraft fire from a position near the MUNDA Airfield runway.

COMINCH FILE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 22, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

At 7 a.m. December 20th, four Flying Fortresses from GUADALCANAL attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA with indifferent results.

This area was again attacked by one Flying Fortress at 1 a.m. December 21st. The results were unobserved.

On December 21st at 2 a.m., two Flying Fortresses attacked two enemy cargo vessels near KAHILI, SHORTLAND Area with 500-lb bombs. A direct hit and near misses were scored. One of the vessels was observed settling by the stern.

Harassing attacks by Flying Fortresses were made on BUKA, (North end BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND), KAHILI, SHORTLAND Area, and BALLALE (Northeast of SHORTLAND ISLAND).

Air observation indicates the field on BALLALE ISLAND is ready for use.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. December 20, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

The submarine SWORDFISH returning from patrol of waters in vicinity of NEW GUINEA, NEW BRITAIN, and SOLOMON ISLANDS reports the following.

November 13th, damaged, possibly sank, a 6300 ton cargo vessel 5 miles off the north coast of NEW BRITAIN.

November 17th, sank a 4400 ton cargo or passenger vessel 10 miles off the east coast of NEW BRITAIN.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 20, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

On December 17th and 18th, twice daily bombing attacks on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, were carried out by Flying Fortresses. A single Flying Fortress bombed and strafed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, and KAHILI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND on the night of December 17th.

A Coast Watcher reports that at MUNDA enemy quarters, supplies, and ammunition dumps have been damaged. At KAHILI the same source reports planes, trucks, gun emplacements, and a gasoline dump have been destroyed.

On December 19th, twelve dive bombers from GUADALCANAL, escorted by fighters, attacked MUNDA at 1.30 p.m., destroying several buildings. No opposition was encountered.

On the same day, seven Flying Fortresses, escorted by eight Lightnings, attacked MUNDA at 5.15 p.m., starting several fires. These planes, on a mission to attack shipping at BUIN, SHORTLAND Area, were turned back by the weather and subsequently intercepted over SHORTLAND ISLAND by at least twenty enemy planes. The enemy force consisted of land zeros, float zeros, and float biplanes. Three Japanese planes were destroyed. The enemy planes dropped phosphorous bombs which did not damage our planes. However, one Flying Fortress and five Lightnings received damage from bullets.

At 1 a.m., one Fortress dropped twenty 100-lb bombs on BUKA (northern end of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND) starting one large fire.

COMINCH FILE

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 19, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

On December 18th, Flying Fortresses with fighter escorts completed two bombing missions against the MUNDA Area, NEW GEORGIA. All of our planes returned.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 18, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

In the 10 a.m. summary of December 17th, a total of twelve zeros was reported destroyed. Three and not twelve zeros were shot down.

Air operations against the MUNDA Area, NEW GEORGIA, continue with an attack on December 17th by five Flying Fortresses and seven Lightnings.

The Army Transport E.J. HINDS grounded in SEALARK CHANNEL off GUADALCANAL.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 17, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

Our daily attacks on the MUNDA Area, NEW GEORGIA, and REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL, continue.

On December 16th on an attack mission over MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA, five flying fortresses were intercepted by twelve land zeros. All of the enemy planes were shot down. One flying fortress was shot down. The crew of this plane was later rescued.

At 10.40 p.m. December 16th nine of our dive bombers attacked the MUNDA Area. Six 500-lb bombs and ten 100-lb bombs were dropped on or near the runway. Two of these planes bombed an enemy destroyer or light cruiser scoring one 500-lb bomb hit and two possible 100-lb bomb hits. One plane failed to return.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 16, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

In the SOLOMONS, 2 flying fortresses bombed the KAHILI Airfield at BUIN on the 14th of December. No anti-aircraft or air opposition was encountered. At noon on the 15th, 3 fighters and 9 dive bombers from GUADALCANAL attacked the MUNDA Area. Results were not observed and no opposition was offered by the enemy.

Report received from scouts indicates that the enemy suffered many casualties in the MUNDA Area from our bombing on the 12th.

On GUADALCANAL on the 13th, 2 enemy machine gun positions with their crews were destroyed during patrol activities.

On the night of the 13th, east of GUADALCANAL, the destroyer SAUFLEY depth charged and possibly damaged an enemy submarine.

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5 p.m. December 15, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

The submarine GRAYLING returned from a patrol off TRUK. On November 6th, two hits were scored on a CHIYODA type Plane Tender. This vessel was badly damaged and possibly sunk. On November 10th, a 5300 ton Tanker was sunk in a night surface attack. On the night of December 4th, a small schooner was sunk by gunfire.

COMMONS FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 15, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

Our air attacks on the MUNDA Area continue. A flight of seven flying fortresses on the morning of the 14th dropped fifty-eight 100-lb bombs from 12000 feet. Later in the day a striking force from HENDERSON FIELD, GUADALCANAL, composed of 3 Wildcats, 6 Lightnings and 8 dive bombers attacked the area. There was no air opposition and anti-aircraft fire is described as medium 3 inch. Results are not reported.

An enemy attack on the GUADALCANAL Airfield on the night of the 13th-14th resulted in the destruction of 1 Fighter plane and 1 gas truck. The report received is not clear as to the nature of the attack which was possibly a guerrilla attack by ground troops.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 14, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

On December 13th ground action on GUADALCANAL limited to patrol activity. One enemy plane dropped 3 bombs on our airfield fighter strip.

Air attacks on the enemy in the MUNDA Area NEW GEORGIA continue.

The submarine FLYING FISH reports sinking 2 enemy destroyers in the SOLOMONS Area.

It is reported that the naval cargo vessel ALCHIBA twice torpedoed and now aground near LUNGA, GUADALCANAL, may ultimately be salvaged and floated in 2 weeks.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 13, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

The air attack on enemy surface units mentioned in the morning report of December 12th was a strike by GUADALCANAL dive bombers supported by aircobras at 6 p.m. December 11th, against a formation of eleven enemy destroyers. Apparently these vessels were enroute to GUADALCANAL with reinforcements and supplies. Our planes scored hits on five of the destroyers with two hits on one.

The enemy formation continued on its mission and at 12.35 a.m. December 12th it was vigorously attacked by our Motor Torpedo Boats with the following results:

- 1 destroyer sunk.
- 1 destroyer set on fire, exploded and probably sunk.
- 1 destroyer damaged.
- 3 enemy prisoners picked up from the sunken destroyer gave its name as TERUZUKI.

In this action we lost one Torpedo Boat and three killed, two officers and five men missing.

December 12th ground action on GUADALCANAL was limited to patrol activities.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. December 12, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

From incomplete reports it is apparent that our air forces successfully attacked enemy surface units northwest of GUADALCANAL and scored several hits on enemy destroyers. Complete details are not at present available.

The succession of attacks on the enemy airfield at MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA ISLAND, continues with an attack on the morning of December 12th by seven flying fortresses escorted by fighter planes. Nine 1,000-lb bombs were dropped, four of which hit the landing strip. Eighty 100-lb bombs also were dropped in the general area. No enemy air opposition was met, anti-aircraft fire is described as "poor". Our planes returned with no damage.

On the morning of December 11th, nine flying fortresses dropped one hundred fifty-five 100-lb bombs on the MUNDA airfield. No enemy air or anti-aircraft opposed. Our planes returned safely and report that clouds intervening after the bombs dropped prevented an assessment of the results.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. December 11, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

On the morning of December 9th, 3 flights of flying fortresses bombed MUNDA Field Northwest NEW GEORGIA. Heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered which diminished considerably during the attack.

On December 9th, GUADALCANAL ground activity was limited to patrol contacts with small groups of the enemy. One enemy artillery position and several mortars and machine guns were neutralized.

(I-3) On the night of December 9th, a Motor Torpedo Boat sank an enemy submarine off KALIMBO, GUADALCANAL.

A morning search plane on December 10th dropped depth charges on MUNDA Field, starting fires.

At noon December 10th, eleven flying fortresses escorted by 8 P-38's attacked shipping in FAISI HARBOR scoring three hits on a probable tanker and straddling another. The escorting P-38's shot down five zeros and one of the fortresses destroyed another. All our planes returned without damage. (This is the same attack reported in this morning's summary. At that time the locale of the action was unknown.)

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. December 11, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

On December 10th, eleven flying fortresses and 8 P-38's from Guadalcanal attacked two large ships in an unreported locality. Although identity is doubted there is a possibility of these targets being an aircraft carrier and an oiler surrounded by a light cruiser and destroyers. All our planes returned after scoring three hits on the first vessel and two straddles on the second.

A flying fortress on a reconnaissance flight was attacked by fifteen zeros over New Georgia. The co-pilot was killed. Five of the fifteen zeros were shot down.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
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9 a.m. December 9, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On December 8th, patrols on GUADALCANAL maintained contact with the enemy to the west of our positions. Our artillery continued to harass the enemy. To the south of our positions, there was no contact with the enemy. A Kingfisher plane attacked and sank a two man Japanese submarine on the surface 10 miles north of LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL.

Our reconnaissance observed a large enemy camp between CAPE L'AUVERDY and BANIN HARBOR, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

Our air striking force attack on the enemy surface units reported in the summary of December 4th was observed and confirmed by a patrol 10 miles south of LANGSDALE POINT, NEW GEORGIA. This patrol reports that 4 ships were set on fire and one sank that night, the other 3 were still burning the following day.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. December 7, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The ALCHIBA aground near LUNGA POINT was again torpedoed at 8 a.m. on December 7th. Hold No. 4 and engine room flooded with leaks developing in Hold No. 5. There is no indication of the vessel slipping off the shelf.

The ship is subject to further submarine attack and its complete abandonment is recommended by the Commanding Officer, with such subsequent salvaging as will be possible.

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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10 a.m. December 6, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Marine Second Raider Battalion after an outstanding 30-day operation through mountainous jungle reached LUNGA on the night of December 4th. They destroyed five enemy bases and killed 400 Japanese with a loss to themselves of only 17 killed.

The 164th. Infantry patrols were active in the area west of the MATANIKAU RIVER and killed 7 of the enemy.

GUADALCANAL Aircobras completed six missions against the enemy strafing 15 landing barges and rafts in the vicinity of TASSAFARONGA.

Japanese supplies lashed to drums were observed drifting toward the beach.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. December 5, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Minor ground activity on GUADALCANAL. West of POINT CRUZ, 164th. Infantry patrol killed five of the enemy and destroyed a machine gun.

A Marine Raider Patrol killed sixteen Japanese, captured several machine guns, a mortar, and some ammunition in the upper vicinity of the LUNGA RIVER. Four of our Marines were wounded.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. December 4, 1942

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 6:30 p.m. 3 December, an air striking force composed of 10 fighters, 8 dive bombers, and 7 torpedo planes attacked an enemy surface force consisting of two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, and six destroyers about 150 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL heading southeast and scored 2 - 1000-lb. bomb hits in one cruiser, 1 - 1000-lb. bomb hit in another cruiser, two torpedo hits in a third vessel, and two possible torpedo hits in a fourth vessel. Ten enemy float planes were shot down by our fighters. Our losses were one fighter, one torpedo plane, and one dive bomber.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. December 3, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL 14 enemy troops were killed by our patrols. Army fighters supported our ground forces on five attack missions.

On the morning of 2 December air search plane depth charged an enemy submarine 15 miles southwest of SIMBO ISLAND and observed an oil slick.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. December 3, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Submarine GUDGEON returned from patrol of the NEW IRELAND-SHORTLANDS AREA on December 1st. and reported the following sinkings and damage to the enemy:-

Date of action not reported - South of NEW IRELAND, one 7,000-ton cargo vessel in convoy was sunk and another ship of the same size damaged.

November 11 - - - - - In the same Area, two 7,500-ton cargo vessels in a convoy were sunk in a night surface attack.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. December 2, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL on December 2nd. Marines attacked an enemy patrol of 60 men near the upper reaches of the LUNGA RIVER. 35 of the enemy were killed and a quantity of arms and ammunition captured. As a result of one minor contact along the MATANIKAU RIVER 20 enemy soldiers were killed. Army and Navy planes continued to attack enemy positions during the day of December 1st.

Enemy personnel to the number of 26 have reached our base on GUADALCANAL from the Japanese Destroyer TAKANAMI. This ship was leading an enemy destroyer formation in the SAVO ISLAND action on the night of November 30th., when it was sunk instantly by a heavy explosion. The TAKANAMI was loaded with supplies but had no troops aboard.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. December 1, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A general melee ensued in which events were uncertain but in which the destroyers on both sides were very active. Numerous ships were afire. One large ship was seen capsized and a large vessel, either a battleship or heavy cruiser, stopped and completely afire, was passed close aboard. Shortly before 2:30 a.m. the signal was given to assemble the remaining forces and the ships able to comply formed column and proceeded to the east. The SAN FRANCISCO, HELENA, and later the destroyers FLETCHER, STERRET, and O'BANNON joined the formation. Radio TULAGI was informed of the PORTLAND's situation and a tow and air coverage requested for her. At daylight the Light Cruiser JUNEAU (anti-aircraft) joined in INDISPENSABLE STRAIT near MALAITA ISLAND.

The force proceeded southward and at the best speed possible considering the damaged ships. Shortly after 11:00 a.m. on the 13th, the formation was on course 180, speed 17 knots, and zigzagging south of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND. A torpedo fired from the port beam passed astern of the HELENA, ahead of the SAN FRANCISCO, and hit the JUNEAU somewhere aft. A single enormous explosion followed which filled the immediate area with debris and a large cloud of brown, black, and yellow smoke. Personnel on ships in the formation believed that a high level bombing attack had been made because of the extent and volume in which the debris fell. The surviving ships went to maximum speed and made radical changes in course. Within one minute after the explosion the JUNEAU had completely disappeared.

No sight or sound contact was made on the submarine. There were only two destroyers screening and the ships present were crippled. For these reasons the formation continued on its course.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. December 1, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No further reports received on night action of November 30-December 1.

The Submarine GRAMPUS returned from patrol in the SOLOMONS AREA on November 23rd. Reports one possible hit on a JINTSU Class light cruiser, one hit in an AMAGIRI class destroyer, and two hits in an ASASHIO class destroyer.

Delayed Report on Night Action 12-13 November.

A detailed report by the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. HELENA, of the naval action off SAVO ISLAND early on the morning of November 13th. has been received by mail. It is summarized as follows.

The U.S. forces approached SAVO ISLAND shortly after 1:00 a.m., local time, in a long column. The ships were disposed in the column in the following order:-

- 4 Destroyers
- 1 Light Cruiser (anti-aircraft)
- 2 Heavy Cruisers
- 1 Light Cruiser (anti-aircraft)
- 4 Destroyers.

The enemy forces apparently came in to the south of SAVO ISLAND from the northwest in two or three groups. Contact was made approximately six and one-half miles southeast of SAVO ISLAND.

At 1:43 a.m. our destroyers were ordered to launch a torpedo attack. At 1:48 a.m. U.S. forces opened fire at 3,000 yards upon a group of enemy ships on the port bow of the formation. Just prior to this time the enemy had turned on searchlights and opened fire upon our ships. The Light Cruiser (anti-aircraft) ATLANTA fell out of the formation to port and seemed to be on fire at 2:10 a.m. The Heavy Cruiser SAN FRANCISCO was hit heavily, particularly in the area around the bridge. Rear Admiral Callaghan and all but one of his Staff were killed at this time. The JUNEAU was hit by a torpedo in the forward engine room. Just prior to 2:18 a.m. the PORTLAND received a torpedo hit and lost steering control.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. December 1, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL patrolling supported by artillery and air strafing was the only ground activity on the 30th.

GUADALCANAL planes strafed enemy positions at REKATA BAY, but no activity was observed.

Some activity was noted on RENDOVA and GANONGGA ISLANDS in the NEW GEORGIA Group.

Complete reports are not yet available on the surface action off SAVO ISLAND on the night of November 30-December 1. It appears that our force of four heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, and six destroyers opened fire on four ships, believed to be transports, at CAPE ESPERANCE, making hits at once. Fires were seen on some of the enemy ships. Shortly after opening fire, our cruisers received a torpedo attack believed to have been from destroyers or submarines. There seems to have been further action as one enemy cruiser is reported to have been seen to blow up and additional enemy vessels destroyed and others damaged. Our damage, from reports received to date, is as follows:-

PENSACOLA - Torpedo hit and severe fire damage.
NORTHAMPTON - Burned and total loss.
MINNEAPOLIS - Badly damaged forward, three of four fire-rooms flooded.
NEW ORLEANS - Received torpedo hits. Exact damage unknown due to conflicting reports.

These vessels, except the NORTHAMPTON, are at TULAGI with two destroyers. The remainder of the force has retired from the area.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DEC 1 1942
OASD Letter 3-72

5 p.m. November 30, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 10 p.m., local time, 30 November, our surface forces composed of four heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, and six destroyers engaged enemy surface vessels in the vicinity of SAVO ISLAND. The Heavy Cruiser MINNEAPOLIS received two torpedo hits, one hit amidships resulted in the flooding of all firerooms except No. 1. The other hit blew the bow off back to Turret No. 1. The Heavy Cruiser NORTHAMPTON was set on fire aft. The Heavy Cruiser NEW ORLEANS was also hit by one or more torpedoes.

No other details have been received.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. November 29, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Minor ground activity on GUADALCANAL. Our raiders destroyed a considerable amount of enemy arms and ammunition in the vicinity of the upper LUNGA RIVER. ^{H-2} H-3

^{Navy H-2} At 12:25 p.m. on November 28th, five flying fortresses attacked the convoy of three destroyers and two cargo vessels reported in this morning's Summary. Five 100-lb. bomb hits were scored on the second cargo vessel of the convoy. Ten Zeros intercepted, three of which were shot down. The fortresses did not receive any serious damage.

Our anti-submarine patrol detected a 100-foot Japanese submarine lying on the bottom of VERAHUE COVE near LAVORO on the northwestern end of GUADALCANAL. Three bombs were dropped. Results not observed.

^{AK-3} The ALCHIBA is still beached and burning forward. Discharge of the cargo in the after holds is proceeding.

INDIAN OCEAN

At 8 a.m. November 28, Greenwich Time, the Netherlands Cruiser HEEMSKIRK and H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE intercepted the German Auxiliary RAMSES 890 miles west of PERTH, AUSTRALIA, en route from KOBE to GERMANY via BATAVIA. The vessel was sunk by self scuttling and gunfire. There were no casualties on either side.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. November 29, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL our front-line patrols continued hunting down snipers and destroying small points of enemy resistance. Other sectors were quiet.

Three GUADALCANAL dive bombers and three torpedo planes attacked shipping in MUNDA BAY, NEW GEORGIA. Two near misses by our dive bombers were observed.

At 3:35 p.m. November 27th. a search plane sighted an enemy convoy of three destroyers and two transports 265 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL on an easterly course. The following morning a convoy of similar composition was observed 160 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL on a northwesterly course. One transport was burning and making little headway. The cause of this damage has not been determined (possibly by submarine attack).

According to native reports, a Japanese destroyer from a group of five ships shelled four villages on the southeast coast of GANONGGA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA. From three to six shells were fired at each village. No casualties reported.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 28, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

In local operations west of POINT CRUZ, GUADALCANAL, 50 of the enemy were killed and a number of machine guns captured. During the night two enemy bombers dropped bombs near the mouth of the LUNGA RIVER, with no damage.

At midnight November 26 seven of our Flying Fortresses attacked the KAHILI Aerodrome near BUIN, BOUGANVILLE. Sixteen hits were scored on the runway and large fires started. No enemy opposition encountered.

On the 23rd. and 24th. of November the GUADALCANAL Air Force bombed KOKONGOLO MISSION, MUNDA AREA, NEW GEORGIA, and destroyed all buildings in the vicinity. During these raids the enemy took to the bush.

Enemy explorations toward the eastern side of NEW GEORGIA continue. A barge with 50 Japanese has been reported in BALFOUR CHANNEL, RENDOVA ISLAND.

Native sources report that there are 3,000 Japanese in REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL.

On November 27th. at 6:50 a.m. the naval cargo vessel ALCHIBA was torpedoed 3,000 yards northeast of LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL. Fires were started forward and the vessel was subsequently beached.

PACIFIC

The submarine HADDOCK returning from patrol of the EAST CHINA SEA reports sinking two 7,000-ton cargo vessels and a 10,000-ton tanker.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 27, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

There was minor ground activity on GUADALCANAL during the past twenty-four hours with our patrols engaged in mopping up isolated groups of the enemy offering resistance.

At 4 a.m. on the 26th. two enemy bombers dropped bombs on our positions without damage. Our dive bombers patrolled over enemy lines throughout the night.

Four of our Flying Fortresses attacked an enemy convoy of two destroyers, two cargo vessels, and one oiler in the vicinity of PILOPILO GANONGGA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. Eight 500-lb. bombs were dropped. No hits were observed.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 26, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No action reports from SOLOMON ISLANDS AREA.

PACIFIC

Submarine SEARAVEN, returning from patrol of SUNDA STRAIT and CHRISTMAS ISLAND, reports the following:-

- October 5 - - One hit in 7,000-ton freighter which subsequently stranded on CHRISTMAS ISLAND.
- October 12 - Sank an 8,000-ton German freighter. (This sinking was reported in the Summary of October 13th.)
- November 17 - Two hits in 14,000-ton SHIRETOKA Type naval tanker at pier in FLYING FISH COVE, CHRISTMAS ISLAND. A large explosion and flying debris were observed. The ship broke up.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OLD LETTERS

5 p.m. November 25, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

There was no ground activity of importance on GUADALCANAL in the last twenty-four hours.

At 3:00 a.m. November 25, one enemy plane dropped bombs to the south of the airfield and inflicted some personnel casualties.

Army Aircobras harrassed enemy ground positions.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. November 25, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL a Marine patrol contacted an enemy encampment on the north slope of MAMBULO. Seventy of the Japanese were killed and five machine guns captured. Our casualties, - two wounded.

On the west flank our forces are reorganizing and operations are temporarily halted.

GUADALCANAL dive bombers and fighters attacked LAMBETI, NEW GEORGIA, on November 23rd. and scored a direct hit on a warehouse.

Air observation indicated enemy unloading supplies on CHOISEUL ISLAND November 21st. and a cargo vessel was observed unloading near MUNDA. The weather prevented air attack on these objectives.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p;m. November 24, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No action reports received for the SOLOMONS AREA.

PACIFIC.

The Submarine SALMON, returning from patrol off MANILA BAY, reports the following:-

- November 8th. - 290 miles northwest MANILA BAY two torpedo hits in 7,000-ton freighter.
- November 10th. - Large sampan destroyed.
- November 17th. - 295 miles northwest of MANILA BAY two torpedo hits in 6,000-ton oiler; one hit in 5,000-ton cargo vessel; one hit in 5,000-ton oiler.

Two of the vessels in the attack of November 17th. are believed sunk.

The Submarine TAUTOG, returning from patrol off the INDO-CHINA COAST, reports sinking a 5,000-ton cargo vessel on October 27th. 135 miles southeast of CAMRANH BAY, in addition to destroying a 70-ton fishing schooner 160 miles west of ZAMBOANGA, PHILIPPINES, on October 20th.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. November 23, 1942.

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SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL slight local advances continue west of the MATANIKAU RIVER. The Japanese are active in the MAMBULO and upper MATANIKAU regions. Enemy positions were harried by aircraft during the night of 22-23 November.

PACIFIC

The Submarine TAMBOR, returning from patrol in the TONKIN GULF, FRENCH INDO-CHINA, reports sinking an 8,000 ton passenger freighter 110 miles east southeast of HAIPHONG, FRENCH INDO-CHINA and destroying by gunfire a 30-ton sampan 155 miles northwest of ZAMBOANGA, PHILIPPINES, taking 10 members of the crew prisoners.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. November 22, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL our advance on the west flank is continuing slowly in the face of stubborn enemy resistance. No other ground activity in other sectors.

The GUADALCANAL Air Force continuously attacked enemy positions west of the MATANIKAU RIVER. In the vicinity of DUNAI, NEW GEORGIA, a near miss was made on an enemy cargo vessel.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. November 22, 1942

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS are generally quiet. Logistic support of GUADALCANAL AREA is proceeding satisfactorily.

The Destroyer BENHAM in the engagement off SAVO ISLAND on the night of November 14-15 was struck by a torpedo. Subsequent working in seaway caused the ship to begin breaking up. At about 4 p.m. November 15th., 25 miles south of CAPE HENSLow, GUADALCANAL, the BENHAM was abandoned and sunk by gunfire. The personnel were transferred to the Destroyer GWIN.

The Submarine SILVERSIDES reports sinking one cargo vessel off TRUK and a destroyer off NEW HANOVER (northwest end of NEW IRELAND).

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 21, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On November 21st. numerous patrol contacts along upper end of the MATANIKAU RIVER, GUADALCANAL. The Army is engaged in local operations vicinity of POINT CRUZ in preparation for general attack.

P-39's of the GUADALCANAL Air Force carried out eleven attack missions against enemy installations.

PACIFIC

The Submarine GUARDFISH, returning from patrol in the EAST CHINA SEA, reports sinking 15,000 tons of enemy shipping including a loaded tanker.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. November 20, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 18 November enemy patrols on GUADALCANAL were active and aggressive. Our forces advanced their positions on the west flank to the westward of POINT CRUZ.

On 19 November ground action was limited to patrol activity covering advancement of outpost line. Japanese losses amounted to about 35 killed, our casualties were light.

In the raid on shipping at BUIN on 18 November P-38's escorting the B-17's and B-26's shot down three Zero fighters in addition to those previously reported shot down by the bombers.

At 2:30 p.m. 19 November a large burned out enemy cargo vessel sank following an explosion inshore near CAPE ASTROLABE, MALAITA ISLAND. This vessel was one that had not been previously reported as sunk.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. November 19, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Commander South Pacific reports that of the estimated 1500 Japanese troops landed near TETERE on GUADALCANAL, November 2nd., 800 have been killed. The remaining enemy troops of this force are dispersed into groups and are working back into the jungle. This force is considered to be no longer effective due to disorganization and losses.

A combined air striking force on the BUIIN AREA resulted in two hits on an enemy cargo vessel by B-17's and one close miss (20 feet). B-17's shot down ten land Zero fighters and two biplanes. Marauders shot down two Zeros certain and one probable. The bombing accomplished by the Marauders was not observed and the results of the P-38 flight has not been reported by GUADALCANAL.

The S-42 reports getting one torpedo hit on a FUBUKI type destroyer 60 miles west northwest of FAISI ISLAND on 2 November.

The S-47 reports getting one torpedo hit on a KAKO or TONE Class heavy cruiser south of SHORTLAND ISLAND also on 2 November.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. November 19, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report of the night action 14-45 November off SAVO ISLAND indicates that the following enemy vessels were sunk:-

One Heavy Cruiser or Battleship;
Three large Cruisers (probably Heavy Cruisers);
One Destroyer.

Enemy ships damaged:-

One battleship (14" gun) hit repeatedly by 16"
and some 5" shells.
One cruiser and destroyer burning.

Our destroyers were observed to have fired rapidly and accurately which contributed to the sinking of one Japanese destroyer and damage to the other enemy destroyer, as reported above.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. November 17, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Submarine GRAYBACK, returning from patrol of ST. GEORGE CHANNEL (east of RABAU) reports following damage to enemy:-

- 22 October - - Hits observed in 9,000-ton enemy transport with No. 303 painted on bridge 20 miles west of CAPE ST. GEORGE.
- 31 October - - Two hits heard by sound on 8,000-ton enemy naval auxiliary vessel 12 miles south of CAPE GAZELLE (near RABAU). Propellers stopped.
- 4 November - - Three hits in enemy 8,000-ton merchant vessel 15 miles southwest of CAPE ST. GEORGE. One hit seen and two heard by sound.

The GRAYBACK reports no positive evidence of these vessels sinking as she was forced to deep submergence after each attack. A total of 82 depth charges were dropped at the GRAYBACK during her patrol without material damage.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. November 17, 1942.

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Complete information regarding the naval engagements of the night of the 14th.-15th. is not yet available. The following report has been received.

Our battleships opened fire on what were believed to be cruiser targets. Three minutes later the accompanying destroyers also opened fire. The Destroyer PRESTON was hit by an 8" salvo and possibly a torpedo three minutes later. The ship rolled over and sank within thirty seconds. About the same time the Destroyer WALKE was hit by heavy caliber shells and possibly a torpedo. She sank in about five minutes. 24 officers and about 220 men were rescued from these two ships.

A delayed report has been received concerning casualties incurred in the night action off SAVO ISLAND early on the morning of the 13th. - Rear Admiral Scott and his entire Staff were killed in action except one officer named Murdock, who was badly wounded. The approximate percentage of survivors of the officers and men of ships lost is as follows:-

ATLANTA	- - - - -	60%
CUSHING	- - - - -	70%
LAFHEY and MONSSEN	-	30%
BARTON	- - - - -	10%

About 25% of the survivors are wounded, many seriously. The Commanding Officers of the ATLANTA, CUSHING, MONSSEN, and the Commander Destroyer Division TEN are among the survivors.

PACIFIC

In connection with the rescue of the Rickenbacker party near SAMOA, the performance of duty of Lieutenant W.F. Eadie and Aviation Radioman L.H. Boutte has been described as outstanding. Lieutenant Eadie landed his plane, an observation type OS2-U-3, on a medium sea by the light of flares. Captain Rickenbacker and another survivor were lashed to the wings of the plane and a third survivor placed in the cockpit. The plane was then taxied 40 miles to its base.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 16, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

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OWN DAMAGE.

The Heavy Cruiser SAN FRANCISCO received numerous shell hits, some of them 14", above and below the water-line. The superstructure was riddled. Her Captain was killed and fighting efficiency reduced to 25%. Rear Admiral Callaghan and most of his Staff were killed.

The Heavy Cruiser PORTLAND received a torpedo hit aft and proceeded to TULAGI where repairs sufficient to get her underway are being made.

The Light Cruiser HELENA was damaged to an unknown extent.

The Light Cruiser ATLANTA was badly damaged and sunk by own forces at daylight.

The Light Cruiser JUNEAU received some damage. This ship was torpedoed and sunk the next day while en route south.

The Destroyer LAFFEY was sunk by gunfire.

The Destroyer BARTON blew up from gunfire and a torpedo hit.

The Destroyers CUSHING and MONSSEN were badly damaged, burned and sank the next morning.

The Destroyer AARON WARD was damaged, proceeded to TULAGI, is making repairs and will shortly sail southward.

The Destroyer O'BANNON was damaged by an underwater explosion, possibly a depth charge from the LAFFEY.

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No information on other engagements of the 13th.-15th. is yet available.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 16, 1942.

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SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Preliminary reports of the night action of the 13th-14th. of November, off SAVO ISLAND, have been received. Following is a resume of information available.

The enemy forces were formed in three groups totaling:-

- 2 KONGO Class Battleships,
- 2 Heavy Cruisers,
- 4 Light Cruisers, and about
- 10 Destroyers.

The U.S. Force passed between the right and center groups. Firing ranges were from 1500 to 4000 yards. The center and left enemy groups apparently engaged each other, then all remaining ships ceased fire and retired. It is believed that all enemy ships that escaped were hit. The action commenced at 1:48 a.m., 14 November. Our force numbered:-

- 2 Heavy Cruisers,
- 3 Light Cruisers, and
- 8 Destroyers.

ENEMY DAMAGE.

One battleship was struck with two torpedoes seen to detonate and was hit and set afire by 8" shells. This is believed to be the battleship attacked next day by our air forces. No information is available as to what finally became of this ship.

A second battleship received two torpedo hits and gunfire.

Two heavy cruisers were seen to blow up and sink after torpedo and gunfire had hit them.

A light cruiser of the NATORI Class (5170 tons) was seen to sink and two additional ships of the same, or similar, class were hit heavily and set afire.

A FUBUKI Class (1700-ton) destroyer and two or three other destroyers blew up. Several destroyers were set on fire.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. November 15, 1942. (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

3 Destroyers damaged, 1 unaccounted for.

This estimate does not include damage to convoy and its escort nor large force of cruisers and destroyers reported at 4:00 p.m. on November 14th. 150 miles north of GUADALCANAL.

Additional information has been received as follows:-

Enemy damage considerable, but data incomplete.

Destroyers WATKINS and PRESTON were lost south of SAVO ISLAND. The BENHAM and GWIN were seriously damaged and were proceeding at slow speed to the west and south of GUADALCANAL towards ESPIRITU SANTO at 2:45 a.m. November 15th.

The SOUTH DAKOTA was hit by gunfire and suffered 30 dead and 60 wounded. Damage to battery, fire control, radar, catapults and planes was serious. In addition, five tanks are ruptured, but the vessel is capable of 27 knots. It is considered that Navy Yard repairs are required.

The WASHINGTON is undamaged and is proceeding in company with the SOUTH DAKOTA to rendezvous with destroyers 165 miles southeast of GUADALCANAL.

Five enemy transports sunk, three burning and dead in the water northwest of SAVO. The four transports unloading at GUADALCANAL beached and burning have been previously reported. This is a total of twelve transports considered destroyed.

The PORTLAND sank one SHINURI Type destroyer in the night action early on the morning of November 13th.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9:30 a.m. November 15, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Early on the morning of the 15th. three enemy transports were burning and abandoned 95 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL. Enemy formations retiring to the north were seen in the following positions and distances from GUADALCANAL:-

- 1 Light Cruiser and 1 Destroyer - - 200 miles northwest.
- 4 Cruisers, 4 Destroyers, and
3 Smaller Craft - - - - - 85 miles north.
- 1 Heavy Cruiser, 1 Light Cruiser,
and 2 Destroyers - - - - - 145 miles north.
- 1 Heavy Cruiser, 2 Light Cruisers - 220 miles north.

Four enemy cargo ships were beached near TASSAFARONGA on GUADALCANAL shortly after midnight of the 14th.-15th. and commenced unloading. They were attacked after daybreak by GUADALCANAL air, U.S. shore batteries, and by gunfire from the Destroyer MEADE. They were completely destroyed.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9:30 a.m. November 15, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the night action of 12-13 November eighteen 8" hits were scored on a KONGO-Class battleship off SAVO ISLAND by the heavy cruiser SAN FRANCISCO. The battleship was attacked next morning by GUADALCANAL planes. Seven attacks were made by torpedo planes and five by dive bombers, resulting in seven torpedo hits aft and two 1000-lb. bomb hits.

Seventeen B-17's attacked the same battleship at 11:20 a.m. Sixty-eight 500-lb. bombs were dropped from 14,000 feet. Five or six hits were scored.

At 6:30 p.m. the battleship was still afloat, although burning and smoking, with very little way on. Five destroyers were escorting and these were strafed at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. by our fighters.

The battleship was not observed on the morning of the 14th.

On the early morning of the 14th. enemy naval forces bombarded the airfield area on GUADALCANAL. One dive bomber and two Navy fighters were destroyed. Seventeen Navy fighters were damaged, but the majority were immediately repairable. Personnel casualties were light.

On GUADALCANAL on the 13th. of November ground action was confined to the east flank, where 80 Japanese were killed in three contacts.

No details are available concerning the engagements on the evening and night of the 14th.-15th., other than indications that our surface forces were engaged in the RUSSELL-SAVO ISLANDS AREA. A number of survivors were seen in the water in this area.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9:30 a.m. November 15, 1942. *WAC*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL on the 13th. ground action was confined to the east flank where 80 Japanese were killed in three contacts. At 7:30 a.m. eight Zeros were shot down out of a formation of ten which attacked, to one U.S. fighter lost. Later in the day, off SAVO ISLAND, a KONGO-Class Battleship was attacked by GUADALCANAL planes and badly damaged. The escorting destroyers were strafed. All our planes returned. The battleship was damaged further later in the day by B-17's.

No information has yet become available as to the surface engagements on the evening and night of the 14th.-15th. of November. *H-4*

On the morning of the 15th. three enemy transports were burning and abandoned 90 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL. A number of survivors were seen in the water between SAVO and RUSSELL ISLANDS. Various formations of enemy vessels, totaling 10 Cruisers and 7 Destroyers were seen retiring to the north at high speed. *H-4*

About midnight of the 14th.-15th. four enemy cargo ships were beached near TASSAFARONGA and unloading commenced. Commencing at dawn, these vessels were attacked by air and surface units and destroyed. *on H-2*

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 14, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of the 13th. Army B-17's attacked an enemy battleship of the FUSO Class, inflicting heavy damage.

Further information received concerning the action off SAVO ISLAND early morning of the 13th. indicates that the Destroyer AKATSUKI was sunk.

Early on the morning of the 14th. the following formations of enemy ships were seen retiring northwards from the GUADALCANAL AREA:-

2 Cruisers and 2 Destroyers to the west of GANONGA ISLAND;

5 Cruisers and 6 Destroyers southwest of VIRU Harbor;

5 Ships, of which one was damaged, 145 miles north of GUADALCANAL.

2 Cruisers and 4 Destroyers, 25 miles west of CAPE ESPERANCE. - This formation was attacked by GUADALCANAL planes and both cruisers badly damaged.

At the same time, a group of 12 transports, escorted by battleships, cruisers, and destroyers, was seen 165 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL and standing toward that island. Early on the afternoon of the 14th. this force was attacked by our air and later by surface units. Reports received of this action are meager. However, it appears that six enemy transports are badly damaged and that the entire force commenced a retirement to the north about sundown from a point 80 miles north of GUADALCANAL. There are indications that the undamaged ships may attempt to make a landing tonight on GUADALCANAL.

At 8:00 p.m. on the 14th. a naval engagement was in progress 19 miles to the westward of RUSSELL ISLAND. No reports concerning progress or outcome are yet available.

PACIFIC.

The U.S. Submarine FINBACK, returning from a patrol east of FORMOSA, reports sinking 27,000 tons of shipping.

A Navy Catalina picked up Captain E. Rickenbacker and five other survivors of a forced landing, late in October, 600 miles northwest of TUTUILA, SAMOA.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. November 13, 1942. W.S.B.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 1:40 a.m., 14 November, GUADALCANAL reported being shelled by naval gunfire.

A delayed report states that on 11 November mopping up operations in the vicinity of TETERE were completed. Captured arms, ammunition, and stores were destroyed. Our troops have withdrawn to a covering position to west side of METAPONA RIVER. At least 350 Japanese were killed. Our losses amounted to 40 dead and 120 wounded. A large enemy group escaped to southwest from TETERE and are being intercepted by our raiders.

On the west flank, our advance to the westward was halted at noon, 11 November, and a withdrawal was made to the east side of the MATANIKAU RIVER to establish a temporary defense line.

A flight of 12 fighters and 6 dive bombers attacked REKATA BAY Area during the morning of 11 November. This area appears deserted.

PACIFIC

The U.S.S. THRESHER on return from patrol in the INDO CHINA-GULF OF SIAM-MAKASSAR AREA reports sinking or heavily damaging two cargo vessels of about 5,000 and 6,000 tons on 19 September, north of LOMBOK STRAIT, with torpedoes, and on 31 October sinking a 3,000-ton motor ship with gunfire off KAPOPOSANG ISLAND (north of BALI).

COMMENCE FILE

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. November 13, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The U.S.S. PORTLAND suffered damage to steering gear as a result of a torpedo hit and will require a tow.

The U.S.S. ATLANTA was evidently badly damaged and was being abandoned and sunk by demolition charges.

The U.S.S. AARON WARD (destroyer) was towed to the anchorage in TULAGI Harbor.

Damage to enemy has not been reported other than a report from GUADALCANAL at 8:23 a.m., 13 November, which states that the Jap battleship KONGO is still afloat near SAVO ISLAND. A light cruiser, believed to be enemy, is out of control in the vicinity of the KONGO. An unidentified ship exploded and sank four miles south of SAVO ISLAND. A Jap battleship and three destroyers are retiring to the westward.

At 0925, 13 November, an enemy force of 10 transports, escorted by 12 cruisers and destroyers, were sighted north of VELLA LAVELLA ISLAND retiring to the northwest.

At 10 a.m., 13 November, an enemy force consisting of one carrier, one battleship, three destroyers, plus other vessels were sighted 220 miles north of GUADALCANAL retiring to the north at 15 knots.

Captain W.T. Sherry, Jr., USA, a survivor of the crashed Rickenbacker plane, was picked up 130 miles east of FUNAFUTI. Captain Sherry stated that Rickenbacker, one Colonel, U.S. Army, and four other survivors are on two life rafts in the vicinity. Search with all available air and surface craft is continuing.

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099 LettHEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 13, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Our surface forces on arrival KUKUM about dawn, 12 November, heavily shelled enemy positions, silencing shore batteries. Large fires and explosions were noted on shore. Seventy-five landing boats were found at TASSAFARONGA, some of which had been previously damaged. Our ships' gunfire destroyed thirty large ones and damaged others.

The attack at this point was interrupted due to air attack, which occurred at 2:15 p.m., 12 November, when about 23 enemy torpedo bombers, escorted by 8 Zero fighters, attacked our surface vessels in the vicinity of GUADALCANAL. 28 of our fighters were sent to intercept. Our planes shot down 16 torpedo bombers and 5 Zero fighters, while ships' gunfire shot down 9 planes. Only one enemy plane was seen to escape.

The U.S.S. SAN FRANCISCO was side-swiped by a burning plane which resulted in 30 casualties and slight damage.

The U.S.S. BUCHANAN was hit by one 5" shell which did some damage and resulted in five casualties.

No other ships were damaged at this time. Few casualties were incurred from own gunfire.

Incomplete reports indicate that our surface forces in the GUADALCANAL AREA engaged enemy forces in a night action about 2:30 a.m. 13 November. Our forces were apparently composed of:-

SAN FRANCISCO, HELENA, PENSACOLA, PORTLAND, JUNEAU, ATLANTA, and about 11 destroyers.

The following vessels are reported as being damaged and retiring at 15 knots:-

SAN FRANCISCO (heavy cruiser),
JUNEAU (light cruiser)
HELENA (light cruiser),
O'BANNON (destroyer),
FLETCHER (destroyer), and
STERETT (destroyer)

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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11-12-42

5 p.m. November 12, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No action reports from the SOUTH PACIFIC.

PACIFIC

The U.S.S. SPEARFISH on return from patrol off LUZON reports sinking a minelayer of 2,500 tons on 24 September 70 miles south southwest of MINDORO ISLAND and a merchant vessel in convoy on 9 October 90 miles northwest of CORREGIDOR.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. November 12, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No action reports received since yesterday afternoon's Summary.

PACIFIC

The Submarine SEAWOLF, while patrolling MAKASSAR STRAIT and DAVAO GULF, sank the following:-

- November 2 - 3,500-Ton MARU off CAPE SAN AUGUSTIN.
- November 3 - 9,000-Ton Motorship loading off TALOMO Wharf. Three hits scored, vessel sinking and on fire when last seen.
- November 3 - 5,000-Ton MARU inbound DAVAO CITY.
- November 8 - 4,000-Ton MARU off SAN AUGUSTIN.

NOTE:- CAPE SAN AUGUSTIN is at the Eastern Entrance to DAVAO GULF.
TALOMO is five miles west of DAVAO in DAVAO GULF.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. November 11, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 9:30 a.m. 11 November, 10 enemy dive bombers, escorted by 12 Zero fighters, were over GUADALCANAL. The U.S.S. ZELIN, Naval Transport, was damaged by three near bomb misses while unloading. One hold was flooded and another partially flooded. 5 Zeros and 1 bomber were shot down, plus 2 Zeros and 1 bomber probable.

At 11:35 a.m. 11 November a group of 5 Zero fighters and 25 twin-engine bombers came over. Our planes shot down 6 bombers and 2 probable. Anti-aircraft fire shot down one bomber.

Our aircraft losses amounted to 7 fighters from which two pilots were saved. Five additional fighters were damaged.

No other ships were damaged in either of the above attacks.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. November 11, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On GUADALCANAL, near TETERE, about four miles east of KOLI POINT, a Jap force of unknown strength has been surrounded. This, apparently, is the force which was landed on the night of November 2nd-3rd. The advance toward KOKUMBUNA, to the west, was resumed at daylight of the 10th. Army P-39's flew four attack missions in support of the ground forces.

On the morning of November 9th. 180 miles northwest of LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL, two light cruisers and three destroyers were seen, en route to FAISI. In this same locality, early on the evening of November 10th., GUADALCANAL dive bombers attacked five enemy destroyers headed southeast. Near misses were made, but no hits. There are indications, however, of slight damage to these ships. Toward midnight, enemy ships were in the vicinity of CAPE ESPERANCE, GUADALCANAL. These were apparently the same units.

Near SANTA ISABEL ISLAND on the 9th. our air search located a camouflaged and radio equipped schooner.

The Destroyer Minesweeper SOUTHARD at 0230, local time, on the 10th. attacked and probably sank an enemy submarine five miles off HADA BAY, northwest point of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND.

A large flight of enemy planes was over the GUADALCANAL air field at 11:20 a.m., local time, November 11th.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. November 10, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report from SOUTH PACIFIC states that additional air losses of enemy on 7 November, not previously reported, were three Zero float planes and one float biplane.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. November 10, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No action reports from the SOUTH PACIFIC this morning.

RALEIGH searching estimated Japanese patrol stations along the 175th. Meridian to the westward of the ELLICE ISLANDS failed to make contact with any enemy units.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a. m. November 9, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

November 8th - search planes from GUADALCANAL strafed and bombed three beached floating biplanes at REKATA BAY, destroyed three landing boats south of CAPE ESPERANCE and three landing boats west of TASSAFARONGA.

During the evening a two-man Japanese submarine at CAPE ESPERANCE was sighted, bombed, strafed, and destroyed.

LANSLOWNE reports bombarding suspected positions at KOLI POINT at 3 p.m. on the 7th.

Additional reports of air attacks against one cruiser, ten destroyers north of LUNGA POINT stating that our fighters scored two hits and two near misses with 100 pound bombs on a Japanese destroyer.

Submarine GRAYLING reports two torpedo hits in CHYODA type aircraft tender.

At 9:50 p.m. of the 8th three of our motor torpedo boats encountered two Japanese destroyers on SAVO ISLAND near CAPE ESPERANCE firing five torpedoes, and making one definite hit. One torpedo boat was holed by a shell.

Japanese appearing to be preparing for an attack about the 11th.

ENTERPRISE is now prepared to operate 66 planes on 24 hours notice. Expects to be fully ready by November 21st.

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OSD Letter # 1

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. November 8, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

This same force was sighted earlier, at 10 in the morning, and attacked by 11 B-17's, - no hits being made.

An enemy plane shot down on GUADALCANAL on 25 October was an Army light bomber, - uniform of pilot Army.

Documents captured on GUADALCANAL indicate that the presence of our naval force in the area prevented the landing of the Japanese 38th. Division which was embarked on transports with the plan for a general attack on 3 November. Diaries captured indicate sickness and a shortage of food and ammunition in enemy forces. They also indicate that our naval gunfire and air attacks have been very effective in bringing about a decline in morale amongst the Japanese. ✓

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. November 8, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 6 November our forces advanced to METAPONA RIVER, four miles east of KOLI POINT, making no contact with enemy forces. Advance to the east continued on the morning of the 7th.

P-400's made seven attacks on Japanese positions, destroying a boat with gas drums and a large ammunition dump. Continuous dive bomber patrols were made over Japanese positions.

During the night of 6-7 November our motor torpedo boats reported two Japanese destroyers off LUNGA POINT and claimed one destroyer sunk. Our air (probably the following morning) reported a large oil slick, boxes, life rafts, in the vicinity of NUGU ISLAND, SEALARK CHANNEL (20 miles east of LUNGA), - possibly moved by the current.

The small Transport MAJABA was struck amidships by one torpedo two miles east of LUNGA at 9:30 on the morning of the 7th. and was beached at 3 p.m. From the statements of those who saw the periscope and conning tower, it appears that this attack was made by a midget or very small submarine.

Two of our destroyers in the vicinity made sound searches during the remainder of the day, during which three depth charge attacks were made without apparent results.

At 5:30 in the afternoon of the 7th. seven dive bombers, three torpedo planes, eight P-39's, and twenty-two fighters attacked a Japanese force of one light cruiser and ten destroyers 135 miles north of LUNGA POINT (force was headed to the south). Two torpedo hits, one 1000-lb. bomb hit, and one near miss were made on the cruiser, and one torpedo hit on a destroyer. P-39's shot down five float biplanes; F-4-F's shot down five float Zeros and two float biplanes, - total twelve planes. Four F-4-F's failed to return, one of the pilots being rescued. At 6:00 the enemy headed to the eastward. Our planes reported seeing an explosion after the ships were no longer visible. As a result of this destruction of planes, the Japanese were apparently unable to provide planes for a projected covering operation the following morning.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**
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9 a.m. November 7, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)5 November.

H-2
At 11:30 in the morning 27 Bombers and Zeros were over GUADALCANAL positions. Due to cloud conditions our fighters did not make contact. Bombs were dropped near defense lines killing one, wounding five.

Our aircraft were continuously over Japanese land positions. Five attacks were made by P-400's and one by dive bombers.

During the night of the 5th.-6th. the Second Marines repulsed light attacks west of POINT CRUZ.

H-3
TULAGI Marines completed a successful operation against the Japanese outpost at CAPE ASTROLQBE (north tip of MALAITA ISLAND). Nineteen Japanese were killed, one captured. All radio equipment, documents, arms, and ammunition were captured intact. Only two unarmed Japanese escaped to the bush. No Marine casualties.

6 November.

our westernmost point of advance on H-2
Easternmost point of advance on H-2
facing Indispensable Strait,
By the morning of the 6th. the 164th. Infantry had completed passage of the MALIMBUI RIVER (KOLI POINT) and were advancing to the north to envelope the Japanese south flank. No large contacts had been made at the time of the report.

At 4:00 in the morning of the 3rd. the McCALLA sighted the periscope of a submarine submerging close aboard off the south entrance of INDISPENSABLE STRAIT. A depth charge attack was made. Loud underwater explosions were heard after the depth charges had exploded. Submarine possibly sunk.

On the 7th. a Japanese submarine was sighted off LUNGA POINT.

H-4
PEARL HARBOR reports that REKATA BAY was probably reinforced on 5 November.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 6, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report from GUADALCANAL states Marines are holding the positions that were captured west of MATANIKAU. The Japanese made a strong counter-attack against these positions on the night of the 4th.-5th. which were repulsed with heavy Japanese losses.

In the east sector the Marines are holding in the vicinity of KOLI POINT while two Army battalions are moving to envelope the enemy left flank from the south. During the 4th. fighting in this sector was limited to patrol action.

Landings at KUKUM and AOLA BAY completed and transports have departed. - Landing at AOLA BAY is being kept very secret for the present.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 5, 1942(Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

KOKUMBONA were shelled by our naval forces.

The transports in the AOLA BAY Area continued unloading during the night. The transports in the KUKUM Area stood out during the night with the intention of returning the following day to complete unloading, - which would require six hours.

Destroyer transports are returning to ESPIRITU SANTO to embark two companies of the Second Marine Raider Battalion.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 5, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Additional information relating to the carrier action of 26 October north of the SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS obtained from captured notebooks, etc., reveal that there were four carriers present in the battle:-

SHOKAKU	ZUIHO
ZUIKAKU	HAYATAKA.

Three of these carriers carried:-

54 Torpedo Planes,
42 Bombers,
56 Fighters.
<u>152</u> Total.

Also planes from REKATTA BAY participated in the action. Carrier not included above probably carried in the neighborhood of 50 planes.

One of the surface ships present in the battle was the reconditioned battleship HIEI.

A captured document shows that the Japanese plan to land the 38th. Division east of KOLI POINT. (This from a message dated the 3rd., apparently sent before information of next paragraph of this Summary).

On the night of the 3rd.-4th. Japanese landed 7000 yards east of KOLI POINT. This landing was attacked by a battalion of the 7th. Marines at dawn. The Marines were driven back by superior forces supported by Japanese artillery. GUADALCANAL reports that ground troops were concentrating on the afternoon of the 4th. to destroy this hostile force. Beginning at 4:30 in the afternoon planes bombed and strafed the Japanese area in this vicinity.

A despatch dated the 5th. continues with the information that our attack against the Japanese west of the MATANIKAU RIVER continued successfully with 350 Japanese killed at one point west of POINT CRUZ, - three field pieces, twelve 37mm guns, and thirty machine guns were captured.

As previously reported, the Japanese positions at

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4:30 p.m. November 4, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Commanding General, Army Forces, SOUTH PACIFIC, operation report for 1 November states that 19 B-17's dropped 379 - 100-lb. bombs on enemy supply and troop concentration area at KOKUMBONA. 335 of these bombs were dropped in an area 1000 feet wide and 4000 feet long parallel to the beach at the mouth of the POHA RIVER. Bombs were dropped from an average altitude of 4000 feet. Results, - smoke over the area with a few small fires.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8:30 a.m. November 3, 1942 (Cont'd.)
SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL reports a hostile landing effected on the night of the 2nd-3rd. east of KOLI POINT from one light cruiser, one transport, and one destroyer.

GUADALCANAL also reports that U.S. transports are still unloading. Motor torpedo boats were off KOLI POINT until daylight (apparently these motor torpedo boats did not make contact with the Japanese forces in this area).

The PLUNGER reports making two hits on a NATORI Class Light Cruiser (5,170 tons) at 4:15 on the morning of the 3rd. in INDISPENSABLE STRAIT (between FLORIDA and MALAITA).

38 miles N of H-3

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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8:30 a.m. November 3, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Corrected report of damage inflicted on Japanese forces in carrier attack on October 26th. lists the following changes:-

Add:- Four 1000-lb. bomb hits on a second TONE Class (8,500-ton) Heavy Cruiser.
One additional torpedo hit portside of NACHI Class (10,000-ton) Heavy Cruiser.

Change:- One 1000-lb. bomb hit on an unidentified battleship to one 500-lb. bomb hit on a light cruiser.

This corrected list will cause the score to read:-

SHOKAKU Class Carrier - - -	Four to six 1000-lb. bomb hits.
SHOKAKU Class Carrier - - -	Two 500-lb. bomb hits on No. 3 elevator.
KONGO Class Battleship - -	Two 1000-lb. bomb hits on No. 2 turret and starboard side amidships.
Light Cruiser (approximately 5,000-ton) - -	One 500-lb. bomb hit.
ATAGO Class Heavy Cruiser (10,000-ton) -	One possible 500-lb. bomb hit and one possible torpedo hit.
TONE Class Heavy Cruiser (8,500-ton) -	Five 500-lb. bomb hits, - one forward of bridge on the starboard side, two between stacks, one aft of stacks, one on stern.
TONE Class Heavy Cruiser (8,500-ton) -	Four 1000-lb. bomb hits.
NACHI Class Heavy Cruiser (10,000-ton) -	Three torpedo hits, - one on starboard side, two on port side.
Enemy planes destroyed -	115 certain, 46 probably additional.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. November 2, 1942.

TASK FORCE 65 was unable to make contact with the Japanese force which was reported in INDISPENSABLE STRAIT in this morning's Summary. ✓

The Transport FULLER reports a collision with the Destroyer CONYNGHAM. The forward fireroom of the CONYNGHAM was flooded and speed reduced to ten knots. The CONYNGHAM was directed to seek shelter inshore at MALAITA. Damage to the FULLER was not disabling. The FULLER, accompanied by the Destroyer SHAW, is clearing INDISPENSABLE STRAIT at best speed.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. November 2, 1942. (Cont'd)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

This force continued to be shadowed. As a result of the approach of this force, our transports were directed to withdraw and retire toward ESPIRITU SANTO, except for MAJABA and SOUTHARD, which went into TULAGI Harbor.

C.7 The SAILFISH reports making an unsuccessful attack on the Japanese Minelayer SHIRATAKA off the western entrance of FAISI. This submarine reports very strong anti-submarine activity in that area also encountered during the entire patrol.

PACIFIC

Submarine KINGFISH, returning from patrol south of HONSHU, reports sinking 12,000 tons.

1N-2

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. November 2, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

H area PD

Report from SOUTH PACIFIC indicates (apparently during the battle on the 26th. of October) that a Japanese torpedo plane dove into SMITH demolishing both forward 5" mounts, and causing extensive damage in structure in that vicinity.

— battle near H-5

U.S. losses from all causes of planes on 26 October:-

Fighters (VF)	- - - - -	27
Dive Bombers (VSB)	- -	24
Torpedo Planes (VTB)	-	13
	Total-	64
Personnel losses	- - -	24

Previously reported Japanese losses, 115 planes certain, 46 probable, - total 161.

Report of Operations on the 1st.:-

H-4

At 5:30 in the morning 7 Grummans destroyed 5 Japanese planes on the beach at REKATA BAY. Many wrecked planes were seen. All buildings were strafed. Opposing anti-aircraft fire was very heavy and accurate, causing damage to all of our planes, all of which, however, returned.

H-2 (attached to westward)

Fifth Marines crossed the MATANIKAU at daybreak attacking to the westward, supported by B-17's. P-400's and dive bombers attacked continually during the day silencing the Japanese artillery, and the Japanese withdrew slowly. One wave of our attack advanced about two miles with relatively light casualties.

H-2

Our forces, composed of about three transports and five destroyers, began unloading near LUNGA POINT on the morning of the 2nd. Later apparently the destroyers bombarded Japanese positions.

In the afternoon of the 2nd. a Japanese surface force, composed of about three cruisers and eleven destroyers, was located about 25 miles east of CAPE ASTROLABE, MALAITA, proceeding toward INDISPENSABLE STRAIT, probably for attacking our forces off LUNGA, and landing Japanese troops.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. November 1, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Commander TASK FORCE 61 estimates damages inflicted on the enemy by TASK FORCE 61 on the 26th. as follows:-

<i>large</i> } SHOKAKU Class Carrier	- Four to six 1000-lb. bomb hits.
SHOKAKU Class Carrier	- Two 500-lb. bomb hits on No. 3 elevator.
KONGO Class Battleship	- Two 1,000-lb. bomb hits on No. 2 turret and starboard side amidships.
Unidentified Battleship	- One 1,000-lb. bomb hit on starboard side astern.
ATAGO Class Heavy Cruiser- (10,000-ton)	- One possible 500-lb. bomb hit and one possible torpedo hit.
TONE Class Heavy Cruiser - (8,500 ton)	- Five 500-lb. bomb hits, - one forward of bridge on the starboard side, two between stacks, one aft of stacks, one on stern.
NACHI Class Heavy Cruiser (10,000-ton)	- Two torpedo hits, - one on each side.
Enemy planes destroyed	- 115 certain, 46 probably additional.

Commander TASK FORCE 61 states that he estimates 150 Japanese planes from four carriers participated in the attacks on our carriers. *H-2*

GUADALCANAL reports there were no ground activities on the 30th. The Air Force made three attacks on Japanese positions.

At 2 p.m. on the 30th. six Japanese dive bombers and six Zeros were intercepted in the vicinity of GUADALCANAL by five Grummans. The enemy planes jettisoned their bombs and fled. Japanese fighter protection was ineffective and four enemy dive bombers were shot down. Our planes received no damage and no losses.

During the night of the 30th.-31st. our dive bombers harrassed Japanese positions from 10 p.m. to 5:20 a.m.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. November 1, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

There were no important ground contacts on GUADALCANAL on the 29th. Our forces continued mopping up operations. A small patrol captured two damaged 75mm guns west of MATANIKAU. Planes continued attacks on Japanese positions.

A dive bomber on patrol sighted two Japanese destroyers at 10:55 p.m. the 29th. in the vicinity of TASSAFARONGA. Bombs were dropped, - no damage. However, the destroyers departed toward RUSSELL ISLAND.

At about midnight the 29th-30th. three dive bombers bombed destroyers west of RUSSELL ISLAND. There were no contacts thereafter, - one dive bomber is missing.

At about 5:10 a.m. on the 30th. seven Grummans attacked REKATA BAY. Three biplanes were destroyed on the water, main building and fuel dump were strafed and set afire, and the camp was strafed. There were three float Zero planes and two biplanes in the air.

One of our cruisers and four destroyers bombarded Japanese positions on GUADALCANAL from 6:30 to 8:45 a.m. on the 30th. Artillery, boats, and buildings were destroyed.

9 a.m. October 31, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Submarine AMBERJACK, returning from patrol in NEW IRELAND-BOUGANVILLE AREA, reports following sinkings of and damages to enemy shipping:-

September 18 - At a position about five miles north of CAPE HENPAN, BUKA ISLAND, made night radar contact with a large passenger ship. One torpedo explosion was felt and seen. Ship is believed to have been badly damaged.

September 19 - Sank a 5,000-ton loaded transport in BOUGANVILLE STRAITS.

October 7 - - Made one hit on a 4,000-ton freighter in the late afternoon about 140 miles north northeast of RABAUL. The ship settled in the water but continued on course. AMBERJACK surfaced one-half hour before sunset and gave chase. Made radar contact about 7 p.m. and fired one torpedo which missed. At 7:58 p.m. fired one long range, slow speed, torpedo. After 5 minutes and 55 seconds saw explosion and ship sank 20 minutes later.

October 10 - - Made two hits on a TONAN MARU (whale factory), 19,000 tons gross tonnage, and one hit on a transport alongside the TONAN MARU in KAVIENG Harbor. Explosions were heard and one and one-half minutes later the stern of the TONAN MARU was underwater. Both ships are believed to have been badly damaged.

On October 25th. the AMBERJACK also delivered the following supplies from ESPIRITU SANTO to GUADALCANAL:-

- 9,000 Gallons of gasoline;
- 200 100-lb. bombs;
- 15 Army air ground crew personnel; and
- Several bags of mail.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 30, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Summary of activities at GUADALCANAL on the 28th. states ground action was confined to small patrol contacts and mopping up in the vicinity of UNITED STATES positions. A patrol operating west of MATANIKAU reported several hundred Japanese dead in the vicinity of POINT CRUZ and three additional Japanese tanks found destroyed.

Japanese units identified as being present:-

Oka Regiment,
4th. Infantry,
29th. Infantry, and
15th. Heavy Artillery.

Japanese troops west of MATANIKAU were attacked by P-400's. At 5:30 p.m. on the 28th. two P-400's destroyed two float planes at REKATA BAY.

At 4:00 on the morning of the 29th. two Japanese heavy bombers dropped bombs which fell in the water.

At 12:30 on the morning of the 30th. a motor torpedo boat reported making a torpedo hit on a Japanese destroyer between CAPE ESPERANCE and SAVO ISLAND. Destroyer was left dead in the water.

A search plane reports dropping two bombs on a submerged Japanese submarine at a position 150 miles south of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND at 7:35 on the morning of the 29th., with resulting large oil slick.

U.S. Army and air reinforcements to NEW BRITAIN AREA continues.

PACIFIC

Submarine DRUM, upon departure from patrol area off HONSHU, reports sinking four Japanese merchantmen.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. October 29, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report from Commander South Pacific states that GUADALCANAL Air Forces attacked a Japanese eight-gun anti-aircraft battery at KOKUMBONA with dive bombers and P-400's. The battery was silenced and an ammunition dump and stores destroyed.

Attacks were also made on suspected field gun positions. No fire from these positions was made on the 26th.

GUADALCANAL Air Forces dropped 11 - 100 lb. and 3 - 300 lb. bombs on a Japanese bivouac area at REKATA BAY at 9:20 in the morning of the 27th. Fuel or ammunition dump was set afire. Seven float planes were strafed on the water, four of which were burned. One of our pilots parachuted near the northwest tip of ISABEL ISLAND.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. October 29, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The SCULPIN returned to AUSTRALIA the 26th. of October from a patrol trip in the BISMARCK-SOLOMONS AREA, with results:-

- 28 September - 9,200-ton tanker (3 hits, but actual sinking not observed due to severe depth charging following the attack). This sinking was northeast of MILNE BAY AREA.
- 7 October - Sank a 10,000-ton FUJI MARU type transport, near KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND.
- 14 October - Sank a tanker.
- 18 October - Northeast of BOUGANVILLE a 4,000-ton converted merchantman sunk.

TRIGGER returning from patrol of BONGO CHANNEL reports sinking one 10,000-ton tanker and one 5,000-ton cargo ship.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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5 p.m. October 28, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL reports numerous small attacks were made by Japanese forces on our forces during the night of the 26th.-27th. All of these were repulsed outside of our wire barricade.

A further report from GUADALCANAL states that during the last five days U.S. casualties have been 86 dead, 109 wounded. Japanese lost nine 14-18 ton tanks, one regimental battery, many heavy and light machine guns, and at least 2,000 Japanese were killed.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEC. 1.5
OSD Letter 1-3-78
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8:30 a.m. October 28, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

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The Battleship WASHINGTON was fired on by a submarine at 3:20 in the morning of the 27th. at a position about 370 miles west of ESPIRITU SANTO. All torpedoes missed. A second submarine attack against the WASHINGTON took place at 5:30 in the morning about 330 miles west of ESPIRITU SANTO. All torpedoes missed.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

4:30 p.m. October 27, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Further report from the Commanding Officer, TREVER, states that his ship and the ZANE were under full fire of three new Japanese destroyers for 19 minutes. Four dive bombers from GUADALCANAL intercepted the Japanese destroyers during the engagement and sank at least two of them. The TREVER and ZANE scored at least four hits. At the end of the engagement the enemy had closed to about 7000-8000 yards.

The Commanding Officer, TREVER, also reports that both ships will be provisioned, fueled, and ready for sea early morning of the 28th. The TREVER's boiler was repaired by the ship's force. The ZANE has not as yet been ordered by the Group Commander (C.O. TREVER) to take aviation gas to GUADALCANAL in view of the fact that one of the ZANE's guns was completely destroyed.

Commander TASK FORCE 61 reports that damage now determined requires that ENTERPRISE, PORTLAND, SAN JUAN, SMITH, and MAURY are required to proceed to port for further examination and temporary repairs.

Guns of the SOUTH DAKOTA's No. 2 turret were nicked by bomb fragments but may be serviceable. The Commanding Officer SOUTH DAKOTA was seriously wounded.

Additional damage to ENTERPRISE is reported as follows:-

Out of Commission - Forward Gyro;
Nos. 3 and 4 Bomb Elevators;
5" Ammunition Hoists to Groups
1 and 2;
3 Radio Transmitters.
50' of forward hangar deck bulged;
One direction finder loop destroyed;
Degaussing cables cut;
Personnel casualties - 30 dead, 60 wounded.

PORTLAND has one steering unit out of commission and the other unit is not reliable.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. October 27, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Along the MATANIKAU RIVER the Japanese were driven to the south by the 7th. Marines. During the 25th. anti-aircraft shot down one bomber, three Zeros, and ground troops got one Zero.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 27, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

with supplies again immediately after refueling and loading. He expects to make repairs while fueling.

One PBY plane reports attacking a submerged submarine about 6:00 in the morning 160 miles northeast of ESPIRITU SANTO.

A force composed of 2 battleships, 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers, changing course from 217 to eastward, was observed by a plane at 5:45 on the morning of the 27th. Contacts with a number of unidentified aircraft in this same region were made in the early morning.

Plane 49 (presumably a PBY or B-17) made contact with a Zero float plane at 6:45 in the morning about 30 miles south of NDENI, and was followed about an hour after which the Japanese plane departed on course 120 and Plane 49 continued on patrol.

Plane 47 of this same flight also made contact with a Zero plane which had a belly tank and suffered no damage.

Plane 45 of this same flight sighted a force of 13 Japanese ships, - 2 battleships, 6 heavy cruisers, 3 light cruisers, and 2 destroyers -, 180 miles north of NDENI on course 350 true, speed 20. This was at 9:00 in the morning.

At 9:50 in the morning this same plane (45 of Flight 35) reported one carrier, one heavy cruiser, and one destroyer approximately in the same position on course 350. An intercept from this plane about the same time indicates it is being attacked by a carrier Zero plane. Plane was again attacked about a half an hour later. This plane continued to report the position of the enemy. The force was apparently still headed to the northwest on course 350.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. October 27, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Following the carrier attack, TASK FORCE 61, composed of ENTERPRISE, SOUTH DAKOTA, cruisers, and destroyers, headed off to the eastward and then more to the southeastward for rendezvous with tanker about 175 miles to the east of ESPIRITU SANTO. During the night several contacts, apparently with this force, were made by Japanese planes and submarines.

Our own patrol planes scouting from ESPIRITU SANTO located a Japanese force about 585 miles north of ESPIRITU SANTO composed of one large carrier, one small carrier, a battleship, two cruisers, and some destroyers. They reported no planes on deck of either carrier. This force was on course 040 making speed 20. The patrol plane carrying a torpedo made a torpedo hit on the large carrier, but apparently did not stop it.

At 1:05 in the morning another Catalina, armed with four contact 500-lb. bombs made a steep glide bombing attack on a Japanese heavy cruiser, exact position not known, but apparently to the westward and well to the southward of the one above. Two direct bomb hits were made which lit up the ship sufficiently for it to be identified. This plane reports having been opposed by heavy anti-aircraft fire until after the bomb hits. The plane was damaged but returned safely. - At the time of the attack the cruiser was on course 80, speed 30.

ORANGE air search for the local 27th. was on a circle 150 miles radius from NDENI. Many Japanese submarines are indicated as being in the area.

¹ ~~M~~ ² ~~J~~ ³ ~~A~~ leaves ESPIRITU SANTO with supplies for GUADALCANAL on the 27th.

ZANE and TREVER, destroyer minesweepers, report having towed two motor torpedo boats each to TULAGI. While retiring from TULAGI after completing this mission these two old destroyers were engaged by three Japanese destroyers during which one gun on the ZANE was put out of commission, three killed, four seriously wounded. The Commander of this Group reports he is due to arrive ESPIRITU SANTO at 10 in the morning on the 27th. and will be ready to return to GUADALCANAL

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4:30 p.m. October 26, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL reports SEMINOLE and one Harbor Patrol Vessel were sunk on the 26th. by enemy cruisers.

A PBY plane reports getting a torpedo hit on an enemy carrier at about 12:50 a.m. on the 27th. Results were not observed.

Submarine STURGEON returning from patrol in the SOLOMON ISLANDS AREA reports sinking a 10,000-ton loaded enemy tanker on 16 September about 50 miles southeast of CAPE ST. GEORGE, - southern tip of NEW IRELAND. STURGEON also reports getting three torpedo hits on an enemy freighter (believed sunk) in approximately the same position, on 1 October.

PACIFIC

Submarine SARGO returning from patrol off INDO CHINA reports sinking one 7,000-ton freighter on 23 September about 50 miles southeast of CAPE PADARAN, INDO CHINA.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 26, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

TASK FORCE 64, consisting of one battleship, two cruisers, accompanied by destroyers, which had covered the SAVO-GUADALCANAL ISLAND AREA during the night before without making contact was directed to retire to a position west of ESPIRITU SANTO.

A later report from Commander TASK FORCE 61 states that the ENTERPRISE damage was more extensive, having received two bomb hits; No. 1 elevator was out of commission, but a reduced number of planes can be operated. SOUTH DAKOTA received one bomb hit on No. 1 turret. PORTLAND steering gear was reported as being unreliable. SAN JUAN has two small compartments flooded. PORTER sunk. Other destroyers damaged. Detailed report ~~will~~ be forwarded later.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 26, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The first flight of 5 B-17's from ESPIRITU SANTO sent to intercept enemy carriers failed to intercept. A second flight made contact with twelve enemy ships at 3:10 p.m. on the afternoon of the 25th. No hits were made, - carriers not sighted at that time.

Apparently the Japanese located and reported the position of our carrier forces about 7:00 on the morning of the 26th. A heavy carrier attack was delivered against the HORNET, ENTERPRISE, and escorting ships at 9:11 a.m. The HORNET was heavily hit by bombs and one or two torpedoes and was left burning somewhat and dead in the water. HORNET was taken in tow by the NORTHAMPTON. At 4:20 p.m. a second attack was delivered against the HORNET and TASK FORCE 17. HORNET received additional damage from torpedoes causing the list to increase and necessitated removal of personnel.

During the early attack the destroyer PORTER also received a torpedo hit.

In the meantime the remainder of TASK FORCE 61 reported as of noon that they had been under continuous attack. At 1 p.m. Commander Task Force 61 reported that the ENTERPRISE had no serious damage but her deck was immobilized due to HORNET planes, and that he was retiring eastward with the intention of flying excess planes to ESPIRITU SANTO. He also reported at that time that two enemy carriers had been damaged. - Since, however, a carrier attack was delivered at 4:20 p.m. on the HORNET, it must be assumed that, if these carriers were seriously damaged, additional Japanese carriers (one or two) were in the area, which bears out reports of the various contacts from aircraft.

At 8:00 in the evening the arrival of 13 dive bombers at ESPIRITU SANTO was reported (probably HORNET or ENTERPRISE planes).

The COOLIDGE, transporting troops to ESPIRITU SANTO, was hit by one or possibly two mines and was beached on reef inside harbor, - troops being removed.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 26, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

U.S. surface and air forces operating to the northward of the NDENI-GUADALCANAL line made contact with heavy Japanese forces to the north and west on the 25th. and 26th. U.S. forces consisted of TASK FORCE 61:-

- 2 Carriers - - - - HORNET and ENTERPRISE;
 - 1 Battleship - - - SOUTH DAKOTA;
 - 3 Heavy Cruisers - PORTLAND, NORTHAMPTON, and PENSACOLA;
 - 4 Light Cruisers - SAN DIEGO, ATLANTA, JUNEAU, and
SAN JUAN; and
- About 20 Destroyers.

This force, having made rendezvous on the 24th. 300 miles to the eastward of NDENI, was proceeding to the westward by a course which took them to the north of SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS.

The composition of the Japanese forces cannot be accurately determined. But apparently they were in at least two groups, one group containing two carriers, and the other group one carrier. These Japanese forces were screened by seaplanes, cruiser planes, etc., to the south, and were apparently covered by two lines or groups of eight or ten submarines each. The Japanese forces were apparently operating within a prescribed area in order to bring our forces into an area of attack by their submarines or an opportunity to attack by their carrier aircraft.

U.S. striking and scouting aircraft were operated from ESPIRITU SANTO (about 400 miles to the southward) against these Japanese forces, as well as those Japanese forces reported in Sunday's Summary that were operating around GUADALCANAL.

Further reports (amplifying those made in Sunday's Summary) show that Japanese forces consisting of a heavy cruiser, light cruiser and three destroyers attacked GUADALCANAL about 11 a.m. on the 25th. Dive bombers from GUADALCANAL scored one 1000-lb bomb hit on the forecastle of the heavy cruiser, also a damaging hit on the light cruiser. This force was struck again at 5 p.m. and at 5:10 p.m. B-17's made a hit on the light cruiser. Both cruisers were reported as being heavily damaged.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter # 5-8-78
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10 a.m. October 25, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

In the GUADALCANAL AREA on the morning of the 25th. the following enemy forces were observed:-

1 Battleship
3 Light Cruisers
2 Destroyers.

Two destroyers and two transports were a short distance to the north.

To the south of VANGUNA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA, there were one enemy battleship or heavy cruiser and three destroyers. At INDISPENSABLE STRAIT, approximately 30 miles northeast of GUADALCANAL, there were one heavy cruiser, one light cruiser, and four destroyers. These vessels were attacked twice by an air striking force from GUADALCANAL. The force retired to the north. When last observed the force was proceeding at 10 knots. It is believed that the heavy cruiser was damaged and a very near miss is claimed on the light cruiser.

A late search on the afternoon of the 25th. reported no enemy vessels sighted between NEW GEORGIA and SANTA ISABEL to a distance of 150 miles from GUADALCANAL.

A report believed to be from GUADALCANAL states that naval gunfire being received from two cruisers and one destroyer on the morning of the 25th. This report was timed at 10:52 a.m.

A report from Commanding General GUADALCANAL stated that enemy transports were landing on northwest coast of GUADALCANAL at about noon on the 25th.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 470-3-78

10 a.m. October 25, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Japanese laid down a heavy barrage of all caliber guns, including 6", during the night of 23rd.-24th. on our front lines along the MATANIKAU RIVER. After the barrage was lifted river crossings in force were attempted, using tanks and mass infantry. Four attacks were repulsed. Five large enemy tanks were destroyed.

In the early morning of the 24th. a Japanese force was observed attempting to outflank the left of the MATANIKAU line. This force was taken under fire by our air and artillery.

One of our torpedo planes was shot down by Japanese anti-aircraft fire, - the pilot and gunner being rescued, but a passenger was missing.

At 2:45 on the morning of the 23rd. three Catalinas made torpedo attacks on a Japanese force in the SHORTLAND-TONOLEI AREA. Two torpedoes were dropped at a light cruiser off MOULA POINT, six miles southwest of BUIN. One certain hit is claimed and one probable hit. A 500-lb. bomb hit was made on a second ship, believed to be a light cruiser or destroyer. A large vessel, probably a battleship, was also attacked in the ERVENTA ISLAND AREA. One torpedo was dropped, but the results were not observed due to anti-aircraft fire and search-light. All of our planes returned.

On the night of the 23rd. our search planes also contacted two groups of enemy naval forces. One force, consisting of a carrier, light cruiser, and destroyers was located about 390 miles northeast of GUADALCANAL. The second force, consisting of a heavy cruiser, light cruiser and two destroyers was approximately 310 miles northeast of GUADALCANAL. A Catalina dropped a torpedo at 400 ~~xxx~~ yards at a heavy cruiser. During the retirement the Catalina reports a large explosion, which may have been a torpedo hit.

The Commander Air, South Pacific, in a summary issued a summary on the morning of the 25th. which indicated that the enemy forces in the area to the east of the SOLOMONS consisted of three task forces east northeast of LUNGA POINT and distant 150, 220, and 280 miles, respectively. There were various contacts during the night of the 24th.-25th. which served to confirm this estimate.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET
EXCESSIVE
OSD Letter

4:30 p.m. October 24, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 11:20 a.m. on the 23rd. 16 Japanese bombers and about 20 Zeros came over the airfield at GUADALCANAL. 20 Zeros, 1 bomber destroyed; 3 bombers left smoking. All of our pilots are safe (no report of our plane losses or damages).

Enemy planes were over GUADALCANAL at 1 p.m. on the 23rd. A group of 5 dive bombers was sighted and shot down. One SBD crashed while taking off, - pilot and gunner killed. (This action may have been the action previously reported as taking place on the 22nd.).

No ground activity except artillery fire. Our air and artillery concentrated on an enemy 155mm position, which is believed to have been damaged.

COMMON FILE

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
080 10/24/78

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 24, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

CHESTER, speed 6, accompanied by tug and four destroyers, was due at ESPIRITU SANTO at noon the 23rd. (Report of arrival not yet received).

Commander Marine Air Wing reports it is necessary to provide 50% replacements of the dive bombers and fighters every ten days, or 18 dive bombers and 18 fighters every ten days (150% per month).

Report is received that the VIREO is now proceeding toward ESPIRITU SANTO (it is assumed that this barge had been unloaded, but there is no confirmation of this fact).

COMMON FILE
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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 23, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Plane patrolling (probably from ESPIRITU SANTO) reports sighting (apparently at 2:34 on the afternoon of the 23rd.) a single-motor landplane about 300 miles north of NDENI, - probably a carrier plane.

From diaries and statements secured from prisoners, information is assembled to the effect that the Japanese force that attacked our forces off SAVO ISLAND on the night of 8-9 August consisted of five heavy cruisers, CHOKAI, AOBA, KAKO, KINUGASA, FURUTAKA, two light cruisers, TATSUTA, TENRYU, and one or two destroyers. This force came around the west side of SAVO ISLAND and continued to veer left until it retired, with fire being initially to starboard. No Japanese ships were sunk or hit by torpedo. KAKO was damaged and AOBA had damage to forward turret. The prisoners stated that the force had come from KAVIENG or RABAUL, apparently south of island chain. KAKO received three torpedo hits (from S-44) and sank about 7 a.m. on August 10th.

Diaries also stated that the Transport KINRYU MARU and Destroyer MUTUKI were sunk on August 25th. (by dive bombers from GUADALCANAL).

PACIFIC

Submarine GREENLING returning from patrol off JAPAN reports sinking 32,000 tons of enemy shipping and hitting an auxiliary carrier with two torpedoes.

COMINCH FILE
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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 23, 1942.

WR

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL reports 7 bombers and 15 to 20 Zeros over the field at 11:15 a.m. on the 21st. during which 6 Zeros were shot down by Grumman fighters, 1 bomber by anti-aircraft fire. Two bombers left smoking. 2 Grumman fighters missing, 4 others damaged by enemy fire. Personnel casualties 9 killed, 44 wounded.

During the contact on ground at MATANAKAU RIVER on the 21st. the Japanese used some 9-ton tanks, which withdrew under artillery fire.

21st. Occupied village on RUSSELL ISLAND bombed and strafed by three of our dive bombers.

22nd. Several groups of enemy planes were over GUADALCANAL from 1 to 2 p.m. Due to weather contact was made with only five, all five of which were shot down. These planes were fixed landing-gear dive bombers.

The airfield on ESPIRITU SANTO was shelled by enemy submarine at 2:20 a.m. on the 23rd.

Intercepted report from GUADALCANAL states that 18 to 20 twin-engine planes followed by 3 single-engine planes approaching from the northwest due in GUADALCANAL at 11:25 a.m. on the 23rd. (No further report on this).

BELLATRIX with barge in tow due to leave ESPIRITU SANTO on the 23rd. and to arrive TULAGI on the 26th. with supplies.

Report received from the PORTLAND of operations on the 15th. in the GILBERT ISLANDS. One destroyer only at TARAWA Harbor. PORTLAND reports numerous straddles and destroyer apparently damaged before getting in shelter behind the island. The PORTLAND then chased and attacked a group of two merchant ships and one destroyer retiring about 15 miles west of TARAWA and set fire to largest merchant ship. PORTLAND then proceeded to MAIANA and APAMAMA without sighting any additional shipping.

COMMON FILE

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RECEIVED
OASD LANTAN 10-23-42

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 22, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The CHESTER was hit by one of four torpedoes. The other three exploded in the immediate vicinity of formation, apparently self-destructing explosions, with two running on surface close to HELENA and SAN FRANCISCO and one ahead of SAN FRANCISCO. The attack took place during moonlight, fair visibility, formation zigzagging at 19 knots.

CHESTER has flooded forward engine room and No. 3 fireroom and is steaming on course 140 making 6 knots.

Report from the SOUTH PACIFIC states that a small enemy force did not succeed in an attempt to cross the MATANAKAU RIVER at 5 p.m. on the 20th. The Japanese lost one tank or armored vehicle.

This report, amplifying previous reports and summaries, states that during the attack made by Zeros and bombers on the 20th. the Japanese lost three bombers, seven Zeros and one probable, and jettisoned their bombs. Our losses were two fighters.

Six enemy planes of various types bombed GUADALCANAL positions at intervals from 8 to 10 p.m. on the 20th. Anti-aircraft shot down one twin-engine bomber. The Japanese positions in GUADALCANAL continue to be harassed by our air.

Reports apparently from our destroyers proceeding south from HONOLULU indicate that a Japanese Auxiliary Cruiser equipped with 6" guns was being engaged 370 miles northwest of FUNAFUTI.

PACIFIC

Submarine GROOPER on return from EAST CHINA SEA patrol reports sinking one LYONS MARU Type 7000-ton cargo and passenger ship and one 5000-ton cargo ship.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/17/72
BY [illegible]

9 a.m. October 21, 1942.

WDB

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report just received from the SOUTH PACIFIC states that at 6:10 p.m. on the 19th. three Japanese destroyers escorted by ten float biplanes were bombed by our dive bombers northwest of SAVO ISLAND. One destroyer appeared damaged but continued on course. One Japanese plane destroyed. All of our planes returned.

This report also indicates that the attack made on Japanese cruisers at midnight (previously reported) was made by two of our PBV's out of six which reached target. From 2000 feet one plane got a direct hit on a cruiser and two explosions were heard.

The remainder of these PBV's bombed the beach from POINT CRUZ to TASSAFARONGA, - all planes returning.

Of the 30 Zeros (previously reported) which came over GUADALCANAL Airfield at 10:45 a.m. on the 20th., 7 Zeros plus one probable, plus two bombers were shot down. Two of our pilots are missing.

Attrition losses of our planes due to continuous heavy attacks by Japanese planes have been very heavy, - taken practically entirely by Navy planes.

Submarine AMBERJACK with aviation gas cargo is expected to arrive at GUADALCANAL on the 25th.

There is a large concentration of Japanese ships both in the BUIN AREA and in RABAU.

BOBOLINK and STERRETT have been ordered to assist the CHESTER. - The submarine which torpedoed the CHESTER was depth charged, but probably not destroyed.

Japanese Army reinforcements are en route from PALAU to RABAU.

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

~~S E C R E T~~

~~OSD Letter 123-78~~

5 p.m. October 20, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

MR

The CHESTER was hit by torpedo probably from a submarine at 9:20 p.m. on October 20, 120 miles southeast of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND. Requires tow.

Report from GUADALCANAL states that 30 Zeros attacked followed one hour later by 18 Zeros with bombers, resulting in numerous Navy fighters being damaged by Zero gunfire and only 15 F-4-F's remaining in commission.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. October 20, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report just received confirms the sinking of the MEREDITH on 15 October, as a result of three torpedo and two bomb hits. The VIREO with barge in tow, under escort by the MEREDITH, were not damaged.

Some officers and men from the VIREO had embarked on the MEREDITH in order to escape superior enemy force. Rescued from the MEREDITH 7 officers, 66 men and 3 officers, 12 men of the VIREO. The Commanding Officer of the MEREDITH, Hubbard, was lost. The Commanding Officer of the VIREO, Segg, was saved. The GRAYSON captured one Japanese aviator.

Reports indicate that the Japanese have some establishment at RENNELL ISLAND, south of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND. Reports also indicate seaplanes being operated from this area.

During the bombing attack on GUADALCANAL on the 18th. (in which 19 Japanese planes out of 40 were reported shot down) seven of our personnel were killed and eighteen wounded.

At 5 p.m. the 19th. three enemy heavy cruisers were reported as being 200 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL and were bombed by our search planes, which did not make any hits. (These cruisers were probably those reported as being attacked by our B-17's, probably PBV's, during the night of the 19th.-20th.)

At 7 a.m. on the 19th. the O'BRIEN, which had been torpedoed by a submarine on the 15th. of September, broke in half and sank 53 miles north northwest of TUTUILLA. No personnel losses.

COMMON FILE
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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEC
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter # 73

5 p.m. October 19, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL reported being shelled by a single cruiser or destroyer during the night of the 17th.-18th.

At 12:50 p.m., local time, the 18th. GUADALCANAL was attacked by about 20 bombers and 20 Zeros of which 8 bombers and 11 Zeros were shot down. Two Grummans are missing.

An intercepted report from one of our planes, probably a B-17, reports attacking a Japanese cruiser 42 miles west of GUADALCANAL at 1:22 in the morning of the 19th. making one hit and one near miss, - cruiser smoking badly. Our plane returning to base with an enemy biplane on his tail. This airplane also reported a force consisting of two Japanese cruisers and two destroyers in a rain squall to the northwest.

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

9 a.m. October 19, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Aircraft in contact with VIREO and PAB Barge with prospect that barge will be in tow for GUADALCANAL by 3 p.m. of the 18th. from a position 210 miles from GUADALCANAL at a speed of 10 knots. Urgent need for this delivery to GUADALCANAL which is low in bombs as well as gasoline.

The SOUTHARD (destroyer-minesweeper) was due in GUADALCANAL early morning of the 19th. with 175 drums (9,000 gallons). It is estimated that SEMINOLE towing a PAB Barge, accompanied by GRAYSON and GWIN, should arrive at 1 p.m. the 19th. This barge has 2000 drums of aviation gasoline, ammunition, and a Martson mat.

Five Army cargo planes are being used to transport bombs, aviation gas, lube oil from ESPIRITU SANTO to GUADALCANAL.

COMMENCE FILE

SECRET

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 19, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A delayed report from the HORNET Task Group recounting operations of the 16th. states that twelve float seaplanes at REKATA BAY were strafed and burned. Fuel dumps and anti-aircraft positions hit and destroyed. Report goes on to state that two transports were found beached at GUADALCANAL; four direct hits were made on them breaking their backs and setting fire to supplies. Strafed and silenced anti-aircraft positions on shore and fired landing barges from KOKUMBONA to CAPE ESPERANCE. Bombed enemy tents and supply dumps with 500-lb. and 1000-lb. bombs. Sighted no enemy shipping in the area. (It is presumed that damages inflicted by this Carrier Task Group contribute to the damages reported in previous reports).

After conference with his Commanding Officers who participated in the surface battle off SAVO ISLAND on the night of 11-12 October, Rear Admiral Scott reports that enemy ships believed sunk are:-

One heavy cruiser of the NACHI Class;
One heavy cruiser of the KINUGASA Class (FURUTAKA);
One heavy cruiser of the ATAGO Class; plus
One light cruiser of the SINDAI Class.
(The last two indicated as being possible).
Four destroyers of the HIBIKI Class; plus
One destroyer possible.
(This report of destruction of destroyers previously reported).

The report goes on to state that transport originally reported is now believed to be an old cruiser type, - this in view of the fact that a shell base of a 5.5" shell was found on board the BOISE. ITUKUSIMA and two other vessels with 5.5" guns were believed not to have participated in action.

Vice Admiral Halsey relieved Vice Admiral Ghormley as Commander South Pacific Force and South Pacific Area.

COMMCH FTR
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H I E T

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. October 18, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.).

WTC

GUADALCANAL was attacked by 14 Japanese dive bombers and 12 fighters at 7:15 on the morning of the 17th. Our air got eight bombers and two Zeros, anti-aircraft shot down six of the bombers, - total sixteen. Our only known damage was one plane missing.

At 1:15 p.m. on the 17th. 15 twin-engine bombers accompanied by many Zeros bombed GUADALCANAL. Our planes were unable to gain altitude in time to intercept. One bomber probably shot down. Our losses none.

Two destroyers report having completed firing against Japanese positions on western end of GUADALCANAL about noon the 17th., each ship having fired 1,000 rounds. They report that at least two ammunition dumps were set off and many other fires started. On completion these two ships departed from GUADALCANAL.

McFARLAND (converted seaplane tender) reports that bomb apparently exploded one or more depth charges. All compartments aft of Frame 137 flooded and entire ship missing aft of Frame 164, - the pumps were holding their own for the time being. Propellers undamaged but struts shaky. Ship is now in TULAGI back channel and requests a salvage tug for salvage operations.

The SAN JUAN reports finding no ships at NONOUTI and BERU (GILBERT ISLANDS) and no evidence of enemy activity. On the morning of 16 October SAN JUAN sank two enemy patrol vessels by gunfire, - one 320 miles northwest of FUNAFUTI and the other 300 miles northwest of FUNAFUTI, capturing 2 officers and 14 enlisted survivors.

SEALED SECRET

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COMSOPAC		COMINCOM GINOPAC CTF 16 CTF 17 CTF 22	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE 18 OCT 1942			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM 1846		DECLASSIFIED OSD Letter, 6-8-72	PRIORITY
DECODED BY KEARNEY			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE. **NCR 9747-8**

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT
TEXT

**GHORMLEY SENDS. CARPENDER PASS TO MACARTHUR.
SOPAC OPERATIONS.**

**LATER REPORT PBY ATTACK 0245L 16TH STATES 1 TORPEDO
HIT ON BOW OF 1 CRUISER OF 10 CRUISERS AND DD'S LAT 09-50
SOUTH LONG 164-55 EAST.**

**MACFARLAND WAS ATTACKED AT 1745L 16TH BY 8 TYPE 99
2 PLACE DIVE BOMBERS. STERN WAS BLOWN OFF AFT OF AFTER
DECK HOUSE. NOW ANCHORED TULAGI. 4 ZEROS SHOT DOWN. 7 B-17'S
AT 1750L 16TH DROPPED 44 500 POUND BOMBS ON ENEMY SUPPLIES
KOKUMBOBB BEACH. SEVERAL FIRES STARTED. 5 ZEROS ATTACKED
1 B-17, 1 ZERO SHOT DOWN. ALL OUR PLANES RETURNED. B-17 ON
SEARCH LAT 08-55 SOUTH LONG 160-46 EAST SHOT DOWN SERIAL 43.**

**NO GROUND ACTIVITY GUADALCANAL 16TH. OUR AIR STRUCK
TROOP CONCENTRATIONS SUPPLIES AND BATTERY POSITIONS**

No. 1 ADMIRAL

No. 2 FILE

No. 3 F-I OR CHARTROOM.

No. 4 SPECIAL

SEALED SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

NCR 18

10-2020-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

AL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

RAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM _____	FOR ACTION		PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE _____			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM _____	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY _____			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

PAGE 2 OF 171536

NCR 9747-8

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

INCESSANTLY THROUGHOUT 16TH. 14 AICHI TYPE 99 DIVE BOMBERS AND 8 ZEROS OVER GUADALCANAL AT 0745L 17TH. 8 BOMBERS 2 ZEROS DOWNED BY PLANES, UNKNOWN NUMBER OTHERS SHOT DOWN BY AA. OUR LOSS 1 PLANE MISSING. NO OTHER DAMAGE.

15 TWIN ENGINE BOMBERS ACCOMPANIED BY MANY ZEROS BOMBED POSITION AT 1315L 17TH. OUR PLANES UNABLE GAIN ALTITUDE IN TIME INTERCEPT. 1 BOMBER PROBABLY SHOT DOWN. OUR LOSSES NONE.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

No. 1 ADMIRAL

No. 2 FILE

No. 3 F-I OR CHARTROOM.

No. 4 SPECIAL

SEALED

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

NCR 16

16-50830-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

COMBICH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
ON 12/10/02
A E T

WJL

5 p.m. October 17, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The BELLATRIX, which was subjected to a dive bombing attack on the 15th., arrived at ESPIRITU SANTO at noon the 17th. BELLATRIX suffered structural damage caused by a near miss which dented in the side over an extended area with maximum distortion of 4". This caused numerous slight leaks and the carriage of No. 4 - 3" gun was sprung.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 17, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

DECLASSIFIED
ON 10-15-3-78
OSD Letter # 10-15-3-78
F E T

PBY's making search for enemy forces during the night of 15th.-16th. reported making a hit amidships of a large ship, type unknown, at 11:45 p.m. about 200 miles east of MALAITA. No explosion was seen. This may have been due to torpedo not being armed because of short run, or was invisible due to protective flare dropped on ship. Target course was north, speed 25. By this same group (PBY's) report was made of hitting a cruiser with one torpedo at a position 200 miles east of MALAITA and about 40 miles south of the earlier contact. Explosion seen and felt. Target course was 340.

The first attack was not opposed. The second attack was heavily opposed by anti-aircraft fire, resulting in minor damage to the planes. Conditions dark, no moon, radar excellent.

Two Japanese transports west of NEW GEORGIA and about 250 miles from GUADALCANAL, headed toward GUADALCANAL, on 16 October, were attacked by dive bombers. One transport was hit and left burning, other transport near misses, which continued toward GUADALCANAL.

Prisoners rescued off SAVO ISLAND state that the Japanese force attacked the night of the 11th. of October consisted of cruisers AOBA, KINUGASA and FURUTAKA (it is to be noted that KAKO believed previously sunk is not mentioned) and destroyers FUBUKI, SHIRAYUKI and SHIRAKUMO. These vessels, while steaming at 30 knots north of RUSSELL ISLAND, were completely surprised by an attack from our ships. FURUTAKA and SHIRAYUKI (1700-ton destroyer) sank off SAVO ISLAND from gunfire. Prisoners further stated that this force left SHORTLAND ISLAND about 2 p.m., carrying no troops, but destroyers had food for Army troops on GUADALCANAL. The prisoners stated that no transport was present, but that two seaplane tenders had been employed in transporting equipment.

A minelayer, possibly a group of minelayers, were nearby but separated from the cruiser group, and were not in action at the time one prisoner fell overboard from one of the minelayers.

COMMING FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 17, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

DECLASSIFIED
S E T
and Letter, 8-3-78

MRB

About 1:30 p.m. the 15th. Japanese dive bombers attacked the force composed of VIREO and a PAB Barge accompanied by MEREDITH about 90 miles southeast of SAN CRISTOBAL. Apparently the MEREDITH was sunk.

A delayed report from the Commanding General, GUADALCANAL indicates that the five Japanese transports were first sighted at daylight on the 15th. unloading along the coast from KOKUMBONA westward, escorted by eleven combatant vessels, with fighter cover. Three of these transports were set fire by attacks of dive bombers from GUADALCANAL, two of them being sunk at time of report, and the other still burning. Remaining two were hit but stood out with escort. Later B-17's also attacked and were observed to hit at least one transport and one large combatant ship.

This report goes on to state that an air raid was made at 11:30 on the 15th., - anti-aircraft shooting down three bombers. Five Zeros were shot down while our losses were three fighters, three dive bombers, and one pursuit.

Report of casualties for October 12th.-13th. were 41 dead, 15 injured (night bombardment by Japanese surface forces).

Reports were received of two minelayers in the vicinity of SAVO ISLAND on the 12th. These ships possibly laid mines.

Air searches morning of the 16th. made from GUADALCANAL observed no enemy surface vessels, but reported land concentrations along the coast between KOKUMBONA and CAPE ESPERANCE. They are being attacked by our air forces.

Two destroyers have been directed to bombard these positions.

Commanding General, GUADALCANAL, estimates about 10,000 Japanese troops landed during the morning of the 15th.

COMBICH FILE

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OSD Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. October 16, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

WLC

McFARLAND with a 100-ton barge carrying aviation gasoline was bombed at 5:45 p.m. off GUADALCANAL. McFARLAND's stern was damaged and proceeded to TULAGI. The 100-ton barge with 350 drums of aviation gas was hit and burned.

Seven dive bombers and 20 fighters arrived in GUADALCANAL at 5:30 p.m.

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NO FORN DISSEM
OBD Letters 9-3-72

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8:30 a.m. October 16, 1942. WJ

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Intelligence reports indicate continuing heavy concentration of Japanese ground forces in the RABAU AREA.

Commander Air, South Pacific, at ESPIRITU SANTO(?) has a message from Commanding General, GUADALCANAL, stating that the Japanese have moved in and placed artillery with longer range than his, which are shelling his positions. Also his positions are being shelled by surface craft moving in the area. Aviation gasoline situation at GUADALCANAL very serious. Japanese surface forces in the area very powerful.

Two reports of reconnaissance in the SHORTLAND ISLANDS-FAISI AREA indicate the presence in that area of:-

3 or 4 Battleships,
2 Carriers,
3 to 5 Heavy Cruisers,
5 Light Cruisers, and about
15 Destroyers.

A report also indicates the presence of an enemy carrier in the general vicinity of NDENI.

A report from Commander South Pacific indicates a strong enemy striking force of:-

2 Battleships,
1 Carrier,
17 Cruisers and Destroyers (4 of which are Cruisers).

This force probably from that referred to above.

Location of the WASHINGTON not known, but it is apparently being trailed by Japanese planes.

A report from HOVEY states 4 officers and 70 enlisted Japanese were recovered at noon on the 13th. west of SAVO ISLAND. They were clinging to scattered debris, mess tables, and other wooden objects. Two small life rings, but no life rafts in evidence. One of the survivors stated that the force consisted of FURATAKA, AOBA, KAKO, KINUGASA, and admitted that the first named, the FURATAKA, was sunk. No information concerning the fate of others. FURATAKA is a 7000-ton heavy cruiser. (There is information available that some of the above named ships had been sunk before and some seriously damaged).

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COMAIRSOPAC	FOR ACTION	COMSOPAC	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE 15 OCT 42			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM _____	INFORMATION	COMINCH CINCPAC	PRIORITY
DECODED BY _____			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

150921 NCR 7912-S

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT
TEXT

KERNODLE BRINGS THIS MESSAGE FROM VANDERGRIFT.
 THAT JAP HAS MOVED IN AND EMBLACED ARTILLERY OF LONGER
 RANGE THAN HIS WHICH IS SHELLING HIS POSITIONS AND AIR*-
 FIELD AT WILL. THAT ENEMY SURFACE CRAFT MOVE AT WILL
 IN SURROUNDING WATERS AND SHELL HIS POSITIONS DESTRUC-
 TIVELY BOTH DAY AND NIGHT AND THAT HE WILL BE UNABLE
 INDEFINITELY TO HOLD THESE POSITIONS IF THIS CONTINUES.
 GEIGER STATES THAT HE CAN USE NO MORE AIRCRAFT UNTIL AVGAS
 SITUATION IMPROVES AND UNTIL DESTRUCTIVE ENEMY
 FIRE ON AIRFIELD FROM BOTH LAND AND SEA IS HALTED.
 SO LONG AS ENEMY SHIPS PATROL THE SEA AREA OFF LUNGA
 DAY AND NIGHT I CANNOT SEE HOW NCFARLAND OR PAB BARGE

DECLASSIFIED
 OSD Letter, 5-3-78

No. 1 Admiral No. 2 File No. 3 F-1 or Chartographic No. 4 Special

SEALED SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

NCR 15

483107 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

NAVY MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM _____			PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE _____			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM _____			PRIORITY
DECODED BY _____			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

150921 NCR 7913-S

PAGE 2

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

CAN BE BROUGHT IN WITH REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS
 AND UNTIL THIS IS CHANGED THE AVGAS SITUATION ~~CA-NNOT~~
 BE IMPROVED TO ANY EXTENT. OFFENSIVE AIR OPERATIONS
 LIMITED NOW TO STRIKES FROM BUTTON.

DECLASSIFIED
 OSD Letter, 5-3-72

No. 1 Admiral No. 2 File No. 3 F-1 or Chartroom No. 4 Special

SEALED SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

NCR 15

483187 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
08D Lyle 1-2-78

9 a.m. October 15, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 3 a.m. on the morning of the 15th. four motor torpedo boats attacked an enemy force consisting of four cruisers and seven or eight destroyers. They report one probable hit on a cruiser, raked the bridge and put out light on a destroyer. One motor torpedo boat chased by two destroyers, - used smoke and depth charges to escape, struck coral reef, and was later towed to base. Two motor torpedo boats remain ready for service.

A submarine shelled bombing field at ESPIRITU SANTO for five minutes, - no damage.

Reports indicate that Japanese had sighted our group carrying in gasoline and supplies at 5 a.m. southeast of SAN CRISTOBAL. At 3:30 in the afternoon this force, which had moved to the southwestward to a position 160 miles south southeast of SAN CRISTOBAL, was dive bombed by nine planes, - no damage.

A delayed report from S-44 indicates that that submarine torpedoed and probably sank a destroyer, one of three, on October 4th. eight miles northeast of THURSTON INLET (north point of NEW GEORGIA).

15th.

Japanese units in a report made at 4 p.m. (included one battleship and one cruiser 320 miles east northeast of GUADALCANAL.

A report from aircraft made at 12:25 p.m. on the 15th. states that contact with enemy had been made. - Three direct hits on transports, two transports burning, one battleship crippled, eleven enemy ships in vicinity, downed one land-based Zero.

Commander Aircraft, South Pacific, reports at 5 p.m. that he is sending five PBY's to make night track and strike enemy carrier which was sighted at 3 p.m. 280 miles east of GUADALCANAL on course 160, speed 25.

During the attack on the night of the 13th.-14th. GUADALCANAL reports scoring 5" hits on three Japanese destroyers. Attack was made by battleships, cruisers, and destroyers.

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>COMSOPACFOR</u>		CINCPAC	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <u>OCTOBER 14, 1942.</u>			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM _____	INFORMATION	COMINCH	PRIORITY
DECODED BY _____			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

141410

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

SITUATION MIDNIGHT 14-15 LOCAL. ESTIMATE THAT 6 ENEMY AP HEAVILY SUPPORTED BY SURFACE SHIPS WILL LAND LARGE NUMBER OF TROOPS ON CACTUS TONIGHT. ENEMY CARRIERS AND A FORCE OF CRUISERS WERE REPORTED TODAY ABOUT 250 MILES NORTH OF MALAITA. OUR CARRIER GROUP IS REFUELING NORTHWEST OF POPPY, AND TASK FORCE 64 IS AT BUTON, AFTER THEIR RECENT ACTION. INTEND TO EMPLOY THE CARRIER GROUP AND AVAILABLE SURFACE FORCES TO PREVENT FURTHER LARGE SCALE LANDINGS FEELING THAT THE SITUATION IS CRITICAL AND ENEMY REINFORCEMENTS MUST BE STOPPED IF OUR POSITION IN CACTUS IS TO BE HELD. ESTIMATE OUR CARRIER GROUP CAN BE IN POSITION TO STRIKE LATE AFTERNOON 15TH AND TASK GROUP 17.8 CAN JOIN TASK FORCE 64 AND REACH THE CACTUS AREA AFTERNOON OF THE 16TH.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

No. 1 Admiral No. 2 File No. 3 F-1 or Chartroom No. 4 Special

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Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

NCR 18

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 14, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL runway was bombed on the 13th., two attacks, one Zero shot down and one of our fighters lost. Runway damaged enough to interfere with the operation of large planes, but still usable for smaller planes.

Report received here on Tuesday from Commanding General GUADALCANAL states heavy bombardment from surface ships 1:40 and 2:50 Wednesday morning, local. No further report received on this.

At 12:00 noon on the 14th. 25 Japanese bombers escorted by Zeros attacked GUADALCANAL. Grumman fighters did not have time to reach altitude. At 1:00 p.m. 15 bombers escorted by about 10 Zeros attacked. 9 Bombers shot down and one smoker. 3 sure Zeros shot down. One Grumman fighter missing. - One J-2-F (utility amphibian) burned, one damaged on first raid.

Bombardment by Japanese surface gunfire on the night of the 13th. apparently caused very heavy destruction of our aircraft. Report of damage not yet complete.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 14, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Report from Commanding General, First Marine Division, GUADALCANAL, sent on the 12th. states:-

FLORIDA patrol killed four Japs at BOLI (apparently on northeast coast of FLORIDA).

On the 11th. one TULAGI battalion landed at AOLA (east of our position at LUNGA) and attacked an enemy force at GURABUSU and KOLIOTUMARI, - killed 32 Japs of 53, destroyed 3" anti-aircraft gun, two large radio sets, ammunition and supplies.

At KOLIOTUMARI the Japanese escaped in the bushes, - 3 killed.

Operations continuing in the vicinity of GEGENDE where there are 100 Japanese (inland on the GURABUSU RIVER).

Our action losses, - 2 killed, 1 wounded. - During the night a landing boat overturned, - 17 missing.

At 7:30 on the morning of the 12th. three Japanese destroyers were bombed, - one badly damaged and believed sunk.

At 10:20 on the morning of the 12th. bombers and torpedo planes struck a heavy cruiser, - making a torpedo hit, several near misses, left dead in the water and burning.

At 4:00 p.m. same day same cruiser was struck with one bomb, two near misses on destroyer. The cruiser was abandoned and the destroyer was sinking. (This action was reported in yesterday's summary. Cruiser may have been one of those damaged during the attack off SAVO ISLAND Sunday night).

Army P-400's strafed 15 rowboats along the coast.

Report sent on the 13th. from GUADALCANAL states that 12 - 1000-lb. bombs were dropped on BUKA Airdrome, - all hits on runway. One cargo carrier left burning and very near misses on another cargo ship in BUIN Harbor (southeast end of BOUGANVILLE).

During this attack 6 B-17's were damaged by fighter and anti-aircraft fire, 6 Zeros were shot down.

about
22 miles
East of
Lunga point

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

W3

~~SECRET~~
OLD LETTER

10 a.m. October, 13, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Supplementary report from Transport Group.

Debarkation on the 13th. was interrupted for a period of two and one-half hours by two enemy air raids on GUADALCANAL. Also beach and transports were shelled by enemy artillery commencing at sunset. The battery was silenced by destroyer gunfire. Ships were completely unloaded and were not damaged. However, several enemy planes dropped flares on departure. This Task Force en route ESPIRITU SANTO.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. October 13, 1942. *WAC*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 12 October 60 - 100-lb. bombs and 2 - 1,000-lb. bombs were dropped on BUKA airfield by a striking force of B-17's. Of 15 Zeros on runway 5 were destroyed. Many fires started.

On the 11th. no ground contacts were made on GUADALCANAL. Patrol found a Japanese 75mm two-gun battery east of our position that had been abandoned.

On the 13th. GUADALCANAL reported that the field had been bombed and was out of commission for the use of our heavy bombers (which operate from ESPIRITU SANTO, staging on GUADALCANAL).

Two of our transports, escorted by fast minesweepers, arrived at GUADALCANAL early morning of the 13th. with one Army regiment from NEW CALEDONIA. Two of the minesweepers, assisted by planes, searched a sector west of SAVO ISLAND to a distance of 25 miles. They rescued 6 Japanese officers and 100 Japanese enlisted men. A raft of 8 Japanese was destroyed because they would not surrender.

At 3 p.m. SAN FRANCISCO, SALT LAKE CITY, BOISE, arrived at ESPIRITU SANTO.

Reports state that BOISE was hit by four salvos with about 100 dead, a few wounded, three forward turrets out of commission, many underwater holes, - main boilers not damaged.

SALT LAKE CITY was hit by one salvo, 5 dead, forward fireroom and one magazine flooded.

On the 12th. SEARAVEN reports sinking an 8,000-ton German ship in SUNDA STRAIT.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

5 p.m. October 12, 1942.

WAB

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Later reports from Commander Task Force 64.2 bears out that this force consisted of:-

SAN FRANCISCO	McCALLA
SALT LAKE CITY	DUNCAN
HELENA	FARENHOLT
BOISE	BUCHANAN
	LAFHEY

Commander Task Force 64.2 reports that enemy losses believed to be four, possibly five, destroyers sunk or out of action; one NACHI type heavy cruiser sunk (possibly the ASHIGARA); one heavy cruiser probably sunk, and one transport sunk. - The presence of a transport near GUADALCANAL indicates that the enemy was contemplating the delivery of large reinforcements to GUADALCANAL.

Also supplementing the morning report, further reports on the two Japanese heavy cruisers south of NEW GEORGIA ISLAND state one cruiser being abandoned and one destroyer apparently sinking.

Our forces are proceeding southeastward toward rendezvous, BOISE down by the bow, large hole in the starboard bow, several smaller holes in the port bow, streaming oil, forward turret appears to be out. Force was, however, making 20 knots. HELENA and SAN FRANCISCO appeared to be all right, except they were streaming some oil. SALT LAKE CITY had previously been reported as capable of making 25 knots.

The FARENHOLT was 50 miles astern with small holes at waterline but able to proceed. McCALLA had been delayed searching for survivors of DUNCAN, which, as reported, were rescued.

Total score appears to be two or three Japanese cruisers destroyed, four or five destroyers destroyed, and one transport sunk.

Our damage appears to be one destroyer lost, one destroyer damaged; one cruiser, the BOISE, damaged, ~~possibly~~ one cruiser, SALT LAKE CITY, ~~slightly~~ slightly damaged.
possibly

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. October 12, 1942. (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

SAN FRANCISCO	FARENHOLT
SALT LAKE CITY	BUCHANAN
BOISE	LAFFEY
Possibly HELENA	McCALLA
	DUNCAN.

The BOISE was reported burning badly, had become separated, but later joined (extent of damage not known).

Also DUNCAN and FARENHOLT were separated. Later DUNCAN, which had been abandoned, was located by McCALLA and 9 officers, 183 men were rescued. McCALLA observed 50 or 60 Japanese survivors about 30 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL, picked up three and reported remainder to GUADALCANAL. - DUNCAN sank later.

Later reports indicated that FARENHOLT with two holes at waterline considered herself seaworthy and was proceeding to rendezvous point to southward.

On the following morning reports indicated a Japanese heavy cruiser left dead in the water and burning after receiving a torpedo hit south of NEW GEORGIA and about 180 miles west of GUADALCANAL. A second cruiser was standing by.

AMBERJACK, returning from patrol off northeast BOUGANVILLE, reports having sunk a No. 3 TONAN MARU in KAVIENG Harbor and in addition a cargo ship while en route to PONAPE.

ALBACORE, north of TRUK, reports sighting one ZUIKAKA type and NOGAMI cruiser and a destroyer en route TRUK, (about 40 miles distant).

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DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/82 BY 2-7a
OBD LAYTON

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 12, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the night of the 8th.-9th. single Japanese planes were over GUADALCANAL in relays from 10 p.m. to 2:15 in the morning.

Two Japanese light cruisers and four destroyers, 170 miles northeast of GUADALCANAL (north of NEW GEORGIA) escorted by fifteen float planes, were attacked by Navy planes from GUADALCANAL at 6:40 a.m. on the 9th. Both cruisers apparently hit, one left down by the bow. Reports indicated from three to ten Japanese planes shot down. One of our Dive Bombers and one Army P-39 lost, - dive bomber pilot rescued.

The second attack made on two destroyers resulted in no hits.

Five Japanese biplanes and anti-aircraft installations in REKATA BAY were attacked.

From 1:35 to 2:30 in the afternoon of the 11th. GUADALCANAL was attacked by 35 bombers and 30 Zeros in four waves. No damage. Japanese lost 8 bombers and 4 Zeros. We lost one P-39 and one Navy fighter.

P-400's strafed enemy installations on western end of GUADALCANAL.

Land forces mopped up area of MATANAKAU VILLAGE, - POINT CRUZ. A strong holding force was left on the east bank of the MATANAKAU RIVER. During three days of ground operations our losses were 65 dead, 125 wounded, - Japanese dead 253.

About fifteen minutes before midnight of the 11th. the Task Force which had been held in readiness south of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND made contact with a Japanese cruiser-destroyer force near SAVO ISLAND, - northwest of our position on GUADALCANAL. Reports from this engagement are incomplete. Apparently the action lasted about 30 minutes. Preliminary reports show four enemy destroyers burning and probably one heavy cruiser hit badly. Our force consisted of:-

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OSD Letter

10:00 a.m. October 11, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Between 1:35 and 2:30 p.m. on October 10th. 30 Japanese Zeros and 35 bombers came over GUADALCANAL AREA in four waves. Bombs were dropped in the open field. Eight Japanese bombers and four Zeros were destroyed. One of our P-39's is missing and one P4-F landed in the water. The pilot of this latter plane is believed to have been rescued.

COMMON FILE

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OSD Letter
12-12

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MZL

9 a.m. October 9, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A Japanese heavy cruiser of the KINUGASA class and five destroyers were attacked by seven Navy dive bombers, four torpedo planes, and eleven Grumman Navy fighters 100 miles west northwest of GUADALCANAL at 6 p.m. on the 8th. One sure torpedo hit and one probable bomb hit and four near misses were made on the cruiser. Three of ten float biplanes were shot down, one other probable. One of our fighters and one of our dive bombers failed to return. Two of the search planes which made the original contact shot down one float biplane and one probable. Both of our pilots were wounded but returned to base.

Reports show that one of our search planes reported a large Japanese cruiser or battleship on fire escorted by five destroyers southeast of FAISI at 1:40 p.m. on the 8th. This was four hours and twenty minutes earlier than the reported attack on the cruiser. However, there appears to be some indication that this vessel burning was the cruiser reported above.

During the night of the 7th.-8th. the Japanese continued to reinforce GUADALCANAL.

Three small contacts were made on the 7th., - nine Japanese killed, no Marine casualties. Throughout the night of the 7th.-8th. the Japanese attempted to penetrate our positions, - attempts attended with casualties.

COMMCH FILE

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OSD Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 8, 1942.

WAC

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

B-17's formed a striking force on the 5th. but were turned back by weather. However, one plane penetrated to BUKA parking area, dropping 20 - 100-lb. bombs. They report damaging planes on the ground.

REKATA BAY (SANTA ISABEL) was attacked by eight planes from GUADALCANAL on the 5th. destroying one small plane and a motor launch on the water, - two of six enemy planes were shot down. One of our dive bombers was forced down on SANTA ISABEL ISLAND.

P-400's attacked installations at TASSAFARONG and at MURAVOVO during the day of the 5th.

During the night of the 5th.-6th. a Japanese force of six destroyers approached GUADALCANAL from the northwest and were attacked throughout the night. One destroyer was sunk and one reported damaged. Two torpedo planes failed to return from the night search.

Contacts in MATANAKAU RIVER AREA, - Marine casualties one killed, six wounded. Japanese losses exceed ten killed.

ALHENA, cargo carrier, which was torpedoed in the SOLOMONS arrived at ESPIRITU SANTO in tow.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
OSD 10-11-42

9 a.m. October 7, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Apparently the Japanese forces cleared the TONOLEI-SHORTLAND ISLAND AREA after the attack, and were returning on the 6th.

A Japanese submarine was attacked with depth bombs south of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND, - apparently destroyed.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 7, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A Task Force consisting of HORNET, probably five cruisers, and seven destroyers (exact composition of force not known here) made an attack on the BUIN-FAISI-TONOLEI AREA in the early morning of 5 October. Participating in the attack were 16 fighters, 18 dive bombers, and 15 torpedo planes. Due to unfavorable weather attack was restricted to the dropping of 8 - 1,000-lb. bombs and 32 - 500-lb. bombs.

Hits:-

- 1 - 1,000-lb. bomb on a heavy cruiser;
- 1 - 1,000-lb. bomb on a transport;
- 3 - 500-lb. bomb hits on 10,000-ton cargo ship, seaplane tender, and cargo ship.

Near Misses:-

- 1 - 1,000-lb. and 3 - 500-lb. bombs on a heavy cruiser.

Total Hits:-

One heavy cruiser, one transport, one seaplane tender, two cargo ships.

3 - 1000-lb. bombs were dropped on runway and buildings at KIETA FIELD.

Shot down one Zero seaplane and one float-type seaplane in target area, strafed 10 four-engine seaplanes on water at FAISI, believe 4 sunk.

Strafed one cruiser and one destroyer at SHORTLAND HARBOR.

During retirement two twin-engine Type-97 Mitsubishi bombers destroyed.

Our forces suffered no losses nor damage.

As a result apparently of attack on the 5th., Japanese forces in general vicinity of SHORTLANDS were moving as follows:-

Towards BUIN, SHORTLANDS:-

5 cruisers, 10 destroyers, 4 cargo ships.

Apparently moving away from SHORTLANDS:-

2 battleships, 3 cruisers, 2 destroyers.

Also moving away 5 ships observed in rainsquall, but not identified.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. October 6, 1942 (Cont'd.)

WJ3

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Operations 3-4 October (Cont'd.)

Attacks by dive bombers and Army P-400's on Jap installations in the vicinity of WEST CAPE and TOGURA POINT (the latter is not readily identifiable, but believed to be on the western end of GUADALCANAL).

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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05D

9 a.m. October 6, 1942.

WLB

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Operations 3-4 October.

Fifteen Japanese landing boats at VIRU HARBOR, NEW GEORGIA ISLAND, destroyed or damaged by our air attack.

Thirty Zeros overhead GUADALCANAL at 1 p.m. Seven Grumman Navy fighters made contact shooting down nine certain, one probable. Anti-aircraft shot down two certain, one probable, when three Zeros attempted to straff the airfield. U.S. losses one Grumman fighter, pilot rescued. - Japanese bombers following Zeros turned back five miles from CACTUS.

Nine Japanese destroyers and one heavy cruiser were sighted at 3 p.m. by evening search 120 miles west northwest of LUNGA (GUADALCANAL), protected by over twenty Zero landplanes. A U.S. striking force attacking at 5:15 p.m. was opposed only by a float biplane. No hits were made.

These ships were attacked during the night, one hit being made on the cruiser when it was near SAVO ISLAND. One of our dive bombers failed to return, - crew was later rescued and returned. On the following morning seven destroyers and one cruiser were picked up by the morning search 120 miles northwest of CACTUS. The striking force which was sent out obtained two torpedo hits on the cruiser. Ceiling was too low for a bombing attack. This Japanese retiring force was covered by twenty-three planes.

During the night of 3-4 October three enemy destroyers were reported as being at MARAVOVA, three at VISALE (both on the west end of GUADALCANAL) and three at TASSAFARONG, between LUNGA and VISALE, - all believed to be unloading troops and supplies. All were attacked, but damage is unknown.

Scattered bombing on GUADALCANAL took place during the night.

Two small contacts along the MATANAKAU west of KUKUM resulting in the loss of two Jap killed, three wounded, and one prisoner. No Marine casualties.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

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OSD

9 a.m. October 5, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL estimates that on the night of 3 October Jap destroyers landed 750 in the vicinity of TASSAFARONG and 600 at VISALE.

Further information shows that the 80' boat reported as being strafed and set on fire by B-17's on reconnaissance (October 4th. Summary) took place at KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND, also called GREENWICH, and not at the GREENWICH ISLANDS off MALAITA. KAPINGAMARANGI is 720 miles north northwest of GUADALCANAL.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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2 p.m. October 4, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Occupation of FUNAFUTI with a force of about 900
Marines completed at 6 p.m. 3 October.

Supplementary Report for 29 September.

A striking force of 10 B-17's bombed a light cruiser
about 40 miles west of SHORTLAND ISLAND with 76 500-lb.
bombs, from an altitude of 8,000 feet. - No hits. 15 Zeros
attacked the B-17's. Score, - 1 B-17 shot down by cruiser
anti-aircraft fire, crew lost, and 7 B-17's damaged by Zero
attack; 8 Zeros shot down, three damaged.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
OASD Letter 5-8-78
SECRET

10 a.m. October 4, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Continued).

Operations - 3 October.

Another hostile plane flew over GUADALCANAL at 4:30 a.m., local time.

Japs were attacked by P-400's at NARABO (west of VISALE), TENARU, KOKUMBONA, and POINT CRUZ (one mile west of mouth of MATANUKAU RIVER).

A large group of enemy landing boats were discovered by reconnaissance planes well camouflaged inside VIRU HARBOR (150 miles west northwest of LUNGA.

In the afternoon nine enemy destroyers and one heavy cruiser were sighted northwest of GUADAL CANAL. Seven SBD's and three TBF's attacked the cruiser and two destroyers about 120 miles west northwest of LUNGA. - No apparent damage. Ships observed to continue on course toward GUADALCANAL.

PACIFIC

Submarine SNAPPER on August 19th. fired two torpedoes at an 8,000-ton escorted cargo vessel. Two explosions were heard two minutes after firing, no propeller noises, followed by a loud explosion seven minutes later. The cargo ship is considered damaged, possibly sunk.

COMMONS FILE
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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

S E C R E T

10 a.m. October 4, 1942.

OSD
L-100

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.).

WJZ

Operations - 1 October.

A report was received that the crews of the three TBF's lost while attacking four Jap destroyers near VANGUNU ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA, have been rescued.

Only one ground contact at GUADALCANAL was made, - one prisoner.

Artillery and P-400's strafed small hostile groups from KOKUMBONA to VISALE.

At 9:30 p.m., local time, an enemy plane flew over GUADALCANAL.

B-17's on reconnaissance strafed and set on fire an 80' boat with antenna and radio equipment at GREENWICH ISLAND (off east coast of MARMASIKE ISLAND, MALAITA).

Operations - 2 October.

At 4:05 a.m., local time, three enemy planes dropped bombs igniting gasoline dump.

Usual ground patrols at GUADALCANAL, - one prisoner.

Our reconnaissance planes dropped ten 100-lb. bombs at REKATTA BAY causing a large explosion in a palm grove.

At 1:10 p.m., local time, 30 Zeros, followed by a small group of bombers, were contacted in GUADALCANAL AREA. No bombs were dropped. Four Zeros were shot down. Our losses six fighters, - four pilots.

Two of our SBD'S failed to return from search. One SBD landed in water, gunner rescued, pilot lost.

A single hostile plane flew over GUADALCANAL at 9 p.m., local time.

COMMENCE FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

S E C R E T

9 a.m. October 3, 1942.

DECLASSIFIED
BY SP-1
05D Lef/AF, JEM

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Four Jap destroyers were attacked by 5 SBD's and 5 TBF's 17 miles south of VANGUNU ISLAND (NEW GEORGIA), - 120 miles west by north of GUADALCANAL airfield. - One destroyer was left dead in the water, - 3 TBF's failed to return,

PACIFIC

On 3 September Submarine SEAL obtained a torpedo hit on a 4,000-ton southbound passenger-freighter in CHINA SEA. The freighter beached itself in PHANRANG BAY (north side of CAPE PADARAN) and was not seen two days later.

COMMON FILE

~~SECRET~~

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. October 2, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

WAL

The report of the air action at GUADALCANAL on the 29th. of September should be corrected to four Zeros shot down, probably six.

GUADALCANAL ground operations during the 29th. and 30th. of September consisted of patrol activity only. No ground contacts were made.

On the 29th. search planes destroyed two float bi-planes and bombed anti-aircraft installations at REKATA BAY.

Also on the 29th. four enemy boats landing supplies at VISALE were attacked by our search planes and later by P-400's and SBD's. P-400's also strafed enemy trucks and troops near KOKUMBONA.

On the 30th. nine 250-pound bombs were dropped on Jap gasoline storage facilities at REKATA BAY, - fires were started.

Also on the 30th. SBD's attacked REKATA BAY damaging two float planes and burning a supply dump. P-400's attacked a supply dump at KOKUMBONA and troops at TENARU.

We lost no planes on the 29th. and 30th., except the plane lost during the attack of 20 Zeros and a group of bombers on the 29th.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
08D 10/20/88

10 a.m. October 1, 1942.

WFL

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Survivors of the Jap destroyer YAYOI were captured on NORMANBY ISLAND (off southeast end of NEW GUINEA). The prisoners state that this destroyer was sunk by our planes (B-17's) on the afternoon of 11 September about fifteen miles east of NORMANBY ISLAND. The diary of one prisoner states that the heavy cruiser KAKO was hit by three torpedoes on 10 August 60 miles east of NEW IRELAND and sank within seven minutes (confirms report of S-44). The prisoners also state that the destroyer MUTSUKI and transport KINRYU MARU were sunk early in September in the SOLOMONS.

*AV or AP
7300 tons*

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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78

4 p.m. September 30, 1942.

WAZ

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Patrol activity on GUADALCANAL was continued during the 28th. and 29th., but no contacts were made with the enemy. The Japs remain in occupation of the MATANIKAU RIVER line.

The patrol on FLORIDA ISLAND killed five Japs at HAROVO, - no Marine casualties.

At about 2 p.m. on the 29th. about 20 Zeros followed by a small group of bombers approached from the northwest. These planes were intercepted by one squadron of our fighters, - the bombers jettisoned their bombs northwest of SAVO ISLAND and fled. Two Zeros, probably four, were shot down. Our losses were one plane and one pilot.

The U.S.S. NAVAJO, auxiliary tug, is en route to tow the ALHENA.

PACIFIC

The TROUT was identified as the submarine obtaining two torpedo hits on the Jap aircraft carrier near TRUK. The TROUT reports that this carrier was escorted by two light cruisers and two destroyers. - The carrier when last observed was on fire, further results unknown, probably OTAKA.

The TROUT also reports sinking a 6,000-ton auxiliary on September 21st.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. September 30, 1942.

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
OBD Letter 6-2-78

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The U.S.S. ALHENA, cargo ship, reports being torpedoed about 20 miles off west coast of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND (SOUTH SOLOMONS), - shaft sprung, floating nicely, but towing by escort is doubtful.

Dock and repair work on U.S. Navy ships in NEW ZEALAND being seriously delayed by labor troubles.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-5-72

9:30 a.m. September 29, 1942

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL reports that the Japs succeeded in reinforcing their forces in the vicinity of MATANIKAU RIVER on the night of 26-27 September. Our operations the following day did not succeed in dislodging them. It is estimated that Jap strength in that area is now 1,000 with additional support available.

Our losses on 26-27 September were 42 killed and 129 wounded.

Day and night air searches continued with negative results.

One of our planes while on patrol on 27 September shot down a Jap single-float seaplane 35 miles south of GIZO ISLAND.

B-17's on patrol in the CHOISEUL ISLAND AREA on the 27th. shot down one Jap pursuit plane and one seaplane.

planes available F-4 (28) SBDS (18) TBF (2) P40s (5)

PACIFIC

One of our submarines (unidentified) reports putting two torpedoes in a large aircraft carrier near TRUK inbound from the south. The carrier was noted to be on fire but definite results are not known.

COMMONS FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
IS RECLASSIFIED
BY 1045
ON 08/14/01
BY SP-6
LST/ET

9 a.m. September 28, 1942. MAZ

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Eight B-17's on the 26th. bombed shipping at FAISI, SHORTLAND Harbor. One large transport was heavily hit, left burning and believed sunk. A heavy cruiser was hit on the stern and left afire. Three float Zeros and three float biplanes were shot down.

On the same day a B-17 on patrol in the FAISI AREA was attacked by four float Zeros, - one was damaged and forced to land in the water.

Also on the 26th. a B-17 on patrol in the REKATA BAY AREA (northwestern end of SANTA ISABEL ISLAND) strafed a single-engine float biplane on the beach.

At GUADALCANAL on the 26th. a small enemy force was contacted west of the MATANIKAU RIVER. This force was being encircled on the morning of the 27th.

Patrols on FLORIDA ISLAND on the 26th. killed 9 Japanese and captured 3.

At 1:55 p.m. on the 27th. 18 Jap bombers escorted by 13 fighters attacked GUADAL CANAL. These planes were intercepted by our fighters, - enemy losses 4 bombers and 5 fighters. One of our SBD's was destroyed on the ground.

At 1:45 p.m. on the 28th. the Japs conducted the 49th. air raid on GUADALCANAL with 25 bombers and 18 Zeros. Our fighters intercepted this force and the Japs jettisoned their bombs. The Japs lost 23 bombers and 1 Zero. Our losses, - no pilots, no planes, no damage.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10:15 a.m. September 27, 1942.

WAC

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL reports extensive air and ground patrolling were continued on the 25th. The area from KOLI POINT to MATANIKOU RIVER is free of enemy forces. All approaches and entire coastline were covered by air search from 3.p.m. the 25th. to 1:30 a.m. the 26th. No contact was made. The VISALE AREA was bombed again.

Twelve enemy single-engine float biplanes and float Zeros were contacted by a B-17 on the 25th. at TONOLEI HARBOR (southern end of BOUGANVILLE ISLAND), - three were shot down in flames, probably one other also destroyed.

On the 26th. a B-17 strafed the beach at REKATA BAY (northwestern end of SANTA ISABEL ISLAND), - silencing two machine gun emplacements and damaging one single-engine float biplane on the water.

On the same day two B-17's bombed Jap ships in TONOLEI HARBOR, - believe the stern of a heavy cruiser was hit by a 500-pound bomb.

Also on the 26th. three ships were bombed by one B-17 fifteen miles southeast of BUKA PASSAGE (northern end of BOUGANVILLE ISLAND), - one 500-pound bomb is believed to have hit the stern of an aircraft tender.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. September 26, 1942.

SECRET
SECURITY
DECLASSIFIED
DATE 6-28-78
OSD Lt. Col. 5-2-78

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

WAL

GUADALCANAL reports that on the 24th. at sunset one Marine battalion on extended patrol made contact with the enemy four miles south of our position. Fighting continued into the night until the enemy withdrew. Our losses 7 dead, 25 wounded. Enemy losses not yet reported.

four
Four enemy destroyers towing landing boats were attacked by two dive bombers at 9 p.m. the 24th. during moonlight conditions. Despite repeated attacks by other dive bombers and torpedo bombers, enemy force continued toward GUADALCANAL until 1:30 a.m. the 25th. when within eight miles of CAPE ESPERANCE (northwestern tip of GUADALCANAL) they turned away. Damage to enemy unknown. We lost no planes.

At REKATA BAY (northwestern end of SANTA ISABEL ISLAND) one B-17 encountered three float Zeros and one Type 95 single float seaplane, - the latter plane was shot down.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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D E C E M B E R 6 1942

ORD Lett 6-218

9 a.m. September 25, 1942. *WAC*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Eight SBD's attacked four enemy destroyers 150 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL. - No damage.

At 12:15 p.m. B-17's at a ceiling of 15,000 feet bombed 22 enemy vessels, including one CL, at SHORTLAND ISLAND and TONOLEI HARBOR (southern end of BOUGANVILLE ISLAND). - Three hits, six near hits. Twenty enemy fighters defended the ships, - one shot down, possibly two others destroyed.

Extended patrols on GUADALCANAL were continued on the 23rd. No enemy forces in the vicinity of Marine position, except stragglers. One Jap killed, one prisoner.

Air strafing of TASSAFARONGA to SAPURA on GUADALCANAL was continued.

On the 23rd. one of five single-engine float planes at MANNING STRAIT (between CHOISEUL and SANTA ISABEL ISLANDS) attacked a B-17 and was shot down.

REKATA BAY was bombed with incendiaries and 100-pound bombs.

PACIFIC

Submarine GROWLER returning from patrol south of HONSHU reports sinking one 10,000-ton tanker and two 5,000-ton cargo vessels.

adm H. Dep. P for WP

COMMERCIAL FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

9 a.m. September 24, 1942. WLB

SECRET

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Off BOUGANVILLE STRAITS (SOLOMON ISLANDS) AMBERJACK reports sinking one 5,000-ton freighter.

Patrolling continued on GUADALCANAL, but no hostile contacts. VISALE vicinity bombed and strafed throughout the 23rd., buildings burned, - one large explosion. - Range of action of our ground forces being extended westward.

One of our planes on patrol from GUADALCANAL attacked a submarine with negative results.

PACIFIC

Submarine SAURY returning from patrol in MANILA AREA reports attacks as follows:-

First Attack, one hit near stack on a 9,000-ton tanker similar to NIPPON MARU on 24 August sixteen miles southwest of COREGIDOR. SAURY went deep to avoid aircraft. After five minutes a heavy explosion was heard and forty minutes later an explosion similar to ship breaking. No screws heard thereafter.

Second Attack, sank a 7,100-ton cargo-passenger vessel similar to SADO MARU by night surface attack, 11 September, about 130 miles north northeast of MAKASSAR in MAKASSAR STRAITS.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 0-72

9:30 a.m. September 23, 1942. *WHP*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

S-47 reports making three hits on an unescorted cruiser by night surface attack south of ST. GEORGE CHANNEL (NEW BRITAIN) on 12 September. Cruiser of the KINUGASA Class, six 8" guns, - probably one of those which participated in the battle of SOLOMON ISLANDS on 9 August. Cruiser believed sunk.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

5:30 p.m. September 22, 1942. WST

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL reports patrols were continued on the 21st. but no hostile contacts were made.

At 11:45 p.m. on the 21st. three SBD's bombed and strafed four destroyers landing boats in the vicinity of CAPE ESPERANCE (northwestern tip of GUADALCANAL). No hits were made on destroyers, but they departed on a north-west course.

On the 21st. the installations at REKATA BAY (northwestern end of SANTA ISABEL ISLAND) were bombed and strafed on three different occasions by single B-17's. The dock area at GIZO was bombed by a B-17, - near misses on buildings.

A plane reported sighting an enemy heavy cruiser near FAISI ISLAND (off southern end of BOUGANVILLE ISLAND) proceeding slowly with a long oil slick to southwest, indicating damage may have been received in SBD attack on the evening of the 20th.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter ET

4:30 p.m. September 21, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During daylight on the 20th. only one contact with the Japs was made which occurred along the LUNGA RIVER, - our ground patrol killed 19 Japs, with the loss of two Marines wounded.

At 9:30 p.m. on the 20th. the Japs launched a nuisance raid against our forward southern strong point. Contacts continued throughout the night. Our losses were two killed, seven wounded. Many Jap dead were left in wire barricade.

Two SBD's on evening search bombed GIZO.

At 5:30 p.m. ten SBD's attacked an enemy cruiser 150 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL, - four near misses. It is believed some damage was inflicted.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
DATE 03-28-78
BY [illegible]

9:30 a.m. September 21, 1942. WJZ

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

S-42 was attacked unsuccessfully on two separate occasions by a Jap submarine in the vicinity of GUADALCANAL around the first of September.

Four enemy destroyers bombarded GUADALCANAL from midnight to 1 a.m. on the 19th. Two killed, two wounded.

A Jap ground patrol was wiped out in the only contact on the 19th.

Seven enemy killed in mopping up operations on FLORIDA ISLAND (near TULAGI).

Both Army and Navy planes bombed REKATTA BAY, but encountered no ships nor planes.

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 1-1-50

5 p.m. September 19, 1942.

WAT

PACIFIC

Submarine HADDOCK returning from patrol in east CHINA SEA reports sinking 26,000 tons of freighters.

Submarine GRENADIER returning from patrol off TRUK reports getting two torpedoes in an escorted 10,000 ton tanker. This tanker may have sunk as large amount of oil was seen on water for several days.

C

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/10/72
BY SP-10/10/72

8:30 a.m. September 19, 1942.

WATZ

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Disembarkation from transports at GUADALCANAL of men, equipment, and material, including aviation gas, completed by 8 p.m., the 18th. and transports departed for NOUMEA and ESPIRITU SANTO.

Destroyer O'BRIEN, which had been struck in the bow by a submarine torpedo, is at ESPIRITU SANTO and will depart for NOUMEA, speed 12, about the 21st.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/23/72
SECRET

8:30 a.m. September 18, 1942. *WZ*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Six U.S. transports accompanied by three cruisers and eleven destroyers arrived at GUADALCANAL about daylight the morning of the 18th. (local), carrying 4,100 Marine reinforcements for GUADALCANAL. This force planned to depart the area at 8 p.m., local time, same date.

Transport BELLATRIX, transporting aviation gasoline, arrived GUADALCANAL at 1 p.m. on the 18th., local time. Further movements of BELLATRIX not determined.

Fourteen of our dive bombers bombed one cruiser accompanied by two destroyers at 5:50 p.m. the 16th. about 100 miles north of GUADALCANAL. - No hits.

08075 150E C170

The Commanding General, GUADALCANAL, reports that enemy forces have been fighting only at night, with infiltration by snipers a constant major annoyance but so far not a serious threat. *Reinf should enable us to suppress*

No reason to believe can't hold

COMBICH FMS

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CLASSIFIED
6-3-72
05D

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8:30 a.m. September 16, 1942.

WLT

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The situation in the SOUTH PACIFIC (SOLOMON ISLANDS AREA) is confused. U.S. reinforcements en route GUADALCANAL are retiring due to being sighted by superior enemy forces. Further word not yet received.

COMMON FILE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

W.P.L.

9 a.m. September 15, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL reports enemy striking on both flanks and rear position during the night. Attack on rear made in strength and repulsed after severe fighting. Mopping up operations continued throughout the day. U.S. casualties 35 dead, 160 wounded. Enemy dead exceeded 500. - Apparently a desperate effort on the part of the enemy to capture airport in conjunction with the approach of heavy task forces and transports.

At 8 p.m. one cruiser and two destroyers shelled KUKUM POINT AREA, - little damage.

Enemy Zeros over at 7 a.m., 3 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., - 4 shot down, one Navy fighter lost.

S-37 reports sinking a Jap cruiser off SAVO ISLAND on 2 September.

COMMON FILE

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O&D
L-22

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. September 14, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

W.S.L.

Four Zeros and four Japanese bombers were shot down during the day.

Two of our fighters crashed and two are missing.

At 5:30 p.m. two single-float seaplanes shot down one of our dive bombers which was approaching the field.

A later report from GUADALCANAL states that our land forces were engaged on the right flank and rear all night, and at the time of report were engaged on the left flank, - operations proceeding satisfactorily.

Additional Marine Forces are en route GUADALCANAL from ESPIRITU SANTO.

COMMON PAGES

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~~SECRET~~

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. September 14, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 9 p.m. on the night of 12-13 September a hostile plane dropped flares on landing field.

At 9:30 p.m. an enemy destroyer bombarded beach to east of our area for twenty minutes from a position off KOLI POINT. Shelling accompanied by sound of boats which continued for three hours, operating to east and northeast.

At 9:40 p.m. contacts were made with enemy patrols on land on both sides of LUNGA RIVER. Contacts continued throughout the night. Report at that time was that all our positions were secure, but that there were probable infiltrations by small groups. Mopping up operations were to be initiated at daybreak.

A later report of operations during the 13th. stated that patrols were operating against Japanese throughout the day, - Marine casualties four killed, twelve wounded. Japanese casualties exceeded forty.

At midnight 12-13 September one Japanese cruiser and four destroyers bombarded our position for forty-five minutes. Fire was returned by our 5", and one ship believed hit.

At 3 a.m. on the morning of the 13th. the enemy bombarded TULAGI.

From 1 a.m. until daylight enemy maintained continuous air patrol over our position.

At 5:10 a.m. 13th. aircraft were detected approaching from northwest, but turned off on the approach of our aircraft.

At 10:20 a.m. 13th. twenty-six Zeros came over our position and were engaged by twenty-eight Grumman Navy fighters.

At 1:45 p.m. twenty-eight twin-engine bombers covered by Zeros were intercepted by twenty Grumman Navy fighters. In this case bombs were jettisoned fifteen miles away.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10-1-78
BY 6032
H E T

10 a.m. September 13, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At midnight 12-13 September one cruiser and four destroyers fired into position for more than one hour. Communications were interrupted for four and one-half hours.

At 7:35 in the afternoon of the 13th. GUADALCANAL reported one cruiser and three destroyers 180 miles to the northwest on course 290.

At 1:45 in the afternoon of the 12th. one carrier and one cruiser was reported as being 258 miles northeast of NDENI (SANTA CRUZ), course south. At 7:52 in the afternoon of the 12th. two Japanese ships were reported as being 120 miles east by north of NDENI. Fifteen B-17's were ordered to attack, results not yet reported.

Conditions at GUADALCANAL reported to be O.K. except for shortage of gasoline and personnel very tired because of night bombardment and day air attacks.

7th June 1942

COMMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8:30 a.m. September 12, 1942.

DES. REVISED
10-3-72
SECRET
OSD

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Twenty-six Japanese bombers covered by Zeros bombed GUADALCANAL at 12:45 noon on the 12th, killing six, wounding twenty-nine, one P-400 and one F4-F badly damaged on the ground. Six bombers and one Zero shot down. One F4-F lost in air battle, pilot recovered.

On the 10th. information was received that enemy had moved in strength to MALIMBO RIVER, 5 miles east of position (presumably our position). - Natives estimate strength to be several thousands. This force is probably the one engaged around TAIVU POINT, possibly reinforced.

Enemy discovered by our patrols cutting through jungle toward rear of our position. Counter-measures being instituted.

At 12:00 noon nine dive bombers attacked Japanese installations at GIZO, demolishing buildings and sank a small boat.

Eleven scout bombers went out to attack a cruiser and two destroyers northwest of GUADALCANAL, making contact, but no hits due to low ceiling.

Evening patrol sighted fifteen landing barges loaded with supplies on beach at VISALE, western end of GUADALCANAL.

Aviation Tender MACKINAC at NDENI was shelled during the night, apparently by a submarine, - no damage.

Submarine TAUTOG reports sinking a 7,000-ton naval auxiliary off SOUTH CHINA on 6 August.

COMMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DECLASSIFIED
09-72
OSD Letter 1

4:30 p.m. September 10, 1942.

WDL

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At midnight of the 9-10th. a Japanese destroyer shelled TULAGI Harbor, - hit a patrol craft which had been hit the previous night.

U.S. dive bombers bombed and strafed villages in the vicinity of VISALE, western end of GUADALCANAL.

At 12:25 noon on the 10th. twenty-seven twin-engine bombers and thirty Zeros dropped bombs, - killed eleven, wounded fourteen, and destroyed one truck. They were attacked by eleven Navy and Marine fighters, - four bombers shot down, one of our fighters missing, one badly damaged. Effective planes remaining GUADALCANAL eleven Navy fighters, twenty-two Navy dive bombers, three Army fighters!

COMMON FILE

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CLASSIFIED
OSD
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8:30 a.m. September 10, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 7:15 p.m. on the 8th. two planes with lights on dropped bombs on TULAGI from 1,000 feet. No damage.

Due to bad runway conditions we had six fighters totally destroyed and one damaged in opposing this attack.

At 12:30 in the morning a Japanese vessel bombarded TULAGI AREA, - one small craft hit.

At 11:30 twenty-six twin-engine bombers escorted by fighters dropped bombs at transports FULLER and BELLATRIX which were unloading. Neither vessel was hit. Five enemy bombers and four Zeros shot down. Our losses two planes missing, two badly damaged.

Attack against Japanese force at TAIVU POINT, GUADALCANAL, previously reported. Japanese supplies left behind after Japanese withdrew were large amounts of food and ammunition, 4 - 75 mm. guns, 1 - 37 mm. gun, considerable radio equipment, and at least 27 dead Japanese. Marine casualties 2 dead, 4 wounded. Enemy force estimated to be a reinforced battalion of not less than 1,000 men.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
AND LOGGED

8 a.m. September 8, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Lieutenant Riley on patrol in a PBV shot down a Japanese four-engine patrol boat, Kawanishi Type, about 300 miles northeast of GUADALCANAL on the 5th.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

DISCLASSIFIED
087 10/15/78

5 p.m. September 7, 1942. WAL

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the 6th. of September 2 PBY's report attacking a Serial 43(?), probably a Japanese patrol plane, north of SOLOMON ISLANDS and getting many hits but no visible damage. A B-17 reported attacking a Serial 43 in the vicinity of GIZO ISLAND, getting hits, but Jap escaped in rain squawl.

11 dive bombers and 6 fighters bombed GIZO Harbor installations, causing serious damage, - no ships or planes seen.

Reconnaissance showed 36 Japanese landing boats off SANTA ISABEL ISLAND were sunk (attack previously reported).

Carrier planes, HORNET, attacked three enemy submarines, two with promising results, one with negative results.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

WST

8:30 a.m. September 7, 1942.

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/12/78

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Transport ZEILIN with 450 prisoners of war proceeding to WELLINGTON, - due to arrive on the 11th. of September.

Japanese reported to be active in the GILBERT ISLANDS, - TARAWA and ABEMAMA.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9:30 a.m. September 6, 1942.

SECRET

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SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Commanding General, GUADALCANAL, reports that 12 officers and 226 men of the crews of the LITTLE and GREGORY were rescued. The enemy consisted of at least one cruiser and two destroyers.

The morning patrol sighted 15 large Japanese landing boats each carrying about 75 men approaching the northwest coast of GUADALCANAL. Boats were strafed, 3 sunk. P-400's attacking with bombs and light machine guns, - apparently causing many personnel casualties.

Dive bombers strafed and bombed boats on beach, - believed to have destroyed several of them.

26 twin-engine bombers covered by 20 Zeros approached position at 12:45 p.m. on the 5th. This was second alert, and only several fighters reached the proper altitude. The intercepted Japanese planes dropped bombs 10 miles westward of LUNGA POINT. Two bombers and one Zero shot down. One of our fighters missing, three damaged, with one pilot wounded. An additional fighter and pilot lost during attack on boats.

Army bombers operating from AUSTRALIA reported at south end of BOUGANVILLE one light cruiser, 16 destroyers, and 7 merchant vessels, - apparently no attacks made by us.

Army bombers report one cruiser northeast of MILNE BAY sighted several times, attacks unsuccessful.

Estimate enemy casualties MILNE BAY AREA to September 1st. as 600.

Continued pressure from the enemy in the KOKODA AREA, - enemy casualties estimated at 700.

Report from an unidentified submarine states that he is unable to remain longer on station because of damage suffered from three days of depth charging. His score is one battleship set on fire and one PC-type radar equipped patrol vessel sunk.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 a.m. September 5, 1942.

FROM
USS Letter

SECRET

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Destroyer Transports LITTLE and GREGORY were sunk by gunfire, probably with heavy casualties off GUADALCANAL during the night of 4-5 September. Enemy destroyers had previously shelled GUADALCANAL.

S-41 reports having sunk on 22 August a submarine of I-61 type off NEW GEORGIA, SOLOMON ISLANDS.

Seven enemy vessels reported unloading in the GILBERT ISLANDS. Submarine ALBACORE arrived in the area on the 4th.

SECRET

COMMCH FILE 9

SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8:00 a.m. September 1, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

20 miles east of Lunga Pt.
A Japanese force of at least two cruisers and two destroyers was located by a patrol of our dive bomber planes about two miles west of TAIVU POINT, GUADALCANAL, at 12:50 in the morning, - one cruiser of JINTSU class. Ships lying close inshore as if to discharge troops and cargo. (This according to report, - possibility exists that troops were being embarked). Planes attacked, - result not observed. Ten dive bombers were unable to re-establish contact except to the extent that one near miss on a cruiser was made.

Report expresses belief that enemy was dispersed after first contact and withdrew. At the time of the report, one o'clock in the afternoon of the 31st., search was being continued.

A further report from GUADALCANAL indicates the Japanese Detachment previously at MARAU SOUND, eastern end of GUADALCANAL, had moved to TASIMBOKO BAY (near TAIVU POINT and about 7 miles from estimated position of Marines). This position designated as being the first objective of a raider battalion when a destroyer raider becomes available.

AUSTRALIA, HOBART, and SELFRIDGE are proceeding to BRISBANE

SARATOGA, two cruisers, and four destroyers are proceeding toward TONGATABU at 14 knots.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

9:30 a.m. August 31, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Destroyer-Transport COLHOUN sunk by three bombs of a high-level bombing attack at 3:00 in the afternoon of the 30th, while screening the KOPARA (presumably a cargo ship). No other ship hit. All officers and men rescued, - 9 wounded.

The WILLIAM WARD BURROWS is aground at TULAGI, - ship being lightened but efforts to refloat so far not successful.

Three cruisers and four destroyers have been directed to report back to MacArthur for support of his operations off MILNE BAY.

Destroyer-Minelayer GAMBLE reports sinking a Jap I-Class submarine near MALAITA.

A B-17 at 9:20 a.m. on the 30th, sighted and attacked four cruisers off SANTA ISABEL, - reports one hit or a close miss off stern of a heavy cruiser.

The evening patrol sighted two cruisers and some destroyers 20 miles north of RUSSELL ISLAND (25 miles northwest of GUADALCANAL) at 5:45 in the afternoon. Dive bombers being prepared to go after them (no further report).

The LITTLE reports depth charging a submarine off GUADALCANAL at 4:30 in the afternoon and believed to have sunk it.

In an air engagement over GUADALCANAL at 11:45 a.m. on the 30th, 18 land Zeros reported shot down. U.S. losses 4 P-400's with 3 pilots lost. P-400's accounted for 5 of the Zeros.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/20/02 BY 2-72

10 a.m. August 30, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

GUADALCANAL was bombed by 6 planes at 4:40 a.m. on the 29th. Two killed and five wounded.

At 11:55 a.m. 18 twin-engine bombers bombed, - one killed, four wounded. Some ammunition and two hangars with aviation material, including two fighter planes destroyed. At least 4 Zeros and 3 bombers shot down by fighter craft and 1 bomber by anti-aircraft. All U.S. planes returned but two had major damage. - Strength of our fighter planes being very seriously reduced.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET

9:30 a.m. August 29, 1942. *WST*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the evening of the 28th. two SBD's from GUADALCANAL on patrol sighted three large and one small Jap destroyers 70 miles north of GUADALCANAL on course 180°, - evidently headed to the GUADALCANAL AREA. This patrol attacked and hit the small destroyer.

Eleven more dive bombers took off and at 6:00 p.m. attacked these destroyers which were then 85 miles north of GUADALCANAL. Two of the large destroyers were hit, - one blew up and sank, one hit amidships and burning fiercely. One escaped damage. The small destroyer was low in the water, smoking, and in distress.

These destroyers appeared to have considerable gear on deck, - probably intended for their forces at GUADALCANAL. (One of our planes failed to return).

The Marine Patrol which attacked the Japs at KOKUMBONA returned. Marine casualties 5 killed, 10 wounded. Jap casualties uncertain.

No sighting of enemy surface vessels on the 28th. by our patrols other than those listed above.

19 additional Marine Fighter Planes are scheduled to be moved to GUADALCANAL on Saturday.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

8:00 a.m. August 28, 1942.

SECRET

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Patrol plane reports show an enemy force of 1 battle-ship, 7 cruisers, and 6 destroyers steering various courses at a position about 500 miles north of TULAGI. This may indicate that carriers have proceeded to RABAU or KAVIENG to obtain replacement planes and that surface forces, while waiting, were keeping clear of possible air attack in force.

ENTERPRISE proceeding to TONGATABU, should arrive the 28th. or 29th.

540Mi - 9 Army Fighters, P-400's, arrived GUADALCANAL from ESPIRITU SANTO at 11:40 a.m. on the 27th. While en route they attacked one four-engine flying boat near the southeast end of GUADALCANAL, which disappeared in the clouds smoking.

A large Marine patrol is reported as attacking Japanese forces at KOKUMBONA, - 7 miles west of LUNGA POINT, - action continuing.

The Commanding General at GUADALCANAL reports acute need for fighters to operate at high altitudes.

A 500 kilo bomb exploded 30 hours after dropping.

COMMONS FILE
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DECLASSIFIED
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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

WRL

9 a.m. August 27, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

One of our patrol planes reports being attacked by a carrier-type plane at 10:14 a.m. on the 26th. 340 miles north of TULAGI. It is not known whether or not a carrier was actually present.

A delayed report received from Admiral Fletcher sent out on the afternoon of the 25th. gives the following information:-

Incompleteness of tactical reports left the exact position of enemy carriers uncertain.

Confirmed RYUJO ^{small 36 plane CV} badly damaged. Two cruisers torpedoed. One battleship hit by a 1,000 pound bomb.

Estimates enemy lost more than 50 planes as a result of attacks by our planes and anti-aircraft fire.

Our plane losses - 7.

On the 25th. carrier task forces, probably being in fueling area, enemy submarine No. 425 was hit with a 500-pound bomb abaft conning tower, - believed sunk (300 miles southeast of TULAGI).

Also strafed and damaged ~~planes~~ of enemy submarine No. 417, same position.

Another submarine sighted just to the south, depth charged by destroyer, possibly damaged.

Submarines appear to be concentrated in our approximate fueling area.

In addition to the above, two submarines were sighted on the 24th. to eastward of TULAGI in the vicinity of carrier group.

Report from OCEAN ISLAND of a ship approaching, ^{but} ~~no~~ further information appears to indicate landings made by the enemy on that island.

Further reports from the Commander South Pacific state B-17 made three hits with 500-pound bombs on a cruiser and the ship broke in two- it seems probable that this must have been a destroyer. The B-17 which attacked RYUJO was itself attacked by 7 Zeros and shot down 5 Zeros.

COMMENCH FILE

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. August 26, 1942 (Cont'd.) *W.L.*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 2 p.m. on the 25th. GUADALCANAL scout bombers failed to locate any ships 70 miles north of area, - sighted oil patches. Later attacked destroyer leaving oil trail off north coast of SANTA ISABEL ISLAND, - no hits but all bombs fell close.

Bombing attack on GUADALCANAL at noon the 26th. by 16 twin-engine bombers and 12 land Zero fighters. Japanese losses 7 bombers and 5 Zeros, U.S. losses 1 plane. Success attributed to the fact that Zeros must fight with heavy load of gas for return trip.

Apparently, in addition to other ships previously reported damaged, returning search pilots report one transport and one destroyer burning with one destroyer standing by, and to the northward of the position of these ships, four additional ships burning (character of ships not reported).

WHARTON departed for NEW CALEDONIA with survivors from cruisers on 22 August.

Commander South Pacific reports that enemy apparently consisted of four groups:-

One consisting of 1 battleship and some cruisers, attacked by our carrier air groups.

One consisting of 2 large carriers, 10 cruisers, and 8 destroyers. - Discovered too late for air attack. Believe that this group attacked ENTERPRISE.

One group consisting of RYUJO, 1 cruiser and 2 destroyers. Attacked by our B-17's and SARATOGA Air Group, - believed badly damaged by SARATOGA Air Group.

Other group referred to probably transport group.

Group including battleship at 11:00 a.m. 26 August believed to be retiring to northwestward from their position 345 miles north northeast of Guadalcanal.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. August 26, 1942.

SECRET
RECLASSIFIED
DATE 5-3-72
BY SP-6
LAW/EE/T

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

WAC

Damage sustained by ENTERPRISE:-

3 medium bomb hits, 3 near misses.

Out of commission:-

Two of the three elevators,
Starboard steering engine, and
Director for three AA guns.

Flight deck damaged, but not out of commission.
Ship can be steered but cannot be maneuvered at
high speed.

Planes remaining on board:-

6 VF,
21 VSB, and
3 VT.

11 VSB are at GUADALCANAL.

50 planes can be operated in emergency.

80 dead, 100 wounded.

Propelling machinery not damaged.

On the night of 24-25 August 7 destroyers shelled GUADALCANAL. Casualties - 2 killed, 3 wounded, - no material damage.

5 Scout Bombers went out from Guadalcanal about 2:45 a.m. 25 August, - no contact. 3 Scout Bombers went out at 3:00 a.m. and scored one hit on a destroyer, - one scout bomber failed to return. Large oil patches seen in area after daybreak.

At 4:00 in the morning of 25 August 2 small planes bombed and strafed GUADALCANAL position. At 11:50 21 twin-engine 97 bombers dropped 40 bombs from 27,000 feet. - 4 killed, 5 wounded, - no material damage.

Apparently, in addition to previous reports, GUADALCANAL reports one transport hit on or near miss under stern with a 1,000 pound bomb and 2 seaplanes shot down.

COMMON FILE

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DECLASSIFIED
ON 05/11/82, 5-8-78

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. August 25, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Subsequent to carrier action, the SARATOGA and ENTERPRISE groups retired to refuel and WASP proceeded toward GUADALCANAL to continue recoveries.

7-8 Aug
Carriers report destruction of 47 enemy planes, but do not report own plane losses. Navy and Marine fighters on GUADALCANAL report destruction of 21 enemy planes with the loss of 3 of our fighters. Total enemy plane losses reported as 68.

Our carrier groups reported attacks on enemy cruisers and a battleship with some hits.

B-17's reported 4 hits on RYUJO but photograph showed no hits made.

Enemy air reconnaissance of the GILBERT ISLANDS continues. OCEAN ISLAND bombed from the air and bombarded by a cruiser. NARU ISLAND shelled by a 6" cruiser.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. August 25, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Enemy task forces in several groups were picked up approaching the TULAGI AREA beginning 22 August.

First contact was with:-

- 1 Cruiser,
- 2 Destroyers, and
- 3 Transports.

Apparently this group turned away ~~upon being contacted~~ ^{after contact,} but later headed down toward GUADALCANAL, after the carrier action. This was based on a despatch from GUADALCANAL that an enemy convoy with no carriers present was attacked 100 miles north of TULAGI, - one large transport hit and burning and one heavy cruiser hit and burning fiercely, - No further information on this as yet. ^{At 8:10 a.m. 25 August.}

Enemy carrier task forces apparently consisted of RYUJO with two cruisers and destroyers and another group of two large carriers with ten cruisers and eight destroyers.

Presence of carriers was first noted by attack on patrol plane by enemy carrier planes 360 miles northeast of TULAGI at 10:30 a.m. on the 24th. Contact with carrier group was later made 120 miles southwest of position of attack on patrol plane, and 275 miles from TULAGI, - at 11:00 a.m. on the 24th.

Attack on carrier group, small carrier RYUJO, by a B-17 was reported as having taken place at 6:10 p.m. 120 miles southwest of this position. - Navigation of Army plane probably questionable. 4 B-17's also reported making attack on another carrier group at 5:25 p.m. 100 miles west southwest of this attack. Later one of our patrol planes reported a large carrier dead in the water, but report indicated in no other way whether or not damage had taken place.

Our task force was attacked by carrier planes at 4:40 in the afternoon, ENTERPRISE receiving two bomb hits, one of which put steering gear out of commission. ENTERPRISE planes failed to locate enemy and proceeded to GUADALCANAL. SARATOGA planes reported attack on RYUJO which was burning fiercely.

COMMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. August 24, 1942.

WJZ

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

S-44 returning from patrol on 23 August reported having sunk on 10 August a cruiser of KAKO or NACHI class with four torpedo hits (possibly was KAKO class).

Enemy Task Force sighted by our patrol plane about 300 miles north of the TULAGI AREA consisting apparently of a carrier, two cruisers, and two destroyers. Our Task Forces have been previously fired at with a submarine torpedo, with the consequent presumption that our forces sighted have been reported by the enemy.

One report indicates our forces being attacked by enemy carrier-based planes. Apparently our carriers not knowing at the time the exact position of enemy carriers.

Destroyer BLUE, having broken adrift from tow north of SAVO ISLAND, appears to have been scuttled by our own forces to avoid falling into enemy hands.

MacArthur reports a minimum of 7 hours necessary for the execution of missions against targets assigned by Commander South Pacific.

COMBICH FILE

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SECRET
1 AUGUST 1942

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9 a.m. 23 Aug. 1942.

PACIFIC

GUADALCANAL AREA

Patrol to eastward of TENARU RIVER killed 5 more Japs.

One B-17 and 5 P-40's arrived.

Commander SOUTH PACIFIC finding transportation problem to CACTUS more difficult every day and urges sending of more transport planes, - which are en route from UNITED STATES.

GUADALCANAL reports 9 dive bombers, 1 torpedo-bomber, and 13 fighters taking off at 4:15 p.m. to intercept an enemy north of CACTUS. - What kind of enemy not stated.

There are indications that Japanese lost two cruisers in the night action 8-9 August off GUADALCANAL.

PACIFIC

S-38 returning from patrol of ST. GEORGE'S CHANNEL (off RABAU) reports sinking on 8 August a large unidentified MARU. MARU escorted by one destroyer.

Returning from NORTH HONSHU patrol NARWHAL reports sinking four cargo ships and three sampans, total tonnage 18000.

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

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9:30 a.m. August 21, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Part of the Summary dated the 20th. was incorrect in that a patrol group reported as being destroyed appears to have been a United States patrol group comprising 25 men under ~~Captain~~ *Capt.* Goettge who disappeared on 12 August and apparently were annihilated.

19 Marine Fighters and 12 Dive Bombers were landed on GUADALCANAL at 4 p.m., local 20th.

At 4:40 on the morning of the 21st. it was reported that a strong raid or enemy landing was being made east of TENARU RIVER and that there were two enemy ships in the harbor.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

S E C R E T

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

4 p.m. August 20, 1942.

PACIFIC ACTION

Raid conducted on MAKIN ISLAND by landing force of 215 Marines from Submarines NARWHAL and ARGONAUT destroyed radio station, aviation gas, one seaplane float, seaplane and one four-engine patrol plane.

Indirect gunfire of submarine sank 3500-ton transport, one gunboat, and damaged enemy reservation area on shore.

Report indicates heavy enemy air action during daylight which apparently attacked Japanese troops and installations of secondary objective almost exclusively, which we did not raid. Secondary objective included reconnoitering and inflicting damage on the enemy at LITTLE MAKIN, APAING, and MARAKI ISLANDS.

Jap known dead 83, prisoners none. Our own dead Lieutenant Holtz, 13 men, wounded 2 officers and 16 men, missing approximately 20 men.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8 a.m. August 20, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Jap group hit near TAIVU POINT (westward on GUADALCANAL from Marine occupation) containing 20 members and 4 officers, -18 killed by our patrol group.

This Jap group carried considerable radio equipment that had been landed by a destroyer. Documents captured showed plan of some of the landing operations, also locations of Japanese small detachments.

Jap destroyers shelled our patrolling small boats off GUADALCANAL, - 9 Navy submarine personnel missing.

Report is made that one Japanese destroyer was struck by a B-17 bomb.

Patrol of Marines mopped up MATANIKAU (position unknown but probably on GUADAL CANAL), - 60 Japanese counted as being killed. Also located new graves confirming that 25 Japs had been killed on 12 August.

14 Japs were killed by a patrol, one escaping, - had landed in rubber boats.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

S E C R E T

8 a.m. August 19, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Interviews of Japanese prisoners obtained from enemy torpedo bombers shot down off GUADALCANAL give information that the Japanese have 50 to 60 heavy bombers at RABAU, 100 fighters brought in by carrier (KASUGA MARU ?), 100 dive bombers.

On the 17th. 16 bombs were dropped on field at GUADALCANAL, - 4 hits on runway, several drums of gas burned, 5 personnel casualties.

Commander Air, South Pacific, Admiral McCain, reports as of 12:50 p.m., local time of the 19th., two groups of Japanese ships in the southward SOLOMON ISLANDS. One heavy cruiser and one light cruiser 25 miles southeast of TULAGI; three destroyers seven miles north of LUNGA ROADS (GUADALCANAL). Two U.S. Army heavy bombers attacked heavy cruiser, scoring hit on stern of ship, which was on fire. Seaplane tender sighted at REKATA BAY (SANTA ISABEL ISLAND).

COMMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAT

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 1-10-72
BY SP-10/RS/ST

8:00 a.m. August 18, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Patrolling and mopping up GUADALCANAL continues. On the 15th. enemy planes dropped food and ammunition by parachute of which Marines captured four of six loads seen dropped.

Our destroyer transports on the 16th. delivered 120 tons of aviation gas, aviation lube oil, and ammunition to GUADALCANAL.

Our submarines report convoys moving southward from NEW BRITAIN. - Unable to get into firing position.

NARWHAL and ARGONAUT executed landing raid on MAKIN ISLAND with a raiding party of 200 Marines, local 17, but no word from them regarding results.

Submarines off TRUK appear to be having some success, - details unknown.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

TO DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
93D Letter RE T

WAL

8 a.m. August 14, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (CONT'D.)

Fragmentary reports in from the SOUTH PACIFIC show that Japanese attack conducted on the 9th. against our screening forces was very efficient. Gunfire rapid and accurate. Airplane flares used.

Survivors:-

QUINCY - - - - 44 Officers, 574 Men.
VINCENNES - - - 40 Officers, 650 Men.
ASTORIA - - - - About 650, total.
ELLIOT - - - - 23 Officers, 285 Men.
.CANBERRA - - - - 50 Officers, 586 Men.

Captains of VINCENNES and ASTORIA saved.
Captain of QUINCY lost. Captain of CANBERRA died from wounds.

RALPH TALBOT - 14 lost; JARVIS - 16 lost; MUGFORD - 20 lost.

Total wounded - about 841.

Japanese planned a very large and complete base in the TULAGI-GUADALCANAL Area. Powerful and vigorous enemy reaction is expected (there are many indications of this).

A division of destroyer transports arrives GUADALCANAL with supplies tomorrow, Saturday.

Total personnel landed at GUADALCANAL 10,900.

Very
COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9:45 a.m. August 12, 1942. WADZ

DECLASSIFIED
98D Letters

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Information has been received regarding the battle in the SOLOMON ISLANDS from the Commander of the Amphibious Force. One Covering Force northeast of SAVO ISLAND consisted of ASTORIA, VINCENNES, QUINCY, 3 destroyers, and one destroyer radar outpost; southwest of SAVO ISLAND CHICAGO, CANBERRA, and five destroyers. These two forces were patrolling the approaches to the TULAGI-GUADALCANAL AREA. Inner screens consisted of SAN JUAN and destroyers for group at TULAGI, and AUSTRALIA and HOBART with destroyers for protection of transports at GUADALCANAL. About 0145 aircraft flares silhouetted transports in the TULAGI AREA. About the same time enemy heavy cruisers, destroyers, and submarines were intercepted by screens north and south of SAVO ISLAND with the result of a heavy running action of about forty minutes.

No knowledge of damage to enemy except one submarine probably sunk.

Our losses, - ASTORIA, VINCENNES, QUINCY, CANBERRA. CHICAGO torpedoed in bow, two destroyers damaged. Heavy casualties with majority saved. Attack did not reach transport or shore forces.

Transports remained in area to land food and ammunition during the following day, then departed for NEW CALEDONIA.

The situation on land not very much changed. Enemy detachments remain in jungle areas. Equipment and supplies captured indicate that the Japanese meant the TULAGI AREA to be a major base.

~~SECRET~~ UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
S E C R E T
68D LOST 5-1-42

9:30 a.m. Aug. 11, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Information from General Vandergrift transmitted local Monday night to Admiral Ghormley states that he holds TULAGI, GAVUTU, MAKAMBO, TANAMBOGO, and has 5,000 men in that area, which were taken after bitter fighting. - Marine casualties 450. Jap casualties 100%, running over 1,000.

Also holds GUADALCANAL, KUKUM to KOLI POINT. Digging in to defend beaches. He is patrolling to mop up Jap garrison of 300 troops and 2,000 pioneers who withdrew to bush.

Vandergrift reports GUADALCANAL airfield ready for fighter and dive bomber planes.

Enemy landing attack on west end of GUADALCANAL is anticipated. Estimate of Japanese forces in area or proceeding toward area attached hereto.

Our carrier forces are presumed to have finished fueling Monday the 10th.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA forces report destruction of a large number of Japanese aircraft in the NEW BRITAIN AREA, including 19 Zeros in air combat. Also report heavy damage to VUNAKUNAU airfield (RABAUL AREA).

Commander in Chief, PACIFIC, recommends no press release in regard to situation in the SOLOMON ISLANDS.

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 SD Letter 72
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ESTIMATE ORANGE STRENGTH
BISMARCK-SOLOMONS AREA
CINCPAC 102147 AUGUST 1942

	TYPE	TONNAGE	YEAR	BATTERY
<u>EN ROUTE FROM EMPIRE</u>				
8 ASASHIO	DD	1500	1937	6-5"
1 to 2 KAMIGAWA	XAV	6853	1937	10 to 14 planes

ESTIMATED TOTAL ORANGE STRENGTH
PRESENT AND EN ROUTE

CA - - - - - 7	AV - - - - - 1
CL - - - - - 3	XAV - - - - - 5 to 7
DD - - - - - 12	PT - - - - - 4
ODD - - - - - 10	PC and SC - - - 20
SS - - - - - 8	DM and AM - - - 6
OSS - - - - - 4	AP and AK - - - 10 to 14

SECRET

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ON 10-15-74
BY 1042

ESTIMATE ORANGE STRENGTH
BISMARCK-SOLOMONS AREA
CINCPAC 102147 AUGUST 1942

	TYPE	TONNAGE	YEAR	BATTERY
1 CHOKAI	CA	9850	1932	10-8"
5 CA 4 AOBA	CA	7100	1927	6-8"
2 TEWRYU	CL	3230	1919	11-5.5"
1 YUBARI	CL	2890	1923	6-5.5"
6 KAMIKAZE	ODD	1270	1922	4-4.7"
4 MINEKASE	ODD	1215	1920	4-4.7"
4 RO Subs	OSS	988	1923-25	1-4.7" 4 Torps
8 I Subs	SS	1300 to 1600	1932-37	1-4.7" 6 Torps
1 CHITOSE	AV	9000	1938	14 Planes 4-5"
2 to 4 KAMIGAWA	XAV	6853	1937	10 to 14 planes
4 PT	PT	50?	-	2 Torps (?)
4 PC	PC	70?	-	-
2 DM	DM	?	-	-
16 SC	SC	?	-	-
4 AM	AM	?	-	-
6 to 8 AP	AP	3 to 10,000 ?	-	-
4 to 6 AK	AK	3 to 8,000 ?	-	-
<u>EN ROUTE FROM MALAYA</u>				
2 MOGAMI	CA	8500	1935	10 - 8"
4 SHIGURE	DD	1368	1936	5 - 5"
1 KAMIKAWA	XAV	6853	1938	10 to 14 planes

Commander Task Force 62

090815

August 9, 1942.

Today's summary: Details last night's naval battle obscure but in general as follows:

Object of enemy's surface attack was TRANSGROUP X-RAY at Guadalcanal. We had outer screen in two divisions - 1 Northeast, 1 South of Savo, consisting of ASTORIA, VINCENNES, QUINCY, 3 destroyers, plus 1 destroyer radar outpost. Other of CHICAGO, CANBERRA, 4 DD plus 1 DD radar outpost. All patrolling X-ray.

Inner screens of SAN JUAN and DD's for Yoke group; AUSTRALIA, HOBART and DD's for X-ray group. At 0145/L aircraft flares probably from cruiser planes were accurately dropped through the clouds to silhouette Group Yoke. The flares continued regularly for about a half hour. At same time enemy heavy cruisers and destroyers or torpedo boats and probably submarines were intercepted by the screen north and south of Savo. Heavy running actions continued for about 40 minutes. No knowledge of damage to enemy except 1 submarine probably sunk.

We lost ASTORIA VINCENNES QUINCY and CANBERRA. The CHICAGO was torpedoed in the bow and the RALPH TABLOT and PATTERSON were damaged. Heavy casualties, majority saved (sic). The attack did not reach the transports or shore forces. The transports remained in the area today (August 9th) to land more food and ammunition. Probably 30 days and four units of fire on hand. Departing tonight via Lenge Channel in view impending heavy attack. Guadalcanal, no change. We are consolidating there. Tulagi, Gavutu, Tanamboga entirely in our hands. We are mopping up on Makambo. Landing of stores seriously interrupted by last night's action and today's air alarm which proved false.

SECRET
CLASSIFIED
652-78
OSD Lt. F.

COMMINT FILE

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DECLASSIFIED
8-9-78
98D

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. August 8, 1942 (Cont'd.)

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At least 12 enemy planes shot down, probably more, by ships and fighters.

Apparently KISKA attack took place about 1800 the 7th.
(KISKA date).

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 03-72

9 a.m. August 8, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The approach in the TULAGI AREA was a complete surprise. 18 enemy seaplanes on water and one small schooner were destroyed. No enemy ships present.

In both areas, TULAGI and GUADALCANAL, shore bombardment was opened about 0600, local time (date, local 7). Light gun opposition soon silenced.

At 0740 landing was begun in the FLORIDA AREA (TULAGI-FLORIDA ISLAND). Initial opposition was light.

Landing was begun at GUADALCANAL at 0910 a.m. No opposition.

About 25 enemy bombers dropped several bombs, - no damage, - two planes shot down, two damaged.

About 10 Type 99 dive bombers made one 250-pound hit on Destroyer MUGFORD at 1500. Considerable damage to after deck-house, engines not damaged, - 20 dead, - 2 planes shot down.

At 2000, local time, all troops for GUADALCANAL were ashore occupying position on the TENARU RIVER, about five miles east of LUNGA ROADS, - not in contact with the enemy.

The situation on FLORIDA side:-

HALAVO (FLORIDA ISLAND) occupied, - no opposition.

TULAGI occupied, except east end. Fighting continues.

GAVUTU captured, - heavy casualties.

TANANBOGO, small island connected with GAVUTU, still in hands of enemy.

One fighter pilot down near RUSSELL ISLAND. One WASP dive-bomber shot down by a zero.

Squadron Xray(?) attacked at 1200 on the 8th. by about 40 twin-engine torpedo planes and about 8 high altitude bombers. JARVIS hit by torpedo on bow, disabled, - being towed to shallow water.

GEORGE F. ELLIOT on fire amidships from bomb hits.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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SECRET
SECRET

9 a.m. August 7, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No direct report as yet but attack on TULAGI-GUADALCANAL AREA commenced about 0600, local time, August 7th. (3 p.m. August 6, Washington Wartime). Attack apparently a complete surprise. Attack consisted of bombing, landing, and bombardment. No reports indicating progress of attack or details as yet received.

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

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5 p.m. July 30, 1942.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.).

S-40 torpedoed a large Japanese troopship off TULAGI
on July 10th.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 03-23-72
BY 11111

9 a.m. July 23, 1942.

WAZ

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION

Enemy landing on BUNA (across NEW GUINEA Peninsula from PORT MORESBY) was made. This landing force was attacked by U.S. aircraft resulting in the belief that one transport was sunk and two vessels damaged. This force consisted of:-

- 2 Cruisers,
- 4 Destroyers,
- 2 Transports, and
- Several Small Merchantmen.

S-37 torpedoed a patrol plane tender near RABAU.