AWM52

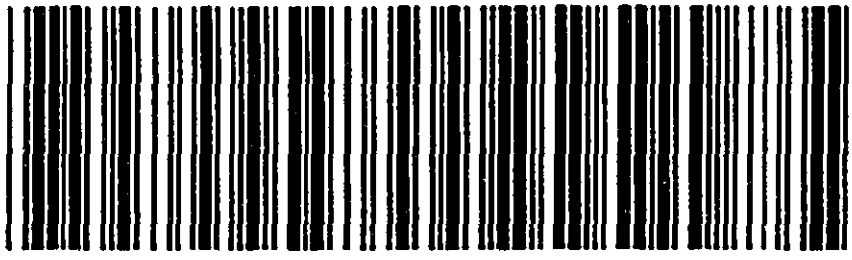
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/14/1

AIR LIAISON

1 Air Liaison Group (1 AL Grp)

November 1943, part 2, appendices



1/14/1-005%

LONDON:

The Red Army has captured the Dnieper port of Kakhovka, site of an important crossing of the big river 50 miles East of Kherson, Moscow announced. Directly across the Dnieper from Kakhovka, lies the town of Borislav which leads to all sectors of the already invested Dnieper bend area. The Dnieper crossing which the Russians threaten to make at this point would greatly increase the peril to the large German Forces fighting desperately in the bend area.

MOSCOW:

Important decisions pointing toward opening of a so called "Second Front" in Europe by the United States and Britain, were made at the three power conference just concluded the government newspaper Isvestia indicated. Isvestia made it clear that the Russians were satisfied with the decisions. Both British and American circles in Moscow indicated the Russians were satisfied with the military decisions taken.

LONDON:

The operation of American heavy bombers from Russia, thus laying Hitler's European Fortress wide open to precession aerial assault from the West, South and East might result from the recent Tripartite declaration for closer coordination of American and Russian war strategy. Whether such a decision was taken will be known only if bases start falling from U. S. daylight bombers on Hitler's Eastern front. Already the Germans are either anticipating attack have launched a familiar expedition seeking information. Spanish correspondents in Berlin have reported a rumor that Red air bases are available to United States.

ALGIERS:

American heavy bombers of the Northwest African Air Force have bombed the German Messerschmitt factory at Wiener Neustadt Near, Vienna, for the second time, it was announced Tuesday. Flying Forts and Liberators dropped their bombs squarely on the target area. First reports from returning pilots showed that the attacks were highly successful.

The Moscow four power announcements were greeted with mingled feelings of elation and disappointment by persons close to the French Committee of National Liberation. The French expressed dissatisfaction that they were not included on the Commission which will settle general European problems.

The reaction of most American soldiers in this theater to the Moscow Announcement was shrugged shoulders. Preoccupied by immediate problems of daily army life, they are not much interested in international affairs. They were quick to notice the assurance that after the termination of hostilities, the Allies will not employ their military forces within the territories of other states and equally quick to notice the big "except" after this statement upon how long occupation might be based.

STOCKHOLM:

Prince Gorm, of Denmark, 24 year old nephew of King Christian, has reached Sweden after escaping the country with other Danish officers, following their release from arrest by the Germans. Prince Gorm was among the officers who directed an active revolt against the Germans on August 28, when Denmark was placed under a Nazi military dictatorship.

CHUNGKING:

Chinese Foreign Minister, T. V. Soong, welcoming the Moscow declaration, said Foreign Secretaries Hull, Eden and Molotov made what will prove to be the instruments for bringing the dream of the ages nearer to fruition.

ALGIERS:

Lt. General Carl. A Spaatz, was appointed Commander of a new All-American Mediterranean Air Force Tuesday. The Command of General Spaatz, who has headed the Northwest African Air Force, will include both the U. S. 12th and 15th Air Forces.

WASHINGTON:

Production in a record breaking 8362 planes in October, including the largest number of heavy bombers ever turned out in a month, brought aircraft output to 61,619 units for the first 10 months of the year.

G.H.Q. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 571, 3 November, 1943.

CELEBES:

Our heavy bombers again attacked the enemy nickel mining centers at Maniang Island and Pomalaa with over than 27 tons of explosives causing large explosions and flames to 2000 feet in the jetty area and heavy damage on the bleaching plant area.

NEW IRELAND: KAVIENG:

Our medium units bombed the airdrome at night causing numerous explosions and fires visible 50 miles. Our reconnaissance units sank an 6000 ton Transport West of Cape Matanalen and scored a direct hit on the stern of a 4000 ton enemy cargo ship Southeast of Lorengau.

SOLOMONS: SOUTH PACIFIC FORCES: BOUGAINVILLE:

Preparatory to our landing on Empress Augusta Bay, our naval and air forces effectively neutralized all enemy airdromes in Bougainville and the Shortlands.

At Buka, a successful naval bombardment started large fires at both airdromes visible 60 miles. Heavy fire from shore batteries was ineffective. At dawn, 2 successive naval air strikes started additional fires with planes seen burning in dispersal areas. Very heavy damage was caused to installations. A 3 deck Transport vessel was left in flames. Six of our planes were lost.

At Kieta, 2 attacks by escorted medium bombers [illegible] the runway unserviceable. 3 small cargo vessels in Arawa Bay were destroyed and an other cargo vessel and 2 barges damaged. We lost 3 planes, 2 pilots being saved.

At Buin, four medium, heavy, torpedo and dive bombers with fighter escort executed 4 attacks on Kara aircrome, causing explosions and fires and leaving the field unserviceable.

A strong fighter force twice strafed enemy shipping at Tonolei Harbor, sinking 2 small cargo vessels and 2 barges and damaging 5 other barges. Anti-aircraft positions around the harbor were also strafed. Our naval units bombarded the Shortlands, Ballale airdrome during the night silencing enemy shore batteries. We sustained only minor damage and casualties.

During the night, the enemy made a sortie with his light naval forces from the West coast of Guadalcanal. Our covering Naval force intercepted and the enemy was dispersed and withdrew toward the Northwest.

Later an air attack on our naval covering force was successfully repulsed with minor damage.

TREASURY ISLAND:

Our troops have advanced to Malasi, on the Northeast coast. A minor enemy counter attack at night was repulsed. 44 enemy dead were counted.

CHOISEUL:

Our ground forces with close bomber and fighter support attacked and defeated the enemy at Sangigai. 72 enemy dead were counted. Resistance ceased at the 3 villages.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP
4 NOV 1943

Copy No. 306.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

	SECRET
AUTH:	C.G.
INIT:	
DATE:	4/11/43

FROM: 1600/3/11/43/L.
TO : 1600/4/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (307 A) completed 80. a weather recco to RABAUL. Airplane took off at 2300/3/L and landed at 0821/4/L. Recco was incomplete due to inability to penetrate front in vicinity of JACQUINOT BAY. There were nil sightings.

1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (307 E) was unable to complete a weather recco to RABAUL because of weather. Airplane turned back at 0730S-15215E where front was built up to 25000 feet. Airplane took off at 0115/L from DOBODURA and landed at base at 0710/L. At 0430/L 10 miles North of WEWAK, a red light was momentarily observed ahead (North) of airplane—believed to be running light of another airplane. There were nil other sightings.

KAVIENG: 1 F-5 of the 6th Photo Squadron (307 H) took off at 0617/L to photograph KAVIENG. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane returned to base at 1056/L. There were nil sightings.

NEW HANOVER: 2 F-4's of the 6th Photo Squadron (307 H) took off at 0633/L to photograph NEW HANOVER. Nil photos were taken due to weather. F-4's were over ARAWE at 0913/L. There were nil sightings.

SEPIK RIVER AREA: 1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (307 K) completed 1 to a supply dropping mission to the SEPIK RIVER area. Supplies were dropped at 1154/L and photos taken of the dropping. There were nil sightings.

MADZAB—BULLDOG: 1 B-25 G of the 823rd Squadron (307 F) was unable to complete a Courier Mission to MADZAB, LAE and GASMATA. None of the assigned points were reached because of weather. Airplane took off at 0630/L and landed at 0910/L. There were nil sightings throughout search.

1 B-25 D-1 of the 498th Squadron (307 C) took off at 0545/L to carry out a weather recce to YULI Island, BULLDOG and the PASS. 40% of assigned area was covered. Mission was incomplete as it was impossible to get through PASS due to weather. There were nil sightings.

SEA SEARCH: 1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (307 J) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. There were nil sightings throughout entire search. Airplane took off at 0826/L and landed at 1630/L.

1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (307 E) completed 90% of an armed recce to 0245N-145-40E, 0200N-151-40E. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped on a DD at 1324/L. Bombs missed--nil damage. At 1515/L, a 19 ship convoy was sighted at 0510N-149-00E on course 220 degrees. Convoy consisted of 5 CA's, 3 CL's, 5 DD's, 1 Sugar Top Stack, 3 Fox-Uncles and 2 Corvettes. Freighters had deck cargo. This convoy was first sighted at 1154/L at 0021N-149-00E on course 190 degrees at speed of 15 knots. Only 13 ships were counted and reported at 1154/L as 6 of the vessels were obscured by clouds. Intense, all calibers, generally inaccurate A/A fire was received from the convoy. Photos were taken of the convoy.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (307 H) completed 100% a recce of shipping lanes North and South of NEW IRELAND. Nil shipping was sighted. At 1405/L from 17000 feet, 6 unidentified airplanes were sighted at 02003-152003 on course 45 degrees approximately 2000 feet below our airplane and too distant for positive identification. B-24 took cloud cover and enemy airplanes were not seen again. There were nil other sightings.

GUSAP-MADZAB: 1 B-25 G of the 823rd Squadron (307 F) completed 100% a Courier Mission to GUSAP, MADZAB and LAE. Airplane took off at 1311/L and landed at 1848/L. There were nil sightings.

NOTE: The following mission was cancelled today.

307 GENERAL STRIKE - 3 Squadrons B-24's, 43rd Group.
4 Squadrons B-24's, 90th Group.

TARGET: RABAUL.

2. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: In the JIVEVANENG area, our troops repulsed enemy counter attacks and engaged enemy positions with machine gun and mortar fire. Otherwise, no change.

RAMU AREA: No change.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF EARLY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
4 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	D/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/C	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT		3	5					8	0
DAGUA	17	1	2					20	0
WEWAK	10	1	6			3		20	0
HOLLANDIA	9	2	2					13	0
AITAPE	8	23	10					41	0
MADE		13						13	0
Total	44	45	25			3		115	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	17		6			4		27	0
VUNAKANAU	37	28	4					69	0
LAKUNAI	71	4	8					83	0
RAPOPO	3	10	2					15	0
KAVIENG						12		12	0
TOBERA	39		3					42	0
Total	167	42	23			16		248	0

SOLOMONS:									
BUIN	1					2		3	-3
BOMI	1							1	0
KUKUM	6							6	+1
BALALE	2							2	-1
RABAUL						9		9	0
Total	10					11		21	-3

COMMENTS:

1. SOLOMONS dromes were photoed 3/11/43. RABAUL count is an estimate.

2. BUT, DAGUA, WEWAK and LAKUNAI were photoed 3/11/43. HOLLANDIA and AITAPE are estimates based on old photo coverages.

3. RABAUL dromes were photoed 3/11/43. It is evident that the enemy is reinforcing the RABAUL area to replace losses incurred both in RABAUL and the SOLOMONS.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

None reported.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

306 J. AIRBORNE RECCO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 1030/3/L to 1903/3/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: GARDOVE ISLAND.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1652/L from 10000 feet on a Jap camp area on the Southeast tip of GARDOVE ISLAND. Bombs were salvoed due to bomb bay door failure and overshot target. (Bombing run was made on heading of 215 degrees). Photos were taken of the bombing. Recco was 95% completed.

A/A: Slight, medium, inaccurate, bursting at 7000 feet with a few bursts at 10500 feet over GARDOVE ISLAND.

NIL SIGHTINGS: LONG ISLAND at 1200/L from 6000 feet. 02555-14355E at 1326/L from 8000 feet. 01405-14440E at 1355/L from 10000 feet. 03105-14520E at 1445/L from 10000 feet. 03305-15030E at 1625/L from 10000 feet. GARDOVE Island at 1652/L from 10000 feet. 04305-14800E at 1715/L from 10000 feet.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA at 1903/3/L and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus at 10000 feet throughout BISMARCK SEA. Heavy low cumulus, solid along coast of NEW BRITAIN from TAL SEA to CAPE GLOUCESTER. Any shipping along the coast in that area would not have been seen. Weather good at DOBODURA on return. Good over the Ranges on return.

307 A. AIRBORNE RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 2300/3/L to 0621/4/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to RABAUL and return.

RESULTS: Recco was 80% completed. Airplane was unable to penetrate front in vicinity of JACQUINOT BAY. Radio contact not established with base until 0400/L. Route flown was: Base to DOBODURA, KIRIWINA, JACQUINOT BAY, KIRIWINA, CAPE NELSON, HEAD POINT to base. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: KIRITINA, clear. SOLOMON SEA, scattered cumulus at 8000/9000 feet, overcast. Ranges from CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT at 11000 feet, 10/10 cumulus, tops 8000 feet, base on tops of mountains.

307 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0145/4/L to 0710/4/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to RABAUL and return.

RESULTS: Recco was incomplete. Airplane was unable to penetrate front North of KIRITINA ISLAND. Turned back at 07308-15415E where front was still built up to 25000 feet.

SIGHTINGS: At 0315/L from 16000 feet, 10 miles North of KIRITINA, a red light was momentarily observed ahead (North) of airplane—believed to be running light of airplane.

WEATHER: Clear with exception of East-West front running along 08005.

307 C. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25 D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0545/4/L to 0730/4/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE ISLAND, BULLSEYE, PASS and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 40% completed. Airplane was unable to get through Pass due to weather.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0600/L, tops of low clouds 6000 feet, visibility unlimited, drizzle, low clouds 8/10. BULLSEYE, 0630/L, tops of low clouds 8000 feet, 2/10, height of upper clouds 14000 feet. PASS, 0700/L, tops of low clouds 2000 feet, visibility 20 miles, heavy showers, weather closing in rapidly, low clouds 7/10, upper clouds 3/10, height of upper clouds 7000 feet.

307 F. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25 C, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0630/4/L to 0910/4/L.

AREA OF MISSION: Base to MADANG, LAE, NADZAB and return.

RESULTS: Mission incomplete. Airplane was unable to reach any of assigned points because of weather.

WEATHER: Enroute, solid cumulus over Ranges with tops to 20000 feet. HUON GULF, heavy rain with frontal activity, cumulo-nimbus with tops to 20000 feet, instrument weather from sea level to 20000 feet.

307 M. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: KAVIENG.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Nil photos were taken.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, heavy convergences to 20000 feet. North coast of NEW GUINEA into SOLOMON SEA, frontal activity.

307 K. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: NEW BRITAIN.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to weather. Airplane was over ARAWE at 0935/L at 20000 feet.

WEATHER: NEW GUINEA-SOLOMON SEA-NEW BRITAIN, solid overcast 20000 feet. Frontal activity from SOLOMON SEA to across Ranges towards KOKIEL.

307 J. ARMED RECCO - 1 F-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0826/4/L to 1630/4/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings.

NIL SIGHTING: 0600S-15140E at 1000/L from 400 feet. 0600S-15330E at 1136/L from 400 feet. 0535S-15330E at 1150/L from 400 feet. 0535S-15230E at 1210/L from 400 feet. 0450S-15230E at 1230/L from 400 feet. 0450S-15400E at 1300/L from 5000 feet. 0615S-15400E at 1325/L from 9000 feet.

WEATHER: Visibility poor throughout recce. Low overcast at 500 feet over most of SOLOMON SEA area. 9/10 to 10/10 cumulus, tops to 25000 feet, scattered storms. Ranges crossed at 12000 feet, tops to 10000 feet.

307 K. SUPPLY MISSION - 1 B-24, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0602/4/L to 1624/4/L.

AREA OF MISSION: Drop supplies in SEPIK RIVER area.

RESULTS: Supplies were successfully dropped at 1154/L. Photos were taken to [illegible] supply dropping. There were mail sightings. [illegible] flown was: Base to KENNA to 0440S-14200E, target and return.

WEATHER: Target area, 1st cumulus to 800 feet. LT. HAGEN area, rain and high cumulus, building up towards KENNA [illegible].

307 F. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25 G, 6th Sq un ron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1311/4/L to 1846/4/L.

AREA OF MISSION: Base to NADZAB, GOSAP, [illegible] and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown was: Base to GOSAP, [illegible] and return.

WEATHER: Cumulus over the target to 14000 feet. Cirro-cumulus at 30000 feet.

307 H. AERIAL RECCO - 1 B-24, 400th Sq un ron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0705/4/L to 1616/4/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-14945E, 0200N-15140E and return.

TARGET: DD at 0050N-14915E.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. com., bombs were dropped at [illegible] from 6000 feet at one TENRYU Class DD at 0050N-14[illegible]. Bombs missed DD by 250 feet—nil damage. Recce [illegible] completed. Photos were taken of convoy (See SIGHTINGS).

A/A: Intense, all calibres, generally inaccurate from [illegible] in convoy. A few bursts neared airplane.

SIGHTINGS: At 1154/L, from 6000 feet, a 12 ship convoy was sighted at 0021N-14900E on course 220 degrees at speed of 15 knots. At 1315/L from 6000 feet, the same convoy was sighted at 0010N-14900E on course 220 degrees. 12 ships were seen in the convoy at the second sighting. 6 ships were obscured by cloud when the first sighting was made. Convoy is believed to consist of 3 ATAGO Class CA's, 2 TONE Class CA's, 3 single stack CL's, 5 DD's (1 of these was the TENRYU Class), 1 Super Tanker stack (30000 tons), 3 Tank-Unadilla (1 of these ship [illegible] a Flak-Tank-Unadilla) and 2 Corvettes. The Freighters had deck cargo. The CA's manoeuvred together. The Corvettes stayed with the M/V's. The 1 DD classed as TENRYU may have been a KATORI Class CL.

WEATHER: 5/10 to 5/10 covered above ADMIRALTY ISLANDS. En route from FINSCHHAFEN to ADMIRALTY ISLANDS.

307 H. RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0836/4/L to 1811/4/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Shipping lanes North and South of NEW IRELAND.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Nil shipping was sighted.

SIGHTINGS: At 1405/L from 17000 feet, 6 unidentified airplanes were observed at 0200S-151002E on course 45 degrees approximately 2000 feet below our airplane. Airplanes were too distant for positive identification. Our airplane took cloud cover and unidentified airplanes were not seen again.

NIL SIGHTINGS: 0345S-150320E at 1020/L from 10000 feet. 0340S-150200E at 1235/L from 10000 feet. PORTLAND ISLANDS at 1[illegible]/L from 11500 feet. EMIRAU ISLANDS at 1335/L from 12500 feet. 0120S-150350E at 1350/L from 12500 feet. TABAR ISLANDS at 1425/L from 14000 feet. 0400S-150305E at 1455/L from 13000 feet. WAKOVE ISLANDS at 1510/L from 8500 feet.

WEATHER: Strong frontal zone from VITIAZ STRAITS Southeast to SOLOMON SEA, tops 25000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, 4/10 to 5/10 cumulus, tops 11000 feet. Ranges from CAPE MUSCH to HOOD POINT, tops 13000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Fighters carried out usual escort and patrol missions with nil interception or combat.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

[signature]

PAUL E. MALLON,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

ITALY:

Count Galeazzo Ciano, former Italian Foreign Minister, was captured by the Germans despite a disguise and taken before Mussolini for a stormy scene with his father-in-law, a dispatch to the Geneva newspaper La Suisse said Wednesday. Ciano was reported to have declared at the time of Mussolini's downfall that "He got what he deserved".

LONDON:

In an apparent effort to keep the great Yugoslav port of Dubrovnik from becoming an invasion port to the Balkans, the Germans were reported to have ordered a fresh drive to crush Patriot resistance from Dubrovnik to the Greek frontier. Both Partisan and Yugoslav Government sources confirmed that the strife between the forces of General Mihailovic and General Josip Broz, had surged up in bloody form, but despite this internal division, heavy Nazi forces are tied up in their futile efforts to stamp out guerrilla activity.

Formal establishment of an Allied High Command for the assault on Europe and the Near East is expected to be an early sequel to the Moscow Conference.

ALGIERS:

France's first free political Forum since the German Armies settled over the country, was opened by General Charles De Gaulle, leader of the French Committee of National Liberation with a demand for a greater voice for France in international councils. He said France thinks that any European settlement and any world settlement made without her would not be a good settlement. French leaders have expressed disappointment that France was not included in the Tri-Power European Advisory Council set up by the Moscow Conference.

STOCKHOLM:

Caught flatfooted by the Moscow Conference's promise to restore Austria's independence, the Nazis have clamped rigorous police control over that country to prevent disturbances and uprisings, dispatches to the Swedish press said.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA:

Competent observers who returned from Japan within the past 2 months, say Japan's leaders know that the Nisin, Sun Empire is fighting a losing war but the masses are being kept in ignorance of the score with the government pressing them constantly to greater war effort.

WASHINGTON:

John L. Lewis and Secretary of the Interior, Ickes, negotiating on a working contract for coal miners, conferred Wednesday with legal aides, a development suggesting the possibility an agreement had been reached in principle and is being reduced to legal terms. Meantime, there was every indication that mines would remain shut down until the contract was completed.

ANCH ISLANDS:

Our medium bombers and long range fighters attacked enemy occupied villages on Truk-Moen-Kuba Island.

TRUK:

One of our night patrols bombed Cape Chater.

NEW IRELAND: CAPE ST. GEORGE:

One of our night patrols bombed an enemy cruiser with unobserved results.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:

Anticipating that a counterattack on our right wing in Bougainville was in preparation at Rabaul, we attacked the enemy's naval concentrations in the harbor from the air. A desperate battle ensued. The enemy's air component as well as his anti-aircraft batteries went into full action to support his warcraft and merchant shipping. Our fighter cover engaged his attacking planes and our medium bombers went in at masthead height. The harbor was practically cleared; nearly every ship there being heavily hit or sunk by 1000 pound bombs. When our planes left the scene of combat, the following boats had sunk: 3 destroyers, 6 large merchant ships of an aggregate tonnage of 50,000 tons and 4 small coastal vessels. In addition, direct hits were scored on 2 heavy cruisers, one of which was left listing with a large hole in the hull, 7 large merchant vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 50,000 tons, and 2 tankers of 8000 tons and 6000 tons respectively. The entire shipping area was a scene of utter wreckage and destruction. The air battle was of the fiercest. At Lakunai, 7 fighters and a bomber were destroyed on the ground and other planes damaged. Off shore, 6 float planes and two 4 engined flying boats were sunk. In the air, 37 of his planes were shot down and 25 others probably destroyed. We lost 9 bombers and 10 fighters

VITU ISLANDS:

Our heavy patrol units bombed buildings at Garove Island.

NEW GUINEA: ALEXISHAFEN:

Our night patrols destroyed or damaged 9 enemy barges.

MARO VALLEY:

Our ground patrols are active in forward areas. Our fighter-bombers attacked bridges along the Bonadigam Road and enemy gun positions near Kamiliryo.

SOLOMONS: SOUTH PACIFIC FORCES: BOUGAINVILLE: BUKA:

Our naval air units executed their attack on the Buka and Bonis aerdromes, concentrating 28 tons of bombs on revetments, dispersal and supply areas, and gun positions and thoroughly strafing the area. 4 enemy bombers were destroyed or damaged

on the ground and 4 medium cargo vessels offshore were strafed and left burning. There was no interception. An enemy reconnaissance bomber was shot down after the attack.

KAPROS AUGUSTA BAY:

Our ground assault forces have consolidated and enlarged their beach-head. The enemy abandoned 135 dead. Our torpedo bombers acted in direct support. Our fighter patrols in numerous interceptions throughout the day shot down 21 fighters and one bomber, and probably destroyed 6 other planes.

RUIN:

Our heavy, torpedo and dive bombers struck airdromes in the area on successive days, dropping 143 tons of bombs on Kahili in 2 attacks, and 46 tons of Kara. Dispersal, bivouac and supply dump areas were well covered. There was no interception.

SHORTLAND ISLANDS:

Our air patrols strafed the enemy seaplane base at Faisi, Poporang, destroying one floatplane and damaging barges, the wharf and ramp. One of our night fighters shot down an enemy bomber on reconnaissance.

VELA LAVELLA:

12 enemy dive bombers were driven off by anti-aircraft fire with the loss of 4 planes. We sustained no damage.

SPORTS:

LAUREL:

Kicking loose with a burst of speed in the stretch, Platter, carried the colors of George E. Widener to victory in the $40,520 Pimlico Futurity on Wednesday.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

– 6 NOV 1943

A-2 PUNT AIC REPORT

Report No. 309.

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS:
DATE: 5/11/43
FROM: 1000/4/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/5/11/43/L.
V SOLOMON OCEANIA
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL:

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (308 BG) completed 100% a weather recce to RABAUL. Airplane took off at 0101/L and landed at 0630/L. There were nil sightings throughout.

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (308 BG) completed 100% a weather recce to RABAUL. Airplane took off at 0251/L and landed at 0649/L. There were nil sightings throughout.

1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (308 BG) took off at 0821/L to photograph RABAUL. RABAUL was not photographed due to weather. Photos were taken of CAPE HOSKINS airdrome and surrounding area at 1015/L. There were nil sightings.

27 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (90 BG) bombed the RABAUL Township area 1225/L to 1240/L. 162 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped on the target from 18300/19500 feet. Bombing was excellent with 95% of bombs falling on target. An extremely large explosion followed by fires occured on wharf near Wharf No. 18. 9 large fires were started in the target; 2 near Wharf No. 20, 2 near Wharf No. 19, 2 near base of hills East of Wharves No. 19 and 20, 1 just South of NT strait and 1 just North of Wharf No. 22, 1 near Wharf No. 18. One unidentified vessel near Wharf No. 20 was seen burning from a near bomb miss. 2 large explosions, not followed by fires, occured 500 feet Northwest of Wharf No. 19. The entire target was covered with flames and smoke from burning fuel dumps, buildings and ant-aircraft filled the Wharf areas. A/A fire was intense, medium and heavy and accurate. 4 enemy fighters attempted interception over the target. Enemy fighter attacks were not pressed. 1 ZEKE was damaged. One large vessel, stationary near RABAUL, had very little superstructure. Vessel was thought to be a CV but may have been an aircraft transport. 3 enemy aircraft were seen taking off from RAPOPO. Approximately

10 fighters were seen airborne in the RABAUL area. VUNAKANAU appeared deserted. Little activity was seen around LAKUNAI. 4 DD's, 1 CA or CL were seen 2 miles Northwest of TAVUI POINT. From 2 to 4 CA or CL and 4 to 6 DD's were observed moving between DUKE OF YORK ISLAND and PRIED POINT. Approximately 14 large vessels were observed in SIMPSON HARBOR--majority of which were not moving. 2 to 3 DD's and 1 CA were seen manoeuvering Southwest of PRIED POINT in BLANCHE BAY. All of our airplanes returned safely.

No reports have been received from fighters escorting F-24's to RABAUL.

WEWAK: 4 P-47's of the 341st Fighter Squadron definitely destroyed 5 TONYS and 1 HAMP over WEWAK at 1105/9/L. P-47's were on a fighter sweep. 12 TONYS were sighted at 16000 feet and 6 HAMPS at 15000 feet. P-47's dived on enemy from 27000 feet. All of our airplanes returned.

KAVIENG: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (308 W) took off at 0811/L to photograph KAVIENG. F-5 and P-38 escort were intercepted at 1105/L North of ROCKS ISLAND by 6 SSF--probably ZEKES. F-5 and P-38 evaded enemy airplanes and returned to base. 2 unidentified enemy airplanes were observed at 24000 feet at 1115/L over CAPE GLOUCESTER. Nil photos were taken.

NEW BRITAIN-GUSAP: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (308 Y) took operational photos from SAIDOR to BORF POINT and BOROKU BAY, also mapping photos from DUKE OF YORK ISLAND to CAPE GLOUCESTER. Operational photos were taken of GUSAP airfields. Photos were taken from 0930/L to 1100/L. There were nil sightings.

GUSAP-NADZAB: 1 B-25 G of the 502nd Squadron (308 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB and LAE. Airplane took off at 0655/L and landed at 1310/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25 D-1 of the 498th Squadron (308 B) completed 100% a weather recce to LAE, NADZAB, MARILINAN and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0505/L and landed at 0805/L. There were nil sightings.

MARIA RIVER VALLEY: 16 B-25's of the 2nd and 408th Squadron and 6 B-25's of the 19th Squadron (308 BB) bombed enemy troops in the MARIA RIVER VALLEY from 1007/L to 1011/L. 252 X 260 lb. bombs were dropped on the target from 5/6500 feet on the target. Bombing results were excellent. The target was well covered. Damage could not be assessed due to nature of target. Target was well outlined by

artillery smoke.

SHORTLAND SEA: 1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (308 H) completed 90% of an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. 10% of area nearest RABAUL was not covered. Airplane took off at 0624/L and landed at 1[illegible]. There were nil sightings throughout.

1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (308 G) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. At 1615/L, 2 Sugar-Charlies were sighted at 05405-14450E on course 140 degrees at speed of 10 knots. 1 Fox-Tare-Dog was observed 3 miles East of Sugar-Charlies on course 240 degrees at speed of 10 knots. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at 1615/L on one of the Sugar-Charlies. Bombs missed by 150 feet. Ship was strafed and tracers were seen entering the boat with no apparent damage. Slight, light (L/G), inaccurate A/A fire was received from the Sugar-Charlies. A small white sphere was seen by 2 crew members hanging in air over 1 Sugar-Charlie--possibly barrage balloon.

1 B-24 of the 90th Group (308 I) took off at 0639/L to carry out an armed recce to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

I. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: In the JIVEVANENG area, our troops clashed with the enemy killing 20. We shelled enemy positions North of JIVEVANENG with MG and mortar fire.

Our patrols operating South of BUNA found enemy positions at 656709 and 653705. These positions were subjected to our artillery and mortar fire.

MUSO VALLEY AREA: Patrolling continues in all areas.

FARIA Valley: Ground Forces reported result of Strike by the 22nd Group today in the FARIA RIVER VALLEY as accurate. Bombs fell accurately on all known enemy positions. Report from 2/16 Battalion.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN AREA
5 November, 1943

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	B/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/F	2/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT		3	5					8	0
DAGUA	17	1	2					20	0
WEWAK	10	1	6			3		20	0
BORAM	9	2	2					13	0
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
LAKDE		13						13	0
Total	44	43	25			3		115	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	17		6			4		27	0
VUNAKANAU	37	28	4					69	0
LAKUNAI	71	4	8					83	0
RAPOPO	3	10	2					15	0
RABOR						12		12	0
TOBERA	39		3					42	0
Total	167	42	23			16		248	0

SOLOMONS:									
BUKA	4							4	+1
BONIS	1							1	0
KAHILI	1							1	-5
BALLALE	3							3	+1
FAISI						9		9	0
Total	9					9		18	-3

COMMENTS:

1. SOLOMONS drones were photoed 3/11/43. FAISI F/P count is an estimate.

2. RABAUL drones were photoed 3/11/43. [illegible] is allowed to remain until reports are available of all today's (5/11/43) activities that would involve enemy airplanes based at RABAUL.

3. 6 of 25 enemy fighters seen over WEWAK area today were shot down in one of our fighter sweeps. Our bomber drone count is allowed to remain the same with no deductions for these losses, however, as it is believed that area is being built up again with reinforcements.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

None reported.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

306 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25 G, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0655/5/L to 1310/5/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to CUSAP, MADANG, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings.

REMARKS: Enroute, 6/10 strato-cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 7000 feet over the Ranges. Clear over MARKHAM-RAMU VALLEY. On return, 9/10 cumulus to 15000 feet over the Ranges.

306 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25 D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0505/5/L to 0605/5/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to LAE, MADANG, MARKHAM, GUSAP and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: YULE, 0530/L, tops of low clouds 2000 feet, 2/10 height of upper clouds 12000 feet, 2/10, visibility 20 miles. BUILDOG, 0545/L, tops of low clouds 1000 feet, 9/10, height of upper clouds 10000 feet, 5/10, visibility 20 miles. PASS, 0555/L, tops of low clouds 8000 feet, 5/10, height of upper clouds 12000 feet, 3/10, visibility 20 miles. MADANG, 0615/L, tops of low clouds 1000 feet, 0/10, height of upper clouds 12000 feet, 5/10, visibility 20 miles. MARKHAM VALLEY, 0620/L, tops of low clouds 4000 feet, 3/10, height of upper clouds 10000 feet, 0/10, visibility 20 miles. GUSAP, 0635/L, tops of low clouds 6000 feet, 6/10, height of upper clouds 10000 feet, 1/10, visibility 20 miles.

306 C. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 322nd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0821/5/L to 1503/5/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was 90% completed. Due to radio failure when approaching ST. GEORGES CHANNEL pilot did not deem it wise to cover the 10% of course nearest RABAUL. There were nil sightings throughout search.

NIL SIGHTINGS: 06008-15140E at 1055/L from 10000 feet. 05558-15320E at 1140/L from 6000 feet. 05308-15330E at 1200/L from 12500 feet.

WEATHER: Weather over Ranges enroute out and on return, scattered thundershowers in the SOLOMON SEA. South end of ST. GEORGES CHANNEL, not covered visually due to haze.

308 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: KAVIENG.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken. Flight (1 F-5 and 1 P-38) turned back after interception.

INTERCEPTION: At 1105/L from 20000 feet north of ROOKE ISLAND, 6 unidentified fighters—probably ZEKES—were seen diving from 2000/4000 feet above. Unidentified fighters were at 9 o'clock. Flight (F-5 and P-38) circled and climbed losing unidentified airplanes.

SIGHTINGS: At 1115/L, 2 unidentified fighter airplanes were seen circling above clouds over CAPE GLOUCESTER at 24000 feet. Our airplanes were at the same altitude.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, front across coast of NEW GUINEA towards BUKA. BISMARCK SEA, front 1000 miles off coast of NEW BRITAIN.

308 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) Nil. (2) 1015/5/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) RABAUL. (2) CAPE HOSKINS.

RESULTS: (1) Target was not reached due to weather.

(2) Operational photos were taken of HOSKINS Airdrome and area as requested. There were nil sightings. Recco was 80% completed.

WEATHER: NEW BRITAIN, overcast at 17000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, heavy convergence 15 miles off coast of NEW BRITAIN.

308 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 0930/5/L to 1000/5/L. (2) 1100/5/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) NEW BRITAIN. (2) GUSAP Area.

RESULTS: 1 F-4 took operational photos from SAC SAG to DORF POINT, and BOROEN BAY. The other F-4 took mapping photos from TUAM ISLAND to CAPE BACH and operational photos of GUSAP Airdrome. Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, front. NEW GUINEA, heavy convergence, cumulus 8/10 to 10/10, occasional thunderheads.

308 AA. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0101/5/L to 0636/5/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to RABAUL and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: MILNE INLET to 04455-15240E, KIRA KIRA and base. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Northwest-Southeast front from MILNE INLET towards ARAWE. 8/10 cumulo-nimbus to 7000 feet with 8/10 cloud coverage from 10000 feet to an undetermined altitude. Second similar front lying East-West below mouth of ST. GEORGES CHANNEL. Thunderstorms, rain and severe turbulence in both fronts. ST. GEORGES CHANNEL, clear. Too dark to ascertain weather at RABAUL. No change in weather on return.

308 BB. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0251/5/L to 0645/5/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to RABAUL and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: MILNE INLET to 05103-15250E to MILNE INLET and return. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA (enroute) 3/10 to 5/10 cumulus, tops 3000 to 6000 feet. RABAUL, 5/10 cumulus, tops about 14500 feet. SOLOMON SEA (on return), Northwest-Southeast front from CAPE LUDTKE, tops 20000 feet to 25000 feet. Northwest-Southeast front off North coast of NEW GUINEA, tops to 10000 feet.

308 DD.(1) STRIKE - 7 B-25's, 2nd Squadron. (PRELIMINARY REPORT)

TIME OF ATTACK: 1005/5/L to 1011/5/L.

TARGET: Enemy troops in FARIA RIVER VALLEY area (Ground Support)

RESULTS: 35 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 5000/7500 feet on the target. 3 B-25's failed to bomb as they could not see the target. 1 B-25 failed to bomb due to malfunction of bomb sight. Bombing was excellent. Mission was completed as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: Much smoke and dust was observed in the target caused by bombing of B-26's.

WEATHER: Overcast most of route to target. Scattered cumulus at target, 3/10, visibility 15/20 miles.

308 DD.(2) STRIKE - 6 B-26's, 19th Squadron. (FINAL MISSION REPORT)

TIME OF ATTACK: 1010/5/L.

TARGET: Enemy troops in FARIA RIVER VALLEY area (Ground Support).

RESULTS: 150 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8500 feet on heading of 350 degrees on target. No results apparent. Bomb explosions were seen throughout target with traces of smoke and dirt. All bombs were seen to hit in the River Valleys which marked the target. Bombing excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: At 1013/L from 8500 feet, target appeared to be covered with smoke after bombing was completed.

GENERAL: 1 B-26 returned to base before reaching target due to engine trouble. 1 B-26 failed to bomb due to malfunction of bomb-bay doors. Target was well outlined by artillery smoke.

WEATHER: Overcast most of route to target. Scattered cumulus at target, 3/10, visibility 15/20 miles.

308 DD.(3) STRIKE - 9 B-25's, 400th Squadron. (FINAL MISSION REPORT)

TIME OF ATTACK: 1003/5/L.

TARGET: Enemy troops in FARIA RIVER VALLEY area (Ground Support)

RESULTS: 96 x 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 7500 feet on the target. Bombing excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

NOTE: Target was area 250 yards on each side of middle coordinates 708639—691657 (Ref. DUMPU-MT. NURARI, 1 inch to 1 mile).

A/A: Tracers from A/G fire were observed on both sides of ravine.

WEATHER: Heavy cumulus cloud layers at 6000 feet and 10000 feet from DOLODURA to LAE, breaking into scattered cumulus from LAE to DUMPU and over target area. Visibility 10 miles. Return route, same.

308 CC.(1)STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1220/5/I.

TARGET: RABAUL Township (Northeast part).

RESULTS: 54 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped on the target from 19000 feet on a heading of 360 degrees. All bombs hit target. A very large explosion and fire was started near TOBOI WHARF. 3 other large fires were started South of Wireless Station and near Oil and Coal Wharf. The entire area was blanketed with smoke rendering damage assessment difficult. One near miss was scored on an unidentified M/V near Burn's Philip Coal Wharf. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Intense, medium and heavy, accurate from positions Northwest, North and Northeast of VUNAKANAU and in Township, also from 20 to 25 unidentified Naval and Merchant vessels. Bursts were generally on level and on all sides of airplanes.

INTERCEPTION: 1 ZEKE attempted interception at 1230/L at 19000 feet over RABAUL. ZEKE came in [illegible] o'clock above and broke off just within range. Tail turret's bullets were seen entering fuselage.

SIGHTINGS: (All sightings over RABAUL area 1227/L to 1231/L at 19000 feet). 1 ZEKE was seen to crash in flames in APALIHLIHON BAY. Another ZEKE was seen to crash and explode on land. Approximately 10 ZEKES and 1 possible NICK were seen airborne. 20 to 25 unidentified Naval and Merchant vessels were observed, about one half of which were in SIMPSON HARBOR and the balance strung out from South of PEARD POINT to FAILI BAY. At least 5 were believed to be CA's. 5 unidentified airplanes were observed in VUNAKANAU fighter revetments. 1 unidentified vessel was seen near the BENIVUS with very wide beam and little or no superstructure. Vessel was giving off heavy white smoke.

WEATHER: Base to KIETA, 9/10 cumulus, tops 7000 feet. KIETA to RABAUL, solid overcast at 22000 feet, 6/10 cumulus, tops 14000 feet. Target, clear under overcast. SOLOMON SEA (On return), 6/10 cumulus, tops 12000 feet, cirro-cumulus overcast at 16000 feet. Ranges, CAPE MERCON to HOOD POINT, crossed at 11000 feet, 7/10 cumulus, tops 14000 feet.

308 CC.(2)STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1227/5/L.

TARGET: RABAUL Township (North [illegible] part).

RESULTS: A total of 54 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 19500 feet on a course of 40 degrees at the target. 48 bombs hit the target, 1 of which hit on former A.I.F. Barracks, 6 bombs were salvoed behind Customs Wharf one of which hit an unidentified ship near the Oil Wharf. 3 large fires were started; 1 behind Oil Wharf and 2 at base of hills behind Copra Wharf. 2 large explosions, to 500 feet, occurred behind Copra Wharf but no fires resulted. Damage to boat is unknown. Heavy smoke made damage assessment difficult. Photos were taken of the bombing and of shipping in the Harbor.

A/A: Intense, heavy, accurate fire from unobserved positions around Township, from warships and from 1 mile South of VUNAKANAU runway and 1 mile Northwest (5 B-24's were hit by A/A, all but 2 were shaken by bursts).

INTERCEPTION: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: (All sightings in the RABAUL area were made from 19500 feet from 1233/L to 1243/L). 4 unidentified aircraft were seen in fighter rendezvous at VUNAKANAU. 3 aircraft were seen taking off from RAPOPO. 4 enemy fighters were seen over SIMPSON HARBOR at a low altitude on course of 190 degrees. 1 unidentified fighter aircraft was seen to crash in BLANCHE BAY. 1 Jap fighter came from overhead and went down spinning in flames. 3 cruisers were observed in SIMPSON HARBOR near and just North of the BENIKIVA. Cruisers were stationary on approach and were last seen steaming for open water. 1 Cruiser and 4 or 5 DD's were observed in TALILI BAY. 1 Cruiser and at least 5 or 6 DD's were observed from FLAGSTAFF POINT to CAPE LAVOO. A total of about 35 large ships were seen, all underway. About 15 were probable warships. A big fire was observed in the dock [illegible] target.

WEATHER: KILINDINI, 9/10 cumulus to 10000 ft. Front lying along South coast of NEW BRITAIN in good formation to approach via ST. GEORGES CHANNEL. Front went to 25000 feet and extended almost as far West as CAPE ORFORD. Enroute to base, front last observed Eastward. Target, clear under overcast. Harbor, 7/10 cumulus at 11000/14000 feet.

308 G. AIRCRAFT ATTACK - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0634/5/L to 1941/5/L.

AREA OF ATTACK: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: Sugar-Charlie at 05408-144503.

RESULTS: 4 x 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1615/L from 3000 feet at a Sugar-Charlie at 05408-144503. 2 bombing runs were made. Bombs failed to release on first run and overshot target on second run--nearest bomb 150 feet. Vessel was strafed on both runs. Tracers were seen entering the boat with no apparent damage. Photos were taken of shipping (See SIGHTINGS). Recco was completed 100% as ordered.

A/A: Slight, light (1/3), inaccurate from Sugar-Charlie. 2 crew members observed a small white sphere hanging in the air over 1 Sugar-Charlie. Sphere was at 1000 feet and presents a possibility of barrage balloon.

SIGHTINGS: At 1615/L from 3000 feet, 2 Sugar-Charlies were observed at 05408-144503 on a course of 140 degrees at speed of 10 knots. At same time, 3 miles East of Sugar-Charlie, 1 Fox-Fare-Dog was observed on course 240 degrees at speed of 10 knots.

NIL SIGHTINGS: VITU ISLANDS at 1125/L from 11000 feet. 04308-150303 at 1152/L from 11000 feet. 05338-150303 at 1213/L from 11000 feet. 01458-144503 at 1524/L from 2000 feet. VITIAZ STRAITS at 1800/L from 6000 feet.

WEATHER: Ranges (Vis), 4 and. BISMARCK SEA, scattered cumulus, 4/10 to 6/10, 10000/12000 feet. Ranges on return from CAPE GLOUCESTER to VULA ISLAND, built up to 23000 feet.

308 CC.(3)STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1225/5/L to 1240/5/L.

TARGET: RABAUL Township.

RESULTS: A total of 54 x 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 18300/19000 feet on the target. Bombing was excellent. Strings of bombs were observed bursting simultaneously parallel to shore from Burn's Philip and Coaling Wharf, extending 1500/1800 feet inland. A large fire with flames to several hundred feet high was started 500 feet West of the Burn's Philip Wharf. Dense billowing black smoke came from shore North of Coaling Wharf. The entire target was covered with smoke as our airplanes left the area, one column towering to 5000 feet. Photos were taken of the bombing and of shipping in SIMPSON HARBOR.

A/A: Intense, medium and heavy, accurate from Riages Pt of Harbor; one position at North end of VUNAKANAU, from East end of SULPHUR CREEK and from warships. (3 B-24's received minor damage from A/A).

INTERCEPTION: 3 enemy fighters (1 HAMP, 1 ZEKE 52, and 1 unidentified) made one ineffective pass each right after bombing run. One enemy airplane approached from 3 o'clock high and half-rolled straight down past B-24. Another came in from 10/11 o'clock, on level and another from 4 o'clock below. Nil hits scored for either side. One top turret gunner fired at enemy fighter on tail of I-36 making it break away.

SIGHTINGS: Over target: 32 ships were counted in SIMPSON HARBOR; 1 CA or CL and 4 DD off TAWUI POINT; 3 CL's and 9 DD's in ST. GEORGES CHANNEL near PRICE POINT, also a large ship with apparently no superstructure. Ship resembled a large tanker or airplane transport. At 1239/L from 13000 feet over WATOM ISLAND, an unidentified fighter was seen to crash in the water ½ mile South of the Island. While over the target, an M/V near Coaling Wharf was seen smoking from a possible bomb hit.

WEATHER: Target, clear. SOLOMON SEA, East-West front 22000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

4 P-47's of the 348st Fighter Squadron carried out a fighter sweep to WEWAK. Over WEWAK at 1105/5/L, 12 TONYS were sighted at 16000 feet and 6 HAPS at 12000 feet. P-47's dived on enemy fighters from 27000 feet and definitely shot down 5 TONYS and 1 HAMP. All of our airplanes returned safely to base. At the time of the attack, 15 unidentified fighters were seen flying at minimum altitude.

Final Reports have not been received from the fighters which escorted B-24's to RABAUL today.

SETH C. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Hinman

PAUL E. HINMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2-Duty Officer.

ITALY:

Striking boldly in predawn darkness, British and Canadian troops of Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's 8th Army, captured the vital road junction of Isernia at the central heights of the Germany line early Thursday, as the enemy reeled back on almost every sector of the Italian front. On the 5th Army front near the Mediterranean, beaten Nazi troops streamed across the 14 mile wide Garigliano Valley toward their next refuge in the Aruncl mountain range. General Clark rushed tanks and heavy artillery into pursuit of the Germans along the 2 main highways to Rome.

LONDON:

The Russians have killed 900,000 Germans and taken 90,000 prisoners, more than half of them wounded, in 4 months of summer and autumn offensive that has cleared the East bank of the Dnieper River, a special Moscow announcement said. The broadcast by the Moscow radio said the offensive had successfully carried out the strategic operational plan of the Red Army Supreme Command by driving the enemy from the Sosh River-Smolensk line in the North, freeing the middle and lower Dnieper and liquidating the German bridgehead in the Caucasus. Meanwhile, the Red Army pressed on to capture Aleshki, opposite the Black Sea port of Kherson, near the mouth of the Dnieper River.

MADRID:

Reports of the movement of strong German forces into Southern France this week and elaborate defense preparations being taken along the Riviera, gave every indication that Berlin believes an Allied offensive against France is imminent. The Riviera coastal road has been closed to passenger traffic between Mentone and Saint Raphael and the German Labor Corps has been moving freight around the closed area where new fortifications apparently are being erected.

LONDON:

British Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, who arrived in Cairo on his way home from signing the Moscow Pact, will reassure the Turkish Government on Russia's aims in the Balkans and possibly may ask for Allied air bases in Turkey. The main purpose for a forthcoming meeting with Numan Menemencioglu, Turkish Foreign Minister, is to set at rest Turkey's long standing apprehensions about Soviet influence in the Black Sea area on the Balkans.

Following up 2 trip-hammer raids Wednesday in which perhaps 3500 tons of explosives were dropped, waves of Allied planes roared out over the Channel at dusk Thursday to continue the destruction.

United States Secretary of State, Cordell Hull and British Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, are homeward bound a Soviet broadcast said.

[illegible]:

A Berlin broadcast said British troops had sought a land in the rear of German lines in Eastern Italy, but this attempt collapsed under the fire of German artillery and the enemy suffered great losses.

WASHINGTON:

The Senate rejected Thursday an amendment by Senator Danaher, Republican of Connecticut, to incorporate into the Connally Post-War-Peace-Resolution, a statement of the principles of the Atlantic Charter. The vote was 70 to 15 against the Danaher amendment. Earlier, Senator Langer, Republican of North Dakota, had stopped efforts to bring the resolution to a final vote.

The War Labor Board took under consideration the coal mining agreement worked out by John L. Lewis and Secretary of the Interior, Ickes, while most of the 450,000 hard and soft coal miners continued idle. The War Labor Board must approve the agreement if it is to become effective. Meanwhile, Ickes said he would ask the Office of Price Administration to boost coal price ceilings.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 575, 5 November, 1943.

CERAM:

Our heavy units bombed enemy oil center of Boela, starting fires.

NEW IRELAND: KAVIENG:

One of our heavy reconnaissance bombers attacked an enemy convoy to the Northeast, damaging a Transport.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:

Our medium night patrols bombed the dispersal area [illegible]ora airdrome, starting fires.

NEW GUINEA:

Our long range fighters destroyed 7 enemy barges and strafed the Plantation area.

GAZELLE PENINSULA:

One of our patrol units bombed and sank an enemy 6000 ton enemy merchant vessel off CAPE PORAS.

VITU ISLAND:

One of our patrolling units bombed Garove Island.

NEW GUINEA: ALEXISHAFEN:

Our medium units, executing a coastal sweep at tree top height, bombed and

strafed
enemy installations from Alexishafen to Madang, destroying 4 barges at Hilitat harbor and a jetty at Dumpa.

SIO AREA:

Our Attack planes raided an enemy barge hideout, all bombs falling in the target area, and effectively bombed and strafed an enemy staging area and adjacent tracks at Fortification Point.

BUNA:

Enemy patrol aircraft lightly raided at dawn, causing negligible damage.

SOLOMONS: SOUTH PACIFIC FORCES: BOUGAINVILLE:

Additional details of enemy's night naval sortie of November 1st and 2nd, which attempted to intercept our Empress August Bay operation, reveal that his task force of 12 cruisers and destroyers was met by our naval screening forces 40 miles from the landing points. After a 90 minute action, the enemy forces fled to the West. Our naval forces after 2 hours of mopping operations, regrouped for protection against air attacks. Primary reports estimate that one enemy cruiser and 4 destroyers were sunk, and 2 other cruisers and 2 destroyers received hits. 17 of an estimated 67 enemy fighters and bombers which attacked our surface forces after dawn were destroyed. In the above actions, no Allied vessels were lost, though damage and casualties were sustained.

TREASURY ISLANDS:

Organized resistance on Toni Island has ceased, our patrols are mopping up enemy stragglers.

Report No. 310.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

– 6 NOV 1943

SECRET
AUTH: S.G.
INITS:
DATE: 6/11/43:

FROM: 1800/5/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/6/11/43/L.
V SOLDIER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (309 Y) took off at 1150/L to photograph RABAUL. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back over Ranges at 1213/L and landed at 1253/L.

Following report has been received from fighters which escorted B-24's to RABAUL yesterday. (5/11/43). From 20 to 25 enemy fighters were observed in the air in the target area. 2 enemy fighters were definately destroyed and 2 probably destroyed. 1 P-38 is lost.

MADANG: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (309 A) took off at 0805/L to photograph MADANG. Target was not reached due to interception at MADANG. F-5's escort (2 P-38's) were ordered to pursue enemy bombers. F-5 intended to land at NADZAB and await return of escort. F-5 was prevented from landing by 4 OSCARS which were coming in to strafe the airdrome so F-5 returned to base. At 0915/L, 4 unidentified fighters were observed heading towards LAE from offshore and A/A fire from LAE. F-5 returned to base at 1005/L.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (309 N) completed local a recce of CAPE GLOUCESTER. B-24 was over CAPE GLOUCESTER from 1545/L to 1605/L. 2 twin-engine airplanes serviceability undetermined—were seen on the No. 2 runway at CAPE GLOUCESTER at 1600/L. Slight, medium inaccurate A/A fire was received over CAPE GLOUCESTER.

WEWAK: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (309 Z) took operational photos of LAE, LAGUA, WEWAK and BOGAK Airdromes from 1215/L to 1225/L. There were nil sightings.

HANSA BAY: 1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (309 I) completed local a weather recce to HANSA BAY. Airplane took off at 0345/L and landed at 0905/L. There were nil sightings.

16 B-25C-1's and 16 B-25C's of the 38th Group (309 J) took off at 0737/L to attack shipping in HANSA BAY. Mission was incomplete due to failure to effect rendezvous with fighters at MARILINAN. Airplanes returned to base at 1030/L.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25 D-1 of the 498th Squadron (309 L) completed 100% a weather recce to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0530/L and landed at 1130/L. Airplane landed at NADZAB at 0830/L to send in weather reports as radio set on airplane was out. While at NADZAB, one crew member was injured by shrapnel from enemy bombers attacking NADZAB at the time.

1 B-25 G of the 823rd Squadron (309 D) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0630/L and landed at 1220/L. Airplane left NADZAB as red alert was sounded--landed at GUSAP at 1010/L just as strafing attack on drome was begun by 2 ZEKES. Our airplane was not damaged.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (309 A) completed 100% an armed recce to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E. At 1317/L, 3 CL's and 1 DD were sighted at 0010S-14350E on course 310 degrees at speed of 18 knots. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at one of the CL's. Bombs missed by 75/100 feet. Nil damage observed. Intense, medium and heavy, accurate A/A fire was received from the ships. At 1600/L, 3 sailboats were sighted at 0200S-14730E on course 300 degrees. There were nil other sightings.

1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (309 B) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON [illegible]. At 1257/L, one white object, 3 feet by 6 feet, similar to shape of bomb bay tank, was seen at 0450S-15230E. At 1400/L, 2 empty life boats, one with numeral "2" painted on bow and oars shipped in boat and a third capsized life boat, with hole in bottom and numeral "1" on bow, were seen at 0705S-15125E. Boats were about 20 feet long, had pointed ends and 4 thwarts. Nearby was a box-like structure, about 14 feet square, with machine gun, 2 feet loop antenna and railing around top such as a deck house. Other small pieces of wreckage were in vicinity including [illegible] resembling windbreak on ships railing. At 1500/L, 2 unidentified single-engine airplanes were seen at 0700S-15130E. Airplanes flew away on course 360 degrees as our airplane approached and [illegible] airplane at 200 feet altitude. At 1510/L, an airplane resembling an A-20 was seen at 0730S-15130E on course 150 degrees at 10000 feet. Piece of large wreckage

near lifeboats, suggested possibility camouflaged Jap SS with boats as here. Proximity of fleeing airplanes added to suspicion.

1 B-24 of the 43rd Group (309 C) took off at 0626/L to carry out an armed reconnaissance of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Fin Mission report has been received.

NOTE: The following missions were cancelled today:

309 M. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

AREA OF PHOTO: MADANG, ALEXISHAFEN and North coast of NEW BRITAIN.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Following our attacks of 4 November in the JIVEVANENG area the enemy has abandoned his positions at 590663 and 593665. Our patrols have been very active throughout the whole area and our artillery have engaged enemy positions on the SATELBERG TRACK and at BONGA.

RAMU VALLEY AREA: Following the air strike of 5 November, our troops raided enemy positions on the upper FARIA RIVER. Results are not yet to hand.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
6 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
WUT	7		7					14	=6
DAGUA	5	1	12					18	-2
WEWAK	16	3	5			3		27	=7
BORAM	35	2						37	=24
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
Total	71	42	34			3		150	=35

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
KAVIENG	17		6			4		27	0
VUNAKANAU	37	28	4					69	0
LAKUNAI	58	4	7					69	-14
RAPOPO	3	10	2					15	0
HARBOR						12		12	0
TOBERA	27		3					30	-12
Total	142	42	22			16		222	-26

SOLOMONS:									
BUKA	4							4	0
BONIS	1							1	0
KAHILI	1							1	0
BALLALE	3							3	0
FAISI						9		9	0
Total	9					9		18	0

COMMENTS:

1. BUT, DAGUA, WEWAK and BORAM were photoed today (6/11/43). WEWAK had 75% photo coverage and BORAM 85%. A few more planes may be hidden by cloud cover. HOLLANDIA and WAYDE are estimates based on old photo coverage.

2. 13 SSF were deducted from former LAKUNAI drome count and 12 SSF from TOBERA following losses incurred by the enemy on 5/11/43 in SOLOMONS and RABAUL interceptions. 1 L/B has also been deducted from LAKUNAI for loss incurred in SOLOMONS.

3. SOLOMONS dromes were photoed 3/11/43. FAISI F/P count is an estimate.

C. Air Raids.

NADZAB:

Enemy airplanes bombed and strafed NADZAB and GUSAP airdromes today. Complete reports are not at hand. Preliminary reports give the following information:

> At 0855/L, 10 enemy B/B's and 10 enemy SSF attacked NADZAB from the North dropping an unknown number of daisy cutter bombs on No. 4 strip. At 0905/L, 3 OSCARS strafed No. 4 strip causing damage and casualties. No details are available on the raid at GUSAP.
> (Report of enemy parachutes dropped; 1 North and 5 West of ERAP VA. is being investigated)

III. PHOTO INTERPRETATIONS.

LAKUNAI: 2/11/43 and 3/11/43. (305 W & 306 W)

Good vertical and oblique photographs of LAKUNAI airdrome before, during and after the shipping strike of 2 November, 1943.

Airplanes. The following airplanes were present on LAKUNAI on 3 November, 1943 at 0925/L.

Serviceable	Believed Unserviceable	Definitely U/S
55 SSF (1 "ZEKE")	10 SSF	2 "ZEKE"
2 M/B (airborne)	6 M/B (2 BETTY, 4 SALLY)	2 M/B
5 R/P DINAH	2 Transports	7 R/P DINAH
3 D/B VAL	1 D/B VAL	
1 U/I 2-Engine		
66 TOTAL	21 TOTAL	11 TOTAL

In addition to the above count of unserviceable airplanes there are many pieces of wreckage on the airdrome. There is also a salvage or scrap pile of wrecked airplanes located Northwest of the drome behind the F/P slipway North of SULPHUR CREEK.

Photographs of the Strike on 25 October, 1943, show frag. bombs bursting within 100 feet of the 2 BETTYS and 4 SALLYS. However, they do not appear to be extensively damaged on the low altitude obliques taken 2 November, 1943, at 1350/L.

The unidentified 2-engined airplane is a new type L/B or R/P similar to the R/P DINAH. It is a two engine, low wing with retractable landing gear airplane. The canopy is rather high and the fuselage just forward of the tail assembly resembles a LILY. It is approximately the same size as the DINAH. These are the first photographs that reveal any detail on this airplane.

Damage. Very little damage was caused to the drome or its installations as the amount of bombs dropped was small and limited to only one end of the runway. One fire was caused in the repair area Northwest of the runway at the end of SULPHUR CREEK. One fire was visible on the runway but this is believed to be a crashed airplane. Some further damage may have been caused to the bombers and transports at the West end of the runway.

Construction. Nil new construction.

On the North side between the runway and dispersal area there is a metal strip resembling our steel matting runway. It is 350 by 2800 feet and probably used only

as a wet weather runway. [illegible]
South dispersal area have the same type surface.

Located at the Northwest end of the runway is a covered revetment approximately 70 by 90 feet. The top is supported by steel or wood girders and is covered with sod or planted grass as are the sides. This structure has been finished at least a month but no signs of extensive use are visible. It is at present, empty.

The revetments in the North dispersal area are generally of a sand bag construction. Those in the South area are covered with growing grass and vines but it is believed that they are of similar construction.

Japanese. Good low altitude oblique photographs taken of the SULPHUR CREEK area show the heavy A/A in revetments, on the South side of the Creek. The guns are twin barrelled, possibly power operated by remote control. There are recoil cylinders on either side of each barrel on the guns, excepting the Westernmost gun where one of the barrels has no recoil cylinders and may be therefore, damaged or at present non-operational. A shield protects the operator who can be seen at each of the guns. Centrally located between the 2 guns is a covered rectangular building on top of which are the fire control instruments. It is possible that more equipment is housed within the building. Adjacent to the building, and connected to it by a cat-walk, is a platform with a height-finder on it. The caliber of the guns is not known but it is considered to be 3" or larger. (AMIS Interrogation Report No. 184 stated that two 105 mm Naval High Angle guns, operated by Naval personnel were set up near LAKUNAI airfield on the road leading to town). The guns and the control are similar to those photographed at VUNAKANAU Airdrome 12 October, 1943, and to those photographed 2 November, 1943, on the South end of MATUPI ISLAND.

About 150 feet West of the guns discussed above are several Japanese in a revetment who may be operating a comparator. In a nearby revetment is a sound locator unit (Resembling M 1930). Located to the Northwest on either side of SULPHUR CREEK are 2 searchlights in revetments. The searchlights appear to be similar to 105 cm M 1933 Type. The revetments are on top of low mounds which are either personnel shelters or which house the individual power units for each light.

About 1000 feet South of SULPHUR CREEK, in a revetment is a covered 25 mm gun with barrels removed.

Photographs do not cover all the defenses in this area but 2 three-barrelled Naval Type 25 mm guns in revetments can be seen at the East end of SULPHUR CREEK. Shelters for personnel or ammunition are nearby.

Tentatively located at 600 feet South of the West end of SULPHUR CREEK is a dummy A/A gun in a revetment.

GAROVE ISLAND: 2/11/43. (305 B)

Cloudy vertical photographs covering a strip 2½ miles wide across GAROVE ISLAND from PETER HARBOR to WIDE HARBOR and completely covering MUNDUA and VINCORA ISLANDS. Most of the Western part of GAROVE ISLAND is cloud-covered.

Activity. There is fairly heavy ground activity at PETER HARBOR, on the Northeast side of GAROVE ISLAND.

Clearing activity is visible on the North and South sides of the Harbor. Track activity at the 4 large buildings on the North side of the Harbor indicates that they are in use. An M/T or cart road runs Northwest from the buildings for a distance of half a mile. Along the road and extending Westward for about 1000 feet, is a bivouac or stores dispersal area, with especially heavy track activity at the edges of a Ficus Grove in this area. 4 medium sized buildings at the North end of the road and 5 large ones at the Ficus Grove are probably in use.

There is a well used foot path running Northeast from a group of 16 native type huts about 1 mile Northwest of the Harbor.

There is no evidence of unusual activity on the remainder of that part of GAROVE ISLAND covered by photographs, or on MUNDUA and VINCORA ISLANDS

Defenses. 4 probably light or medium A/A positions near 2 buildings 1300 feet WNW of the main jetty in PETER HARBOR.

2 probable light or medium A/A positions 2500 feet South of main jetty.

2 possible light A/A positions 2000 feet South of the main jetty.

Shipping. Nil shipping is visible.

In addition to the large main jetty, there is a smaller jetty 600 feet to the Northwest.

TOBRA: 2/11/43 and 3/11/43. (305 W & 306 W)

2 NOVEMBER, 1943.

Good vertical photographs 98% coverage.

25 F in dispersal area and on drome.

11 F are located on the hard surfaced parking area at the Southwest corner of the runway.

3 F are on West apron (2 on North and 1 on South)

The remaining 11 are dispersed in the revetments on the Southeastern side of the drome.

No new defenses are noted. The runway appears in good condition.

Roadways in and around drome do not appear to have been subjected to excessive use since last photos.

No major changes since 29 October, 1943, pictures.

3 NOVEMBER, 1943.

40 F in dispersal area and on drome.

15 are located on the hard surfaced parking area at the Southwest corner of the runway.

6 F are on the North side of the Western end of the runway.

The remaining 19 are dispersed throughout the dispersal area.

There appears to be 3 I/3's in the dispersal area but because of small scale (1/17500) and indistinctness at this particular point, it is difficult to ascertain whether or not 2 of these are actually airplanes.

No changes in the airdrome or defenses is noted.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

309 I. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0345/G/L to 0905/G/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to HANSA BAY and return.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed as ordered. B-24 was over HANSA BAY from 0600/L to 0640/L. Route flown: PORT MORESBY, YULE ISLAND, MARILINAN, 0500S-14600E, HANSA BAY, KARKAR ISLAND, MARILINAN, KETEMA and PORT MORESBY.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND to MARILINAN, impossible to determine weather due to darkness. HANSA BAY, clear, 15 miles inland, clouds breaking up. On return-Ranges-6/10 cumulus at 8000 feet, lower layer at 4000 feet. 10 to 15 miles inland from MADANG, strato-cumulus at 10000 feet.

309 J. STRIKE - 16 B-25C-1's, 16 B-25G's, 38th Group.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: Shipping in HANSA BAY.

RESULTS: Mission incomplete due to failure to effect rendezvous with fighters at MARILINAN. Radio intercept indicated that fighters had gone to NADZAB to intercept enemy airplanes. B-25's took off at 0737/L, circled MARILINAN from 0847/L to 0938/L and landed at 1030/L.

WEATHER: CAVU over MARILINAN. 3/10 cumulus with bases at 7000/8000 feet over the Ranges.

309 L. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0530/G/L to 1130/G/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to NADZAB, GASMATA, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings. Airplane landed at NADZAB at 0630/L to send back weather reports, liaison set in airplane was cut. Took off from NADZAB at 0945/L. While at NADZAB, engineer-gunner was injured by shrapnel from enemy bombers attacking NADZAB at that time.

WEATHER: MADZ. B, 0720/L, broken clouds at 2000 feet, visibility 20 miles. [illegible], 0809/L, lower overcast on part of runway at 600 feet, balance of runway open, visibility 4 miles. LAE, 0730/L, CAVU.

309 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: MAVIRING.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to interception at MADZAB. Nil photos were taken.

INTERCEPTION: At 0900/L an F-5 pilot was buzzing MADZAB metal strip, he met four OSCARS coming from the opposite direction apparently starting to strafe. OSCARS who were coming at the F-5 on a 9 o'clock pass, turned up and F-5 made a slow turn using full power to evade OSCARS.

The 2 P-38 fighter escort left F-5 near MADZAB (pos. to 0900/L) when ordered to pursue enemy bombers. F-5 planned to land at MADZAB to await return of P-38 escort but returned to base when intercepted by OSCARS.

SIGHTINGS: At 0915/L, four unidentified fighter airplanes were observed off the LAE coast heading towards LAE and A/A fire from LAE which was bursting among the fighter airplanes. Nil hits observed.

WEATHER: Ranges, 2/10 low cumulus to 12000 feet.

309 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Nil photos were taken. F-5 took off at 1150/L, turned back at the Ranges at 1215/L and landed at 1253/L.

WEATHER: Ranges, cumulus at 14000 feet. North coast appeared socked in.

309 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1215/6/L to 1225/6/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken of SUT, DAGUA, WEWAK and BOROM airdromes as requested. Mission was [illegible] completed with nil sightings.

WEATHER: WEWAK, cumulus to 10000 feet, 5/10 covered. RABAUL, clear

309 D. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0630/6/L to 1220/6/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE and return to base. Airplane left NADZAB as red alert was called. Landed at GUSAP at 1010/L just as strafing attack on airdrome was begun by 2 ZEKES. Our airplane was not damaged. Took off from GUSAP at 1020/L.

SIGHTINGS: Numerous dog-fights were seen over GUSAP from 1015/L to 1020/L. One C-47 was burning on GUSAP strip as result of strafing. Another C-47 was hit many times by strafing fire but did not burn.

WEATHER: Cumulus and cumulo-nimbus building up over Ranges.

308 I. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0639/5/L to 1815/5/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return

TARGET: CAROVE ISLAND.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were salvoed on CAROVE ISLAND at 1615/L from 14200 feet with nil apparent damage. Bomb rack system failed to function over target. Recco was 90% completed due to sighting enemy convoy before reaching Northernmost coordinate. Photos were taken of the convoy. (See SIGHTINGS).

A/A: Intense, heavy, accurate at 6700 feet from warships in convoy. (B-24 was hit once by A/A fire).

SIGHTINGS: At 1315/L from 6700 feet a 9 ship convoy was sighted at 0200N-15040E. Convoy consisted of 2 CA's, 4 CL's, 2 DD's and 1 AD. Convoy was on course 360 degrees. (Vessels classed as AD may have been DD. 1 CA and the AD appeared to have been transferring fuel although accuracy of A/A fire from vessels did not give our crew sufficient time to make good identification. B-24 did not have sufficient fuel to

climb to high altitude). The 2 CA took evasive action around group of 7 other vessels. Ships did not appear to scatter during time our airplane was in vicinity. 7 stationary ships were headed due North. Only 2 of the warships appeared to be warships.

WEATHER: Enroute, generally clear. Area of recce, 5/10 covered with scattered cumulus at 5000 feet. A shallow front was encountered at 0300S on return.

309 M. RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 1236/6/L to 1813/6/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to CAPE GLOUCESTER and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Airplane was over CAPE GLOUCESTER from 1545/L to 1605/L. Photos were taken of the CAPE GLOUCESTER area near coast 5 miles East of the runway.

A/A: Slight, medium, inaccurate from 2 gun positions on ridge 4500 feet South of center of No. 2 runway.

SIGHTINGS: At 1600/L from 6500 feet, 2 four-engine airplanes were seen at center on South side of No. 2 runway—serviceability undetermined.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 7/10, alto-stratus overcast at 19000 feet. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 6/10 cumulus at 2000 feet to 6000 feet. Ranges, 8/10 covered building up to 18000 feet.

309 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0700/6/L to 1755/6/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245S-14940E, 02001-15140E and return.

TARGET: CL at 00103-14850E.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped at 1537/L from 9500 feet at a CL at 00103-14850E. Nearest bomb missed by 75/100 feet—no damage observed. Photos were taken of the bombing and of convoy (See STRIKE). Recce was 100% completed as ordered.

A/A: Intense, medium and heavy, accurate from 3 CL's. Bursts were below and on all sides on level. Guns developed long black arms similar to that seen at RABAUL on 5 November.

SIGHTINGS: At 1020/L from 1500 feet, 3 sailboats, approximately 18 feet long, were seen at 0200S-14730E on course 300 degrees. At 1317/L from 10000 feet, 3 CL's, (possibly KUMA Class—3 stacks, 2 turrets forward, aft) and 1 DD were sighted at 0010S-14850E on course 310 degrees at speed of 16 knots.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed from REDSCAR BAY to SALAMAUA at 10000 feet, 2/10 cumulus at 2000 feet, 1/10 cirro-cumulus at 35000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, 5/10 cumulus, base 4000 feet, tops 15000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, 6/10 cumulus, tops 18000 feet. EQUATOR, 3/10 cumulus, 3000 feet. Ranges—LASANGA ISLAND to PORT MORESBY—crossed at 16000 feet, solid cumulus to undetermined height.

309 B. AIRCRAFT RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0832/6/L to 1735/6/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to 04S-145E, 0600S-151E, 0600S-15330E, 0535S-15330E, 0535S-15230E, 0450S-15230E, 0450S-15400E, 0615S-15400E and return.

SIGHTINGS: At 1257/L from 250 feet, a white object, 3 feet by 6 feet, slightly above water and similar in shape to a bomb bay tank, was seen at 0450S-15230E. At 1445/L from 50/200 feet, position 0700S-15123E, 2 empty life boats; one with numeral "2" painted on bow and one shipped in boat, and a third lifeboat, capsized with a hole in the bottom and numeral "1" painted on bow, were sighted. Boats were about 20 feet long, pointed at both ends, and had 4 thwarts. Nearby was a small structure about 14 feet square, with machine gun, 2 foot loop antennae and railing around top such as on deckhouse. Other small pieces of wreckage were in the vicinity, including a strip of canvas resembling windbreak on ship railing. At 1500/L from 200 feet, position 0700S-15130E, 2 unidentified single-engine airplanes flew over on course 240 degrees as our airplane approached. Unidentified airplanes strafed our airplane at 200 feet altitude. At 1510/L from 400 feet an airplane resembling an A-20 was sighted at 0700S-15130E on course 150 degrees at 1000 feet. Rear gunner of our airplane fired a short burst—no hits were seen. Pieces of large wreckage near lifeboats suggests possibility of camouflaged ship 88 with boat as lure. Proximity of floating airplanes adds to suspicion.

WEATHER: HOOD POINT to CAPE NELSON at 9000 feet, clear. CAPE NELSON, 10/10 cumulus and alto-stratus at 20000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, 5/10 cumulus, bases 500/2000 feet, tops 6000 feet, cumulus and alto-stratus at 15000/20000 ft. Ranges (Enroute to base), 6/10 cumulus to 20000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

8 Squadrons of P-38's escorted B-24's to RABAUL yesterday (5/11/43). 20 to 25 enemy fighters were observed, airborne, in target area. The 9th Fighter Squadron destroyed 2 enemy fighters definitely and 1 probably. 1 P-38 of this Squadron was lost. The 39th Fighter Squadron claimed 1 enemy fighter probably destroyed. The other 4 Squadrons were not engaged.

No report has been received of the combat in the NADZAB-GUSAP area today.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Ass't Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

PAUL E. MAURAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

SITUATION REVIEW — GROUND OPERATIONS

ALLIED AND ENEMY

TO: 5 November, 1943.

GENERAL: In the FINSCHHAFEN area, there has been little activity excepting for patrolling on both sides. Our troops have improved their positions generally and some slight advance has been made.

Activity in the RAMU VALLEY has been confined to patrolling and general consolidation of lines of communication. Some slight contact has been made. The enemy appears to be strengthening his defences in the KISA area apparently with a view to covering his right flank.

Allied landings at TREASURY ISLAND, CHOISEUL ISLAND and BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND during the past week have further weakened the enemy's hold on the SOLOMONS ISLANDS.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Following the withdrawal of the enemy from KATIKA and the consequent extending our perimeter, the situation has become largely static. The main activity has been confined to extensive patrolling by our troops and sharp clashes have resulted.

Strong enemy positions exist on the high ground in the area West of KATIKA.

Our patrols have been active towards BONGA and Northeast to the BONGA - WANDO track with little contact but the enemy is established on the high ground to the Southwest in the area 6372.

Our artillery have been active against FIOR, PALAMIO and other known enemy bases positions.

In the SATELBERG area after stiff fighting, our troops report the SATELBERG TRACK is in our hands as far as JIVERANENG to the West. In the KUNIA area, the enemy still holds strong positions to the North and West of the Village.

RAMU VALLEY AREA: Except for patrol activity, the situation in this area is stati

The enemy is very active along his BOGADJIM ROAD line of communication and there are indications of new staging camps along this road.

All tracks are much used and KISA appears to be used as a supply base. A general strengthening of defences in the KISA area is taking place and the enemy is apparently attempting to secure his right flank.

[signature], Captain,
Air Liaison Officer
V Bomber Command.

ITALY:

While the hard driving British 8th Army slashed on toward the enemy main supply lifeline, the Trigno River sector on the Adriatic, the 5th Army also chalked up small advances. The two Armies together overran more than a score of towns and villages in their advances Thursday, it was disclosed at Headquarters. American troops were fighting on the heights overlooking Venafro, a central anchor of the Nazis collapsed Massico Ridge line, and the city's fall was believed imminent. All along the front German troops were falling back under continuous heavy pressure their next stand along the Aurunci Range. Hope was that Allied Forces would fight their way into Rome, not only 75 miles away, by Christmas or New Year.

LONDON:

The Red Army in a sudden sweep behind the German lines at Kiev, cut the Kiev Zhitomir highway Friday, the Soviet High Command announced. The Russians overran a dozen strongly fortified enemy centers in their new drive including the town of Priorka, only 3 miles North of Kiev, the Daily Communique said. The Russians already had closed in on Kiev from the East, reaching the Dnieper River and then taking several islands in the river lying below the city which is on the Dnieper's high West bank defended by cliff fortifications. The Germans several days ago announced that the Russians had opened a powerful offensive North of Kiev but the Russians had been silent until Thursday night when they announced they had taken the town of Dimer, 20 miles to the North, cutting a highway. The Russians reported capturing more than 30 populated places in the lower Dnieper area Friday and 14 more in the Dnieper bend area Southwest of Dnepropetrovsk. To the North in the Nevel area, local engagements continued, the Daily Bulletin said.

New successes in Montenegro by Yugoslav Partisans fighters under General Broz Tito were claimed Friday while across the country in the mountainous Bulgarian frontier, other Patriotic guerrillas were reported waging an increasingly furious battle against Axis garrisons. A Communique from the Secret Free Yugoslav Radio station said the Partisans had seized the Nazi stronghold of Bicco.

CHUNGKING:

Striking out along a 90 mile front in the Yangtze River area, scene last May of a disastrous Japanese campaign, 30,000 Japanese backed by large reserves have scored general gains in an apparent desparate effort to forestall a General Allied offensive, the Chinese announced today. President Roosevelt in Washington said complete agreement has been reached by China, the United States and Britain in conferences at Washington for a coordinated offensive on the Asiatic continent. American trained Chinese troops are engaging in almost continual small clashes with the Japanese in Northern Burma where the Chinese are advancing to protect a supply road being constructed by American and Chinese Engineering troops from Assam to the Burma Road, a British Communique from New Delhi said. Associated Press dispatches from the area said the Chinese had advanced 100 miles into Burma from the Ledo Road in Northeastern India and occupied the upper half of the Hukawn Valley, about half-way across the Northern tip of Burma. Death of the first American soldier from enemy action in that area was reported.

WASHINGTON:

In a momentous confe. ence at Chungking, American, British and Chinese military men have reached complete agreement on the conduct and supply of continental operations against the Japanese, President Roosevelt announced Friday. Mr. Roosevelt told his press, radio conference, that the meeting was extremely successful but could n.t go into details. He said that among those attending was Admiral Lord Mountbatten, the Allied Supreme Commander in South Asia, and suggested that the conference was probably concerned with coordination of all forces for the reconquest of Burma.

Russia and Czechoslovakia, have completed negotiat ns for a 20 year defensive military alliance against Germany and the Czech s President, Benes, will go to Moscow to sign the treaty. This report from responsible diplomatic sources said that the alliance, which has been in discussion for over a year, carries with a provision for later adherence of other countries bordering on Russia and Czechoslovakia.

STOCKHOLM:

The newspaper Social Demokraten, said Friday, the Finnish Government had instructed Juho Paasikivi, former Minister to Russia, to be ready to go to Moscow presumably to discuss negotiations for a separate peace. Paasikivi played an important role in the negotiat ns which brought an end to the Finnish-Russian war of 1939-40. Finland's fate will be settled within a few days, the Social Demokraten declared.

Positive evidence comes from Germany that Nazi Leaders are not slackening in the war effort despite signs of a growing spirit of defeatism and troubles with Austria. The fact that a mighty fleet of American multi-motored bombers again attacked Willhamshaven, and that the R.A.F. was forced to return with more tons of explosives for Duesseldorf and Cologne this week, was evidence that the Germans during the past 5 months have succeeded in resuming production in bombed industries. Other signs that Germany is mustering all her available strength were seen in a report that 19 Army Divisions were shifted from important sectors of Europe to provide protective cover for the Eastern front.

WASHINGTON:

As part of an overall preparation for post-war prosperity, the Senate Truman Committee recommended Friday that consideration be given to seeking some repayment from the British for Lend-Lease shipments. If England can not pay in dollars for the petroleum she needs, the Committee recommended that some thought be given to U. S. acquisition of British held reserves in Asia, South American and the Dutch East Indies.

LONDON:

Prime Minister Churchill in a written reply to a House of Commons questioner, said Friday the British Government is considering issuing a white paper explaining the working of Lend-Lease.

WASHINGTON:

American prisoners of war in Germany were asked by their German guards if the British and Americans are going to allow the Russians to take over Germany. One American soldier states that the most frightening thing for the prison guards was that the Russians were getting nearer to Germany.

SAN FRANCISCO:

The Army moved into the Tule Lake segregation center for disloyal Japanese after the internees were reported to have staged another uprising. The Chronicle said 1,000 troops with a dozen tanks took control of the camp in Northern California after a Civilian Security Guard was badly beaten.

ANN ARBOR: MICHIGAN:

Army pilot Tom Harmon, Michigan's All-American football player, is reported missing in action over China.

WASHINGTON:

The Senate voted overwhelming approval Friday of the Connally Post-War Resolution covering the establishment of a General International organization with power to prevent aggression and preserve the Peace of the World.

G.H.Q. SOUTH EAST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 574, 6 November, 1943.

NEW IRELAND: KAVIENG:

Our heavy units from the South Pacific attacked a 6 ship enemy convoy with 57 tons of bombs, scoring direct hits which left a large cargo ship stationary and listing heavily to port, and set fire to another cargo vessel. Four of twenty intercepting fighters were shot down with 3 others probably. We lost one bomber. A heavy reconnaissance unit sighted a large Southbound enemy North of Mussau Island, apparently headed for Rabaul, and bombed one of the escorting destroyers. Our night reconnaissance units attacked three medium merchant vessels South of New Hanover.

NEW BRITAIN: JACQUINOT BAY:

Our fighters and attack planes executed a coordinated bombing and strafing raid on enemy occupied Palmalmal Plantation and Malmal Mission.

WIDE BAY:

Our long range fighters strafed and damaged enemy installations at Lalaalai Plantation.

CAPE GLOUCESTER:

Our heavy reconnaissance units at night bombed and sank a 1000 ton cargo ship to the Northeast.

RABAUL:

Our air reconnaissance has reported heavy enemy reinforcements proceeding to Rabaul. A force of 19 ships, largely cruisers and destroyers, have been seen coming from the direction of Truk. Several convoys of merchant ships were also spotted proceeding there. The enemy is apparently endeavoring to retrieve the situation at Rabaul and is utilizing to the full his capacity for rapid replacement.

NEW GUINEA: HUON BAY:

One of our night reconnaissance units strafed and badly damaged 2 enemy barges and a large lugger near Ulingan Harbor.

FINSCHHAFEN:

A single enemy fighter raided at Tangemak Bay without damage or casualties. Our artillery continues to shell enemy rear supply areas.

SOLOMONS: SOUTH PACIFIC FORCES: BOUGAINVILLE: EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY:

Our ground forces are consolidating their positions and mopping up on offshore islands.

TREASURY ISLANDS:

A minor night air raid occured at Stirling Island, with no resulting damage.

NEW GEORGIA: MUNDA:

Enemy night patrols raided three times, all bombs falling harmlessly in the water.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP
- 8 NOV 1943

Report No. 311.

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INIT:
DATE: 7/11/43:

FROM: 1800/6/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/7/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (310 --) completed 1[illegible] a weather recce to RABAUL. Airplane took off at 0[illegible]/L and landed at 0930/L. There were nil sightings.

25 B-24's of the 90th Group (310 CC) bombed LAKUNAI Airdrome from 1231/L to 1234/L. 167 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped from 20000/24000 feet on the target. One large fire was started in southern half of dispersal area--probably burning airplane. One medium sized fire was started in S.East half of Western dispersal area--probably burning airplane. Several small fires were started in dispersal area. One large fire was started in East dispersal area--black smoke indicating possible fuel dump. Bomb bombs fell 3000 feet West of runway in bivouac area probably causing damage to barracks and material. 9 H/B's and 3 fighters were destroyed on the ground. Moderate to intense, heavy, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire was received, mostly from warships in BLANCHE BAY. Enemy fighter flying above our formation dropped aerial burst bombs of phosphorous type. Only minor damage was caused by these bombs. Approximately 50 fighters were seen airborne in the area. Enemy fighters intercepted just after bombing run and in majority of cases did not press attacks. 13 enemy fighters were claimed definitely shot down, 5 probably shot down and 4 damaged. An estimated 5 to 6 CA's or CL's and 9 DD's were seen manoeuvering off PRAED POINT. SIMPSON HARBOR was cloud covered restricting observation of vessels in the harbor. Primary target (RABAUL Township) was closed in by weather.

Preliminary reports from 5 of the 6 Fighter Squadrons escorting B-24's to RABAUL show the following results: 10 enemy fighters definitely destroyed, 3 probably destroyed. 5 of our airplanes are missing.

1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (10 X) took off at 0929/L to photograph RABAUL. Target was not reached due to weather. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

KAVIENG: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (310 W) took off at 0907/L to photograph KAVIENG. Target was not reached due to weather. Photos were taken from 1200/L to 1235/L of UNEA ISLAND, REIN BAY, CAPE CAUFFRE, BORGEN BAY and CAPE GLOUCESTER. There were nil sightings.

WEWAK: 1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (310 D) completed 100% a weather recce of WEWAK. Airplane took off at 0200/L and landed at 0905/L. There were nil sightings.

18 B-25C-1's and 18 B-25G's of the 38th Group (310 H) took off at 0645/L to bomb WEWAK and BOram Airdrome, the WEWAK Township and CAPE BOram. Mission was incomplete due to preoccupation of fighters with forces of enemy bombers and fighters over NADZAB at 0815/L. 1 B-25G of the 822nd Squadron was intercepted by 6 ZEKES over NADZAB. One of the ZEKES was hit and claimed as probably destroyed. Airplanes returned to base at 0915/L.

(310 Y)

NEW BRITAIN-RAMU VALLEY: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron took mapping photos of the RAMU area and from SIKAN ISLAND to CAPE GAULT. Operational photos were taken of ALEXISHAFEN DROME, and Township and CAPE GLOUCESTER airdromes. Photos were taken from 1040/L to 1140/L. 3 unidentified fighters were seen at 1135/L in the RAMU VALLEY at 11000 feet on course S outbound.

NADZAB-MARKHAM VALLEY: 1 B-25D-1 of the 496th Squad (310 E) completed 100% a weather recce to NADZAB and MARKHAM VALLEY. Airplane took off at 0530/L and landed at 0815/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 822nd Squadron (310 F) completed 100% a Courier Mission to CUSAP, NADZAB and LAE. Airplane took off at 0630/L and landed at 1355/L. Airplane was at NADZAB at 0815/L during attack by enemy bombers.

Fighters of the 36th and 40th Fighter Squadrons intercepted an enemy force of 9 M/B's (NELLS and BETTYS) and 10 OSCARS at 0815/L in the NADZAB area. 7 M/B's and 2 OSCARS were definitely destroyed and 2 M/B's and 3 OSCARS were probably destroyed.

ALEXISHAFEN-SAIDOR: In 3 separate encounters over ALEXISHAFEN, MADANG and SAIDOR, fighters of the 8th and 342nd Squadrons destroyed 11 enemy fighters definitely and 4 fighter probably.

PORT MORESBY-CAPE NELSON: 1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (310 M) completed 100% a weather recce from base to CAPE NELSON and return. Airplane took off at 1259/L and landed at 1633/L.

SEA
SEARCH:

1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (310 A) completed 100% an armed recce. to 0245S-15340E, 0200S-15140E. At 1330/L, 1 Fox-Baker, 1 Sugar-Able and 3 Sugar-Charlies were sighted at 0056N-15105E on a course 200 degrees. At 1400/L, 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at the Fox-Baker. Bombs missed by 200 feet with nil damage observed. 1 probable PETE made one pass at our airplane at 1340/L in vicinity of the convoy. Tracers hit PETE which was believed dam[illegible] A probable SS was seen at 1028/L at 0120S-154[illegible].

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (310 B) completed 100% an armed recce. of the SOLOMON SEA. 2 unoccupied life rafts and a life-boat was sighted at 1040/L at 0630S-15220E. A large oil slick and wreckage was seen at 1225/L at 0630S-15400E. 2 men were seen clinging to wreckage but hid from our airplane. A stationary double ended craft resembling a LC was seen at 1336/L at 0650S-15255E. 2 men in green uniforms occupied the craft. One or more yellow crates, similar to our rafts, was seen in the craft. 2 guns and 2 machine guns mounted on one side toward end of well-deck.

1 B-24 of the 43rd Group (310 C) took off at 0629/L to carry out a recce. of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane landed at TOROKINA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

B. Ground Forces.

RAMU AREA: Our patrols contacted a small enemy force in the vicinity of BARRINGER (8234). Otherwise, no change.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Our patrol contacted a Jap position near KUMAM at 563657. No further reports to hand.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
7 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/F	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7		7					14	0
DAGUA	5	1	12					18	0
HEWAK	16	3	5			6		30	+3
BORAM	35	2						37	0
ALEXISHAFEN	38	7	4					49	+9
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
Total	109	49	38			6		202	+52

N. BRITAIN:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	S/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
KAVIENG	17		6			4		27	0
VUNAKANAU	37	28	4					69	0
LAKUNAI	42	4	7					53	-16
RAPOPO	3	2	1					6	-9
RABAUL						12		12	0
TOKUA	20		3					23	-7
Total	119	34	21			16		190	-32

SOLOMONS:									
FORD	4							4	0
BONIS	1							1	0
KAHILI	1							1	0
BALLALE	3							3	0
FAISI						9		9	0
Total	9					9		18	0

COMMENTS:

1. Destruction of enemy airplanes both on the ground and in the air in today's (7/11/43) strike on RAPOPO have been deducted from our estimated airplane count on LIBERAL dromes. Report from 1 fighter squadron is not yet at hand.

2. SOLOMONS dromes were photoed 3/11/43. Hence F/P count is an estimate.

3. Airplane counts at BUT, MAGUA, NEVAR and KAVIK are from photos taken 6/11/43. ALEXISHAFEN was photoed 1100/I today (7/11/43). 7 enemy SEV have been deducted in recount in this dromes due to heavier enemy suffered over MADANG and SAIDOR in combat with our fighters in the afternoon.

C. Air Raids.

RABAUL:

Preliminary reports indicate that RABAUL was hit today between 0752/I and 0820/I by 9 Jap A/C escorted by 10 fighters. Approximately 75 anti-personnel bombs were dropped. Damage was caused to our airplanes on the ground. There were NIL casualties.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

ALEXISHAFEN-MADANG: 3/11/43. (306 H)

1 B-25 sinking Southwest of BILI BILI

3 camouflaged barges tied to shore at an unidentified location.

5 camouflaged barges tied to shore in the West bay of RAGETTA ISLAND near MARAWAMON. No unusual activity is noted at RADKE'S PLACE.

In the Bay formed by the 2 Northern arms of RAGETTA ISLAND are 3 camouflaged barges.

Total barges at RAGETTA ISLAND—6.

Puffs of black smoke are noted in the vicinity of DALLMAN PASSAGE but the exact location of the source cannot be determined from these pictures.

Pictures of SEK ISLAND show no unusual activity.

Many hits close to the shores of SEK and RAGETTA ISLANDS show no visible damage.

At the North end of KALIBOBO PENINSULA just South of the lighthouse on the MODILON PLANTATION is a well camouflaged construction, possibly a personnel shelter. However, its military significance and value is questionable.

RABAUL TOWN: 5/11/43. (308 CC)

Vertical photographs taken during bombing raid on RABAUL Township.

Bomb Damage. Smoke from fuel fires and bomb bursts obscures the extent of the damage.

Approximately 20 bomb bursts are visible North of MALAGUNA ROAD, North of the Customs Wharf. There were several residential type buildings in the area.

An area from the East end of the A.I.F. Camp Southeast to the RABAUL Radio Station was blanketed with bomb bursts, doubtless destroying several barracks-type buildings and damaging the Radio Station. The number of bursts cannot be estimated.

Approximately 25 bursts are visible in the waterfront area from the Oil and Coal Wharf to Tobei Wharf. Four large fuel fires are seen in this area, 2 of these halfway between the C.C. Wharf and the Burns Philps (Copra) Wharf, and 2 Southwest of the B.P. Wharf. There is a direct hit on the Oil and Coal Wharf.

Approximately 14 bomb bursts are visible in the hills North of the A.I.F. Camp. Track activity and tunnels in the hillsides indicate that this is a dump area.

Four bomb bursts are in the hills West of the Town, outside the target area.

RABAUL TOWNSHIP: 2/11/43. (305 AA & 305 GENERAL).

Excellent oblique photographs taken from minimum altitude during attacks on RABAUL Township and Harbor.

Damage. The area was covered by smoke from screening operations, fuel fires and other fires, and bursting parafrags, making pinpointing of fires and detailed assessment of damage impossible.

Large fuel fires were observed about halfway between the new Government Wharf and the Oil and Coal Wharf. Black smoke was seen coming from a large warehouse behind the new Government Wharf. At least 4 other fuel fires were burning in the waterfront area. A building across MALAGUNA ROAD from the Military Cemetery was seen burning. A fire was observed near the Administration buildings in the South part of the Town. A large fuel fire was observed in either KUNAMAMAU or TUNAMATUKE PLANTATION.

Many parafrag bombs were seen falling throughout the Town area, dropped in sweeps from the Northeast corner of the Town to the South and to the West ends of the Town. The damage caused by these is not assessable.

Some parafrags falling in the water near a F/P JAKE and an unserviceable F/B EMILY were observed to burst in the water, with undetermined damage to the airplanes.

Supply Dumps. The following concentrations of supplies were photographed:

Stores covered with canvas in the Chinese Trade Store area, in the block East of Market Street. There is also an entrance to an underground shelter here.

Boxes of stores piled at the site of the Chinese Methodist School, in the Northeast corner of the Town. The piles are in roughly the same relative positions as the buildings previously at the site. East of these are stacks of timbers. A large cut has been made in the hillside back of the Town at this point, which is possibly a quarry for road metal. The tunnel entrances are visible near the cut.

Engineer's supply depot about 750 feet North of the head of SULPUR CREEK. Lumber, timbers, steel rods, rolls of barbed wire, and sections of pre-fabricated shelters are visible. Several M/T, both serviceable and unserviceable, are in the area. Large quantity of spools of telephone cable near Bryant's House.

M/T park and garage at the intersection of MACARTHUR and MARGO STREETS.

The Regent Theatre is full of stores.

Fuel drums stacked in the coconut trees midway on the Northeast side of MATUPI ISLAND and at the South end of a Garden Plot near the center of the Island.

Many fuel drums North of the New Government (Customs) Wharf.

Fuel drums halfway between the New Government Wharf and the Oil and Coal Wharf.

Many fuel drums, 4 large vertical fuel tanks, and large crates at the Oil and Coal Wharf.

Stores covered with canvas, many fuel drums, 4 large vertical fuel tanks and 2 large horizontal fuel tanks at Burns Philps Wharf.

3 large camouflaged tanks (fuel or water) Southwest of Tobei Wharf.

Workshops, airplane propellers, and belly tanks in the two blocks West of Central Avenue and North of Police Road.

Underground Shelters. Numerous small shelters are seen dispersed throughout the Town area. The following installations appear to be significant because of size or location:

Two large underground shelters on the South side of Court Street, across from the Supreme Court Building, with two entrances each. The roofs and walls project above ground level, and are earth-covered. Ventilating shafts project above the roofs. The entrances appear to be lined with concrete.

There are rather extensive underground installations under construction just North of the old tennis court at Lang and Park Streets.

Five tunnel entrances in the mountainside at a hairpin turn in an M/T Road, at a point 2600 feet WSW of Tobei Wharf. Several M/T revetments are built at the side of

the road here. This installations is apparently an ammunition dump.

Radio Installations. One Radio Station (A.W.A. Receiving Station) located behind the A.W.A. House near the ESPLANADE, Northeast corner of SIMPSON HARBOR.

One Radio Station (A.W.A. Transmitting Station) identified as a beaming station is located Southwest of the junction of MALAGUNA and Tunnel Hill Roads. The main building has a revetment surrounding it. (NOTE: A "beaming station" has the advantage of being able to concentrate all or part of its power and volume to one specific point).

Motor Transportation. There are approximately 225 vehicles visible. While the majority of these are cargo trucks two are crash or wrecker trucks and 8 fuel trucks. (This does not include LAKUNAI Airdrome). One caterpillar tractor, one bulldozer and 2 busses are visible. Approximately 25 staff cars are present.

Trucks are generally dispersed throughout the Town area in sheds or garages. One motor park is located South of the A/P scrap pile North of SULPHUR CREEK. Wrecked trucks were found in various areas.

Approximately 20 trucks were observed hauling fuel drums from a dump area West of the New Government Wharf towards the old A.I.F. Camp.

Defenses. Comprehensive study of all RABAUL defenses is in progress.

Engineering Equipment. Located North of SULPHUR CREEK near the engineering supply dump is a shovel, probably diesel powered possibly 2 yard in size. There is a bulldozer on the North side of LAKUNAI Airdrome near what appears to be a 6 sided bell-shaped revetted personnel shelter. There is a second shelter similar to the above one, just North of the West end of the surfaced runway.

Tanks. Twelve tanks are dispersed around the open field immediately North of SULPHUR CREEK. The tanks are possibly 9 ton Japanese mediums. There appears to be a 37 mm gun in the turret and a machine gun forward on the left side of the hull. The turret is low and round, with a lid on top to the rear. There are two hatches, one on either side of the turret. The air intake is located aft and on top of the hull. The suspension appears to be the Carden-Lloyd type, with 4 bogies and two support rollers on a side. The rear wheel appears to touch the ground and may be trailing idler. There is at rear-right what may be an oversize exhaust, but details are not

sufficiently clear for certain identification. A number of the tanks are covered or camouflaged. The area where the tanks are parked is cut by numerous tracks.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

309 Q. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0814/6/L to 1914/6/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: (1) Barge West of CAPE SIO. (2) Bivouac area West of SIO LAGOON.

RESULTS: (1) At 1730/L from 1000 feet, a metal landing barge floating offshore from WASU VILLAGE (0553S-14715E) was strafed with 200 X .50 cal. Tracers were deflected from sides of barge. Some tracers entered canvas possibly covering cargo. Nil results observed.

(2) At 1745/L from 6000 feet, 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at Biv vac area on West side of SIO LAGOON. Bombing was excellent. Bombs burst in wooded area on point West of SIO LAGOON among tents. Area around bomb bursts was levelled. Photos were taken of the bombing and of old wrecked B-25 at 0915S-14705E. Recce was completed 1000, as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: At 1125/L from 2000 feet, a possible Tare-Baker Two Stack was sighted stationary at 0300S-15100E--2 or 3 miles South of East end of DYUAL ISLAND. (Ship was observed from 0330S-15030E). At 1735/L from 1000 feet, a wrecked beached barge was seen at VINCKE POINT (0556S-14720E). A possibly serviceable barge was seen on shore at CAPE SIO, at 1735/L from 1000 feet.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, 3/10 cumulus from 3000 to 8000 feet. North coast of NEW GUINEA (WEWAK-MADANG), 9/10 cumulus, 1000 feet to 15000 feet. West SOLOMON SEA and HUON GULF, 10/10 strato-cumulus, 5000 feet to 10000 feet. RANGES (BUNA to PORT MORESBY), 1/10 fracto-cumulus at mountain tops, 9/10 strato-cumulus overcast at 15000 feet.

310 Q. WEATHER RECCO - 1 F-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0330/7/L to 0930/7/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to RABAUL and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: DOBODURA, KIRIWINA ISLAND, WIDE BAY, RABAUL, KIRIWINA ISLAND, CAPE NELSON, HOOD POINT to base. Airplane was in the RABAUL area from 0536/L to 0630/L. There were nil sightings throughout recco.

WEATHER: Thunderheads and lightning encountered about 100 miles North of KIRIWINA ISLAND, tops at 15000 feet with 6/10 coverage. Undercast at WIDE BAY at 7000 feet with 8/10 coverage. ST. GEORGES CHANNEL, 4/10 coverage. Good weather encountered on return. Ranges crossed at 11000 feet.

310 D. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0200/7/L to 0905/7/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to WEWAK and return.

RESULTS: Recco was completed 100% as ordered. Weather was reported half-hourly and at NADZAB and GUSAP. Airplane was in the WEWAK area from 0505/L to 0640/L. Route flown: Base to LAE, NADZAB, GUSAP, WEWAK, visual distance off coast to BOGADJIM, DUMPU to Base. Pamphlets were dropped North of KAIAPIT at 0304/L and on KALIAKAU (04.58-145.50E) at 0430/L.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed from YULE ISLAND to LASANGA ISLAND at 15000 feet, 2/10 cumulus tops to 14000 feet. NADZAB and GUSAP, 2/10 to 3/10 scattered cumulus at 4000 feet. WEWAK area, 6/10 to 7/10 cumulus, tops 6000 feet, one large thunderhead at 10000 feet to 16000 feet. DUMPU to MEREM at 13000 feet, 2/10 to 3/10 scattered cumulus around 4000 feet.

310 E. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0530/7/L to 0815/7/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to NADZAB and MARKHAM VALLEY.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: NADZAB, 0650/L, CAVU. MARKHAM VALLEY, 0710/L, CAVU.

310 H. STRIKE - 18 B-25C-1's, 18 B-25 G's, 38th Group.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: WEWAK Airdrome and Township; CAPE BORAM and BORAM Airdrome.

RESULTS: Mission incomplete due to preoccupation of fighters with force of enemy bombers and fighters over NADZAB at 0815/L. Formation took off from base at 0645/L, turned back over NADZAB at 0830/L upon failure of rendezvous and landed at base at 0915/L.

INTERCEPTION: 1 B-25G, standby airplane of the 822nd Squadron, was intercepted by 6 ZEKES over NADZAB at 0815/L at 10000 feet. The 6 ZEKES in two flights, made 1 pass each, simultaneously, from 100 feet above at 5 and 7 o'clock but only 1 ZEKE was observed to be firing at our airplane. Turret gunner scored hits on one ZEKE which was last seen smoking and losing altitude rapidly. This ZEKE is claimed as probably destroyed.

SIGHTINGS: NADZAB was seen under accurate bombing attack by enemy causing 8 large black smoke fires. 5 of our fighters were seen taking off from NADZAB strip. 1 B-25 was observed burning on NADZAB strip. 2 enemy bombers were seen definitely shot down by our fighters--they were seen to crash. 10 M/B, BETTY'S or NELL'S were airborne in the NADZAB area. A crashed C-47 was reported 10 miles due East of NADZAB.

WEATHER: Enroute, 5/10 coverage with alto-stratus base at 4000 feet.

310 F. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0630/7/L to 1355/7/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE and return. Airplane was at NADZAB at 0815/L during attack by 12 twin-engine enemy bombers escorted by ZEKES. Took off for GUSAP at 1015/L.

SIGHTINGS: Enemy formation over NADZAB was intercepted by P-38's, P-39's, P-40's and P-47's. One enemy bomber was seen to be shot down and crash. 3 others were hit and smoking.

WEATHER: Enroute and over the MARKHAM VALLEY, scattered, high stratus and cirrus. Broken undercast, cumulus bases at 4000 feet, visibility 55 miles at 10000 feet. On return, 7/10 cumulus undercast at 9000 feet rising to 12000 feet, visibility 40 miles.

310 M. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 1259/7/L to 1633/7/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to HOOD POINT, CAPE NELSON, HOOD POINT to base.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: Cumulus over Ranges, built up to 18000 feet in spots. Crossed at 12000 feet enroute and return.

310 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1200/7/L to 1225/7/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: KAVIENG.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back at 04105-14935E at 1150/L. Operational photos were taken of UNEA ISLAND, REIN BAY, CAPE GAUFFRE, vicinity of BORGEN BAY and CAPE GLOUCESTER from 1200/L to 1225/L. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, frontal activity, weak to strong.

310 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Turned back over the SOLOMON SEA. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Frontal activity running Northeast-Southwest across East end of NEW BRITAIN.

310 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1040/7/L to 1140/7/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: NEW BRITAIN and RAMU VALLEY.

RESULTS: 1 F-4 took mapping photos of the RAMU area and from SAKAR ISLAND to CAPE RAOULT. The other F-4 took operational photos of AIEMISHAFEN Airdromes and Township and CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdromes.

SIGHTINGS: At 1035/L, 3 unidentified SSF's were seen at 11000 feet on course Southeast in RAMU VALLEY. F-4 was at same altitude.

WEATHER: RAMU VALLEY, C.W.U.

310 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0730/7/L to 1620/7/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: CAPE NELSON, 0600S-15140E, 0600S-15330E, 0535S-15330E, 0535S-15230E, 0450S-15230E, 0450S-15400E, 0615S-15400E and return.

SIGHTINGS: At 1040/L from 200 feet, 2 wooden life rafts and one 3 thwart life boat, awash, and all unoccupied, were sighted at 0600S-15220E. At 1225/L from 200 feet, a large oil slick and much wreckage was seen at 0530S-15400E. 2 men were observed hanging on a 6 X 8 feet bit of wreckage. Men would hide in water on opposite side of wreckage on approach of B-24. At 1336/L from 200 feet, a stationary, square ended craft, estimated 30 feet long resembling LC was sighted at 0650S-15255E. One third of deck was flush. Craft was occupied by 2 men in green uniforms similar to Australian uniforms. On first circle, men waved emergency radio kite. No further recognition of our B-24 was given. Boat had 2 machine guns mounted on one side toward end of well-deck also pole about one third from end of craft with red or black cloth attached. One or more yellow crates, similar to our radio, were seen. On one end of boat, the following lettering was seen: "PA 18-18" or "PAB".

WEATHER: HOOD POINT to CAPE NELSON at 8000 feet, 5/10 cumulus, tops 8000 feet. To KIRIWINA, 4/10 strato-cumulus at 3000 feet. KIRIWINA to CAPE ST. GEORGE, occasional rain and heavy storm off WIDE BAY. Off BUKA ISLAND, heavy rain. CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT, large cumulus, tops 13000 feet.

310 nn. (1) - STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 322nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1234/7/L.

TARGET: RAPOPO Airdrome and dispersal area (Secondary target).

RESULTS: 5 B-24's made bombing run in formation on heading of 180 degrees on the Western dispersal area of RAPOPO Airdrome. 35 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 20000 feet on the target. Bombing was excellent. One large fire was started in the North half of the dispersal area. Another moderate fire was observed in the Southern half of the dispersal area. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Moderate to intense, heavy, mostly inaccurate, bursting from 5000 feet below and building up to 500 feet below. A/A fire was of barrage type. Other bursts were observed on all sides of the formation and to 500 feet above. A/A positions were observed on Northeast corner of RAPOPO Airdrome and on warships approximately 5 miles North of LESSON POINT.

INTERCEPTION: A maximum of 40 enemy airplanes were seen airborne over SIMPSON HARBOR, 20 of which intercepted our formation. Interception took place at 1245/L just after bombing run on RAPOPO at 20000 feet. Enemy airplanes consisted of ZEKES, OSCARS, TONYS and HAMPS. Attacks on this formation were not very well coordinated and no attacks were closely pressed. Most attacks were made from 9 to 3 o'clock below. Approximately 20 passes were made on the formation. 2 enemy fighters were claimed as probably destroyed, 1 damaged. Just before and during the bombing run, a minimum of 8 - aerial burst bombs were observed to burst from 300 feet to 500 feet above the formation. Bursts were ineffective.

SIGHTINGS: At 1234/L from 20000 feet over the target, approximately 14 warships were observed maneuvering violently between PRAED POINT and GREDNER ISLAND. P-38's were observed dog-fighting with enemy fighters over SIMPSON HARBOR. Nil shipping was seen in ST. GEORGES CHANNEL. 5 enemy fighters were seen at 5000 feet over CAPE GAZELLE.

GENERAL: Airplanes took off from DOBODURA. 1 B-24 returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble.

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus enroute to and from target. RABAUL Township, covered by cumulus built up, tops at 18000 feet, necessitating bombing of secondary target. Scattered cumulus over whole of GAZELLE PENINSULA with convenient openings over RAPOPO.

310 CC.(2) STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1227/7/L.

TARGET: RAPOPO Airdrome.

RESULTS: A total of 56 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 24000 feet on the target at 300 feet intervals on a heading of 180 degrees. 2 strings of bombs hit in the cleared area at North end of strip. Remaining bombs fell West of the strip between shoreline and dispersal areas. Results were unobserved due to heavy interception over the target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Moderate to intense, heavy, accurate to inaccurate from ships in the Harbor.

INTERCEPTION: 50 to 60 ZEKES and OSCARS were observed airborne over the target.

1 ZEKE attacked 1 B-24 from 2:30 o'clock high, was hit by top turret causing smoke and was observed to crash in water. This airplane is claimed as definitely destroyed.

1 ZEKE came in at 8 o'clock on level and tracers from left waist gun was seen to hit the ZEKE causing smoke and flames and ZEKE was observed to crash in water. This airplane is claimed as definitely destroyed.

1 ZEKE came in at 6 o'clock low on another B-24 and was hit by tracers from tail turret causing ZEKE to burst into flames. This airplane is claimed as definitely destroyed.

1 ZEKE came in at 6 o'clock low on another B-24 and was hit by tracers from the tail turret. This ZEKE is believed damaged.

1 ZEKE came in at 3 o'clock high on another B-24 and fired a 20 mm shell which hit below right waist window injuring right waist gunner in the leg. The ZEKE was hit by fire from top turret causing him to burst into flame. This airplane is claimed as definitely destroyed.

1 ZEKE came in at 9 o'clock high, was hit by tail turret, causing him to fall off flaming. This airplane is claimed as definitely destroyed.

1 ZEKE came in on a B-24 at 1 o'clock low, was hit by fire from nose gunner causing ZEKE to go down in flames. This ZEKE is claimed as definitely destroyed.

1 ZEKE came in on a B-24 at 1 o'clock high--pressed attack--nil damage to either airplane. Approximately 8 passes were made mostly from the rear but none were pressed closely.

1 ZEKE came in from 3 o'clock high on another B-24 to within 300 yards and was hit by fire from top turret causing ZEKE to smoke and dive into the water. This airplane is claimed as definitely destroyed. Another ZEKE came in at 5 o'clock low, hit by fire from tail turret, causing him to dive into the water. This airplane is claimed as definitely destroyed. 1 ZEKE came in at 3 o'clock, was hit by fire from top turret, causing him to fall off smoking. This airplane is claimed as damaged.

A total of 8 enemy fighters are claimed as definitely destroyed by this (319th) Squadron. 2 enemy fighters are claimed as damaged.

SIGHTINGS: (All sightings at 1240/L from 24000 feet). One large fire observed in Western dispersal area about the middle of the strip. Several small fires were seen in Western dispersal area at South end of strip. 3 enemy airplanes were seen to crash in water--shot down by P-38's.

GENERAL: 1 B-24 returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble.

WEATHER: North of KIRITINA ISLAND, cumulus to 18000 feet with scattered showers, alto-cumulus, 10000 feet, cirro-stratus at 25000 feet. 8/10 covered at target. Ranges crossed on return at 12000 feet, CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT.

310 CC(3) STRIKE - 7 B-24's, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1233/7/L to 1235/7/L.

TARGET: RAPOPO Airdrome.

RESULTS: A total of 34 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 21500 feet on a heading of 178 degrees across East and West dispersal areas at RAPOPO Airdrome. Bombing was excellent. Results were generally obscured by smoke but one large fire, possibly fuel dump, was observed in East dispersal area. 8 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs hung up over target and were dropped at sea. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Moderate to intense, heavy, mostly accurate from positions on LESSON POINT and from warships at PEARD POINT. A few bursts were accurate as to altitude. One crew reported an explosion with orange-red burst of flame ahead of airplane. Crews reported approximately 20 bursts from aerial bombs dropped by estimated 6 ZEKES or TONYS. One crew member stated that some bombs appeared to be dropped from angle in addition to directly overhead. Several crews reported bombs appeared to be dropped in clusters of 4 or 5.

INTERCEPTION: 45 to 50 enemy airplanes, mostly ZEKES with a few TONYS, were seen in area during and after bombing run. 25 to 30 of these attacked our formation until reaching WIDE BAY. Lead airplane reported 27 passes and other airplanes in formation reported 6 to 13 passes.

Lead airplane reported 27 passes from around the clock. 1 ZEKE came in high from 6 o'clock and was hit by a long burst from top turret. ZEKE appeared to flutter and dive out of control. ZEKE was observed falling for 3000 feet before going out of range of vision and is claimed as destroyed. Another ZEKE attacked from 4 o'clock. Tracers from right waist and tail gunners were seen to enter airplane which pealed off and dove away on fire with smoke pouring from fuselage near tail. This ZEKE was observed to go into a spin by tail gunner of another airplane who also put in a burst. This ZEKE is claimed as destroyed. 1 ZEKE attacked from 2 o'clock and was met by burst from right waist gunner. ZEKE started snap roll to right and appeared to go out of control as it suddenly snapped to left and fell, apparently out of control. This ZEKE is claimed as probably destroyed. (1 crew member who witnessed this maneuver stated that gun fire probably hit pilot or damaged controls).

Another B-24 reported 5 attacks from 10, 12, 3 and 6 o'clock. 1 ZEKE which came in from 3 o'clock was hit by bursts from right waist and tail gunners and is claimed as damaged.

Another B-24 was attacked by 12 enemy fighters from 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11 o'clock. 1 ZEKE pressed attack from 10 o'clock to within 300 yards. Bursts from left waist gunner were observed hitting ZEKE which went off the tail trailing smoke where it was observed by the tail gunner bursting into flame and falling rapidly. This airplane is claimed as definitely destroyed. 1 TONY attacked from 2 o'clock, pressing to within 400 yards. Tracers from nose and right waist guns were observed entering enemy airplane which fell off smoking. This airplane is claimed as probably destroyed.

1 B-24 was attacked by 13 enemy fighters from all around the clock. 1 ZEKE pressed attack from 5 o'clock to within 200 yards. After bursts from right waist gun, ZEKE burst into flames and was observed diving in flames by the tail gunner. This ZEKE is claimed as destroyed. 1 ZEKE pressed attack from 11 o'clock to 200 yards. Bursts from nose guns were observed to knock off half of the right wing causing the enemy airplane to fall completely out of control. This airplane is claimed as destroyed. 1 ZEKE pressed an attack from 5:30 o'clock. Tail gunner reported that bursts from his guns knocked off a wing tip, piece of the tail and some of the horizontal stabilizer. Enemy airplane was last observed smoking heavily and falling rapidly and is claimed as probably destroyed.

2 other B-24's received 6 passes each only 2 of which were closely pressed. Crews reported that most attacks were not closely pressed on this Squadron. 5 ZEKES are claimed as definitely destroyed, 2 ZEKES and 1 TONY probably destroyed and 1 ZEKE damaged.

SIGHTINGS: At 1025/L from 9000 feet, 1 crew member reported possible parachute in tree and 1 on ground on KAWA ISLAND (Approximately 60 miles West of KIRINNA ISLAND). From 1230/L to 1235/L from 21500 feet over RAPOPO and vicinity: 15 to 25 ships were estimated moving out of Harbor, including 15 to 18 off PRAED POINT, 4 in KERAVIA BAY and 3 off RALUANA POINT. Crew estimates vary but reports indicate 5 or 6 CA's and/or CL's, probably 9 DD's off PRAED POINT. Rest of shipping appeared to be M/V's but further identification impossible due to altitude. Harbor was not clearly visible on account of cloud cover but numerous small vessels were observed through breaks in clouds.

GENERAL: 1 B-24 returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble.

WEATHER: RAPOPO, clear with thin stratus at 7000 feet. Town area, closed in. SIMPSON HARBOR, low overcast and haze. Eastern NEW BRITAIN, 9/10 cumulus, tops to 30000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, 4/10 scattered cumulus, tops to 20000 feet. Ranges, 5/10 cumulus, tops 9000 feet.

310 CC.(4) STRIKE - 7 B-24's, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1232/7/1 .

TARGET: RAPOPO Airdrome.

RESULTS: 42 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 22000 feet at 300 feet interval on the dispersal and supply areas on West side of RAPOPO Airdrome on a heading of 170 degrees stringing across strip from Northwest to Southeast. Interception after bombing run prevented accurate observation of results. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Intense, heavy, accurate, mostly from warships in Harbor. Lead airplane was hit with 3 fragments. Aerial burst bombs were dropped from enemy fighters and were accurate but ineffective.

INTERCEPTION: A minimum of 50 enemy fighters—ZEKES, HAP3 and TONYS—were seen airborne over the target. P-38 cover prevented enemy airplanes from making accurate passes. Lead airplane reported 3 or 4 weak passes from 10 to 12 o'clock high. These airplanes did not press their attacks closely. Enemy fighters circled above the formation dropping aerial burst phosphorous bombs. 1 B-24

reported 12 [illegible] directly over the airplanes with nil damage observed. 24 weak passes were made at ships B-24's in formation, none of which were closely pressed.

SIGHTINGS: A 7 ship convoy of warships, believed to be U.S., was seen steaming out of [illegible] BAY. 11 vessels, including cruisers, were seen steering up ST. GEORGE CHANNEL.

GENERAL: 1 B-24 returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble. 1 B-24 from the 321st Squadron made 6th airplane in this formation.

WEATHER: Clear over target, Township closed in. Low lying cumulus drifting across the secondary target. Scattered cumulus, 25000 feet over parts of land.

310 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF TAKE-OFF: 0654/7/L to 2007/7/

AREA OF OPERATION: PORT MORESBY to 0245S-14540E, 0200S-15140E, and return.

TARGET: Fox-Baker at 0036S-15105E.

RESULTS: 4 x 500 lb. inst. delay bombs were dropped at 1423/L from 5000 feet at a Fox-Baker at 0036S-15105E. Bombs passed by 200 feet—nil damage observed. Photos were taken of the survey (See SQUADRON [illegible] and of HARLEM (ROOKE ISLAND). Recco was completed 100% as ordered.

INTERCEPTION: 1 probable PBM intercepted at 1340/L at 5000 feet at 0036S-15105E. Press was made beginning from 1:30 to 12 o'clock above the starboard 400 yards then PBM broke to left at 5:30 o'clock under tail, went out and levelled off smoking. Gunners report treasure sighted TAIL causing damage.

SIGHTINGS: At 0755/L from 9000 feet, 15 unidentified airplanes were sighted at 0710S-14800E on course 330 degrees at 9000 feet. At 1026/L from 1000 feet, a probable was sighted at 0120S-14353E. B-24 circled [illegible] minutes but could not locate same. At 1330/L from 5000 feet, 1 Fox-Baker, 1 Sugar-Able and 3 Sugar-Charlies were sighted at 0036S-15105E on course 200 degrees. At 1435/L from 1000 feet, 1 small fire with grey smoke was seen in hills on southwest side of RUSSAU ISLAND. At 1615/L from 6000 feet, 7 small fires were observed at 05455-14800E 5 miles inland.

WEATHER: Over Ranges, YULE ISLAND to MURTLER BAY, crossed at 12000 feet, cumulus tops 8000 feet, 5/10 covered, base 1600

feet, visibility good. HUON AAF, cumulus, 1/10, tops 6000 feet, thick altocumulus, 8/10, at 18000 feet, visibility good. LAE/TOA, large cumulus, 5/10 to 6/10, base 2000 feet, occasional light showers, visibility 20 to 30 miles. On return over Ranges, NORTHUMB to HOOD POINT, crossed at 19000 feet, large cumulus, 7/10, tops 18000 feet, alto-stratus, 4/10, base 19000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Preliminary reports have been received from 5 of the 6 Squadrons of P-38's escorting B-24's to RABAUL today. These show 10 enemy fighters definitely destroyed, 3 probably destroyed. 5 P-38's are missing.

At 0720/L today over ALEXISHAFEN, the 8th Fighter Squadron sighted 20 to 25 ZEKES. 4 ZEKES were destroyed. Our losses were nil.

At 0815/L over MADZAB, our fighters of the 36th & 80th Fighter Squadrons sighted 9 M/B's (MELLS and BETTYS) and 10 OSCARS. 7 M/B's were definitely destroyed and 2 fighters were destroyed. 2 M/B's and 3 OSCARS were probably destroyed.

At 1400/L, fighters of the 35th Fighter Squadron sighted 6 ZEKES. 3 ZEKES were definitely destroyed and 1 ZEKE probably destroyed. Interception took place over MADANG.

At 1400/L over SALAMAUA, 5 HAMPS were sighted by the 39th Fighter Squadron. 4 HAMPS were definitely destroyed.

BERT S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Assist. Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

PAUL E. MAGGAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

WASHINGTON:

A Democratic Senator, Edwin Johnson of Colorado, declared Saturday that the New Deal is through and urged his Party to draft General George C. Marshall for President. Even a child knows that a political revolution comparable to the Harding landslide is sweeping this Nation, Johnson said in a statement after citing the returns from Tuesday's off-year elections. Unless drastic steps are taken by the Democrats, Johnson declared they can look for a sweeping continuation of the Republican gains reflected by election of Governors in Kentucky and New Jersey and a Lt. Governor in New York, and by victories in several local contests. Johnson, who has frequently differed with the Roosevelt administration in his 7 years tenure as Senator, thus brought into the open the "Marshall for President" talk which has been buzzing in Capitol Hill cloakrooms for several weeks.

The Soviet People have written deathless pages of history in the struggle against tyranny and oppression, President Roosevelt said Saturday in a message of congratulation to President Kalinin of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the 20th anniversary of the Soviet Unions founding. Roosevelt said that the anniversary falls at a time when freedom loving people everywhere are dealing fateful blows at the enemy who dared attempt to enslave and oppress them. The President praised the Red Army and said their example and serifice are an inspiration for all the forces joined in the common struggle for victory.

President Roosevelt in a letter to Attorney General, Biddle, made public Saturday, overruled Comptroller General, Lindsay Warren's decision holding as directive only and not mandatory the President's order for insertion in Government contracts of provisions obligating employers not to discriminate against employees on account of race, creed or color. The President said it must be understood that his non-discrimination order is mandatory and should be so construed by all Government Agencies.

ORANGE: TEXAS:

James V. Forrestal, Under Secretary of the Navy, said Saturday that the next joint announcement by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill on anti-submarine activities will show a most extraordinary record of success.

LONDON:

Light coastal units of the British Navy attacked a well escorted German convoy off the coast of Holland Wednesday night, probably destroying an enemy armed trawler and damaging another and also damaged 2 E-Boats in another action, the Admiralty announced. One British vessel was lost.

BERN:

The German controlled Corriere Della Sera of Milan said Saturday that Pope Pius XII and Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State, have examined the results of the Tri-Power Moscow Conference for possible repercussions in Catholic countries.

WILMINGTON: DELAWARE:

The first combatant ship to be presented to France by the United States during the war will be turned over to the French Navy following its launching at the Drave Corporation shipyard here soon. The ship is a destroyer escort.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 575, 7 November, 1943.

NEW IRELAND: KAVIENG:

Our night reconnaissance units in the Bismarck Sea attacked and sunk an enemy cruiser with 3 direct hits, and bombed a destroyer in convoy. One plane is missing. Our heavy reconnaissance units from the South Pacific scored direct hits which disabled a 10500 ton enemy tanker North of Mussau Island and left a large cargo ship on fire and listing.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:

Our air forces struck the gathering enemy reinforcement at Rabaul. Opening the action, our naval planes from the right wing consisting of dive bombers, torpedo bombers and fighters attacked enemy warships in the harbor. Our army planes from the center, consisting of heavy bombers and fighter escort, later attacked the Townsite and waterfront installations. In the first attack, 5 heavy cruisers and a light cruiser were struck by both torpedoes and bombs, a sixth heavy cruiser and two destroyers were hit by torpedoes and another light cruiser by bombs. One of the heavy cruisers was observed to blow up. The extent of the damage on the others could not be accurately observed. In the second attack, 82 tons of explosives were concentrated on warehouse and waterfront areas, causing explosions and huge fires near the Oil and Coal Wharves. The entire area was blanketed in smoke, with flames rising several hundred feet in the air from burning fuel dumps, buildings, and supplies piled high near the wharves. A merchant vessel tied to the Cepra Wharf was hit and set on fire. Over 70 enemy fighters intercepted our Naval air units. 24 were shot down with 22 more probably. Only 20 enemy planes could be mounted to stop our army air units. 2 of these were shot down and 2 more probably destroyed. Eight of our naval aircraft did not return to base and one army fighter is missing. A number of planes were damaged.

OPEN BAY:

Our attack planes at low altitude bombed and strafed enemy installations at Ubili and Vitiana. One of our heavy reconnaissance units bombed an enemy bivouac area on Garove Island in the Vitu Group.

NEW GUINEA: WAU:

One of our fighter patrols shot down 6 enemy fighters. One of our heavy reconnaissance units bombed and strafed a 1000 ton cargo vessel off the coast.

RAMU VALLEY:

Our medium bombers attacked enemy defense positions in the Upper Faria River Valley, dropping 10 tons of explosives in good effect.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE: BUIN:

Our torpedo and dive bombers attacked Kahili airfield with 48 tons of explosives scoring hits on the runway and dispersal points, gun positions, and in the bivouac areas. One of our planes was shot down.

KIETA:

Our fighters at low altitude swept the coast South from Cape Mabiri, attacking targets of opportunity. Four coastal vessels and a barge were destroyed between Mabiri and Cape Friendship, and numerous other barges were damaged at Matupina Point on the Southwest coast.

BUKA:

Our heavy units dropped 92 tons of high explosives on the airdrome with good effect. There was no interception. Our fighter patrols executed close sweeps along the coast of Matchin Bay, setting fire to 2 small cargo vessels, sinking 3 and damaging numerous other coastal vessels. Many anti-aircraft positions around the Bay were hit and silenced.

TREASURY ISLAND:

60 additional stragglers were killed in mopping-up operations.

SPORTS:

CLEVELAND:

The Cleveland Indians Saturday sold Hal Trosky, slugging first baseman who has been in retirement on his farm in Iowa the past 2 seasons, to the Chicago White Sox for an unannounced sum of cash.

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS:

NOTRE DAME	—26	OHIO STATE	—46	VILLANOVA	—45
ARMY	—0	PITTSBURGH	—6	PRINCETON	—22
NAVY	—24	RENSSELAER	—68	WORCESTER TECH.	—19
PENNSYLVANIA	—7	BROOKLYN COLLEGE	—0	COASTGUARD	—2
DARTMOUTH	—47	HARVARD	—14	PURDUE	—14
COLUMBIA	—13	CAMP EDWARDS	—7	MINNESOTA	—7
CORNELL	—13	BUCKNELL	—13	NORTHWESTERN	—41
PENN STATE	—0	LAKEHURST	—0	WISCONSIN	—0
BROWN	—21	HOLY CROSS	—42	NEBRASKA	—13
YALE	—20	TEMPLE	—6	KANSAS STATE	—7
TULSA	—55	MISSOURI	—25	VIRGINIA	—39
OKLAHOMA AM	—6	IOWA STATE	—7	MARYLAND	—0
GREAT LAKES	—12	DUKE	—75	GEORGIA TECH.	—42
CAMP GRANT	—0	N. CAROLINA STATE	—0	LOUSIANA STATE	—7

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP
- 9 NOV 1943

Report No. 312.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
UNITS: G.E.N.
DATE: 8/11/43:
FROM: 1800/7/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/8/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (311 W) took off at 0830/L to photograph RABAUL but was unable to reach the target due to weather. Airplane turned back at 0[illegible]5/L in the vicinity of TALASEA and landed at 1103/L. There were nil sightings.

KAVIENG: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (311 X) took off at 0806/L to photograph KAVIENG but was unable to reach the target due to weather. Photos were taken from 1100/L to 1115/L of CAPE HOSKINS and TALASEA. There were nil sightings.

WEWAK: 1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (311 B) completed 100% a weather recce to WEWAK. Airplane took off at 2340/7/L and landed at 0952/8/L. At 0515/L, a large possible twin-engine airplane made 2 passes from 2 o'clock below at 0300S-14330E. Nil damage to our airplane. From 0400/L to 0600/L, a glow resembling lights and denoting surface activity was seen in the WEWAK area. B-24 was never close enough to warrant searchlights or A/A fire. Weather was reported half-hourly.

1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (311 K) completed 100% a weather recce to within 100 miles of WEWAK. Airplane took off at 0642/L and landed at 1205/L. Weather was reported half-hourly in detail. One crashed C-47 — minus tail section — was seen at 1055/L, 30 miles Southwest of NADZAB on the ground.

2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (311 Y) took off at 0819/L to photograph WEWAK and HOLLANDIA. 1 F-4 developed engine trouble near DUMPU and both F-4's turned back at this point at 1015/L, landing at base at 1112/L. There were nil sightings.

GUSAP-NADZAB: 1 B-25D-1 of the 490th Squadron (311 G) completed 100% a weather recce to GUSAP and NADZAB. Airplane took off at 0535/L and landed at 0800/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (311 E) completed a 100% a Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB and LAE. Airplane took off at 0640/L and landed at 1535/L.

GOODENOUGH ISLAND: 2 B-25G's of the 822nd and 823rd Squadrons (311 O & N) completed 2 Courier Missions to GOODENOUGH ISLAND and return. First airplane took off at 1116/L and returned at 1603/L. Second airplane took off at 1215/L and returned at 1710/L. There were nil sightings on either mission.

SEA SWITCHES: 1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (311 C) completed 50% of an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. 50% of assigned area was not covered due to weather. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at 1050/L on an A/A position on the North

side of GAROVE ISLAND. One large explosion caused a fire which was still smoking when airplane left the target. Moderate, light, inaccurate A/A fire was received over GAROVE ISLAND. At 1351/L an SS was observed at 0423S-14936E on a course 45 degrees. SS was submerging when sighted. There were nil other sightings.

1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (311 D) completed 90% of an armed recco to 02[illegible]S-14940E, 0200N-15140E. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at 1155/L at an enemy SS at 0002N-14900E. SS crash dived and nearest bomb fell 20/30 feet from that point. SS was 3 miles ahead of an 8 ship convoy and was on heading of 220 degrees at 10 knots. Convoy consisted of 3 probable PG's, 2 Fox-Tare-Bakers, 2 Fox-Tare-Uncles and 1 Tare-Baker. A second SS was seen ½ mile behind the convoy. All vessels were on same course and speed. 3 evenly spaced fires in a direct line and 200 feet apart, were sighted at 1615/L at 0[illegible]S-[illegible]E. At 1015/L, nil aircraft were observed on [illegible] Airdrome (LOS NEGROS ISLAND). Moderate, heavy, inaccurate A/A fire was received from the convoy.

1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (311 I) completed 100% an armed recco of the SOLOMON SEA. There were nil sightings throughout entire search.

NOTE: The following missions were cancelled today:

311 A. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 43rd Group.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to RABAUL and return.

311 J. STRIKE - 4 Squadrons B-25's, 38th Group.

TARGET: [illegible]EWAK and BOI[illegible] Airdromes.

B. Ground Forces.

Our Observation Posts report enemy troop movement both ways, seen along the VAREO-BONGA track.

Our patrols West of KAITKA to 613682 report no enemy seen.

Patrols in the KUMAWA area report unoccupied enemy positions at SIOI (571[illegible] and 562650).

KAKU VALLEY:

Activity confined to patrolling.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
8 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/F	F/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7		7					14	0
DAGUA	5	1	12					18	0
WEWAK	16	3	5			6		30	0
BORAM	35	2						37	0
ALEXISHAFEN	38	7	4					49	0
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
Total	109	49	38			6		202	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	17		6			4		27	0
VUNAKANAU	37	28	4					69	0
LAKUNAI	42	4	7					53	0
TAPOPO	3	2	1					6	0
HARBOR						12		12	0
TOBERA	20		3					23	0
Total	119	34	21			16		190	0

SOLOMONS:									
BUKA								0	-4
BONIS	1							1	0
KOLILI	5							5	+4
BALALE	1							1	-2
FAISI						9		9	0
Total	7					9		16	-2

COMMENTS:

1. BUT, DAGUA, WEWAK and BORAM airplane counts are from photos taken 6/11/43. ALEXISHAFEN airplane count is from photos taken 7/11/43 with deductions made for enemy losses. HOLLANDIA and WAKDE count are estimates based on old photo count.

2. RABAUL dromes were last photoed 3/11/43 with exception of TAPOPO which was photoed 7/11/43. Estimated airplane strength is based on photo count with deductions made for enemy losses. It is probable that reinforcements are proceeding into this area but no new count is allowed to remain until reinforcements are verified.

3. SOLOMONS dromes count is taken from photos of 6/11/43 with FAISI F/P strength an estimate.

ALEXISHAFEN: 7/11/43. (310 Y)

Excellent vertical photographs. 100% coverage.

TOTAL AIRPLANES on #1 and #2 Dromo: 43 SSF, 2 L/B, 8 M/B

Drome #1

Airplanes. 15 SSF
1 M/B
16 TOTAL—Airplanes located as follows:

7 SSF lined up on North side at East end of runway.

3 SSF on South side of East end of runway.

5 SSF in the North dispersal lane on the East end of runway.

2 SSF at the Southeast end of the Southeast taxiway from the South side of the runway.

1 M/B just North of the 7 SSF lined up on East end of runway.

Airdrome. No new construction is evident

6 definite, 3 probable M/T operating on drome and in dispersal area.

Defenses. New 5 or 6 light A/A position is noted 2160 feet Southeast of East end of runway. Lack of clarity in photos prevents positive assurance of present serviceability.

Drome #2

Airplanes. 28 SSF
2 L/B
7 M/B
37 TOTAL—Airplanes located as follows:

10 SSF and 1 M/B lined up on Northwest side of Northeast end of Northeast runway.

11 SSF lined up at same position on runway but on Southeast side.

4 SSF and 2 L/B in dispersal area on the North side of the Northeast end of the runway.

3 SSF in dispersal area on the North side of the Southwest end of runway.

6 M/B dispersed along Southwest half of runway.

Airdrome. No changes noted.

Defenses. A new installation, possibly Radar or searchlight, is under construction 3300 feet Northeast of #2 drome.

No further changes noted since last photos.

Shipping. 6 luggers are located near the mouth of BOSTREM BAY, one mile Northeast of #1 drome.

3 barges and one lugger located at the wharf of ALEXISHAFEN MISSION.

WEWAK AREA: 5/11/43. (309 Z).

Good verticals of WEWAK, DAGUA, and BUT dromes. 50% coverage of BORAM.

Airplanes.	LOCATION	FIGHTERS	L/B	M/B	TOTAL
	WEWAK	16	5	3	24
	BORAM	35	0	4	39
	DAGUA	9	11	0	20
	BUT	7	[illegible]	3	14
		67	[illegible]	10	97

Activity. A new clearing has has been made just West of DAGUA and 2 searchlight revetments appear to be under construction there. Disturbed earth is noticed on the West end of WEWAK strip; this may be 6 light A/A revetments under construction. Wreckage is still strewn over the dromes. Little progress has been made in the past month on the new dispersal area running South of DAGUA. It contains no revetments.

Track activity remains heavy.

The dromes are all serviceable.

17 barges are along the East side of WEWAK POINT.

RAPOPO: 7/11/43. (310 CC)

Good vertical photographs taken during the strike on RAPOPO Airdrome.

Airplanes. Photos taken at the beginning of the strike (1230/L) showed the following apparently serviceable airplanes:

11 M/B apparently serviceable.
1 L/B " "
5 SSF

All these airplanes were in the airplane dispersal areas.

At the end of the strike (1237/L), there were the following apparently serviceable airplanes:

2 M/B

Airdrome. The runway was rendered unserviceable by bombing.

Bomb Damage. The following apparently serviceable airplanes were destroyed or badly damaged:

9 M/B
1 L/B
5 SSF

Two of the medium bombers were burning at the end of the strike.

In addition, the following unserviceable airplanes were destroyed or further damaged:

2 Transports
2 M/B
3 SSF

Approximately 19 bomb bursts were visible in the bivouac and stores dispersal area 3000 feet West of the drome, with probable damage to small buildings and stores.

Approximately 16 bomb bursts are visible in the Plantation area between the Northwest corner of the drome and the coast, with probable damage to small buildings and stores near the coast.

The remainder of the bursts photographed were on the airdrome, covering most of the Southern 2/3rds of the runway and dispersal area, and the South flight gap. Approximately 60 separate bursts could be distinguished on the drome. There was probable damage to the control tower on the West side of the runway. A high frequency RDF Station in the South flight gap, at the South end of the runway, was probably destroyed.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

311 D. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0657/8/L to 1716/8/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return.

TARGET: Enemy SS at 0002N-14900E.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped in train at 1155/L from 15000 feet at an enemy SS at 0002N-14900E. SS crash dived and all sort bomb fell 20/30 feet from that point. Results of bombing were unobserved. SS was 3 miles ahead of 8 ship convoy (See SIGHTINGS) and was on heading of 220 degrees at speed of 10 knots. Photos were taken of the convoy, of the bombing and 3 possible distress fires. Recco was 90% completed. 10% of vessig area was not covered due to fuel shortage.

A/A: Moderate, heavy, inaccurate from 1 of PG's in convoy. Bursts began at 3000 feet and built up to 10000 feet which was level of airplane.

SIGHTINGS: At 1120/L from 10000 feet, an 8 ship convoy was sighted at 0002N-14900E on course 220 degrees at speed of 10 knots. Convoy consisted of 3 possible PG's, 2 Fox-Tare-Baker's, 2 Fox-Tare-Unclear [illegible]-Baker. 3 miles directly ahead of the vessels enemy SS was observed and ½ mile behind the convoy a second SS was seen. All vessels were on same course and speed. At 1215/L from 9000 feet, 3 evenly spaced fires in a direct line and about 200 feet apart were observed at 0930S-14915E. Fires emitted heavy white smoke and may have been distress signals.

NIL SIGHTING.: ICS NECROS ISLAND at 1015/L from 10000 feet (Nil airplanes on MOMOTE Airdrome). 0025N-14945E at 1120/L from 9000 feet. 0035N-15045E at 1215/L from 15000 feet. MUSAU ISLAND at 1300/L from 11000 feet (Nil unusual activity). DAMPIER STRAITS at 1530/L from 9000 feet.

WEATHER: Solid frontal weather to 0400S--weather clear North of there. BISMARCK Sea on return, solid overcast at 10000 feet, 3/10 low cumulus. Ranges built up to 20000 feet. Airplane found holes at 12000 feet, CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT.

310 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0815/7/L to 1922/7/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 95% completed. Route flown: DOBODURA, CAPE WARD HUNT, 0430S-14800E, 0430S-15030E, 0330S-15030E, 0330S-14800E, 0240S-14800E, 0300S-14730E, 0400S-14630E, 0300S-14630E, 0300S-14500E, 0200S-14530E, 0140S-14445E, 0250S-14400E, HANSA BAY, 0600S-14800E, DOBODURA.

INTERCEPTION: Our airplane was intercepted over MANAM ISLAND (HANSA BAY) at 1705/L, 4000 feet, by one in-line engine fighter, resembling silhouette of MIKE more than TONY. Fighter had red spinner and orange cowl and had 3 X .50 cal. guns protruding from each wing. Enemy fighter made first pass from 10 o'clock level, passing straight underneath. The next 2 passes were made from 12 o'clock high, one passing underneath and the other overhead within 30 feet. Enemy fighter was undoubtedly hit by our concentrated fire but no damage was observed. Enemy pilot seemed eager. Tactics were not usual Jap wing-over but direct passes. B-24 received minor holes.

SIGHTINGS: At 1700/L from 4000 feet, a Sugar-Charlie covered with at least 150/200 Japs. A bombing run was made on the Sugar-Baker but bombs would not release (Bomb-bay door cable was broken). Nil A/A received. Ship was headed Southwest toward coast and took no evasive action. Sugar-Baker was sighted at 0405S-14458E.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, 5/10 to 7/10 cumulus from sea level to 2000 feet. 8/10 strato-cumulus overcast at 7000 feet Scattered squalls and water spouts throughout. HUON GULF, 4/10 strato-cumulus at 9000/10000 feet (Lower to East). Ranges (DOBODURA), 10/10 covered at 13000 feet.

311 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 2340/7/L to 0952/8/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to WEWAK and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Weather was reported half-hourly. Route flown: DOBODURA, ROOKE ISLAND, MANAM ISLAND, area North of WEWAK (from 0400/L to 0600/L). Returned 75 miles offshore through VITIAZ STRAITS, CAPE WARD HUNT, PORT MORESBY.

INTERCEPTION: At 0515/L from 8000 feet position 0300S-14330E, a large, possible twin-engine airplane, made 2 passes from 2 o'clock below. No hits were received. Our airplane did not return fire but took evasive action.

SIGHTINGS: From 0400/L to 0600/L from 8000 feet, glow resembling lights denoting surface activity was seen. Our airplane was never close enough to warrant searchlights or A/A.

WEATHER: Continuous front extending from WEWAK Southeast along coast South of ROOKE ISLAND, continuing along South coast of NEW BRITAIN. NEW BRITAIN, 5/10 cumulus to 15000 feet, 10/10 alto-stratus overcast at 15000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, 6/10 cumulus from 2000 feet to 19000 feet. HUON GULF, clear. RANGES, 3/10 strato-cumulus to 11000 feet, 2/10 cirrus at 20000 feet.

311 G. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0535/8/L to 0800/8/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to GUSAP, NADZAB, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: GUSAP, 0640/L, scattered stratus at 5000 feet, 1/10 covered at 15000 feet. NADZAB, 0655/L, 3/10 covered at 3000 feet stratus, visibility 20 miles. LAE, CAVU.

311 A. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0642/8/L to 1205/8/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to within 100 miles of WEWAK.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Weather was reported in detail half-hourly.

SIGHTINGS: At 1055/L from 15000 feet 30 miles Southwest of NADZAB, one C-47 was sighted on the ground minus tail section.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed enroute out between 15000/17000 feet—KEREMA to DAMPIER STRAITS—icing at 16000 feet on North side of Ranges. RABU VALLEY, hazy with solid overcast at 10000 feet and 2/10 scattered at 7500 feet. Ranges built up to about 20000 feet on return from SALAMAUA to YULE ISLAND but were crossed at 17000 feet.

311 I. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0727/8/L to 1504/8/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings throughout entire search.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 8/10 overcast at 12000 to 17000 feet, 2/10 to 5/10 scattered cumulus below. Slight frontal activity Northeast-Southwest off KIRIWINA ISLAND. Showers over lower SOLOMON SEA. Towering cumulus well built up off North coast of NEW GUINEA parallel to coast 75 miles offshore.

311 M. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane took off at 0830/L, turned back at 0945/L in vicinity of TALASEA and landed at 1103/L. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, front extending Northeast-Southwest, 50 miles off NEW GUINEA coast. NEW BRITAIN, 10/10 covered with middle and high stratus.

311 Y. PHOTO RECCO – 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK and HOLLANDIA.

RESULTS: Target were not reached due to engine trouble. F-4's took off at 0819/L, turned back in vicinity of DUMPU at 1015/L and landed at 1112/L. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: MT. HAGEN out into BISMARCK SEA, front from 0 to 25000 feet. BENA BENA, front en course to HOLLANDIA—0 to 20000 feet.

311 X. PHOTO RECCO – 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) Nil. (2) 1100/8/L to 1115/8/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) KAVIENG. (2) CAPE HOSKINS and TALASEA.

RESULTS: (1) KAVIENG was not reached due to weather.

(2) Operational and mapping photos were taken of CAPE HOSKINS and TALASEA.

WEATHER: Front through DAMPIER STRAITS extending up to 28000 feet and over. Front building up over NEW BRITAIN. BISMARCK SEA, 5/10 to 9/10 cumulus at 2000 feet, solid overcast at 15000 feet. Rain and instrument weather over most of the area. Weather apparently worse further Northwest along coast of NEW GUINEA. RABAUL could not be reached.

311 E. COURIER MISSION – 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0640/8/L to 1535/8/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission completed to GUSAP, NADZAB and LAE as ordered. MARILINAN was found to be completely deserted except for 3 natives who were just starting off for NADZAB. Strip in very poor muddy condition. At 0935/L after waiting 2 hours, airplane took off for NADZAB. Bag for MARILINAN returned to base.

SIGHTINGS: Sign "No Fishing" observed stuck in the mud on MARILINAN strip.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered cumulus at 2000/3000 feet with excellent visibility. Towering cumulus from 8000 to 35000 feet Southwest of SALAMAUA. Thunderheads over mountains on return and scattered showers in MORESBY area.

311 H. COURIER MISSION – 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1116/8/L to 1603/8/L.

AREA OF MISSION: Courier Mission to GOODENOUGH ISLAND and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, cumulus to 12000 feet. Low strato-cumulus at GOODENOUGH ISLAND with ceiling of 500 feet. On return, over Ranges, cumulus and cumulo-nimbus to 30000 feet.

311 O. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25C, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1215/8/L to 1710/8/L.

AREA OF MISSION: Courier Mission to GOODENOUGH ISLAND and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, 8/10 cover with cumulus tops at 15000 feet to 20000 feet. On return, 9/10 covered with cumulus base at 800 feet and tops at 20000 feet to 25000 feet.

311 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0702/8/L to 1655/2/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: GAROVE ISLAND.

RESULTS: 4 A.500 lb. inst. dem. Bombs were dropped at 1350/L from 10000 feet at an A/A position on the North side of GAROVE ISLAND. Bombing caused a large explosion followed by a fire which was still smoking when our airplane left the target. Photos were taken of the bombing. Only 50% of assigned area was covered because of weather.

A/A: Moderate, light, inaccurate from positions on GAROVE ISLAND. Bursts were mostly below and behind our airplane.

SIGHTINGS: At 1351/L from 10000 feet, one SS was sighted at 0425S-14936E on course 45 degrees. The SS was submerging when sighted.

NIL SIGHTINGS: FINSCHHAFEN at 0845/L. Mouth of RAMU RIVER at 1015/L. ROCKE ISLAND at 1220/L. 0400S-14800E at 1255/L.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed at 15000 feet enroute. A front was encountered at FINSCHHAFEN running Northwest and extending past the mouth of the RAMU RIVER. Remainder of recco in Eastern part of BISMARCK SEA and North of GAROVE ISLAND, alto-stratus with tops at 20000 feet, scattered cumulus with 2/10 cover throughout area. Ranges crossed on return, CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT at 12000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Fighters carried out usual escort and patrol missions with nil interception or combat.

SEAN S. TUNNY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

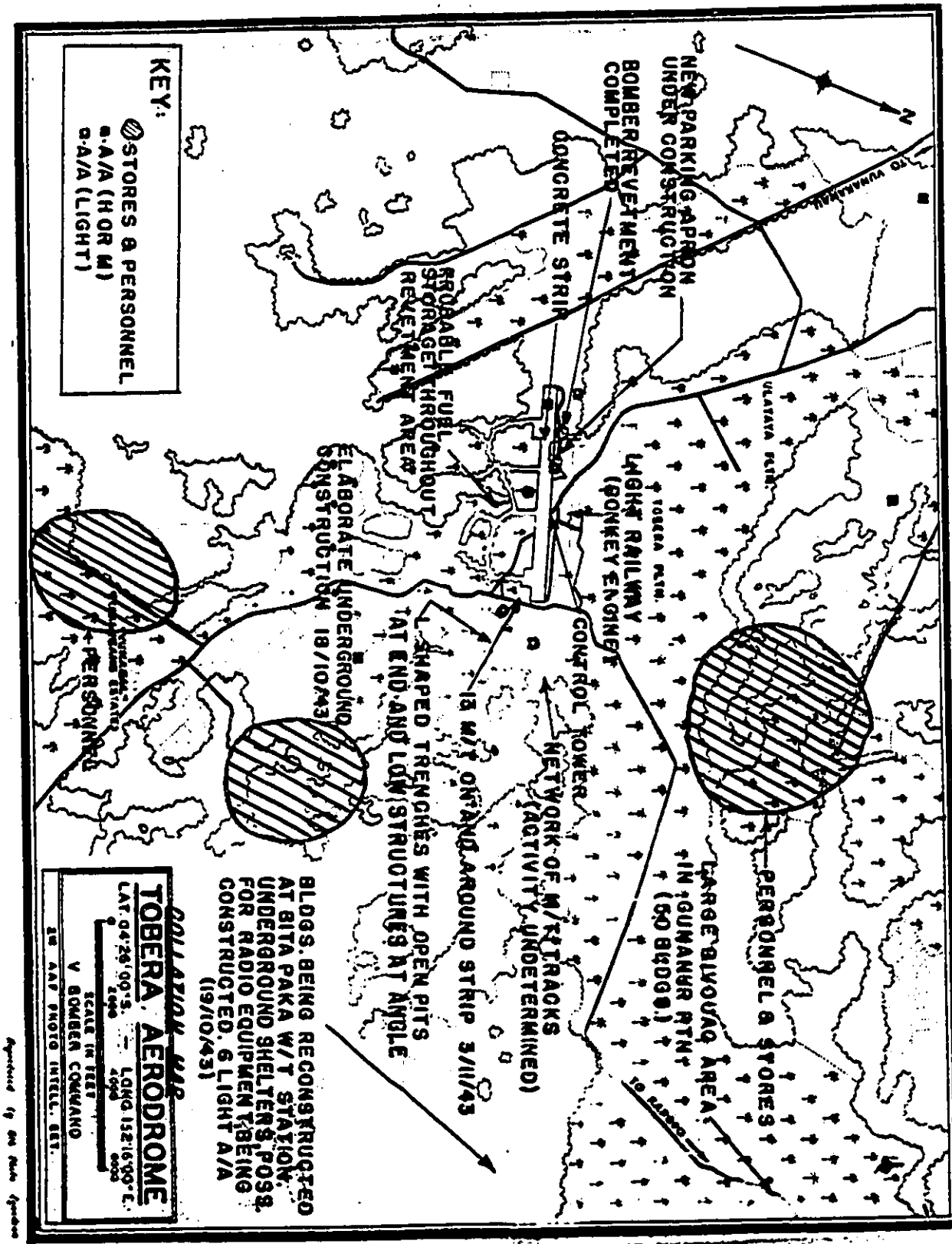
Paul E. Nauman

PAUL E. NAUMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY

TOBERA

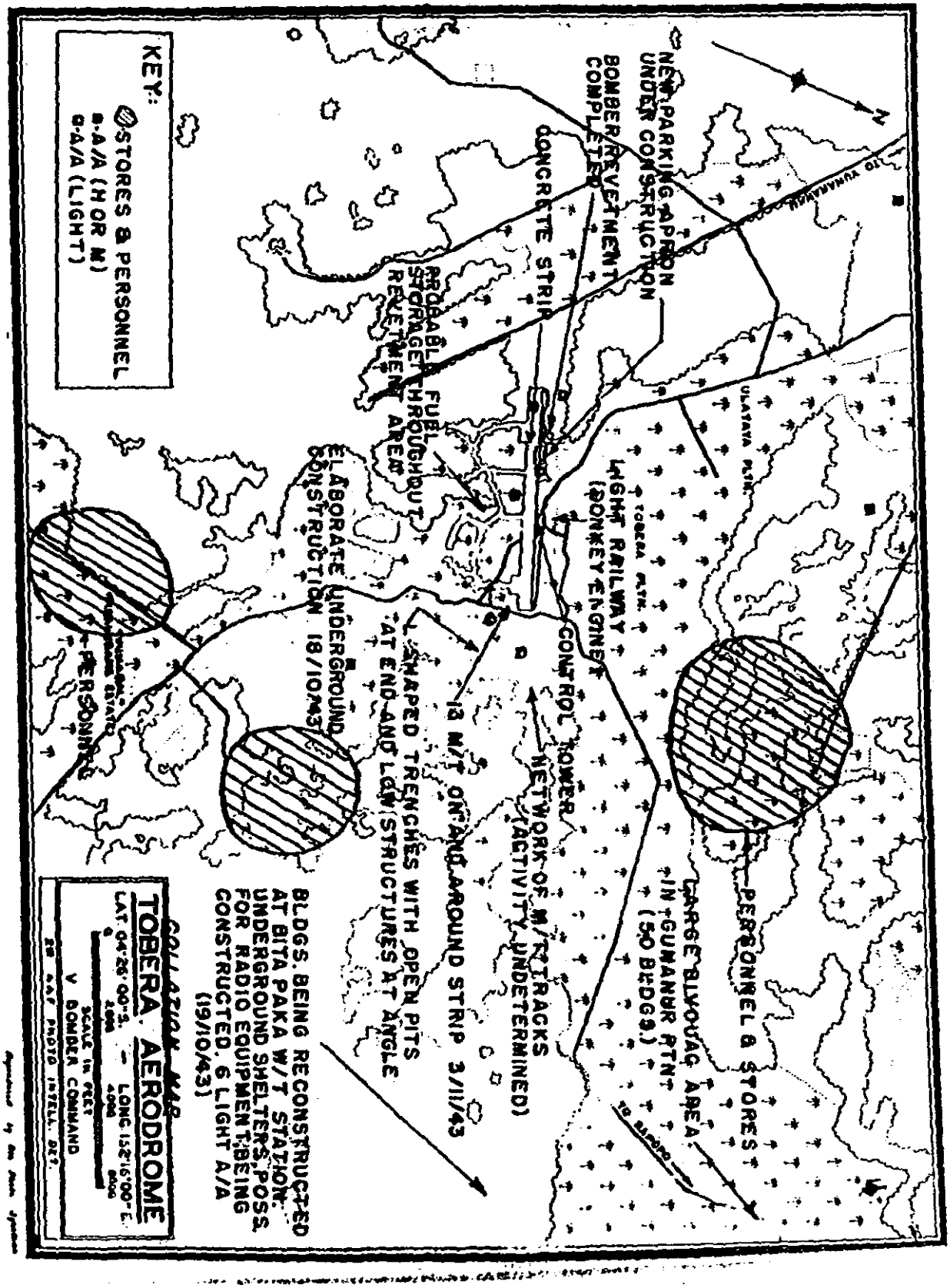
9/11/43



TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY

TOBERA

9/11/43



LONDON:

The Red Army, liberators of Kiev, smashed ahead 35 miles Southwestward to capture the key rail junction of Fastov, dangling a noose over hundreds of thousands of battered German troops facing their biggest catastrophe of the war, below the Dnieper River. Sweeping over ground taken by the Germans in the early days of the 1941 invasion, General Vatutin's Forces who took Fastov, cut the enemy's direct railway linking the Northern Ukraine Forces with those being bled white at Krivoirog in the Dnieper bend 200 miles to the Southeast. This great wheeling movement, sliding toward the Polish and Rumanian borders 120 and 150 miles away, threatened to collapse German resistance.

ITALY:

American troops in brilliant mountain fighting which surprised the Germans have seized dominating heights outflanking strategic Mignano in Italy. Headquarters announced winning the position for a plunge up a broad valley to bypass the Nazis powerful new Mount Maggiore mountain strongholds. A British offensive to the East smashed forward as deep as 5 miles, reeling the Germans back from their Trigno line as Allied warriors captured 72 towns and villages in a blazing climax to a year of war since the Allied landings at North Africa. The Germans threw still another division, the 94th Infantry, against the 5th Army. Nine Nazi divisions are now pitted against the Allies, 6 of them engaging the 5th Army.

MADRID:

A dispatch from the Berlin correspondent of an evening newspaper, indicated that a story was current in Berlin to the effect that Turkey had "Ceded the Gallipoli Peninsula to the Allies" as a possible Balkan invasion route. The correspondent said none of the German military critics discussing a possible Balkan invasion route "Made the slightest allusion to the report that the Turks had ceded the Gallipoli Peninsula to the Allies". Gallipoli guards the Dardanelles.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS ALGIERS:

Allied Headquarters announced it had no knowledge of the Friday night bombing of Vatican City and that all Allied bombers in the area were grounded that night.

CHUNGKING:

The Chinese Communique said that intensified fighting was proceeding in the Hupeh-Hunan border region. On the afternoon of November 5th, the enemy made abortive attacks in the outskirts of Lishien from Sintienpu.

LONDON:

The United Nation's 8th Air Force Flying Fortresses and Thunderbolts, attacked Duren and other targets in Western Germany. In supporting operations Lightnings engaged in sweeps over Northern France.

Indicating [illegible] and rapid Allied penetration in the central part of the battle-front in Italy, MNB said the Germans had abandoned Agnone, Carovilli and Forli, 16 miles North of Isernia. The Germans appeared to be falling back rapidly all along the Eastern end of the front.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ALGIERS:

A year of war against the North African Air Forces in this war theater, cost the Luftwaffe nearly 6000 planes destroyed, half in aerial combat and the other half by bombing its airbases. United States Army Air Forces and R.A.F. announcements, recalling the start of Allied action in the air in French North Africa a year ago Monday, declared this has been "The major contribution to the decline of the Luftwaffe throughout Europe". Allied losses in the same period approximated one fourth of the enemy total

NEW DELHI:

United States fighter-bombers of the 10th Air Force attacked the railroad town and enemy supply center of Namma, midway between Katha and Mogaung, November 6th.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ALGIERS:

United States and British fighters and fighter-bombers, sweeping over Italy and the Dalmatian coast Saturday, attacked enemy tanks, motor vehicles, trains and locomotives in an exceptionally successful series of operations. A surprise attack was made by U. S. P-40's on a concentration of 200 war vehicles at Metovic, on the Dalmatian coast.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ALGIERS:

An entire company of WACS assigned to the 12th Air Force Service Command, was flown to Algiers in transport planes from a port of debarkation many hundreds of miles away so they could be put to work in a hurry. They will assume clerical, stenographic and other administrative jobs.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 576, 8 November, 1943.

AMBOINA:

Our medium units at night bombed Amboin Township, causing explosions and fires in the warehouse and barracks area and near the main port.

TANIMBAR ISLANDS:

Our long range fighters executed a low level sweep against targets of opportunity, bombing and strafing Wandar and Lingat Villages, Selaru airdrome, warehouses on Itan and Namwaan Islands, and surface craft along the Jamdena coast. 4 coastal vessels were sunk. Our medium units attacked 2 small cargo vessels Northwest of Selaru and at night bombed Saumlaki, starting large fires.

NEW IRELAND: CAPE ST. GEORGE:

One of our reconnaissance units from the South Pacific bombed and destroyed a Tender.

KAVIENG:

One of our heavy units at night bombed on reconnaissance an enemy light cruiser North of Nussau Island.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:

Our medium units at night bombed Vunakanau airdrome dispersal areas starting large fuel fires. Simultaneously, our torpedo bombers attacked shipping, scoring a probable hit on a heavy cruiser in Simpson Harbor and a hit on a cargo vessel in Keravia Bay resulting in a heavy explosion and fire visible 50 miles.

GASMATA:

Our fighters dive bombed enemy supply dump areas at the Awok River.

NEW GUINEA VITIAZ STRAITS:

Our light naval craft at night sank 4 large enemy barges and severely damaged a small barge off Kelana Harbor. One of our air patrols bombed a bivouac area at Sio. 3 enemy planes at night dropped bombs in the sea off Salamaua Point.

MUNU-MARKHAM VALLEY:

Shortly after dawn 10 enemy bombers with fighter escort raided Nadzab airdrome and 4 fighters strafed Gusap, causing minor damage. A single enemy aircraft dropped incendiaries near dumps after dark.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE:

Report No. 313

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INIT: JEN
DATE: 9/11/43

FROM: 1800/8/11/43/L.
TO : 1600/9/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929.

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (312 W) took operational photos of TOBERA, RAPOPO, LAKUNAI and VUNAKANAU Airdromes from 1130/L to 1145/L. Slight, heavy, inaccurate A/A fire was received while over the area at 33000 feet. 5 M/V's were sighted at 1135/L on a course of 348 degrees at 0410S-15215E.

KAVIENG: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (312 X) took photos in the KAVIENG area from 1145/L to 1200/L. Photos were also taken of a convoy at 0240S-15002E. Convoy consisted of 1 CL, 3 DD's, three 3000 ton M/V's, two 5/6000 ton M/V's. Convoy was sighted at 1130/L and was on course East. One unidentified fighter airplane was seen circling KAVIENG at 5000 feet at 1200/L.

ALEXISHAFEN: 1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (I) completed 1009 a weather recce to ALEXISHAFEN. Airplane took off at 0427/L and landed at 1040/L. There were nil sightings throughout search.

35 B-25D-1's and B-25C's of the 38th Group (312 G) bombed and strafed No. 1 and No. 2 strips at ALEXISHAFEN from 1025/L to 1055/L. 826 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs and 187 X 100 lb. dem. bombs were dropped on the target. On strip No. 1, one fuel fire with black smoke was started near East end of strip. Approximately 100 personnel were seen and bombed causing unknown number of casualties. A 4-gun heavy A/A battery on North side near West end of runway was silenced and probably destroyed. The entire airdrome was thoroughly strafed with unobserved damage. On strip No. 2, 1 fuel fire was caused which first exploded and then burst into flames on North edge of center of airdrome. One fuel dump at South center of No. 1 strip was set on fire by 75 mm cannon fire. An A/A position between strips No. 1 and No. 2 was damaged by bombing and 75 mm fire. Buildings in the Township and in Plantation area west of No. 2 strip were damaged. Five 2 EB's were destroyed on the ground and 4 fighters were destroyed on the ground. Another fighter was damaged by strafing. A fuel truck was set on fire and destroyed. The control tower on South side of No. 2 strip was probably destroyed by 75 mm fire. 102 X 75 mm, 32480 X .50 cal., and 4505 X .30 cal. was expended on the target. 10 to 15 enemy fighters were observed airborne over the target. 6 enemy fighters attacked the [illegible] Squadron over SEK ISLAND after the bombing. 4 enemy fighters were damaged. 1 B-25C gunner was killed and 2 others slightly wounded. 2 enemy fighters attacked the 823rd Squadron but attacks were not pressed due to excellent coverage by P-38's. A/A fire was moderate, heavy, accurate to inaccurate. 8 enemy airplanes were observed burning on No. 2 strip. An undetermined number of enemy airplanes were seen taking off from MADANG following our bombing of ALEXISHAFEN. 4 camouflaged barges were seen beached at

South side of TAUSCH ISLAND. 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron landed at DOBODURA and is not included in this report. All other airplanes returned to base.

2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (312 Y) took operational photos of MADANG at 0930/L, ALEXISHAFEN at 0935/L and the RAMU VALLEY and airdromes in the DULPU-GUSAP area at 0950/L. At 0955/L, 4 unidentified fighter airplanes were seen circling at 5000 feet 5 miles West of MADANG.

MT. HAGEN: 1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (312 J) completed 100% a supply dropping mission to WABAG—Northwest of MT. HAGEN. There were nil sightings.

GUSAP-NADZAB: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (312 F) completed 100% a weather recce to GUSAP, LAE and NADZAB. Airplane took off at 0740/L and landed at 1045/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 822nd Squadron (312 D) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0743/L and landed at 1400/L. At 1045/L, 2 ZEKES were seen attacking Engineer's Camp East of KAIAPIT. 2 bomb explosions were seen in the camp area. 2 P-38's were seen to engage these ZEKES that broke off combat to escort our airplane to LAE. While at LAE, explosions thought to be bomb bursts were heard in the direction of NADZAB.

ALEXISHAFEN: Fighters of the 431st, 432nd and 433rd Squadrons escorting our bombers to ALEXISHAFEN today sighted 10 to 15 enemy fighters in the target area. The 432nd Squadron shot down 7 ZEKES definitely and 1 ZEKE and 1 OSCAR probably. The 433rd Squadron shot down 5 HAMPS, 1 ZEKE and 1 TONY definitely. No claims were made by the 431st Squadron. This combat took place at 1015/L. At 1110/L, fighters of the 36th Squadron on patrol destroyed 2 OSCARS definitely in the target area.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 43rd Group (312 A) took off at 0718/L to carry out a recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

1 B-24 of the 63rd Squadron (312 B) completed 100% an armed recce to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E. At 1115/L, 1 DD, 1 Fox-Tare-Able and 1 Fox-Tare-Baker were sighted at 00303-14910E on course 360 degrees. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at the Fox-Tare-Baker. Closest bomb missed by 50 feet with no apparent damage. 1 float-plane was seen taking off from the water and 2 float-planes were circling the convoy at 500/1000 feet. At 1450/L another convoy was sighted at 01303-14910E. Convoy consisted of 1 Tare-Baker, 1 Sugar-Able and 2 PC's. Convoy was on course 330 degrees at speed of 7/8 knots. Sugar-Able was covered with deck cargo. Slight, medium, inaccurate A/A fire was received from the second convoy.

1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (312 C) completed 100% an armed recce of the Northern SOLOMON SEA. One large SS was sighted at 1116/L at 0535S-15525E on course 120 degrees. SS submerged as airplane circled for second. At 1320/L in the same position, no SS was seen but an oil slick and great amount of wreckage, as from wrecked ship including yellow, possible oil drums and bikes, was observed. No recognition signals were attempted by the SS.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Enemy movement on the BONGA-WAREO track continues. From 0700/8/L to 1200/8/L, 35 Japs were observed moving East towards BONGA and 150 moving West from BONGA. The majority were unarmed and carrying heavy packs and boxes. Our forward patrols moving along coast have reached area some 1750 yards South of BONGA and report no contact with enemy.

A forward party of our troops moving West from JIVEVAMENG located Jap position 582662. Our troops attacked, killing 9, wounding 5 and dispersing remaining 20 with support of artillery fire. Position was occupied by our party—losses nil.

Wide patrolling continues in all areas with no contact with enemy in any strength.

MARAU VALLEY AREA: No change.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN AREA
9 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	P/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7		7					14	0
DAGUA	5	1	12					18	0
WEWAK	16	3	5			6		30	0
BOROKA	35	2						37	0
ALEXISHAFEN	15		2					17	-32
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
MADANG	2							2	+2
Total	88	42	36			6		172	-30

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	16	15	19			7		57	+30
VUNAKANAU	37	28	4					69	0
LAKUNAI	75	2	11					86	+33
RAPOPO		2	1					3	-3
KAREPOR						24		24	+12
TOBERA	28							28	+5
Total	154	47	35			31		287	+77

SOLOMONS:									
BUKA								0	0
BONIS	1							1	0
KANILI	5							5	0
BALLALE	1							1	0
FAISI								0	-9
Total	7							7	-9

COMMENTS:

1. SOLOMONS airplane count is from photos taken 6/11/43. It is believed all F/P's now operate out of RABAUL and our former count at FAISI is deducted.

2. KAVIENG, LAKUNAI, RAPOPO, HARLOK and TOBERA were photoed today (9/11/43). VUNAKANAU is old count taken from photos of 3/11/43.

3. BUT, DAGUA, WEWAK and BORAM airplane count is from photos of 6/11/43. HOLLANDIA and WANDE are estimates from old photo count. MADANG was photoed today (9/11/43). ALEXISHAFEN count is our yesterday's estimate with deductions made for 16 SSF destroyed in that area by our fighters and a preliminary estimate of approximately 5 SSF, 6 M/B and 2 L/B destroyed on the ground by our bombers.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 7/11/43. (310 Y)

Photographs partly cloud obscured.

Airplanes. Nil serviceable airplanes.

Airdrome. N. 1 strip in poor condition but probably serviceable.

N. 2 strip, bomb craters filled in. Serviceable.

Defences. 2 heavy and numerous light A/A positions under construction and intense trucking activity at a point approximately 4500 feet S.South West end of N. 2 runway. 1000 feet West of this point there are 2 searchlights, 2 unidentified installations in revetments and 4 light A/A. Numerous A/A positions and tracks to dump area North of dispersal bays appear well used.

General. In the wooded area West of N. 1 strip there are several indications that this is being used for stores and personnel.

A. It is accessable through the use of the BOLABOLA ROAD.

B. Numerous gardens are under cultivation. (Approximately 4 Acres).

C. P.O.W. report 4 Air Force personnel in Coconut Grove.

D. Excellent camouflage area.

Taking into consideration the infrequent use of the airdrome, the problem of supply and the comparatively small amount of trucking visible, it is difficult to say just how many enemy personnel are located in this area.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

312 I. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0427/9/L to 1040/9/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to ALEXISHAFEN and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: HOOD POINT, DOBODURA, LAE, 0515S-14453E, LAE, DOBODURA, HOOD POINT to base. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed enroute at 16000 feet with overcast at 18000 feet. Overcast at 13000 feet over the HUON GULF and scattered to broken clouds overland. Visibility 15 to 20 miles. Ranges crossed on return at 12500 feet.

312 P. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0700/9/L to 1045/9/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to GUSAP, LAE, NADZAB and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: BULLDOG, 0730/L, low clouds at 1800 feet, 1/10, upper clouds at 13000 feet, 9/10, visibility unlimited. NADZAB, 0800/L, low clouds at 600 feet, 3/10, upper clouds at 15000 feet, 5/10, visibility unlimited. GUSAP, 0810/L, low clouds 5000 feet, 6/10, upper clouds at 12000 feet, 3/10, visibility 25 miles. LAE, 0830/L, low clouds at 2000 feet, 4/10, upper clouds at 9000 feet, 6/10, visibility 20 miles. PASS, 1000/L, low clouds 6000 feet, 4/10, upper clouds 12000 feet, 9/10, visibility 20 miles.

312 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1130/9/L to 1145/9/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken of TOBERA, RAPOPO, LAKUNAI and VUNAKANAU Airdromes from 33000 feet.

A/A: Slight, heavy, inaccurate at 33000 feet while over RABAUL Airdromes.

SIGHTINGS: At 1135/L, 5 M/V's were sighted at 0410S-15215E on course 340 degrees.

WEATHER: RABAUL, 3/10 cumulus to 10000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, scattered thundershowers.

312 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1145/9/L to 1200/9/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: KAVIENG.

RESULTS: Photos were taken of convoy at 0240S-15002E. Photos were also taken of USAGI PASSAGE, KAVIENG to PANAPEI, NUSA ISLAND to LISSENO ISLAND.

SIGHTING: At 1130/L, convoy consisting of 1 CL, 3 DD, three 3000 ton M/V's, two 5/6000 ton M/V's were sighted at 02401-15002E on a course East at various speeds from stationary to 15 kn hr. Convoy was sighted again at 1150/L. One unidentified SSF was seen circling KAVIENG at 5000 feet at 1200/L.

WEATHER: KAVIENG, 3/10 low cumulus. BISMARCK SEA, 2/10 low cumulus. Cumulus to 15000 feet North of TALASEA.

312 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 0930/9/L. (2) 0935/9/L. (3) 0950/9/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) MADANG. (2) ALEXISHAFEN. (3) RAMU VALLEY.

RESULTS: Oper tional photos were taken of MADANG, ALEXISHAFEN, RAMU VALLEY and vicinities in the DUMPU-GUMAP area.

SIGHTINGS: 4 unidentified SSF airplanes were sighted circling at 5000 feet, 5 miles West of MADANG at 0935/L. Mission was 100% completed.

WEATHER: MADANG-ALEXISHAFEN, CAVU. MADANG-RAMU VALLEY, alto-stratus 8/10 at 15000 feet. Ranges, scattered cumulus at 8000 feet.

312 G(1) STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1025/9/L to 1031/9/L.

TARGET: Grounded airplanes on No. 1 strip at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: A total of 136 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped. Only 1 airplane (well camouflaged) was seen on the No. 1 strip at Southwest end of drome. Bombing runs were made on a bearing of 30 degrees over-lying Northeast 2/3rds of runway, Northeast dispersal area and extending towards BOSTELM BAY. 1 black smoke fire near East end of strip was observed upon leaving the target. 1 stick of parafrag bombs were seen to fall short of approximately 100 yards between edge of North-west dispersal area and BOSTELM BAY. Damage was not observed. Bombing was 50% accurate on strip and dis-persal area and 50% accurate against observed personnel. The entire area was heavily bombed. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing. 10420 X .50 cal. and 1600 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing.

A/A: Moderate, heavy, accurate and altitude from Southwest end of No. 2 strip, 1 blinker light of No. 1 strip and point opposite AD COIN ISLAND. M/G fire was re-ceived from North side of No. 1 and 2 strips and from ANCA BAY west at North end of No. 1 strip.

SIGHTINGS: 2 black smoke fires were seen at West end of No. 2 strip that appeared to be burning airplanes. They were thought to be twin-engine bombers. 1 small fire was observed at the West end of No. 2 strip on approach to the target. 1 single-engine unidentified airplane with wheels down was seen approaching No. 2 strip from the sea as though to land. 2 airplanes were seen in the open near the West end of No. 2 strip during approach to target. A undetermined number of single-engine airplanes were seen taking off from the MADANG air-drome after attack on ALEXISHAFEN. These airplanes were immediately intercepted by P-38's. 1 ZEKE was

rose to crash in flames in water Northeast of SEK ISLAND. (Observation was made after attack on No. 1 strip). Another larger unidentified airplane was seen to crash on the East side of SEK ISLAND 5 minutes later. 3 ZEKES were seen being pursued by 3 P-38's right on the water off SEK ISLAND. One unidentified single-engine airplane was seen at approximately 5000 feet over coastline near BOGADJIM paralleling formation toward target.

GENERAL: P-38 cover was reported [illegible]. P-38's diverted enemy fighters and no attacks were made on the bombers. 3 B-25H-1's were damaged by explosion of 100 lb. bombs dropped by preceding airplanes. One crew member was slightly injured.

WEATHER: En route, strato-cumulus at 1500 feet in RAMU and MARKHAM VALLEYS. Over target, scattered cumulus at 1500 feet, solid over Huon Gulf. On return, frontal activity extending inland between FINSCHHAFEN and SALAMAUA. Rain over FINSCHHAFEN to Markham. Solid cumulus with tops to 14000 feet over Ramu on return.

312 S(2) STRIKE - 9 B-25H-1's, Flak Suppression.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1039/9/L to 1053/9/L.

TARGET: Strip No. 1 [illegible].

RESULTS: 240 shrapnel (3 x 82 lb.) parafrag bombs were dropped at 3 heavily camouflaged unidentified airplanes parked at Northwest corner of the strip with unobserved results; at 3 H/S at North edge of the strip, East of Western taxiway, leaving them burning; at 10 to 12 single-engine fighters in the revetment area at Northeast corner of the strip--2 of which were left burning; at probable fuel dump in N. 9th edge of center of strip causing it to [illegible] burning with red flame and black smoke. 2 SSF at 3 [illegible] corner side of strip were damaged with unobserved results. 1 SSF with engine running, in revetment at East end of strip was strafed damaging it so that engine stopped turning over. 1 ZEKE taking off strip to West into our formation was shot down by our 4th flight of 3 airplanes with no observed results on the ZEKE successfully took off all planes above our formation on the left. The entire area was thoroughly strafed with 12100 x .50 cal. and 1025 x .76 cal. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Slight, inaccurate heavy, moderate bursting in both sides [illegible] from both sides of each end of strip, both ends of PAIGES RIVER South of each end of strip, strip No. 1 at edge of observed area, and Island West of AD [illegible]. 4 of our airplanes were damaged by A/A.

SIGHTINGS: An unidentified silver colored airplane apparently [illegible] our formation approximately 15000 feet above. Airplane was seen at GARAWIA but not after LAE approach to target. 5 miles from target, on approach, enemy fighters were seen 5 miles behind our formation climbing in cloud cover. One small [illegible] burnt unidentified airplane was seen about 1/4 mile away down South side of strip--apparently destroyed previous to our attack. 1 Oscar was seen near the East end of No. 1 strip. 2 unidentified airplanes were seen to crash and burn

in the water just East of SEK ISLAND. Fighters seen on No. 2 strip were dark green and 2 had a bright new looking finish. The L/B's were pinkish or rusty in color. 10 or 15 enemy fighters were seen dog-fighting with P-38's over SEK ISLAND.

GENERAL: Excellent cover by P-38's prevented attempted interception on this Squadron. 2 bundles of native propaganda leaflets were dropped just before reaching the target. 1 P-38D-1 landed at DOBODURA and is not included in this report.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered cumulus at 2000 feet. Over target, scattered cumulus at 2500 feet, visibility good.

312 3(3) STRIKE - 9 B-25C's, 82nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 10.00/9/L.

TARGET: No. 2 Strip at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: 95 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on airplanes on No. 2 strip, dumps on either side of the strip and A/A positions South of the strip with the following results: 3 near misses and a possible hit were scored on an A/A position ½ mile S uth of the West end of No. 2 strip, 1 hit was scored on an unidentified twin-engine airplane at the Northeast corner of the strip setting it afire, 4 hits were scored among buildings in the Township causing unobserved damage. Other results were unobserved due to speed of attack and heavy smoke over the area as a result of previous Squadron's bombing. Bombing was excellent. 66 X 75 mm were fired at the targets with the following results: 1 hit was scored on a building South of the East end of the strip causing unobserved damage. 1 direct hit was scored on an A/A position also reported hit by a bomb. 1 hit was scored on a possible fuel dump at South center of side of No. 2 strip causing an explosion followed by a large red flame and black smoke fire. 1 hit was scored on a building in the Plantation area 1 mile Southwest of the West end of No. 2 strip causing unobserved damage.. 1 direct hit was scored behind cockpit of a ZEKE parked at the Northeast corner of No. 2 strip with engine running and a man standing on the wing climbing into the cockpit. 75 mm explosion did not apparently kill the man but machine gun strafing did. The entire target was thoroughly strafed. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Slight, light and medium, generally inaccurate, bursting above 2 enemy A/A positions in East flight gap and other unobserved positions.

INTERCEPTION: 6 ZEKES and/or OSCARS intercepted over SEK HARBOR just after our attack. 1 ZEKE apparently took off from strip No. 2 and made a pass from 3 o'clock below but broke off when fired on by waist gun. Tracers were seen to enter this ZEKE and it is claimed as damaged. 2 ZEKES made one pass each, from 6 and 3 o'clock above, on one of our airplane causing no damage, although attacks were pressed to within 50 yards. 2 to 4 ZEKES made an indefinite number of passes from 2, 3 and 6 o'clock above on one of our airplanes, but only one hit was scored on our airplane. (This hit killed our gunner) 2 ZEKES made 2 passes at one airplane, one from 7 o'clock above which was not pressed, and one from 4 o'clock below which was pressed to within 50 yards but ZEKE did not fire.

Several passes were made by 2 ZEKES from a formation of five at one of our airplanes causing no damage but tracers from our turret guns were seen to enter one ZEKE which is claimed as damaged. This ZEKE was seen to crash in the water but it was believed to be the result of fire from P-38's which were pursuing him.

SIGHTINGS: 3 unidentified airplanes were seen burning on North side at center of N. 2 strip. 4 probably twin-engine airplanes were burning fiercely on the South side at center of N. 2 strip. 1 SSF was seen burning in a taxiway at the Northeast corner of N. 2 strip. 4 small fires were observed in a clearing immediately South of the West end of the strip. Our second flight leader reported 3 apparently serviceable twin-engine airplanes in a clearing on the North side of strip near the East end. 1 SSF was seen taxiing down the strip. Black smoke from fire in the target rose to 2999 feet. 1 crew reported 4 camouflaged barges beached at South end of TAUSO ISLAND. 1 probable life boat was seen from a distance halfway between LONG ISLAND and CAPE GLOUCESTER.

GENERAL: P-38 cover was excellent. 2 bundles of native propaganda leaflets were dropped 10 miles Southwest of target.

WEATHER: Enroute (To DOBODURA), 5/10 cumulus with tops at 11000 feet. From DOBODURA to target, 5/10 alto-cumulus with base at 1000 feet. Target, 5/10 covered at 1000 feet with thunderstorms to the West over the Northern MARU VALLEY. On return (To DOBODURA), 4/10 alto-cumulus at 1000 feet. Over Ranges, 9/10 cumulus, tops at 15000 feet.

312 J. SUPPLY MISSION - 1 B-24, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0857/9/L to 1520/9/L.

MISSION: Drop supplies at NABAG—Northwest of MT. HAGEN.

RESULTS: Supplies were dropped as ordered—all believed to be recoverable. Photos were taken.

WEATHER: Enroute, 4/10 scattered cumulus. On return, front building up in vicinity of KAINA.

312 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0733/9/L to 1703/9/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Northern SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered—100% visibility. Route flown: Base to CAPE NELSON, 0600S-15214OE; 0600S-15330E, 0535S-15330E, 0535S-15230E, 0450S-15230E, 0450S-15400E, 0615S-15400E, 0535S-15330E, CAPE NELSON to base. Photos were taken of crashed B-24 (403rd Squadron) on reef at 0622S-15036E.

SIGHTINGS: At 1116/L from 10150 feet, a large long light-gray SS was sighted at 0535S-15325E on course 120 degrees. SS had possible hatches or gun positions, fore and aft of conning tower. SS submerged as our airplane started to descend. SS attempted a recognition signal. Returning at 1320/L from 700 feet, no SS was seen but an oil slick and great amount of wreckage as if from wrecked ship, including yellow possible oil drums and beams were observed.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 3/10 fracto-cumulus, 5000 feet, 1/10 cirrus, 30000 feet. Ranges (CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT) 9/10 cumulus from mountain tops to 10000 feet, 5/10 cumulus from 10000 to 15000 feet.

312 D. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0745/9/L to 1400/9/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE and return.

SIGHTINGS: Our airplane landed at NADZAB during yellow alert. 6 unidentified airplanes were seen at 25000/30000 feet heading West and then turning to North. Enroute from GUSAP to LAE at 1045/L, 2 ZEKES were seen attacking engineer's camp West of KAIAPIT. 2 bomb explosions were seen in area of Engineer's Camp and MG or cannon fire from ZEKES was seen. 2 P-38's were seen to engage these ZEKES to prevent their intercepting our airplane. P-38's then broke off combat to escort our airplane to LAE. Airplane landed at LAE during a red alert. Shortly after landing, several explosions thought to be bomb bursts were heard to the Northwest in the direction of NADZAB. One parachute was reported descending in the area of combat.

WEATHER: Enroute, 6/10 cumulus to 11000 feet, upper layer of clouds with bases at 14000/16000 feet, 5/10. RAMU-MARKHAM VALLEY, 8/10 covered, base 800 feet. On return, 8/10 cumulus, tops 13000 feet.

312 E. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0717/9/L to 1845/9/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-149[illegible] 0200N-15140E and return.

TARGET: Fox-Taro-Baker at 0030S-14910E.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1115/L from 8000 feet at a Fox-Taro-Baker at 0030S-14910E. Closest bomb fell 50 feet off port side of ship with nil damage observed. Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Photos were taken of the 2 convoys (See SIGHTINGS).

A/A: Slight, medium, inaccurate noticed only from escort vessels and Taro-Baker in convoy at 0130S-14910E.

SIGHTINGS: At 1115/L from 8000 feet, a convoy consisting of 1 Fox-Taro-Able, 1 Fox-Taro-Baker and 1 DD was sighted at 0030S-14910E on course 360 degrees. Ships were in a "V" formation with the DD trailing. 1 F/P was seen taking off from the water. 2 F/P's were seen circling the convoy at 500/1000 feet. 1 F/P climbed to 5000 feet but turned back as B-24 left the area. At 1450/L from 9000 feet position 0130S-14910E, a convoy consisting of 1 Taro-Baker, 1 Sugar-Able and 2 PC's were seen on course 330 degrees at speed of 7/8 knots. M/V's were in line astern with PC's (Slightly larger than PT's) flanking. The Sugar-Able was covered with deck cargo.

GENERAL: No A/A experienced from attacked convoy until 3 miles after bomb release. Ships used evasive action and turned toward airplane during bombing run.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, (North), 4/10 cumulus from 8000 feet to 20000 feet, 8/10 alto-stratus at 14000 feet. (South), 4/10 scattered cumulus at 3000/5000 feet. HUON GULF, 2/10 fract.-cumulus at 5000 feet. Ranges, (CAPE WARD HUNT to PORT MORESBY), 7/10 alto-stratus at 13000 feet.

312 G(4) STRIKE - 9 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1032/9/L to 1055/9/L.

TARGET: Grounded airplanes on No. 1 and No. 2 strips at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: First flight of 4 B-25G's attacked No. 1 strip and second flight of 4 B-25G's attacked No. 2 strip.

On No. 1 strip: A run of 70 degrees was made across the West end of the airdrome. (This run was made instead of run parallel to runway due to congestion of airplanes prior to attack). 8 X 100 lb. 5/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped through A/A gun heavy A/A position on North side near West end of the runway. The battery was silenced and probably [illegible] yed. 36 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dispersed across the strip and through the revetment area with unobserved results. Only one airplane, heavily camouflaged, was seen on the strip. Airplane was not visible until after run was made. No attacks made on this airplane. 75 MM, 50 cal. and 30 cal. were expended accurately throughout the airdrome and dispersal areas with no visible results.

On strip No. 2: One 2 EB (SALLY) was set afire and destroyed by a direct 75 MM hit. 3 ZEKES, one taxiing towards West end of runway, two parked at Northeast end of runway and one at edge of South dispersal area were bombed and strafed with unobserved results. 5 camouflaged positions that appeared to hide airplanes, along South side of strip were also strafed with unobserved results. A fuel truck on the South side near the West end of strip was set afire by strafing. The control tower on South side of strip near center was apparently destroyed by direct 75 MM hit. 4 heavy black smoke fires and one small fire were visible on No. 2 strip after the attack. Observation was very poor due to speed, low altitude of attack and smoke over target from previous attacks.

A total of 92 X 100 lb. 5/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped; 36 X 75 MM, 4000 X .50 cal. and 1200 X .30 cal. were expended on the target. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Moderate, heavy, inaccurate as to altitude and deflection from the South side of No. 2 runway, North side near West end of No. 1 runway. Medium, light, inaccurate from an unidentified position near No. 1 strip. M/G fire came from tripod positions along North sides of No. 1 and No. 2 strips. Light inaccurate M/G fire also came from AMRON MISSION.

INTERCEPTION: 2 of our airplanes were intercepted by 2 ZEKES making attacks from 3 and 5 o'clocks. Attacks were not pressed due to early interception by P-38's. Our gunners were not able to fire at attacking airplanes due to nearness of P-38's. P-38 cover was very effective.

SIGHTINGS: One single-engine unidentified airplane was seen to take off from N. 1 strip during our approach to the target. Airplane was attacked immediately by P-38's. One ZEKE was seen airborne and afire over ALEXISHAFEN following dogfight with P-38. One ZEKE was seen to crash in water 200 yards W. of ADMOSIN ISLAND. One ZEKE was observed to crash [illegible] yards East of ADMOSIN ISLAND. One twin-engine airplane, believed to be P-38, was seen to crash 2 mile South of SEK ISLAND. Pilot was seen to bail out.

GENERAL: 1 B-25G returned to base before reaching target due to turret failure.

WEATHER: See 405th Squadron's Report on this Mission.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Fighters of the 431st, 432nd and 433rd Squadrons escorting our bombers to ALEXISHAFEN today sighted 10 to 15 enemy fighters in the target area. The 432nd Squadron shot down 7 ZEKES definitely and 1 ZEKE and 1 OSCAR probably. The 433rd Squadron shot down 5 HAMPS, 1 ZEKE and 1 TONY definitely. No claims were made by the 431st Squadron. This combat took place at 1015/L. At 1110/L, fighters of the 36th Squadron on patrol destroyed 2 OSCARS definitely in the same area.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Ass't Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Nauman

PAUL E. NAUMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

ITALY:

Allied Forces hammered relentlessly toward Rome, the 8th Army reaching a point less than 30 miles from the Port of Pescara on the Adriatic Sea and the 5th Army driving hard on Gaeta, only 70 miles from Rome. The Germans apparently were destroying Gaeta's Harbor facilities in the face of imminent Allied occupation. From their frontline positions 9 miles from Gaeta, Lt. General Mark W. Clark's 5th Army fighters heard several great explosions in the city, evidently from mines set off by the hard pressed Nazis. Gaeta, the best port between Naples and Civitavecchia, above Rome, would be of supreme value in supplying the next stair of the campaign for the Italian Capital. The 8th Army captured Casalbordino in a 6 mile gain and occupied the entire length of the Sinello River.

LONDON:

American and British troops are swiftly preparing for the second front which Marshall Joseph Stalin has said is near and which President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill have promised will be on an unprecedented scale. Information filtering through official channels indicate preparations are underway on a rising tide of anticipation.

Over Channel air warfare continued on a small scale while rescue squads toiled through the debris of Britain's worst bombing episode in a year. The smashing of a crowded suburban London dance-hall and 2 taverns by a single bomber caused a number of American and British servicemen and servicewomen who were believed to have been in the dance hall as casualties. American and British officers visited a nearby mortuary where the bodies were being identified. The British said officially a considerable number of persons were killed. The toll was the greatest since 44 children were killed in the bombing of Catford School last January 20th.

The Red Army swept up more than 60 villages in its drive beyond Kiev Monday, including Makarov, 21 miles to the West and only 50 miles from the rail junction of Zhitomir, a Moscow Communique announced. A broadcast announcement also said the Germans lost 15000 killed and 6200 prisoners on the Kiev battlefied between last Wednesday and Saturday when the Ukraine Capital was captured. The Russians were pushing beyond Fastov, 35 miles Southwest of Kiev and also striking to the Northwest at a point 21 miles from the fallen Axis bastion.

NEW YORK:

Soviet Russia intends to repay her obligations to the United States in full, Donald M. Nelson, War Production Board Chairman declared. Quoting Marshall Joseph Stalin directly, Nelson said the Russian Leader had told him without qualification that any obligation undertaken by this government (Russia) will be repaid in full and not by token payments. Nelson, who returned last week from a 3 week's survey of Russian War Industry, was emphatic in his prediction of a long and lasting friendship, between Russia and the United States in an address before the Congress of American-Soviet Friendship at Madison Square Garden.

ITALY:

Starting in December, one of the war's last great air struggles will be fought in the skies over Italy between the Luftwaffe and the powerful American-British Air Forces in this theater. Officers who have been attached to the Staff of Field Marshall Albert Kesselring quote him as saying the full strength of the Luftwaffe will be turned to the Mediterranean for the winter.

LONDON:

Adolf Hitler admitted to Nazi Party Leaders gathered at a Munich beer cellar celebration that "We cannot reach America but one state is in our reach and that we shall hold responsible". He evidently referred to Britain. In spite of the German retreat in Russia bordering on a decisive defeat and despite Mediterranean theater defeats suffered at Allied hands, the German Leader promised his old party colleagues that whatever happened, we shall master every thing.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ALGIERS:

Mediterranean based bombers of the United States Air Force making their first attack on Turin, hit a Fiat bearing factory in the Northern Italian city Monday. It was the first daylight raid on Turin, in the German controlled section of the Peninsula.

STOCKHOLM:

A dispatch from Tallinn, Estonia, said German occupation authorities whipping sections of the Baltic States into a fortified zone in the face of a possible Nazi withdrawal from the Leningrad area, have ordered civilians evacuated from 3 towns. The communities named were Gdov, on the Eastern shore of Lake Peipsi and Kingisepp, and Luga, both located on railways out of Leningrad.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEAT PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 577, 9 November, 1943.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:

Continuing our attacks on the enemy's air bases, our escorted heavy bombers struck Rapopo airdrome at midday with 84 tons of explosives, starting large fires in dispersal areas and damaging barracks and installations. 9 bombers and 3 fighters were destroyed on the ground. 23 of 50 intercepting enemy fighters were shot down and 5 others probably destroyed. 5 of our fighters are missing.

GASMATA:

Our medium units after dark bombed supply dumps and the Anwek River.

NEW GUINEA: MADANG AREA:

Our air patrols shot down 7 enemy fighters and probably destroyed one other.

FINSCHHAFEN:

4 enemy planes raided harmlessly after dark.

RAMU-MARKHAM VALLEY:

9 enemy bombers escorted by 10 fighters raided Nadzab after dawn, causing moderate damage and casualties. Our fighters shot down 7 bombers and 6 fighters, with 5 other planes probable. Our bombers in flight over the area report 2 additional enemy fighters probably destroyed in interception. Some of our medium bombers in 2 low altitude attacks against enemy shipping sank 5 small cargo vessels, a Corvette, and 2 barges off Southwest Buka, and in Matchin Bay.

SOLOMONS:

25 barges at Chabia were strafed with unobserved results. An enemy fighter and a bomber were shot down. Some of our planes were damaged but all returned. At midday our heavy units bombed Bonis airdrome, scoring well on the target area.

KIETA:

Our fighter and bomber patrols bombed and strafed the airdrome, installations at Matsiri, and sank 2 barges in Tinputz Harbor.

EMPRESS AUGUST BAY:

Our ground forces are consolidating their positions in heavy torrential rains. Our fighter patrols strafed enemy bivouac areas South of the bay. 12 enemy dive bombers attacked our shipping without effect. 5 were shot down by anti-aircraft fire. Our medium units from the Southwest Pacific at night executed torpedo and low altitude bombing attacks on a heavy cruiser and 2 destroyers off the coast. Hits or near misses were believed to have been scored on both destroyers.

BUKA:

Our torpedo and dive bombers followed by medium units attacked Kara airdrome, positions and installations with 72 tons of bombs.

ing fighters destroyed 5 enemy barges offshore. There was no interception. One plane is missing.

TREASURY ISLAND:

Three light, ineffective night air-raids were reported.

NEW GEORGIA:

Two enemy planes dropped bombs harmlessly in the water South of Munda. Our fighters shot down an enemy reconnaissance plane off Santa Isabel.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

Report No. 314.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

10 NOV 1943

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: G.E.N.
DATE: 10/11/43

FROM: 1600/9/11/43/L.
TO : 1600/10/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 2 B-24's of the 65th Squadron (313 J) attempted to complete weather recce to RABAUL. First airplane took off at 2000/9/L and turned back at 2140/9/L due to radio trouble after completing 50% of mission and landed at 0010/10/L. Second B-24 took off at 2207/9/L, and turned back from 0545S-15200E due to radio trouble and landed at 0020/10/L. There were nil sightings.

12 B-24's of the 403rd Squadron (313 K) bombed LAKUNAI Airdrome from 0550/L to 0520/L. 1240 X 20 lb. frag. bombs and 160 X 100 lb. G.P. bombs were dropped from 8000/10250 feet in individual runs on headings from 200 degrees to 320 degrees. 6 airplanes reported bombing results excellent. 13 individual fires were started in the target. One fire burned with red-orange flame with smoke to 6000 feet and 2 explosions. Another fire was reported with 150 feet yellow flame. 3 orange-red fires were started which were visible 35 minutes after leaving target. 4 B-24's reported bombing results unobserved; 1 B-24 was unable to find the target and another B-24 is missing from this Strike. An inline engine fighter made 4 ineffective passes at one of our airplanes. Another of our airplanes reported 3 night fighters rose to its altitude, flashed yellow light which was immediately followed by enemy A/A on correct altitude. A/A fire was reported as intense, medium and heavy, accurate to inaccurate. 50 to 60 searchlights were observed. Searchlights formed cones into which A/A fired regardless of airplanes position. At 0430/L, a white light blinking the letter "O" was sighted at CAPE ARCHWAM. Shipping in the harbor was unidentified.

1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (313 W) photographed VUNAKANAU, LAKUNAI, KERAWAT and GASMATA. Photos in the RABAUL area were taken from 0930/L to 0940/L from 33000 feet. Less than usual shipping was reported in SIMPSON HARBOR.

WEWAK: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (313 X) took operational photos of BOIAM and WEWAK dr[illegible] at 1120/L from 28000 feet. Photos were also taken [illegible]UBIA. 6 probable ZEKES attempted interception over WEWAK. F-5 left the area and P-47's fighter escort engaged the enemy airplanes. Slight, heavy, inaccurate A/A was received over WEWAK. Two 2000/3000 ton M/V's were seen stationary in WEWAK HARBOR.

ALEXISHAFEN: 1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (313 L) completed 100% a weather recce to ALEXISHAFEN and MADANG. Airplane took off at 0309/L and landed at 0735/L. A large brush fire, visible for 40 miles, was seen approximately 5 miles South of BOGADJIM at 0440/L. From 0445/L to 0545/L, occasional, probable individual tent lights were seen along the coast from BOGADJIM to ALEXISHAFEN.

24 B-25G's of the 822nd and 823rd Squadrons (313 G) took off at 0805/L to bomb ALEXISHAFEN. 5 airplanes of the 822nd Squadron either landed at LAE on return or are unaccounted for and are not included in this report. 1 B-25G returned to base before reaching the target. 390 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs and 72 X 100 lb. bombs were dropped from 1050/L to 1055/L on strips No. 1 and 2 at ALEXISHAFEN. 83 X 75 mm, 10490 X .50 cal. and 3145 X .30 cal. were expended on the target. 3 houses in the Township area were destroyed by 75 mm fire. One warehouse just East of the Mission was heavily damaged by a direct 75 mm hit. 1 M/G position 150 yards from East end of No. 1 strip was damaged by bombs. One heavy A/A position was damaged by 75 mm hit. 3 gasoline trucks and 2 enemy fighters on the ground were strafed with undetermined damage. 1 fighter at Southwest corner of Strip No. 1 was destroyed by a 75 mm hit. Both airdromes were well covered by bombing and strafing. Slight to intense, medium and heavy, accurate A/A fire was received. Some A/A fire was of a barrage type. No enemy airplanes were observed airborne in the target area. The road from ALEXISHAFEN to HANSA BAY appeared well used with 3 trucks loaded with uniformed personnel observed on the road. M/G positions on raised platforms 3 feet high and 6 X 8 feet square, were seen on the South side of No. 2 strip. 6 serviceable barges were observed on the beach on the South side of ULIGAN HARBOR. 3 serviceable barges were beached at KRONPRINZ HARBOR. 1 serviceable barge was at mouth of river near PALAS POINT.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (313 F) completed 100% a weather recce to MARILINAN, LAE, NADZAB and DUMPU. Airplane took off at 0545/L and landed at 0900/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 822nd Squadron (313 D) completed 100% a Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB and LAE. Airplane took off at 1040/L and landed at 1640/L. There were nil sightings.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 90th Group (313 A) took off at 0658/L to carry out an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (313 B) completed 100% an armed recce to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at 1455/L at a European type building on the East shore of GAROVE ISLAND. Bombs missed target with nil apparent damage. Slight, medium, inaccurate fire was received at 8000 feet from the East shore of GAROVE ISLAND. There were nil sightings.

1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (313 C) completed 100% an armed recce in the SOLOMON SEA. At 1318/L, an empty life-boat and possible debris was sighted at 0645S-15325E. There were nil other sightings. Entire search area was covered with overcast down to 1200 feet.

NOTE: Included in this report are the following mission reports from FAFF:

312 AA. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25, 33rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to ALEXISHAFEN.

312 BB. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25, 33rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to REIN BAY.

312 CC. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TARGET: enemy shipping in REIN BAY.

312 ---. STRIKE - 11 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TARGET: Grounded airplanes at ALEXISHAFEN.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0755/9/L to 0757/9/L.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Our forward post reports enemy movement on BONGA-WARJO track continues.

Our troops engaged Jap position approximately 1300 yards North of JIVEVANENG and occupied same. To the West of JIVEVANENG our patrols located enemy positions which were then engaged by our artillery.

Patrol activity continues in all areas.

RAMU AREA: Our Commando patrols working in area 5 and 8 miles North of USINI report JOBSO (BAGASIN, 1 inch Map, Ref. 2802) KEPSAU (Ref. 3005) and ULILAI (Ref. 3407) clear of enemy. Further North at KULAU (Ref. 3107) 50 Japs were located. Otherwise, position normal.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
10 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F.	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7		7					14	0
DAGUA	5	1	12					18	0
WEWAK	16	2	4			6		28	-2
BORAM	31	2	2					35	-2
NUELA	1							1	±1
AWAR	3							3	±3
ALEXISHAFEN	12		2					14	±3
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
MADANG	2							2	0
Total	85	41	37			6		169	-3

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	16	15	19			7		57	0
VUNAKANAU	48	18	7					73	±4
LAKUNAI	99	2	14					115	±29
RAPOPO		2	1					3	0
KAVIENG						32		32	±8
TOBERA	28							28	0
Total	191	37	41			39		308	±41

SOLOMONS:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUK.						4		4	±4
BONIS	1							1	0
KAHILI								0	-5
BALLALE	1							1	0
FAISI						1		1	±1
Total	2					5		7	0

COMMENTS:

1. SOLOMONS dromes were photoed 9/11/43.

2. VUNAKANAU, LAKUNAI and Harbor were photoed today (10/11/43). KAVIENG, RAPOPO and TOBERA were photoed 9/11/43.

3. WEWAK, BORAM, NUELI and AWAR dromes were photoed today (10/11/43). 6 SSF were airborne at time photos were taken and have been added to BORAM count. WAKDE and HOLLANDIA are estimates. BUT and DAGUA count are from photos taken 6/11/43. ALEXISHAFEN damage cannot be completely assessed at this time— some of our airplane reports are not available and strike photos do not give good drome coverage. 3 SSF have been deducted from yesterday's estimate.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

HOSKINS: 8/11/43. (311 A)

Good vertical photographs.

Airplanes. Nil.

Airdrome. Serviceable.

Defenses. A 3 heavy A/A position 2300 feet West of strip now appears occupied but clearing of bush in immediate vicinity is not complete, thus reducing the effective range of fire.

Supply & Dump Areas. The wooded area Southwest of the South end of the runway has a wide well used road running through it, this road takes off at the South end of the dispersal loop. This is probably used for fuel and supply storage. The area Northeast of the North end of the runway has numerous tracks running through it and is possibly used for personnel and stores. Both are excellent concealment areas

General. Four trenches, each approximately 50 X 8 feet have been constructed at the West edge of the runway about 500 feet South of the operations building. These are new since photos of 5 November 1943. Such trenches could possibly be for personnel, but due to their size and location it seems likely they are to be used as earth covered fuel dump

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

313 B ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0700/10/L to 1744/10/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return.

TARGET: GAROVE ISLAND.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1455/L from 8000 feet at a European type building on the East shore of GAROVE ISLAND. Bombs missed the target with nil apparent damage. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recco was completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings.

A/A: Slight, Medium, inaccurate at 8000 feet from the East shore of GAROVE ISLAND.

WEATHER: Weather and visibility generally good throughout recco. On return, building up over BISMARCK SEA, 6/10 cumulus tops 15000 feet, base 5000 feet. Over target, 4/10 cumulus, tops 22000 feet

312 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0845/9/L to 2115/9/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: Sugar-Charlies and barges at 0528S-14858E.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1137/L from 5000 feet at 2 Sugar-Charlies (One of which was on fire) and 3 to 6 barges believed along shore partially covered by overhanging trees. 3 bombs burst among the burning Sugar-Charlies and barges. Damage assessment was confused by smoke. The undamaged Sugar-Charlie was strafed with 270 X .50 cal. No claim for destruction will be made by this Squadron unless warranted by photo interpretation. Sugar-Charlies and barges were at 0528S-14858E.

NOTE: These Sugar-Charlies and barges were attacked at 0945/L by 9 B-25D-1's of the 13th Squadron. FFO 312 CC in this Periodic Report.

Photos were taken of the bombing. Recce was 100% completed as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: At 1120/L from 8000 feet at 0528S-14858E (Offshore 2 miles West of CAPE RAOULT) 2 Sugar-Charlies (one completely on fire) camouflaged with a canopy of foliage were sighted. 3 to 6 barges were believed along shore partially covered by overhanding trees. There was a large fire on shore, explosive, resembling an ammunition fire.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA (South), 4/10 fracto-cumulus at 2000/4000 feet with 3/10 towering cumulus to 10000 feet. (North) 2/10 stratus at 15000 feet. NEW BRITAIN, 8/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 8000 feet. VITIAZ STRAITS, 9/10 stratus at 4000 feet. HUON GULF, 2/10 fracto-cumulus at 2000/4000 feet. Ranges (GAP), 6/10 cumulus from mountain-tops to 9000 feet, 2/10 cumulus towering to 15000 feet.

312 AA. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25, 33rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0355/9/L to 0740/9/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to ALEXISHAFEN, VITIAZ STRAITS, MADANG, RAMU VALLEY, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: High cirrus, scattered cumulus towards NEW BRITAIN. MADANG area, clear, visibility unlimited. RAMU VALLEY, high scattered clouds inland.

312 BB. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25, 33rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0650/9/L to 0950/9/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to REIN BAY and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, broken stratus at 2000 feet. REIN BAY, clear, visibility unlimited. On return, broken stratus at 2000 feet.

312 CC. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0945/9/L to 1005/9/L.

TARGET: Reported enemy shipping in REIN BAY.

RESULTS: Nil shipping was seen in REIN BAY. Three camouflaged 70 feet luggers and 2 camouflaged Type "A" barges on East shore of KETENGE ANCHORAGE, 9 miles West of REIN BAY, were bombed and strafed. 2 X 300 lb. and 7 X 100 4/5 second delay demo. bombs scored direct hits on the shipping. Two luggers were left burning fiercely and were definitely destroyed. The other lugger and barges were probably destroyed by near bomb misses and heavy strafing. A probable fuel dump at 393900 (REIN BAY, 1 inch to 1 mile) was set afire and gave off heavy black smoke. Fire was still burning when our airplanes left the target 20 minutes later. 18 X 100 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on an automatic medium caliber A/A position in clearing at 367918 (REIN BAY, 1 inch to 1 mile). The position was silenced. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing. 12000 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing.

A/A: One position (See RESULTS) fired on practically every individual pass at the target. Position probably contained 2 twin-barrel 20 mm guns. Fire was fairly accurate. (One crew member was slightly wounded by shrapnel and one airplane received a small shrapnel hole).

SIGHTINGS: At 1020/L, a yellow life raft was sighted at 0733S-14843E. Life raft contained one man who appeared injured. 20 to 30 steel fuel drums were seen at base of fuel fire reported above.

WEATHER: Weather over target was good with 3/10 cumulus bases at 1000 feet, tops at 10000 feet, visibility 15 miles. Rain showers were reported North of BORGEN BAY. Enroute and return weather was CAVU.

312 ?? STRIKE - 11 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0755/9/L to 0757/9/L.

TARGET: Grounded airplanes at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: 5 A-20's made individual passes on strip No. 1 from South to North. 4 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on a known A/A position—battery of 6 guns—in the South dispersal area. 4 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped through the North dispersal area and along West side of strip to the coast. 4 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on Hangar and buildings on East side of center of strip. 2 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on a heavy A/A position on the Peninsula off North end of strip No. 1. 2 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs fell in the water. 6 A-20's made individual passes on strip No. 2. 4 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on 2 BETTYS parked on edge of strip at entrance to South dispersal area. 4 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on 2 BETTYS on East side

at center of strip. 4 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped among 6 to 8 unidentified type airplanes in the North dispersal area. 4 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on a heavy A/A position on East side of center of strip. 2 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on a known light A/A position on East side at center of strip and 2 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in the dump area on East side at North end of the strip. 4 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at a village on West side near center of SEK ISLAND. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

./A: A/A fire from known light positions was slight and inaccurate. Position of all known heavy and medium guns was confirmed. Nil fire was received from these positions. Slight, inaccurate M/G was received from ADMOSIN ISLAND. Considerable number of light M/G positions are believed to be on this ISLAND. Large concentration of medium and light A/A was confirmed 500 yards to West of South end of No. 2 strip.

SIGHTINGS: A large fuel fire with considerable smoke rising to 500 feet from dump area on East side of No. 2 strip was observed. Numerous M/G positions were observed on SEK ISLAND. 12 airplanes in various positions as described above were confirmed to be seen burning by fighter pilots. 2 BETTYS on East side of strip were seen to explode after bombing.

GENERAL: Flight leader believes enemy was taken completely by surprise. Considerable fire from all A/A, heavy, medium and light, was observed throughout the entire target after all bombing and fighter airplanes had departed on course for home.

WEATHER: CAVU.

312 F. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0545/10/L to 0900/10/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to MARILINAN, LAE, MADZAB, DUMPU and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0605/L, tops of low clouds 3000 feet, visibility 10 miles, light showers, upper clouds 10/10, lower clouds 4/10, height of upper clouds 12000 feet. BULLDOG, 0630/L, tops of low clouds 2000 feet, visibility unlimited, low clouds 2/10, upper clouds 7/10, 8000 feet. PASS, 0645/L, tops of low clouds 4000 feet, visibility unlimited, low clouds 3/10, upper clouds 0/10. MADZAB, 0710/L, tops of low clouds 8000 feet, 9/10, upper clouds 11000 feet, 3/10, visibility unlimited. DUMPU, 0725/L, tops of low clouds 8000 feet, 7/10, upper clouds 11000 feet, 3/10, visibility unlimited.

313 J(1) WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 2000/9/L to 0010/10/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to RABAUL and return.

RESULTS: Recco was 50% completed. Airplane turned back at 2140/L as it was unable to receive radio communications. Route flown: DOBODURA, KIRIWINA, 0720S-15140E, KIRIWINA, CAPE NELSON, HOOD POINT to base.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 2/10 cumulus from 2000 to 6000 feet. Ranges (CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT), 9/10 strato-cumulus undercast at 11000 feet, 1/10 cumulo-nimbus towering to 15000 feet.

313 J(2) WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 2207/9/L to 0020/10/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to RABAUL and return.

RESULTS: Mission incomplete. Airplane turned back from 0545S-15200E as radio was not functioning. This airplane was standby for previous recco that also returned because of radio trouble.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 4/10 stratus at 5000/6000 feet. NEW BRITAIN, 4/10 cumulus, tops 8500 feet. Ranges (GAP), 10/10 cumulus in Valleys.

313 L. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0309/10/L to 0735/10/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to ALEXISHAFEN, MADANG and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Weather was reported half-hourly.

SIGHTINGS: At 0440/L from 15000 feet, a large brush fire in a straight line was seen approximately 5 miles South of BOGADJIM. Fire was visible for 40 miles. Along the coast from BOGADJIM to ALEXISHAFEN (0445/L to 0545/L) occasional probable individual tent lights were seen, also one possible gun flash.

GENERAL: Leaflets were dropped at 0530/L, North along coast from single runway observed; believed to be MADANG.

WEATHER: MADANG, 8/10 cumulus at 4000 feet to 5000 feet, 6/10 strato-cumulus from 7000 to 10000 feet. Ranges, 8/10 cumulus from ground to 6000 feet, 5/10 alto-cumulus towering to 11000 feet.

313 M. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0930/10/L to 0940/10/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken of VUNAKANAU, LAKUNAI, KERAVAT and GASMATA. Tri-met photos were taken from VUNAKANAU to LAKUNAI and of KERAVAT. Mission was 100% completed.

SIGHTINGS: Less than the normal amount of shipping was observed in SIMPSON HARBOR. 15 to 20 sizeable ships were stationary in the harbor.

WEATHER: RABAUL, high overcast, middle clouds, broken. SOLOMON SEA, heavy cumulus 8/10. NEW BRITAIN, high overcast, 2/10 low cumulus.

313 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1120/10/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken of BORAM and WEWAK airdromes and of NUBIA.

INTERCEPTION: 6 probable ZEKES intercepted F-5 at 1120/L at 28000 feet in the WEWAK area. F-5 used full throttle and climbed away from ZEKES. Fighter escort (4 P-47's) engaged enemy airplanes and F-5 left the area.

A/A: Slight, heavy, inaccurate over WEWAK at 28000 feet.

SIGHTINGS: Two 2000/3000 ton M/V's were sighted stationary in WEWAK HARBOR at 1120/L.

WEATHER: WEWAK, 6/10 cumulus to 15000 feet. RAMU VALLEY, clear. Ranges, cumulus 8/10 to 20000 feet.

313 G(1) STRIKE - 12 B-25G's, 663rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1050/10/L to 1055/10/L.

TARGET: Strip No. 1 at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: 68 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs and 48 X 100 lb. G/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped along strip No. 1, in dumps and revetment areas on each side of strip, on building in Township and on buildings on Western side of SEK ISLAND with the following results:

1 direct hit was scored on a M/G position on North side of the strip, 150 yards from the East end. Further results were obscured by dust and smoke. 45 X 75 mm were fired at targets in the area with the following results:

3 houses in the Town area were completely destroyed by direct hits. 1 hit was scored on a heavy A/A position at Northwest corner of the strip. 1 hit was scored on a warehouse just East of the Mission damaging it heavily. 2 direct hits were scored on Mission building with results unobserved. 1 hit was scored on a jetty at center of Western shore of SEK ISLAND. 1 hit was scored on buildings East of Lagoon on ADMOSIN ISLAND. 1 SSF in North central revetment area and 1 camouflaged SSF in taxiway triangle on South side of strip near East end were strafed causing no immediate results, although tracers were seen entering both airplanes. 3 gasoline tank trucks along North edge of strip and in North revetment area were strafed causing no immediate results, although tracers were seen entering all three trucks. The entire strip and revetment area, Township, ADMOSIN and SEK ISLANDS were strafed with 4615 X .50 cal. and 1120 X .30 cal. The bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Intense, light, accurate from North side of strip and from ruins of hangar type buildings 2500 feet South of the strip. Intense, medium, accurate from North side of strip. Intense, heavy (Barrage type) accurate as to altitude, from thumb of mainland West of ADMOSIN ISLAND and from unobserved positions near No. 2 strip. (5 out of 9 airplanes were damaged by A/A fire).

SIGHTINGS: Road from ALEXISHAFEN to HANSA BAY appeared well used and 3 trucks and some personnel in jungle green uniforms were seen on the road approximately 10 miles North of ALEXISHAFEN. Two possible barges were seen offshore 35 miles North of ALEXISHAFEN.

GENERAL: 2 B-25G's of this Squadron returned to base before reaching the target due to engine trouble. 1 B-25G of this Squadron landed at LAE after the Strike and is not included in this report. 1 crew member was wounded by fragments of ammunition can after M/G fire had exploded some of the ammunition therein. 3 bundles of native propaganda leaflets were dropped 10 miles West of the target.

WEATHER: Enroute, 6/10 cumulus with tops to 12000 feet. RAMU VALLEY, North of GUSAP, solid overcast at 2000 feet. From RAMU VALLEY to the coast, low hanging nimbo-stratus and numerous rain showers over ADELBERT RANGES with visibility less than 2 miles. Target, broken ceiling at 4000 feet with visibility 5 miles.

313 G(2) STRIKE - 12 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1050/10/L to 1055/10/L.

TARGET: Strip No. 2 at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: A total of 23 X 100 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs and 62 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped. 38 rounds of 75 mm were fired. 5875 X .50 cal. and 2025 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing. Bombs were dropped at the following targets: 3 clusters of parafrag bombs were dropped at an unidentified twin-engine airplane at Southwest corner of No. 2 strip with unobserved results. 5 clusters of parafrag bombs were dropped at a heavy A/A position at East end of No. 2 strip with unobserved results. 32 clusters of parafrag bombs and 23 X 100 lb. bombs were dropped along No. 2 runway and revetment area with unobserved results. 22 clusters of parafrag bombs were dropped on No. 1 runway and revetment area. 1 direct hit was scored with a 75 mm shell on a ZEKE parked near Southwest corner of No. 1 strip, destroying it. 2 native shacks South of the East end of No. 2 strip were hit with 75 mm with unobserved results. 14 X 75 mm were fired at No. 1 strip and dispersal area with unobserved results. 18 X 75 mm were fired at No. 2 strip and dispersal area with unobserved results. 2 X 75 mm were fired at 3 tin-roofed buildings near the Old Cathedral site with unobserved results. 1 X 75 mm was fired at a barge on the beach 1 mile North of ULIGAN HARBOR. Closer observation showed that barge was previously unserviceable. Both strips and revetment areas were strafed. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Moderate, heavy, accurate from battery of at least 5 guns on Northwest shore at mouth of ULIGAN HARBOR. Slight, heavy, inaccurate from unobserved position at KRONPRINZ HARBOR, 5 miles Northwest of ULIGAN HARBOR. Moderate, medium and heavy, inaccurate from known positions at No. 1 and 2 strips. Intense, light, inaccurate, from position 1000 yards Southwest of West end of No. 1 strip. Moderate, light, inaccurate from unobserved positions along No. 1 and 2 strips. M/G positions/raised platforms were observed on the South side of No. 2 strip. Platforms were approximately 3 feet high and 6 to 8 feet square. M/G's were mounted on tripods on each platform

SIGHTINGS: Good M/T road with new bridges giving evidence of recent maintenance was observed at intervals along coast from BOGIA HARBOR to South of ULIGAN HARBOR. 6 serviceable barges were seen on beach at South side of mouth of ULIGAN HARBOR. 3 serviceable barges were seen beached at KRONPRINZ HARBOR. One serviceable barge was seen at mouth of river at PALAS POINT (0444S-14539E). 1 B-25 with one engine out was observed low over the water 10 miles Southeast of ALEXISHAFEN. Tail of this airplane was seen to hit water once but airplane kept on flying.

GENERAL: 5 airplanes of this Squadron are either at LAE or unaccounted for and are not included in this report. Fighter cover stuck close to our formation despite of bad weather.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered cumulus, 1/10, at 2000 feet, 4/10 alto-cumulus at 4000/5000 feet, scattered rain squalls. Target, scattered cumulus, 500/1000 feet, with rain squalls. Thunderheads and heavy showers 2 miles West of target.

313 C. ARMED RECCC - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0730/10/L to 1645/10/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Photos were taken of a life-boat at 0645S-15325E (See SIGHTINGS).

SIGHTINGS: At 1316/L from 1000 feet, empty life-boat and possible debris was sighted at 0645S-15325E.

NIL SIGHTINGS: 0600S-15140E at 1005/L from 1200 feet. 0600S-15330E at 1047/L from 1200 feet. 0450S-15230E at 1222/L from 1200 feet. 0450S-15400E at 1245/L from 1200 feet. 0615S-15400E at 1305/L from 1200 feet.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed at 8000 feet. Showers encountered from CAPE NELSON throughout search. Entire area was covered with overcast down to 1200 feet. Return to base via MILNE BAY.

313 D. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1040/10/L to 1640/10/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GUSAP, MADZAB and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, 8/10 cumulus with tops at 13000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, cumulus, 6/10, coverage with base at 2000 feet. On return, 8/10 cumulus over ranges with tops to 20000/25000 feet.

313 E. STRIKE - 12 B-24's, 403rd Squadron. (1 B-24 attached from 65th Squadron).

TIME OF ATTACK: 0350/10/L to 0520/L.

TARGET: LAKUNAI Airdrome.

RESULTS: B-24's made individual bombing runs on target from 0350/L to 0520/L. 1240 X 20 lb. frag. bombs and 160

X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8000/10250 feet on headings of 200 to 320 degrees on the target. 6 airplanes reported bombing results excellent (90% to 100% on target). 1 B-24 reported 2 small fires and 1 explosion with red-orange flame. 1 B-24 reported 3 fires started, 1 fire with yellow flame 150 feet high, 1 B-24 reported 3 orange-red fires started which were seen 35 minutes after leaving target. 1 B-24 reported 2 small fires started. 1 B-24 reported 2 small fires started one of which burned for 10 minutes. 1 B-24 started one large fire of a red-orange color with black smoke to 8000 feet and 2 explosions. 4 B-24's reported results of bombing unobserved and 1 B-24 was unable to find target.

A/A: Intense, medium and heavy, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire received from ships in harbor and positions around LAKUNAI Airdrome. [illegible] 60 searchlights were sighted. 10 to 30 picked up airplanes before, during and after bombing runs. Searchlights formed cones into which A/A fired regardless of airplanes position. Searchlights were located at TOBERA, RAPOPO and in the RABAUL area.

INTERCEPTION: 1 B-24 was intercepted in vicinity of the target from 0445/L to 0530/L from 11000/14500 feet by 1 inline engine fighter. 4 ineffective passes were made from 2 and 12 o'clock above and 2 passes from 5 o'clock below. Enemy fighter fired from out of range. Our airplane did not return fire. Another B-24 reported 3 night fighters rose to its altitude and flashed yellow light which was followed by enemy A/A fire on correct altitude.

SIGHTINGS: At 0430/L from 11000 feet, a white light blinking the letter "O" was seen at CAPE ARCHWAY (0458S-15220E). At 0510/L from 12000 feet, several small fires were seen in line with large fire on point of land, possibly LAKUNAI. Large flames and black smoke were observed from a large fire at 0510/L. At 0325/L from 11000 feet, 45 miles Southwest of WIDE BAY, a large red light behind, on level and larger than a running light—possible passing light was observed. Some unidentified shipping was observed in RABAUL HARBOR.

GENERAL: 1 B-24 is still missing.

WEATHER: Clear over target, rest of area and GAZELLE PENINSULA covered by such weather as to make visibility poor. On return, large front covering area approximately 0500S 15250E Southwest to 0730S-14900E. Ranges on return, clouds from 11000 feet to 17000 feet, broken to 10/10 covered, tops 11000 feet to 19000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

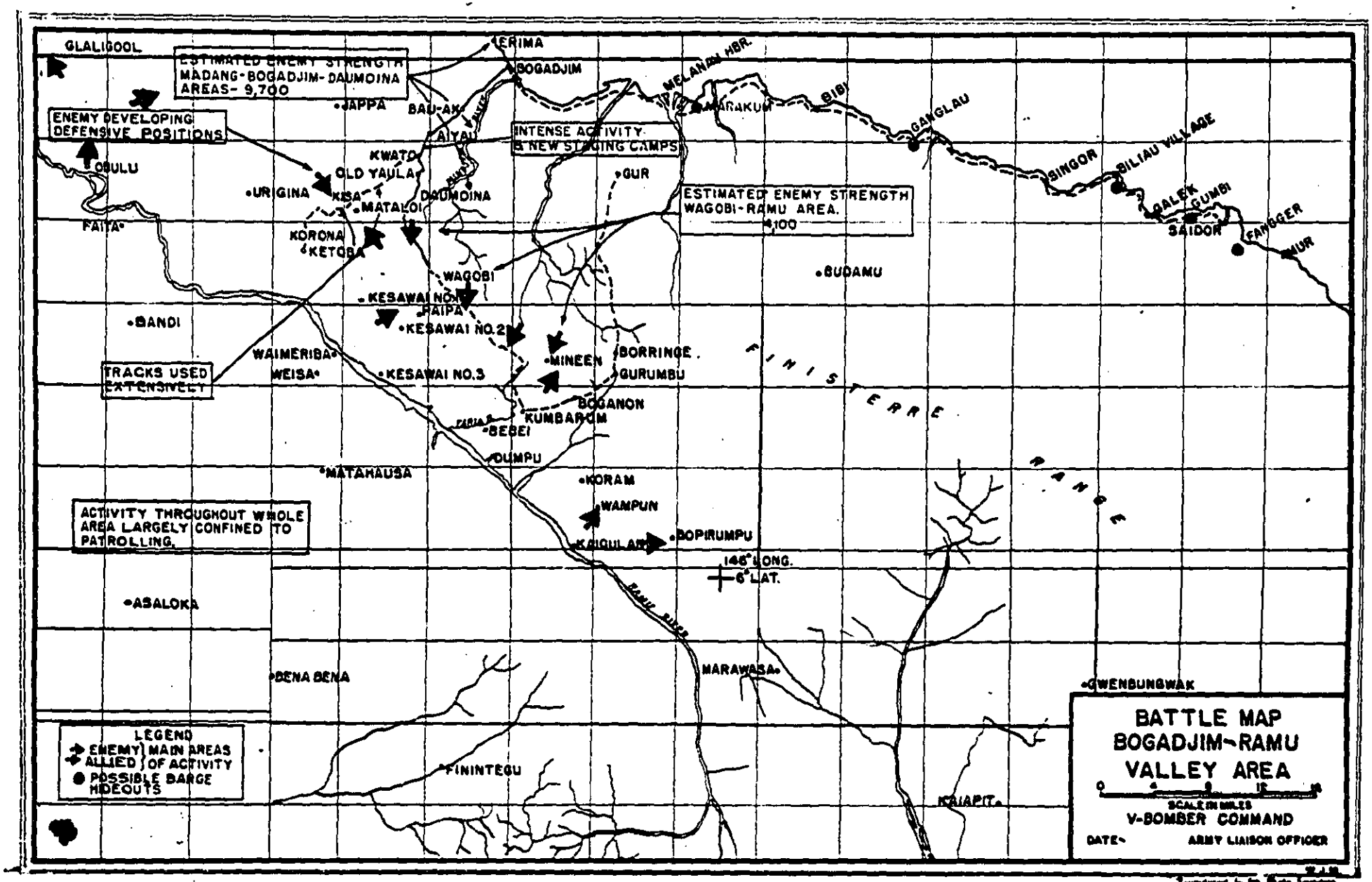
Fighters carried out usual escort and patrol missions with nil interception or combat.

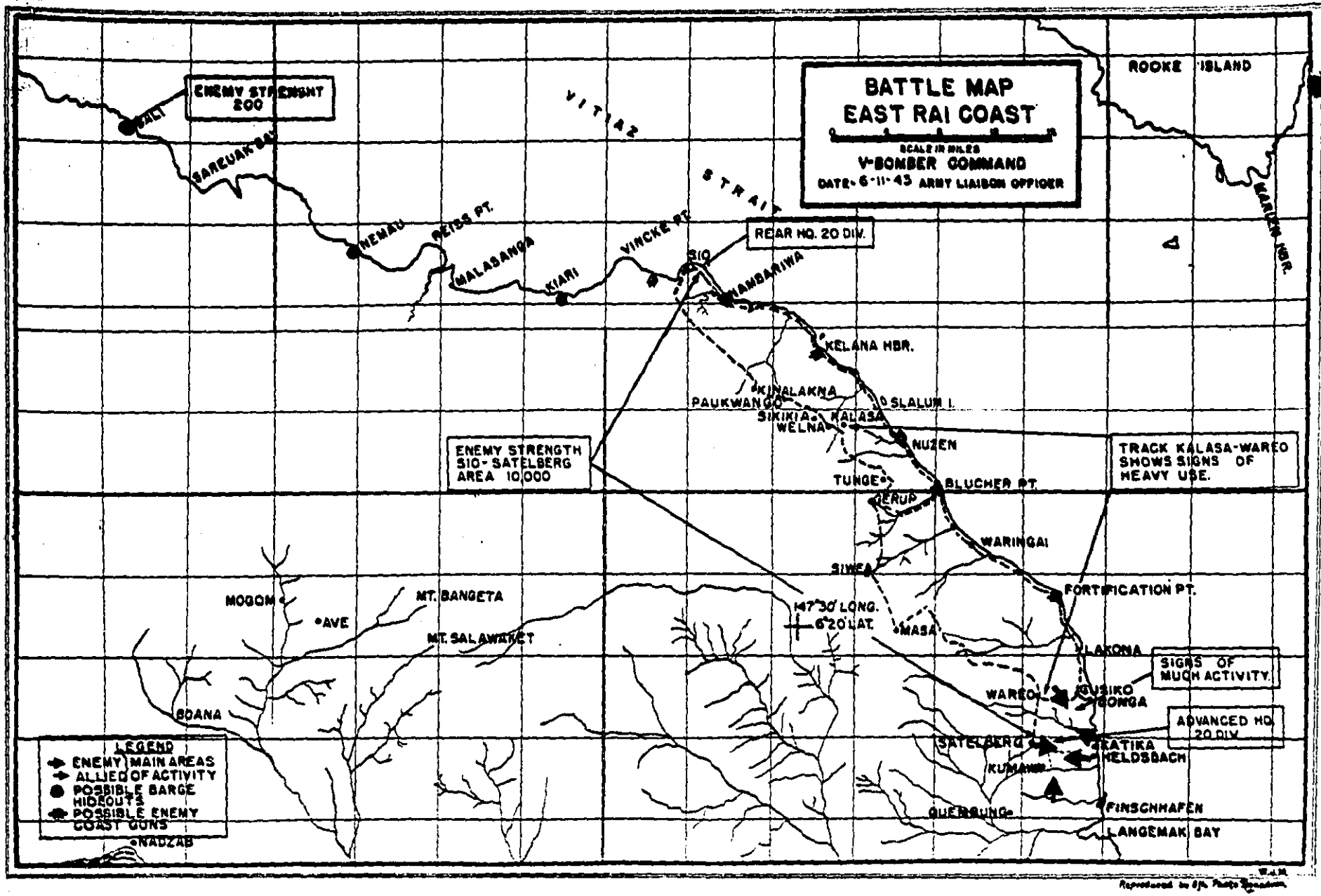
OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Nauman

PAUL E. NAUMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Ass't Chief of Staff.


GLALIGOOL
ESTIMATED ENEMY STRENGTH MADANG-BOGADJIM-DAUMOINA AREAS- 9,700
ERIMA
BOGADJIM
MELANDA HBR.
BIBI
GANGLAU
SINGOR
BILIAU VILLAGE
SAIDOR
FANGGER
MUR
JAPPA
BAU-AK
AIYAU
ENEMY DEVELOPING DEFENSIVE POSITIONS
INTENSE ACTIVITY & NEW STAGING CAMPS
OBULU
KWATO
OLD YAULA
KISA
DAUMOINA
URGINA
MATALOI
GUR
ESTIMATED ENEMY STRENGTH WAGOBI-RAMU AREA. 4,100
FAITA
KORONA
KETOBA
WAGOBI
BUDAMU
KESAWAI NO.1
PAIPA
KESAWAI NO.2
BANDI
WAIMERIBA
WEISA
KESAWAI NO.3
MINEEN
BORRINGE
GURUMBU
TRACKS USED EXTENSIVELY
FINISTERRE
BOGANON
KUMBARUM
BEBEI
OUMPU
MATAHAUSA
KORAM
WAMPUN
KAIGUL AIR
BOPIRUMPU
146° LONG.
6° LAT.
ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT WHOLE AREA LARGELY CONFINED TO PATROLLING.
RAMU RIVER
ASALOKA
DENA DENA
MARAWASA
GWENBUNGWAK
FININTEGU
KAIAPIT
LEGEND
ENEMY MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY
ALLIED
POSSIBLE BARGE HIDEOUTS
BATTLE MAP
BOGADJIM-RAMU
VALLEY AREA
SCALE IN MILES
V-BOMBER COMMAND
DATE-
ARMY LIAISON OFFICER


BATTLE MAP
EAST RAI COAST
SCALE IN MILES
V-BOMBER COMMAND
DATE- 6-11-43 ARMY LIAISON OFFICER
ENEMY STRENGHT 200
VITIAZ STRAIT
SAREUAK BAY
NEMAU
WEISS PT.
MALASANGA
KIARI
VINCKE PT.
SIO
REAR HQ. 20 DIV.
NAMBARIWA
ROOKE ISLAND
KELANA HBR.
KINALAKNA
PAUKWANGO
SIKIKIA
KALASA
WELNA
SLALUM I.
NUZEN
TUNGE
BLUCHER PT.
ENEMY STRENGTH SIO-SATELBERG AREA 10,000
TRACK KALASA-WAREO SHOWS SIGNS OF HEAVY USE.
WARINGAI
SIWEA
FORTIFICATION PT.
MOGOM
AVE
MT. BANGETA
MT. SALAWAKET
147°30' LONG.
6°20' LAT.
MASA
LAKONA
SIGNS OF MUCH ACTIVITY.
WAREO
KUSIKO
GONGA
ADVANCED HQ 20 DIV.
BOANA
SATELBERG
KUMAWA
KATIKA
HELDSBACH
FINSCHHAFEN
QUERUNG
LANGEMAK BAY
NADZAB
LEGEND
ENEMY MAIN AREAS
ALLIED OF ACTIVITY
POSSIBLE BARGE HIDEOUTS
POSSIBLE ENEMY COAST GUNS

ITALY:

The German Command is pouring in reinforcements in its greatest effort to date to stem the drive of the Allied Armies Northward. The British 8th Army smashed forward in a 5 mile thrust which caught the Germans off guard and carried to the area of the mouth of the Sangro River. Nearly 50 tons and villages passed into the Allies hands as a result of Allied gains along the Adriatic coast and in the central sector near Isernia. The new Nazi line makes use of some of the most rugged mountains in Italy with peaks rising to almost 7000 feet. Captured Germans say the Nazis are determined to hold the line through the winter and have brought in heavy reinforcements.

THE SWISS-ITALIAN FRONTIER:

Turin, Northern Italy city of 600,000, was virtually paralyzed by Monday's Allied attack by Mediterranean based bombers, it was established here.

LONDON:

Red Army troops captured over 60 populated places in their push North and West of Kiev and took Boradiankar, 27 miles from the recently captured Ukrainian Capital, Moscow announced. The Communique said Russian troops extended their bridgeheads in the Kerch Peninsula against the German 17th Army, trapped in the Crimea. The British Radio meanwhile quoted an unofficial report from Moscow saying Russian Forces had captured Kerch, the Crimean port on the Kerch Strait, opposite the Kuban zone of the Caucasus. Further advances were reported West and Northwest of Nevel.

Strong German Forces are seeking to battle up the Yugoslav Army of General Draja Mihailovic in Western Servia his Headquarters reported as the Russian advance toward the Rumanian border heightened tension in the Balkans.

WASHINGTON:

Allied Forces sinking U-Boats at the rate of 5 a week, destroyed at least 60 during the last 3 months and brought their kill to 150 for a 6 months period, the British and American Governments announced Tuesday.

LONDON:

Prime Minister Churchill said Thursday that the French National Committee are not the owners but the trustees of the title deed of France. The Prime Minister said that in France as in other enslaved countries, permanent structure can be raised only on the will of the people freely expressed.

The French Radio at Algiers said General Henri Giraud has resigned as Co-President of the French National Committee of Liberation and General Charles De Gaulle had become chairman. The position of General Giraud as Commander in Chief of French Forces is unchanged.

WASHINGTON:

President Roosevelt climaxed the signing of a United Nations Relief agreement Tuesday with the declaration that it, coupled with the recent Moscow documents, shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense just as surely as we mean business in a military sense. At the conclusion of the White House ceremony at which representatives of 43 countries joined with the United States in creating the United Nations Relief and rehabilitation administration to feed, cloth and revive war stricken nations.

George M. Harrison, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, told a Senate Sub-Committee that the rail unions are prepared to go ahead with a nation-wide strike if their wage increase demands are not settled soon and urged that Congress step into the picture to solve the problem.

Secretary Knox reported Tuesday the destruction of a German weather and radio station off Greenland, an action which may have had an important bearing on summer and autumn success in the Battle of the Atlantic sea lanes. Despite hunters, operating as a United States global patrol, located the German base in an [illegible] the [illegible]

coast of Greenland, Knox told a press conference. The base included a radio station, powerhouse, emergency generator and radio transmitter, machine emplacements and well stocked storehouses. A small supply ship was anchored off shore. Army bombings destroyed all main buildings except a small generator shack and Coast Guardsmen and Army Troops finished up the job.

Secretary of State, Hull, and party returned from the Moscow Conference and arrived by air in Puerto Rico Tuesday.

CHARLESTON: S.C:

Coxwain Nunzio Cammarata, 19 of Baltimore, identified as the seaman named by Lt. Franklin D. Roosevelt/in Palermo Harbor recently, says the President's Naval Officer son, "is a bit of all right". Cammarata at the Naval Hospital here told how his leg was blown off by bomb fragments during a German air raid and Roosevelt applied a tourniquet and carried him from a destroyer's bridge down a ladder and to another ship. "He is a swell guy" Cammarata commented.

G.H.Q. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 578, 10 November, 1943.

DUTCH NEW GUINEA: KAIMAN:

One of our heavy reconnaissance units scored a direct hit and 2 near misses on a 1500 ton freighter.

AMBOINA: AMBON:

Our medium units at night bombed the waterfront, starting spreading fires near the main pier.

NEW IRELAND:

Our patrol units bombed shipping targets of opportunity.

NEW BRITAIN:

Our patrol units bombed land targets of opportunity.

NEW GUINEA: RAMU VALLEY:

Four enemy fighters strafed Bena Bena and 2 light ineffective night raids were made on Lae. Adverse weather interfered with all air operations.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE:

Our patrol units bombed airdromes at Buka, Kieta and Kahili.

EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY:

Our medium, torpedo and dive bombers and fighters, in support of our ground forces, bombed enemy gun positions and supply areas Southeast of Cape Torokina, destroyed or damaged numerous barges in Atsirima Bay and strafed rear areas. Our ground forces are engaging the enemy to the North near Atsirima Bay.

SPORTS:

NEW YORK:

Spud Chandler, New York Yankee pitcher whose earned run average of 1.67 was the lowest in the American League in the last 25 years, was named Wednesday as the League's Most Valuable Player for 1943. The righthander from Georgia hurled the Yankees to the League Pennant with a record of 20 victories against 4 defeats and followed through in the World Series by beating the St. Louis Cardinals twice in as many starts. Luke Appling, Chicago White Sox, league batting champion was second, Rudy York, Detroit, league home-run king placed third. Rookie Bill Johnson, Yankee third-sacker was fourth and Bob Johnson, Washington outfielder was fifth.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP
1944 12 NOV 1943

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 315.

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: GEN
DATE: 11/11/43
FROM: 1800/10/11/43/L.
TO : 1600/11/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (314 A) completed 100% a weather recce. to RABAUL. Airplane took off at 1905/10/L and landed at 0400/11/L. An unidentified airplane was seen at 0100/L at 9000 feet on course of 40 degrees at 0630S-15000E. Airplane had running lights on.

12 B-24's of the 64th Squad[illegible] and 1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (314 G) bombed [illegible]MI airdrome from 0236/L to 0355/L. 359 X 100 lb. bombs and 720 X 20 lb. frag. bombs were dropped from 9000/12000 feet on headings of 190 to 242 degrees on the target. Bombing was excellent. 1 large explosion secured in North revetment area, North of center of strip, one large fire was started in Southwest revetment area. 2 medium fires were started near SULPHUR CREEK (Exact location not determined). 1 medium fire was started North of West end of strip. Several small fires of short duration were started. 240 X 20 lb. frag. bombs and 1 X 100 lb. bomb were salvoed in the RABAUL area. 1 B-24 dropped bombs on E.T.A. in vicinity of target. A/A fire was reported as nil to intense, medium and heavy, inaccurate. A/A was of Fourth of July, Fire-hose and Tracer type. At least 30 searchlights were active in the area. Most B-24's were caught by searchlights before bomb release. Several enemy night fighters were reported in the area which seemed to be directing A/A fire by flashing orange or yellow lights. 1 B-24 was fired on by an unidentified airplane over the target at 0355/L. Fire was ineffective. One or more unidentified vessels were observed in SIMPSON HARBOR. One unidentified vessel was seen offshore between NORDUP and PRAED POINTS. 2 red, possible dummy fires, were seen on the BEEHIVES. Red Very flares or 45 cal. tracers were observed at 0220/L about 2 miles inland between JACQUINOT and WIDE BAYS.

35 B-24's of the 90th Group ([illegible] K) and 15 B-24's of the 65th and 403rd Squadron (314 L) took off by 0715/L to bomb LAKUNAI airdrome. Airplanes were ordered to return to base at 0900/L from CAPE NELSON because of weather. 2 B-24's of the 321st Squadron collided in the air near KILA drome. 1 of these crashed approximately 2 miles East of KILA with complete loss of airplane and crew. The other airplane returned to base. A crash landed B-25 was observed at 0945/L at 0908S-14700E.

1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (314 W) took off at 1130/L to photograph RABAUL. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back in vicinity of LAE at 1230/L and landed at 1325/L.

2 F-5's of the 8th Photo Squadron (314 X) took off at 0638/L to photograph RABAUL. The target was not reached due to weather. Airplanes returned to base at 1020/L.

NEW BRITAIN: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (314 Y) took off at 0648/L to photograph the North coast of NEW BRITAIN. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplanes turned back in vicinity of KAIAPIT at 1000/L and landed 1040/L.

ALEXISHAFEN: 1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (314 H) took off at 0408/L to carry out a weather recce to ALEXISHAFEN. Recce was incomplete due to radio trouble and weather. Airplane was unable to penetrate front in vicinity of KEREMA and returned to base at 0630/L.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (314 H) completed 100% a weather recce to ALEXISHAFEN. Airplane took off at 0516/L and landed at 1318/L. Radio trouble was experienced but the difficulty was remedied and airplane completed mission.

MARILINAN-NADZAB: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (314 O) completed 70% of a weather recce to MARILINAN, NADZAB, FINSCHHAFEN and ALEXISHAFEN. Mission was completed as far as FINSCHHAFEN—ALEXISHAFEN was not reached. Airplane took off at 0945/L and landed at 1300/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (314 D) completed 100% a Courier Mission to LAE, NADZAB and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0630/L and landed at 1445/L. Airplane took off from NADZAB at 1110/L during red alert. Possible bomb was seen to explode near strip shortly after take off.

1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (314 F) completed 100% a weather recce of the MARKHAM VALLEY and NADZAB. Airplane took off at 0601/L and landed at 0905/L. There were nil sightings.

KIRIWINA: 2 B-25G's of the 823rd Squadron (314 I) completed 100% a Courier Mission to KIRIWINA. Airplanes took off at 0700/L and landed at 1405/L. There were nil sightings.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 43rd Group (314 B) took off at 0722/L to carry out an armed recce to 0245S-14940E, 0000N-15140E. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission report has been received.

1 B-24 of the 43rd Group (314 C) took off at 0647/L to carry out an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

NOTE: The following mission was cancelled today:

314 J. STRIKE - 3 Squadrons of B-25's, 1 Squadron of B-26's, 22nd Group.

TARGET: ALEXISHAFEN.

Included in this report is the following Final Mission Report from SATF:

A7. STRIKE - 10 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TARGET: Ground airplanes on No. 1 and No. 2 strips at ALEXISHAFEN.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1710/10/L to 1725/10/L.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Our patrols have been very active thruout the whole area. Contact is reported on the KATIKA TRACK at 613684 and North of KUMAWA at 653657. A patrol South of the SATTELBERG TRACK to 573658 saw Japs moving North on the track from SISI. Enemy movement in both directions on the WAREO-BONGA TRACK continues.

RAMU VALLEY: Our patrol North of DUMPU contacted an enemy position in the area 7066. Otherwise, no change reported.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA.
11 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7		7					14	(
DAGUA	5	1	12					18	0
WEWAK	16	2	4			6		28	0
BORAM	31	2	2					35	0
NUBIA	1							1	0
HOLLANDIA	3							3	0
ALEXISHAFEN	12		2					14	0
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
MADANG	2							2	0
Total	85	41	37			6		169	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	16	15	19			7		57	0
VUNAKANAU	48	18	7					73	0
LAKUNAI	99	2	14					115	0
RAPOPO		2	1					3	0
HARBOR						32		32	0
TOBERA	28							28	0
Total	191	37	41			39		308	0
SOLOMONS:									
BUKA						4		4	0
BONIS	1							1	0
BALLALE	1							1	0
FAISI						1		1	0
Total	2					5		7	0

COMMENTS:

1. SOLOMONS drones were photoed 9/11/43.

2. VUNAKANAU, LAKUNAI and Harbor were photoed 10/11/43. KAVIENG, RAPOPO and TOBERA were photoed 9/11/43.

3. No photos were taken of NEW GUINEA drones today (11/11/43). ALEXISHAFEN count is allowed to remain as an estimate.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

TOBRUK: 9/11/43. (312 F)

100% coverage of airdrome; partial cloud cover over outer defences.

Airplanes. A total of 27 SSF (serviceable airplanes) were found on the drome and in dispersal areas. They are distributed as follows:

4 SSF located on the hard surfaced area, SW corner of the runway.

8 SSF moving on runway and taxi strips from revetments.

15 SSF dispersed in revetments (8 of the 15 in SW revetments and the remainder located in the SE revetments).

1 U/S SSF in the SE revetment.

Defences. Outer defence area covered by clouds. No apparent change or additions.

Runway. 175' gash noticeable in photos of 3 November, 1943, has been repaired. Runway in excellent condition.

General. The ground-air signal, located near the control tower, has in addition to the existing "T", a triangle, which has been added since photos of 3 November, 1943.

BARCO: 9/11/43. (312 F)

Good vertical photographs giving complete coverage of the drome.

Airplanes. 2 M/B serviceable

1 L/B "

17 unserviceable airplanes are visible.

Airdrome. Bomb craters from raid of November 8, 1943, in the center of the runway have not been filled. However, a narrow strip about 100' wide and 3000' long, on the west side of the runway, is possibly serviceable.

Bomb Damage. In addition to damage reported in the photo interpretation of mission 310 BC, the following was observed:

A high frequency RDF or radio marker beacon in the south flight gap has been destroyed. This installation possibly served as an aid to night flying.

At least 10 shelters or piles of stores in the bivouac and stores dispersal area west of the drome have been destroyed.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

313 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0645/10/L to 1600/10/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: 80% of assigned area was covered. 20% was not covered due to weather. Route flown: CAPE WARD HUNT, ROOKE ISLAND, 0600S-14900E, 0230S-14330E, 0140S-14530E, 0300S-14630E, 0400S-14650E, CIRCULAR REEF, ROOKE ISLAND to DOBODURA. There were nil sightings throughout search.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA due to gas leak and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: Good weather was encountered in Western BISMARCK SEA. A front running North Northeast-South Southwest from MANUS ISLAND to LONG ISLAND was encountered at CIRCULAR REEF.

314 A. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 1905/10/L to 0400/11/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to RABAUL and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: DOBODURA, GASMATA, South coast of NEW BRITAIN, DUKE OF YORK ISLAND, South tip of NEW IRELAND, East coast of NEW IRELAND, WATOM ISLAND, OPEN BAY, JACQUINOT BAY, GASMATA, BUNA to Base.

SIGHTINGS: At 0100/L from 9000 feet, an unidentified airplane was seen at 0630S-15130E on course of 40 degrees at 9000 feet. Airplane had navigation lights on.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 2/10 cumulus at 3000 feet, 8/10 alto-stratus at 12000 feet. RABAUL, same weather with slight haze. Front off South coast of Western end of NEW BRITAIN and another fisheare parallel. CAPE WARD HUNT to CAPE NELSON, solid cumulus towering to 15000 feet. Ranges (BUNA to MORESBY), 3/10 strato-cumulus at 6000 feet, 10/10 cirrus overcast at 18000 feet.

314 D. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0630/11/L to 1445/11/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to LAE, NADZAB, GUSAP and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. B-25G took off from NADZAB at 1110/L during red alert. Possible bomb was seen to explode near strip shortly after our airplane took off.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered medium cumulus with high, thin stratus at 16000 feet. On return, solid cumulus built up to 17000 feet.

314 E. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 490th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0601/11/L to 0905/11/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to MARKHAM VALLEY, NADZAB and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0620/L, low clouds 6000 feet, 7/10, high overcast 12000 feet. WAU VALLEY, 0700/L, low scattered cumulus 4/10, high overcast at 7000 feet, 7/10. MARKHAM VALLEY, 0715/L; low scattered clouds, 3/10, high overcast 9000 feet, 8/10. NADZAB, 0715/L, high overcast 9000 feet, 8/10. PASS, 0740/L, low stratus on mountains. Ceiling unlimited.

314 H(1) WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0408/11/L to 0630/11/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to ALEXISHAFEN and return.

RESULTS: Recco was incomplete due to radio trouble and weather. Airplane was unable to penetrate front in vicinity of KEREMA.

WEATHER: Frontal activity in PAPUAN GULF extending overland North and East of KEREMA, Icing at 14000 feet.

314 H(2) WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0516/11/L to 1318/11/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to ALEXISHAFEN and return.

RESULTS: Recco was completed 100%. Route flown: Base to DOBODURA, ALEXISHAFEN, NADZAB, MARILINAN, YULE ISLAND to base. Airplane took off at 0516/L and returned from KEREMA on account of radio trouble which was corrected as airplane circled base permitting airplane to proceed and complete recco. Propaganda leaflets were dropped at 1130/L in Native Villages near GARAGASSI POINT. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: DOBODURA to CAPE GLOUCESTER, severe thunderstorm activity, base 700 feet, tops above 20000 feet (Flight altitude--600 feet). Heavy rain in ALEXISHAFEN area, few scattered cumulus tops 6000 feet.

314 I. STRIKE - 13 B-24's, 64th Squadron. (1 B-24 attached from 65th Squadron).

TIME OF ATTACK: 0236/11/L to 0355/11/L.

TARGET: LAKUNAI Airdrome.

RESULTS: A total of 359 X 100 lb. inst. dem. bombs and 720 X 20 lb. frag. bombs were dropped from 9000/12000 feet on headings of 190 to 242 degrees at the target. Bombing results of 12 B-24's were reported as excellent with 90% of bombs on the target. One large explosion occured in the North revetment area, North of the center of the strip. One large fire was started in the Southwest revetment area. Two medium fires were started near SULPHUR CREEK, exact location not determined. One medium fire was started North of the West end of the strip. Several fires of short duration were started. Searchlights prevented further observation.

1 B-24 bombed (At 0355/L) on E.T.A., dropping bombs in the vicinity of the target. Bombs were observed to burst on land. (Squadron I.O. deduces that bombs burst East of MATUPI ISLAND near TAVUNVUR MOUNTAIN and that MATUPI ISLAND was being bombed by other airplanes. Also it is possible that a stray [illegible]

-4-

burst along the South shore of KERAVIA BAY). 240 X 20 lb. frag. bombs and 1 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were salvoed in the RABAUL area.

A/A: Nil to intense, medium and heavy, inaccurate, Fourth of July, Flash 88, and Tracer types. Bursts were generally behind and above. Some tracers fell off around 9000 feet. A/A fire came from MATUPI ISLAND, SULPHUR CREEK, one or more vessels in SIMPSON HARBOR and from a vessel offshore between NORDUP and PRAED POINT, also from CAPE TAWUI.

Searchlights were operating from CAPE GAZELLE, RAPOPO, MALUNA POINT, VUNAKANAU, Government House and from above mentioned vessels. Searchlights were turned off between bombing runs. When one light caught airplane, others joined it immediately. Most airplanes were caught before bomb release. At least 30 searchlights were seen. One unidentified airplane was caught in searchlights at 12 o'clock level. Airplane was believed to have had 2 engines. No passes were made. On breakaway of this same B-24, one unidentified airplane was seen about 1500 yards out at 5 o'clock on level. This airplane flashed landing lights and A/A ceased. Possibly the same airplane. One unidentified airplane at 4 o'clock, 1000 yards out and slightly above, with orange lights, peeled off and disappeared. One red passing light was observed at 6:30 o'clock on level, about 10 minutes before reaching the target. This airplane followed for 2 or 3 minutes before peeling off to the right. One night fighter followed our B-24 about 150/200 yards behind on level from WIDE BAY to the target, where it flashed orange lights before disappearing. The tail gunner reported getting a good view of this airplane through reflected moonlight. Unidentified airplane apparently followed our airplane by visual observation. One airplane was seen at 9 O'clock, 1000 feet above on same course as our B-24 over CAPE GAZELLE. Three minutes later a long burst of M/G fire was heard but no tracers or flashes were seen.

INTERCEPTION: 1 B-24 was intercepted by an unidentified airplane at 0355/L at 11000 feet over the target. Five or six bursts of tracers (ineffective) came from 1 o'clock on level, once, and later from 8 o'clock on level as B-24 was momentarily caught by searchlights.

SIGHTINGS: In the RABAUL area at 0253/L from 11000 feet, one or more unidentified vessels were seen in SIMPSON HARBOR. One unidentified vessel was seen off shore between NORDUP and PRAED POINT. Two red, possibly dumy fires, were observed in the BEEHIVES. Between JACQUINOT BAY and WIDE BAY at 0220/L from 12000 feet from a point about 2 miles inland, red Very flares or 45 cal. tracers were observed in a series of two, pause, then three. At 0445/L from 9000 feet, one reddish glow, rising and falling several times, was seen at 0700S-15100E.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 5/10 scattered cumulus 4000/5000 feet, broken overcast at 18000 feet. Target, 3/10 cumulus 4000 feet, 6/10 stratus at 18000 feet. SOLOMON SEA (return), front at 0700S-15100E, North-South, 5/10 stratus at 15000 feet. Ranges, low clouds on the mountains, clear above.

314 K. STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 319th Squadron.
5 B-24's, 320th Squadron.
9 B-24's, 321st Squadron.
12 B-24's, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: LAKUNAI Airdrome.

RESULTS: Mission incomplete. Airplanes took off by 0715/L and were ordered via radio to return to base at 0900/L while over CAPE NELSON.

GENERAL: 2 B-24's of the 321st Squadron collided in the air near KILA Airdrome. One of these crashed approximately 2 miles East of KILA with complete loss of airplane and crew. The other was damaged but returned to base with nil casualties.

WEATHER: Contact flying over Ranges. CAPE NELSON, high stratus overcast, tops 20000 feet, low stratus undercast tops 10000 feet.

314 L. STRIKE - 8 B-24's, 65th Squadron.
7 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: LAKUNAI Airdrome.

RESULTS: Airplanes took off by 0650/L, turned back at 0900/L from 0910S-14910E upon receipt of radio order.

SIGHTINGS: At 0945/L from 4000 feet, a crash-landed B-25 was sighted at 0908S-14700E.

WEATHER: Ranges to CAPE NELSON, 4/10 to 6/10 cumulus, tops 10000 feet. CAPE NELSON, front, tops 25000 feet, base undetermined. 30 miles West of KIRIWINA continuous front, tops 30000 feet, base 3000 feet.

314 O. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0945/11/L to 1300/11/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to MARILINAN, NADZAB, FINSCHHAFEN and ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: Mission was 70% completed to FINSCHHAFEN. ALEXISHAFEN was not reached.

WEATHER: MARILINAN, 1100/L, high overcast, 14000 feet, low clouds 8000 feet, 8/10. FINSCHHAFEN, 1125/L, rain, overcast, 8000 feet, low broken clouds 3000 feet, 5/10. NADZAB, 1150/L, high overcast, 10000 feet, low clouds 4000 feet, 6/10.

314 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Target not reached due to weather. Airplane took off at 1130/L, turned back in vicinity of LAE at 1230/L and landed at 1325/L.

WEATHER: Front from 0 to 25000 feet extending East and West off North coast of NEW GUINEA.

X. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-5's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Airplanes took off at 0638/L and landed at 1020/L.

WEATHER: Ranges, low scattered cumulus from 0 to 8000 feet, 5/10 covered.

314 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: North coast of NEW BRITAIN.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Airplanes took off at 0848/L, turned back in vicinity of KAIAPIT at 1000/L and landed at 1040/L.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, front extending beyond MADANG and NUBIA. Ranges, alto-stratus, 4/10 to 5/10 covered from 13000 to 20000 feet.

314 I. COURIER MISSION - 2 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0700/11/L to 1405/11/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to KIRIWINA.

RESULTS: Mission completed as ordered. Airplanes returned to base on receipt of radio orders.

WEATHER: Enroute, weather reported every 15 minutes. On return (KIRIWINA to DOBODURA), strato-cumulus overcast with base at 1000 feet and numerous rain showers. Visibility from 10 miles to ½ mile in showers. Over DOBODURA, cumulus to 7000 feet. Over Ranges, instrument weather, isolated thunderstorms.

#7. STRIKE - 10 A-20's, 89th Squadron (SATF).

TIME OF ATTACK: 1710/10/L to 1725/10/L.

TARGET: Grounded airplanes on LAKUNAI strips No. 1 and No. 2.

RESULTS: 39 X 500 lb. E/11 second delay bombs were dropped. 15000 X .50 cal. was expended in strafing. 1 BETTY was definitely destroyed. 4 BETTYS were strafed. 1 ZEKE was strafed. 1 barge was destroyed. 3 bombs fell on left side of Strip No. 2; 16 bombs on coconut grove to Northeast of strip No. 2; 8 bombs fell on fuel dump between the strips; 4 bombs fell at end of strip No. 2 towards coast; 4 bombs fell on A/A position on ADMOSIN ISLAND; 4 bombs fell on taxi strip at end of Strip No. 2. Both strips were believed to be still serviceable. The entire area was strafed. All A-20's made bombing and strafing runs and 7 A-20's made a second strafing run. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Heavy M/G fire. Intense, heavy, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire (3 A-20's were slightly damaged).

SIGHTINGS: Pilots observed 14 bombers on the ground in coconut grove where 16 bombs were dropped with unobserved results. 4 BETTY bombers were on West end of strip No. 2. 7 ZEKES were on No. 2 runway. 1 pilot reported 2 possible A/A positions on ridge West of No. 2 strip.

GENERAL: Because of low altitude and heavy A/A, pilots were unable to observe result completely.

WEATHER: Enroute to target A-20's went through a storm up the Valley. Target, ceiling 5000 feet, visibility good (10 to 12 miles). On return, broken overcast, ceiling from 0 to 30000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

16 P-39's of the 41st Fighter Squadron strafed both strips at ALEXISHAFEN from 0735/11/L to 0740/11/L. 1 VAL was shot down 2 miles Northwest of ALEXISHAFEN.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Ass't Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Hauman

PAUL E. HAUMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

ITALY:

Heavy guns behind the Sangro River, the German's first strongly prepared defense line on the Adriatic coast, lashed sporadically at the 8th Army vanguard Tuesday on an olive crowned ridge overlooking General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's next battlefront. "Bloody River" is what the forward troops call the shallow, sluggish stream that Italian maps mark as Fiume Sangro. Its broad basin is studded withhidden mines and enemy fire power is massed effectively at possible fords.

General Dwight Eisenhower announced the formation of a control commission for Italy which today has assumed the duty of carrying out the terms of the armistice and of slinging Italian economy in complete support of the United Nation's fight against Germany. Major General Kenyon A. Joyce, former Commander of the U. S. 9th Army Corps and later Pacific area Commander, was appointed as Deputy President of the Commission, directly responsible to Eisenhower.

Methodically destroying what little remains of Northern Italy's war industries, heavy Liberators and Flying Fortresses of the new 15th U. S. Army Air Force made precission attacks Tuesday on a ball and roller bearing factory at Villar Perosa, 25 miles West of Turin and on the Ansaldo steelworks,, docks and railroad yards at the big port of Genoa.

LONDON:

The Allies have requested Premier Pietro Badaglio to remove General Mario Roatta, Italian Chief of Staff, as a result of Yugoslav charges that he was a war criminal responsible for a reign of terror in Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, the Germans have offered amnesty to Italian and French patriots fighting the Riviera will surrender before November 15. The offer was believed aimed at an estimated 10,000 anti-Axis Italians dug in for the winter in the maritime Alps.

American marauder bombers attacked the Nazi air base at Chievres, near Brussels, in an aerial offensive involving more than 500 planes. In a dozen attacks on varius targets, little enemy opposition was encountered and only one Allied fighter was missing from the day's operations. All day long, formations of medium and light bombers and fighters shuttled across the Channel.

General Nikolas Vatutin's First Ukrainian Army swept through more than 60 Hamlets and Villages in the Northern Ukrain beyond Kiev today while other Soviet troops battled to squeeze the trapped Germans in the Crimea and to improve their bridgehead positions in the Kerch Peninsula, Moscow announced. In their drive to widen the arc around recently liberated Kiev, Red Army troops captured Ivankov, a regional center. Local engagements were reported West of Nevel on the North central front. The Bulletin said Russian troops on all fronts disabled or destroyed 53 tanks while 12 Nazi planes were shot down.

STOCKHOLM:

Reports from Germany on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the World War Armistice indicate that Heinrich Himmler's Gestapo still has the home front in a firm grip.

WASHINGTON:

Battling with shotguns, pistols, empty shell cases and knives at ranges down to 10 feet, the men of the destroyer Borie fought a Nazi U-Boat crew to death while their ship pounded the submarine to pieces. Their war aged plates, overstrained in contributing more than one ship's share to a brilliant new chapter of American Naval History, the Borie limped away in a heavy storm to carry her crew to safety before she quit the fight. Beyond salvage, she was sunk by American planes.

SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY:

The United States Army's "dream weapon" a new electric anti-aircraft gun director is doing a good job in helping to blast the enemy out of the skies in far flung theaters of war, its developers claim. Dr. David P. Parkinson, President of

the Bell Telephone laboratories staff, originated the device after a dream he had in 1940, "that he was a member of a Dutch anti-aircraft gun crew, bringing down Nazi aircraft in bunches with an electrical gun control mechanism."

WASHINGTON:

Members of both major parties expressed determination Wednesday to pass legislation protecting servicemen against any loss or diminution of Social Security benefits by reason of their service in the war. The armed forces are not covered at present by Social Security.

American earnings hit an all time peak with gross income of $103,038,000,000 in the first 9 months of 1943.

LONDON:

Irving Berlin's all soldier musical show "This is the Army" made its London debut in the Palladium Wednesday night before an audience of many military, political and diplomatic notables.

WASHINGTON:

House passage sent to the White House legislation to continue President Quezon at the head of the Philippine Government until civil government is restored to the Japanese held possession.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA.
COMMUNIQUE NO. 579, 11 November, 1943.

GREENWICH ISLAND:

One of our reconnaissance units shot down one of 5 intercepting float-planes.

NEW IRELAND: KAVIENG:

One of our heavy reconnaissance units at night bombed and sank a 10,000 ton merchant ship. Other air patrols carried out 2 attacks on enemy cargo ships in the area.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:

Our medium bombers attacked Vunakanau airdrome at night, scoring well in the target area, causing explosions and fires. Our medium units on a low altitude coastal sweep attacked and sank 3 luggers and 2 barges, bombed fuel dumps and silenced anti-aircraft positions. One of our night air patrols damaged or destroyed 3 enemy barges off the coast.

NEW GUINEA: ALEXISHAFEN:

Our escorted attack planes followed by medium units, executed 2 coordinated, minimum altitude bombing and strafing attacks on the airdrome during the morning. Enemy aircraft coming in from the North were caught on the ground and 21 planes were destroyed and others damaged. 5 gun positions were silenced and probably destroyed and many fires started in fuel and supply dumps. 20 to 30 enemy fighters attempting interception were effectively driven off by our fighter escort. 14 were shot down with 2 others probable. We lost 3 fighters.

SIO:

One of our fighter patrols strafed targets along the coast of Fortification Point.

MARKHAM VALLEY:

Our fighter patrols shot down 3 enemy fighters.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE: KIETA:

Our medium units bombed and strafed the building area following a close coastal sweep of Kietahin Bay and the North coast. Escorting fighters destroyed an enemy

bomber and a fighter at Buka.

<u>3. PRESS AUGUST 8.AY:</u>

Our ground forces on the West flank defeated the enemy killing approximately 150. Our losses were light. Our medium bombers and fighters attacked enemy positions at the Laruma River mouth and destroyed a number of barges on the beach. Our fighter patrols intercepted 20 enemy dive bombers escorted by 40 fighters attacking our shipping. 13 bombers and 13 fighters were shot down, with 3 bombers and 4 fighters probables. We lost 6 planes. Two of our vessels sustained minor damage, and there were light casualties. Enemy planes lightly raided near Cape Torokina during the night.

Report No. 316.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: PEN
DATE: 12/11/43
FROM: 1800/11/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/12/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (315 W) took operational photos from TOPERA to RAPOPO, from LAKUNAI towards VUNAKANAU between 0925/L and 0935/L. 8 enemy fighters attempted interception at 0930/L at 30000 feet over RABAUL. F-5 and P-38 escort left the area and evaded combat.

WEWAK: 1 F-4 of the 6th Photo Squadron (315 X) attempted to photograph WEWAK but was unsuccessful due to cloud cover. F-4 was over WEWAK at 1010/L. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (315 D) completed 100% a weather recce to NADZAB and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0545/L and landed at 0845/ There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (315 E) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0700/L and landed at 1420/L. 3 enemy fighters were seen flying over LAE, causing a red alert, at 1230/L. There was no attack.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (315 A) completed 100% an armed recce to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at 1340/L on a Fox-Tare-Baker at 02355-14840E. Near misses 20 feet and 5 feet on opposite sides of the ship were scored. Ship was smoking, stationary, and oil slick was spreading on water when airplane left the ship. At 1210/L, 15 ships in 2 convoys were sighted at 0230S-148[illegible]E. First convoy consisted of 1 Tare-Baker, 3 Fox-Tare-Bakers and 3 DD's on a course of 120 degrees at a speed of 10 knots. Second convoy was about 2 miles South of the first convoy and consisted of 1 BB, 3 CA's, and 4 DD's on course of 300 degrees at a speed of 20 knots. 1 RUFE and 2 unidentified inline engine fighters were observed at 1345/L flying at about 2000 feet over the convoy. No attempt was made at interception. (Our airplane was at 10000 feet). Moderate, medium, accurate A/A fire was received from the DD's. At 1515/L, 2 twin-engine unidentified airplanes were seen in the No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (315 B) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK [illegible]. At 1134/L, an 8 ship convoy was sighted at 02[illegible]-4852E on course 315 degrees at speed of 20 knots. Convoy consisted of 1 BB, 1 CA, 1 CL or CA, 4 DD's and 1 unidentified vessel. Crew was positive of identification of largest vessel as BB. The 6th vessel was not definitely identified due to distance but was riding low in the water and trail-

ing a wide wake. Moderate to intense, heavy, inaccurate A/A was received from convoy. A/A was of barrage type from warships which turned broadside when our airplane was in vicinity. There were nil other sightings.

1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (315 C) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. Airplane took off at 0829/L and landed at 1603/L. There were nil sightings throughout search.

2 B-24's of the 403rd Squadron (315 J) completed a special Search Mission of the SOLOMON SEA. At 1110/L, one yellow life raft and one yellow box or barrel was seen at 06303-14951E. At 1140/L, one yellow box or barrel was seen at 0649S-15005E. At 1100/L, 2 yellow life rafts and 6 oil drums painted red and approximately 12 logs and other debris was sighted at 0650S-15100E. There were nil other sightings. Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

NOTE: Included in this report is the following Mission Report from SWPF:

FFO — STRIKE - 10 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TARGET: Barges in vicinity of GOGOL RIVER and BILI BILI. Targets of opportunity along BOGADJIM ROAD.

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313 G. STRIKE - 5 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron (SUPPLEMENTARY)

TARGET: ALEXISHAFEN strips No. 1 and No. 2.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1055/10/L.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA:

During 9th and 10th November, 341 Japs were observed from 1000 yards North of BONGA moving South on the coastal track with 35 LMG's and remainder carrying rifles. During same period, 32 moved North.

A patrol moving West along South side of SATELBERG track to SISI, fired on 30 Japs in Village. Four Japs were encountered by another patrol South of SISI.

Forward patrol moving West along North bank of [illegible] RIVER observed 30 Japs in coconut patch at position 617705.

Our artillery engaged Jap movement at MUSEO, FIOR, PALANKO, MASANGKOO, SATELBERG Track and South of BONGA.

Between 9th and 11th November, 4 enemy barges were sunk off WALINGAI and a further 3 at AGO. The latter were loaded with stores.

RAEU AREA:

In the upper FARIR RIVER VALLEY, our patrol contacted small Jap force and inflicted casualties.

Contacts were also made with enemy parties in the Northwestern area. A small party of Japs were located at reference 507743 (URIGINA, 1 inch Map) and our patrols farther North contacted a strong enemy patrol in the area of AMINIK (approximately 16 air miles West of ERIMA PLANTATION) and inflicted casualties.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
12 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/C	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7		7					14	0
DAGUA	5	1	12					18	0
WEWAK	16	2	4			6		28	0
BORAM	31	2	2					35	0
NUBIA	1							1	0
AWAR	3							3	0
ALEXISHAFEN	12		2					14	0
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
MADANG	2							2	0
Total	85	41	37			6		169	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	16	15	19			7		57	0
VUNAKANAU	46	18	7					73	0
LAKUNAI	99	2	14					115	0
RAPOPO		2	3					5	+2
HARBOR						26		26	-6
TOBERA	28							28	0
Total	191	37	43			33		304	-4

SOLOMONS:		
BUKA	0	-4
BONIS	0	-1
BALLALE	0	-1
FAISI	0	-1
Total	0	-7

COMMENTS:

1. No serviceable airplanes were found on BUKA, BALLALE, KAHILI or BONIS 11/11/43. KARA had nil airplanes 10/11/43.

2. Photos of RABAUL dromes today (12/11/43) showed a decrease of 121 SSF, 1 M/B and 12 L/B. Our estimated airplane strength in this area is left unchanged, however, until today's activities in the SOLOMONS can be ascertained.

3. Until dromes in NEW GUINEA area can be photoed our present airplane count will remain as an estimate.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

LAKUNAI & RABAUL: 9/11/43. (312 W)

Blurred vertical photographs of Rabaul and Lakunai.

LAKUNAI AIRDROME:

Second phase study of photographs reveal the following airplanes present:

Serviceable
62 SSF
4 D/B
7 U/I single engine
9 L/B
4 M/B

Total 73 single engine, 9 L/B, 4 M/B.

Nil unusual activity.

The SE edge of the runway there are 18 SSF fighters lined up wing tip to wing tip.

There are 34 SSF lined up on the north edge of the runway.

Behind the north center of the runway in revetments are 2 D/B. The D/B are in revetments at the west edge of the north dispersal area.

Two SSF are in the repair area NW of the drome behind Sulphur Creek.

Six L/B are in revetments on the south side of the runway.

The remainder of the airplanes are located generally thru-out the dispersal areas both in and out of the revetments.

RABAUL TOWNSHIP:

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:

These are the first photographs taken after the strike of 5 November, 1943, Mission 308 CC. The detail is blurred and accurate assessment is difficult.

Clouds cover 1/3 of the AIF camp and part of the adjacent ammunition dump, north of the barracks making damage assessment, in this area impossible.

Several bomb hits were observed in this area during the attack. In the part of the AIF camp visible at least 12 buildings of various types were destroyed. Two of these are barracks and the remainder are smaller type sheds. Two large earth scars are visible on the side of one of the gullies behind the west end of the camp, caused by either bomb or ammo storage explosion.

The direct hit on the Oil and Coal Wharf demolished the eastern part of the seaward side. The warehouses behind the wharf were destroyed. The oil tanks to the east of the wharf do not appear to be damaged. The radio station near Malaguna and Tunnel Hill Roads is presumed to be damaged as there was a hit approximately 150' west. The main building is protected by a revetment but the aerial masts were doubtless destroyed.

An area between the above radio station and the Oil and Coal Wharf was believed to contain supplies. This area suffered heavy damage; most of the supplies destroyed.

R.B[illegible] TOWNSHIP:(CONT'D)

There were approximately 12 hits, observed during the strike, in the area north of the New Government (Customs) Wharf. This area is cloud covered and assessment is impossible.

A water front area, approximately 2000' long and 1400' in depth, extending from Tobai Wharf to the Oil and Coal Wharf is almost completely destroyed. About 70% of the buildings in this area were demolished; including the Engineering Ordnance Depot, a field Hospital (POW report), 18 barracks type buildings (20' x 50'), and about 20 buildings (use unknown) in the gullies off the north side of Malanguna (or Old Kokopo) road. A supply dump in the west end of the same area (reported by POW's to be Food and Ammunition storage) was also demolished, trees formerly visible in this area have disappeared, possibly thru an ammunition explosion. The harbor area between Tobai Wharf and Burns Philps Wharf formerly had many small unloading docks for barges, and normally between 35 and 55 barges lie just off shore or at the docks. There are only 8 barges now visible and their serviceability is unknown. It is probable that the facilities are unserviceable as a result of bombing.

LAKUNAI AIRDROME AND RABAUL: 10/11/43. (313 M)

Good vertical photographs giving complete coverage of airdrome and town.

LAKUNAI AIRDROME:

A 2nd phase study of the photographs reveals the following airplanes to be present:

Serviceable

100 SSF
3 U/I single engine
8 L/B or R/P
7 M/B

82 of the SSF are alerted, 56 of these being lined up on the north side of the runway and 26 lined up on the south side of the runway. One SSF is being towed out to the runway from a dispersal lane. 16 of the remaining SSF are in the north dispersal area (four being in the repair area NW of the drome behind Sulphur Creek), the rest of the SSF are scattered in the south dispersal area.

The L/B or R/P are in the south dispersal area and the M/B are at each end of the runway, three at the SE and four at the NW.

AIRDROME:

The runway is serviceable. Nil new construction or activity.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT: (Strike 0422L to 0550L 10 Nov.)

Any wreckage resulting from the early morning strike of 10 November, 1943, has already been cleared away. No damage is visible.

FLOATPLANE ANCHORAGES:

Malaguna:
7 F/P
Matupi Island:
25 F/P

RABAUL TOWNSHIP:

In addition to the damage, resulting from the attack of 5 November, 1943, reported in the interpretation of photographs taken 9 November, 1943, 11 more buildings are seen to have been destroyed in the residential area north of the new Government Wharf on the north side of

RABAUL TOWNSHIP: (CONT'D)

Malaguna road. These were small to medium sized buildings and probably housed personnel.

VUNAKANAU: 10/11/43. (313 W)

Good vertical photographs of drome.

Airplanes. Serviceable

15 M/B
7 L/B
46 SSF

Most of the M/B are in the east dispersal area; while the SSF and L/B are in the NW dispersal area. 16 SSF are alerted on the NW end of runway.

Activity. About 1,700' east of the east dispersal area 3 slit trenches and an oval track about 300' long on its greater axis are seen. They are of recent origin. No other changes are noticed.

The runway is serviceable and track activity remains normal. Motor traffic on Rabaul road.

KAVIENG - PANAPAI - BALGAI: 9/11/43. (312 X)

A photographic coverage of Kavieng drome, town and harbor area, including Nusa and Nusalik Islands. Panapai drome is partly obscured by clouds. A new drome, under construction in clearing 2 1/4 miles SE of Panapai, is also covered. The drome is situated near Balgai Village and on Balgai Bay, hence has been named.

KAVIENG DROME:

Airplanes.	Serviceable	Unserviceable
	13 M/B	2 M/B
	17 L/B or TEF	2 L/B or TEF
	16 SSF	1 SSF
	7 F/P	
	53 TOTAL	5 TOTAL

Defences. Defences 500' off east end of runway appear to be a new heavy A/A battery consisting of 3 guns. 2 possible S/L positions are just east of this A/A battery. A new track leads to them. There is also a possible S/L position 1700' SW of the north end of the runway on the south side of the clearing. Other defences appear unchanged.

Activity. The new clearings off the west end of the runway have been somewhat enlarged. It is still impossible to determine the enemy's intentions but it seems likely that the clearing may be preparation for a new runway. Increased activity is seen over the entire drome.

Shipping.

1 F/T (3800 tons) stationary
1 F/T (8500 tons) stationary
7 barges and luggers.

PANAPAI DROME:

No airplanes seen.
Runway appears serviceable. It shows signs of recent improvement.

B[redacted] DROME:

There is a new drome under construction in Kunai area 2 1/4 miles SE of Panapai and 5800' inland from NE New Ireland coast. It is 360' wide and 4500' long, running in a NW - SE direction. Grading has started. Terrain is such that runway could be extended in both directions for over 1000' additional length. M/T road connects the area to Panapai.

GAROVE ISLAND (PETER HBR): 10/11/43. (313 B)

Good photos of Peter Harbor and immediate vicinity.

Bomb Damage. One bomb hit 80' off shore from possible A/A position with no visible damage.

Two clouds of black smoke are seen in possible dump area 1200' NW of main jetty, unable to determine damage.

Defences. In addition to defence positions given in 2nd phase report of 4 November, 1943, the following is seen:

a. In the clearing atop a small hill 1400' NW of the main jetty are:

1. 3 heavy A/A positions.
2. 5 light A/A positions.
3. Range finder and fire control post.
4. Numerous M/G pits throughout area.
5. 2 personnel huts, 1 on NE edge of hill and 1 on the SW edge, both partly concealed by trees.
6. 4 other small buildings (25' x 15') are located at the edges of the hill and in open area.

b. 4 M/G pits are located along the waters edge 125' north of the base of the main jetty.

c. 1 possible M/G between house and waters edge 1665' NW of main jetty.

Dump & Supply Area.

a. A large area, approximately 2300' NW of the main jetty shows numerous well used tracks taking off from the main road. Apparently being used as an important stores area.

b. Two points, 200' and 250' respectively, NE of the large house which is 1300' west of the main jetty, are what appears to be underground ammunition dumps. Many well used tracks and two earthern mounds are predominate.

WEWAK - BORAM: 10/11/43. (313 X)

Good verticals of Wewak and Boram airdromes, Wewak town, and Boram Point.

WEWAK:

Airplanes. Apparently serviceable
17 SSF
4 L/B
1 M/D

The runway is serviceable.

WEWAK: (CONT'D)

Shipping. One Freighter transport of 1000 tons and 2 freighter transports of 500 tons in the harbor. Twenty-two barges along east side of Wewak Point and along side the ships in harbor.

BORAM:

Airplanes. Apparently serviceable
25 SSF
2 L/B
2 M/B

The runway is serviceable.

Activity. What appears to be excavations for a new 6 gun A/A battery is noticed 1000' east of the east end of the runway. There is a revetment around only one position.

ALEXISHAFEN: 9/11/43. (312 G & 312 Y)

Good vertical photographs with 100% coverage.
Good obliques during raid by 205, 71, 822 & 823 Squadrons on Alexishafen.

ALEXISHAFEN # 1:

Airplanes. 2 serviceable SSF. One is located in the dispersal area north of the east end of the runway. The 2nd SSF is located in a revetment 1500' west of the east end of the runway.

Airdrome. There are no changes since the last report. Many para-frags are seen dropping on and in the immediate vicinity of the airdrome. There is no definite damage to drome facilities.

Defences. There are no new defences.

ALEXISHAFEN # 2:

Airplanes. Apparently serviceable airplanes at the end of the 1030L strike:

6 SSF
2 L/B
2 R/P "DINAH"
1 M/B

The early photos showed 5 M/B located along the runway. Four of these are seen burning following the strike. There is a fifth airplane, which was not visible at 0935L, burning on the runway. It is possible that this is an SSF which had just landed as per combat crew report. Prior to the strike 2 L/B, 2 R/P "DINAH" and 6 SSF were located in the dispersal area. Only 2 L/B, 2 R/P "DINAH" and 1 SSF are visible in the incomplete coverage by the later obliques.

Airdrome. Many bombs hit on or near the runway starting numerous fires and possibly temporarily rendering the runway unserviceable.

Equipment & Vehicles. Two track laying armored vehicles are standing on the south side of the western end of the runway. The identity of these vehicles has not been established.

Equipment
& Vehicles (CONT'D)

4 M/T camouflaged with branches and fronds are located centrally along the north side of the runway.

A roller for runway maintenance is located on the south side of the west end of the runway.

Defenses. Careful study of Adnosin Island failed to reveal any A/A positions on the Island. There are however 6 gun heavy (75mm) A/A positions 1500' west of the Island on the peninsula at the end of Bistrom Bay. These guns might account for the heavy ack-ack received over the Island; or positions on the Island may be camouflaged so that detection from the present photographs is not possible.

ALEXISHAFEN: 10/11/43. (313 G)

100% coverage. Fair but distant obliques taken during the strike.

ALEXISHAFEN #1.

Airplanes. Two camouflaged unserviceable SSF (one temporarily only) are found in a revetment located South of the runway on the "Y" formed by the taxistrip.

Damage. Parafrag bombs are bursting over the entire airdrome and dispersal areas. Two heavy bomb bursts or explosions are located Northeast of the North end of the drome. The small scale of the obliques makes assessment unfeasible.

M/T. 4 flat bedied trucks and 2 oil trucks are noted. 5 of these are in revetments at the West end of the field.

Defenses. Nil change.

General. Parafrags are seen dropping in the vicinity of ALEXISHAFEN MISSION. Damage could not be determined from the photos.

ALEXISHAFEN #2.

Several distant photos taken from the vicinity of #1 drome show columns of smoke rising over #2 drome. These photos are too distant for damage to be assessed.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.
313 G. STRIKE - 5 B-25's, 822nd Squadron (SUPPLEMENTARY)

TIME OF ATTACK: 1055/10/1.

TARGET: Strips No. 1 and No. 2 at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: A total of 30 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs and 20 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped as follows: 6 X 100 lb. bombs at a heavy A/A position at the mouth of the ULIGAN HARBOR, silencing the position, although no specific damage was observed. 23 X 100 lb. bombs were dropped across No. 1 strip and in dump area South of the strip with unobserved results. 20 clusters of parafrag bombs were dropped on North side of No. 2 strip and at a parked unidentified airplane in the revetment area with unobserved results. 21 X 75 mm fired as follows: 1 at A/A position at ULIGAN HARBOR with unobserved results. 16 in revetment

area around No. 1 strip causing no observed damage. 2 in revetment area North of No. 2 strip causing no observed damage. 2 at SEK ISLAND with unobserved results. The entire ALEXISHAFEN area and A/A position at UMIGAN HARBOR was strafed. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing. 2650 K .50 cal. and 200 K .30 cal. were expended in strafing.

A/A: Same as reported in original Report from this Squadron.

SIGHTINGS: Parafrags of the lead flight of this Squadron were seen to fall directly among 2 twin-engine unidentified airplanes on Western end of the South side of strip No. 2. 1 unidentified airplane was seen in the revetment area West of No. 2 strip.

GENERAL: A B-25G of this Squadron was hit by A/A over ALEXISHAFEN and was barely able to maintain flight to ½ mile off LAE where it crashed in the water. Pilot, Co-Pilot and Navigator got out safely with minor injuries and were picked up but gunner and radioman did not escape. 4 B-25G's escorted the damaged airplane from ALEXISHAFEN to LAE and landed there at 1210/10/L. After refuelling, the 4 B-25G's took off from LAE for PORT MORESBY at 1345/10/L. One of these landed at PORT MORESBY at 1600/10/L; 3 turned back due to weather over the ranges, 2 landing at LAE at 1535/10/L and the 3rd landed at MARILINAN at 1430/10/L where it bogged down in the mud and is still there. The 2 B-25G's took off from LAE at 0915/11/L and landed at base at 1020/11/L. One crew member of the airplane bogged down at MARILINAN and surviving crew members of the airplane which crashed off LAE were interrogated to complete this Report.

WEATHER: Same as in original Report of this Squadron.

314 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0830 L/L to [illegible]/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0215N-[illegible], 0200N-15140E and return.

TARGET: Tare-Uncle, Two Stack at 00158-14935E.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped at 1223/L from 10000 feet on run from front quarter on a Tare-Uncle Two Stack at 00158-14935E. Bombs burst across ship with spread, direct hits and near misses. The first 3 hit were approximately ⅓ length of ship away from side. Instant explosion possible smoke came from stern and [illegible] ship. The ship is claimed as damaged. Photos were taken of the bombing and time enroute (See SIGHTINGS). Recce was 95% completed. Route Flown: DARGUNA, ROSSEL ISLAND, 0020S-14910E, 00158-14935E, 0030S-14915E, 0130N-14930E, 0130N-15130E, ROSSEL ISLAND, DARGUNA and return.

A/A: Slight to moderate, medium, inaccurate from bow of M/V's and from entire length of escort warships. First burst was 100 feet ahead of airplane, the rest were all 2 miles behind.

SIGHTINGS: At 1155/11/L from 10000 feet, a convoy consisting of 1 Tare-Able, 2 Tare-Uncles Two Stack, 3 probable DD's (1 large), was sighted at 00158-14935E. Convoy was on course 135 degrees. The 3 M/V's were in line

abreast—furtherest 1½ length spacing. Escort was on each flank with 1 trailing. Evasive manoeuvering was slight. The Taro-Able and 1 of the Taro-Uncles Two Stack had 2/3 green, probable landing barges on forward decks. The other Taro-Uncle Two Stack (target) had supplies piled around masts. At 1255/L, the convoy had stopped except for movement around target, which was still afloat with no more apparent damage than possible slight grey smoke from stern. Two unidentified fighters were seen circling over convoy at 1000 feet or lower, presumably having just arrived at the scene at 1255/L.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, (North), 4/10 strato-cumulus at 7500/8000 feet. Between 0300S and 0400S, front, cumulo-nimbus, base and tops not visible. Ranges, (AM 12/11/43), 4/10 cumulus in Valleys ceiling unlimited.

314 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0645/11/L to 1800/11/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: 80% of assigned area covered. Airplane turned back from 0330S-14650E due to fuel shortage. Route flown: CAPE WARD HUNT, 0600S-14600E, 0230S-14330E, 0140S-14330E, 0120S-14415E, 0200S-14530E, 0300S-14530E, 0300S-14630E, 0400S-14630E, 0400S-14730E, 0300S-14730E, 0250S-14800E, 0300S-14800E, CAPE WARD HUNT to DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 1655/L from 6000 feet, 2 small uncamouflaged Sugar-Charlies were seen on a reef at 0530S-14850E. There were nil other sightings throughout search.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: Enroute out, ranges, 8/10 strato-cumulus at 13000 feet, base 15000 feet, tops undetermined. SOLOMON SEA, front in HUON GULF, base 4000 feet, tops 15000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, 8/10 covered, cumulus base 4000 feet, tops 8000 feet, visibility good. Ranges (on return), crossed at 15000 feet. DOBODURA to PORT MORESBY, 1/10 cumulus, base mountains, tops at 10000 feet.

315 D. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1; 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0545/12/L to 0845/12/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to NADZAB, GUSAP and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0600/L, low clouds 1500 feet, 3/10, upper clouds 13000 feet, 6/10, visibility 20 miles. BULLDOG, 0625/L, low clouds 6000 feet, 9/10, upper clouds unlimited, 0/10, visibility 20 miles. PASS, 0640/L, low clouds 6000 feet, 5/10, upper clouds 12000 feet, 2/10, visibility unlimited. NADZAB, 0700/L, upper clouds 13000 feet, 3/10, low clouds 5/10. GUSAP, 0715/L, low clouds 5000 feet, 8/10, upper clouds unlimited, 0/10, visibility 20 miles. PASS, 0750/L, low clouds 6000 feet, 7/10, upper clouds 12000 feet, 7/10.

315 W. PHOTO RECCO – 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0925/12/L to 0935/12/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken from TOBERA to RAPOPO, from LAKUNAI toward VUNAKANAU. Photos were also taken of KOKODA.

INTERCEPTION: Approximately 8 unidentified SSF attempted interception at 0930/L over RABAUL at 30000 feet. F-5 and P-38 escort left the area.

WEATHER: 3/10 low cumulus. NEW BRITAIN, overcast at 27000 feet, 1/10, low cumulus. NEW IRELAND, high overcast, 2/10 low cumulus. SOLOMON SEA, broken frontal activity.

315 X. PHOTO RECCO – 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1010/12/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to weather. Airplanes were over WEWAK at 1010/12/L at 34500 feet. Visual recce was 100% completed.

WEATHER: MADANG-ALEXISHAFEN, CAVU. Front extending 150 miles West of WEWAK from 0 to 25000 feet.

315 A. ARMED RECCO – 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0729/12/L to 1714/12/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return.

TARGET: Fox-Tare-Baker at 02355-14840E.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped at 1340/L from 9900 feet at 1 Fox-Tare-Baker at 02355-14840E. Bombs were dropped on heading of 160 degrees with 50 feet interval between bombs. The second bomb hit 20 feet short of port side, the third bomb hit 5 feet off starboard side. Ship was making end stationary and an oil slick was spreading on the water when our airplane left the area. Photos were taken of both convoys (See SIGHTINGS) and of the bombing. Recce was completed 100% as ordered.

A/A: Moderate, medium, accurate from DD's. Bursts were on level, ahead and on both sides of airplane.

SIGHTINGS: At 1210/L from 2000 feet, an 11 ship convoy was sighted at 02305-14835E. On closer approach, 4 more ships were seen making a total of 15 ships in 2 convoys. The first convoy consisted of 1 Tare-Baker, 3 Fox-Tare-Bakers and 3 DD's and was on course 120 degrees at a speed of 10 knots. Second convoy was about 2 miles South of the first convoy and consisted of 1 BB, 3 CA's, 4 DD's and was on a course of 300 degrees at speed of 20 knots.. 1 RUFE and 2 unidentified in-line engine Fighters were observed at 1345/L from 10000 feet at 02355-14840E about 2000 feet over the convoy. No attempt was made at interception. At 1515/L from 2600 feet, 2 twin-engine unidentified airplanes were seen on No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. One airplane was at

East and of the strip on the South side and the other was at the middle of the strip on the South side. Both airplanes were facing North.

WEATHER: HUON GULF, scattered clouds also North of CAPE GLOUCESTER. Good weather throughout search until reaching VITIAZ STRAITS on return, lower clouds at 3000 feet, built up to 25000 feet. Ranges encountered on return from SALAMAUA to KEREMA, 20000 feet, about 8/10 covered.

315 B/ ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0705/12/L to 1916/12/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recc. was completed 100% as ordered. Photos were taken of convoy (See SIGHTINGS).

A/A: Moderate to intense, heavy, inaccurate as 7000/8000 feet from warships. A/A was barrage type from warships which turned broadside when our airplane was in vicinity.

SIGHTINGS: At 1106/L from 7000 feet, one unidentified airplane was sighted at 0323S-14950E. Airplane was on course 75 degrees. Distance prevented identification. At 1134/L from 7000 feet, an 8 ship convoy was sighted at 0250S-14052E on course 315 degrees at speed of 20 knots. Convoy consisted of 1 BB, 1 CA, 1 CL or CA, 4 DD's and 1 unidentified vessel. Crew was positive of identification of largest vessel as BB on account of size and perportion of vessels and prominent heavy superstructure. CA and CA or CL, were distinguishable from DD's by relative size and heavy superstructure. The 8th vessel was not definitely identified due to distance but was observed riding low in water and trailing a wide wake. Convoy was sighted turning into line broadside position when sighting our airplane.

NIL SIGHTINGS: 0430S-14800E at 0931/L from 7000 feet. 0430S-15030E at 1034/L from 7000 feet. 0330S-15030E at 1058/L from 7000 feet. 0300S-14730E at 1231/L from 7000 feet. 0325S-14730E at 1250/L from 1000 feet. 0300S-14830E at 1305/L from 1000 feet. 0300S-14530E at 1329/L from 1000 feet. 0210S-14600E at 1353/L from 1000 feet. 0120S-14415E at 1441/L from 1000 feet. 0140S-14330E at 1500/L from 1000 feet. 0220S-14530E at 1520/L from 1000 feet. 0600S-14800E at 1[illegible] from 1000 feet.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, 4/10 cumulus, scattered cumulus tops 6000 feet, local thunderheads South of MANUS ISLAND. Frontal zone, KAKAN ISLAND to WOOKE ISLAND, base 1000 feet, tops 20000 feet, scattered cumulus over SOLOMON SEA. Ranges, built up to 25000 feet.

315 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0829/12/L to 160[illegible]12/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

NIL SIGHTINGS: GASMATA at 1051/L from 11000 feet. CAPE BERCHY at 1113/L from 11000 feet. 0300S-15310E at 1150/L from 5400 feet. 0457S-15222E at 1220/L from 5000 feet. 0456S-15400E at 1250/L from 9800 feet. 0[illegible]0S-15400E at 1300/L from 9500 feet.

WEATHER: Frontal activity running East and West (moving North) at 0730S. Scattered alto-stratus over area of search. Ranges crossed at 13000 feet on return from COLLINGWOOD BAY to HOOD POINT.

315 E. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0700/12/L to 1420/12/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to MADZAB, GUSAP and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. 3 enemy fighters were observed flying over LAE at 1230/L causing a red alert. There was no attack.

WEATHER: Enroute, MARKHAM VALLEY strato-cumulus. Overcast at 2300 feet. Ranges, cumulus and cumulo-nimbus tops to 25000 feet.

315 J. RECCO - 2 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: (1) 0902/12/L to 1422/12/L.
(2) 0911/12/L to 1503/12/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: (1) Base, GONA, RICHTOFEN BAY, GASMATA, CAPE SUDEST to Base. (2) Base, CAPE NELSON, 0900S-14835E, MONTAGU HARBOR, JACQUINOT BAY, 0535S-15145E, 0900S-14835E to Base. Photos were taken of rafts (See SIGHTINGS).

SIGHTINGS: At 1110/L from 1000 feet, one yellow life raft and one yellow box or barrel was seen at 0630S-14951E. At 1140/L from 1000 feet, one yellow box or barrel was seen at 0649S-15005E. At 1100/L from 1000 feet, two yellow life rafts, 6 oil drums painted red and approximately 12 logs and other debris was seen at 0650S-15100E.

WEATHER: Ranges out, 2/10 strato-cumulus, tops 8000 feet, base 6000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, scattered thunderstorms built up to 25000 feet from 35 miles East of GASMATA as far South as could be observed. On return, SOLOMON SEA, scattered thunderstorms. Ranges, 8/10 cumulus, base 6000 feet, tops 12000 feet.

FFO. -- STRIKE - 10 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1110/11/L to 1300/11/L.

TARGET: Barges in vicinity of GOGOL RIVER and BILI BILI. Targets of opportunity along BOGADJIM ROAD.

RESULTS: A total of 36 X 500 lb. 8/10 sec nd delay nose bombs were dropped. 10000 X .50 cal. was expended in strafing. 2 bombs were dropped on 3 barges in CAPE IRIS and barges were strafed with 1000 X .50 cal. 1 bomb was dropped on MINDIBI VILLAGE which was strafed with 500 X .50 cal. 1 bomb was dropped on KUL VILLAGE at TAUMALIP. Bomb fell on target. 3 bombs were dropped on Village and barge at DEKAYS BAY. Villages along the coast were strafed with 1500 X .50 cal. 4 bombs were dropped along the coast from KONSTANTIN HARBOR to DEKAYS BAY. Results were unobserved. Coast was strafed with 500 X .50 cal. 3 bombs were dropped on a Village and what appeared to be a radio station

in SAREUAK BAY. The 3 barges at CAPE IRIS were set on fire by strafing. 4 bombs were dropped on 3 barges in SAREUAK BAY totally destroying the barges. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

SIGHTINGS: A total of 34 wrecked barges were sighted along the coast.

WEATHER: CAVU. Scattered cumulus at 3000 feet enroute to target. 5/10 covered in vicinity of BOGADJIM ROAD. Scattered showers around FORTIFICATION POINT.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

No report received.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Nauman

PAUL E. NAUMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

LONDON:

American and British heavy bombers apparently plugged the Brenner Pass and Mont Cenis tunnel entrances into Northern Italy Wednesday and last night by striking 2 paralyzing blows at these Trans-Alps supply lines used by Germany to pour reinforcements into Italy. Flying Fortresses of the African Command shot down 2 German fighters and beat off 20 to 30 others to cast a torrent of explosives by daylight on the railway center of Bolzano, below the Brenner Pass and British based R.A.F. bombers, without loss of a single plane, also struck in a coordinated night attack across France on the border town of Modane, at the mouth of the Mont Cenis tunnel. Axis radio quit the air Thursday night indicating the R.A.F. again was out in force in the darkness over the continent. The Vichy Radio said Annecy, a textile and glass center in France, 20 miles from Geneav, was attacked Thursday afternoon.

General Nikolai Vatutin's victorious Red Army rolling Westward across the Northern Ukrain, captured the big district center of Radomysel, Thursday, thus reaching a point only 28 miles Northeast of the rail junction of Zhitomir, Moscow announced Thursday.

U. S. Flying Fortresses attacked targets in the Germany city of Muenster, Thursday for the second time in a week and knocked down 10 enemy aircraft while escorting Thunderbolts and Lightnings bagged 8. Four Flying Fortresses were lost. Marauders escorted by British and Allied Spitfires, hit military objectives on the Cherbourg Peninsula. 3 fighters are missing.

Cairo dispatches said Thursday that the President and Premier of Lebanon, had been arrested by the French National Committee of Liberation as the crisis between the Arab state and the French over the Republic's status reached a grave turn. The Cairo dispatches said that Lebanese President, Shukri El Kuwatley Bey, was placed under house arrest by Sengalese Guards Wednesday and the Premier, Riad El Solh and 2 other Ministers were arrested Thursday. Disturbances have broken out in Beirut, the Capital and communications have been severed both at Lebanon and the neighboring State of Syria, the Cairo reports said. Only 2 Pro-French newspapers were permitted to publish and other newspaper offices have been occupied by troops, it was reported.

WASHINGTON:

30 soldiers who risked their lives in a deliberate exposure to malaria, in the New Guinea jungles as part of a medical experiment, have been decorated with the Legion of Merit, the War Department announced Thursday. The test, reminiscent of the action of a group under Major Walter Reed who exposed themselves to the yellow fever in Cuba in 1900 to prove that disease was transmitted by mosquitoes, covered a period of 6 weeks.

LOS ANGELES:

Chile no longer fears the possibility of a Japanese invasion of her coast, Lt. General Manuel Tovarias, Commander in Chief of that Nation's Air Activities said at a press conference Thursday, but his country plans the strongest Air Force in South America. He is on a War Department sponsored tour of the United States.

ALGIERS:

The fifth company of WACS to arrive in North Africa piled off a train in a driving rain Thursday in time to see other WAC units marching in a big Armistice Day parade. The company, trained for Signal Corps assignment, is commanded by Captain Hortense M. Boutell of Minneapolis.

GREAT NECK, NEW YORK:

Brigadier General Frank T. Hines, Administrator of Veteran's Affirs assured American fighting men Thursday that when they return home after victory has been won, a grateful Nation will not forget their sacrifices. Experience we have gained as a going concern, he said, has enabled us to make great improvements in our

administrative procedures so that relief comes more efficiently and quickly than it did after the last war. The Veteran's Administration Administrator spoke at the dedication of a high altitude laboratory at the Sperry Gyroscope Company's Nassau plant and utilized the occasion to tell the Nation about government assistance to those who suffer from war. His address was broadcast over the Blue Network.

TULE LAKE, CALIFORNIA:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was ordered Thursday by Attorney General Francis Biddle to begin an immediate study of last weeks disturbances at the Tule Lake segregation center. At the same time Representative Clair Entle, Democrat of California, said he would ask the Dies Committee for a full and formal probe of the Tule Lake situation as it existed under control of the War Relocation Authority. A new disturbance occured Wednesday. Hundreds of Japanese stopped work in the warehouses and complained that they were not being allowed to choose their own work leaders.

WASHINGTON:

In an Armistice Day statement, Secretary of War, Stimson, said the United States is once again on the road to victory with double the military might that brought victory on November 11, 1918, and gave reporters comparisons between the Army 25 years ago and the Army today.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 578, 12 November, 1943.

JAVA: SOURABAYA:

Striking over 1000 miles into the Netherlands East Indies, our heavy units at night and in adverse weather attacked the enemy naval base dropping 22 tons of bombs with unobserved results.

NEW IRELAND: KAVIENG AREA:

One of our heavy bombers on night reconnaissance sank an enemy destroyer with 1000 pound bombshits from minimum altitude.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:

Our medium units at night bombed Rapopo airdrome dispersal areas, and attacked shipping, scoring a probable torpedo hit on an enemy cruiser in Keravia Bay. Prior to dawn, our heavy units bombed Lakunai airdrome, causing explosions and large fires visible 50 miles. Enemy night fighters were encountered. One plane is missing.

GASMATA:

Our fighters dive bombed supply dumps near the airdrome and at the Amwek River, causing fires.

REIN BAY:

Our heavy reconnaissance units destroyed 2 enemy barges East of Cape Ransult and bombed installations on Garove Island in the Vitu Group.

NEW GUINEA: ALEXISHAFEN:

Our escorted medium units at minimum altitude bombed and strafed the airdrome, Township, and installations on Sek and Admiralty Island, causing extensive damage. 13 fighter planes and 3 fuel trucks on the airdrome were destroyed or damaged, and anti-aircraft positions silenced. One of our planes hit by ground fire failed to return. There was no interception.

SIO:

Our light naval craft on night patrol sank 4 Schuhb und enemy barges off Warfingai and destroyed one beached barge Southeast of Sio.

LAE:

Our air patrols shot down 3 enemy fighters and one other probable, without loss.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE: BUKA:

Our medium units and escorting fighters bombed and strafed enemy bivouac areas.

EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY:

Our ground troops have completed the consolidation of the area which is now firmly secured. Our medium units bombed and strafed enemy positions on the Laguma River mouth. 7 of 40 enemy torpedo planes attacking our shipping at dusk were shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

BUIN:

Our escorted torpedo and dive bombers executed 2 midday attacks on Ballale and Kara airdromes, dropping a total of 68 tons of explosives on the runways, dispersal points, supply dumps and anti-aircraft positions. One grounded aircraft and an ammunition dump were destroyed and fires started. Escorting fighters strafed Lakunai and Kaviera Villages, and the shoreline of Oema and Shortland Island.

TREASURY ISLAND:

Four light, ineffective night air raids were reported.

CHOISEUL:

Our paratroop battalion which raided Choiseul as a diversionary cover for the landing at Bougainville, having fully accomplished its mission, has been withdrawn.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP
080041 4 NOV 1943

Report No. 317.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: GEN
DATE: 13/11/43

FROM: 1800/12/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/13/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 F-5 of the 6th Photo Squadron (316 Y) took off at 0905/L to photograph RABAUL but was unable to reach target due to weather. Airplane turned back 70 miles off North coast of NEW GUINEA at 1000/L and landed at base at 1040/L.

WEWAK: 1 F-4 of the 6th Photo Squadron (316-Z) took off at 0812/L to photograph WEWAK. F-4 was over WEWAK at 1130/L at 35000 feet but was unable to take photos due to cloud coverage. Nil photos were taken and there were nil sightings.

ALEXISHAFEN-MADANG: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (316 D) completed 100% a weather recce to ALEXISHAFEN. Airplane took off at 0530/L and landed at 0845/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (316 G) completed 100% a weather recce to ALEXISHAFEN. Airplane took off at 0258/L and landed at 0820/L. Weather was reported half-hourly. Propaganda leaflets were dropped on ALEXISHAFEN at 0500/L. There were nil sightings.

27 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (316 H) bombed ALEXISHAFEN from 1008/L to 1031/L. 285 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped from 11600/15000 feet on the target. Several fires were started throughout revetment area of No. 1 strip. Several small fires were started in vicinity of heavy A/A position on peninsula West of ADMOSIN ISLAND—believed destroyed. A large explosion followed by a large fire occured in dump area Southwest of No. 1 strip. Bombing was excellent but coconut trees covering the area and smoke and dust from bombing prevented further damage assessment. Slight to intense, medium and heavy, inaccurate to accurate A/A fire was encountered. There was nil interception. 1 enemy airplane was seen taking off No. 1 strip on approach to target. One large fire was observed in the Township area and one fire at junction of taxiway and strip on North side at East end of No. 1 strip. No airplanes were seen on either airdrome at ALEXISHAFEN. Several fires were observed on the East side of No. 2 strip. Dust was seen on both strips at 1000/L suggesting possibility taking off before strike occured.

30 B-24's of the 90th Group (316 I) bombed the No. 2 strip at ALEXISHAFEN and the Mission area. 348 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped between 1016/L and 1030/L from 15000/17000 feet. 4 fires were started in the dispersal and dump areas of strip No. 2. All 4 fires were believed to be fuel dumps because of large amount of black smoke from each. 6 fires, 2 of which were possible fuel fires, were started in the ALEXISHAFEN Mission area after this area had been completely covered by bombing. Bombing was

excellent. A combination of smoke and dust from bomb bursts, scattered clouds over the target and general coconut tree coverage prevented further assessment of damage from the air. A/A fire was reported as slight to intense, medium and heavy, accurate to inaccurate. There was nil interception. 4 unidentified airplanes were seen heading North from ALEXISHAFEN. Nil enemy airplanes were seen on the ground at MADANG. Only 1 serviceable airplane was sighted on ALEXISHAFEN Airdromes. 3 fires were observed North of strip No. 1 at ALEXISHAFEN. A/A fire was less intense after bombing runs than before.

35 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (316 J) bombed and strafed ground airplanes, dumps areas and A/A positions at MADANG from 1030/L to 1035/L. 132 X 300 lb. bombs and 202 X 100 lb. bombs were dropped on the targets. A heavy A/A position and nearby hut at Eastern extremity of BILLAU, 2000 feet Southeast of the MADANG strip was destroyed. One H/G position was destroyed. 2 buildings were probably destroyed in the MADANG Township. The entire area was strafed and bombed but observation was poor and results were generally unobserved. A total of 54330 X .50 cal. and 18900 X .30 cal. was expended in strafing. Slight to moderate, light and medium, accurate A/A fire was encountered from the strip and Township area. There was nil interception. Barges were observed at the following points: Several at Quarantine Island, 8 to 10 on west coast of SOMERING PENINSULA. 5 luggers and 1 barge near MADANG HARBOR. 2 barges at MADAMON. 4 barges at North side of KRANKET ISLAND. 4 barges at MADANG wharf received undetermined damage from bomb hit. Stores and personnel were observed around the MADANG Township area. Approximately 30 to 35 barges and 5 luggers were sighted in the MADANG area some of which were loaded. A wharf, 300/400 feet up stream from the mouth of the GOGOL RIVER was apparently being used as a barge loading site. 37 B-25D-1's of this Group took off but 2 turned back before reaching the target.

35 B-25C-1's, B-25D-1's, and B-25G's of the 38th Group (316 K) bombed and strafed MADANG airdrome and ALEXISHAFEN strip No. 1 from 1037/L to 1047/L. A total of 210 X 100 lb. bombs and 119 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped. A building on the shore South of MADANG strip was destroyed by direct bomb hit. 2 F's and 1 2 EB were destroyed by direct bomb hits. 7 small and 2 large fires were started on North side of strip No. 1 at ALEXISHAFEN. One house at NOBNOB was set on fire. 1 lugger in BOOTHEN BAY was damaged by strafing. 1 camouflaged F was damaged by strafing at MADANG. 3 large explosions followed bombing on South side of runway just East of taxiway on strip No. 1 at ALEXISHAFEN. 1 hut near East end of strip No. 1 was destroyed by 75 mm fire. 1 F at MADANG was destroyed by 75 mm and 1 barge was damaged by 75 mm. A total of 82 X 75 mm, 45585 X .50 cal. and 4510 X .30 cal. were expended. Slight, medium and heavy, inaccurate to accurate fire was received over MADANG also 1 dense and inaccurate H/G fire. At ALEXISHAFEN, slight to moderate, light and medium, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire was received. There was nil interception. 7 to 8 camouflaged barges were seen at the South corner of BILLAU ISLAND and 4 camouflaged barges along shore in Cove on South side of ADMOSIN ISLAND. 4 unserviceable F's were observed in Northwest dispersal area at No. 2 strip. ALEXISHAFEN

was covered with many fires and much smoke. Airplanes of this Group attacked [illegible] through error due to low clouds (500 feet) over the area. The Group's assigned targets were strips No. 1 and 2 at ALEXISHAFEN.

1 F-4 of the 71st Photo Squadron (316 H) took off at 0807/L to photograph ALEXISHAFEN but was unable to take photographs due to cloud coverage. Airplane was over [illegible] at 1025/L at 33000 feet. Nil photos were taken. A column of black smoke rising to 300 feet was sighted on Island East of strip No. 2 at ALEXISHAFEN.

1 F-4 of the 71st Photo Squadron (316 X) took off at 0901/L to photograph [illegible] but was unable to take photographs due to cloud cover. Airplane was over [illegible] at 1145/L at 33000 feet. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

MADZAB-GOS.P: 1 B-25C of the 822nd Squadron (316 E) completed 100% as C under Mission to MADZAB, Gos.P, LAE and return. Airplane took off at 0620/L and landed at 1230/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25 D-1 of the 501st Squadron (316 L) took off at 1439/L to carry out a/c under Mission to MADZAB. Airplane was unable to penetrate further over the Ranges and returned to base at 1532/L. Mission incomplete.

SAK SAMBELES: 1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (316 D) completed 90% of an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at 1520/L on MADANG-BUNA POINT. Bombs burst in wooded area on east [illegible] entered. Damage not discernable. Bombing excellent. A large unidentified airplane was seen at 1530/L at 03505-14535E on a bearing of 110 degrees. There were nil other sightings.

1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (316 C) took off at 0637/L to carry out an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (316 A) completed 50% of an armed recce at 02453-14940E, 02000-15140E. 8 enemy fighters (5 or 6 ZEKES and 1 or 2 HAMPS) intercepted at 1206/L at 01356-15001E. Enemy fighters made many passes but none came within range. Enemy fighters dropped approximately 10 to 12 aerial burst bombs on our airplane ineffectively. Bombs burst mostly at 2 o'clock from 100 to 200 feet away and accurate as to altitude. At 1145/L from 14500 feet. 1 CA, 1 PG and 1 A/V were seen steaming at 01078-14925E. Ships were lost due to clouds while still 30 miles distant. At 1212/L from 7500 feet, 1 Type-Baker, loaded, with a PG to starboard of it, was seen at 01355-15001E on course 135 degrees. Moderate, medium and heavy, accurate A/A was received from the PG's. Recce was only 50% completed due to interception.

NOTE: Included in this Report are the following Final Mission Reports from FAIF:

315 BB. STRIKE - 11 B-25's, 3rd Squadron
6 B-26's, 19th Squadron.

11 Nov TARGET: Personnel and stores in wooded area East of KLEIN VILLAGE. (10/11/43).

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA:

Patrol moving Southwest from KATIKA TRACK located Jap position astride track at reference 634677 (approximately 1200 yards North of SATELBERG TRACK).

A patrol in vicinity of coast 14 miles North of SONG RIVER contacted small party of Japs in this area. An attempt to ambush them proved unsuccessful.

Following an earlier report of 30 Japs being observed North of SONG RIVER at reference 617705, a later patrol South of SONG RIVER reports sounds of enemy activity on North bank in same general area.

MILNE AREA:

A Jap patrol was dispersed by our troops some 4 miles Southwest of SAIPA.

Our patrols are active East of GUSAP in the HINGIA area. Enemy were previously reported some 5/6 miles North of here at WALUNTI.

In the Northern FARIA RIVER area, minor contacts resulted in enemy casualties.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY TOTALS OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN AREA
13 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	S/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
RUT	7		7					14	0
DAGUA	5	1	12					18	0
WEWAK	22	2	4			6		34	+6
BORAM	37	2	2					41	+6
NUBIA	1							1	0
AMAR	3							3	0
ALEXISHAFEN		1	1					2	-12
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
BIAK ISLAND								0	-2
Total	83	42	36			6		167	-2

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	16	13	19			7	57	0
VUNAKANAU	48	17	7				72	-1
LAKUNAI	85	2	11				99	-16
RABOPO		2	3				5	0
HARBOR						26	26	0
TOBERA	28						28	0
Total	177	36	43			33	287	-17

SOLOMONS:								
BUKA						2	2	+2
KAHILI	2						2	+2
BALLALE	1						1	+1
Total	3					2	5	+5

COMMENTS:

1. SOLOMONS area was photographed morning of 12/11/43.

2. 18 OOP, 3 M/B, 36 KATES, 37 VALS were destroyed in action over the SOLOMONS 11/11/43. Our estimate for RABAUL area has been adjusted up to and including 11/11/43 by deducting for the fighters and 1 M/B destroyed. the KATES and VALS had not been based in this area. Photos taken 12/11/43 showed a large decrease in airplane strength, particularly SSF. As yet we have no report of enemy activities in the SOLOMONS for the 12th and our estimate as corrected up to the 11th is allowed to remain.

3. 12 OOP have been transferred from KAVIENG to WEWAK and BOEAM. ADMIRALTY Strip had 1 M/B and 1 1/B serviceable on 13/11/43. With no recent photo coverage of NEW GUINEA areas, our present airplane count in this area is an estimate based on last coverage.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

None reported.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

316 Sq. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0823/13/L to 1925/13/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 50% completed--50% incomplete due to interception (See INTERCEPTION). Route flown: DOBODURA, ROOKE ISLAND, 0130S-14900E, ST. MATHIAS GROUP, 00355-14900E, 0220S-14810E, 0525S-14840E, ROOKE ISLAND, DOBODURA to Base. Photos were taken of ships at 0135S-15001E.

A/A: Moderate, medium and heavy, accurate bursting 25 to 30 feet in front from PG's at 0135S-15001E.

INTERCEPTION: 8 enemy fighters (5 or 6 ZEKES and 1 to 3 FREDS) intercepted at 1208/L at 7500 feet at 0135S-15001E. FREDS had high elevators and vertical trailing edge rudder and resembled sill outline strongly. All fighters had single radial engine, all appeared dark and one presumably had 3 guns firing from each wing. First approach was made head-on, on level, as B-24 made second dry run over M/V. Formations of 3 split to right and left in climbing turn out of range, the other 2 stayed 2000 feet above. Then 2 came in at 2 o'clock from 4000 feet above, firing but breaking away out of range, followed by 2 pass from 10 o'clock, 300/400 feet above, that also broke off out of range. Other ineffective passes were made. Enemy fighters dropped 10 to 12 aerial burst phosphorus type bombs from several thousand feet above after B-24 descended to minimum altitude. Bombs burst mostly at 1 o'clock, 100/300 feet away and accurate as to altitude. Enemy fighters were not eager.

SIGHTINGS: At 1145/L from 4500 feet, 1 CA, 1 PC and 1 M/V were seen stationary at 0107S-14925E. Ships were lost in clouds while still 10 miles distant. At 1212/L from 7500 feet, 1 Tare-Baker, 1 loaded, with 2 PG's flanking was seen at 0135S-15001E on course 135 degrees. 2 dry runs were made over Tare-Baker. Bombs hung up and were salvoed at beginning of interception.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA (North), 5/10 strato-cumulus at 9000/17000 feet. (South), 10/10 strato-cumulus overcast at 1000 feet. HUON GULF, 10/10, strato-cumulus overcast at 500 feet. Ranges, 10/10 alto-cumulus (airplane at 17000 feet encountered snow and ice).

316 D. WEATHER RECCO – 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0550/13/L to 0845/13/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to ALEXISHAFEN and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0600/L, altitude 10000 feet, visibility under 5 miles, low clouds, scattered cumulus, 3500 feet, 3/10, upper clouds 12000 feet, 8/10 to 9/10. PASS, 0630/L, altitude 11000 feet, visibility over 30 miles, low clouds, cumulus 9000 feet, 6/10. ALEXISHAFEN, 0710/L, altitude 10000 feet, visibility under 30 miles, low clouds, strato-cumulus 7000 feet, 2/10, upper clouds, alto-cumulus 12000 feet, 8/10. NADZAB, 0730/L, low clouds, strato-cumulus 8000 feet, 4/10, upper clouds alto-stratus 12000 feet, 8/10, visibility unlimited.

316 G. WEATHER RECCO – 1 B-24, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0258/13/L to 0820/13/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to ALEXISHIFEN and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Weather was reported half-hourly. Propaganda leaflets were dropped in the ALEXISHAFEN area at 0500/L.

WEATHER: Enroute and over ALEXISHAFEN, generally clear. Front extending North of KAKAR ISLAND.

316 N. PHOTO RECCO – 1 F-4, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to cloud coverage. F-4 was over MADANG at 1025/13/L at 33000 feet.

SIGHTINGS: A column of black smoke rising 300 feet was sighted on an Island East of strip No. 2 at ALEXISHAFEN.

WEATHER: MADANG, low ceiling 27500 feet. Front North of MADANG off coast from 0 to 27000 feet.

316 Y. PHOTO RECCO – 1 F-5, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. F-5 turned back 70 miles off coast of NEW GUINEA at 1000/L.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, front 50 miles off North coast of NEW GUINEA extending Northwest-Southeast.

316 I (1) STRIKE – 6 B-24's, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1016/13/L.

TARGET: Dispersal area North side of ALEXISHAFEN strip No. 2.

RESULTS: Squadron formation of 6 airplane diamond bombed from 15500 feet on a heading of 225 degrees. 72 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped at the target. All bombs hit target with exception of 1 string of 12 bombs which fell off the South side of the runway. Bombing was excellent. One fire was observed in dispersal area off Southwest end of the strip. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight, medium and heavy, accurate from Town area directly East of strip and from positions off East end of the strip. Bursts ranged from 1000 feet below level, up to level of airplanes. Most bursts were slightly behind.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: 3/10 to 4/10 cumulus over the target.

316 I (2) STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1017/13/L.

TARGET: Dispersal area North of strip No. 2 at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: 60 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 16000 feet on a heading of 235 degrees from the PSIGES RIVER near the Northeast end of No. 2 strip and extending through Northernmost dispersal areas North of No. 2 strip toward DANIP PLANTATION. Bombs fell parallel to strip and approximately 440 yards North of the strip. Three fires were started in the target believed to be gasoline dumps. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight to moderate, medium and heavy, generally inaccurate from 500 to 3000 feet below formation. No tracer fire was observed. Both barrage and tracking fire was observed. Gun flashes were bright orange and red, shell bursts were green and black. One airplane was hit by a few fragments in the nose—skin of airplane was dented but not pierced. A/A fire came from known batteries, especially from Northeast of No. 1 strip on sandy arm of land at entrance to BOSTREM BAY.

SIGHTINGS: Over ALEXISHAFEN at 1017/L from 16000 feet, nil airplanes were seen on either strip although one fire near North center of No. 1 strip resembled a burning airplane. A fire was seen Northeast of the Mission with black smoke and flames visible. No. 2 strip appeared to have bomb craters in it. Nil airplanes were visible at MADANG.

WEATHER: Base, 2/10 low stratus with tops at 3000/4000 feet. Rendezvous at MT. YULE, 1/10 cumulus. 2/10 cirrus at 25000 feet enroute to target, low broken cumulus, 1/10 to 3/10, middle stratus at 15000 feet. Target, - scattered cumulus to 10000 feet, nimbo-stratus offshore. Return to base, broken cumulus building up rapidly, alto-stratus 3/10 to 8/10 at 15000 feet.

316 I (3) STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1023/13/L.

TARGET: No. 2 strip at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: 72 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 15000

feet on a heading of 240 degrees (200 feet interval) on A/A and S/L positions on the Southeast side of No. 2 strip at the Southwest end. Results were unobserved due to clouds over the target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Moderate, heavy, accurate coming from known positions off the North end of No. 2 strip. Bursts were on level, in front and on both sides of airplanes. (1 B-24 was damaged by A/A fire).

SIGHTINGS: At 1025/L from 15000 feet, one large fire was seen on the point Southwest of MEGAS ISLAND. One large explosion was seen on Northwest side of No. 2 strip about in the middle of the strip—thought to be a fuel dump.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed enroute at 11000 feet with few scattered cumulus up to 8000 feet, 4/10 coverage of cumulo-nimbus at target. Ranges crossed on contact at 15000 feet on return.

316 I (4) STRIKE - 12 B-24's, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: (1) 1017/13/L. (2) 1030/13/L.

TARGET: ALEXISHAFEN Mission area.

RESULTS: (1). First flight of 6 B-24's dropped 72 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs from 16500 feet across target at 200 feet intervals on a heading of 240 degrees.

(2) Second flight of 6 B-24's dropped 72 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs from 17000 feet across the target at 200 feet intervals on a heading of 260 degrees.

The entire peninsula comprising the target was covered by heavy smoke, with a minimum of 6 fires observed. Heavy black smoke from at least 2 fires indicated hits on probable fuel dumps. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight to moderate, light, medium and heavy, accurate and inaccurate from 2 positions in target South of the Northeast end of No. 2 strip, North of strip No. 1, and peninsula South of BOSTREM BAY. First flight reported accurate bursts of heavy A/A in middle of formation. Second flight encountered only slight A/A. All crews reported light and medium A/A bursting well below formation. A/A was considerably less after bombing runs. (1 B-24 was slightly damaged by A/A fire).

SIGHTINGS: (1017/L to 1030/L at 16500/17000 feet over ALEXISHAFEN). 3 fires were observed North of strip No. 1. The dispersal area North of strip No. 2 appeared well covered by previous bombings with a large fire North of Northeast end of strip. 2 crews reported 1 unidentified twin-engine airplane on the Northeast end of strip No. 2—serviceability undetermined. One crew member reported 4 unidentified airplanes North of ALEXISHAFEN and heading North. This sighting was made after bombing run and distance prevented identification of airplanes.

WEATHER: Enroute, ranges, 4/10 cumulus, tops 10000 feet. Target, 4/10, scattered cumulus, tops 11000 feet, thin stratus layer covering peninsula. Front observed approximately 25 miles offshore, tops 30000 feet. On return, Ranges, 7/10 scattered cumulus, tops 10000 feet to 15000 feet.

5 H (1) STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1015/13/L.

TARGET: LANIP'S PLANTATION, South of strip No. 1 at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: A total of 100 X 500 lb. wire wrapped inst. dem. bombs and 18 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 13000 feet. All bombs were believed to have hit the target. Clouds obscured accurate observation and damage assessment. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Moderate, medium and heavy, inaccurate to accurate. (1 B-24 received 3 holes in empenage. 1 B-24 received 1 hole in left vertical stabilizer).

SIGHTINGS: (All sightings in the target area). One large fire was seen at junction of taxiway and strip on North side of East end of No. 1 strip. A large fire was observed in the Township. Many bombs were seen bursting on A/A positions on rocks of land West of ADMOSIN ISLAND. No airplanes were observed on either strip.

WEATHER: Ranges. (YULE ISLAND to BOGADJIM) crossed at 13000 feet, 3/10 scattered cumulus, tops 10000 feet. Target, 6/10 cumulus reaching from land to just over the target, tops 10000 feet. Ranges. (MADZAB to YULE ISLAND) crossed at 13000 feet, 7/10 cumulus, tops 10000 feet, /10 cirrus, tops 25000 feet.

316 H (2) STRIKE - 8 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1013/13/L to 1031/13/L.

TARGET: ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: 4 B-24's dropped 46 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs in the revetment area on North side of No. 1 strip. Fires were started in the target. A/A positions at West end of strip were probably hit. 1 B-24 salvoed 12 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs on center of No. 1 runway. 3 B-24's dropped 19 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs on A/A positions on the Peninsula West of ADMOSIN ISLAND. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing. Bombs were dropped from 12000/13000 feet. All bombs were wire wrapped. Bombing runs were made in two diamond elements of four from East to West.

A/A: Slight to moderate, medium and heavy, accurate from North of West end of No. 1 strip, North side at East end of No. 1 strip, Peninsula West of ADMOSIN ISLAND, and East of No. 2 runway. A/A fire was of the barrage type and lessened after the first airplanes went over. Medium A/A was unable to reach our altitude.

SIGHTINGS: (ALEXISHAFEN from 1010/L to 1030/L at 12000 Feet). A string of bombs were seen bursting at the North end of MEGAS ISLAND and on small Island to South. 2 medium fires were seen on land Southwest of ADMOSIN ISLAND. Several fires were observed on both sides of East end of No. 2 runway. An unidentified fighter was seen close to the ground as if it had just taken off. B-25's were seen bombing ADMOSIN ISLAND at 1040/L. At 0650S-14500E at 1105/L from 12000 feet, a single B-25 was seen close to the ground heading toward ALEXISHAFEN—possibly forced landing. At 1140/L from 8700 feet, a crash-landed C-47 was seen at 0900S-14659E with trail leading from it.

WEATHER: Enroute, 5/10 strato-cumulus from 4000 to 8000 feet. Target, 5/10 cumulus at 5000/8000 feet. Return, 7/10 strato-cumulus from 4000 to 10000 feet, 9/10 stratus at 17000 feet.

316 H (3) STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1009/13/L to 1012/13/L.

TARGET: ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: 108 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 11000/12000 feet on headings of 220 and 260 degrees on the target. Bombing was excellent. A/A positions were silenced and 2 fires started on the spit West of ADLOSIN ISLAND. The most Westerly target was well plastered with at least 50 bombs starting a large explosion followed by a big fire. 80% of bombs hit target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Moderate, heavy, medium and light, inaccurate to accurate. Most bursts were below with a few on level and above. (1 B-24 was holed).

SIGHTINGS: TARGET AREA: 1 fire was seen on ADLOSIN ISLAND. 1 large gray twin-engine unidentified airplane was seen off the Northeast end of strip No. 2. 1 unidentified fighter took off from No. 1 strip, turned West and was lost to view. Dust was seen on both strips suggesting take-off of airplanes at 1000/L. At 1052/L from 11500 feet, a small unidentified fighter, possibly damaged, was seen on the ground at 06368-14644E. At 1052/L from 11000 feet over MADZAB, a probable ZEKE--shiny tan, no roundels--passed just underneath our airplane.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND to SOGADJIM from 12000 feet, broken scattered cumulus, 5/10 covered, base 7000 feet, tops 12000 feet. Target, 5/10 covered, scattered to broken cumulus, base 7000 feet, tops 20000 feet. Over Ranges on return, 10000 feet, 6/10 covered, scattered cumulus, base 7000 feet, tops 12000 feet.

316 K (1) STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1037/13/L.

TARGET: Strip at MADANG.

RESULTS: 103 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped along strip and in revetment and supply areas on each side in a Squadron abreast attack formation on a heading of approximately 50 degrees. Bombing was excellent with generally unobserved. A direct hit was scored among 2 fighters and one H/B parked on South side of strip completely destroying them. One direct hit was scored on a building at edge of shore just South of the strip, destroying it. The entire area was thoroughly strafed with 18500 X .50 cal. and 1000 X .30 cal. causing unobserved damage. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight, heavy and medium, barrage type at very low altitude bursting on level and below our formation from positions East and South of strip, Township and BILIAMI ISLAND. Moderate inaccurate M/G fire from both sides and East of strip and from Township.

SIGHTINGS: TARGET: Few signs of activity observed. Some roads and previously used areas seem to be grown over with grass. Strip appeared serviceable. No smoke or evidence of fire or damage was observed over the target after attack. One small pile of lumber was seen on West side of Township. Church or Mission building in Township was in apparently undamaged condition. One very large black smoke fire and one small black smoke fire was observed at ALEXISHAFEN, probably from area immediately East of Township and from dump area South of center of strip No. 2 respectively. Several bomb bursts, apparently from 345th Squadron bombing, observed at East end of MADANG strip during our approach. 7 to 8 camouflaged barges, close together, were seen in South Cove of BILIAU ISLAND.

GENERAL: 2 bundles of ANGAU Police Boy leaflets were dropped over enemy territory approximately 20 miles South of the target. Due to cloud cover West of and above MADANG, our formation did not see target and realized it was the wrong one until they had slipped through hole and were over the strip. It was then too late to break away and attack correct target. Correct target was strip No. 2 at ALEXISHAFEN.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 8/10 cumulus at 8000/10000 feet, thin scattered cirro-stratus at 12000 feet. Target, cumulus back over hills and to target. Low scattered cumulus over target down to 500 feet and overcast above, slight ground haze. Ranges on return, heavy cumulus with bases on mountain and building up in places to 18000 feet with thin cirro-stratus overcast, solid to 3/10. 16000 feet.

316 K (2) STRIKE - 9 B-25C-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: (1) 1040/13/L. (2) 1042/13/L.

TARGET: (1) Strip No. 1 at ALEXISHAFEN. (2) Strip at MADANG.

RESULTS: (1) 36 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped along strip No. 1 and in revetment and supply areas starting 7 small fires and 2 large columns of black smoke from North side of strip. The area was thoroughly strafed. 3 or 4 houses were strafed and one set afire at NOBMOB. 1 Lugger in Inlet South of BOSTREM BAY was strafed and seen smoking.

(2) 36 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped through MATUPI PLANTATION and across SIAR ISLAND with unobserved results. The area was thoroughly strafed. 23 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in coc nuts and dispersal area immediately North of MADANG strip starting 2 small fires. 12 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped along the length of the MADANG strip with generally unobserved results. One camouflaged TONY at the Northeast corner of strip was strafed with no visible results. The strip, area immediately North of it, Township and South tip of CRAGAT ISLAND were thoroughly strafed. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing. 1558O X .50 cal. and 1670 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing.

A/A: ALEXISHAFEN: 7 to 9 bursts of heavy and medium A/A, mostly from ADMOSIN ISLAND, accurate as to altitude, leading and trailing. Intense, accurate, M/G fire from positions along strip and Northwest tip of SEK ISLAND.

MADANG: Moderate, heavy and medium, some bursts within 50 yards of our airplane from positions in the Township and North shore of BINNEN HARBOR.

GENERAL: Instrument weather encountered near target caused flights to separate. Lead flight proceeded to designated target while the other 2 flights mistakenly hit MADANG.

WEATHER: Enroute, broken cumulus with tops to 12500 feet over Ranges. Target, solid layer of built up cumulus lying on hilltops inland from ALEXISHAFEN to MADANG and up to 8000 feet. Broken cumulus with bases at 500/800 feet over targets. On return, 8/10 strato-cumulus building up to 13000 feet with scattered tops higher.

316 K (3) STRIKE - 9 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1045/13/L.

TARGET: Strip at MADANG.

RESULTS: 63 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped down strip, in areas on each side, in Township and on BILIAU ISLAND and GRAGAT ISLAND; in Squadron abreast attack formation with generally unobserved results. Bombing was excellent. 57 X 75 mm were fired into the area with the following results: 1 direct hit scored on ZEKE parked at West end of strip destroying it. 4 hits among buildings in Township causing no observed damage. 1 direct hit on barge in South Cove of BILIAU ISLAND, damaging it but barge did not sink. The entire area was thoroughly strafed with 6705 X .50 cal. and 490 X .30 cal., hits being registered on 2 camouflaged unidentified twin-engine airplanes at South side of East end of drome; 2 camouflaged fighters at South side of center of strip. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Intense, heavy, medium and light, accurate over runway and Township to slight, inaccurate on either side. Bursts were generally at about 200 feet. 2 M/G positions on raised platform 10 to 20 feet high, was seen at Southeast corner of strip and at Northeast tip of GRAGAT ISLAND (1 airplane was slightly damaged by A/A fire).

SIGHTINGS: A light or reflector at 749237 (Ref. MADANG East, 1 inch Prov. Preliminary Edition) seemed to be tracking our formation throughout bombing run. 3 luggers were seen in Western Cove of GRAGAT ISLAND and approximately 20 empty barges, some with canopy, in Coves of BINNEN HARBOR, BILIAU ISLAND and GRAGAT ISLAND. A possible water tank, painted white, was observed near M/G position in flight gap at West end of airdrome. 4 large supply tents were seen in area North of center of strip. A small fire with black smoke observed on point of land South of FRIEDRICH KARL HARBOR Mouth. Fires with smoke to 500 feet were seen at East end of strip after our attack. Heavy smoke was observed over ALEXISHAFEN. 2 small fires were seen in Township area after our attack.

GENERAL: This Squadron followed the lead Squadron into the attack and due to cloud bank over Ranges West of target and low cumulus over target, did not realize that it was the wrong target until they were over it. 3 bundles of native propaganda leaflets were dropped 20 miles Southwest of the target.

WEATHER: En route, 3/10 light cumulus at 3000/4000 feet, 3/10 alto-stratus at 10000 feet. Heavy cumulus over Ranges, 9/10 covered with tops at 10000 feet. Target, hazy with low cumulus clouds, 7/10 covered at 15000 feet.

316 K (4) STRIKE - 8 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1047/13/L to 1050/13/L.

TARGET: No. 1 strip at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: First flight hit No. 1 strip from West to East dropping 26 X 300 lb. S/11 second delay dem. bombs as follows: 21 bombs fell in dispersal area on North side of and parallel to runway. 7 bombs fell on South side of runway from taxiway triangle to flight gap at East end of strip. 3 large explosions followed bomb bursts on South side of runway just East of taxiway triangle. 8 X 75 mm shells were fired. One direct hit was scored on a small hut near East end of runway. No other results were observed. Dispersal areas and ADMOSIN ISLAND were thoroughly strafed.

Second flight made West to East run on strip No. 2 dropping 26 X 300 lb. S/11 second delay dem. bombs as follows: 14 through Northwest dispersal area, 7 in flight gap at Northeast end of runway, 6 through known supply dump South of Northeast end of drome and 1 on houses on ULLUL ISLAND. No results were observed due to very low overcast and speed of attack. 17 X 75 mm were fired as follows: 11 throughout Northwest dispersal area, 1 in flight gap at Northeast end of runway, 5 in known supply area South of Northeast end of runway with damage unobserved. Dispersal areas on both sides of runway were thoroughly strafed. A total of 4800 X .50 cal. and 1350 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Slight to moderate, heavy, inaccurate to accurate from unobserved positions. A/A was bursting generally ahead of our airplanes. M/G fire was moderate to intense and accurate at 4 airplanes from Township and ADMOSIN ISLAND.

SIGHTINGS: 3 black smoke fires were seen on approach to target on North shore of BOSTREM BAY. 2 small black smoke fires were seen in coconut trees East of Northwest dispersal area at No. 1 strip. 3 black smoke columns were seen rising from flight gap at East end of No. 2 strip and 2 black smoke columns from flight gap at West end of No. 2 strip. 4 fighters appeared unserviceable, were seen in Northwest dispersal area and one destroyed ZEKE was seen at Northeast end of strip. 4 camouflaged barges were observed along shore in Cove on South side of ADMOSIN ISLAND.

WEATHER: Target, solid overcast over Ranges just West of target with base at 1000 feet. 8/10 broken cumulus over target at 500 feet with numerous rain showers.

316 J (1) STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1031/13/L.

TARGET: MADANG.

RESULTS: 36 X 100 lb. S/11 second delay dem. bombs and 46 X 300 lb. S/11 second delay dem. bombs were dropped on the target.

Bombing was excellent. Heavy A/A position and hut beside position were bombed and destroyed at Eastern extremity of BILIAU ISLAND, Halfway between strip and POOK ISLAND. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing. 11600 X .50 cal. and 5600 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing.

A/A: Moderate, light and medium, inaccurate.

SIGHTINGS: (TARGET at 1032/L). 4 barges seen at main wharf at MADANG. 4 barges were seen on North side of KRANKET ISLAND. 7 barges were scattered along shore of BINNEN HARBOR. 1 bomb was seen to explode among the 4 barges at the main wharf. 3 large fires were observed 400 yards North of East end of MADANG strip. 4 to 5 columns of black smoke were seen rising from ALEXISHAFEN. 3 to 4 columns of white smoke were seen on Northeast side of KRANKET ISLAND.

GENERAL: Crews were of the opinion that Mission was successful and most of the A/A guns have been silenced prior to their going over the target.

WEATHER: Target, high scattered clouds at 3000 feet at 1031/L.

316 J (2) STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1030/13/L.

TARGET: Grounded airplanes, dumps and A/A positions at MADANG.

RESULTS: 32 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs and 46 X 100 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. Bombing was excellent. Bombs were seen to land in known dump area Southwest of the West end of the strip, on A/A positions on North shore of Cove at BINNEN HARBOR. A/A position was silenced. Bombs landed near a Church ½ mile South of MADANG Township also among 2 Luggers and 4 barges loaded with boxes at North tip of BILIAU ISLAND and among buildings near GRAGAT MISSION. High columns of black smoke were seen in the area as airplanes left the target. 2 X 100 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on BOGADJIM VILLAGE. Targets were thoroughly strafed with 16535 X .50 cal. and 6900 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Slight to moderate, light and medium, accurate on level of airplanes.

SIGHTINGS: Several barges were observed near Quarantine Island. Camouflaged barges were seen at main wharf. 8 to 10 barges, poorly camouflaged, were seen on West coast of SCHERING PENINSULA and 6 to 8 barges on Southwest coast of BILIAU ISLAND. Numerous columns of smoke were seen rising to 1000 feet in the vicinity of ALEXISHAFEN.

GENERAL: 5 airplanes were damaged by enemy A/A fire and birds, the latter making a large hole in the leading edge of the left wing of one airplane and smashing the landing light on another airplane. 1 burst of A/A was so close over target that concussion knocked out turret gunner briefly.

WEATHER: Target, 5/10 cumulus, bases 500/1000 feet, 6/10 alto-stratus, base 12000 feet, visibility 20 miles. No turbulence. (Altitude of attack, 100 feet).

316 J (3) STRIKE - 10 B-25D-1's, 499th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1034/13/L to 1035/13/L.

TARGET: MADANG, dump area and A/A positions.

RESULTS: 48 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs and 32 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on supply areas, A/A positions and barges. Houses, barges, supply areas and A/A positions were thoroughly strafed with 12100 X .50 cal. and 1600 X .30 cal. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Slight, light and medium, inaccurate to accurate. 1 airplane was hit by 1 X .30 cal. in wing--damage slight.

SIGHTINGS: Four 500/1000 feet columns of black smoke were seen over ALEXISHAFEN. 5 luggers and 1 barge were sighted near main wharf at MADANG. 1 barge was seen near Quarantine Island and 11 barges near North end of BILIAU ISLAND. 2 barges were seen at NAZADAMON. A/A fire was seen coming from a building at South end of BILIAU ISLAND. 2 fighters were seen on South center of strip and 1 fighter on North center of strip. A 1000 feet column of white smoke came from vicinity of Ficus Rubber Plantation. One large column of gray smoke came from dispersal area, lasting for a short duration. A/A was seen firing from positions on South end of strip, near BILIAU ISLAND, near main wharf, on South end of BILIAU ISLAND and on Southwest end of KRANKET ISLAND.

GENERAL: 1 airplane returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble. Another airplane left formation enroute to target at GUSAP and is presumed to have landed at GUSAP.

WEATHER: Enroute, 8/10 covered over Ranges at 11000 feet, 7/10 at 14000 feet. Target, 5/10 covered at 5000 feet. Enroute to base, building up over Ranges.

316 E. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0620/13/L to 1230/13/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Broken cumulus from 3000 to 6000 feet, broken cirrus 20000 feet. Along MARKHAM VALLEY, 1000 feet ceiling, cumulus, 9/10 covered, scattered thunderheads to 20000 feet.

316 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to cloud cover. Airplane was over ALEXISHAFEN at 1145/L at 33000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: ALEXISHAFEN, clear, overcast 25000 feet.

316 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to cloud cover. Airplane was over WEWAK at 1130/L at 35000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: WEWAK, overcast from 26000 to 30000 feet, heavy stratus, 8/10 cumulus, tops 8000 feet.

316 J (4) STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1035/13/L to 1038/13/L.

TARGET: MADANG.

RESULTS: 72 X 100 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs and 18 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. Only one flight was able to make run over assigned objective (Grounded airplanes, A/A positions and dumps around strip). The 2 remaining flights bombed and strafed MADANG Township, WAGOL RIVER AREA, BILIAU ISLAND and GRAGAT ISLAND. M/G position at 739247 (Ref. MADANG East Prov., 1 inch to 1 mile). was destroyed by strafing and a direct bomb hit. Direct hits were scored on buildings on North end of BILIAU ISLAND. 2 metal roofed buildings at 726247, were hit by bombs. A probable barge was hit at 737248. A small fire with white smoke was started in dispersal area South of strip at 717246. Village on SLAR ISLAND was bombed. A total of 14095 X .50 cal. and 4800 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Slight, light and medium, inaccurate.

SIGHTINGS: 2 columns of heavy black smoke were seen in the ALEX-ISHAFEN area, 800 to 900 feet high covering a wide area at base. 8 to 10 white cone shaped objects, 4 to 5 feet high, were seen floating in Bay around 735264—possibly channel buoys. 2 empty barges were at 733264. 6 well camouflaged barges, apparently loaded, were seen at 742271. 4 barges were at 740259. One unidentified small boat, camouflaged with only mast and crew's nest showing—believed to be Lugger—was seen at 752259. Stores and personnel were observed around 745246 and around bend of road at 739233. 3 barges were at 733256. A wharf was seen 300/400 feet upstream from the mouth of the GOGOL RIVER—apparently being used as a barge loading site. 2 barges were 729246. Barges were also observed at the following points: 3 to 4 at SAIDOR, 2 at GAUSS POINT, 1 at REISS POINT.

WEATHER: Enroute, broken cumulus, tops 10000 feet, 7/10 covered at 0930/L. Target, 1 layer broken, tops 3000/4000 feet, visibility generally poor. Enroute to base, scattered cumulus, 3/10 covered, overcast alto-stratus, 13000 feet, 9/10 covered at 1120/L.

315 BB. STRIKE - 11 B-25's, 3rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1600/12/L.

TARGET: KIARI VILLAGE.

RESULTS: 63 X 300 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 3000/4000 feet on the target. Bombing was excellent. 90% of bombs fell in and around target. Numerous fires have started with black smoke rising to 1000 feet. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: One lugger, probably unserviceable, was seen stationary off SCHARNHORST POINT. 19 Type "A" barges—serviceability undetermined—were seen on beach at SCHARNHORST POINT; 2 at KIARI VILLAGE and 4 in WASU HARBOR. Indications of heavy barge activity was observed along coast from SIO to SONG RIVER.

WEATHER: Enroute, strato-cumulus 3000 feet, visibility 12 miles. Target, clear, overcast inland. On return, scattered stratus and strato-cumulus at 4000 feet.

315 BB. STRIKE - 6 B-26's, 19th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1557/12/L to 1606/12/L.

TARGET: Personnel and stores in wooded area East of KIARI VILLAGE.

RESULTS: A total of 59 X 300 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 3000/3500 feet on headings of 240 and 100 degrees at the target. 49 bombs hit target. 10 bombs hit 300 feet South of designated target with nil results apparent. Much smoke and dust was seen to rise from target after bombing. All other results were apparent. Bomb explosions were seen throughout target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: At 1603/L from 3500 feet, one large Type "A" barge was observed stationary and parallel the coast just off REISO POINT. At 1615/L from 3500 feet, one grass shack was seen burning in small Village just to East of target (Not considered due to enemy bombing). At 1603/L from 3000 feet, one square shaped object, resembling a raft, was seen in unnamed river about 1 mile East of SIO. About 10 large barges were seen beached both North and South of HARDENBURG. Same were considered to be unserviceable.

WEATHER: Scattered clouds, 4/10 covered, 4000 feet, visibility 30 miles.

316 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0642/13/L to 1834/13/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: - - HARDENBURG POINT.

RESULTS: 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1510/L from 6000 feet on shore 12 miles South of SIO. Nil results were observed. Recco was 90% completed. Photos were taken of friendly shipping.

SIGHTINGS: A possible enemy reconnaissance airplane was about 40 miles Northeast of MANS. BAY at 1340/L, was sighted. Crew was unable to identify enemy airplane. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: Ceiling averaged under 1000 feet during most of recco. Continual rainstorms, visibility from 1 to 5 miles, stratus clouds down to 600 feet to 1000 feet.

316 L. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1439/13/L to 1532/13/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to NADSAB.

RESULTS: Mission incomplete. Airplane unable to penetrate weather, flew to 30 mile and turned back at 1510/L.

WEATHER: Cumulus built up to such height that airplane was unable to get over the top at 16000 feet. Rain at base on return.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Fighters carried out usual escort and patrol missions with nil interception or combat.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Nauman

PAUL E. NAUMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

SITUATION REVIEW -- GROUND OPERATIONS

ALLIED AND ENEMY

TO: 12 November, 1943.

GENERAL: The importance which the enemy attaches to the FINSCHHAFEN area is definitely shown by his determined efforts to stem Allied advances.

The centre of enemy activity remains the SATELBERG area with forward elements thrusting south towards KUMAWA, east towards JIVEVANENG and ARABOK. The Japanese supply route would appear to be via the inland track BONGA-WAREO-FIOR-MASANGKOO-SATELBERG probably served by the well worn coastal track northwest to LAKONA-MASAWENG RIVER and frontally by barge movement across VITIAZ STRAIT.

During the Review Period Allied advances were made against stubborn resistance, resulting in the capture of JIVEVANENG on 3 Nov and a general slight withdrawal westward.

In the KAMU VALLEY area ground activity has been desultory and limited to extensive patrolling west of BOGADJIM to the village of KULAU (6 airmiles NW of PUNTABLO), where 50 Japanese were encountered. No enemy movement was observed at ULILAI, KEPSAU and JOSSO.

A further Allied penetration reached a position approximately 2 miles southeast of KANKIRNO overlooking the Japanese line of communication.

Enemy supply routes by sea are still evident to NEW GUINEA bases. Barge traffic has been extensive particularly from SIO eastward, the latter indicating possible reinforcements of the SATELBERG area.

Reports indicate that the Japanese are increasing barge armament and armour protection of holds, particularly on Type "A" vessels which are considered to mount 13 mm guns, using explosive or incendiary bullets.

Supply by submarine continues, probably via the north coast of NEW BRITAIN with probable destination the northeast portion of HUON PENINSULA, particularly in the BLUCHER POINT area where at least 1 enemy submarine appears to have been damaged or sunk on 5 Nov.

Indications that the enemy has supply problems has been gleaned from a captured document dated 8th October, instructing Japanese troops to conserve field rations and utilize local resources.

FINSCHHAFEN: Allied forces have cleared the enemy north of FINSCHHAFEN from the SATELBERG ROAD (just east of JIVEVANENG) and extensive patrolling in the general area between the SATELBERG track and SONG RIVER has resulted in little enemy opposition, except at a point 1 1/4 miles west of KATIKA where an enemy listening post was located. There is still no indication that the enemy has abandoned his position 1200 yards west of KATIKA.

North of the SONG RIVER Allied patrols intercepted enemy 1 1/2 miles west of the River and approximately 2 miles SSW of BONGA. Reports continue to confirm the general use by the enemy of the track BONGA-WAREO for supplies, reinforcements and evacuating wounded. Some 600 enemy moved east to BONGA and 400 west to WAREO during the Review period. The eastward movement would appear to indicate reinforcement of the coastal area. Staging camps have been observed at points 1 1/4 miles southwest, and 2 1/2 miles SSW of BONGA. Much track activity is still evident in the KIARI area (shown on 1" - 1 mile Map series as WASU), and it is considered probable that the enemy has a staging camp located here.

The area JIVEVANENG-KUMAWA is now under Allied control. The main enemy strong posts are still located in the area west of Allied positions on SATELBERG track and covering the track leading northwest from KUMAWA. Latest reports indicate a Jap position astride track approximately 1 mile NNE of JIVEVANENG.

The effective enemy strength in the SIO-SATELBERG area is considered to number 10,443 of which at least 7,000 troops were considered forward of WAREO on 17th October. Taking into consideration unreported killed, ineffectives due to wounds and sickness,

The enemy estimated [illegible] of WAREO is now considered to be 4,160.

A possible further reinforcement from CAPE GLOUCESTER must not be disregarded.

RAMU VALLEY: Significant developments for the REVIEW PERIOD have been deep Allied patrol penetration in this area as far north as KULAU and a position 2 miles southeast of KANKIRYO overlooking the Japanese YOKOPI-BOGADJIM line of communication. A small enemy force was located at BERRINGGE (1 1/2 miles north of GURUMBU). Regrouping and consolidation of Allied forces is proceeding.

ENEMY MOVEMENT BY SEA: Large scale movement of warships and merchant vessels to RABAUL continues, the cruiser and destroyer forces at this place are considered to be strongly reinforced.

Further regular movement of enemy vessels along the north coast of NEW BRITAIN has been evident and it is considered that an average of 2 small vessels pass UBILI nightly, course west, numbering some 17 ships between the 23rd and 31st October. BAIA Village (WIDE BAY) is considered a staging point for regular barge traffic.

Merchant shipping in the WEWAK-HANSA BAY area remains constant. On 7th November a small merchant vessel crowded with 150-200 troops was sighted approaching HANSA BAY, probably engaged in readjustment of enemy forces. It is considered that the process of moving forces from WEWAK to MADANG APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY CONCLUDED.

The following summary indicates enemy barge movement in the SIO-BONGA area (NEW GUINEA), and NEW BRITAIN from 5th to 12th November:-

Date	Time	Sighting	Type	Destroyed	Damaged	Posn
5/11	Night	2 Subs	I		1	BLUCHER PT
7/11	"	2 barges	A	2		TEWAI RIVER
9/11	"	4 "	A	4		WALINGAI
10/11	"	3 "	A	3		AGO
11/11	"	3 "	A	3		WALINGAI
12/11	0200L	4 "		4		NUZEM

NEW BRITAIN

Date	Time	Sighting	Type	Destroyed	Damaged	Posn
8/11	1855L	3				VULCKA
	2300L	3	A			14 miles NE CAPE RAOULT

D.G. BOARD ..... Major
Air Liaison Officer
V Bomber Command.

German troops are counterattacking fiercely and continuously in an effort to regain strategic heights won by Lt. Gen. Mark Clarks Fifth Army fighters near Mignano on the enemy strongly fortified winter line across Italy. Early Nazi thrust has been thrown back with losses in killed and captured, Allied Headquarters reported Friday and Clarks Americans have pushed on amid the frightful weather conditions to seize one more commanding feature on the slopes of Mt. Camino near Mignano. This however was the only Allied gain reported from Thursdays fighting which consisted only of clashes between rival patrols along the length of the ninety mile front. Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomerys eight Army exchanged artillery fire with the enemy across the Sangro River near the Adriatic but for the first time in weeks reported no advances. Enemy and demolitions continued to plague the Allies.

CAIRO:

German forces made a landing on British held Aegean Island of Leros early Friday morning and heavy fighting was in progress with the British and pro Allied Italians Garrison fighting side by side. A number of German landing craft were destroyed or damaged by the defenders as several landing parties were thrown back into the sea said an Allied Communique. It was the second German attack against the Island in eight days. Landings attempts were successfully repulsed last November 4 and 5. The German attacks apparently were based on Calinos, an island between Leros and the German occupied Island of Cos. British planes reported bombing a concentration of German landing barges near this island Thursday.

WASHINGTON:

Army Intelligence firing a set of figures at optimism said Friday that Germany and Japan are still so strong that if we take things too easy we may find that our opportunity for victory has vanished. In fact says General George V. Strong acting head of the military Intelligence in a report released on capitol hill, "the Germans are stronger now than in 1939 and the real fighting against the Japanese is only starting!" Strong's review previously had been given to house members in secret session.

LONDON:

A state of near chaos in the Carpatho Ukraine Easternmost Province of Hungary and formerly the Southeastern tip of Czechoslovakia was reported Friday by the Cozechs Government in London as Premier Nicholas Kallay of Hungary appeared to his countrymen for support of anti axis outbreaks. The Guerrillas many of whom were led by one time Hungarian officers were making widespread raids throughout the Carpathoukraine and the entire area was felmenting with hundreds of armed Cozechs, accounts said even though Russian Armies which might eventually aid them were still over 300 miles away.

CHUNGKING:

The Chinese high command announced that Chinese troops have broken into the Japanese defense ring around Ichang farthest point of Japanese penetration in central China in a counter-offensive against the enemy driving through the rice bowl between the Yangtze River and Tungting Lake.

LONDON:

With a brilliant 48 hour burst of coordinated air Allied heavy bombers ranging thousands of miles from both British and Mediterranean bases closed a strangling grip Friday around the three most important supply funnels feeding the German Armies embattled in Italy. In a 1400 mile round trip mission RAF heavy bombers Thursday night crossed the whole of France to smash the coastal Riviera railway in the vicinity of the resort city of Cannes and in the proceeding day Liberators of the New American Fifteenth Army Air Force operating

from the South attacked the Artheor Viaduct on the same rail artery and also near Cannes.

NASSAU BAHAMAS:

Alfred De Marigny shrugged his shoulders Friday and declared I am staying in Nassau dispite a recommendation that he be deported by jury which acquitted him of the murder of his father in law Sir Harry Oakes his remark was made at an afternoon press. conference. By his side as he talked to reporters who covered his sensational 22 day trial in the Banama supreme court was his pretty wife Nancy.

WASHINGTON:

Republicans and Democratics were reported Friday night leaning toward Chicago for 1944 party national conventions. The Republicans apparently will make their choice since Chairman Harrison E. Spangler called Friday for the G O P national committee to convene in Chicago "Stevens Hotel" Jan 10 to choose the time and place for the convention. The Democratic committee also will probably get in Jan. to arrange for the party's convention.

WASHINGTON:

The supreme court took under advisement Friday litigation to determine whether negroes have the constitutional right to vote a Texas Democratic primary to nominate members of Congress. William H. Hastie, D C Attorney, argued that the "election scheme in Texas was croted by statutes" and hence a 1932 reslution by the Democratic party of Texas excluding negroes from voting in primaries was ineffective.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 581, 13 November, 1943.

AMBOINA ISLAND:
Our heavy units bombed Ambon at night.

TANIMBAR ISLAND:
Our long range fighters bombed and strafed the airdrome and adjacent villages in Selaru Island. Fires were started among supply dumps and in bivouac areas.

DUTCH NEW GUINEA:
Our medium units executed a midnight attack on Babo, scoring numerous hits in the target area and starting thirteen fires, two of which were visible from thirty five miles away. One of our reconnaissance units attacked an enemy floatplane and shot it down near C. Valsch. Our medium units raided enemy villages near Wissel Lakes.

NEW IRELAND: KAVIENG AREA:
One of our heavy reconnaissance units bombed an escorted enemy convoy North of Mussau Island.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:
Our medium units during the night bombed the dispersal areas at Vunakanau and our heavy bombers dropped more than twenty five tons of explosives on the Lakunai Airdrome, causing large fires and explosions in the revetment area. Following these night attacks, Naval torpedo and dive bombers from Carriers with fighter escort, and heavy land bombers from South Pacific, struck enemy Naval Vessels in the Harbour. A series of attacks was delivered during the morning hours. The pilots report one Cruiser and two destroyers sunk and probably one Cruiser and eleven Destroyers damaged. Twenty four enemy planes were shot down in air combat. The enemy later launched four attacks against our Naval Forces which were successfully repulsed by our Carrier and land based airplanes and ships anti aircraft fire. Sixty four enemy planes are reported as shot down. In all these actions we lost seventeen planes and others were damaged.

Our Carriers and escorting Naval vessels sustained only minor damage and light casualties.

GAZELLE PENINSULA:
One of our night patrols bombed an enemy convoy off Cape Pomas.

NEW GUINEA: ALEXISHAFFEN:
Our attack planes and fighters coming in at minimum altitude bombed and strafed airdrome dispersal areas, fuel dumps and gun positions, destroying or damaging five bombers and a fighter on the ground. An enemy dive bomber in the air was shot down.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE: BUKA:
Our escorted torpedo and dive bombers in strength attacked Buka and Bonis Airdromes shortly after dawn, scoring heavily on the runway, gun positions and installations. Fires and explosions were caused at both targets. Anti aircraft positions at Sohana Island and Chinatown were also bombed, destroying three heavy guns with direct hits and damaging many others.

MATCHIN BAY:
Medium units at dusk struck at shipping in Matchin Bay sinking a small cargo vessel and two barges near Tarlena. One of our planes is missing.

EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY:
Our torpedo and dive bombers bombed and strafed enemy positions along the Piva and Jaba Rivers.

BUIN:
Our medium units bombed Ballale and Kara Airdromes with a total of thirty two tons of explosives, concentrated mainly on the runways. A large fire was started at Kara.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP
1 4 NOV 1943

Report No. 318.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
UNITS: GEN
DATE: 14/11/43
FROM: 1800/13/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/14/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (317 W) took off at 0812/L to photograph RABAUL. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

NORTH COAST NEW BRITAIN: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (317 Z) took off at 0903/L to photograph the North coast of NEW BRITAIN. Nil photos were taken due to weather. F-4's were over TALASEA at 1030/L at 33000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEWAK: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (317 A) took operational photos of WEWAK to TORAU and DAGUA to BUT from 1325/L to 1335/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (317 D) completed 95% of a weather recce to WEWAK. Airplane took off at 0239/L and landed at 0828/L. One orange light was seen on level from 30/40 miles distant at 0603/L at 0500S-14450E. Light was seen for a short period, which turned off and not observed again.

(317 F)
MADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron completed 70% of a weather recce to MADZAB, GUSAP, DUMPU to within 50 miles South of WEWAK. Airplane turned back from 60 miles Northwest of DUMPU. Airplane took off at 0435/L and landed at 0830/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25C-1 of the 405th Squadron (317 G) completed 100% a Courier Mission to MADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0805/L and landed at 1430/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (317 H) completed 100% a Courier Mission to MADZAB. Airplane took off at 0830/L and landed at 1510/L. During red alert at MADZAB from 1020/L to 1120/L, no airplanes were seen but 2 balls of fire trailing smoke were first seen at 2500 feet which fell to ground some distance away.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 43rd Group (317 ..) took off at 0732/14/L to carry out an armed recce to 0245S-14940E, 0200S-15140E. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

1 B-24 of the 43rd Group (317 B) took off at 0713/L to carry out an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (317 C) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. At 1104/L, wreckage consisting of yellowish-brown canvas and logs was seen at 0720S-15040E. At 1114/L, unidentified airplanes.

passed behind our airplane, same level on course 120 degrees at 0620S-15125E. A large oil slick—no wreckage was seen at 1451/L at 0[illegible]2S-15349E. At 1516/L, one unidentified airplane was seen at 0656S-15247E on our level on course of 60 degrees.

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (317 .) completed 95% of an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Straight line course from 0300S-14730E to 0330S-15030E was omitted in order to reach base before darkness. There were nil sightings throughout entire search.

NOTE:

The Following Missions were cancelled today:

317 I. STRIKE - 36 B-24's, 90th Group.

TARGET: BUT and DAGUA Airdromes.

317 GENERAL STRIKE - 4 Squadrons B-25's, 345th Group.
4 Squadrons B-25's, 38th Group.

TARGET: WEWAK and BORAM.

317 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK (After strike).

Included in this report are the folliwng mission reports from FATF:

316 CC. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 90th Squadron.

TARGET: G.S.[illegible]ATA Airdrome.

316 DD. ARMED RECCO - 3 B-25's, 400th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: 0730S to 0600S and 14730E to 15000E.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA:

Patrol attacked Japs 1300 yards West of KUMMA. Another patrol is in contact with enemy some 900 yards Northwest of KUMMA. Patrols report sounds of enemy 1700 yards Northwest of JIVEVANENG. Patrols West to SIGI report village unoccupied.

Our artillery was again active against enemy movement BONGA-WAREO and FIOR areas. Enemy positions on SATELBERG track West of JIVEVANENG were also shelled.

Natives report that there are 1000 enemy in the KULUNGTUFU area (Ref. 305715) mostly convalescents from SATELBERG. KULUNGTUFU is reported to be a collecting point for native foodstuffs from the HUEB district. It is alleged that there is a native carrier line of 1000 from KULUNGTUFU to WAREO.

Natives also report that an enemy camp is located on the South shore of the lake at 617731 (Approximately 4500 yards West of BONGA) and that the enemy is conveying supplies along the coastal track from AGO to BONGA by means of porters and hand carts. Heavy movement along this track is confirmed by tactical reconnaissance, in addition to which ground force patrols report movement of sick and wounded from FIOR through WAREO to BONGA and the movement of fully equipped troops and supply parties from LAKONA to BONGA and WAREO

RAUL AREA:

Active patrolling continues.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
14 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4		4					8	-6
DAGUA	12		25					37	±19
WEWAK	22	2	2			6		32	-2
BORAM	37	2	2					41	0
NUBIA	1							1	0
MAR	3							3	0
ALEXISHAFEN		1	1					2	0
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
Total	87	41	44			6		178	±11

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	16	13	19			7		55	0
VUNAKANAU	48	17	7					72	0
LAKUNAI	59	2	14					75	-24
RAPOPO		2	3					5	0
HARBOR						26		26	0
TOBERA	28							28	0
Total	151	34	43			33		261	-24

SOLOMONS:									
BUKA						2		2	0
KAHILI	2							2	0
BALLALE	1							1	0
BONIS	1							1	±1
Total	4					2		6	±1

COMMENTS:

1. BUT, DAGUA, WEWAK were photoed today (14/11/43). BORAM had only 50% photo coverage and our former estimate is allowed to stand. Remainder of NEW GUINEA dromedaries is an estimate.

2. An additional 24 enemy SSF are reported destroyed in attack on RABAUL 11/11/43 and have been removed from LAKUNAI drome count.

3. SOLOMONS count is from photo coverage of 12/11/43.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

NUBIA - AMAR: 10/11/43. (313 X)

Good verticals of Nubia and Amar airdromes. 100% coverage.

NUBIA:

Airplanes.	1 apparently serviceable SSF near South end of R/W.
Airdrome.	Runway serviceable.
Defences.	Nil change.
Construction.	Since 2 November, 1943, dispersal lanes, on the east side of the runway, have been extended 1000'. Considerable activity is evident thru-out the drome area.

AMAR:

Airplanes.	3 apparently serviceable SSF located centrally on the runway.
Airdrome.	Runway serviceable.
Defences.	Nil change.
Construction.	There is extensive activity in the NE dispersal area. Clearing continues about former dispersal points and 10 additional dispersal points are cleared. At the SW end of the runway a new revetment is completed. This constructional activity indicates increasing operational importance of this drome.
Shipping.	42 barges and 1 lugger are located as follows: 17 barges 1000' NW Amar Point. 15 barges along the coast between Amar Point and the jetty 3/4 miles south of Nubia Village. 9 barges under the trees 1800' upstream from the mouth of the Amar River. 2 barges and 1 lugger at Laing Island.

TOBERA: 12/11/43. (315 W)

Excellent verticals. 100% coverage of airdrome and vicinity.

Airplanes.	14 SSF (Apparently serviceable) 1 U/S SSF Two of the above airplanes are airborne, one is taxiing toward the runway, and the remainder are in the revetments.
Airdrome.	The runway is serviceable. The air to ground signal, consisting of a "T" with a triangle, has disappeared. There is no other ground-air communication evident. The runway is still under construction and it appears that the intended is to make it wider, possibly with the idea of providing additional hard-surfaced parking areas adjacent to the runway. A new dispersal loop, 600' from the NW end of the runway, has nearly been completed. It will probably be used for M/B as there is already two M/B revetments in the loop.

-1-

OBER.: (CONT'D)

Defenses. What appears to be a new A/A installation is being constructed in a clearing two miles SSW from the west end of the runway. This work was started about the middle of October.

General. Activity continues to be heavy, both on the drome and in various dispersal areas and clearings.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

316 C. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0220/13/L to 0620/13/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: Base to CAPE TORLESH, 0600S-15330E, 0535S-15330E, 0535S-15230E, 0450S-15230E, 0450S-15400E, 0615S-15400E, MIFFIN ISLAND, DOBODURA. There were nil sightings throughout entire search.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: Cirro-stratus overcast 8/10 to 9/10 covered at 13000 feet. Scattered cumulus throughout search at 4000 to 6000 feet with 2/10 cover, several well developed cumulus tops at 15000 feet.

317 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0239/14/L to 0626/14/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to WEWAK and return.

RESULTS: Recco was 95% completed. Route flown: YULE ISLAND, WOPIT, RAMU VALLEY, RAMU VALLEY, MADANG, RAMU VALLEY, MARKHAM VALLEY, WOPIT, YULE ISLAND to base. Airplane turned back at 0510S-14527E at 0425/L, 16000 feet due to icing conditions and no radio contact. Resumed recco at 0637S-14547E at 0453/L, 18000 feet—no radio contact re-established and further clearing. Absence of radio contact due to icing conditions.

SIGHTINGS: at 0605/L from 10000 feet, one orange light was seen on level from 30/40 miles away at 05005-14450E. Light was seen for a short period, turned off and was not observed again—possibly a star.

WEATHER: RAMU (Out), 10/10 covered base and tops undetermined. MARKHAM VALLEY, 10/10 covered, base and tops undetermined. Lower RAMU VALLEY, 1/10 covered at 5000 feet, icing conditions over RAMU VALLEY from 16000 feet up. Upper RAMU VALLEY, 10/10 covered, base and tops undetermined. MADANG-WEWAK, 1/10 covered at 5000 feet, visibility good. Return, RAMU VALLEY, clear. MARKHAM VALLEY, 4/10 covered at 5000 feet. Ranges, 6/10 covered at 7000 feet.

317 C. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25C-1, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0805/14/L to 1430/14/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to MADANG, SIO, LAE and return.

-7-

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to WEWAK, GUSAP, LAE and Base.

WEATHER: Ranges (Enroute), scattered cumulus with tops at 9000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, 3/10 cumulus with bases at 1500 feet. GUSAP, scattered cumulus with bases at 2500 feet. Ranges (On return), broken cumulus building up to 17000 feet.

317 F. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0435/14/L to 0800/14/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE, PASS, MADZAB, GUSAP, DUMPU 50 miles South of WEWAK, PASS and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 70% completed. Airplane turned back 60 miles Northwest of DUMPU due to radio failure.

WEATHER: PASS, 0520/L, overcast at 9000 feet, higher overcast at 13000 feet, visibility 8 miles. MADZAB, 0540/L, scattered clouds at 4000 to 5000 feet, high broken clouds at 12000 feet, visibility 10 miles. GUSAP, 0605/L, scattered clouds at 4000 feet to 5000 feet, visibility 10 miles. DUMPU, 0615/L, scattered clouds at 4000 to 5000 feet, visibility 10 miles. PASS, 0705/L, overcast at 9000 feet, broken clouds at 14000 feet, visibility 10 miles.

316 H. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1430/13/L to 2000/13/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: Very bad. Stratus at 12000 feet, 9/10 covered.

317 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: North coast of NEW BRITAIN.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to weather. Airplanes were over T.I.S. A at 1030/L at 33000 feet. There were nil sightings. Visual recce 100% completed.

WEATHER: North coast of NEW BRITAIN, scattered cumulus, 8/10 covered, stratus. Front extending Northeast-Southwest in ST. GEORGES CHANNEL.

317 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1325/14/L to 1335/14/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken from WEWAK to BORAM and DAGUA to BUT from 33000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: WEWAK, 8/10 low cumulus. RAIU VALLEY, clear to scattered middle clouds. Ranges, cumulus to 35000 feet.

317 II. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G , 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0830/14/L to 1510/14/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to MADZAB.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: At MADZAB during red alert from 1020/L to 1120/L. No airplanes were seen but 2 balls of fire were first seen 2500 feet which fell to the ground some distance away.

WEATHER: MADZAB, scattered cumulus 3000 feet. Ranges on return, cumulus and cumulo-nimbus, tops at 20000 feet.

316 CC STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 90th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1236/13/L to 1255/13/L.

TARGET: GASMATA Airdrome.

RESULTS: 33 X 300 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on GASMATA Airdrome; 24 on target, 5 in water and 4 were unobserved. 37 X 300 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on and among the small Islands in vicinity of target with unobserved results. GASMATA strip, LINDENHOFEN PLANTATION and small Island were strafed with 21000 X .50 cal., 80 X 20 mm and 2000 X 30 cal. with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the area from GASMATA airdrome to LINDENHOFEN PLANTATION as ordered except for these inland from airdrome. Weather prevented completion of photo mission.

A/A: Intense, medium, inaccurate from positions around GASMATA strip after our airplanes had passed over. Slight M/G fire, accurate, was received from South end of MOSS ISLAND. Moderate, light, accurate to inaccurate from position on unidentified Island in vicinity of GASMATA ISLAND. Slight, medium, inaccurate from LINDENHOFEN PLANTATION.

SIGHTINGS: Runway appeared unserviceable. Nil activity was observed. Visibility was poor because of rain.

GENERAL: 1 B-25D-1 was damaged by A/A fire and landed at KIRIWINA but is included in this report. Another B-25D-1 was hit by M/G fire in fuselage. Pamphlets were dropped as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered showers. KIRIWINA, solid overcast with ceiling at 700/800 feet. 5/10 broken at 20000 feet from KIRIWINA to GASMATA. GASMATA, showers along coastline with visibility about 5 miles offshore.

316 DD. ARMED RECCO - 3 B-25's, 8th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 1105/13/L to 1520/13/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Recce vicinity 0732S-14755E. Bomb and strafe enemy SS reported dropped by friendly DD at indicated position, Midnight, 12/11/43. Specific area of recce 0730S to 0600S and 14730E to 15000E.

RESULTS: Recce was 100% completed. Nil attack and nil sightings.

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus, base 1200 feet, tops 3000 feet, occasional showers. Front beginning at 0700S and extending Southward.

[illegible] 1-B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0810/14/L to 1742/14/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to 0600S-15140E, 0600S-15330E, 0535S-15330E, 0535S-15230E, 0450S-15400E, 0615S-15400E, CAPE NELSON to base.

SIGHTINGS: At 1104/L from 1000 feet, wreckage consisting of yellowish-brown canvas and logs were seen at 0720S-15040E. At 1114/L from 5500 feet, two unidentified airplanes passed behind our airplanes on same level on course 120 degrees at 0620S-15125E. At 1226/L from 500 feet, a large tree trunk and pot of barrel was seen at 0610S-15315E. At 1345/L from 1350 feet, a tower was observed on point just North of ST. GEORGES Lighthouse. At 1451/L from 800 feet, a large oil slick--no wreckage--was sighted at 0622S-15349E. At 1516/L from 5500 feet, one unidentified airplane was observed on course 60 degrees at 0656S-15247E.

WEATHER: HOOD POINT, 2/10 cumulus at 7000 feet--same over Ranges. CAPE NELSON, 2/10 cumulus at 4000 feet, 2/10 cirro-stratus at 16000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, 5/10 cumulus at 5000/6000 feet, 2/10 cirro-stratus at 16000 feet. A front at 0600S-15130E extended Northeast-Southwest as far as visible, broke out of front at 0535S-15245E. ST. GEORGES CHANNEL at 0450S-15310E, another front closed in, broke out at 0625S-15345E. Another front was encountered at 0645S-15235E and broke out at 0655S-15255E. This front extended 20 miles Southeast. Base of fronts at surface and tops at 20000 feet approximately. Ranges on return, 7/10 cumulus from mountains to 15000 feet, solid from 15000 feet upwards.

317 1. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0700/14/L to 1800/14/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 95% completed. Straight line course from 0300S-14730E to 0330S-15030E [illegible] omitted in order to return to base before darkness. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Ranges (Out), 3/10 cumulus, tops 5000 feet, 5/10 alto-stratus, base 13500 feet, visibility over 30 miles. Western BISMARCK SEA, 2/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, visibility over 20 miles. Mild Northwest-Southeast front building up in vicinity of 0200S-14400E. Eastern BISMARCK SEA, 6/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, 5/10 alto-stratus, base 11500 feet, visibility less than 20 miles. HUON GULF, 5/10 cumulus, base 2200 feet, tops 12000 feet. Ranges (Return), solid front to 20000 feet, icing conditions at 15600 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Fighters carried out usual missions of escort and patrol with nil interception or combat.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Mannan

PAUL E. MANNAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

ITALY:

Winter descended on the Italian front in earnest Saturday with the American 5th Army locked in grim see-saw fighting with Germans on the main road to Rome and the British 8th Army still moving into position against enemy lines along the Sangro River. The 5th Army made what Headquarters described as further local advances against stiff resistance and in difficult country occupying the town of Filignano and Pozzili, respectively 4 miles North and 2 miles Northeast of Venafro and about 25 miles inland from the Tyrrhenian North coast. The Germans in their determined resistance, have struck out at several points and Headquarters disclosed for the first time Saturday that on Thursday, the Germans had beaten the 5th Army back and occupied high grounds on Mount Camino, North of the town of Mignano, strategically guarding the road to Rome. The Allies had taken the heights on Wednesday after losing them to the Germans in Thursday's counter-attacks. They, however, smashed forward Friday and not only regained the lost ground but won new positions.

LONDON:

The Western Ukraine rail and highway hub of Zhitomir, the halfway marker on the Russians' road from Stalingrad to Berlin, fell Saturday to General Nikolai Vatutin's armored assault as the Red Army virtually split the Germans' Northern and Southern Forces and drove to within 60 miles of the pre-war Polish border. The fall of Zhitomir, taken in a 15 mile frontal advance, was announced by Marshall Joseph Stalin Saturday night, exactly a week after he had triumphantly announced the fall of Kiev, 85 miles Eastward.

Allied planes of the Northwest African Air Force took a heavy hand in the guerrilla battle for Albania and Yugoslavia Friday while on the ground the Partisans resisted a determined Nazi attempt to wipe them out in Northern Slovenia and the Partisan Communique of General Joseph Broz gave details Saturday of very bitter defensive battles in Slovenia. It also told of successful guerrilla operations in Macedonia and Dalmatia. Allied Headquarters in Algiers announced American Mitchells on Friday went to the support of the Partisans by bombing the oil field at Berti and the nearby Kuceba airfield, in Southern Albania. On the same day, American and R.A.F. Fighter-Bombers strafed the landing ground at Mostar, in Yugoslavia.

The British Government made it clear Saturday that it was ready to seize control quickly in Lebanon if necessary to protect the strategic Middle East following reports of clashes between the French and Lebanese Nationalists. British troops already are on the spot if needed. The French controlled Beirut Radio announced that the situation in Syria and Lebanon was quiet and charged that reports of disturbances were enemy propaganda. The British showed that they definitely did not share this view. General Georges Catroux, Commissioner of State of the French Committee who promised the Lebanese their independence from the French mandate in 1941, was hurrying to Beirut from Algiers in an 11th hour attempt to settle the explosive crisis.

CHUNGKING:

The Japanese battling on a front stretching from Tungting Lake to the mountains South of Ichang, deep central China, have strengthened their forces to 60,000, Chinese Army Headquarters said Saturday as American sky dragons went to the support of their Allies. In sweeps along the Yangtsze River where 30,000 Japs previously were pressing the "Rice Bowl" drive, the fliers sank a sizeable river steamer, made hits on numerous small boats and damaged a radio station.

NEW DELHI:

American and British Air Forces based in India, are keeping fires blazing almost continuously in Burma and announcements from Headquarters here Saturday told of new raids at scattered objectives in the central sector. Fighter-Bombers of the 10th U.S. Air Force bombed and strafed the enemy Headquarters area at Moton, near Myitkyina, Friday; another enemy encampment near Taro; an airport at Katha and railroad facilities between Naba and Kyaukme.

BERN:

A Swiss telegraphic Agency dispatch from Rome quoting a Vatican informant, said Saturday that the Holy See had given representatives of belligerent powers a note protesting the violation of Vatican neutrality in the bombing of November 5th.

NEW YORK:

The Polish Telegraphic Agency said Saturday that the Germans in a mounting campaign of mass executions, have shot 2500 Poles in Bialystok and Lomza.

LONDON:

Paris Radio reported Saturday that the personal fortune of King Vittorio Emanuele of Italy, which is estimated at 40 million dollars, had been seized by Mussolini's Republican Fascist Government.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 582, 14 November, 1943.

Not received at time of going to press.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 319.

SECRET 15 NOV 1943

AUTH: C.G.
INITS: R.E.N.
DATE: 15/11/43

FROM: 1800/14/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/15/11/43/L.

V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (318 H) took operational photos of KER.V.T, LAKUNAI and RAPOPO Airdromes and SIMPSON HARBOR from 1140/L to 1200/L. Usual shipping was reported in SIMPSON HARBOR. Three were nil other sightings.

NORTH COAST NEW BRITAIN: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (318 Z) took colored photos of the MISIMA area (NEW BRITAIN) at 1030/L. Nil photos were taken of KALASA and KULUNGUFU due to attempted interception. 2 unidentified SSF airplanes attempted interception at 1030/L in the FINSCHHAFEN area at 25000 feet. F-4's left area on sighting enemy airplanes.

WEWAK: 1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (318 E) completed 100% a weather recce to BUT, DAGUA. Slight, light, inaccurate, possibly T/G fire, received from Southwest end of DAGUA strip. 2 searchlights from BUT caught airplane momentarily. A large searchlight South of WEWAK MISSION was turned on but never caught our airplane. 2 red lights were seen on the ground at 0406/L at 05258-14514E. One small unidentified boat was seen approximately 100 feet offshore from BUT at 0605/L. White lights were observed on WOM, HOEM and WEWAK POINTS.

1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (318 Y) took operational and mapping photos of BORAM—WEWAK, DAGUA—BUT and the RAIU RIVER from 1335/L to 1345/L. Several small harbor craft were seen in WEWAK HARBOR.

18 B-25D-1's and 15 B-25G's of the 38th Group (318 GENERAL) took off at 0826/L to bomb WEWAK and BORAM. Group turned back approximately 1015/L at a point approximately 30 miles Northwest of DUMPU when it was observed that fighter cover had left. At 1000/L, 12 to 14 enemy bombers were seen heading Northwest over GUSAP at 9000 feet. 15 to 20 enemy fighters were observed at 5000 feet. One enemy fighter made 2 passes at one of our airplanes but nil hits were scored. One enemy fighter was seen to explode in the air and fall burning near GUSAP. 10 to 12 bombs were seen to hit in dispersal area at GUSAP leaving 2 airplanes in flames on the strip. One crew of the 823rd Squadron reported formation of 27 enemy bombers over MARILINAN at 1050/L on a heading of 320 degrees. B-25G of the 822nd Squadron was seen lagging behind formation in the MARILINAN VALLEY and is still unaccounted for.

36 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (318 GENERAL) took off by 0837/L to bomb WEWAK and BORAM. Group turned back at 1015/L from approximately 30 miles North of GUSAP upon receipt of order. 14 enemy bombers were seen

over GUSAP at 16000/18000 feet at 1002/L. The 500th and 501st Squadrons were intercepted. Approximately 15 ZEKES intercepted the 500th Squadron in the vicinity of GUSAP from 1000/L to 1015/L. 15 passes were made at this squadron. 1 ZEKE was probably destroyed. 7 to 8 ZEKES intercepted the 501st Squadron twice; the first time 5 miles East of MAPMAPSA and the second time 10 to 12 miles Northwest of DULPU. Attacks were made at 0955/L and 1010/L. This Squadron shot down 2 ZEKES definitely and 1 probably.

ALEXISHAFEN: 31 B-24's of the 90th Group (318 I) bombed ALEXISHAFEN (Secondary target) from 1230/L to 1242/L. 228 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs and 380 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 13000/16000 feet on the No. 1 strip and dispersal area. Bombing was excellent with 95% of bombs on target. 2 explosions were caused, one at East end of strip No. 1 and the other on the South side of strip No. 1—thought to be ammunition dumps. 1 2 EB previously determined unserviceable, was destroyed in the North revetment area of No. 1 strip. One large fire was started at Southwest end of No. 1 strip. Several small fires—probably stores—were started in DAMIP PLANTATION. One large fuel fire was started at East end of No. 1 strip. Slight to intense, medium and heavy, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire was encountered. 2 unidentified airplanes were seen flying North from ALEXISHAFEN at 18000 feet. One airplane on strip No. 2 was observed on fire. No enemy fighters were seen airborne over the target. BUT and DAGUA airdromes, the primary targets, were not bombed due to inability to rendezvous with fighter cover at appointed time.

K.L.S. and KULUNGTUFU: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (318 Z) were unable to photograph K.L.S. and KULUNGTUFU because of weather. Target was not reached. Airplanes turned back at BULLDOG at 1445/L.

MARILINAN-MADANG: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (318 G) completed 100% a weather recce to MARILINAN, RAMU VALLEY, MADZAB and MADANG. Airplane took off at 0500/L and landed at 1000/L. 4 columns of grey smoke were seen at MADZAB at 0630/L.

MADZAB - GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (318 F) completed 100% a Courier Mission to MADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0650/L and landed at 1410/L. Airplane was on ground at GUSAP at approximately 1000/L when 12 enemy twin engine bombers raided GUSAP. A gas dump was blown up. An H/G emplacement destroyed and 3 or 4 airplanes hit by shrapnel.

1 B-25D-1 of the 501st Squadron (318 F) completed 100% a Courier Mission to DOBODURA, MADZAB and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0710/L and landed at 1420/L. 2 bombs were seen bursting at KAILPIT at 1200/L—nil damage observed. Pilot reported MADZAB had not been bombed up to 1230/L.

PORT MORESBY-DOBODURA: 1 B-25G of the 822nd Squadron (318 H) completed 100% a Courier Mission to DOBODURA. Airplane took off at 0930/L and landed at 1725/L. There were nil sightings.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (308 A) completed 95% of an armed recce to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E. Recce was completed to 0125N-14905E. 2 X 1000 lb. bombs were

dropped at 1 Fox-Tare-Baker at 0030N-14956E. Bombs missed with no damage observed. Ship was escorted by 1 PG and was on course 275 degrees at 15 knots. Slight, medium, inaccurate A/A fire was received from PG. 2 flashes resembling gun fire were seen on the Southeast tip of LONG ISLAND at 1058/L but no bursts were observed.

1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (318 B) completed 90% of an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. 2 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped on SIO VILLAGE at 1508/L. Bombs hit Village but results were unobserved. One unidentified SSF was seen at 1158/L at 02503-14800E on course 115 degrees. There were nil other sightings.

1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (318 C) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. There were nil sightings through at entire search.

FIGHTER REPORTS: (Preliminary Reports Only).

The 35th and 8th Fighter Squadrons (P-40's) intercepted an enemy force of 30 to 40 bombers escorted by 25 to 40 enemy fighters at approximately 1000/L in the GUSAP area. The 35th Squadron claims 10 fighters and 2 bombers (Type not stated) definitely destroyed, 3 fighters probably destroyed and 2 fighters damaged. 1 P-40 was lost. The 8th Squadron claims 6 ZEKES, 1 OSCAR and 1 LILY definitely destroyed and 3 airplanes (Type not stated) probably destroyed.

Over WEWAK the 342nd Fighter Squadron intercepted 15 enemy fighters of which 5 were definitely shot down and 4 probably shot down.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA:

Activity confined to extensive patrolling and artillery registration on enemy positions.

A tactical reconnaissance of KULUNGTUFU discloses that the Village comprises 60 to 70 huts in a oval shape with the Mission building in the center. The Village is in good order and signs of occupation are very evident. On a ridge approximately 400 yards Southwest of KULUNGTUFU, 3 new huts, twice the size of usual native hut, are under construction. The track from KULUNGTUFU to JOMINGENG is worn which supports native reports that carrier line is operating between KULUNGTUFU and forward areas.

RAIU AREA:

Following earlier reports of enemy activity at MA UNTI (North of GUSAP) it is now stated that Jap center of activity is at GOM U (5 to 6 miles West of MA-UNTI) with patrols to MA UNTI area.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTH-EASTERN AREA
15 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, 7 Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	H/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4		4				8	0
DAGUA	2		14				16	-21
WEWAK	15		2			6	23	-9
BORAM	54	5	2				61	#20
NUBIA	1						1	0
AWAR	3						3	0
ALEXISHAFEN							0	-2
HOLLANDIA	6	23	10				41	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	87	41	32			6	166	-12

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	16	15	19			7	57	#2
VUNAKANAU	46	17	7				72	0
LAKUNAI	59	2	14				75	0
RAPOPO		2	3				5	0
HARBOR						26	26	0
TOBERA	28						28	0
Total	151	36	43			33	283	#2

SOLOMONS:								
BUKA						2	2	0
BONIS	1						1	0
KAHILI	5						5	#3
BALLALE	1						1	0
Total	7					2	9	#3

COMMENTS:

1. BUKA and BONIS were photoed 12/11/43. KAHILI and BALLALE were photoed 13/11/43.

2. BUT, DAGUA, WEWAK and BORAM were photoed today (15/11/43) at 1335/L to 1340/L. WEWAK coverage was 50% and more planes are possibly on drome. It is evident that reinforcements are proceeding in this area since 24 SSF and 3 H/B were reported definitely destroyed by our fighters and bombers and 9 SSF probably destroyed in interceptions over GUSAP and WEWAK. Photos show only an 8 airplane decrease on these 4 dromes with only a partial coverage of WEWAK. It is believed nil serviceable airplanes remain at ALEXISHAFEN. Remainder of NEW GUINEA drome airplane counts are estimates based on last photo coverages.

3. Only TOBERA and LAKUNAI were photoed today (15/11/43). Hazy, partial coverage of TOBERA showed 7 SSF. 60% hazy coverage of LAKUNAI showed 34 SSF, 12 L/B and 2 H/B. Our present estimate is allowed to remain. It is possibly high but enemy losses have not been commensurable with the low count the photos indicate. Furthermore, our own activities would force the enemy to maintain his strength at RABAUL.

C. Air Raids.

GUSAP:

Red alert at 0952/15/L. Air raid in progress at 1006/15/L. All clear at 1056/15/L. Only preliminary reports have been received. These reports state that the raid was carried by 24 enemy bombers (In two flights) escorted by 30 enemy fighters. One gas dump was destroyed, one H/G position destroyed. Several airplanes damaged on the ground. 2 men were killed. Our fighters engaged. Results of engagement can be found under FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS, (Section V).

316 E. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0220/15/L to 0930/15/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to BUT, DAGUA and return.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to YULE ISLAND, MT. YORKIN, HANSA BAY, WEWAK, MT. YORKIN, YULE ISLAND to Base. Airplane was in target vicinity from 0600/L to 0650/L.

A/A: Slight, light, inaccurate (believed to be M/G fire) from Southwest end of DAGUA Strip--B-24 was at 10000 feet. A/A fire was to left and 3000 feet below. Prior to A/A fire, 2 searchlights from BUT caught our airplane momentarily. A large searchlight South of WEWAK MISSION was turned on but never caught out airplane.

SIGHTINGS: At 0406/L from 10000 feet, 2 red lights were observed on the ground at 0525S-14614E. Lights were approximately 150/200 feet apart. At 0605/L from 10000 feet, one small unidentified boat was seen approximately 100 feet offshore from BUT. Over WEWAK-BOREM at 0627/L at 10000 feet, white lights were seen on YORKIN and WEWAK POINTS. One red light was seen 500 feet on each side at East end of BOREM strip.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed at 16000 feet, contact. RAMU VALLEY, alto-stratus, 8/10 covered, tops 17200 feet, base 17000 feet. HANSA BAY, front extending 60 miles up coast, tops 20000 feet, base 6000 feet, Large cumulo-nimbus with moderate amount of rain and turbulence, visibility 50 yards. Target, 1/10 cumulus at 1000 feet. WEWAK, 3/10 cumulus, tops 7000 feet, base 1000 feet. On return--RAMU VALLEY, contact. Ranges, 6/10 cumulus, tops 15000 feet.

316 F. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0630/15/L to 1430/15/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to MADZAB, GUSAP, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. This airplane was on the ground at GUSAP at approximately 1000/L when 12 enemy bombers raided GUSAP. 1 gas dump at GUSAP was blown up. M/G emplacement was destroyed by a direct hit. 3 or 4 Transport airplanes were hit by shrapnel. On return at approximately 1130/L, a raid seemed to be in progress at MADZAB.

GENERAL: This airplane ran off end of strip at GUSAP and was stuck in the mud when red alert sounded. Co-Pilot suffered slight gash in forearm as he hurriedly crawled out of the airplane.

WEATHER: Enroute--MADZAB, 5/10 coverage with tops to 6000 feet. GUSAP and LAE, 3/10 coverage with tops to 8000 feet. On return--Ranges, built up to 20000 feet.

316 G. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0500/15/L to 1000/15/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE, GRILLEM, RAMU VALLEY, MADZAB, MADANG and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: Four columns of gray smoke were seen at MADLAB at 0830/L.

WEATHER: YULE, 0530/L, altitude 8000 feet, visibility over 30 miles, low clouds strato-cumulus, 2000 feet, 4/10. MARILINN, 0600/L, altitude 10000 feet, visibility under 30 miles, low clouds strato-cumulus 8000 feet, 7/10, upper clouds alto-cumulus thin, 13000 feet, 8/10. DUIPU, 0630/L, altitude 9500 feet, visibility under 30 miles, low clouds strato-cumulus 7000 feet, 3/10, upper clouds, alto-cumulus 14000 feet, 8/10. MADANG; 0650/L, altitude 7000 feet, visibility over 30 miles, low clouds strato-cumulus 5000 feet, 5/10, upper clouds alto-stratus thin, 14000 feet, 5/10.

318 GENERAL. STRIKE - 16 B-25D-1's, 38th Group.
15 B-25G's,

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil. (Take off: 0826/15/L, Landed: 1202/15/L).

TARGET: WEWAK and BORAM Airdromes.

RESULTS: Nil attack made. At approximately 1000/L, 12 to 14 enemy bombers, identified as HELLS, and SALLYS, were seen heading Northwest at 9000 feet over GUSAP, above our formation which was at 6000 feet. Enemy bombers were in a tight formation of VICS, stacked down. 15 to 20 fighters were observed at 5000 feet, of which one was identified as an OSCAR, one as a HAMP and 2 as ZEKES. Rendezvous with P-47's had already been accomplished at MT. YORKE, so our formation continued on course with escort until approximately 1015/L, at a point approximately 30 miles Northwest of DUIPU, when it was observed that our fighters had left us at DUIPU. Our formation returned to base. One airplane of the 82nd Squadron was seen lagging behind formation in the MARKHAM VALLEY and is still unaccounted for.

INTERCEPTION: One silver colored ZEKE made 2 passes from 3 o'clock below and 6 o'clock on level at one airplane of the 71st Squadron. No hits were scored by ZEKE or B-25.

SIGHTINGS: Several dog-fights were observed at 5000 to 14000 feet between DUIPU and KAIAPIT. One enemy fighter, type Zero, was seen to explode in the air and fall burning near GUSAP. 10 to 12 bomb hits were observed in the dispersal area at GUSAP, leaving 2 airplanes in flames on the strip. One enemy fighter, type Zero, flew parallel close to our formation toward DUIPU, apparently until it observed our insignia, when it broke off hurriedly. An unidentified single engine airplane was seen burning on the ground near KAIAPIT. Several enemy fighters were seen making passes at 345th Group formation ahead of us. One crew of the 820rd Squadron reported formation of 27 enemy bombers over MARILINN at 1050/L on a heading of 320 degrees. Two ZEKES were seen letting down towards MADANG at 1015/L. Numerous grass fires were reported around DUIPU after enemy attack, suggesting use of incendiaries.

WEATHER: RAI U VALLEY, 3/10 cumulus at 3000 feet, alto-stratus overcast at 14000 feet.

319 GENERAL. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

- 4 -

TARGET: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Mission was incomplete. Formation returned to base after proceeding 30 miles North of GUSAP. Order to return was given at 1015/L.

SIGHTINGS: At 0955/L, one ZEKE was observed at 11 o'clock position, 500 feet below our formation, at MT. YOKKE. ZEKE did not make an attack. At 1008/L, 14 enemy bombers, believed to be BETTYS and 8 enemy fighters were seen 10 miles East of GUSAP on a heading of 340 degrees, at altitude of 20000 feet. At 1010/L, a ZEKE was observed about 10 miles in back of our formation. At 1018/L, while making turn to return to base, one unidentified fighter was seen to go down in flames and 4 or 5 ZEKES were observed to press attacks against formation of 3 B-25's from 6 o'clock above. The identity of the B-25's is not known. At 1030/L, fire was observed on the GUSAP strip. At 1025/L, several small fires were seen from the old strip at MADZAB.

WEATHER: Enroute, 0830/L, high overcast at 15000 feet. On return, 1115/L, broken cumulus from 3000 to 7000 feet, 5/10 covered, high overcast at 15000 feet.

318 GENERAL. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 499th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: BORAM Airdrome.

RESULTS: Squadron turned back on orders from Group C.O.

SIGHTINGS: 14 enemy bombers, probably BETTYS, seen over GUSAP at 18000/20000 feet at 1002/L. Enemy bombers were in 2 formations of 5 and one formation of 4. At the same time, approximately 20 Jap fighters were seen headed in the same direction at 25000 feet. At 1010/L, one ZEKE was seen at 4000 feet on a heading of 150 degrees. At the same time, approximately 15 Jap fighters were observed apparently dog-fighting with our fighters.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, stratus at 10000 feet. BULLDOG, scattered cumulus at 5000 feet. MT. YOKKE, strato-cumulus at 11000 feet, scattered cumulus at 5000 feet. Scattered cumulus from 6500 to 11000 feet, building up over the Ranges.

318 GENERAL. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: BORAM-WEWAK.

RESULTS: Target was not reached.

INTERCEPTION: Squadron was intercepted twice by 7/8 ZEKES at 0955/L and 1010/L. First attack occured 5 miles East of WEWAK. ZEKES dove down from overcast above, making straight diving attacks at Squadron. ZEKES pressed attacks closely and indulged in loops, rolls and acrobatics. Our evasive action consisted of tight formation flying and speed.

Second attack occured 10/12 miles Northwest of DUMPU at altitude 7000/8000 feet. ZEKES came from below and

5 and 7 o'clock, passing at a[illegible] o within 25/50 yards. Our evasive action c[illegible]d of right formation flying and speed. Flight that [illegible] hit dove to low altitude and proceeded home.

2 ZEKES were definitely destr[illegible] and 1 ZEKE probably destroyed. Our losses nil. 10[illegible].50 cal, and 280 X .30 cal. were expended in [illegible].

SIGHTINGS: GUSAP was observed being b[illegible] enemy. One airplane, probably a C-47, was seen burn[illegible] revetment. One small fire was observed in the [illegible]. At MADZAB, 2 or more fires were seen burning—[illegible] location unknown (MADZAB sighting at 1007/L). [illegible] 15 unidentified fighters escorting 15 bombers, [illegible]ved to be SALLYS, were seen heading Northwest [illegible] GADJAH at 1030/L at 15000/22000 feet. One C-[illegible] nding up on nose, was observed in a muddy strip, [illegible]ved to be SALLY.

WEATHER: Enroute out, broken cumulus 20[illegible]00 feet. AT MORKIN, scattered cumulus 3000/5000 fe[illegible]. Overcast at 10000/15000 feet. Enroute to base, [illegible]us building up to 10000 feet. Scattered cumul[illegible]000/5000 feet.

318 GROUP. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 500th Squadron.

TYPE OF ATTACK: Mil.

TARGET: BOROBUDUR and MUNTILAN.

RESULTS: Squadron failed to reach targe[illegible] formation was turned back at 1017/L from approximat[illegible] miles Northwest of DUPU following intercepti[illegible] approximately 15 ZEKES and while still attempti[illegible] establish contact with friendly fighter c[illegible] photos were taken of intercepting airplanes and [illegible] bombing in the GUSAP area.

INTERCEPTION: Formation was intercepted fr[illegible]L to 1015/L by approximately 15 ZEKES at 5000/[illegible] feet over the KEDU VALLEY in vicinity of GUSAP. [illegible]otal of 15 passes were made at our formation from [illegible]round the clock. 1 ZEKE coming in from 7 o'clock [illegible]e, turned in a bank for second pass and was hit [illegible]n about 200 yards out still in a turn. This airpl[illegible] went down in a steep dive, smoking and is claimed as [illegible]ably destroyed.

SIGHTINGS: At 1010/L from 7000 feet, 15 [illegible]ain engine bombers (BETTYS or SALLYS) were seen a[illegible]0/12000 feet over GUSAP. The formation was in a l[illegible]g of approximately 330 degrees. Several dog-fights [illegible] observed indicating that our fighters were [illegible]ging enemy cover. Nil results were observed. At 1[illegible]L, smoke from enemy bombs was seen in the GUSAP dispersal area. Two C-47's were burning and 2 others wrecked. Some crews reported fires at GUSAP. At time of intercept[illegible]tion, there were approximately 20 more enemy fig[illegible] flying at 10000/12000 feet according to crew re[illegible]. At 1042/L, one crashed C-47 was seen on the south side of KEDIRI RIVER approximately 30 miles [illegible] MADZAB. Airplane was about 300 yards from the air[illegible]

WEATHER: Enroute to rendezvous point, [illegible]tered cumulus clouds, 3000/5000 feet, high stratus [illegible]0 feet, middle clouds, 8/10 overcast to broke[illegible]00 feet, very thin over KEDU and MUNTILAN VALLEY. Enroute to base, high cumulus at 7000 feet.

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318 M. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0710/15/L to 1420/15/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA, MADZAB and GUSAP.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. While at GUSAP: Enemy bomb hit small gas dump; 2 men killed and one H/G position destroyed by bombing. 1 C-47 slightly damaged by near bomb hit. While at MADZAB: Grass fires only; MADZAB had not been bombed up to 1230/L. At 1000/L, crew saw 2 bombs bursting at KAIAPIT. Nil damage observed.

WEATHER: Enroute (MORESBY to DOBODURA), 0750/L, overcast at 11000/12000 feet, clouds on mountain tops, slight rain. DOBODURA to MADZAB, 0815/L to 0930/L, scattered thin overcast at 9000/10000 feet. MADZAB to Base, overcast 5000 feet. Broken in MARKHAM VALLEY. Along coast Northwest of MORESBY, overcast at 4000 feet, thin, broken.

318 N. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1140/15/L to 1200/15/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken of KERAVAT, LAKUNAI and VUNAPOPO airdromes and SIMPSON HARBOR. Mission was 100% completed. Usual shipping was reported in SIMPSON HARBOR. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: RABAUL, low scattered cumulus, 2/10, high overcast 27000 feet; 9/10 covered. SOLOMON SEA, frontal activity.

318 Z(1) PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1030/15/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: North coast of NEW BRITAIN, KALASA, KULUNGTUFU.

RESULTS: Color photos were taken of the MISEGA area (NEW BRITAIN). Nil photos were taken of KALASA and KULUNGTUFU due to interception.

INTERCEPTION: Two unidentified SSF airplanes were seen at 1030/L in the FINSCHHAFEN area at 25000 feet. F-4's were at 24000 feet at time of sighting. F-4's left the area upon sighting enemy airplanes.

WEATHER: NEW BRITAIN, 6/10 covered, 10000 feet. Ranges, 8/10 covered at 12000 feet.

318 Z(2) PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: KALASA and KULUNGTUFU.

RESULTS: Target not reached due to weather. F-4's turned back at BULLDOG at 1445/L. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Ranges, heavy cumulus and cumulo-nimbus.

318 B. ARMED RECO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0617/15/L to 1705/15/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: SIO VILLAGE.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1508/L from 7000 feet on SIO VILLAGE. Bombs fell in Village with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recce was 90% completed. Extreme Northwest portion of recce was not covered due to gas shortage. Route flown: CAPE WARD HUNT, 0420S-14600E, 0430S-15030E, 0330S-15030E, 0330S-14800E, 0250S-14800E, 0300S-14730E, 0400S-14730E, 0400S-14630E, 0300S-14530E, 0200S-14530E, 0120S-14415E, 0140S-14330E, 0230S-14330E, 0600S-14800E to Base.

SIGHTINGS: At 1158/L from 3800 feet, one unidentified SSF passed 1000 feet above our airplane on course 115 degrees at 0250S-14800E. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: Front zone at 0300S, oriented West-Northwest--East-Southeast, moderate activity, base 1200 feet. Remainder of recce, 3/10 to 4/10 cumulus, tops 6000 feet. Ranges crossed at 20000 feet through a hole.

318 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF RECCO: 0630/15/L to 1530/15/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was completed 100% as ordered with nil sightings.

NIL SIGHTINGS: 0600S-15330E at 1105/L from 5500 feet. 0500S-15230E at 1128/L from 5500 feet. 0500S-15200E at 1134/L from 5500 feet. 0615S-15400E at 1203/L from 5500 feet. GOODENOUGH ISLAND at 1400/L from 5500 feet.

WEATHER: From DOBODURA to 0600S-15330E, strato-cumulus, 3/10 covered, alto-stratus 12000 feet. Weak frontal activity was encountered at 0535S-15330E, alto-stratus, 15000 feet, 6/10 covered. Frontal activity encountered on return at 0800S-15000E, cumulus 12000 feet, 7/10 covered. Returned via MILNE BAY, HOOD POINT to Base. Ranges, built up to 35000 feet.

318 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0716/15/L to 1606/15/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return.

TARGET: Fox-Tare-Baker at 0030N-14958E.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1135/L from 8000 feet at a Fox-Tare-Baker at 0030N-14958E. Bombs missed target with nil damage observed. Fox-Tare-Baker was escorted by one PG and was on course 175 degrees at speed of 15 knots. Photos were taken of the FTB and PG. Recce was 85% completed to 0125N-14905E due to time.

A/A: Slight, medium, inaccurate at 8000 feet from PG.

SIGHTINGS: At 1109/L from 5000 feet, one Fox-Tare-Baker and one PG were sighted at 0030N-14958E on course 175 degrees at speed of 15 knots. When attacked, ship took violent evasive action to the left. PG circled ship firing at our airplane during attack. Ships continued on course after bombing. At 1358/L from 7000 feet over the VITIAZ STRAITS, crew members report 2 flashes resembling gun fire from Southeast tip of LONG ISLAND. No bursts were

318 U. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0710/15/L to 1420/15/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA, NADZAB and GUSAP.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. While at GUSAP: Enemy bomb hit small gas dump; 2 men killed and one M/G position destroyed by bombing. 1 C-47 slightly damaged by near bomb hit. While at NADZAB: Grass fires only; NADZAB had not been bombed up to 1230/L. At 1000/L, crew saw 2 bombs bursting at MAPIT. Nil damage observed.

WEATHER: Enroute (MORESBY to DOBODURA), 0750/L, overcast at 11000/12000 feet, clouds on mountain tops, slight rain. DOBODURA to NADZAB, 0815/L to 0930/L, scattered thin overcast at 9000/10000 feet. NADZAB to Base, overcast 5000 feet. Broken in MARKHAM VALLEY. Along coast Northwest of MORESBY, overcast at 4000 feet, thin, broken.

318 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1140/15/L to 1200/15/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken of KERAVAT, LAKUNAI and RAPOPO airdromes and SIMPSON HARBOR. Mission was 100% completed. Usual shipping was reported in SIMPSON HARBOR. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: RABAUL, low scattered cumulus, 7/10, high overcast 27000 feet, 9/10 covered. SOLOMON SEA, frontal activity.

318 Z(1) PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1030/15/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: North coast of NEW BRITAIN, KALASA, KULUNGTUFU.

RESULTS: Color photos were taken of the MISEG area (NEW BRITAIN). Nil photos were taken of KALASA and KULUNGTUFU due to interception.

INTERCEPTION: Two unidentified SSF airplanes were seen at 1030/L in the FINSCHHAFEN area at 25000 feet. F-4's were at 24000 feet at time of sighting. F-4's left the area upon sighting enemy airplanes.

WEATHER: NEW BRITAIN, 6/10 covered, 10000 feet. Ranges, 8/10 covered at 12000 feet.

318 Z(2) PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: KALASA and KULUNGTUFU.

RESULTS: Target not reached due to weather. F-4's turned back at BULLDOG at 1445/L. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Ranges, heavy cumulus and cumulo-nimbus.

318 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0817/15/L to 1706/15/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: SIO VILLAGE.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1508/L from 7000 feet on SIO VILLAGE. Bombs fell in Village with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recce was 90% completed. Extreme Northwest portion of recce was not covered due to gas shortage. Route flown: C.PE WARD HUNT, 0420S-14800E, 0430S-15030E, 0330S-15030E, 0330S-14800E, 0250S-14800E, 0300S-14730E, 0400S-14730E, 0400S-14630E, 0300S-14530E, 0200S-14530E, 0120S-14415E, 0140S-14330E, 0230S-14330E, 0600S-14800E to Base.

SIGHTINGS: At 1158/L from 3800 feet, one unidentified SSF passed 1000 feet above our airplane on course 115 degrees at 0250S-14800E. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: Front noted at 0300S, oriented West-Northwest--East-Southeast, moderate activity, base 1200 feet. Remainder of recce, 3/10 to 4/10 cumulus, tops 6000 feet. Ranges croaped at 20000 feet through a hole.

318 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF RECCO: 0830/15/L to 1530/15/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was completed 100% as ordered with nil sightings.

NIL SIGHTINGS: 0600S-15330E at 1105/L from 5500 feet. 0500S-15230E at 1128/L from 5500 feet. 0500S-15300E at 1134/L from 5500 feet. 0615S-15400E at 1203/L from 5500 feet. GOODENOUGH ISLAND at 1400/L from 5500 feet.

WEATHER: From DOBODURA to 0600S-15330E, strato-cumulus, 3/10 covered, alto-stratus 12000 feet. Weak frontal activity was encountered at 0535S-15330E, alto-stratus, 15000 feet, 6/10 covered. Frontal activity encountered on return at 0800S-15000E, cumulus 12000 feet, 7/10 covered. Returned via MILNE BAY, WOOD POINT to Base. Ranges, built up to 35000 feet.

318 [illegible] ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0716/15/L to 1606/15/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return.

TARGET: Fox-Tare-Baker at 0030N-14958E.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1135/L from 8000 feet at a Fox-Tare-Baker at 0030N-14958E. Bombs missed target with nil damage observed. Fox-Tare-Baker was escorted by one PG and was on course 175 degrees at speed of 15 knots. Photos were taken of the FTB and PG. Recce was 85% completed to 0125N-14905E due to time.

A/A: Slight, medium, inaccurate at 8000 feet from PG.

SIGHTINGS: At 1109/L from 5000 feet, one Fox-Tare-Baker and one PG were sighted at 0030N-14958E on course 175 degrees at speed of 15 knots. When attacked, ship took violent evasive action to the left. PG circled ship firing at our airplane during attack. Ships continued on course after bombing. At 1358/L from 7000 feet over the VITIAZ STRAITS, crew members report 2 flashes resembling gun fire from Southeast tip of LONG ISLAND. No bursts were

observed.

NIL SIGHTINGS: 0230S-14830E at 0913/L from 00 feet. 0125S-14905E at 1100/L from 7000 feet.

WEATHER: Front oriented Northwest-Southeast between 0300S and 0400S, 7/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops to 25000 feet. NEW BRITAIN, closed in. BISMARCK SEA, above KAVIENG, 4/10 alto-cumulus with 3/10 cirro-stratus. Ranges crossed through hole at 23000 feet. 6/10 cumulus, built up to 35000 feet.

318 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1335/15/L to 1345/15/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Operational and mapping photos were taken of BORAM and WEWAK, DAKUA and BUT and the RAMU RIVER.

SIGHTINGS: Several small harbour craft were seen in WEWAK HARBOR at 1335/L.

WEATHER: WEWAK, broken overcast at 34000 feet. RAMU VALLEY, clear to 2/10 low cumulus. Ranges, high, cumulo-nimbus thundershowers.

317 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0735/14/L to 1210/14/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245S-14[illegible], 0203S-15140E and return.

TARGET: Fox-Baker at 0203S-14907E.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1433/L from 5500 feet at a Fox-Baker at 0203S-14907E. Bombs missed by 50/75 yards. Nil damage observed. Recce was 95% completed. Photos were taken of convoy and of life-boat (See SIGHTINGS).

A/A: Moderate, medium, accurate to inaccurate from DD and Fox-Baker. DD took excellent evasive action and screened Fox-Baker and Fox-Tare-Charlie.

SIGHTINGS: At 1350/L, a convoy was sighted consisting of 1 Fox-Baker, 1 Fox-Tare-Charlie and 1 DD. Convoy was at 0203S-14907E, on course 30 degrees at speed of 10 knots. One life-boat with nil personnel aboard was seen at 0124S-15115E. Life-boat was surrounded by debris including spars and barrels. After circling it twice, life-boat was strafed with 150 X .5 cal. An unidentified white object was in life-boat. 3 white dots, resembling parachutes, were seen at 0910S-14915E. At 0500S-14752E, a log, painted white at both ends, was seen in the water.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, cumulus from 2000/4000 feet, very high cirro-stratus front extending East and West from 0142S-14952E to 0038S-15027E. Between DOBODURA and VITIAZ STRAITS, weather fair with [illegible] visibility.

317 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0715/14/L to 1745/14/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was 100% completed as ordered. There were nil sightings throughout. Route flown: CAPE WARD HUNT, 0430S-14800E, 0430S-15030E, 0330S-15030E, 0330S-14800E, 0250S-14800E, 0300S-14730E, 0400S-14730E, 0400S-14630E, 0300S-14530E, 0200S-14530E, 0120S-14415E, 0140S-14330E, 0230S-14330E, 0600S-14800E and return.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: Ranges out, 4/10 alto-strat 12000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, 3/10 to 5/10 cumulus, tops 7000 feet, base 2000 feet, visibility 20 miles.

318 H. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0930/15/L to 1725/15/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA.

RESULTS: Mission completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, CAVU. Return, cumulus and cumulo-nimbus to 30000 feet over the Ranges. Along South coast of NEW GUINEA, solid cumulus overcast, 1000 feet, turbulence, moderate to severe.

318 I(1) STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1232/15/L.

TARGET: Primary Target: DAGUA Airdrome. (Not bombed)
Secondary Target: WAKDE-SARMI Strip No. 1.

RESULTS: 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped on the target from 12500 feet on a heading of 260 degrees with 300 feet interval between bombs. One explosion was caused at the East end of No. 1 strip--possibly an ammunition dump. One explosion was observed on the South side of the strip between the cleared area and the edge of the strip. One twin-engine unidentified airplane in the northern dispersal area about the middle of strip was destroyed. Bombing was excellent--all bombs on target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight, heavy, accurate from several known positions. A new position was observed in the cleared area South of the center of No. 1 strip.

GENERAL: Secondary target was bombed due to inability to rendezvous with fighter cover at appointed time. Rendezvous was made at approximately 1135/L while appointed time was 1105/L.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed at 13000 feet. Weather good at target. Cumulus built up to 12000 feet immediately West of the target. Ranges crossed at 12000 feet on return.

318 I(2) STRIKE - 7 B-24's, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1233/15/L.

TARGET: Dispersal area North of strip No. 1 at WAKDE-SARMI. (Secondary target).

RESULTS: 60 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 12000 feet across dispersal area North of strip No. 1 at

200 feet intervals on heading of 260 degrees. One large explosion and fire was observed in the target. Results were otherwise obscured by heavy smoke. 12 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs hung up and were salvoed approximately 3 miles West of strip No. 1 with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Moderate to intense, medium and heavy, mostly accurate from positions on Peninsula, Northeast of strip No. 1, Northwest of strip No. 1, South of strip No. 1 and East and South of strip No. 2. A/A was of barrage type, hitting one airplane and rocking several others.

SIGHTINGS: At 1233/L from 12000 feet over ALEXISHAFEN, both sides of strip No. 1 appeared well covered by bombs. One crew reported 2 unidentified airplanes flying North at 16000 feet Northwest of ALEXISHAFEN. Distance prevented identification but crew claims bellies of airplanes appeared buff or yellow colored.

WEATHER: Enroute, 2/10 cumulus over Ranges, tops 10000 feet, cirrus layer at 19000 feet. Target, 3/10 scattered cumulus, tops 8000 feet, alto-stratus layer at 18000 feet. On return, 7/10 cumulus built up to 16000 feet.

318 I(3) STRIKE - 12 B-24's, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1230/15/I and 1242/15/L.

TARGET: ALEXISHAFEN strip No. 1.

RESULTS: First flight of 6 B-24's dropped 239 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs from 14000 feet from shoreline to the East end of No. 1 strip on a heading of 260 degrees. One large fuel fire was started as a result of bombing.

Second flight of 6 B-24's dropped 141 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs and 12 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs from 16000 feet South of the East end of the strip and parallel to strip for 4000 feet on a heading of 260 degrees. Photos were taken of the bombing by both flights.

A/A: Slight to moderate, medium and heavy, accurate to inaccurate. The great majority bursts were below level of both flights. A few bursts neared to 16000 feet. Lowest burst observed was at 13000 feet. The following positions were observed to be active: 4 or 5 gun battery South of MOSTREM BAY. Position on West side of ADMIRALTY ISLAND. Position at ALEXISHAFEN MISSION. Positions approximately 500 feet East of the East end of No. 1 strip. One crew states that gun flashes were observed approximately 1000 yards Southwest of the Western flight strip of No. 2 strip. Heavy emplacement on tip of Peninsula South of MOSTREM BAY was also active.

SIGHTINGS: At 1242/L from 16000 feet over ALEXISHAFEN: One large fire observed in Plantation about 75 yards South of the East end of No. 1 strip; one small fire observed in the Eastern end of North dispersal area of ALEXISHAFEN No. 1 strip and another small fire was observed in the far Western end of the North dispersal area. At 1230/L from 14000 feet, ALEXISHAFEN No. 1 strip was observed to be well bombed by another Squadron just before bombs away.

GENERAL: Failure to effect rendezvous with fighters at appointed time was responsible to failure to bomb primary target.

Pilots expressed belief that overcast at rendezvous point was responsible for failure to effect rendezvous, at 1100/L. P-38's escorted bombers to ALEISHAFEN. 1 B-24 landed at DOBODURA on return and results of his bombing are not included in this report.

WEATHER: IT. YONKIE, solid overcast, [illegible]ttered cumulus, tops to 6000 feet. Ranges, build [illegible] up on return but were crossed at 13000 feet from target to DECEPTION BAY.

318 I(4) STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1230/15/L.

TARGET: ALEISHAFEN.

RESULTS: 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 13000 feet on a heading of 245 degrees in stores and dispersal areas South of strip No. 1. B-24's bombed in open 6 plane diamond formation and pattern-covered a wide area extending South into DAMIP PLANTATION. One large fire and explosion occured near Southwest end of No. 1 strip. Several small fires occured in DAMIP PLANTATION. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight to moderate, medium and heavy, accurate as to altitude from known positions. No airplanes of this Squadron were hit.

SIGHTINGS: At 1230/L from 13000 feet over ALEISHAFEN, one airplane was observed on fire in South dispersal area off No. 2 strip. An oil slick was observed in ASTROLABE BAY.

WEATHER: Enroute, 5/10 scattered cumulus at 8000 feet. Target, 2/10 cumulus at 10000 feet, tops 20000 feet. On return, generally clear with scattered cumulus at 10000 feet, partially overcast.

317 II. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Target not reached due to weather. F-5 turned back at OPEN BAY at 1500/LA/L. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, front extending North-South from 0 to 35000 feet. Western NEW BRITAIN, 3/10 low cumulus.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Over GUSAP at approximately 1000/15/L, P-40's of the 35th and 8th Fighter Squadrons claim to have destroyed 17 enemy fighters and 3 enemy bombers definitely, 6 others are claimed as probables. 1 P-40 was lost.

Over WEWAK the 342nd Fighter Squadron intercepted 9 enemy fighters shooting down 5 definites and 4 probables.

NOTE: These are Preliminary Reports ONLY.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Haulen

PAUL E. HAULEN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

SETH S. TINLEY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Ass't Chief of Staff.

ITALY:

Premier Marshal Badoglio, who has been waging an apparently unsuccessful fight to save the throne of King Vittorio Emanuele, pledged Sunday night to present his resignation as head of the Government and retire when the Allies reach Rome. At a press conference and in an official statement, Badoglio made the declaration, which meant that the King will stay alone against the United front of Italian political parties which is seeking his abdication once the Allied Armies release the capital from the Germans. The Marshal said that he had formed a technical administration because he was unable to form a Representative Government and confirmed reports that Count Sforza and other political leaders had declined to join any Government under a King they consider tainted from Fascism.

ALLIED HQ. IN ALGIERS:

Germans blasted out with heavy artillery all day long on the Garigliano River front and sent large numbers of fighters into swirling dogfights to protect the road to Rome Saturday, but American troops improved their positions and the British Army advanced slightly at the Eastern end of the battle front. The Nazi blows were the heaviest since Salerno. American troops advanced despite many German counterattacks in hard fighting in the mountains North and Northwest of Mignano which overlooks the road to Cassino and Rome. U.S. soldiers routed elements of the German battalions with few casualties themselves at a point a mile and half Northwest of Montaquila and six miles North of Venafro Headquarters said. On the Adriatic coastal front Eighth Army Patrols again slipped across the Sangro to test enemy defenses.

LONDON:

Britains elusive and swift Mosquito Bombers dropped explosives on Berlin Saturday night for the second night in succession in a new series of "Morale" attacks on the German capital. Other groups of the plywood twin engined planes hit targets in Western Germany. The raids all were carried out without loss and were the only air activity of the night announced by the British. In the comparative lull in air activity Sunday Britons recalled that it was three years ago Sunday night that German planes in great numbers blasted the heart of Coventry in the British midlands.

LONDON:

Yugoslav partisans announced Sunday a crippling blow to Hitlers inland Balkans communications with the capture of two rail centers just across from the Hungarian border; while Berlin claimed the occupation of three Adriatic Islands in the battle for the Balkans offshore approaches. Broadcast communique from Gen. Josip Broz Headquarters said Croat Guerrillas had seized Koprivnick on the main railroad from Budapest to the Adriatic coast by way of Zagreb and Virovitica on a branch running to Belgrade in one of the Partisans biggest strikes in weeks. The twin successes severed two arteries over which the Germans have been moving troops and supplies and followed disruption of other segments of the invaders meager communications to the South.

CHUNGKING:

Brig. General Patrick J. Hurley, President Roosevelts personal representative left Sunday after a three day visit to Chungking and conferences with Genralissimo Chiang Kai Shek war minister and Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell. Hurley who declined to tell the purpose of his visit acts as a fact finder for the President.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 583, 15 November, 1943.

DUTCH NEW GUINEA:
Our medium units at night attacked the wharf area and shipping in the Harbor at Kaimana and our heavy units by day bombed Timoeka Airdrome and Kaukenau and Keaukwa Villages.

TANIMBAR ISLANDS:
Our medium units and long range fighters attacked and sank a one thousand ton enemy cargo vessel off Larat Island. Enemy occupied villages along the coast of Fordate Island were also strafed.

KAPINGAMARANGI ISLAND:
A South Pacific Reconnaissance Unit bombed and strafed the enemy seaplane base, destroying five float planes and starting fires among installations.

NEW IRELAND: KAVIENG AREA:
Our night reconnaissance units attacked a large enemy cargo ship with torpedoes and bombed two medium cargo ships with unobserved results.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:
Our medium units at night bombed dispersal and supply dump area at Vunakanau and Tobera Airdromes causing fires.

GASMATA:
Our escorted medium units bombed and extensively strafed the airdrome, Lindenhafen Plantation, and installations on adjacent islands.

NEW GUINEA: SIO:
Our light Naval craft at night sank two enemy barges off the coast. One of our fighter patrols strafed from Sio to Lepsius Pt., destroying a barge, and a heavy reconnaissance unit bombed the shore area.

ALEXISHAFEN-MADANG:
Our escorted medium and heavy bombers in force, following a dawn fighter raid, executed a coordinated low altitude attack on the enemy airdromes, townships and villages in the area, and surface craft in the harbor. Two hundred and twenty three tons of bombs were dropped and installations throughout the area were extensively strafed, starting many fires in fuel and supply dumps, destroying four enemy planes on the ground and silencing enemy antiaircraft positions. Three luggers and five barges were destroyed or damaged. The entire target was covered with a heavy pall of smoke as our bombers left the area. There was no interception. One fighter is missing.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE: BUKA AREA:
Our medium units carried out two bombing attacks on Tarlena and other shore villages in Matching Bay. One of our fighter patrols strafed Bonis Airdrome and targets of opportunity at Tabut, Siar, Baniu and Kieta .

BUIN:
Our escorted torpedo and dive bombers attacked Kara Airdrome with fifty tons of bombs, heavily damaging the runway and starting fires in supply dumps and bivouac areas.

NEW GEORGIA AREA:
Enemy floatplanes and torpedo bombers attacked our shipping intermittently under cover of darkness, causing some damage. Two enemy planes were shot down.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

00454 17 NOV 1943

Report No. 320.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: [illegible]
DATE: 16/11/43

FROM: 1800/15/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/16/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

WEWAK: 1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (319 E) completed 100% a weather recce to BUT and DAGUA. Airplane took off at 0314/L and landed at 0930/L. Weather was reported half-hourly. At 0520 a white light was seen flashing on the ground in no regular sequence at 0440S-14440E.

1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (319 W) took off at 0702/L to photograph WEWAK but was unable to reach the target due to weather. F-5 turned back at approximately 1100/L in the vicinity of the SEPIK RIVER.

P-38's of the 431st, 432nd and 433rd Fighter Squadrons definitely shot down 6 enemy fighters and 1 probably between 0945/16/L and 1040/16/L over WEWAK. 2 of the enemy airplanes were identified as 1 ZEKE and 1 TONY destroyed. The other types destroyed were not stated.

NUBIA-MADANG: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (319 Z) took operational photos of NUBIA at 0940/L. Photos were not taken of ALEXISHAFEN and MADANG because of weather. There were nil sightings.

KALASA and KULUNCTUFU: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (319 Y) took operational and mapping photos from KULUNCTUFU to the MASAWENG RIVER; from vicinity of WALD BAY to KALASA and from KARAKO to Headwaters of the SONG RIVER. Photos were taken from 0920/L to 0950/L. There were nil sightings.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (319 F) completed 100% a Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB and LAE. Airplane took off at 0625/L and landed at 1312/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (319 G) completed 100% a weather recce to NADZAB and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0500/L and landed at 0825/L. There were nil sightings.

PORT MORESBY-DOBODURA: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (319 J) completed 100% a Courier Mission to DOBODURA. Airplane took off at 0718/L and landed at 1330/L. There were nil sightings.

SEA SEARCHES: The following Armed Recces carried out today landed at DOBODURA on return and no Final Mission Report have been received:

1 B-24, 43rd Group (319 A) sea search to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E.

1 B-24, 43rd Group (319 B) search BISMARCK SEA.

1 B-24, 43rd Group (319 C) search BISMARCK SEA (Reverse 319 B).

1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (319 D) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. At 0845/L, a single column smoke signal was observed at 0540S-15102E. At 0847/L, one yellow box and 2 brown boxes floating in a triangle, were seen at 0607S-15146E. At 1048/L, one yellow barrel, floating high in the water, was observed at 0501S-15352E. At 1120/L, one yellow barrel floating high in the water was seen at 0606S-15348E. At 1426/L, a possible orange or yellow boat, smaller than regular life-raft of B-24, was observed at 0832S-15036E. No occupants were observed. Airplane could not re-locate boat for closer investigation.

NOTE: Included in this report are the following Mission Reports from FAFF:

317 AA. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TARGET: Suspected enemy shore positions from KULANA HARBOR to KANOMI VILLAGE.

319 AA. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 90th Squadron.
(PRELIMINARY REPORT.

TARGET: Village between KALENA and HASALENG RIVER south.

319 BB. STRIKE - 3 Squadrons of B-25's and 1 Squadron of B-26's, 22nd Group.
(PRELIMINARY REPORT).

TARGET: Ground support in FINSCHHAFEN area.

****

The following missions were cancelled today because of weather:

319 I. STRIKE - 30 B-24's, 90th Group.

TARGET: BUT and DAGUA airdromes.

319 GENERAL. STRIKE - 4 Squadrons B-25D-1's, 345th Group.
2 Squadrons B-25D-1's, 38th Group.
2 Squadrons B-25G's, 38th Group.

TARGET: WEWAK and BORAM airdromes.

319 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

****

822nd Squadron
The following information was received from a B-25G/performing a Weather Recce from MOMOTE on FFO 317 Z:

At 1500/15/L, 3000 feet, a twin-engine twin-tail square wing tip fighter type airplane was sighted at 0632S-152.0E. Enemy airplane was flying parallel to our airplane but made a 180 degree turn to attack our airplane which dived to the water, indicating 245 MPH. Enemy fighter closed on our airplane quickly and swept overhead at approximately 700 feet and at an estimated speed of 350 to 400 MPH. 4 small water spouts, such as might have been caused by 20 mm fire, were observed 200 yards to the right of our airplane as enemy fighter went over-

head. It did not return to base attack. While enemy airplane was overhead, all of our crew members observed a black cross on the fuselage halfway between the trailing edge of the wing and the horizontal stabilizer. 2 crew members described it as being outlined by white line on the sides, open on the ends. No markings were reported on wings or tail. 3 crew members definitely identified it as a ME-110.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Enemy positions on SATELBERG TRACK West of JIVEVANENG and Jap movement on WAREO-FIOR TRACK, were engaged by our artillery.

Tactical reconnaissance report states that coastal track from BLUCHER POINT to TEWAI RIVER mouth is most pronounced and is considered capable of taking MT traffic. Much activity is apparent in this area. Five barges were seen on the beach between KANO I and TEWAI RIVER mouth.

KAIU RIVER AREA: No further report.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
16 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4		4				8	0
DAGUA	2		14				16	0
KEWAK	16		2			6	24	±1
NUBIA							0	-1
AWAR	3						3	0
HOLLANDIA	6	23	10				41	0
BORAM	54	5	2				61	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	87	41	32			6	166	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	16	15	19			7	57	0
VUNAKANAU	48	17	7				72	0
LAKUNAI	59	2	14				75	0
RAPOPO		2	3				5	0
HARBOR						26	26	0
TOBERA	28						28	0
Total	151	36	43			33	263	0
SOLOMONS:								
BUKA						3	3	±1
BONIS	1		1				2	±1
KAHILI	4						4	-1
BALLALE	1						1	0
Total	6		1			3	10	±1

COMMENTS:

1. NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND drome counts are estimates. This area has not had complete photo coverage the last few days. Last photos indicated a large decrease in airplanes on RABAUL dromes but our estimate maintains airplane count more in keeping with normal enemy strength in this area.

2. KEWAK drome photo coverage yesterday (15/11/43) was 50% and our former estimate of 22 SSF, 2 L/B and 6 F/P is the airplane count believed to have been on this drome this morning. 6 SSF have been deducted as destroyed by our fighters over this area today (16/11/43). NUBIA was photoed today. BUT, DAGUA KEWAK and BORAM were last photoed 15/11/43. Remainder of NEW GUINEA count is an estimate.

3. All SOLOMONS dromes were photoed 15/11/43.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

LILADANG: 13/11/43. (316 J), (316 K)

Only 40% of the area covered by good low oblique photographs.

Airplanes. Nil serviceable.

Airdrome. Serviceable, but apparently not being used.

Damage Assessment. Bomb bursts at seaward end of runway caused a violent explosion and resulting gasoline or oil fire.

Bombs are seen bursting in the dump area North of the seaward end of runway.

The church near Gregat Mission on Ragetta Island was damaged.

In as much as photos were not taken following the strike, no composite damage assessment is possible.

Shipping. 1 lugger and 6 barges are located at East side of Boliao Island.

4 luggers and 4 barges are located on NW shore of Ragetta Island.

BUT: DAGUA: WEWAK: BORAM: 14/11/43. (317 X)

Good vertical coverage of But, Dagua, and Wewak Airdromes. Thirty percent coverage of Boram Airdrome.

Airplanes. (Apparently serviceable):

	Fighters	L/B	M/B	Total
But	4	4	1	9
Dagua	12	25	0	37
Wewak	22	2	2	26
Boram	31	6	0	31
	69	31	3	103

Shipping. Two freighters of about 1500 and 500 tons are observed East of Wewak Point. About 25 barges anchored along East and SE shores of Wewak Point.

Activity. No changes observed at But and Dagua. Clouds prevent further observation of possible new 6 gun A/A battery at East end of Boram runway (report of 10 November, 1943). No tracks or signs of activity have been noticed in recent photos of the 6 gun A/A battery at East end of the Wewak runway.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

317 AA. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0805/14/L to 0950/14/L.

TARGET: Primary target: Enemy barges from FORTIFICATION POINT to SIO. Secondary target: Suspected enemy shore positions from KELANA HARBOR to HANDI VILLAGE.

RESULTS: Nil barges were sighted. 30 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on secondary targets. 2 bombs were dropped at SIO along tents and supplies in coconut grove with unobserved results. 14 bombs were dropped along shore of KELANA HARBOR, on grass huts and possible tents with unobserved results. 14 bombs were dropped along shore opposite SIALUM ISLAND with unobserved results. 2 bombs were dropped at KANO KI VILLAGE, on huts in bush, with unobserved results. 7 bombs were dropped on likely barge hideouts and huts 2 miles above WALD BAY with unobserved results. The indicated targets at CAPE KING WILLIAM, KELANA HARBOR and BLUCHER POINT were strafed with 14000 X .50 cal. with unobserved results. 1 or 2 huts at TELIATA POINT (SIO) were left smoking as result of strafing pass. Photos were taken of the attack on KELANA HARBOR and CAPE KING WILLIAM.

A/A: A few light bursts of inaccurate M/G fire were observed to come from positions at CAPE KING WILLIAM and KIANI VILLAGE.

SIGHTINGS: Track along coast in area of search seemed to be well used and worn with M/T tracks in many areas. Several pilots volunteered opinion that traffic along this track must reduce necessity of barge traffic considerably.

WEATHER: Weather good from FORTIN[illegible] POINT to SIO, one layer of cumulus clouds at [illegible] feet, 1/10 covered. Weather CAVU on return with cloud banks along mountains.

318 D. ARMED RECCO - 1 L-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0445/15/L to 1645/15/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to CAPE WARD HUNT, 0600S-14800E, 0230S-14330E, 0140S-14330E, 0120S-14415E, 0030S-14530E, 0300S-14530E, 0400S-14630E, 0400S-14730E, 0300S-14730E, 0250S-14600E, 0300S-14800E, 0300S-15030E, 0430S-15030E, 0430S-14800E to DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 0800/L from 2000 feet, much small debris and logs were seen at 0400S-14510E. Some of the logs were 20/30 feet long. At 1014/L from 2000 feet, a mast with dirty gray canvas sail attached, was seen floating in the water at 0300S-14530E. Also in vicinity was a yellow raft, probably made of rubber, 5 X 10 feet, empty, and floating on the surface—not awash. Fallow square objects 4 X 4 feet were submerged just below the surface.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: Ranges (Out), 6/10 cumulus at [illegible],000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, scattered thundershowers, base 1500 feet, tops 4000/6000 feet with some up to 12000/15000 feet. Ranges (On return) from DOBODURA to halfway between HOOD POINT and POINT DRESSEY, crossed at 12000 feet, thin alto-stratus at 12000 feet. South side of Ranges, scattered cumulus 1/10 covered, bases on mountain tops, 6000/7000 feet.

319 E. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0314/16/L to 0903/16/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to BUT and DAGUA and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: Base to YULE ISLAND, MT. YONKIE, WEWAK, KERUA to Base. Airplane was in the BUT-WEWAK area from 0547/L to 0611/L. Weather was reported half-hourly.

SIGHTINGS: At 0525/L from 9000 feet, one white ground light was seen flashing in no observed sequence at 0440S-14440E.

GENERAL: This B-24 was standby for B-24 which took off at 0306/L and landed at 0345/L. Original B-24 turned back from 47 miles North of YULE ISLAND at 0256/L due to failure to establish radio contact with ground station.

WEATHER: Ranges (BULLDOG to MT. YONK crossed at 17500 feet, solid cirrus from BULLDOG to DUMPU, no turbulence. DUMPU to BUT, 8/10 scattered cumulus at 3000 feet to 5000 feet, 10/10 cirrus at 25000 feet. Solid East-West front covering WEWAK-BUT coast, base 6000 feet, tops 30000 feet, considerable lightning. WEWAK to KERUA, altitude 15000 feet, 1/4 stratus resting on mountain tops.

319 F. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0625/16/L to 1312/16/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, alto-cumulus overcast at 13000 feet, tops of Ranges, clear. 4/10 cumulus in Valleys. MARKHAM VALLEY, 6/10 strato-cumulus at 5000 feet. Return, cumulus over the Ranges to 10000 feet.

319 G. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0500/16/L to 0625/16/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE, PASS, NADZAB, GUSAP and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0520/L, complete overcast at 9000 feet. PASS, 0545/L, pass closed. PASS, 0640/L, overcast at 9000 feet, cumulus. NADZAB, 0655/L, cumulus overcast at 7000 feet, visibility 20 miles. GUSAP, 0715/L, cumulus clouds, overcast at 7000 feet, visibility 20 miles. PASS, 0730/L, CAVU. YULE ISLAND, 0800/L, CAVU.

319 H. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. F-5 turned back at approximately 1100/L in vicinity of the SEPIK RIVER. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: MARU VALLEY, overcast at 17000 feet, 3/10 scattered low cumulus. Ranges, cumulus at 12000 feet.

319 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0920/16/L to 0950/16/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: KALASA and KULUNGTUFU.

RESULTS: Operational and mapping photos were taken from KULUNGTUFU to MASALENG RIVER; vicinity of WALD BAY to KALASA; KALAMO to Headquarters of SONG RIVER.

WEATHER: FINSCHHAFEN, overcast at 18000 feet. Ranges, cumulus to 12000 feet.

319 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0940/16/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: ALEXISHAFEN, MADANG, NUBIA.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken of NUBIA from 33000 feet. Nil photos were taken of ALEXISHAFEN and MADANG due to weather.

WEATHER: MADANG and ALEXISHAFEN, overcast at 25000 feet, cumulo-nimbus. NUBIA, clear. MARU VALLEY, low cumulus, 6/10 covered.

319 D. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0656/16/L to 1554/16/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: LONGIVA to 06008-15140E, 06008-15330E, 05358-15330E, 05358-15230E, 04508-15230E, 04508-15400E, 06158-15400E, CAPE NELSON, HOOD POINT to Base.

SIGHTINGS: At 0845/L from 1500 feet, a single column smoke signal was started on arrival of our airplane at 05408-15132E. At 0847/L from 2000 feet, one yellow box and two brown boxes floating in a triangle with yellow box higher than the others, were observed at 06078-15146E. At 0933/L from 1000 feet at 06068-15323E, a possible Zeroufighter on course 90 degrees passed 1 mile in front of our airplane and was last to view 15 miles away. At 1048/L from 1500 feet, one yellow barrel floating high in the water was seen at 05018-15352E. At 1120/L from 1500 feet, a yellow barrel floating high in the water was seen at 06068-15342E. At 1428/L from 1000 feet, a possible orange or yellow boat was seen at 06328-15036E. Boat looked smaller than regular life-raft of B-24. 2 oars were seen working but no occupants were spotted. Our airplane turned back to investigate but could not re-locate the boat.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, overcast and ra... 9/10 covered on take-off. 3/10 to 4/10 low cumulus, base 1200 feet, tops 3000 feet. Ranges on return crossed from CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT at 20500 feet. High cumulus, 8/10 covered, base on mountains, tops 25000 feet.

319 J. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 496th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0718/16/L to 1330/16/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: Ranges, 0730/L, ceiling 10000 feet, visibility unlimited. DOBODURA, 1230/L, scattered clouds at 6000 feet, visibility unlimited. PASS, 1300/L, cumulus clouds at 9000 feet, gradually building up. Mountains covered over.

319 AA. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 90th Squadron. (PRELIMINARY REPORT)

TIME OF ATTACK: 0818/16/1 to 0857/16/L.

TARGET: Villages between KALENAU and MASAMENG RIVER mouth.

RESULTS: 68 X 250 lb. G/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on Villages from REISS POINT to MASAMENG RIVER mouth. Results were unobserved. Coastal track from REISS POINT to MASAMENG RIVER mouth was strafed. There were nil enemy sightings. Pamphlets were dropped.

319 BB(1) STRIKE - 7 B-25's, 2nd Squadron. (PRELIMINARY REPORT)

TIME OF ATTACK: 0832/16/L.

TARGET: Enemy personnel in camp area in MASAMENG RIVER VALLEY.

RESULTS: 65 X 100 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 3000 feet on the target. Bombing was excellent. All bombs hit in target. A 20 mm gun was reported on edge of cliff at BONGA. Gun fired approximately 20 rounds 500 feet below and to left of flight. One or two possible barges observed in mouth of SONG LIVER. An unidentified airplane was seen on Northerly course over the HUON GULF. There was nil interception.

319 BB(2) STRIKE - 4 B-26's, 19th Squadron. (PRELIMINARY REPORT).

TIME OF ATTACK: 0830/16/L to 0843/16/L.

TARGET: Ground support in FIOR area.

RESULTS: 100 (?) X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped in the target area on both sides of river. Bomb explosions were seen throughout area and one crew reports seeing a small amount of black smoke after bombing. Results were otherwise unobserved. 16 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs hit 200 yards North of river just on edge of target. Bombing considered excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing. At 0835/L from 4300 feet, 6 to 8 trucks were seen on road North of FIOR. At 0837/L, 4 barges were seen on beach at mouth of SONG RIVER. At 0828/L, gun fire was observed coming from HELDSBACH PLANTATION. One gunner reported one tracer 200 feet behind our airplane. There was nil interception.

319 BB(3) STRIKE - 9 B-25's, 33rd Squadron. (PRELIMINARY REPORT).

TIME OF ATTACK: 0850/16/L.

TARGET: Dumps at 435645 and 445865 (MASAMENG RIVER, 1 inch to 1 mile).

RESULTS: Squadron was unable to locate target. Bombs were dropped from 4000/6000 feet in vicinity of target on huts at track junction. 3 canvas covered barges were sighted on

beach between MASAWENG RIVER and SANGA. There was nil interception.

319 BB(4) STRIKE - 6 B-25's, 408th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: First run--0822/16/L. Second run--0827/16/L. Third run--0831/16/L.

TARGET: FINSCHHAFEN area: Especially GUSIKO VILLAGE.

RESULT: Bombing was excellent. 78% of bombs fell in GUSIKO VILLAGE and surrounding wooded area. 22% fell in water off coast. A total of [illegible] X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped. [illegible]os were taken of the target area.

SIGHTINGS: A white flag 10 to 15 feet square, was seen flying over KAMALAGIO POINT. Fires and smoke were seen rising inland Southwest of our target as a result of another Squadron's bombing.

WEATHER: Scattered strato-cumulus building up to 3000 feet. High broken overcast at 7000 feet, slight haze, visibility over 20 miles.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

In aerial combat over WEWAK from 0945/16/L to 1040/16/L, P-38's of the 431st, 432nd and 433rd Squadrons destroyed 6 enemy fighters and 1 probable. The 432nd Squadron claims 4 definites and 1 probable and the 433rd Squadron claims 2 definites (1 ZEKE and 1 TONY).

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Ass't Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Hauman

PAUL E. HAUMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ALGIERS:

American troops in the mountains near Mignano, have hurled back 3 sharp counter-attacks by refreshed Nazi troops making determined stabs to wipe out the Allied threat to their winter line in Italy, Allied Headquarters had disclosed. Generally there was little change around Italy Sunday with only artillery duels and patrol activity. Near the center of the front, 8th Army troops advanced Northward of Rionaro to occupy some high ground. Both sides seemed to be getting set for a major battle.

ON THE GERMAN SWISS FRONTIER:

Chaos exists in Northern Italy where the Germans have failed in their efforts to conscript Italian men as soldiers and workers, a Foreign diplomat who left there Sunday disclosed. At the same time, new stories of harsh repressive measures used by the Nazis against increasing sabotage and guerrilla resistance , came out of France and from Germany new accounts of Nazi measures to stiffen their hold on the home front were reported.

BERN: SWITZERLAND:

The state of seige clamped on the North Italian industrial city of Milan last week by Nazi occupation authorities was extended Monday to Monza Sesto and San Giovanni in retaliation for a new wave of shootings and sabotage.

Large scale terrorizing of collaborationists in the Toulouse area of France where 24 have been killed by Partisans in the past 10 days, was reported Monday in a Limoges dispatch to Lausisse in Geneva. The report estimated that 3500 French youths had taken to the bush in the district in the last 6 weeks and were equipped with hunting guns, 1200 machine guns and quantities of hand grenades.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ALGIERS.

Two waves of American medium bombers escorted by fighters, smashed railway yards in the heart of Sofia, Bulgaria in what an official Allied announcement termed the successful opening of the Balkan offensive. Official reports of the assault on Sofia, the first direct blow at Bulgaria since she declared war on the United States December 13, 1941, described the bombing as extremely accurate with Mitchells laying thousands of pounds of explosives squarely on locomotive repair shops, car assembly shops, a main line depot and acres of trackage.

LEROS ISLAND:

German parachute troops who landed on this Dodecanese Island's rocky hillsides Saturday, were reinforced all day Sunday by others who dropped through the furious fire of many machine guns. The Nazis suffered many casualties. German landing craft were heavily machine gunned. The air was filled with the red streamers of tracers.

LONDON:

Red Army spearheads crashing to within 35 miles of the pre-war Polish border, captured more than 40 more towns and villages as they fanned out on all sides of fallen Zhitomir, a Moscow Communique announced.

MOSCOW:

Able bodied Russian men who remained in Kiev during the German occupancy, grew beards to fool the Germans into believing they were old men, Tass, official Soviet News Agency has reported. Kiev, retaken by the Red Army November 6th, is once more bustling with life.

STOCKHOLM:

The crippled condition of the German fleet may force the Nazis to abandon Northern Norway as a naval base and evacuate the far North before the turn of the year, responsible naval authorities here believed. Some units of the fleet have been withdrawn to the Baltic Sea during the last few months. Another reason for withdrawing the German fleet from Norway's fjords, is the fact that the Allies no longer send convoys to Murmansk.

LONDON:

The United States Navy after overcoming the greatest transportation and handling problems ever presented in any war, now is pouring supplies into the Southwest Pacific on a scale large enough to support a major offensive against the Japanese, Rear Admiral William Brent Young disclosed. The Chief of the Navy Bureau of Supplies has recently completed a 24,000 mile inspection tour.

CHUNGKING:

Hammering at the Japs with the support of the American Air Force, the Chinese recaptured more than 10 important places Northeast of the Yangtze River port of Ichang, deepest point of enemy penetration in Central China and gained appreciable success in assaults on strongholds Northwest of Hankow, a Chinese High Command Communique said.

JERSEY CITY:

Frank Sinatra, singing idol of female teen-agers, will be called up for induction at Newark about January 12th or 14th, the chairman of the Hudson County draft board #19 said Monday.

G.H.Q. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 584, 16 November, 1943.

DUTCH NEW GUINEA:

Our medium units at night bombed the jetty areas at Sorong, and at Boela on Ceram Island, causing fires on both targets.

TIMOR:

Our medium units bombed Penfoe airdrome at night, causing explosions and fires. Our night reconnaissance units scored direct hits on a light cruiser and a 10000 ton merchant vessel to the Northwest.

NEW GUINEA: SIO:

Our medium units at low altitude bombed and strafed enemy positions along the coast from Selena Harbor to Kaiundi.

FINSCHHAFEN:

Enemy bombers in a daylight raid dropped 30 bombs harmlessly in the harbor. Adverse weather interfered with all operations.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE: BUKA:

Our medium bombers and fighters in a predawn raid bombed and strafed the air dromes, destroying 4 planes on the ground. At midday, our heavy bombers dropped 51 tons of explosives on the runway, dispersal areas and anti-aircraft positions at Buka, causing fires.

MATCHIN BAY:

Our fighter patrols attacked and probably destroyed an enemy troop laden barge before dawn, and at midday strafed installations at Empress Augusta Bay, minor patrol skirmishes occurred on the East and West flanks.

Seven enemy planes bombed Purnata Island and Cape Torokina at night, causing minor casualties.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

0900 4. 18 NOV 1943

Report No. 321.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
:AUTH: C.G.
:INITS: PEN
:DATE: 17/11/43:

FROM: 1800/16/11/43/L.
TO: 1800/17/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (320 W) took off at 0808/L to photograph RABAUL. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back at 0910/L, 60 miles off North coast of NEW GUINEA. Nil photos were taken and there were nil sightings.

NEW BRITAIN: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (320 Z) took off at 0832/L to photograph the North coast of NEW BRITAIN. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplanes turned back at 0920/L, 30 miles off HINSCHHAFEN. Nil photos were taken and there were nil sightings.

WEWAK: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (320 X) took off at 0703/L to photograph WEWAK. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back at LAE at 0840/L. Nil photos were taken and there were nil sightings.

WEWAK-SATELBERG: 1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (320 H) completed 60% of a weather recce to SATELBERG and WEWAK. Airplane was in LAE-SATELBERG area from 0310/L to 0430/L. Airplane was hit by lightning at 0445/L putting out radio and airplane returned to base. There were nil sightings.

1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (320 I) completed a weather recce to SATELBERG as ordered. Airplane received instructions to continue recce to WEWAK but was unable to penetrate front near MADANG. Weather was reported half-hourly.

SATELBERG: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (320 J) completed 100% a weather recce to SATELBERG. Airplane took off at 0419/L and landed at 0915/L. There were nil sightings.

1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (320 Y) took operational photos in the SATELBERG area from 0905/L to 1016/L. Mission was 100% completed with nil sightings.

10 B-24's of the 64th Squadron, 7 F-24's of the 65th Squadron and 6 B-24's of the 403rd Squadron (320 K) attempted to bomb targets in the SATELBERG area. 2 B-24's of the 65th Squadron dropped 25 X 1000 lb. bombs on a coastal Village 14 miles East of the KEMAM RIVER at VINCKE POINT at 1115/L. Bombs burst in kunai grass South of Village starting probable grass fires. 1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron dropped 6 X 1000 lb. bombs 8000 feet West of SATELBERG at 1115/L with unobserved results. All other airplanes of this Group were unable to locate targets because of weather. A mirror was seen flashing signals from a Village on side of a 9100 feet mountain at 0745S-14655E at 0905/L. 15 to 20 barges were observed at 1135/L between VINCKE POINT and KEE STO. Vehicular activity along the coast dispersed as our airplanes approached. 2 extremely

large trucks were seen piled with supplies. At 1130/L, 2 barges or jetties were seen on the North side of SIO ISLAND. 2 white smoke rockets 100 feet apart, were shot up simultaneously at 1112/L from shore of Cove from ½ mile South of mouth of SONG RIVER.

31 B-24's of the 90th Group (320 L) attempted to bomb targets in the SATELBERG area. All airplanes of the Group turned back because of weather. There were nil sightings.

NADZAB-GUSAP:

1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (320 F) completed 100% a weather recce to NADZAB and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0528/L and landed at 0830/L.

2 ZEKES intercepted at 0635/L at 7000 feet over NADZAB but did not/[illegible] closer than 1000 yards. Nil damage to either side.

1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (320 E) completed 30% of a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0700/L and landed at 1140/L.. Mission was completed to GUSAP but NADZAB and LAE could not be reached because of weather.

SEA SEARCHES:

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (320 A) took off at 0610/L to carry out an armed recce to 0245N-14940E. Airplane was forced to turn back in FINSCHHAFEN area because of weather.

1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (320 B) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. 2 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped at 1442/L at 7 camouflaged barges in JOHN ALBERT HARBOR. Results were unobserved. At 0837/L, an SS was sighted 4 miles East of WOKEO ISLAND on course 45 degrees. One unidentified float plane was seen approximately 200 yards South of the 7 barges sighted in JOHN ALBERT HARBOR at 1[illegible]5/L.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (320 C) completed 90% of an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Northwestern 10% of assigned search area was omitted because of weather. 2 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped at 1444/L on a dump area on SIO. Results were unobserved. At 1147/L from 1000 feet, one unidentified airplane was sighted at 0330S-14700E at 9 o'clock above our airplane on course/44 degrees. of

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (320 D) completed 95% of an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. 5% of assigned area South of CAPE ST. GEORGE was omitted because of weather. There were nil sightings throughout entire search.

NOTE: Included in this Report are the following Final Mission Reports from FATF:

319 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 63rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: Shadow shipping reported in HANSA BAY.

320 CC. STRIKE - 12 A-31's, No. 24 Squadron, RAAF.

TARGET: MASANGKOO VILLAGE (SATELBERG AREA).

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Our troops advanced West along SATELBERG track and occupied track junction at 573661. Patrols located enemy position approximately 700 yards Southwest and found groups of 10 Japs patrolling track to the Northwest of this position.

Patrol North of the SONG RIVER reports Jap position at 648723, strength 2 platoons. Artillery was again active against Jap positions astride SATELBERG track and enemy movement on track near WAREO and MASAWENGO.

Late information indicates that our troops are advancing Westwards from JIVIN-ANENG against opposition. Advances have also been made from the KUMMA area, Northeast and Northwest against enemy opposition. To the North of the SATELBERG track, our troops are in possession of 2600 foot feature at 579679.

RAMU AREA: Patrol to the Northwest of BOGADJIM ROAD report KULAU (Reference 3107) and BAGASIN (Reference 3909) occupied by enemy.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
17 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4		4					8	0
DAGUA	2		14					16	0
WEWAK	16		2			6		24	0
AWAR	3							3	0
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
BORAM	54	5	2					61	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
Total	87	41	32			6		166	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	16	15	19			7		57	0
VUNAKANAU	48	17	7					72	0
LAKUNAI	59	2	14					75	0
RAPOPO		2	3					5	0
HARBOR						26		26	0
TOBERA	28							28	0
Total	151	36	43			33		363	0
SOLOMONS:									
BUKA						3		3	0
BONIS	1			1				2	0
KAHILI	4							4	0
BALLALE	1							1	0
Total	6			1		3		10	0

COMMENTS:

1. SOLOMONS drome count is from photos taken 15/11/43.

2. NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND drome counts are estimates. This area has not had complete photo coverage the last few days. Last photos indicated a large decrease in airplanes on RABAUL dromes but our estimate maintains airplane count more in keeping with normal enemy strength in this area.

3. BUT, DAGUA, WEWAK and BORAM were last photoed 15/11/43. Remainder of NEW GUINEA drome count is an estimate.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

None reported.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

319 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0545/16/L to 1530/16/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return.

RESULTS: Recce was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: DOBODURA to VITIAZ STRAITS, 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E, VITIAZ STRAITS to DOBODURA. There were nil sightings throughout entire search.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, at 0100S, East-West front 8 to 10 miles thick, tops at 17000 feet. Equator, visibility unlimited, 2/10 cumulus, tops 6000 feet, base 5000 feet. Ranges on return, (DOBODURA to PORT MORESBY) crossed at 8000 feet, 3/10 cumulus, tops 10000 feet, bases on mountains.

319 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0644/16/L to 1622/16/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was completed 100% as ordered. Route flown: DOBODURA, CAPE WARD HUNT, 0[illegible]-14800E, 0230S-14330E, 0140S,14330E, 0120S-14415E, [illegible]0S-14530E, 0300S-14530E, 0400S-14630E, 0400S-14730E, 0250S-14800E, 0330S-14800E, 0630S-15030E, 0430S-15030E, 0430S-14800E, CAPE WARD HUNT, DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 0920/L, from 800/4000 feet, a dirty yellow, circular 6 man rubber life boat, devoid of personnel, with wood plank across center was sighted at 0335S-14455E. Two red barrels, empty, floating high in the water and an oil slick all through the area were observed. At 1041/L from 4000 feet, lanes of rusty colored water, clinging together, 2 miles long, 4 feet wide, were sighted at 0130S-14340E. At 1430/L from 4300 feet, a camp was seen on the North side of VINGORA ISLAND (WITU GROUP), 3 red roofed European type buildings and 20 khaki colored dispersed tents were observed. Nil activity was seen.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, CAVU. Front over NEW BRITAIN (TALASEA PENINSULA--ROOKE ISLAND to 0640S), base 2000 feet, tops 18000 feet, rain extending East-West. Ranges on return, (DOBODURA to CAPE NELSON), 4/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 15000 feet. CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT, crossed at 11000 feet, complete overcast, stratus at 25000 feet, broken overcast at 20000 feet, scattered cumulus below, 1/10 to 3/10, tops 9000 feet, base on mountains.

319 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0805/16/L to 1945/16/L

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: Sugar-Baker at 0350S-14520E.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at 1641/L from 4000 feet on a Sugar-Baker, stationary, at 0350S-14520E. One bomb fell 10 feet off starboard side amidships. One direct hit was scored amidships. Ship's crew took to 2 lifeboats, others jumped overboard. Oil slick and debris were seen all around ship, mostly on port side. A fire was seen burning amidships. Ship listed to starboard side and stern was low in the water when our airplane left the vicinity. 4 strafing runs were made on the ship and lifeboats with unobserved results. 925 X .50 cal. and 200 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing. Ship was probably destroyed. Photos were taken of the Sugar-Baker. Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: DOBODURA to 0430S-14800E, 0430S-15030E, 0330S-15030E, 0330S-14800E, 0250S-14600E, 0300S-14730E, 0400S-14730E, 0400S-14630E, 0300S-14530E, 0200S-14530E, 0120S-14415E, 0140S-14330E, 0230S-14330E, 0600S-14800E, CAPE WARD HUNT to DOBODURA.

A/A: Slight, light (20 mm and M/G) inaccurate from Sugar-Baker.

SIGHTINGS: At 1030/L from 5000 feet, wreckage consisting of 3 to 4 planks 15 to 20 feet long and one white log, peeled, or a lifeboat upside down, were sighted at 0430S-14930E. At 1307/L from 4000 feet, wreckage consisting of old and new lumber, 3 to 8 feet long, was observed at 0400S-14705E. At 1405/L from 4000 feet, a large amount of wreckage consisting of boxes and lumber was seen at 0230S-14530E. 1 Sugar-Baker (Bombed) was sighted at 1630/L from 4000 feet at 0350S-14520E. Ship was stationary on a heading of 120 degrees.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA (Upper), 5/10 cumulus, tops 11000 feet, bases 8000 feet . (Lower), 5/10 cumulus, tops 4000 feet, base 300 feet. Ranges on return (DOBODURA to PORT MORESBY) crossed at 8500 feet, 3/10 stratus at 22000 feet.

320 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0610/17/L to 1010/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return.

RESULTS: Recco completed to FINSCHHAFEN where airplane turned back due to weather. Route flown: Base to MILNE BAY, DOBODURA, FINSCHHAFEN area, DOBODURA, HOOD POINT to base. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Heavy front extending from North coast of NEW BRITAIN through VITLAZ STRAITS and Southeast across SOLOMON SEA. Ceiling and visibility zero. NEW BRITAIN, socked in. Airplane attempted to penetrate front from 100 to 20000 feet. Ranges crossed at 10000 feet, 3/10 scattered cumulus.

320 B. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0700/17/L to 1140/17/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 30% completed. Airplane landed at GUSAP at 0645/L but was unable to get to NADZAB or LAE due to thunderstorm over lower MARKHAM VALLEY.

WEATHER: Enroute, YULE ISLAND, strato-cumulus overcast at 7000/7900 feet. Ranges, alto-cumulus overcast 1000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, lower broken cumulus at 2000 feet, overcast at 9000/11000 feet. Lower MARKHAM VALLEY and LAE, low pressure area with severe thunderstorm about 8 miles North of NADZAB to LAE. RAMU VALLEY, broken alto-cumulus at 6000/9000 feet. Return over Ranges, cumulus tops to 13000 feet, building up.

320 F. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0536/17/L to 0630/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: YULE ISLAND, PASS, NADZAB, GUSAP, PASS, YULE ISLAND.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

INTERCEPTION: At NADZAB at 0635/L, 7000 feet, 2 ZEKES intercepted our airplane from 7 o'clock below. Our gunner got in one burst at ZEKES with no apparent results. The nearest the ZEKES got to our airplane was 1000 yards. Upon interception, B-25 made dive to the MARKHAM RIVER. 50 X .50 cal. were expended by the gunner.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0550/L, 3/10 covered at 3000 feet, visibility 10 miles. PASS, 0610/L, solid overcast up to 9000 feet. NADZAB, 0635/L, broken clouds from 500 to 9000 feet, visibility 3 miles. GUSAP, 0705/L, base of clouds 3000 feet, tops 6000 feet, visibility 10 miles. PASS, 0745/L, solid overcast up to 9000 feet. YULE ISLAND, 0815/L, broken clouds between 6000 and 9000 feet.

320 H. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0053/17/L to 0745/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to SATELBERG and WEWAK.

RESULTS: Recce was 60% completed. Route flown: Base to YULE ISLAND, SATELBERG, FINSCHHAFEN, LAE, KEREMA, YULE ISLAND to Base. Airplane remained in the LAE-SATELBERG area from 0310/L to 0430/L. Lightning struck airplane at 0445/L putting the radio out of commission and airplane returned to base.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed on contact at 13000 feet with good visibility. Scattered cumulus with 3/10 cover in LAE-SATELBERG area. HUON GULF, 6/10 undercast at 8000 feet, mild front encountered off coast at FINSCHHAFEN running Northwest-Southeast from VITIAZ STRAITS towards KILIMINA ISLAND. Ranges crossed on return, LAE to KEREMA, at 13000 feet with scattered low clouds, high cloud base at 18000 feet.

320 I. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0259/17/L to 1023/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to SATELBERG and return.

RESULTS: Weather recco was completed 100% as ordered. Weather was reported half-hourly. Reports were sent from SATELBERG from 0500/L to 0700/L. Airplane attempted to continue recco to WEWAK per instructions received via radio but could not penetrate frontal activity near MADANG. Route flown: Base, YULE ISLAND, LAE, SATELBERG, CAPE NELSON, MADANG, KEREMA, YULE ISLAND to Base.

WEATHER: SATELBERG, overcast 9/10 at 9000 feet, low scattered cumulus at 4000 feet. Frontal activity Northwest-Southeast across CAPE GLOUCESTER area, also Southwest-Northeast across MADANG.

320 J. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0419/17/L to 0915/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to PASS, SATELBERG and return.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100% as ordered.

WEATHER: SATELBERG, 0730/L, altitude 6000 feet, broken clouds and overcast at 15000 feet.

320 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back at 0910/L, 60 miles off North coast of NEW GUINEA. Nil photos were taken.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, front, Northwest-Southeast. Ranges, overcast at 20000 feet, 2/10 cumulus.

320 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back at LAE after recce in RAMU VALLEY at 0840/L. There were nil sightings. Nil photos were taken.

WEATHER: RAMU VALLEY, overcast at 8000 feet, 9/10 covered, solid overcast from 0 to 20000 feet. Ranges, overcast at 12000 feet.

320 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0905/17/L to 1015/17/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: SATELBERG.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken of the SATELBERG area from 13000 to 26000 feet.

WEATHER: HUON GULF, frontal activity along line North and South, base 5000 feet, tops 20000 feet.

320 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: North coast of NEW BRITAIN.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Airplanes turned back at 0920/L, 30 miles off FINSCHHAFEN. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: HUON GULF, front Northwest-Southeast, overcast at 20000 feet. Ranges, overcast to broken.

320 K(1) STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: SATELBERG area.

RESULTS: Nil attack made due to weather. Airplanes were unable to reach the target. Group rendezvoused at YULE ISLAND at 0810/L to 0850/L at 8500 feet. Formation broke up in attempt to penetrate front. 1 B-24 crossed the HUON PENINSULA and found ALEXISHAFEN closed in.

SIGHTINGS: At 0905/L from 10600 feet, a flashing mirror was seen signalling in a village of 2 parallel rows of huts at 0745S-14655E, on Northerly side of 9000 feet mountain.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND to LASANGA ISLAND, crossed at 12000 feet, solid overcast at 20000 feet, clear below. HUON PENINSULA, Northwest-Southeast front to at least 16000 feet. Ranges on return, (DUMPU to KEREMA) crossed at 12000 feet, solid undercast at 10000 feet.

320 K(2) STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1135/17/L.

TARGET: Coastal Village 1½ miles East of the KWAMA RIVER-VINCKE POINT.

RESULTS: The primary target in the SATELBERG area was not bombed due to weather. 2 B-24's dropped 15 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs from 7700 feet and 7800 feet at a coastal village on VINCKE POINT. Bombs burst parallel to shore in kunai grass South of the Village. Possible kunai fires were started. Photos were taken of the bombing and of track activity between VINCKE and SIO POINTS.

SIGHTINGS: At 1135/L from 7800 feet, 15 to 20 possible barges were seen on shore between VINCKE POINT and CAPE SIO. Vehicular activity along the coast dispersed as airplane approached. 2 extremely large trucks piled with supplies were seen. At 1130/L from 7800 feet, 2 barges or jetties were seen on the North shore of SIO ISLAND.

WEATHER: CAPE SIO, 6/10 alto-stratus at 18000 feet. HUON PENINSULA and HUON GULF, 10/10 strato-cumulus in layers from mountain tops to 16000 feet with occasional scattered cumulo-nimbus. Ranges, 8/10 cumulus from mountain tops to 12000 feet.

320 K(3) STRIKE - 8 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1115/17/L.

TARGET: 8000 feet West of SATELBERG.

RESULTS: 1 B-24 dropped 6 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs at the

target from 7400 feet. Bombs landed in the jungle with unobserved results. All other airplanes were unable to find the target because of weather.

SIGHTINGS: At 1112/L from 7400 feet, position 0628S-14752E, on shore of Cove ½ mile South of mouth of SONG RIVER, 2 white smoke rockets, 100 feet apart, were shot up simultaneously, reached peak and curved back to earth.

WEATHER: Ranges, (Out), crossed at 11000 feet, 6/10 strato-cumulus, tops 18000 feet, base 15000 feet. HUON PENINSULA, 8/10 strato-cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 14000 feet. Ranges (On Return), scattered cumulus, tops 16000 feet, base 12000 feet.

320 L. STRIKE - 7 B-24's, 319th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 320th Squadron.
12 B-24's, 400th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: Primary--SATELBERG. Secondary--KALASA VILLAGE. Tertiary--ACC VILLAGE.

RESULTS: Nil attack made. Airplanes were unable to find targets because of weather. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed enroute at 13000 feet with good weather as far North as MARKHAM RIVER VALLEY. A front was encountered covering the entire target area with tops at 20000 feet. Ranges crossed on return at 13000 feet.

320 D. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0631/17/L to 1419/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 95% completed. 5% of area South of CAPE ST. GEORGE was omitted because of weather. Route flown: DOBODURA, KIRIWINA ISLAND, 0725S-15112E, 0600S-15140E, 0535S-15330E, 0535S-15230E, 0445S-15355E, 0600S-15355E, KIRIWINA ISLAND, CAPE NELSON, HOOD POINT to Base. There were nil sightings throughout entire search.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 2/10 to 6/10 cumulus, bases down to 2000 feet, tops up to 6000 feet, strato-stratus from 2/10 to 9/10, base 12000 feet. East-West front South of CAPE ST. GEORGE, base 3000 feet, tops 20000 feet. Ranges, CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT, 6/10 cumulus, tops 16000 feet.

320 CC. STRIKE - 12 A-31's, No. 24 Squadron, R.A.A.F.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1039/17/L to 1054/17/L.

TARGET: LASANCKOO VILLAGE. (SATELBERG AREA).

RESULTS: 20 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 1500 feet on the target. Bombing was excellent. Several bombs were seen to burst in center of the Village and the balance in a radius of 50 yards. 1 A-31 returned to base before reaching the target due to mechanical trouble.

SIGHTINGS: 7 unidentified silver colored airplanes were seen flying low on course 45 degrees from FINSCHHAFEN.

WEATHER: Enroute, overcast from 0 to 1000 feet, tops 20000 feet, intermittent showers, visibility 0 to 15 miles. Target, 8/10 covered, base 3000 feet, tops 6000/9000 feet, visibility 10 miles.

319 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 63rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 2240/16/L to 0620/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Shadow shipping reported in HANSA BAY.

RESULTS: Mission completed as ordered. HANSA BAY was under observation from 0200/17/L to 0400/L.

INTERCEPTION: 1 single-engine unidentified fighter made one pass from 5 o'clock above at 0300/L, 9000 feet, 3 miles off HANSA BAY. Enemy airplane did not fire. B-24 went into cloud cover and there was no further contact.

SIGHTING: From 0200/L to 0400/L at 9000 feet, one CA or CL and 4 large unidentified M/V's were seen in HANSA BAY.

WEATHER: Enroute, 6/10 undercast, scattered thunderheads to 18000 feet, visibility 15 miles. Target, weather same. On return, weather same except at HOOKE ISLAND where it was closed in to 20000 feet.

320 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0550/17/L to 1750/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: Barges in JOHN ALBERT HARBOR.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1442/L from 6000 feet at 7 camouflaged barges in JOHN ALBERT HARBOR. Results were unobserved. Observation of results was hampered by scattered cumulus clouds. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recco was 100% completed as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: At 0837/L from 2000 feet, an SS was sighted 4 miles East of WOKEO ISLAND on course of 45 degrees. At 1438/L from 6000 feet, 7 well-camouflaged barges were sighted in JOHN ALBERT HARBOR at the East bank opposite PETER HARBOR. One unidentified float-plane was observed approximately 200 yards South of the barges.

WEATHER: A front from 300 to 20000 feet ran parallel to the coast from WEWAK to KAIRIRI ISLAND. Scattered cumulus, 3/10 to 5/10 at 5000 feet at and the Eastern BISMARCK SEA and the target.

320 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0643/17/L to 1712/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: SIO.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1444/L from 6000 feet on a heading 155 degrees at a dump area at SIO. Results were observed. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recce was 90% completed. Northwestern 10% was omitted because of weather. Route flown: DOBODURA to 0430S-14800E, 0430S-15030E, 0330S-15030E, 0250S-14800E, 0348S-14648E, 0436S-14612E, SIO, 0605S-14810E, ORO BAY, HOOD POINT to base.

SIGHTINGS: At 1147/L from 1000 feet at 0330S-14700E, one unidentified airplane was seen at 9 o'clock above on course of 44 degrees. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: Eastern BISMARCK SEA, solid clouds, base 2000 feet, occasional rain. Western BISMARCK SEA, front from MANUS ISLAND to K MAR ISLAND, base 1800 feet, no turbulence, rain. SIO, solid overcast at 8000 feet. HUON GULF, 6/10 to 7/10 cumulus, tops 8000 feet. Ranges, ORO BAY to HOOD POINT, crossed at 16000 feet, 6/10 cumulus, tops to 22000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Fighters carried out usual escort and patrol missions with nil interception or combat.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Hauman

PAUL E. HAUMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

ITALY:

Don Whitehead of the Associated Press reporting on conditions at the front said the road to Rome has become by far the toughest route of battle any American troops have fought on in the Mediterranean theater. Neither Tunisia nor Sicily presented the difficulties which the Allies must overcome before they drive the enemy into Northern Italy. Bad weather has robbed them of their air support and rain and snow have made the terrain into muddy bogs. The Nazis have blown up all bridges along the Garigliano line. The slow advance is giving the enemy time to prepare additional defenses beyond Cassino. Indications the 5th Army will have bitter and costly fighting all the way to Rome.

LONDON:

United States heavy bombers drove home 2 stiff blows at Germany's opposite flanks; blasting targets in Norway Tuesday from British bases, close in the wake of an attack by Mediterranean based 15th Air Force bombers on 2 Nazi air bases near Athens. Flying Fortresses of the 8th Air Force making their second raid on Norway targets, flew through a North Sea snowstorm on the 1200 mile round strip and first reports indicated the big bombers met only slight opposition. The German Radio hinted the target had been around the capital, Oslo. The air war over Northern Europe flared anew with a German raid for the first time in several months, on Southwestern England where General Devers, United States European Commander, disclosed American troops were training for invasion of Europe. The raid on the Athen's airfields Monday was another hop toward clinching air control of the Balkans.

Russian troops driving for Korosten, on the Leningrad-Odessa railway, captured more than 60 tons and hamlets, Moscow announced. One of them was the railway station of Turchenka, 14 miles due South of Korosten on the Zhitomir-Korosten railway. Another Russian column driving up toward Korosten from the Northeast, captured Obikhodi, 16 miles from Korosten. In the Pastov area to the South, the Soviets forced back continuous German counter-attacks. Additional Russian gains were reported made on Gomel.

NEW DELHI:

R.A.F. heavy and medium bombers teamed up for a strong smash at the Jap railway junction at Pegu, 46 miles Northeast of Rangoon in Burma Monday night, a Communique said while more sharp patrol actions were reported on land in the Chin Hills area. A Reuters Disptach from Calcutta termed the blow on Pegu heaviest and most concentrated on Burma since the war in the East began. The Chinese High Command reported Chinese troops had broken through Jap lines at many points South of the Yangtze River.

LONDON:

General Josip Broz Tito's Partisans were falling back slowly in Yugoslavia Tuesday night before the weight of heavy German assaults, but to the East in the battle for the Balkans, the Allies strengthened their foothold on the bitterly contested Aegean Island of Leros.

United States Flying Fortresses and Liberators attacked a power station at Rjukan and the Molybdenum mines at Knaben, Norway on Tuesday.

ALGIERS:

General Charles De Gaulle, Head of the French Committee of National Liberation speaking on the question of Lebanon, said France could not renounce her obligations and her jurisdical position ... to Lebanon was uncontestable.

BERN:

French civilians engaged in an hour-long battle with the Germans at the main square of Lyons, Monday night it was reported. 9 French were killed and one German, with scores on both sides wounded.

LONDON:

Immediate French action to ease tension in the Middle East over the Lebanon unrest was predicted in London Tuesday after General Georges Catroux, Commissioner of State for the De Gaulle Committee reached Birut with powers to settle the disturbances. Meanwhile, Secretary of State, Hull, said in Washington the United States had taken up the situation with the French.

The British Admiralty announced loss of the min. sweeper Cromarty and the trawler Orfasy.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 565, 17 November, 1943.

DUTCH NEW GUINEA: BABO:

Our medium units night raided the Babo airdrome and the village of Kaimana causing large fires and destroying 2 bombers and probably other aircraft on the ground.

BISMARCK SEA:

One of our night reconnaissance units bombed and hit a 9000 ton cargo ship in St. George Channel forcing it to be beached on the New Ireland coast.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:

Our medium bombers in a night attack on enemy shipping and shore installations sank an 8000 ton transport with 2 direct hits from mast height and damaged another large merchant ship. The seaplane base at Sulphur Creek was bombed.

NEW GUINEA: ALEXISHAFEN:

Our escorted heavy units again bombed the enemy airdromes with 76 tons of explosives. The runways were well covered and numerous fires were left burning throughout the dispersal and supply dump areas. An enemy bomber was destroyed on the ground. There was no attempt at interception.

RAMU VALLEY:

An enemy force of bombers and fighters raided our forward airdromes at Nadzab and Gusap doing some damage before being driven off by our fighter patrols. 20 enemy planes are reported as shot down and another 6 probably destroyed with light losses to ourselves.

SIO:

One of our heavy reconnaissance units bombed the vill[illegible].

BUNA:

6 enemy bombers ineffectively raided the Dobodura area before dawn.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE: EMPRESS AUGUST BAY:

Our torpedo bombers in direct ground support bombed and strafed enemy positions near Piva.

KIETA:

Our fighter patrols carried out a strafing sweep along the North coast.

BUIN-FAISI:

Our escorted torpedo and dive bombers dropped 30 tons of explosives on Ballale airdrome. Our fight fighters harassed the enemy at Kahili and Shortland Island shooting 4 searchlights out of action.

-2-

18 Nov

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP
3592. 18 NOV 1943

Report No. 322.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: QSN
DATE: 18/11/43
FROM: 1800/17/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/18/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

WEWAK: 1 F-5 of the 6th Photo Squadron (321 Y) took off at 0453/L to photograph WEWAK but was unable to reach the target because of weather. Airplane turned back at ATEMBLE at 1010/L. Nil photos were taken and there were nil sightings.

YAK RIVER: 1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (321 J) completed 100% a supply dropping mission in the YAK RIVER area. At 1343/L, 2 fires approximately 100 yards apart, were seen at 05359-14250E. At 0900/L a clearing appearing to be a landing strip and some European type houses, were seen at 0/305-14445E. Supplies were dropped at 1130/L.

MADANG-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 40th Squadron (321 F) completed 100% a weather recce to MADANG and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0525/L and landed at 0820 . There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (321 E) completed 100% a Courier Mission to MADANG, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0730/L and landed at 1335/L. There were nil sightings.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (321 A) was unable to complete an armed recce to 0245N-149.40E, 0200N-151.40E. Recce was incomplete due to weather. Only 10% of assigned area was covered. At 0713/L from 6000 feet 5 miles South of ROOKE ISLAND, 4 unidentified single engine fighters were seen flying on course 250 degrees at 6000 feet.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (321 B) was unable to complete an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Search was completed to LONG ISLAND. There were nil sightings.

1 B-24 of the 43rd Group (321 C) took off at 0545/L to carry out an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Mission report has been received.

1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (321 D) completed 100% an Armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. At 1120/L, 40 to 50 fuel drums (55 gallon), orange or red-lead colored, were seen at 05553-15400E. There were nil other sightings. (Visibility 10% in search area).

NOTE: The following missions were cancelled today.

321 G. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 90th Group.
321 H. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-24, 90th Group.
321 I. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25, 345th Group.

AREA OF SEARCH: SATELBERG AREA.

321 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

AREA OF PHOTO: RABAUL.

321 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

AREA OF PHOTO: KAVIENG.

321 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

AREA OF PHOTO: North coast of NEW BRITAIN.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Our troops attacked along SATELBERG TRACK against heavy opposition. Thick jungle made progress slow. Perimeter has been formed at 569661. Our force advancing from KUMAWA encountered strong enemy resistance on track to Northwest at 563657. Troops on 2600 foot Feature located Jap positions to the East and West.

RAMU AREA: Patrol clash in the Upper URIA RIVER area resulted in casualties being inflicted on the enemy. Intensive patrolling continues.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
18 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4		4					8	0
DAGUA	2		14					16	0
WEWAK	16		2			6		24	0
AITAR	3							3	0
HOLLANDIA	8	23	10					41	0
BORAM	54	5	2					61	0
WAKDE		13						13	0
Total	87	41	32			6		166	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:									
KAVIENG	16	15	19			7		57	0
VUNAKANAU	48	17	7					72	0
LAKUNAI	59	2	14					75	0
RAPOPO		2	3					5	0
HARBOR						26		26	0
TOBERA	28							28	0
Total	151	36	43			33		263	0
SOLOMONS:									
BUKA						3		3	0
KAHILI	5							5	+1
BALLALE	1							1	0
BONIS	1			1				2	0
Total	7			1		3		11	+1

COMMENTS:

1. SOLOMONS drome count is from photos taken 16/11/43.

2. NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND drome counts are estimates. This area has not had complete photo coverage the last few days. Last photos indicate a large decrease in airplane on RABAUL dromes but our estimate maintains airplane count more in keeping with normal enemy strength in this area.

3. BUT, DAGUA, WEWAK and BORAM were last photoed 15/11/43. Remainder of NEW GUINEA drome counts are estimates.

C. Air Raids.

PORT MORESBY: Red alert—1057/L. All clear 1110/L.

A single enemy recco airplane was suspected over the area. Nil contact made.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

ALEXISHAFEN: 15/11/43. (318 I)

QUALITY: Excellent verticals and distant obliques.
COVERAGE: 100% #1, 90% #2 (Dromes), distant obliques of both dromes and harbor, during the strike.

AIRDROME #1

Airplanes.	Nil serviceable.
Bomb Damage.	The runway was blanketed with bombs, and is unserviceable.
	Dispersal areas on both sides of the runway were heavily hit causing fires and explosions throughout these areas. A supply dump on the South side of the runway is in flames.

AIRDROME #2

Airplanes.	Nil serviceable.
Airdrome.	Runway apparently serviceable.
Bomb Damage.	Unserviceable. SSF burning in revetment in Northwest dispersal area.
	At least 6 bomb bursts are seen in the Northwest dispersal area.
Defenses.	Nil change.
Shipping.	Only inner portion of harbor area covered. Two barges near ADMIRALTY ISLAND.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

321 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0605/18/L to 1035/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return.

RESULTS: Recco was incomplete due to weather. 10% of assigned area covered. Airplane turned back from 15 miles North of ROOKE ISLAND.

SIGHTINGS: At 0713/L from 6000 feet, 4 unidentified single engine fighters were observed 5 miles South of ROOKE ISLAND flying on a heading of 250 degrees at 6000 feet.

WEATHER: Frontal activity running East-West. 15 miles North of ROOKE ISLAND--could not be penetrated. Ranges crossed at 15000 feet from CAPE WARD HUNT to YULE ISLAND on return.

321 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0625/18/L to 1127/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was completed to LONG ISLAND where airplane turned back because of weather. Route flown: PORT MORESBY to DOBODURA, LONG ISLAND, DOBODURA to PORT MORESBY.

WEATHER: Front off North coast of NEW GUINEA extending East across BISMARCK SEA and NEW BRITAIN and South through the VITIAZ STRAITS to 07OOS and across SOLOMON SEA. Tops to 35000 feet with icing at 15,000 feet to 20000 feet, severe turbulence. Ranges crossed, DOBODURA to PORT MORESBY at 11000 feet, 6/10 cumulus, tops at 15000 feet.

321 E. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25C, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0730/18/L to 1335/18/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to MADANG, GUSAP, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Enroute, Ranges completely covered to 15000 feet, high cirrus at 20000 feet, thin stratus layer over water at 1500 feet, no turbulence. On return, 7/10 cirrus covered at 20000 feet. Ranges completely covered to 14000 feet.

321 F. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0525/18/L to 0829/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE ISLAND, PASS, MADANG, GUSAP and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE, 0555/L, tops of low clouds 2000 feet, 3/10, upper clouds 20000 feet, 3/10, visibility 20 miles. BULLDOG, 0610/L, tops of low clouds 6000 feet, 6/10, upper clouds unlimited, visibility 20 miles. PASS, 0630/L, tops of low clouds 6000 feet, 4/10, upper clouds 13000 feet, 8/10, visibility unlimited. MADANG, 0650/L, low clouds 1000 feet, 1/10, upper clouds 7000 feet, 9/10, visibility unlimited. GUSAP, 0715/L, tops of low clouds unlimited, upper clouds 7000 feet, 3/10, visibility unlimited. PASS, 0740/L, tops of low clouds 6000 feet, 8/10, upper clouds 14000 feet, 5/10, visibility 20 miles.

321 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back from WEWAK at 1010/L. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: MADANG, cumulo-nimbus overcast at 27000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, few scattered cumulus at 7000 feet.

321 D. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0706/18/L to 1524/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was completed 100% as ordered (Visibility 10%). Route flown: DOBODURA, 0600S-15140E, 0600S-15330E, 0530S-15330E, 0530S-15230E, 0450S-15230E, 0450S-15400E, 0615S-15400E, CAPE NELSON to [illegible].

SIGHTINGS: At 1120/L from 1500 feet, 40 to 50 fuel drums (55 gallon), orange or red-lead colored, were seen at 0555S-13400E. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 10/10 strato-cumulus, base 0 to 10000 feet, tops not discernible. Northwest-Southeast front extending from North of KIRIWINA ISLAND to CAPE ROTA. Ranges, 10/10 cumulus from mountain tops to 22000 feet, 8/10 cumulus to 30000 feet.

321 J. SUPPLY DROPPING - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0716/18/L to 1536/18/L.

MISSION: Drop supplies in YAM RIVER area.

RESULTS: Supplies were dropped at 1130/L in area as directed by Australian guide. One chute failed to open. All bundles appeared recoverable. White men were seen.

SIGHTINGS: At 1343/L from 10000 feet, 2 fires approximately 100 yards apart, were seen at 0535S-14250E. At 0900/L, from 7000 feet, a clearing—appearing to be a landing strip on both sides and some European type houses were seen at 0730S-14445E. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: 7/10 strato-covered at 12000 feet at DECEPTION BAY, clear below 12000 feet. 4/10 scattered cumulus at 10000 feet over SEPIK VALLEY. Ranges on return, 7/10 cumulus at 11500 feet, building up to 20000 feet.

V. FIGHTER SQUADRON REPORTS.

Fighters carried out usual escort and patrol missions with nil interception or combat.

SEMA S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:
Paul E. Nauman
PAUL E. NAUMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ALGIERS:

United States Flying Fortresses in their first year of operations in the North African theater, destroyed or damaged 1348 enemy planes and dropped 26,101 tons of bombs on enemy targets in Tunisia, Libya, Sicily, Sardinia, Pantelleria, Italy, France, Germany and Greece. An official announcement said 87 Fortresses were lost from all causes.

CAIRO:

The tiny but strategic Island of Leros, has been captured by the Germans in 5 days of heavy fighting despite a determined resistance put up by its British and Italian defenders, the British Middle East Command announced. The Allied Forces were unable to beat off the Nazis who subjected the Island's 28 square miles to a terrific pounding from the air, meanwhile continuing to land reinforcements by boat and by parachute. The battle ended Tuesday night.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTHERN ITALY:

General Vittorio Ambrosio, whom the Yugoslav's have accused of war crimes, may be replaced soon as Chief of Staff of the Italian Army, it was understood following the announcement by Premier Marshall Pietro Badaglio of the personnel of his Technical Government. Ambrosio recently replaced General Mario Roatta who was removed after an investigation of charges against him.

BERN:

Dispatches from Grenoble, France, to the Swiss newspaper La Suisse, said Grenoble citizens had attacked a German arsenal in that city, slaying 10 Nazi soldiers and blowing up a powder magazine. 15 Frenchmen were killed.

NEW YORK:

The Nazi controlled Mussolini regime is reported to have fined Milan one hundred million lire ($1,000,000) and to have doubled to 2000 the number of hostages seized from the defiant population to stem civilian violence against the Army, Radio Sardinia said.

Nazi aviators on the Italian front are refusing to battle Allied airmen, Robert Dunnett, BBC, reported with the 5th Army, said in a broadcast.

Wendell L. Willkie urged that the Moscow accord reached by the United States, Great Britain, Russia and China, be made the embryo of a general and vital international understanding by enlarging participation to include all the United Nations and eventually all Nations. He spoke at the New York Herald Tribune forum.

The Tokyo Radio announced that Premier Tojo had named three new advisors to the Japanese Cabinet. They are Lt. General Thichi Suzuki, former head of the Cabinet planning board; Yoshisuke Aikwa, former President of the Manchukuo industrial development company and Keito Goto, Vice President of the Tokyo chamber of commerce.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 586, 18 November, 1943.

NEW IRELAND:

Our night reconnaissance units attacked a 6000 ton [redacted] ship in a convoy in St. Georges Channel, scoring a direct hits forward of the bridge.

NEW BRITAIN:

Our long range fighters in a low level sweep from Cape Archway to Lindenhaffen, strafed and sank 3 enemy coastal vessels.

NEW GUINEA: WEWAK:

One of our fighter patrols engaged 20 enemy fighters shooting down 5, with 3 more probable.

MANSA BAY:

One of our heavy reconnaissance units scored 2 direct hits on a 2500 ton cargo ship off the coast, leaving it sinking by the stern.

RAMU VALLEY:

Our medium bombers shot down 2 intercepting enemy fighters and probably destroyed 2 others.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA:

Our medium bombers at low altitude bombed and strafed along the coastal track from Reiss Point to the Masawong River mouth and attacked enemy supply points in the Gusika area. Our light naval craft at night sank 2 enemy barges off Kelana Harbor. A single enemy plane at night dropped 3 bombs on the shores of Langemak Bay without effect.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE:

Our escorted torpedo and dive bombers attacked Kara airdrome with 39 tons of explosives, covering the runway, supply dump areas, and gun positions. Our air patrols attacked targets of opportunity at Buin, Shortland Island, and coastal points from Matchin Bay to Kieta, destroying a floatplane and 10 barges, damaging small cargo vessels and 7 barges, and setting fire to 2 fuel dumps and numerous buildings and huts.

SPORTS:

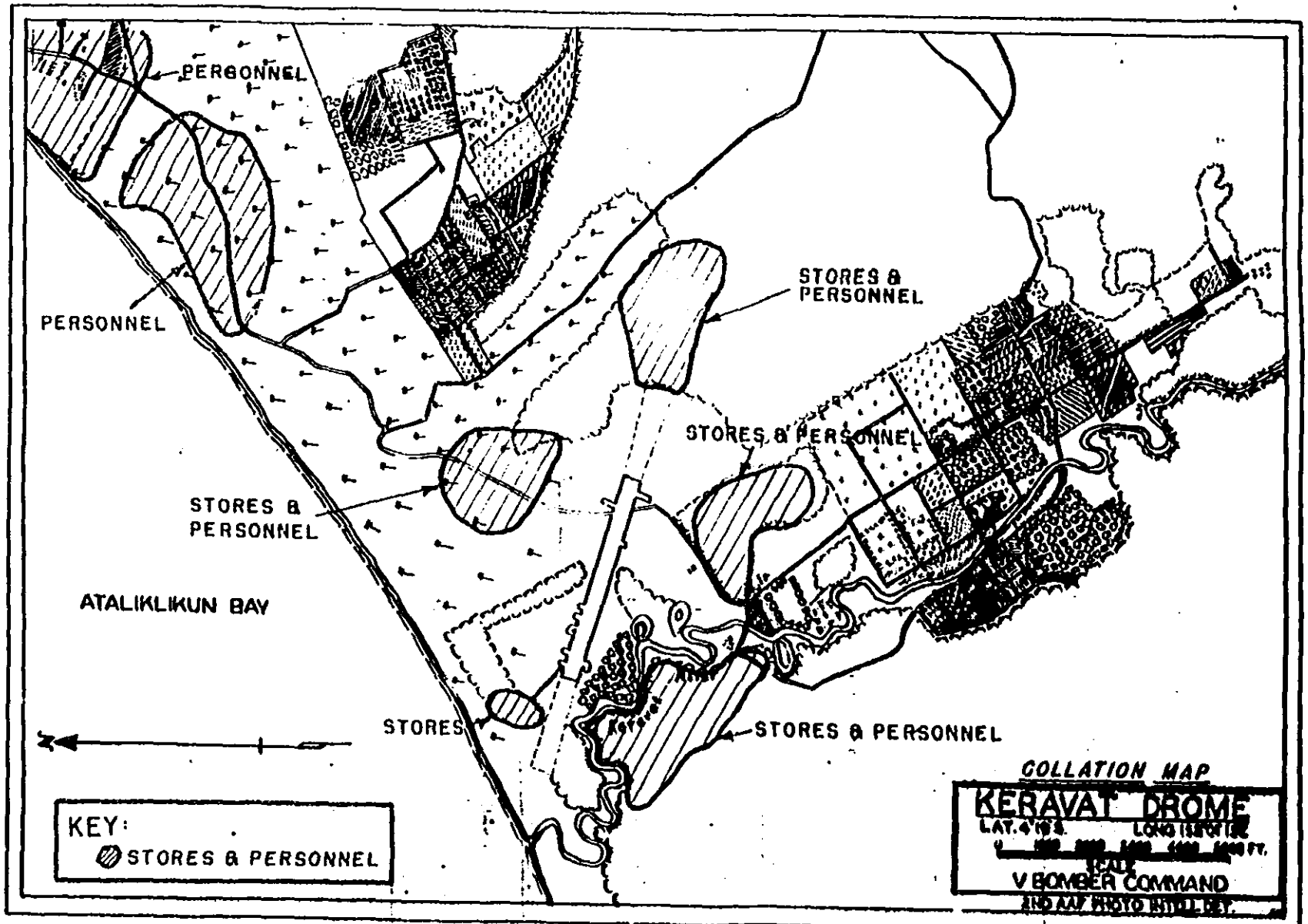
ORANGE, NEW JERSEY:

Heavyweight, Tony Galento, the Orange nightstick, has one foot in the Army. He passed his physical Tuesday and shouted if they will accept me, "I'll moider dem bums, both Japs and Germans".

CHICAGO:

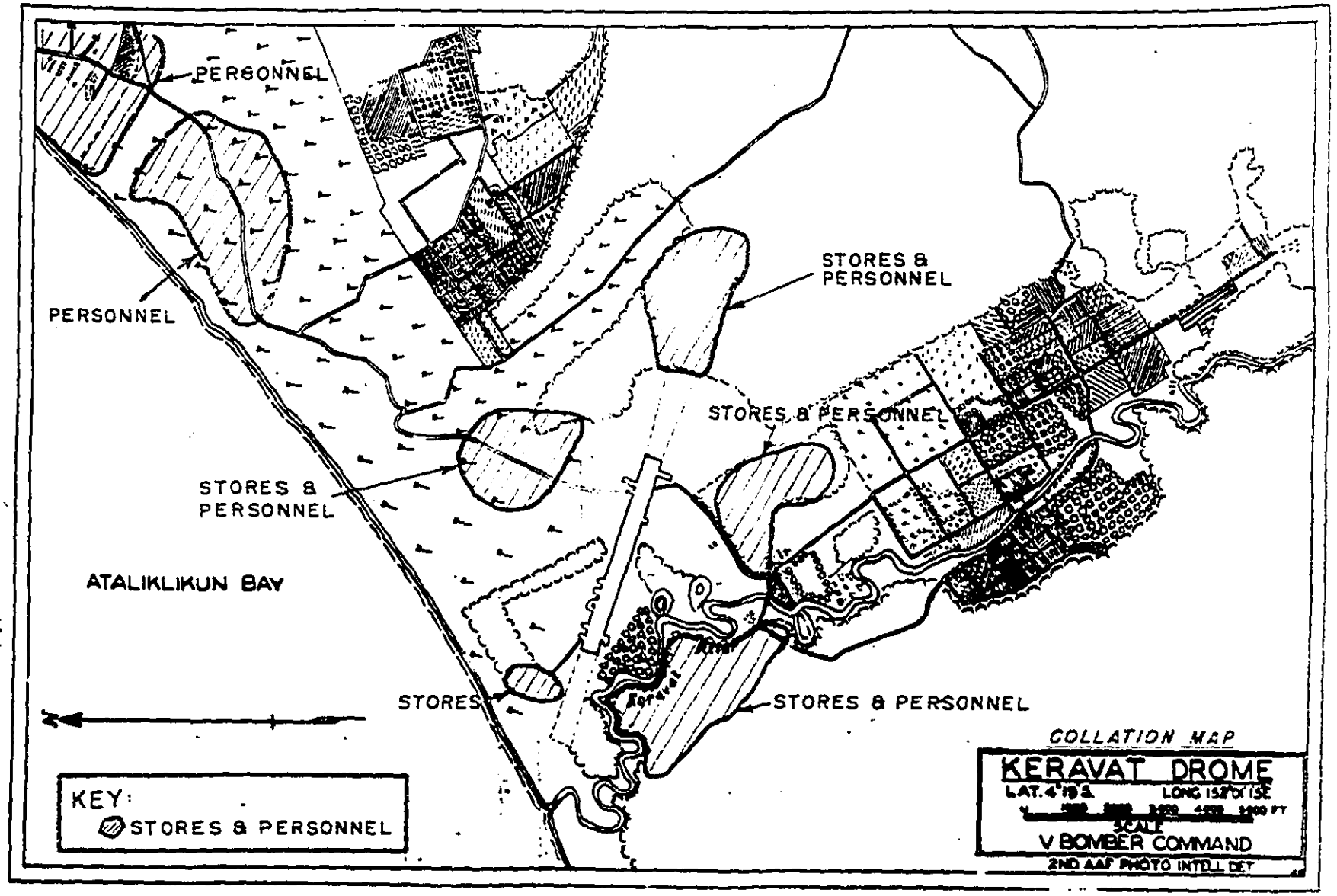
Members of the New York Yankees baseball club, winners of the 1943 World Series, received $204,962.41 as the defeated St. Louis Cardinals $136,641.61 as their share of the total receipts of the 5 games this fall, Commissioner Landis announced.

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
KERAVAT
19/11/43



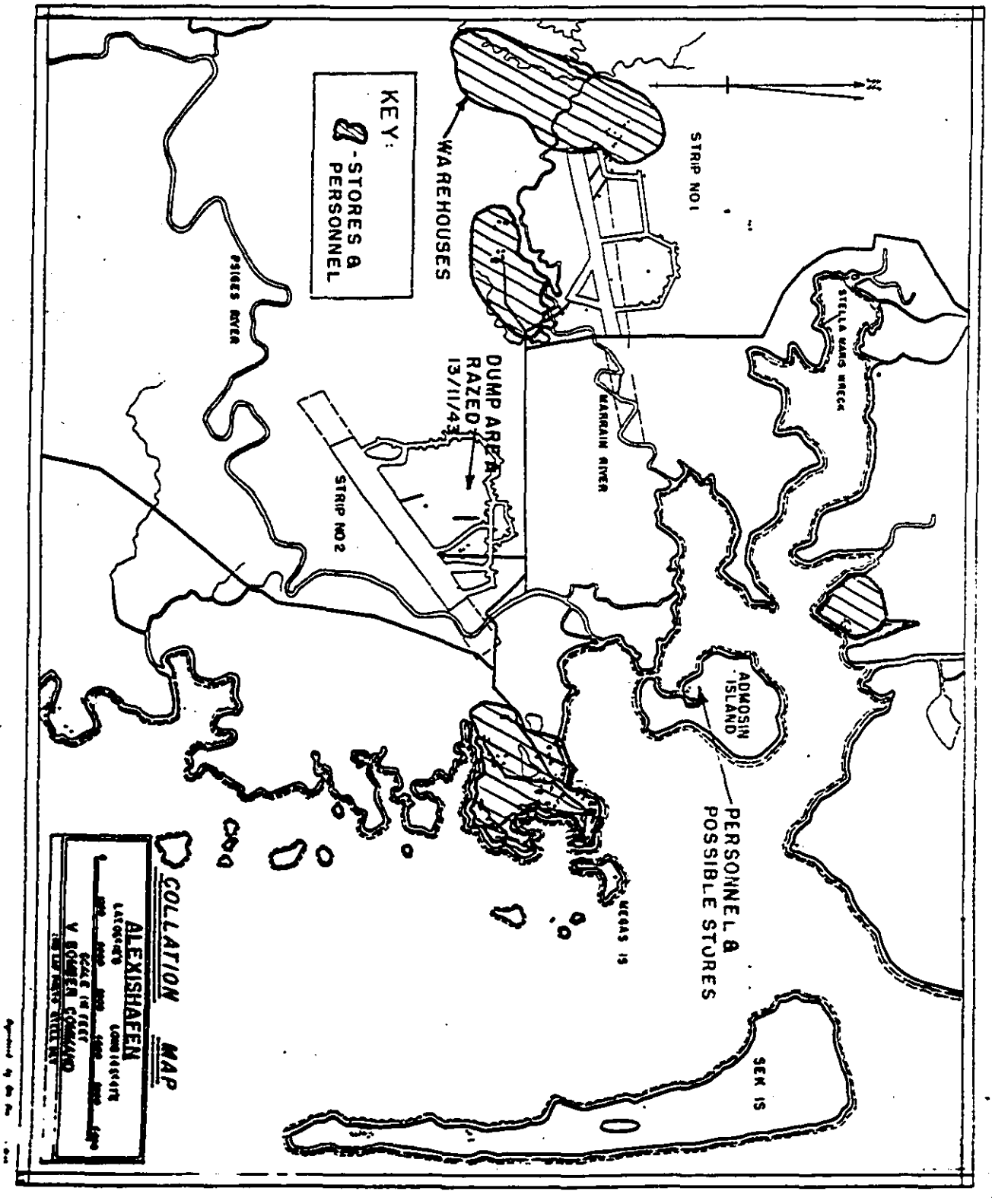
Reproduced by 6th Photo Sqdn

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
KERAVAT
19/11/43

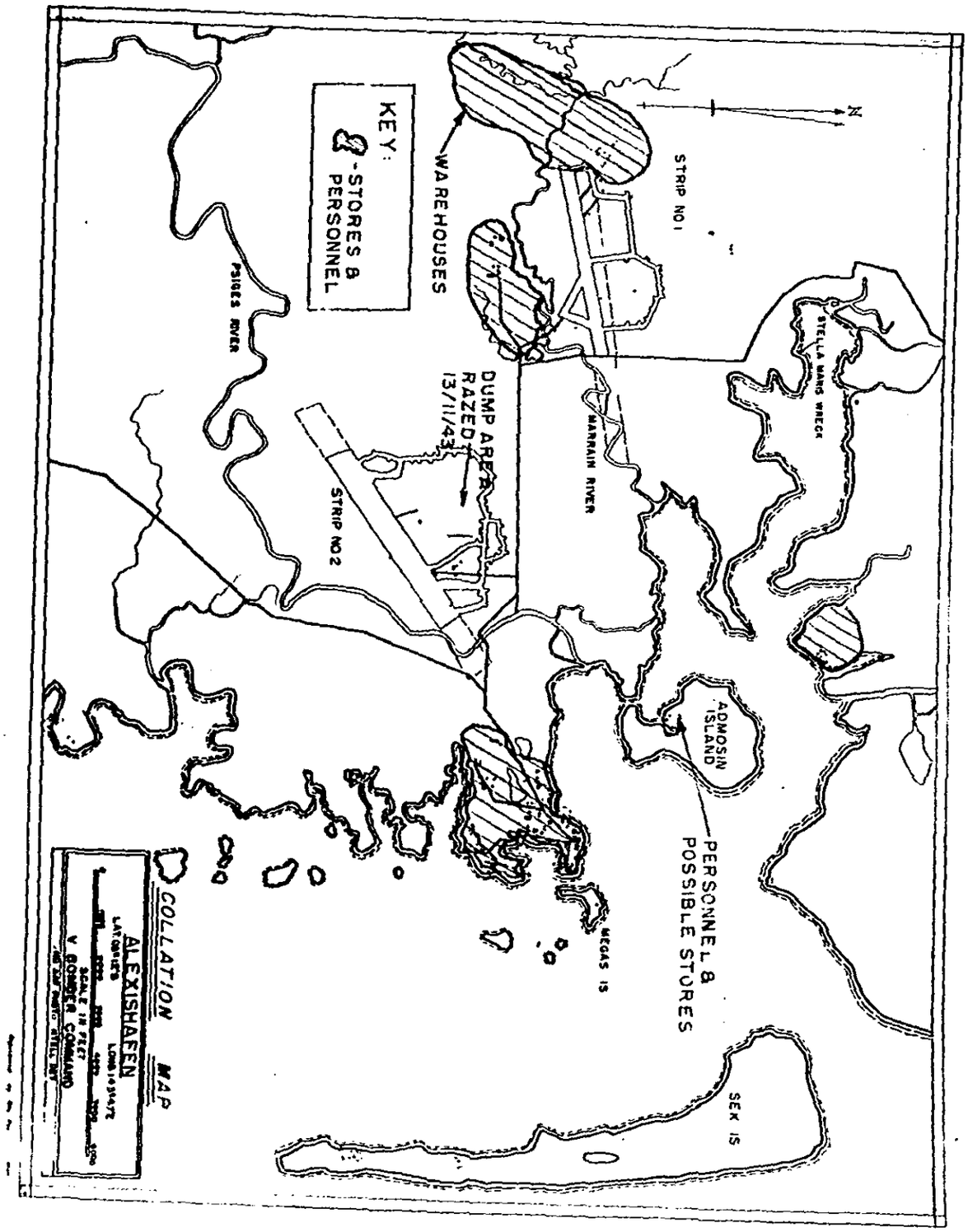


Reproduced by 8th Photo Sqdn

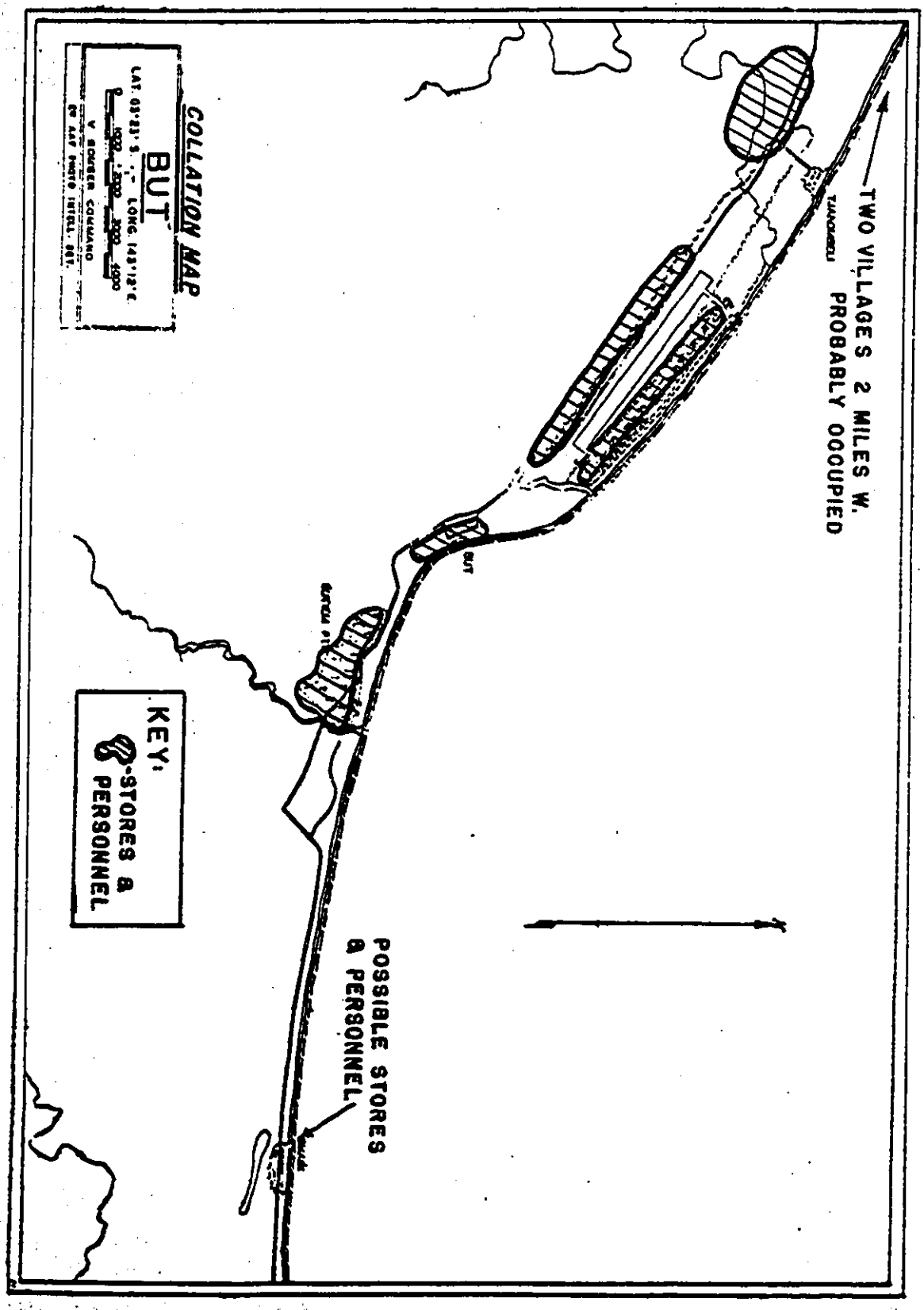
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ALEXISHAFEN
19/11/43



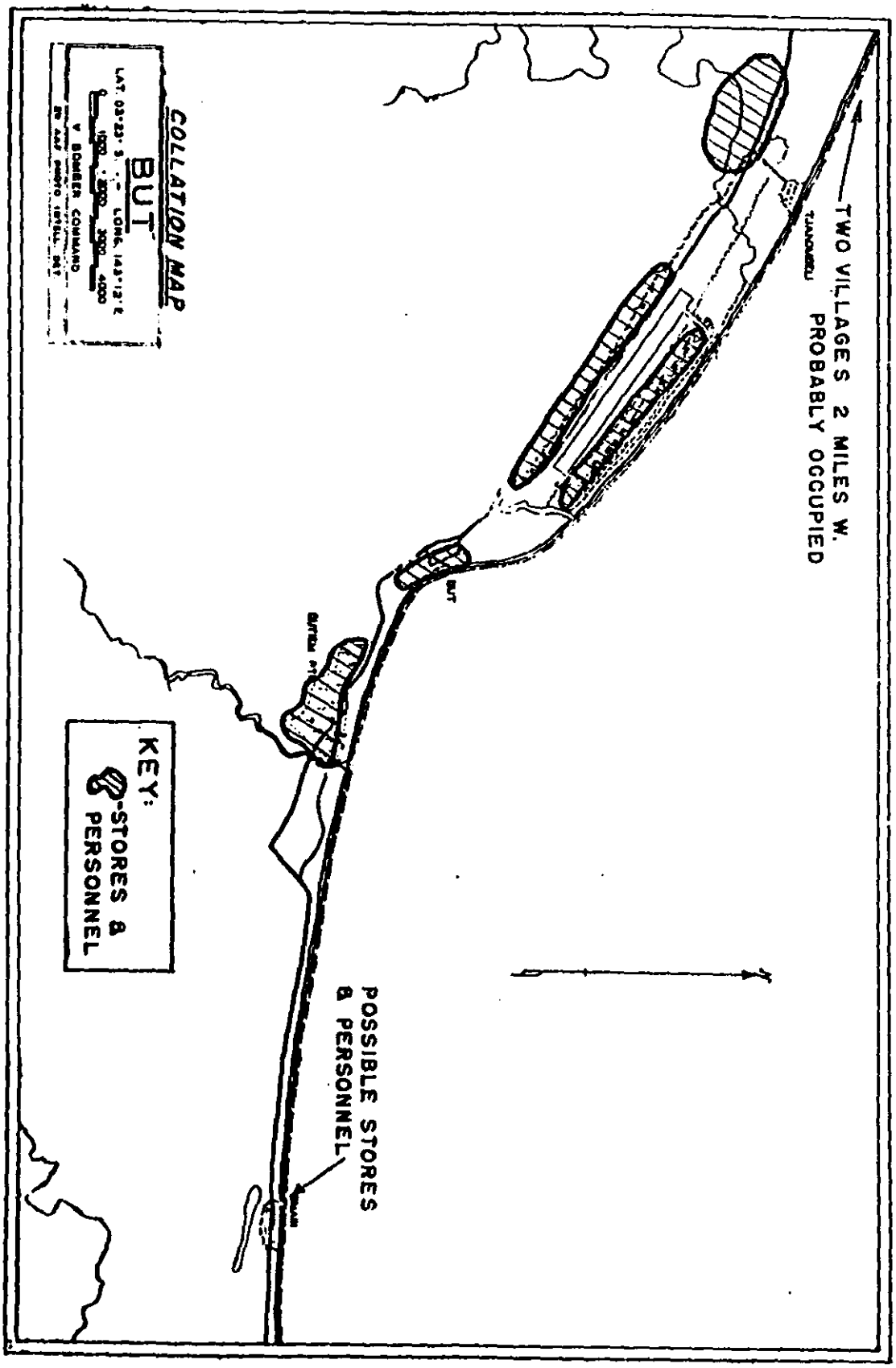
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ALEXISHAFEN
19/11/43



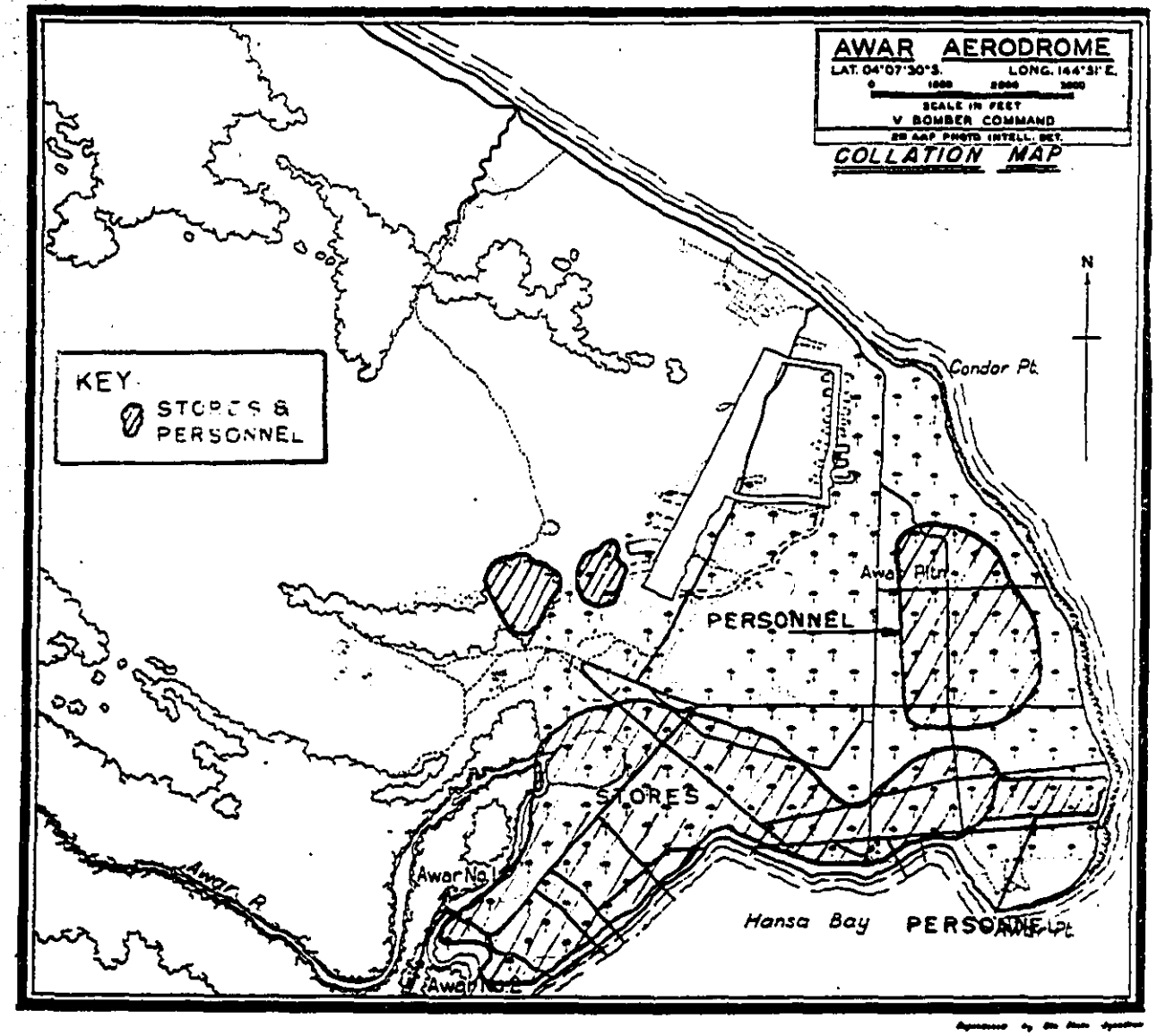
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BUT
19/11/43



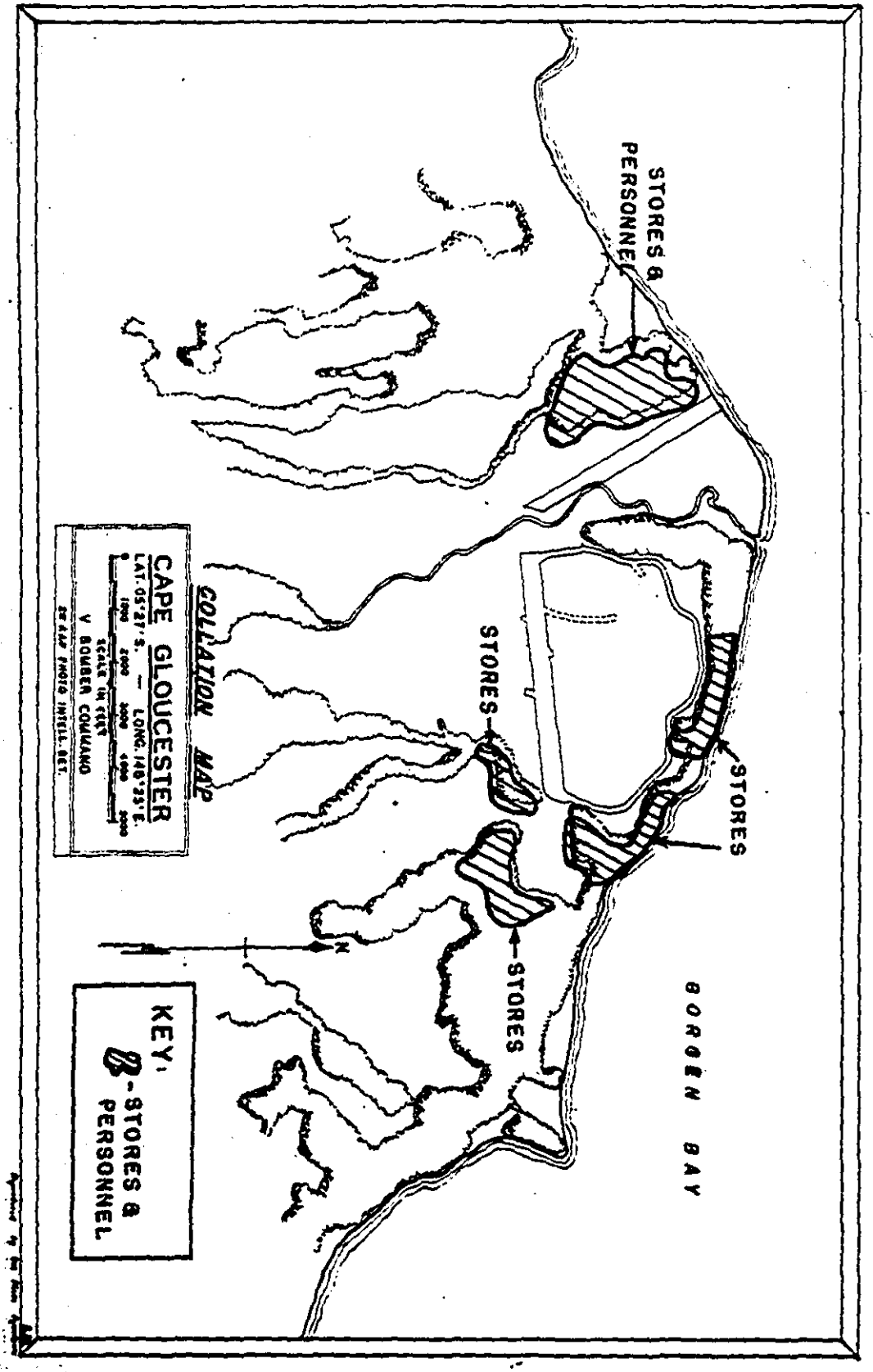
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BUT
19/11/43



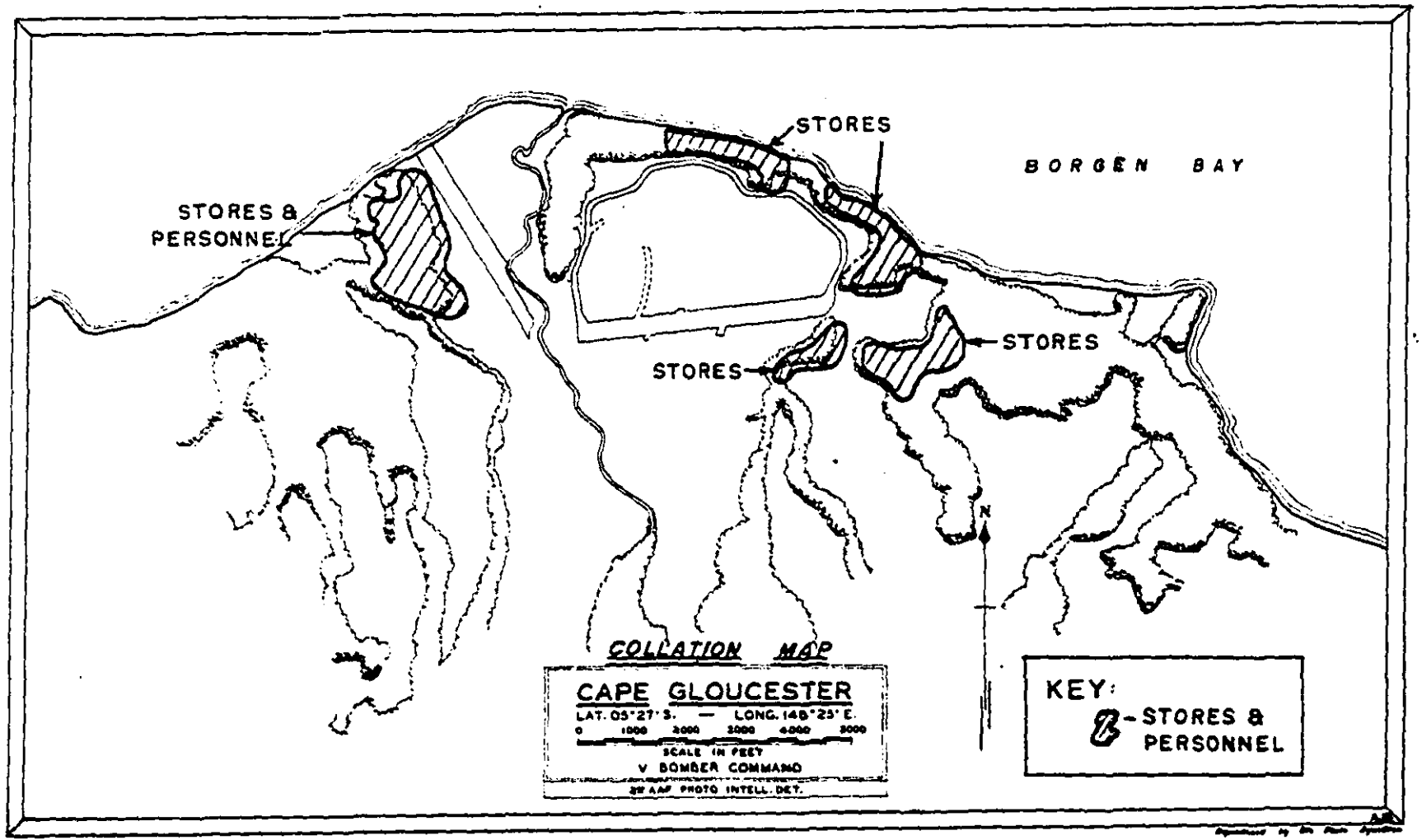
TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
AWAR
19/11/43



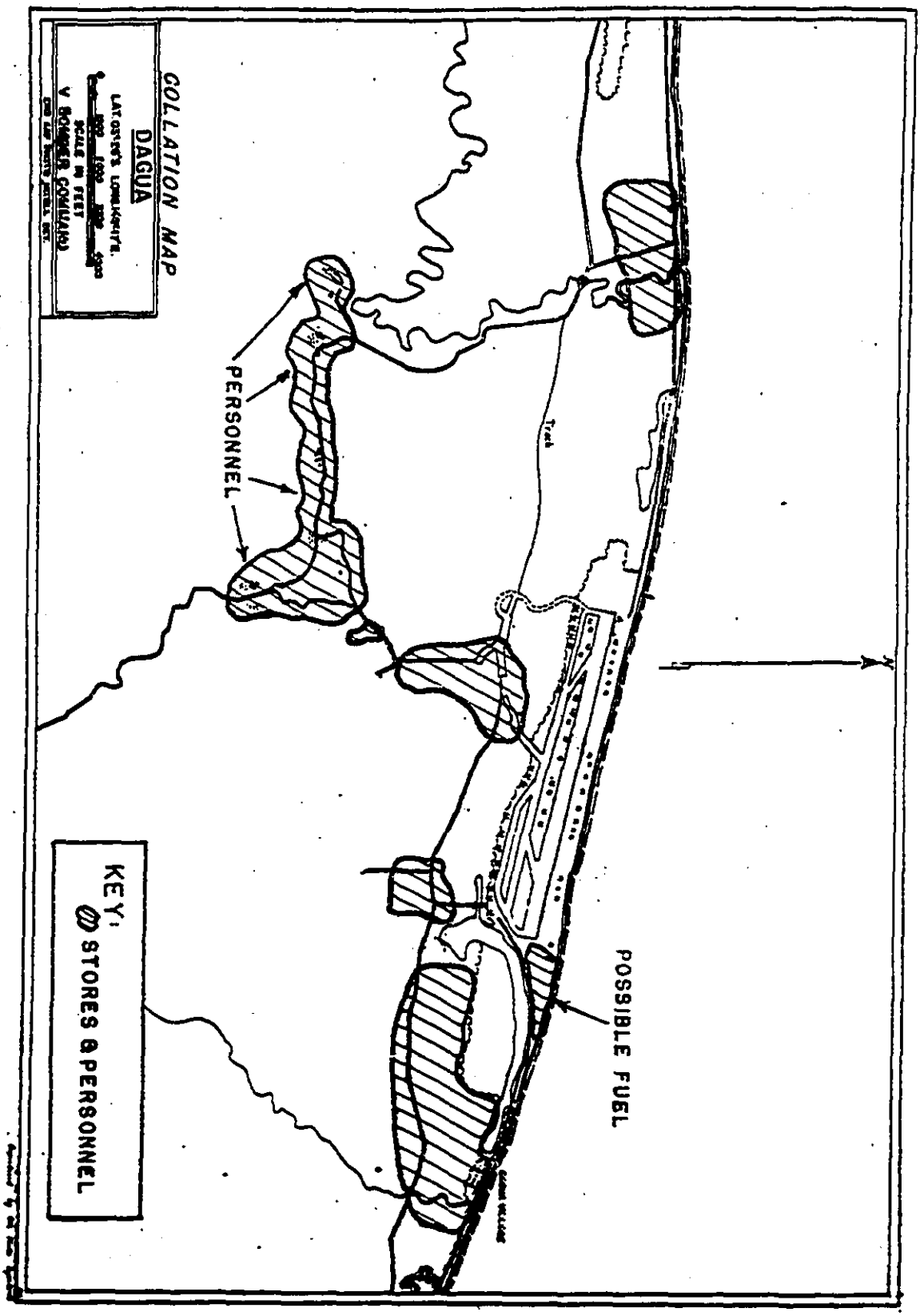
TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
CAPE GLOUCESTER
19/11/43



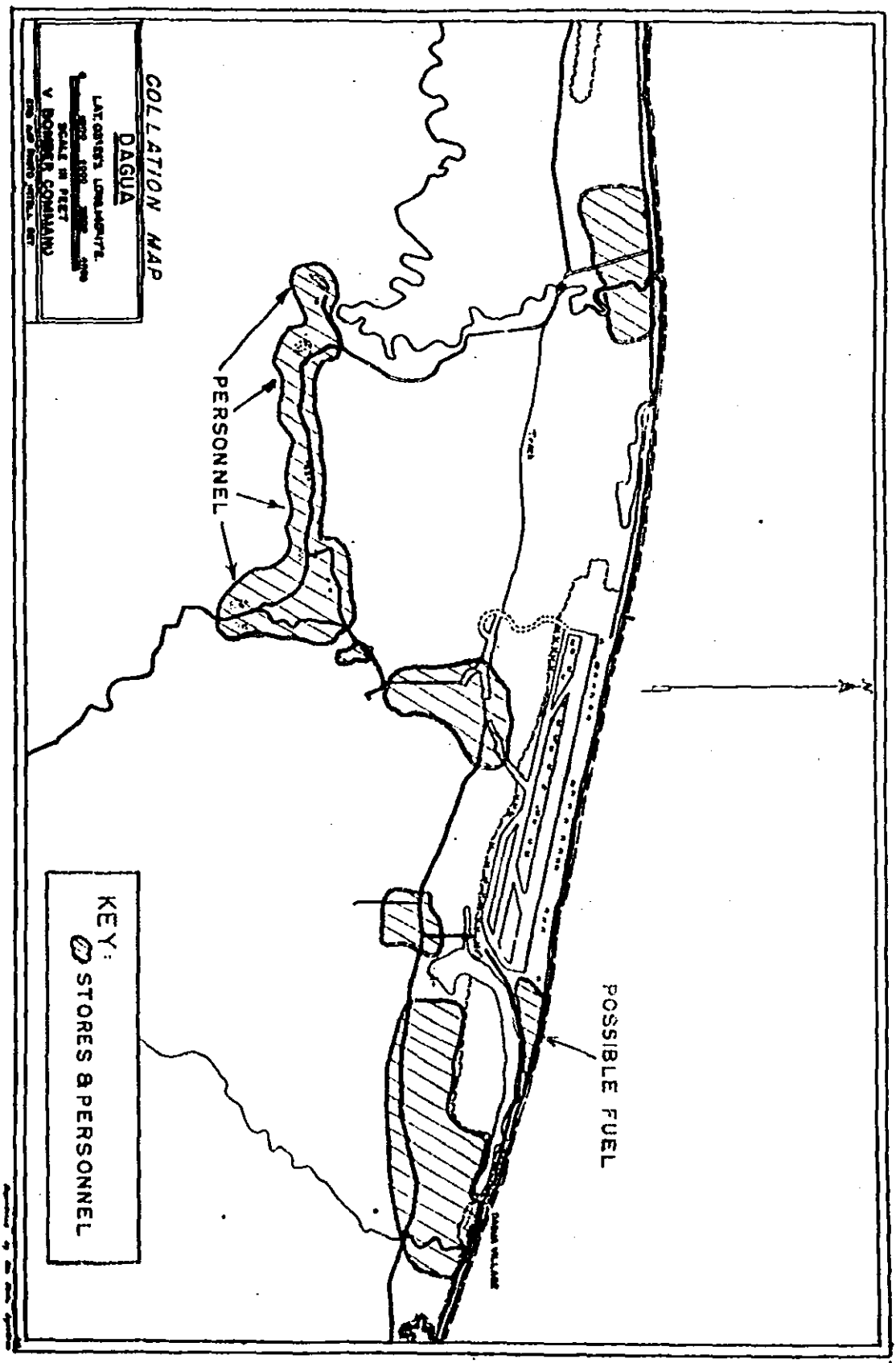
TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
CAPE GLOUCESTER
19/11/43



TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
DAGUA
20/11/43



TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
DAGUA
20/11/43



Report No. 323.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
TTS: QEN
DTE: 19/11/43:
FROM: 1800/18/11/43/L.
TO : 1800/19/11/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

HOLLANDIA-WEWAK: 2 F-5's of the 8th Photo Squadron (322 Z) took operational photos of BUKA, WEWAK, LAGUA and BUT Airdromes from 1030/L to 1040/L and at 1130/L. F-5's also photographed HOLLANDIA HARBOR and Airdrome at 1115/L and 1245/L. Photos were also taken of a prospective drome site 15 miles inland from NUMA and mapping photos from MT. DOMA to MT. BOUGAINVILLE. 8 ZEKES attempted intercept at 1130/L over WEWAK at 32000 feet. F-5 was at 34000 feet and outclimbed ZEKES continuing on to HOLLANDIA. One pilot reported 4 unidentified M/V's stationary in WEWAK HARBOR at 1035/L. Other F-5 pilot sighted 3 unidentified M/V's in same place and 6 to 10 harbor craft. Second pilot also sighted 1 unidentified M/V and 3 harbor craft in HUMBOLDT BAY at 1145/L. F-5's took off individually from NADZAB, proceeded to targets with fighter cover and photographed targets at separate times.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25C of the 822nd Squadron (322 E) completed 100% a Courier Mission to GUSAP, DUMPU and NADZAB. Airplane took off at 0707/L and landed at 1239/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (322 F) completed 100% a weather recce to GUSAP, DUMPU and NADZAB. Airplane took off at 0550/L and landed at 0831/L. There were nil sightings.

DOBODURA-NADZAB: 1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (322 I) completed 100% a Courier Mission to DOBODURA and NADZAB. Airplane took off at 0827/L and returned to base at 1716/L. 2 trips were made from DOBODURA to NADZAB. There were nil sightings.

SEA SEARCHES: (Following Final Mission Report received from FATF:)

1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (322 A) completed an armed recce to 02.45S-149.40E, 0200S-150.40E. 2 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped at 1350 at Europan buildings near jetty on MUSSAU ISLAND. Results were unobserved. At 1210/L, 2 CA's and 5 unidentified M/V's were sighted at 0160S-149.50E on course 190 degrees at speed of 15 knots. At 0955/L, 1 Fox-Able and 1 Corvette were sighted at 0210S-146.30E on course 270 degrees at speed of 10 knots. Low clouds prevented bombing of Fox-Able. At 1120/L, 1 SS was sighted at 0400-149.00E on course 250 degrees at speed of 20 knots. SS crash dived when sighted. Slight, light and medium, inaccurate A/A fire was received from Fox-Able and Corvette. Slight, heavy A/A was fired from CA's but B-24 was out of range.

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (322 B) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. There were nil sightings throughout entire search. Airplane landed at DOBODURA at 1840/L (This Mission Report received from FATF).

1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (322 C) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. At 1226/L, 2 ships were sighted; 1 Sugar-Baker in LANISSO BAY and 1 Sugar-Charlie off CAPE ST. GEORGE. At 1420/L, 1 empty life-raft and 2 barrels with a board lashed to them, were sighted at 0723S-15313E. There were nil other sightings.

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (322 D) took off from base at 0638/L to carry out an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane damaged nose wheel on landing at DOBODURA at 0725/L and was unable to carry out mission.

NOTE: Included in this report are the following Final Mission Reports from FATF:

321 MA. STRIKE: 24 B-25's and 6 B-26's, 22nd Group.

TARGET: Supply dumps and defensive positions in SATELBERG area.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0850/16/L to 0945/16/L.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Our troops are advancing steadily against heavy opposition on the SATELBERG TRACK while the force moving North-West from KUMAWA have overcome enemy resistance and forward elements have gained the SATELBERG TRACK at 561666 to the rear of the enemy position where the main engagement is in progress.

To the North, our patrols, supported by artillery fire, moved West from 2600 foot feature and forced Japs from extensive positions on hill at 571679 (approximately 800 yards East of SATELBERG VILLAGE).

RAMU AREA: No change.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

None reported.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE SOUTHEAST-EN AREA
19 November, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	D/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/C	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT		2	1					3	-5
DAGUA	5		6					11	-5
WEWAK	19	1	1					20	-4
BORAM			1					32	-29
AMAR	3							3	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23					81	+40
WAKDE		13						13	0
Total	61	64	32			6		163	-3

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	T/O	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
KAVIENG	16	15	19			7		57	0
VUNAKANAU	18	17	7					42	-30
LAKUNAI	59	2	14					75	0
RAPOPO		2	3					5	0
HARBOR						26		26	0
TOBERA	40							40	±12
Total	133	36	43			33		245	-18

SOLOMONS:								
BUKA	1	1				3		5	±2
BONIS	1			1				2	0
KAHILI	4							4	-1
BALLALE								0	-1
Total	6	1		1		3		11	0

COMMENTS:

1. SOLOMONS drome count is from photos taken 18/11/43.

2. NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND drome counts are estimates. This area has not had complete photo coverage the last few days. Last photos indicated a large decrease in airplanes on RABAUL dromes but our estimate maintains airplane count more in keeping with normal enemy strength in this area. The 8 SSF loss suffered by the enemy on 17/11/43 over EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY has been deducted. 2 D/B's and 6 unidentified airplanes were also destroyed and have been deducted from the SSF count.

3. BUKA, DAGUA, WEWAK, BORAM and HOLLANDIA were photoed today (19/11/43). 8 enemy SSF were airborne over WEWAK at time and have been added to BORAM count. Remainder of drome count is an estimate. Late this afternoon enemy fighters and bombers were intercepted over FINSCHHAFEN but no reports are at hand at time of publication to include in our estimate.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

None reported.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

322 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0705/19/L to 1640/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to DOBODURA, CAPE WARD HUNT, FINSCHHAFEN, KARKAR ISLAND, WEWAK, 0120S-14415E, ADMIRALTY ISLAND, 0330S-15030E, 0450S-15030E, GARDNER ISLAND, HOOKE ISLAND to DOBODURA. One photo was taken of KARKAR ISLAND. There were nil sightings throughout entire search.

GENERAL: This airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. This Final Mission Report was received from FATF.

WEATHER: West BISMARCK SEA, 6/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 5000 feet, visibility over 12 miles but less than 20 miles. East BISMARCK SEA, 7/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, visibility less than 5 miles. Mild front building up in vicinity of 0400S-1[illegible], precipitation heavy. HUON GULF on return, 5/10 cumulus, tops 8000 feet, base 1400 feet, visibility under 5 miles.

321 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0510/18/L to 1720/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: (1) Possible CL at 0320S-15045E.
(2) Possible dump at SIO MISSION.

RESULTS: (1) 1 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bomb was dropped at 0950/L from 7000 feet at a possible CL at 0320S-15045E. Bomb missed by [illegible] yards off the possible CL's bow with probably no damage.

(2) 1 X 1000-lb. inst. demo. bomb was dropped at 1605/L from 5000 feet at a possible dump 400 feet East of SIO MISSION. Results were unobserved.

(3) Recco was 90% completed. Airplane turned back due to gasoline shortage. Route flown: DOBODURA to 0430S-14600E, 0430S-15030E, 0330S-14600E, 0250S-14800E, 0300S-14730E, 0400S-14730E, 0400S-[illegible]30E, 0300S-14530E, 0200S-14530E, 0140S-14445E, 0130S-[illegible]00E, 0340S-14500E, 0614S-14755E, DOBODURA. Photos were taken of warship, bombing of warship and of bombing at SIO.

A/A: Intense, medium and heavy, accurate from warships at 0320S-15045E.

SIGHTINGS: At 0950/L from 7000 feet, a possible CL and possible DD were sighted at 0320S-15045E on course 60/70 degrees at speed of 20 knots. CL was a light beige color and had an unbroken deck line. DD was 1/3 or 1/4 shorter than CL. At 1510/L from 5000 feet, nil definite signs were seen of possible fighter strip on KARKAR ISLAND.

GENERAL: 4 X 100 lb. practice bombs were released 15 seconds before 1000 lb. demo. bomb was dropped at CL, causing CL to commit definite evasive tactics. Procedure was successful. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return and remained there overnight.

WEATHER: East BISMARCK SEA, 3/10 strato-cumulus at 4000/6000 feet. Apparent front 50 miles North of ROOKE ISLAND, towering cumulus from 2000 feet, tops not discernible. West BISMARCK SEA, 4/10 cumulus, base 1000 feet, tops 2000 feet, 10/10 stratus at 9000 feet. HUON GULF, 4/10 stratus at 16000 feet. Ranges on return (19/11/43), CAVU except for 1/10 cumulus in Valleys.

321 AA(1) STRIKE - 7 B-25's, 2nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0909/18/L.

TARGET: Jap defensive positions in SATELBERG area. Coordinates: 534698—526697—536699—534700. (Map Ref. SATELBERG, 1/25000).

RESULTS: 42 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 5000 feet at the target. Results were generally unobserved but it appeared that all bombs fell in the target area. One building was seen to blow up on slope to right of ridge in South part of target. 3 flares were dropped after release of bombs. Much light grey smoke was seen in the target, visible [illegible] miles—apparently bomb bursts. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: Numerous huts, apparently new, and not all shown on maps and photos were observed in the SATELBERG area.

WEATHER: Enroute, broken to overcast with towering cumulo-nimbus and rain over SOLOMON SEA. To Eastward—visibility unlimited. Target, overcast with visibility unlimited. Return, stratus above. Visibility unlimited, with occasional rain clouds.

321 AA(2)STRIKE - 6 B-26's, 19th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0850/18/L to 0915/18/L.

TARGET: Enemy positions in the SATELBERG area.

RESULTS: 30 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 4800/5000 feet on course 320 degrees on the target and throughout target area causing a large quantity of dust and smoke. One large explosion, considered to be definitely larger than a bomb explosion, was seen directly in the target with a quantity of bluish-black smoke. Tracer bullets were seen going off in all directions from the center of the target—indicating hit on possible ammunition dump. 6 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were salvoed over the target due to rack failure and hit 150 yards to the right of the target with no apparent results other than bomb explosion. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: At 0910/L from 4800 feet, one single engine airplane was seen.

WEATHER: Scattered to clear over the target area with 30/35 mile visibility, ceiling 6000 feet, solid overcast at 10000 feet.

321 AA(3)STRIKE - 8 B-25's, 33rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0905/18/L.

TARGET: Supply dump 2½ miles Northwest of SATELBERG.

RESULTS: 48 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 5000 feet on the target. Bombing was excellent. All bombs landed in the target area. Results were unobserved due to smoke and dust from bomb explosions. Photos were taken of the bombing.

WEATHER: Enroute, high scattered stratus along the NEW GUINEA coast. HUON GULF, scattered cumulus, tops 4000/6000 feet. Frontal activity along NEW BRITAIN. Target, overcast 6000 feet, lowering to 5000 feet. Return, cumulus inland, broken overcast 7000 feet, clearing toward the East.

321 AA(4)STRIKE - 9 B-25's, 408th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0905/18/L.

TARGET: Wooded area 2 miles Northeast of SATELBERG.

RESULTS: 48 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 4500 feet on the target. Bombing was excellent. Bombs fell in designated area and within 300 yards West of the area. A direct hit was scored on one hut. Photos were taken of the bombing.

GENERAL: One airplane of this Squadron took off late and made bombing run with the 33rd Squadron.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered to broken cumulus, base 4000 feet, tops 7000 feet, off coast of MOROBE, overcast 10000 feet, lowering to 8000 feet, occasional mist. Overcast lowering to 5500 feet from HOPOI to FINSCHHAFEN. Clear over the target. On return, scattered to broken cumulus, base 4000 feet, 7/10 covered off MOROBE, clear inland, visibility over 30 miles.

322 D. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: Nil.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Airplane took off from base at 0638/19/L and landed at DOBODURA at 0725/L. In landing at DOBODURA, nose wheel gave way damaging airplane. Nil personnel injured. Mission incomplete.

322 E. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0707/19/L to 1239/19/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB, LAE and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: 5/10 low cumulus, tops 3000/5000 feet. Broken middle clouds, 14000 feet.

322 F. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0530/19/L to 0831/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: YULE ISLAND, PASS, GUSAP, DUMPU, NADZAB and return.

RESULTS: Mission completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings throughout entire search.

WEATHER: YULE, 0600/L, tops of low clouds 1000 feet, 2/10, upper clouds 8000 feet, 7/10, visibility 10 miles. PASS, 0630/L, tops of low clouds 5000 feet, 3/10, upper clouds 13000 feet, 9/10, visibility 10 miles. GUSAP, 0645/L, tops of low clouds 8000 feet, 4/10, upper clouds, 13000 feet, 10/10, visibility 20 miles. DUMPU, 0700/L, tops of low clouds unlimited, upper clouds 11000 feet, 10/10, visibility unlimited. NADZAB, 0730/L, tops of low clouds 7000 feet, 8/10, upper clouds 12000 feet, 8/10, visibility 10 miles, light showers.

322 G. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-5's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: [illegible]

AREA OF PHOTO: HOLLANDIA and WEWAK.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken of BORAM, WEWAK, DAGUA, EUI; a prospective drome site 15 miles inland from NUBIA; HOLLANDIA HARBOR and drome and mapping photos were taken from MT. DUAM to MT. BOUGAINVILLE.

INTERCEPTION: 8 ZEKES attempted interception at 1130/L over WEWAK at 32000 feet. F-5 was at 34000 feet and outdistanced ZEKES, continuing on to HOLLANDIA.

SIGHTINGS: One pilot observed 4 unidentified M/V's, stationary, in WEWAK HARBOR at 1035/L. The other pilot sighted 3 unidentified M/V's in same place and 8 to 10 harbor craft. One unidentified M/V was sighted in HUMBOLDT BAY at 1245/L, as well as 3 harbor craft.

GENERAL: First F-5 took off from NADZAB at 0910/L with 2 P-38's as escorts. 1 P-38 turned back halfway from WEWAK and F-5 and 1 P-38 completed coverage of WEWAK, returning to NADZAB at 1300/L. Second F-5 took off from NADZAB at 1010/L with 2 P-38's as escort. 1 P-38 turned back halfway from WEWAK and F-5 and 1 P-38 continued on to photograph WEWAK and HOLLANDIA returning to NADZAB at 1410/L.

WEATHER: WEWAK, coastline clear, cumulus inland, 8/10 covered. HOLLANDIA, clear, broken middle clouds. RAMU VALLEY, open.

322 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0915/19/L to 1720/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was completed 100% as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: At 1226/L from 9500 feet, 2 ships were sighted; one Sugar-Baker in LANIESO BAY and one Sugar-Charlie off CAPE ST. GEORGE. At 1420/L from 9500 feet at 0723S-15313E, one empty life raft was observed. Two barrels with a board lashed to them were sighted in same position.

NIL SIGHTINGS: 0600S-15140E at 1059/L. 0600S-15330E at 1131/L. 0535S-15330E at 1149/L. 0535S-15230E at 1219/L. 0450S-15230E at 1226/L. 0450S-15400E at 1256/L. 0615S-15400E at 1330/L.

WEATHER: Over NEW BRITAIN from GASMATA to CAPE ORFORD, cumulus built up to 6500 feet, occasionally built up to 15000 feet over ocean. Light overcast of alto-stratus at 16000 feet, over RABAUL, ST. GEORGES CHANNEL down to WIDE BAY. SOLOMON SEA, scattered cumulus from 7500 to 13000 feet with 4/10 covered. From 0730S-15230E, clear weather to South with unlimited visibility. [illegible] crossed from GOODENOUGH BAY to CAPE NELSON at 10000 feet. Ranges from CAPE NELSON to HOOD POINT, built up to 25000 feet.

322 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0630/19/L to 1730/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0845N-14940E, 0200N-15140E and return.

TARGET: MUSSAU ISLAND.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1350/L from 7700 feet at European buildings near jetty on MUSSAU ISLAND. Results were unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing and of convoy (See SIGHTINGS).

A/A: Slight, light and medium, inaccurate from Fox-Able and Corvette. Slight, heavy from CA's but B-24 was out of range.

SIGHTINGS: At 1210/L from 5000 feet, 2 CA's and 5 unidentified M/V's were sighted at 0100N-14950E on course 190 degrees at speed of 15 knots. At 0955/L, 1 Fox-Able and 1 Corvette

were sighted at 0210S-14830E on course 270 degrees at speed of 10 knots. Several runs were made over Fox-Able and Corvette but bombs were not dropped due to low hanging clouds. At 1120/L, 1 SS was sighted at 0000-14900E on course 250 degrees at speed of 20 knots. SS crash dived when sighted.

GENERAL: Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. This Final Mission Report received from FATF.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, clear, 4/10 to 6/10 scattered cumulus at 4000 feet, thin alto-stratus at 12000/16000 feet. Front reported 18/11/43 has disappeared. Equatorial front, weakened, moved North to 0100S.

3-2 I. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0827/19/L to 1716/19/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA and MADZAB.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: MADZAB, 1550/L, scattered clouds up to 15000 feet. PASS, 1620/L, heavy built up clouds to 20000 feet, one opening at 16000 feet. YULE ISLAND, 1700/L, broken clouds up to 12000 feet, 7/10 covered.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

An enemy force of fighters and bombers were intercepted this afternoon by our fighters over FINSCHHAFEN. Details of interception are not available.

SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Vaughan

PAUL E. VAUGHAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

LONDON:

The Russians announced capture of the strategic rail junction of Korosten and ousting of the Germans from the Rechista, astride the Gomel-Warsaw railway to the North. Korosten, on the railway to Leningard and to Warsaw, controls rail lines vital to German positions in Russia.

ALGIERS:

German preparations for a counter-attack along the middle sector of the Sangro River front were smashed Wednesday by the concentrated fire of 8th Army artillery while continued heavy rains converted many rivers and creeks along the Italian battlefront into raging torrents. Diverted from Italian targets by unfavorable weather, American Flying Fortresses and B-25 Mitchells again turned their wrath against important enemy airdromes in the Athens area in a continuing effort to curb German air power that was so effective in overcoming the British and Italian defenders of Leros Island.

LONDON:

Germany has closed the Italian-Yugoslav frontier in what appeared to be a move to block any possible merger of guerrilla factions, it was reported Thursday. The report was broadcast by Radio France, Algiers.

American Liberator bombers attacked Nazi occupied Norway for the second time in 3 days Thursday in a swift sequel to a R.A.F. blasting Wednesday night of the world's largest chemical works at Ludwigshafen, Germany and another stinging Mosquito raid on Berlin. Three Liberators landed in neutral Sweden at noon after hitting Norway, an Official Swedish announcement said. Their crews were safe. The new targets in Norway were not immediately specified.

PERU:

Thousands of Rumanians are crowding neutral consulates seeking visas to go abroad as a result of tensions created by the nearness of Russia's Armies; the revival of a dispute with Hungary and increasing indications of a government crisis. A Bucharest dispatch said 30,000 persons had booked visas to Turkey and 35,000 to Switzerland.

BURMA:

Lt. General Stilwell's Headquarters announced today that American trained and equipped Chinese troops have penetrated 20 to 30 miles deeper into extreme Northern Burma across mountain chains and jungle since October 26th, advancing in front of American units building a supply road from India to China's Burma Road. The Chinese pushed South into the Hukwan Valley. They now hold the North banks of the Chindwin River and the Taraung, a Northern tributary. The Chinese High Command reported today that fighting against the Japs was still raging on the central China front with heavy casualties on both sides.

CHUNGKING:

A national service law requiring all male Chinese between 18 and 50 to do at least 80 hours of labor servicesevery year unless specially exempted, was announced by the Executive Yuan Council. Labor service for women also is to be provided under a separate law.

ANKARA, TURKEY:

Turkey is moving toward war with the Axis. Her assistance to Allied Armed Forces closely approximates that which the United States gave Britain in the months before Pearl Harbor, is rapidly carrying the Nation toward a war footing. Details of the help already given naturally cannot be disclosed. However, genuine cooperation with the Allies is definitely on the increase.

CAIRO:

R.A.F. Hurricanes and Spitfires swept over Crete and Rhodes in the Aegean area Wednesday on offensive and reconnaissance patrols in the wake of the Allied loss of Leros, hitting numerous targets. A small supply ship was left smoking East of Crete.

CAIRO:

General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, British Commander in the Middle East, stated enemy casualties at Leros exceeded the total number of British Forces employed in defense of the Island. Leros fell Tuesday. The Germans claimed the capture of 3200 British and 5350 Italian (Badoglio) troops.

MOSCOW:

The Soviet attitude toward the post-war status of small European States was set forth Thursday by Izvestia, the Government newspaper. It called for a transition period to give these Nations time to determine their own futures and strongly opposed any federation of these countries against Russia.

LONDON:

Belief that President Roosevent, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshall Stalin would meet soon on neutral ground, was widely rumored in London but without official confirmation.

PACIFIC WAR:

Admiral Halsey's South Pacific Headquarters reported today that for the second time since the invasion of the Northern Solomon's opened, an American Naval Task Force has moved the entire length of the Island of Bougainville to bombard Jap air bases at Buka. For 45 minutes the ships shelled the Buka airdrome area Wednesday. Jap float-planes and torpedo planes tried to hit the ships during the trip up the coast but they sustained no damage, Halsay's Headquarters said. Enemy planes reappeared on the homeward trip but made no move to attack. One enemy plane was shot down and another possibly destroyed. Communiques also reported a small ship was sunk at Augusta Bay Tuesday by Japanese planes which at night attacked vessels in a convoy bringing in supplies and reinforcements. There were some casualties, the announcement said.

Admiral Nimitz reported that Liberator bombers of the United States Army's 7th Air Force struck at enemy bases in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands on Tuesday and Wednesday, extending into the 5th successive day the promised campaign to give the Japs no respite in the central Pacific. There were no losses in personnel or planes in these latest attacks but a retaliation attack by Jap planes on Funafuti, American base in the Ellice Islands to the South, killed 2 men and damaged several planes on the ground. Large fires were started by Tuesday's raid on the airdrome area of Jaluit, in the Marshalls, and one enemy floatplane probably was destroyed out of a formation that attempted to intercept. Jaluit was the target of the raid on the previous day when a ship in the lagoon was left in flames and 3 other vessels probably damaged. The raid on Tarawa, major Jap base in the Gilberts, was made on Wednesday. It was a low altitude bombing and strafing attack and there was no enemy interception. Weak anti-aircraft fire came from the adjacent Betio Island. Apparently observation was difficult as there was no announcement of damage. A raid on Tarawa on Monday started large fires. The current series of raids on the enemy's positions in the Gilberts and Marshalls, started last week 3 days after Admiral Nimitz said at a Marine Corps celebration that we now have the means to take the offensive and to blast the Jap out of his Island strongholds. A day later in an Armistice Day address, the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet added our time has come to attack, henceforth we propose to give the Jap no rest. All hands in the Pacific share this resolve.

G.H.Q. SOUTH EAST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 587, 19 November, 1943.

DUTCH NEW GUINEA:

Our medium units at night bombed the warehouse and jetty area at Kaimana and attacked Utarom airdrome, starting large fires at both targets. Two barges off the coast at Kipja were strafed and wrecked and 5 coastal vessels near Dobo in the Aroe Islands were attacked.

TANIMBAR ISLAND:

Our medium bombers and long range fighters attacked a 1500 ton cargo vessel and an escorting Corvette off the West coast, scoring direct hits on both ships. The cargo vessel sank and the Corvette was beached, a total loss.

TIMOR:

Our medium units bombed Manatutuo Village starting fires.

NEW BRITAIN: RABAUL:

Our medium units in a pre-dawn attack bombed Lakunai airdrome dispersal areas with good coverage.

GASMATA:

Our fighters dive bombed enemy supply areas at the Arwok River. Our long range fighters carried out a low level sweep along the coast to Wide Bay damaging 2 coastal vessels and strafing installations at Brown Island and Cape Beechey.

VITU ISLAND:

One of our heavy reconnaissance units bombed enemy barges in John Albert Harbor.

NEW GUINEA: WEWAK:

Our air patrols engaged a large force of enemy fighters, overtook them, and shot down 6 with one probable. Two of our planes are missing.

BOGADJIM:

Our fighter patrols strafed enemy motor traffic on the Yaula Road.

SIO:

Our heavy units bombed supply dump areas.

FINSCHHAFEN:

Our ground forces have initited pressure on enemy defense positions near Satelberg. Our dive bombers in direct support attacked enemy installations at Masangkeo. 5 enemy planes ineffectively raided before dawn.

RAMU-MARKHAM VALLEY:

Light and ineffective enemy pre-dawn air raids were reported at Lae and Dumpu.

SOLOMONS: BOUGAINVILLE: BUKA:

Our heavy units at midday dropped 60 tons of bombs on the airdrome, and our medium and heavy units in 4 pre-dawn raids bombed and strafed the airdrome, Schara Island and the passage area starting fires. Our light naval units bombarded the airdrome before dawn.

EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY:

Our ground forces are steadily enlarging their perimeter against ground opposition which has cost the enemy over 800 known deaths to date. In support our dive bombers attacked enemy positions in the Java River area. During a night attack on our shipping, 3 enemy planes were shot down. We lost one small vessel with some casualties. At Kieta, our medium units and fighter patrols in various sweeps around Bougainville Island, bombed and strafed Kalili, Peperang, Tokein Bay and from Kieta to Tinputa. 4 barges were sunk and a small cargo vessel [illegible]