

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

1 April 1943 - 31 July 1943

(Pages 317 - 468)

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

[Navy Classified]

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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. 31 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

NEW GEORGIA GROUND OPERATIONS

On July 29th in the MUNDA AREA, some advance was made all along the front. Tanks and flame throwers were advantageously employed. Attacks continued against previously by-passed centers of enemy resistance.

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

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OSD Letter # 372

9 a.m. 31 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 8:45 a.m. July 30th, eighteen Navy Dauntless dive bombers and eighteen Navy Avengers bombed and strafed four enemy gun positions on the west side of BAIROKO HARBOR, NEW GEORGIA. Numerous hits were scored.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. 30 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At about 3 P.M. July 29th, four Army Mitchells bombed and strafed enemy positions on the southeast and west coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. An enemy barge was sunk in the WEBSTER COVE AREA, a building damaged, and several fires started. In addition, a barge was sunk at HAMBERI, west coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

Eight Navy Corsairs escorting the bombers, strafed buildings in PORAPORA VILLAGE at SANDFLY HARBOR.

NEW GEORGIA GROUND SITUATION

In the MUNDA AREA, strong enemy positions are making progress difficult all along the line.

On July 27th, the 43RD DIVISION in position on the left flank, advanced two hundred yards against strong resistance. Fourteen additional enemy pillboxes were neutralized. Patrol activity continued on the north flank held by the 148TH INFANTRY.

During July 28th, some progress was made along the entire front.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. 29 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Motor torpedo boats attacked four and sank two enemy barges in BLACKETT STRAIT, southwest coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

At 5:30 a.m. July 27th, six Army Fortresses attacked enemy positions at KIHILI and BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA. Enemy night fighters shot down one of the bombers.

Later on the same morning, Navy Dauntless dive bombers and Avengers, escorted by Wildcats, Corsairs and Lightnings, dropped thirty-five tons of bombs on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

During the afternoon of 28 July, twenty-three Army Mitchells, escorted by twelve Corsairs, attacked enemy positions at WEBSTER COVE, south coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

During the morning of July 28th, strong formations of Navy Avengers and Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by Corsairs and Wildcats, attacked enemy positions in the MUNDA AREA. One Dauntless returned damaged.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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3 p.m. 28 July 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)
New Georgia Ground Operations

In the MUNDA sector, our ground troops are moving ahead slowly but surely. At nightfall 26 July, the 103rd Infantry, on the south and shoreline end of our line, had gone beyond TETERA. This puts them just a little over a mile from the east end of the MUNDA airfield. Our other forward line units are advancing and hitting local strong spots. A few of these were bypassed. Subsequently pocketed by our advance, they are now being wiped out.

In the north, both sides are clashing in small patrol actions. An enemy outpost has been reported as destroyed.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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REF ID: A66778
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9 a.m. 28 July 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

CENTRAL PACIFIC

On 26 July about 7:30 in the evening an enemy submarine was picked up at MIDWAY by shore batteries about two miles south of the channel entrance. The sub submerged at once. Later, around nine o'clock, flares again picked up the target at about 2,200 yards. She was taken under fire immediately and forty-two rounds were fired. It is reported that one hit was made, but our planes were unable to verify the fact. The sub disappeared off the radar shortly before ten o'clock.

Around ten o'clock on the morning of 27 July, eight of our Liberators caught the enemy off base at WAKE ISLAND by a quick return visit. Originally 12 planes were scheduled to make the trip but four returned because of faulty engine performance.

Approximately twenty-five Zeros intercepted, of which seven were destroyed, with five probably destroyed and three others damaged. In spite of heavy aircraft fire, fragmentation and incendiary bombs were placed on the western end of the island and the balance in the central section.

All our planes returned safely. There were no injuries or casualties.

The submarine Drum returning from a war patrol in the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS area reports sinking an 8,600 ton freighter with three torpedo hits.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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3 p.m. 27 July 1943. *WBR*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A Naval officer has succeeded in escaping from the Japanese prison camp at DAVAO, MINDANAO, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. In excellent physical condition, he reported for duty in BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, 26 July.

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

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9 a.m. 27 July, 1943. MHZSOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Early in the morning of 26 July, Avengers and Dauntless planes bombed anti-aircraft positions at BIBOLO HILL in the MUNDA area.

The Avengers scored seventeen bulls-eye hits and it is recorded two fires were started and anti-aircraft guns were put out of commission. Two Dauntless and Avenger planes each were hit. The crew of one Avenger, which was forced into the sea, was rescued.

During the morning of 26 July, a formation of Liberators covered by Lightnings, Corsairs, Warhawks, and Kittyhawks, bombed KIHILI, BUIN area. Hits were scored in the camp section and on the runway, which was covered with planes.

In spite of the intensity of the attack, some thirty Zeros were able to take off and attack stragglers in our return formation in the vicinity of KOLOBANGARA. One of our Corsairs was shot down but the pilot was able to bail out; another one was forced down on the water near an island.

One Liberator, which was unable to participate in this attack, dropped its bombs on the VILA runway, KOLOBANGARA.

At midnight, 24 July, eight Liberators from MIDWAY bombed WAKE ISLAND. Thirty Zeros intercepted them. Nine Zeros were reported destroyed with four probably destroyed and five others damaged. In addition to this force, the enemy also had in the air, ten fighters and five Multi-motored planes. The island's anti-aircraft fire was heavy and accurate.

It is reported that 90% of our bombs fell on the designated targets; and that the depth charges dropped in the water target sectors. One bomb hit started a large explosion on the runway.

Our losses were one plane in action, one in landing and four severely damaged by the enemy's gunfire. Personnel casualties were; five officers and six enlisted men missing, one enlisted man killed, two officers seriously wounded and three men wounded slightly.

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UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**
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9 a.m. 26 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 9:00 a.m., July 24, seventy-three Navy Avenger torpedo planes and Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by forty-eight Navy Wildcats, attacked the BAEROKO area. Later on that day, the same type of planes dropped twenty-five tons of bombs on enemy gun positions in the MUNDA area.

During the night of July 24-25th, ~~light cruisers and~~ destroyers bombarded MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Shore fire opposition was silenced.

At 4:00 a.m. July 25th, enemy planes bombed OLIANA BAY, NEW GEORGIA. No damage or casualties were sustained.

During July 25th strong formations of Army heavy bombers, medium bombers and Navy dive bombers, supported by Army and Navy fighters, attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. One heavy bomber did not return to its base.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**RECEIVED
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9 a.m. 25 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On July 24th, eighteen Navy Dauntless dive bombers and sixteen Navy Avengers, escorted by twenty-two fighters, attacked enemy positions at MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Results were unobserved. One Avenger was shot down by anti-aircraft fire but it is believed that the crew was recovered.

The submarine TINOSA scored twelve torpedo hits into the enemy tanker TONAN MARU (19,000 tons). Out of the twelve hits, it is reported that only one was a good explosion. The tanker did not sink.

NEW GEORGIA GROUND OPERATIONS

On July 23rd, the ground situation remained unchanged.

Early on July 24th, additional supplies for our forces were landed at ENOGAI by high speed transports (old destroyers). The transports were screened by destroyers and the operation was covered by a striking force of cruisers.

In the BAIROKO area, the enemy was reported digging in on the high ground along the northeastern side of BAIROKO HARBOR.

Information obtained from Japanese prisoners indicated that the enemy landed reinforcements at SUNDAY INLET from VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

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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. 24 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 9:40 a.m. July 24th, eighteen Dauntless dive bombers, in support of our troops, attacked enemy gun positions at MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

At 3 p.m. July 24th, twelve Army Mitchells and fifteen Navy Dauntless dive bombers escorted by sixteen Warhawks, attacked RAKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. A number of fires were started. 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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9 a.m. 23 July, 1943. *W.R.*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

NEW GEORGIA GROUND SITUATION

At daylight, July 20th, our troops, operating in the NORTHERN AREA, began their drive on BAIROKO. It was estimated that the enemy strength in that area consisted of 500 to 600 Japanese armed with automatic weapons, heavy mortars and at least one battery of artillery emplaced on the west side of BAIROKO ISLAND. The advance was supported by medium bombers, dive bombers and torpedo planes which dropped 135 tons of bombs and, in addition, repeatedly strafed the area.

Our troops fought their way to within 300 yards of the east bank of BAIROKO. Here, they encountered heavy machine-gun, mortar and artillery fire which made their position untenable and necessitated a withdrawal to ENOGAI. Active patrolling is continuing. It is reported that after the attack our troops were unfit for further offensive action.

Casualties among Army personnel were reported as relatively light. The casualties among Marine personnel are considerable. Twenty-five percent of the 1st Raider Battalion and thirty percent of the 4th Raider Battalion are reported as casualties.

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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. 23 July, 1943. WAB

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 4 p.m. July 22nd, eighteen Navy Avenger torpedo planes, sixteen Navy Dauntless dive bombers and twelve Army Liberators, escorted by one hundred twenty fighters, attacked the enemy seaplane tender NISSHIN (9,000 tons), escorted by four destroyers, off CAPE FRIENDSHIP, southeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. The NISSHIN was sunk and one destroyer was damaged. In addition, five Zeros were shot down by our fighters. Three of our fighter planes are missing.

At 6:24 p.m. July 22nd, eight Army Fortresses and eight Army Liberators attacked an enemy cruiser or destroyer leader and two destroyers south of OEMA ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA. Results of this attack were unobserved. No U.S. losses were sustained.

Four flights of twelve Japanese bombers raided FUNAFUTI, ELLICE ISLANDS at 5:45 a.m. July 22nd. Damage to our installations, if any, has not been reported but two of the personnel were killed and six slightly wounded. Two of the enemy bombers were shot down.

During the night of July 21st and the early morning of July 22nd, enemy dive bombers and Zeros attacked our positions at RENDOVA, NEW GEORGIA, killing one and wounding ten. A bomb hit and damaged the LST 343.

The submarine TROUT, returning from patrol of the PHILIPPINES, has reported sinking two tankers and three coastal vessels, totaling 17,247 tons. In addition, one freighter of 1,400 tons was damaged.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.~~SECRET~~
REF ID: A66774
OSD L-1119 a.m. 22 July, 1943. MSTSOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the afternoon of July 20th, thirty-six Navy dive bombers, in support of ground operations, bombed enemy gun emplacements northwest of LAMBETTI, NEW GEORGIA.

During July 21st, two hundred and fifty Navy dive bombers, Navy Avengers and Army Mitchells, together with fighters, dropped one hundred and thirty-three tons of bombs in the BAIROKO AREA in support of our ground operations. In addition, the area was strafed and five fires were observed as a result of the attacks. A machine-gun position was silenced. No U.S. losses were sustained.

NEW GEORGIA GROUND OPERATIONS

The enemy is reported to have suffered heavy losses in his attack on positions held by the 169th Infantry in the MUNDA AREA during the afternoon and night of July 19th.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**
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9 a.m. 21 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 12:30 a.m. July 20th, a Catalina flying boat sighted an enemy task force composed of three light cruisers, six destroyers and two transports. The two transports with three destroyers left the enemy formation and headed for VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND via BLACKETT STRAIT. Three cruisers and three destroyers remained behind to cover the entrance to VELLA GULF.

Mitchell bombers, Flying Fortresses, Avenger torpedo planes and Dauntless dive bombers located and attacked both enemy groups during morning darkness and after dawn of that day with the following results:

<u>SUNK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
One Light Cruiser	Two Destroyers (one probably sunk)
Two Destroyers	One Transport

Two of our Mitchell bombers and two Avenger torpedo planes did not return.

During the early morning of July 20th, eighteen Army Liberators attacked KIHILI, BUIN AREA and BALLALE ISLAND. An explosion and four fires were observed at KIHILI. Seven of the Liberators were engaged by enemy night fighters. One enemy fighter was shot down. One Liberator did not return to its base.

At 2:57 a.m. July 20th, three enemy twin-engined bombers dropped eight bombs on FUNAFUTI, ELLICE ISLANDS. No personnel injuries were sustained. Material damage, if any, has not been reported.

The Australian light cruiser HOBART was hit by a torpedo from an enemy submarine at 8 p.m. July 20th, 190 miles west of ESPIRITU SANTO. The cruiser is making 7 knots and is experiencing difficulty in steering. Assistance and air coverage is being provided.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. 20 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The seaplane tender CHINCOTEAGUE, damaged by enemy bombers on July 17th south of VANIKORO ISLAND, is under tow of the tug SONOMA at five knots 150 miles north of ESPIRITU SANTO.

The destroyer JENKINS, escorting the CHINCOTEAGUE, was unsuccessfully attacked by three Jap planes on the afternoon of July 18th. All the attacking enemy planes were shot down.

The three enemy destroyers which were reported attacked by our aircraft on the night of July 17th and 18th, between VANGA POINT and PATUPAILI on the west coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, were attacked by our surface units, apparently destroyers, and not by aircraft as reported in the morning summary of July 19th. Hits were scored on all three destroyers and one vessel is believed to have sunk.

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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. 20 July, 1943. WAR

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At about 4 a.m. July 18th, three or more enemy planes approached CANTON ISLAND and harmlessly dropped bombs. No casualties to personnel or damage to installations were sustained.

At 9:30 a.m. July 18th, twenty-one Army Liberators, seventeen Navy dive bombers and eighteen Navy Avenger torpedo planes, escorted by sixty-four Navy Wildcats, forty-four Navy Corsairs, twenty Army Warhawks and six Army Lightnings bombed the KAHILI airdrome and enemy shipping in the vicinity with the following results:

<u>SUNK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
* Two destroyers	One cargo vessel
One cargo vessel	

In addition, enemy anti-aircraft positions at KAHILI were silenced.

An unreported number of Zero fighters attempted to interfere with the attack and in the ensuing engagement twenty-one Zeros were destroyed. We lost six Wildcats, three Corsairs and one Avenger.

During the early morning of July 19th, nine Army Flying Fortresses bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA. Results of this attack were unobserved.

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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. 19 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

NEW GEORGIA GROUND SITUATION

In the BAIROKO AREA, it is believed that the enemy has established himself on the southwest sides of BAIROKO HARBOR and SUNDAY INLET. A number of Japanese have been killed at the trail block thrown across MUNDA TRAIL. Due to the disposition of enemy forces, the value of this trail block has somewhat decreased.

Enemy float planes, apparently staging from north of VILA RIVER on KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, bombed our troops at ENOGAI on the night of July 16th-17th.

Japanese planes dropped supplies to their troops at MUNDA during the night of July 15th. The 43rd Division in the MUNDA AREA is attacking prepared enemy positions under cover of our machine-gun fire.

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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. 19 July, 1943. *WAZ*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of July 17th-18th, our aircraft attacked three enemy destroyers between VANGA POINT and PATUPAILI on the west coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Hits were obtained on all three destroyers and one vessel is believed to have sunk. Our planes returned without damage.

Two of our Catalina flying boats attacked a small Japanese vessel off PAKOI BAY, northwest coast of VELLA LAVELLA at 9 p.m. July 17th. Although no bomb hits were scored, a strafing attack started a number of fires on the enemy vessel.

At 1:45 a.m. July 18th, our motor torpedo boats turned back six Japanese destroyers off the west coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. A torpedo hit was scored on one of the enemy destroyers.

At 2:30 p.m. July 18th, LST 342 (tank landing ship), proceeding unescorted, was torpedoed off the south coast of VANGUNU ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. Out of an estimated total of two hundred ten personnel, one hundred ten survivors have been picked up.

At 2:45 p.m. July 18th, thirty-six Navy Dauntless dive bombers and twenty-six Navy Avengers bombed enemy gun positions on the LAMBETI ISLANDS north of the MUNDA STRIP. Results of the attack were unobserved. No U.S. losses were sustained.

On the night of July 18th, a number of Japanese planes dropped eleven bombs on GUADALCANAL. Eight men were wounded.

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

SECRET

4 p.m. 18 July, 1943.

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SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 17 July, the seaplane tender CHINCOTEAGUE, 16 miles south of VANIKORO ISLAND (240 miles north of ESPIRITU SANTO) sustained considerable damage by enemy horizontal bombing attacks.

During the night of 16-17 July, 17 Army Liberators, 8 Army Fortresses and 6 Navy Liberators attacked the KIHILLI Airdrome. Numerous fires were started. Enemy Zero night fighters intercepted three times. One Navy Liberator is missing.

Between 9:20 A.M. and 9:40 A.M. 17 July, 36 Navy Dauntless dive bombers, 35 Navy Avenger torpedo planes and 7 Liberators, escorted by 114 fighters attacked enemy shipping at KIHILLI, Shortland area and sank one light cruiser or destroyer leader, two destroyers, one submarine chaser, two cargo vessels and one tanker. In addition, one enemy cargo vessel was damaged and beached.

Enemy aircraft attempted to intercept the attack and in the ensuing engagement, 44 Zeros and 5 float planes were shot down. Two Army Lightnings, one Navy Corsair, one Navy Dauntless dive bomber and one Navy Avenger are missing.

At 3 P.M. 17 July, 18 Navy Dauntless dive bombers bombed the BAIROKO area, New Georgia. No. U.S. losses were sustained.

NEW GEORGIA GROUND OPERATIONS.

On the night of 13 July, one of our regiments broke through to LILIO BEACH (2 miles southeast of MUNDA runway). The following day additional troops were landed at LILIO.

Our troops continued to advance to the west and south and on the night of 14 July, repelled an enemy counter attack.

As of 17 July, no further activity has been reported except that our patrols were near BAIROKO (Southwest of Rice Anchorage).

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

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9 a.m. 18 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of July 13th, heavy bombers operating from GUADALCANAL bombed enemy positions on KAHILI and BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA and BUKA ISLAND. Large fires were started on BALLALE and numerous hits were scored on the landing strip and in the dispersal area at KAHILI. Results of the BUKA ISLAND attack were unobserved.

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An incomplete report indicates that apparently one of our submarines attacked a Japanese task force composed of two aircraft carriers, one auxiliary aircraft carrier, a seaplane tender, two cruisers and a number of destroyers at 7 a.m. July 15th 180 miles north of TRUK. Although this attack was reported as successful, details of the results are not available.

During the night of July 16th-17th, a number of enemy bombers attacked GUADALCANAL. Complete details are not available but some personnel casualties and material damages were sustained. Three bombs dropped on SAVO ISLAND caused no damage.

✓ At 11:54 p.m. July 16th, six Navy Catalinas bombed enemy positions on NAURU ISLAND. A large fire and several small ones were reported. All our planes returned.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**SECRET
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4 p.m. 16 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 11:10 a.m. 15 July, four Army Mitchell bombers, escorted by twelve Navy Corsairs, bombed and sank a small enemy cargo vessel off the west tip of BAGA ISLAND (west of VELLA LAVELLA). Later, at 11:25 a.m., another small enemy cargo vessel was attacked by these planes and left burning on a reef at the north tip of BAGA ISLAND. On their return flight, the Mitchells strafed enemy positions on VORI POINT (northwest point of GANONGGA ISLAND). No U.S. losses were sustained.

At 3:20 p.m. 15 July, thirty-six Navy Dauntless dive bombers and thirty-six Navy Avenger torpedo planes bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Fires were still burning one and one half hours after the attack.

At 3:55 p.m., eighteen Navy Dauntless dive bombers bombed and strafed BAIROKO, NEW GEORGIA ISLAND.

At about 4:40 p.m., four Army Mitchell bombers, escorted by eight Army Lightnings and eight Army Warhawks, strafed and probably sank two enemy barges on the north-east coast of GANONGGA ISLAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**Dec 11 1943
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9 a.m. 16 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 2:30 p.m. 15 July, twenty-seven Mitsubishi bombers, escorted by about forty or fifty Zeros and twin-engined fighters, were intercepted over RENDOVA by forty-four of our fighters. Fifteen enemy bombers and thirty Zeros were shot down. The number of our planes lost has not been reported although three of our pilots are reported missing.

During the night of 15 July, eight of our destroyers and two destroyer transports, enroute to TULAGI, were unsuccessfully bombed by two enemy planes.

These ships were transporting HELENA survivors rescued from VELLA LAVELLA. Included among these passengers are fourteen naval officers, one army officer, one hundred sixty enlisted men, sixteen Chinese and one Japanese army aviator prisoner.

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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. 15 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

NEW GEORGIA GROUND OPERATIONS

Enemy opposition has stiffened considerably but our progress is satisfactory. On July 12th, our forces were reported as one mile from LAMBETI BEACH with other units proceeding to secure LAMBETI POINT.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**CLASSIFIED
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9 a.m. 15 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On July 11th, a number of our fighter planes engaged enemy bombers and fighters over NEW GEORGIA. In the ensuing engagement, six Zeros, one twin-engine fighter and two bombers were destroyed. We lost six fighter planes but four of the pilots have been recovered.

During the 13th of July, Navy dive bombers and Navy torpedo planes dropped 32 tons of bombs on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. One large fire was started as a result of these attacks.

At 9:45 a.m. July 13th, twelve Avenger torpedo planes and seventeen Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by eight Corsairs and seven Lightnings, contacted eighteen enemy dive bombers escorted by ten Zeros over VISU VISU (northwest coast of NEW GEORGIA ISLAND). Four enemy fighters were shot down and the enemy bombers were forced to jettison their bombs. One of our fighter planes is missing but the pilot is believed to have been rescued.

At 7:05 a.m. July 14th, seven Army Mitchells, escorted by eighteen Army Warhawks, attacked two large enemy barges at HUNDA COVE (south coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND). As a result of this attack, one barge was left burning. One Warhawk was forced down but the pilot was later recovered.

At 10 o'clock on the same morning, nine Mitchells, escorted by fourteen Warhawks, destroyed a small enemy cargo vessel in BEAGLE CHANNEL (west coast of VELLA LAVELLA). These planes then attacked and sank the second barge at HUNDA COVE. No U.S. losses were sustained.

COMINCH FILE

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

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4 p.m. 14 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Late 12 July, a total of seventeen Liberators bombed BALLALE, SHORTLAND AREA. Fires were started which were visible from quite a height.

Simultaneously, two other Liberators bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. No observation of the results was obtained.

All our planes returned to their bases.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED 2-22-72
SECRET

982 **SECRET**

9 a.m. 14 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 10 July, one of our Corsairs destroyed a twin-engined enemy fighter plane in the vicinity of KULA GULF.

On two occasions during 10 July, our fighter umbrella over RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP intercepted large enemy formations coming in for an attack. As a result of these engagements one enemy bomber and two Zeros were downed. Three of our Corsairs are missing and three fighter planes were lost but of the latter only one pilot is missing.

On the night of 11 July, a formation of nine each Flying Fortresses and Liberators bombed KIHILI, BUIN AREA. The results of their bombing on the airfield and dispersal sectors was unobserved. All our planes returned.

Enemy air forces hit GUADALCANAL, bombs falling near KOLI POINT twice during the night of 11-12 July.

In the capture of ENOGAI INLET, NEW GEORGIA ISLAND and its surrounding area we captured four heavy enemy artillery guns. So far, in our forward push in that section, over 150 Japs have been killed and a great number of the enemy wounded.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET
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09D 143
SECRET

9 a.m. 13 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The torpedo hits inflicted on the HONOLULU, ST. LOUIS and GWIN were received while they were chasing, under the supposition, damaged ships of the first enemy group. As it turned out, these ships had not appeared before.

The destroyer BUCHANAN and WOODWORTH are apparently damaged as a result of a collision. The former has a damaged bow with one compartment flooded; the latter's port propeller is damaged and two compartments are flooded. Both ships are able to make 20 knots.

Our forces are retiring to TULAGI for further examination of the damages received.

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- 440 -

Regraded Unclassified

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

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OBD

9 a.m. 13 July, 1943. MBSOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the night of 12-13 July, one of our task forces composed of the light cruisers HONOLULU, ST. LOUIS, and H.M.N.Z.S. LEANDER (a light cruiser), plus U.S. destroyers, commanded by Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth, U.S. Navy, was assigned to cover the rescue operation of some of the U.S.S. HELENA's survivors who had reached the shores of VELLA LAVELLA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP after their ship had sunk in the engagement on 6 July.

Sometime during the night of 12-13 July, this force engaged the enemy 20 miles north of VELLA LAVELLA ISLAND in NEW GEORGIA SOUND. Apparently, the enemy forces were in two groups with one cruiser and five destroyers in the first section and four ships in the second group.

An engagement followed with the two groups in succession. Of the enemy ships in the first group, reports state, a cruiser and three destroyers were definitely sunk. It is also believed that two other destroyers were sunk but until more definite details are ascertainable they can only be listed, at this time, as probably sunk.

In the attack on the first enemy group, one of their torpedoes hit H.M.N.Z.S. LEANDER amidships. Later reports indicate that she was unable to make more than ten knots and with her escort is lagging behind the formation.

From the second enemy group, the HONOLULU, ST. LOUIS and destroyer GWIN were each struck by one torpedo. The HONOLULU and ST. LOUIS were hit forward in the vicinities of frame ten and eleven but are seaworthy and making 21 knots. The GWIN suffered serious damage in her after section and went out of commission. Although she was heavy in the water, an attempt was made to tow her. Along about 10 o'clock in the evening, she was abandoned in a sinking condition and destroyed by gunfire from the U.S.S. RALPH TALBOT. All her personnel were transferred to the destroyers RALPH TALBOT and MAURY.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~DECLASSIFIED
05D 11/15/2012
~~SECRET~~9 a.m. 12 July, 1943. W12SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Catalina flying boats, on the night of July 9th-10th, tracked two enemy light cruisers and five destroyers standing down towards the CENTRAL SOLOMONS. There were indications that some of these vessels may have landed supplies or troops at VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND while a screening force covered the entrance to KULA GULF. Our forces were not in the area in order to intercept the enemy.

At 8:30 p.m. July 9th, one hundred and ten torpedo planes and dive bombers, covered by fighters, bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. During the same night, eighteen Dauntless dive bombers attacked ENOGAI and BAIROKO, NEW GEORGIA in support of our troops.

On July 10th, the fighter strip at SEGI POINT, NEW GEORGIA was ready and fighters were scheduled to operate from this strip on that day.

On the night of July 11th-12th, a task force composed of light cruisers and destroyers bombarded enemy positions on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Enemy planes which dropped flares in the vicinity of our ships were driven off by gunfire.

At 9:55 a.m. July 12th, forty-nine Navy Avengers and thirty-seven Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by strong formations of fighters, bombed enemy anti-aircraft positions and bivouac areas on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. No U.S. losses were sustained.

Our troops, operating from RICE ANCHORAGE, NEW GEORGIA, have captured ENOGAI INLET, NEW GEORGIA and its environs. It is believed that this was the principal Japanese position in this area. A road block has been established across the MUNDA TRAIL at the intersection of the RICE ANCHORAGE, ENOGAI and BAIROKO TRAILS.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 8-2-78**SECRET**

9 a.m. 11 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Operations against MUNDA are progressing according to plan. Enemy positions on MUNDA were under Naval bombardment on July 9th.

During the morning of July 10th between 7:10 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., sixteen Liberators bombed KAHILI, BUIN Area. A number of fires and one explosion were observed. Three enemy night fighters were encountered using search lights, and although a number of shots were exchanged, our planes suffered no damage. One Liberator is missing, but is believed to be a navigational loss.

On the same night, a Navy Catalina bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA. Results were unobserved.

The submarine PETO scored two torpedo hits and probably sank a Japanese tanker bound for RABAU, NEW BRITAIN.

At 10:35 a.m., July 11th, thirty-five Navy Avengers and thirty-four Navy Dauntless dive bombers attacked enemy anti-aircraft installations and the bivouac area in MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Results were unobserved. No U.S. losses were sustained.

COMINCH FILE

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

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
DATE 12-2-78
BY 1042

9 a.m. 10 July, 1943. WAL

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The submarine GRAYLING, returning from patrol of the SOUTH CHINA SEA, reports as follows:

7 June - Sank a 5,500 ton enemy cargo vessel 135 miles northwest of SARAWAK, BORNEO.

17 June - Sank by gunfire a 40 ton schooner 125 miles northeast of SINGAPORE.

22 June - Damaged and probably sank an 8,700 ton tanker 160 miles north of SINGAPORE.

25 June - Sank by gunfire a 75 ton junk 345 miles northwest of SARAWAK, BORNEO.

The submarine GREENLING, returning from patrol of the waters in the vicinity of NEW IRELAND, reports as follows:

8 June - Scored three torpedo hits into a 10,000 ton tanker 220 miles north of the ADMIRALTY ISLANDS.

10 June - Attacked an escorted convoy north of MUSSAU ISLAND and scored one torpedo hit in each of two 5,400 ton freighters. One of these vessels may have sunk.

27 June - Fired four torpedoes at an auxiliary aircraft carrier and heard two explosions. The target, however, did not slow down.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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L. 10/10/43

9 a.m. 10 July, 1943. MAB

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 9:55 p.m. 9 July, a Navy Catalina unsuccessfully attacked an enemy formation of four light cruisers and four destroyers off the northwest coast of CHOISEUL ISLAND. This force was again unsuccessfully attacked by another Navy Catalina at 1:40 a.m. 10 July off the east coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, KULA GULF.

Later, between 2:45 a.m. and 3:55 a.m. 10 July, four Navy Liberators attacked this enemy formation and claimed scoring two hits. However, no fires from these hits were observed and it appears questionable whether any hits were scored.

A fifth Liberator, unable to attack in conjunction with the other bombers, bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND instead.

In the foregoing attacks, no U.S. losses were sustained.

At 5:15 a.m. 10 July, five Army Mitchell bombers strafed and bombed an enemy destroyer beached on the southeast coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Three other Mitchells of this formation strafed BURI, GANONGGA ISLAND. All of these planes returned to their base.

At 9:25 a.m. 10 July, forty-eight Navy Avengers and thirty-eight Dauntless dive bombers attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Results of this attack are unreported. No U.S. planes were lost.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET
RECLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/01 BY 08D 10/12/01

4 p.m. 9 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 8 a.m. 8 July, sixteen Navy Avengers, twelve Dauntless dive bombers, and sixteen Corsairs attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Results of this attack were unobserved.

The three motor torpedo boats, reported as grounded (in the morning summary of 7 July) one-half mile south of KUNDU ISLAND (southeast of MUNDA BAR) and as subsequently destroyed by enemy artillery fire, are apparently salvageable. One boat has reached RENDOVA and the other two will be salvaged and repaired.

At 2:45 p.m. 9 July, about forty or fifty Zeros were intercepted by our fighters over RENDOVA ISLAND. Four Zeros were shot down. One of our fighter planes is missing.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10-2-78
BY SP-6
098

SECRET

9 a.m. 9 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 8:05 p.m. 8 July, three Army Liberators bombed KIHILI, SHORTLAND AREA with unobserved results. At about the same time, four Army Liberators bombed BUIN and POPORANG ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA. All planes returned to their base.

During the morning of 9 July, from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m., an unreported number of our destroyers bombarded MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET
SECRET
OSD 10/10/43

9 a.m. 8 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The submarine THRESHER, returning from patrol of the CELEBES, reports as follows:

30 June - Off BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO, damaged one 8,000 ton freighter.

1 July - Damaged the destroyer HOKAZE and later that night sank two 10,000 ton tankers in the vicinity of MANGKALIHAT.

5 July - Damaged a large tanker in MAKASSAR STRAIT.

Total tonnage sunk - 20,000. Approximate tonnage damaged - 19,500.

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

SECRET

SECRET
 3 JUL 1943
 2-22

9 a.m. 8 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

In amplification of the report regarding the KULA GULF engagement of 6 July, contained in yesterday's summary, the following information has been received:

In the first two phases of this battle a minimum of eight enemy ships, on their way out of KULA GULF, were destroyed by our surface forces. The third, or destroyer phase, accounted for two additional ships and damaged another.

The damage, therefore, inflicted upon the enemy is as follows:

<u>SUNK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Minimum of ten	One

At 8 a.m. 8 July, sixteen Navy Avengers and twelve Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by sixteen Navy Corsairs, attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Results of this attack were unobserved.

In the early afternoon engagement of 7 July between Navy Corsairs and fifty-six Zeros escorting Mitsubishi bombers, the additional destruction of two bombers and one Zero has been reported. The total enemy bombers shot down in this engagement was fifteen in addition to ten Zeros.

THE GENERAL SITUATION

Our troops are in contact with the enemy in the vicinity of BARIKE RIVER, southern NEW GEORGIA.

About twenty Japanese landed at BUGIRI ISLAND, north-east of RENDOVA ISLAND but were driven off by one of our patrols.

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

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SECRET
 05 JUL 1943
 OSD DEPT NAVY

4 p.m. 7 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 9:50 a.m. 6 July, eighteen Navy Avengers and seventeen Dauntless dive bombers attacked ENOGAI on the western coast of NEW GEORGIA ISLAND.

During the same morning, eleven Navy Dauntless dive bombers and ten Avengers, escorted by fourteen Navy Wildcats, bombed a Japanese destroyer stranded on the southeast coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Four 500-pound bomb hits were scored causing explosions and fires. Out of seven enemy Zeros attempting to intercept this attack, the Wildcat escort shot down four.

At 1:45 p.m. 7 July, an unknown number of Mitsubishi bombers escorted by fifty-six Zeros were attacked over RENDOVA ISLAND by Navy Corsairs. Nine enemy Zeros and three bombers were shot down. One of our fighter planes is missing.

A delayed report received informs that eighteen enemy twin-engine bombers unsuccessfully attacked our shipping in RENDOVA during the early afternoon of 5 July. Nine of these enemy bombers were shot down without loss to ourselves.

062340- additional 88 min including
 Capt Cecil rescued. all survivors
 now believed to be rescued.
 Helms sunk night 6/7th after remaining
 afloat about 24 hours.

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

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OSD

9 a.m. 7 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

After sweeping the area with radar and finding no evidence of other enemy ships, our task force commenced retirement at 3:06 a.m. leaving the destroyers NICHOLAS and RADFORD to rescue the HELENA survivors.

At 4:08 a.m., the destroyer RADFORD detected two enemy ships close inshore attempting to leave the GULF. At 5:20 a.m., another enemy ship was detected leaving the GULF and was engaged by the destroyers NICHOLAS and RADFORD.

The cruisers, after reversing course in order to assist the RADFORD and NICHOLAS, were unable to reach the area in time and continued to retire at 4:30 a.m.

The results of the last engagement were reported in yesterday's summary wherein it was stated that the NICHOLAS and RADFORD probably sank with torpedoes a light cruiser of the SENDAI class, an enemy destroyer, and damaged another destroyer by gunfire.

It is believed that as a result of all these engagements the following losses were inflicted upon the enemy:

<u>SUNK OR CRIPPLED</u>	<u>PROBABLY SUNK</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Minimum of seven ships (unclassified).	One Light Cruiser (SENDAI class)	One Destroyer
One Destroyer		

(*) A later report indicates that the enemy force was attempting to slip into KULA GULF.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**~~SECRET~~
OSD Director

9 a.m. 7 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The following details have been received in connection with the night surface engagement which was fought in two phases in KULA GULF, NEW GEORGIA, on the morning of 6 July:

One of our task forces, composed of the light cruisers HONOLULU, ST. LOUIS, HELENA and four destroyers, commanded by Rear Admiral Walden L. Ainsworth, U.S. Navy, was assigned to cover the entrance to KULA GULF, NEW GEORGIA, during the morning of 6 July.

* At 1:40 a.m., the enemy was detected standing out of the GULF in two groups. The first group of about four or five destroyers was surprised by the fire of the entire broadside batteries at a range of 8,000 yards. It is reported that within five or six minutes this enemy group was either destroyed or left burning.

Although statements conflict regarding the loss of the light cruiser HELENA, it is believed that she was hit by enemy gunfire and by more than one torpedo at the termination of the first phase of the battle.

The second enemy group was about 15,000 yards away when our force changed course to close the range and opened fire commencing the second phase of the battle which lasted about fifteen minutes.

All enemy ships of the second group were either sunk or burning except for one ship which was believed to have beached herself near WAUGH ROCK, northeast coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. 7 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of 6 July, three Army Mitchell bombers bombed a beached enemy destroyer in BAMBARI HARBOR (southeast coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND). Three hits were scored and a number of fires and explosions observed. No U.S. losses were sustained.

At 6:27 p.m. 6 July, fifteen Army Liberators bombed KIHILI, BUIN AREA and started fires.

At 7:05 p.m. 6 July, nine Army Fortresses bombed BALLALE and started large fires. At about the same time, seven Army Liberators bombed BUKA ISLAND and started a number of fires. All planes returned from both missions.

Three of our motor torpedo boats operating west of RENDOVA grounded one half mile south of KUNDU ISLAND (southeast of MUNDA BAR) and were subsequently destroyed by Japanese batteries from MUNDA.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
ON 12/15/80
BY SP-1
OSD

4 p.m. 6 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 4 July, ten Army Flying Fortresses bombed the BAIROKO Harbor Area (west coast of NEW GEORGIA).

At 1:10 p.m. 5 July, sixteen Army Warhawks intercepted forty enemy Zeros over RENDOVA ISLAND. Two Zeros were destroyed. We lost one Warhawk, but the pilot was recovered.

On the morning of 6 July, a Navy Liberator was attacked by five Zeros northeast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. Two Zeros were shot down and one probably destroyed. The Liberator, although damaged, returned to its base.

At 2:27 p.m. 6 July, three Army Mitchells bombed BAMBARI Harbor (southeast coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND). Hits were scored and a number of fires, accompanied by violent explosions, were observed.

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OSD

9 a.m. 6 July, 1943. WZSOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Brief reports indicate that one of our task forces, composed of light cruisers and destroyers, engaged enemy surface units in KULA GULF, NEW GEORGIA, during the early morning of 6 July. Sufficient details are not on hand to assess the damage to the enemy or to our forces.

Apparently, the Light Cruiser HELENA took part in the engagement and is reported sunk, probably by torpedoes. It is further reported that possibly all of the seven enemy ships were destroyed except for one or two badly damaged.

The Destroyers NICHOLAS and RADFORD engaged enemy forces on the early morning of 6 July while rescuing survivors of the Light Cruiser HELENA and probably sank, with torpedoes, a light cruiser of the SENDAI Class. They also sank an enemy destroyer and damaged another by gunfire.

Additional details have been received in connection with the sinking of the Destroyer STRONG.

The STRONG was torpedoed and sunk on the night of 4-5 July while engaged in bombarding RICE ANCHORAGE on KULA GULF, NEW GEORGIA, in support of the landing operation.

Two hundred and forty-eight men and seven officers were rescued by the Destroyer CHEVALIER out of a total of three hundred and six men and nineteen officers.

At 8:30 p.m. 5 July, nine Army Liberators, out on a strike against enemy shipping in the vicinity of KAHILL, SHORTLAND AREA, were unable to locate any targets. On their return they bombed BALLALE ISLAND and started five fires. About twelve enemy Zeros attempted to intercept, but were driven off. One Liberator was damaged, but all planes succeeded in returning to their base.

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

~~SECRET~~

4 p.m. 5 July, 1943. WAZ

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

It is expected that the SEGI fighter field will be in operation by 10 July.

At VIRU HARBOR patrolling activity against isolated Japanese continues. Other than thirteen men killed, fifteen wounded and five missing of the 4th Marine Raider Battalion, there were no casualties at VIRU HARBOR.

BANIETA POINT (an enemy observation point), on the west coast of RENDOVA ISLAND, was seized after the Japanese had withdrawn.

One of our patrols in the vicinity of UGELI (east coast of RENDOVA ISLAND) killed four Japanese and chased ten into the bush.

The submarine GURNARD, patrolling in the vicinity of the PALAU ISLANDS, reports scoring three torpedo hits on an enemy auxiliary aircraft carrier which was last seen belching heavy yellow smoke and listed over 25 degrees. In addition, one destroyer and 28,000 tons of enemy shipping were either sunk or damaged.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET

RECEIVED
7/5/43
SECRET
OSD LETTER

9 a.m. 5 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

It is reported that on 3 July VURA VILLAGE on VAGUNU ISLAND in the WICKHAM ANCHORAGE AREA was captured. About 300 Japanese have been killed and the remainder retired. Our losses in this engagement are reported as comparatively low.

During the night of 4-5 July, a task force of surface units shelled VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND and BAIROKO in KULA GULF, NEW GEORGIA ISLAND. Fires were observed by four Catalina flying boats who spotted for the task force.

At 9:15 a.m. 5 July, six Army Hudson bombers bombed REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

S E C R E T

3 p.m. 4 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 4 July, in the early afternoon, our planes over RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group, caught and attacked an enemy formation of 18 bombers and 20 Zeros. The enemy lost 5 bombers and 4 Zeros. We had no loss.

36.1 During the night of 4-5 July, about 1200 of our troops landed at RICE ANCHORAGE, on KULA GULF, NEW GEORGIA ISLAND. Apparently, some opposition was encountered for reports of gunfire were heard up to 2:30 A.M. on 5 July.

The same despatch indicates that the Destroyer "STRONG" was sunk but does not state that it occurred during this landing operation. One hundred of her crew are still missing. While effecting a rescue, the Destroyer "CHEVALIER" suffered materiel casualties from the explosion of depth charges - presumably those of the "STRONG". However, the "CHEVALIER" was able to resume formation at 25 knots.

GENERAL SITUATION

The NEW GEORGIA operation is proceeding according to plan.

The principal difficulty in this operation, and which was foreseen from the inception of the plan, is the maintenance of a fighter umbrella over the NEW GEORGIA Area, in sufficient strength to protect our force against Japanese Air. To date, the Japanese Air has succeeded only once in getting through without interception.

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

~~SECRET~~
 SECRET

9 a.m. 4 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 28 June, at dawn, Liberators bombed NAURU Island, SOUTH PACIFIC AREA. Fourteen defending Zero fighters were in the air but only one group of four appeared willing to press home an attack. Two Zeros were damaged. Our planes returned. Results of the bombing on the Island's defensive positions and stores section were unobserved.

On 1 July, the Destroyer RADFORD, in the vicinity of RENDOVA ISLAND caught a large size enemy submarine surfaced and sank it with gunfire. The sub was hit by innumerable salvos, the first three of which went through the conning tower. As the sub sank, she was subjected to several depth charge attacks. A few minutes later, a large quantity of oil and debris came to the surface.

On 2 July, an unintercepted enemy air attack on RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group, resulted in the following personnel casualties:

30 killed
 200 wounded.

On 2 July, an infantry and battery company landed at ZANANA BEACH, just east of the MUNDA Area in the NEW GEORGIA Group.

On 3 July, at dawn, Lightnings covered by Mitchells sought, without success, the enemy light force which attempted to shell RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group during the night 2-3 July. The planes, however, went over to MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA Group and deposited their bombs on the anti-aircraft positions there.

On 3 July, a field artillery and an anti-tank unit landed on DUME ISLAND, near SASAVELLE ISLAND in the ROVIANA LAGOON near MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA Group.

The submarine "SILVER SIDES" returning from a war patrol in the Southwest Pacific reports as follows:

11 June - Sank 10,000 ton passenger freighter with three torpedo hits.

COMINCH FILE

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

4 p.m. 3 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 2 July, in the early evening, just east of RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP, seven of our Corsair fighters intercepted and engaged one formation of 30 Zeros and immediately following, tackled another formation of 20 Zeros. Six Zeros were destroyed; of the 3 Corsairs lost, one of their pilots was saved.

On 3 July, shortly before 3 P.M. 10 Lightnings attacked over RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP, a formation of about 50 Zeros. Five of the enemy planes were destroyed. We lost three planes.

On 3 July, in the afternoon, Avenger and Dauntless planes dropped personnel bombs in the camp sector at MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. In spite of heavy AA fire from LAMBETI PLANTATION our planes were not damaged.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRETIS DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/10/01
BY SP-10/01

9 a.m. 3 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

An intercept despatch indicates that the Jap air attack on our forces and position at RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP, on 1 July, cost them 22 planes. Five pilots of the 8 planes we lost have been recovered. No damage occurred ashore.

On 2 July, Mitchell Medium Bombers escorted by Corsair fighters bombed and strafed a camouflaged enemy freighter in BAIROKO Anchorage, KULA GULF, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. She caught fire and sank.

On 2 July, our DD's bombed for 15 minutes enemy defensive positions in the WICKHAM Anchorage Area, NEW GEORGIA.

On 2 July, in the afternoon, 18 Jap Bombers escorted by Zeros bombed our positions on RENDOVA ISLAND. Damage appears to have been confined to some loss in our Diesel and stores area. Personnel losses, if any, have not been reported.

Other than the above actions, the situation at RENDOVA is quiet and rainy.

On the night of 3 July, at 0245, an enemy force consisting of 3 light Cruisers and 4 Destroyers appeared off RENARD COVE, RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP and opened fire in the direction of our positions there. The enemy expended a total of 100 rounds of ammunition. Two of our surface craft on station replied to this bombardment and the enemy retired in twenty minutes.

COMINCH FILE

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

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

4 p.m. 2 July, 1943. *MSB*

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The submarine GROWLER, returning from patrol in the BISMARCKS-SOLOMONS AREA, reports as follows:

- 19 June - Damaged 7,400 ton freighter with two torpedo hits.
- 19 June - Sank 4,500 ton freighter with two torpedo hits.

A late despatch indicates that in the enemy torpedo plane attack on the U.S.S. McCAWLEY, two officers and fourteen enlisted men were killed and fourteen enlisted men were wounded.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
98D 10/18/88

9 a.m. 2 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Late reports on the Jap air attack on our forces during the landing at RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP 30 June indicate that their numbers were substantially larger than the total of one hundred and ten planes initially reported.

It is now stated that our surface and air forces destroyed one hundred and one planes and that seven pilots of the seventeen U.S. planes, previously reported as missing, have been recovered.

COMINCH FILE

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

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SECRET
080 1000-100-100

4 p.m. 1 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 1 July, early in the afternoon, Dauntless dive bombers bombed defensive positions at LAMBETI PLANTATION, MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. Fires were started by this attack.

During the same afternoon, a formation of Avenger torpedo planes and Dauntless dive bombers bombed defensive positions, the stores and camp sections at VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

Later reports on our joint landing at RENDOVA ISLAND indicates that in less than two hours our 105 Howitzer guns were in position and firing on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

SECRET

980 10/1/43

9 a.m. 1 July, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the night of 29-30 June, Avenger and Dauntless planes bombed the airfield, the stores and camp area at VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Six Dauntless planes failed to return but it is reported that the crew of one plane landed safely on an island.

On 30 June, Mitchell, Dauntless and Avenger planes bombed the defensive positions and the camp area at MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. The bombing started a large fire. One of our Avenger planes is missing.

On 30 June, commencing in the early forenoon and continuing until late afternoon, an estimated total of one hundred and ten enemy planes, comprising Zeros, Mitsubishi (medium bombers), Aichi (dive bombers) and various other types, attacked at intervals our naval forces during the landing at RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP.

Our surface and air forces destroyed sixty-five of the enemy planes according to an incomplete report. Seventeen of our planes are reported missing.

On 1 July, VIRU HARBOR, on NEW GEORGIA ISLAND, was taken by our combined forces. An incomplete report indicates that our casualties are small.

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

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4 p.m. 30 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 29 June, a small naval unit made a successful bombardment of VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

On 30 June, our naval forces, under extremely bad weather conditions, bombarded successfully enemy positions in the SHORTLAND AREA. During the bombardment, in which a small enemy vessel was probably sunk, our surface forces laid a minefield undetected.

Late reports on the landing on RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP indicate that it commenced at 0656 on 30 June and was finished at 1450. All troops and supplies, with exception of 50 tons of the latter, were landed. The initial landing forces killed thirty-five Japs. The balance of forty are being ferreted out.

The submarine TAMBOR, returning from a patrol in the vicinity of MACCLESFIELD BANK and TONKIN GULF, reports as follows:

- 29 May - Sank a 4,400 ton freighter with three torpedo hits.
- 2 June - Sank a 6,500 ton freighter with one torpedo hit.
- 7 June - Sank a 6,000 ton freighter with one torpedo hit.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET

DISCONTINUED
68D 1-3-72
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9 a.m. 30 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Early on the morning of 30 June, our combined forces landed on RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. Information has not been received as yet to permit a complete report but it is stated that the troop and supply landings were completed. The enemy suffered casualties in his initial resistance. Our forces are now pursuing what remains of the enemy.

During the landing operations, the task group employed was attacked by twenty-four enemy torpedo planes. It is reported that a great number of enemy planes were shot down.

During this attack, the U.S.S. McCAWLEY was hit in the engine room by a torpedo, disabled, and taken in tow. Later, she received two torpedo hits from an enemy submarine and sank. There were no casualties as the ship to all intents had been practically abandoned because of her water-logged condition.

On 30 June, the destroyer GWIN, participating in a naval bombardment of MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA GROUP, was hit by a medium calibre shell from a shore battery. Three of her personnel were killed and three were seriously injured. Her port engine was put out of commission.

It is reported that the destroyer bombardment of MUNDA silenced four enemy medium calibre guns.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 11/13/72
BY [unclear]
OSD [unclear]

9 a.m. 29 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of 28 June, our forces bombed a small enemy naval disposition in the CENTRAL SOLOMONS AREA with unobserved results.

Early in the evening of 28 June, a formation of Dauntless and Avenger planes, escorted by Wildcats, bombed REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. The bombing created so much dust and smoke that observation of the results of the attack was difficult.

In the evening of 28 June, MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA was also bombed by a formation of Dauntless and Avenger planes guarded by Wildcats. A number of fires were started in the defensive position area, in ammunition dumps, and in the camp section.

All our planes returned from these attacks.

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

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13-72

4 p.m. 28 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The submarine FINBACK, returning from a war patrol north of PALAU, reports as follows:

- 26 May - Sank a 6,000 ton freighter with two torpedo hits.
- 2 June - Probably sank a 7,000 ton freighter with one torpedo hit.
- 8 June - Probably sank a 5,700 ton freighter, a 4,400 ton freighter and damaged a 7,000 ton freighter. During the same day, a little further north, damaged a 6,370 ton freighter.
- 11 June - Sank a 6,000 ton freighter with two torpedo hits.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 10-10-78
BY SP-6
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9 a.m. 28 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the early morning of 27 June, seven Army Liberators bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA while another Liberator bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. At about the same time, five Navy Liberators (PB4Ys) carried out attacks against BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA.

Prior to dawn of 27 June, two Navy Avengers bombed REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND.

At 8:15 a.m. 27 June, thirteen Navy Dauntless dive bombers and nine Avengers bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA scoring hits on the runway and revetment area.

At the same time, twelve other Navy Dauntless dive bombers and eleven Avengers bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND scoring hits on the runway and in the camp area.

COMINCH FILE

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

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9 a.m. 27 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd)

At 8:34 a.m. June 26, fifteen Navy Dauntless Dive Bombers and thirteen Navy Avengers, escorted by twenty-four Wildcats, attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Hits were observed among anti-aircraft positions. At the same time, twelve Dauntless Dive Bombers and twelve Avengers, protected by twenty-three Wildcats, attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

On June 26, between 4:02 a.m. and 5:15 a.m., eighteen Army Liberators bombed BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA, and started a number of fires. At about this time, five other Army Liberators attacked POPORANG ISLAND (southeast SHORTLAND ISLAND), with unobserved results.

In these operations, no U.S. planes were lost.

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

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9 a.m. 26 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the early morning of 25 June, an unreported number of enemy bombers bombed our positions in the RUSSELL ISLANDS. Several of our personnel were wounded and a number of fuel tanks and oil drums were set on fire.

During darkness of the same morning, thirteen Army Liberators bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA. Five fires were started.

At about the same time, seven other Army Liberators bombed BUKA and apparently started fires.

After dawn on 25 June, twenty-five Navy Dauntless dive bombers and twenty-four Navy Avengers, escorted by thirty-two Navy Wildcats, attacked LAMBETI PLANTATION in the MUNDA AREA. Results were not reported. No U.S. losses were sustained.

On 25 June at about 12:30 p.m., four twin-engine enemy bombers unsuccessfully bombed the U.S. ~~destroyer~~ *AVD* THORNTON, enroute to ESPIRITO SANTO.

During the late afternoon of 24 June, a number of Navy Wildcats strafed an enemy barge in WICKHAM ANCHORAGE (southeast coast of VANGUNU ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP).

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

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OSD 100-100-100

4 p.m. 25 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The submarine TAUTOG, returning from patrol of the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, reports as follows:

20 May - Sank by gunfire a motor sampan south of PULASI ISLAND (south point of SALEIER ISLAND, CELEBES).

21 May - Engaged and damaged with gunfire an enemy patrol vessel near SIUMPU ISLAND.

5 June - Damaged an enemy vessel with one torpedo hit off SIBAGO ISLAND (BASILAN STRAIT southeast of ZAMBOANGA).

6 June - Sank a medium sized enemy vessel.

8 June - Engaged a probable enemy "Q" ship off SANGAY POINT (southwest side of MINDANAO). Result of this engagement has not been reported.

COMINCH FILE

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

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4 p.m. 24 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On or about June 24th the Submarine Chaser 751
went aground and was abandoned 16 miles south of
VLAMING HEAD, northwest cape. (West coast of Australia).

The vessel was struck by waves and rolled overboard. The crew was rescued and the vessel was salvaged.

A later report indicates that the vessel was damaged and that the crew was rescued.

At 4:00 a.m. on June 25th, the vessel was sighted and the crew was rescued.

The vessel was damaged and the crew was rescued.

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

OSD

SECURITY CLASSIFIED
DATE 11-18-789 a.m. 24 June, 1943. WATSOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of June 20th, the high-speed mine-sweeper TREVER, while escorting a landing craft vessel was unsuccessfully attacked by a Japanese plane west of SAVO ISLAND.

On the night of June 22nd-23rd, a Japanese float plane unsuccessfully strafed two of our PT boats in the vicinity of the RUSSELL ISLANDS.

A later report indicates that the cargo vessel ALUDRA, torpedoed on the morning of June 22nd, sank. The cargo vessel DEIMOS was reported settling with little possibility of salvage. //

At 8:45 a.m., June 23rd, 18 DAUNTLESS dive bombers and 12 AVENGERS, escorted by 24 WILDCATS, attacked REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. A number of hits were scored on enemy anti-aircraft positions and a fire was started. No U.S. losses were sustained.

At 9:20 a.m., June 23rd, 8 MITCHELL bombers and 6 AVENGERS, escorted by 24 CORSAIRS, attacked BURI VILLAGE on GANONGGA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. One fire was started. One bomber is reported missing.

COMINCH FILE

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

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OSD 2074

9 a.m. 23 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A convoy consisting of the cargo vessels ALUDRA (3381 tons), DEIMOS (3381 tons) and NATHANIEL CURRIER (7176 tons), escorted by the destroyer O'BANNON, the destroyer transport WARD and the minesweeper SKYLARK, were attacked by an enemy submarine 45 miles south of CAPE SURVILLE, SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND at 4:55 a.m. 22 June.

The DEIMOS and ALUDRA were torpedoed and are reported in a sinking condition but are still afloat with a possibility of being beached and salvaged.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. 22 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the evening of 20 June, four Army Liberators, after a fruitless search for enemy shipping along the coasts of BUKA ISLAND, bombed KIETA, east coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, and KAHILI, BUIN AREA with unobserved results.

At 4 p.m. 21 June, eighteen Dauntless dive bombers and twelve Avengers, escorted by thirty-two Wildcats, attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A number of anti-aircraft positions were silenced and one enemy barge was strafed. No U.S. losses were sustained.

A Mitsubishi bomber was intercepted and shot down at 4:05 p.m. 20 June by three Wildcats 20 miles north of FLORIDA ISLAND.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

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4 p.m. 21 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

It has been reported that on the morning of 20 June an unknown number of Japanese, employing three barges, landed in the vicinity of SEGI POINT (southern point of NEW GEORGIA ISLAND).

As a counter measure, two companies of the 4th Marine Raider Battalion landed at SEGI POINT at dawn 21 June.

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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. 21 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Nine Army Liberators bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA at 9:10 p.m. 18 June instead of 19 June as reported in yesterday's summary.

The following night between 8:26 p.m. and 9:26 p.m. 19 June, ten Army Liberators attacked KAHILI. Seven large fires were started and a number of explosions were noted. No U.S. losses were sustained.

At 8:05 a.m. 20 June, eighteen Dauntless dive bombers and eighteen Avengers, protected by fourteen Warhawks and twelve Wildcats, bombed enemy installations at VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. A supply dump was hit and a large fire started. Hits were also scored on the runway. This mission was accomplished without loss of any planes.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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

4 p.m. 20 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of 17-18 June, ten Army Liberators of the Seventh Bomber Command, staging through FUNAFUTI, ELLICE ISLAND, successfully completed a night photograph assignment against JALUIT and MILI, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Photographs were taken and bombs were dropped on TARAWA, GILBERT ISLANDS. Hits were scored on the runway.

Although seven enemy Zeros were airborne over TARAWA, they did not press a determined attack against our bombers, but generally remained out of range, executing a number of ineffective passes. Anti-aircraft fire encountered was moderate to weak and inaccurate. All our planes returned without damage.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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REF ID: A66728
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9 a.m. 20 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

KAHILI, BUIN AREA, was bombed at 9:10 p.m., 19 June, by nine Army Liberators. Explosions and large fires were started.

During the same night two Mitchell Bombers attacked BALLALE ISLAND. One fire was started. At about this time six Mitchell Bombers strafed six barges in WILSON STRAIT (south of VELLA LAVELLA ISLAND) and another Mitchell Bomber bombed the VILA runway on KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

On the night of 18 June, six Navy Catalinas bombed NAURU ISLAND. Large fires were started apparently from a hit on an oil tank and damage was observed in the dispersal and living areas. Later, between 2:45 a.m. and 4:25 a.m., 19 June, six Army Liberators attacked NAURU and scored hits in the building area and at the north end of the runway.

The United States Submarine DRUM on patrol north of NEW BRITAIN reports sinking an 8,600-ton Japanese vessel east northeast of KAVIENG.

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

SECRET

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9 a.m. 19 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The following is a tabulation of kills as claimed by our forces:

Corsairs	-	2 Zeros, 1 bomber
Wildcoats	-	14 Zeros, 16 bombers
Lightnings	-	8 Zeros
Airacobras	-	6 Zeros, 5 bombers
Warhawks	-	15 Zeros, 10 bombers (including 5 Zeros credited to R.N.Z.A.F.)
Ships in harbor	-	16 Planes
Shore anti-aircraft-		1 Plane

Our total losses amounted to six planes shot down, but two of our pilots were recovered. Our personnel losses afloat and ashore amounted to 25 killed, 29 wounded and 22 missing.

On 16 June, a twin-engine enemy reconnaissance bomber was shot down southeast of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND.

At 4:40 p.m. 17 June, nineteen Dauntless dive bombers escorted by sixteen Wildcoats attacked REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. Hits were scored on SUAVANAU POINT and on enemy anti-aircraft positions in the vicinity.

On the night of 17 June, an unknown number of enemy planes approached GUADALCANAL, and dropped flares and several bombs harmlessly into the water off TULAGI. No damage or casualties were sustained.

During the evening of 16 June, the U.S. Army Transport PORTMAR (5,500 tons), enroute in convoy from SYDNEY to BRISBANE, was torpedoed and sunk.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRETREF ID: A66522
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9 a.m. 19 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Additional details have been received in connection with the aerial engagement over GUADALCANAL on the afternoon of 16 June.

It has been reported that ninety-four enemy planes were destroyed instead of seventy-seven. Of the additional seventeen, sixteen were shot down by the ships in the harbor and one by shore based anti-aircraft.

The initial indication of the enemy approach was received on GUADALCANAL at 12:32 p.m. One hundred and four fighters, consisting of Army Lightnings, Airacobras, Warhawks, and Navy Corsairs and Wildcats, were sent aloft to intercept, including eight New Zealand pilots flying Warhawks. Seventy-four of these fighters succeeded in establishing contact.

The enemy came in over BEAUFORT BAY (west coast of GUADALCANAL) and were engaged by Lightnings. At about the same time, another group of Japanese planes approached from farther north and were immediately attacked. Approximately thirty enemy dive bombers maneuvered to attack four of our cargo vessels escorted by destroyers. Subsequent contacts were made over KOLI POINT, SAVO ISLAND, CAPE ESPERANCE and TULAGI. At 2:30 p.m., the enemy retired.

The dive bombing of our surface units occurred at about 2:15 p.m. In this attack, the cargo vessel CELENO and the landing-craft LST 340 were struck by bombs, set on fire, and subsequently beached in the vicinity of LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL. The cargo vessel DEIMOS sustained minor damage. During this action, our ships were maneuvered to repel the attack and avoid damage.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. 18 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the unsuccessful Japanese air attack over GUADALCANAL on the afternoon of 16 June, the Navy cargo vessel CELENO (3,381 tons) and the landing craft LST 340 were struck by bombs, set on fire, and subsequently beached in the vicinity of LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL.

Apparently the fires were extinguished as the CELENO is reported one third unloaded and 90% of the remaining cargo is considered salvageable. The cargo of LST 340 is badly damaged. It is estimated that hull repairs to both vessels can be completed in about two weeks. Total casualties amounted to twenty-five killed, twenty-nine injured and twenty-two missing.

The total number of Japanese planes destroyed by South Pacific Forces this month is one hundred forty-six. The total since 31 July, 1942 is 1,414.

On the night of 16 June, eight Army Liberators attacked BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND AREA. Results were unobserved. One bomber is missing.

At 5:15 p.m. 16 June, landing craft LST 469, enroute in a convoy from SYDNEY to BRISBANE, was torpedoed 215 miles northeast of SYDNEY. About twenty of the personnel were killed and ten injured. The vessel is being towed to port.

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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. 17 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A later report received with respect to the aerial engagement reported in this morning's summary informs that the battle took place over GUADALCANAL. Further details are not at present available.

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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. 17 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 7:45 a.m. 15 June, sixteen Dauntless dive bombers and twelve Avengers escorted by twenty-four Wildcats attacked BAREGO in western NEW GEORGIA. Two fires and a heavy explosion were observed.

At 8:30 a.m. 16 June, eighteen Avengers and twelve Dauntless dive bombers escorted by twenty-four Corsairs attacked SANGIGAI, CHOISEUL ISLAND. After the attack, heavy smoke, apparently from burning fuel dumps, was observed. No U.S. losses were sustained.

Although complete details have not been received, it has been reported that an aerial engagement of considerable proportions took place in the SOLOMONS at about 2 p.m., 16 June.

Apparently upwards of sixty enemy bombers and sixty fighters were intercepted by one hundred and four of our fighters. It has been reported that thirty-two enemy dive bombers and forty-five Zeros were shot down and twelve other planes damaged. Six of our planes did not return to their base. One pilot has been recovered.

COMINCH FILE

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

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9 a.m. 16 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the evenings of 13th and 14th of June, a group of Flying Fortresses and Liberators bombed KAHILI and SHORTLAND ISLAND in the BUIN AREA.

On the evening of 14 June, eighteen Mitchell medium bombers (Army B-25) escorted by eighteen Navy Corsairs blasted the runway and anti-aircraft positions on the airfield at VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

Early 15 June, five bombs from three enemy planes were dropped on KOLI POINT, GUADALCANAL. No personnel or material damage has been reported.

COMINCH FILE

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

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9 a.m. 15 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 13 June, fighter planes from the U.S.S. SUWANEE, an aircraft carrier escort covering a small task unit movement in the SOUTH PACIFIC, damaged an inquisitive enemy Mitsubishi bomber.

Late in the night of 13 June, enemy bombers were over GUADALCANAL. A total of three bombs fell near KOKUMBONA. No personnel or material casualties occurred.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

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14 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of 12 June, seven Army Liberators and three Fortresses bombed KAHILI, BUIN Area. Results were unobserved. All our planes returned.

COMINCH FILE

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

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9 a.m. 11 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At about 11:25 a.m. 10 June, four Mitsubishi enemy medium bombers were intercepted and shot down over the north side of MALAITA ISLAND. Three of the enemy bombers were accounted for by three Marine Corsair fighters. The other was destroyed by an Army Lightning fighter.

On 10 June, ten Army Liberators escorted by eleven Warhawks and four Lightnings bombed with unobserved results the revetment and bivouac areas at VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. All our planes returned.

COMINCH FILE

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

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9 a.m. 10 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 3:03 p.m. 9 June, seven Fortresses escorted by twelve Warhawks and four Lightnings bombed the runway and revetment areas on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. No U.S. losses were sustained.

COMINCH FILE

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

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9 a.m. 8 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 11:10 a.m. 7 June, about forty or fifty enemy Zeros and torpedo bombers were intercepted by our fighter planes between the RUSSELL ISLANDS and BURAKU ISLAND. Nineteen Zeros were shot down and six damaged. We lost seven planes but three of the pilots were recovered. In addition, two of our fighter planes were lost because of weather conditions. The pilots, however, were saved.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**DISTRIBUTION
SECRET9 a.m. 7 June, 1943. MALSOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 10:50 a.m. 6 June, nine Dauntless dive bombers and twelve Avengers escorted by thirty-two Wildcats attacked enemy anti-aircraft positions on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA with unobserved results. No U.S. losses were sustained.

On the same day at 3:45 p.m., ten Lightnings and eight Warhawks machine-gunned KAKASA VILLAGE on CHOISEUL ISLAND. Our aircraft returned safely.

The submarine SCAMP, returning from patrol of the ADMIRALTY ISLANDS, reports attacking and probably sinking on 28 May in the vicinity of TENCH ISLAND (north of the northern end of NEW IRELAND) an escorted enemy cargo vessel.

thought to be the
Kanikawa Maru
an XAV

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET

REF ID: A66872
OSD Letter
SECRET

9 a.m. 6 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Continued)

On the night of 4 June, two Liberators unsuccessfully bombed a small enemy cargo vessel and its escort in the vicinity of FAISI, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

On the early morning of 5 June, four Flying Fortresses bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA. Results of this attack were not reported.

At about 11:55 a.m. 5 June, eighteen Dauntless Dive Bombers and twelve Avengers, escorted by twenty-six Warhawks, twenty-one Corsairs, and six Lightnings, bombed an enemy destroyer, a corvette, and a medium-sized cargo vessel in the BOUGAINVILLE AREA. Several 500-pound bomb hits were scored on the destroyer, which is believed sunk. The corvette and the cargo vessel were set on fire.

An undetermined, but apparently a large number of enemy Zeros attempted to intercept our shipping attack. In the ensuing engagement fifteen Zeros were shot down and three damaged. Four of our planes are missing and, in addition, one Avenger crash-landed on one of the RUSSELL ISLANDS.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET

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933 Letter

9 a.m. 5 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of 3 June, two Liberators attacked and destroyed a small coastal steamer in TINPUTS HARBOR, northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE. Later, these planes strafed and set afire another small coastal steamer in TEOP HARBOR, northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE. The latter vessel was abandoned after the attack.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

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DECLASSIFIED
98D Letter 6-2

4 p.m. 2 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At nightfall 31 May, three Liberators bombed coast-line enemy concentration sites at TINPUTS HARBOR and NUMA NUMA HARBOR on the northeast coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Substantial fires were started. Two small steamers off TINPUTS were bombed, - one of which, on fire, had to be beached and the other was given a good strafing.

SECRET

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

CLASSIFIED
SECRET
98D Letter # 1-2-43

9 a.m. 1 June, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 30 May, a roving Liberator strafed an enemy freighter off BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**DECLASSIFIED
OSD Lower
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9 a.m. 31 May, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of 29 May, a Liberator unsuccessfully bombed a cruiser and a destroyer off EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY, BOUGAINVILLE (central western coast). The ships were then strafed by the bomber from a low altitude.

The submarine GAR returned from patrol of TARAKAN, TABLAS STRAIT and MANILA and reported sinking by gunfire the following:

On 2 May, a 500 ton loaded coastal motor ship off the KOETAI RIVER SHOALS, BORNEO.

6 May, a 300 ton loaded auxiliary sailing ship four miles off TARAKAN, BORNEO.

7 May, a 50 ton trawler eight miles west of the southern entrance of ALICE CHANNEL, northeast BORNEO.

8 May, a 500 ton motor ship off ZAMBOANGA, PHILIPPINES.

19 May, a 75 ton motor coaster east of MAMGKALIHAT, BORNEO.

20 May, a 50 ton sailing ship southwest of CAPE WILLIAM, west coast of CELEBES.

The following vessels were sunk by torpedoes:

9 May, off southern NEGROS, PHILIPPINES a 3,000 ton freighter.

15 May, east of DUMALI POINT, MINDORO, a 6,000 ton freighter in an escorted convoy and later on the same day another 6,000 ton freighter engaged in the rescue of survivors of the previous attack.

COMMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
982 LOW

9 a.m. 29 May, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the morning of 28 May, twelve Avengers, twelve Dauntless dive bombers, thirty-two Wildcats, eight Airacobras and eight Warhawks, out on a strike against possible enemy shipping in the KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND Area, failed to locate any targets due to bad weather. However, the Avengers bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA and scored hits on the runway and the revetment area. Fires and explosions were observed. Enemy anti-aircraft fire was intense and three Avengers were damaged. Two of these planes were forced to land in the water off the RUSSELL ISLANDS. The crews were recovered.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**DECLASSIFIED
92D - 10/10/00

9 a.m. 26 May, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 9:55 a.m. 24 May, nineteen Avengers, four Wildcats, covered by sixteen Wildcats, bombed and strafed RINGI COVE, west of VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND.

At 9:45 a.m. 25 May, twelve Dauntless dive bombers and one Avenger bombed enemy installations in REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. Eight Wildcats, protected by twenty-four Wildcats, thoroughly strafed SUAVANU POINT (southeast coast of REKATA BAY). Explosions of ammunition dumps and a large fire were observed. No U.S. losses were sustained.

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

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DECLASSIFIED
DND Letter
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9 a.m. 25 May, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Strong formations of Liberators and Fortresses heavily pounded KAHILI, BUIN, TONOLEI in the SHORTLAND Area and MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA during the night of 23-24 May.

Three enemy cargo vessels, sighted by Liberators in the SHORTLAND Area, were bombed. Results are unknown.

On the night of 23 May, GUADALCANAL was raided by three enemy bombers. No damage and one slight casualty was sustained.

A little later after midnight on the night of 23-24 May, one enemy plane attempted to raid ESPIRITU SANTO. The bombs fell without effect in the water.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
08D Lett. 6-3
S E C R E T

9 a.m. 24 May, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On 23 May, the patrol gunboat NIAGARA was attacked by a twin-engine, high level, bomber 50 miles east of CAPE SURVILLE, SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND and sustained some damage. A second attack by six twin-engine bombers followed 25 minutes later. The vessel was seriously damaged and considered a total loss. Upon orders from her commanding officer, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by an accompanying PT boat.

The merchant tanker STANVAC MANILA was torpedoed 90 miles south of NOUMEA on the early morning of 24 May. The vessel was reported to have sunk later in the day.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
DANGER
948 10/17

9 a.m. 22 May, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Due to poor weather, four Avengers out on a strike against enemy shipping on the night of 20 May in the BUIN Area failed to locate their targets. One plane is missing.

During the night of 20-21 May, Liberators bombed KAHILI, BUIN Area and BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area. Hits were scored on the runway at KAHILI and on an enemy searchlight position.

COMMCHX FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. 21 May, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of 19-20 May, about eight enemy bombers dropped bombs on GUADALCANAL, killing fourteen men and injuring twenty. Material damage is reported as minor. Our night fighters shot down two of the enemy planes.

COMENCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

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08D LOST
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9 a.m. 20 May, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of 18 May, six Japanese bombers dropped bombs on our positions on the RUSSELL ISLANDS and on GUADALCANAL. No reports of damage or casualties have been received.

On the night of 18 May, additional mines were laid off the south coast of BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. This task was accomplished by thirty Avengers assisted by four Flying Fortresses which carried out diversional bombing attacks. Four of the Avengers are missing.

? Canadian Delegation
Board Contact

COMINCH FILE 1

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET

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4 p.m. 19 May, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The report of 18 May concerning the Submarine GUDGEON's patrol activities indicated that she had sunk a "sloop" on 28 April southwest of NASO POINT, PANAY. A correction of a garbled despatch now indicates that she sank a much larger vessel.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET

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9 a.m. May 19, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the morning of 17 May, dive bombers struck
REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND.

The submarine GRAYBACK, on patrol in BISMARCKS-
SOLOMONS Area, scored several hits in a large enemy
destroyer and in two fairly large enemy freighters.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

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OSD Letter

4 p.m. May 18, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Submarine GUDGEON returned from patrol in the vicinity of the west coast of PANAY and MAKASSAR STRAITS and reported as follows:-

- 25 April - In MAKASSAR STRAITS sank an 8000-ton MARU.
- 28 April - Southwest of NASO POINT, PANAY, sank a sloop.
- 4 May - In vicinity of NASO POINT, PANAY, sank a 500-ton MARU.
- 5 May - Near PANAY sank a 1500-ton freighter.

One of the ship's officers, Lieutenant Pendland, was lost in the action of 4 May.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

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988 1-8-81
SECRET

9 a.m. May 18, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the morning of May 16th, thirteen Dauntless and four Airacobras, escorted by sixteen Wildcats, bombed and strafed REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. All our planes returned.

On May 16th, the Liberty Ship W.K. VANDERBILT was reported as being torpedoed 185 miles southwest of SUVA.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
989 Lost

4 p.m. May 17, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

No action reports received.

CENTRAL PACIFIC.

On May 15th. eighteen Liberators (Army B-24's) departed MIDWAY to bomb WAKE ISLAND. Undue fuel consumption required the early return of four planes. Rescue operations are seeking another that came down on the water. Weather conditions at WAKE precluded observation of a bombing by seven of the planes. Twenty-two enemy fighters engaged our bombers. Two of these fighters were shot down and another probably destroyed. Our personnel suffered no serious injury. With the exception noted, all our planes came back.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

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Q8D Letter **SECRET**

9 a.m. May 17, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Avenger torpedo planes attacked four enemy cargo vessels off PUPUKUNA POINT, BUIN Area. One vessel was set on fire.

At 4 a.m. May 14th, the Allied hospital ship CENTAUR was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine off BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.RECORDED
98D-1000
SECRET

9 a.m. May 16, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of May 13, five Flying Fortresses attacked KAHILI-BUIN Area and BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area and started several large fires. Four Avenger Torpedo Planes assisted by two planes dropping flares attacked enemy shipping in the vicinity of BUIN, SHORTLAND Area. Two hits were scored on a cargo vessel which was observed to explode.

Enemy shipping in the BUIN Area was again attacked by four torpedo planes and flare planes on the night of May 14. Results of this attack have not been reported. At the same time, Liberator Bombers in support harassed KAHILI and BALLALE ISLAND.

On the night of May 13, about four enemy bombers dropped bombs on GUADALCANAL and set fire to a munitions dump. Lightnings attacked the enemy planes and definitely destroyed one bomber, possibly another, and damaged a third.

Three enemy planes attempted three single high level bombing attacks against our task units operating southeast of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND on May 13 and 14. All attacks were unsuccessful.

The submarine DRUM returned from patrol of the waters in the vicinity of the ADMIRALTY ISLANDS and NEW HANOVER and reported as follows:

At noon April 9, attacked a convoy of four cargo vessels escorted by a submarine chaser. One medium sized vessel was sunk. Later that night, the DRUM again attacked and sank a 5000-ton freighter.

At noon April 18, the DRUM attacked and sank a large unescorted freighter.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-1-78

9 a.m. May 14, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 1:50 a.m. May 13th, one Liberator bombed KAHILI, BUIN Area. Results were unobserved. At the same time, another Liberator bombed BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area with unobserved results.

On May 13th at 1 p.m. our fighters encountered about twenty-five Zeros over the RUSSELL ISLANDS and definitely shot down sixteen and probably two more. Corsair fighter planes accounted for fifteen of the Zeros. Five of our planes were shot down but two of the pilots were recovered.

Eighteen men were killed and eleven seriously injured by an explosion aboard the light cruiser NASHVILLE during the bombardment of VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND on the night of May 12th-13th.

A premature firing of a six inch powder charge in a gun chamber of No. 3 turret caused the explosion which damaged and incapacitated the left and center guns of the turret.

Enemy submarine activity off the eastern coast of AUSTRALIA continues. At 2:14 p.m. May 12th, a British ship was torpedoed 180 miles south of AUSTRALIA. However, no casualties resulted and the vessel was able to reach port.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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08D 10/20/03**SECRET**

9 a.m. May 13, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 3:15 a.m. May 12th, two Flying Fortresses bombed BALLALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area and started a large fire which burned for twenty minutes.

At about the same time, another Flying Fortress bombed KAHILI, BUIN Area. A number of fires were observed which appeared to be burning enemy aircraft.

Later, at 8:40 a.m., twelve Avengers and twelve Dauntless dive bombers escorted by eight Warhawks and sixteen Corsairs attacked enemy anti-aircraft positions, runway and revetment areas at MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

The mining of an area on the east coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND was completed according to plan on the night of May 12th-13th. This operation was supported by the simultaneous bombardment of VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND and MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA by cruisers and destroyers. Complete details have not been received. However, at VILA, our bombardment group encountered ineffective fire from light enemy shore batteries.

The submarine WAHOO, completing a patrol off HONSHU, Japanese Empire, reports sinking three enemy ships totaling 25,000 tons and damaging a large freighter.

Supplementing the report contained in the morning summary of May 11th, the submarine PLUNGER reports sinking five medium large ships instead of four in the enemy convoy from TRUK, CAROLINE ISLANDS.

COMMONS FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
1943 LETTERS
SECRET

May 12, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

During the early morning of May 11th, three Flying Fortresses bombed KAHILI, BUIN Area and started two fires.

Two Flying Fortresses bombed SHORTLAND ISLAND at 4 a.m. May 11th with unobserved results.

At 9:40 a.m. May 11th, thirteen Dauntless dive bombers, one Avenger and eight Wildcats escorted by sixteen Corsairs bombed and strafed enemy positions, two barges and one float bi-plane in REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. The enemy seaplane was set on fire. No U.S. losses were sustained.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED BY
688 LAF/ECR/T

9 a.m. May 11, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the morning of May 10th, eighteen Dauntless dive bombers and eighteen Avengers escorted by twenty-four Corsairs, sixteen Wildcats and eight Lightnings, after unsuccessfully searching for enemy shipping in the BLACKETT STRAIT Area, attacked enemy positions in the MUNDA Area, NEW GEORGIA. MUNDA POINT, GURASI, LEKA and LAMBETI were bombed. Hits were scored on anti-aircraft positions at MUNDA POINT and fires were started at GURASI.

During the afternoon of May 10th, six Dauntless dive bombers and six Avengers escorted by twenty-one Corsairs bombed VANJAVANGA (southwest coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND).

No U.S. planes were lost in the day's operations.

An incomplete report indicates that four ships out of a Japanese five-ship convoy from TRUK, CAROLINE ISLANDS have been sunk by submarine action. The remaining enemy vessel is damaged and dead in the water. Apparently the submarine PLUNGER made the attack and is at present keeping the damaged enemy ship under observation, after having expended all her torpedoes. When available, further details will be forwarded.

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

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94D L... 3-78
SECRET
S E C R E T

9 a.m. May 10, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The following information has been received, based on a reassessment of damage sustained by enemy surface units from mines in BLACKETT STRAIT (south of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND) and our dive bomber attack on May 8th:-

- One destroyer badly damaged and probably sunk.
- One destroyer badly damaged and beached.
- One destroyer badly damaged.
- One destroyer slightly damaged.

Bad weather prevented 108 of our planes from reaching these ships in order to complete the destruction.

The submarine DRUM, returning from patrol north of NEW IRELAND, reports sinking three enemy cargo vessels totaling 17,000 tons.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6
S E C R E T

9 a.m. May 9, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

Two enemy vessels damaged by our mines in BLACKETT STRAIT (south of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group) scuttled themselves on the morning of May 8th. A light cruiser or a destroyer in the vicinity was reported as possibly damaged.

On the night of May 6-7th, two Liberators harassed KAHILI, BUIN Area, FAURO ISLAND and BALALE ISLAND, SHORTLAND Area.

At 11 a.m. May 8th, Dauntless Dive Bombers attacked several enemy destroyers near the Southeast coast of GIZO ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. One 1,000 lb. bomb hit was scored on a destroyer in GIZO anchorage. Several near misses were observed on two other destroyers. One Dauntless Dive Bomber is missing.

Three Avengers and thirty-two Corsairs bombed and strafed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET

SECRET

9 a.m. May 8, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the afternoon of May 6th. an enemy seaplane was shot down southwest of NEW GUINEA by one of our search planes.

On the morning of 4 May a force consisting of eleven
two Douglas, eight Brewster, and eight P-40 fighter
planes, escorted by thirty-two fighters, attacked Solo
field. Several fires were seen and numerous explosions
heard. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy. One bomber was
destroyed by anti-aircraft fire and one P-40 is missing.

COMINCH FILE

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

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9 a.m. May 7, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On May 5th. a formation of Lightnings and Corsairs, totaling sixteen planes, strafed enemy installations on VELLA LAVELLA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP.

On the morning of 6 May a force consisting of nineteen Dauntless, eighteen Avengers, and eight NEW ZEALAND Warhawks, escorted by thirty-two fighters, attacked MUNDA Airfield. Several fires were seen and numerous explosions caused. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy. One Avenger was destroyed by anti-aircraft fire and one Wildcat is missing.

The Liberator B-24D, reporting destroyed by enemy fighters on May 5, was still aloft and returning on May 7.

The Liberator B-24D, returning from the SOUTH PACIFIC, was seen and shot down by enemy fighters.

The Liberator B-24D, returning from the SOUTH PACIFIC, was seen and shot down by enemy fighters. The Liberator B-24D, returning from the SOUTH PACIFIC, was seen and shot down by enemy fighters.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**DECLASSIFIED
BY SP8 Lott, H/T

9 a.m. May 5, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On May 4 two attacking groups each of six Avengers, six Dauntless, and eight Corsairs struck, at the same time, VANGA VANGA and RINGI COVE, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. These attacks followed a strafing and bombing of these areas by eight NEW ZEALAND Warhawks and sixteen Wildcats. Smoke was seen at RINGI COVE and a fire at VANGA VANGA. Reports indicate the ventures were highly productive. All our planes returned.

On May 4 three Flying Fortresses bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA GROUP. The weather precluded observation of the results. A bombing of REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND, produced one fire.

The Liberty Ship WILLIAM WILLIAMS, reported torpedoed by an enemy submarine on May 2, was still afloat and underway on May 3.

The Submarine TROUT, returning from war patrol in the WESTERN PACIFIC, sank one, and set on fire, another trawler.

The Submarine FLYING FISH, returning from another patrol in the same area, sank four enemy freighters totalling 28,000 tons, probably beached another of 5,000 tons, and one ship of 7,600 tons managed to escape with two torpedoes in her.

COMINCH FILE

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

SECRET

SECRET
O&D Letter E T

9 a.m. May 4, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

In the afternoon of May 2nd, six Avengers covered by sixteen Wildcats hit the target area in MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA with one half dozen blockbusters.

On May 3rd, a dozen each of Avengers, Dauntless and Corsairs escorted by eight Wildcats, eight Warhawks and six Lightnings, a total of fifty-eight planes, bombed and strafed REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. Bivouac areas, anti-aircraft positions and buildings were hit. A large fire was started. All our planes returned.

On April 30th, a third Liberty Ship, PETER SYLVESTER, of 7176 tons was unsuccessfully attacked by an enemy submarine midway between SUVA and TONGATABU in the South Pacific.

COMINCH FILE

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

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9SD Letter R E T
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9 a.m. May 3, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On May 2nd. six Avengers escorted by sixteen Wildcats bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. The east end of the airfield, runway, and revetments were hit.

On May 1st. the Liberty Ship PHOEBE A. HEARST of 7181 tons was torpedoed 265 miles southeast of SUVA, FIJI ISLANDS, by an enemy submarine. The ship exploded and sank five hours later. Most of the crew left the ship in two life boats. Eight survivors on a raft were rescued by a Flying Catalina and are now in SUVA.

The Liberty Ship WILLIAM WILLIAMS of 7181 tons was torpedoed by an enemy submarine on May 2nd. about 240 miles southeast of SUVA, FIJI ISLANDS. Although the ship has been abandoned by her crew, reports received indicate the possibility of towing the WILLIAM WILLIAMS to port.

COMMCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-3-81
~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. May 2, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd)

During the early morning of April 30th, five Flying Fortresses bombed KAHILI, BUIN AREA.

Later on the same morning, nine Avengers, nine Dauntless Dive Bombers and four Corsairs supported by Fighters attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

Although hampered by bad weather, four Corsairs strafed REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND at 5:10 p.m. April 30th.

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**DECLASSIFIED
ON 10/1/83~~SECRET~~

9 a.m. May 1, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A Liberator bombed NUMA NUMA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND at 6:45 p.m. April 29th.

During the night of April 29th, six Liberators bombed KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Four fires were started, two of which were visible for 50 miles.

KAHILI, BUIN Area was harassed by five Flying Fortresses during the early morning of April 30th. A large fire was started.

Enemy installations at VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND were bombed and strafed by nine Dauntless dive bombers, nine Avengers and four Airacobras escorted by twenty-eight Wildcats at 11:25 a.m. April 30th.

At 5:10 p.m. April 30th, four Corsairs strafed the bivouac area at REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND.

In all these operations, no U.S. planes were lost.

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**
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9 a.m. April 30, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 5:30 a.m. April 28th, a Japanese patrol of one officer and eight men, attempting to escape from GUADALCANAL by working up the coast in a small boat, was intercepted and wiped out by our troops in the vicinity of BEAUFORT BAY (west coast of GUADALCANAL).

On April 29th, one of our small task units was unsuccessfully attacked by a Mitsubishi type 1 bomber east of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND.

During the morning of April 29th, two Flying Fortresses harassed KAHILI, BUIN Area. Due to poor visibility, results were unobserved.

At 8 a.m. April 29th, six Avengers and six Dauntless dive bombers escorted by sixteen Wildcats attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Hits were scored on the runway, revetment area and on an anti-aircraft position.

On the same day at 8:30 a.m., six Avengers, eight Dauntless dive bombers and four Corsairs covered by eight Lightnings and eight other Corsairs struck GATERE on the west coast of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. A small calibre anti-aircraft position was silenced and a barge pier destroyed.

Later, at 3:45 p.m., eight Dauntless dive bombers, six Avengers and four Corsairs escorted by four Lightnings and eight Corsairs attacked PELPELI (two miles northwest of GATERE). A fire was started.

In all these operations, no U.S. planes were lost.

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

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9 a.m. April 29, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The U.S. submarine GRAYLING, returning from patrol off TARAKAN, VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE and MANILA, reports as follows:

March 28th - damaged and possibly sank a 10,000 ton tanker (NIPPON MARU class) 17 miles southeast of TARAKAN, BORNEO.

April 7th - damaged a 7,000 ton cargo vessel with two torpedo hits in VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE (north of MINDORO) and probably damaged a 1,500 ton freighter with 20 mm fire.

April 9th - attacked a six ship convoy escorted by destroyers east of MINDORO and sank a 7,000 ton freighter and a 6,000 ton freighter.

April 13th - sank by gunfire a 2,000 ton cargo vessel 60 miles west of SAN JOSE, PANAY.

April 18th - sank by gunfire a 150 ton schooner 165 miles southwest of MAKASSAR.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. April 29, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On April 28th a Liberator bombed KAHILI, BUIN Area. Another attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Bad weather, which hampered flying operations, prevented observation of results.

The following additional information has been received on the bombings of NAURU ISLAND and TARAWA, reported in the summaries of April 21st and April 25th:-

Analysis of photographs reveals that the phosphate refineries on NAURU ISLAND were destroyed. Damage to other enemy installations was considerable.

Although complete details relative to the damage inflicted on TARAWA have not been reported, it is reported that the damage was extensive.

Japanese submarine activities continue off the eastern coast of AUSTRALIA. The LYDIA M. CHILDS reported being torpedoed 120 miles northeast of SYDNEY. A subsequent search failed to locate the vessel or any survivors.

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9 a.m. April 28, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Twelve Liberators attacked KAHILI, BUIN Area, BALLALE ISLAND and VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND during the early morning of April 27th. At KAHILI, an enemy fighter was encountered and driven off without damage. A number of fires were started at BALLALE and VILA.

Later on the same morning, five Fortresses bombed KAHILI. Due to poor visibility results were unobserved.

At 9:59 p.m. April 25th, one of our submarines sank an 8,000 ton escorted enemy cargo vessel 235 miles northeast by north of BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO.

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9 a.m. April 27, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Enemy positions at KAHILI, BUIN Area were harassed by three Liberators on the early morning of April 26th.

It is believed that at least three Japanese submarines are operating in the BRISBANE Area. On April 24th at 7 p.m. the Allied vessel KOWARRA (2100 gross tons) was torpedoed and sank 180 miles northeast of BRISBANE. At 1 a.m. April 26th the Allied ship LIMERICK (8700 gross tons) was torpedoed and sank 130 miles southeast of BRISBANE.

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9 a.m. April 26, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 12:15 p.m. April 25th, four Corsairs, after strafing enemy positions on KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, sighted and attacked ten enemy bombers escorted by twenty Zeros over BURAKU ISLAND (95 miles west northwest of LUNGA POINT, GUADALCANAL). The enemy planes were on a south-easterly course apparently on a bombing mission. After losing five Zeros, the enemy reversed course and was later seen flying towards BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND. Two of our planes are missing.

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9 a.m. April 25, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd).

A preliminary report indicates that a force of Liberators operating from FUNAFUTI, ELLICE ISLANDS, bombed enemy positions on TARAWA, GILBERT ISLANDS. Apparently, all our planes returned, although enemy anti-aircraft fire and fighter opposition was encountered. Analysis of damage to enemy installations has not been completed and therefore not reported.

At 1:45 p.m., April 24, twelve (12) Avengers and twelve (12) Dauntless dive bombers, escorted by sixteen (16) Wildcats, attacked revetments, anti-aircraft positions and the runway on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A large fire and a heavy explosion were observed. Two buildings in the vicinity of LAMBETI PLANTATION, MUNDA, were destroyed and the RINGI COVE Area was strafed. No U.S. losses were sustained.

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9 a.m. April 24, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The submarine TAUTOG, after completing a patrol in the vicinity of MAKASSAR, BANDA SEA and TIMOR, reports as follows:-

March 4th - attacked by gunfire a 3,000-ton cargo vessel 60 miles southwest of MAKASSAR, CELEBES. The enemy made good his escape in shallow water.

March 10th - destroyed by gunfire a 40-ton sampan northeast of BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO.

March 17th - fired a torpedo into a beached tanker previously damaged by aircraft on the southeast coast of BOETON, CELEBES.

March 18th - destroyed by gunfire a 50-ton schooner in SALIER STRAIT.

April 9th - attacked a 5-ship convoy with destroyer escort in BUTON STRAIT (between MOENA and BOETON, CELEBES). Complete observation of results was prevented by depth charges. However, one destroyer and one 7,000-ton freighter were later observed to be beached and are therefore considered damaged. There is a possibility that another ship in the convoy may have been damaged.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. April 24, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The following details of interest have been received in connection with the aerial engagement and the destruction of three enemy bombers over KAHILI, BUIN Area, reported in the summary of April 18th:-

Four Lightnings, which did all the attacking, covered by twelve other Lightnings, sighted two bombers 33 miles northeast of KAHILI at 4,500 feet. The enemy bombers were escorted by six Zeros flying about 1,500 to 2,000 feet above and slightly to the rear. The Zeros struck at the Lightnings while the bombers parted and dived. One bomber was attacked at treetop level and crashed in flames. The second bomber, after having its tail section shot off, turned on its back and crashed to the ground. Later, a third bomber was encountered when the Lightnings were withdrawing from the original scene of action. This bomber, after being attacked, exploded in the air.

UNITED STATES FLEET

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.**SECRET**SECRET
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9 a.m. April 24, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Dive torpedo bombers attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA at 4 p.m. April 22nd. Bombs were dropped on the runway and on enemy anti-aircraft positions which were silenced. Later, Corsairs strafed the vicinity and set fire to three grounded enemy planes. Following this attack, the Corsairs attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. No U.S. losses were sustained.

On the night of April 22nd, three Liberators bombed KAHILI, BUIN Area.

At 7:45 a.m. April 23rd, twelve Dauntless dive bombers and fourteen Corsairs bombed and strafed enemy installations in REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. No U.S. planes were lost.

The following additional details have been received on the bombing of FUNAFUTI, mentioned in yesterday's summary:-

The enemy bombers attacked twice before dawn on April 23rd. The first attack of about five planes caused two personnel casualties and slight material damage in addition to several small fires. The second wave of approximately six bombers destroyed two parked Liberators and damaged the radio station.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. April 23, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Fighters strafed enemy installations in the BOUGAINVILLE STRAIT Area on April 21st. On the same day, a search plane bombed an enemy radio station near CAPE ALEXANDER, CHOISEUL ISLAND.

Eight Flying Fortresses, four Liberators and seven Avengers attacked POPORANG ISLAND (southeast coast of SHORTLAND ISLAND) during the night of April 21st. Many fires were started, two of which were visible for forty miles.

At the same time, two Avengers attacked an enemy cargo vessel west of PUPUKUNA POINT, BUIN Area. Hits were probably scored although observation was prevented by enemy night fighter interception. No U.S. losses were sustained.

A preliminary report indicates that about five enemy bombers attacked FUNAFUTI, ELLICE ISLANDS between 2:28 a.m. and 2:59 a.m. April 22nd. Two personnel casualties have been reported and several small fires were started. Material damage is estimated to be light.

An enemy submarine unsuccessfully attacked the U.S. tanker WESTERN SUN 180 miles east northeast of TUTUILA, SAMOA.

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4 p.m. April 22, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Submarine TUNA, returning from patrol of the SHORTLAND ISLANDS and north of the ADMIRALTY ISLANDS, reports as follows:-

March 30th. - Attacked a four-ship convoy escorted by a subchaser and a corvette. One freighter of 8,500 tons was sunk.

Although depth charged after the first attack, the TUNA returned on March 31st. and again attacked the convoy, scoring one torpedo hit and probably sinking a 6,500-ton freighter. Subsequent depth charge attacks prevented re-establishment of contact with the remainder of the convoy.

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9 a.m. April 22, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Flying in bad weather, five Liberators bombed enemy installations in NUMA NUMA Harbor, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND on the night of April 20th. Results were unobserved.

At 7:40 a.m. April 20th, eight Avengers and twelve Dauntless dive bombers attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Hits were scored on the runway and in the dispersal areas. Enemy anti-aircraft positions were silenced and several fires started.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. April 21, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On April 21st. a force of twenty-two Liberators made a daylight bombing attack on NAURU ISLAND in the GILBERT Group. In spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire and defending fighter planes, much damage was done to the phosphate works. Our bombers shot down five Zeros. There is a possibility of two more Zeros having been destroyed.

All our planes returned, although three were damaged. Nine of our personnel were wounded, two of them seriously.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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9 a.m. April 21, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On April 19th. 17 tons of bombs were dropped by seven Fortresses on KIETA, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.

At the same time ten Avengers were blasting the KAHILI Airfield, runways, and contiguous territory in the BUIN AREA.

Three hours later seven more Avengers struck at shipping in TONALEI Harbor, BUIN AREA. One freighter received a direct hit and a second freighter was subjected to several near misses.

On April 20th. a group of Avengers and Dauntless planes dropped bombs on the runway and defensive positions at MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Anti-aircraft fire was silenced at several places and a large fire was started which continued to burn for one-half hour.

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9 a.m. April 20, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The enemy dropped 17 bombs, including incendiaries, on GUADALCANAL during the night of April 18th.-19th. A small arms dump caught fire, one of our aircraft suffered damage, and two men were wounded.

The attack occasioned the debut of the P-70's (night fighters) which accounted for one of the enemy bombers.

During the night of April 18th. a formation of Liberators registered hits on the runway at MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A large explosion was also heard.

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9 a.m. April 19, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Twelve Dauntless dive bombers and thirteen Wildcats attacked MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA on the afternoon of April 17th. Hits were scored on the dispersal and runway areas.

During the night of April 17th, formations of Liberators, Fortresses and Avengers attacked KAHILI, BUIN Area. Hits were scored on the runway and dispersal areas resulting in fires visible for 30 miles. All our planes returned.

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UNITED STATES FLEET

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. April 17, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The Submarine TAMBOR, returning from patrol in CELEBES-SULU SEAS, reports scoring one hit with three torpedoes in a 2,500-ton Maru off the southern tip of NEGROS ISLAND on 22 March and damaging an escorted 5,000-ton Maru in another attack on 29 March off the northeast tip of PANAY ISLAND.

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9 a.m. April 16, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 11:30 a.m. April 15th, six Avengers and fifteen Wildcats bombed the runway and dispersal area at MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

Later on the same day at 2:30 p.m., two Avengers and four Corsairs escorted by fifteen Wildcats attacked and sank an 80-foot camouflaged vessel in REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND.

VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND was attacked at 4:08 p.m. April 15th by five Dauntless dive bombers supported by fourteen Wildcats. A building, believed to be a power generating station, was destroyed.

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9 a.m. April 15, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 4:20 p.m. April 14th, six Avengers and sixteen Wildcats bombed and strafed three camouflaged enemy barges in VIRU HARBOR, NEW GEORGIA. Three fires were started.

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9 a.m. April 14, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of April 12th, two Liberators bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

At 8:15 a.m. April 13th, eleven Avengers supported by fourteen Corsairs and seven Lightnings bombed and strafed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Hits were scored and fires started in an ammunition dump and bivouac area. Bombs were dropped on the runway and dispersal areas. One Corsair is missing due, apparently, to engine difficulty.

It is reported that an Allied merchant ship of undisclosed tonnage was sunk by an enemy submarine 210 miles south southwest of Sydney.

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9 a.m. April 13, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the evening of April 11th, seven Lightnings and eight Corsairs strafed REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND and silenced four enemy anti-aircraft positions.

At midnight April 11th - 12th, a Catalina dropped bombs on MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA.

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4 p.m. April 12, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 9:20 p.m. April 11th. seven Flying Fortresses attacked KAHILI, BUIN AREA. Two Fortresses failed to return, apparently due to unfavorable weather. Results of this attack were unobserved.

At 7:30 a.m. April 12th. six Avengers and twenty-three Wildcats bombed and strafed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, and started a fire in a bivouac area. At the same time three Avengers attacked RINGI COVE (three miles northwest of VILA) and started a fire. No U.S. planes were lost.

UNITED STATES FLEET

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9 a.m. April 12, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On the night of April 10th and 11th, a Catalina ✓
bombed MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. A small fire was started.

At 6:57 a.m. April 11th, twelve Avengers bombed ✓
MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA. Hits were scored on the runway and
anti-aircraft positions. Fires and heavy explosions
were observed. ✓

On the early morning of April 11th, three Liberators ✓
harassed KAHILI, BUIN Area. Bombs were dropped on the
runway and adjacent anti-aircraft positions. ✓

A search plane operating from GUADALCANAL sighted ✓
and attacked on the early afternoon of April 11th an
enemy formation of one light cruiser and several
destroyers 200 miles northeast of KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND. ✓
Four bombs were dropped. Results have not been reported.

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4 p.m. April 10, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On April 7th. at 10 p.m. the Destroyer STRONG, while engaged in screening a Task Force, 45 miles north northwest of CAPE SURVILLE (east end of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND), encountered a surfaced submarine believed to be a minelayer of the I-121 type. The submarine was sunk by gun-fire after three 5" hits were scored in addition to many 40 MM and 20 MM hits. After the enemy sank stern first two depth charge patterns were dropped to complete the destruction.

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9 a.m. April 9, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

The submarine GUDGEON returning from patrol in the vicinity of SOERABAJA, JAVA and BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO reports sinking 29,539 tons or possibly 35,243 tons of enemy shipping as follows:

March 22nd - attacked a seven-ship destroyer and corvette escorted convoy 33 miles north northeast of SOERABAJA sinking a 6,965 ton ship and a 5,254 ton vessel. In addition, two torpedo hits were scored which probably sank another vessel of 5,704 tons.

March 24th - attacked with torpedoes and gunfire an enemy subchaser 65 miles east northeast of SOERABAJA. Three 3-inch hits were scored.

March 29th - sank with four torpedoes a 10,020 ton tanker (KOKUYO class) 115 miles northeast of BALIKPAPAN. At noon of the same day, the GUDGEON sank with two torpedo hits a 7,300 ton tanker 185 miles north northeast of BALIKPAPAN.

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9 a.m. April 9, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

In extremely bad weather, five Avengers bombed KAHILI, BUIN Area at 4:20 a.m. April 8th. Twelve Avengers set out to participate in the attack. One plane crashed after taking off and six are reported missing. Two Flying Fortresses ordered to assist by illumination failed to locate the target.

At 4:35 a.m. April 8th, two Flying Fortresses bombed enemy searchlight and anti-aircraft installations at KAHILI, BUIN Area. Complete observations of results was not possible due to poor visibility.

An additional report relative to the enemy air attack on our shipping at TULAGI and GUADALCANAL on the afternoon of April 7th follows:

The destroyer AARON WARD and the fleet oiler KANAWHA and the New Zealand corvette MOA are sunk. The fuel hulk ERSKINE PHELPS and the naval cargo vessel ADHARA are damaged. Minor damage was sustained by other craft. Thirty-three to thirty-four enemy planes were destroyed by fighters and ships' gunfire. We lost seven of our planes.

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9 a.m. April 8th, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

As a result of this attack, incomplete reports indicate the following damage to our surface units:

The New Zealand Corvette MOA sunk, All hands rescued except three enlisted men.

The U.S. Tanker KANAWHA damaged but probably will be saved. Personnel casualties are unknown.

The Yard District Oiler ERSKINE PHELPS damaged and leaking badly. Will probably be saved.

Later that afternoon at 3:17 p.m., the tanker TAPPAHANNOCK and the destroyer WOODWARD were strafed by enemy planes twenty miles east of LUNGA POINT and suffered minor damage. At 3:30 p.m., the badly damaged AARON WARD sank close to TENETE POINT, FLORIDA ISLAND. In these actions, at least ten Japanese planes were shot down.

UNITED STATES FLEET

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9 a.m. April 8, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

A delayed report informs that VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND was attacked on April 6th at 6:15 a.m. by fourteen Dauntless dive bombers supported by four Avengers and eleven Wildcats. Hits were scored and a large fire was started. No U.S. planes were lost.

During the night of April 6th - 7th, Catalinas harassed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. At about the same time, Flying Fortresses attacked KAHILI, BUIN Area and BALLALE ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. A Fortress bombed and scored two near misses on two enemy gasoline tankers north of MANNING STRAIT (between CHOISEUL ISLAND and SANTA ISABEL ISLAND).

On the early morning of April 7th, fourteen dive bombers and four Avengers escorted by fighters attacked VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND. Hits were observed on two enemy anti-aircraft positions and in the bivouac area. A large fire was started.

At 12:15 p.m. April 7th, six Avengers and six Dauntless dive bombers escorted by twelve fighters attacked REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. An enemy four-engine flying boat was destroyed. All our planes returned.

On April 6th at 7:25 p.m., about three enemy planes bombed GUADALCANAL. No casualties have been reported but very light damage was sustained, in the LUNGA POINT, bivouac area.

At 2:40 p.m. April 7th, fifty enemy bombers and forty-eight fighters attacked our shipping at TULAGI and KOLI POINT, GUADALCANAL. Sixty-seven of our fighters engaged the enemy and shot down twenty-one Zeros and five dive bombers. Another enemy plane was later observed to crash. We lost six Wildcats and one Airacobra. One of our pilots was recovered.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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4 p.m. April 7, 1943

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

At 3:30 p.m. on April 7th. the GUADALCANAL AREA was subjected to an enemy air raid. The Destroyer AARON WARD was seriously damaged by two dive bomb hits and a near miss. One engineroom and both firerooms were flooded. Her main deck is awash. She is being towed to TULAGI by the Auxiliary Submarine Rescue Vessel ORTOLAN. The Auxiliary Tug VIREO is alongside of the AARON WARD pumping. The ORTOLAN claims she has shot down three Japanese aircraft.

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9 a.m. April 7, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On April 7th. six Dauntless (Douglas Dive Bombers), escorted by six Lightnings (Army P-38's), bombed VILA, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group.

Fires were started. One Dauntless made a forced water landing after the attack. When last seen, pilot and gunner were rowing ashore off BANIATA POINT, RENDOVA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group.

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9 a.m. April 4, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

In the aerial battle over RUSSELL ISLANDS on April 1st, later reports indicate that eighteen enemy planes were shot down and not sixteen as previously reported.

One of our reconnaissance planes on April 2nd depth charged and bombed a submerged enemy submarine west of NEW GEORGIA ISLAND. Results were unreported. Later, this plane encountered an enemy float plane and shot it down. Still later, two enemy planes were encountered which were successfully fought off.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DECLASSIFIED
98D Letter # 0-11

9 a.m. April 3, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

On April 2nd. seven Lightnings and six Corsairs attacked a small enemy cargo vessel at an unidentified anchorage at VELLA LAVELLA (SOLOMON ISLANDS). The vessel was badly damaged and set on fire. In executing this attack, Lightnings dropped their belly tanks on the vessel, registering three hits. A run with incendiary bombs followed and set the ship on fire.

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

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter

9 a.m. April 2, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Thirty to forty Zeros were engaged by twenty-eight Wildcoats, seven Corsairs and six Lightnings over the RUSSELL ISLANDS at 10:40 a.m. April 1st. Sixteen enemy planes were shot down. We lost six planes. However, two pilots were rescued.

On the night of March 31st - April 1st a night flying Catalina contacted an enemy surface formation of five destroyers and one cargo vessel southwest of KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND, NEW GEORGIA Group. The Catalina bombed the formation and then led Army Liberators into a low altitude attack. Results were unobserved.

An enemy twin engine bomber on March 30th bombed two of our small patrol vessels east of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND, apparently with unsuccessful results.

A formation of dive bombers and fighters attacked SUAVANAU PLANTATION on the southeast coast of REKATA BAY, SANTA ISABEL ISLAND on March 31st. Results of this attack have not been reported.

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

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

SECRET

SECRET
92D Letter

9 a.m. April 1, 1943.

SOUTH PACIFIC ACTION (Cont'd.)

Sixteen Dauntless dive bombers and twenty-three Wildcoats raided MUNDA, NEW GEORGIA on the afternoon of March 30th. All planes returned after scoring hits on the runway and revetment area where fires were started. Following the raid, a reconnaissance plane reported that considerable damage was done to the runway.