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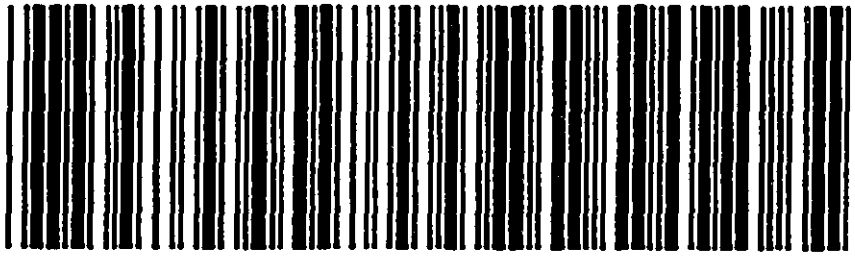
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/14/1

AIR LIAISON

1 Air Liaison Group (1 AL Grp)

December 1943, part 3, A-2 periodic reports



1/14/1-0093

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 352.

SECRET

:AUTH: C.G. :
:INITS: [illegible] :
:DATE: 18/12/43:

1 8 DEC 1943

FROM: 1800/17/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/18/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

RABAUL-CAPE HOSKINS: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (351 H) was over RABAUL from 0915/L to 0935/L at 32000 feet but was unable to take photos due to clouds. Photos were taken of CAPE HOSKINS airdrome at 1005/L from 33000 feet. At 1015/L from 20000 feet, an explosion was seen in the water 20 miles Southwest of GASMATA. Nil airplanes or vessels were seen in vicinity.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-25D-1 of the 501st Squadron (351 G) completed 100% a weather recce to REIN BAY, CAPE GLOUCESTER, CAPE RAOULT, GASMATA and return. 12 X 100 lb. bombs were dropped at CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdromes; 6 bombs at 0445/L and 6 bombs at 0543/L. Bombs were dropped from 5000 feet and nil results were observed. At 0438/L, a light was seen in vicinity of SIMBAN VILLAGE on ROCHE ISLAND.

25 B-24's of the 90th Group (351 H) bombed the No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER from 0946/L to 0948/L. 198 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped from 8500/9400 feet on the target. All bombs fell on or near strip No. 2 rendering approximately 3000 feet of strip unserviceable temporarily. One 2 EB on East end of N. 2 strip was probably destroyed. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. Fires and columns of smoke were observed along shore of BORGEN BAY as result of Strike by 345th Group. 6 to 8 fighters which appeared serviceable, were seen in the revetment area North and Northwest of No. 2 strip. One 2 EB at East end of strip No. 2 was probably unserviceable due to recent emergency landing on the airdrome.

BORGEN BAY: 24 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (351 I) bombed and strafed coastal defenses at BORGEN BAY from 0940/L to 0948/L. 180 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped at the target. 36910 X .50 cal. and 10700 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing the target. Coastal defenses near NAMAMO POINT at BORGEN BAY were effectively bombed and strafed. 10 to 12 barges in BORGEN BAY hide-outs some of which were unserviceable, were lightly bombed and strafed. Slight, inaccurate M/G fire was encountered over the target. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. Log bridges were seen over streams near coast at BORGEN BAY. Bombing by B-24's appeared to be excellent. Footbridges and tents were observed 1 mile South of intersection of the ITNE and POTSAMER RIVERS.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (351 D) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0745/L and landed at 1410/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (351 E) completed 100% a weather recce to WAU, FINSCHHAFEN, CAPE GLOUCESTER, LAE, NADZAB, KAIAPIT and return. Airplane took off at 0433/L and landed at 0835/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 822nd Squadron (351 L) completed a Special Courier Mission to NADZAB. Airplane took off at 0710/L and landed at 1110/L. There were nil sightings.

MORESBY to GOODENOUGH: 1 B-25D-1 of the 499th Squadron (351 M) completed 100% a Courier Mission from PORT MORESBY to GOODENOUGH ISLAND and return. Airplane took off at 1415/L and landed at 1717/L. There were nil sightings.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (351 A) completed 100% an armed recco of the BISMARCK SEA. At 1018/L, a large amount of debris was observed on the surface of the water at 03055-14500E. Debris appeared to consist mainly of logs and boxes. At 1620/L, the No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER was definitely unserviceable--full of bomb craters. There were nil other sightings.

1 B-24 of the 90th Group (351 B) took off at 0725/L to carry out an armed recco of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane landed at DOBODURA on return. No Final Mission Report has been received.

1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (351 C) completed 95% of an armed recco to 0245N-14540E, 0200N-15140E. A front extending North, East and West of 0130N could not be penetrated. 2 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped at 1330/L on a native village on Western part of UNEA ISLAND. Bombs appeared to hit in village itself but nil damage was apparent. At 1400/L, quantities of smoke were observed over the No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. There were nil other sightings.

1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (351 F) took off at 0752/L to carry out an armed recco of the SOLOMON SEA. Starting point of recco was not reached. Airplane turned back due to radio difficulties after attempt was made to repair trouble in flight and landed at base at 1228/L.

NOTE: Included in this report are the following Mission Reports from FATF:

350 AA. ARMED RECCO - 10 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: TALASEA to BORGEN BAY.

TARGET: TARGET HILL.

350 BB. ARMED RECCO - 3 P-39Q's, 82nd Recn Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: SAIDOR to FORTIFICATION POINT.

350 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

350 DD. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

350 EE. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to 02.5N-149.40E. 020ON-151.40E and return.

350 GG. ARMED RECCO - 2 B-24's, 63rd Squadron. (PRELIMINARY)

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

ARAWE: P-38's of the 433rd Fighter Squadron on patrol over ARAWE intercepted 2 enemy formations of 12 to 15 fighters each ZEKES and TONYS. 2 ZEKES and 1 TONY were definitely shot down. 2 P-38's were lost but one pilot was rescued.

B. Ground Forces.

See SUMMARY attached.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

See SUMMARY attached.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
18 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4	9	2				15	0
DAGUA	12	9	11				32	0
WEWAK	9	2	5			6	22	0
BORAM	19	1					20	0
AWAR	8						8	0
HOLLANDIA	10	46	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	62	82	41			6	191	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:							
KAVIENG	16	15	19	27	7	84	0
VUNAKANAU	10	19	4	10		43	0
LAKUNAI	60	3	10	10		83	0
RAPOPO		6	2	10		18	0
HARBOR					20	20	0
TOBERA	20			3		23	0
BORPOP		4				4	0
Total	106	47	35	60	27	275	0

COMMENTS:

1. Without photos of NEW GUINEA or RABAUL area dromes today (18/12/43) our present airplane estimate is allowed to remain.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 17/12/43. (350 F)

Very cloudy photos except one good photo of dromo. There are 3 SSF in revetments along Northeast dispersal lane and 1 A/C in center of East end of runway sitting at a right angle to the runway. It is probably damaged since the runway has not been repaired. Bombs are seen bursting South of West of the fortified Hill but clouds and smoke obscure the results.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

350 AA. ARMED RECCO - 10 P-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: (1) Nil. (2) 1555/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: (1) Barge search from TALASEA to BORGEN BAY.
(2) TARGET HILL—CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: 10 P-25D-1's arrived at BORGEN BAY at 1545/L at minimum altitude. Barge search to TALASEA was not carried out due to rain storms East of BORGEN BAY. The 10 P-25D-1's attacked TARGET HILL at 1555/L. 1 bombing and strafing pass was made. 45 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. Bombing was excellent. Bombs were well dispersed over all slopes and on top of target. The target was thoroughly strafed with 6500 X .50 cal. Results of bombing and strafing were unobserved. Photos, including some moving pictures, were taken of TARGET HILL.

A/A: One short, very inaccurate burst of M/G fire came from a known position along west shore of BORGEN BAY.

SIGHTINGS: A small fire giving off heavy, white, smoke was observed 3 miles South of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. All but one crew reported seeing NIL signs of activity or emplacements on TARGET HILL. One Navigator reported 2 possible dug-outs about 15 feet wide and partially camouflaged on West side of Hill, near top. NIL guns were observed on Hill. Top 2/3rds of Hill was composed of dull-red earth, very little grass. 4 unidentified single engine airplanes were sighted 14 miles due East of ARAWE moving South. 2 probable barges were sighted along West shore of BORGEN BAY. Barges seemed to be partly orange colored as though they were been painted. 3 boats were seen along shore at GRASS POINT.

WEATHER: CAPE HARD HUNT, 1422/L, slight haze and towering cumulus over mountains, visibility 20 miles. TIN-SOEMAPEN, 1450/L, 4/10 cumulus at 6000 feet, visibility unlimited. Rains SW and E of CAPE GLOUCESTER area, 1555/L, CAVU with solid rains 30 miles to East and South.

350 BB. ARMED RECCO - 3 P-39Q's, 82nd Ron Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0710/17/L to 0850/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Barge hunt from SAIDOR to FORTIFICATION POINT.

RESULTS: A well camouflaged barge on the West side of REISS POINT was strafed. Bullets were seen hitting the target but damage was unknown due to heavy camouflage.

6 men were seen to leave vicinity of barge as our airplanes approached and take cover in the jungle. 37 X 37 mm and 832 x .50 cal. were expended in strafing.

SIGHTINGS: Fires were observed at GNIESENAU POINT on either side of river. When airplanes went to investigate, explosions occured on both banks sufficiently heavy to rock one of our airplanes. What appeared to be bomb craters were observed afterwards. Numerous small fires were observed from YACOMI to SAPEUAK BAY.

WEATHER: Target, rain to SIC; below SIC, ceiling 5000 feet to 10000 feet; front building up around FORTIFICATION POINT and Southwest.

350 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0747/17/L to 1940/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: MAREMI A.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped at 1000/L from 6000 feet at wooded area on river just East of MAREMI A. One bomb burst in woods and one bomb burst in kunai patch nearby. Results were unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recco was 100% completed. Route flown: DOBODURA to CAPE WARD HUNT, 0600S-14800E, 0400S-14600E, 0400S-14500E, 0300S-14300E, 0200S-14500E, 0124S-14114E, 0133S-14505E, 0200S-14500E, 0200S-14600E, 0300S-14700E, 0400S-14800E, 0500S-14900E, 0330S-15030E, 0450S-15030E, 0500S-14900E, 0600S-14600E, CAPE WARD HUNT to DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 0930/L from 6000 feet, one probably serviceable BETTY was seen 100 yards from Eastern end on runway No. 2 at CAPE GLOUCESTER. 7 to 8 fighters and bombers (mainly bombers) possibly serviceable, unidentified as to type, were observed 3000 feet North of No. 2 strip. At 0945/L from 6000 feet off CAPE HENSING, between BOI-GEN BAY and ROTTOCK BAY, 12 possible small Naval vessels, possibly DD's were sighted, course undetermined.

WEATHER: Enroute, East BISMARCK SEA, 5/10 cumulus, base 1500 feet, tops 8000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, 5/10 cumulus, base 5000 feet, tops 10000 feet. Target (and return), 4/10 cumulus, bases 4000 feet, tops 9000 feet.

350 DD. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0913/17/L to 1545/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed. Route flown: DOBODURA to CAPE NELSON, 0500S-15230E, 0500S-15330E, 0630S-15230E, 0600S-15400E, 0630S-15400E, CAPE WARD HUNT to DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 1120/L from 1500 feet, position 0530S-15140E, a large fire emitting white smoke was seen about 2 miles inland from JACQUINOT BAY. At 1150/L from 1500/2300 feet

position 0455S-15305E, 1 NELL was sighted about 20 miles South of NEW IRELAND. Enemy airplane approached to within 300 yards, about 500 feet below our airplane but did not attempt interception. 180 X .50 cal. were fired at the NELL. Radar at that time picked up IFF, supposedly from enemy airplane. At 1240/L our airplane picked up some pulsations at 0500S-15320E at 1500 feet, but there were nil visual sightings. At 1500/L from 1200 feet, 7 small black boxes with white tops, floating with even distribution of boxes in line, were sighted at 0812S-14920E.

WEATHER: Western SOLOMON SEA, 3/10 to 8/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 4000 feet. Cirro-stratus at 15000 feet. East SOLOMON SEA, 2/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 4000 feet, cirro-stratus 15000 feet, visibility unlimited throughout entire recce.

350 EE. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0714/17/L to 1712/17/L.

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

TARGET: Unidentified vessel at 0055N-14930E.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. torpex bombs were dropped at 1208/L from 9000 feet at an unidentified enemy vessel (probable DD) at 0055N-14930E. Closest bomb missed by 150 feet, nil damage observed. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recce was completed 80% due to weather. Route flown: DOEODUPA to TOLOKITWA ISLAND, 0242S-14620E, 0030S-14852E, 0050N-14910E, 0040N-14910E, 0100S-14900E, 0322S-14830E, ROOKE ISLAND and return.

A/A: Moderate, heavy, inaccurate, bursts were 1000 feet above and below, from 6 guns on enemy vessel; 4 on bow and 2 on stern. Closest burst was 500/600 feet above.

SIGHTINGS: One unidentified enemy vessel (probable DD) was sighted at 1200/L at 0055N-14930E on course 110 degrees at a speed of 12 knots. At 1540/L from 2000 feet, approximately 100 boxes, logs and debris, were seen floating in water at 0600S-14800E. At 0910/L from 2000 feet, position 0710S-14610E, 1 SS was seen surfacing with conning tower exposed. SS submerged on course 90 degrees.

GENERAL: 4 bombing runs were made over vessel; 3 first at 6000 feet and the rest at 9000 feet.

WEATHER: STRAITS, 2/10 stratus at 25000 feet. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 9/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 10000 feet. BISMARCK SEA to MANUS ISLAND, 5/10 cumulus, base 1000 feet, tops 8000 feet, 8/10 stratus at 25000 feet. Equator, 4/10 cumulus, base 1500 feet, tops 3000 feet, 1/10 cirrus at 30000 feet. CAPE GLOUCESTER on return, 9/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 7000 feet. STRAITS, clear.

350 GG. ARMED RECCO - 2 B-24's, 63rd Squadron (PRELIMINARY REPORT).

AREA OF SEARCH: (1) 2230/17/L to 0330/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: Convoy at 0437S-14821E.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed by one airplane. 1 B-24 returned to base early due to mechanical trouble. At 2336/L from 5000 feet, a convoy was picked up consisting of 2 unidentified ships, 2 Sugar-Charlies and 1 Sugar-Baker. Convoy was at 0437S-1461E heading for WITU ISLANDS. On approach, Sugar-Baker was between 2 Sugar-Charlies which then dispersed. Bombing run was made on a heading of 48 degrees. 3 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped in 70 foot train, scoring 1 direct hit. A large orange yellow burst was seen and debris was also seen thrown into the air. Ship broke up. B-24 circled over position again and was able to distinguish only a small portion of ship, either bow or stern, then above water. B-24 continued on recco to NEW HANOVER, NEW IRELAND, CAPE LAMBERT and REIN BAY with nil sightings.

351 E. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0433/18/L to 0835/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE ISLAND, WAU, FINSCHHAFEN, CAPE GLOUCESTER, FINSCHHAFEN, LAE, NADZAB, KAIAPIT, WAU, YULE ISLAND to base.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE, 0500/L, scattered stratus at 7000 feet. WAU, 0527/L, stratus at 2000 feet, 9/10 covered, middle stratus at 14000 feet. FINSCHHAFEN, 0600/L, scattered stratus at 10000 feet. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 0625/L, broken stratus at 11000 feet, widely scattered low stratus and strato-cumulus. FINSCHHAFEN, 0655/L, CAVU. LAE, 0710/L, widely scattered patches of low stratus, CAVU. NADZAB, 0715/L, patches of low stratus over MARKHAM at 1000 feet. KAIAPIT, 0730/L, CAVU. WAU, 0755/L, broken light cumulus at 7000 feet. YULE, 0815/L, scattered strato-cumulus and alto-cumulus.

351 G. ARMED WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0830/18/L to 0915/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to FINSCHHAFEN, ARAWE POINT, REIN BAY, CAPE GLOUCESTER, BEELINE BAY, CAPE RAOULT, CAPE BACH, GASMATA and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed. Weather was reported half-hourly. At 0445/L, 6 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped on CAPE GLOUCESTER airdromes. At 0543/L, 6 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped on CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdromes. Bombs were dropped from 500 feet. It was impossible to determine results or estimate damage.

SIGHTINGS: At 0438/L, a light was seen in vicinity of SIMBAN VILLAGE (ROOKE ISLAND). There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: 0800S-14600E, 0345/L, altitude 1000 feet, overcast, visibility 10 miles. Alto-cumulus, 7/10, base 3000 feet, flight conditions, contact. 0530S-14618E, 0445/L, altitude 8000 feet, visibility 10 miles, alto-cumulus, 8/10, base 12000 feet, cumulus 1/10, 4000 feet, tops. 05425-14618E, 0545/L, altitude 8000 feet, cloudy, alto-cumulus, 7/10, base 12000 feet, cumulus 2/10, tops 4000 feet, flight conditions good.

0654S-15030E, 0630/L, altitude 5000 feet, partly cloudy, visibility 30 miles, alto-cumulus, 5/10, base 12000 feet, cumulus 2/10 below, tops at 8000 feet, turbulence, flight conditions good. Thunderheads Southeast of GASMATA, cumulo-nimbus, 4/10 from 4000 to 30000 feet. PASS, 0900/L, CAVU at 8000 feet.

351 A. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0644/18/L to 1842/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recce. was 100% completed as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: At 1018/L from 4000 feet, a large amount of debris was seen on surface of the water at 0305S-14500E. Debris appeared to consist mainly of logs and crates. At 1620/L from 4000 feet, No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER was full of bomb craters--definitely unserviceable.

NIL SIGHTINGS: 0600S-14800E at 0823/L from 3500 feet. 0400S-14500E at 0955/L from 2000 feet. 0200S-14300E at 1115/L from 1500 feet. 0133S-14500E at 1222/L from 5000 feet. 0340S-15030E at 1454/L from 4900 feet.

WEATHER: Weather and visibility very good throughout recce. Scattered thunderstorms between NEW HANOVER and MANUS ISLAND. Weather over Ranges, very bad on return--built up to at least 25000 feet along CAPE WARD HUNT--YULE ISLAND route.

351 C. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0610/18/L to 1630/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: PORT MORESBY to 0245N-1A940E, 0200N-15110E and return

TARGET: UNEA ISLAND.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay target bombs were dropped at 1330/L from 1000 feet on a native village on Western part of UNEA ISLAND. Bombs appeared to hit in Village but no damage was apparent. Photos were taken of the bombing and of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Recce was 95% completed. Front extending North, East and West of 0130N could not be penetrated.

SIGHTINGS: At 1400/L, smoke in quantity, was observed over No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: Generally clear. For scattered cumulus, good visibility except for frontal activity North of 0130N. Ranges clear enroute out and building up to 17000 feet on return.

351 D. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0745/18/L to 1410/18/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, clear with cloud tops at 7000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, clear. On return, scattered cumulus building up to 15000 feet.

351 H. STRIKE - 7 B-24's, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0940/13/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--No. 2 strip.

RESULTS: 56 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 9400 feet on a heading of 260 degrees starting about 500 feet in from East end of strip and extending for about 3000 feet. Bombing was excellent. One twin-engine silver airplane on the strip near the East end was believed destroyed by near hits. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent.

WEATHER: Very good. 4/10 scattered cumulus over the Ranges and 2/10 scattered cumulus around the target at 6000 feet but target was open.

351 H. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0946/18/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--No. 2 strip.

RESULTS: 48 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 8800 feet on a heading of 276 degrees on the target. Bombing was excellent. All bombs hit in target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0946/L from 8800 feet, one twin-engine silver bomber was reported on center at West end of No. 2 strip. 6 SSF were reported in wooded area North of West end of No. 2 strip.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent. 1 B-24 returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble. 1 B-24 was attached from the 400th Squadron on this Mission.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA enroute and return, 2/10 cumulus, tops to 8000 feet. Target, clear. Ranges, 5/10 cumulus building up to 16000 feet.

351 H. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0946/18/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--No. 2 strip.

RESULTS: 46 X 1000 lbs. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 8500 feet across target on a heading of 270 degrees. Bombs covered center section of strip. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: One twin-engine silver colored airplane was observed at East end of strip No. 2 in same position as reported on December 17th. 3 twin-engine dark-green airplanes were observed on center of East end of strip No. 2 near dispersal bays. 2 crews reported 3 to 4 barges near LAGUNEN POINT--serviceability undetermined.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was good.

WEATHER: Target, clear with 2/10 cumulus inland. Ranges on return, 5/10 scattered cumulus, tops 16000 feet.

351 H. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0947/10/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--No. 2 strip.

RESULTS: 48 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 9100 feet on a heading of 270 degrees on the target. Bombing was considered excellent with all bombs hitting in revetment areas approximately 225 feet North of center of No. 2 strip. Dust and smoke from bombing prevented accurate assessment of damage. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0945/L from 9100 feet, 4 barges, serviceability undetermined, were observed on East shore of BORGEN BAY. One silver colored twin-engine airplane was observed on East end of No. 2 strip. Airplane appeared serviceable. One twin-engine airplane was seen in a revetment South of center of No. 2 strip and 6 to 8 single-engine unidentified airplanes were seen in dispersal area West of Northwest of strip No. 2--serviceability undetermined. Fires and smoke were observed along West shore of BORGEN BAY as result of bombing by B-25's.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, 2/10 scattered cumulus, tops 6000 feet. Target, 1/10 scattered cumulus, tops 7000 feet. Ranges crossed, CAPE WARD HUNT to YULE ISLAND, at 15000 feet, 5/10 cumulus, tops 12000 feet.

351 I. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0943/10/L.

TARGET: BORGEN BAY.

RESULTS: 42 X 300 lb. 5/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. 39 bombs were dropped on target and 3 bombs were dropped among barges at large hideout in BORGEN BAY. Bombing was excellent. Target was thoroughly with 10350 X .50 cal. and 3900 X .30 cal. Results of bombing and strafing were unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0944/L, a large column of black smoke was observed at CAPE GLOUCESTER which resembled an oil fire. At 0936/L, a foot bridge and banks were observed 1 mile below the intersection of the ITNE and POTSAMER RIVERS.

WEATHER: Enroute, 0915/L, cumulus clouds, tops 1500 to 2000 feet, 2/10. Target, C.AVU. On return, 1020/L, cumulus clouds starting at 1000 feet and building up to 6000 feet.

351 I. STRIKE - 5 B-25D-1's, 499th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0942/18/L to 0946/18/L.

TARGET: BORGEN BAY.

RESULTS: 36 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay dem. bombs were dropped. Bombing was excellent. 4 bombs were dropped near NATAMO POINT, outside of assigned target. The target as well as adjacent areas were thoroughly strafed with 7700 X .50 cal. and 700 X .30 cal. Results were generally unobserved, however, on leaving area many craters were observed in target. Known A/G position (28 X) was thoroughly strafed.

A/A: Slight, light, inaccurate A/C fire was received from position 28 X. Tracers were seen falling short in front of formation.

SIGHTINGS: One small boat was seen ½ mile from mouth of IINE RIVER. Many craters were observed in target area. 2 barges were seen on coast near LEREMA VILLAGE at 8493 (This and all following references to Western NEW BRITAIN Prov., 4 miles to 1 inch, Preliminary Edition). 2 newly camouflaged barges were observed on East side of NATAMO POINT. Coastal road around BORGEN BAY appeared well-used. Ruts showed presence of wheeled vehicles. Much smoke was seen resulting from bombing of CAPE GLOUCESTER by B-24's. Approximately 15 serviceable barges were seen by 2 crew members at mouth of River at 7837. Bridge was observed over the GURISAI RIVER at 9685. 2 red roofed European type houses were seen in KOKOPO VILLAGE at 9394. Defense position 30X was not seen by any crew member on initial run or enroute out.

GENERAL: 1 airplane of this Squadron left formation at FINSCHHAFEN on return. Results of this airplane are not included in this report, however, airplane did reach target.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, haze at 2000/3000 feet. PASS, clear at 9000 feet, 2/10 scattered cumulus, base 11000 feet, tops 14000 feet over Ranges. Enroute over water, 2/10 scattered cumulus, 1200 to 2500 feet. NEW BRITAIN, 3/10 scattered cumulus at 3000/4500 feet. Target, scattered cumulus at 2000/2500 feet.

351 I. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0940/18/L to 0947/18/L.

TARGET: BORGEN BAY.

RESULTS: 48 X 300 lb. 8/11 second dem. bombs were dropped as follows: 44 in target; 3 in water just offshore from NATAMO old site; 1 on the West shore of BORGEN BAY at M 727-861 (This and all following references to SHIRMAN POINT Special, 1 inch to 1 mile), below known barge hideouts. Bombing was excellent. Nil results other than bomb smoke and debris was observed. Entire target and West side of BORGEN BAY was thoroughly strafed with 11220 X .50 cal. and [illegible]

taken of the target area and barges.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: 10 to 12 small barges, rusty and probably unserviceable, were seen beached in known barge hideout at M 737-867. Log bridges were seen across streams and rivers near coast in target and a small apparently new clearing was observed at M 764-863. Bombing by B-24's appeared to be excellent and a large column of black smoke was seen to rise from their target.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent.

WEATHER: Over Ranges, low clouds 3000 feet bases, 5000 feet tops, high scattered cumulus. DOBODURA to target, low scattered cumulus at 2000 to 5000 feet with scattered rain showers. Target, clear, few scattered cumulus. On return, scattered cumulus at 2000/5000 feet.

351 L. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0945/18/L to 0948/18/L.

TARGET: BORGEN BAY.

RESULTS: 38 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in assigned target. 4 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on SHIMATI POINT. Bombing was excellent. Results were unobserved. Area from approximately 1000 yards before reaching NATAMO POINT was strafed with 7440 X .50 cal. and 700 X .30 cal. Shoreline from target to SHIMATI POINT was also strafed. Results of strafing were unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0946/L, a large fire and black smoke rising to 1000 feet was seen near No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Results of bombing of CAPE GLOUCESTER by B-24's appeared to be very effective. At 0943/L, a possible small coastal lugger was seen at (X) G 7403 (Ref. Eastern NEW BRITAIN, 4 miles to 1 inch).

WEATHER: Enroute, 0815/L, visibility good, scattered clouds. Target, 0945/L, clear, no clouds, visibility over 10 miles. Enroute to base, 1030/L, scattered clouds at 1500 feet from NEW BRITAIN to NEW GUINEA.

351 L. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0710/18/L to 1110/18/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to NADZAB and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, unaverage at 10000 feet with slight precipitation. NADZAB, 6/10 cumulus, base 1000 feet. On return over Ranges, CAVU.

351 L. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 499th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1415/18/L to 1717/18/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GOODEN USE ISLAND and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Overcast of cumulus clouds from 10000 to 20000 feet.

351 N. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 0915/18/L to 0935/18/L. (2) 1005/18/L.

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

RESULTS: (1) Nil photos were taken of RABAUL due to clouds. Airplane was over RABAUL from 0915/L to 0935/L at 33000 feet.

(2) Operational photos were taken of the CAPE HOSKINS airdrome from 33000 feet.

SIGHTINGS: At 1015/L from 20000 feet, an explosion was seen in the water 20 miles Southwest of GASMATA. Explosion appeared to be a depth charge. Nil airplanes or vessels were observed in the vicinity.

WEATHER: RABAUL, large convergences over Northern end of GAZELLE PENINSULA. NEW BRITAIN, 3/10 cumulus from 2000 to 4000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, scattered cumulus from 2000 to 8000 feet, some cumulo-nimbus, tops 20000 feet.

351 E. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0752/18/L to 1228/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

RESULTS: Starting point of recco was not reached. Airplane turned back due to radio difficulties after making an effort to repair trouble in flight.

WEATHER: Ranges crossed enroute at 18000 feet above 8/10 coverage from NUKI ISLAND to CAPE HAND HUNT. Ranges crossed on return at 14500 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

At 1145/L, 16 P-38's of the 433rd Fighter Squadron patrolling over ARAWE sighted 2 formations of 12 to 15 airplanes each, ZEKES and TONYS. 2 ZEKES and 1 TONY were definitely shot down. 2 P-38's were lost but the pilot of one was rescued.

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

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Hannan

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

SITUATION REVIEW — GROUND OPERATIONS

ALLIED AND ENEMY

TO: December 18, 1943

GENERAL:

Another Jap base, LAKONA VILLAGE, has fallen to our troops in their advance along the coast of the HUON PENINSULA and the forward elements are now about half a mile South of the MASAWENG RIVER having forced a crossing of the SANGA. The enemy opposition has been stubborn but ineffective and to its overthrew our tanks and artillery contributed greatly.

Northeast of WAREO, progress has been slow due to precipitous terrain, but the enemy is withdrawing up the trail towards KILIGIA which is now in our hands, although the Japs are holding positions about a mile West of the Village.

The Jap thrust which caused the withdrawal of our patrols in the RAMU VALLEY seems to have limited its objectives to gaining control of the high ground Northwest of KAIAPIT which dominates the VALLEY, as ground and air recce have not revealed any further offensive tactics on the part of the enemy.

The presence of the 293rd Regt in the KETOBA-[illegible]MALOI-OLD YAULA area has been established in addition to the 78th Regt which is still operating in this sector.

With the realization of a final check to his forward moves, the Jap is developing rear bases beyond their previous properties from MANOKWARI and HOLLANDIA through HOLLANDIA to the RAI COAST, e.g., at MANOKWARI the garrison has been recently increased from 1000 to 4500.

Barge traffic continues to be heavy all along the North coast of NEW GUINEA and the number destroyed by our surface craft has increased considerably during the past week.

Allied Forces made a successful landing in the ARAWE district during the week and are mopping up and consolidating.

FINSCHHAFEN:

With the advance of our troops up the coast and the capture of bases up to KILIGIA our supply problem has been facilitated by the landing of stores by barge along the coast. After the capture of KILIGIA, our troops secured a bridgehead over the SOWI RIVER and over-ran a number of Jap positions.

Considerable opposition remains to the West, but our troops persisted in their attempt to overcome both enemy and natural obstacles. They dealt effectively with enemy positions established along watercourses and eventually cut the track from WAREO to LAKONA.

The Japs endeavoring to hold LAKONA were finally forced back to CAPE SIDELL and while some troops took the village, others penned the enemy on the CAPE. A number of casualties were caused to enemy troops attempting to withdraw across the SANGA RIVER.

Preceded by artillery support our troops made a crossing of the SANGA RIVER in pursuit of the enemy breaking up a number of positions and are now within half a mile of the MASAWENG RIVER.

Our forces driving the enemy Northeast of WAREO towards the coast, were restricted in their manoeuvers by the rugged nature of the country and the enemy were able to resist all their efforts to outflank them. However, to the effective artillery and mortar support, a direct attack by our troops was successful in dislodging the enemy who are now concentrated one mile South of the SOWI RIVER.

In the extreme West of the sector, our Commando patrols had been investigating the upper reaches of the MASAWENG RIVER in the vicinity of MASA and ZAGAHSHI VILLAGES. Near the latter, our carrier line was attacked by native spearmen, doubtless those under the influence of German Missionaries in the district who had been recruiting natives for carriers for the Japanese.

RAMU VALLEY:

After the capture of the high ground dominating the RAMU VALLEY by the enemy resulting in the withdrawal of our screening patrols towards the EVAPIA RIVER, the enemy constructed hurried defense positions in the area.

A number of patrol clashes in the direction of our lines led to three attacks on our forward troops Southeast of KESAWAI, which were successfully beaten off leaving us holding the area approximately 2 miles North of KESAWAI above the EVAPIA RIVER.

Our Commando patrols have penetrated to URIGINA VILLAGES where they report an absence of Japanese activity.

Heavy rains during the week caused a serious dislocation in the Jap line of communication along the BOGADJIM ROAD on account of Bridges #1 to #13 being washed away and the blocking of the road by many landslides.

The Jap has extended his defenses as far West as ATLEBLE where a holding force is being supplied by launches up the RAMU RIVER and by land from MADANG via KAIRUK.

DAVID R. CRAIG, Captain, AIF,
Air Liaison Officer.
V BOMBER COMMAND.

ALGIERS:

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE NOVEMBER 11, 1918 TROOPS OF THE FOUR GREAT ALLIES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR U.S. BRITAIN AND FRANCE AND ITALY ARE FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST THE GERMANS IN RUGGED MOUNTAINS OF ITALY. CRAGGY FRENCH UNITS WITH U.S. EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN IN THE BATTLE LINE FOR SOME TIME THE ALLIED COMMAND ANNOUNCED FRIDAY. THE FRENCH HAVE SCORED OUTSTANDING SUCCESSES CAPTURING SEVERAL IMPORTANT NAZI HILL POSITIONS SEIZING PRISONERS. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF THE REBORN FRENCH ARMY ON THE ITALIAN FRONT CAME AS THE NAZIS INTENSIFIED THEIR EFFORTS TO CHECK THE RELENTLESS ADVANCE OF THE EIGHTH ARMY ALONG THE ADRIATIC COAST. BESIDE BRINGING MOUNTAIN TROOPS FROM RUSSIA THE ENEMY THREW MORE AND MORE FLAME THROWERS INTO THE STRUGGLE. EVERY EFFORT BY THE GERMANS HOWEVER FAILED TO BAR GENERAL MONTGOMERYS CANADIANS NEW ZEALANDERS AND INDIANS LOOSE FROM THEIR HOLD ON THE ORSOGNA ORTONA HIGH WAY RUNNING IN FROM THE COAST. TWO ENEMY COUNTER ATTACKS THERE WERE REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSSES HEADQUARTERS SAID. THE FIFTH ARMY CAPTURED MORE IMPORTANT HILL POSITIONS AND BEAT A GERMAN COUNTER ATTACK WEST OF VENAFRO.

WES GALLAGHER ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR CORRESPONDENT IN A SURVEY OF THE CAMPAIGN IN ITALY SAID THAT ROME IS STILL FAR AWAY IN A MILITARY SENSE WITH LITTLE PROSPECT THAT IT WILL BE LIBERATED SOON. HE ADDED THAT DESPITE THE SLOW PROGRESS OF THE AMERICAN FIFTH AND BRITISH EIGHT ARMIES HE WAS CONVINCED AFTER A TOUR OF SOUTHERN ITALY THAT THE CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN WORTH THE COST FOR THE TREMENDOUS AIR BASES ON THE MAINLAND ALONE. THESE AIR BASES HE SAID ARE BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE ASSET WHICH THE MORE THEN THREE MONTHS OF WAR IN ITALY HAS BROUGHT GALLAGHER SAID THAT SLOW PROGRESS IN ITALY HAD BEEN LARGELY DUE TO TERRAIN AND WEATHER.

WASHINGTON:

ANTI FRANCO ELEMENTS IN SPAIN HAVE TRIED THREE TIMES TO OVER THROW THE PUDGY LITTLE DICTATOR IT WAS DISCLOSED FRIDAY NIGHT AND ARE PERSISTING DESPITE FAILURE. FRANCO OWES THE DEFEAT OF LATEST ATTEMPTED COUP IN SEPTEMBER TO THE GERMANS WHO HELPED HIM ALSO WHEN HE OVERTHREW SPAINS REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT IN THE SPANISH PRELUDE TO WORLD WAR TWO. THIS INFORMATION FROM SOURCES IN TOUCH WITH HAPPENINGS IN THE STILL IBERIAN PENINSULA NAMED MADRID AS THE CENTER OF PLOTTING BY SEVERAL DIFFERENT FACTIONS BENT ON OUSTING FRANCOS FALAGIST PARTY AND INSTALLING A REGIME MORE FAVORABLE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. THE GROUP MOST ACTIVE SO FAR HAS BEEN THE PRO MONARCHISTS BUT THE MOST LIKELY DEVELOPMENT ACCORDING TO THOSE IN THE KNOW IS A COUP DISTASTE CARRIED FROM WITHIN THE SPANISH ARMY.

LONDON:

FIRES WHICH SPREAD BLACK CHOKING SMOKE THRU MANY QUARTERS OF BERLIN CLOUDED THE GERMAN CAPITAL FRIDAY FOLLOWING THE LATEST RAF ASSAULT THURSDAY NIGHT IN WHICH BERLINERS WERE STUNNED WITH 1500 LONG TONS OF EXPLOSIVES INCLUDING ABOUT 20 TWO TON BOMBS. THE STRONG FORCE OF LANCASTER WHICH HIT THE CITY IN THE SIXTH MAJOR ATTACK SINCE THE BATTLE OF BERLIN BEGAN LESS THAN A MONTH AGO ARRIVED OVER THE CLOUD COVERED CAPITAL AT THE EARLIEST HOUR THEY HAVE YET ATTACKED SHORTLY BEFORE SEVEN PM THIRTY BOMBERS WERE LOST AND AT LEAST FIVE NAZI FIGHTERS WERE DOWNED. GERMAN COMMUNIQUES ACKNOWLEDGED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE.

RED ARMY TROOPS EXPANDING THEIR KREMENCHUG BRIDGEHEAD CONTINUED THEIR OFFENSIVE AND IMPROVED THEIR POSITIONS FRIDAY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE DNIEPER BEND INDUSTRIAL CITY OF KIROVOGRAD MOSCOW ANNOUNCED FRIDAY NIGHT IN A BROADCAST COMMUNIQUE. THE DAILY COMMUNIQUE RECORDED BY THE SOVIET MONITOR MADE NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE BITTER FIGHTING ALONG THE TETEREV RIVER 55 MILES WEST OF KIEV. THE RUSSIANS AGAIN REMAINED SILENT ON THE NORTHERN WHITE RUSSIA FRONT WHERE THE GERMANS HAVE REPORTED THREE SOVIET OFFENSIVES UNDER WAY.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILLS CONDITION HAS BEEN MADE A BULLETIN FROM HIS BESIDE ANNOUNCED FRIDAY AFTERNOON. MR CHURCHILL HAS PNEUMONIA. MRS CHURCHILL HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY TO BE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE MIDDLE EAST DOWNING STREET ANNOUNCED FRIDAY

MOSCOW:

MOSCOW NEWSPAPERS FRIDAY TOLD HOW A GERMAN GESTAPO CAPTAIN AND A NAZI STORM TROOP COMMANDER UNDER TRIAL FOR MURDER BY A KHARKOV COURT OPENLY ADMITTED EXECUTIONS OF RUSSIAN CIVILIANS AND WAR PRISONERS EXPLAINING THEY WERE ONLY CARRYING OUT ORDERS. THE TRIALS IN WHICH A GROUP OF GERMANS AND ONE RUSSIAN TRAITOR ARE DEFENDANTS BE THE FIRST SINCE THE UNITED NATIONS PLEDGE THAT WAR CRIMINALS WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SCENE OF THEIR CRIMES AND TRIED UNDER LOCAL LAW. THREE RUSSIAN ATTORNEYS REPRESENTATED THE ACCUSED. NEWSPAPERS HERE GAVE THE CASE WIDE PUBLICITY.

PACIFIC WAR:

IN THE MIDPACIFIC, LIBERATORS OF THE AMERICAN 7TH ARMY AIR FORCE CONTINUING THEIR POUNDING OF STRATEGIC AIR BASE ATOLLS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS RAIDED WOTJE ATOLL AT DUSK WEDNESDAY, THE SECOND ATTACK OF THE DAY. THE BASE RECEIVED NUMEROUS DIRECT HITS. THERE WAS NO ENEMY INTERCEPTION AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS LIGHT. FIERCE FIGHTING CONTINUED IN CHINA CENTERING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ANSIEN AND NANHIEN, 2 IMPORTANT TOWNS NORTH OF TUNGTING LAKE IN THE "RICE BOWL" AREA. A JAPANESE COUNTER ATTACK FROM THEIR BASE AT LIHIEN WAS FRUSTRATED. THE BATTLE FOR CHANGETH, STRATEGIC "RICE BOWL" CITY WHICH THE CHINESE RETOOK RECENTLY IN BLOODY FIGHTING WAS A PIVOTAL SUCCESS FOR THE WHOLE STRATEGY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE PACIFIC REGION.

ECHOES OF THE INVASION OF TARAWA IN THE GILBERT ISLANDS IN NOVEMBER WERE HEARD IN WASHINGTON. THERE THE SENATE NAVAL COMMITTEE RECEIVED ASSUARANCES FROM LT. GENERAL A. A. VANDERGRIFT, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, THAT THE TARAWA OPERATIONS WERE WELL PLANNED AND EFFICIENTLY EXECUTED IN A LETTER HE WROTE TO CHAIRMAN WALSH OF THE COMMITTEE WHO HAD INQUIRED ABOUT THE HEAVY MARINE LOSSES ON TARAWA'S BEACHES. VANDERGRIFT WARNED THAT HEAVY LOSSES COULD BE EXPECTED IN FUTURE ATTACKS WHERE FIRMLY HELD ISLANDS WERE ASSAULTED BY TROOPS WADING FROM LANDING BOATS. "THERE ARE NO FOXHOLES OFFSHORE AND NO ROYAL ROAD TO TOKYO" HE SAID. A BILL REPEALING THE 60 YEAR OLD CHINESE EXLUSION LAW WAS SIGNED TODAY BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT .

SAN DIEGO, CAL:

LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER THEY WADED ASHORE ON TARAWA ATOLL, A GROUP OF WOUNDED U. S. MARINES HAVE RETURNED HERE FOR HOSPITALIZATION. THE RETURNING LEATHERNECKS ARE AMONG THE SURVIVORS OF THE UNITS WHICH WENT ASHORE IN THE FIRST ASSAULT WAVES. SOME HAD ONLY ONE WOUND WHILE OTHERS HAD SCORES. THE NAVY SAID NONE WERE IN CRITICAL CONDITION, HOWEVER.

WASHINGTON:

THE SENATE PASSED ON A VOICE VOTE AND SENT TO THE HOUSE LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE MUSTERING-OUT PAY RANGING FROM $200 TO $500 PER INDIVIDUAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE MEASURE WHICH WOULD CARRY OUT A RECOMMENDATION BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WAS ESTIMATED BY SPONSERS TO INVOLVE EVENTUAL OUTLAYS TO ALLING BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR BILLION DOLLARS THE MUSTERING-OUT PAY WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO WOMEN IN THE VARIOUS SERVICE BRANCHES INCLUDING NURSES.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT BACK FROM WAR CONFERENCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE FRIDAY HE THOUGHT HIS TRIP HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN EVERY WAY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF CONDUCT OF THE WAR AND THE POST-WAR PERIOD.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT SERGEANT JOE LOUIS BARROW, WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION WOULD END HIS TOUR OF ARMY POSTS IN THIS COUNTRY JANUARY 20TH AND THEN GO OVERSEAS TO VISIT CAMPS IN VARIOUS THEATERS OF OPERATIONS. TO DATE LOUIS AND A GROUP OF BOXERS AND TRAINERS HAVE VISITED 70 CAMPS IN NEARLY ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

G.H.Q. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
COMMUNIQUE NO. 616, 18 DECEMBER, 1943

NOT RECEIVED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 351.

Marked on map & in Strike Book. LSO 19/12

SECRET
AUTH: Asst. AIR LIASON GROUP
INITS: [illegible]
DATE: 17/12/43

8 DEC 1943

FROM: 1800/16/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/17/12/43/L.
V COMDR COMLAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-25D-1 of the 501st Squadron (350 C) completed 100% a weather recce to CAPE ANUKUR, ARAWE, CAPE BUSHING and return. SIPUL, KUMALO and AISEGA VILLAGES were strafed with a total of 2000 X .50 cal. Nil results were observed. Airplane took off at 0500/L and landed at 0935/L.

20 B-24's, of the 90th Group (350 F) bombed gun positions 5000 feet South of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER from 1205/L to 1307/L. 80 X 2000 lb. bombs were dropped from 10000/11000 feet at the target. Bombs were dropped through an overcast and results were unobserved. Target was believed to have been hit. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. One twin-engine airplane and 6 single fighters were seen at the end of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. These airplanes were believed to be serviceable since none had been reported at these positions previously.

HANSA BAY-WEWAK: 1 F-4 and 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (350 X) took off at 0818/L to photograph HANSA BAY and WEWAK. Airplanes were over HANSA BAY at 0945/L at 30000 feet but were unable to take pictures due to weather. WEWAK was not reached.

MADANG-SAIDOR: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (350 Z) took off at 0829/L to photograph MADANG and SAIDOR. Airplane was over SAIDOR at 1000/L but was unable to take photos due to weather. MADANG was not reached.

1 B-17 of the 8th Photo Squadron (350 Y) took off at 0839/L to photograph SAIDOR. Overlapping oblique photos were taken from vicinity of HUMBOLDT BAY to vicinity of LAGOMI. There were nil sightings.

MADANG and SIO: 36 B-25C and D-1's and B-25G's of the 38th Group (350 C) took off at 0915/L to bomb CAPE GLOUCESTER. 3 Squadrons of the Group did not attack primary or secondary targets because of weather. 9 B-25C-1's of the 405th Squadron bombed and strafed the MADANG RIVER mouth and SIO at 1147/L. 63 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped at the targets. Targets were strafed with 10490 X .50 cal. and 325 X .30 cal. Results were unobserved with exception of damage to personnel supplies piled along MADANG RIVER mouth. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (350 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0645/L and landed at 1215/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (350 B) completed 100% a weather recce to WAU, FINSCHHAFEN, CAPE GLOUCESTER, LAE, NADZAB, MALAFIT and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0502/L and landed at 0902/L. There were nil sightings.

NOTE: Included in this report are the following Final Mission Reports from FATF:

349 AA. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 65th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.
10 B-24's, 529th Squadron.
10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

349 BB. STRIKE - 10 B-26's, 19th Squadron.

TARGET: KELANOA HARBOR.

349 CC. STRIKE - 10 B-25's, 2nd Squadron.

TARGET: Dumps West of SIO MISSION.

349 FF. SUPPLY MISSION - 12 B-25's, 33rd Squadron.

MISSION: Drop supplies in AMALUT PLANTATION.

349 GG. ARMED RECCO - 6 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: ARAWE area.

349 II. SUPPLY MISSION - 7 B-25's, 408th Squadron.

MISSION: Drop supplies at AMALUT PLANTATION.

ARAWE-CAPE GLOUCESTER: P-47's of the 341st Fighter Squadron shot down 7 VALS and 2 OSCARS out of a force of 25 VALS and 15 OSCARS 2 miles North of ARAWE at 0615/L.

At 1430/L, P-47's of the 342nd Fighter Squadron shot down 1 ZEKE in the ARAWE area.

At 1705/L, 1 TONY and 1 ZEKE were sighted taking off from the CAPE GLOUCESTER strip by P-38's of the 80th Fighter Squadron. The ZEKE was shot down. All of our airplanes returned to base.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA:

After strenuous fighting, the village of LAKOKA has fallen and has deprived the enemy of a very valuable base. The Japs attempting to hold the village were forced back on to CAPE SIDIA. Others retreating across SAMO RIVER suffered heavy casualties.

It is reported that a number of reinforcements belonging to the Jap 20th Div. are moving South about half a mile North of the MASAWENG RIVER.

Our left flank overcame enemy opposition and fanned out to occupy high ground overlooking the SAMO RIVER.

Further advances have been made along the track Northeast from WANEO towards KILICIA with our troops about 3 mile South of the SOMI RIVER.

MUNU VALLEY:

Air and ground recce indicate that enemy activity in the KESAWAI area was limited and strong recce parties are operating while the regrouping of our main forces has taken place.

Our Commando patrols moving in the area used by the enemy in their advance towards the MUNU VALLEY have reported URIGINA VILLAGES clear of the enemy.

ARAWE: (NEW BRITAIN)

Our troops continue to consolidate areas captured after landings at AMALUT PLANTATION, PILELO ISLAND and near UMTINGAUL VILLAGE. Patrols have reached UMTINGAUL VILLAGE. Supply dumps containing 75 tons of rations and ammunition have been captured.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

ARAWE: (NEW BRITAIN)

Latest estimate of Jap dead in this area stands at 70. Elements of the 115th Infantry and elements of the 14th Field Artillery Regiments have been identified. Weak but stubborn resistance continues as our forces route Jap snipers from well prepared and camouflaged positions. Indications are that the enemy is moving reinforcements overland from the RAIN BAY area. The track connecting RAIN BAY with ARAWE can be negotiated by foot troops in 3/4 days.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTH-EASTERN AREA
17 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4	9	2				15	0
DAGUA	12	9	11				32	0
NEWAK	9	2	5			6	22	0
BORAM	19	1					20	0
AWAR	6						8	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	62	82	41			6	191	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	16	15	19	27		7	84	0
VUNAKANAU	10	19	4	10			43	-4
LAKUNAI	60	3	10	10			83	-10
RAPOPO		6	2	10			18	0
KERAVAT						20	20	0
TOBERA	20			3			23	-7
BORPOP		4					4	0
Total	106	47	35	60		27	275	-21

COMMENTS:

1. With no photos of NEW GUINEA drome today (17/12/43) our present count remains as an estimate.

2. 4 L/B's, 4 M/B's and 2 SSF were destroyed over NEW BRITAIN by our airplanes on 16/12/43 and have been deducted from NEW BRITAIN drome count. 7 D/B's, 3 SSF and 1 L/B were destroyed by our airplanes today and have been deducted.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

None reported.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

349 AA. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1416/16/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dump area South of POTNI VILLAGE (Target 138)

RESULTS: 36 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 4300 feet at the target. 45% of bombs in target. Bombing good. Other bombs were strung out through woods 500 feet East of the target. POTNI and ONGAIA VILLAGES were strafed with 615 X .50 cal. Photos were taken of the bombing run.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1520/L from 1500 feet at position 0715S-14830E, a huge splash, about 25 to 50 feet high in water was seen—possibly a SS crash diving (or a whale). At 1440/L from 1500 feet, a yellow life raft was seen in the water at 0630S-14810E. Crew did not determine whether it was empty or not.

GENERAL: Weather caused 4 runs to be made over the target and altitude of bombing lowered from scheduled 7800 to 4300 feet.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 5/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 12000 feet. Target, overcast at 5000 feet, tops 15000 feet.

349 AA. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1409/16/L to 1412/16/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dump area South of POTNI VILLAGE. (Target No. 138)

RESULTS: 30 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 4400/4600 feet on the target. Bombing was excellent. 90% of bombs hit target. Bomb smoke covered target. 3 small fires; 2 in Eastern 1/3 of target and one outside target, just off Southwest corner were started. Black or dark gray smoke was seen rising from each fire. Black gray smoke was seen rising to 200 feet from the target 13A (Catholic Mission West of ONGAIA). Photos were taken of the bombing and of the target.

A/A: Moderate, light, inaccurate from A/C positions in target, correct positions undetermined.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

GENERAL: 1 B-24 was unable to release bombs on target due to mechanical malfunction.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, erratic, 3/10 fracto-cumulus at 3000 feet, 3/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 6000 feet. Target, 3/10 cumulus congestus, base 5000 feet, tops 20000 feet, 6/10 strato-cumulus, base 6000 feet, tops 10000 feet, 3/10 cirro-stratus above 25000 feet. BISMARCK SEA on return, 4/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 6000 feet.

349 AA. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1413/16/L to 1427/16/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Catholic Mission West of ONGAIO VILLAGE (Target No. 13A)

RESULTS: 35 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 3200/4900 feet at the target. 33% of bombs hit in target. 33% of bombs fell within 1000 feet of target, in strings, in area bounded by following coordinates: 580949 to 585952, 581947 to 586949, 575943 to 578944 and 589949 to 593950. (This and all following references to: DORF POINT Photomap, 1/20000). Two large fires were observed in Southwest corner of target emitting black and grey smoke, possibly supplies. Fires lasted 20 minutes and were still burning when our airplanes left. 2 B-24's dropped bombs between the following coordinates: 93565 to 568929 and 603960 to 607961. Results were unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: 1444/L from 21000 feet, 1 floating wooden box was sighted at 0608S-14825E. At 1459/L from 2700 feet, one black box, about 20 feet long, 3 yellow boxes 5 to 6 feet square, and about 30 black and brown small boxes were seen floating in the water at 0605S-14612E. At 1519/L from 1500 feet, wreckage consisting of two yellow patches which seemed to be boards or boxes were observed in the water at 0740S-14840E. An oil slick was seen nearby.

GENERAL: Airplanes bombed individually due to cloud cover. Those descending below 4000 feet were the most successful.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 4/10 cumulus, tops 3000 feet, base 2000 feet, visibility unlimited. Target, 6/10 cumulus, tops 6000 feet, base 4000 feet, 3/10 cirrus at 18000 feet.

349 AA. STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 529th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1410/16/L and 1432/16/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—A/A positions Southwest of No. 2 strip (Target 20X)

RESULTS: 56 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 6000/8000 feet in general area target #20A. Clouds obscured bomb explosions but there was sufficient visibility from the sea to permit bombing runs. Photos were attempted of the bombing runs through clouds.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: 8 unidentified single engine fighters were seen about 5 miles Southwest of CAPE GLOUCESTER at approximately 15000 feet, flying in one element of 4 and two pairs. These airplanes made no attempt to intercept.

GENERAL: 3 airplanes did not release bombs over the target; 2 because of inability to sight through the clouds and 1 due to malfunction of bomb bay doors.

WEATHER: Broken cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 10000 feet to 15000 feet enroute and over target. 9/10 clouds over CAPE GLOUCESTER.

349 AA. STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1410/16/L and 1431/16/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—A/A positions Southwest of No. 2 strip (Targets #20X and 21X)

RESULTS: 40 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 6000/7300 feet with results unobserved due to clouds. 32 X 1000 lb. bombs exploded in area bounded by: 6295, 6296, 6495, 6416 (GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES Special). 8 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs exploded Southeast and outside of target area. (Reliqie photos were taken of the GLOUCESTER area.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Approximately 7 small vessels were sighted at 0540S-14810E at mark of river (Sightings was made at 1420/L from 8000 feet). At 1445/L, 2 unidentified SSF were seen flying on a course of 160 degrees at an estimated altitude of 11000 feet. (Our airplanes were on a course of 160 degrees).

WEATHER: High stratus enroute out and on return. Scattered cumulus over target, base 4000 feet.

349 BB. STRIKE - 10 B-26's, 19th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1240/16/L to 1255/16/L. 16 Dec

TARGET: Camp area in timber at KELANOA HARBOR (Ref. 125205, KELANOA HARBOR, Photos).

RESULTS: 54 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 4000/4500 feet on heading of 200 to 276 degrees. Bombing was considered excellent. 30 bombs hit throughout target. Bomb explosions and dust were seen to blanket the entire target and it is considered that much damage was inflicted upon the target. Nil other results were apparent. 13 bombs hit in the water East of the target with nil results observed. 1 bomb fell in South bank of river about 200 feet East of the target. 2 bombs fell over the target by about 100/200 feet with nil results apparent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1239/L from 4700 feet, trucks were seen loading in the target just before bombing runs were made. At 1250/L from 4500 feet, what appeared to be an oblong, cylindrical object, white in color, was sighted opposite the LAGOON South of KELANOA HARBOR. At 1254/L from 4500 feet, one barge, type and serviceability undetermined, was seen stationary at mouth of CAPARO RIVER. At 1310/L from 4800 feet, one unmanned barge—considered to be unserviceable—was seen stationary and parallel to the beach at PORTER MISTION POINT.

GENERAL: A 10th airplane was scheduled to take off but was unable to do so due to mechanical failure.

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus at 1000/3000 feet over the water enroute to target. Scattered cumulus with 3/10 coverage, tops at 12000 feet over land near the target. Visibility was from 26 miles to unlimited.

349 CG. STRIKE - 10 B-25's, 2nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1242/16/L. 16 Dec.

TARGET: Dumps and bivouac area just West of SIO MISSION.

RESULTS: 58 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 9800 feet on a heading of 185 degrees at the target. Bombing was excellent. About 70% of bombs dropped, hit in target. About 6 bombs fell North of target into water and 1 was reported as falling over and to the South of the target. Possible fires were reported as being observed in the target giving off gray smoke. Photos were taken of the bombing. 6 bundles of propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Barges were sighted at the following places: Several possibly serviceable barges in river at NABAFI; about 1245/L, 2 serviceable were seen below MILNE POINT, beached on the shore; at 1240/L, 2 serviceable barges were sighted in MAID BAY near Inlet; 2 or 3 barges were sighted near KILAKOA strung along the beach, some appeared serviceable. A white circular object was sighted at 0607S-14737E at about 1230/L. All sightings were made from 5000 feet.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered cumulus from 2000 to 6000 feet, broken overcast of stratus at about 10000 feet, cumulus over NEW GUINEA extending from 2000 to 10000 feet. Target, CAVU. Light scattered cumulus at 3000 feet. No overcast over HUON PENINSULA and target area. Weather on return, same as enroute.

349 FF. SUPPLY MISSION - 12 B-25's, 33rd Squadron.

TIME OVER AREA: 1305/16/L to 1320/16/L.

MISSION Drop supplies in AMAUT PLANTATION—AREA.

RESULTS: Supplies were seen to land in coconut grove. Some parachutes did not open. 1 pack landed in sea, 50 yards offshore from CAPE MERKUS. Photos were taken over AMAUT PLANTATION.

SIGHTINGS: M/G fire was seen at 387232 (Ref. CAPE MERKUS Photo map).

WEATHER: Broken cumulus, 2000 to 5000 feet, overcast at 10000 feet, visibility 15 to 20 miles. Target, clear. On return, front was building up between NEW BRITAIN and NEW GUINEA towards HUON GULF.

349 CG. ARMED RECCO - 6 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 1320/16/L to 1345/16/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: ARMIE Area.

RESULTS: A-20's in two 3 plane elements made recce from AMBELIM to DIDIROP to SUEDIDI to PULIE RIVER and down PULIE RIVER

to mouth. Nil enemy activity was observed and nil bombs or ammunition was expended. Photos were taken over the area.

SIGHTINGS: Village at 431391 (PULIE RIVER 1 inch to 1 mile) was described by one crew as largest in the area. One Lakatoi and 4 large logs were drawn up close to shore nearby. Logs had appearance of making of a raft. 1 gunner observed 2 possible tents in a small clearing by stream between SUBDIDI and PULIE RIVER. Trail from MIELELEK towards DIDMOP was seen only in a few places and these had appearance of a narrow path. Footpath was observed by one pilot, only, from DIDMOP to GOGOR with bomb crater near GOGOR where trail crossed Creek. DIDMOP appeared used— it had ten shacks including 2 new ones. One shack was seen at SUBDIDI. One pilot also observed a footpath along the AMLA RIVER from near 370575 to 500560 (Ref. PULIE RIVER, 1 inch to 1 mile). Village at CROCODILE POINT appeared in disrepair; MIO was also in disrepair. Four flights of 3 airplanes each were seen on course 120 degrees crossing AMALUT PLANTATION at 300 feet at 1315/L.

GENERAL: Country covered in reeds was dense and swampy. Much activity could have been occurring without being noted.

WEATHER: Target, 1320/L to 1345/L, stratus, 5/10 covered, cumulus at 500 feet, 5/10 covered. Small rain showers in target area, large rain storm 20 miles to North-west, visibility good.

349 HH. SUPPLY MISSION - 7 B-25's, 408th Squadron.

TIME OVER AREA: 1452/16/L.

MISSION: Drop supplies in AMALUT PLANTATION—AMAM.

RESULTS: Dropping was excellent. 100% of supplies fell in designated area.

SIGHTINGS: 1 crew reported an oil slick, 4 miles South of AMAM, running in North-South direction and described as long and narrow, with definite curve at South and followed by white sea foam. A crew reported what seemed to be a life raft or life boat (possibly capsized) while on return trip, at about 07305-144900E. (One crew member reported object could have been a barrel).

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus at 3000/4000 feet, thin overcast at 10000 feet.

350 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0645/17/L to 1215/17/L.

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

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, low cumulus with tops to 9000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, low scattered stratus, bases 3000 feet. On return, low cumulus with tops to 9000 feet.

350 D. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0502/17/L to 0902/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE ISLAND, WAU, FINSCHHAFEN, CAPE GLOUCESTER, FINSCHHAFEN, LAE, MADANG, MADAPIT, GASAP, WAU, YULE to base.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE, 0526/L, stratus overcast at 9500 feet, 5/10 covered. WAU, 0541/L, scattered stratus at 10000 feet. FINSCHHAFEN 0612/L, scattered stratus at 6000 feet, to the west, cumulus built up to 10000 feet, stratus at 12000 feet. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 0635/L, clear, high stratus overcast. FINSCHHAFEN, 0702/L, broken strato-cumulus at 7000 feet. LAE, 0713/L, stratus overcast at 6000/7000 feet. MADANG, 0720/L, scattered stratus at 1000/2000 feet. MADAPIT, 0732/L, few scattered stratus at 2000 feet. GASAP, 0740/L, stratus overcast at 7000 feet. WAU, 0810/L, cumulus and strato-cumulus overcast at 6000/9000 feet. YULE ISLAND, 0840/L, high stratus, scattered to broken. From CAPE HAND HUNT to CAPE GLOUCESTER, 0630/L, 50 miles South of NEW BRITAIN, thunderclouds and rain showers, high cumulus to 20000 feet.

350 G. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0500/17/L to 0935/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BOBDUBI A to CAPE ARGUN, ARUE, CAPE WASHING and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed. Weather was reported as ordered. SIPUL, RUNGIO, and ARGUN VILLAGES were strafed with 2000 X .50 cal. with unobserved results. All strafing between 0717/L to 0723/L, from minimum altitude.

WEATHER: 08000-146230, 0530/L, altitude 5000 feet, running into rain with flying conditions poor, partly on instruments, broken clouds below 800 feet. 06103-14845E, 0600/L, low stratus clouds at 300/400 feet, flying conditions improving, overcast breaking, instruments for 10 minutes. CAPE ARGUN, 0730/L, weather improving, broken overcast of 5/10 strato-cumulus and cumulus clouds at 5000/6000 feet, visibility good. Flying conditions and weather good. 07303-146.25E, 0600/L, stratus clouds at 1000 feet, flying conditions and visibility good. 15 miles North of BUNA, 0815/L, instruments at 500 feet, rain, very little turbulence. BOBDUBI A-BUNA area, 0900/L, 5/10 stratus at 1000 feet, misty, visibility 3 miles. PASS, 0910/L, open at 10000 feet, solid overcast at 13000 feet, scattered cumulus 5/10 in thunderhead, wind at 180 degrees, 6 miles an hour, temperature plus 09 degrees.

350 H. STRIKE - 5 B-24's, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1205/17/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Gun positions South of No. 2 strip.

RESULTS: 20 X 2000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 10300 feet on the target, on a heading of 125 degrees. Bombs hit in target but results were unobserved due to cloud cover. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Crews reported sighting 6 to 8 SGF, apparently new, on East end of No. 2 strip.

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus covered target area from 5000 to 9000 feet, building up further inland. Thick overcast over HUON GULF. Ranges clear enroute out, crossed at 16000 feet on return.

350 F. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1205/17/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Installations on ridge 5000 feet South of strip No. 2.

RESULTS: 24 X 2000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 10600 feet across assigned target on bombing run of 160 degrees. Clouds prevented observation of results but crews believe the target was covered. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: One twin-engine airplane was observed on East end of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Airplane was silver colored and believed serviceable as it had not been observed on recent strikes. At 1023/L at 10,500 feet over the GURA RIVER, approximately 40 miles South-Southwest of CAPE WARD HUNT, one crew observed 2 possible mirror flashes.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was good.

WEATHER: Target, partially obscured by cumulus at 6000 feet. Mild front along NEW BRITAIN coast oriented Northwest-Southeast.

350 F. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1207/17/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Gun position South of No. 2 strip.

RESULTS: 4 B-24's in a diamond formation made a 185 degree bombing run on the target. 24 X 2000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 11000 feet. Some bombs were believed to have hit target but extent of damage could not be observed due to cloud cover. Bombs of No. 4 airplane, momentarily hung up, and were salvoed later at the target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: One silver colored twin-engine airplane on East end of No. 2 runway at CAPE GLOUCESTER.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent. 2 B-24's developed mechanical trouble enroute to target and returned to base before reaching the target.

WEATHER: Solid cumulus over land at NEW BRITAIN. 8/10 cumulus at 5000 feet over target. 6/10 cumulus built up to 18000 feet encountered enroute to base. Light haze and stratus clouds from 18000 to 20000 feet. Ranges crossed at 18500 feet, cumulus clouds built up to 20000 feet.

350 F. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1105/17/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Gun position South of strip No. 2.

RESULTS: 20 X 2000 lb. inst. bombs were salvoed from 10000 feet on a heading of 165 degrees at the target. Although undercast prevented accurate observation of results, bomb salvo bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil. (Observation prevented by cloud cover.)

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

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, 8/10 cumulus, tops to 15000 feet, Target, undercast at 6000 feet, 6/10 cumulus. Over Western NEW BRITAIN, solid cumulus to 8000 feet, clearing coast 2/10 to 7000 feet. Ranges crossed, CAPE WARD HUNT to YULE ISLAND at 15000 feet, solid cumulus with scattered tops to 18000 feet.

350 G. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.
18 B-25G's, 822nd and 823rd Squadrons.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: TAULI and ULIEN areas at CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: Squadrons turned back at 1115/L from approximately 07105-14615E due to weather and because fighter escort was seen to turn back. Nil attack made.

SIGHTINGS: At 07005-14/30L, floating debris and an oil drum were observed in rusty colored water.

GENERAL: 1 airplane of the 822nd Squadron and 1 airplane of the 823rd Squadron landed at DOBODURA and are not included in this report.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 9/10 cumulus building up to 16000 feet. Fog and rain at CAPE WARD HUNT with general overcast down to water level. A solid front extending from the HUON PENINSULA to the East and Southeast up to 20000 feet. On return Northwest of Pass, 9/10 coverage to 13000 feet, 5/10 overcast to 13000 feet in Pass.

350 G. STRIKE - 9 B-25C-1's, 405th Squadron. 17 Dec.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1147/17/L to 1150/17/L.

TARGET: MAENG FIA RIVER mouth and SIO. (Secondary target).

RESULTS: 63 X 300 lb. G/21 second delay demo. bombs were dropped as follows: 9 on SIO VILLAGE of which 2 scored hits and 5 fell in water; remaining 58 bombs fell along MAENG-FIA RIVER from mouth to 1 mile inland. 1 bomb burst resulted in flying debris resembling broken trees. Other results were unobserved. Bombing was excellent. Entire area was strafed with 10490 X .50 cal. and 525 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

SIGHTINGS: At 1100/L, at approximately 0650S-14740E, a small red and white flag on a 4 f ot mast on a floating object resembling an oil drum was observed. A quantity of debris was seen floating nearby. A corrugated iron roof building was seen 100 yards West of SIO MISSION site.

GENERAL: Fighter escort signalled that they were turning back near SALAMAUA at approximately 1100/L.

WEATHER: Enr. ute over Ranges, 7/10 cumulus to 9000 feet, 6/10 strato-cumulus, 15000 feet. Solid front with scattered showers lying off CAPE WARD HUNT and extending Northwest slightly beyond FINSCHHAFEN and up to 16000 feet. Target, cumulus overcast at 600 feet, haze, scattered cumulus to water. On return over Ranges, 9/10 cumulus built up to 17000 feet, scattered tops higher, 4/10 cirro-stratus at 25000 feet.

350 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-, and 1 F-5, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: HANSA BAY and WEWAK.

RESULTS: Airplanes were over HANSA BAY at 0945/L at 30000 feet. Nil photos were taken due to weather. WEWAK was not reached. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: HANSA BAY, front off coast, cumulus clouds, base 26000 feet, t po 32000 feet.

350 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-17, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1015/17/L to 1045/17/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: SAIDOR vicinity.

RESULTS: Coastline obliques were taken from vicinity of HERBERTH PLANTATION to vicinity of YAGOMAI from 100 to 1200 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Ranges, building up. Front off coast of FINSCHHAFEN.

350 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: MADANG and SAIDOR area.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to clouds. Airplane was over SAIDOR at 1000/L at 15000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: VISUAL STRAITS, front extending from 10000 to 25000 feet. RAMU VALLEY, 4/10 covered. HUON GULF, frontal storms from 8000 to 25000 feet.

349 P. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 499th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1215/16/L to 1050/17/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to CORAP, NADZAB, GOODENOUGH ISLAND and DOBODURA.

RESULTS: Courier Mission was 100% completed. Airplane remained overnight at GOODENOUGH ISLAND due to darkness.

ALGIERS:

AMERICA'S POWERFUL NEW STRIKING ARM THE FIFTEENTH STRATEGIC AIR FORCE TANGLED THE SLENDER RAILROAD THREAD LINKING GERMANY AND THE TENTH NAZI ARMY IN ITALY WITH AN ACCURATE AND CONCENTRATED ATTACK WEDNESDAY ON RAIL JUNCTIONS IN AUSTRIA AND THE BRENNER PASS. MORE THAN 300 BOMBERS AND FIGHTERS DEMONSTRATED THE GREAT DESTRUCTIVE RANGE OF THE ALLIED AIR FORCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BY HITTING RAILROAD YARDS AT THE WORLD FAMOUS SKI RESORT OF INNSBRUCK IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL, A THOUSAND MILES FROM TARGETS THEY ATTACKED TWENTY FOUR HOURS PREVIOUSLY AT ATHENS GREECE. MEANWHILE THE ALLIED FIFTH AND EIGHT ARMIES PUSHED SLOWLY AND LABORIOUSLY DEEPER INTO GERMAN DEFENSES BELOW ROME. THE EIGHTH ARMY CHOPPED THE ROAD BETWEEN ORTONA AND ORSOGNA IN THREE PLACES AND REACHED A GOOD POSITION TO BRING HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE BLAZING PORT OF ORTONA. THE FIFTH ARMY PUSHED AHEAD AND CAPTURED AN IMPORTANT HILL IN THE CASTEL SAN VINCENZO AREA SIX MILES SOUTH OF ALFEDENA.

WASHINGTON:

LACK OF ADEQUATE AERIAL DEFENSES ESPECIALLY FIGHTER PLANES AROUND THE SUPPLY PORT OF BARI ITALY IS NOW REVEALED TO HAVE COST THE ALLIES SEVENTEEN CARGO SHIPS AND 1000 CASUALTIES TWO WEEKS AGO THURSDAY. FIVE OF THE SHIPS WERE AMERICAN. THE ANCHORED VESSELS WERE BLOWN UP LIKE SITTING DUCKS BY A HANDFUL OF GERMAN BOMBERS WHICH MADE A DEVASTATING LOW LEVEL ATTACK ON THE HARBOR AT DAWN DECEMBER SECOND. APPROXIMATELY 1000 PERSONS WERE KILLED OR INJURED INCLUDING 37 AMERICAN NAVAL MEN. IF THERE WERE ANY LOSSES TO THE FORCE OF 30 ODD ENEMY ASSAULT PLANES WHICH MADE THE ATTACK THEY COULD NOT BE DETERMINED HERE. INFORMATION OF THE DEFEAT INCLUDING DETAILS RELEASED BY SECRETARY OF WAR STIMSON DEALT ONLY WITH UNITED NATIONS LOSSES. THIS GAVE RISE TO THE ASSUMPTION WHICH WAS UNCONFIRMED THAT THE RAIDERS PROBABLY ESCAPED SCOT FREE AFTER CATCHING SUCH DEFENSES AS BARI BOASTED COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.

LONDON:

THE RED ARMY HURLED THE GERMANS OUT OF SEVERAL POPULATED PLACES IN THE BATTLE OF THE KIEV BULGE THURSDAY TAKING THE OFFENSIVE IN THIS VITAL SECTOR FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT DAY, MOSCOW ANNOUNCED THURSDAY NIGHT. STRIKING OUT AGAINST MASSED GERMAN TANK FORMATIONS SOUTH OF MALIN AND NORTHWEST OF RADOMYSL APPROXIMATELY FIFTY FIVE MILES WEST OF KIEV THE RUSSIANS AIDED BY POWERFUL ARTILLERY CONCENTRATIONS FOUGHT ENGAGEMENTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR POSITIONS. RUSSIANS CAPTURED THE POPULATED PLACES SAID THE SOVIET DAILY COMMUNIQUE RECORDED BY THE SOVIET MONITOR FROM A RADIO BROADCAST. THE RUSSIANS REPORTED CONTINUING GAINS SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST OF THE MIDDLE DNIEPER RIVER CITY OF CHERKASY WHERE SEVERAL TOWNS WERE TAKEN AND ALSO TO THE SOUTH IN THE BIG DRIVE TOWARD THE INDUSTRIAL CITY OF KIROVOGRAD.

CHUNGKING:

AIDED BY ALMOST CONTINUOUS ACTIVITY BY GENERAL CHENNAULTS SKY DRAGONS CHINESE TROOPS IN THE RICE BOWL AREA WEST OF TUNGTING LAKE ARE PRESSING THEIR EFFORTS TO SURROUND JAPANESE REMNANTS STILL RETREATING FROM CHANGTEH. THE CHINESE HIGH COMMAND ANNOUNCED THURSDAY THAT SEVERAL JAP DETACHMENTS ALREADY HAD BEEN TRAPPED NEAR LIHSIEN AND DECLARED THEIR ANNIHILATION IS MERELY AT MATTER OF TIME. SEVERE FIGHTING HAS DEVELOPED IN THE SUBURBS OF ANSIANG AND HANSHIANG TWO LAKESIDE TOWNS WHICH THE CHINESE ARE ATTEMPTING TO RECAPTURE. IF THEY SUCCEED AND ALSO TAKE LIHSIEN THE CHINESE WOULD NEED ONLY TO CLOSE A FORTY MILE GAP TO ENCIRCLE ALL JAPAN'S TROOPS SOUTH OF THE LIN RIVER, THE HIGH COMMAND SAID.

AMERICAN AIR FORCES IN CHINA WHICH HAVE BEEN BUSY SUPPORTING THE CHINESE ADVANCE IN THE RICE BOWL COUNTRY TOOK TIME OUT TO MAKE A DEEP SWEEP OVER THE GULF OF TONKIN SINKING A TUG AND PROBABLY A SCHOONER. IN CENTRAL CHINA'S RICE BOWL FIGHTING CHINESE TROOPS TRIED TO CLOSE A 40 MILE GAP TO COMPLETE ENTRAPMENT OF ALL ENEMY REMNANTS.

G. H. Q. SOUTHWEST NEWS COMMUNIQUE
NOT RECEIVED AT TIME OF THIS REPORT

WEATHER: GOODENOUGH ISLAND to DOBODURA, broken to overcast at 600 feet, visibility poor, 4 miles in rain squalls. Rain at DOBODURA, overcast to broken at 400 feet. DOBODURA to MORESBY, broken cumulus, 500 feet, scattered clouds above 1000 feet, overcast at 13000 feet, broken cumulus at 7000/9000 feet over Ranges.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

P-47's of the 341st Fighter Squadron at 0615/17/L, sighted 20 to 25 VALS and 15 OSCARS 2 miles North of ARAWE. 7 VALS and 2 OSCARS were definitely shot down.

At 1430/L, P-47's of the 342nd Fighter Squadron shot down 1 DINAH in the ARAWE area.

At 1705/L, P-38's of the 80th Fighter Squadron sighted 1 ZEKE and 1 TONY taking off the CAPE GLOUCESTER strip. The ZEKE was shot down.

Our losses were nil all day long.

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.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP
20 DEC 1943

Report No. 353

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: [illegible]
DATE: 19/12/43

FROM: 1600/18/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/19/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

KAVIENG and PANAPAI: 1 F-5 of the 6th Photo Squadron (352 W) took photos of KAVIENG and PANAPAI Airdromes from 1020/L to 1025/L. 3 enemy SSF (ZEKES or HAMPS) were seen taking off from KAVIENG Airdromes at 1015/L to intercept F-5. F-5 completed photo runs then took cover in clouds and saw no more of the enemy. Intense, light and medium, inaccurate A/A fire bursting at 7000/8000 feet was received from KAVIENG Airdromes (F-5 was at 7500 feet). At 1020/L approximately stationary ships were seen in BALGAI BAY. 3 or 4 of which were large unidentified vessels and the rest were medium size M/V's.

ROOKE ISLAND: 1 F-5 of the 6th Photo Squadron (352 X) took photos of KOMOKE and of LORENGAU Airdromes; also mapping photos from LORENGAU to HILLY POINT and of reefs around ROOKE ISLAND from 1000/L to 1020/L from 25000 feet. There were nil sightings.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-25D-1 of the 501st Squadron (352 C) completed 100% weather recce to CAPE GLOUCESTER, REIN BAY, SAILOR and FINSCHHAFEN. Weather was reported half-hourly. 9 X 100 lb. bombs were dropped at 0532/L along strip No. 2 at CAPE GLOUCESTER. 1 X 100 lb. bomb was dropped 1 mile West of MALASANGA VILLAGE at 0621/L. Results of bombing were unobserved. At 0435/L, 7 to 8 flashes believed to be A/A fire were seen coming from three seperately grouped positions along Southeast coast of ROOKE ISLAND. At 0645/L, 9 small craft believed to be landing barges were seen offshore 6 to 8 miles Northeast of FORTIFICATION POINT, apparently heading in towards beach landing between FORTIFICATION POINT and BLUCHER POINT.

26 B-24's of the 90th Group (352 H) bombed TARGET HILL (SILIMATI POINT) from 0944/L to 1001/L. 200 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped at the target from 9900/10900 feet. Several fires and one large explosion resulted from excellent bombing. 75% of bombs dropped fell on pin-point target. Observation could not verify damage but it is believed that serious damage was done to enemy gun emplacements. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER was seen to be covered by bomb craters with no attempt having been made to make runway serviceable.

24 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (352 I) bombed and strafed Villages from DORE POINT to CAPE GLOUCESTER from 0933/L to 0939/L. 159 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped at the target. Targets were strafed with 42625 X .50 cal. and 10200 X .30 cal. One small fire

and smoke was started at barge hideout at 615963 (DORF POINT, 1/20000). Bombs fell among buildings along the coast from DORF POINT to CAPE GLOUCESTER with several buildings being destroyed. Small fires were started at ULAMAINGI, WAREMO and POINI VILLAGES. Entire area from DORF POINT to CAPE GLOUCESTER was effectively bombed and strafed. Slight, inaccurate M/G fire was received from coastal defense areas and CAPE GLOUCESTER. One burst of medium A/A fire came from position near target area. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. Roads from Northwest end of strip No. 1 appeared used. A possible concrete building was seen at mission at 583951 (DORF POINT, 1/20000). A wall 10 feet high and 20 feet long, was seen in trees at 642972 (CAPE GLOUCESTER Special, 1/20000). Black smoke was seen rising from TARGET HILL. Trucks were observed parked in revetments at North end of strip No. 1 at CAPE GLOUCESTER.

MADANG: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (352 Y) took operational and mapping photos in the MADANG area from 0725/L to 1050/L. There were nil sightings.

ALEXISHAFEN: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (352 F) completed 100% a weather recce to ALEXISHAFEN. Airplane took off at 0320/L and landed at 0730/L. A white light was seen flashing in vicinity of drome at ALEXISHAFEN.

16 B-25D-1's and 18 B-25C's of the 38th Group (352 J) took off at 0713/L to bomb ALEXISHAFEN. Group turned back at 0925/L from GUSAP on receipt of orders via radio. Nil attack was made.

SAIDOR: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (352 Z) took operational photos in the SAIDOR area from 1005/L to 1100/L from 21600 feet. Mapping photos were also taken of the BOGADJIM ROAD to the RAMU RIVER. There were nil sightings.

MADANG-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (352 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to GUSAP, MADANG and LAE. Airplane took off at 0635/L and landed at 1342/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (352 B) completed 75% of a weather recce to WAU and the MARKHAM VALLEY between KAIAPIT and MADANG. Mission was incomplete due to loss of radio contact. At 0745/L, 1 unidentified airplane was sighted over MARILINAN on a heading due North.

NOTE: Included in this report are the following Final Mission Reports from FATF:

351 AA. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 90th Squadron.
11 A-20's, 8th Squadron.

TARGET: Dump area near WALINGAI VILLAGE.

351 BB. STRIKE - 10 B-25's, 2nd Squadron.
12 B-26's, 19th Squadron.
12 B-25's, 33rd Squadron.
12 B-25's, 408th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

351 CC. ARMED RECCO - 7 P-39Q's, 82nd Rcn Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: SAIDOR to FORTIFICATION POINT.

351 DD. STRIKE - 10 B-24's; 529th Squadron.
10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE HOSKINS Strip.

351 EE. STRIKE - 6 B-24's; 64th Squadron.
5 B-24's; 65th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE HOSKINS Strip.

351 GG. ARMED RECCO - 2 B-24's, 63rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

351 HH. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25, 2nd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to CAPE GLOUCESTER.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA:

Mopping-up operations are continuing at LAKONA where a number of enemy dead have been accounted for while others jumped from the cliffs into the sea.

Our troops North of the SANGA RIVER are pushing West against enemy opposition.

In the vicinity of WAREO a number of Japanese positions have been found vacated and our patrols are moving forward without making contact.

Northeast of WAREO on the track to KILIGIA the enemy has broken off contact and our troops have occupied the high ground dominating the spur running towards the coast between the SOWI and TUNOM RIVERS.

RAMU VALLEY:

Our patrols operating extensively in the KESAWAI area and towards the SOLU RIVER carried out their [illegible] without making contact with the enemy.

ARAWE AREA (NEW BRITAIN):

Japs were driven out of UNTINGAIU VILLAGE at 2600/L on the 16th of December by artillery fire. A barracks with 60 rifle racks was captured along with a supply dump and machine gun positions. A small detachment of Japs in a cave on the East side of the Peninsula are being exterminated. Three 75 mm AT. guns have been captured. Location of captured guns unknown.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

ARAWE AREA (NEW BRITAIN):

On the 17th of December between the hours of 0100/L and 0315/L, an undetermined number of enemy planes bombed and strafed the ARAWE area 12 different times. Damage if any unreported. Later from 0605/L to 0815/L, 12 planes dropped several bombs. No damage.

B. Air Forces.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4	9	2				15	0
DAGUA	12	9	11				32	0
WEWAK	9	2	5			6	22	0
BORAM	19	1					20	0
AITAR	8						8	0
HOLLANDIA	10	46	23				81	-0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	62	82	41			6	191	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	7	13	2	14		7	43	-41
VUNAKANAU	10	19	4	10			43	0
LAKUNAI	60	3	10	10			83	0
KAPOPO		6	2	10			18	0
HARBOR						20	20	0
PANAPAI	11						11	+11
TOBERA	20			3			23	0
BORPOP		4					4	0
Total	108	45	18	47		27	245	-30

COMMENTS:

1. 3 SSF were airborne over KAVIENG when this drome was photoed today (19/12/43). PANAPAI was also photoed today.

2. No photos of NEW GUINEA dromes today. Estimate remains unchanged.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

None reported.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

351 N. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1500/18/L to 1830/18/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Ranges, 1520/L, clouds built up to 20000 feet. DOBODURA, 1600/L, clear, scattered clouds at 10000 feet. Ranges, 1800/L, clouds built up to 20000 feet.

352 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0635/19/L to 1342/19/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, low cumulus clouds at 6000/7000 feet, valley, clear. On return, cumulus clouds to 13000 feet.

351 AA. STRIKE - 11 A-20's, 8th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0840/18/L to 0910/18/L.

TARGET: Ammunition dumps and personnel at defense position 195103, 193102, 190100 (WAA Photo map No. 0366) and 157169, 159168, 161170 (WALINGAI Photo map).

RESULTS: 40 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the targets. Target was well covered by bombs and much dust and smoke was seen to cover target area. One bomb burst was seen to give off black smoke, which appeared different from other bomb bursts-possibly a small explosion. One bomb burst threw up debris from a possible hut or shack. Bombing was accurate and excellent. Results were unobserved. 4 bombing and strafing passes were made. 9400 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing and strafing was considered excellent. Propaganda leaflets were dropped over the entire target area. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: A box 4 feet square was seen in a palm grove. Two wrecked barges were observed on shore East of area. Tracks and entire area appeared to be well used.

WEATHER: Scattered stratus clouds at 1500 feet enroute to target. CAVU at target. Returning no base, weather same as enroute to target.

351 AA. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 90th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0845/18/L to 0910/18/L.

TARGET: Camp and dump area in wooded grove 500 yards South of WALINGAI VILLAGE-187107, 185107, 185104, 186103, 189103 (Ref. WALINGAI Photo map, 1/20000).

RESULTS: 42 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. Bombing was excellent. Many craters were seen in the target as Squadron left the area. Target was thoroughly strafed with 12950 X .50 cal and 170 X 20 mm. Results were unobserved. Propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target. Photos were taken of WALINGAI VILLAGE and the target area.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Coastal track in humid grass on both sides of target was well used. Several grass huts were observed in wooded area of target. Most of huts were unidentifiable. Barges were observed on S. bank mouth of river 4 mile at WALINGAI VILLAGE. 2 sailboats were seen along shore 600 yards inland from shore at approximate center of target.

GENERAL: 1 A-20 returned to base due to electrical failure-bomb bay doors would not open.

WEATHER: On approach and over target, scattered cumulus, 3/10 at 2000 feet, visibility 15 miles.

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351 Sq. RANGE - 10 [illegible], 2nd Squadron.

NUMBER OF ATTACK: 1000/12/1.

TARGET: CAPE GRIM—Duty range No. 9.

WEATHER: 24 x 30 [illegible] knots. [illegible] were reported [illegible] feet in clearing. A 200 ft. roof [illegible] mi. [illegible] was excellent. [illegible] Nath [illegible] target in water [illegible]. [illegible] fell in [illegible] target. [illegible] of bombs [illegible] in centre of target B. 5A. 8 min. [illegible]. Flights [illegible] were [illegible] the range. Water very [illegible].

A/A: Nil.

[illegible]: [illegible] of [illegible] were [illegible] C.P. 5000 ft. [illegible] operations [illegible] provide [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] at 1000/. Wind [illegible] very high.

REMARKS: Two [illegible], second mid scattered at [illegible] at 2000 feet, [illegible] from 3000 to 12000 feet, visibility unlimited. Target, C.U. Scattered [illegible] covering [illegible]. RANGE. Weather [illegible] on return owing to [illegible] of high cirro-stratus.

351 Sq. RANGE - 12 [illegible], 12th Squadron.

NUMBER OF ATTACK: 1002/12/1 & 1005/12/1.

TARGET: CAPE GRIMSBY—Single [illegible] area No. [illegible] No. 4 [illegible].

WEATHER: 4 x 500 lb. [illegible] were dropped from 9000/10000 feet in [illegible] at 120 to 150 knots on the target. Bombing was [illegible] excellent—66 bursts [illegible]. [illegible] was in a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] target [illegible] [illegible]. Other [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of thick [illegible] on the target. 8 x 500 lb. [illegible] bombs were released [illegible] 200 feet [illegible] of the [illegible] target with nil results observed. Photos were [illegible] the [illegible].

A/A: Nil.

OBSERVATIONS: At 1004/1 from 9500 feet, a considerable amount of white smoke was seen [illegible] target No. 5B. At 1015/1 from 9,000 feet, 5 to 6 barges, [illegible] and serviceability, unidentified, were sighted [illegible] more west to the/East of CAPE GRIMSBY. At 1020/1 at 9000 feet, 5 to 6 large barges were seen [illegible] in the middle of the river at GRIMSBY (0527-1810).

REMARKS: Four [illegible] scattered cumulus clouds, at [illegible] 7/10 [illegible]. Visibility unlimited.

351 Sq. RANGE - 12 [illegible], 18th Squadron.

NUMBER OF ATTACK: 1000/12/1.

TARGET: CAPE GRIMSBY—Target No. 5 B.

RESULTS: 72 x 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 9500/9600 feet on a heading of 225 degrees. Bombs dropped by 6 B-25's (50% of bombs dropped) covered the Western 3/4ths of the designated target perfectly. Bombs dropped by the other 6 B-25's (50% of bombs dropped) fell in wooded area. No visible results were observed. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

GENERAL: The reason for the 6 airplanes bombs overshooting the target was malfunction of bomb racks causing the lead bombardier to salvo bombs and all other bombardiers who were dropping on him!!!!

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus 2000 feet to 6000 feet, stratus wisps above 8000 feet. Rolling, unlimited, visibility unlimited. Clear over target.

351 BB. STRIKE - 12 B-25's, 63rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1005/18/L.

TARGET: CAPE CLO CLOSTER—Target No. 2 A (Dump area East-South boarder of East end of No. 2 strip).

RESULTS: 66 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 10000/10500 feet on headings of 190 & 200 degrees at the target. Bombing was considered excellent. 36 bombs fell in target. 20 bombs fell in clearing South of target and 10 bombs fell in wooded area at 665944 (CAPE GLOUCESTER, 1/20000). Results were unobserved. Area was covered with bomb-smoke. Photos were taken of the bombing. 6 bundles of propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1005/L in a 5000 feet, a life vest, raft and some debris were sighted at 0730S-15635E. Trails along ITNS RIVER showed constant usage. Villages along river seemed to contain new huts.

GENERAL: 1 B-25 returned to base before reaching the target due to mechanical trouble.

WEATHER: Enroute, cumulus at 10000 feet, few high cirrus at 20000 feet, visibility 30 miles. Target, scattered cumulus at 5000 feet—not obstructing bombing run, visibility 30 miles. On return, front built up 50 miles off NEW CASTLE coast, moving in toward HUON PENINSULA, scattered cumulus 1000 feet to 10000 feet, visibility 30 miles.

351 DD. STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 529th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0940/1a/L to 0944/18/L.

TARGET: CAPE HOSKINS—Strip.

RESULTS: 80 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay dem. bombs were dropped from 9500/9000 feet on the target. All bombs were seen to explode from 1,500 feet South of the Northwest tip of the strip to the Southeast end of the cleared area. Bombing was excellent. 2 unidentified

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twin engine airplanes in revetments; one near Southeast end of runway, were seen burning after the attack. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight, medium, inaccurate.

SIGHTINGS: A schooner was seen in the water slightly Northwest of CAPE HOSKINS strip. One unidentified twin-engine airplane was seen in revetment South of center of strip. 3 revetments were observed near Southeast end of runway. An unidentified twin-engine airplane in center of these revetments was apparently burning after the attack. Smoke was noted from dump area East of strip on approach to target.

WEATHER: CAVU enroute and over target.

351 DD. STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 513th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0945/13/I.

TARGET: CAPE HOSKINS strip.

RESULTS: A total of 20 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 9500 feet at the target. 38 bombs hit on the strip, 6 bombs hit in the revetment area and 4 bombs fell in the water. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing and oblique photos were taken of PULPALIS VILLAGE at 0550S-14940E.

A/A: Slight, medium, inaccurate from installations Southwest of the runway.

SIGHTINGS: 1 unidentified MSF was seen in center of revetment area. Boxes and supplies were sighted on East coast of SAND ISLAND in RIEBOCK BAY. (Sightings were made at 0911/I from 9200 feet with binoculars while airplane was on course 53 degrees.).

WEATHER: CAVU enroute out and back.

351 EE. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0950/13/I.

TARGET: CAPE HOSKINS Strip.

RESULTS: 36 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 10000 feet on a heading of 140 degrees at the target. 77% of bombs fell in target. Bombing was excellent. All results other than bomb bursts were observed. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight, medium, inaccurate, bursting generally behind and 3000/4000 feet below. Some quick dissipating white bursts were observed. A position was seen firing from approximately 1200 feet Southwest of entrance of most Northerly land locs.

SIGHTINGS: At 0950/I from 10000 feet, one small unidentified surface vessel was seen speeding in Easterly direction off tip of WILLAUMEZ PENINSULA. One unidentified twin-engine airplane was observed in revetment on taxiway from center of strip.

ENROUTE: SOLOMON SEA, 3/10 cumulus at 6000 feet. Target, weather same with 3/10 cirro-cumulus at 15000 feet. NEW BRITAIN, 5/10 cumulus, tops 7500 feet. SOLOMON SEA, no change on return.

351 BE. STRIKE - 5 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0950/12/L to 0957/16/L.

TARGET: CAPE HOSKINS strip.

RESULTS: 28 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 7200/9000 feet on headings of 135 to 150 degrees at the target. Bombing was considered excellent--all bombs hit in target. 55% of bombs hit the runway. 45% of bombs fell 250 feet West of runway in revetment area. 2 bombs were salvoed off South end of the runway--bursts were unobserved. 3 bundles of propaganda leaflets were dropped on the target.

A/A: One burst of possibly medium, inaccurate A/A fire, black in color, was observed, from an undetermined source. At 0953/L from 9800 feet over CAPE HOSKINS, flashes of possible A/A were observed. One came from position 250 feet South of Southern most revetment and one from position 2000 feet Southwest of middle of runway.

OBSERVATIONS: At 0953/L from 9800 feet, one probably unserviceable lugger was seen beached at CAPE HOSKINS 3300 feet East of North end of strip. 6 to 7 probable camp fires with white smoke, were observed 1000 feet inshore. 2 unidentified airplanes, possibly SSF, were seen in revetments.

WEATHER: Enroute, 2/10 cumulus, bases 3000 feet, tops 7500 feet. Target, 2/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 9000 feet. On return, 3/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 7000 feet.

351 BE. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0952/12/L.

TARGET: CAPE HOSKINS strip.

RESULTS: 35 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 10400/11000 feet on headings of 130 to 140 degrees at the target. 25 bombs fell in center and on South end of the runway; 10 bombs fell within a thousand feet of the runway. Bombing was excellent. Strings of bombs were plotted on HOSKINS Photomap, CTU T-17 as follows: 475435 to 530305, 470300 to 525310, 510410 to 985310, 490350 to 515305, 490360 to 550385 and 490375 to 565305. Bomb bursts were observed and runway was well chewed up--definitely unserviceable. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight, light to medium, inaccurate, bursting 2000 feet below formation. Orange flashes were seen at reported enemy A/A position 600 feet Southwest of strip near Northern end (435-320) and from M/G's along shore South of runway.

OBSERVATIONS: At 0933/L from 1500 feet, 15 small houses were seen along beach at 0529S-140478. Houses were apparently constructed of wood but were not of native type.

6 barges were seen along shore West of KAMOKA, 3 miles East of WILSON POINT. 1 lugger was seen off end of runway at C PE HOSKINS. At 1010/L from 11000 feet, 1 large yellow, square, object was seen floating in the HOPANNA RIVER.

WEATHER: SOLOMON Sea, 4/10 cumulus at 8000/9000 feet. Some on return. Target, 1/10 cumulus at 3000 feet, only a few very scattered clouds.

350 FF. RECCO - 1 B-24, 63rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 1400/17/L to 1900/17/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Special search for missing B-24.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed. Route flown: DOBODURA to 0740S-14610E, 0700S-14630E, 0640S-14910E, 0640S-15010E, 0720S-15012E, 0825S-15040E, KIETA, 0834S-15020E and return.

SIGHTINGS: At 1445/L from 200 feet, one empty yellow life raft was observed at 0720 -14507E. At 1623/L from 200 feet, a yellow oil drum was sighted at 0720S-15012E. No sightings seemed to have any bearing on lost B-24.

WEATHER: CAVU during entire search.

351 CC. ARMED RECCO - 7 P-39Q's, 82nd Recn Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0730/19/L to 0900/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SAIDOR to FORTIFICATION POINT.

RESULTS: 3 serviceable barges along beach North of WILSON POINT were strafed and believed destroyed. One serviceable barge partly concealed under brush inside of SIO LAGOON, was strafed with unobserved results. 35 x 37 mm and 970 x .50 cal. were expended in strafing.

SIGHTINGS: Wrecked VAL (Shot down on 351 CC. SEE BELOW,) was observed at LEPSIUS POINT.

WEATHER: Cloud bases at 20000 feet up to target and along coast.

351 CC. ARMED RECCO - 7 P-39Q's, 82nd Recn Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 1715/18/L to 1835/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SAIDOR to FORTIFICATION POINT.

RESULTS: Area where fires were seen at PESCHEL POINT was strafed. Results were unobserved.

INTERCEPTION: One VAL was intercepted at 1810/L at 200 feet over LEPSIUS POINT. VAL was first noticed flying off to right. P-39 investigated, found it to be a VAL, came in from behind and below at 5 o'clock and fired into wing root of VAL. Wing seemed to tear off and flame poured out of VAL. Enemy used no evasive action except gentle turn to right as fire opened. P-39 pilot opened fire within 50 yards. 2 P-39 pilots saw VAL go down in flames and crash.

SIGHTINGS: Smoke was seen rising from among trees Southeast of SAIDOR. P-39's could not get in low enough to strafe.

GENERAL: 400 X .50 cal. and 20 X 37 mm were expended in strafing and interception.

WEATHER: Clear to target and along coast, cloud bases at 12000 feet.

351 GN. ARMED RECCO - 2 B-24's, 63rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 2130/18/L to 0730/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was 100% completed as ordered. Nil targets were sighted. Route flown: DOBODURA to ROOKS ISLAND, South coast of NEW IRELAND, CAPE POMAS, North coast of NEW BRITAIN, WITU ISLANDS and return.

WEATHER: Enroute out, DAMPIER STRAITS, stratus, 4/10 at 3000 feet, visibility 6 miles. BISMARCK SEA, scattered cumulus, 4/10, base 1500 feet, tops 2500 feet to 6000 feet, occasional showers, visibility 10 to 25 miles. On return, low cumulus, 6/10, base 1000 feet, tops 7000 feet, visibility 15 miles.

351 BM. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25, 2nd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0520/18/L to 0715/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: M/G fire was encountered from shore position in vicinity of KIRUMALA POINT or from small surface vessel off this Point at 0622/L at 2000 feet. Our airplane did not attack due to possible presence of friendly surface craft in the vicinity.

WEATHER: Enroute, low scattered cumulus at about 1000 feet, visibility unlimited. Terminal, a long solid row of cumulus extending East to NEW BRITAIN from vicinity of 0600S-14800E, low scattered cumulus at 1000 feet, visibility unlimited. On return, low scattered cumulus at about 1000 feet, upper, scattered to broken alto-cumulus and alto-stratus at 10000/13000 feet. A layer of alto-cumulus about 50 miles off coast extending from DOBODURA to NEW BRITAIN, visibility unlimited.

351 B. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0720/18/L to 2010/18/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was 95% completed. Extreme Western coordinate was not covered-due to fuel consumption.

SIGHTINGS: At 0912/L from 6000 feet, a small unidentified vessel observed in the East shore of BOROEN BAY appeared serviceable. At 1340/L from 6000 feet, Plantation and red roof European type building was observed in the HERMIT ISLANDS.

MIL SIGHTINGS: 0430S-15030E at 1009/L from 6000 feet. 0315S-14933E at 1109/L from 2000 feet. 0330S-14745E at 1205/L from 6000 feet. 0225S-14625E at 1253/L from 2000 feet. 0230S-14345E at 1450/L from 6000 feet. SEPIK RIVER mouth at 1530/L from 6000 feet. 0438S-14635E at 1535/L from 2000 feet.

WEATHER: 3/10 scattered cumulus, tops 7000 feet over entire recce. North coast of NEW BRITAIN, 2/10 scattered cumulus, tops 4000 feet. WEWAK, closed in, 10/10 cumulus, tops unobserved. Ranges crossed from DOBODURA to base at 10000 feet, 3/10 scattered cumulus, tops 6000 feet.

352 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0500/19/L to 0855/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to MT. YULE, WAU, MARKHAM VALLEY, between KAIAPIT and NADZAB, and return.

YULE

RESULTS: Mission was 75% completed. Airplane took off at 0500/L and after reaching WAU VALLEY turned back when radio contact was lost, landing at 0630/L. Airplane took off again at 0650/L, proceeded to WAU VALLEY were contact was again lost and airplane returned to base at 0855/L.

SIGHTINGS: At 0745/L from 10000 feet from MARILINAN, one unidentified airplane was observed heading North. Airplane changed course and headed towards B-25. It passed into the clouds and was not seen again.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0530/L, clear to high overcast at 15000 feet. Ranges, 0530/L to 0600/L, overcast 9000 feet, strato-cumulus, high broken to overcast at 15000 feet. WAU, 0735/L, low broken strato-cumulus, base about 500 feet off ground. LAE and FINSCHHAFEN, clear. MARKHAM VALLEY, 0745/L to 0755/L, low clouds with scattered bases at 1000 feet, scattered layer at 9000 feet, high scattered at 18000 feet. Ranges, 0755/L to 0815/L, overcast to broken at 7500 feet.

352 C. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0325/19/L to 0900/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: CAPE GLOUCESTER to REIN BAY, FORTIFICATION POINT, SAIDOR, FINSCHHAFEN and return.

RESULTS: Recce was 100% completed. Weather was reported half-hourly. At 0532/L, 9 X 100 lb wire wrapped inst. demo. bombs were dropped on CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdrome from 4000 feet. 7 bombs fell in line along strip No. 2. 2 bombs fell in square 631968—632969 (Ref. GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES Special, 1/20000). 1 X 100 lb. wire wrapped inst. demo. bomb was dropped at 0621/L from 4000 feet at 183470 (Ref. MALASANGA Prov., 1 inch to 1 mile), 1 mile West of MALASANGA VILLAGE. Results of bombing were unobserved.

SIGHTINGS: At 0435/L, 7 to 8 gun flashes believed to be A/A were seen coming from 3 separately grouped positions along Southeast coast of ROOKE ISLAND. At 0645/L, 9 small craft believed to be landing barges were seen offshore 6 to 6 miles Northeast of FORTIFICATION POINT, apparently heading in for landing between FORTIFICATION and BLUCHER POINT.

WEATHER: BUNA to STRAITS, 0330/L to 0400/L, 6/10 broken strato-cumulus with scattered thunderstorms throughout area, bases at 1000 feet lowering to 200 feet, rain showers beneath thunderstorm, visibility 2 miles. CAPE GLOUCESTER to REIN BAY, 0440/L to 0500/L, low scattered strato-cumulus, 4/10 to 6/10, tops 5000 feet, base 1500 feet, distant thunderstorm over land to Southeast.

FINSCHHAFEN to BOMADJIM, 0530/L to 0645/L, CAVU.
FINSCHHAFEN to CAPE WARD HUNT, 0645/L to 0720/L, scattered to broken strato-cumulus with few large cumulus, base 500 feet, tops estimated 5000/10000 feet, heavy rain showers under heavy cumulus.

352 F. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0320/19/L to 0730/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to ALEXISHAFEN and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: A white light was seen flashing in vicinity of the drome at ALEXISHAFEN.

WEATHER: Enroute, few scattered clouds at 10000 feet. Clear over target. On return, cloud tops at 8000 feet.

352 H. STRIKE - 7 B-24's, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0944/19/L.

TARGET: TARGET HILL.

RESULTS: 56 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 10300 feet on a heading of 295 degrees at the target. Bombing was excellent--all bombs hit the target. Nil results were observed except bomb bursts. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: 5/10 broken clouds over NEW BRITAIN, 8/10 over Gulf at 10000 feet. Ranges crossed at 14000 feet over an overcast.

352 H. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0945/19/L.

TARGET: TARGET HILL.

RESULTS: 48 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 10600 feet on a heading of 316 degrees at the target. Bombing was excellent. Bombs fell in assigned target extending from East slope over the crest of TARGET HILL causing one large explosion and several fires. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0948/L from 10000 feet over CAPE GLOUCESTER, dense smoke covered TARGET HILL. The center of No. 2 strip was a mass of bomb craters. Nil apparent attempts had been made to repair damage to runway caused by yesterday's bombing.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent.

WEATHER: Weak front off DOBODURA, 5/10 cumulus, scattered thunderheads from 16000 feet. Target, clear. Inland from target over Western NEW BRITAIN, 3/10 scattered cumulus, tops 8000 feet. Ranges crossed at 15000 feet from CAPE WARD HUNT to REDSCAR BAY, 7/10, tops to 15000 feet.

352 H. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0946/19/L.

TARGET: TARGET HILL.

RESULTS: Squadron bombed from a diamond formation on a 306 degree heading from 10900 feet. 48 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped and all bombs fell on target with exception of 2 which momentarily hung up and were salvoed later. One moderate fire was seen on TARGET HILL, emitting black smoke immediately after bombing. Photos were taken of the bombing and of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER R.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0947/L from 10900 feet, No. 2 runway was still unserviceable. The same damaged airplanes were seen on strip as were there on 15/12/43.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent.

WEATHER: Target, 7/10 cumulus, 6000 feet. 4/10 scattered cumulus on return to CAPE WARD HUNT. Ranges crossed at 13000 feet on return from CAPE WARD HUNT, weather good.

352 H. STRIKE - 7 B-24's, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1001/19/L.

TARGET: TARGET HILL.

RESULTS: 46 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 9900 feet on a heading of 295 degrees at the target. Bombing was considered good. Crews reported bombs hit approximately 500 feet over TARGET HILL strafing through wooded area. Usual smoke from bombing prevented accurate assessment of damage. Target appeared well covered by Group bombing. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: Enroute, 2/10 to 4/10 scattered cumulus. Target, CAVU. Generally clear on return with 3/10 scattered cumulus, tops to 12000 feet. Ranges crossed at 12500 feet.

352 I. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0935/19/L.

TARGET: Personnel and dumps along coast 1 to 3½ miles West of CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: 46 X 300 lb. 6/11 second delay dem. bombs were dropped. 46 bombs fell in assigned targets from DORF POINT to CAPE GLOUCESTER. 2 bombs (dropped at target 110) missed the target. Small fires were started in target No. 12, in ULAMINGI and WARELO. Targets were strafed thoroughly with 13500 X .50 cal. and 3600 X .30 cal. Results of bombing and strafing were unobserved. Propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0937/L, one fire was seen approximately 3000 feet South of No. 1 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Smoke were seen in revetments at North end of strip No. 1. Nil activity was seen in target.

WEATHER: Enroute, 0815/L, 5/10 clouds, 10000 feet. 0901/L, 3/10 scattered clouds, 900 feet, visibility unlimited. Target, high scattered clouds, visibility unlimited. On return, alto-cumulus, 2500 feet to 3500 feet, 5/

352 I. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 499th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0933/19/L to 0935/19/L.

TARGET: POINT VILLAGE to CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdrome.

RESULTS: 44 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. Assigned targets were thoroughly bombed and strafed with 7600 X .50 cal. and 4100 X .50 cal. Bombing was excellent—40 bombs hit in target. 4 bombs were dropped late on dispersal area of No. 2 strip. No specific targets were observed to be hit but on withdrawal bomb smoke was observed to cover target area. One small fire and a large amount of smoke resulted at 615963 (This and all following references to DORF POINT, Preliminary Sheet, 1/[illegible]). Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Many craters were seen in POINT VILLAGE area at 5[illegible]. Concrete building, probably bomb shelter, was seen at Mission at 593947. At CAPE GLOUCESTER following airplanes were observed: 1 unserviceable MIKE on Northeast end at West center of No. 1 strip; 1 unserviceable TONY at West center of No. 1 strip; 3 unserviceable NELLS on No. 1 strip. Roads from Northwest end of No. 1 strip appeared well used. A large oil slick and debris were sighted in VITIAZ STRAITS opposite FINSCHHAFEN—exact position unknown. No trenches, barbed wire entanglements or bridges were sighted. M/G position was seen at 656963. After leaving target, an oil fire with smoke 100 feet high, was observed in target, exact position unknown. Squadron following this Squadron was seen bombing effectively.

WEATHER: Ranges, overcast to broken clouds at 6000 feet. Over WARD HUNT, broken clouds at 5000 feet. Over water, broken cumulus, tops 6000 feet, cirrus at 15000 feet. NEW BRITAIN, broken to clear at 1500/1500 feet, scattered high cirrus at 15000 feet. Ranges, broken cumulus, 9000 to 13000 feet.

352 I. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0935/19/L to 0939/19/L.

TARGET: DORF POINT to Strip No. 1 at CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: 43 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. Bombing was considered excellent and several bombs were seen to fall among buildings in the target. Results were otherwise unobserved except for bomb smoke and dust. Area was thoroughly strafed with

12475 X .50 cal; and 1500 X .30 cal; A silver SSF thought to be a HAMP and serviceable, was believed damaged by strafing in its camouflaged revetment--the most Northeasterly one off No. 1 strip. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: One crew reported one puff of medium, accurate A/A fire on level as it approached ULAMAINGI MISSION site. One other crew reported seeing 2 M/G's, probably .30 cal, firing from a wrecked BETTY just North of No. 2 strip about 2/3rds down from West end. This A/A was slight and inaccurate.

SIGHTINGS: 2 wrecked barges were seen on beach halfway between targets No. 11 A and No. 10. A wrecked B-25 was reported at 633968 (This and all following references to GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES Special, 1/20000). One pilot reported the number of this wrecked airplane as 114207. A wall, 10 feet high and 20 feet long, similar to usual Jap revetment construction, was reported among trees at 642972. A silver SSF thought to be a serviceable HAMP was seen in a camouflaged revetment at 640971. A wrecked twin-engine airplane, reported by one crew member to be an A-20, with Jap markings, was reported at 655964. (This airplane might have been a HELEN). A wrecked BETTY at 651961 was reported firing light M/G fire as though the M/G's were located on either side of engines. Roads leading from South end of No. 1 strip appeared well kept and used. Many bomb craters were seen in this Squadron's target and black smoke was seen rising from 90th Group target.

WEATHER: CAPE WARD HUNT to target, upper layer of scattered to broken stratus and strato-cumulus at 12000 feet, middle clouds, 4000/6000 feet, scattered stratus and strato-cumulus. Low clouds, low scattered patches of nimbo-stratus, light cumulus and cumulo-nimbus becoming broken with bases at 1000/1500 feet up to 8000/10000 feet tops, visibility 10 to 12 miles, scattered rain showers. Target, low scattered light cumulus, bases 1000/1500 feet with scattered high thin stratus. CAVU. On return, low scattered cumulus and cumulo-nimbus with bases at 1000/2500 feet, tops to 8000/10000 feet.

352 I. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0935/19/L to 0937/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER area.

RESULTS: 37 X 300 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. Bombing was excellent. 30 bombs fell in assigned target; 7 bombs missed targets. Fires with white smoke were started at POTNI VILLAGE--582951 and West of barge hideout at 615963 (Ref. DORF POINT Special, 1/20000). Entire area from DORF POINT to CAPE GLOUCESTER was strafed with 8850 X .50 cal. and 1000 X .30 cal. Nil results were visible. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Slight, inaccurate M/G fire was received from 650957, 632968 and 607959 (All Ref. CAPE GLOUCESER Prov., 1 inch to 1 mile).

SIGHTINGS: At 0935/L, a yellow block of concrete 20 feet square and 10 to 12 feet high was seen at the R.C. Mission site, 593947 (Ref. DORF POINT Special, 1/20000). At 0950/L, a column of gray smoke estimated rising to 6000 feet, was seen over area of BLUCHER POINT) (Reported by one crew). Nil enemy ground activity was visible in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area. Bombing of B-24's appeared to be very effective.

WEATHER: Enroute, 0845/L, hazy with scattered cumulus to 1500 feet, some building up to 5000/6000 feet. Target, clear with scattered cumulus at 3000 feet. Enroute to base, 1015/L, scattered cumulus, base 2000 feet, building up to 5000 feet and a few more at 8000 feet.

352 J. STRIKE - 18 B-25D-1's, 71st and 405th Squdrons. 38th Group.
18 B-24G's, 822nd and 823rd Squadrons.

TIME OF ATTACK: Nil.

TARGET: ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: Nil attack. Airplane turned back at 0925/L from over GUSAP upon receipt of orders via radio.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 9/10 strato-cumulus, 9000 feet, 5/10 stratus, 5000 feet. Ranges, 8/10 cumulus, tops 10000 feet, thin scattered cirro-stratus at 20000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, scattered strato-cumulus at 1000/5000 feet.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: 1020/19/L to 1025/19/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: KAVIENG and PANAPAI.

RESULTS: Photos were taken of KAVIENG and PANAPAI from 7500 feet.

A/A: Intense, light and medium, inaccurate A/A fire bursting at 7000/8000 feet was received at 1020/L from KAVIENG Airdrome.

INTERCEPTION: At 1015/L, 3 SSF (ZEKES or HAMPS) were observed taking off from KAVIENG drome to intercept F-5. F-5 dropped one tank (other one wouldn't drop until midway in photo run) then completed photo runs. As SSF were drawing closer, F-5 took cloud cover in thunderhead.

SIGHTINGS: At 1020/L, approximately 15 ships were seen stationary in BALGAI BAY. 3 or 4 of these were large unidentified vessels; the rest were medium size M/V's.

WEATHER: KAVIENG Airdrome, thin overcast at 8000 feet. Local thundershowers in area. BISMARCK SEA, CAVU with some low scattered cumulus, 5000 feet.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: 1000/19/L to 1020/19/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: MANUS ISLAND.

RESULTS: Photos were taken of MOMOTE and LORENGAU Airdromes. Mapping photos were taken of LORENGAU to HILLY POINT on a heading of 230 degrees and of reefs around MBUKE ISLAND on a heading of 230 degrees. All photos from 25000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: MANUS ISLAND, scattered thundershowers, tops 20000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, CAVU. Ranges, scattered cumulus, 6/10 covered, tops 16000 feet.

352 K. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0925/19/L to 1050/19/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: MADANG.

RESULTS: Operational and mapping photos were taken from vicinity of KARAKO to Headwaters of ASPE RIVER; from Headwaters of ZUPONG RIVER to vicinity of ZANKOA to SOMWENG; from POMBERN BAY to MAPI RIVER and from FAITI to coast. All photos from 22000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: RAMU VALLEY, CAVU. Upper RAMU, 5/10 covered, 1 to cumulus. MADANG and coast, CAVU.

352 K. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1005/19/L to 1100/19/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: SAIDOR area.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken from DEKAYS BAY to YAIMAS; from vicinity of KRU to vicinity of MIOR; from GUIARAK to SURI. Mapping photos were taken of the BOGADJIM ROAD on a heading of 270 degrees to the RAMU RIVER. All photos from 21600 feet.

WEATHER: RAMU VALLEY, CAVU. Ranges, 7/10 covered.

352 L. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1540/19/L to 1850/19/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: On return over mountains, built up to 17000 feet, broken clouds to 25000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

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

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

OFFICIAL:

PAUL E. [illegible],
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

ITALY:

FIFTH ARMY UNITS BATTLING FOR SAN PIETRO A MILE NORTH OF ROME ROAD CAPTURE PRISONERS OF GERMAN FIFTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION WHICH ONLY RECENTLY ARRIVED IN ITALY FROM RUSSIA TO SOLSTER SAGGING NAZI LINES. AMERICANS ARE ATTACKING FROM THREE SIDES ON SAN PIETRO WHICH STANDS ON HILL IN LIRI VALLEY BETWEEN ALLIES AND FLAT COUNTRY TROOPS OF EIGHTH ARMY CAPTURED TWO TANKS AND KNOCK OUT THIRTEEN OTHERS IN THUNDERING ARMORED BATTLES IN OUTSKIRTS OF ORSOGNA. IN CENTRAL SECTOR AMERICAN BOMBERS POUND RAILYARDS BARRACKS WAREHOUSES AND DOCKS AT ANZIO TWENTY FIVE MILES SOUTH OF ROME IN DAYS HEAVIEST AIR ASSAULT.

LONDON:

RED ARMY TROOPS CONTINUED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS SATURDAY IN THE REGION OF KIROVOGRAD DISLODGED THE GERMANS FROM SEVERAL DEFENSIVE STRONG POINTS AND THREW BACK NAZI COUNTER ATTACKS IN THIS AREA OF THE DNIEPER BEND WITH HEAVY LOSSES, MOSCOW ANNOUNCED SATURDAY NIGHT. THE BROADCAST SOVIET COMMUNIQUE RECORDED HERE BY THE SOVIET MONITOR WAS SILENT FOR THE SECOND DAY CONCERNING THE FIGHTING IN THE KIEV BULGE WHERE GENERAL NIKOLAI VATUTINS FIRST ARMY HAD BEEN FENDING OFF THE TANK OFFENSIVE OF THE GERMAN FORCE COMMANDED BY MARSHAL FRITZ VON MANNSTEIHN. THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC MENTION IN THE COMMUNIQUE EITHER OF FIGHTING IN NORTHERN WHITE RUSSIA.

STOCKHOLM:

ONE OF BERLIN'S LARGEST MUNITIONS FACTORIES IN SUBURBAN BABELSBERG WAS BLOWN UP BY THE RAF'S THURSDAY NIGHT RAID, A SWEDISH ENGINEER JUST RETURNED FROM THE REICH CAPITAL SAID SATURDAY. THE ENGINEER KARL ERIKSON SAID, "IT WAS LIGHT AS DAY ON THE STREETS FROM FIRES AND I COUNTERY FORTY ONE IN A FIFTEEN MINUTE WALK DOWN THE STREET. THE NEXT MORNING I LEARNED THAT ONE OF BERLIN'S LARGEST MUNITIONS FACTORIES AT BABELSBERG HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY A DELAYED ACTION BOMB."

ALGIERS:

BRIG. GENERAL THEODORE ROOSEVELT WHO WAS SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE FIRST DIVISION IN THE TUNISIAN AND SICILIAN CAMPAIGNS WHEN HE WAS PART OF LT. GEN. PATTON'S SEVENTH ARMY HAD BEEN GIVEN A NEW ASSIGNMENT. HE IS NOW GEN. DWIGHT EISENHOWER'S CHIEF LIASON OFFICER TO THE FRENCH. GEN. ROOSEVELT WON THE ADMIRATION OF TROOPS IN TUNISIA AND SICILY BY HIS REGULAR PRODENCE IN FRONT AREAS WHERE HE REPEATEDLY WENT UNDER HEAVY FIRE AND PERSONALLY CONDUCTED A RECONNAISANCE INTO ENEMY TERRITORY.

LONDON:

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILLS PULSE WAS REPORTED IRREGULAR BUT HIS TEMPERATURE SUBSIDING SAID A BULLETIN ISSUED FROM NUMBER TEN DOWNING STREET HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE SATURDAY. THERE HAS BEEN IRREGULARITY OF PULSE BUT THE TEMPERATURE IS SUBSIDING AND THE PNEUMONIA IS RESOLVING SAID THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT SIGNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S THREE PHYSICIANS, LORD MORAN BRIGADIER DAVIS E. BEDFORD AND LT. COL. ROBERT J. V. PULVERTUFT. DESPITE THE ILLNESS, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SAID TO BE INSISTING UPON CONTINUING HIS DIRECTION OF BRITAIN'S WAR EFFORT.

NEW ORLEANS:

SURVIVORS OF THE ACCIDENTAL SINKING OF A TRAINING CRAFT IN WHICH TWENTY FIVE SOLDIERS DROWNED IN MANEUVERS ON LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN TOLD SATURDAY HOW OCCUPANTS OF THE BOAT WERE JESTING ABOUT THE BLOWING SPRAY FROM WAVES WHICH ONLY A FEW SECONDS LATER ENGULED THEM. PRIVATE GENE NANCE OF GARY, INDIANA SAID, "I SAW SOME OF THE MEN TRYING TO GET CLEAR OF THE FRONT OF THE BOAT BUT THEY WERE SUCKED BACK UNDER THE CANOPY. EVERY MAN HAD ON HIS LIFE PRESERVER. "ITS HARD TO EXPLAIN," SAID MAJOR WALKER D. THOMAS OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE ENTIRE MANEUVER, BUT NOT AN OCCUPANT OF THE BOAT. HE ALSO SAID THE WEIGHT OF THE SOLDIERS' WINTER CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT SOAKED WITH WATER PROBABLY WAS TO BLAME FOR THE GREAT LOSS OF LIFE. "ALL THE MEN WORE HEAVY ARMY OVERCOATS AND CARRIED FULL EQUIPMENT" HE SAID.

WASHINGTON:

DRAFT BOARDS WILL HAVE TO FURNISH ABOUT TWO MILLION MORE MEN TO THE ARMED SERVICES BY JULY FIRST, SELECTIVE HEADQUARTERS REPORTED SATURDAY. ONE MILLION OF THEM WILL BE P E PEARL HARBOR FATHERS. THE MANNER IN WHICH LOCAL DRAFT BOARDS HAVE BEEN GRANTING OCCUPATIONAL DEFERMENTS TO FATHERS HOWEVER HAS RESULTED IN THE DEFERMENT OF ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF THE FATHERS WHO LOST THEIR THREE A (3-A) STATUS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S CHRISTMAS EVE ADDRESS IN WHICH HE WILL BROADCAST REPORT ON MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCES AND EXTEND HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO AMERICANS AT HOME AND ON FIGHTING FRONTS WILL GO ON AIR AT THREE PM EWT FRIDAY AND WILL BE RE-BROADCAST AT TEN PM. SECOND BROADCAST WILL BE INTENDED TO ENABLE SERVICEMEN ON ALL TIME ZONES TO HEAR IT AT CONVENIENT TIMES.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 354.

Asst. AIR LIASON GROUP/
0800L/21 DEC 1943

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: PSN
DATE: 20/12/43:

FROM: 1800/19/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/20/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

WEWAK: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (353 W) took off at 0634/L to photograph WEWAK. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back from over DUMPU at 0930/L. There were nil sightings.

HANSA BAY: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (353 Y) took operational and mapping photos in the HANSA BAY area from 1000/L to 1020/L from 28000 feet. There were nil sightings.

ALEXISHAFEN: 2 B-25D-1's and 1 B-25G of the 71st and 822nd Squadrons (353 G) attempted to complete a weather recce to ALEXISHAFEN. First 2 airplanes were unsuccessful; 3rd airplane completed mission 100%. This airplane took off at 0621/L and returned to base at 1020/L. 4 single engine airplanes, later determined to be P-47's, were sighted at 0810/L at 13000 feet over the FINISTERRE RANGES North of GUSAP.

33 B-25C and D's and B-25G's of the 38th Group (353 F) bombed and strafed dump areas and runways No. 1 and 2 at ALEXISHAFEN from 1154/L to 1200/L. 66 X 500 lb. bombs and 474 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped on the target. Target was strafed with 39860 X .50 cal., 7720 X .30 cal. and 202 X 75 mm. The 2 strips and adjacent dump areas, ADLOSIN ISLAND defense position, SEK ISLAND and VITAR PLANTATION was effectively bombed and strafed. A direct hit with 75 mm was scored on A/A position at North end of strip No. 1 causing 2 explosions indicating damage to gun position and destruction of ammunition. One large explosion occured among 4 or 5 houses which suffered direct hits from 75 mm shell, debris was thrown high in the air from the explosion. 3 fires were started in ALEXISHAFEN TOWNSHIP area and 2 fires of short duration were started in dump area off Northeast corner of strip No. 2. One camouflaged twin-engine airplane (probably H/B) was bracketed by parafrags and probably destroyed. Native propaganda leaflets were dropped on and near the target. A/A fire encountered over target was moderate to intense, light and heavy and accurate. Slight to intense A/C fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. Stores covered by canvas were seen under trees in VITAR PLANTATION. Approximately 6 airplanes on No. 2 airdrome were believed serviceable. 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron was shot down by A/A fire near SEK ISLAND. No crew members were thought to have survived. 1 other crew member was killed and another crew member injured. 9 B-25's were damaged by A/A fire.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-25D-1 of the 501st Squadron (353 C) completed 100% a weather recce to ARAWE, BORGEN BAY, CAPE WARD HUNT and return. Airplane took off at 0650 and landed at 0950/L. 12 X 100 lb. bombs were dropped on West shore of BORGEN BAY from 0815/L to 0820/L. White smoke was seen coming from clearing West of NATAMO POINT. Results were otherwise unobserved. Light A/C or 20 mm fire was received in the BORGEN BAY area. 15 to 16 barges were seen on West shore of BORGEN BAY of which 5 or 6 appeared serviceable.

23 B-24's of the 90th Group (353 E) bombed dump areas along coast from SILIMATI POINT to No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER and CAPE HENSING from 1326/L to 1352/L. 176 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped from 8000/9500 feet at the target. 5 explosions followed by fires were seen in the CAPE HENSING area. Dump areas between CAPE GLOUCESTER and SILIMATI POINT received 35 tons of bombs with undetermined damage resulting. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne.

BORGEN BAY: 24 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (353 D) bombed and strafed the West coast of BORGEN BAY to SILIMATI POINT from 1205/L to 1217/L. 165 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped at the target. Targets were strafed with 42465 X .50 cal. and 9500 X .30 cal. 3 fires were started at SILIMATI POINT. Coastal area from NATAMO POINT to SILIMATI POINT was bombed and strafed with damage undetermined due to speed of attack and delayed action bombs. Propaganda leaflets were dropped on the target. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. Road running Northwest from SILIMATI POINT appeared to be heavily used. A large explosion occured in water at 0730S-14815E. Debris was blown approximately 400 feet into the air.

ROOKE ISLAND: 2 F-4's of the 6th Photo Squadron (353 X) took photos of ROOKE ISLAND to TUMM ISLAND; from TUMM ISLAND to MALMI and from MANDOK ISLAND to AROKOT ISLAND from 0935/L to 1015/L from 19500 feet. There were nil sightings.

MADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (353 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to MADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0715/L and landed at 1610/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (353 B) completed 100% a weather recce to LAE, FINSCHHAFEN, MADZAB, KAIAPIT, GUSAP, DUMPU and ALEXISHAFEN. Airplane took off at 0500/L and landed at 0910/L. There were nil sightings.

NOTE: Included in this report are the following Final Mission Reports from FEAF:

352 AA. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

352 BB. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

352 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

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

352 DD. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

352 EE. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 65th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.
9 B-24's, 529th Squadron.
10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dumps West of No. 1 strip.

352 FF. STRIKE - 9 B-26's, 19th Squadron.
12 B-25's, 33rd Squadron.
12 B-25's, 408th Squadron.

TARGET: MADANG runway.

352 GG. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 65th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.
10 B-24's, 529th Squadron.
10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dumps West of No. 1 strip.

352 HH. STRIKE - 9 B-26's, 19th Squadron.
11 B-25's, 33rd Squadron.
10 B-25's, 408th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump areas between No. 1 and 2 strips.

352 JJ. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TARGET: Bivouac area at CAPE KING WILLIAM. Track from NUZEN to KELANOA.

352 KK. STRIKE - 10 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TARGET: Barge unloading point and stores area at NUZEN.

352 LL. STRIKE - 9 A-20's, 6th Squadron.
12 A-20's, 90th Squadron.

TARGET: Track East of SIGUL RIVER to PUNIM RIVER.

352 MM. ARMED RECCO - 2 B-24's, 63rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: Our troops, supported by artillery, attacked along the coast and pushed the enemy back across the mouth of the MASAMENG RIVER. Continuing the attack they overcame strong enemy resistance and advanced to a position 1100 yards North of the River.

Captured equipment included 3 X 75 mm guns, 1 X 37 mm gun, 2 flame-throwers, 1 X 80 mm mortar, 2 small mortars, 1 HMG and ammunition dump.

Patrols along both banks of the SANGA RIVER failed to contact the enemy.

In the WAREO area, our patrols were active Northeast of PAZULUO and towards the SOWI RIVER, no Japs were encountered.

A Commando patrol found 12 Japs holding track entering LAGAREMI. Patrols to HOMPUA and the track to MASAWENG RIVER believed from AGO, no Japs sighted.

RAIU VALLEY: An enemy force estimated at 2 platoons were contacted on feature 5800. When engaged by artillery they were forced to withdraw. Patrol activity continuing.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Consolidation and patrolling continues. Reconnaissance patrols to the East have reached a point along the coastal track 500 yards to the West of the SIGUL RIVER. Jap radio station and telescope have been captured at UMTINGAUL VILLAGE.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Task Force reported that 7 Jap barges were in the harbor at approximately 2[illegible] on the 19th of December. Later reports stated that at least 15 barges were in the vicinity. There has been no report of attempted landings. Native reports indicate that Japs evacuated the area on the 16th of December, crossing the SIGUL RIVER to the East by boats.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
20 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4	9	2				15	0
DAGUA	12	9	11				32	0
WEWAK	9	2	5			6	22	0
BORAM	19	1					20	0
AWAR	8						8	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	62	82	41			6	191	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	7	13	2	14		7	43	0
VUNAKANAU	17	20	[illegible]	1			51	+2
LAKUNAI	32	5		21			64	-19
RAPOPO	11	10					21	+3
HARBOR					2	18	20	0
PANAPAI	11						11	0
TOBERA	20			13			33	+10
BORPOP		4					4	0
Total	104	52	15	49	2	25	247	+2

COMMENTS:

1. No photos of the NEW GUINEA area today. Estimate remains unchanged.

2. Airplane count on drome in NEW BRITAIN area is based on photos taken by SOWPAC on 17/12/43.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 19/12/43. (352 H)

All photos are cloudy with much smoke and dust from bombing. In photos bombs can be seen bursting on East side, across East end and on West side of TARGET HILL. There is possibly damage to at least 2 gun positions and several graves. Other bombs can be seen bursting 2 miles North and West of TARGET HILL. Two photos of No. 2 strip show an excellent pattern of bombs from bombing on 16 December, and runway unserviceable. 6 bombs landed close behind HELEN on East end of runway, which had belly landed 17 December. It is definitely destroyed.

MOMOTE STRIP (LOS NEGROS ISLAND): 19/12/43. (352 K)

Excellent photos show nil airplanes present, runway rough, but serviceable. Much work has been done on revetments and dispersal lanes. There are 34 completed bomber revetments and 6 under construction. There are indications of a possible A/A position under construction 2000 feet North of Northwest end of strip along shore. Four groups of buildings immediately North of coconut grove at North end of HAINE HARBOR.

Shipping: One Freighter-Transport of 1000 tons, 2 Coasters of 150 tons each, and 4 large barges in South end of SEA EAGLE HARBOR.

LORENGAU (MANUS ISLAND): 19/12/43. (352 L)

Excellent photos show B/B reported on 25 November to be still in same revetment. Runway is rough but serviceable. There has been no change in the Township area.

Shipping: One vessel of 600 tons and 3 small boats can be seen in harbor.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 19/12/43. (352 I)

Excellent photos from DORF POINT to East end of No. 2 runway. Several garden patches, many bomb craters and bomb bursts can be seen through woods and coconut groves. Bomb bursts are seen on South end of No. 1 runway and on No. 2 runway. Road and bridge between runways in good condition and much used. HELEN on No. 2 runway is seen definitely unserviceable and probably now just junk from bombs of 16 December. Runway No. 2 is unserviceable.

KAVIENG: 19/12/43. (352 M).

Excellent vertical photographs provide unusual detail.

Airplanes:	
	13 L/B
	2 2EB
	14 SEB
	5 S3F

Three new heavy A/A positions have been installed of which two are near the Southeast end of the runway, and the other in the coconuts West of the Northwest end. Of the first two, one lies 4000 feet South and the other 2000 feet East. The first is composed of 2 sets of 3 positions and associated control and supporting automatic weapons. The other has three positions although there is an old abandoned position near it that may be used again to make a 6 gun battery. The battery West of the Northwest end is still under construction and will apparently be a 4 gun battery.

Present in the harbor are 18 vessels including 2 minesweepers, 2 small 100 foot naval auxiliaries, 1 Freighter-Transport of 7000 tons, 1 600 ton Engineer-Lift Freighter and the remaining 12 are of 400 tons and less. The unserviceable F-T remains off MAGO ISLAND.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

352 AA. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0650/19/L to 1910/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: Tare-Baker Two Stack at 0300S-15020E.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. 1/10 delay dem. bombs were dropped at 1520/L from 7000 feet at a Tare-Baker Two Stack at 0300S-15020E. One bomb burst 50 feet or less off port side, possibly damaging ship. Ripples from bomb bursts were observed as far as 100 feet on starboard side of ship. Recce was 100% completed. Route flown: DOBODURA to CAPE WARD HUNT, 0600S-14600E, 0500S-14900E, 0430S-15030E, 0330S-15030E, 0300S-14900E, 0400S-14600E, 0500S-14700E, 0300S-14600E, 0200S-14500E, 0138S-14509E, 0124S-14514E, 0200S-14300E, 0300S-14300E, 0300S-14500E, 0400S-14500E, 0400S-14600E, 0600S-14800E, CAPE WARD HUNT to DOBODURA, 0200S-14600E.

A/A: Slight to moderate, medium, inaccurate bursting 1000 feet below and behind, from convoy (See SIGHTINGS).

INTERCEPTION: 4 ZEKES and 1 PETE intercepted from 1520/L to 1540/L at 7000 feet in position 0300S-15020E. PETE appeared first followed by ZEKES which came in at low altitude from direction of convoy. Several individual passes were made from 6 o'clock on level but not pressed. Coordinated attacks, sometimes from 3 plane elements from port beam--not pressed closer than 400 yards due to B-24 turning into enemy. Enemy airplanes were forced into thunderhead by this maneuver. ZEKES attacked from below at 6 o'clock but could not effectively press attacks due to speed of B-24 and lack of speed of climbing enemy airplanes. 1 ZEKE was hit by tracers and pealed off smoking. Tracers ricocheted off ZEKE. This ZEKE is claimed as probably destroyed.

SIGHTINGS: At 1520/L from 7000 feet, a 9 ship convoy consisting of 1 Tare-Baker Two Stack, 1 Tare-Baker, 3 Sugar-Charlies, 2 small DD's and 2 Fox-Tare-Charlies was sighted at 0300S-15020E on course 160 degrees at estimated speed of 10 knots. As bomb bay doors of B-24 opened, convoy circled sharply 90 degrees to right, then began individual circling. This resembled general milling around rather than coordinated evasive action. 1 Sugar-Baker was also observed in the same convoy.

GENERAL: 1st bomb hung up and was salvoed Northeast of convoy, burst unobserved. As ZEKES were not sighted before bombing run, it is believed that they were possibly catapulted from convoy. (Convoy was first picked up by Radar).

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, enroute, 3/10 cumulus and alto-cumulus, bases 2000 feet, tops 24000/30000 feet, 6/10 cirro-stratus at 25000 feet. Target, 2/10 scattered cumulus, bases 5000 feet, tops 7000 feet. A front ran in semi-circle from KAVIENG to the Southwest, terminating North of CAPE GLOUCESTER. On return, 7/10 cumulus, bases 2000 feet, tops 6000 feet.

352 BB. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0707/19/L to 1737/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA (Reverse 352 AA.)

TARGET: MADANG.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1605/L from 6100 feet at MADANG. 1 bomb hit on North shore at river mouth and the other bomb burst in trees on North side of river at 3rd bend up river. Results, other than bomb bursts, were unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing, of SIO and of MADANG coast. Recce was 100% completed. Route flown: DOBODURA to 0600S-14800E, 0500S-14900E, 0430S-15030E, 0330S-15030E, 0300S-14900E, 0400S-14800E, 0300S-14700E, 0300S-14600E, 0200S-14600E, HERMIT ISLANDS, 0130S-14415E, 0300S-14400E, 0400S-14525E, KAR KAR ISLAND, SIO to DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 1445/L from 2000 feet and 42 miles off HANSA BAY, two very large fires were seen at HANSA BAY. At 1600/L from 6100 feet, 1 man was seen leaving the river at MADANG.

WEATH R: HUON GULF, 2/10 scattered cumulus around 3500 feet. BISMARCK SEA, East-West front along 0300S from undetermined position East of WUVU ISLANDS to about 14400E, rising from water to 18000 feet, surrounding area varying from 5/10 to 9/10 cumulus, averaging around 1500 feet to 2500 feet. Target, clear.

352 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0610/19/L to 1710/19/L.

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

TARGET: Fox-Tare-Baker at 0225S-14830E.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at 1505/L from 15000 feet at a Fox-Tare-Baker at 0225S-14830E. Closest bomb missed ship by 300 feet with nil damage apparent. Recce was 100% completed. Route flown: DOBODURA to 0200N-15140E, 0245N-14940E and return to DOBODURA. Photos were taken of the bombing and of C/HE GLOUCESTER enroute to base.

A/A: Moderate, heavy and accurate as to altitude, bursting from 1000 feet below to 1000 feet above. Flashes were seen from 7 guns on CA and CL which were escorting Fox-Tare-Baker (See SIGHTINGS). B-24 kept out of range.

SIGHTINGS: At 1100/L from 1000 feet, 1 SS was seen to crash dive at 0020N-15050E on approach of our airplane. At 1440/L from 5000 feet, a convoy consisting of 1 CL, 1 Fox-Uncle, 1 Fox-Tare-Baker and 1 CA was sighted at 0225S-14830E on course 85 degrees. When first sighted ships were in line astern about 1500 feet apart. B-24 climbed to 15000 feet to avoid A/A fire from Cruisers and to make bombing run. B-24 circled South causing Cruisers to turn to starboard and be drawn away from slower M/V's which they were escorting. Bombing run was then made at right angles to Fox-Tare-Baker which by then had shifted its course to 245 degrees. At 1615/L from 7500 feet, about 10 one-

airplanes were observed on or near runway No. 2. Most of these airplanes appeared unserviceable but at least 1 BETTY on runway appeared serviceable.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, 3/10 broken cumulus, tops 5000 feet, base 3000 feet. KAVIENG to 0200N, 3/10 scattered cumulus, tops 6000 feet, base 3000 feet. BISMARCK SEA on return, squalls and series of thunder storm belt at right angles to our course from 1000 to 25000 feet.

352 DD. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0600/19/L to 1628/19/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

TARGET: LINDENHAFEN PLANTATION.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. torpex bombs were dropped at 1503/L from 6900 feet in LINDENHAFEN PLANTATION. Both bombs hit in Plantation with nil results other than bomb bursts observed. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recco was 100% completed. Route flown: DOBODURA to 07028-15015E, 0500S-15230E, 0500S-15339E, 0630S-15230E, 0600S-15400E, 0630S-15400E, 0630S-15200E, GASMATA to DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 0914/L from 500 feet, much debris including logs and parts of yellow wooden rafts were sighted at 07028-15015E. At 1344/L from 200 feet, 4 serviceable barges were observed in a Cove about 2 miles East of CAPE KNOI. One barge was covered with leaves on a sand bar; 2 were stationary in deep water and one was moving across Cove. Barges were strafed with 350 X .50 cal. and 25 X .30 cal. Coastal track from JACQUINOT BAY to MONTAGU HARBOR appeared grassy but in good condition. (Observation made from 500 feet).

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA enroute out, 3/10 cumulus and 2500 feet. On return, 1/10 alto-stratus at 10000 feet. Target, hazy with cumulus, base 6000 feet, tops 9000 feet.

352 EE. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0908/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dumps West on No. 1 strip (Target No. 1).

RESULTS: 36 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 10000 feet, on a heading of 270 degrees at the target. Bombing was excellent. 66 2/3% of bombs hit in target. Nil results other than bomb bursts were observed. Target was well covered with bomb smoke. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0656/L from 10000 feet over CAPE GLOUCESTER, one BETTY bomber was seen flying at 1000 feet, 2 miles off shore on course 90 degrees. (3 P-38's peeled off to attack it). 8 to 10 tents were seen at 067646 and what appeared to be native huts at 955675 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER AIRDROME, Special Photomap).

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 3/10 cumulus, tops at 5000/6000 feet, 2/10 light cirrus at 27000 feet. Target, 2/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 6000 feet. Weather same on return.

352 BE. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0908/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dump area West of No. 1 strip (Target No. 1).

RESULTS: 36 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 9400/9500 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent. 95% of bombs hit in target. Bomb smoke was seen in target and one sudden explosion and red flash on West side of target 900 feet inland. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0830/L from 9500 feet, position 0550S-14410E, one unidentified light orange colored airplane was sighted 10 miles in front of our airplane at 4000 feet on course of 20 degrees. At 0910/L from 9500 feet over CAPE GLOUCESTER, 2 volcanoes were reported smoking. The twin-engine bomber reported on 18th December on strip No. 2 was no longer present.

WEATHER: En route, 6/10 alto-cumulus, tops undetermined, 4/10 cumulus, base 4000 feet, tops 9000 feet. Target, 2/10 cumulus, base 5000 feet, tops 7000 feet, also slight haze over target. On return, 6/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 9000 feet, 4/10 alto-stratus, base 13000 feet, tops undetermined.

352 BE. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0917/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dumps West of No. 1 strip. (Target No. 1).

RESULTS: 36 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 9500 feet on headings of 210 to 235 degrees at the target. Bombing was excellent. 24 bombs hit in target and all others hit within 600 feet of target. One explosion was observed which emitted white smoke. Explosion appeared about 3 times larger than others, and fires were seen. Target appeared covered with bomb bursts. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: 3 flashes, possibly A/A fire was seen coming from position 500 feet from shore in approximate center of target No. 2 (West of this Squadron's target).

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 5/10 cumulus, tops 5000 feet, base 3000 feet, alto-stratus 6/10 at 14000 feet. Target, 3/10 cumulus, tops 7000 feet, base 5000 feet, visibility good. On return, weather same as enroute.

352 BE. STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 529th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0857/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dump area West of No. 1 strip. (Target No. 1).

RESULTS: 72 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped fr.. 10000 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent. 54 bombs hit in the assigned target completely covering it. 8 bombs fell parallel to and South of No. 2 strip. 2 bombs overshot assigned target and 8 fell slightly to West of target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0845/L, between SAKAR ISLAND and NEW BRITAIN coast, in the DAMPIER STRAITS, 2 unidentified single-engine airplanes were seen flying on a course of 150 degrees at approximately 10000 feet. Airplanes made no attempt to intercept.

GENERAL: Tenth airplane scheduled on this mission did not take off due to mechanical difficulties.

WEATHER: 4/10 to 5/10 cumulus encountered, with scattered clouds over target.

352 EE. STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0858/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area West of No. 1 strip. (Target No. 1).

RESULTS: 80 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 9700 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent. 73 bombs hit in target. 7 bombs exploded outside assigned target to the Southeast. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: Low broken cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 5000 feet. Target, CAVU.

352 FF. STRIKE - 9 B-26's, 19th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0930/19/L to 0932/19/L.

TARGET: MAILING Runway.

RESULTS: 20 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 9700/10000 feet on headings of 50 to 70 degrees at the target. 9 bombs hit 100/200 feet to left of runway with nil apparent results. 8 bombs hit 100/150 feet to right of runway; 2 of these may have hit either on edge of runway or across runway. 3 bombs hit 100 feet to right of runway near seaward end with nil apparent results. Nil results other than bomb explosions were observed. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Moderate, heavy and medium, mostly accurate. Positions noted were: (1) Positions on NEILAU ISLAND (This A/A burst just below our airplane and was near enough to be heard). (2) Positions at BODE POINT. (Most of medium A/A fire from this position burst at 4000/5000 feet. (3) One position near seaward end of runway--moderate, medium, inaccurate. (4) One position in MAILING TOWNSHIP firing heavy and accurate A/A.

(1 B-26 was hit in right engine by A/A bursts).

SIGHTINGS: At 0932/L from 10000 feet, 2 twin-engine bombers were seen halfway up runway on South side. What appeared to be 2 luggers were sighted stationary in a Cove on the West side of BEIAU ISLAND.

GENERAL: B-26 which was hit by A/A fire landed at NADZAB on return at 1040/L. Airplane returned to DOBODURA at 1505/L and results are included in this report. 1 airplane returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble.

WEATHER: Good with 2/10 cumulus and unlimited visibility.

352 FF. STRIKE - 12 P-25's, 33rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0930/19/L.

TARGET: LAE/NG runway.

RESULTS: 30 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 9000/9500 feet on a heading of 60 degrees at the target. Bombing was good. 9 bombs hit in center half of runway; 5 in dispersal area on South side; 6 along North edge of runway; 3 on South edge of runway; 3 in wooded area 500 yards South of East end of runway; 3 in BINSEN HARBOR. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Slight to moderate, heavy, inaccurate to accurate. A/A bursts between 6000 and 11000 feet. Fifty were accurate, remainder very inaccurate (1 B-25 received 2 holes in bomb bay door).

SIGHTINGS: At 0932/L from 9000 feet, 6 A. C barges—serviceability undetermined—were seen on beach at BONO. At least 9 unidentified airplanes were seen along the LAE/NG runway and in dispersal areas on both sides. Airplanes appeared to be twin-engine type—serviceability undetermined. What appeared to be dog fights were seen over FORSTEN BAY at 0920/L.

GENERAL: 2 airplanes returned to base before reaching the target.

WEATHER: Enroute, DOBODURA to LAE, stratocumulus clouds at 6000 feet, visibility 10 to 20 miles. Active front 50 miles off NEW GUINEA coast. LAE to DUMPU, broken stratus 4000/6000 feet, scattered cirrus, 20000 feet, visibility 30 miles. Target, clear, visibility 30 miles. On return, scattered stratus, 6000 feet in MARKHAM VALLEY. LAE to DOBODURA, scattered cumulus 3000 to 6000 feet, visibility 20 to 30 miles.

352 FS. STRIKE - 12 B-25's, 408th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0932/19/L.

TARGET: LAE/NG runway.

RESULTS: 35 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 10500 feet on a heading of 60 degrees at the target. Bombing was excellent—100% on target. 60% of bombs covered entire length of runway itself; 20% fell on each side of and very close to the runway. One large explosion and fire was seen at 719243 (Ref. LAE/NG MILROE, 1/25000). Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Intense, heavy, accurate, bursting on level and on course. (6 B-25's of this Squadron were holed by A/A).

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: DOBODURA area, low stratus, 1000 feet, 1/10 covered, 5/10 scattered stratus, 5000 feet, ceiling and visibility unlimited. CAPE WARD HUNT, 3/10 covered, heavy black cumulus, base 5000 feet, tops 6000 feet, hazy out to sea, clear inland. LAE to target, fractocumulus, 2/10 covered at 7000 feet.

352 GG. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1536/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dump area West of No. 1 strip. (Target No. 2).

RESULTS: 36 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 11000 feet on a heading of 135 degrees at the target. Bombing was excellent—95% of bombs in target. 3 flash explosions with red flames and a small amount of black smoke were seen in center of target. 2 bombs fell in water. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1546/L from 9000 feet, a white object which appeared to be a galvanized building about 75 feet square was seen at 0540S-14822E.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 4/10 cumulus, 7000 feet; 8/10 to 9/10 alto-stratus, 20000 feet. Target, 3/10 cumulus, bases 2500 feet, tops 6000 feet. Weather on return, same as enroute.

352 GG. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1533/19/L to 1535/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dump area West of No. 1 strip. (Target No. 2).

RESULTS: 36 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 9200/10500 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent 65% of bombs in target. Target was covered with heavy smoke. One red flash with black smoke was observed in Southeast side of target, 3100 feet inland South of shoreline. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1520/L from 10000 feet, a small tent area was seen near shore at WAREO. From UMALTUNGI to ½ mile West, pyramidal olive green tents, 4 doop, were seen. At 1550/L from 9500 feet at 2nd bend up 2nd river West of MISEGA VILLAGE, a clear rectangle was seen on East side of bank in which was a green camouflaged shed with dark built approximately 15 feet out over water. Upstream, below native village, a small boat was observed headed upstream. Many well worn tracks were seen in this area.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA enroute, 2/10 cumulus, base 4000 feet, tops 6000 feet, strato-cumulus, base 7000 feet, tops 12000 feet. Target, 1/10 cumulus, base 7000 feet, tops 12000 feet. SOLOMON SEA on return, 3/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 10000 feet.

352 GG. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1535/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area West of No. 1 strip. (Target No. 2).

RESULTS: 36 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 10300/10900 feet on a bombing of 130 degrees to 150 degrees. Bombing was excellent. 30 bombs hit in target; 3 bombs hit in water; 2 bombs fell [illegible] feet NW the target and 1 bomb hung up and was jettisoned in water after trackaway. Several bombs were observed to emitt heavy black smoke on explosion, of very short duration. No apparent fires were started. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1550/L from 10000 feet, one large fire emitting smoke was seen near shore at 0600S-14725E.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 3/10 cumulus from 3000 to 13000 feet. Target, 5/10 cumulus, 3000 to 7000 feet--no clouds over target. SOLOMON SEA on return, 5/10 cumulus, 3000 feet to 13000 feet.

352 GG. STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 529th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1549/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area West of No. 1 strip. (Target No. 2).

RESULTS: 60 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8500/9000 feet on the target. 57 bombs exploded in area bounded by 1137, 1630, 2435, 2943 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER, CIU--T--37) causing several red explosions and one fire with billowing black smoke. 2 bombs fell short in water and 1 bomb hung up and was dropped about 2 miles South of target. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus clouds enroute to target. Clear over target.

352 GG. STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1540/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area West of No. 1 strip. (Target No. 2).

RESULTS: 62 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from [illegible] feet on a bonding of 140 degrees on the target. 60 bombs hit in target; 2 bombs fell in water. Sticks of bombs cut through target at slight variations to 130 degrees. Several fires were observed as airplanes left the target. One particularly large explosion was noticed which belched forth black smoke. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops to 5000 feet enroute to target and on return, high alto-stratus at 15000 feet, visibility good.

352 HH. STRIKE - 9 B-25's, 19th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1608/19/L to 1610/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area between strips No. 1 and 2. (Target No. 4).

RESULTS: 53 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 8500 feet on headings of 170 to 185 degrees. Bombing was excellent--35 bombs hit directly in target. White dust and bomb explosions were seen in target after bombing was completed. 6 bombs fell 100 feet West of target; 5 bombs fell slightly out of target at East edge; 3 bombs were salvoed and fell 200 feet over the target; 2 bombs hit in area between there and North edge of target; 2 bombs fell in water 300 feet short of target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1608/L from 8500 feet, No. 2 runway appeared to be serviceable and bomb craters appeared to have been filled in.

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus at 5000 feet over target, 5/10 covered. Visibility good although one large cloud over target made bombing difficult.

352 HH. STRIKE - 11 B-25's, 33rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1610/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area between strips No. 1 and 2. (Target No. 4).

RESULTS: 60 X 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 8800 feet on headings of 180 and 200 degrees at the target. Bombing was unsatisfactory. 6 bombs fell in target; 6 bombs in water; 24 bombs in kunai grass East of target; 6 bombs in kunai grass West of target and 12 bombs 1 mile South of target. Results other than bomb bursts were not observed due to clouds. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

GENERAL: Bombing was unsatisfactory because target was obscured on most of bombing runs.

WEATHER: Enroute and return, scattered stratus overcast, 15000 feet, visibility 20 miles. Target, heavy cumulus over area at 4000 feet, target almost obscured. Visibility 20 miles due to haze.

352 HH. STRIKE - 10 B-25's, 408th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1605/19/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dump area between strips No. 1 and 2. (Target No. 4).

RESULTS: 60 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 9000 feet on a heading of 200 degrees at the target. Bombing was excellent. 40 bombs hit in target. 8 bombs fell in kunai grass East of target, very close to target border; 12 bombs were salvoed 400 yards South of target. 1 direct hit was scored on one building in target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: NEW BRITAIN, enormous cumulus cloud formation, base 4000 feet, tops 7000 feet, 7/10 covered, clear immediately over target, generally cloudy around target area.

352 JJ. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 89th. Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0900/19/L to 0935/19/L.

TARGET: Bivouac area at CAPE KING WILLIAM; Track from NUZEN to KELANOA.

RESULTS: 43 X 250 lb. and 4 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. Bombing was excellent. 39 bombs hit through target with more at Southeast end than even distribution. 3 of these bombs were on beach and probably did no damage. 2 bombs were within 100 yards to West of grove; 1 about 100 yards South of grove, 1 about 400 yards East of target, all in kunai grass and 2 bombs hit in one of three gullies immediately to East of target. 2 bombs hit at East end of Lagoon at CAPE KING WILLIAM. At least 1 of the bombs in the target landed among the huts, damaging them. Several bombs burst with abnormal black explosions and several others seemed to make larger explosions than normal.

The entire area from NUZEN to KELANOA was well strafed. In addition, 4 passes were made up SANGA RIVER; one pass was made up Creek between NUZEN and WALD BAY and several other gullies. At least 5 grass fires were started by strafing. The flames of one of these fires was visible and was giving off bluish smoke in grove at WALD BAY—414072 (Ref. STALUM, No. 2053, 1/25000). A total of 19450 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Slight, inaccurate M/G fire was reported by one crew only from position at 344127 (Ref. 2053, STALUM, 1/25000).

SIGHTINGS: Tracks in target area seemed well used but no motor vehicles observed and no bridges. One pilot reported that the trail from MAPORO RIVER to KELANOA showed signs of heavier usage than rest of trail. No activity was noted. Huts at 346126 (All references to same map) were well hidden in trees. 3 huts in grove at 363102 appeared new and in good condition. Coconut groves generally from NUZEN to KELANOA HARBOR appeared deserted. Gardens in area here numerous and unusually well kept. Many gardens had mounds of earth somewhat like potato mounds. Grass fires were seen in

area bombed by 13th Squadron.

WEATHER: Target, CAVU. 0815/L to 1030/L, a weak front East and West through SOLOMON SEA.

352 K. STRIKE - 10 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0910/19/I to 0920/19/L.

TARGET: Barge unloading point and stores area at NUZEN.

RESULTS: 32 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay dem. bombs were dropped. 17 bombs were dropped in target and 10 were dropped within 100 yards North or South of target. Target was thoroughly strafed with 12500 X .50 cal. One small fire giving off dark gray smoke was started in S southwest corner of target. Results were otherwise unobserved. 4 bombs were dropped at NANDA and 1 in coconut grove at WALO BAY with unobserved results. Propaganda leaflets were dropped on Villages and trails in target. Photos including movie film were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: (All map references to RUA Photomap No. 0366). 2 flashes with puffs of white smoke were seen on terrace at 144136. 2 flashes were seen on ridge in South end of target. No tracers or bursts were observed in air to indicate this was A/A fire. Grass fires were observed at 143162 and 145147. Smoke from one of these could be seen from FINSCHHAFEN. Coastal track and track from NUZEN to KALASA was well worn and used. Signs of much activity was observed in and about NANDA. 3 mile with 6 dout entrances, partly covered with logs, were seen dug in side of hill at 150144. One crew member reported a trench 50 yards in from coast and parallels coast about 1 mile South of BLUMER POINT. Trench was reported to be 500 to 600 yards long. Remains of an unidentified burned airplane was observed along KALASA—NUZEN trail at 124140. 2 large white floating homes were seen in water about 50 miles Southeast of FINSCHHAFEN. A P-38 was observed to buzz one of these.

GENERAL: One airplane turned back at CAPE WARD HUNT due to mechanical difficulties.

WEATHER: Target, CAVU. Weather generally good enroute and return with. low scattered cumulus most of the way. Light scattered showers North of CAPE WARD HUNT at 0835S.

352 L. STRIKE - 9 A-20's, 8th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1540/19/L to 1605/19/L.

TARGET: Primary: Track from East bank of SIGUL RIVER to PULIE RIVER, including track to CROCODILE POINT at mouth of PULIE RIVER, also targets of opportunity running North up PULIE RIVER.

Secondary: DIDMOP VILLAGE.

RESULTS: 32 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay dem. bombs were dropped along track and river area. 20 bombs were dropped between mouths of SIGUL RIVER and PULIE RIVER over track area; 4 bombs were dropped in square 530290;

5 bombs were dropped in square 540200; 1 bomb was dropped just West of MURIEN VILLAGE and 1 bomb was dropped at 496336. (All references above and following are to ARMY Provisional, 1 inch to 1 mile). Bombing was good. Results were unobserved. 3 bombing and strafing passes were made over track area between SIGUL and PULIE RIVERS; 1 strafing pass was made up PULIE RIVER to approximately DIDMOP VILLAGE. Entire area was well covered by strafing. 10750 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing. Photos were taken in areas between SIGUL and PULIE RIVERS.

A/A: One pilot reported heavy M/G fire from square 480330. It was described as slight, medium, inaccurate. This position was strafed and silenced.

SIGHTINGS: Several native huts were reported along the bank of the PULIE RIVER. Nil enemy activity was reported.

GENERAL: One pilot returned bombs to base due to engine trouble which commanded all of his attention.

WEATHER: Enroute, patches of stratus at approximately 6000 feet, visibility unlimited. Target, CAVU. Weather on return, same as enroute.

352 IL. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 90th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1545/19/L to 1605/19/L.

TARGET: Targets of opportunity to DIDMOP VILLAGE from CROCODILE POINT up the PULIE RIVER; track East of SIGUL RIVER to West bank of PULIE RIVER; DIDMOP VILLAGE.

RESULTS: 39 X 250 lb. A/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the targets. 22 bombs were dropped on target, 19 of which hit along were track was thought to with unobserved results; 3 bombs were dropped [illegible] to North with unobserved results. Track from SIGUL RIVER mouth to the PULIE RIVER was strafed with unobserved results. 17 bombs were dropped on [illegible] ISLAND (Target No. 3) of which 4 bombs hit in the river and 13 hit Village. Direct damage was not observed but a fire was started in Village. Village was strafed with unobserved results. Target No. 2 ([illegible] ISLAND) was thoroughly strafed with unobserved results. No signs of crashed P-38 was observed throughout the mission. Bombing was excellent. 9400 X .50 cal. and 720 X 20 mm were expended. Photos were taken of [illegible] (Target No. 1, 2 and 3).

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Track between SIGUL and PULIE RIVERS was too overgrown to see. No target were observed from mouth of PULIE RIVER to DIDMOP. One Jap was seen in clearing just North of first bend from PULIE RIVER mouth. A small clearing with smoke similar to a camp fire was seen at 554300 (ARMY Prov., 1/63360). New native huts were seen along ridge on both sides of MURIEN VILLAGE. One large hut and 8 small huts were observed on [illegible] (Target No. 3). Smoke was seen over [illegible] (Target No. 1) on leaving area.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered clouds at 2000 feet, visibility 15 miles. Target, CAVU.

352 MA. ARMED RECCO - 2 B-24's, 63rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 1800/19/I to 0200/20/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: (1) One unidentified vessel at 0320S-15122E.
(2) One unidentified vessel at 0242S-14940E.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. 1/10./delay bombs were dropped at 2115/L from 2000 feet at an unidentified vessel at 0320S-15122E. Bombs landed 150 yards off port side with nil damage. 1 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bomb was dropped at 2210/L from 2000 feet at an unidentified vessel at 0242S-14940E. Bomb landed 200 yards off starboard side with nil damage observed. Recco. route was covered 100%.

A/A: Intense, medium, inaccurate from targets.

SIGHTINGS: At 2110/L from 2000 feet, 6 unidentified vessels were located at 0320S-15122E. Course and speed not determined. At 2205/L from 2000 feet, 4 unidentified vessels were located at 0242S-14940E. Course and speed not determined. At 2230/L from 2000 feet, one flare was observed at 0325S-14950E. At 2225/L from 2000 feet, a bright red fire was seen at 0312S-14935E. At 2400/L from 6000 feet, a bright red fire was seen at BLUCHER POINT.

GENERAL: 1 B-24 landed at KIRIWINA and is not included in this report.

WEATHER: Enroute out, 3/10 cumulus, 4000 feet, thin stratus at 3000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, 4/10 cumulus, 4000 feet, lightning and thunderstorms. On return, front Northwest through HUON GULF.

353 G. WEATHER RECCO - 2 B-25D-1's, 1 B-25C, 71st and 822nd Squadrons.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0621/20/L to 1020/20/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to ALEXISHAFEN and return.

RESULTS: (1) First airplane unable to complete mission due to weather. Turned back from KERIMA at 0430/L.

(2) Second airplane unable to complete mission due to engine failure. Turned back 30 miles North of YULE ISLAND at 0500/L.

(3) Mission completed 100% as ordered. There were nil sightings throughout entire mission.

WEATHER: Ranges built up to 20000 feet below daylight, later a solid undercast at 11000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, scattered cumulus at 2000 feet. Target, CAVU.

353 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0715-1610/20/L.

MISSION: Gusap, Nadzab, Lae and return.

RESULTS: Mission completed 100% with nil sightings.

WEATHER: Enroute - Overcast at 8000 ft. tops at 10,000 ft., broken cumulus.
Markham Valley - Overcast at 18,000 ft., 5/10 covered.
Return - Over ranges, tops at 11,000 ft.

353 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0500-0910/20/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Port Moresby, Yule Island, Lae-Finschaffen, Lae, Nadzab, Kaiapit, Gusap, Dumpu, Alexishafen and return.

RESULTS: Mission completed 100% and weather reported as ordered.

WEATHER: Yule Island, 0530/L, stratus and stroto-cumulus at 6500 ft. 7/10 covered, strato and strato-cumulus at 14000 ft. 7/10 covered with thin stratus at 18,000 ft.
Lae, 0620/L, broken light cumulus at 3000 ft. with stratus at 14000 ft. 7/10 covered.
Finschaffen, 0645/L, broken light cumulus from 2-6000 ft. 8/10 covered.
Nadzab, 0712/L, scattered light cumulus.
Kaiapit, 0725/L, scattered light cumulus.
Gusap, 0733/L, scattered light cumulus.
Dumpu, 0740/L, scattered light cumulus.
Alexishafen, 0755/L, middle clouds 4/10 stratus cover.

353 C. ARMED WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1 501st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0335-0500/20/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Dobodura, Arawe, Borgen Bay, Cape Ward-Hunt and return.

RESULTS: Mission 35% complete. Turned back at 0800S-14900E due weather.

WEATHER: 0400/L, 0835S-14920E, 1000 ft., temperature 23 deg. visibility 1000 yards maxium. Strato cumulus with base at 1500 ft. 6/10 covered. Lighting in all directions.

353 C./2. ARMED WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0650-0950/20/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Dobodura, Arawe, Borgen Bay, Cape Ward Hunt and return.

RESULTS: Mission 100% completed. Weather was reported half-hourly. From 0815 to 0820/20/L, 12 x 100 lb. inst. demos bombs were dropped from 2000 ft. along West shore of Borgen Bay. 2 bombs dropped in clearing West of Matâmo Pt. at 748870. 7 bombs which were dropped at barges hit in water at 738887, 3 bombs hit along shore at point 735885. (All references- Borgen Bay Prov. Map 1 inch to 1 mile) white smoke was observed coming from clearing West of Matâmo Pt. Other results were unobserved.

A/A: Light A/C or 20 mm from target area. Approx. 10 red ground flashes and smoke observed coming from 736885.

SIGHTINGS: At 0815-0820/L, 2000', Borgen Bay, 15-18 barges observed on West shore of Borgen Bay. 5 or 6 of these appeared serviceable.

WEATHER: 0715/L, 1500', temperature 25 deg., 0755S-14830E, visibility 20-30 miles, 9/10 alto-stratus, base, 12000' 2/10 strato cumulus at 1500 ft. Low ground fog to East of sea.
0800/L, 2/500 ft., temperature 24 deg., 0610S-14840E visibility unlimited, 8/10 thin alto stratus at 12,000' 1/10 cumulus with tops at 3500 ft. Haze to West.
0900/L, 6000 ft., temperature 20 deg., 0800S-14810E, 9/10 thick alto-stratus at 12000 ft. 2/10 cumulus at 2000 ft. Threatning sky to South.
0930/L, 9500 ft., temperature 14 deg., Kokda Pass. Vis. unlimited, 7/10 thin alto stratus at 12000 ft. 7/10 cumulus at 9000 ft. Flight conditions were good throughout the mission.

353 D.(A1) STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1s, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1204-1205/20/L.

TARGET: Natamo Point to Silimati Point, Borgen Bay.

RESULTS: 36 X 300 lb. 4-5 sec delay bombs were dropped on target from an altitude of 100 feet, with U/O results. Target area was strafed with a total of 11,240 x 50 cal. and 900 x 30 cal. with U/O results. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of bombing and strafing runs.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1150/L, a reddish box about three foot square was observed approx. 50 miles from target on a course of 170 degrees. At 1205/L, 1 possible serviceable barge well camouflaged was observed about 200 feet off shore at position 0531S-14830E. At 1159/L, a barge or plane was observed partially submerged in the Itni River about 1 mile inland but South of Gilnit near sharp bend in river. Nil activity observed at target.

WEATHER Enroute - 1130/L, scattered cumulus base 2000' tops 4500 ft. 1/10 covered, vis. unlimited.
Over target - 1205/L, rain squalls over target during bombing and strafing run, vis. 1/2 mile.
On return - 1230/L, same weather as enroute.

353 D (A2) STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1s. 499th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1205-1217/20/L.

TARGET: Natamo Pt. to Silimati Pt.

RESULTS: A total of 40 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on target from minumum altitude with unobserved results. Target area was thoroughly strafed with a total of 14300 X .50 cal. and 2600 X .30 cal. with unobserved damage. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

SIGHTINGS: 6 unidentified airplanes were observed on strip No. 2 at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Serviceability undetermined due to distance. 2 columns of black smoke rising to 200 feet were observed just West of SILIMATI POINT. Smoke had disappeared when second run was made. On second run [illegible]

One serviceable barge which appeared new was observed in barge hide at 737687 (Ref. SILILAITI POINT, 1/20000 Special, Preliminary). Motor track off coast between CAPE CHURCHEST.R and BURGE BAY appeared well used. Machine gun flashes were observed from 737684 (Same map reference). A small pier, possible for barges, was observed at 737695.

GENERAL: Propaganda leaflets were dropped on target.

WEATHER: Enroute, over Ranges, broken overcast, 7/10 covered at 8000 feet, built up to 10000 feet. CAPE WARD HUNT, overcast at 12000 feet over water. NEW BRITAIN, thin stratus overcast at 10000 feet, broken cumulus at 1000/1500 feet. Over target, rain squalls, poor visibility, cloud base 1400 feet. On return over water, cumulus, 1500/3000 feet, high cirrus overcast at 14000 feet. Over Ranges, overcast at 20000 feet, clear below 16000 feet, some cumulo-nimbus over Ranges.

353 D. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 500th squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1205/20/L to 1210/20/L.

TARGET: West coast of BORGEN BAY to SILILAITI POINT.

RESULTS: 44 x 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in target from 100/200 feet giving good coverage from 1 mile South of SILILAITI POINT to SILILAITI POINT. 3 fires were started on SILILAITI POINT with other damage unobserved. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped slightly East of target by one airplane with unobserved damage. Entire target was strafed with a total of 9850 x .50 cal. and 3500 X .50 cal. Damage was unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: One camouflaged barge was observed at 739881 and another at 738893 (This and all subsequent references are to SILILAITI POINT, 1/20000 Special Map). 2 other barges, which were rusty, and possibly unserviceable, were seen at 737695. The road running Northeast from SILILAITI POINT appeared well used, and an apparently new winding road, wide enough for one vehicle, was seen running parallel to the Bay's West coast about 3/4 of a mile inland between the 2 high hills on the coast. Trucks were seen and this road also appeared well used. A small clearing with 6 to 10 tent-like buildings was seen about 1 mile South of SILILAITI POINT and ½ mile inland. A small raft with 2 men in it, was seen in the ITAE RIVER mouth on the South coast of NEW BRITAIN. An outrigger with a thatched roof was seen near GILLIT VILLAGE just South of the ITAE and POTSAKEN RIVER junctions.

GENERAL: Propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target.

WEATHER: Enroute, clouds over mountains at 6000/8500 feet which were broken in spots. Overcast at 15000/20000 feet. Cirrus clouds over water, scattered at 20000 feet. Over target, light showers with scattered cumulus at 2000 feet. On return, cirrus clouds over water, scattered at 15000 feet, lower scattered cumulo-nimbus and alto-stratus at 5000/6000 feet lowering to minimum. On return, cirrus clouds over water, scattered at 15000 feet. Cumulus over mountains at 12000 feet with overcast breaking up.

353 D. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1103/20/L.

TARGET: MATALO POINT to SILIVATI POINT.

RESULTS: 31 X 300 lb. A/S second delay dem. bombs were dropped on target from altitudes of 100 to 200 feet with unobserved damage. 6 bombs were near misses with all bombs hitting on land with unobserved results. Target was thoroughly strafed in two passes with a total of 7075 X .50 cal. and 2500 X .30 cal. with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: At 1110/L, a very large explosion was observed in water 30 miles due North of CAPE WARD HUNT at position 0730S-14615E. Debris was hurled approximately 400 feet in air. At 1153/L, 2 tree trunks were observed laid at the mouth of the ITTE RIVER in a "V" formation pointing North. At 1212/L, a serviceable bridge was observed on West coast of MATALO POINT at 759670 (SILIVATI POINT, 1/20000). Serviceable bridge at 765859 seems to have been repaired and widened. At 1215/L, a water truck bridge, 60 feet long, appeared to be new at M7276 (Ref. Western NEW BRITAIN Provisional Map, 4 miles to 1 inch). At 1232/L, 2 very large packing cases were observed in water 10 miles South of CAPE BUSHING. No ground activity observed in target area.

WEATHER: Enroute, 1130/L, scattered cumulus at 1500 and 2000 feet, high cirrus, 7/10 covered. At target, 1203/L, rain with cumulus from ground to 2000 feet. Enroute on return, 1245/L, some rain cloud.

353 E. STRIKE - 5 B-24's, 319th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1030/20/L.

TARGET: Beach-head on CAPE GLOUCESTER between N. 2 strip and SILIVATI POINT.

RESULTS: 40 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 9400 feet with bombs falling within 1nt. Mi. area. Photos were taken of the bombing.

WEATHER: Weather good enroute to target but bad over NEW BRITAIN, 6/10 cloud cover from 2000/10000 feet. Ranges crossed on return at 20000 feet, tops about 25000 feet.

353 E. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 320th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1026/20/L.

TARGET: Stores area West of SILIVATI POINT.

RESULTS: 40 X 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 6600 feet on a heading of 245 degrees along coast at CAPE HOSKINS, 16 miles South of CAPE GLOUCESTER. Approximately 5 explosions followed by fire were observed in bombed area. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: At 1050/L from 8000 feet over CAPE GLOUCESTER, bomb craters were observed on gun positions on ridge approximately 6000 feet South of strip No. 2.

GENERAL: CAPE HENSING was bombed by mistake due to 8/10 cloud cover over North coast of NEW BRITAIN. 1 B-24 returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, 6/10 cumulus, tops 16000 feet. North coast of NEW BRITAIN, 8/10 cumulus at 11000 feet. Ranges crossed at 17000 feet, CAPE WARD HUNT to PORT MORESBY, 6/10 cumulus, tops to 22000 feet.

353 E. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 321st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1338/20/L to 1352/20/L.

TARGET: Supply area along coast West of SILIMATI POINT.

RESULTS: One flight of 3 B-24's made a 127 degree bombing run over target at 8200 feet. 4 runs were made in an effort to locate target through cloud cover. 24 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped and fell in water East of target.

Second flight of 3 B-24's made a 165 degree bombing run at 8000 feet over target. 24 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped with all bombs except 2 hitting the target with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: At 1354/L from 8000 feet, bombs from another flight observed bursting on Eastern half of target.

WEATHER: Scattered cumulus at 7000 feet and thunderheads in vicinity of TAMI ISLAND enroute to target. 7/10 cumulus at 7000 feet over target with cirrus layer at 20000 feet.

353 E. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 400th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1336/20/L to 1341/20/L.

TARGET: Dump area 4000 feet East of SILIMATI POINT.

RESULTS: 24 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped by 3 airplanes of first flight from 9500 feet on a heading of 270 degrees. Smoke observed but no damage was apparent. Second element of 3 airplanes dropped 24 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs from 8800 feet on a 280 degree heading. Bombs hit on target along beach and inland with unobserved damage. Photos were taken of the bombing.

WEATHER: Ranges, enroute, built up to 13000 feet, clear over target, scattered cumulus, 5/10 to 6/10 covered near target. On return, cumulus 15000/18000 feet.

353 F. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1145/20/L.

TARGET: Strip No. 2 at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: A total of 98 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped along strip and South side of strip from altitudes of 100 to 200 feet with unobserved damage. Entire target area was strafed with a total of 12050 X .50 cal. and 1550 X .30 cal. with unobserved damage. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Moderate, heavy, accurate from flight gap at East end of strip. Slight, light, inaccurate from Southwest corner of strip. Slight A/C fire from dump area 3 mile of strip near the HADANO ROAD. One airplane had small shrapnel hole in left nacelle.

SIGHTINGS: 4 to 6 camouflaged airplanes on strip. 3/4 unserviceable single-engine airplanes along North side of runway. 1 serviceable twin-engine silver bomber on strip near Southwest corner. 1 serviceable SBF in roadway at Northeast corner of strip.

GENERAL: Flight leader of third element was shot down by A/A over target. Both bay pursuit int. flames, which dropped and then spread int. cockpit as plane crashed into water just short of SEK ISLAND. 2 B-29's of this Sqdn were landed at LAE and results are not included in this report. 2 bundles of native propaganda leaflets were dropped 25 miles Southwest of target.

WEATHER: Over target, scattered cumulus at 2000 feet, visibility excellent.

353 F. STRIKE - 7 B-25D-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1154/20/L.

TARGET: Strip No. 1 at ALEXISHAFEN.

RESULTS: A total of 25 X 500 lb. G/AL second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 50 to 100 feet on a 60 degree heading in close column across strip No. 1. 11 bombs landed in dump area South and Southwest of No. 1 strip. 5 bombs landed in North revetment area, 7 bombs landed in VITAR PLANTATION and 2 were dropped in A/A position on Southwest tip of MADSEN ISLAND. Results except for bomb bursts were generally unobserved. Entire target including ADMOSEN ISLAND and Northend of SEK ISLAND and HEGAS ISLAND were strafed with a total of 9460 X .50 cal. and 1020 X .30 cal with unobserved damage. Photos were taken of the bombing. Bombing excellent.

A/A: Moderate to intense, light and A/C fire, accurate from position along strip including concentration of 5 or 6 guns on South side near West end (Ref. CHU T-36: B-1044) and on West tip of ADMOSEN ISLAND. 1 B-25 hit 20 mm X 2 in right wing and 1 B-24. Has 2 small caliber X 2 in wing and elevator.

SIGHTINGS: 2 SBF of undetermined serviceability camouflaged with net in trees along North side of strip. One net red spinner on grey hub. One camouflaged bugger pulled up on shore on South side of the cove. One small shack, possible radio installation near 60 foot pole in VITAR PLANTATION. Canvas covered pile, possible stores under trees near jetty in VITAR PLANTATION. 10 grass thatched huts on HEGAS ISLAND. Possible Jap flag flying from mast in native village 5 miles Southwest of target.

GENERAL: 1 bundle of native propaganda leaflets were dropped 10 miles Southwest of target.

WEATHER: Emarete, 8/10 alto-stratus at 20000 feet, 5/10 cumulus up to 10000 feet over target, 1/10 alto-stratus at 20000 feet, 3/10 cumulus at 5000/8000 feet.

353 F. STRIKE - 9 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1155/20/L to 1156/20/L.

TARGET: Strip N . 2 at MISAIMAWAN.

RESULTS: A total of 31 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 100 feet in dump areas on both sides of the strip and across Township in Squadron abreast attack on a 60 degree heading. 2 flaming fires of short duration were started in dump area off Northeast corner of strip and three small fires were started in Township area. Other damage was unobserved. 1 X 500 lb. bomb was dropped on SEK ISLAND with unobserved results. 111 X 75 mm were expended in target area Southwest corner of strip to the sea. 1 direct hit was scored on an unserviceable BETTY at Northwest corner of strip. Black smoke and small fires over area were only other observed results. 3 X 75 mm fired at SEK ISLAND with unobserved damage. Entire area was strafed with a total of 7100 X .50 cal. and 2950 X .30 cal. with unobserved results. 2 camouflaged BETTYS, one wrecked near Northeast corner of strip and 2 ZEROS in trees North of East flight gap were also strafed with unobserved damage. Photos were taken of bombing. Bombing was excellent.

A/A: Slight, heavy, accurate to altitude bursting more than 200 feet behind formation from unobserved positions. Moderate, light, inaccurate from area between East flight gap and Township. Intense A/G fire from entire target area. 3 airplanes each received one A/C hole.

SIGHTINGS: Bomber from 405th Squadron attack observed to burst in the boat. No A/A flashes observed coming from positions on boat. 10 to 12 small fires of short duration observed between No. 1 and No. 2 strips. Two manned enemy guns in pits at known heavy positions just South of center of strip were not firing. One man was standing and another crouching beside the gun. 1 B-25 seen to crash in SEK HARBOR 100 yards Southeast of North tip of SEK ISLAND.

GENERAL: 2 bundles of propaganda leaflets were dropped on GOGOL RIVER Village 15 miles Southeast of target. Fighter cover excellent.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 9/10 cumulus at 8000 feet, 4/10 stratus at 24000 feet. Over target, clear with good visibility, strato-cumulus above 7000 feet.

353 F. STRIKE - 8 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1156/20/L to 1200/20/L.

TARGET: Strip No. 1 at MISAIMAWAN.

RESULTS: A total of 28 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in target area in altitude of 75 to 100 feet. 14 bombs landed at position 695377 (This and all other references to MISAIMAWAN East Provisional strip, 1 inch to 1 mile). 4 bombs at 695383, 4 bombs at 505375 and 6 at 701382. Results were generally unobserved due to low altitude and speed of attack. A total of 88 X 75 mm were expended at target as follows: 5 seen to hit A/A position on North end of

strip resulting in 2 explosions. Position caused firing. 3 rounds hit in supply dump North of dispersal area. 4 seen to hit among four or five houses on hilltop 2 miles Southwest of West end of strip resulting in large explosion throwing debris in air. 2 observed to hit on East end of strip. Other results of hits unobserved. Target area was strafed with a total of 7975 X .50 cal. and 1400 X .30 cal. with unobserved results. A/A position on beach due West of MENOSIR ISLAND was strafed and one camouflaged barge or lugger at position 722389 was also strafed, both with unobserved damage. Photos were taken of the bombing. Bombing was excellent.

A/A: Slight to moderate, light and medium, accurate to inaccurate, bursting 50 to 100 feet above formation, from following positions: AA 725390, M/G fire from 700375, light A/A from 709375 and 710381, medium A/A from 695383 and M/G fire from 715363. 3 airplanes each received single hits from M/G fire; one in bomb bay door, other two in tail section. One airplane received small shell hole in nose of plane.

SIGHTINGS: 3 unserviceable single engine airplanes observed parked on extreme West end of strip. 2 trucks observed parked along strip near West end. One supply revetments stacks of bags covered with canvas in supply area 200 yards Northwest of West end of strip. 2 native villages approximately 3 miles Southwest of strip seen to be totally destroyed by previous bombing.

GENERAL: Native propaganda leaflets dropped 20 miles Southwest of target.

WEATHER: Enroute, 9/10 cirro-stratus at 20000 feet, 4/10 cumulus with tops at 7000 feet, visibility 20 miles at 1000 feet. Over target, scattered cumulus, tops to 3000 feet, slight haze, visibility 8 miles. High cirro-stratus at 20000 feet. On return, 3/10 cumulus, tops to 7000 feet, visibility 20 miles at 13000 feet, cumulo-nimbus over Ranges with tops from 10000/15000 feet.

353 F. STRIKE - 3 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron (SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT)

TIME OF ATTACK: 1154/20/L.

TARGET: Strip No. 2 at MENOSIREN.

RESULTS: 60 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped on strip and probable dump area from 100 to 3000 feet with the following observed results: 1 camouflaged twin engine airplane, type unidentified medium bomber, on North side of strip, was evacuated by parafrags which were seen bursting around airplane. Airplane presumed destroyed. All other results unobserved. Bombing was excellent. Target was strafed with a total of 3275 X .50 cal. and 1800 X .30 cal. with unobserved damage.

A/A: Same as final mission report. One of above airplanes damaged by M/G fire. One small hole in right side of airplane just behind co-pilots seat. M/G bullet hole in left nacelle and small hole in bomb bay door.

SIGHTINGS: Two or three small columns of black smoke seen issuing from target area after attack. One pilot reported pilot

of possible supplies in dispersal area North of strip. Two or three truck tires seen at NADUA on return from target.

GENERAL: Co-pilot of 1 B-25 was killed by A/G bullet and pilot of same ship was wounded in right thigh. 2 bundles of propaganda leaflets were dropped on native village in between KWAJALEIN and the target.

WEATHER: Same as in Final Mission Report.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: WOTJE.

RESULTS: Target not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back from DURPU at 0930/L due to weather. There was nil sightings.

WEATHER: Ranges and MAJURO VALLEY, overcast and 9/10 covered. High overcast at 20000 feet.

353 X. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0930/20/L to 1015/20/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: ROCKS and adjacent Islands.

RESULTS: 1 F-4 took operational photos of ROCKS ISLAND. The other F-4 took operational photos of TUAK ISLAND, TUAK ISLAND to MALAH and MALOEN ISLAND to ARORAE ISLAND. All photos were taken from 19500 feet. Mission was 100% completed with nil sightings.

WEATHER: KWOK PENINSULA, overcast at 18000 feet. ROCKS ISLAND, overcast at 20000 feet. MAJURO VALLEY, stratus overcast at 17000 feet.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: 1000/20/L to 1020/20/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: HAWS. BAY.

RESULTS: Operational and mapping photos were taken of the HAWS. BAY area from 28000 feet. Mission was 100% completed with nil sightings.

WEATHER: HAWS. BAY, CAVU. Ranges, overcast at 20000 feet with some low clouds.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

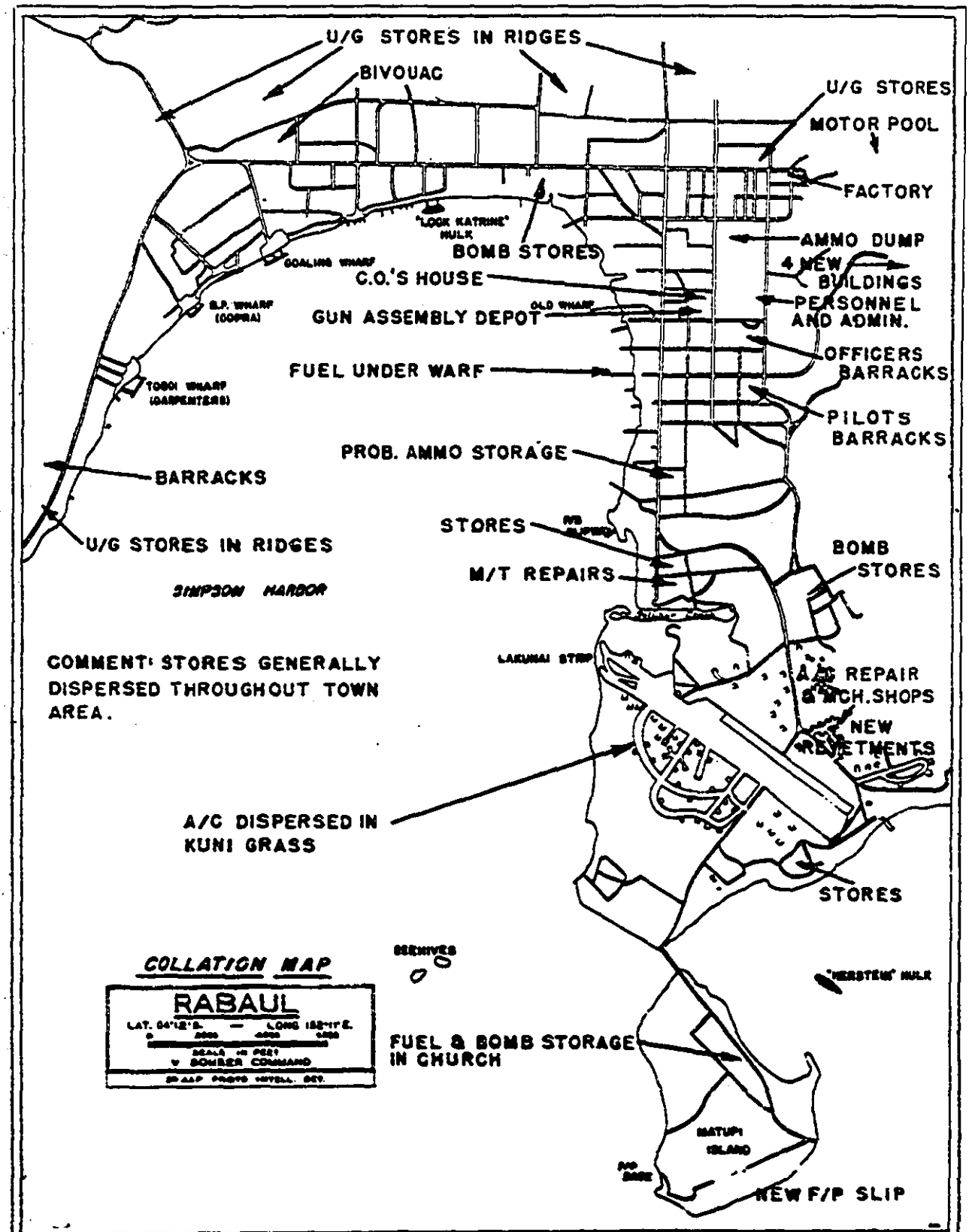
Fighters carried out usual escort and patrol missions which nil interceptions or combat.

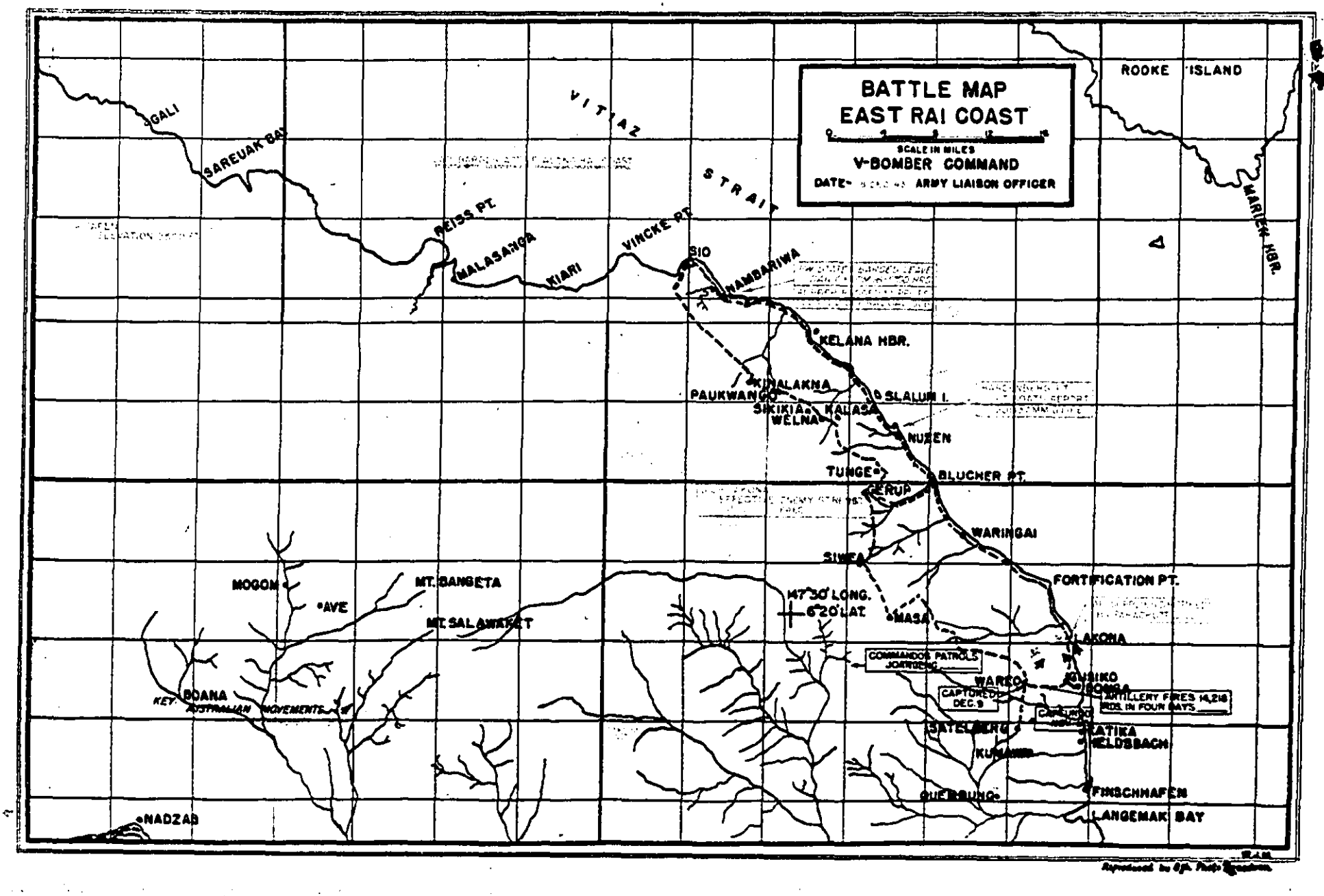
OFFICIAL:

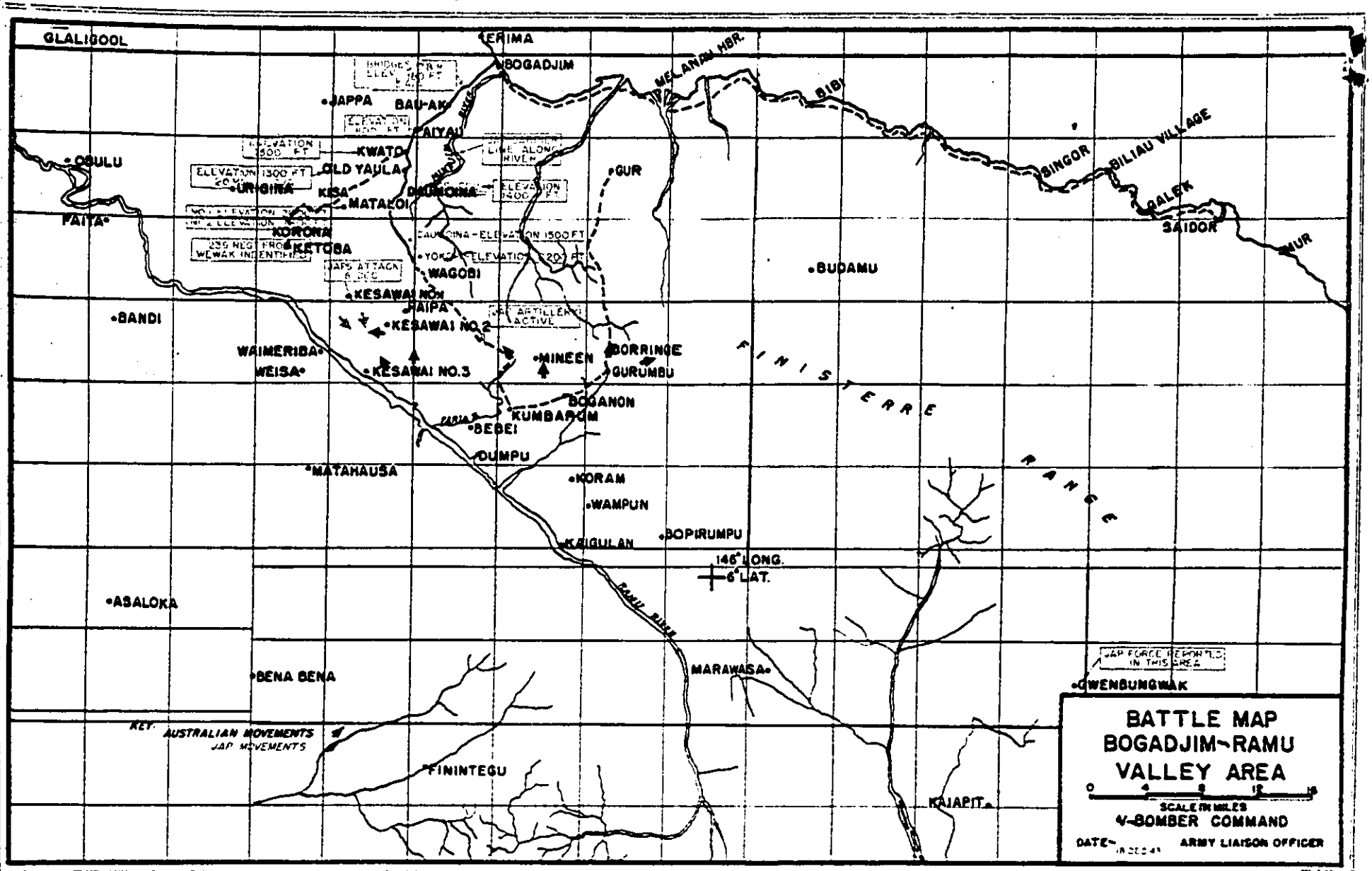
PAUL E. MALLON,
Captain, Air Corps,
A-2 Duty Officer.

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

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
RABAUL
20/12/43




BATTLE MAP
EAST RAI COAST
SCALE IN MILES
V-BOMBER COMMAND
DATE- ARMY LIAISON OFFICER
ROOKE ISLAND
MARIEN HBR.
VITIAZ STRAIT
SAREUAK BAY
REISS PT.
MALASANGA
KIARI
VINCKE PT.
SIO
HAMBARIWA
KELANA HBR.
KINALAKNA
PAUKWANGO
SIKIKIA
WELNA
KALASA
SLALUM I.
NUZEN
TUNGE
BLUCHER PT.
WARINGAI
SIWEA
FORTIFICATION PT.
147°30' LONG.
6°20' LAT.
MASA
LAKONA
COMMANDOS PATROLS JOINED
WAREO
CAPTURED DEC. 9
ARTILLERY FIRES 14,218 RDS. IN FOUR DAYS
SATELBERG
KUMAWEI
QUERBUNG
FINSCHHAFEN
LANGEMAK BAY
MOGOM
AVE
MT. SANGETA
MT. SALAWAKET
BOANA
KEY AUSTRALIAN MOVEMENTS
NADZAB


GLALIGOOL
ERIMA
BOGADJIM
MELANDIN HBR.
BIBI
JAPPA
BAU-AK
AIYAU
KWATO
OLD YAULA
KESA
MATALOI
DAUMONA
GUR
SINGOR
BILIAU VILLAGE
GALEK
SAIDOR
MUR
OBULU
URIGINA
FAITA
KORONA
KETOBA
WAGOBI
BUDAMU
KESAWAI NO.1
HAIPA
KESAWAI NO.2
BANDI
WAIMERIBA
WEISA
KESAWAI NO.3
MINEEN
BORRINGE
GURUMBU
FINISTERRE
BOGANON
KUMBARUM
BEBEI
DUMPU
MATAHAUSA
KORAM
WAMPUN
BOPIRUMPU
KAIGULAN
146° LONG.
6° LAT.
ASALOKA
RAMU RIVER
BENA BENA
MARAWASA
GWENBUNGWAK
KEY
AUSTRALIAN MOVEMENTS
JAP MOVEMENTS
FININTEGU
KAJAPIT
BATTLE MAP
BOGADJIM-RAMU
VALLEY AREA
SCALE IN MILES
V-BOMBER COMMAND
DATE
ARMY LIAISON OFFICER

ALLIED HQ. ALGIE 1:
American Mountain Fighters to the Northeast stormed and took the two thousand foot Village of San Corasuolo, three miles North west of Filignano after hard fighting. The Fifth Army drive to pinch off a considerable section of the Cassino Rome Road continued with heavy fighting going on where the other arm of an Allied pincer movement is seeking to knock the Nazis out of their strong positions on Mount Lungo, South of the Rome Road. Serious fighting also continued unabated on the British Eighth Army front on the Adriatic end of the line where Headquarters announced the capture of Poggio Micrito, eight miles Southwest of Ortona. In the words of an Allied military commenttator General Montgomerys men improved their positions all along the Orsogna Ortona Road. Bad weather grounded most aircraft but American Marauders took the pounding of Northern Italy and French Riviera communications.

LONDON:
The Red Army opening a powerful new offnesive on the North Russian front near Nevel has overrun five hundred villages and killed 20,000 Germans in an eighteen mile break through carrying Soviet troops to within fifty two miles of the Latvian frontier, Moscow announced Sunday night. A bulletin broadcast by Moscow and recorded by the Soviet Monitor said the Russians under General Bagramian broke thru a strongly fortified enemy defense line South of Nevel on a fifty mile front hammering out gains as deep as eighteen and a half miles. In addition to the twenty thousand Germans killed. In several days of fighting the Russians also took two thousand prisoners the communique said.

LONDON:
Flights of fighting planes skimmed thru clearing weather over the straits of Dover Sunday afternoon toward Germanys Europe to herald perhaps a full scale resumption of the Anglo American offensive after a three day pause. Allied heavy bombers have been grounded since Thursday when strong American forces attacked Northwest Germany and the RAF in a night assault dumped fifteen hundred tons of bombs on Berlin where fires are still reported flickering. The German controlled Paris radio reported in a broadcast recorded by U.S. Monitors, New Anglo American bombing raids of the Somme department of Northern France. The broadcast lacking any Allied confirmation said many high explosives were dropped on the Western part of the department.

CHUNGKING:
With Major General Chennaults American Sky Dragons bombing and strafing enemy supply bases and transport time and again Japanese ground forces have been forced into further retreat before Chinas victorious armies in the Rice Bowl Area. It was announced Monday. Jap counterattacks Northwest of the Lin River Town of Lihsien were better off as the Chinese continued their drive back through the invaded territory a Chinese communique said. Enemy troops still held out North of Tungting Lake however and bloody fighting still raged in the suburbs of the two towns.

LONDON:
Yugoslav Patriots who have sprung their own counteroffensive after smashing the Germans sixth large scale drive have encircled the suburbs of Banjaluka in Borsnia and have severed the Banja Luka Prijedor military railway it was announced Sunday. A broadcast announcement from the Headquarters of Marshal Josip Broz said his Guerrila units had occupied the railway station at Banja Luka while other Partisan forces were capturing a nearby stronghold after killing and capturing a number of Germans and seizing guns and ammunition. The railway stations capture severs one of the most important Nazi rail supply routes in North Central Yugoslavia.

LONDON:
The first eyewitness report on a new Nazi secret weapon rocket driven glider bombs resembling some Hellsian weapon from Mars but which exploded harmlessly was released Sunday following a recent attack on a big Allied convoy by eight [illegible]

British Marine Officers into claiming that the attack looked like the day of a meertian invasion was here. The seamen described the new weapons as big bombs mounted on radio controlled glider about 25 feet long with a 15 foot wing spread. All our ships reached their destination safely but its lucky we didn't get hit said Robert Daley one of the gunnery officers. The weapon may have been one Prime Minister Churchill had in mind when he warned on November 11th that we cannot exclude the possibility of new forms of attacks upon this Island.

LONDON:

Heartening news continued to come from Prime Minister Churchill sick bed somewhere in the Middle East Sunday with the mid afternoon bulletin announcing that the Statesmans temperature has returned to normal and that the pneumonia is disappearing.

WASHINGTON:

General Douglas MaCarthurs failure to say specifically that he would not accept a presidential nomination if it were offered has convinced his supporters the Republicans could draft him as a nomin... Senator Vanderberg, Republican from Michigan, looked upon as the father of the MaCarthur boom said Sunday he is proceeding on the theory that the Southwest Pacific Commander would not refuse the Republican nomination. I shall continue to assume that he will accept unless he says he would not Vandenberg said.

ALAMO(1)

Aust Air Liaison Group

0800/2 2 DEC 1943

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 355.

marked up

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INFTS:
DATE: 21/12/43

FROM: 1600/20/12/43/L.
TO : 1600/21/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

HAMAK: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (354 H) took off at 0043/L to photograph HAMAK. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back at 0930/L over the AUON PENINSULA.

HANSA BAY: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (354 K) was unable to photograph HANSA BAY due to weather. Airplane was over HANSA BAY at 1015/L at 25000 feet. 3 small harbor craft were seen in HANSA BAY at 1015/L.

MADANG: 1 B-25C-1 of the 405th Squadron (354 D) completed 100% a weather recce to MADANG. Airplane took off at 0315/L and landed at 0746/L. One white light was seen on the surface of the water at 0545/L at 04206-14540E. 2 lights were observed burning at MADANG.

24 B-25D-1's and B-25C's of the 38th Group (354 E) bombed and strafed bivouac and supply areas at MADANG and MADANG TOWNSHIP from 0845/L to 0845/L. 84 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped on the targets. Targets were strafed with 30015 X .50 cal., 8355 X .30 cal. and 142 X 75 mm. MADANG TOWNSHIP, KILIAU VILLAGE, SIAR HARBOR, HODILON PLANTATION, the runway and GRAGAT MISSION were bombed shelled and strafed with the following results: 1 explosion occured in Township area. 1 European type house was destroyed in KILIAU VILLAGE. 75 mm hits were scored on A/A position at North end of Township area, silencing gun with probable damage to gun resulting. Direct hits were scored on 2 buildings blowing roof off of one. 3 direct hits were scored on A/A position ½ mile South of KILIAU VILLAGE silencing the battery. Small fires were started on KILIAU ISLAND, and GRAGAT ISLAND by 75 mm fire. 1 barge was probably destroyed by bombing. Jap propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target. A/A fire encountered over the target was slight to intense, light, medium and heavy, and accurate to inaccurate. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. 4 or 5 well camouflaged barges were seen at GRAGAT ISLAND ANCHORAGE and at Township wharf. 30 camouflaged oil drums were observed at foot of man-made dirt incline near ALEXISHAFEN ROAD just North of MEIRO PLANTATION. Several fires were seen burning as Group left the target.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-25D-1 of the 501st Squadron (354 C) completed 100% an armed weather recce to CAPE GLOUCESTER and REDD BAY. 12 X 100 lb. bombs were dropped at 0535/L from 2500 feet along track on South shore of TOROKINA BAY with unobserved results. Airplane took off at 0350/L and returned to base at 0850/L.

24 P-25D-1's of the 345th Group (354 F) bombed and strafed TARGET HILL from 0946/L to 1005/L. 80 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped on the target. Bombing was generally excellent with TARGET HILL being covered by bomb bursts followed by small explosions emitting white puffs of smoke—probably ammunition. One barge in NORTH BAY was heavily strafed with unobserved results. Damage on TARGET HILL was unobserved but area was well covered by bombing and strafing. 42000 X .50 cal. and 8250 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing the target. Propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target. Slight, light and medium, inaccurate A/A fire and slight, inaccurate M/G fire was received over the target. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. 2 camouflaged positions which appeared to be guns, were seen on crest of TARGET HILL and dug-outs were observed just below crest of HILL facing North. One 6 inch coastal gun was observed, facing North, on crest of Southwest side of HILL. (Other crews described guns as 3 inch to 4 inch). Several new huts and 2 well-worn trucks were observed at CHINE VILLAGE. 3 to 4 barges of questionable serviceability were seen in BOROKO BAY area. 4 gun pits, 3 occupied by heavy M/G and one pit empty, were observed on top of TARGET HILL. 3 A/A positions were seen near coast Southwest from TARGET HILL. Activity was evidenced around barge anchorage.

SAIDOR: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (354 Y) took operational photos in the SAIDOR area from 1000/L to 1045/L from 22000 feet. There were nil sightings.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (354 Z) attempted to take photos of the NADZAB area but were unable to do so because of weather. Airplanes were over NADZAB area at 1015/L at 23000 feet.

1 B-25G of the 822nd Squadron (354 A) completed MAG a Courier Mission to CUSAP, NADZAB and LAE. Airplane took off at 0855/L and landed at 1225/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (354 S) completed a weather recce to SARAMUA, LAE, NADZAB and FINSCHHAFEN. Airplane took off at 0530/L and landed at 0815/L. There were nil sightings.

DOBODURA-GOODENOUGH ISLAND: 1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (354 I) completed 100% a Courier Mission to DOBODURA and return. Airplane took off at 0635/L and landed at 0855/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 490th Squadron (351 M) completed 100% a Courier Mission to GOODENOUGH ISLAND and return. Airplane took off at 1605/19/L and returned to base at 1830/21/L.

AITAPE: At 1200/L P-38's of the 431st Fighter Squadron intercepted 12 to 15 enemy fighters and 6 to 10 VALS, 10 to 12 miles East of AITAPE. 6 VALS, 1 OSCAR and 1 ZEKE were definitely destroyed. 1 OSCAR and 1 ZEKE were probably destroyed. In addition to the airplanes they shot down, fighter pilots claim to have seen 10 enemy airplanes crash in the jungle. (A/A—?).
At 1215/L, P-47's of the 342nd Fighter Squadron sighted 10 ZEKES and 6 VALS at sea level in the AITAPE area.

None of these enemy airplanes were destroyed. Our losses were nil all day long.

NOTE: Included in this report are the following Final Mission Reports from FATF:

353 AA. STRIKE - 10 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER and SAG SAG VILLAGE.

353 BB. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 90th Squadron.

TARGET: Possible Naval guns at AISEGA.

353 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

353 DD. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

353 EE. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

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

353 FF. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

353 GG. STRIKE - 6 B-24's; 64th Squadron.
6 B-24's; 65th Squadron.
6 B-24's; 403rd Squadron.
9 B-24's; 529th Squadron.
10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Target No. 3.

353 II. STRIKE - 12 B-25's, 33rd Squadron.

TARGET: HUBIKA.

353 JJ. STRIKE - 5 B-26's, 19th Squadron.

TARGET: WALINGAI Area.

353 KK. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TARGET: Coast between PULIE and SIGUL RIVERS.

353 LL. ARMED RECCO - 6 P-39Q's, 82nd Recn Squadron.

MISSION: Reconnaissance and strafing from CAPE PASUWATI to CAPE ANIKUR.

353 OO. STRIKE - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

353 PP. ARMED RECCO - 2 B-24's, 63rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA:

The enemy appears to be in full flight in the coastal area as our troops encountered only stragglers in the capture of JOKTAJAMPUN HILL yesterday. Large numbers, however, were seen moving in HUEIKA though they were not in any order.

MARU VALLEY:

Our patrols are still active in the KESAWAI and there appears to be many indications that the enemy may have withdrawn.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Field artillery has been employed to silence the machine gun and 20 mm fire from AWANG ISLAND. MILMILEK VILLAGE, ARAWE ISLAND and KUMPUN ISLAND have been occupied by our forces. Patrols working along the beach track to the East have reached the SIGUL RIVER.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Machine guns and 20 mm guns located on AWUNG ISLAND have fired on our patrols. Slight resistance has been encountered on KUMPUN ISLAND and 6 Japs were killed. Two Jap barges and a supply dump on AWANG ISLAND have been destroyed by strafing of P-47's.

B Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
21 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4	9	2				15	0
DAGUA	12	9	11				32	0
WEWAK	9	2	5			6	22	0
BOEAM	19	1					20	0
AWAR	8						8	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	62	82	41			6	191	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	7	13	2	14		7	43	0
VUNAKANAU	17	20	13	1			51	0
LAKUNAI	38	5		21			64	0
RAPOPO	11	10					21	0
HARBOR					2	16	20	0
PANAPAI	11						11	0
TOBERA	20			13			33	0
BORPOP		4					4	0
Total	104	52	15	49	2	25	247	0

COMMENTS:

1. With no photos of NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND or NEW GUINEA dromes, our present estimate is allowed to remain.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

ALEXISHAFEN #1 & #2: 20/12/43. (353 F)

Good oblique photos cover both dromes. Drome #1: Photos show A/A guns manned and firing on point in Bestrem Bay East of drome and bombs bursting in water nearby. Nil damage observed. Nil serviceable airplanes observed. Runway appears rough but serviceable. Drome #2: Parafrag bombs seen bursting on Southeast side of runway near U/S M/B. Parafrags also shown bursting down center and Northwest side of runway with several bursts causing probable further damage to U/S airplanes in that area. Parafrags are seen bursting in personnel area on peninsula at the Northwest end of the runway with damage unobserved. A/A battery on the Southeast side and battery at Northeast end of runway are shown manned and firing. Large barrow pit with five dump trucks is seen near Northeast dispersal area. Nil serviceable airplanes observed. Runway appears rough but serviceable.

BORGEN BAY: 20/12/43. (353 D)

Dull photos show bombs bursting from East of Natame Point to across Silimati Point. There appear to be at least five fires. Photos of Gloucester Drome on this run show two possible bunkers on shore Northeast of dispersal area.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 20/12/43. (353 F)

Clear photos show bombs bursting between Target Hill and shore. Also along shore two miles West of Silimati Point. Damage unobserved. One clear photo of Target Hill shows the place well plastered with bombs. The entire steep East hillside has been blown clear of timber. Three gun positions and a number of caves are believed destroyed.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

353 AA. STRIKE - 10 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1035/20/L to 1057/20/L.

TARGET: Cape Gloucester - strip #2; Sag Sag Village and Anglican Mission; dumps and supplies.

RESULTS: 8 B-25D-1's made one strafing pass, in three elements of 3, 3 and 2 on the #2 strip at Cape Gloucester. Nil serviceable airplanes were seen on the runway. 1 Zeke, possibly serviceable, in Northeast revetments was strafed. 2 Betty's and 1 Zeke, unserviceable, on the runway, were strafed. Results were unobserved. 8 B-25D-1's made 2 bombing and strafing passes on Sag Sag Village and Anglican Mission in single plane trail. 9 x 500 lb. 4/5 sec. delay demo. bombs were dropped on or within 50 yds. of the Anglican Mission. 22 x 500 lb. 4/5 sec. delay demo. bombs were dropped on or within 50 yds. of Sag Sag Village. 1 x 500 lb. 4/5 sec. delay demo. bomb was dropped on trail between Sag Sag and the Anglican Mission. Bombing was excellent and covered targets thoroughly. 4 to 5 red roofed shacks 20 x 40 ft., observed at Sag Sag were believed severely damaged or destroyed. A total of 19,000 x .50 cal. was expended in thoroughly strafing Cape Gloucester strip #2, Sag Sag and the Anglican Mission. Photos were taken of Sag Sag and Cape Gloucester area.

A/A: Light and inaccurate M/G fire was received from 573833 (Sag Sag Special 1/20,000).

SIGHTINGS: 2 BETTY'S and 1 ZEKE, all definitely unserviceable were seen along the South side of strip No. 2. Two, possibly serviceable ZEKES, very well camouflaged with netting and brush were observed in Northeast dispersal area of No. 2 strip near the coast. Both strips at CAPE GLOUCESTER appeared heavily cratered and unserviceable. Some huts in the Anglican Mission appeared camouflaged with netting. All trails around SAG SAG were well used. Grass fires were observed at GRASS POINT.

WEATHER: GONA WRECK, 0932/L, 2/10 alto-cumulus, base 10000 feet, tops 2500 feet, solid layer of cumulus at approximately 8000 feet, visibility 10 miles. SAG, 1045/L, CAVU with a few low scattered cumulus.

353 BB. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 90th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1032/20/L to 1033/20/L.

TARGET: 4 possible naval gun emplacements in AISEGA; 2 located between village and shore and 2 between village and plantation; also AISEGA VILLAGE and Plantation.

RESULTS: 41 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at the targets. 10 bombs hit from edge coast to village. 31 bombs were dropped on village. 1 coastal defense gun on beach off South edge of village was definitely destroyed. The whole village was heavily damaged and 4 huts were burning. Coastal defense gun positions, village and plantation were thoroughly strafed with 16200 X .50 and 100 X 20 mm with unobserved results. Bombing was excellent. Photos were taken of AISEGA VILLAGE and Plantation.

A/A: 2 coastal defense guns between village and coast were seen firing. Slight A/A fire was received from center of village.

SIGHTINGS: 2 camouflaged coastal defense guns, reported between the village and the Plantation, were not seen. Many, worn tracks were seen through the village. 4 huts were observed on fire in the village. 2 huts on Point appeared uninhabited. 5 brush huts were seen inland from FINSCHHAFEN. At 1130/L, on course between LOLOBUNA and CAPE BUSLING, a formation of 24 unidentified airplanes were seen in the distance travelling in a Northeasterly direction. One airplane was seen to fall out of formation and crash into the sea burning.

GENERAL: 1 A-20 failed to release bombs over the target due to electrical failure.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered cumulus clouds at 1000 feet, overcast at 20800 feet. Target, CAVU.

353 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0630/20/L to 1830/20/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: Barges on West side of MANAM ISLAND.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1004/L from 4000 feet at 12 barges, stationary, along shore at West side of MANUS ISLAND. Bombs missed by 150/200 feet. Barges were then strafed with 700 X .50 cal. and 400 X .30 cal. and one barge was left smoking. Photos were taken of the bombing and of barges at MANUS ISLAND and REIN BAY. Recce was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: DOBODURA to CAPE WARD HUNT, 0600S-14800E, 0300S-14300E, 0200S-14500E, 0230S-15030E, 0430S-15030E, 0500S-14900E, 0600S-14800E to DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 0959/L from 2000 feet over HANSA BAY, 3 small luggers were seen stationary. At 1010/L from 3500 feet, 3 well camouflaged barges were seen along shore at West side of MANUS ISLAND (0400S-14500E). At 1645/L from 2000 feet, 2 barges were seen burning at REIN BAY.

WEATHER: VITIAZ STRAITS, 2/10 at 8000 feet. HANSA BAY, 4/10 stratus at 7000 feet. MANUS ISLAND, solid overcast. KAVIENG to CAPE GLOUCESTER, 6/10 cumulus base 4000 feet, tops 14000 feet.

353 DD. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0630/20/L to 1715/20/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recce was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: DOBODURA to CAPE WARD HUNT, 0600S-14800E, 0500S-14900E, 0300S-14900E, 0125S-141145E, 0500S-141145E, 0600S-14800E to DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 0745/L from 1500 feet, one brown box or barrel 3 feet long, was seen floating in the water at 06055-148105. There were nil other sightings throughout search.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA out, rain squalls. KAVIENG and MANUS ISLANDS, 4/10 cumulus at 10000 feet, visibility 30 miles. CAVU off WEWAK and HANSA BAY, but solid overcast inland over Ranges, bases 10000 feet, tops 20000 feet.

353 EE. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0715/20/L to 1815/20/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to 0200S-14940E, 0245S-15140E and return

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1606/L from 8000 feet in heavy rain from 2000 feet South of East end of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Nil results were observed other than bomb smoke. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recce was 65% completed. 35% of assigned area was not covered due to weather. Route flown: DOBODURA to 0030S-15045E, 0055S-14920E and return to DOBODURA.

SIGHTINGS: At 0905/L from 5000 feet, 2 wrecked barges were seen on a reef at 05355-14947E. At 1220/L from 200 feet, 6 to 8 cylinders, resembling gasoline drums, rusty in color, were seen at 0400S-15010E. Drums were floating in water in a trail. There were nil other sightings.

WEATHER: Enroute, 10/10 stratus at 5000 feet, 8/10 cumulus, base 1500 feet. Target, 8/10 cumulus, base 1500 feet, tops 8000/10000 feet. On return, 4/10 cumulus, base 1500 feet, tops 5000 feet, 5/10 alto-stratus at 15000 feet.

353 FF. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0911/20/L to 1650/20/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

TARGET: GASMATA.

RESULTS: 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1525/L from 5000 feet at dump area 4800 feet South-west of East end of GASMATA strip. Nil results other than bomb smoke were observed. Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Photos were taken of barge at point East of MONTAGU HARBOR and of buildings at RING RING PLANTATION.

A/A: Moderate, light and medium, accurate. Bursts were above, below and behind, and off right wing on level. Many tracers came from 6 positions at a point 1100 feet Southwest of the East end of GASMATA strip.

SIGHTINGS: At 1120/L from 30 feet, 10 miles South of CAPE ORFORD, one bomb shaped object was seen floating in the water. Object was wide at the head, narrowing toward tail with fin attached, was about 3 feet long and of grayish color. At 1450/L from 5000 feet, a good road, wide enough for M/T, was seen at CAPE DALRYMPLE (06208-15103). At 1500/L from 6000 feet, 6 to 7 light brown tents were observed East of MONTAGU HARBOR. At 1500/L from 5000 feet, a good road was seen running along coast to 50 miles East. Road was apparently not used. Fresh gradings were observed along road at various points.

WEATHER: Enroute, SOLOMON SEA, 5/10 cirro-stratus at 15000 feet. Target, CAVU. On return, SOLOMON SEA, 1/10 scattered stratus at 3000/4000 feet.

353 GG. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1203/20/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dump area between strips No. 1 and 2 on coast. (Target No. 3).

RESULTS: 30 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 9500/9600 feet on a course of 270 degrees at the target. 15 bombs hit on target from 648968 to 639970 (CAPE GLOUCESTER, Photomap). Bombing was excellent. Nil damage other than bomb bursts were observed. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1200/L from 9500 feet, 2 barges were seen stationary in BOGEN BAY at 624895. (Ref. SILIMATI POINT, Photomap). One of these barges, possibly serviceable was parallel to bank under trees and the other was submerged on a reef. At 1206/L from 9000 feet, 4 or 5 small barges were seen, clustered along shore at DORF POINT, stationary under trees, serviceability undetermined.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 3/10 cumulus at 5000 feet. Target, 8/10 cumulus, tops from 7000 to 15000 feet. DISMARCK SEA, 4/10 cumulus, tops 5000 feet. Central SOLOMON SEA, 6/10 cumulus, tops 7000 feet, 6/10 cirro-cumulus, base 15000 feet.

353 GG. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1208/20/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area between strips No. 1 and 2 on coast. (Target No. 3).

RESULTS: 36 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 10200/10500 feet on a heading of 160 to 270 degrees with 87% of bombs landing in target. 2 bombs landed in water and 2 overshot target by 100 feet landing in kunai grass South of target. 10 small fires of 1 to 3 minute duration, observed in center of target. One large explosion observed in middle of target with no smoke or flames following. A column of black smoke was seen in Southern extremity of target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0538S-14823E at 1130/L from 10300 feet, fire and white smoke was observed 5 mile inland.

GENERAL: Second run was necessary due to cloud cover over target.

WEATHER: Enroute, 2/10 stratus, base 2000 feet, tops 3000 feet, 8/10 alto-stratus, base 15000, tops undetermined. Target, 8/10 cumulus, base 5000 feet, tops 15000 feet. On return, 3/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 5000 feet, 5/10 cirro-stratus at 18000 feet.

353 GG. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1223/20/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area between strips No. 1 and 2 on coast. (Target No. 3).

RESULTS: A total of 24 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 9600/12000 feet on a course of 150 to 160 degrees. 10 bombs hit in target; 6 bombs landed between target and N. 2 runway; 2 bombs landed in water and 6 bombs hung up and were salvoed 2 minutes after leaving the target. These bombs fell through clouds at an unobserved location. Results other than bomb bursts were not observed. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1155/L from 10000 feet at 0530S-14830E, approximately 6 barges and 1 schooner were observed. Barges were along beach and schooner was 150 yards, offshore, stationary. Serviceability of barges was undetermined. At 1202/L from 10000 feet at 0532S-14831E, 12 barges of undetermined serviceability were observed close to shore. At 0547S-14822E from 10000 feet, 3 barges were seen at mouth of river, one appearing unserviceable.

GENERAL: 2 B-24's did not reach target; one due to mechanical trouble and the other due to late take off.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, 4/10 cumulus, 6000/7000 feet. Target, 6/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 11000 feet.

353 GG. STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 529th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1140/20/L to 1150/20/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area between strips No. 1 and 2 on coast. (Target No. 3).

RESULTS: 34 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8000 feet and exploded in area bounded by 3149, 3647, 4644 and 4647 (Ref. CIU T-37, CAPE GLOUCESTER). 12 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs landed in water and 8 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs landed at an unobserved location. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1110/L at 0612S-14603E, a small naval vessel was observed on a course of 10 degrees at a speed of approximately 15 knots, appeared to be signalling to airplanes. 2 small barges were observed on ITNE RIVER about 5 miles Northeast of mouth.

WEATHER: Scattered clouds enroute. Target, 9/10 to 10/10 covered by cumulus clouds with tops at 9000 feet.

353 GG. STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1141/20/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area between strips No. 1 and 2 on coast. (Target No. 3).

RESULTS: A total of 37 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 7500 feet on the target with unobserved results due to clouds. 8 X 1000 lb. bombs exploded through center of dispersal area North of No. 2 strip with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 1131/L from 9500 feet at 0543S-14821E (AUGITNI VILLAGE), fires giving off white smoke were observed.

GENERAL: 1 B-24 returned to base before reaching target due to engine trouble. 3 B-24's were unable to bomb target due to cloud cover which made it impossible to locate target.

WEATHER: High thin overcast at 12000/14000 feet enroute and on return. Low and scattered clouds enroute to and from target. Large cumulo-nimbus over target.

353 II. STRIKE - 12 B-25's, 33rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0915/20/L to 0919/20/L.

TARGET: Wooded area near HUBIKA VILLAGE.

RESULTS: 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 4000/4500 feet on a heading of 260 to 290 degrees at targets. 10 bombs hit in Plantation and Village at HUBIKA and 6 bombs hit in wooded area along coast.

2 bombs were dropped at Village along trail. 16 bombs landed in wooded creek mouth 700 yards East of HUBIKA. 3 bombs landed in water and 11 bombs landed along track toward HUSINA. A large column of white smoke rising from target 700 yards East of HUBIKA resulted from bombing. One flight bombed WANECKAI with 6 bombs hitting along coast ½ mile North of village and 12 hitting in village and surrounding wooded area with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Vehicle at 173125 (Target Photo #0363) moving North along trail, stopped when airplanes approached. Small fire was observed on wooded hill at 156110 and a possible A/C or motor position was observed at 16321375 (Ref. HUBIKA Photomap #0363). Above sightings were made from 4000/5000 feet between 0925/L and 0930/L.

WEATHER: Enroute, dark overcast at 8000/10000 feet, visibility 15 to 20 miles, occasional rain squalls. Scattered cumulus toward NEW BRITAIN. Target, clear with scattered cumulus over water at 3000 feet towards ROOKE ISLAND. On return, thin cirrus and alto-cumulus above 15000 feet, visibility 30 miles, weather clearing toward NEW BRITAIN.

353 JU. STRIKE - 5 B-26's, 19th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0917/20/L to 0916/20/L.

TARGET: Bivouac area (Ref. WALINGAI Photomap, 1/20000). 165142.

RESULTS: 24 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 2800/3000 feet on a course of 230 degrees. One large explosion was observed in target and white smoke could be seen for 8 to 10 minutes after airplanes left the target—probable fuel dump. 6 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs hit over target with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0915/L from 3000 feet, 2 serviceable barges, camouflaged, and 2 other serviceable barges drawn up on the beach, were observed in Cove North of WALINGAI at 165118. At 0917/L from 3000 feet, 3 unserviceable barges were seen on beach North of NANDA. At 0918/L from 3000 feet, a large oil slick was seen just East of target. At 0919/L from 3000 feet, one barge considered serviceable, was observed beached at WALINGAI.

WEATHER: DOSODURA to FINSCHHAFEN, low stratus with bases at 2800 feet, fair visibility. FINSCHHAFEN to target, scattered cumulus, 3/10 covered, visibility 25 miles.

353 KK. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0900/20/L to 0908/20/L.

TARGET: Coast from PULIE RIVER to SIGUL RIVER and East through HELA POINT.

RESULTS: 44 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from minimum altitude at the target. 34 bombs hit between the SIGUL and PULIE RIVER from 2 to 350 yards inland with a large amount hitting through the West end of the area. 4 bombs were dropped on the East bank of the PULIE RIVER and 2 bombs hit on East bank of NAYARU RIVER mouth, all with unobserved damage. 2 bombs were dropped at RAUTO VILLAGE with unobserved results. Area between SIGUL and PULIE RIVERS was strafed with a total of 15400 X .50 cal. Area long coast as far as HELA POINT was strafed intermittently. 3 barges pulled up on East bank of PULIE RIVER at first bend, were strafed lightly; bullets believed to have hit targets, other damage unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Area inland from CROCODILE POINT appeared cleared out under trees; looked like an excellent place to land barges. A good trail was observed along the West bank of the PULIE RIVER about 100 yards inland and ran for several hundred yards. A small tin roof building was seen in clearing above a cliff near RAUTO. Smoke was also observed near RAUTO.

GENERAL: Propaganda-leaflets were dropped along coast trail.

WEATHER: From 0600/L to 1015/L, SOLOMON SEA to target from along North coast of NEW GUINEA, overcast at 900 feet. Target, CAVU.

353 LL. ARMED RECCO - 6 P-39Q's, 82nd Recn Squadron.

TIME OF RECCO; 0719/20/L to 1145/20/L.

MISSION: Reconnaissance; and barge hunt from CAPE PASUWATI to CAPE ANUKUR.

RESULTS: A total of 610 X .50 cal. and 9 X 37 mm were expended at targets with unobserved results. At YOLOPIO, several fires were observed on shore which were strafed with unobserved results due to heavy growth.

WEATHER: Enroute, strato-cumulus, 8000/10000 feet. Over target, 6/10 scattered at 5000 feet. On return, broken strato-cumulus at 10000 feet.

353 OO. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 2109/20/L to 0026/21/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: 40 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs, 1 cluster of incendiaries and 100 rifle grenades were dropped on target from 10000 feet at 2300/L. Results other than bomb bursts were unobserved.

SIGHTINGS: At 2040/L from 10000 feet over ROOKE ISLAND, 2 waving lights or fires were observed; one near coast and the other inland. At 2300/L from 10000 feet over CAPE GLOUCESTER, one stationary light of short duration was observed on coast East of No. 1 strip. At 2050/L at 06105-14615E, one stationary light at unidentified point on South coast of NEW BRITAIN was seen.

WEATHER: HUON GULF, 7/10 to 8/10 scattered cumulus, tops about 7000 feet. FINSCHHAFEN, rain. CAPE GLOUCESTER, a strip about 50 miles wide of 3/10 scattered cumulus with tops at 6000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, 9/10 stratus, 20000 feet, cloud masses over NEW BRITAIN. HUON GULF, East to West Front, 20 miles North of CAPE WARD HUNT about 25 miles in depth, very turbulent and lightning.

353 PP. ARMED RECCO - 2 B-24's, 63rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 2220/20/L to 0712/21/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: 1 Fox-Able at 03428-15132E.

RESULTS: 3 A 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at 1 Fox-Able from 2000 feet at 0322/L at position 03428-15132E. 2 direct hits were scored amidship, followed by big explosion and vessel slowly keeled over. Airplane circled vessel for 15 minutes and ship was still afloat on side but slowly sinking. Vessel is credited destroyed. Other bomb fell 15 feet short of target. Recco was 100% completed as ordered.

SIGHTINGS: At 0138/L from 3500 feet at 04565-15013E, one unidentified vessel on a 190 degree course at speed of 20 knots was observed. At 03428-15132E at 0220/L from 1500 feet, 1 Fox-Able and 1 Tare-Baker were observed. Tare-Baker was ablaze from funnel to bow. Ships were on a 90 degree course. At 0330/L from 3500 feet at 03178-15010E, one unidentified vessel and 4 unidentified ships, were observed on course North-Northeast. At 0430/L from 3500 feet at 03155-14945E, one unidentified boat was observed on course Northeast at a speed of 6 knots. At 0430/L from 3500 feet at 03385-14900E, one unidentified boat and 4 unidentified ships were observed on course Northeast at speed of 6 knots. At 0115/L from 500 feet at 02505-13945E, a large target appeared on screen but quickly disappeared--possibly submarine. At 0205/L from 3500 feet at 03455-15113E, 2 targets appeared on screen, one afire. (Probable Tare-Baker). There were also 2 unidentified airplanes in vicinity.

GENERAL: Burning Tare-Baker apparently set afire by Catalina.

WEATHER: Enroute, stratus, 5/10 covered, tops 7000 feet, visibility 15 miles. BISMARCK SEA, altocumulus with thin overcast and thunderstorms. On return, line of thunderstorms 60 miles off NEW GUINEA coast, Southeast to Northwest.

354 4. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0655/21/L to 1225/21/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GUSAP, NADZAB and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, overcast at 16000 feet, 6/10 cumulus at 3500 feet. NADZAB, overcast at 15000 feet, 2/10 cumulus with tops at 1500 feet. GUSAP, 5/10 cumulus at 15000 feet. On return over Ranges, overcast at 17000 feet, 2/10 cumulus at 2500 feet.

3b4 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0510/21/L to 0815/21/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE ISLAND, SALAMAUA, LAE, MADANG, FINSCHHAFEN to base.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0530/L, scattered stratus at 16000 feet. SALAMAUA, 0700/L, 5/10 scattered cumulus at 6000 feet and overcast at 16000 feet. LAE, 0715/L, overcast at 18000 feet. MADANG, 0750/L, scattered cumulus and high overcast. FINSCHHAFEN, 0730/L, scattered cumulus and high overcast.

3b4 C. ARMED WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0350/21/L to 0850/21/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to CAPE WARD HUNT, CAPE GERMAIN, FINSCHHAFEN, CAPE GLOUCESTER, RAIN BAY, CAPE GLOUCESTER. and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Weather was reported half hourly. 12 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 0655/L from 2500 feet, in train, along track at South shore of DOAGEN BAY from 802863 to 765863 (R.A.A. Map: SILASI POINT, special, 1/20000). Results of bombing was unobserved.

GENERAL: A/A fire was received from friendly positions at FINSCHHAFEN.

WEATHER: 0735S-14615E, 0400/L to 0430/L, altitude 10500 feet, alto-stratus layer of thick cloud, overcast at 12000 feet, cumulus clouds, 8/10 to 9/10, tops at 10000 feet, visibility 2 to 5 miles. Thunderstorms and lightning throughout area, most of it Southeast of our position. 0655S-14750E, 0500/L, altitude 10000 feet, overcast alto-stratus at 12000 feet, layer scattered, 3/10 to 5/10, tops 5000/6000 feet, visibility 2 to 5 miles but less than 1 mile in rain showers. Showers throughout area, thunderstorms Southeast of position. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 0600/L, altitude 6000 feet, broken alto-stratus, 7/10 at 10000 feet, 3/10 scattered strato-cumulus, tops 6000 feet, thunderstorms area moving eastward. Cape clearing rapidly. 0550S-14820E, 0700/L, altitude 500 feet, light rain, visibility 5 to 15 miles, thick alto-stratus at 9000 feet, 9/10 overcast, clearing toward coast, heavy rain 40 miles East of course. PASS, clear at 9000 feet, few scattered cumulus, tops 8500 feet, visibility unlimited.

3b4 D. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25C-1, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0315/21/L to 0740/21/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to MADANG and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: Base to YULE ISLAND, CAPE, MADANG ISLAND, ASTROLABE BAY, West of ALEXISHAFEN and MADANG, MADANG ISLAND, CHIMBU, MADANG to base

SIGHTINGS: At 0420S-14540E at 0545/L, one white light was seen on surface of water. 2 lights were seen burning at MADANG.

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WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 3/10 to 4/10 strato-cumulus at 5000 feet. MADANG, 5/10 to 7/10 strato-cumulus at 4000 feet, distant lightning. On return, MARKHAM VALLEY, 8/10 alto-stratus at 15000 feet, 7/10 strato-cumulus at 7000 feet, building up over Ranges.

354 E. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0843/21/L.

TARGET: MADANG.

RESULTS: 22 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped as follows: 5 on PANU TIBUN ISLAND with unobserved results; 17 on GRAGAT ISLAND near Mission with unobserved results. Bombing was excellent. The entire area was thoroughly strafed with 8450 X .50 cal. and 2025 X .30 cal. Photos were taken the bombing and strafing. 3 bundles of propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target.

A/A: Moderate, heavy, accurate to inaccurate at our altitude but following the formation, from Township area and Southeast of strip. One crew reported 2 M/G positions firing from woods along MEIRO RIVER approximately ½ mile from mouth.

SIGHTINGS: One gunner reported 30 camouflaged oil drums at foot of apparently man made incline near ALEXISHAFEN HOAL just North of MEIRO PLANTATION. 4 or 5 red roofed houses were seen on hill top in this same area. A heavily camouflaged lugger was reported by one gunner just West of RAIKE'S HOUSE on GRAGAT ISLAND. Several small, black smoke fires were seen burning in Township after our attack. 1 B-25D-1 of the 405th Squadron was seen to crash 50 yards offshore East of GRAGAT ISLAND ahead of our formation. Airplane appeared to suddenly bounce in air, fall off in 2 flat spins and nose into the water where it appeared to be resting on a reef, as the tail section was above the water while the forward portion of the airplane could be seen below the water.

GENERAL: Stand by airplane turned back from 10 miles East of GUSAP and ran into bad weather during which his bomb load of 4 X 500 lb. bombs including shackles and part of rack was torn out. Bombs fell safe.

WEATHER: Enroute, overcast at 20000 feet, low cumulus at 5000 feet in MARKHAM VALLEY. Target, low haze. On return overcast at 20000 feet.

354 E. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0843/21/L.

TARGET: MADANG, bivouac and supply area.

RESULTS: 6 B-25's in flat echelon to left dropped 17 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs on heading of 120 degrees over the target with the following results: 10 bombs were dropped on the Township; 2 were dropped near BELIAU VILLAGE; 3 bombs were dropped at 4 camouflaged barges in SIAR HARBOR; 1 bomb was dropped at an A/A position North of the mouth of the MEIRO RIVER; 1 bomb was dropped in dump area at East end of strip. 1 bomb caused an explosion in MADANG TOWNSHIP

which threw off large quantities of black smoke and debris. All other results were unobserved. The area was thoroughly strafed with 12940 X .50 cal. and 3650 X .30 cal. Bombing was excellent. Supplies stacked around buildings at GRAGAT MISSION were well strafed. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Intense, light, medium and heavy, accurate, bursting on level with, and above our airplanes. A/A fire was from known positions at BELIAU ISLAND, MADANG TOWNSHIP, PANA POINT, AMINO RIVER Mouth, East end of strip and Peninsula at West side of BINNEN HARBOR.

SIGHTINGS: Several gray, European type houses in MADANG TOWNSHIP appeared to be in good repair.

GENERAL: 1 B-25D-1 (# 771) of this Squadron was seen to crash in water 50 yards offshore South of CAPE KUSSEROW, after being hit by A/A fire. Bombs and M/G ammunition expended by this airplane are not included in this report. 2 other airplanes of this Squadron were damaged by A/A fire.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 8/10 alto-cumulus to 13000 feet, 6/10 cirro-stratus at 25000 feet. RAMU VALLEY, scattered cumulus at 4000 feet to DUMPU, North of DUMPU, undercast at 4000 feet. Target, 8/10 cumulus at 5000/6000 feet.

354 E. STRIKE - 6 B-25D's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0843/21/L to 0845/21/L.

TARGET: MADANG dump areas.

RESULTS: 21 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 100 feet on target as follows: 8 bombs were dropped at 6 large sheds near center of BELIAU ISLAND causing one large fire. 4 bombs dropped along center and Southwest corner of GRAGAT ISLAND and 4 bombs were dropped at 4 or 5 camouflaged barges in Northern Lagoon on GRAGAT definitely damaging one barge. Other results were unobserved. 3 bombs were dropped on SIAR ISLAND with unobserved damage and 2 were dropped on tip of Peninsula East of Township with unobserved damage. 76 X 75 mm were expended at targets causing several small fires on BELIAU ISLAND and on GRAGAT ISLAND. Entire area was strafed with 4425 X .50 cal. and 630 X .30cal. with unobserved damage. Photos taken of bombing and strafing.

A/A: Slight, heavy and medium, inaccurate to accurate, bursting on level from positions in Township. Moderate M/G fire from positions on BELIAU ISLAND. One airplane received 1 shrapnel hole in turret cover and one airplane received approximately 20 M/G and shrapnel holes in right vertical stabilizer and in tail section.

SIGHTINGS: 1 B-25D-1 of 405th Squadron seen hit by A/A burst over GRAGAT ISLAND. Airplane winged over and crashed into the sea approximately 50 yards off South tip of GRAGAT ISLAND. One camouflaged lugger seen at main wharf in Township. Intense A/A fire observed over strip and shore as Squadron left the area.

GENERAL: 4 bundles of Japanese propaganda leaflets dropped over target.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, layer of cirro-stratus at 10000 feet, scattered cumulus at 2000 feet. Target, scattered cumulus at 1000/2000 feet building up to 8/10 covered at 6000 feet.

354 E. STRIKE - 6 B-25C's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0845/21/L.

TARGET: MADANG.

RESULTS: 24 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from altitudes of 50 to 150 feet as follows: 1 bomb scored direct hit on white, red-roofed European type House in BIRIAU VILLAGE completely demolishing it. 11 bombs fell in dump area of MOBILON PLANTATION near Southern tip of BIRIAU HARBOR with unobserved results. 3 bombs landed in wooded area East of strip with unobserved damage. 7 bombs fell in Township causing flying timber and debris. 2 bombs fell in water off Township. Bombing was excellent. 66 X 75 mm were fired with the following results: 1 direct hit on wooden frame house in Township blowing half of roof and one side out. 1 hit on light A/A position on Northern tip of Township silencing it. 3 direct hits scored on one-story bungalow type houses in BARIAU VILLAGE and 3 direct hits on A/A position 1 mile South of BELIAU VILLAGE, silencing it. Other 75 mm revolted unobserved. Entire area strafed with 4400 X .50 cal. and 1650 X .30 cal. with unobserved damage. Photos taken of bombing and strafing.

A/A: Intense, light and medium, accurate, bursting at our altitude and up to 3200 feet from Township, strip and Southeast of strip. 3 airplanes were damaged by A/A. One had 4 large shrapnel holes; 2 other airplanes suffered slight A/C and shrapnel damage.

SIGHTINGS: Majority of buildings in Township appeared unserviceable. One small boat, possibly a barge, in MEIRO RIVER, 1 mile from mouth. Approximately 5 unserviceable airplanes near Southeast corner of strip. 2 serviceable SSF, possibly ZEKES, at same position. Strip appeared serviceable.

GENERAL: 4 bundles of Japanese propaganda leaflets were dropped on target. One navigator wounded by shrapnel.

WEATHER: Enroute, over Ranges, 5/10 cumulus at 7000/10000 feet, 9/10 thin overcast at 12000 feet. Target, 5/10 cumulus at 4000 feet, 9/10 overcast at 12000 feet, visibility 15 miles. On return, solid overcast at 14000 feet with occasional rain.

354 F. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0946/21/L to 0951/21/L.

TARGET: TARGET HILL.

RESULTS: 20 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at the target. 8 bombs hit target; 2 bombs fell 1000 feet North of target and 10 bombs hit in water North of target. Bombing was good. Target was thoroughly

strafed in 2 separate attacks. A barge in DOREEN BAY about one third of a mile East of barge hide-out was strafed. 10375 X .50 cal. and 2650 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing. Results of bombing and strafing were unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: 2 possible camouflaged gun positions were observed on crest of TARGET HILL. One of these positions was on North side of HILL facing ocean at 730903 and the other was on Southern side of Eastern ends of HILL crest at 732902 (Ref. SILUMATI POINT Special). What appeared to be dugouts were seen just below crest of hill facing North. One gun identified as .50 cal. M/G was seen on extreme top of HILL. One gun, identified as a 6 inch coast gun, was seen on crest of Southwest side of hill. Gun was facing ocean. 2 water filled trucks were seen heading from coast to approximately 1 mile East of MARKS POINT inland. Trucks may have been old vehicle trucks filled with water or may have been made by an amphibious vehicle. A fire giving off reddish-brown smoke was started on Eastern side of TARGET HILL. About 1 minute after one flight dropped bombs a series of explosions were noted about 200 feet above HILL. Explosions left a puff of white smoke.

GENERAL: 1 B-25D-1 (# 041) returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble. 1 B-25D-1 (#314) of the 500th Squadron filled position vacated by B-25D-1 (# 041). Fighter cover was excellent. Crews were of opinion that target was well covered by bombing and strafing.

WEATHER: Enroute, 0630/L, overcast at 5000/6000 feet, visibility unlimited to low overcast. Target, weather same as enroute. Returning, 1030/L, weather same as enroute.

354 F. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 499th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0949/21/L to 0955/21/L.

TARGET: TARGET HILL.

RESULTS: 20 X 500 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. Target was well covered with bomb bursts and smoke. Bombing was excellent. Target was strafed with 10000 X .50 cal. and 3600 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: A small lugger was seen being strafed by another Squadron at 740887 (Ref. SILUMATI POINT Special, 1/20000). 2 or 3 partly camouflaged boats (life-boat type) were seen at 730912. 1 heavy M/G and emplacement were observed on Southwest side of TARGET HILL. Several puffs of gray smoke were seen 50 feet above top of TARGET HILL in front of lead Squadron. Puffs had general appearance of A/A bursts. A bridge was seen over a stream at 737893. One barge, probably serviceable, was observed at 743892. 2 black boxes, approximately 4 feet square, were seen floating in ocean 15 miles South of mouth of ITNE RIVER.

Several new buildings and 2 well worn tracks were observed at GILNIT VILLAGE at 7872 (Ref. Western NEW BRITAIN Prov., 4 miles to 1 inch).

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent. Mission was well executed.

WEATHER: Enroute, cumulus over Ranges, tops 9000 feet, light scattered cirrus, 17000 feet. Enroute over water, low broken cumulus, higher stratus and haze. Target, scattered cumulus, 1300 feet, alto-stratus overcast, 10000 feet, visibility 50 miles. Ranges crossed on return at 10000 feet, light cirrus at 16000 feet.

354 F. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0946/21/L to 1000/21/L.

TARGET: TARGET HILL.

RESULTS: 24 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. Nil results other than bomb smoke and dust were observed but gun positions were believed to have been effectively blanketed. Bombing

WEAPONS: was excellent. Target and surrounding area were thoroughly strafed with 10050 X .50 cal. and 600 X .30 cal. in 2 passes. A camouflaged barge about ½ mile offshore from known barge hideout on Western shore of BORGEN BAY was strafed. Photos were taken of the bombing and of SIGHTINGS.

A/A: Slight, medium and light, inaccurate at our level. A/A seemed to have been lobbed toward airplanes while over the target. Some bursts were pure white while others appeared to have a black fringe.

SIGHTINGS: 4 gun pits which appeared to be about 5 feet in diameter, were seen on top of TARGET HILL. 1 was reported to be empty but others had A/C's mounted on tripods in them. Guns appeared to be about size of .50 cal. and were below ground level. No personnel were seen. A large flash as though from a large amount of ammunition exploding was seen at 729905 (This and all following references to SILIBATI POINT Special, 1/20000). As airplanes passed over target for 3rd time, enroute to base. A fire was seen at 733901. 3 A/A positions believed to be medium, were seen at 736898, immediately inland from coastal path. A camouflaged barge was seen at 744808. Another camouflaged barge was seen at 814874 and a small native boat was reported at 800866. 2 or 3 men were seen running to shelter on a small Island about 2½ miles Northwest of TARGET HILL at 722937 (This reference only to GLOUCESTER AIRDROME Special, 1/20000). 2 gunners believed light A/C fire was coming from this Island and reported that Southwest beach of the Island showed several tracks as though supplies had been dragged over it. One crew member reported 2 small bridges across Creek at 730905 and 730897. What appeared to be about a 100 foot cat-walk was reported by one crew member at 726894.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent. Propaganda leaflets were dropped on the target.

WEATHER: Enroute over water, 1st. scattered strato-cumulus, bases 1500 feet, tops 1800/2000 feet, high overcast at 16000 feet. Target, scattered strato-cumulus at 1500 feet, tops about 1800 feet; another light very scattered layer at 2500 feet, high overcast at 10000 [illegible]

broken at 18000 feet. Weather on return, same as enroute.

354 F. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0945/21/L to 1005/21/L.

TARGET: TARGET HILL.

RESULTS: 16 X 500 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. Bombing was excellent. Brown mud was seen rising 300 feet in the air from crest of HILL after bombing. TARGET HILL and coast-line around West and Southern shore of BOROEN BAY were strafed with 11530 X .50 cal. and 3200 X .30 cal. Nil results were observed. 1 barge at 749889 (This and all following references to SIL-IMATI POINT Special, 1/20000), was heavily strafed. Photos were taken of TARGET HILL.

A/A: Inaccurate M/G fire from position at 820880.

SIGHTINGS: At 0945/L, serviceable bridge at 765859 is still intact. At 1005/L, pilot of next to last airplane in Squadron formation got a clear view of gun position at 730903 on the last run over the target. This pilot reports gun was still intact and appeared to be a 3 to 4 inch caliber gun. There were 4 personnel shelters, 3 to 4 feet high covered with earth, located directly beyond the gun.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was good. 6 bundles of propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target.

WEATHER: Enroute, 0900/L, high overcast with scattered cumulus bases at 1500 feet. Target, clear with high overcast. On return, 1030/L, scattered cumulus, base at about 1500 feet, tops at 5000/6000 feet, high cirrus overcast.

354 I. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0635/21/L to 0835/21/L.
AREA OF MISSION: DOBODURA and return.
RESULTS: Mission 100% completed with nil sightings.

WEATHER: Scattered stratus and cumulus clouds on mountain tops from 6000 to 9000 feet.

351 M. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1605/19/L to 1230/21/L.

AREA OF MISSION: GOODENOUGH ISLAND and return.

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

GENERAL: Airplane made 2 trips from GOODENOUGH to MILNE BAY on 20/12/43. Took off for PORT MORESBY at 1055/21/L.

WEATHER: CAVU on return from GOODENOUGH to PORT MORESBY.

354 N. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5A, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: NEWAK.

RESULTS: Target not reached due weather. Turned back from HUON PENINSULA at 0930/L.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: HUON PENINSULA—MARKHAM VALLEY, overcast at 2000 feet with rain. Ranges, open.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: HANSA BAY.

RESULTS: Airplane was over HANSA BAY area at 1015/L at an altitude of 25000 feet. No photos were taken due to weather. Visual recco 100% completed.

SIGHTINGS: At 1015/L from 25000 feet over HANSA BAY, 3 small harbor craft sighted in HANSA BAY.

WEATHER: HANSA BAY, overcast at 23000 feet. MADANG, front along coast. Ranges, 5/10 cumulus to 15000 feet.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: 1000/21/L to 1020/21/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: SAIDOR.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken from SAIDOR to old YAGOLAI and from WALD BAY to MASAWENG RIVER. Mapping photos were taken inland from HANISCH HARBOR to WALD BAY and WALD BAY to HANISCH HARBOR. Mission completed 100%.

WEATHER: Ranges, C.AU. HUON PENINSULA, 4/10 to 6/10 cumulus.

354 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: NADZAB.

RESULTS: Airplanes were over NADZAB at 1015/L at an altitude of 23000 feet. No photos were taken due to weather. Visual recco completed 100%. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: NADZAB area—HUON PENINSULA, overcast and ground fog, some low stratus.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

At 1200/L, P-38's of the 432nd Fighter Squadron intercepted 12 to 15 enemy fighters and 8 to 10 VALS, 10 to 12 miles East of ARAWE. 6 VALS, 1 OSCAR and 1 ZEKE were definitely destroyed. 1 OSCAR and 1 ZEKE were probably destroyed. In addition to the airplanes they shot down, fighter pilots claim to have seen 10 enemy airplanes crash in the jungle. (A/A—?).

10 ZEKES and 6 VALS were sighted at 1215/L by P-47's of the 342nd Fighter Squadron flying at sea level in the ARAWE area. None of these airplanes were destroyed. Our losses were nil, for the day's operations.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. McMullen

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

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

RABAUL AREA

LAT. 04°14'S LONG. 152°14'E
(LAKUNAI)

COLLATION MAP

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

SCALE IN MILES

V BOMBER COMMAND

KEY:

- STORES AND/OR PERSONNEL
- CONCENTRATED STORES AND/OR PERSONNEL

CAPE TAVUI

STORES & PERSONNEL AREA BUILT SINCE 10/11/43

REPORTED COASTAL GUN

LAVEO PT.

RATAVAL

PERSONNEL

MISSION PT.

TALILI BAY

HOSPITAL

STRIP UNDER CONSTRUCTION 24/10/43

URGRA I.

CAPE LINGUAN

KABAIRA BAY

ATALIKLIKUN BAY

RAGAGA BAY

PERSONNEL

80-90 BUILDINGS

WAREHOUSES

ACTIVITY

GARDENS

PERSONNEL BILLETED ALONG RIVER.

SULPHUR PT.

PRAED PT.

NEW F/P SLIPWAY

BLANCHE BAY

ROAD FROM KERAVIA BAY TO VUNAKANAU

KERAVIA BAY

RALUANA PT.

GARDINER IS.

ULU I.

R.D.F.

ACTIVITY & 20 BUILDINGS 6 REVETTED

ACTIVITY

RADAR

GARDENS

EXTREMLY HEAVY STORES CONCENTRATION

18 JETTIES

CAPE GAZELLE

LESSON PT.

38 BLDGS.

65 BLDGS.

PERSONNEL

51 BLDGS.

W/T

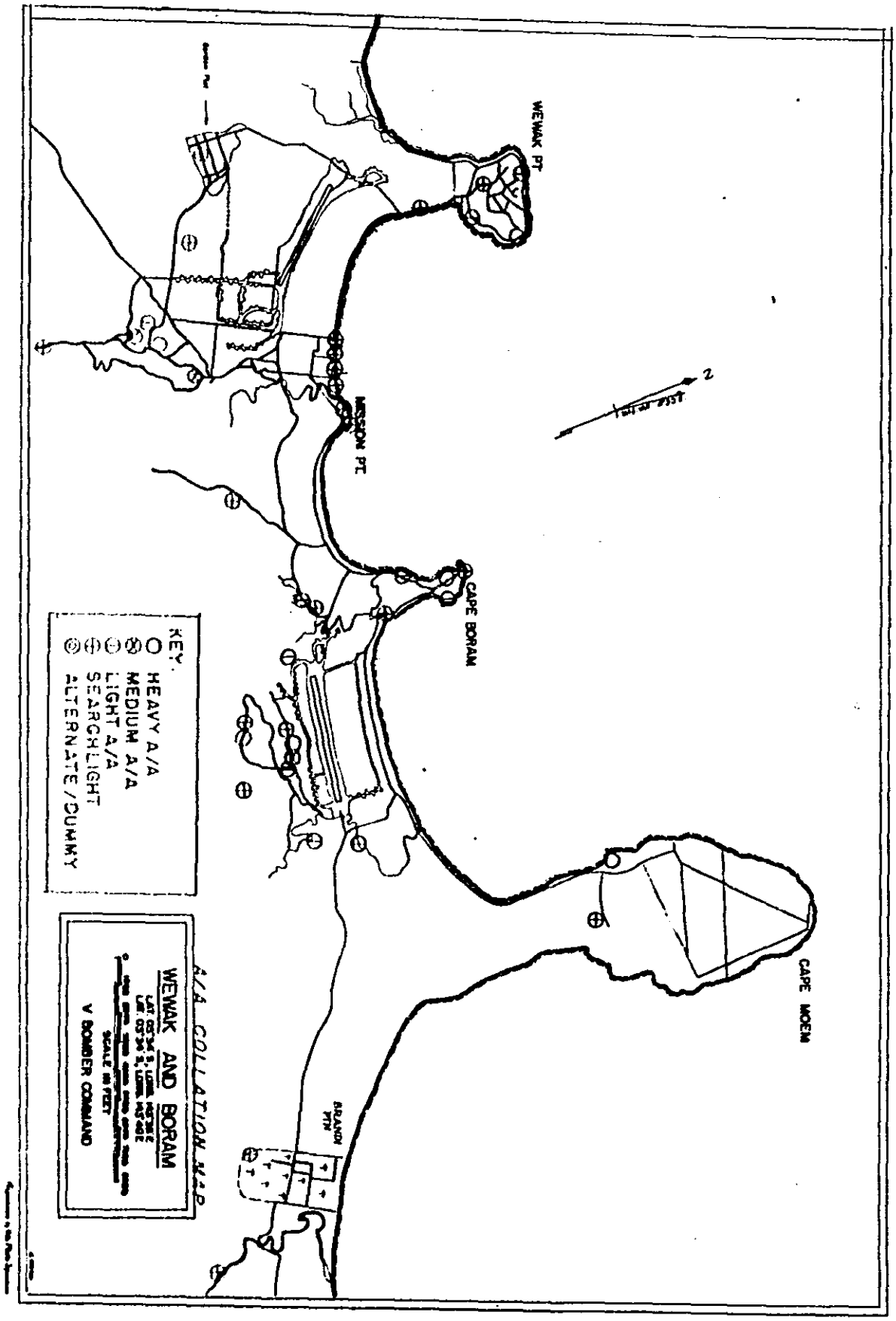
GARDEN

PERSONNEL

80 BLDGS.

KABAIRA BAY

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
WEWAK & BORAM
21/12/43



ALGIERS:

REACHING THE HEART OF NAZI OCCUPIED EUROPE FROM NEW MEDITERRANEAN BASES GREAT FLEETS OF ALLIED BOMBERS BATTLED HERMAN GOERING'S LUFTWAFFTE SUNDAY SHOOTING DOWN OR BADLY DAMAGING 59 GERMAN FIGHTERS IN TWIN BLOWS AT AUGSBURG IN GERMANY AND INSBRUCK IN AUSTRIA . THE RAIDS WERE THE OMEN OF GREATER ATTACKS TO COME COMINCIDENT WITH LOCAL GAINS BY THE ALLIED FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY WHICH PUSHED FORWARD IN PLACES. FOR TWO WEEKS IN THE WESTERN CENTRAL AREA AND THE EIGHTH ARMY WHICH WAS BUSILY ENGAGED IN SHOPPING TO PIECES FOR THE SECOND TIME ITS OLD OPPONENT THE 90TH PANZER GRENADIER DIVISION NEAR THE ADRIATIC COAST. THE HEAVY DESTRUCTION OF NAZI FIGHTERS OVER ENEMY SOIL BORE OUT PREDICTION OF AMERICAN AIRMEN THAT BLOWS FROM THIS THEATER COMBINED WITH THOSE FROM ENGLAND WOULD SPREAD AND WEAKEN GERMANY'S FIGHTER DEFENSES DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE FLIGHT TO AUGSBURG WAS THE LONGEST YET MADE FROM THIS THEATER. ONLY 11 BOMBERS WERE MISSING FROM THE TWO MISSIONS AND SOME OF THOSE WERE BELIEVED TO BE SAFE. THE FLYING FORTRESSES AND LIBERATORS WERE ESCORTED THE ENTIRE WAY BY AMERICAN FIGHTERS THE ADVANCED AIRDROMES MAKING THIS POSSIBLE.

LONDON:

THE RUSSIAN BALTIC FRONT ARMY DRIVING FROM THE NEVEL SECTOR THROUGH GERMAN WINTER LINES HAS CAPTURED 70 MORE TOWNS MOSCOW ANNOUNCED MONDAY NIGHT IN A COMMUNIQUE. THE BULLETIN BROADCAST BY MOSCOW AND RECORDED BY THE SOVIET MONITOR DID NOT GIVE THE EXTENT OF THE SOVIET GAINS BUT THE RUSSIANS ALREADY HAD SMASHED NEARLY NINETEEN MILES INTO GERMAN POSITIONS ON A 50 MILE FRONT AFTER FIVE DAYS OF BATTERING TOWARD THE LATVIAN FRONTIER. IN THE AREA OF KOROSTEN WEST OF KIEV AND IN THE SECTOR SOUTHEAST OF KIROVOGRAD IN THE DNIEPER BEND. THE RUSSIANS SAID THEIR TROOPS BEAT OFF GERMAN INFANTRY AND TANK ATTACKS INFLICTING HEAVY LOSSES ON THE ENEMY. EARLIER BERLIN HAD BROADCAST REPORT THAT SOVIET FORCES ATTACKING NEAR THE BLACK SEA HAD FORCED THE GERMANS TO RETREAT FROM THEIR EAST BANK BRIDGEHEAD NEAR KHERSON AT THE MOUTH OF THE DNIEPER RIVER.

THE ALLIED SENT WAVES OF BRITISH BASED HEAVY AND MEDIUM BOMBERS AS WELL AS FIGHTERS AGAINST GERMANY AND OCCUPIED TERRITORY MOST OF MONDAY STRETCHING THE THIN RANKS OF GERMAN FIGHTERS. AMERICAN EIGHTH AIR FORCE HEAVY BOMBERS ACCOMPANIED BY NUMEROUS SQUADRONS OF FIGHTERS FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN NINE DAYS STRUCK AT NORTHWEST GERMANY WHERE THE NAZIS ARE STRUGGLING DESPERATELY TO BUILD AND REPAIR THEIR DIMINISHING U-BOAT PACKS. THIS BLOW FELL IN THE AREA OF GERMANY'S NORTHERNMOST FIGHTER DEFENSES - JUST 24 HOURS AFTER LIBERATORS AND FORTRESSES OF THE 14TH AIR FORCE FLEW FROM MEDITERRANEAN BASES TO SMASH AT AUGSBURG AND INNSBRUCK IN THE SOUTH. ALL DAY LONG THE AIR OVER THE CHANNEL REVERBERATED TO THE ROAR OF GREAT NUMBERS OF AIRCRAFT INCLUDING MANY SQUADRONS OF FIGHTERS WHICH CUT TOWARD FRANCE THROUGH ONE OF THE WINTERS FINEST DAYS, THE SECOND SHORTEST IN THE YEAR.

A RECENT FLAREUP OF OPEN RESISTANCE TO THE VICHY REGIME WAS REPORTED BY THE PARIS RADIO MONDAY TO HAVE RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF 4,000 PERSONS IN FRANCE DURING THE PAST 15 DAYS. QUOTING VICHY REPORTS THE BROADCAST SAID THE ARRESTS WERE CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF GENERAL REPRESSIVE MEASURES. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED ARE 243 BANDITS AND TERRORISTS 60 COMMUNISTS AND ANTI-NATIONAL LEADERS AND ABOUT 3000 PERSONS CHARGED WITH ARMED ROBBERY AND ORDINARY CRIMES.

ADMIRAL HAROLD R. STARK WHO AS COMMANDER OF THE U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE IN WATERS LIKELY WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN ANY SEABORNE INVASION OF THE CONTINENT HAS RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. GOC CONFERENCES EXPECTED TO CENTER ON FINAL DETAILS OF THE COMING ASSAULT ON HITLERS EUROPEAN FORTRESS. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS ANNOUNCED MONDAY THAT GEN. SIR ALAN BROOKE CHIEF OF THE IMPERIAL STAFF HAD RETURNED FROM A TOUR OF THE ITALIAN FRONT. THIS SUGGESTED THAT TOP BRITISH MILITARY LEADERS WERE ABOUT TO BEGIN CLIMATIC INVASION CONFERENCES IN LONDON PARALLELING TALKS IN WASHINGTON. THE BRAZZAVILLE RADIO SAID GEN. HENRI GIRAUD COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES ALSO WAS COMING TO LONDON FOR STAFF TALKS. THE REPORT SAID HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADMIRAL ANDRE LE MONIER, CHIEF OF THE FRENCH NAVAL STAFF AND REAR ADMIRAL PHILIPPE MARIE AUBOYNEAU, DEPUTY CHIEF.

PACIFIC AREA:

AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE CAPTURED THE ARAWE AIR STRIP IN SOUTHWESTERN NEW BRITAIN GEN. MACARTHUR ANNOUNCED TODAY. THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE JAPANESE AIR FIELD IN AN ADVANCE SIX MILES EAST OF CAPE MERKUS. THEY LANDED LAST WEDNESDAY. THE 600 MONTAGUE STRIP THE ARAWE AIR FIELD WAS CAPTURED DEC. 19. ON THE SAME DAY ALLIED PLANES DROPPED A RECORD 414 TONS OF BOMBS ON THE ENEMY'S AIR INSTALLATIONS AT CAPE GLOUCESTER, NEW BRITAIN. THIS HAD MORE THAN 1600 TONS OF EXPLOSIVES PUT THERE SINCE D. C. 5. THE AMERICANS CONTINUED THEIR ADVANCE IN THE ARAWE AREA MOVING FORWARD THREE MILES. COAST PATROLS SPREAD THEIR ACTIVITIES INLAND. ON THE HUON PENINSULA, NEW GUINEA, THE AUSTRALIANS ROUTED THE JAPANESE WHO ARE IN FULL RETREAT ACROSS THE SIAMANG RIVER. IN THEIR PUSH ACROSS THE RIVER THE AUSTRALIANS BAGGED SEVERAL ENEMY ARTILLERY PIECES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AND STORES. ATTACKS ON JAP BARGE ROUTES IN THIS THEATRE RESULTED IN 25 BARGES BEING SUNK OR DAMAGED. BARGES HAVE BEEN USED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN THIS AREA TO MOVE TROOPS AND SUPPLIES. A SPOKESMAN FOR ADMIRAL HALSEY REPORTED A GREAT INCREASE IN BARGE AND FOOT TRAFFIC FROM JAPANESE HEAVILY DEFENDED SOUTHERN SECTION OF BOUGAINVILLE IN THE SOLOMONS AN INDICATION THAT THE JAPS MAY BE EVACUATING THEIR FORCES. IN THE CENTRAL PACIFIC ADMIRAL NIMITZ ANNOUNCED THAT U. S. SEVENTH AIR FORCE BOMBERS RAIDED MILI ATOLL TWICE SATURDAY AND TWICE SUNDAY DESTROYING 11 PLANES AGAINST A LOSS OF TWO U. S. PLANES. FIFTY TONS OF BOMBS WERE DROPPED ON THE SECOND RAID SUNDAY WHICH CARRIED THE RAIDS ON THE MARSHALLS INTO THE TWELFTH SUCCESSIVE DAY. THE JAPS MADE INEFFECTIVE RAIDS ON TARAWA IN THE GILBERTS. FOUR OF THE 56 PLANES ATTACKING THE 14TH AIR BASE WERE DOWNED. JAP AMBITIONS IN THE CENTRAL CHINA THERE BEING LIQUIDATED BY CHINESE GROUND TROOPS WITH THE AID OF THE 14TH U. S. AIR FORCE. B25S BOMBED NANHSIEN TUNGTING LAKE TOWN ON THE EDGE OF THE [illegible] WHICH THE CHINESE ARE TRYING TO RECAPTURE WHILE GROUND TROOPS INFLICTED CONSIDERABLE CASUALTIES ON THE INVADERS SOUTH OF THE [illegible] RIVER. THERE WAS MORE SHEER TERROR WRAPPED UP THE THE JAPS IN THE QUIET WORDS TODAY OF FIELD MARSHALL LORD WAVELL, VICEROY OF INDIA, WHO SAID INDIA IS ORGANIZED TO RECEIVE AND LAUNCH AGAINST THE JAPS A MIGHTIER FORCE OF WARSHIPS PLANES AND AIR SQUADRONS THAN HAS EVER BEFORE BEEN GATHERED IN THE EAST.

LAPAZ BOLIVIA:

LAPAZ BOLIVIA:

NATIONALIST REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT LED BY A SLIGHT BESPECTACLED SOCIOLOGIST AND DESCRIBED BY ITS ENEMIES AS MILITANTLY ANTI-UNITED STATES TODAY OVERTHREW THE GOVERNMENT OF GEN. ENRIQUE PEÑARANDA IN A SWIFT PRE DAWN COUP WHICH RESULTED IN SCATTERED BLOODSHED IN THE COURSE OF A FOUR HOUR BATTLE. VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO, LEADER OF THE COUP INSTALLED HIMSELF IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHERE MAJOR GUALBERTO VILLAROEL TOOK OVER THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT AS CHIEF OF THE REVOLUTIONARY JUNTA. THE CHIEF [illegible] REVOLUTIONISTS PAZ ESTENSSORO TOLD AN INTERVIEWER THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD REALIZE A POLICY OF INULL COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS. THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OBTAINED CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL THIS MORNING WHEN THE CALAMARCA REGIMENT OF FEDERAL POLICE OFFERED RESISTANCE AFTER A BRISK FIGHT WITH RIFLES AND MACHINE GUNS. RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS SAID [illegible] PERSONS WERE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

WASHINGTON:

OFFICIAL WASHINGTON WATCHED WITH INTEREST BUT WITHOUT IMMEDIATE COMMENT THE DEVELOPING SITUATION IN BOLIVIA. INFORMED SOURCES EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS WOULD DICTATE A CONTINUATION OF BOLIVIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS WAR EFFORT NOTWITHSTANDING THE AUTHORITARIAN FLAVOR OF THE PARTY HEADED BY VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO, LEADER OF THE COUP DETAT.

REP. HORSEGOR, REPUBLICAN, OHIO, EXPRESSED [illegible] HOUSE SPEECH MONDAY THAT CONGRESS HAD VOTED A THREE WEEK RECESS EFFECTIVE TUESDAY. I FEEL WE SHOULD REMAIN IN SESSION AND TAKE CARE OF SOME VERY IMPORTANT LEGISLATION THAT HAS A DIRECT BEARING ON OUR WAR EFFORT, HE SAID.

STOCKHOLM:

[illegible] SHAKEN MONDAY BY EXPLOSIONS AN UNITED [illegible]

STOCKHOLM: 8 AUT.

EY, THE BLOWING UP OF A 9E MAN MUNITIONS SHIP IN THE [illegible] 24 HOURS EARLIER. THE GERMAN CONTROLLED SCANDINAVIAN TELEGRAPH BUREAU CALLED THE BLAST THE WORST CATASTROPHE THE NORWEGIAN CAPITAL EVER EXPERIENCED. THE HOTEL BRISTOL WAS REQUISITIONED FOR GREAT NUMBERS OF WOUNDED. THERE STILL WAS NO OFFICIAL LIST OF CASUALTIES BUT FIRST REPORTS SAID ONLY FOUR WERE KILLED. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS WIDE SPREAD SPECULATION WHETHER SABOTAGE WAS RESPONSIBLE GERMAN AUTHORITIES WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THE EXPLOSION WAS PURE ACCIDENT.

LONDON:

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL SHOWING MARKED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE FOURTH STRAIGHT DAY SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN STRICKEN WITH PNEUMONIA IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS REPORTED IN MONDAY'S BULLETIN TO BE MAKING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.

CHICAGO:

A CHECK FOR FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS THE AMOUNT AWARDED ANNUALLY THE AMERICAN LEAGUE TO ITS BATTING CHAMPION WILL BE SENT TO LUKE APPLING WHO TWO DAYS AGO FRIDAY BECAME AN ARMY PRIVATE AT FORT SHERIDAN, ILL. OFFICIAL LEAGUE AVERAGES MONDAY CERTIFIED THE VETERAN WHITE SOX SHORTSTOP AS THE 1943 BATTING KING WITH A .328 PERCENTAGE BASED ON 192 HITS IN 585 TRIPS.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

Report No. 356.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

23 DEC 1943

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: J C N
DATE: 22/12/43

FROM: 1600/21/12/43/L.
TO : 1600/22/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

WEWAK: 1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (355 E) completed 50% of a weather recce to WEWAK. Airplane turned back from GUSAP at 0440/L due to weather.

30 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (355 G) bombed and strafed WEWAK and BORAM airdromes and shipping in the WEWAK area from 0945/L to 0956/L. 123 X 300 lb. bombs and 738 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped on the target. Target was strafed with 47775 X .50 cal. and 17800 X .30 cal. 1 Fox-Tare-Baker between MISSION POINT and CAPE BORAM received 2 direct hits and 2 near misses with undetermined damage resulting. 1 Fox-Tare-Baker and 1 Fox-Tare-Charlie both in WEWAK HARBOR, received 2 direct hits each with undetermined damage resulting. One large fire was started in supply dump area ½ mile Southeast of Southeast dispersal area of WEWAK airdrome. A/A position on West shore of CAPE BORAM was damaged by bombing and strafing. A/A position at WEWAK MISSION was silenced by parafrag bombs and strafing. A/A position 3000 feet South of BORAM runway was heavily bombed and strafed with at least 1 direct hit scored on position. 24 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped with undetermined damage on buildings at WEWAK POINT. Flying debris was observed in area upon explosion of delayed action bombs. One 2 EB was destroyed and three 2 EB were damaged on the ground at BORAM airdrome by parafrags and strafing. Numerous fires were started in vicinity of both WEWAK and BORAM airdromes as result of excellent bombing and effective strafing. Intense, light, medium and heavy, accurate A/A fire was encountered over the target. Some A/A fire was of barrage type. Group formation was intercepted by 30 to 35 enemy fighters before, during and after the attack on the targets. 5 enemy fighters were definitely destroyed and 2 were probably destroyed. 4 camouflaged twe EB's were seen at North end of WEWAK airdrome. 4 camouflaged fighters were seen at South end of WEWAK airdrome. 2 explosions were observed near A/A position on West coast of CAPE BORAM causing A/A to cease firing. 1 DD was sighted at 0945/L 2 miles East of WEWAK on course 120 degrees. 3 to 4 twe EB's were seen in dispersal area Southeast of BORAM runway. A radio station tower was observed just East of heavy A/A position at CAPE BOEM. An exceptionally large amount of supplies were seen along shore North of BORAM and between CAPE BORAM and MISSION POINT. One B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron crash landed at base and 7 others of this Squadron were damaged by A/A and M/G fire. 1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron was damaged on landing at NADZAB. 2 other airplanes of this Squadron were damaged by A/A and M/G fire and 3 crew members were injured. 2 B-25D-1's of the 499th Squadron were damaged by A/A fire. 3 B-25D-1's of the 501st Squadron were slightly damaged by A/A fire.

NOTE: This report does not include results of 3 B-25's of the 501st Squadron and 3 B-25's of the 499th Squadron. Only 1 B-25—of the 501st Squadron—is still unaccounted for. 1 B-25 of the 501st Squadron crashed 12 miles North of DUMPU—crew OK. 1 B-25 of the 499th Squadron crashed at GUSAP—crew OK.

Hurried observation while over the target enabled combat crews to report above mentioned ships which were bombed to be in a sinking condition, however, final assessment of damage has not been determined.

P-38's of the 80th, 421st, 432nd and 433rd Fighter Squadrons escorting B-25D-1's to WEWAK claimed 5 ZEKES and 4 TONYS definitely shot down. 2 P-38's were lost.

1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (355 W) took off at 0836/L to photograph WEWAK. Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back from vicinity of WEWAK at 1030/L. Mil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

HANSA BAY: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (355 Y) took off at 0823/L to photograph HANSA BAY. Target was not reached due to weather. Photos were taken of SAIDOR area, (alternate target) from 1000/L to 1020/L at 22000 feet. There were nil sightings.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (355 X) took photos from SAG SAG to MALEHO, from CAPE GLOUCESTER to SILIMATI POINT and of BORGEN BAY from 0930/L to 0945/L from 22000 feet. There were nil sightings.

MADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25 of the 38th Group (355 A) took off at 0645/L to carry out a Courier Mission to MADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane remained at LAE.

1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (355 B) completed 100% a weather recce to WAU, FINSCHHAFEN, LAE, and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0515/L and landed at 0930/L. There were nil sightings.

NOTE: Included in this report are the following Final Mission Reports from FMTF:-

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

AREA OF SEARCH: CAPE GLOUCESTER and GASMATA.

354 BB. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

354 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

354 DD. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODU A to 0245N-149403, 0200N-151ACE and return.

354 EE. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

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354 FF. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 65th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.
9 B-24's, 529th Squadron.
10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

354 GG. STRIKE - 13 A-20's, 89th Squadron.
12 A-20's, 90th Squadron.
10 B-25D-1's, 13th Squadron.

TARGET: DORF POINT to CAPE GLOUCESTER.

354 HH. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.
5 B-24's, 65th Squadron.
6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

354 II. ARMED RECCO - 6 P-39Q's, 82nd Ron Squadron.

MISSION: Reconnaissance and strafing from SAIDOR to WANDOKAI.

354 JJ. ARMED RECCO - 6 P-39Q's, 82nd Ron Squadron.

MISSION: Reconnaissance and strafing from AISEGA to SAUREN.

354 KK. STRIKE - 11 A-20's, 5th Squadron.

TARGET: WANDOKAI area.

354 LL. ARMED RECCO - 2 B-24's, 63rd Squadron.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA:

The capture of HUBUKA, the next Northerly base on the coast of the HUON PENINSULA, took place with no opposition except snipers. It is apparent that Jap positions which were to be put into effect in the HUBUKA area did not materialise. According to a statement of a Prisoner of War, the enemy concentrated in this area are withdrawing in order to take up a position further North. Air recce reports enemy concentrations at WANDOKAI.

RAMU VALLEY:

Although our patrols have covered most of the area between the RAMU and the MARKHAM RIVERS as far West as the SOLU RIVER, no contact has been made with the large enemy force which moved on the area almost 2 weeks ago.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Nil change in dispositions.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

As of 1600/22/12/43/I. Enemy bombers attacked ARAWE area between 0225/I and 0535/I on 22 December, 1943. Approximately 150 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped, damage undetermined. Nil report of enemy ground activity.

B. Air Forces:

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
22 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	4	9	2				15	0
DAGUA	12	9	11				32	0
WEWAK	9	2	5			6	22	0
BORAM	19	1					20	0
AMAR	6						8	0
HOLLANDIA	10	46	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	62	82	41			6	191	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
RAVELNG	7	13	2	14		7	43	0
VUNAKANAU	17	20	13	1			51	0
LAKUNAI	38	5		21			64	0
RAPOPO	11	10					21	0
HARBOR					2	18	20	0
PANAPAI	11						11	0
TOBERA	20			13			33	0
BOMPOP		4					4	0
Total	104	52	15	49	2	25	247	0

COMMENTS:

1. With no recent full photo coverage of NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND dromes and with indications of reinforcements to RABAUL the enemy airplane losses sustained over ARAWE on 21/12/43 have not been deducted and our estimate remains the same.

2. The enemy lost 15 SSF over WEWAK area today. However, with no photographic coverage of NEW GUINEA dromes since 1/12/43 and with indications of reinforcements to this area, the present estimate is allowed to remain.

I. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

MANAM AND ARIS ISLANDS: 20/12/43. (353 CC).

Excellent verticals and one oblique covers area along coast from JASSA to SOGARI VILLAGES on MANAM ISLAND. Much track activity. - One mission and five European type buildings at SOGARI. Seven large barges along coast. Three good obliques cover unidentified villages on ARIS ISLAND. Activity present. One large and one small European type building shown in one village all of which appear to be occupied.

MADANG: 21/12/43. (354 E).

Good oblique photos cover township area and across GRAGAT ISLAND, SIAR ISLAND and PANU TIBUN ISLAND to area northeast of drome. Bombs are seen bursting in township area and on both GRAGAT ISLAND and SIAR ISLAND. Other bombs are seen bursting in area northeast of drome. Two probable large explosions are observed in this area. Damage not observed. Two probable camouflaged barges are seen in a small cove on west side of BINNEN HARBOR.

ORARAKO VILLAGE TO HEADWATERS MASAMENG RIVER: 21/12/43. (354 Y).

Excellent photos show the area between ORARAKO VILLAGE and the headwaters of the MASAMENG RIVER approximately 3.5 miles are covered by the photos. There are seven villages, each appears to be native occupied. There are no roads to accomodate M/T. Many footpaths connect native villages. The terrain is composed of rolling hills and is covered with dense forest. No enemy activity is evident.

VIC HUEIKA PLANTATION: 20/12/43. (353 II).

Excellent photos show bombs bursting in HUEIKA VILLAGE and plantation. Bombs were also dropped southeast of the plantation on open land a distance of approximately 700 yards to the mouth of a wooded creek. Light colored smoke rose from the bomb bursts at the mouth of the creek.

BONGEN BAY (TARGET HILL): 21/12/43. (354 J).

Clear oblique photos taken during bombing strike but features of terrain and the dust and smoke surrounding target obscure details. The entire Target Hill from its base to its crest is potted with bomb marks from previous strikes. The hill was left well blanketed in dust and smoke. Three gun positions on highest point near grass hut, one on north end and one on south end of hill, appear to be undamaged. One cave on top and several along trail leading into woods west of hill are undamaged. One photo shows a bridge that may possibly carry light M/T across a creek tentatively located 3/8 miles S-SW of Target Hill on previously reported road in that area.

CAPE GLOUCESTER DROME: 20/12/43. (353 EE).

Two hazy photos show No. 2 runway unserviceable. No change seen in the A/A position 3700 feet south of the east end of No. 2 runway.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 20/12/43. (353 AA).

Two photos of GLOUCESTER Drome show No. 2 runway unserviceable. Three photos show bombs bursting in and near plantation at ANGLICAN MISSION. The damage is unobserved.

ASIEGA: 20/12/43. (353 BB).

Bomb bursts are seen in coconut grove north of ASIEGA VILLAGE with unobserved damage. One good photo of WALANALAPUA VILLAGE show little used and huts in dilapidated condition.

REIN BAY: 20/12/43. (353 CC).

Single photo shows the bay [illegible]

Anchorage.

CAPE GLOUCESTER DROME: 20/12/43. (353 G).

May photos show bombs bursting from north end of No. 1 strip east across storage area along shore of north dispersal area. Damage not observed. Both No. 1 and No. 2 runways are unserviceable and nil serviceable airplanes present.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

354 LL. ARMED RECCO - 2 P-24's, 63rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 2000/21/L - 0242/22/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

RESULTS: Recco was 100% completed as ordered. Route flown: DOBOLURA to 0550S-14820E, 0510S-14900E, 0410S-15012E, 0510S-14910E, 0520S-14940E, 0610S-14930E, to DOBOLURA.

SIGHTINGS: An U/I airplane, which seemed to have radar, was picked up 5 miles north of GAROVE ISLAND. This airplane was able to follow our airplane from 2325/L to 2340/L but was never closer than 1000 yards. At 2130/L from 6,000 ft., 1 probably S/L was observed on CAPE NUMANTER (REIN BAY). S/L remained on for 5 minutes. At 2310/L from 2,000 feet, 2 small boats were picked up off east shore of GAROVE ISLAND. At 0012/L from 3,000 feet, an U/I airplane was picked up at 0510S-14910E.

GENERAL: 3 x 1000 lb. 1/10th sec delay demo bombs were dropped at 2224/L from 2,000' on a reef at 0527S-14926E. Reef closely resembled a ship and mistake was recognized by light of flares dropped on bombing run.

WEATHER: Enroute out: 1/10th cumulus, 4,000 feet, visibility 10 miles. BISMARCK SEA: (REIN BAY to GAROVE ISLAND) 3/10th cumulus 1,000 feet, 3/10th scattered cumulus at 6,000 feet; visibility 10 miles. On return: 3/10 cumulus, 2,000 feet, scattered thunderstorms and rain.

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

TIME OVER TARGET: (1) 0045-0345/21/L (2) 0440/21/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: (1) CAPE GLOUCESTER (2) GASMATA.

RESULTS: A total of 40 x 100 lb. instantaneous dam. bombs, 70 rifle grenades, 3 x 100 lb. incendiary clusters and a miscellaneous assortment of bottles and other junk was dropped over CAPE GLOUCESTER and GASMATA.
(1) One small fire was started 1300 feet inat west side of No. 1 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. At least three other fires were started but could not be pin-pointed because of weather. B-24 was at 10,000 feet over CAPE GLOUCESTER. Bombs were dropped intermittently.
(2) Results of bombs dropped at GASMATA unobserved because of weather. B-24 flew at 10,000 feet over GASMATA.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0300/L from 10,000 feet, one U/I vessel, estimated 500 tons, was seen stationary 100 yards offshore in BORGEN BAY. Vessel had lights fore and aft; blue light on highest point of vessel. Many lights were seen about 300 feet inland from BORGEN BAY. Lights were not extinguished. At 0500/L from 7,000 feet, A/A flashes were observed from four positions and one S/L searching sky 10 miles southwest of FINSCHHAFEN. Activities ceased when B-24 flashed its lights.

GENERAL: Radio was out and B-24 was unable to report weather conditions encountered. CAPE GLOUCESTER area was left when weather closed in. GASMATA coastline was visible from sea but bombs were dropped thru undercast.

WEATHER: CAPE GLOUCESTER area 3/10 cumulus, tops 8,000' on arrival. Coverage increasing from sea during period airplane was over area. CAPE GLOUCESTER was completely closed in when our airplane left the area. At 0345/L, GASMATA, land coverage 10/10, tops 8,000 feet. HUON GULF: Rain, front from below 6,000 feet to above 12,000 feet.

354 BB. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0650-1650/21/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: 2 x 1000 inst. dam bombs were dropped at 1621/L from 5,000 feet on a heading of 170 degrees at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Bombs hit at 623956 (ref: CAPE GLOUCESTER, 1/20,000). Nil damage other than bomb bursts observed. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recce was 80% completed as ordered. Northwest 20% was omitted due to inability to establish radio contact with base. There were nil sightings throughout entire search

WEATHER: Western BISMARCK SEA: 5/10 low cumulus at 2,000', 7/10 to 9/10 high cirrus and cirro-stratus overcast at 18,000 feet. Eastern BISMARCK SEA: 7/10 cumulus to 9,000 feet. Target: clear.

354 CC. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0710/21/L - 0820/21/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: BISMARCK SEA (Reverse 354-EE).

RESULTS: Mission incomplete. Airplane turned back on reaching COKA wreck due to three generators out. Second B-24 did not take off due to fuel leak in left wing tank.

WEATHER: Not stated.

354 DD. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0630/21/L - 1735/21/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: DOBODURA to 0200N-15140E, 0245N-14940E.

TARGET: DD at 0225N-14940E.

RESULTS: 2 x 1000 lb. .025 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in two runs at 1245/L and 1247/L from 8,000 feet on a heading of 160 degrees at one DD at 0225N-14940E. First bomb missed by 100 feet as DD turned 180 degrees to the left. Second bomb burst 20 feet off front quarter, the DD going through the subsiding upheaval of water, decks awash. Damage to DD is claimed. Photos were taken of the bombing. Recco was 100% completed as ordered.

A/A: Intense to moderate, light and medium, inaccurate, bursting below and behind.

SIGHTINGS: At 0804/L from 7,100 feet, 26 tents were seen in a camp area at 0546S-14900E. At 1230/L from 1,000', 1 DD was seen at 0225N-14940E heading north. At 1325/L from 4,000 feet, 1 SS was sighted at 0052N-14930E heading northeast speed of 5 knots. SS crash dived.

WEATHER: Enroute: 5/10 cumulus, 1,500 feet up, showers. Target: 7/10 cumulus, base 1,000 feet, showers, tops 10,000 feet. On return: 7/10 cumulus, base 2,000 feet up, showers.

354 EE. ARMED RECCO - 1 B-24, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0725/21/L - 1510/21/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: SOLOMON SEA.

TARGET: CAMBATA.

RESULTS: 2 x 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1336/L from 8,000 feet at dump area 4500 feet south of west end of strip at CAMBATA. Bombs burst 2,000 feet south of west end of strip in woods with mid damage observed. Photos were taken of the target at 1335/L and of unserviceable 60 foot boats. Recco was 100% completed. Route flown: DOBODURA to CAPE NELSON, 0500S-15230E, 0500S-15330E, 0630S-15230E, 0600S-15400E, 0630S-15400E, CAPE WARD HUNT, DOBODURA.

A/A: Moderate, medium, accurate - bursts shook airplane. A/A came from positions 1500 feet east-southeast of RING RING Village on west side of AMEK RIVER at fork in road; also from 450 feet directly north of center of strip. Rapid fire came from four guns in each position.

SIGHTINGS: Road passing A/A emplacement 1500 feet east-southeast of RING RING Village and west side of AMEK RIVER appeared well-used and showed signs of heavy activity.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, enroute: 2/10 cirro-cumulus, base 12,000', tops 16,000 feet. Target: 3/10 cumulus, base 5,000 feet, tops 9,000 feet. Front from BOGAINVILLE to KIRIWINA. On return: 4/10 cumulus, bases 2,000 feet, tops 7,000'.

354 FF. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0838/21/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER -dump area 1 1/4 miles SE of east end of No.2 strip (target No. 22).

RESULTS: 16 x 1000 lb. inst. demo bombs and 36 x 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 150 to 170 degrees from 9,500 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent. 10 x 1000 lb. bombs and 20 x 500 lb. bombs fell in the target at following coordinates: 673944 to 671938 (ref. map GLOUCESTER Airdromes, special, 1/20,000). 16 x 500 lb. bombs and 8 x 1,000 lb. bombs fell out of target at 673936, 672958 and 671960 (same reference). Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0910/L from 8,000 feet, 8-10 small U/I craft were seen 10 miles SE of ROOKE ISLAND. Craft seemed stationary due to distance from airplane. At 0838/L from 9,500', a large explosion, visible for 20 miles, was seen in the 380th Group target.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA: 4/10 cumulus, base 4,500 feet, tops 5,000', stratus layer at about 14,000 feet. Target: 1/10 cumulus, base 5,000 feet, tops 6,000 feet. SOLOMON SEA on return: 4/10 cumulus, tops 3,000 feet, 7/10 stratus 18,000 feet.

354 FF. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: (1) 0843/21/L. (2) 0850/21/L.

TARGET: (1) CAPE GLOUCESTER - dump area 1 1/4 miles SE of east end of No. 2 strip (target No. 22)
(2) 1/4 mile east of CAPE EACH (0547S-14626E).

RESULTS: (1) 56 x 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8,400/9,000 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent. 44 bombs fell in the target; 1 bomb fell in water on approach; 8 bombs fell short of target by 100 feet; 3 bombs overshot target by 50 feet, and 4 bombs were salvoed 3,500 feet south of the target. Black and white smoke rose from target.
(2) 12 x 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs hung up over target and were toggled, individually in a string, on land terminating at shore at CAPE EACH. Results were generally unobserved. Photos were taken of the target; of huts at

0541S-14834E; of 2 houses at 0542S-14836E; of 6 houses at 0544S-14826E, and of bridge at 0546S-14828E.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0830/L from 8,300 feet, bomb bursts and fires, probably started by strafers, were observed at 0530S-14826E. At 0826/L from 6,400 feet, 2 houses were seen on east side of bank of river at 0542S-14826E. At 0828/L from 8,600 feet, 6 houses were seen at 0544S-14828E. At 0829/L from 6,900 feet, camouflaged barges were seen along river bank at first curve up river at 0546S-14826E. A bridge was observed 100 yards up this stream.

WEATHER: Enroute: 3/10 cumulus, bases 2,000 feet, tops 6,000'. Target: 3/10 cumulus, bases 3,000 feet, tops 8,000', 10/10 stratus 12,000 feet, slight haze. On return: 3/10 cumulus, bases 2,000 feet, tops 5,000 feet.

354 FF. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0837/21/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER - dump area 1 1/4 miles SE of east end of No. 2 strip (target No. 22).

RESULTS: 60 x 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 9,750/10,000 feet on headings of 150 to 165 degrees at the target. 48 bombs hit in target; 12 bombs fell over target, first bomb falling within 100 feet and string extending to 600 feet on course of 155 degrees. 1 small explosion occurred in target, resulting in fire which emitted greyish smoke. Black and white smoke bursts were seen over the entire target. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0855/L from 10,000 feet, a large splash was seen in the water at 0530S-14822E, probably crashing airplane. No airplane seen.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA: 9/10 stratus at 12/15,000 feet. Target: 9/10 stratus at 15,000 feet, visibility 20 miles. SOLOMON SEA on return: 9/10 stratus 7/15,000 feet, 5/10 alto-stratus 4,000 feet.

354 FF. STRIKE - 9 B-24's, 529th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0845/21/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER - dump area 1 3/5 miles south southeast of east end of No. 2 strip (Target No. 23).

RESULTS: 108 x 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 6/6,500 feet on the target. Bombs exploded in area bounded by 6403, 7303, 7322, 6422, (Ref: CAPE GLOUCESTER, C.I.U., T-37). About 70% of bombs exploded slightly north of target. One fire with black smoke was observed in vicinity of target. Photos were taken of the bombing and oblique photos of Native Villages south of CAPE GLOUCESTER.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: One native prau was seen stationary in BORGEN BAY.

WEATHER: Scattered alto-stratus enroute to target. CAVU over target.

354 BG. STRIKE - 10 B-24's, 530th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0845/21/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER - Dump Area 1 & 3/5 miles south southeast of east end of No. 2 runway. (Target No. 23).

RESULTS: 84 x 500 lb. inst. dem. bombs and 24 x 1000 lb. inst. dem. bombs were dropped from 5,500 feet at the target. 24 x 500 lb. bombs exploded in the target. 60 x 500 lb. bombs hit in eastern half of rectangle bounded by 6793, 6794, 6694, 6693 (CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdrome, Special, 1/20,000). 6 x 1,000 lb. bombs exploded in the north central third this same rectangle; 6 x 1000 lb. bombs hit in the southeast sector of the rectangle and 6 x 1000 lb. bombs hit in the northwest third of the same rectangle. Bombing runs were made on slight variations of 180 degree heading. Photos were taken of the bombing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: At 0905/L from 6,300 feet, 2 medium sized stationary barges were sighted at 0532S-14513E. A small unidentified SS was sighted at 0842/L from 6,000 feet at 0525S-14627E, north of CAPE GLOUCESTER. SS was proceeding north and crash dived and disappeared in approximately 1 minute. Construction activity was noted at GULUPELLA and RILLEN VILLAGES.

WEATHER: High alto-stratus at 10/12,000 feet, enroute to and from target. Low scattered cumulus at 2,500 feet. Target: CAVU.

354 BG. STRIKE - 13 A-20's, 89th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0800/21/L to 0835/21/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER Area - Village on coast, approximately 1 3/4 miles north northeast of LAGOON POINT; S.G S.G VILLAGE - (Targets No. 14C and 15).

RESULTS: A total of 44 x 500 lb. 4/5 sec. delay dem. bombs were dropped. 10 bombs hit in or close to S.G S.G VILLAGE; 6 bombs fell along coast south of Village 100 to 600 yards to mouth of GREAT RIVER; 2 bombs hit 100 yards inland from S.G S.G and in Lagoon at 541844 and 541846 (Ref: S.G S.G Special, 1/20,000); 3 bombs hit in water. 15 bombs hit in (Target No. 14C), village on coast north northwest of LAGOON POINT. 4 bombs hit 100 to 400 yards south of village- 1 of these hit on beach. 2 huts in this village and S.G S.G and the coast line between were well strafed with 14,200 x .50 cal. 2 A-20's strafed lightly through ANGLICAN MISSION inland from S.G S.G. Results were unobserved. 1 bomb hit 100 yards north of target No. 14C. Propaganda leaflets were dropped on the target. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: A crashed silver colored Zeke was seen at 554583. Red

dot was seen on the right wing. Trails were generally visible and showed little signs of usage. There was some evidence of trails going through coconut groves inland from SAG SAG. A trail was also seen near target No. 14C. A row of objects, possibly drums or boxes were seen along trail from SAG SAG to AMERICAN MISSION. Grass fires were observed near TAUALI at 0835/L.

GENERAL: One A-20 returned to base before reaching the target due to mechanical trouble. 1 A-20 was seen to drop 4 bombs included in this report. This airplane proceeded to FINSCHHAFEN after attack and had not returned to base when this report was submitted.

WEATHER: Not stated.

354 SQ. STRIKE - 12 A-20's, 90th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0835/ 1/L to 0855/21/L.

TARGET: (1) Storage coastal beach area 555922 (Ref. DORF POINT 1/20000) to 545884 (Ref. SAG SAG 1/20000).

(2) Village (Target No. 14 A) at 555907 (Ref. SAG SAG 1/20000) and TAUALI VILLAGE (Target No. 14 B)

RESULTS: 42 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay A.P. bombs were dropped on targets 14A and 14B. 23 bombs hit target 14A, 4 of which failed to explode and 2 overshot target. 17 bombs hit target 14B. Many craters and small fires were seen in both 14A and 14B. 1 bomb hit native huts in 14A causing debris to fly up. 14A and 14B and design two coastal trucks were thoroughly strafed with 15000 X .50 cal. and 75 X 20 mm. Results were unobserved. Fires were taken at targets 14A and 14B and coconuts up to North of 14A.

A/A: Slight, inaccurate A/C fire was observed from ridge 500 yards inland from shore holiday between 14A and 14B.

SIGHTINGS: 2 rusty unserviceable barges were seen on N.W. side of LAGOON POINT. Cleared trail appeared well used. Underbrush had been cleared away between 14A and 14B. Possible stores and personnel may be hidden here.

CENTUR: 1 A-20 returned to base before reaching target due to mechanical trouble.

WEATHER: Enroute, High overcast at 12000 feet. Broken cumulus at 1000 feet over target, high overcast 12000 feet, visibility, 15 miles.

354 SQ. STRIKE - 10 B-25D-1's, 10th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0837/21/L to 0850/21/L.

TARGET: Bomb ULAMANGI—POTMI VILLAGE area; strafe coast from ULAMANGI to Point 2 miles S.W. of DORF POINT.

RESULTS: 10 B-25D-1's made 2 bombing and strafing runs, individually, from ULAMANGI VILLAGE to DORF POINT. The complete target was not strafed due to A-20's of 90th squadron working South coastal section of this Squadron's target.

56 X 300 lb. 6/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on or within 100 yards of ULAMAINGI VILLAGE and POTNI VILLAGE. 4 bombs were dropped on coconut grove just South of POTNI VILLAGE. Bombing was excellent. Targets were thoroughly covered by bombs. Bomb bursts and dust clouds were seen in target area; results were otherwise unobserved. The entire target from ULAMAINGI VILLAGE to DORF POINT was thoroughly strafed with 22500 X .50 cal. Photos were taken of the attack.

SIGHTINGS: Small, probable grass fires, were seen in the target area. Most of villages appeared overgrown, huts damaged and uninhabited. Probable fresh car or jeep tracks were seen in ONGAIA PLANTATION: Trail showed evidence of heavy foot tracks. One large camouflaged barge was seen at 589951.

WEATHER: Target, CAVU. Solid overcast at 5000 feet enroute and return with low scattered cumulus and light scattered showers.

354 EH. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 64th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1553/21/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—400 yards Southeast of East end of No. 2 strip. (Target No. 6B)

RESULTS: 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 9500 feet on headings of 160 and 260 degrees at the target. Results were unobserved due to cloud cover over target during bombing run. Bombs were dropped on ETA. Villages from target to DORF POINT were strafed from 4000 feet with 3475 X .50 cal. and 150 X .30 cal. Results were unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing.

SIGHTINGS: At 1603/L from 4000 feet, what appeared to be 8 tents were seen along coast at LAGOON POINT. At 1604/L from 4000 feet, 10 to 12 tents were seen in SAG SAG VILLAGE.

WEATHER: Western SOLOMON SEA, 2/10 to 3/10 at 12000 feet, 3/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 4000 feet. Target, 7/10 cumulus, base 5000 feet, tops 7000 feet. Weather on return, same as enroute.

" STRIKE - 5 B-24's, 65th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1548/21/L. to 1550/21/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER—Dump area 400 yards Southeast of East end of No. 2 strip. (Target No. 6B)

RESULTS: 58 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8700 feet on heading of 160 degrees at the target. 30 bombs fell on shore 1000 feet East of target; 10 bombs fell on shore on line with target; 12 bombs were unobserved due to cloud coverage; 6 bombs hung up and were salvoed 1500 feet East of target. Black smoke was seen from a possible fire in center of target. Photos were taken of the bombing and of barges at 0530S-14817E.

SIGHTINGS: At 1605/L from 8700 feet, 7 to 15 barges, closely packed, some with orange tops, serviceability undetermined, were seen in BORGEN BAY 1 to 1½ miles South of NATAMO POINT. At 1555/L from 8000 feet, a service bridge was seen across a river 2 miles North of CAPE GLOUCESTER. At 1605/L from

7000 feet, one unidentified airplane was glimpsed flying in and out of clouds. At 1620/L from 4000 feet, European type buildings with red slate or asbestos roofs, were seen along river at 0533S-14819E.

WEATHER: Enroute, 2/10 cumulus, base 2000/4000 feet, tops 6000/7000 feet, 3/10 cirrus. Target, 8/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 6000 feet. On return, 2/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 4000 feet.

354 HH. STRIKE - 6 B-24's, 403rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1548/21/L to 1610/21/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Dump area 400 yards Southeast of East end of No. 2 strip. (Target No. 6B)

RESULTS: 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 4000/9700 feet on headings of 155 to 175 degrees. Bombing was excellent. 40 bombs hit in target; 6 fell in water; 16 hit between coast and target; 10 bombs overshot, the last bomb falling 1000 f[illegible]ff target. Only visible results were bomb bur[illegible]s. More black smoke was seen than ordinarily rise from this number of bombs.

A/A: Slight M/G fire from point 1 mile East of No. 2 strip while airplanes were at 4000 feet. M/G fire was inaccurate.

SIGHTINGS: From 4000 feet over the target, one crew member reported counting 4 fighters and 3 bombers on East end of No. 2 strip--serviceability not determined. These airplanes were not seen by anyone else. At 1610/L from 5000 feet, a native village, not previously seen, was observed at 0540S-14820E. Village looked like new construction in form of a triangle.

WEATHER: Target, 7/10 cumulus at 5000/6000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, 2/10 scattered cumulus at 5000/7000 feet.

354 II. ARMED RECCO - 6 P-39Q's, 82nd Recn Squadron.

TIME OVER TARGET: 0910/21/L to 0950/21/L.

MISSION: Reconnaissance and strafing from SAIDOR to WANDOKAI.

RESULTS: 2 serviceable barges pulled up parallel to beach at KIARI were strafed. Fire was seen in rear of one barge which soon went out. Apparent attempt at concealment of barges had been made as barges were parallel to beach and partly under overhanging trees. There was also evidence of use of br[illegible] paint and splotching paint to give appearance of ru[illegible]nd age. 10 X 37 mm and 600 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing.

SIGHTINGS: A well camouflaged construction that appeared to be a hull of a large barge was sighted below KAIRI 50 yards inland. Object was bottom side up and painted green. P-39Q's could not get in close enough to fire at it effectively. There appeared to be much activity in SCHLAGEN HARBOR and especially around KIARI.

WEATHER: MADANG to SAIDOR, ceiling 12000 feet, clear all along coast down to WANDOKAI.

354 JJ. ARMED RECCO - 6 P-39Q's, 82nd Recn Squadron.

TIME OVER TARGET: 1515/21/L to 1620/21/L.

MISSION: Reconnaissance and strafing arges from AISEGA to SAUREN.

RESULTS: 2 serviceable barges pulled up on West bank of MARJIE BAY at CAPE PEIHO were strafed. Barges were loaded with what appeared to be supplies. Landing gates of the barges were down. Barges were thoroughly strafed. Amount of damage was unknown due to beaching of the barges. An old apparently unserviceable barge on shore above AISEGA was strafed. Results were unknown due to partly beached condition of barge. 21 X 37 mm were expended; amount of .50 cal. not stated.

SIGHTINGS: A type "C" barge of the escort class, partly over on its side and apparently well shot up was sighted in the ITNE RIVER 200 yards in from ocean.

WEATHER: Enroute to target, cumulus, base 2000 feet to 4000 feet. On return, scattered cumulus 2000 feet, front building up over central NEW BRITAIN, coming from the East.

354 KK. STRIKE - 11 A-20's, 8th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1130/21/L to 1155/21/L.

TARGET: Camp area and defense positions throughout timber area along line of Creek East of WANDOKAI and timber area West of WANDOKAI.
Target A: 105168—103164—104163—106167.
Target B: 100168—101166—104[illegible]—104169.
(Map Ref. HUBIKA Photomap, #[illegible].

RESULTS: 42 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. 6 bombs were dropped on defense position—target A; 1 bomb missed target completely. 3925 X .50 cal. were expended on defense position—target A and B. 28 bombs were dropped in palm grove South of WALANGAI of which 2 skipped into water; 4 bombs were dropped in wooded area to West of palms and South of WALANGAI; 1 bomb overshot village and went into woods along Creek to Southeast. 7700 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing WALANGAI palm grove and surrounding areas. 3 bombing and 4 strafing passes were made on targets A and B. Bombing and strafing of WALANGAI was due to mistaking it for defense position, targets A and B. Results were unobserved. Propaganda leaflets were dropped over the targets. Photos were taken over target from WANDOKAI to WALANGAI.

SIGHTINGS: Numerous wrecked barges were sighted along coast opposite palm grove South of WALANGAI. There were nil signs of enemy activity.

GENERAL: Majority of A-20's missed target area of WANDOKAI and bombed WALANGAI.

WEATHER: Enroute, occasional patches of strato-cumulus with bases at 1000 feet, encountered near HUON GULF area. Target, CAVU. Weather on return, same as enroute.

355 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0515/22/L to 0930/22/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: YULE ISLAND, WAU, FINSCHHAFEN, LAE, GUSAP and return.

RESULTS: Mission completed as ordered 100% with nil sightings.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0640/L, 1/10 low cloud cover, low overcast. WAU, 0706/L, low clouds, 4/10 covered, 4/10 alto-stratus at 14000/15000 [illegible]. FINSCHHAFEN, 0738/L, middle clouds 4/10 covered. [illegible] cirrus. LAE, 0753/L, middle clouds, 4/10 covered, high cirrus. GUSAP, 0753/L, lower clouds, 5/10 covered at 500 feet.

355 E. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0230/22/L to 0630/22/L.

AREA OF MISSION: Base to WEWAK.

RESULTS: Mission completed 50% due to weather. Turned back from GUSAP at 0440/L. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: Over Ranges, broken cirrus with middle layer, 5/10 covered at 12000 feet, scattered cumulus at 5000 feet, hazy South of mountains, visibility 15 miles over Ranges. MARKHAM VALLEY, 6/10 alto-stratus and alto-cumulus at 7000 feet, 5/10 strato-cumulus with tops to 4000 feet. Scattered thunderstorms North of LAE and in vicinity of DUMPU. Distant lightning and towering cumulus in VITIAZ STRAITS, visibility 5/8 miles.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: WEWAK.

RESULTS: Airplane was in vicinity of WEWAK at 1030/L but nil photos were taken due to weather.

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

WEATHER: WEWAK area, front East to West. RAMU VALLEY, broken middle clouds, 9/10 covered.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: 0930/22/L to 0945/22/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: Operational photos were taken from SAG SAG to WAREMO and from CAPE GLOUCESTER to SILIMATI POINT and of BORGEN BAY. Mission completed 100%. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: CAPE GLOUCESTER, overcast at 23000 feet. VITIAZ STRAITS and HUON GULF, CAVU.

355 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1000/22/L to 1020/22/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: HANSA BAY—Primary. SAIDOR—Secondary.

RESULTS: Primary target—HANSA BAY—was not photographed due to weather. Operational photos were taken of the SAIDOR area from 22000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: HANSA BAY toward NEW BRITAIN, fr[illegible]l activity. HANSA BAY, stratus at 24000 feet, lo[illegible]lus, 8/10 covered.

355 G. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0947/22/L.

TARGET: WEWAK.

RESULTS: 15 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on 2 Fox-Tare-Bakers and 1 Fox-Tare-Charlie from altitudes of 100 feet scoring 2 direct hits and 2 near misses on a Fox-Tare-Baker and 2 hits on a Fox-Tare-Charlie which were at anchor East of WEWAK. Vessels were thoroughly strafed and left in a sinking condition. 21 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in dispersal area at Southeast end of WEWAK strip from 100 feet with several bombs falling near 4 parked unidentified airplanes in dispersal area with unobserved results. 7 bombs were dropped between WEWAK strip and coast and 7 bombs were dropped across WEWAK POINT covering A/A positions. 5 bombs were dropped on WEWAK ISTHMUS and 2 bombs were dropped on A/A position and supply dump on West shore of CAPE BORAM, all with unobserved damage. 6 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped on center of WEWAK strip and 4 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrags were dropped on coast East of MISSION POINT. 4 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrags were dropped on A/A position on Northeast edge of CAPE BORAM. Entire target including merchant vessels and 1 barge East of MISSION POINT were thoroughly strafed with 12250 X .50 cal. and 6600 X .30 cal. A/A position on CAPE BORAM was silenced by strafing. One large fire was started about 2 mile Southeast of Southeast end of WEWAK strip. Many small fires seen in BORAM and WEWAK area. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

INTERCEPTION: 20 TONYS, ZEKES and HAMPS intercepted Squadron as bombing run was begun. Attacks were made singularly from 1 to 6 o'clock and from 11 o'clock, from above formation to same altitude as formation. Attacks were not pressed and pilots were not eager. Before attacks could be pressed, P-38's chased enemy airplanes off. 2 ZEKES were definitely destroyed in the air by this Squadron. Our evasive action consisted of changing course and altitude.

A/A: Intense, light, heavy and medium, accurate from 50 to 200 feet from positions in target area. All airplanes except one received damage from A/A fire.

SIGHTINGS: 4 camouflaged BETTYS were observed on North end of WEWAK strip. 4 camouflaged unidentified SSF's were seen on the South side of WEWAK strip. 2 explosions were seen in known gun positions on West side of CAPE BORAM. Guns ceased firing after explosions. 5 enemy planes were observed to crash in water. 2 SSF were seen falling in flames over LUSCHU ISLAND. One DD was observed on course of 120 degrees, 2 miles East of WEWAK.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent. Airplane No. 188 crash landed at base on return from mission with all crew members safe.

WEATHER: Enroute, 0830/L, CAVU with ground fog at GUSAP and DUMPU up to target. At target, 0947/L, scattered clouds at 2000 feet. On return, 1130/L, scattered cumulus clouds from 8500 to 9000 feet.

355 G. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 499th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0947/22/L to 0956/22/L.

TARGET: BORAM Airdrome.

RESULTS: A total of 96 clusters of 3 X [illegible] 3 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped from altitudes [illegible] 5 to 250 feet covering the target thoroughly. Clusters were dropped as follows: (Ref. WEWAK Special, Preliminary, 1/25000). The 6 gun A/A position at WEWAK MISSION was bombed with 16 clusters and also strafed. Position was silenced. Known M/G or light A/A position at 34305 was strafed and bombed with 2 clusters and was silenced. 6 clusters were dropped at a medium bomber on North side of strip near West end and was set afire. M/G was also strafed. Three M/B's on North side of strip near center were bombed with 6 clusters with unobserved damage. 6 clusters were dropped at unserviceable airplanes at 372048. 2 clusters were dropped on buildings at 344043 with unobserved damage. 8 clusters were dropped on known A/A position at 7512 (Ref. CIU T-31, WEWAK and BORAM) with unobserved damage. 2 clusters were dropped on single engine fighter at 371045 with unobserved damage. 4 clusters were dropped on light A/A position in several small buildings at 372046 and 24 clusters were dropped starting at 360040 and continuing over 4 gun A/A position at 363042, all with unobserved damage. 10 clusters were dropped on West end of BORAM strip and 8 clusters were dropped on North dispersal area, also with unobserved damage. A total of 13400 X .50 cal. and 4400 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing and during interception. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Intense, light, medium and heavy, accurate to inaccurate from 6 gun A/A position at WEWAK MISSION and barrage over ridge between WEWAK and [illegible] burst on all sides above and below formation. Barrage probably from 2 known positions South of BORAM.

INTERCEPTION: 1 ZEKE made a pass at formation over BORAM strip at an altitude of 300 feet. Pass was made on level. Enemy airplane dived under and out and returned to make another pass at 7 o'clock, turret gunner registered hits and ZEKE disappeared behind ridge losing altitude and smoking. Claimed as probable. 1 ZEKE was flying to rear of this Squadron and on parallel course. ZEKE turned to make a pass on the 501st Squadron. During turn at 7 o'clock, turret gunner engaged and saw tracers enter ZEKE. Plane went into violent wing over at 400 feet and disappeared behind ridge in almost vertical dive. ZEKE could not possibly have recovered and is claimed as destroyed. Observed by 2 crews.

SIGHTINGS: (All references to: CIU T-31 Chart, WEWAK and BORAM) One twin-engine and twin tail fighter observed on South side of BORAM strip--serviceable. 3 columns of grey smoke in dispersal area North of runway at BORAM. 1 Sugar-Charlie with steam up off jetty near CAPE BORAM. 1 possible Corvette at same position. 1 Fox-Able or Fox-Tare-Charlie near West side of CAPE MOEM, exact position undetermined. Two unidentified enemy fighters crashed in flames in water North of BORAM strip. These were shot down by P-38's. One unidentified enemy fighter down in flames just offshore East of CAPE MOEM in water. 2 unidentified enemy fighters seen to crash near WEWAK MISSION. A/A bursts observed on [illegible] dog-fighting P-38's.

and enemy fighters. Probably no guns and new gun positions just East of BOARM strip. One large red topped building and several small houses at 6912. 2 ZEKES taking off from BORAM heading West. Possible heavy gun position at approximately 6019.

GENERAL: 3 airplanes of this Squadron have not as yet returned to base. Two of these landed and one crash landed at GUSAP. All crews safe. Results of attack by these planes not included in this report. Fighter cover excellent.

WEATHER: GUSAP to WEMAK, cumulus layer 100 to 2500 feet. Overcast at 6000 feet. Rain squalls encountered before reaching target. Target, clear, overcast at 6000 feet. SALISBERG REEF, broken cumulus tops 7000 feet, clear above. OMEI STRAIT APPROACHING, broken cumulus to clear, 6000/10000 feet, light cirrus at 16000 feet.

555 f. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0947/22/1.

TARGET: WEMAK.

RESULTS: 3 airplanes dropped a total of 24 X 300 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs from altitude of 125 feet across WEMAK POINT on an approximate heading of 70 degrees with unobserved damage. 2 bombs fell over target into water. Target was thoroughly strafed by 2 airplanes and splinters were seen coming from buildings on the POINT. Shipping in the harbor was also strafed by same 2 airplanes with unobserved damage. 1 airplane dropped 22 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag. bombs from an altitude of 125 feet among buildings and dispersal bays at Southeast end of WEMAK strip with unobserved damage. This area, CAPE BORAM and M/G position on CAPE MOEN were strafed with unobserved damage. 6 airplanes dropped a total of 110 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs from an altitude of 125 feet in the dispersal and supply area at the South end of WEMAK drome and across CAPE BORAM. Bombs were seen to fall among buildings and supplies but results of damage not observed. Entire target and gun positions were strafed. A total of 13825 X .50 cal. and 5500 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing targets and in interception. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Intense, light, medium and heavy, accurate to inaccurate at level of airplanes from known positions in target and from Corvette in harbor. Several airplanes were damaged by machine gun fire during interception, and by A/A fire.

INTERCEPTION: Approximately 20 to 30 ZEKES attacked formation immediately before and after bombing run over target area at minimum altitude. Enemy airplanes were waiting at 3000/5000 feet above and dove at our airplanes making numerous passes from all positions except below. Enemy airplanes broke off at 100 to 300 yards. 1 ZEKE was definitely destroyed and 1 was probably destroyed in the air North of CAPE BORAM. 1 ZEKE is reported to have been painted green and another one painted brown.

SIGHTINGS: An apparently serviceable SBF and 3 camouflaged BETTYS were seen in dispersal area South of WEMAK drome. 1 bomb dump and supplies covered with canvas were reported at Southeast end of WEMAK strip and quantities of supplies were seen along the entire coast. A number of wrecked

single engine and twin engine airplanes were seen on and near the strip. A radio station tower was observed a short distance East of the heavy gun position on CAPE MOEM. A Fox-Tare-Baker between CAPE MOEM and CAPE BORAM was observed firing A/A from bow. 3 ZEKES were observed shot down in flames by P-38's. A short distance North-west of WEWAK POINT. 1 Sugar-Charlie and 1 Fox-Tare-Charlie were observed stationary 1 mile offshore of WEWAK POINT and a Corvette was observed off WEWAK POINT heading in toward harbor. 2 unidentified vessels were observed stationary between CAPE MOEM and CAPE BORAM. A ZEKE was seen to burn and crash at edge of dense woods Southwest of WEWAK drome.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent. One airplane (# 161) was badly shot up and landed safely at NADZAB.

WEATHER: Enroute, middle clouds at 12000 to 16000 feet, 4/10 cover of stratus and scattered strato-cumulus becoming 6/10 to 8/10 covered. Over target, low scattered light cumulus, middle overcast at 8000 to 10000 feet, visibility 8 to 10 miles. Hazy. On return, scattered to broken, light cumulus bases 500 to 3000 feet with tops to 5000 feet, middle clouds to 12000 feet, 4/10 covered.

355 G. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 501st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0945/22/L to 0951/22/L.

TARGET: BORAM strip.

RESULTS: 42 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay dem. bombs were dropped from 50 to 150 feet on target from WEWAK MISSION to East end of BORAM strip. A/A position 3000 feet South of center of BORAM runway was heavily bombed and strafed with a direct hit being scored. A/A position at WEWAK Hospital was also bombed and strafed with undetermined damage. Entire target area was covered by strafing with a total of 8300 X .50 cal. and 1500 X .30 cal. expended in strafing and during interception. No enemy airplanes were destroyed on ground. Bombing was excellent and photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Intense, light, medium and heavy, accurate at altitudes of 50 to 150 feet. Barrage was laid at level of airplanes. 7 or 8 bursts were red type which crews did not recognize. These were like roman candles or rockets and had long tail or trailing column of white smoke. Made red burst on exploding at about 200 feet altitude. Exact ground location of positions not observed.

INTERCEPTION: 20 to 30 ZEKES and HAMPS intercepted at beginning of bombing run at an altitude of 150 feet over WEWAK drome at 0946/L. Enemy airplanes dove from 4000 to 6000 feet in groups of 3 or 4 coming in from off the sea. Made split "S" in diving turns. Made one pass at formation from 8 o'clock. Very aggressive and pressed to 50 feet. 1 ZEKE was destroyed in air approximately 1 mile North of CAPE BORAM. Our evasive action consisted of changing speed and altitude.

SIGHTINGS: From 0945/L to 0951/L, 3 to 4 unidentified bombers in dispersal area Southeast of BORAM strip. 1 Fox-Tare-Baker in harbor between MISSION POINT and WEWAK POINT. Direct hit and three or four 50 feet near misses were observed on 1 Fox-Tare-Charlie, 1000 feet offshore East of center of WEWAK PENINSULA, apparently in damaged condition

2 ZEKES seen shot down by P-38's in bay Northeast of CAPE BORUM. 2 other ZEKES seen shot down by P-38's 1 mile S ustend of WEMAK ISSICK. 5 or 6 small buildings, probably barges, around S ustend part of WEMAK POINT. Many trees and buildings, probably stores, in plantation at S ustend and of BORUM strip. At 0952/L, 1 ZEKE seen shot down in flames by P-38 Southeast of CAPE IOKM, near BIAKEDI.

GENERAL: This report cover 6 F-25D-1's in this Squadron which have returned to base. 3 other F-25D-1's of this Squadron have not returned to base at time of this report.

WEATHER: Enroute 0900/L, high thin broken to overcast, occasional undercast at 1000 feet. Rain showers to left of route. At target, 0945/L, overcast and broken. On return, 1025/L, undercast, tops 3000 feet, alto-stratus at 8000/9000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

P-38's of 8th, 80th, 431st, 432nd and 433rd Fighter Squadrons escorting F-25D-1's to WEMAK, claim 5 LUKES and 4 TOMYS definitely shot down. 2 P-38's were lost.

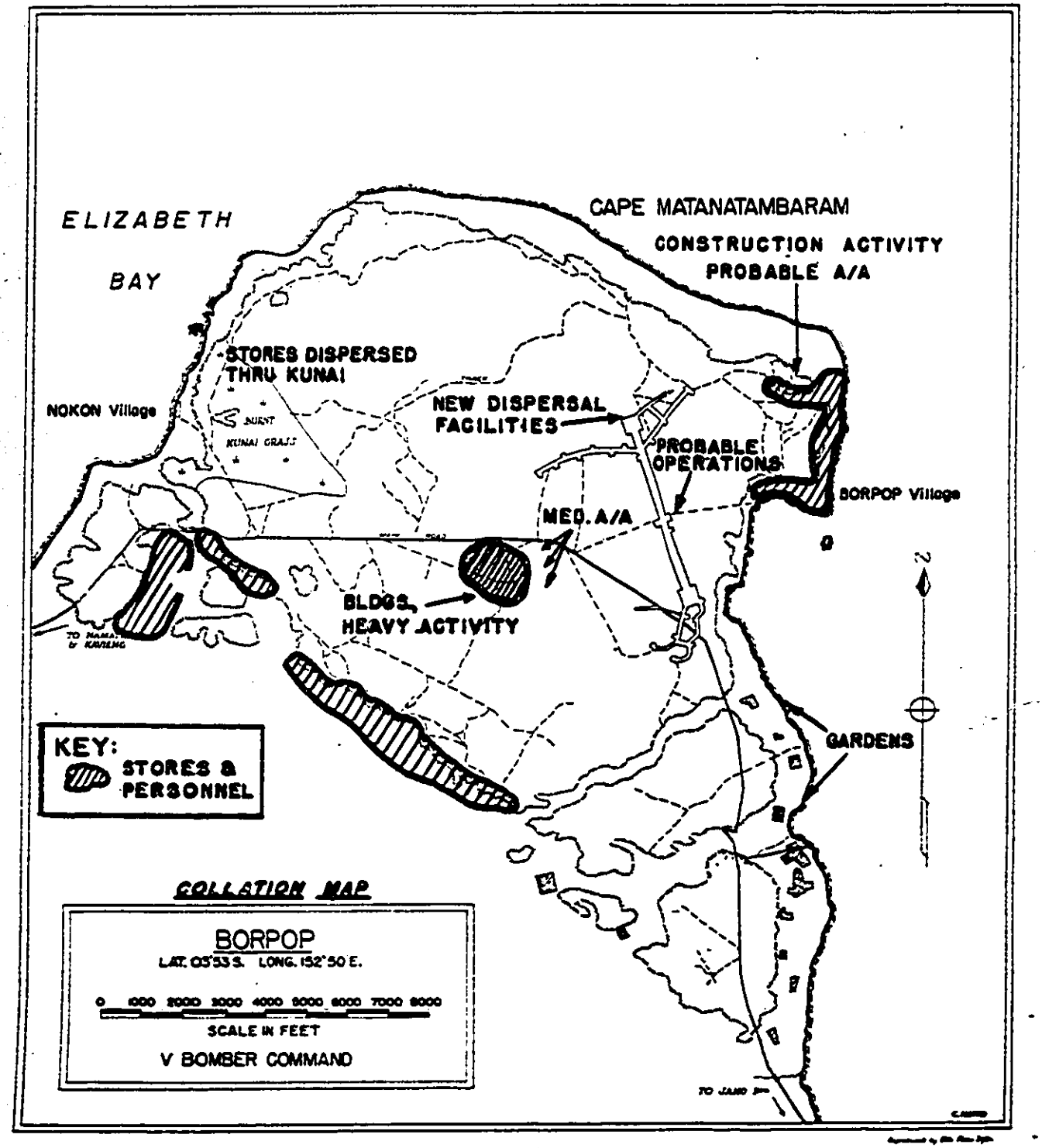
SETH S. TERRY,
Major, Air Corps,
A-2, Asst'o Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Nauman

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

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
BORPOP
22/12/43



ALGIERS:

CANADIAN TROOPS AND TANKS HAVE FOUGHT THEIR WAY E ON TWO SIDES INTO THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE GERMAN STRONGHOLD OF ORTONA ON THE ITALIAN ADRIATIC COAST AND ARE ENGAGED IN STREET FIGHTING WITH NAZI DEFENDERS BARRICADED WITHIN THE SHATTERED VILLAGE REPORTS F ON THE FIGHTING FRONT SAID TUESDAY NIGHT. THE BREAK THROUGH INTO THE HOTELY CONTESTED TOWN BEFORE WHICH CANADIAN FORCES HAVE BEEN HELD UP FOR A NIGHT BY STRONG GERMAN RESISTANCE WAS PRECEDED BY A HEAVY BOMBARDMENT WHICH CUT A PATH THROUGH THE HEAVILY MINED APPROACH MONDAY AFTERNOON. GERMAN FORCES MEANWHILE WERE REPORTED RUNNING CRITICALLY SHORT OF ARTILLERY AMMUNITION AS AMERICAN TROOPS CONSOLIDATED THEIR POSITIONS ON SNOW COVERED MOUNT SPINUCCIO WHICH THE ALLIED COMMAND ANNOUNCED WAS CAPTURED MONDAY IN A TWO AND ONE HALF MILE ADVANCE WEST OF FILIGNANO AN ALLIED MILITARY CORRESPONDENT RETURNING FROM THE FIGHTING FRONT REPORTED THAT KEY SUPPLY ROADS WITHIN AND BEHIND ALLIED LINES SCARCELY HAD BEEN TOUCHED BY ENEMY ARTILLERY FIRE.

NAPLES:

THE GERMANS FACED WITH A GROWING REVOLT IN THE OCCUPIED AREA OF ITALY WERE REPORTED TUESDAY TO HAVE EVACUATED LARGE SECTIONS OF ROME APPARENTLY PREPARING TO DESTROY THESE AREAS AND PERHAPS EVENTUALLY ABANDON THE CAPITAL ENTIRELY. WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES NOW APPROXIMATELY EIGHTY MILES FROM ROME THE RECENT EVACUATION OF WHOLE AREAS OF ROME PRESUMABLY WAS TO PREVENT ENEMY FROM PLANTING MINES AND DYNAMITE ON A LARGE SCALE AS WAS DONE IN NAPLES PRIOR TO ITS ABANDONMENT EARLIER IN THE CITY CAMPAIGN. TRUSTWORTHY INFORMATION REACHING NAPLES TUESDAY SHOWED THAT ALL NORTHERN ITALY WAS AFLAME WITH REVOLT AGAINST THE GERMAN MILITARY COMMAND AND ITS PUPPET ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE SITUATION BEHIND THE GERMAN LINE WAS MORE SERIOUS THAN IN ANY OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT ARE UNDER COMPLETE GERMAN OCCUPATION.

LONDON:

A FORCE OF POSSIBLY 800 PATHFINDERS GUIDED RAF HEAVY BOMBERS ATTACKED THE IMPORTANT GERMAN CHEMICAL AND ARMAMENT CENTER OF FRANKFURT MONDAY NIGHT WITH 2000 LONG TONS OF EXPLOSIVES AND INCENDIARIES IN ONE OF THE HEAVIEST RAIDS OF THE WAR POUNDING THEIR TARGET WITH RELATIVE EASE AFTER NAZI FIGHTERS HAD THEN DRAWN OFF BY A WILY FEINT ASSAULT FIFTY MILES TO THE SOUTH. THE BOMBLOAD ON FRANKFURT CAME CLOSE TO THE RAF'S RECORD OF 2300 LONG TONS DROPPED ON BERLIN NOV. 22. THE BRITISH HEAVYS BLASTED AND BURNED THE CITY AFTER A DIVERSIONARY ATTACK HAD BEEN MADE ON THE TWIN GERMAN CITIES OF MANNHEIM AND LUDWIGSHAFEN. AS THE RAF FLIERS RETURNED HOME FROM TARGETS THEY SAW THE NAZI FIGHTERS RACING FRANTICALLY BACK TO THE MAIN TARGET AT FRANKFURT, BUT THE NAZI INTERCEPTORS WERE TOO LATE TO SAVE THE GREAT RUBBER CHEMICAL AND ELECTRICAL CENTER OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND INHABITANTS FROM ITS HEAVIEST ATTACK.

SOVIET SHOCK TROOPS PRESSING THEIR WINTER OFFENSIVE SOUTH OF NEVEL CAPTURED MORE THAN 100 POPULATED PLACES IN FIGHTING TUESDAY, A MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED TUESDAY NIGHT. THE MOSCOW RADIO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD LIQUIDATED THE GERMANS KHERSON BRIDGEHEAD NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE DNIEPER THUS CONFIRMING A BERLIN REPORT MONDAY THAT THE NAZI HOLD ON THE LEFT OR NORTH BANK HAD BEEN RELINQUISHED. IN THE AREA OF KHERSON OUR TROOPS COMPLETELY LIQUIDATED THE GERMANS BRIDGEHEAD FORTIFICATIONS ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE DNIEPER. THE ENEMY SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES IN MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT.

NEW GUINEA:

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL, U. S. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HAS HELD A CONFERENCE WITH GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, COMMANDER OF ALLIED OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC IT WAS DISCLOSED TODAY. THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN THE U. S. SIXTH ARMY WAS CARRYING MACARTHUR'S OFFENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO THE SHORES OF NEW BRITAIN BY LANDINGS AT ARAWE BAY DEC. 15.

WASHINGTON:

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, IN A CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE TRANSMITTED TO OUR VETERANS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS ASSURED THEM OF THE NATION'S GRATITUDE FOR SERVICE SO BRAVELY AND HONORABLY RENDERED.

STOCKHOLM:

THREE GESTAPO AGENTS WERE KILLED IN AN EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE WITH NORWEGIANS WHEN THE GERMANS RAIDED AN OSLO HOUSE, THE SWEDISH NORWEGIAN PRESS BUREAU SAID TUESDAY.

WASHINGTON:

MEASURE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE NATION'S ARMED SERVICES TO GRANT SIXTY DAY FURLOUGH AT HOME TO MEN WHO HAVE SERVED YEAR IN COMBAT AREAS OR IN LOCATIONS WHERE DISEASE IS PREVALENT IS INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CLARE HOFFMAN OF MICHIGAN. HOFFMAN'S PROPOSAL SPECIFIES HOWEVER THAT MEN SHALL NOT BE FURLOUGHED WHEN DEPARTURE WOULD IMPERIL BATTLEFRONT BUT URGES OFFICERS TO QUOTE, "EXERCISE DILIGENCE" UNQUOTE IN GETTING REPLACEMENTS FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR RETURN HOME.

AIR LIASON GROUP
0800L/24 DEC 1943

Report No. 357

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: GEN
DATE: 23/12/43
FROM: 1800/22/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/23/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

WEWAK: Following is summary of results of 3 of the 6 B-25's, (3—499th Squadron; 3—501st Squadron) which participated in strike at WEWAK (355 G)0945/22/L. Of the 6 B-25's not yet reported yesterday, 1 of the 499th Squadron landed at GUSAP and has not returned to base; 2 of the 501st Squadron of which 1 crashed 12 miles North of DUMPU and the other is still missing.

84 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped and 7 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped between 0945/L and 0956/L at WEWAK and BORAM airdromes and shipping in the WEWAK area. 1 Fox-Able was damaged by a probable direct hit on stern of vessel. 1 Sugar-Baker was damaged by explosion of delayed action bomb near vessel below water line. 1 Fox-Tare-Charlie near CAPE B[illegible] received minor damage from strafing. 2460 X .50 cal. and 2200 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing. The above is in addition to summary carried in Periodic Report 356. No additional sightings were reported and no change or additions to A/A fire and interception. 1 additional enemy fighter was reported shot down by 499th Squadron and 1 additional enemy fighter was reported shot down by 501st Squadron.

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1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (356 C) completed 80% a weather recce to WEWAK. Weather prevented airplane from getting more than 100 miles to WEWAK. B-25D-1 of the 501st Squadron which crash landed North of DUMPU after strike on WEWAK (355 G) was found at 0946/L about 19 miles on a heading of 320 degrees from DUMPU on edge of RAMU RIVER. The 5 crew members were seen on a sand bar in the RAMU RIVER, 16 miles on course 320 degrees from DUMPU at 0950/L. Search for missing airplane of 501st Squadron which is still missing was unsuccessful.

26 B-25D-1's and B-25G's of the 38th Group (356 D) bombed and strafed WEWAK airdrome and Township from 1007/L to 1009/L. 5 of these airplanes of the 823rd Squadron bombed AWAR PLANTATION (Secondary target) at 1021/L. 32 X 500 lb. bombs and 932 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped on primary and secondary targets. Targets were strafed with a total of 23260 X .50 cal., 3300 X .30 cal., and 183 X 75 mm. One unserviceable 2 EF on ground at WEWAK airdrome was destroyed. One large explosion followed by heavy black [illegible] occured in the WEWAK Township area. Several small fires were started at Northwest end of WEWAK strip—probably stores and wrecked airplanes. Small fires were started in WEWAK Township area. WEWAK MISSION was damaged and set on fire by 75 mm fire. One building Northwest of Mission building was damaged by 75 mm fire. Fires were started in AWAR VILLAGE. Both target areas were effectively bombed and strafed. Moderate to intense, medium and heavy, accurate

to inaccurate A/A fire and slight, accurate and inaccurate M/G fire was encountered over WEWAK. Moderate, medium, accurate fire was encountered at AWAR PLANTATION. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne over target—there was nil interception. Numerous stores were piled on shore at East side of WEWAK PENINSULA toward MISSION POINT. 1 Sugar-Charlie was [illegible] heading out to sea from CAPE MOEM at 1008/L. 4 [illegible]ters were observed in clearing in Southeast dispersal area at WEWAK. The following shipping was sighted by one crew member only: 1 medium sized M/V, 1 Fox-Tare-Baker, 1 Sugar-Charlie. Photos do not reveal any vessels sunk recently in WEWAK HARBOR. (9 B-25D-1's of the 71st Squadron did not attack any targets due to becoming separated from fighter cover).

1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (356 Y) took photos of WEWAK, BORAM, BUT and DAGUA airdromes from 1042/L to 1050/L; of AWAR Airdromes at 1050/L; of ALEXISHAFEN at 1142/L of MADANG at 1146/L and from PALAS POINT to MEGIAR at 1135/L. There were nil sightings in WEWAK HARBOR at 1045/L. One small boat was seen on North side of MUSCHU ISLAND and five 60 ton barges on East side of MUSCHU ISLAND. At 1120/L, one small boat, approximately 50 tons, was seen in HANSA BAY.

P-47's of the 341st Fighter Squadron on a fighter sweep over WEWAK at 1030/L, ran into 8 to 10 ZEKES and TONYS. 1 TONY was definitely destroyed. 1 P-38 of the 432nd Fighter Squadron escorting a PBY to MURIK LAGOON definitely shot down 1 SALLY.

HANSA BAY: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (356 X) took off at 0815/L to photograph HANSA BAY. Nil photos were taken of HANSA BAY due to cloud cover. Photos were taken of the MADANG area from 0930/L to 0945/L. There were nil sightings.

SAIDOR: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (356 W) was over SAIDOR from 1010/L to 1015/L at 20000 feet but was unable to take photos due to weather. At 1000/L, 17 barges were sighted above FORTIFICATION POINT on a course Southeast at 15 knots.

MARKHAM-RAMU-FINSCHHAFEN: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (356 Z) took off at 0832/L to take photos. 1 F-4 was unable to take photos due to clouds over assigned target. The other F-4 took photos of DUMPU, KAIGULAN, GUSAP, KAIAPIT and NADZAB airdromes as requested from 0915/L to 1015/L. There were nil sightings.

GUSAP-NADZAB: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (356 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0705/L and landed at 1325/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (356 B) completed 100% a weather recco to WAU, MARKHAM VALLEY, NADZAB, LAE, FINSCHHAFEN and SALAMAUA. Airplane took off at 0503/L and landed at 0835/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 501st Squadron (356 G) completed 100% a search for B-25D-1's missing from strike at WEWAK (355 G). There were nil sightings of missing airplane (# 080). B-25D-1 (# 071) and entire crew were sighted at 0940/L approximately 12 miles Northwest of DUMPU on a heading of 290 degrees. Messages were dropped and airplane returned to DUMPU and arranged for [illegible]ntive patrol to be sent out. (This is a PRELIMINARY REPORT received from FATF).

PORESBY & GOODENOUGH: 1 B-25D-1 of the 403rd Squadron (356 J) completed a Courier Mission from PORT MORESBY to GOODENOUGH ISLAND and DOBODURA. Airplane took off from base at 1130/L, landed at GOODENOUGH at 1310/L and at DOBODURA at 1540/L where it remained. (This is a PRELIMINARY REPORT received from FAIF:). At 1240/L, a column of white smoke was seen rising to 500/1000 feet over MILNE BAY.

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NOTE: Following is Summary of Missions performed by FAIF on 22/12/43. (From this date forward, Missions carried out by FAIF will be summarized in this Section of the Periodic Report and will not be carried in the Periodic Report under Section IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS).

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (355 HH) carried out an armed weather recce to CAPE GLOUCESTER. Airplane was in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area from 0130/22/L to 0520/22/L. 40 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped intermittently in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area from 9000/10000 feet. The only observed results were bomb bursts. At 0420/L from 10000 feet, 3 strings of bombs were seen bursting in the MILNE area occupied by our forces--coordinates not determined. Some bombs fell in the water. One unidentified enemy airplane w[illegible] on at 0350S-14910E on course 360 degrees executing right turn to course 90 degrees. Intense, light to medium, A/A fire came from area occupied by our forces directed at enemy airplanes. Nil hits observed. From 0120/L to 0520/L, several lights were extinguished on approach of our airplane between CAPE GLOUCESTER and RUTTOCK BAY. Lights were turned back on as B-24 left the area. This procedure was repeated several times.

15 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (355 GG) bombed the dump area 1100 yards South of the No. 2 strip (Target No. 7) at CAPE GLOUCESTER from 0830/22/L to 0839/22/L. 170 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the target from 9000/10000 feet. Bombing was excellent--at least 100 bombs hit in the target. Cloud cover prevented accurate measurement of bursts, but target was well covered by bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. 2 volcanoes in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area were seen smoking. 1 small unidentified surface craft was seen perpendicular to bank, stationary, at second bend inland of the IRIE RIVER. 1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron crashed on take-off with nil injuries to crew.

18 B-24's of the 529th and 530th Squadrons (355 JJ) bombed the dump area 1100 yards South of the No. 2 strip (Target No. 7) at CAPE GLOUCESTER from 0940/22/L to 0942/22/L. 216 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the target from 8000/8800 feet. Bombing was excellent. 57 bombs hit through center of area [illegible] by coordinates 9465, 9565, 9564, 9464, (Ref. GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES, Special, 1/20000). 39 bombs hit in Northwest corner of same rectangle just strung out Southwards at 250 feet intervals. 12 bombs fell along Western border of rectangle and 12 bombs hit more gun installations in Eastern sector of rectangle. 96 bombs hit in area bounded by3509, 4220, 4035, 3334, (Ref. CIU T-37, CAPE GLOUCESTER). 3 columns of black smoke were seen rising from target after bombing. One very large explosion giving off black smoke

was observed South of the assigned target. 2 crews observed what appeared to be a medium sized vessel 5 to 10 miles East of CAPE GLOUCESTER, approximately 5 miles off shore. No further details could be determined due to distance of sightings.

26 B-24's of the 90th Group (355 HK) bombed the dump area 1000 yards South-Southwest of the West end of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER from 0948/L to 0950/L. 312 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8500/9400 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent. Results were unobserved due to smoke from bombing and type of terrain. Target was well covered by Group bombing but damage could not be assessed. Photos were taken of the bombing by 2 of the 4 Squadrons participating. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. 4 unserviceable airplanes were observed on No. 1 strip. No. 2 strip appeared to be still unserviceable with numerous bomb craters. At 0925/L from 9000 feet, 2 fires with heavy black smoke were observed along shore in vicinity of CAPE KING WILLIAM. Weather over target was clear with good visibility. Fighter cover was excellent.

9 B-25D-1's of the 13th Squadron (355 AA) bombed and strafed target No. 10 at 615955, Target No. 11 B at 694952 and target No. 11C at 600954 from 0800/L to 0817/L. (All coordinates refer to DORF POINT, Special, 1/20000). 36 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at the assigned targets. Bombing was excellent. 20 bombs were dropped in target No. 10; 5 bombs in target No. 11B and 5 bombs in target No. 11C. 6 bombs fell in the water, or missed targets. 4 unserviceable type "A" barges on shore at Target No. 10 were bombed and strafed and believed destroyed with direct bomb hits and accurate strafing. Many tracers were seen to enter barges. All targets were thoroughly strafed with 16000 ± .50 cal. and 300 ± .30 cal. but results were otherwise unobserved. Photos were taken of the attack. Barges which were bombed and strafed were camouflaged and pulled up under trees and were not seen on the previous day. A square concrete position, possibly an old building foundation, was observed at 603954. A possible dugout was seen at one corner of the structure. Tracks in area appeared well used. Most villages in area appeared uninhabited. Entire area was well covered with bomb craters from previous attacks. Weather over target was CAVU with few scattered cumulus to North. Nil A/A or M/G fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen.

10 A-20's of the 89th Squadron (355 CC) bombed and strafed target No. 13—ULAMANGI-ONGALA-POWE VILLAGES; target No. 13B at 579949 (Ref. DORF POINT, Special, 1/20000), target No. 14A—Village at 556907 (Ref. SAG SAG, Special, 1/20000); target No. 14 B—TAURLA VILLAGE and target No. 14C—Village at 543880 (Ref. SAG SAG, Special, 1/20000), from 0915/L to 0930/L. 38 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at the targets. Bombing was excellent. 2 huts in target No. 14A and 1 in 13B were destroyed by direct bomb hits. 1 bomb dropped in target No. 13 caused a large explosion. Area between target No. 14A and No. 14C and around No. 13 and 13B were well strafed. 5 unserviceable barges at 584952 and 587954 were strafed. 6 camouflaged probably serviceable barges in the target area were strafed by 1 A-20. Bullets were seen hitting barges but nil other results were observed.

A total of 13150 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing. Photos were taken of the attack. ULMARANGI was in bad state of disrepair as a result of previous bombing. Trail from ULMARANGI to WANE O appeared well used and many breaks were observed in this area. Dark smoke was seen coming from South of the CAPE GLOUCESTER aerodrome. One of the reported serviceable barges which were strafed by 1 A-20 appeared to be loaded. Nil A/A or A/C fire was encountered. Nil enemy aircraft were sighted. Weather over target was C/VU with rain storm off south.

17 B-25's of the 345th 65th and 403rd Squadrons (355 II) bombed the dump area in front between strips No. 1 and 2 at CAPE GLOUCESTER from 1513/L to 1556/L. 204 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the target from 8900/10000 feet. Target appeared to receive a good pasting from the 3 squadrons. 5 small fires which flared up and then died out were started around 656970 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER, Photomap). Further observation of results was hampered by clouds. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy aircraft were seen. Weather at target, 8/10 to 10/10 cumulus from 3000 feet to 10000 feet, 2/10 cirro-cumulus at 15000 feet.

11 A-20's of the 89th Squadron (355 BB) bombed and strafed target No. 11a--X 979959, target No. 12 at 591956, and target No. 13a at 594047 from 1503/L to 1506/L. (All coordinates refer to DORF POINT Special, 1/20000). 39 X 250 lb. A/P and delay demo. bombs were dropped on the targets. 12 bombs were dropped at target No. 11A of which 8 fell in target and the other 4 close by. Target and area directly S. West were strafed in two passes. Possible serviceable barge, concealed and parallel to shore just North-East of target No. 11A, was strafed by 1 turret gunner with unobserved results. 11 bombs were dropped in palm grove just East of village at target No. 10. Area was strafed in 2 passes. 16 bombs were dropped at target X . 13A, of which 12 fell accurately in target. A total of 7650 X .50 cal. was expended in strafing. Results of strafing were unobserved. Photos were taken of the attack. An empty grayish-blue lifeboat was seen [illegible] up from BURA on 355 degrees course magnetic, at speed of 20 MPH. Possible, empty gun position were seen low in woods just South of general area. There were nil sightings of enemy activity. Weather over target was C/A with thunderstorms 1 mile inland. Nil A/A fire was encountered and nil enemy aircraft were seen. Several bombs appeared to explode [illegible] building ground resulting in damage to 2 huts.

BOROEN BAY:

13 A-20's of the 89th Squadron (355 BB) bombed and strafed target No. 14A (2750 yards Northeast of NIT/ZO POINT at mouth of [illegible] RIV) from 1450/L to 1510/L. 49 X 500 lb. A/P and delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. Target was thoroughly covered except for extreme Southern end. Target was thoroughly strafed with 15600 X .50 cal. Fabric was blown into air from one bomb hit. A small column of blue smoke in the target was reported by one crew. Results other than bomb bursts were unobserved. 2 camouflaged barges, one definitely unserviceable and one probably serviceable at 617963 (CAPE GLOUCESTER, 1 inch to 1 mile) were strafed. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Photos were taken of the attack.

A stack of boxes, about 20 boxes long 4 boxes high and 6 boxes wide, was reported by one crew member at 757900 (This and following references to BORGEN BAY, 1 inch to 1 mile). Boxes were reported to be 50 to 75 feet inland from beach where there are 2 wrecked barges 50 yards apart. Bridge wide enough for M/T was observed near ORSEN at 1 mile west of SILIMATI POINT along coast. Many well used trucks were seen in area 730690. A column of greyish smoke was seen 40 miles South of BORGEN BAY as our airplanes approached the bay from CAPE BUSHING. Weather over target was CAVU.

12 A-20's of the 90th Squadron (355 FF) bombed and strafed targets No. 16A and No. 16B (2750 yards to 3650 yards Northwest of NATALO POINT on coast) from 1510/L to 1528/L. 80 X 100 lb. and 4 X 250 lb. A/S and delay demo. bombs were dropped on the targets. Bombing was excellent with not more than 10 bombs falling outside assigned targets. Results were unobserved. Targets were thoroughly strafed with 17600 X .50 cal. and 20 X 20 mm. H/G position at 736901 (This and following references to SILIMATI POINT, 1/20000) was reported silenced by strafing. Slight, inaccurate M/G fire came from this position and from position at 736887. Photos were taken of the attack. The assigned targets were reported to be well chewed up, swampy with the bomb craters filled with water. TARGET HILL and Hill 660 (?) seemed to be heavily damaged. 2 serviceable bridges were reported at 744372 and 737851. Coastal track appeared well used. Over the target, there were broken night cumulus clouds at 15000 feet with visibility of 15 miles.

REIN BAY-BORGEN BAY: 6 P-39Q's of the 82nd Ron Squadron (355 FP) carried out a reconnaissance and strafing mission from REIN BAY to BORGEN BAY from 1130/L to 1215/L. 3 small huts, 300 yards inland on TAMO RIVER were strafed and ids with unknown results. A well camouflaged serviceable barge drawn up on shore on East side of BORGEN BAY was strafed and the stern was set on fire. One serviceable barge 100 yards East of SILIMATI POINT drawn up on edge of shore was hit and started to fill with water. A serviceable barge with bow drawn up on beach about 2 miles West of SILIMATI POINT was hit causing an explosion and fire in stern. 50 X .37 mm and 355 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing. A 2 masted fishing boat half filled with water was seen on beach at ROTTOCK BAY. A bridge was seen at BAGELIS (?) that appeared large enough for M/T. One more bridge and one fairly substantial bridge were observed at NATALO POINT. One pilot reported what appeared to be 2 oil storage tanks in good condition near BAGELIS. Weather over targets: Broken cumulus and stratus from 2500 to 6000 feet.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (355 QQ) completed 100% on armed weather recce to the CAPE GLOUCESTER area from 2052/22/L to 0029/23/L. 41 X 100 lb. incen. demo. bombs and 30 rifle grenades were dropped from 9000 feet in vicinity of No. 1 and 2 strips at CAPE GLOUCESTER with nil results other than bomb flashes observed.

WANDOKAI: 6 B-25's of the 19th Squadron (355 RR) bombed the WANDOKAI area from 0909/L to 0918/L. 12 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped in 2 runs over target from 4200/4500 feet. Bombing was considered excellent. 29 bombs hit in the assigned targets. One large explosion with white smoke was observed in timber along beach Northeast of WANDOKAI.

Nil other results except bomb explosions were observed. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Photos were taken of the bombing. One barge considered unserviceable was seen at 167117 (Ref. HUBIKA Photomap, #0363). Weather was clear over target with high cirro-stratus at 20000 feet, 2/10 covered, visibility unlimited.

12 A-20's of the 90th Squadron (355 SS) attacked enemy positions in the HUBIKA area from 0915/L to 0947/L. 88 X 100 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. Bombing was excellent. Much dust and smoke was observed from bombing. Targets were thoroughly strafed with 15650 X .50 cal. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. A truck was seen on the coastal track North of the target headed for WANDOK.I. Grass fires were seen in target. Weather was C/VU over target.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (355 LL) completed 45% to 50% of an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Recce was incomplete due to engine failure. Airplane took off at 0650/L and landed at 1553/L. No. 4 engine of B-24 quit when airplane was 25 miles S ushment of MANUS ISLAND and airplane returned to base. A column of white smoke was seen at 1114/L from Southwest tip of WURRILU ISLAND. There were nil other sightings.

1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (355 MM) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplane took off at 0620/L and landed at 1935/L. At 1149/L, 1 Fox-Tare-Charlie was sighted at 0320S-15000E, heading 30 degrees magnetic at a speed of 12 knots. 2 X 500 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at this vessel at 1155/L from 8000 feet. Bomb missed by 100 feet. A/A fire from 2 small escort vessels prevented further observation of attack. The 2 escort vessels were 1 to 2 miles astern of the Fox-Tare-Charlie and travelling at 15 knots. 2 X 500 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at 1613/L from 9000 feet at approximately 11 airplanes which were seen on and along No. 1 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Nil damage was apparent. The airplanes appeared serviceable and No. 1 strip appeared unserviceable. Weather was generally fair with light overcast.

1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (355 MM) completed 95% of an armed recce North of the equator. Northern-most 5% was not covered due to gasoline shortage. 4 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at 1419/L at buildings on PETER HARBOR on GARDEN ISLAND from 8000 feet. Bombs overshot due to rack malfunction with nil damage observed. 1 hospital ship was sighted and photographed at 0134S-14942E on a course of 270 degrees at speed of 12 knots. Weather was good throughout most of area searched.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (355 OO) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. 2 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped at 1429/L from 7000 feet at a bridge over the ANGEK RIVER. Bombs hit approximately 100 to 150 North of bridge with nil damage observed. Slight, light, inaccurate A/A fire came from position on North shore of AWRIN ISLAND and slight, medium, accurate from position at Southeast end of GASMATA strip. 2 barges, one beached and the other offshore, were sighted at 1155/L at 0525S-15200E. Barges were not camouflaged but serviceability was undetermined. 2 fires were observed in back of beach at 0630S-15040E at 1415/L. Weather: 4/10 to 5/10 cumulus from 2000/5000 feet, visibility good except for occasional haze.

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2 B-24's, of the 63rd Squadron (355 TT) were unable to complete an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA because of weather. Airplanes returned to base from about 20 miles off NEW GUINEA coast. Airplanes took off at 2205/L and returned to base at 2335/L. There was a Southeast-Northwest front in the HUON GULF with no breaks, and thunderstorms 20 miles off North coast of NEW GUINEA.

B. Ground Forces.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Air raids during morning of 22 December resulted in 2 officers and 1 enlisted man killed, 1 LCV destroyed and some damage to vehicles and medical stores. It is reported that our patrol which departed from the ARAWE area on 21 December to reconnoiter the mouth of the ITNE RIVER was intercepted by 6 Jap barges in the vicinity of CAPE PEIHO. Consolidation of area and patrolling continues.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

An unverified report at 0502 hours on the 23 of december indicates that a great number of Jap barges are between ARAWE and CAPE BUSHING.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
23 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/F	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7	5					12	-3
DAGUA	14	9	2				25	-7
WEWAK	13		5			6	24	±2
BORAM	16						16	-4
AMAR	8						8	0
ALEXISHAFEN			6				6	±6
HOLLANDIA	10	46	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	68	75	36			6	185	-6

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	7	13	2	14		7	43	0
VUNAKANAU	17	20	13	1			51	0
LAKUNAI	38	5		21			64	0
RAPOPO	11	10					21	0
HARBOR					2	18	20	0
PAMPAI	11						11	0
TOBERA	20			13			33	0
BORPOP		4					4	0
Total	104	52	15	49	2	25	247	0

COMMENTS:

1. 12 minutes previous to taking of photographs of BORAM today (23/12/43), 10/12 SSF attacked 4 P-47's on a fighter sweep over WEWAK area with result that 1 TONY was definitely destroyed. 9 of these SSF have been tentatively returned to WEWAK drome. WEWAK, BORAM, DAGUA, BUT and ALEXISHAFEN were photoed today following strike.

2. NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND drones count remains an estimate.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

WEWAK DROME AND TOWNSHIP: 22/12/43. (355 G)

A series of good obliques photos cover the runway, Mission Buildings and Wewak Township. There is a train of parafrags descending across the runway near east end, but nil serviceable A/P visible. Several parafrag bombs hit north and in the immediate vicinity of the large Mission Building. Others were seen in the general area of the smaller Mission Buildings. Bombs were bursting in Wewak Township causing considerable smoke, damage from which was concealed by clouds. Numerous trucks and cars were dispersed in township area. The caves in the bank at the north end of Wewak Point, probably used for personnel and stores.

Many piles of stores including oil drums, boxes, and some canvas covered, are along the beach and road at the north side of Miriwi Plantation. Two light gun emplacements, in which the gun crews were crouching, are along the beach in the stores area and just east of the east jetty. The two jetties north of Miriwi Plantation were destroyed in bombing 1 December, 1943.

In harbor between Cape Boram and Wewak Point are one freighter 7000 tons, one freighter-transport 3800 tons, one small coaster and one engine-aft freighter 2000 tons of which latter probably damaged by near miss off starboard side and heavily strafed and hit. This ship had Maltese Cross on a white cross on its port side aft. Nine double barges near ships, two of which were seen in the first photo to be laying smoke screens around two largest ships.

BORAM: 22/12/43. (355 G)

Fifteen (15) good obliques give partial coverage of Boram Airdrome and vicinity. Four (4) A/P along runway appear serviceable, of which two (2) are M/B, one (1) SSF and one (1) L/B. Three (3) SSF in northeast dispersal and two (2) SSF in west end dispersal appear serviceable. Other A/P may be in northwest and south side dispersal areas as these are not covered by photos.

Bombs destroyed one (1) U/C SSF on west end of runway and other bombs are bursting on north side taxiway near two (2) SSF in revetments. Several fires and one explosion are seen in coconut grove south of airdrome. Other small fires are in area south of coast between Cape Boram and Mission Pt.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 21/12/43. (354 FF)

Clear photos show increased truck activity on hill 4500 feet southeast of east end of A/2 strip. Possible A/G positions on this hill. Several bombs are bursting in vicinity.

ENEMY SHIPPING (0235S-14935E): 22/12/43. (355 HH)

Excellent photos show an unidentified hospital ship of approximately 8000 tons. Five crosses are clearly visible on topside.

ENEMY SHIPPING (0225N-14940E): 21/12/43. (354 DD)

Poor photo shows an unidentified destroyer with bomb bursting approximately 80 feet almost dead ahead. Slight damage probably incurred.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

356 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0705/23/L to 1320/23/L.

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

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Scattered clouds, 2000/3000 feet, cumulus, 4/10 covered to 9000/10000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, scattered clouds from 800 to 2000 feet. On return; building up over mountains from 10000 to 14000 feet, cumulus, 6/10 covered.

356 B. WEATHER RECCE - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0503/23/L to 0805/23/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE ISLAND, WAU, MARKHAM VALLEY, NADZAB, LAE, FINSCHHAFEN, SALAMAUA to base.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0644/L, frontal activity off South coast of NEW GUINEA, scattered stratus on slopes, visibility limited to 4/8 miles due to thick haze. WAU, 0710/L, low, scattered to broken stratus on slopes and at estimated 5000 feet in Valley. MARKHAM VALLEY, 0725/L, low scattered light stratus and strato-cumulus, 500/1000 feet, scattered stratus and light strato-cumulus 5500/6000 feet, cumulo-cumulus at 8000/10000 feet, widely scattered. NADZAB, 0730/L, same as MARKHAM VALLEY except stratus and strato-cumulus at 5500/6000 feet becoming broken. LAE, 0735/L, scattered stratus, 6000 feet with alto-cumulus at estimated 10000/12000 feet. FINSCHHAFEN, (observed from LAE), 0738/L, scattered stratus and strato-cumulus at 5000/8000 feet, middle stratus at 10000/12000 feet, 4/10 covered. SALAMAUA, 0745/L, middle stratus at 8000/10000 feet, 3/10 covered.

356 C. WEATHER RECCE - 1 B-25D-1, 498th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0830/23/L to 1230/23/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Weather recce to WEWAK area and search for missing B-25D-1.

RESULTS: Weather mission was 80% completed. Weather prevented airplane getting closer than 100 miles from WEWAK. 1 of missing B-25D-1's was located at 0946/L about 19 miles on a bearing of 320 degrees from DUMPU on edge of RAMU RIVER. 3 crew members of this airplane were sighted on sand bar on RAMU RIVER 16 miles on course 320 degrees from DUMPU at 0950/L. Note and medicine kit were dropped to crew and report was made to GUSAP as to their position. There were NIL sightings of other missing B-25D-1.

WEATHER: 0520S-144548: 0545/L, low clouds, 8000 feet, cumulus, 1/10 covered, visibility under 30 miles. 0518S-144308: 0545/L, overcast, 5000 feet, scattered stratus, visibility 20 miles. 0505S-144358: 0605/L, fresh from ground to 16000 feet, visibility under 2 miles. PAIS, 1200/L, scattered cumulus, 5/10 covered, base 5000 feet, tops 10000 feet.

356 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: NIL.

TARGET: DUMPU Airdrome.

RESULTS: This Squadron lost fighter cover and other Squadrons of Group due to weather taking PRINCE ALEXANDER RANGE 25 miles South of WEWAK. Formation circled several times then at 1020/L returned directly to base. Alternate target was not attacked due to lack of fighter cover.

SIGHTINGS: 1 belly landed P-38 was sighted 30 miles Northwest of [illegible]. There was no sign of activity. Part of small white chute was seen hanging from tree in thickly wooded area at 0556N-1435OE, believed possible vacating chute.

WEATHER: Base 1st, scattered alto-cumulus at 9000 feet, cirro-stratus at 18000 feet, visibility 15 miles, no cumulonimbus. SLEEK RIVER Valley, overcast at 800 feet. 8 tenths fresh Area HMNB B.M to Northwest.

356 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25C-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1009/23/I.

TARGET: WEWAK strip and Townsip.

RESULTS: 28 X 500 lb. E/11 fuse instantaneous delay bombs were dropped as follows: 2 at Southwest end of strip; 2 at Northeast end of strip; 2 in Township; 6 near West side of strip; 6 near shore line West of WEWAK POINT; 4 in dump area West of MISSION POINT and 4 West of WEWAK POINT near shoreline. Bombing was excellent. One fire giving thick grey smoke 400 feet by 1500 feet was started in dump area West of MISSION POINT. Results were otherwise unobserved. WEWAK MISSION, Southeast revetment area, strip and Township were strafed with 11215 X .50 cal. and 950 X .30 cal. 1 DINAH, believed serviceable, was damaged by strafing. Several unidentified aircraft serviceability undetermined, in revetment near Southeast corner of strip were strafed with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the attack.

INTERCEPTION: Nil.

A/A: Moderate, medium, inaccurate. Intense, light, accurate A/A and A/C fire from WEWAK MISSION, MISSION POINT, Northwest corner of strip and Township.

SIGHTINGS: 10 to 12 well built grass huts were seen in a well laid out area 2 to 3 miles Southwest of large garden plot at WEWAK. 20 to 25 barges were seen along the Southshore of WEWAK TOWNSHIP PENINSULA. Numerous others were pulled along the beach near the barges. White tailed P-25 in WEWAK LAKE is still visible.

GENERAL: Fighter was excellent.

WEATHER: Enroute, 2/10 stratus in Valleys, 4/10 alto-stratus at 15000 feet over Ranges. WEWAK VALLEY, 8/10 strato cumulus at 6000 feet, 2/10 stratus at 1000 feet. SLEEK Valley, 8/10 strato-cumulus, bases 2000 feet. Target, 6/10 cumulus, 2000 to 8000 feet, 5/10 alto-cumulus at 12000 feet, visibility good at low altitude. On return, cumulus building up with some tops to 16000 feet.

356 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25C's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1007/23/I to 1008/23/I.

TARGET: WEWAK strip and Townsip.

RESULTS: 180 clusters of 3 X 23 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped across Southeast dispersal area, in Northwest dispersal area, across strip, in Northeast dispersal and workshop area and the Township. 13 clusters fell in Township while others fell across strip and revetments. One large explosion was followed by heavy black smoke which covered WEWAK Township. Several small fires and dirty smoke fires were started along Northwest end of strip. 77 X 75 mm were fired across target. Gunner fire of Squadron shot

[illegible] was walked up across strip and the entire Township Peninsula. Several small fires were started in Township. 1 X 75 mm Shell was seen to explode to side of [illegible] MISSION and believed to have damaged it. The entire area was strafed with 6530 X .50 cal. and 1350 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the attack.

INTERCEPTION: Nil.

A/A: Intense to moderate, heavy and medium, accurate & inaccurate, decreasing in intensity and accuracy during our attack. 4 to 5 bursts of heavy A/A at 100 feet were evaded by our first flight's dropping beneath them. Slight, A/C fire, accurate to inaccurate. As our formation [illegible] serving the target, heavy A/A bursts were observed following formation up the [illegible] Channel. Eight or more guns of A/A fire was from two position in Township and South of strip.

SIGHTINGS: 3 unidentifiable BETTYS were seen on South side of strip near East end. One unidentified SSF was seen in Township at Northwest corner of strip, believed to be undergoing repairs. One gunner reported 5 to 7 unidentified SSF painted white with red markings parked in a circle near Northwest end of drome. 1 supply schooner and 4 to 5 barges were seen pulled up along WENAK Jetty area. 2 parts of a sunken vessel were sticking out of water 2 miles offshore and slightly East of MISSION POINT. One unidentified part of sunken vessel was observed 2 mile off shore 4 mile West of CAPE BOWEN. Airplanes in Northwest revetment area are wrecks. 1 crew reported 4 Super-Charlie's heading out to sea from 2 mile West of CAPE BOWEN.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent. 1 airplane of this Squadron landed at NAD AB at 1200/L due to gas shortage and returned to base at 1455/L--Results are included in this report.

WEATHER: See 40[illegible]th Squadron Report.

356 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25G's, 483rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1007/23/L to 1008/23/L (2) 1021/23/L.

TARGET: (1) WENAK strip and Township. (3 B-25G's).
(2) ANNA PLANTATION. (5 B-25G's).

RESULTS: Squadron formation became broken up in rain low weather South of PRINCE ALEXANDER Island. 1 B-25 leading the unit completely and returning directly to base. 3 B-25G's followed the 822nd Squadron in to attack WENAK strip and Township while the other 5 B-25G's attacked the secondary target.

(1) 32 clusters of 3 X 20 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped on the S demolition dispersal area and Township with unobserved results. 20 X 75 mm were fired with the following results: 3 shells hit Island in building causing fire with undetermined damage; 2 shells hit small wooden house Northwest of [illegible] building blowing out one side. Remainder 4 rounds were fired in S demolition dispersal area, one Kleeblatt area with unobserved results.

(2) 120 clusters of 3 X 20 lb. parafrag bombs were dropped as follows: 40 on ANNA VILLAGE causing a column of black smoke rising to 50 feet; 40 in ANNA PLANTATION with unobserved results and 30 across COMMON strip with unobserved results. 86 X 75 mm were fired in Plantation

area with unobserved results.

A total of 5495 K .50 cal. and 1100 K .30 cal. were expended in strafing both targets. Photos were taken of the attack.

INTERCEPTION: NIL.

A/A: VEVAK: Moderate, heavy and medium, accurate to inaccurate bursting 100 to 150 feet below and above formation from following positions: heavy A/A 700 yards N.W. of both disposal areas; heavy A/A just off South shore of center island; heavy A/A on North edge of S disposal area. Intense A/G and light A/A, accurate to inaccurate from position on near jetty area of VEVAK POINT and from VEVAK POINT.

NAN: About 2 displaced over NAN; NAN received moderate, medium, accurate A/A fire from position on Northeast side of COUSIN SHIP.

SIGHTINGS: 4 unidentified SCF were seen in clearing at S extremity of reported revetment area at VEVAK. 1 small vessel, possibly lugger, was seen just off PISCIP POINT. One unidentified SCF was seen in the Northwest corner of HUNI strip. One individual reported 2 medium size A/C's at VEVAK; 1 Ki-Dai-Shiki 2 miles East of CAPE NAMA and 1 Oscar-Otsuka 4 miles East of CAPE NORAM. One individual reported 5 small ships, possibly barges, in Ndapa BAY. 2 crew members of one airplane reported definitely seeing from 200 yards, a pile of 8 to 10 large bombs and drill or shells in a SERUK SIV R VEVAK at approximately 0420S-14345E. Both men are very definite about the sighting but due to weather they do not vouch for the exact position. One crew member reported 3 medium ships in a small lake between KAVALLO LAKE and the SERUK SIV R. 4 or 5 gun flashes were seen coming from this area.

GENERAL: One airplane returned to base from target area without attacking target due to solid formation in weather. One airplane landed at CUSIP to refuel and returned to base at 1455/L. One airplane landed at KAVALLO to refuel and returned to base at 1500/L. All airplanes re-planned in this report.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered cumulus, tops 7000/8000 to 8 miles West of VEVAK. SERUK SIV R valley, covered by layer of cumulus with base at 200 feet. Over VEVAK, 6/10 covered at 6000 feet. Over PLANTATION, weather good with slight haze, thunderstorms building up over water. On return, 6/10 to 8/10 cumulus with tops at 12000 feet.

356 C. SEARCH - 1 B-25D-1, 90th Squadron. (PRELIMINARY from PATF).

TIME OF SEARCH: 0900/63/L to 1130/63/L.

MISSION: Search for missing B-25 in KAVALLO VALLEY.

RESULTS: There were all sightings of missing B-25D-1 (# 000). Airplane (# 071) and entire crew were sighted at 0940/L approximately 12 miles Northwest of DUSPU. Airplane signalled to crew on ground, signals acknowledged, message was dropped. Airplane returned immediately to DUSPU and arranged to have native patrol sent to pick up crew.

356 J. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 501st Squadron. (PRELIMINARY from FATF).

TIME OF MISSION: 1130/23/L to 1540/23/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission from base to GOODLN DAM ISLAND to DOBODURA.

RESULTS: Mission was completed 100%. Airplane landed at DOBODURA at 1540/L and remained there. A white column of white smoke was sighted rising to 500/1000 feet over MILNE BAY at 1240/L.

356 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: NIL.

AREA OF PHOTO: SAMBOR.

RESULTS: Airplane was over SAMBOR from 1030/L to 1015/L at 20000 feet. NIL photos were taken due to weather.

SIGHTINGS: At 1000/L, 17 barges were sighted above FORTIFICATION POINT on course SOUTHEAST at speed of 15 knots.

WEATHER: Ranges, CAVU over area.

356 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) NIL. (2) 0930/23/L to 0945/23/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) BAKOK BAY area. (2) MADANG area.

RESULTS: (1) NIL photos were taken as BAKOK BAY was closed in.

(2) Operational photos were taken in the MADANG area from 33000 feet. There were NIL sightings.

WEATHER: Ranges, scattered cumulus over area to base.

356 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 1042/23/L to 1050/23/L. (2) 1112/23/L. (3) 1135/23/L. (4) 1144/23/L. (5) 1050/23/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) WEWAK Airdrome. (2) AITAPE-HANSA. (3) PALAS POINT to MADANG. (4) MADANG. (5) WEWAK.

RESULTS: (1) Operational photos were taken of WEWAK, WEWAK, BUT and DAGUA Airdromes from 33000 feet.

(2) Operational photos were taken of AITAPE-HANSA Airdrome from 29000 feet.

(3) Operational photos were taken from PALAS POINT to MADANG, from 33000 feet.

(4) Operational photos were taken of MADANG Airdrome from 29000 feet.

(5) Operational photos were taken of WEWAK from 32000 feet.

SIGHTINGS: At 1045/L, there were NIL sightings in WEWAK HARBOR. One small coast was seen at North side of KRAKAU ISLAND and 5 barges, 60 tons each, on South side of KRAKAU ISLAND. At 1120/L, one small boat approximately 50 tons, was seen in HANSA B.M.

WEATHER: WEWAK, 4/10 low cumulus, scattered cumulo-nimbus in the area. RAMU VALLEY area, 9/10 cumulus to 32000 feet.

356 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0915/23/L to 1015/23/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: MARKHAM-RAMU-FINSCHHAFEN areas.

RESULTS 1 F-4 was unable to take photos of assigned areas due to clouds. Other F-4 took operational photos of DUMPU, KAIGULAN, GUSAP, KAIAPIT and NADZAB Airdromes. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: LAE-NADZAB, stratus from 8000 to 20000 feet. Parts of MARKHAM-RAMU VALLEYS, CAVU.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

4 P-47's of the 341st Fighter Squadron on a fighter sweep to WEWAK, one unfound 8 to 10 ZEKES and 2 TONYS over BORAM at 1030/L. 1 TONI was definitely destroyed.

1 P-38 of the 432nd Fighter Squadron escorting a PBY to MUSTK LAGOON definitely destroyed 1 SALLY.

SET TERRY,
Maj Air Corps,
A-2, Asst Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

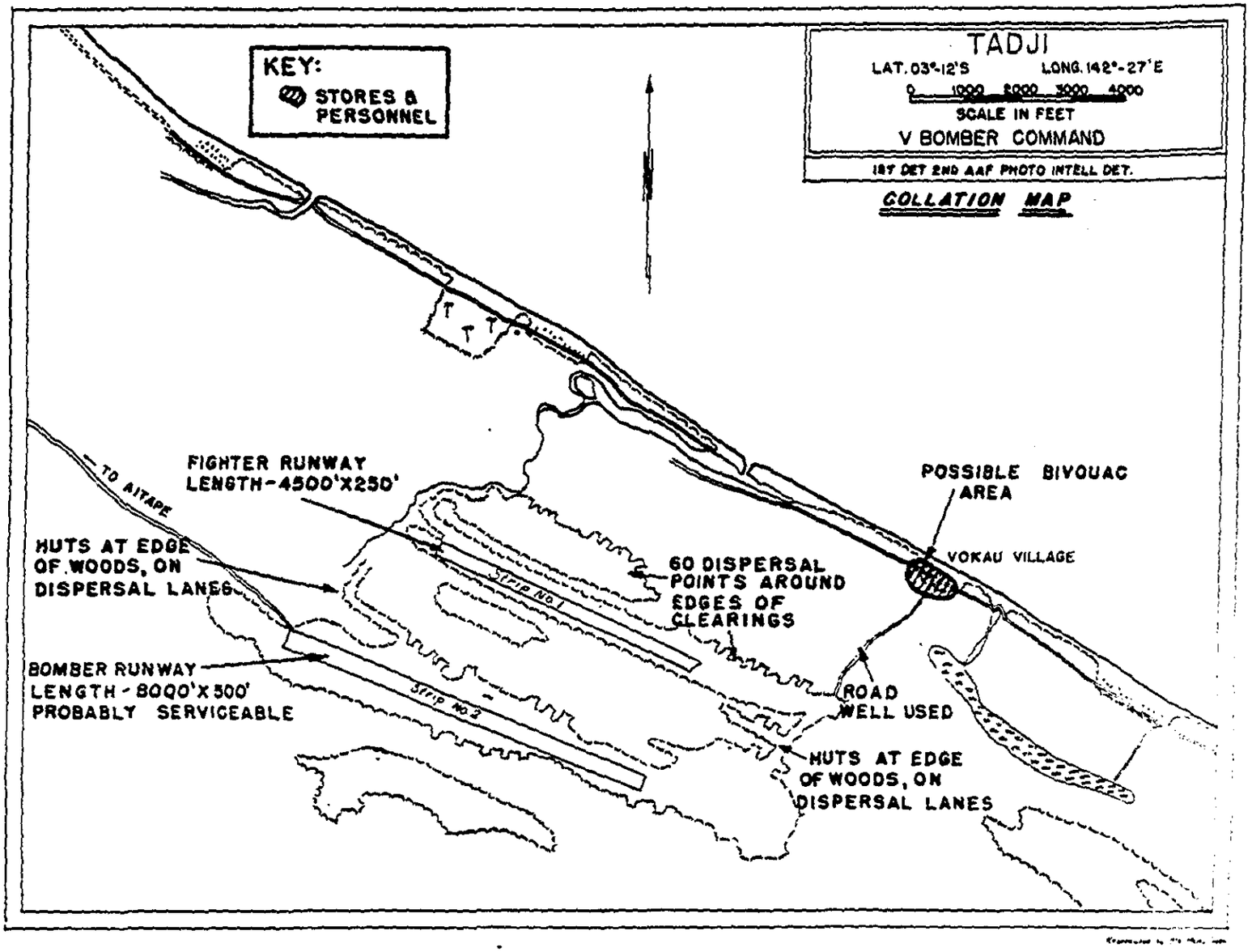
Paul E. Nauman

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

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY

TADJI

23/12/43



ALGIERS:

TWO PRINCIPAL STRONGHOLDS IN THE GERMAN DEFENSE LINE BELOW ROME SAN VITTORE AND ORTONA WERE UNDER INTENSE ASSAULT BY AMERICAN AND CANADIAN TROOPS WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CAPTURE OF EITHER OR BOTH WAS EXPECTED MOMENTARILY. AMERICAN INFANTRY WAS REPORTED TO HAVE FOUGHT ITS WAY INTO THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAN VITTORE FORTIFIED VILLAGE SIX MILES SOUTHEAST OF THE CITY OF CASSINO ON THE MAIN INLAND HIGHWAY TO ROME WHILE CANADIAN TANKS AND INFANTRY OF THE EIGHTH ARMY HAD BEEN FIGHTING THROUGH THE STREETS OF ORTONA ADRIATIC ANCHOR OF THE NAZI LINE SINCE MONDAY NIGHT. SEIZURE OF SAN VITTORE WOULD OPEN THE WAY TO CASSINO AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WEEKS GIVE LT. GEN. CLARK'S FIFTH ARMY TANKS A CHANCE TO TAKE SOME OF THE TERRIFIC BURDEN OFF THE WEARY INFANTRY WHICH HAS BEEN STRUGGLING FORWARD FOOT BY FOOT THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS. A LOW PLAIN SPREADS OUT BEYOND CASSINO TO AND ROME 70 MILES AWAY.

CAIRO:

THERE WERE INDICATIONS HERE WEDNESDAY THAT MARSHAL JOSEP BROZ (TITO) WILL HAVE TO REGROUP HIS PARTISAN FORCES WHICH HAVE BEEN BADLY DISPERSED BY BY SUPERIOR GERMAN STRENGTH IN BOSNIA MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA BEFORE ANY MAJOR ANTI NAZI ASSAULT IS POSSIBLE. IT NOW IS KNOWN HOWEVER, THAT TITO HAS BEEN RECEIVING DIRECT SUPPORT BY AMERICAN AND BRITISH BOMBING AND STRAFING PLANES AND THERE IS A GENERAL EXPECTATION THAT THIS SUPPORT WILL BE ACCELERATED.

LONDON:

A GRAND DIVISION OF THE ALLIED COMMAND APPEARED POSSIBLE WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH GEN. DWIGHT EISENHOWER COMMANDER IN CHEIF FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN AND GEN. GEORGE MARSHALL RETAINING A HIGH AND PERHAPS HEIGHTENED STAFF POSITION WITH BOTH THE EUROPEAN AND PACIFIC WARS. GEN. EISENHOWERS EMERGENCE AS LIKELY TOP COMMANDER FOR THE LEAP FROM THE WEST COINCIDENT WITH DISCLOSURE OF GEN. MARSHALLSS TOUR OF THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC WAR THEATRE. THIS INSPECTION ON WHICH MARSHALL WENT DIRECTLY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCES OF THE ALLIED LEADERS IN A TRIP AROUND THE WHOLE OF THE WORLD SHARPLY EMPHASIZED HIS GLOBAL POSITION AND PARTICULARLY HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR A PHASE OF THE WAR IN WHICH AMERICAN PUBLIC INTEREST EXCEEDS THE BRITISH AT PRESENT IN THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN.

BENT ON BOMBING NORTHWEST GERMANY FROM THE WAR AMERICAN FLYING FORTRESSES AND LIBERATORS R TURNED TO THAT STRONGLY DEFENDED INDUSTRIAL AREA WEDNESDAY AND STRUCK THEIR TENTH SMASHING DAYLIGHT BLOW IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS. AT THE SAME TIME RAF MOSQUITOS, BOSTONS AND TYPHOONS ESCORTED BY RAF DOMINION AND ALLIED FIGHTERS IN GREAT FORCE CROSSED THE CHANNEL FOR A SEPARATE ATTACK ON WHAT WAS OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED ONLY AS MILITARY OBJECTIVES. THE PLANES WHICH WENT OUT IN SUCH NUMBERS THAT IT APPEARED TO BE ONE OF THE GREATEST SUSTAINED CROSS CHANNEL ASSAULTS OF THE WAR RETURNED WITH FOUR **MISSING** SOME SOURCES SUGGESTED THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN ATTACKING THE NAZIS SECRET ROCKET GUN EMPLACEMENTS FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE DAY AS THEY STREAMED INTO FRANCE AND BACK UNTIL DARK.

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL HAS MADE SUCH RAPID STRIDES TOWARD RECOVERY THAT DAILY BULLETINS OF HIS CONDITION HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SAID WEDNESDAY. WEDNESDAY WAS THE FIRST DAY SINCE HIS ILLNESS WAS ANNOUNCED DEC. 16 THAT NO BULLETIN WAS ISSUED.

MOSCOW:

FIGHTING DESPERATELY TO HOLD VITEBSK HUB POSITION OF THE NORTHWESTERN RUSSIAN FRONT THE GERMANS MOVED IN FRESH TANK UNITS AND LARGE FORCES OF BOMBERS AND FIGHTERS WEDNESDAY TO MEET GEN. IVAN BAGRAMIANS ADVANCING FIRST BALTIC ARMY. THE NEWSPAPER PRAVDA SAID THAT DESPITE LOW CLOUDS FOG AND SNOW RUSSIAN PLANES IN GROUPS OF 100 HAD MET GERMAN TANKS IN THE VITEBSK AREA AND CONCENTRATED ON BASIC DEFENSE POINTS. THE MOST SEVERE FIGHTING APPEARED BE BE NORTH OF VITEBSK ON A HIGHWAY LEADING TO NEVEL.

RUSSIAN:

THE RUSSIAN BALTIC ARMY SWEEPING SOUTHWARD UNDER ONE OF THE HEAVIEST ARTILLERY BARRAGES OF THE WAR BROUGHT ITS BIG GUNS WITHIN RANGE OF THE NAZI BASE OF VITEBSK WEDNESDAY AS IT CAPTURED 20 MORE POPULATED PLACES IN ITS NINE DAY OLD WINTER OFFENSIVE.

NEW YORK:

SEVEN MEN, WHO ASSISTED ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISOR WILLIAM E. DUNNIGAN OF THE NEW YORK DISTRICT FEDERAL ALCOHOL TAX UNIT SAID WERE MEMBERS OF A MILLION DOLLAR BLACK MARKET RING IN WHISKEY, WERE RELEASED IN BAIL RANGING FROM 1500 TO 2000 DOLLARS WHEN THEY APPEARED BEFORE U.S. COMMISSIONER GARRETT W. COTTER OF A COMPLAINT FILED BY ASSISTANT U. S. ATTORNEY J. CE[illegible] GREGAN. THE SEVENTH WAS ILL BUT A BONDSMAN SIGNED HIS BAIL BOND AT HIS HOTEL. THE GOVERNMENT CHARGES THEY CONSPIRED TO VIOLATE THE OPA CEILING PRICES ON LIQUOR.

HOLLYWOOD:

CHARLIE CHAPLIN IS WORKING ON THE SCRIPT OF HIS NEXT SCREEN PLAY. HIS STUDIO SAID WEDNESDAY AND HIS LAWYERS ARE WORKING ON A CONTRACT FOR ALICE EALAND TO BE HIS LEADING LADY. THE PICTURE WILL BE ADAPTED WITH AN AMUSING ANGLE FROM THE OLD FAULTS TALE OF THE FRENCH WIFE SLAYER BLUEBEARD. MR. CHAPLIN IS MAKING A COMEDY OF IT ADDED THE STUDIO SPOKESMAN WHEN A REPORTER WONDERED HOW SUCH A GORY PIECE COULD BE MADE CHAPLINESQUE. MISS EALAND 24 YEAR OLD MEDIUM BLOND WHO WAS A MODEL IN NEW YORK ANNOUNCED SHE HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH CHAPLIN BUT THE STUDIO CALLED HER ANNOUNCEMENT PREMATURE.

NEW YORK:

AN ANONYMOUS TIP TO THE FBI LED TO THE ARREST WEDNESDAY OF GERMAN-BORN GERT HANS VON GONTARD, ALIAS GEORGE GRANT, A WEALTHY CAFE SOCIETY FIGURE IDENTIFIED BY FEDERAL OFFICIALS AS A GRANDSON OF THE LATE ADOLPHUS BUSCH STRAUS BREWER ON A COMPLAINT CHARGING CONSPIRACY TO EVADE MILITARY SERVICE.

PACIFIC WAR:

JAPAN IS STARTING ACTION IN SUPPORT OF ITS DECLARATION THAT NEW BRITAIN MUST BE DEFENDED AT ALL COSTS AND HAS BEGUN MOVING ENEMY SHIPS, PLANES AND TROOPS TOWARDS THAT KEYSTONE ISLAND PREPARATORY TO A BATTLE RIVALLING GUADALCANAL IN VICIOUSNESS AND FAR OUTDOING IT IN SCALE IS IN THE MAKING. MAKING THEIR MOST VIGOROUS SORTIES YET AGAINST THE AMERICAN BEACHHEAD AT ARAWE, NEW BRITAIN, JAPANESE AERIAL FORCES MADE THREE SHARP ATTACKS ON UNITED STATES POSITIONS AND LOST SIXTEEN PLANES, GENERAL MACARTHUR REPORTED IN A COMMUNIQUE DATED THURSDAY. SIXTH ARMY TROOPS MADE HEAVY DESPITE THIS AND EXTENDED THEIR POSITIONS. A JAPANESE DESTROYER AND TWO MEDIUM SIZED CARGO VESSELS WERE HIT BY AMERICAN BOMBERS AT KAVIENG, NEW [illegible] STATION ON THE ROUTE FROM TRUK TO RABAUL MAJOR NEW BRITAIN FORTRESS. THREE OTHER SHIPS WERE HIT THE PREVIOUS DAY IN THE SAME AREA WHICH FOR A MONTH PREVIOUS HAD BEEN A GRAVEYARD OF ENEMY SHIPPING. RAIDERS TOO REPORTED THAT GASMATA, NORTH COAST AFTER LAST MONTH'S CONCENTRATED BOMBARDMENT ONCE MORE IS FULL OF ENEMY VESSELS AND ONE PLANE COUNTED MORE THAN TWENTY CRAFT AT ANCHOR. LINKED WITH THIS PLANE AND SHIP MOVEMENT INCREASE IN THE VITAL ZONE WAS THE REPORTED TREK OF JAP TROOPS FROM THEIR CONCENTRATIONS IN SOUTHERN BOUGAINVILLE TOWARDS SHORES FRONTING ON NEW BRITAIN FOR POSSIBLE REINFORCEMENT OF THAT BASTION. CAPE GLOUCESTER, A JAP RANGE JUNCTION CLOSE TO ARAWE BEACHHEAD, WAS BLASTED BY 205 MORE TONS OF BOMBS RAISING THE EXPLOSIVE FORCE DROPPED ON THAT POINT THIS MONTH TO NEARLY 2000 TONS.

NEW GUINEA:

AERIAL WARFARE OVER THE PACIFIC FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS TO THE SOLOMONS AND NEW GUINEA SPOTLIGHTED ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC WAR ZONE WEDNESDAY IN THE WAKE OF A FLYING VISIT TO THE BATTLE AREAS BY THE AMERICAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL. ALLIED WARPLANES SEEMED TO BE ON THE LOOSE IN ALL AREAS HAMMERING AT JAPANESE SHIPPING, AIR FIELDS AND SHORE POSITIONS. THESE ATTACKS WERE CARRIED OUT IN THE

NEW GUINEA: CONT.

RABAUL AREA OF NEW BRITAIN AND IN NEW GUINEA, THE NORTHERN SOLOMONS AND THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. A JAPANESE AIR ATTACK ON AN EMPTY CONVOY OFF THE HUON PENINSULA OFF NEW GUINEA RESULTED IN THE SINKING OF ONE SMALL VESSEL GEN. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR REPORTED. THE ENEMY PAID A HIGH COST,14 PLANES DESTROYED AND PROBABLY SIX MORE.

LIBERATORS OF THE SEVENTH ARMY AIR FORCE CARRIED THE SUSTAINED AIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MARSHALLS INTO THE 13TH STRAIGHT DAY WITH A RAID MONDAY ON THE TAROA AIR BASE ON MALOELAP ATOLL. THIRTY ZEROS AROSE TO DEFEND THE AIRFIELD. FOUR WERE SHOT DOWN AND PROBABLY FIVE MORE. THREE OF THE BIG LIBERATORS WERE LOST. THAT BROUGHT THE SCORE SINCE MID-NOVEMBER TO 95 ENEMY PLANES DEFINITELY DESTROYED AND 30 PROBABLES AGAINST THE LOSS OF SIX AMERICAN BOMBERS.

TARAWA:

THE NEWLY-WON AIR STRIP ON BETIO ISLAND IN THE TARAWA ATOLL TODAY WAS OFFICIALLY NAMED "HAWKINS FIELD" IN MEMORY OF MARINE LT. WILLIAM D. HAWKINS, ELPASO, TEXAS WHO DESTROYED SIX JAPANESE MACHINE GUN AND RIFLE POSITIONS AND WAS WOUNDED THREE TIMES BEFORE BEING KILLED IN ACTION.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

DEC 1943

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 358.

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: [illegible]
DATE: 24/12/43

FROM: 1600/23/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/24/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

BORGEN BAY: 12 B-25G's of the 822nd and 823rd Squadrons (357 F) carried out a barge sweep from BORGEN BAY to CAPE KIRCHOFF from 1115/L to 1145/L. 77 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped at targets in the area. Villages, barge hideouts, IBOKI PLANTATION and MUTANAVUA ISLAND were bombed, strafed and shelled with many native huts destroyed and many others damaged. KOKOPO MISSION was damaged by a direct bomb hit. Japanese propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target area. The area was thoroughly strafed with 11335 X .50 cal. and 1920 X .30 cal. and 227 X 75 mm. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. Fires were seen in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area as result of other Strikes. Only 2 serviceable barges were observed on the entire sweep.

HANSA BAY: 2 F-5's of the 8th Photo Squadron (357 W) took photos of the HANSA BAY area from 0940/L to 0950/L, and photos of HANAM ISLAND from 0940/L to 1020/L. 12 barges were observed stationary in HANSA BAY at 0950/L. 4 barges were seen stationary along South coast of HANAM ISLAND at 0955/L.

MADANG: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (357 Y) took photos in the MADANG area from 0920/L to 1030/L. There were nil sightings. Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

SAIDOR: 2 F-4's of the 8th Photo Squadron (357 X) took photos of the SAIDOR area from 0930/L to 0950/L. There were nil sightings. Mission was 100% completed.

MADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (357 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to MADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0720/L and landed at 1330/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 495th Squadron (357 B) completed 100% a weather recce to MADZAB, LAE, FINSCHHAFEN and DUMPU. Airplane took off at 0503/L and landed at 0854/L. There were nil sightings.

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Summary of Missions carried out by FATF 23/12/43:

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (356 A) carried out an armed weather recce to CAPE GLOUCESTER. Airplane took off at 2327/22/L and returned to base at 0708/23/L. 20 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs and 2 clusters of incendiaries were dropped in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area between 0207/L and 0500/L, from 5000/8000 feet. Results of bombing were unobserved except for bomb flashes and incendiaries burning. 2 clusters of lights, 200 yards apart, were seen in trees between the 2 strips at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Lights

remained on for about 10 minutes. At 0255/L from 10000 feet, an unidentified airplane with landing lights on was seen for 2 minutes on a course of 270 degrees over MAWE. Weather in CAPE GLOUCESTER area: Thunderheads from BORGEN BAY over strips to SAKAR ISLAND upon arrival 0300/L to 0400/L, clear. 0430/L, to 0500/L, 8/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 7500 feet. South side of NEW BRITAIN was clear with visibility of 40 miles.

18 B-24's of the 529th and 530th Squadrons (356 FF) bombed target No. 17A (200 to 500 yards South of SILIMATI POINT on shore of BORGEN BAY) at 0935/L. 196 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the target from 8500/10000 feet. Bombing was excellent--138 bombs hit in target. 6 bombs fell in target No. 17B, (directly North of and adjacent to the assigned target at SILIMATI POINT). 12 bombs fell South of NATMO POINT. Nil results, other than bomb explosions were observed. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen. 12 to 20 barges were sighted in barge hideout South of the target in BORGEN BAY. Many of these were believed unserviceable as they appeared to be gutted by fire. Frontal activity was encountered between base and target. Weather at target was CAVU. A 19th B-24, of the 529th Squadron, took off, but lost formation in weather enroute and returned to base without attacking target.

18 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (356 GG) bombed target No. 17B (SILIMATI POINT, on coast) from 0915/L to 0923/L. 213 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the target from 8800/10000 feet. Bombing was excellent--190 bombs hit in target. Several explosions, emitting black smoke of short duration, one of which lasted from 3 to 4 minutes after leaving target, was observed. Three small fires which continued to burn as Squadrons left target, were seen in the target. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen. 8 to 10 unidentified small boats, probably unserviceable, stationary, with ends in shore, were sighted in BORGEN BAY. 3 barges, serviceability undetermined, were sighted approximately 1500 feet South of SILIMATI POINT, on beach in BORGEN BAY. At 0935/L from 7000 feet, a large explosion and fire were seen along shore near CAPE GLOUCESTER airdrome with smoke rising to 1000 feet. Sightings was made when 10 to 15 miles from coast and was believed by crews to be a burning airplane. At 0950/L from 8000 feet, an oil slick was seen on the water and column of black smoke, possibly crashed airplane, 7 miles East of TINCHEMEN strip. Weather at target was CAVU.

24 B-24's of the 90th Group (356 HH) bombed targets 17C and 17D (beginning 650 yards Southwest of SILIMATI POINT and extending approximately 1350 yards in a Southwesterly direction), from 0913/L to 0916/L. 288 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the target from 8000/8900 feet. Bombing was excellent. Bombs covered target but assessment of damage was impossible due to nature of target, and smoke from bombing...Several small fires which emitted white smoke were started. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen. 1 small unidentified vessel, possibly coastal lugger, was observed near East shore of BORGEN BAY. Approximately 10 barges were observed along shore of BORGEN BAY, South of SILIMATI POINT. 2 fishing boats, stationary, were observed approximately 1200 yards

East of NATAMO POINT. Runway No. 2 at CAPE GLOUCESTER appeared to be still unserviceable as seen from a distance. One brown colored airplane was seen on No. 2 strip that was not observed in that position on 22/12/43. One small vessel appeared to be burning 2 miles East of FINSCHHAFEN at 1012/L. Vessel was underway. Weather over target was clear with thunderstorms encountered enroute.

1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (356 NN--PRELIMINARY) carried out a harassing raid on CAPE GLOUCESTER. Airplane took off at 1646/23/L and returned to base at 2356/23/L. 20 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped singly and in pairs, intermittently from 2010/L to 2230/L from 8000 feet in the CAPE GLOUCESTER and BORGEN BAY area. Grenades, beer bottles and cans were also dropped.

ALEXISHAFEN: 12 B-25's of the 33rd Squadron and 9 B-26's of the 19th Squadron (356 KK) bombed the dispersal and dump areas on Northwest side of No. 2 strip at ALEXISHAFEN at 1120/L and dump area between No. and No. 2 strips. 63 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the target from 8300/10000 feet. Bombing was excellent. 28 bombs fell in dump area on Northwest side of No. 2 strip and 27 bombs were dispersed in North half of dump area between the strips. 3 bombs fell in the middle of SEK ISLAND and 2 bombs fell beyond target in Plantation. Explosions and black smoke from 2 fires were observed in dump area Northwest of No. 2 strip. A large fire was started, centered between the East ends of the 2 strips. 2 to 3 twin-engine bombers in dispersal area South of East end of No. 1 strip were believed damaged. Photos were taken of the bombing. Moderate, heavy, fairly accurate A/A fire was received by B-25's from positions at East end of runway and from clearing bordering South side of No. 2 strip. Intense, heavy, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire was encountered by B-26's from positions East of East end of No. 2 strip and from Peninsula East of end of No. 1 strip. (Most B-26's felt effects of bursts but none were damaged. 1 B-25 received small shrapnel hole in elevator). 3 twin-engine airplanes were seen on edge of runway at West end of No. 2 strip, type and serviceability undetermined. 3 barges were observed on beach at AGO and 3 more sidewise on beach South of the river, South of AGO. Several unidentified airplanes were observed near No. 2 strip and 2 SGF on No. 1 strip. A small vessel was seen at mouth of GORI RIVER. One barge observed inland from SIO. 6 miles inland from ALEXISHAFEN, tents seem to have been erected in several small villages. Weather at target was clear with low scattered cumulus overland to Northwest. Frontal activity was observed enroute between FINSCHHAFEN and NEW BRITAIN.

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12 B-25's of the 408th Squadron and 7 B-25's of the 2nd Squadron (356 A-2), bombed No. 2 strip at ALEXISHAFEN at 1325/L. 6 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay, 8 X 1000 lb. inst. demo., 16 X 500 lb. 1/10 second delay and 32 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the target from 7500/12000 feet. Bombing was good. At least 13 direct hits were scored on Southwestern half of runway. 27 other bombs fell on either side close to runway. Some hits were believed scored in dispersal area North of strip. A/A fire was reported as slight to moderate, heavy, accurate to inaccurate. 2 B-25's were holed. 3 airplanes resembling

DC-3's, most likely BETTYS, were seen on Southwestern end of runway, all apparently in good condition. Only half of bridge over GONI RIVER appeared intact. A fire was seen in North dispersal area at ALEXISHAFEN. Weather over target: Low scattered cumulus at about 4000 feet, slight haze, visibility unlimited.

23 Dec

MADBARIWA: 24 A-20's of the 89th and 90th Squadrons (356 LL) bombed and strafed barge hideouts and unloading points along the MADBARIWA RIVER and along first Creek on left, up river from mouth. 48 X 350 lb. 4/5 second delay and 8[illegible] X 100 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at the targets. Targets were strafed with 36400 X .50 cal. Targets were thoroughly covered by excellent bombing and strafing. TELIAWA POINT and SIO were also strafed. 1 Lakatoi at the entrance to SIO LAGOON was strafed. 2 serviceable barges in Creek off MADBARIWA RIVER were bombed and destroyed; 2 barges in the river were probably destroyed; 3 barges under trees 500 yards North of MADBARIWA VILLAGE were lightly strafed and hit. Photos were taken of the attack. Slight, inaccurate M/G fire came from a position South of SIO LAGOON. Much activity was observed between main inland track and main inland track to SIO. Possible Weapon pits were observed along main inland track. Inland track appeared well used. A large column of black smoke was seen in vicinity of TAMI ISLAND--ok not to be crashed airplane. A well used track wide enough for M/T was observed along coast from SIO to MADBARIWA. A covered circular platform, 8 X 10 feet, was observed under trees in bivouac area at mouth of MADBARIWA RIVER. Track through salt sand inland from LAGOON near SCHANHORST showed many footprints. Track was about 8 feet wide. A small boat painted at both ends like a life-boat with 4 oars on each side, was seen heading out to sea between GNEISENAU POINT and MADBARIWA as airplanes left the area. Gardens in MADBARIWA area well in excellent condition. Weather over target was CAVU.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (356 BB) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. At 1245/L, 2 Fox-Tare-Bakers, 1 Sugar-Charlie, 1 DD and 1 PG were sighted at 0150S-14245E on course 240 degrees. 2 X 1000 lb. 1/30 second delay and 2 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1245/L from 5000 feet and 4000 feet at the 2 Fox-Tare-Bakers. (100 lb. bombs were used as decoys). First 1000 lb. bomb missed 1 Fox-Tare-Baker by 150 feet and second 1000 lb. bomb dropped at the other Fox-Tare-Baker missed by 400 feet. Moderate, light, inaccurate and slight, medium, inaccurate A/A fire was received from DD and PG. Photos were taken of the convoy. At 1120/L, 3 empty wooden rafts, spars and other ship wreckage, was sighted at 0310S-14450E. At 1765/L, 1 medium size fire was seen burning on TULK ISLAND. Weather: 3/10 scattered cumulus at 4000/6000 feet, large clear spots South of LAMUS ISLAND and offshore from WEWAK.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (356 DD) completed 100% an armed recce to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15130E. At 0915/L, a 7 ship convoy consisting of 4 Fox-Tare-Bakers and 3 PCs was sighted off MUSCAU ISLAND on course 120 degrees at speed of 12 knots. A/V's were in box formation with a PG in front and one on either side. 3 barges were observed on fore-deck and 2 on after-deck of one of the Fox-Tare-Bakers. 2 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1000/L from 6000 feet at one of the Fox-Tare-Bakers. Bombs missed by 100 feet with nil damage observed. Convoy scattered as our airplane attacked but reassembled and con-

tinued on course after attack. 3 silver colored ZEKES intercepted at 1004/L as our airplane attempted a second bombing run on ships. ZEKES pressed attacks closely and pealed off over wings, slow rolled, and renewed attacks. Enemy airplanes were not in vicinity when shipping was first sighted and appeared to come from direction of KAVIENG. No belly tanks were observed on ZEKES which did not continue attack after B-24 was driven from convoy. Interception lasted until 1012/L. At 1317/L, the 7 ship convoy was sighted for the second time 40 miles South of .USSAU ISLAND on a course of 100 degrees at speed of 12 knots. The 4 M/V's were in box formation with 1 PG on each flank and 1 PG leading. B-24 was jumped again, at 1317/L, this time by 7 ZEKES. 4 ZEKES, dull green in color, made 8 passes from 6 to 9 o'clock and 3 ZEKES remained out of range over convoy. ZEKES were seen to drop belly tanks as B-24 approached to attempt bombing run. Enemy attacks were not pressed closely. B-24 took cloud cover and evaded the enemy airplanes. Moderate, light and medium, mostly accurate A/A fire was received from all ships in convoy. 2 x 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1435/L at building near jetty on Northeast shore of UNEA ISLAND. Bombs overshot by 100 feet with nil damage. One large previously demolished building and several smaller buildings were observed near the jetty. Weather: 3/10 cirrus, 25000 feet, 4/10 scattered cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 6000 feet over entire area, visibility good.

1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (356 EE) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. At 0850/L at altitude of 800 feet in position 05555-15240E, one unidentified twin-engine enemy airplane, possibly DINAH or LILY, approached our airplane from 5 o'clock, passed beneath our airplane. Top gunner fired short burst and enemy airplane continued on course 360 degrees towards RABAUL. Nil apparent damage was done to enemy airplane. At 1035/L, 40 to 50 yellow drums, similar to 55 gallon drums, were sighted at 06455-15235E. Weather: cumulus, 100 mile wide broken front, Northwest-Southeast, 20 miles North of GOODENOUGH ISLAND. Rain and fog in this area. Central SOLOMON SEA, 4/10 cumulus from 4000 to 9000 feet. Frontal activity North of GOODENOUGH ISLAND, scattered to 20 miles width on return route.

2 B-24's of the 63rd Squadron (356 OO) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. At 0112/24/L, a 7 ship convoy (reported by 356 DD) was sighted at 03365-15017E on course 120 degrees at speed of 10 knots. 3 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at 0130/L from 1500 feet at 1 PG. Bombs landed in train 50 to 100 feet off starboard beam. Ship stopped and did not leave during one hour observation and is claimed as damaged. At 0240/L, 3 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 1500 feet at a Sugar-Charlie at 03125-15043E. Bombs missed by 400 yards. Slight, light, inaccurate A/A fire was received from PG. 2 unidentified targets, probably DD's, were picked up at 03365-14936E headed for GAROVE ISLAND. A red light was seen in the harbor at GAROVE ISLAND at 0030/L and again at 0200/L—probably an air raid warning. At 0030/L, one white light which died out like a flare, was seen 4 miles offshore. Weather: BISMARCK SEA, 3/10 to 5/10 cumulus, base 2000 feet, tops 4000/6000 feet, visibility 10 miles.

1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (356 CC) completed Southern half of recce of BISMARCK SEA. While making a bombing run on an enemy ship near Island off with [illegible]

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when it was attacked by an unknown number of enemy fighters. 1 gunner was killed and 2 crew members wounded. One engine and hydraulic system was shot out. Airplane made emergency landing on strip in RAMU VALLEY. Airplane was damaged in landing but there were no further injuries to other members of crew. NOTE: This is a Preliminary Report based on interrogation of one crew member only.

B. Ground Forces.

FINSCHHAFEN AREA: In spite of the coastal route North of HUMIKA being impassable to vehicles on account of gorges, our advance has moved on to further objectives and we have been able to exploit beyond them, reaching a line one mile from WANDOKAI, where Jap troops were forced to withdraw. The enemy later mortared the positions our troops had occupied with effect. Following reports that Jap troops were moving inland North of the MASAWENG RIVER in order to take up positions further North, our patrols have been active in this area for some distance inland but have not made contact. Further West in the vicinity of the upper branch of the MASAWENG, one of our carrier parties returning to base was attacked by a Jap party of unknown strength.

RAMU VALLEY: No further reports.

MARKHAM (NEW BRITAIN): An additional patrol is reconnoitering towards the mouth of the ITNE RIVER. Nil change in the dispositions of our forces.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

MARKHAM (NEW BRITAIN): It is reported that there is a party of Japs at the mouth of the ITNE RIVER, a party at GILNIT and a party along the ITNE RIVER between these points. Enemy aircraft raided the MARKHAM area between 0220/L and 0520/L on the 24th of December. Approximately 75 bombs were dropped. Damage was slight. There has been no report of contact with enemy ground forces in the MARKHAM area proper.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
24 December, 1943.

Estimate By A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7	5					12	0
DAGUA	14	9	2				25	0
WEWAK	13		5			6	24	0
BORAM	16						16	0
AMAR	8						8	0
ALEXISHAFEN			6				6	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
LAKDE		13					13	0
Total	68	75	36			6	185	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	7	13	2	14		7	43	0
VUNAKANAU	17	20	13	1			51	0
LAKUNAI	38	5		21			64	0
RAPOPO	11	10					21	0
HARBOR					2	18	20	0
PANAPAI	11						11	0
TOBERA	20			13			33	0
BORPOP		4					4	0
Total	104	52	15	49	2	25	247	0

COMMENTS:

1. Reports received today (24/12/43) indicate additional airplanes were staged into ALEXISHAFEN yesterday afternoon. Until verified our present NEW GUINEA figure count remains as an estimate.

2. With no further photo coverage reported [illegible] IRELAND figures. Our present estimate [illegible]

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

DAGUA: 23/12/43. (356 Y)

Coverage on airdrome and immediate vicinity - quality good.
SSF - 14 L/B - 2 M/B - 9
All airplanes well dispersed in revetments around airdrome. SSF on north side of drome, L/B and M/B on south side. 16 new light A/A positions; probably M/Gs on east end of flight gap approximately 1100 yards east of east end of runway. Rather heavy track activity leading from DAGUA VILLAGE and the road south of Village, which parallels coast line, to these A/A positions. Normal track activity and road maintenance is in evidence throughout airdrome, bivouac and dispersal areas and vicinity.

ALEXISHAFEN #1 & #2: 23/12/43. (356 Y)

Good vertical photographs cover area from MEGAS ISLAND to west end of No. 1 Drome and from MILITAT PLANTATION northward to BOSTREM BAY. Partial cloud cover over west end of Drome No. 1 and west side of SEK HARBOR.
No. 1 Drome - No serviceable airplanes - runway rough but serviceable.
No. 2 Drome - 6 L/B of which 4 in NE dispersal area and 2 just off north center of runway. Runway rough but serviceable.
Photos show the usual heavy activity being carried on in this area. Roads appear to be well maintained and well traversed. Borrow pits near NE dispersal area and near A/A position on south side of No. 2 runway are apparently still being used. Bridge over PSIGES RIVER near NE end of Drome No. 2 previously reported as washed out has not been repaired.

MADANG: 23/12/43. (356 Y)

Good vertical photos covering area from center of GRAGAT ISLAND to west end of drome and from WAGAL PLANTATION northward to just above PRINZ HEINRICH HARBOR. Partial cloud cover over west end of drome. Photos show normal activity being carried on. Roads appear in good repair. Some activity is seen in MADANG TOWNSHIP. Two large barges are seen on west side of BELIAU ISLAND and three smaller barges in the harbor north of BELIAU ISLAND. There are also two large barges on east side of this harbor. Three possible camouflaged barges are seen in PRINZ HEINRICH HARBOR. Nil serviceable airplanes are present on drome. Runway appears rough but serviceable.

BUT DROME: 23/12/43. (355 Y)

Further study of photos of BUT DROME show 7 SSF, 4 L/B and 1 M/B in dispersal area. This is a decrease of 8 M/B and increase of 2 L/B since 1 December, 1943 coverage. A new jetty about 120 feet long and about 16 feet wide has been constructed on the sight of the old jetty. There are 3 barges off the jetty and some small piles of stores on the beach. There does not appear to be any change in ground activity since cover of 1 December, 1943. The A/A defenses appear unchanged with heavy use continuing.

WEWAK: 23/12/43. (356 D-- 356 Y)

Excellent vertical and oblique photos cover runway, WEWAK TOWNSHIP and Mission.
Airplanes - SSF -1, airborne - 4 in dispersal area.
L/B - 4 in dispersal area.

15 wrecked planes have been taken from the runway area and dispersal lanes and placed in the Airplane Graveyard at the east of the runway, bringing total number of unserviceable planes up to 45 in that area. Piles of stores are visible along the east side of MERIRI PLANTATION. Piles of supplies, boxes, oil drums some of which are canvas covered, 20 yards west of Mission.
Three light A/A positions having at least 4 guns are located NW from Mission by 220 yards, 360 yards and 500 yards. 3 or more light A/A and 4 medium A/A 100 yards west of [illegible] A/A, [illegible]

vetments are added to the new A/A positions on WEWAK POINT. All the revetments are empty.

One building 200 yards West of MISSION and at least 4 buildings 1100 yards Northeast were destroyed since the last coverage 1/12/43.

Parafrag bombs were shown by photos to burst across central part of runway. One building in the West corner of WEWAK TOWNSHIP received a direct hit by a bomb. A string of parafrags were falling along the West side of WEWAK TOWNSHIP. One fire emitting black smoke 30 yards East of Airplane Graveyard. There was a fire directly in back of the MISSION. Nil shipping in harbor.

AWAR: 23/12/43. (356 D)

Good obliques cover North end of AWAR Airdrome and area West. Nil airplanes visible in area covered. There is usual ground activity. Parafrags are seen falling in wooded area.

BORAM: 23/12/43. (356 Y)

Excellent verticals cover the area extending to MOEM PLANTATION. 16 SGF are in dispersal area. 4 barge pairs and 1 large barge are along the West coast of CAPE MOEM. The 6 heavy A/A positions 900 feet off East end of airdrome appear to be completed but noguns are visible. No other change is seen in defenses.

Heavy ground activity continues in the BORAM area and on CAPE MOEM. The road leading to BRANDI PLANTATION shows continued heavy use. The new bridge is now completed which is located just Northeast of the airdrome along the coastal road leading to MOEM PLANTATION and approximately 100 feet up stream from the old bridge which is no longer visible.

Two buildings are missing of a Group reported as Warehouse type and located along the coastal road between CAPE BORAM and MISSION POINT. Three buildings of this group are still standing and more may be under tree cover.

A fire of intense heat, probably resulting from raid on 1/12/43, burned out an area approximately 120 feet in diameter destroying all the tree cover and supplies in the area. This area, probably a former fuel dump, extends 60 feet on either side of the road which goes to WIRIWI PLANTATION and which runs parallel with and 1500 feet South of the shoreline. A second burned area 150 feet in diameter is located Northeast of the large one and just West of the fork in the road.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

357 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0720/24/L to 1330/24/L.

AREA OF MISSION: Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, clear over Ranges. 8/10 alto-cumulus at 1000 feet in MARKHAM VALLEY. On return, cumulus built up to 12000 feet over Ranges.

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

TIME OF SEARCH: 0503/24/L to 0854/24/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE ISLAND, PASS, NADZAB, LAE, FINSCHHAFEN, DUMPU, PASS and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0530/L, CAVU. PASS, 0630/L, scattered clouds 6000 feet, 2/10 covered, visibility unlimited. NADZAB, 0645/L, broken clouds at 1000 feet, 9/10 covered, visibility unlimited. LAE, 0652/L, scattered clouds 2000 feet, 2/10 covered, visibility unlimited.

FINSCHHAFEN, 0710/L, CAVU. DUMPU, 0745/L, broken clouds at 800 feet, 8/10 covered, visibility unlimited. MASS, 0815/L, broken clouds at 7000 feet, 8/10 covered, visibility unlimited.

357 W. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-5's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 0940/24/L to 0950/24/L. (2) 0940/24/L to 1030/24/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) HANSA B.Y. (2) MANAM ISLAND.

RESULTS: (1) 1 F-5 took photos in HANSA B.Y. area from the BORIO RIVER to MAKERA VILLAGE and from ANGILA BAY to vicinity of SAKULA RIVER from 32000 feet.

(2) 1 F-5 took photos of MANAM ISLAND from 22000 feet.

SIGHTINGS: At 0950/L, 12 barges were seen stationary in HANSA B.Y. At 0955/L, 4 barges were observed along South coast of MANAM ISLAND, stationary.

WEATHER: RAMU-MARKHAM, scattered cumulus, 2000/4000 feet. BISMARCK SEA, scattered thunderheads. Ranges, 9/10 overcast.

357 X. PHOTO RECCO - 2 F-4's, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0930/24/L to 0950/24/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: SAIDOR area.

RESULTS: 1 F-4 took photos from TAKAI RIVER to MARKHAM RIVER; from MARKHAM RIVER to WALANG VILLAGE. The other F-4 took photos from SEL to SAIDOR; from SAIDOR to YUNGOR RIVER; from YUNGOR RIVER to BILLAU VILLAGE and from TAGUR to BILLAU VILLAGE. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: SAIDOR, CAVU. MARKHAM VALLEY, 2/10 low cumulus. Ranges, 2/10 cumulus to 12000 feet.

357 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0920/24/L to 1030/24/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: ASTROLABE B.Y.

RESULTS: Photos were taken from junction MARUM-RAMU RIVERS to mouth of GOGOL RIVER; of CAPE SIRIDA; from ARNDT POINT to BENIBENG; from RUSS POINT to BAROKI and from DOMUT to LIOKO. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: MADANG area, 9/10 low stratus. RAMU VALLEY, 3/10 low cumulus. Ranges, 7/10 cumulus.

357 Z. STRIKE - 6 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1115/24/L to 1145/24/L.

TARGET: Barge sweep from CAPE RAOULT to SILIMATI POINT.

RESULTS: 35 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay fuse bombs were dropped as follows: 2 on MATAMO VILLAGE, destroying at least one native hut and causing flying debris; 1 at KOKOPO scoring a direct hit on Wreckage; 1 on ALAIDO VILLAGE; 5 on BALBAK VILLAGE; 2 on MAREKA VILLAGE; 7 on KOKOPO VILLAGE; 6 on a probable barge at river mouth near CAPE MENSING; 6 on barge hideout in ROTTOCK BAY and 5 on

barge hideout at TAMO RIVER with generally unobserved results. 122 X 75 mm were fired along target area with the following results: 1 direct 75 mm hit was scored on KOKOPO MISSION; 1 round was fired at serviceable barges near SILIMATI POINT with nil damage observed; 1 direct 75 mm hit was scored on a native hut in KOKOPO VILLAGE, destroying it and 1 direct 75 mm hit was scored on a shack in GORISSI VILLAGE, destroying it. Bombing was excellent. Target area was strafed with 6100 X .50 cal. and 1442 X .30 cal. Tracers were seen entering unserviceable barges between SILIMATI and MATA O POINT. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing. 7 bundles of Jap propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target area.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Black and white smoke was seen rising from the CAPE GLOUCESTER area. A small white smoke fire was seen at TAUMIAI VILLAGE. 2 crew members reported seeing 3 red roofed European type houses approximately ½ mile Southeast of CAPE RAOULT. A small white smoke fire was observed on a point Northwest of SILIMATI POINT. A small white smoke fire was seen at suspected barge hideout South of SILIMATI POINT.

WEATHER: En route over Ranges, 8/10 scattered cumulus at 3000 feet, thunderstorms building up over sea. Target, 2/10 cumulus at 3000 feet, visibility unlimited. On return, 8/10 alto-cumulus with tops at 14000 feet.

357 F. STRIKE - 6 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1125/24/L to 1145/24/L.

TARGET: Barge sweep from CAPE KIRCHOFF to CAPE RAOULT.

RESULTS: 42 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from CAPE KIRCHOFF to CAPE RAOULT as follows: 8 in vicinity of CAPE RAOULT; 2 just East of KETENGE ANCHORAGE; 1 in OLAPUM, destroying 1 hut; 4 in KETENGE VILLAGE, destroying a hut and damaging others; 2 in TAVELIAI; 14 in MAKATI and KAINAUA VILLAGES, damaging 4 or 5 huts; 11 in IBOKI PLANTATION. Results were otherwise unobserved. Bombing was excellent. 105 X 75 mm were fired along shore of target area with the following results; 2 direct hits were scored on huts in MAKATI VILLAGE; 1 direct hit was scored on a hut in KETENGE VILLAGE; 1 direct hit was scored on a shack just West of mouth of ARIA RIVER; 2 direct hits were scored on huts on NUTAMAVUA ISLAND. Target area was thoroughly strafed by one flight of 3 airplanes on run to the East and by second flight on run to the West. 5235 X .50 cal. and 500 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing. 8 bundles of Jap propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: 3 fires, one with black smoke, were observed at CAPE GLOUCESTER. White smoke was seen rising to 300 feet over TARGET HILL. Small fires were observed at mouth of ILILI RIVER and on shore at KETENGE ANCHORAGE. Nil serviceable barges were sighted in the entire area. 2 wrecked barges were observed in KETENGE ANCHORAGE. 3 or 4 wrecked barges were seen on reefs North of REIN BAY. A footbridge was observed over the BANU RIVER, 500 yards upstream from mouth.

WEATHER: Enroute to FINSCHHAFEN, broken cumulus with tops to 8000 feet. Target, clear. On return, 6/10 cumulus, building up to 15000 feet over HUON GULF with some cumulo-nimbus forming.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

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

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

OFFICIAL:

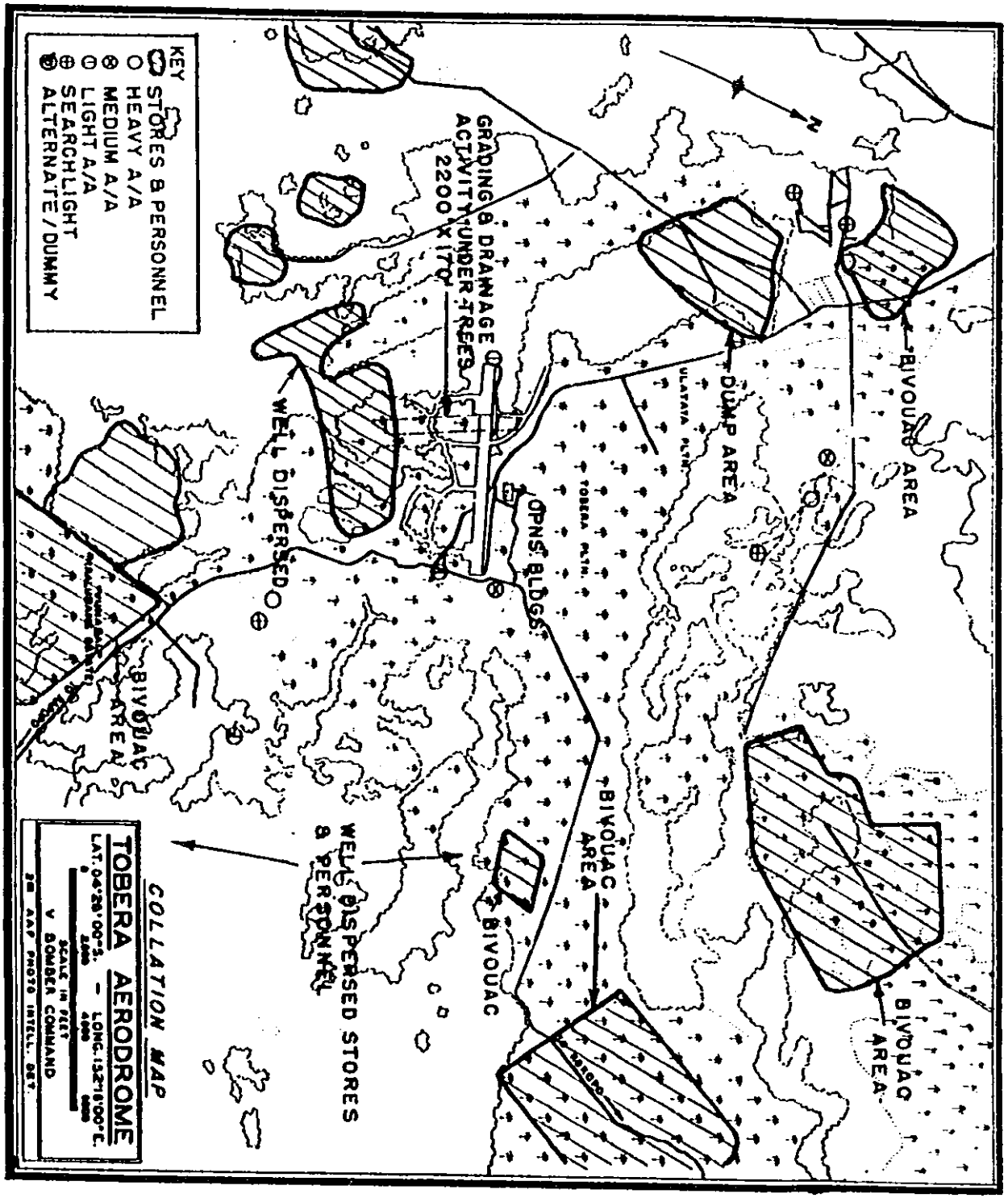
Paul E. Nauman

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

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY

TOBERA

24/12/43



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

The Commander-in Chief, General MacArthur, has sent the following message to all men and women of the Armed Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area:

"TO THE FIGHTING FORCES OF THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA:

"On this Christmas Day, the anniversary of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I pray that a merciful God may preserve and bless each one of you".

ALGIERS:

AMERICAN TROOPS DRIVING ON CASSINO IN A FLANKING MOVE FROM THE EAST CAPTURED 3000 FT. MOUNT CAVALLO AND FROM THAT LOFTY VANTAGE POINT BEGAN SHELLING THE FORTIFIED VILLAGE OF VITICUSO ONLY EIGHT MILES FROM CASSINO ALLIED HEADQUARTERS ANNOUNCED THE FIFTH AND EIGHTH ARMIES PRESSED THEIR ATTACKS OVER RAIN SOAKED ITALIAN TERRAIN. FRENCH UNITS PARTICIPATING IN THE SIDE DOOR ASSAULT ON CASSINO SCORED THEIR FIRST IMPORTANT STRATEGIC VICTORY OF THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN WHEN AFTER THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS OF FEROCIOUS FIGHTING THEY WON POSSESSION OF A KEY MOUNTAIN PASS NEAR THE SITE OF THE AMERICANS' ADVANCE. CASSINO, MAJOR HIGHWAY AND RAIL JUNCTION GUARDING A WIDE VALLEY 70 MILES FROM ROME, NOW WAS WITHIN ALLIED ARTILLERY RANGE FROM THE SOUTHEAST, EAST AND NORTHEAST. AMERICAN FORCES DRIVING UP THE LIRI VALLEY FROM THE SOUTHEAST WERE STILL CLEANING OUT NESTS OF BITTERLY RESISTING GERMANS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAN VITTORI SIX MILES FROM CASSINO. CANADIAN TANKS AND INFANTRY CLEARED THE NAZIS FROM ALL BUT THE NORTHWESTERN CORNER OF THE ANCIENT CATHEDRAL TOWN OF ORTONA ON THE ADRIATIC.

LONDON:

RED ARMY TROOPS CAPTURED SEVERAL VILLAGES AND HAMLETS IN THEIR OFFENSIVE SOUTH OF NEVEL AND REPULSED GERMAN ATTACKS IN THE ZHOLDIN SECTOR OF WHITE RUSSIA AND IN THE VICINITY OF KOROSTEN WEST OF KIEV A RUSSIAN COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED.

AMERICAN AND BRITISH BOMBERS STRUCK AT MYSTERIOUS TARGETS IN THE PAS DE CALAIS OF FRANCE BLASTING FOR THE FOURTH SUCCESSIVE DAY A STRIP OF TERRITORY NOW TERMED THE "ROCKET GUN COAST" IN BELIEF THAT IT HARBORS INSTALLATIONS OF THE VAUNTED NAZI SECRET WEAPON. THE ALLIES ARE OFFICIALLY SILENT ON THE NATURE OF THESE RAIDS BUT THE LONDON PRESS ON THE BASIS OF NEUTRAL REPORTS SAY THAT THE GERMANS WERE INSTALLING ROCKET GUNS IN THIS AXIS TERRITORY CLOSEST TO ENGLAND HAS INFORMALLY NAMED THE AREA AFTER THE HIGHPOWERED ROCKET GUN IT IS SAID TO SHELTER FOR ASSAULT ON BRITAIN. SPECIFIC TARGETS WERE NOT ANNOUNCED.

A BRIEF STATEMENT FROM NO. 10 DOWNING STREET SAID PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL CONTINUES TO MAKE STEADY PROGRESS. HE IS RECOVERING FROM PNEUMONIA SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

A LANDING OF BRITISH NAVAL FORCES IN THE MADEIRAS PORTUGESE ISLANDS IN THE ATLANTIC WEST OF MOROCCO WAS REPORTED BY THE BERLIN RADIO. THE REPORT SAID THE MAIN OBJECT OF THIS OCCUPATION IS TO GUARD CHURCHILL'S FUTURE PLACE OF RESIDENCE. IT SPECULATED THAT THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER RECOVERING FROM PNEUMONIA INTENDS TO SPEND THE WINTER IN MADEIRA TO RESTORE HIS HEALTH COMPLETLY.

STOCKHOLM:

CREWMEN OF THE SWEDISH STEAMSHIP GRANADA SUNK IN BREMEN IN AN AMERICAN AIR ATTACK DECEMBER 16 SAID THAT THE NORTHWEST GERMAN PORT IS "A NEW HAMBURG". SIX LARGE BOATS AND MANY SMALLER CRAFT WERE SUNK BY THE ATTACKS OF 300 TO 400 PLANES DECEMBER 13 AND 16 THE SEAMEN SAID AT MALMOE.

WASHINGTON:

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT CONFERRED WITH GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF JUST BACK FROM A CIRCUITOUS TRIP FROM THE CAIRO AND TEHERAN CONFERENCES BY WAY OF AUSTRALIA THE SOLOMONS AND HAWAII. ADMIRAL WILLIAM D. LEAHY, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF WAR STIMSON JOINED THE CONFERENCE.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S ADDRESS FRIDAY AFTERNOON TO THE NATION AND TO AMERICAN FIGHTING FORCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WILL BE CARRIED BY WORLD-WIDE RADIO HOOKUP. IN ADDITION TO ALL AMERICAN NETWORKS THE ENTIRE SYSTEM OF THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND NETWORKS AND STATIONS IN ALGIERS PALERMO BARI NAPLES AND INDIA WILL BROADCAST THE ADDRESS.

PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY STEPHEN EARLY TOLD REPORTERS THE PRESIDENT FEELS THE TERM "NEW DEAL" APPLIED TO HIS BEGINNING ADMINISTRATION IN 1932 WELL OUTMODED NOW AND WOULD LIKE A CHANGE TO SOMETHING LIKE "WIN THE WAR".

THE RAILROADS AND ONE OF THE FIVE OPERATING BROTHERHOODS ACCEPTED PRESIDENT ROOSEVELTS OFFER TO DECIDE THEIR WAGE DISPUTE BUT THE FOUR OTHER UNIONS TEMPORARILY WITHHELD AN ANNOUNCEMENT. THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE FOUR WOULD DECLINE OR DELAY AN ANSWER FOR SEVERAL DAYS PENDING FURTHER EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT WITH THE CARRIERS.

NEW YORK:

JAPAN IS LOWERING ITS CONSCRIPTION AGE ONE YEAR TO 19 IN ORDER TO FURTHER BOLSTER JAPAN'S FIGHTING POWER TO INSURE COMPLETE VICTORY THE TOKYO RADIO SAID.

NEW GUINEA:

DESPITE HEAVY AERIAL LOSSES IN ALL PACIFIC WAR ZONES THE JAPS ARE EXPENDING MORE AND MORE PLANES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO RETRIEVE THE SITUATION IN NEW BRITAIN; KEY ISLAND OF THEIR HOLD ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC WHICH AMERICAN FORCES INVADED LAST WEEK. VIRTUALLY THE ONLY OPPOSITION NOW ENCOUNTERED AS THE AMERICANS PUSH OUT FROM THEIR ARAWE BEACHHEAD COMES FROM THE AIR. CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN LIGHT.

WITH AMERICAN SIXTH ARMY AT ARAWE, N W BRITAIN: THE ARMY ENGINEERS CORP WHICH LANDED AT ARAWE IN THE SECOND WAVE PROVIDED WATER FROM A WELL THE FIRST DAY. THE WELL MAINLY DUG BY DYNAMITE IS PRODUCING 1400 GALLONS OF WATER DAILY.

SAN JACINTO, TEXAS:

A FLYING FORTRESS CARRIED A 4000 LB 105 HOWITZER FROM AUSTRALIA TO N W GUINEA AND SAVED A BATTLE FOR THE AMERICANS THE ARMY REVEALED. THE SPECTACULAR FLIGHT WAS DURING THE CRITICAL TIMES WHEN JAPANESE TROOPS WERE DRIVING ACROSS THE OWEN STANLEY RANGES TOWARD PORT MORESBY.

PACIFIC WAR:

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S COMMUNIQUE REPORTED TODAY THAT ALLIED PLANES HAVE HIT CAPE GLOUCESTER AGAIN DROPPING 153 TONS OF BOMBS ON THIS IMPORTANT ENEMY PLANE AND SUPPLY BASE ON THE WESTERN TIP OF NEW BRITAIN. NEARLY 2200 TONS OF EXPLOSIVES HAVE BEEN LAID HERE SINCE DEC. 1. MEDIUM BOMBERS RETURNED IN FORCE OVER ARAWE NEW BRITAIN CAUSING LIGHT DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES IN A PRE DAWN RAID. AMERICAN TROOPS INVADED THIS AREA DEC. 15 AND HAVE SINCE EXTENDED THEIR HOLDINGS... THE LAST PREVIOUS ENEMY RAID ON ARAWE WAS TUESDAY WHEN AMERICAN FIGHTERS SHOT DOWN 16 OF NEARLY 100 JAP PLANES. THE JAPS HAVE LOST 45 PLANES SO FAR IN ATTACKING AMERICAN POSITIONS AT ARAWE.

PACIFIC WAR:

MEDIUM BOMBERS HIT TWO ENEMY TRANSPORT FREIGHTERS OFF WEWAK NEW GUINEA AND SHOT DOWN 14 JAP FIGHTER PLANES. IN THE ALLIED ATTACK ON WEWAK ESCORTED MEDIUM BOMBERS ATTACKED HARBOR SHIPPING AIRDROMES AND ADJACENT SUPPLY DUMPS AT LOW LEVEL. TWO DIRECT HITS WERE SCORED ON EACH OF TWO ENEMY TRANSPORTS OF 6000 TONS. TWO OF OUR FIGHTERS WERE SHOT DOWN. ALLIED PLANES AND PT BOATS WERE BUSY ATTACKING THE JAP BARGE SUPPLY ROUTES AND STATIONS DESTROYING AND DAMAGING THESE VESSELS UPON WHICH THE ENEMY DEPENDS FOR SUPPLY AND REINFORCEMENTS. WHILE THE FIGHTING ON THE GROUND AT ARAWE HAD QUIETED DOWN THE AMERICANS CONTINUED STRENGTHENING THEIR DEFENSES. THE CAPTURED AREA EXTENDS SEVERAL MILES INLAND ENGRACHING UMTINGALU VILLAGE AND THE ARAWE AIR STRIP. SUPPLIES AND WEAPONS CAPTURED FROM THE JAPS INCLUDED A BATTERY OF FOUR 75 GUNS WHICH HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO AMERICAN DEFENSE POSITIONS. ADMIRAL NIMITZ ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A FORCE OF NAVY HELLCAT FIGHTERS AND ARMY AND NAVY DAUNTLESS LIGHT BOMBERS BOMBED AND STRAFED ENEMY INSTALLATIONS ON MILEJI ISLAND JALUIT ATOLL IN THE MARSHALLS AT NOON DEC. 20. A MEDIUM CARGO SHIP AND ONE SMALL VESSEL IN THE LAGOON WERE DAMAGED. HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED AND ONE AMERICAN PLANE WAS LOST. NIMITZ ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A GROUP OF LIBERATORS FROM THE SEVENTH ARMY AIR FORCE AND FLEET AIR WING TWO BOMBED KWAJALEIN AND NOI ISLAND KWAJALEIN ATOLL ON THE AFTERNOON OF DEC. 21. OUR PLANES WERE INTERCEPTED BY NINE JAP FIGHTERS BUT SUSTAINED NO DAMAGE. MORE THAN 20 ENEMY SHIPS WERE SEEN IN THE LAGOON. ADMIRAL NIMITZ'S COMMUNIQUE ALSO REPORTED TWO ENEMY PLANES DROPPED BOMBS ON TARAWA FROM HIGH ALTITUDE ON THE EARLY MORNING OF DEC. 20. ONE OF OUR PLANES ON THE GROUND WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED THE COMMUNIQUE SAID.

XMAS MESSAGE:

ADMIRAL NIMITZ IN A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FORCES UNDER HIS COMMAND SAID "WE LOOK AHEAD WITH FULL CONFIDENCE THAT THE NEXT CHRISTMAS WILL BE A HAPPIER ONE FOR THOSE AT HOME AND AN INFINITELY MORE DISMAL ONE IN JAPAN". HE TOLD FIGHTING MEN IN THE PACIFIC THAT "AMERICANS AT HOME CELEBRATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WITHOUT FEAR OF BOMBS OR SHELLS BECAUSE YOUR VALIANT, COURAGEOUS AND UNFAILING EFFORTS IN THE PAST YEAR HAVE STEADILY PUSHED THE ENEMY BACK".

LONDON:

THE VATICAN RADIO BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT POPE PIUS XIV WILL CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS EVE MASS PRIVATELY AT FIVE PM INSTEAD OF AT 7 P. M. AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. THE CHANGE WAS MADE BECAUSE OF THE CURFEW IN ROME NOW UNDER GERMAN OCCUPATION.

STOCKHOLM:

MANY YOUNGSTERS IN BERLIN ARE TELLING THEIR YOUNGER BROTHERS AND SISTERS THAT SANTA CLAUS HAS BEEN KILLED ON THE EAST FRONT. IVAR VESTERLUND, BE LINX CORRESPONDENT FOR STOCKHOLM'S DAGENS NYHETER, RELATED THIS ON HIS RETURN HERE FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

WASHINGTON:

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT HAS INFORMED WAR MANPOWER CHIEF PAUL V. MCNUTT THAT PRE-PEARL HARBOR FATHERS EMPLOYED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ARE TO BE GIVEN THE CONSIDERATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL DEFERMENT FROM THE DRAFT AS THAT ACCORDED FATHERS IN PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT.

THE WAR PRODUCTION BOARDS CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE LADIES RESTORATION OF THE TWO WAY STRETCH IN AND UNLIMITED MANUFACTURE OF GIRLES, CORSETS AND OTHER SUCH GARMENTS.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT OF 581 CREW MEMBERS REPORTED MISSING WHEN SIXTY FLYING FORTRESSES WERE LOST IN THE HEAVY BOMBING OF INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AT SCHWEINFURT GERMANY 346 ARE ALIVE AS PRISIONERS OF WAR, TWO HUNDRED SEVENTEEN ARE STILL UNCOUNTED FOR AND EIGHTEEN CREW MEMBERS ARE NOW OFFICIALLY REPORTED DEAD.

BALTIMORE:

A BRITISH SHIPPING OFFICIAL SAYS THAT THE ENGLISH MERCHANT SHIPPING MISSION IN WASHINGTON HAS RESTORED THE ORIGINAL AMERICAN NAMES OF SEVERAL LIBERTY SHIPS UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES MARITIME COMMISSION. HIS STATEMENT WAS MADE AFTER MARITIME COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICIALS OF THE BRILEHEM SHIPYARDS OF BALTIMORE SAID NAMES OF SOME LIBERTY SHIPS HAD BEEN CHANGED AFTER ELABORATE CHRISTENING CEREMONIES AT THE YARDS.

OMAHA:

EVERY TRAVELLING SERVICE MAN AND WOMAN IN OMAHA ON CHRISTMAS DAY WILL BE DINNER GUESTS OF WILLIAM M. JEFFERS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD. JEFFERS HAS ORDERED A FULL COURSE CHRISTMAS DINNER SERVED THEM IN THE UNION STATION DINING ROOM.

BOSTON:

IT SEEMS THAT THE BOYS IN UNCLE SAM'S ARMED SERVICES IN ICELAND WEREN'T DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS. WHAT THEY WANTED WAS A GREEN CHRISTMAS, GREEN TO THE EXTENT OF HAVING A FEW CHRISTMAS TREES FOR NONE ARE TO BE HAD ON THE DEFORESTED ISLAND. A RED CROSS WORKER TOLD THE BOSTON METROPOLITAN CHAPTER ABOUT THE WISH OF THE ICELAND SERVICEMEN FOR CHRISTMAS TREE AND THE CHAPTER'S CAMP AND HOSPITAL COUNCIL WENT TO WORK. THE CHRISTMAS TREES, TWO DOZEN OF THEM HAVE ARRIVED ALONG WITH TRIMMINGS, GAMES, BOOKS AND CANDY.

NEW YORK:

THE LAST MINUTE DEFEAT OF THE NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL TEAM BY GREAT LAKES WAS SUCH A SURPRISE THAT THE CHOICE OF THAT EYEBROW LIFTING EVENT AS THE OU STANDING SPORTS SURPRISE OF THE YEAR WAS NOT A SURPRISE. OF THE 70 SCRIBES PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL ONLY SIX FAILED TO INCLUDE THAT GAME ON THEIR BALLOTS AND 60 OF THE 80 PLACED IT NO ONE OF THE LIST.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 359.

0800/SECRET DEC 1943
:AUTH: C.G.
:INITS: PEN
:DATE: 25/12/43:

FROM: 1800/24/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/25/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 37 B-25C and D-1's, and B-25G's of the 38th Group (38th D) bombed and strafed CAPE GLOUCESTER defense positions No. 22 and 23 (2200 yards and 2650 yards Southeast of East end of No. 2 strip) from 1100/L to 1103/L. 246 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped on the targets. 231 X-75 mm, 54535 X .50 cal. and 4180 X .30 cal. were expended. CAPE GLOUCESTER to TARGET HILL including assigned targets were excellently bombed, strafed and shelled. 3 or 4 small fires were started between strip No. 2 and the target area, one of which, emitted black smoke. Schooner anchored at ANNEN POINT was strafed with unobserved damage. Propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target. Slight A/C fire was encountered over the target. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne in the target area. One serviceable barge was sighted at SILIMATI POINT. Trenches and gun pits were seen on both sides of target No. 23. A new clearing was observed 1 mile West of GARGPOI VILLAGE at base of MT. TANGI. 13 barges, believed to be serviceable, were seen on beach between CAPE BUSHING and the ITNE RIVER mouth.

1 B-25 of the 8th Photo Squadron (38th W) took photos in the CAPE GLOUCESTER--DORF POINT area from 1050/L to 1100/L from 100 and 4000 feet. Photos were taken of the FINSCHHAFEN--SAIDOR area at 1340/L from 1000/1500 feet. At 1350/L, one twin-engine airplane, probably BETTY, was observed over SAIDOR flying at 1000 feet on course of 330 degrees.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (38th A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0736/L and landed at 1715/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 498th Squadron (38th B) completed 100% a weather recce to BULLDOG, MARKHAM VALLEY and NADZAB. Airplane took off at 0505/L and landed at 0810/L. There were nil sightings.

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Summary of Missions carried out by FATF 24/12/43:

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (307 AA) carried out a harassing raid on CAPE GLOUCESTER between 0130/L and 0645/L. Weather was reported as ordered. 20 bottles were dropped over CAPE GLOUCESTER as ordered. Between 0300/L and 0400/L at 8000 feet over CAPE GLOUCESTER, lights were observed at isolated points near shore at BORGEN BAY and REIN BAY. Lights were not extinguished when B-24 was overhead. One crew member observed a possible gun flash from position believed to be in vicinity of CAPE GLOUCESTER airdrome. Weather: Clear over CAPE GLOUCESTER

until 0430/L, 5/10 stratus layer, 15000 feet, 2/10 cumulus at 3000 feet.

1 B-25 of the 63rd Squadron (357 MM) completed 100% weather recce to FINSCHHAFEN, CAPE GLOUCESTER and ARAWE. Airplane took off at 0427/L and returned to base at 0647/L. Airplane was over CAPE GLOUCESTER at 0530/L. Weather: FINSCHHAFEN, 0520/L, clear, lower cumulus clouds, 1/10, tops 8000 feet. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 0530/L, clear, lightning to Northeast in vicinity of CAPE HOSKINS. ARAWE, 0600/L, clear, lightning to Northeast. Visibility unlimited.

27 B-24's of the 529th and 530th Squadrons (357 BS) bombed target No. 17 E(1½ miles NE of SILIMATI POINT on coast), target No. 19 B (2 and 1/8 miles Northeast of SILIMATI POINT on coast), and target No. 18 D (2 miles NE of SILIMATI POINT on coast) at 1201/L. 204 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the targets from 9000 feet. Bombing was excellent. Large fires were burning in the target after the bombing and another fire was observed in vicinity of No. 2 strip. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Approximately 20 barges were sighted along shore from CAPE CAUFFIN to BORGEN BAY. At 1320/L, a SS was sighted on course 200 degrees at approximately 0725S-14610E. SS crash dived. 6 to 8 stationary barges of various sizes were sighted in mouth of river off MEREKA VILLAGE in BORGEN BAY. Large columns of greyish-black smoke were observed coming from area between targets No. 18 D and No. 19 B. Weather: scattered cumulus enroute and over target.

18 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (357 FF) bombed target No. 16 A (1 and 3/8 miles Northeast of SILIMATI POINT on coast) and target No. 16 B (1½ miles Northeast of SILIMATI POINT on coast) from 0912/L to 0915/L. 216 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8000/10200 feet on headings of 145 to 160 degrees at the targets. Bombing was excellent—at least 192 bombs hit in assigned targets. Innumerable dark cherry red explosions were seen in target, as if ammunition exploded but could possibly be bomb bursts. One probable bush fire emitting brown smoke was started at target No. 16 A. Other results were unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing. Small fire was seen burning in the target on approach of 403rd (lead Squadron). Another small fire was seen on shore about 2 miles Northwest of target—probable volcano smoke from MT. TALAWE. A column of white smoke was seen at 0855/L on a mountain side about 60 miles West of FINSCHHAFEN. 3 barges—serviceability undetermined—were observed in water just offshore 3/5 of a mile Northeast of DORF POINT. At 0846/L, 23 barges were seen 3 miles off VINCKE POINT on heading of 310 degrees. At 0900/L, 5 barges were seen under trees along coast at LAGUNEN POINT. Weather at target was CAVU.

24 B-24's of the 90th Group (357 GG) bombed target No. 18 A (barge hideout 1½ miles South of SILIMATI POINT) and target No. 18 B (barge hideout 1 miles South of SILIMATI POINT) from 0920/L to 0922/L. 248 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8000/9000 feet. Bombing was excellent. Targets were believed to be well covered. About 19 barges along bank next to target No. 18 B were believed damaged, only slightly. Fires were observed in target No. 18 A. Nature of target and smoke from bombing prevented further assessment of damage.

Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. One barge was observed on beach about 1 and 3/4 miles Northeast of SILIMATI POINT. 15 to 20 barges, believed unserviceable, were observed along shore East of target No. 18 B. Heavy black smoke covered area bombed by 43rd Group. 4 or 5 serviceable barges were believed mixed with unserviceable ones in target No. 18 A. At 0919/L, small boat activity, perhaps native canoes, were seen around wrecked vessel offshore from CAPE GLOUCESTER. 10 to 12 landing barges, stationary, were observed along with 2 stationary launches along shoreline due East of TARGET HILL and due South of SILIMATI POINT. At 0750/L, one life raft with no visible occupants was sighted 9 miles off CAPE WARD HUNT. At 0915/L, one empty row boat was seen at 0510S-14810E. Fighter cover was excellent. Weather: Clear over target, scattered cumulus over NEW BRITAIN.

18 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (357 HH) bombed target No. 17 B (SILIMATI POINT) from 1638/L to 1639/L. 200 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8700/10000 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent--174 bombs hit in target. 7 small fires were seen in target with white smoke over target. About 5 minutes after Group left target, there was an explosion resembling a bomb burst on beach about 1000 feet Southwest of target. No airplanes were over target at that time. Nil other results were observed. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. A grass fire was seen in a large kunai patch about 1 mile Southeast of strip No. 2 at CAPE GLOUCESTER--patch was mostly burnt off. A small amount of smoke was seen coming from targets 16 A and 16 B (bombed by these Squadrons) in the morning. At 1735/L, a white sphere about 3 feet in diameter, was seen in the water at 0746S-14828E. What appeared to be a floating mine or buoy was observed at 1655/L at 0700S-14900E. Japanese was heard over liaison radio set from 3 to 5 minutes while on bombing run. Crews were enthusiastic about damage done to target yesterday and today. Weather: CAVU over target with heavy cumulus to South.

24 B-24's of the 90th Group (357 II) bombed targets No. 17 E (1½ miles Northeast of SILIMATI POINT on coast), target No. 18 D (2 miles Northeast of SILIMATI POINT) and target No. 19 B (2 and 1/2 miles Northeast of SILIMATI POINT). 248 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8000/8900 feet at the targets from 1645/L to 1647/L. Bombing was excellent. The targets were well covered by bomb pattern. Smoke from bombing and nature of target prevented assessment of damage. A fire of short duration and some white smoke was seen in the target. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Barges reported along shore off target No. 18 B (on morning strike) were observed again. Crews believe them unserviceable. Heavy smoke was observed over area bombed by 380th Group. A column of white smoke 200 feet high, was seen in target No. 17 B at 1645/L. An inactive canoe was sighted alongside of wrecked vessel off CAPE GLOUCESTER. Several fires started by 43rd Group bombing were observed. 10 to 12 barges due East of TARGET HILL (reported on 357 GG) appeared burned and damaged. At 1646/L, 2 damaged barges were seen offshore 1 mile South of SILIMATI POINT giving off an oil slick. At 1615/L, 4 probable barges were sighted off CAPE KING WILLIAM moving South. (Altitude, 9000 feet, and distance from sighting made definite identification uncertain).

Fighter cover was excellent. Weather: over target, good with slight haze which did not hamper bombing run.

34 A-20's and 9 B-25D-1's of the 3rd Group (357 JJ) bombed and strafed target No. 14 B (TAUALI VILLAGE) and target No. 14 A (Village 3/4 of a mile North of TAUALI on coast). 92 X 100 lb. 4/5 second delay, 85 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay and 32 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at the targets. Targets were strafed with 60800 X .50 cal. and 20 X .30 cal. One serviceable barge on North shore of LAGOON POINT was strafed and hit. 3 huts in village North of TAUALI and grass around the huts was set afire. Several huts were destroyed in both villages. Both villages and tracks between them were well covered by excellent bombing and strafing. The 69th Squadron reported possible slight, light, inaccurate A/A fire from position 500 yards inland from TAUALI VILLAGE. All other Squadrons reported nil A/A. Photos were taken of the attack including 35 mm movie film. Tracks in area appeared well used but both villages appeared uninhabited. Small orange buoys with small flags were observed at NESUP ISLAND just South of ROOKE ISLAND. An oil smoke fire rising to 1000 feet was observed on No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER from 1015/L to 1045/L. 3 probably serviceable TONYS were seen on North end of No. 1 strip; 1 of these was camouflaged in revetment at Northeast end of strip. A canvas cover was seen over A/A position at Southwest end of No. 1 strip. 2 unidentified single-engine airplanes were seen circling TARGET HILL at 200 feet as the Group approaches the target. White smoke was seen in target No. 15 A after bombing by 90th Group. Target No. 14 B and SAG SAG appeared well beaten up. A possible dugout was seen on seaward side of knoll approximately 1500 yards East of TAUALI. White smoke was observed several hundred yards inland from 16 C near SILIMATI POINT. A possible JS with half of conning tower and periscope above water, was sighted at 0705S-14825E at 0935/L. A red roofed hut was observed along bank ½ mile from GIMA RIVER mouth in good condition. Several gardens, very well kept, were observed along both banks of the ITNE RIVER. A freshly plowed area approximately 25 X 25 feet was observed in a clearing approximately 800 yards Due South of TAUALI with 2 possible empty unused gun pits on West side of this area. Track between targets 14 B and 14 A appeared not well used. 2 red roofed buildings were observed by gunner halfway between LAGOON POINT and TAUALI about ¼ of a mile inland. One building was damaged by previous bomb bursts and the other appeared in good condition. A large column of black smoke to 1000 feet was observed on East coast of ROOKE ISLAND near BARIK. An empty rectangular wooden boat or raft with a number of oil drums floating nearby was sighted at 0700S-14630E. Weather over target was CAVU. Time of attack, 0952/L to 1035/L.

12 B-25's of the 33rd Squadron and 7 B-26's of the 19th Squadron (357 KK) bombed SAG SAG (target No. 15) from 1053/L to 1055/L. 109 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 4000/4600 feet on headings of 25 to 40 degrees. Bombing was excellent. Target appeared well covered by bombing. Smoke from bomb bursts and one fire covered target obscuring other results. Gray smoke rising several hundred feet came from center of target. Several small explosions were observed in Plantation North of SAG SAG VILLAGE 3 minutes after bombing. 103 bombs were believed to have hit in target. Photos were taken of the

bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Black smoke was seen rising beyond East end of No. 2 strip. A fire was observed 2 miles inland from DORF POINT. A newly observed clearing with huts therein was noted 2500 yards North of GRASS POINT. Weather over target was clear with scattered cumulus enroute to and from target.

26 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (357 LL) bombed and strafed BORGEN BAY from SILIMATI POINT to approximately 2 and 3/8 miles Northeast of SILIMATI POINT and TARGET HILL from 0718/L to 0735/L. 101 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. 35585 X .50 cal. and 6100 X .30 cal. were expended. Targets were well covered by bombing and strafing which was excellent. Results were unobserved due to dust and bomb smoke, nature of target and speed of attack. One navigator asserted that no gun positions were left on TARGET HILL. Photos were taken of the attack. Very slight, inaccurate M/G fire was reported by 2 crews of the 501st Squadron reported very slight, inaccurate M/G fire over the target. All other crews reported nil A/A. 2 barges, apparently serviceable, were observed coast 2 miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT at 0720/L. 3 barges, apparently serviceable, were seen in small bay just below SILIMATI POINT at 0721/L. 3 apparently serviceable barges were seen beached 1½ miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT. A camouflaged barge was seen parallel to coast 1900 yards South of SILIMATI POINT. A wrecked barge tied to shore with 2 ropes as though it might be used for a jetty was observed 1000 yards South of SILIMATI POINT. A clearing approximately 100 feet square and seemingly camouflaged with a large net, was observed at 707880. A footbridge and several paths were seen along coast just East of unnamed river 3 and 1/5 miles Southeast of East end of No. 2 strip. A volcano Southwest of TARGET HILL was active sending up a lazy column of white smoke. A rectangular tar papered building was observed about 1 mile Northeast of MAKAROP VILLAGE. At 0720/L, one Transport similar to DC-2, was observed on East end of No. 2 strip. Airplane appeared possibly serviceable. 3 or 4 barges among a large group of wrecked barges along shore South of SILIMATI POINT appeared to be serviceable. Weather at target was CAVU.

6 P-39Q's of the 82nd Ren Squadron (357 PP) carried out a barge-reconnaissance and strafing mission from BORGEN BAY to RIEBECK BAY from 1000/L to 1100/L. Jap DD on reef off CAPE GLOUCESTER was strafed in 4 passes. 37 mm shells tore up canvas covering on stern and smoke was seen rising from under the cover. 37 mm shells which hit amidship resulted in an explosion which rocked the airplane doing the strafing. Grey clouds of smoke were left pouring from center of ship. 2 serviceable barges at MONG MONGA POINT were strafed. Barges were nosed in to shore and were well camouflaged. Results were undetermined due to foliage. 1500 X .50 cal. and 50 X 37 mm were expended in strafing. 5 wrecked BETTYS were sighted on strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. A building 30 X 75 feet with red roof was sighted approximately 250 yards from West coast of ROTTOCK BAY. (Not strafed due to ammunition running low). Wooden bridge big enough to accomodate a truck was situated across river in Southern part of BORGEN BAY. (Not strafed because ammunition was running low). Weather: Scattered cumulus, 3000/6000 feet over NEW BRITAIN.

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (357 BW) completed a harassing raid over the CAPE GLOUCESTER area. 40 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped between 2045/L and 2400/L from 7600/9900 feet in the area. 100 X 4-2 lb. incendiary bombs were also dropped. 2 large fires, 100 yards apart, were started approximately 2 to 5 miles East of N. 2 Strip. Fires were first seen after first bombing run and were still burning when B-24 left the area. Approximately 12 bursts of slight, light, inaccurate A/A fire and light M/G fire was received from the Coast coast of ROOKE ISLAND at 2045/L while flying at 7000 feet. At 2100/L, a white light was seen flashing on and off at different intervals 5 miles off SILIMATI POINT. The same type light was observed on SILIMATI POINT. Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Weathers: SOLOMON SEA, DUMPIR STRAITS and Target, all clear. Front building up 20 miles Southwest of HOSKINS BAY at 2035/L. Front was 5 miles thick at 8000 feet at 2400/L. STRAITS and Western SOLOMON Sea were clear on return.

MAIBARIA: 11 A-20's of the 69th Squadron (387 BG) bombed and strafed barge hideout in MAIBARIA RIVER from 1600/L to 1625/L. 42 X 250 lb. 4/5-second delay demo. bombs were dropped. 19500 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing. Bombs fell throughout suspected barge hideout in MAIBARIA area. 2 possibly 2 barges, in MAIBARIA RIVER, floating and probably serviceable, were strafed and damaged. 4 bombs were dropped at a burned-out hull of barge in MAIBARIA RIVER near mouth. Barge was well strafed. 2 bombs were dropped at A/C position approximately 2 and 3/8 miles Southwest of MAIBARIA VILLAGE. Position was also strafed. Gullies in SIO MISSION and SIO West area were strafed. Search was made for supplies along shore from GNEISENAU POINT to SCHARNHORST POINT with nil sightings. Photos were taken of the attack. Slight, inaccurate A/C fire came from position 2 and 3/8 miles Southwest of MAIBARIA and from position 3 miles to the Northwest of MAIBARIA. 5 grass fires were seen in target area. One column of dark smoke, 100 yards up Creek at GNEISENAU POINT lasted 10 minutes after our aircraft arrived at target. Wreck at GNEISENAU POINT appears to be a 100 foot vessel turned over on side and is of a peculiar rounded shape. 2 wrecked barges were seen nearby. A track was seen leading by several huts in general direction inland from SIO MISSION. 2 serviceable barges were observed at entrance to SIO LAGOON. Another barge was seen at mouth of MAIBARIA River and another serviceable barge 1500 yards up MAIBARIA RIVER (in straight line) from mouth. A trail was observed leading to a clump of trees on STOLZENFELS SPUR, 1250 yards Southwest of GNEISENAU POINT. A circular gun position was noted 100 yards from shore at SIO West. 2 Nips carrying rifles were observed 1½ miles up trail along SAPONO RIVER. Nips disappeared when our aircraft peeled off towards them. One Jap and one native were seen on the trail 400 yards East of river at SCHARNHORST POINT. A cable of heavy wire was stretched across the mouth of the MAIBARIA RIVER 10 to 15 feet above water. Weather: CAVU throughout route, scattered rain over HUON PENINSULA and rain over ROOKE ISLAND.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (357 BG) completed 100% armed recce of the BISMARCK Sea. 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1515/L from 10000 feet at European type buildings on North shore of PITOH HARBOR (GREAT ISLAND). Bombs hit short of buildings with nil damage. Unidentified B-25 was sighted at 0815/L from 8900 feet off CAPE ENDAIADERE in the water headed away from land, close to shore.

Smoke was seen at KTAU POINT. There were nil other sightings. Airplane took off at 0644/L and returned to base at 1730/L. Weather: Generally clear west of Greece. Heavy frontal activity over NE/ BRITAIN.

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (35th CG) completed 100% on armed recce to 0245N-14940E, 0200N-15140E. 2 bombs were dropped at 1745/L from 8500 ft to 1 at DORF POINT MISSION. Closest bomb missed by 250 feet with nil apparent damage. At 1450/L from 1500 feet, one unidentified airplane was observed at 0000-14920E flying at 4000 feet headed North. At 1735/L one unidentified small boat was seen in HOT [illegible] BAY. Airplane took off at 0737/L and returned to base at 1915/L. Weather: Whole search area, 4/10 scattered cumulus, base 1500 feet, tops 4000 feet, thin-cumulus and stratus at 8000 feet to 16000 feet, 2/10 to 5/10 Mare-Nost front at Equator, tops 20000/25000 feet. One A landing was made on return to base and the [illegible] nose wheel; B-24 damaged; nil injuries to personnel

1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (347 BW) completed 100% on armed recce of the SOLOMON [illegible] 2 x 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1[illegible] from 9500 feet at dump area 8 [illegible] Southeast of G[illegible]NTA strip. Bombs hit on shore near jetty at base [illegible] of road 3600 feet Southeast of [illegible]. Weather: 4 10ths Slight, medium, intocumulus, [illegible] tops 8000 feet MSL, possibly from [illegible]. 3 black bursts were observed and 500 to 1000 feet above airplane. A rusty circular area was seen in the water at 0830S-14935E at 0735/L. There were nil other sightings. Airplane took off at 0630/L and returned to base at 1615/L. Weather: SOLOMON SEA, overcast, 4/10 light stratus, 3000/5000 tops, front from 30 miles Southeast of GAVUTU running North and [illegible] Target, MVU. On return, 4/10 [illegible] 10000 feet.

2 B-24's of the 63rd Squadron (1st [illegible]) completed (1 B-24) 100% on armed recce of the BISMARCK [illegible]. Second B-24 returned to base due to [illegible] at 2313/L in position 0730S-15400E, 2 unidentified [illegible] planes with no IFF, lights were [illegible] to [illegible] for 15 minutes. Our airplane burned red light and the 2 unidentified airplanes did likewise. [illegible] evasive action but unidentified [illegible] followed [illegible] disappeared from [illegible] at 0[illegible]. [illegible] was attempted. At 2400/L from [illegible], 2 unidentified ships were picked up [illegible] Course and speed unknown. [illegible] bombs were [illegible] (63rd GROUP) due to no suitable [illegible]. [illegible] at 1815/24/L and returned to base at 0400/25/L. [illegible]: Sat, CANU. BISMARCK SEA, 7/10 [illegible] mile front, [illegible] moving West. [illegible].

B. Ground Forces.

See SUMMARY attached.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

See Summary attached.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
25 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	H/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7	5					12	0
DAGUA	14	9	2				25	0
WEWAK	13		5			6	24	0
BORAM	16						16	0
WAR	8						8	0
ALEXISHAFEN			6				6	0
HOLLANDIA	10	46	23				81	0
HOLLANDIA		13					13	0
Total	68	75	36			6	185	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	7	13	2	14		7	43	0
VUNAKANAU	1	20	13	1			51	0
LAKUNAI		5		21			64	0
RAPOPO	11	10						0
HARBOR					2	18		0
PANAPAI	11						11	0
TOBERA	20			13			33	0
BORPOP		4					4	0
Total	104	52	15	49	2	25	247	0

COMMENTS:

1. With no photos of NEW GUINEA, NEW IRELAND or NEW BRITAIN areas recently, our estimate remains unchanged.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

ENEMY SHIPPING at 01505-14205E: 23/12/43. (356 SB)

Photos show convoy of 2 escort vessels either PC or PG and 3 M/V of which one is a Freighter of 7000 tons, a Freighter-Transport of 4000 tons and one Engines-Aft Freighter of 2000 tons. The M/V's are the same ships seen at WEWAK on 22 December, 1943. Bombs missed the Freighter-Transport.

ENEMY SHIPPING at 01253-14855E: 23/12/43. (356 DD)

Excellent near vertical photo shows a Freighter of 5500 tons.

WALOG PLANTATION TO WALOS MISSION:

Excellent verticals cover area from WEST side WALOG PLANTATION, which is along coast of NEW GUINEA West of KARKAR ISLAND, to one mile Southeast of TIMBER RIVER and area approximately 3½ miles inland, and SARANG ISLAND.

Activity is apparent all along the coast and inland approximately one mile. Coastal track is used of which sections apparently are used for motor vehicles. Eight bridges cross various streams, but no bridge crosses GILAGIL RIVER. Two unidentified villages are along coast on either side of COMEI RIVER. Much ground activity is seen at YELIHUM VILLAGES and MISSION, GILAGIL RIVER, CAPE MOSS-BARAR and at MISSION on SARANG ISLAND.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

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

TIME OF SEARCH: 0505/25/L to 0810/25/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE ISLAND, BULLDOG, PASS, MARKHAM VALLEY, NADZAB, PASS and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0600/L, tops of low clouds 6000 feet, 4/10 covered, height of upper clouds 12000 feet, 5/10 covered, visibility 10 miles. BULLDOG, 0635/L, tops of low clouds, 2000 feet, 2/10 covered, height of upper clouds 13000 feet, 8/10 covered, visibility 20 miles. PASS, 0655/L, tops of low clouds 7000 feet, 4/10 covered, height of upper clouds 13000 feet, 9/10 covered, visibility 20 miles. MARKHAM VALLEY, 0710/L, tops of low clouds 5000 feet, 9/10 covered, height of upper clouds 9500 feet, 5/10 covered, visibility 20 miles. NADZAB, 0720/L, tops of low clouds 5000 feet, 4/10 covered, height of upper clouds 8000 feet, 4/10 covered, visibility 20 miles. PASS, 0735/L, solid clouds in valley up to 6500 feet, clear above, visibility unlimited.

358 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1102/25/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Targets No. 22 and 23 (2200 yards and 2650 yards Southeast of East end of No. 2 strip).

RESULTS: 60 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on a heading of 140 degrees through target area. All results were unobserved. Bombing was excellent. Area was thoroughly strafed from coast to TARGET HILL with 16975 X .50 cal. and 3500 X .30 cal. On return from target at ANNEN POINT, a 2 masted schooner drawn in close to beach and partly obscured by trees was strafed by turret gunner of one airplane with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the attack. 4 bundles of Jap propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target.

A/A: Slight, light, inaccurate M/G fire from position in clearing 1½ miles South of East end of No. 2 strip and from dugout on West side of TARGET HILL.

SIGHTINGS: One co-pilot reported 2 bursts of heavy A/A fire from position on Northwest side strip No. 1. Three unidentified airplanes were seen on strip No. 2. 3 to 5 unserviceable barges, apparently abandoned, were seen near mouth of river at 674953 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER, Special, 1/20000). One gunner reported a twin tailed twin-engine airplane in clearing at 655955 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER, Special, 1/20000). Airplane appeared burnt and badly damaged. Approximately 13 barges, probably serviceable, were seen on beach between the ITNE RIVER and CAPE BUSHING. 5 or 6 tents were seen in a clearing Southeast of East end of strip No. 2. One life raft which appeared empty was seen at 071S-148O5E. An apparently friendly PT boat was sighted in the vicinity heading in the general direction of the raft. 3 native huts were observed on SIPIN ISLAND and 1 heavily damaged barge on the beach.

WEATHER: Enroute, over Ranges, few cumulus at 9000 feet. Target few high scattered cirrus at 9000/10000 feet.

358 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25C-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1103/25/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Targets No. 22 and 23 (2200 yards and 2650 yards Southeast of East end of No. 2 strip).

RESULTS: 9 B-25C-1's abreast on a heading of 110 degrees dropped 63 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs in the assigned targets. One very small grass fire was started. Other results were unobserved, except for bomb bursts in target. Bombing was excellent. All airplanes cleared from CAPE GLOUCESTER airdrome to TARGET HILL. 2000 X .50 cal. and 250 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing. 4 bundles of Jap propaganda leaflets were dropped near the target. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: One crew member reported flashes from a single light M/G along coastal track 1½ miles Southeast of East end of strip No. 2.

SIGHTINGS: A small amount of bluish gray smoke was observed between strips No. 1 and 2.

WEATHER: Enroute, over Ranges, 3/10 strato-cumulus from 1800 to 4000 feet, 8/10 cirro-stratus above 20000 feet. Over water, 6/10 to 9/10 cumulus, bases at 2000 feet with occasional tops at 12000 feet. Target, 6/10 to 9/10 cumulus from 2000 to 10000 feet. On return over Ranges, 7/10 cumulus from 2000 feet to 8000 feet, occasional tops at 13000 feet.

358 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25C's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1100/25/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Targets No. 22 and 23 (2200 yards and 2650 yards Southeast of East end of No. 2 strip).

RESULTS: 61 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target from a Squadron aerecht formation attacking on a heading of 145 degrees. All results were unobserved. Bombing was excellent. 157 X 75 mm were fired across CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdrome East over the target, starting 3 or 4 small fires between No. 2 strip and the target and one fire with black smoke to 50 feet on prominent point

on shore 2 miles East of CAPE GLOUCESTER. The entire area was thoroughly strafed with 6650 X .50 cal. and 130 X .30 cal. Low oblique photos were taken of the attack. 4 bundles of Jap propaganda leaflets were dropped on the target.

A/A: Slight, inaccurate M/G fire from Northwest end of No. 1 strip and from 2 positions in hills surrounding the target.

SIGHTINGS: One unidentified SSF, believed serviceable by 2 crews, and one truck were seen in South dispersal area of No. 2 strip. One crew member reported trenches and possible pits on both sides of target No. 23. One serviceable barge was observed at SILIWATI POINT.

WEATHER: Same as 405th Squadron's report.

358 D. STRIKE - 10 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1101/25/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER--Targets No. 22 and 23 (2200 yards and 2650 yards Southeast of East end of No. 2 strip).

RESULTS: 62 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target from a Squadron abreast formation attacking on a 145 degree heading. All results were unobserved. 174 X 75 mm were fired across CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdrome and the targets with unobserved results. CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdrome and the targets were strafed (including M/G position--see A/A) with 6620 X .50 cal. and 300 X .30 cal. Bombing was excellent. Low oblique photos were taken of the attack. 3 bundles of Jap propaganda leaflets were dropped over the targets.

A/A: One crew reported slight, inaccurate M/G fire from 1 position in small kunai grass gully immediately East of the target.

SIGHTINGS: Road from CAPE GLOUCESTER to BORGEN BAY appeared well used. A fresh clearing was observed 1 mile West of GAROPI VILLAGE on base of MT. TANGI. Possible wood frame construction was seen in the clearing. 2 crew members reported 4 unidentified single engine airplanes diving over FINSCHHA. EN. Explosions were observed on the ground simultaneously.

WEATHER: Enroute, 5/10 cumulus from 1000 to 6000 feet over Ranges, 4/10 high cirro-stratus at 21000 feet. Target, 4/10 cumulus above 1000 feet, 6/10 cirro-stratus at 18000 feet. On return, 8/10 cumulus over Ranges with tops at 17000 feet, 6/10 cirro-stratus at 20000 feet.

358 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1 , 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0738/25/L to 1715/25/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GUSAP, MADZAB and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, 3/10 overcast. Valley, clear. On return, 9/10 overcast at 8000 feet.

358 H. PHOTO RECCO - 1 B-25, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 1050/25/L to 1100/25/L and 1340/25/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: CAPE GLOUCESTER and SAIDOR-FINSCHHAFEN area.

RESULTS: K-22 photos were taken from LAGOON POINT to DORF POINT; from DAMP FLAT to MATALO; oblique photos were taken in vicinity of BORGEN BAY. K-18 photos were taken from CAPE IRIS to YAGOMI and of friendly barges.

SIGHTINGS: At 1350/L over SAIDOR, one twin-engine airplane, probable BETTY, was observed at 1000 feet on course 330 degrees.

GENERAL: B-25 became separated from escort in vicinity of DUMPU and went over SAIDOR targets unescorted.

WEATHER: CAPE GLOUCESTER, broken low cumulus. SAIDOR, CAVU. Ranges, cumulus to 14000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

8 P-40's of the 35th Fighter Squadron patrolling over ARAWE, shot down 1 DINAH at 1320/L, 10 miles South of ARAWE.

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.

SITUATION REVIEW -- GROUND OPERATIONS

ALLIED AND ENEMY

TO: 25 December, 1943.

GENERAL: The tempo of our advance along the coast of the HUON PENINSULA has not slackened and during the week our troops have achieved a crossing of the MASAWENG RIVER and the capture of FORTIFICATION POINT and HUBIKA VILLAGE and are now occupying positions about a mile from the Jap base of WANDOKAI. This was accomplished in spite of the fact that the rugged terrain North of the MASAWENG precluded use of vehicles and tanks.

Enemy resistance in the WAREO area has been so reduced that our operations in that area have resolved into a static defense role. The area North to the MASAWENG RIVER has been secured by patrols which have not been able to "put up" any enemy forces. The only evidence of any Jap activity in this general area has been on our extreme Western flank on the upper branch of the MASAWENG RIVER around ZAGAMEI where our Commando forces have suffered attacks on their ration parties.

Effective enemy strength in the area SIO to the MASAWENG RIVER is estimated at 5500, combat personnel being 2770.

In the KALU VALLEY, the threatened enemy aggression has apparently subsided completely. Our patrols have been operating extensively in the area as formerly, without contacting the enemy, whom it appears, may have withdrawn towards his former limits.

Photos taken of the BOGADJIM ROAD on the 19th of December, 1943, do not disclose any attempt to repair the damage done to the road by recent heavy rains.

Barge and submarine traffic in the vicinity of SIO still appears to be heavy in spite of our attacks, while, a number of inconclusive sightings have been made on the North and South coasts of NEW BRITAIN.

At ARAWE Allied forces have occupied the airfield which is unserviceable and are patrolling East of SIOAL RIVER and West towards the ITNE RIVER where Jap troops are reported to be in occupation.

HUON PENINSULA: While the mopping-up of the CAPE SIBIL area proceeded our vanguard accomplished a crossing of the SANGA RIVER in spite of vigorous Jap opposition. With artillery support the enemy were pushed back across the mouth of the MASAWENG and our troops secured a foothold South of FORTIFICATION HILL. Little opposition was encountered in the capture of the HILL, and the enemy appeared to be in full flight, although large numbers were reported to be moving towards HUBIKA. The anticipated opposition at this village did not materialize, however, and the former Jap base was captured without much resistance. Although vehicles were not able to proceed North of HUBIKA due to the precipitous nature of the country, our advance proceeded unchecked, and Jap positions screening the approaches to WANDOKAI were overcome to within a mile of the village.

Information from captured documents and POW's suggested that the main strength of the Jap 20th Division would be encountered North of the MASAWENG RIVER, but vigorous patrol activity on our left flank failed to make contact. In the upper reaches of the MASAWENG RIVER, however, Commando forces patrolling this flank have been attacked by an enemy force of unknown strength who are known to be in occupation in the vicinity of ZAGAMEI.

Since our troops occupied the high ground dominating the spur running towards KILIGIA between the SOMI and TUNOM RIVERS, the enemy have broken off contact in the area. POW reports indicate that the force engaged in this area may have moved to the coast through HUBIKA. It was suggested that a Jap stand would be made at WANDOKAI, where the terrain is particularly suitable and this is supported by aerial recce, as many newly constructed defences are visible. However, the knowledge of the enemy use of dummy positions and the lack of resistance North of HUBIKA renders this possibility questionable.

RAMU VALLEY: Having established a firm base behind the EVAPIA RIVER, our patrols immediately commenced probing in the direction of the new positions occupied by the enemy in the KESAWAI district. The patrols investigated as far as the SOLU RIVER vicinity without making contact. Later a Jap force was contacted on the high grounds North of the EVAPIA RIVER, but our artillery fire compelled them to withdraw. Further patrols covering the area to the HAILE and SOLU RIVERS failed to make contact with the large Jap force that had descended on the KESAWAI area and these reports in conjunction with air recce suggests that the main body may have withdrawn from the area.

DAVID R. CRAIG, Captain, AIF,
Air Liaison Officer,
V BOMBER COMMAND

ALGIERS:

CANADIAN INFANTRYMEN FIGHTING A SLOW AND SANGUINARY HOUSE TO HOUSE BATTLE WITH BAYONETS AND GRENADES WERE ROOTING SPECIALLY TRAINED GERMAN ELITE TROOPS OUT OF THEIR LAST FOOTHOLDS IN STRATEGIC ORTONA AFTER OTHER EIGHTH ARMY UNITS DROVE AHEAD DESPITE SNOW AND RAIN AND CAPTURED THE VILLAGE OF VEZZANI THREE MILES TO THE SOUTHWEST. THE AIR FRONT HQDS. ANNOUNCED THAT MARAUDER MEDIUM BOMBERS OF THE AMERICAN FIFTEENTH AIRFORCE BRAVED CLOUDS AND WINTRY STORMS THURSDAY TO BLAST THE NAZI RAIL SUPPLY LINE ALONG THE RIVIERA COAST FROM FRANCE TO ITALY BOMBING YARDS AND BRIDGES AT THREE POINTS.

LONDON:

RUSSIANS BALTIC ARMY DRIVING ON VITEBSK STORMED AND CAPTURED THE LAKE TOWN OF GORODOK ON THE VITEBSK NEVEL RAILWAY TWENTY MILES NORTH OF THE GREAT GERMAN BASTION AND ONLY FIFTEEN MILES FROM THE VITEBSK POLOTSK RAIL LINE. THE GERMAN RADIO INDICATED THAT THE FIGHT FOR VITEBSK HAD NOW BEEN EXTENDED BY THE RUSSIANS TO AN ATTACK NOT ONLY FROM THE NORTH WHERE THE BALTIC ARMY WAS ON THE MARCH BUT TO ATTACKS FROM THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST. HERE THE RUSSIANS HAVE LONG HELD POSITIONS 25 MILES AWAY ON THE SMOLENSK RAILROAD.

LONDON:

FLYING FORTRESSES KEPT UP THE ASSAULT OF THE"FRENCH ROCKET GUN COAST," FRIDAY AFTER RAF HEAVIES BLASTED BERLIN FOR THE SEVENTH TIME IN FIVE WEEKS.

SOUTH PACIFIC:

FROM ADMIRAL NIMITZ CAME WORD OF THREE ADDITIONAL BOMBINGS ON THE MARSHALLS ISLANDS OF KWAJALEIN AND MILI WITH TWO ENEMY CARGO SHIPS PLASTERED AND THREE ENEMY PLANES SHOT DOWN. JAPAN'S DEFENSE OF THE MARSHALLS HAS COST THEM 98 PLANES DESTROYED AND 31 PROBABLY DESTROYED IN DECEMBER THUS FAR.

WASHINGTON:

THE NAVY ANNOUNCED THE LOSS OF ITS SIXTEENTH SUBMARINE FOR THIS WAR THE GRAYLING WHICH PRESUMABLY WAS OPERATING IN THE PACIFIC WHERE AMERICAN UNDERSEA CRAFT ALREADY HAVE SUNK OR DAMAGED 524 ENEMY SHIPS.

HYDEPARK NY:

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT IN HIS CHRISTMAS EVE BROADCAST TO THE WORLD ANNOUNCED THAT GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF MEDITERRANEAN OPERATIONS WOULD LEAD THE ALLIED OFFENSIVE INTO EUROPE. HE MADE NO REFERENCE AS TO THE FUTURE OF GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY WHO HAD BEEN REPORTED EARLIER AS THE CHOICE FOR THE VITAL EUROPEAN INVASION COMMAND. THE PRESIDENT ADDED "THE RUSSIAN ARMY WILL CONTINUE ITS OFFENSIVES ON GERMANY'S EASTERN FRONT, THE ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY AND AFRICA WILL BRING RELENTLESS PRESSURE ON GERMANY FROM THE SOUTH AND NOW THE ENCIRCLEMENT WILL BE COMPLETE AS GREAT AMERICAN AND BRITISH FORCES ATTACK FROM OTHER POINTS OF THE COMPASS" BEARING OUT REPORTS IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS WEEK THE PRESIDENT SAID "WE SHALL HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO LARGE CASUALTY LISTS DEAD AND WOUNDED AND MISSING. WAR ENTAILS JUST THAT. THERE IS NO EASY ROAD TO VICTORY AND THE END IS NOT YET IN SIGHT."

LONDON:

GENERAL SIR HENRY MAITLAND WILSON WAS DESIGNATED ALLIED COMMANDER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA SUCCEEDING GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER WHO BECOMES CHIEF OF ALLIED SECOND FRONT FORCES. THE APPOINTMENT OF WILSON WHO HAS BEEN COMMANDER IN CHEIF OF BRITISH FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS ANNOUNCED AT NO. 10 DOWNING STREET.

JERUSALEM:

BETHLEHEM THE BIRTHPLACE OF CHRIST AND JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM: CONT.

LIGHT FROM 10,000 WINDOWS CHRISTMAS EVE AS THE BRITISH LIFTED THE BLACK-OUT RESTRICTIONS FOR THE FIRST LIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE IN FOUR YEARS OF WAR.

LONDON:

PRAYING THAT THIS MAY BE THE LAST WAR CHRISTMAS AND THAT A TRULY CHRISTIAN PEACE MAY BE CELEBRATED IN THE COMING YEAR POPE PIUS CALLED FOR THE WORLD'S RESPONSIBLE LEADERS TO CHECK THE INSTINCTS OF HATE AND VENGENANCE AND GIVE RISE TO RESPLENDENT DAWN OF A NEW SPIRIT OF WORLD UNION. THE POPE IN VIBRANT VOICE OUTLINED A "PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE PROGRAM"

PACIFIC:

THERE WAS NO SIGN OF A YULE SURCEASE ON ANY PART OF THE VAST PACIFIC AT BASES ALL OVERTTHE PACIFIC TRADITIONAL TURKEY DINNERS, WREATHS FROM THE PALMS OF ONCE PEACEFUL ISLES PRAYERFUL MESSAGES OF MEN IN COMMAND THESE AND OTHER REMINDERS OF HAPPIER DAYS BLENDED STERNLY IN THE UN-REMITTING WAR TO "ASSURE PEACE IN THE FAR EAST FOR MANY GENERATIONS TO COME". IN THE WORDS OF THE PRESIDENT'S XMAS EVE BROADCAST TO THE WORLD.

NEW YORK:

JAPAN'S LOWERING OF THE AGE OF CONSCRIPTION TO 19 DISCLOSED THURSDAY WAS CALLED AN "URGENT NEGESSITY" BY GENERAL TAKAO SUZUKI, DIRECTOR OF IMPERIAL JAPANESE YOUTHS CORPS IN A FRIDAY BROADCAST. SUZUKI SAID THE "WAR SITUATION HAS BECOME FIREGE".

Aust. AIR LIAISON GROUP
27 DEC 1943

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 360.

SECRET
AUTH: C.O.
INITS:
DATE: 26/12/43
FROM: 1800/25/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/26/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
AVO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 36 B-25D and C-1's and B-25G's of the 38th Group (359 D) attacked defence areas and villages between DOUF POINT and CAPE GLOUCESTER at 0914/L from minimum altitude. 61 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped on targets with damage unobserved. Target areas were strafed with a total of 33795 X .50 cal. and 2730 X .30 cal. 134 X 75 mm were expended on targets with unobserved damage. A/A was slight, medium and inaccurate from positions in target. WAREMO, BOLA BOLA and SAMOI VILLAGES were in shambles from bombing attacks. No enemy airplanes were observed airborne in target area. One gray motor launch was observed anchored at barge hideout at target No. 10 (2100 yards Southwest of No. 1 strip on coast). Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (359 A) completed 66 and 2/3rds % of a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane did not land at GUSAP due to receiving no signal from control tower. Airplane took off at 0910/L and landed at 1420/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (359 E) completed 100% a weather recco of the MARKHAM VALLEY, FINSCHHAFEN, LAE, DUMPU and WAU. Airplane took off at 0517/L and landed at 0850/L. There were nil sightings.

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Summary of Missions carried out by FATF, 25/12/43.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 20 B-24's of the 529th and 530th Squadrons (358 BG) bombed target No. 17 E (1½ miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT on coast), target No. 18 D (2 miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT) and target No. 19 B (2 and 1/8 miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT), at 1153/L. 229 X 500 lb. frag. demo. bombs were dropped at the targets from 8500/9500 feet. Bombing was excellent. Targets were well covered by bombing. One large and several smaller red explosions followed by fires emitting black smoke were observed in the target. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. 15 barges were observed along Eastern shore of BORGEN BAY. 4 barges, probably unserviceable, were seen along shore at CAPE PEINO. New clearing activity was observed between MT. TANGI and RELMEN VILLAGE. Several small harbor craft were sighted at BAMBAK VILLAGE at 1147/L. Grass fires were seen around Northern end of No. 1 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Weather at target was CAVU. Scattered cumulus with bases at 3000 feet and tops up to 15000 feet, was encountered enroute to and from target.

18 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (358 FF) bombed targets 17 E, 18 D and 19 B (Same as 358 EE, directly above), target No. 16 A (1 and 3/8 miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT on coast), target No. 16 B (1½ miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT on coast) and target No. 16 C (beginning 800 yards Northwest of SILIMATI POINT on coast and extending to target 16 B), from 0909/L to 0920/L. 202 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8600/10000 feet at the targets. Bombing was excellent. 195 bombs hit in target. 3 flashes followed by black smoke were seen in target. Targets were covered by smoke for 10 minutes after completion of bombing. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. A medium sized fire with white smoke was observed along shore near village of KILENGE. At 0855/L, fires were seen on coast near ULIMAINGI, probably started by strafers. 12 to 15 barges, serviceability undetermined, were observed in a Cove between target and SILIMATI POINT. At 0940/L, a possible signal fire was sighted 100 yards inshore from CAPE BACH. 2 columns of white smoke rising to 500/1000 feet were seen; one just South of TAUALI VILLAGE and the other from first village along coast South of TAUALI, (8th Squadrons target). 15 to 20 barges, reddish color, serviceability undetermined were seen at 0920/L 2200 yards South of SILIMATI POINT. Weather at target was CAVU. 1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron was damaged on return to base due to flat nose wheel tire. Nil personnel injured.

23 B-24's of the 90th Group (358 GG) bombed target No. 16 A (1 and 3/8 miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT), target No. 16 B (1½ miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT) target No. 16 C (beginning 800 yards Northwest of SILIMATI POINT on coast and extending to target No. 16 B) from 1512/L to 1516/L. 270 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8000/8900 feet at the target. All targets were thoroughly covered by excellent bombing. Black smoke was seen over the area after bombing. Assessment of damage was impossible due to smoke and return of target. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. At 1511/L, fires were observed in cleared areas approximately 1½ miles and 4 miles East of strip No. 2. The entire area from target No. 16 A to SILIMATI POINT appeared to be well covered by bombs. Small stores were visible Northwest of target No. 16 A along beach between target No. 18 D and 19 B. No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER appeared unserviceable with previously reported airplanes in same positions. Weather: Target was clear with 8/10 cumulus, base 4000 feet, tops 18000 feet over NEW BRITAIN.

30 A-20's of the 3rd Group (358 HH) bombed and strafed target No. 14 A (Village 3/4 of a mile North of TAUALI on coast), target No. 14 B (TAUALI VILLAGE) and target No. 14 C (1700 yards South of TAUALI on coast) from 0813/L to 0855/L. 66 X 100 lb. and 73 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. Targets were strafed with 47775 X .50 cal. Bombing was excellent. Target No. 14 C was badly damaged. One hut in this village was burning and several others were damaged. The entire area from target No. 14 A to LAGOON POINT was thoroughly strafed. Results were generally unobserved. One empty gun emplacement large enough for 2 M/G's was seen just in from shore at target No. 14 A. All targets appeared badly damaged. 10 to 12 freshly cut trees were observed on a knob between targets No. 14 B and No. 14 C. There were nil sightings of enemy activity. The 89th Squadron reported slight, inaccurate M/G fire, probably from position in

square 550870 (SAG SAG, 1/20000). The other 2 Squadrons reported nil A/A. Photos were taken of the attack. Weather over target was CAVU.

9. B-25D-1's of the 13th Squadron (358 HH) bombed and strafed target No. 14 A (Village 3/4 of a mile North of MAUILI on coast) and strafed the coast from target No. 14 A to SAG SAG from 1200/L to 1208/L. 36 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped and 19500 X .50 cal. was expended. Bombing was excellent--35 bombs fell on or within 50 yards of target. One small fire giving off black smoke, probably a small ammunition dump, was set just South of target. One red flame explosion which seemed larger than bomb explosion, was caused just East of the target. Results were otherwise unobserved. Photos were taken of the attack. Nil A/A fire was encountered. 2 fires giving off heavy white smoke were observed near strips at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Weather: Target, 3/10 cumulus, base 1000 feet, tops 4000 feet, slight haze, visibility 15 miles, light showers North of BORGEN BAY. This mission was originally sent off at 0640/L but airplanes returned to base from CAPE WARD HUNT at 0715/L due to lack of fighter escort.

24 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (358 JF) bombed and strafed target No. 17 B (SILIMATI POINT), target No. 20 B (2 and 3/10 miles Northwest of SILIMATI POINT), target No. 21 (1⅛ miles Southeast of East end of M. 2 strip) and TARGET HILL from 1427/L to 1440/L. Bombing of target No. 17 B was excellent--35 bombs were dropped on the target. Target was thoroughly strafed. Results of bombing and strafing were unobserved. Photos were taken of the attack. Bombing of target No. 20 B was excellent. Bomb bursts and much smoke covered the entire area. Target was well strafed. 42 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped on or immediate vicinity of target No. 21. One fire sending up black smoke and numerous grass fires were started in this area. Target was well strafed with 6550 X .50 cal. and 4800 X .30 cal. Results were unobserved except for bomb bursts and dust. 42 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped on TARGET HILL. Bombing was excellent. One near miss was scored on one of four gun positions on Southeast crest of hill. One grass fire was started on crest near this gun position. TARGET HILL was strafed with 13000 X .50 cal. Results of bombing and strafing were otherwise unobserved except for smoke from bombs. Photos were taken of the attack. What seemed to be a silver topped barrel was sighted at 1358/L at 06455-14825E. Fighter cover was good. Weather: Target, 9/10 cumulus overcast at 1500 feet with squalls. (Preliminary reports only received from 459th and 501st Squadron)

8 A-20's of the 8th Squadron (358 II) bombed and strafed possible gun positions on Southeast corner of small unnamed Island approximately ½ mile Northeast of target No. 20 B from 1430/L to 1447/L. 31 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at target. At least 9 bombs hit in target. Target was strafed in 3 passes over Island. 1 A-20 strafed yellow beach No. 1 enroute to base. 3 A-20's strafed MARINE VILLAGE enroute to base. 9400 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing. Photos were taken of the attack and of the Island. 4 puffs of black smoke, possibly A/A, were seen 11 miles inland South of BORGEN BAY. Bomb craters were seen throughout the Island. A small clearing was observed on Southeast tip of Island. Clearing appeared made by felling of trees sometime ago. All trees were lying toward water

with room for gun positions but none were sighted on careful inspection. 2 miles up the ITNE RIVER, 2 or 3 Japs were seen pulling a 2 wheel cart, possibly a field gun up the East river bank. Dark smoke to 200/300 feet was sighted just South of SILIMATI POINT. 5 yellow boxes about 5 feet square, spaced at regular intervals, were observed about 30 miles off CAPE BUSHING. A small footbridge was seen across river at yellow beach No. 1. A large column of white smoke was seen coming from MT. TALAWE. Pilots stated Island (target) was well plastered and did not think any enemy troops or installations were on it. Weather: CAVU over target.

8 B-26's of the 19th Squadron (3rd AA) bombed a strip 150 yards deep and 350 yards wide on shore of BOUGEN BAY, 736892 to coast and 735895 to coast (SILIMATI POINT, 1/20000), also a square 310 yards to a side southeast of the above target with Western coordinates, 730867, 730868 (SILIMATI POINT, 1/20000) from 1408/L to 1414/L. 48 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 3000/4000 feet through the targets. Scattered cumulus prevented accurate observation of results and spotting of bombs. General area appeared covered with smoke and dust after bombing. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. CAPE GLOUCESTER appeared covered with smoke and fires from previous bombing. 16 to 20 barges were beached on the South shore of HOTTOOK BAY. At 1400/L, a tower, thought to be used for radios, was seen at ARAIDO POINT. An oil slick was sighted at 1513/L at 07308-14815E. Weather: Target, broken cumulus to 8000 feet.

5 B-25's of the 33rd Squadron (38th AA) bombed a wooded area at 721890 (This was following references to MT. TANGI, 1/63360) at 1417/L. 29 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were believed to have dropped in the target from 720894 to 725875, from 4000 feet. Clouds obscured results. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Freshly cut lumber was sighted at 572888. Several grass fires were seen on South side of No. 2 strip and towards TARGET HILL. Weather: Target, cumulo-nimbus over entire Western end of NEW BRITAIN. (7 B-25's failed to locate target due to weather and made no attack).

ARAWE: 18 A-20's of the 89th and 90th Squadrons (38th BG) bombed and strafed from UMETINGALU to WARA and DIDMOP and PULIE RIVER area from 1400/L to 1435/L. 31 X 250 lb. and 52 X 100 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. 21825 X .50 cal. was expended in strafing. Several huts at DIDMOP were damaged by bombs. 3 barges in the area were bombed with unobserved results. Tracks along East bank of PULIE RIVER from mouth to DIDMOP was bombed with unobserved results. This track and UMUREN and DIDMOP VILLAGES were strafed with unobserved results. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Photos were taken of the attack. 2 logs bound together to make a dock were seen at 497318 (ARAWE, 1/63360) with trail leading to dock. Possible OP's were observed in 2 tall trees, one North of DIDMOP and one Northwest of DIDMOP on higher ground. Possible parachutes were observed in a tree at 518352 (Same Map reference as above). DIDMOP VILLAGE was filled with bomb craters. Much activity was reported under trees all along track on East side of PULIE RIVER. A track running North from first bend in PULIE RIVER at 508301 (Same map reference) appeared well used and visible. Muriam Village appeared in good condition. PULIE RIVER seemed navigable for barges at least 4 miles up river from DIDMOP. Weather, target, CAVU.

CAPE GLOUCESTER:

1 B-25 of the 63rd Squadron (38th BG) completed 100% a weather recce to FINSCHHAFEN, CAPE GLOUCESTER, BORGEN BAY and return. Airplane was over CAPE GLOUCESTER area from 0530/L to 0620/L. There were nil sightings.

SEA SEARCHES:

1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (358 BS) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1427/L from 5000 feet at unserviceable barges on West shore of BORGEN BAY below SILIWATI POINT. Bombs missed with nil damage observed. Barges were strafed from 200 feet. One SS was reported beached near river mouth between SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU POINTS at 0815/L. (Sighting from 650 feet). Photos were taken of the SS. At 1200/L from 6000 feet, 2 Fox-Tare-Bakers, 3 Fox-Ables and 2 DD's were sighted at 01258-14700E on course 270 degrees at speed of 10 knots. Photos were taken of the convey. Convey was not bombed as it was too near [redacted] ISLAND. Weather over convey was CAVU. Over most of recce, 5/10 to 6/10 coverage, base 2000 feet, tops 9000 feet with frequent showers. Heavy build up over NEW BRITAIN and heavy rain over NEW BRITAIN.

1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (358 BS) completed an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. 2 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1748/L from 6000 feet at target No. 16 B at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Bombs hit in target with nil visible damage. At 1350/L, 4 barges were seen 50 yards from shore at 05558-14705E. Photos were taken. At 1400/L from 1600 feet, one white top box or barrel about 4 feet in diameter was seen floating in the water at 05408-14650E. Weather: BISMARCK SEA, 7/10 cumulus, base 1500 feet, tops 5000 feet, solid overcast at 15000 feet. Target 8/10 cumulus, base 1500 feet, tops 8000 feet.

1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (358 BS) completed 100% an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. There were nil sightings throughout entire search. Weather: Very hazy throughout SOLOMON SEA, visibility never over 10 to 15 miles.

2 B-24's of the 63rd Squadron (358 BS) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Airplanes took off at 2200/L and returned to base at 0726/L. At 0230/L, one small unidentified vessel was picked up at 04255-15032E. 1 B-24 picked up unidentified airplanes at 0235/L at 03408-15050E. Airplanes followed approximately 4 miles changing position from rear to parallel at will. 4 green lights were seen at one time as if airplanes were in formation. Airplanes were never actually seen. Nil passes were made. Airplanes followed B-24 at about 4 miles through all evasive action until 0505/L in position 05408-14750E. Other B-24 picked up 3 possibly 5 unidentified airplanes at 0430/L at 04255-14851E. One crew member claims to have seen 2 widely seperated amber lights, like landing lights. Nil passes were made. Pilot flew a direct course. With no evasive action, many blips followed as in formation at regular interval. Weather: BISMARCK SEA, 3/10 cumulus, 2500 feet to 4000 feet, thunderstorms, visibility 15 miles.

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B. Ground Forces.

HUON PENINSULA: The occupation of WANDOKAI by our troops took place at 1100/L on 24 December and large dumps of ammunition and a quantity of arms was captured. Our positions were shelled by enemy guns believed to be in the vicinity of AGO.

Barge traffic to WANDOKAI BEACH commenced immediately after a number of tanks have been landed. Numerous anti-tank mines found in shallow water along beach did not cause any damage. Native report states that 200 Japs are in occupation in ZAKAREMI on the upper branches of the WASAWENG RIVER.

RAU VALLEY: Our recce patrols in the MESAWAI AREA dispersed some enemy parties.

CAPE GLOUCESTER (NEW BRITAIN):

Assault elements landed on CAPE GLOUCESTER at 0745/26/L. The initial landing was successful. A message received at 1446/26/L reports no opposition, no casualties, no loss of equipment. Landing of supplies continues. A combat force successfully landed on LONG ISLAND at 0130/26/L.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Our troops have withdrawn to the main line of resistance with small patrols working to the front.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

CAPE GLOUCESTER (NEW BRITAIN):

No opposition reported at time of this report. Enemy ground dispositions unknown.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Japs have infiltrated into MESILIA and UATINGAU. Latest report estimates 110 Japs in contact with our forces. 25 to 30 planes raided ARAWE at 0845/L. Two enemy planes shot down.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
26 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7	5					12	0
DAGUA	14	9	2				25	0
WEWAK	13		5			6	24	0
BORAM	16						16	0
AWAR	8						8	0
ALEXISHAFEN			6				6	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	68	75	36			6	185	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	18	17	2	14		7	58	=15
VUNAKANAU	17	9	13	1			40	-11
LAKUNAI	28	5		11			44	-20
RAPOPO	11	7					18	-3
HARBOR					2	18	20	0
KAMAPAI							0	-11
TOBERA	10			3			13	-20
BORPOP							0	-4
Total	84	33	15	29	2	25	193	-54

COMMENTS:

1. Enemy losses over CAPE GLOUCESTER today (26/12/43) have been deducted from NEW BRITAIN estimate. Losses to Nips reported by SOPAC in action over RABAUL since the 23rd of December have not been deducted as there have been indications of continual reinforcements arriving in NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND area. These reinforcements are probably sufficient to balance the fighter losses suffered by the Nips. This count can only be considered an estimate, until verified by photographs.

2. No photos were taken of NEW GUINEA areas today. Present [illegible] is allowed to remain.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

BOROI RIVER to vicinity of MAKERA VILLAGE: 24/12/43. (357 W)

Excellent verticals cover the area from BOROI RIVER mouth to vicinity of MAKERA VILLAGE, including NUBIA Airdrome. There are nil serviceable airplanes on NUBIA drome. Grading work is being done on South end of drome. Coconut trees have been cut down revealing a new revetment, and it appears that other revetments are being constructed in the coconut grove. There are 16 new light A/A positions along the runway, of which 4 are midway on the East side, 6 midway on the West side and 6 on the West side near the North end. There is considerable track activity along the coast East of the BOROI RIVER mouth, some of which lead into wooded areas indicating possible bivouac areas. There are numerous used trails throughout the area and five villages, of which two are IKU and MAKERA. Nil enemy activity apparent in the inland area.

MANAM ISLAND: 24/12/43. (357 W)

Excellent verticals cover the entire coastline of MANAM ISLAND. There are 8 barges along the coast, of which 3 are at DAIA, 3 at GOGARI and JASSA VILLAGES and 2 just South of WORIS VILLAGE. The track around the Island is well used.

DAGOI to RUGASAK: 24/12/43. (357 W)

Excellent verticals cover area from DAGOI VILLAGE to vicinity of RUGASAK VILLAGE. Motor truck road in DAGOI PLANTATION shows heavy use and inland trails to numerous villages are well used. There is nil shipping from DAGOI VILLAGE to ANGILA BAY, which is the only water coverage on the run.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

359 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0517/26/L to 0850/26/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE, MARKHAM VALLEY, FINSCHHAFEN, LAE, DUMPU, WAU and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE, 0537/L, CAVU. MARKHAM VALLEY, 0620/L, CAVU. FINSCHHAFEN, 0645/L, CAVU. LAE, 0703/L, CAVU. DUMPU, 0731/L, CAVU. WAU, 0805/L, CAVU. YULE ISLAND, 0830/L, CAVU.

359 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0910/26/L to 1420/26/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 66 2/3rds% completed. Airplane did not land at GUSAP due to receiving no light from the control tower.

WEATHER: Enroute, strato-cumulus clouds from 8000 to 12000 feet. MARKHAM VALLEY, clear. On return, building up to 16000 feet over mountains.

359 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1050/26/L to 1055/26/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER: Target No. 12 (WANEMO VILLAGE) and Target No. 13 B (1500 yards Northeast of DORE POINT)

-/-

RESULTS: 18 X 1000 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped over target on a heading of 40 degrees. Results other than bomb bursts were unobserved. Bombing was excellent. The entire area was thoroughly strafed with 12275 X .50 cal. and 850 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Slight, light, inaccurate from unobserved positions.

SIGHTINGS: One unidentified twin-engine airplane was seen half submerged just off shore near SAUMOI. One unidentified single engine airplane was seen in the water just off the end of No. 1 strip. Another unidentified airplane was seen in the water close by. One crew member reported 3 or 4 puffs of A/A fire from unobserved position. One solid concrete platform of approximately 9 X 12 feet, probably foundation for a building, was observed in the MISSION area. There were nil other signs of activity.

WEATHER: Enroute, cumulus to 9000 feet. Target, 3/10 coverage at 1000 feet. Slight rain squalls over water on return. Solid cumulus to 15000 feet over Ranges.

359 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25C-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1050/26/L to 1053/26/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER: Target No. 10 (2100 yards Southwest of No. 1 strip, on coast), Target No. 11 A (3900 yards Southwest of No. 1 strip, on coast) and Target No. 12 B (1500 yards Northwest of DORF POINT).

RESULTS: 16 X 1000 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped as follows: 4 in target 12 B; 5 in target No. 12; 4 in target No. 11 A; 3 in target No. 10. Results were generally unobserved. One bomb falling in target No. 10 caused a white flash and billow of white smoke of short duration. Bombing was excellent. The entire area was thoroughly strafed with 12670 X .50 cal. and 1030 X .30 cal. Low oblique photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: 1 VAL was seen in the water 300 yards off shore from strip No. 1. White smoke was observed 1 mile Southwest of strip No. 1. A gray motor launch was pulled up on shore immediately East of target No. 10.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, scattered strato-cumulus on mountain tops and in valleys, 3/10 cirro-stratus above 20000 feet. Over water, broken cumulus from 2000 to 10000 feet with 6/10 coverage. CAPE GLOUCESTER, haze, reducing visibility to 10 or 12 miles. On return; broken cumulus consolidating and building up to 18000 feet, scattered clouds higher.

359 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1047/26/L to 1049/26/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER: Target No. 13 A (R.C. Mission area, 900 yards inland from ULIWANGI VILLAGE).

RESULTS: 14 X 1000 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped over target on Garden Plots and foundations of destroyed Mission buildings. Bombing was excellent. Results were unobserved. 55 X 75 mm were fired into the target with

unobserved results. The area was thoroughly strafed with 4400 X .50 cal. and 400 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: All buildings in target 15 A were leveled prior to this Squadron's attack. One crashed VAL was seen in the water just offshore from strip No. 1. One unidentified twin-engine bomber was seen in the water near the crashed VAL. At time of our attack, there was no apparent opposition to Allied landings. 2 or 3 small puffs of A/A were seen bursting 100 to 200 feet over strip No. 2 at time of our approach to target.

WEATHER: Same as reported by 823rd Squadron.

359 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1047/26/L to 1050/26/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER: Target No. 10 (2100 yards Southwest of No. 1 strip on coast) and target No. 11 A (3900 yards Southwest of No. 1 strip on coast).

RESULTS: 15 X 1000 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped as follows: 6 bombs on target No. 10 of which 1 fell in the water; 7 on target No. 11 A. Results were generally unobserved. Bombing was excellent. 79 X 75 mm were fired across target area up to CAPE GLOUCESTER aerodrome with unobserved results. Entire target was strafed, including medium A/A position in target, with 4450 X .50 cal. and 450 X .30 cal. Low oblique photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Slight, medium, inaccurate from position in target No. 10.

SIGHTINGS: Corner of partially sunken vessel, probably barge, was seen among Allied shipping at approximately 0527S-14824E. One unidentified single engine airplane was seen floating on water ½ mile off end of No. 1 strip. Airplane had tail and left wing tip submerged, was painted a shiny dark green with red roundels outlined in white or silver, near each wing tip. M/G fire appeared to have swept across wing roots and cockpit. Pilot was slumped against left side of cockpit. Sighting was made from 100 feet. Two small boats were observed in barge hideout at target No. 10. Two 10 foot splashes were seen by one crew, 100 yards off shore from target No. 10. Coastal track appeared very well used. WARENO, BOLA BOLA and SAUKOI VILLAGES were skeletonized.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 2/10 scattered cumulus at 5000 feet, 3/10 thin stratus at 12000 feet, CAVU above. Over sea, slight haze, thin alto-stratus at 12000 feet, scattered rainshowers, visibility excellent. Cumulus ceiling at 1500 feet over ARAWE with thunderheads to 12000 feet. Target, 6/10 cumulus at 1500 feet, slight haze, visibility 20 miles. On return, DAMPIER STRAITS, scattered cumulus at 1500 feet with tops to 8000 feet, slight alto-stratus at 12000 feet. Over Ranges, 9/10 cumulus at 5000/10000 feet, 5/10 thin alto-stratus at 16000 feet.

359 D. STRIKE - 2 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron (SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT)

TIME OF ATTACK: 1047/26/L to 1050/26/L.

TARGET: CAPE GLOUCESTER: Targets No. 10 and No. 11 A.

RESULTS: 4 X 1000 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in targets No. 10 and No. 11 A. Bombing was excellent. Results were unobserved. 38 X 75 mm were fired into target area from No. 13 P to target No. 10 with generally unobserved results. Entire target was strafed with 450 X .50 cal. with unobserved results. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Slight, inaccurate H/G fire from South side of strip No. 1. (Part of crew of B-25 G (# 880) thought their airplane was hit by A/A fire, chattering rocker box of left engine requiring pilot to feather prop).

SIGHTINGS: Nil.

GENERAL: B-25G (# 880) made emergency landing at FINSCHHAFEN. Airplane was accompanied to FINSCHHAFEN by B-25G (# 874). Crew of B-25G (# 880) returned to base in B-25G (# 874).

WEATHER: FINSCHHAFEN to base, 9/10 cumulus. Over Ranges, built up to 20000 feet.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: HANSA BAY.

RESULTS: Target was not reached due to weather. Airplane turned back in the MADANG area at 1035/L. Nil photos were taken. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: MARKHAM VALLEY, CAVU. HUON GULF, dive-strating, haze, 12000/20000 feet. Ranges, 5/10 str to-cumulus on top.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 1005/26/L. (2) 1007/26/L. (3) 1100/26/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) SAIDOR area. (2) WEBER POINT. (3) Allied landing at CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: Photos were taken from MOT RIVER to MARUP RIVER; of crashed airplane on WEBER POINT and of invasion forces in CAPE GLOUCESTER area.

WEATHER: SAIDOR, broken scattered middle clouds at 19000 feet. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 5/10 cumulus, scattered thunderstorms. Ranges, 6/10 cumulus to 14000 feet.

359 Z. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 1430/26/L. (2) 1505/26/L.

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

RESULTS: Vertical photos were taken of GASMATA airdrome and of HOSKINS airdromes, both from 33000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: BISMARCK SEA, low scattered cumulus from 1000 feet to 3000 feet, otherwise CAVU.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: 0945/26/L.

TARGET: MADANG.

RESULTS: Photos were taken of the MADZAB area from 31000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: RAMU-MARKHAM, broken cumulus, 5000 feet, tops 8000 feet. Ranges, 3/10 broken cumulus, tops 15000 feet.

359 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 B-17, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: CAPE GLOUCESTER.

RESULTS: Airplane crashed on take off at 0550/L.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Preliminary reports only have been received from fighters patrolling the Allied landing at CAPE GLOUCESTER today. The following results were obtained from preliminary information at hand.

80th Squadron--5 VALS, 2 ZEKES definite.
36th Squadron--2 VALS, 3 ZEKES definite.
341st Squadron--1 BETTY definite,
342nd Squadron--13 BETTYS, 1 TONY definite, 1 BETTY probable.
431st Squadron--11 VALS, 2 ZEKES, 1 OSCAR definite.
35th Squadron--3 VALS, 13 ZEKES definite, 1 TOJO and 1 ZEKE or OSCAR probable. 2 TOJOS definite.

2 P-38's of the 80th Fighter Squadron and 2 P-47's of the 342nd Fighter Squadron are unaccounted for.

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

OFFICIAL:

Paul E. Mauern

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

ALGIERS:

CANADIAN TROOPS LIGHTED THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH MOLOTOV COCKTAILS IN THEIR GRIM BATTLE TO PUSH THE GERMANS OUT OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF ORTONA ON THE ADRIATIC WHILE THE AMERICAN FIFTH ARMY STORMED AND WON TWO MORE HILL POSITIONS ON THE NAZI WINTER LINE IN ITALY, ALLIED HEADQUARTERS ANNOUNCED SATURDAY. THE CAIRO RADIO DECLARED THAT THE ALLIES HAVE TAKEN ORTONA WHICH IS THE LAST MAIN DEFENSE POINT BEFORE THE ADRIATIC PORT OF PESCARA. THE GERMANS IN ORTONA FIGHTING WITH UTMOST TENACITY STILL MAINTAINED THEIR FOOT HOLD AGAINST THE CANADIANS WHO USED THEIR MOLOTOV COCKTAILS THAT WERE FILLED WITH GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL WITH A LIGHTED WICK ATTACHED, GRENADES AND EVERY KIND OF WEAPON THEY COULD LAY THEIR HANDS ON TO BLAST THE ENEMY OUT OF BASEMENT STRONG POINTS. ACTIVITY OF THE FIFTH ARMY WAS HAMPERED BY RAIN BUT AMERICAN TROOPS DID CAPTURE TWO HILLS AND OTHER HIGH GROUND TWO MILES EAST OF ACQUAFONDOLA, THE ALLIED COMMUNIQUE SAID. IT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ALLIED MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS CRUISING OFF THE YUGOSLAV COAST PUT SEVERAL TORPEDOES INTO THE ANCIENT 2300 TON GERMAN CRUISER DALMACIA OFF SILBA ISLAND BETWEEN ZARA AND POLA.

RUSSIA:

THE RED ARMY, AFTER FALLING BACK FOR NEARLY SIX WEEKS BEFORE A GREAT GERMAN COUNTER ASSAULT WEST OF KIEV, HAS RESUMED THE OFFENSIVE ON A BROAD FRONT, BERLIN ANNOUNCED TODAY. RUSSIAN FORCES ARE APPARENTLY ONCE MORE ROLLING MIGHTILY THROUGH THE WOODED HILLS OF THE NORTH UKRAINE TOWARD THE OLD POLISH BORDER APPROXIMATELY 75 MILES AWAY. ALTHOUGH THE RUSSIANS WERE SILENT ON THIS SECTOR THE USUAL PROCEDURE FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF A MAJOR OFFENSIVE THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND ACKNOWLEDGED IN ITS COMMUNIQUE THAT SOVIET TROOPS HAD OPENED UP SOME WHERE EAST OF THE RAIL JUNCTION OF ZHITOMIR WITH LARGE INFANTRY AND TANK FORCES AND BERLIN INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET FORCES WERE PUSHING THE GERMANS BACK. THE BERLIN COMMAND REPORTED HEAVY AND FLUCTUATING FIGHTING RAGING IN THIS AREA USING, IN "FLUCTUATING" A WORD FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED BEFORE TO COVER NEWS THAT THE GERMAN LINES HAD BEEN BROKEN. THE RUSSIANS MEANWHILE MAINTAINED THEIR OFFENSIVE TO THE NORTH AGAINST THE BIG NAZI BASTION OF VITEBSK SOUTH OF NEVEL AND IN THE ZHLOBIN AREA ABOVE GOMEL.

WASHINGTON:

A SPEEDY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT GIVING CONGRESS UNDISPUTED POWER TO FACILITATE VOTING BY SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS WAS SUGGESTED SATURDAY BY SENATOR O. MANONEY, DEMOCRAT FROM WYOMING, AS A SOLUTION TO THE NO. 1 POLITICAL PERPLEXITY CONFRONTING CONGRESS WHEN IT RE-CONVENES JANUARY 10. I BELIEVE IN A FORMAT STATEMENT THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SHOULD BE INTRODUCED ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW SESSION GIVING CONGRESS THE POWER BY LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF SOLIDERS IN THE COMING ELECTION AND FOR THE COUNTING OF THE BALLOTS WHICH THEY SHALL CAST.

NEW YORK:

NIGHT BALL WILL BE PLAYED IN 1944 AT THE POLO GROUNDS AND EBBETS FIELD IF MAYOR LA GUARDIA HAS HIS WAY. ASKED FRIDAY WHETHER HE WOULD ALLOW THE LIGHTS TO BE TURNED ON IN NEW YORK CITY THE MAYOR SAID YES AND "I HOPE I CAN GO THROUGH WITH IT ALL THE WAY UNLESS STOPPED BY THE U. S. ARMY AND NAVY.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP

0800/ 28 DEC 1943

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 361.

SECRET
AUTH: C.O.
INITS: F. N
DATE: 27/12/43:

FROM: 1800/26/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/27/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

HANSA BAY-ALEXISHAFEN: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (360 W) was over HANSA BAY at 1000/L at 20000 feet but was unable to take photos due to weather. Photos were taken of the ALEXISHAFEN Airdromes at 1030/L from 20000 feet. At 1015/L, 5 harbor craft were seen stationary in BOGIA HARBOR.

KANOMI: 18 B-25C and D-1's of the 71st and 305th Squadrons (360 D) bombed and strafed KANOMI (0612S-14739E) from 1010/L to 1019/L. 135 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped at the target. Target was strafed with 22040 X .50 cal. and 325 X .30 cal. Many grass fires were started in the target area. Bombing and strafing were excellent but damage was undetermined, due to nature of target. Japanese propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (360 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE and DOBODURA. Airplane took off at 0615/L and returned to base at 1320/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 500th Squadron (360 B) completed 100% a weather recce to WAU, LAE, FINSCHHAFEN, NADZAB, KAIAPIT, GUSAP and DUMPU. Airplane took off at 0505/L and returned to base at 0907/L. There were nil sightings.

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Summary of Missions carried out by FATF, 26/12/43.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 40 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (359 EE) bombed and strafed SILIMATI POINT, TARGET HILL, Yellow Beach and the coastal area from SILIMATI POINT to a point 3 miles Northwest from 0727/L to 0743/L. A total of 654 X 200 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs and 120 X 100 lb. inst. phosphorus bombs were dropped from altitudes of minimum to 600 feet. Targets were thoroughly covered by the bombing and smoke covered the area. Results of damage were generally unobserved. Targets were strafed with a total of 72815 X .50 cal. and 8000 X .30 cal. with unobserved damage. Bombing and strafing were excellent. Nil A/A was received over the targets. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing. 7 to 9 large explosions were observed in vicinity of CAPE GLOUCESTER Airdromes. WEATHER, cumulus clouds to 15000 feet were reported over target with scattered clouds, 4/10 covered from 2000/6000 feet enroute and on return.

11 B-25D-1's of the 13th Squadron (359 FF) bombed and strafed Green Beach near TAUALI from 0737/L to 0749/L. A total of 120 X 100 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from minumum altitude on the target. 65 bombs fell on Green Beach from shore to 100 yards inland. 36 bombs fell along coast from Green Beach to TAUALI, from shore to 100 yards inland. 19 bombs fell along coast to 70 yards inland from Green Beach to Village approximately ½ mile North. Bombing was excellent and entire area was covered with smoke. Damage was generally unobserved. Target was strafed with a total of 22500 X .50 cal. with unobserved results. Slight, M/G fire was received from 540872 (Ref. Special Map of SAG SAG). Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing. WEATHER, over target, CAVU with scattered clouds, base 1000 feet, tops 4000 feet, 3/10 covered enroute and on return.

32 A-20's of the 8th, 89th and 90th Squadrons (359 GG) bombed and strafed KUNAI HILL (TARGET RIDGE) and WOODED HILL (Hill 660) from 0749/L to 0902/L. A total of 116 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from minimum altitude on the targets. Bombing was excellent with unobserved damage. Targets were strafed with a total of 31795 X .50 cal. with unobserved damage. Fires with white smoke were observed on top and at East end of TARGET HILL. Village with 2 large and several small tents was observed halfway between BORGEN BAY and CAPE BUSHING. Possible M/G position was observed at 597951 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 1/63360). Coastal track was in good condition and suitable for one-way traffic. 12 trenches, in line, 15 feet long, were observed from 647954 to 652954 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 1/20000). 2 grass-roof positions flush with ground were observed at 652946 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 1/20000). One trench with log covering was observed adjacent to this. 2 grass roofs, flush with ground, were observed at 591952 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 1/20000). 2 camouflaged pits, 5 to 10 feet square, were observed at 675936 (Ref. CAPE GLOUCESTER, 1/20000). Slight, inaccurate M/G fire was observed at 1150 (ASP 524). Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing. WEATHER, target, CAVU with scattered cumulus, tops 2000 feet enroute and strato-cumulus at 1500 feet, 5/10 covered on return.

19 B-24's of the 529th and 530 Squadrons (359 HH) bombed TARGET HILL at CAPE GLOUCESTER at 0714/L, from altitudes of 8500/11000 feet. 123 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs and 12 X 500 lb. GP bombs were dropped on target in run from Northwest to Southeast. Target was well covered by bombing with results other than bomb bursts unobserved. Bombing was excellent, and black smoke was visible 15 minutes after airplanes left target. Photos were taken of the bombing. Weather over target was CAVU with scattered cumulus, base 2500 feet, tops 9000 feet enroute and on return.

24 B-24's of the 90th Group (359 II) bombed targets No. 22 and No. 23 (1 and 1/8 and 1 and 3/8 miles respectively Southeast of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER). A total of 108 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs and 36 X 1000 lb. 10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at 0907/L to 0908/L from 8000/8900 feet.

Runs were made on a heading of 175 to 190 degrees and bombing was considered excellent. Target was covered with heavy smoke after the bombing with other damage unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing. Weather over target was clear with scattered cumulus 2/10 covered, tops 5000 feet enroute and on return.

23 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (359 JJ) bombed target No. 17 D. (strip approximately 1/10 of a mile wide, ½ to 1½ miles Southwest of SILIMATI POINT) from 0712/L to 0719/L. A total of 276 X 250 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped on the target from 6500/9000 feet. Bombs covered target with 2 large fires with white and black smoke observed. Other results of damage were unobserved. Slight, heavy and medium, inaccurate A/A was observed over CAPE GLOUCESTER airdromes. A/A was far behind formation and from an undetermined position. Photos were taken of the bombing. Bomb bursts were observed on TARGET HILL believed from 380th Group bombing. Weather over target was CAVU with 3/10 alto-stratus at 13000 feet. 3/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet, tops 9000 feet with 6/10 alto-stratus at 17000 feet, was encountered enroute and on return from target.

24 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (359 KK) bombed and strafed MATUMO POINT (targets No. 25 X, 26 X, 27 X and 28 X) from 1440/L to 1445/L. 90 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at targets. Bombing was excellent. Targets were well hit. Results were generally unobserved. Targets were thoroughly strafed with 13045 X .50 cal. and 600 X .30 cal. 1 VAL started to follow the 500th Squadron immediately after they left the target and trailed them to South coast of NEW BRITAIN. Before breaking away, VAL swung up to right, made 180 degree turn and passed within 300 yards of tail of our flight. Our gunners fired but observed no damage. VAL continued in Easterly direction and 1 crew member reports seeing 2 B-25's behind our flight (500th Squadron) turn from their course to follow enemy airplane for short distance then returned to rejoin their flight. 1 VAL attacked second flight of 499th Squadron after they had left the target, near ARAWUA VILLAGE at 1000 feet. VAL flew parallel on right of flight which was heading South, turned in on No. 3 airplane of second flight from 3 o'clock. VAL was seen to fire at 1000 yards. Turret gunner opened fire at 600/700 yards and registered hits on the engine. Smoke resulted. VAL nosed over and was seen to crash without turning either right or left. The 501st Squadron reported enemy airplanes did not attack their formation but that gunners got in several bursts at VALS in their flight over the target, probably destroying one as he was hit by forward firing guns and turret guns but was not seen to definitely crash or disintegrate. Intense, all calibers, accurate A/A fire was received from Allied ground troops Northwest of SILIMATI POINT. 2 B-25D-1's of the 500th Squadron were hit and crashed near BORGEN BAY. One returning crew member of this Squadron was wounded. One other B-25D-1 of this Squadron landed at FINSCHHAFEN on one engine. These airplanes are not included in this report. 1 B-25D-1 of the 501st Squadron was hit by A/A fire, damaged, and crash landed at LAE. This airplane was destroyed, one crew member killed and remaining five were wounded. Weather at target: Ceiling 2000 feet, cumulo-nimbus, tops estimated 18000 feet.

21 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (359 LL) bombed Hill 660 (At 732878--Ref. SILI WTI 1/20000) from 1618/L to 1644/L. 126 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped at the target. Great difficulty was experienced in bombing and observation of results due to clouds. Bombing was good. 2 black explosions were seen seen after bombs landed. Nil other results except bomb explosions were observed. At 1637/L 6 barges, serviceability undetermined, were sighted from 10000 feet off Northwest tip of CAPE PEIHO. At 1600/L from 8000 feet, one large oil slick with wreckage and one narrow oil slick were seen on water at 0520S-14633E. Weather, target, 8/10 cumulus, 3000 to 11000 feet. (Bombs were dropped from 8000/10000 feet).

19 B-24's of the 529th and 530th Squadron (359 MI) bombed targets No. 22 and No. 23 at CAPE GLOUCESTER from 1619/L to 1621/L. 130 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8500/11000 feet at the target. Bombardierswere able to synchronize on the target but a large cumulo-nimbus cloud prevented observation of bombing and results. Results were unobserved. The 530th Squadron attempted photos of the bombing, the 529th Squadron did not because of cloud. Nil A/A fire was encountered. There was nil interception. Weather, target, very large cumulo-nimbus over target. Target was visible from sea but cloud obscured over land.

14 B-24's of the 321st and 400th Squadrons (359 MI) attempted to bomb targets No. 22 and No. 32 at CAPE GLOUCESTER at 1610/L. Target was unapproachable due to clouds. Target was not bombed. 1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron crashed on landing on return to base. Nil personnel injuries. Weather, target, heavy cumulus building up over target into cumulo-nimbus. Slight haze in HUON GULF. (Nil reports, Final or Preliminary received from 319th and 320th Squadrons).

1 B-25 of the 33rd Squadron (359 AA) was unable to complete a weather recce to CAPE GLOUCESTER due to malfunction of IFF. Airplane took off at 0125/L, turned back from FINSCHHAFEN area and landed at 0330/L.

SEA SEARCHES:

1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (359 BB) completed 90% of an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. Northwest corner of search area was cut off due to front. Northeast corner was cut off due to interception and possibility of more of it. At 1300/L, 1 PETE intercepted at 6700 feet at 0150S-14815E. PETE flew alongside, out of range, then pulled ahead for a pass at 10 1'clock, slightly high. PETE passed underneath and astern. PETE'S tracers all went under B-24. B-24's tracers went between PETE'S wings. Nil apparent damage to either side. PETE departed. At 1600/L, 2 Fox-Mules, 1 CL and 1 DD were sighted at 0150S-14815E on course 310 degrees. At 1400/L from 6000 feet, and 7 miles away, more than 100 Jap fighters, VALS, P-38's and P-40's were seen in a dog fight from sea level to 21000 feet over CAPE GLOUCESTER. No airplanes were seen shot down but 1 VAL, attacking continued dive into water. Heavy surface vessel traffic both ways in DAMPIER and VITIAZ STRAITS. Moderate

medium and light, inaccurate A/A fire was received at 7000 feet from convoy at 0150S-14815E. A/A bracketed B-24. Weather, Northeast BISMARCK SEA, light frontal activity, East-West, breaking up, moderate rain. Balance of BISMARCK SEA, high and low broken clouds, heavy cumulus from 1000 to 10000 feet. NEW BRITAIN, heavy cumulus from minimum to 20000 feet over mountains. Visibility was unlimited except in fronts.

1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (359 CC) completed 100% an armed recco of the SOLOMON SEA. Airplane went within sight of NEW IRELAND with nil sightings throughout entire search. Airplane took off at 1240/L and returned to base at 1750/L.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (359 DD) completed 100% an armed recco of the BISMARCK SEA. 4 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1909/L from 4000 feet on Plantation buildings on Southwest tip of UNEA ISLAND. One direct hit destroyed a red roofed building and a second bomb damaged a nearby building. The other 2 bombs landed in Plantation area with unobserved results. At 1835/L from 1500 feet, small Islands at mouth of VIA RIVER (0530S-14927E) were well covered by huts including several large newly thatched buildings. New huts were observed on West bank of the VIA RIVER. At 1909/L, nil activity was observed in Plantation area on Southwest tip of UNEA ISLAND from 4000 feet. Several long buildings were observed inland from Plantation. Weather, BISMARCK SEA, visibility good, 2/10 to 3/10 low cumulus, tops 3000 feet to 6000 feet, scattered large cumulus and cumulo-nimbus. NEW HANOVER ISLAND from ST. GEORGES CHANNEL, built up.

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CAPE GLOUCESTER: Following are sightings turned in by bombers of this Command in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area 26/12/43.

(359 JJ—403rd Squadron).
0540/L to 0600/26/L, FINSCHHAFEN: (from 10000 feet over SAKAR ISLAND), S/L's and A/A being fired. Nil enemy airplanes visible to our crews. 0705/L, ROOKE ISLAND, single engine airplane spun into water from 12000 feet, landing several miles off Southwest tip. 0717/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER: A-20's doing excellent attack job. Operations of surface vessels seemed to be orderly. Nil signs of Jap air force having been present. Tracer fire seen at A-20's from 4 or 5 positions on SILIHATI POINT. One CA standing 8 to 10 miles off shore from BORGEN BAY. Some crew members reported a possible SS submerging ½ mile North of CA.

(359 JJ—64th Squadron)
0600/L to 0825/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: landing activity and naval shelling observed from 12000 feet. Naval shells bursting around 735905 and 660945, also some smoke along coast near 675958 (Ref. SILIHATI POINT, 1/20000).

(359 EE—498th Squadron)
0728/L to 0735/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: No opposition to landing was seen. Fighters were not observed. TARGET HILL was well covered with smoke.

(359 EE--499th Squadron)
0659/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: Smoke bombs covered TARGET HILL, most of SILIMATI POINT and area ½ mile to West of TARGET HILL very effectively. Other Squadron's bombing was very effective--only 2 bombs seen to hit in water. Barges were 50 yards offshore after 3rd pass at 0740/L.

(359 EE--500th Squadron)
Nil sightings except Naval action and landing operations. As our airplanes left the area at 0743/L, the first wave of landing barges was about 100 yards offshore.

359 EE--501st Squadron)
0745/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: First landing barges rendezvous there at 728913. 0746/L, 6 small landing craft 150 yards offshore coming for landing at 739907. Nil enemy activity of any kind observed in the CAPE GLOUCESTER--BORGEN BAY area. (Map Ref. SILIMATI POINT, 1/250000).

359 FF--13th Squadron)
0737/L to 0749/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area (Green Beach): Landing operations appeared to be progressing normally and on time.

(359 GG--89th Squadron)
0900/L to 0902/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area (BORGEN BAY): Landing operations were in progress. Nil opposition noted.

359 II--321st Squadron)
0904/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area (Altitude 8000 feet): One crew observed 4 VALS flying at less than 4000 feet which appeared to be starting an attack on Allied landing craft North of SILIMATI POINT.

(359 II--319th Squadron)
0908/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: Nil enemy sightings.

(359 GG--8th Squadron)
0815/L to 0845/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: Yellow Beach landing area covered by heavy smoke obscuring view. TARGET RIDGE was pocked by numerous bomb craters. Nil signs of enemy installations or activity. Large column of thick white smoke was seen rising to 200/300 feet between North end of landing beach and TARGET RIDGE. Exact location not determined. Nil sightings of enemy activity. Phosphorous smoke screen was laid along landing beach. It would have been impossible to have located any target in support of ground forces. Excellent timing, ship to airplane radio contact and coordination throughout.

(359 KK--498th Squadron)
1442/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: One large firing emitting columns of black smoke was seen 1/3 of a mile East of North end of No. 1 strip. 7 to 10 Jap airplanes were seen over target--too far away for positive identification but resembled dive bombers. A dive bomber bombed SILIMATI POINT at 1443/L. As our airplanes were leaving the target, one barge off SILIMATI POINT was dive bombed and set afire. A crashed airplane was observed burning in the water 2000 feet East of SILIMATI POINT. One unidentified airplane was seen to crash on land 10000 feet Southeast of SILIMATI POINT. Several large barges were seen on the beach 1 mile West of SILIMATI POINT. There was lots of activity along the shore but nil activity was seen inland from shore. Lots of activity by P-38's over the target.

(359 KK--501st Squadron)
1440/L to 1445/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: 4 to 5 VAL were attacking our shipping and beach positions. 1 vessel was seen to blow up from a direct hit by dive bomber, approximately 3 miles Northeast of SILIMATI POINT. 1 landing barge was seen destroyed by dive bombers on Yellow Beach. 2 VALS were seen shot down by fire from ground forces on Yellow Beach. 2 B-25's were seen shot down and landing in Southern section of BORGEN BAY.

(359 KK--500th Squadron)
1443/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: A fire sending up black smoke to 150 feet was seen near coastal road North No. 2 strip. A vessel blew up after receiving a direct hit from attacking enemy airplanes about 2 miles North of CAPE GLOUCESTER. A DD, a considerable distance East of the vessel mentioned, was seen to receive near miss from attacking enemy airplanes. Many VAL's were seen in the area attacking our Naval forces off shore. 1 unidentified enemy fighter was seen to crash in water about a mile North of the East end of No. 2 strip. Just before our airplanes approached landing area, a VAL crossed our flight path, apparently heading for the landing area. Crews reported that second flight fired on the VAL and that tracers sprayed among the beached landing craft. Intense A/A fire was immediately received by our airplanes from this position. 2 B-25's were shot down by this A/A fire, several others damaged and several crew members wounded. One of the returning B-25's had at least 100 holes of various sizes in it.

(359 KK--499th Squadron)
1445/L, CAPE GLOUCESTER area: 6 LST's, 12 smaller barges and 2 DD's were seen approximately 5 miles offshore from POTNI VILLAGE on course 190 degrees. 7 LST's and 2 DD's were seen 10 to 12 miles North of SILIMATI POINT on course 340 degrees being attacked by 4 to 5 VALS. Near misses but nil apparent damage were observed. 7 LST's, 3 miles North of NATAMO POINT were being attacked by 4 VALS. 1 barge was seen to be hit and sunk. 1 direct hit was observed by dive bombers on a barge beached and empty in vicinity of TARGET HILL. 6 BETTYS were seen attacking barges ½ mile North of TARGET HILL. BETTYS were at 3000 feet. Nil damage was observed. A dog fight, involving 2 VALS, 3 ZEKES and several P-38's were seen over MAREKA VILLAGE. A large fire with heavy black smoke up to 500 feet was seen at No. 2 strip. 2 unidentified airplanes strafing Yellow Beach were encountering considerable amount of M/G and light A/A fire. Jeep traffic was observed on 2 roads leading from LST's inland. LST's were unloading--equipment was half unloaded. 1 barge was unloading personnel. 1 unidentified airplane was seen to go down in flames and crash in water ½ mile North of TARGET HILL. 1 probable P-38 was seen to crash and burst into flames approximately 1 mile Northwest of NATAMO POINT. An unidentified Jap fighter was seen in flames losing altitude. 1 VAL crossed under first flight shortly after leaving the target with P-38 on his tail. P-38 was seen to pull up. VAL was not seen afterwards. 30 LCI's were seen on beach 1 mile West of SILIMATI POINT on beach. Barges were empty. One unidentified airplane followed our formation for approximately 45 minutes at a high altitude after leaving the target--thought to be a Jap recco plane. Personnel were seen gathered around barges at Yellow Beach. 7 [illegible] feet [illegible].

B. Ground Forces.

HUON PENINSULA: Our patrols feeling-out Jap positions between WANDOKAI and AGO drew fire from a number of enemy M/G's and reached a spot about half a mile short of AGO. No details are yet to hand of the attack by our troops which was to follow the assault on the Jap areas by our aircraft today but a late report gives their position as 7000 yards South of BLUCHER POINT. Along the MASAWENG RIVER area towards its source, our troops found evidence of the enemy small parties of Japs 2 days previously. Recce aircraft report signs of considerable supplies being landed at ET. [illegible]. There are also indications of much activity at BLUCHER POINT.

RAMU VALLEY: Our patrols are operating in the SOLU RIVER area from where they had been pushed back by the recent Jap drive.

CAPE GLOUCESTER (NEW BRITAIN): The initial beachhead Northwest of BORGEN BAY has been seized and is being consolidated by one combat team while a second team has passed thru the beachhead and has attacked sharply to the Northwest. General Sherman tanks have aided in overrun[illegible] pill-boxes and artillery fire has registered on the airdrome area. A report received at 1530/L states that our landing elements have reached a point 2500 yards from the Southeast end of strip No. 2

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN): Nil change in dispositions.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

CAPE GLOUCESTER (NEW BRITAIN): Early reports indicate that only slight resistance was encountered during the establishment of the initial beachhead and during advance to Northwest along the coastal track. Some pill-boxes have been encountered. Target Hill was only lightly defended.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN): Approximately 50 Japs attacked our main defence line at ARAWE during the night of 25/26 December. The attack was repulsed although some Japs infiltrated thru our main line of resistance. Japs broke contact early on the morning of 26 December.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
27 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7	5					12	0
DAGUA	14	9	2				25	0
WEWAK	13		5			6	24	0
BORAM	16						16	0
AWAR	8						8	0
ALEXISHAFEN			6				6	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	68	75	36			6	185	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	18	17	2	14		7	58	0
VUNAKANAU	17	9	13	1			40	0
LAKUNAI	28	5		11			44	0
RAPOPO	11	7					18	0
HARBOR					2	18	20	0
TOBERA	10			3			13	0
Total	84	38	15	29	2	25	193	0

COMMENTS:

1. Our fighters over ARAWE today (27/12/43) definitely destroyed 22 Nip fighters and 8 D/Bs and probably destroyed 1 SSF. Obviously the Nips are reinforcing the RABAUL dromes in an effort to maintain airplane strength in this area. With their apparent ability to still attack with considerable strength from these dromes it is felt impractical to lower our airplane estimate by deducting today's losses.

2. [illegible]

at ALEXISHAFEN. These airplanes are believed staged in for some specific purpose and are probably actually based in WEWAK area. Our estimate is allowed to remain unchanged.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

360 A. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0615/27/L to 1320/27/L.

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

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, hazy, strato-cumulus at 7000/8000 feet, VALLEY, mostly clear. One spot layer of stratus clouds, 4/10 coverage at 500 feet. On return, cumulus thunderheads at DOBODURA. Broken cumulus building up to 15000 feet.

360 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 500th Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0505/27/L to 0907/27/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to YULE, WAU, LAE, FINSCHHAFEN, NADZAB, KAIAPIT, GUSAP, DUMPU and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: YULE ISLAND, 0540/L, alto-stratus at 15000/16000 feet, 9/10 cover, lightning in the West. WAU, 0625/L, overcast at approximately 14000 feet, cumulus at 4000/5000 feet, 4/10 to 5/10 covered. LAE, 0640/L, overcast at 14000/15000 feet. FINSCHHAFEN, 0700/L, overcast at 14000/15000 feet. In clouds East of FINSCHHAFEN. NADZAB, 0720/L, overcast at 12000/13000 feet. KAIAPIT, 0735/L, occasional cumulus. GUSAP, 0740/L, occasional cumulus. DUMPU, 0750/L, occasional cumulus. WAU, 0825/L, 8/10 covered, cumulus at 4000/5000 feet.

360 B. STRIKE - 9 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1010/27/L to 1012/27/L.

TARGET: KANOMI (06128-14730E).

RESULTS: 72 X 300 lb. 5/11 seconds delay demo. bombs were dropped at the target. Majority of bombs hit in immediate target vicinity although 10 bombs fell short about 1500 yards. 1 bomb apparently hung up and fell about 1500 yards beyond the target. Several blue and gray smoke fires were observed among kunai grass and wooded areas. Bombing was excellent. Area was strafed with 12800 X .50 cal. and 225 X .30 cal. 3 bundles of Jap propaganda leaflets were dropped on the target. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Numerous wrecked barges, sand and water filled, were scattered along the beach North of FORTIFICATION POINT. 1 crew member reported a barge used as a bridge from coastal track across a small stream near the target. 1 crew member reported a single Jap on the coastal track East of the target.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered rainshowers with overcast at 2000 feet. Clear over target.

360 D. STRIKE - 9 B-25C-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1017/27/L to 1019/27/L.

TARGET: KANGMI (06128-14739E)

RESULTS: 63 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on a heading of 330 degrees in elements of 3 airplanes. Grass fires were started in the target. Bombing was excellent. Target was strafed with 9240 X .50 cal. and 100 X .30 cal. Bombs from 1 airplane fell in trees 1 mile West of the designated target. 3 bundles of Jap propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Rifle fire and possible light M/G fire was observed coming from small caves in terraces in square 1712. (Ref. WALINGAI, Photomap, arbitrary grid, 1/20000). Several lean-to shelters were seen in coconut patch at target.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 3/10 cumulus and strato-cumulus built up to 10000 feet. Over sea, overcast alto-stratus at 15000/17000 feet, 1/10 strato-cumulus at 1000 feet. Frontal activity running East-West, South of FINSCHHAFEN with cloud base at 2000 feet building up to 20000 feet. Target, alto-stratus overcast at 15000 feet. On return over Ranges, 6/10 cumulus up to 15000 feet.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) Nil. (2) 1030/27/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) HANSA BAY. (2) ALEXISHAFEN

RESULTS: Airplane was over HANSA BAY at 1000/L at 20000 feet. Nil photos were taken due to weather. Photos were taken of the ALEXISHAFEN airdrome from 20000 feet.

SIGHTINGS: At 1015/L, five harbor craft were seen stationary in BOGIA HARBOR.

WEATHER: North coast of NEW GUINEA, overcast at 26000 feet, frontal activity in BISMARCK SEA.

360 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 0925/27/L to 0930/27/L. (2) 1000/27/L. (3) 1015/27/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) MAP RIVER. (2) LAE. (3) FINSCHHAFEN.

RESULTS: Photos were taken across MAP RIVER in the NADZAB area, of LAE airdrome and FINSCHHAFEN airdrome. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: FINSCHHAFEN, broken middle clouds, 2/10 low cumulus. Frontal activity in VITIAZ STRAITS. Ranges, cumulus to 14000 feet, 3/10.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND PORTS.

At 0900/L over ARAWE, fighters of the 35th, 340th 341st Squadrons encountered an unknown number of VALS escorted by [illegible] 30 fighters. The following results were claimed:

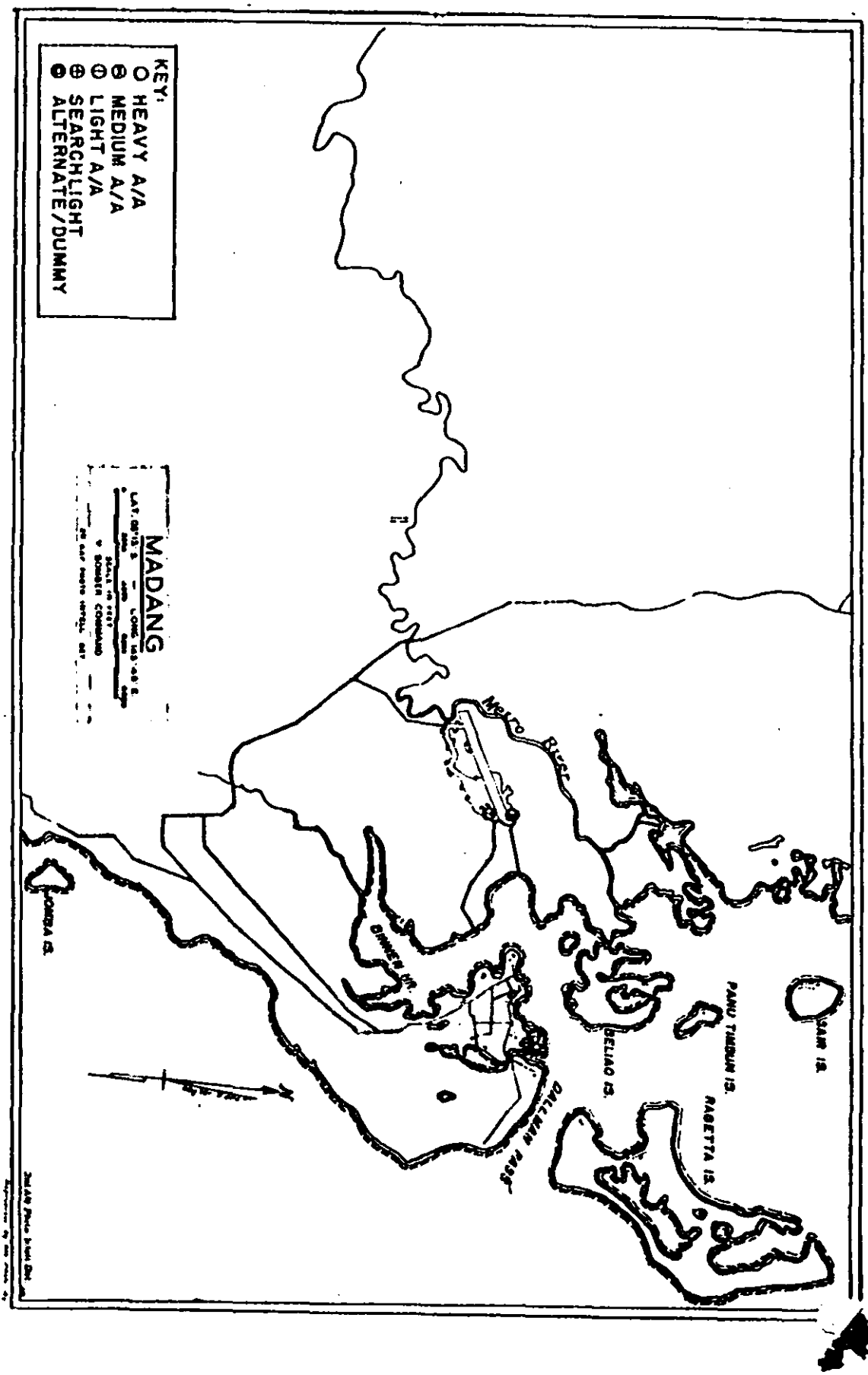
35th Squadron--3 ZEKES definitely shot down.
340th Squadron--7 ZEKES, 1 TONY, 8 VALS definitely shot down.
341st Squadron--9 ZEKES, 2 OSCARS definitely shot down
1 ZEKE probably shot down.

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

OFFICIAL:
Paul E. Mauran

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

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
MADANG
28/12/43



ALGIERS:

A CHRISTMAS EVE BRITISH FRENCH COMMANDO RAID AGAINST THE GERMAN CHANNEL DEFENSES WHERE GEN. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER ONE DAY MAY STRIKE WITH THE MIGHTIEST INVASION FORCE IN HISTORY WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE HIGH COMMAND TODAY. AT THE SAME TIME THAT NAZIS NERVOUSLY PREDICTED THE BLOW IS SOON TO COME. INDICATING THAT THE RAIDING PARTY GOT ASHORE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE FRENCH COAST, REPORTED BRISTLING WITH ROCKET GUN EMPLACEMENTS THE GERMAN COMMUNIQUE SAID THE COMMANDOS WERE DETECTED AS THEY "TRIED TO APPROACH OUR WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS AND WERE WIPED OUT."

LONDON:

A CHRISTMAS LULL A HOLIDAY TRUCE IN THE AIR WAR OVER EUROPE CONTINUED THROUGH DAYLIGHT TODAY WITH NO OPERATIONS BY PLANES BASED IN BRITAIN, NOR WERE THERE OPERATIONS BY THE LUFTWAFFE REPORTED OVER BRITAIN. THE GREATEST AERIAL OFFENSIVE OF HISTORY AIMED AT DESTROYING BERLIN AND GERMAN INDUSTRY AND PERHAPS THE ROCKET GUN INSTALLATIONS ON THE FRENCH COAST WAS DUE TO RESUME AT ANY MOMENT HOWEVER. UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HEAVY BOMBARDMENT UNITS HAVE ADVANCED DAYLIGHT BOMBING TECHNIQUE AS PROPHESIZED LAST YEAR BY GEN. HENRY H. ARNOLD, COMMANDER OF ARMY AIR FORCES TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THEY ARE SMASHING GERMAN TARGETS IN CLOUDY WEATHER.

CHUNGKING:

KUNGAN, ONE OF THE CENTRAL CHINA BASES FROM WHICH THE JAPANESE LAUNCHED LAST MONTH'S DRIVE INTO THE FERTILE "RICE BOWL" DISTRICT FELL TO CHINA'S VICTORIOUS FORCES IN AN IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS DAY BATTLE, THE CHINESE HIGH COMMAND ANNOUNCED TODAY. THE NEW VICTORY MEANT THAT THE COUNTER ATTACKING CHINESE HAVING REGAINED ALL THE TERRITORY NORTHWEST OF LAKE TUNGTING LOST SINCE THE JAPANESE DRIVE GOT UNDER WAY ON NOV. 2 ARE CONTINUING THEIR DRIVE NORTHWARD INTO TERRITORY HELD SINCE LAST SUMMER BY THE INVADERS.

THE EDITOR OF THE SHANGHAI EVENING POST MERCURY TODAY QUOTED A "RECENT ARRIVAL" FROM SHANGHAI AS SAYING THAT JAPANESE AUTHORITIES THERE ALREADY HAVE PREPARED INTERNMENT CAMPS INTO WHICH TO PUT GERMANS WHEN ADOLPH HITLERS IS DEFEATED. NAZIS IN SHANGHAI WERE SAID TO BE SELLING MUCH OF THEIR PROPERTY. WHEN ITALY SURRENDERED THE JAPANESE INTERNED ALL ITALIANS BUT LATER RELEASED THOSE WHO SWORE ALLEGIANCE TO BENITO MUSSOLINI.

LONDON:

THE NAZIS THREATENED OFFICIALLY TODAY TO TAKE "HUNDRED FOLD REPRISAL" ON DEGAULLIST PRISONERS OF WAR IF FIGHTING FRENCH "TAKE REPRISALS ON GERMAN PRISONERS IN THEIR HANDS" A BERLIN BROADCAST SAID THE ACTION WAS PROMPTED BY FRENCH RADIO STATIONS WARNING OF REPRISALS FOR ALLEGED ABUSE OF FRENCH OFFICER PRISONERS.

NAPLES:

A TENFOLD INCREASE OF TYPHUS FEVER IN NAPLES SINCE OCTOBER WHEN THE ALLIES OCCUPIED THE CITY BROUGHT AN ORDER TODAY FROM LT. GEN. MARK W. CLARK CLOSING THE CITY TO ALL FIFTH ARMY TROOPS EXCEPT UNITS BASED HERE. THE ORDER WENT INTO EFFECT AT EIGHT A. M. AT THE SAME TIME ARMY MEDICAL AUTHORITIES AND ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT HEALTH OFFICERS LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO CHECK THE DISEASE INSTITUTING MEASURE DESIGNED TO BRING PREVENTATIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE CITY'S MILLION OR MORE INHABITANTS. THE [illegible] CHIEF SURGEON FOR THE FIFTH ARMY SAID NOT ONE AMERICAN OR BRITISH SOLIDER SO FAR HAS CONTRACTED THE FEVER.

NEW YORK:

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DEFENSE AGENCIES REMAINED ON THE ALERT CHRISTMAS EVE AND MOST OF SATURDAY UPON RECEIPT OF A REPORT THAT "A SNEAK AIR ATTACK MIGHT BE ATTEMPTED BY THE ENEMY ON CHRISTMAS DAY." THE EASTERN DEFENSE COMMAND ANNOUNCED SATURDAY NIGHT.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 362.

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS:
DATE: 28/12/43:

FROM: 1800/27/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/28/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

BOGADJIM-REISS POINT: 12 B-25G's of the 822nd and 823rd Squadrons (361 H) carried out a barge sweep from BOGADJIM to REISS POINT from 0820/L to 0904/L. 77 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped and 9675 X .50 cal., 2900 X .30 cal. and 167 X 75 mm were fired at targets in the area. 1 type "A" barge at WEBER POINT was destroyed by bombing. 1 barge at CAPE TAUWALIP was destroyed or badly damaged by bombing. 2 buildings at SAIDOR were destroyed and buildings at MINDIRI PLANTATION were damaged from bombing. 1 barge at POMERN BAY was destroyed by 75 mm fire. 1 small barge between WASU VILLAGE and VINCKE POINT was probably destroyed by 75 mm fire. At least 4 buildings were destroyed in BIBI, KUL and WARAI VILLAGES by shelling. One large explosion occured in GUMBI VILLAGE from 75 mm hit. Japanese propaganda leaflets were dropped in the area. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. Newly constructed jetty was observed just North of GORI RIVER mouth. 15 lean-tos were seen near POMERN BAY. Wide tracks resembling those made by caterpillar treads were seen just East of SAIDOR.

HANSA BAY: 1 F-4 and 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (361 W) took photos of HANSA BAY from 0945/L to 1020/L. At 0945/L, 14 barges and 4 unidentified small craft were sighted stationary in HANSA BAY.

ARAWE: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (361 X) took photos in the ARAWE area from 0945/L to 0950/L. At 0955/L, one unidentified barge was seen moving toward shore off AMALUT PLANTATION.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25C-1 of the 405th Squadron (361 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE. Airplane took off at 0645/L and landed at 1230/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (361 F) completed 100% a weather recco to NADZAB, GUSAP, FINSCHHAFEN and LAE. Airplane took off at 0530/L and returned to base at 0930/L. There were nil sightings.

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Summary of Missions carried out by FATF, 27/12/43.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 12 A-20's of the 89th Squadron (360 GG) bombed and strafed coastal track beginning 1650 yards East of East end of No. 2 strip to midway between No. 1 and No. 2 strips from 0800/L to 0815/L. 46 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped of which 40 hit along trail or close by. 2 bombs hit in cleared dispersal area North of East end of No. 2 strip.

1 bomb hit in possible dump area between No. 1 and No. 2 strips. Area was well strafed particularly area bounded by 656960, 659960, 660963, 657965 (Ref. GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES, 1/20000). 15370 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing. One possible ammunition dump was hit in area bounded by above coordinates. Track and area immediately adjacent were well strafed. Photos were taken of the attack. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Coastal track seemed well and recently used—was muddy. One possibly serviceable fighter was seen on North side at center of No. 2 strip between unserviceable bombers. 1 TONY was seen flying in SOLOMON SEA South of NEW BRITAIN. Weather over target, light rain with front and heavy rain immediately to East over Yellow Beach.

ARAWE: 9 A-20's of the 90th Squadron (360 HH) bombed and strafed clearing on East bank of PULIE RIVER, 4500 yards North of CROCODILE POINT (492328—ARAWE, 1/63360) and outskirts of DIDMOP VILLAGE from 1515/L to 1545/L. 31 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. 15 bombs hit in clearing on PULIE RIVER. 16 bombs hit in outskirts of DIDMOP. Results of bombing were unobserved. Both targets were strafed with 16350 X .50 cal. with unobserved results. Intense, inaccurate L/G fire came from the clearing at 478349 (ARAWE, 1/63360), 1200 yards West of DIDMOP. Slight, inaccurate M/G fire came from 429315 (ARAWE, 1/63360). New huts were observed in area. A large building 40 feet long with a grass roof was seen at 484337 (All references the same). 3 supply parachutes were observed at 495307 and 12 more at 483342. 2 cables were seen across the river, 1 at 486307 and the other at 479351. Track leading East from 488308 appeared to be open for one way L/T traffic. (PRELIMINARY REPORT**Weather not stated)

ERIMA PLANTATION: 12 B-25's of the 408th Squadron (360 A-2—SATF) bombed ERIMA PLANTATION from 0930/L to 0935/L. 680 X 4 lb. incendiary bombs and 100 X 100 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 6000/6700 feet on the target. Bombing was excellent. 3 explosions were reported and several other small fires from incendiaries. Probable hits were scored on A/A positions North of PALPA RIVER. Moderate, medium and heavy, accurate A/A fire was encountered over the target. (1 B-25 was holed in right wing). Photos were taken of the bombing. There were nil sightings. Weather, scattered to broken cumulus from 1000 to 2000 feet in MARKHAM and RAMU VALLEYS and surrounding target, 4/10 covered. Clear over immediate vicinity of target. (6 X 100 lb. bombs which were dropped in target, were salvoed unarmed. 68 X 4 lb. incendaries and 10 X 100 lb. bombs were salvoed in MARKHAM RIVER by 1 B-25 due to loss of one engine).

MADANG: 10 B-26's and 11 B-25's of the 19th and 33rd Squadrons (360 DD) bombed MADANG strip and dispersal area from 0904/L to 0923/L. 120 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped at the target from 9000/9900 feet. 33Rd Squadron reported bombing good. One large fire was started on North side of runway with smoke rising to approximately 1000 feet and was still burning 10 minutes later giving off large amount of black smoke. 1 bomb landed within 50 feet of a airplane parked off the Southeast side of the runway. Airplane was reported burning. 2 or 3 small fires were started in

wooded area near wunway. 19th Squadron reported intervening clouds prevented accurate plotting of bombing and observation of results. Smoke was observed in dispersal area South of West end of strip and a large fire in dispersal area South of center of strip. Photos were taken by both Squadrons of the bombing. Heavy, inaccurate A/A fire was received from ERIMA PLANTATION; slight by 33rd Squadron, intense, by 19th Squadron. Moderate, medium and heavy, accurate A/A fire was reported by 33rd Squadron over MADANG. Moderate, heavy and medium, accurate to inaccurate was reported by 19th Squadron over MADANG. At 0920/L, a working party of trucks appeared to be working on the BOGADJIM ROAD in the vicinity of AIYOU. No. 1 strip at ALEXISHAFEN appeared to be serviceable. Nil airplanes were sighted on fighter strip at ALEXISHAFEN. Propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target. Weather over target, 4/10 stratus at 3000 feet, high overcast at 25000 feet.

SAIDOR: 1 F-5 of the 6th Photo Squadron (360 XX) took photos in the SAIDOR area from 0945/L to 1000/L from 25000 feet. There were nil sightings.

WALINGAI: 12 A-20's of the 8th Squadron (360 FF) bombed and strafed enemy defense positions along coast South of WALINGAI from 0920/L to 0940/L. (Target was strip approximately 200 yards wide and 600 yards long and about 200 to 250 yards inland along coast South of WALINGAI). 42 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. Bombing was excellent. Target was strafed with 9300 X .50 cal. A small grass fire was started at North end of target. Results were otherwise unobserved. 2 red shots were fired from Very Pistol as last airplane cleared target to indicate completion of attack to ground troops. Photos were taken of the bombing. A column of yellow smoke was seen in edge of palm grove along coast South of WANDOKAI, rising to 500 feet. Australian troops were seen just North of AGO. Some had crossed first river North of AGO. Track through target appeared well used and wide enough for M/T. One unidentified SSF without tail was observed North of WALINGAI, presumed to be P-47. P-74's were in same area. 2 large gun flashes believed possible mortar fire, were seen at 184100 (WALINGAI Photomap, #0365). Nil enemy personnel Nor defenses were seen in the target area. Target area was well torn up by bombing. Weather, rainstorms toward ROOKE ISLAND and LONG ISLAND. CAVU over target.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 65th Squadron (360 AA) completed 100% an armed reeco of the Western BISMARCK SEA. Airplane took off at 1025/L and returned to base at 1655/L. 2 X 1000 lb. bombs were dropped at 1600/L from 10000 feet at a parked BETTY on LORENGAU strip. A direct hit was scored on the BETTY. BETTY was 500 yards Southeast of Northwest end of strip in a cleared area and appeared serviceable. At 1201/L, 2 uncamouflaged stationary barges were seen 2 miles East of LONG ISLAND. At 1100/L, 4 small ships, size of PT boats of which 3 were stationary and 1 was taken evasive action were sighted in the harbor at LORENGAU. Weather, enroute out, scattered cumulus, 6/10 covered, base 4000 feet, tops undetermined, rain. Target, stratus overcast at 15000 feet, hazy. On return, alto-stratus overcast at 15000 feet, heavy rainstorms

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (360 BB) completed 98% of an armed recco of the Eastern BISMARCK SEA. 2% of assigned area around GAROVE ISLAND was omitted because of a front. Coast of RAMBUTYO ISLAND was strafed with 300 X .50 cal. At 1015/L, an unidentified object--possible a hut--was seen in the water at 0219S-14750E. Crew could not identify object from 500 feet. There were nil other sightings. Weather, North BISMARCK SEA, varying from 3/10 to 9/10 cumulus, base 1000 feet. Large East-West front North of GAROVE ISLAND to 30 or 40 miles West of LONG ISLAND from 0 to 15000 feet. VITIAZ STRAITS, 10/10 alto-stratus, base 3000/5000 feet.

1 B-24 of the 64th Squadron (360 CC) completed 100% an armed recco of the SOLOMON SEA. 2 X 1000 lb. inst. torpex bombs were dropped at 1247/L from 10000 feet on LINDENHAFEN PLANTATION. Bombs fell approximately 1000 feet inland on East side of railroad track. Nil results other than bomb bursts were observed. There were nil sightings throughout recco. Airplane took off at 0630/L and landed at 1450/L. Weather, light front, base 1000 feet, tops to 15000 feet running East from GASMATA. WIDE BAY area, 2/10 cumulus, 3000 feet, 1/10 alto-stratus at 12000 feet, scattered showers, visibility 30 miles. Target, solid alto-stratus at 14000 feet, 4/10 cumulus at 4000 feet.

B. Ground Forces.

HUON PENINSULA:

Following a very successful air strike which accurately located enemy gun positions and drew A/G fire, our troops attacked and occupied AGO and WALINGAI. Although there were signs of hurried evacuation, no opposition was met.

Working in collaboration with this advance it is anticipated that our own barges will be now be moving further North up the coast to WALD BAY.

Our recco units moving up the MASAWENG RIVER towards KOLPUA are moving through very difficult country without making contact.

RAMU VALLEY:

An attack by our troops on SHAGGY RIDGE South of KANKIRYO on the BOGADJIM ROAD was successful in gaining control of the feature which considerably strengthened our defence positions and prevents enemy observation of the landing strip. The attack was carried out in conjunction with a diverting raid by other troops on the Jap position in FARIA RIVER.

CAPE GLOUCESTER (NEW BRITAIN):

Following air support strikes along the coastal track our troops using tanks against scattered pill-boxes have advanced to a point within 2500 yards of GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES. Units holding the beachhead at SILIMATI POINT have repulsed all enemy attacks from BORGEN BAY. Assault troops which landing at TAUALI met no opposition. Defensive perimeters have been established and extensive patrol activities initiated in this area.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Troops were sent North of our main line of resistance to destroy Jap bivouac areas but were forced to retire by stiff enemy opposition. Our troops counter-attacked along the track to UNTINGALU VILLAGE.

IT. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

CAPE GLOUCESTER:

Constant enemy pressure has been maintained on our Eastern (BORGEN BAY) perimeter. Four counter attacks accompanied by heavy mortar fire were repulsed. One battalion of Japs unsuccessfully attacked our beachhead using small arms, machine guns and mortars. Some ineffective opposition has been encountered on our Western perimeter.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

An unreported number of Japs are bivouaced North of our main defense line. The enemy has been driven sub of UNTINGALU VILLAGE by a counterattack.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
28 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	P/F	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	7	5					12	0
DAGUA	14	9	2				25	0
WEWAK	13		5			6	24	0
BOREM	16						16	0
HOLLANDIA	8						8	0
ALBATROSS			6				6	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
WEWAK		13					13	0
Total	68	75	36			6	185	0

N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	18	17	2	14		7	58	0
VUNAKANAU	17	9	13	1			40	0
LAKUNAI	28	5		11			44	0
RAPOPO	11	7					18	0
HARBOR					2	18	20	0
TOBERA	10			3			13	0
Total	84	38	15	29	2	25	193	0

COMMENTS:

1. A 50% coverage of NUBIA discloses 2 fighters and 1 M/B and 100% coverage of ~~RABAUL~~ at the same time shows it to be empty. Due to their being practically no interception or sightings of enemy airplanes today and the uncertainty of present disposition by types of enemy airplanes, change of status and estimate of strength must await more positive information.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

ALEXISHAFEN: 27/12/43. (360 W)

Fair vertical photographs cover area from PSIGES RIVER Northward to VITIAR PLANTATION. Partial cloud coverage over 20 percent of drome #2 and area Northward to Northeast end of drome #1.

DROME #1: 2 SSF in Northeast dispersal area.
1 L/B in Northwest dispersal area.

Several M/T are seen in revetments in the Northwest dispersal area. The roads appear to be well used and in good repair showing normal ground activity being carried on.

The 2 light A/A and one 6 gun heavy A/A positions on Peninsula in BOSTRUM BAY are still being maintained.

3 barges are seen on West side of BOSTRUM BAY.

Runway of drome appears rough but serviceable.

DROME #2: 2 SSF (probably serviceable) in Northwest dispersal area.

Photos show roads near drome to be well maintained and apparently being given usual amount of usage.

Runway appears rough but serviceable.

FINSCHHAFEN: 27/12/43. (360 D)

Excellent low oblique photos show bombs bursting in the wooded areas surrounding KANSARUA and KANOMI VILLAGES in vicinity of FINSCHHAFEN. Well worn foot paths indicate heavy usage. Many grass fires were started surrounding targets.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

361 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25C-1, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0645/28/L to 1230/28/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP and LAE.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, 4/10 cumulus to 7000 feet, scattered alto-cumulus at 12000 feet. MARKHAM-RAMU VALLEY, 2/10 strato-cumulus at 8000 feet, scattered cumulus clouds at 1500 feet. On return, 7/10 cumulus up to 12000 feet, alto-cumulus overcast at 14000 feet. Rain and instrument weather on coast North of PORT MORESBY.

361 F. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0530/28/L to 0930/28/L.

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

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered. Weather was reported every 15 minutes as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 7/10 coverage, alto-cumulus at 14000 feet. In Valley, scattered clouds from 6000 to 10000 feet. On return, 7/10 coverage, tops at 10000 feet.

361 H. STRIKE - 6 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0845/28/L to 0904/28/L.

TARGET: Barge sweep from SAIDOR to REISS POINT.

RESULTS: 40 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at targets as follows: 2 bombs were dropped on a serviceable type "A" barge at REEF POINT, destroying it; 1 bomb was dropped on a grass shack near SAIDOR, hitting it and causing subsequent white smoke; 12 bombs were dropped in a barge hideout Southeast of SAIDOR; 3 bombs were dropped in a Creek mouth near BUNSEN POINT; 4 bombs were dropped in YAGOMAI VILLAGE; 6 bombs were dropped along shore at LEPSIUS POINT; 5 bombs were dropped in and near mouth of TIMBA RIVER; 2 bombs were dropped near KIARI VILLAGE; 4 bombs were dropped in mouth of an unidentified Creek between LEPSIUS POINT and REISS POINT. Results of bombing were generally unobserved. Bombing was excellent. 92 X 75 mm were fired with the following results: 1 direct hit was scored on a small serviceable barge between WASU VILLAGE and VINCKE POINT, severely damaging the stern. Other results were unobserved. Area was strafed with 5025 X .50 cal. and 1700 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the bombing and strafing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Several tracks of possible caterpillar tractor type were seen East of SAIDOR. 4 unserviceable barges, lashed together were observed on a reef near REISS POINT. 3 unserviceable barges were seen on the beach at SAUERUMK BAY. 4 P-39's were seen strafing beach East of REISS POINT.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 9/10 strato-cumulus with bases at 14000 feet, cumulus lying in Valleys with tops to 7000 feet, scattered rain squalls. Over target, 3/10 alto-cumulus with good visibility. On return over Ranges, instrument weather with clouds up to 18000 feet.

361 H. STRIKE - 6 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0820/28/L to 0845/28/L.

TARGET: Barge sweep from BOGADJIM to SAIDOR.

RESULTS: 37 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in single plane attacks at targets of opportunit as follows: 1 in MARKUM; 2 at two barges, 1 of which was ± filled with supplies at CAPE TAUMALIP, scoring near misses and damaging or possibly destroying one; 3 in BIBI; 14 in MINDIRI PLANTATION of which 2 fell in the water while others caused black smoke to 100 feet and damaged buildings; 4 in LAMTUB; 4 at BILIAU; 9 at SAIDOR of which 5 fell along shore and in water off HELMHOLTZ POINT while 4 fell in SAIDOR VILLAGE destroying 2 buildings. Bombing was excellent. 75 X 75 mm were fired with the following results: 1 hut was destroyed at KUL VILLAGE; 1 hut was destroyed by a direct hit in BIBI; 1 camouflaged barge in Cove at POMMERN BAY was destroyed by a direct hit; 2 buildings were destroyed in MARAI VILLAGE; a large explosion was caused in GUMBI VILLAGE by 1 shell hit. Targets in entire area were strafed with 4650 X .50 cal. and 1200 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the attack. Japanese propaganda leaflets were dropped over the targets.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: A newly-constructed jetty was seen just North of the GORI RIVER mouth. Bridge across the GORI RIVER mouth appears serviceable and wide enough for A/T. One gunner reported having seen 2 stacks of 3' oil drums under trees on ENKI POINT. 15 lean-tos were observed along West side of mouth of wide, nearly dry river near POLLEEN B.Y, possibly MENGLOU RIVER.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, alto-cumulus with bases at 9000 feet, 3/10 alto-stratus at 16000 feet. BOGADJIM, 4/10 cumulus with bases at 4000 feet. SAIDOR, rain squalls 25 miles offshore. On return over Ranges, 8/10 towering cumulus with tops to 17000 feet.

361 X. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0945/28/L to 0950/28/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: ALAMIL area.

RESULTS: Photos were taken from the OLMOI RIVER on a heading of 90 degrees towards the PULIE RIVER and on a heading of 270 degrees across the PULIE and ALIAK RIVERS. Photos were taken from 15000/18000 feet.

SIGHTINGS: At 0955/L, one unidentified barge was seen moving toward shore off AMALUT PLANTATION.

WEATHER: Ranges, overcast at 14000 feet, broken low cumulus. SOLOMON SEA, offshore from GOODENOUGH ISLAND to LAE, heavy convergences from 0 to 30000 feet.

361 W. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5 and 1 F-4, 5th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0945/28/L to 1020/28/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: HANSA BAY.

RESULTS: F-5 took photos of LAKE KUVAMAS, LAKE YIMS, LAKE VIRGINIA and one undetermined Lake. F-4 took photos of HANSA B.Y. (2 airdromes at NUBIA and shipping in HANSA B.Y.

SIGHTINGS: At 0945/L, 14 barges and 4 unidentified small craft were seen stationary in HANSA B.Y.

WEATHER: SEPIK RIVER, low scattered cumulus 3/10. RAI VALLEY, 2/10 low cumulus. Ranges, cumulus to 30000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

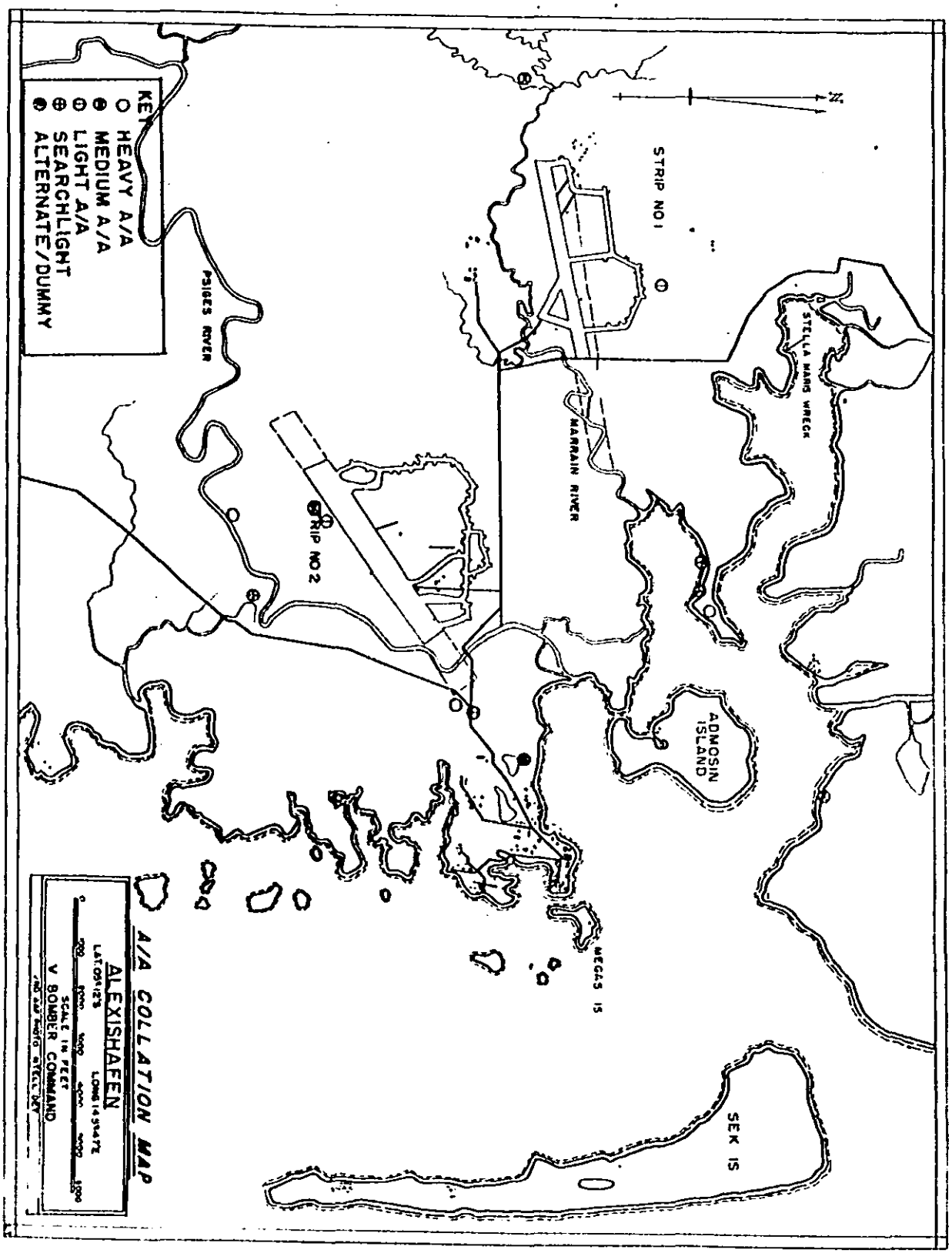
P-47's of the 341st Fighter Squadron on patrol over CAPE GLOUCESTER, destroyed 1 KATE between 0600/L and 0900/L today, 2 miles North of CAPE GLOUCESTER.

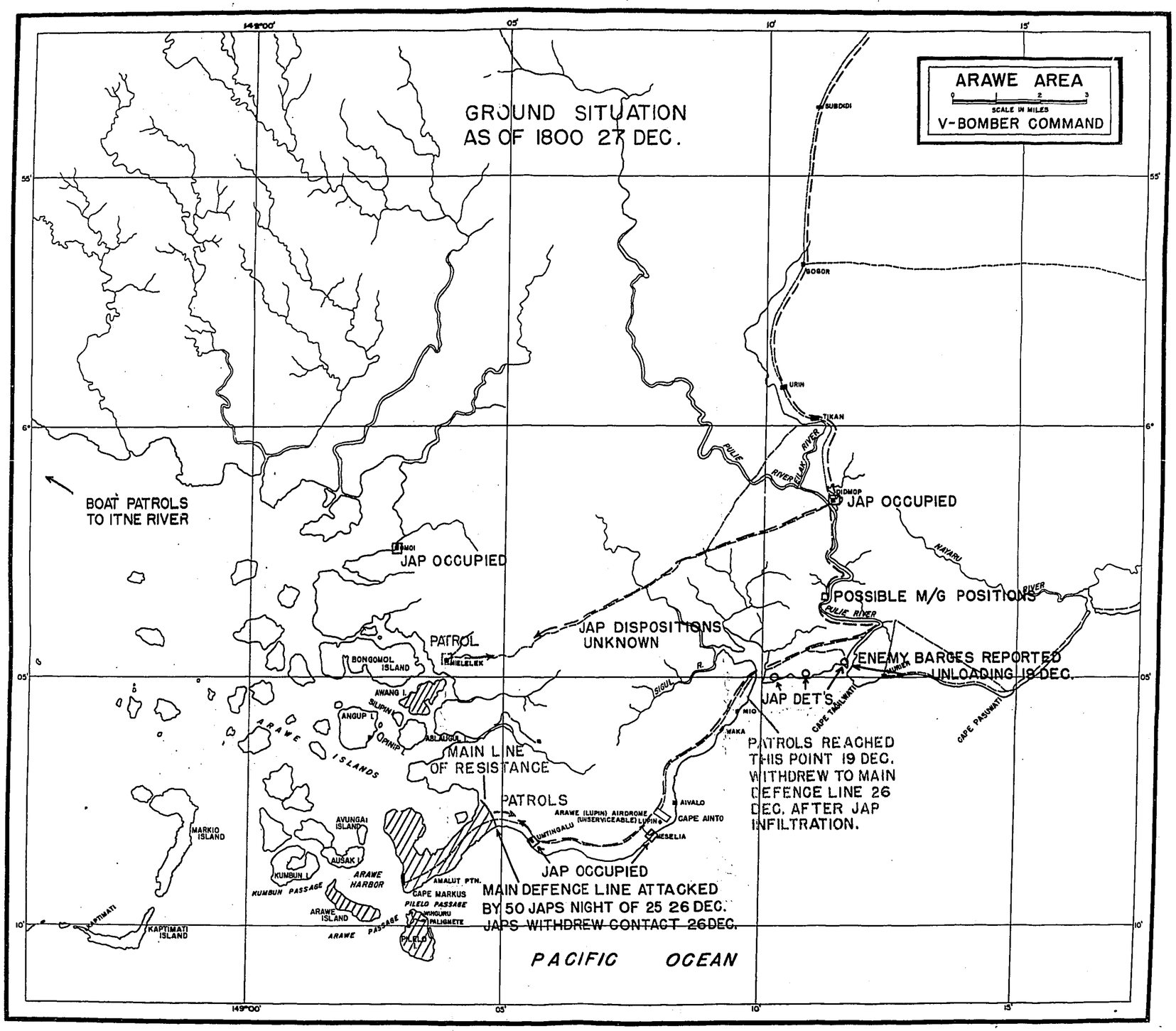
OFFICIAL:

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

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

TARGET INFORMATION SUMMARY
ALEXISHAFEN
28/12/43




ARAWE AREA
SCALE IN MILES
V-BOMBER COMMAND
GROUND SITUATION
AS OF 1800 27 DEC.
SUBDIDI
GOGOR
URIN
TIKAN
PULIE RIVER
RIDMOP
JAP OCCUPIED
MAYARU
POSSIBLE M/G POSITIONS
BOAT PATROLS
TO ITNE RIVER
MOI
JAP OCCUPIED
JAP DISPOSITIONS
UNKNOWN
PATROL
BONGOMOL ISLAND
MAIELELEK
ENEMY BARGES REPORTED
UNLOADING 18 DEC.
SIGUL R.
JAP DET'S
MIO
WAKA
CAPE TAILMATI
CAPE PASUMATI
AWANG I.
SILPIN I.
ANGUP I.
OPINIP I.
ABLAUGUL I.
ARAWE ISLANDS
MAIN LINE
OF RESISTANCE
PATROLS REACHED
THIS POINT 19 DEC.
WITHDREW TO MAIN
DEFENCE LINE 26
DEC. AFTER JAP
INFILTRATION.
PATROLS
ARAWE (LUPIN) AIRDROME
(UNSERVICEABLE)
LUPIN
AIVALO
CAPE AINTO
MESELIA
LUNTINGALI
MARKIO ISLAND
AVUNGAI ISLAND
AUSAK I.
KUMBUN I.
KUMBUN PASSAGE
ARAWE HARBOR
AMALUT PTN.
CAPE MARKUS
PILELO PASSAGE
ARAWE ISLAND
ARAWE PASSAGE
MAMGURU
PALIGMETE
PILELO
KAPTIMATI
KAPTIMATI ISLAND
JAP OCCUPIED
MAIN DEFENCE LINE ATTACKED
BY 50 JAPS NIGHT OF 25 26 DEC.
JAPS WITHDREW CONTACT 26DEC.
PACIFIC OCEAN
149°00'
05'
10'
15'
55'
6°
10'

003460D

PACIFIC WAR:

A THREE PRONGED AMERICAN DRIVE ON THE SOUTHERN SHORES OF THE BISMARK SEA CARRIED OUT BY MARINE VETERANS OPENED UP NEW BEACHES TODAY FOR ALLIED AIR SEA AND AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS. MARINES SWEPT ASHORE SUNDAY ON EITHER SIDE OF CAPE GLOUCESTER MOST FAMED SPOT IN NEW BRITAIN WITHOUT LOSING A MAN. EIGHTY FIVE MILES TO THE WEST OTHER TROOPS SEIZED LONG ISLAND OFF HUON PENINSULA OF NEW GUINEA. A COMMUNIQUE TODAY FROM GENERAL MACARTHUR SAID THE MARINES WERE PUSHING INLAND ENCOUNTERING PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION AT TARGET HILL AND ALREADY HAD BROUGHT THE AIRSTRIP AND BORGEN BAY UNDER ARTILLERY FIRE. THE MARINES WERE USING LIGHT AND MEDIUM TANKS IN THEIR ADVANCE. THE COMMUNIQUE SAID TROOPS OF THE AMERICAN SIXTH ARMY WHICH HAD SEIZED THE ARAWE PENINSULA AND PUSHED THEIR OUTPOSTS FAR TO THE EAST AND WEST REPULSED THREE JAPANESE COUNTER ATTACKS XMAS NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING. JAPANESE NIGHT AIR RAIDS AND ANOTHER AERIAL ATTACK CAUSED A FEW CASUALTIES AND SOME DAMAGE. THE LANDING AT CAPE GLOUCESTER COMPLETED WITH THE HOLD ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN THE ARAWE SECTOR GIVES AMERICAN NAVAL FORCES A SAFE PASSAGE INTO THE BISMARCK SEA AND OPENS ANOTHER SEGMENT OF THE ROUTE BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES. IT ALSO SEVERS JAP CARGO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN NEW BRITAIN AND NEW GUINEA, ADDS ANOTHER THREAT TO ENEMY HOLDS UPON NEW GUINEA AND INCREASES ALLIED PRESSURE ON RABAUL. IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO BEAT BACK THE NEW BRITAIN INVADERS THE JAPANESE AIR FORCE LOST 61 PLANES. THE STRONG FORCE OF MARINES LANDED ON CAPE GLOUCESTER BEHIND ONE OF THE HEAVIEST NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENTS EVER SEEN IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC. THIS BARRAGE CAME IN ALMOST DAILY RAIDS IN WHICH 3784 TONS OF BOMBS WERE DROPPED ON THE AREA SINCE DECEMBER FIRST.

ADMIRAL HALSEY DISCLOSED TODAY THAT 18 MITSUBISHI BOMBERS ATTACKED AN AMERICAN CARRIER FORCE AS IT RETURNED TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS FROM ITS CHRISTMAS DAY RAID ON KAVIENG WHERE THE CARRIER BORNE PLANES SANK A JAP DESTROYER AND TWO CARGO VESSELS. THE MITSUBISHIS WERE DRIVEN OFF. THERE WAS NO REPORTED DAMAGE TO THE CARRIER FORCE.

ITALY:

AMERICAN INFANTRYMEN FORCE GERMANS BACK ON CASINO PLAIN AND HAMMER AT DEFENSES OF SANVITTORE FROM TWO NEWLY WON HEIGHTS WHILE EIGHTH ARMY'S CANADIANS SEIZE TWO MORE BLOCKS IN NINTH DAY OF BLOODY STREET FIGHTING IN ORTONA FRONT. DISPATCHES REPORT THAT VILLAGE OF TOLLO, FIVE MILES WEST OF ORTONA, IS IN FLAMES AND SAY IT IS LIKELY THAT GERMANS ARE PREPARING TO ABANDON IT TO INDIAN TROOPS THAT THREATEN FROM CAPTURED VILLA GRANDE. SECOND NEW ZEALAND DIVISION SMASHES TWO GERMAN COUNTER ATTACKS NEAR CENTER OF ADRIATIC SECTOR. LT. GEN. SIR BERNARD C. FREYBURG, CONQUEROR OF MARETH LINE, IS REVEALED IN COMMAND OF NEW ZEALANDERS IN ITALY.

MOSCOW:

A MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES THAT FIRST UKRAINE ARMY HAS ADVANCED TEN MILES IN 24 HOURS ON 50 MILE FRONT WEST OF KIEV OCCUPYING MORE THAN 200 TOWNS INCLUDING ANDRUSHEVKA 20 MILES SOUTHWEST OF ZHITOMIR ON IMPORTANT NORTH SOUTH LENINGRAD TO ODESSA RAILROAD. FIRST BALTIC ARMY MEANWHILE SLASHES GERMAN RAILROAD FROM VITEBSK TO POLOTSK IN OFFENSIVE WHICH NOW HAS FORMER CITY VIRTUALLY ENCIRCLED.

SAN FRANCISCO:

EMPEROR HIROHITO IS HEARD IN TOKYO BROADCAST RECORDED IN U.S. TELLING JAPANESE DIET THAT QUOTE WAR SITUATION IS MOST SERIOUS UNQUOTE AND ASSERTING THAT QUOTE BATTLES BETWEEN U. S. AND OUR ENEMIES ARE GROWING MORE ACUTE UNQUOTE. TOKYO RADIO AT THE SAME TIME WARNS PEOPLE THAT RECENT ALLIED OPERATIONS IN SOUTH PACIFIC HAD CARRIED WAR INTO QUOTE DECISIVE STAGE IN WHICH RISE OR FALL OF OUR NATION WILL BE DECIDED UNQUOTE. PREMIER HIDEKI TOJO FOLLOWS UP THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS BY TELLING HOUSE OF PEERS THAT ALLIES COUNTER-OFFENSIVE HAS BECOME QUOTE REAL AND SERIOUS. UNQUOTE.

RUSSIAN FRONT:

RED ARMY FORCES OPEN NEW OFFENSIVE IN KIEV SALIENT SMASHING THROUGH GERMAN DEFENSES AND TAKING 150 TOWNS INCLUDING RADOMYSL 55 MILES WEST OF KIEV 10 NAZI DIVISIONS REEL BEFORE SOVIET ONSLAUGHT WHICH CARVES OUT BREACH IN ENEMY LINE 55 MILES LONG AND RANGING TO DEPTH OF 25 MILES. SOVIETS CLAIM ASSAULT INFLICTS 15,000 CASUALTIES ON GERMANS. RUSSIAN COLUMNS DRIVING ON VITEBSK SEIZE ANOTHER 60 LOCALITIES INCLUDING CHRUOVA EIGHT MILES EAST AND BELYANKI 15 MILES NORTHWEST.

ALGIERS:

GEN. DWIGHT EISENHOWER, NEWLY NAMED CHIEF OF INVASION FORCES FOR ALLIED ASSAULT ON WESTERN EUROPE TELLS PRESS CONFERENCE, "WE WILL WIN THE EUROPEAN WAR IN 1944," AND ADDS "THE ONLY REQUISITE IS FOR EVERY MAN AND WOMAN ALL THE WAY FRONT LINE TO MOST REMOTE HAMLET OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO DO HIS OR HER FULL DUTY."

WASHINGTON:

VICE PRESIDENT HENRY A. WALLACE PRAISES NATIONS WAR EFFORT IN RADIO INTERVIEW BUT WHILE ASSERTING HIS BELIEF THAT GERMANY'S DEFEAT WILL COME A FEW MONTHS AFTER START OF EUROPEAN INVASION WARNS THAT GREATER CIVILIAN SACRIFICES WILL BE NEEDED IN 1944 TO MAKE VICTORY POSSIBLE, HE DECLARES. "REALLY SERIOUS WORLDWIDE WARS CANNOT BE WON WHEN PEOPLE OF SOME FRONT THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT THEIR IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC WELL BEING AND MAKING A PROFIT."

SPORTS

BOSTON BRUINS MOVED INTO TIE FOR SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE COMING FROM BEHIND TWICE TO REGISTER FOUR FOUR TIE WITH DETROIT REDWINGS. BILL FARTLEAGUE, LEADING SCORER, LED BRUINS DRIVE FOR DEADLOCK. NEW YORK RANGERS OUTLASTED CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS FOR SEVEN SIX WIN THAT MADE TWO TRIUMPHS IN A ROW AND THIRD IN SUCCESSION AT HOME. KEN MACAULEY STILL PLAYING GOALIE FOR BLUESHIRTS WITH STITCHES IN FACE WAS BIG FACTOR IN RANGER VICTORY THOUGH VETERAN BRYON HEXTALL LED ATTACK WITH TWO GOALS.

RING MAGAZINE MADE USUAL BOXER OF YEAR AWARD, THIS TIME TO FRED APOSTOLI, FORMER MIDDLEWEIGHT KING NOW IN COMMAND OF NAVY GUN CREW IN SOUTH PACIFIC. APOSTOLI THOUGH INACTIVE IN RING WAS GIVEN AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN MILITARY ACTION AND FOR HIS BOOSTING OF MORALE BY INSTRUCTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS. A SECONDARY AWARD TO THE OUTSTANDING CIVILIAN BOXER OF THE YEAR WENT TO MANUEL ORTIZ, BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION. ORTIZ WAS AWARDED RECOGNITION FOR DEFENDING TITLE SUCCESSFULLY EIGHT TIMES IN TEN MONTHS.

LT. JOSEPH HUNT, NATIONAL SINGLES, NOW ON LEAVE FROM NAVY, WON MENS' SINGLES TITLE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MIDWINTER INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT BY BEATING NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMP BOB FALKENBERG SIX TWO FOUR SIX SIX FOUR.

Aust. AIR LIASON GROUP
13 DEC 1943

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Report No. 363.

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: GEN
DATE: 29/12/43

FROM: 1800/28/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/29/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO - 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

BORGEN BAY: 23 B-25C and D-1's, B-25G's of the 38th Group (362 C) bombed and strafed coastline of BORGEN BAY from NATAMO POINT through ALAIDO VILLAGE from 1017/L to 1026/L. 161 X 300 lb. bombs were dropped on the target. Area was thoroughly strafed with 172 X 75 mm, 35225 X .50 cal. and 3170 X .30 cal. 3 small fires were started in the target by 75 mm fire. Bombing and strafing were excellent but results were generally unobserved due to nature of target and delay fusing of bombs. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. Nil signs of activity were observed in the target area. 15 huts evenly spaced were observed near ARARU. Well used tracks were seen between villages in SARHE Sub-District. One large barge, well camouflaged with branches, was observed in mouth of stream 1 mile East of CAPE BACH. Track running North and South at CAPE BACH appeared well used.

CAPE BUSHING: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (362 W) was over CAPE BUSHING at 0910/L from 20000 feet but was unable to take photos due to weather. At 0930/L from 20000 feet, 9 unidentified airplanes believed friendly, were sighted 20 miles South of CAPE BUSHING flying at 8000 feet.

HANSA BAY: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (362 X) took photos in the HANSA BAY area from 0955/L to 1015/L. of WEWAK, BORAM, BUT and DAGUA Airdromes from 1023/L to 1030/L and of the SEPIK RIVER area at 1050/L. At 0955/L, 10 barges and 14 craft slightly larger than barges were seen stationary in HANSA BAY. At 1025/L, 2 small Sugar-Charlies were seen stationary in VICTORIA BAY. At 1030/L, 1 Sugar-Charlie and several small harbor craft were seen stationary in WEWAK HARBOR.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (362 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE and FINSCHHAFEN. Airplane took off at 0645/L and landed at 1210/L. There were nil sightings.

NOTE: 1 B-25 of the 38th Group (362 B) scheduled to carry out a weather recce to NADZAB and GUSAP was cancelled.

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Summary of Missions carried out by FATF, 28/12/43.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 8 A-20's of the 90th Squadron (361 AA) bombed and strafed the coastal track beginning 1650 yards East of the East end of No. 2 strip to midway between No. 1 and No. 2 strips, from 0917/L to 0933/L. 28 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. 26 of these were

dropped along the coastal track and 2 bombs scored a direct hit on 3 active M/G positions at 646940 (This and all following references to: GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES, 1/20000). M/G positions were silenced. Coastal track was strafed with 12250 X .50 cal. with unobserved results. Intense, inaccurate M/G fire was received from 646940 (silenced by bombing). Slight, inaccurate M/G fire was received from clearing at 672958. Intense, inaccurate M/G fire from 668959 and slight, inaccurate M/G fire from 633968. Photos were taken of the attack. Wooded areas along coastal track were cleared of underbrush. A fairly large new pit with 4 drums inside was seen in a clearing under trees at 641972. Coastal track, where visible, appeared recently used. Weather: Target, scattered thunderstorms, visibility poor. East end of NEW BRITAIN, CAVU.

10 A-20's of the 8th Squadron (361 AA) bombed and strafed ridge beginning on coast 2000 yards East of East end of No. 2 strip and extending Southwest for 2600 yards (674958 to 660940. Ref: GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES, 1/20000) from 0937/L to 0952/L. 39 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. Bombing was excellent—all bombs landed in target. Ridge was strafed in 4 passes with 12000 X .50 cal. Nil results were observed. 2 red flares were fired on completion of attack. Photos were taken of the attack. Slight, light, inaccurate A/A fire was received from 1 position on edge of woods believed at 651952. A well used road was observed running Southwest from Northwest end of No. 1 strip. Bridge over road near East end of No. 2 strip was intact. Nil installations nor personnel were observed in target or elsewhere near airdrome. Weather: Target, CAVU, except for a few clouds above mountains with their base at 1500 feet.

CAPE HOSKINS: 18 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (361 FF) bombed CAPE HOSKINS airdrome from 1010/L to 1017/L. 30 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 10700 feet in revetment area approximately 250 feet Southwest of the strip. 2 large explosions were observed in the revetment area with bright red flames. 34 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 10000/10300 feet along center and near edge of runway. 36 X 1000 lb. .025 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 11400/11500 feet. Bombing was excellent. 25 bombs hit in target and remainder in dispersal area on Southwest side of runway. One large explosion occured on runway, 500 feet from Southeast end. Explosion appeared to be fuel giving off black smoke. One large explosion occured in Southwest dispersal area, 800 feet from runway and 1200 feet from the Southeast end. Runway was definitely left unserviceable. Photos were taken of the bombing. Slight, light and medium, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire was encountered over the target. At 1035/L from 8400 feet, one lugger was observed off North tip of AYUET ISLAND (0618S-14959E). At 1025/L, a fire was observed on hill beside river at 0554S-14917E. At 0955/L, white smoke, probably from grass fire, came up suddenly at 0615S-15020E. At 1024/L, 10 to 12 barges were seen at mouth of DOGI RIVER (0535S-15032E). Serviceability of barges undetermined. Weather: Target, 3/10 cumulus from 3000 to 15000 feet.

OKOI to CAPE BUSHING: 6 B-25D-1's of the 13th Squadron (361 BB) carried out a barge search from a point 5 miles West of OKOI to CAPE BUSHING from 0635/L to 0715/L. 5 of the 6 airplanes sighted 48 barges. 1 B-25D-1 dropped 2 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs on 2 type "A" barges in cove on West side of CAPE PEIHO. Barges were near stranded. Barges were left low in water and smoking after attack and were probably destroyed. Barges were empty, lightly camouflaged and probably serviceable. Villages along search area appeared well used. An unidentified airplane resembling a Reconfighter was seen flying over AMAVE at 0635/L. Airplane flew inland at high speed upon arrival of our airplanes. A light on CAPE PEIHO was extinguished upon approach of our airplanes. Smoke from a probable camp fire was observed on East side of ITNE RIVER about 2 miles above coast. Weather: 6/10 over area of search with 1/10 stratus from 1000 to 2500 feet. (9 B-25D-1's took off but 3 returned to base from 30 to 50 miles North of CAPE WARD HUNT due to failure to contact rest of Squadron in heavy clouds and darkness).

ROTTOCK BAY-RIEBECK BAY: 12 B-25D-1's of the 498th and 500th Squadrons (361 BB) carried out a barge hunt from ROTTOCK BAY to RIEBECK BAY from 0640/L to 0925/L. 28 X 300 lb. and 16 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on villages; a possible gun position in IBOKI PLANTATION and suspected barge hideouts between ROTTOCK and DAELINS BAY with unobserved results. (The above were dropped by 500th Squadron). The 498th Squadron dropped 40 X 300 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs in villages and areas of activity along the coast and on Islands off the coast in the assigned area. Bombing was excellent. Bombs were observed to explode in the targets but the results were otherwise unobserved. 12350 X .50 cal. was expended by the 498th Squadron and 17035 X .50 cal. was expended by the 500th Squadron in strafing the assigned area. Nil results were observed. Photos were taken of the attack. Slight (2 bursts), light, inaccurate A/A fire was seen over IBOKI PLANTATION. A new road, wide enough for M/T, was seen just West of ILOLI RIVER. A new jetty was seen at KETENGI ANCHORAGE—platform built on poles. 1 crashed enemy SGF was seen in ROTTOCK BAY. 1 ZEKE was seen in water off shore at ARIMEGI PLANTATION. A well used road in KOKOPO area was observed. 2 ramps, about 25 feet wide and extending from shore into water, were seen on South coast of ROTTOCK BAY. A hole judged to be 8 X 15 feet, covered with logs or 2 X 4's in crossed latched manner were seen in IBOKI PLANTATION. An apparently new and much used barge landing area with jetty and rafts and roads nearby, was observed at MA 8085. (Western NEW BRITAIN Provisional, 1/253440). All crews reported considerable truck activity along coast in target. One pilot reported a midget SS in the ITNE RIVER about 300 yards from mouth. Crew member of an other airplane believed this to be a damaged surface craft. Nil serviceable barges were seen in the area. Fighter cover was excellent. Weather: Showers of most of target area, ceiling approximately 1500 feet, scattered cumulus clouds, scattered cirrus at 10000 feet, closed in East of RIEBECK BAY.

FINSCHHAFEN-MADANG: 1 B-25 of the 501st Squadron (361 JJ) completed 100% a weather recco to FINSCHHAFEN, MADANG and return. Weather was reported half-hourly as ordered. A barge, 5 miles Southeast of LIPSIUS POINT was strafed at 0721/L with 300 X .50 cal. Nil visible results. A 4 ship unidentified convoy was sighted at 0635/L at 0545S-14743E on a heading of 150 degrees, speed undetermined. Footbridge over mouth of YUPNA RIVER appeared in good condition.

MADANG: 19 B-25's of the 2nd and 408th Squadrons (361 A-2-SATF*) bombed MADANG airdrome from 0900/L to 0910/L. 58 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs and 12 X 500 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped from 9000/12300 feet. 408th Squadron reported bombing poor. 30 bombs fell in wooded area at East end of the runway and 4 bombs fell on North tip of BELIAU ISLAND hitting several buildings at least one of which was reported blown up. One fire was seen in wooded area East of strip. The second Squadron reported 3 or 4 bombs hit on Southwest end of runway and others hit in cleared area at West end of runway. Over half of bombs hit just South of West end of runway. Bombing was considered good. Runway has about 3 or 4 craters in center from previous bombing and appeared unserviceable. Nil results of own bombing were observed. Photos were taken of the bombing. 408th Squadron reported slight, heavy, inaccurate A/A fire and 2nd Squadron reported A/A fire accurate as to altitude but inaccurate as to range from only one position at South edge of BELIAU ISLAND. Bombing of ALEXISHAFEN was observed while on bombing run over MADANG. Bombs were seen to hit in vicinity of No. 2 strip at ALEAISHAFEN. A large explosion and very large oil fire was seen at Northeast end of No. 2 strip and a smaller one on South side near center of strip. A small boat or barge was reported on Northeast side of BELIAU ISLAND. Weather: CAVU over target.

ALEXISHAFEN: 24 b-24's of the 90th Group (361 GG) bombed targets 2 B, 1 B and 5 B (All A/A positions) at ALEXISHAFEN from 0906/L to 0908/L. 144 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 15000/15600 feet at the targets. The 319th Squadron dropped 36 bombs at A/A positions 800 feet East from North end of N. 2 strip (Target 1 B). Bombs covered west half of target. Guns ceased firing. A large explosion was observed in center of flight gap with flames to 300 feet and dense black smoke to 2000 feet. Fires was still visible 10 minutes after bombing. The 321st Squadron dropped 36 bombs at A/A position on Eastern tip of DANIP PLANTATION (Target 5 B). Bombs fell short of target. The 320th Squadron dropped 36 bombs at target 5 B. Bombs fell across target which was thoroughly covered. A/A position was silenced. Bombing was excellent. The 400th Squadron dropped 36 bombs at A/A position 600 yards South of strip No. 2 on North bank of PSIGAS RIVER. One 2 EB on ground received a direct hit. A/A positions were not seen firing after bombing but pattern did not spread to the East close enough to river to catch all guns in the battery. Damage was inflicted on battery but extent could not be determined from observation. All Squadrons took photos of bombing. A/A fire was reported as slight to moderate, medium and heavy, mostly inaccurate. At 0936/L, 4 ZEKES were seen at 3000 feet at 0620S-14636E headed in direction of GUSAP.

At 0908/L, one fire was observed off North corner of strip No. 2 with black smoke to 500 feet. Heavy black smoke rising to 4000 feet was observed from 319th Squadron's target after bombing. 5 small fires were seen in that area. 7 airplanes were observed dispersed Southeast of No. 2 strip near light and heavy A/A positions. Fighter cover was good. Weather: Clear over target.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 530th Squadron (361 BB) completed an armed recce of the Western BISMARCK SEA. Airplane took off at 1230/L and returned to base at 2015/L. There were nil sightings throughout search. Weather: Frontal activity between FINSCHHAFEN and LONG ISLAND. High thin overcast over BISMARCK SEA. Increasing cloudiness along NEW GUINEA coast from WEWAK to FINSCHHAFEN. High overcast at 10000 feet from FINSCHHAFEN to base.

1 B-24 of the 530th Squadron (361 CC) completed an armed recce of the Eastern BISMARCK SEA. At 1400/L from 4600 feet, a 7 ship convoy consisting of 1 Fox-Tare-Able, 1 Fox-Tare-Baker, 2 DD's and 2 small unidentified ships (possible Fox-Tare-Dogs) was sighted at 0210S-14627E on course 240 degrees at speed of 9/10 knots. Photos were taken of the. Moderate, light and heavy, inaccurate A/A fire was received from the convoy. A large front was encountered North of NEW BRITAIN extending to 0200S. Visibility was limited to ½ mile at times. Maximum visibility was 10 miles.

1 B-24 of the 530th Squadron (361 DD) completed an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA. Airplane took off at 0630/L and returned to base at 1215/L. There were nil sightings throughout entire search. Weather: Built up cumulus over NEW BRITAIN, coast clear. Few scattered cumulus, tops 12000 feet, base 3000 feet on course. Frontal activity, 60 to 65 miles off NEW GUINEA COAST.

B. Ground Forces.

HUON PENINSULA: After crossing the TEWAI RIVER strong opposition was encountered at the BLUCHER POINT area. An outflanking movement to the West, supported by artillery and mortar fire, forced the enemy to withdraw into the jungle. Contact is still being maintained with the enemy, who has now been discovered in greater strength, while Jap artillery believed to be at MANDA has been active.

Mopping-up is in process in the KANOMI area, which has been reached by the forward elements of our tank forces.

A number of enemy dead were found at WANDOKIA.

Strong evidence has been received of considerable Jap troops in bivouac in the timberland area on the Southern arc of SIO LAGOON.

RAMU VALLEY: With accurate artillery support our troops continued their advance along SHAGGY RIDGE South of KANKIRYO, the forward Jap base on the BOGADJIM ROAD, and after driving off enemy counter-attacks the position has been consolidated.

Further West near the village of ISARIKA our recce forces made contact with small enemy party which withdrew.

To the Northwest, our Commando forces have moved North of URIGINA to URIA, which has been vacated by the enemy.

CAPE GLOUCESTER (NEW BRITAIN): Preceded by air bombardment and supported by artillery fire our troops advanced to a river 1800 yards Southeast of the #2 strip by 1225/28/L. Another attack also preceded by air support has been initiated. No report of progress has been received. Additional reinforcements were landed at the beachhead above SILIMATI POINT early on the morning of the 29th of December.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN): Our reconnaissance patrol continue to reconnoiter in front of our main line of resistance.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

CAPE GLOUCESTER (NEW BRITAIN): The enemy continues to attack the center and East of our beachhead defense line to the Northwest of SILIMATI POINT. All attempts at penetration have been repulsed.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN): There is no change in the enemy situation.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
29 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	11	1	6				18	±6
DAGUA	16	11	2				29	±4
WEWAK	8		6			6	20	-4
BORAM	19						19	±3
NUBIA & AMAR	4	2					6	-2
ALEXISHAFEN		6					6	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	68	81	37			6	192	±7
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	27	17	2	23		7	76	±18
VUNAKANAU	26	9	13	1			49	±9
LAKUNAI	46	23		11			80	±36
RAPIPO	11	7					18	0
HARBOR					2	18	20	0
TOBERA	19			3			22	±9
Total	129	56	15	38	2	25	265	±72

COMMENTS:

1. Photos taken of the 4 airdromes in the WEWAK area today, resulted in an increase of 7 airplanes estimated to be on these airdromes.

2. Indications point to a strengthening of fighter strength and medium bombers in the NEW IRELAND and NEW BRITAIN area.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

VICINITY WALINGAI VILLAGE: 27/12/43. (360 FF)

Fair low oblique photos show numerous bombs bursting in WALINGAI VILLAGE. Several bombs are seen bursting along the sea cliffs between WALINGAI VILLAGE and AGO VILLAGE. One bomb fell directly on the Village of AGO. Both foot and vehicle paths are evident, and most noticeable are the heavily used parallel foot and vehicle paths between WALINGAI VILLAGE and AGO VILLAGE. The nature of the terrain, cliffs and gullies, offer excellent cover for personnel and stores.

NUBIA AND AWAR: 28/12/43. (361 H)

Excellent verticals cover area from AWAR runway to midway of NUBIA runway.

The NUBIA runway appears serviceable, but only 50% is covered by photos. In the dispersal area there are 2 SSF and 1 M/B.

Nil serviceable airplanes are on the AWAR drome but the runway appears serviceable. Eight new light A/A are along the runway, of which four are midway along East side and four along runway on West side near North end. There are considerable stores along the road running West of the two jetties at AWAR POINT. There is much road and track activity throughout the area and along the coast West of the AWAR airdrome. The Villages in the area show much activity.

There are seven barge pairs and fourteen barges along the coast from SISIMANGO VILLAGE to AWAR POINT. No other part of harbor is covered.

ECGADJIM to FAISS POINT: 28/12/43. (261 H)

Excellent low oblique photos show numerous points of probable enemy occupation and barge hideouts in wooded areas.

Three sunken landing boats are shown in vicinity of FAUNGAN VILLAGE. One probable unserviceable barge shown in vicinity of BENAGUM VILLAGE. Numerous bombs were dropped in water along coastal track. One bomb landed on point in vicinity of KUMISANGES VILLAGE causing large explosion. Many heavily worn tracks are shown leading into native villages.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

361 G. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0745/28/L to 1100/29/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to GOODENOUGH ISLAND and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed. Airplane took off from base at 0745/28/L, landed GOODENOUGH ISLAND at 1350/28/L. Remained at GOODENOUGH ISLAND overnight due to weather. Took off from GOODENOUGH ISLAND at 0900/29/L and landed at base at 1100/29/L.

WEATHER: Enroute, rain squalls from CAPE WARD HUNT to FINSCHHAFEN. On return, building up to 11000 feet over Ranges. Thunderstorms off MILNE BAY.

361 I. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0758/28/L to 0844/29/L.

MISSION: Special Courier Mission to FINSCHHAFEN, DOBODURA and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed. Airplane took off from base at 0758/28/L, landed at FINSCHHAFEN at 0924/28/L, took off from FINSCHHAFEN at 1245/28/L, landed at DOBODURA at 1420/28/L. Remained overnight at DOBODURA due to weather. Took off from DOBODURA at 0755/29/L, landed at base at 0844/29/L.

WEATHER: Between base and FINSCHHAFEN, clear. Rain storms 50 miles South of FINSCHHAFEN. Cumulo-nimbus built up to 25000 feet. DOBODURA to base, clear, scattered cumulus, 1/10 coverage.

362 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0645/29/L to 1210/29/L.

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

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, YULE ISLAND, 1/10 alto-stratus at 14000 feet, slight, haze. Over Ranges, 3/10 stratus, tops to 10000 feet. NADZAB, 5/10 coverage, base at 1000 feet, clouds breaking up towards RAMU VALLEY. Over VALLEY, 5/10 thin overcast, base at 500 feet. LAE, 2/10 alto-stratus at 14000 feet. FINSCHHAFEN, 3/10 cumulus at 3000 feet. On return over Ranges, 7/10 cumulus, tops at 15000 feet.

362 C. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1026/29/L.

TARGET: BORGEN BAY.

RESULTS: 42 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped along track from NAMAO POINT to a point 2 miles Southwest of ALAIDO VILLAGE. Bombing was excellent. Results were generally unobserved. ALAIDO VILLAGE was strafed. A total of 12750 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing. Photos were taken of the attack. 2650 X .30 cal. was also expended in strafing.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Area was well pock marked with bomb craters many of which were water filled. Nil signs of activity were seen in the area. 3 khaki colored tents were observed North of WOODED HILL in a burnt out clearing. This sighting was North of bomb-line. Bridge across stream 3/4 of a mile Southeast of NAMAO POINT was still serviceable.

GENERAL: Excellent area cover by fighters.

WEATHER: Same as 405th Squadron report.

362 C. STRIKE - 6 B-25C-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1024/29/L.

TARGET: BORGEN BAY.

RESULTS: 42 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped along coastal track area from NAMAO POINT to ALAIDO

VILLAGE with generally unobserved results. 1 direct bomb hit was scored on an unnamed village 2 miles East of ALAIDO VILLAGE. The entire area was thoroughly strafed with 10550 X .50 cal. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Allied barges were observed around and just South of SILIMATI POINT, some inshore. No ground opposition to landing was observed. 1 large barge, well camouflaged with branches, was sighted in mouth of stream 1 mile East of CAPE BEACH. Well used tracks were seen in SARHE Sub-District. 2 crew members reported tracers coming from TABLE TOP HILL South of BORGEN BAY.

GENERAL: P-47 fighter cover was excellent.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, scattered strato-cumulus on mountain tops and in Valleys, 4/10 cirro-stratus at 20000 feet. Over water, scattered cumulus from 800 to 6000 feet, increasing to 6/10 coverage at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Scattered alto-cumulus at 12000 feet and cirro cumulus above 20000 feet. Mild front extending Southwest from GASMATA. On return over Ranges, 7/10 cumulus building up to 13000 feet.

362 C. STRIKE - 6 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1020/29/L to 1022/29/L.

TARGET: BORGEN BAY.

RESULTS: 35 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped along coastal track from NATAKO POINT to ALAIDO VILLAGE with generally unobserved results. 5 bombs fell in ALAIDO. Bombing was excellent. 63 X 75/were fired into the target area starting 3 small fires. Target was strafed with 4975 X .50 cal. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: A truck with bridge across river East of NATAKO POINT is still serviceable. 2 huts in BOLEMEN VILLAGE were torn down but there was no evidence of bombing. 15 huts evenly spaced were observed near ARARU.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was excellent. 1 airplane returned to base before reaching the target due to turret failure.

WEATHER: Same as 405th Squadron report.

362 D. STRIKE - 6 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1017/29/L to 1020/29/L.

TARGET: BORGEN BAY.

RESULTS: 42 X 300 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on a heading of 70 degrees along South shore of BORGEN BAY from NATAKO POINT to SARHE VILLAGE. Area along coastal track from a distance of 300 yards inland was well covered by bomb bursts. Results were unobserved. Bombing was excellent. 109 X 75 mm were fired along coastal track and into target. Area was strafed with 3950 X .50 cal. and 520 X .30 cal. Results were unobserved. Photos were taken of the attack.

-3-

A/a: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Motor vehicle track between WOODED HILL and NATARO POINT seemed well used, but nil activity was noticed. Track running North and South near CAPE BACH appeared well used. 3 crew members reported flashes from possible coastal gun firing from position 110144 (Ref. BOUGAINVILLE, Provisional, 1 inch to 1 mile). Gun was firing out to sea and not at airplanes.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 2/10 low cumulus with tops at 9000 feet. Over sea, 8/10 coverage, ceiling 1500 feet, with occasional rain squalls, tops from 5000 feet to 8000 feet. Target, slight haze, 7/10 cumulus, base at 1800 feet, tops from 2000 to 6000 feet. On return, 7/10 coverage, cumulus to 7000 feet, 9/10 coverage over Ranges, tops 16000 feet to 17000 feet.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: CAPE BUSHING.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to weather. Airplane was over target at 0910/L at 20000 feet.

SIGHTINGS: At 0930/L from 20000 feet, 9 unidentified airplanes, believed friendly, were observed 20 miles South of CAPE BUSHING at 8000 feet.

WEATHER: SOLOMON SEA, scattered cumulo-nimbus, scattered cumulus at 2000/4000 feet. Western NEW BRITAIN, solid overcast at 18000 feet.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 0955/L to 1015/29/L. (2) 1023/29/L to 1030/29/L. (3) 1050/29/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) HANSA BAY area. (2) WEWAK area. (3) SEPIK RIVER area.

RESULTS: Photos were taken from ANGILA BAY to east the SAKULA RIVER; of WEWAK, BORAM, BUT and DAGUA airdromes; from HANSA BAY to TIMBUNKE and of the SEPIK RIVER area.

SIGHTINGS: At 0955/L, 10 barges and 14 craft, slightly larger than barges were seen stationary in HANSA BAY. At 1025/L, 2 small Sugar-Charlies were sighted, stationary in VICTORIA BAY. At 1030/L, 1 Sugar-Charlie and several small harbor craft were seen stationary in WEWAK HARBOR.

WEATHER: HANSA BAY, 3/10 low cumulus, scattered middle clouds. WEWAK, CAVU with low cumulus, 4/10, inland. RAMU VALLEY, overcast to broken at 20000 feet. Ranges, broken clouds at 20000 feet, 6/10 cumulus.

362 L. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: 0915/29/L to 1030/29/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: MORESBY area.

RESULTS: Photos were taken of the MORESBY area from 20000 feet as requested.

WEATHER: MORESBY area, CAVU.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

Fighters carried out usual patrol and escort 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.

GENERAL

The Red Army captured the district center of Korostishev, 16 miles East of Zhitomir, on the main highway from Kiev and more than 60 other populated places in a continuation of its big resumed offensive in the Northern Ukraine, Moscow announced Tuesday night. In addition to this drive in which the Russians threaten to push Southwestward toward Rumania, as well as West toward the old Polish border, the Soviet forces also continued their offensive in white Russia toward the big Nazi bastion of Vitebsk. The Russians captured several more populated places on this front after overcoming sharp enemy resistance which included counterattacks.

WASHINGTON:

President Roosevelt announcing a series of major shifts in military commands, disclosed Tuesday that Major General James H. Doolittle, who has commanded the Tactical Air Force in North Africa, would be transferred to command of the 8th Air Force, based in Britain with Lt. General Jacob L. Devers taking command of U. S. Forces in the Mediterranean and becoming deputy to the new Allied supreme Commander there. Devers has been Commander of Allied Forces in the British-European area. Lt. General Ira Eaker, who has commanded the 8th Air Force will become Allied Air Commander in the Mediterranean area succeeding Air Marshall Sir Arthur Tedder. Tedder has been named deputy to General Dwight D. Eisenhower who will lead the invasion of Europe. Major General Nathan Twining will command the American 15th Air Force in the Mediterranean area.

PACIFIC WAR:

American Marines have driven to within a mile and a half of New Britain's strategic Cape Gloucester airdrome, General MacArthur announced today. On other fronts of the widely scattered battle of the Pacific, the Navy announced that bombers again raided the Jap held Marshall Islands while submarines penetrated deep into enemy waters to sink 12 more Jap ships. General MacArthur's Communique said that in the newest big air battle in the Southwest Pacific, 37 Jap planes were shot down over the Arawe sector of New Britain while American infantrymen pushed back new enemy counter-attacks. American losses were described as light. On the Northwest shore of New Britain, Marines beat off 4 strong Jap counter-attacks in their four and a half mile advance toward the Gloucester airstrip. 7th Air Force bombers carried the battle in the mid-Pacific Marshall Islands into the 19th consecutive day blasting the airfields and anchorage at Wotje Sunday, with 50 tons of bombs. Simultaneously Admiral Nimitz announced that Navy bombers and fighters attacked Jaluit. 2 American bombers were lost over Wotje. Our submarines, the Navy announced, sank a Jap destroyer, 2 big tankers, 2 transports and 7 freighters. These latest announced sinkings brought to 536 ships the number our submarines have torpedoed since Pearl Harbor. At least 326 of these were unquestionably sunk. The Navy revealed that 1 American destroyer was sunk and a 100 foot transport damaged in the belated attack by Nipponese dive bombers on the marine landing force at Cape Gloucester. Secretary of Navy, Knox, said Japanese claims of heavier damage to our warships were fantastic as usual. Knox disclosed that the Navy has been able to keep the Japs back toward Tokyo by secret weapons as now he would like to admit as to what they were.

NEW YORK:

Navy spokesmen are insisting that Rabaul must be held at all costs, the Scripps-Howard said Tuesday. The broadcast declared that all Jap guns are stressing the critical situation at New Britain and voicing apprehension that the Japanese submarines be denied the island.

WORLD WAR II:

A Brazilian expeditionary force of 2 Divisions will leave for Europe in January, according to Juan Arpidoro Howards, Brazilian Ambassador to Uruguay, who returned after a months visit in Rio De Janeiro.

SPORTS:

A glance at the official National League figures released Tuesday give a hint as to why the St. Louis Cardinals walked away with the pennant this year. The 3 pitchers leading in earned run averages for the season are Cardinals. Howie Pollett, Max Lanier and Mort Cooper.

Aust. AIR LIAISON GROUP
31 DEC 1943

Report No. 364

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

SECRET
AUTH: C.G.
INITS: JEN
DATE: 30/12/43

FROM: 1800/29/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/30/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

CAPE BUSHING-GASMATA: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (363 Y) took photos from LINDEN HARBOR to FULLERBORN HARBOR and from LINDEN HARBOR to GASMATA including the airdrome, from 1015/L to 1020/L from 20000 feet. Airplane was over CAPE BUSHING at 1000/L but was unable to take photos due to weather. 1 F-4 accompanied F-5 on mission to 20 miles off CAPE WARD HUNT where it turned back with an engine smoking. No word has been received as to whereabouts of F-4.

NAMBARIWA: 12 B-25G's of the 822nd and 823rd Squadrons (363 F) bombed and strafed NAMBARIWA-SIO area from 0830/L to 0900/L. 45 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped at targets in the area. Targets were thoroughly strafed with 7276 X .50 cal. and 3070 X .30 cal. and 231 X 75 mm. 2 small fires were started in SIO. 3 small fires were started near mouth of NAMBARIWA RIVER. One direct hit was scored on serviceable barge by 75 mm fire. Bombing and strafing were excellent. Results were generally unobserved due to heavy foliage. Propaganda leaflets were dropped. One white puff was seen by one crew of the 822nd Squadron in front of airplane at 100 feet over NAMBARIWA RIVER. Believed to be 20 mm. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. One unserviceable midget SS was seen beached with one end awash in Cove just East of GNEISENAU POINT. 2 camouflaged probably serviceable barges were seen pulled up on bank of NAMBARIWA RIVER.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25G of the 822nd Squadron (363 A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to DOBODURA, NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE, FINSCHHAFEN and return. Airplane took off at 0700/L and landed at 1542/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (363 B) completed 100% a weather recco to FINSCHHAFEN, GUSAP and WAU. Airplane took off at 0515/L and landed at 0830/L. There were nil sightings.

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Summary of Missions carried out by FATF, 29/12/43.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 18 B-24's of the 319th, 320th and 321st Squadrons (362 CC) bombed enemy defense area East of strip No. 2 from 0839/L to 0841/L. 216 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8300/10600 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent. Target was well covered by bombing. Results were unobserved due to clouds and smoke over target. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Fighter cover was excellent. Weather, 6/10 cumulus at 7000 feet over target.

SIO: 5 B-24's of the 400th Squadron (362 CC) bombed track and bivouac area South of SIO LAGOON at 0943/L. Primary target, CAPE GLOUCESTER, was not bombed because of weather. 60 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 9900 feet in wooded area ½ mile South of SIO LAGOON. Smoke and dust obscured observation of damage. Photos were taken of bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. Possible gun pits were sighted in R.C. Mission at 592947 (DORF POINT, 1/20000). Weather, cumulus building up into cumulonimbus over CAPE GLOUCESTER; land area 6/10 covered. Secondary target, clear.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 19 B-24's of the 529th and 530th Squadrons (362 DD) bombed dump area 1300 yards South of strip No. 2 at CAPE GLOUCESTER from 0858/L to 0901/L. 228 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8500/10500 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent. Target was well covered. Damage was unobserved. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. There were nil sightings. Weather, broken cumulus over target.

17 B-24's of the 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons (362 EE) bombed Japanese defense area South of No. 2 strip (East of 529th and 530th Squadron's target) from 0900/to 0905/L. 204 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8000/9100 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent—at least 190 bombs hit in target. Southern fringe of target was especially well covered. One string of bombs fell along row of gun pits and other unidentified installations in swale near 652952 (GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES, 1/20000). Results of bombing were obscured by clouds. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. One large brown hut and several smaller ones were seen in a clearing at 650941 (GLOUCESTER AIDROMES, 1/20000). A large airplane appeared to be painted on the ground at 655960 (GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES, 1/20000). Black dots—possible interconnecting lines of Japanese resistance, were observed in ravine in center of target from 652950 to 653946 (Same reference as above). Weather, 7/10 cumulus, 4000/7000 feet, 9/10 cirro-cumulus 15000 feet over target.

11 B-25's of the 33rd Squadron and 9 B-26's of the 19th Squadron (362 FF) bombed Japanese defense area South of East end of No. 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER (Northeast of and adjacent to 43rd Group target) from 0905/L to 0908/L. 120 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 7500/8400 feet at the target. Bombing was excellent—at least 110 bombs hit in target. Dust and smoke from bomb explosions and cloud cover prevented observation of results. Area appeared full of craters from previous strikes. Photos were taken of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was encountered. There were nil sightings. Weather, 5/10 cumulus at 6000/7000 feet over the target. (10 B-26's of the 19th Squadron took off but 1 B-26 returned from off MOROSE when it was hit by cartridge case dropped from a preceeding airplane shattering co-pilots windshield).

24 B-25D-1's of the 345th Group (362 GG) bombed and strafed area surrounding CAPE GLOUCESTER airdromes from 0914/L to 0924/L. 103 X 500 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the targets. All Squadrons reported bombing as excellent. Target over the

-2-

thoroughly strafed. One bomb fell about 4 yards from a medium A/A position 659962 (GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES, 1/20000). Results of bombing and strafing were generally unobserved. Target was covered with bomb smoke and dust when airplanes left the area. Photos were taken of the attack. Slight, light, M/G fire was received from position in square 650960 (Same reference as above), and from 1 M/G on unidentified ridge approximately 1 mile South of No. 2 strip. 500th Squadron which dropped bombs on A/A position (See above) observed one round fired from this position as airplanes approached it. Bombing by B-24's and the 22nd Group appeared excellent. Slit trenches, personnel pits and other evidence of defense activity were seen in area around 646952 (Same reference as above). 3 pill-boxes were observed at 655964 and one probably heavy A/A gun at 636943 (Same reference as above). What is believed to be a gun position, not firing, was seen at 648946 and a larger gun position thought to be a Naval gun emplacement was seen at 596598 (Ref: DORF POINT, 1/20000). Barges were seen 300 yards off East coast of ROOKE ISLAND going North and South opposite BIRIK VILLAGE at 0845/L. Weather, scattered cumulus, base 1000 feet and scattered cirro-stratus over target.

SEA SEARCHES:

1 B-24 of the 403rd Squadron (362 AA) completed 100% an armed recco of the Bismarck Sea. Airplane took off at 0645/Land landed at 1700/L. There were nil sightings throughou t search. Photos were taken of HERMIT ISLANDS and of MUSSAU ISLAND. Japs were heard singing on our fighter frequency cussing jamming (Jam Session). Weather, VITIAZ STRAITS solid overcast, base 1800 ft. BISMARCK SEA, 3/10 cumulus , tops 3000 ft, base 1800 ft, 4/10 cirrus at 18000 ft. Front extending from MANUS ISLAND to GAROVE ISLAND, base 1800 ft., tops 9000 ft. SOLOMAN SEA, solid overcast, base 2000 ft. , rain squalls.

1 B-24 of the 529th Squadron (362 BB) completed 100% an armed recco in the BISMARCK and SOLOMON SEAS (search area "E"). Airplane took off at 0750/L and landed at 1803/L. There were nil sightings thoughout entire search. Weather: frontal activity between base and FINSCHHAFEN. 5/10 scattered cumulus over most of route with bases at 1000 ft and tops to 8000 ft. Scattered thundershowers with frontal activity north of NEW BRITAIN and over the island and an overcast over the island at approximately 6000 ft.

1 B-24 of the 400th Squadron (362 HH) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. (Minor deviations were made from assigned route to avoid bad weather). 4 x 500 lb inst. demo. bombs were dropped at 1539/L from 9300 ft. at European buildings at PETER HARBOR on GAROVE ISLAND. Bombs hit short of target, nil damage. Clouds hampered bombing run. At 1415/L from 9300 ft. in position 0430S-14745E, 1 unidentified single-engine airplane was seen on course 60 degrees following our airplane on port side. Airplane turned into cloud when B-24 turned towards it and was not seen again. Nil unusual activity was observed on GAROVE ISLAND through holes in clouds Weather: scattered towering cumulus in BISMARCK SEA. East-west frontal activity south of MANUS ISLAND at 0200S. GAROVE ISLAND: 1/10 cumulus covered. Heavy build-up along north coast of NEW BRITAIN from OPEN BAY to BORGEN BAY. FINSCHHAFEN and HOUN GULF closed in 1700/L.

Summary of Missions carried out by SATF, 29/12/43.

MADANG: 10 B-25's of the 2nd Squadron and 10 B-25's of the 408th Squadron (362 A-2) bombed target 3 B (A/A positions on South tip of BELIAU ISLAND) and target 4 B (A/A positions at North tip of MADANG township). 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped from 8000/10500 feet at the targets from 0858/L to 0905/L. Bombing of both positions were reported as excellent. A/A position at target 3 B was still firing as airplanes left the target. 3 fires with white smoke were seen in vicinity of target 3 B, fires with white smoke were also seen on Northeast end and at center of Peninsula. A fire was started in woods 800 yards South of target 4 B. 4 bombs dropped by 408th Squadron fell around single gun position at West edge of MADANG PENINSULA. Photos were taken of the bombing. Moderate, heavy, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire was received over the target. 3 barges were seen in a Cove at Northeast end of BELIAU ISLAND. One possible barge was sighted between same Island and mainland during bombing. Several barges were reported by one crew of the 2nd Squadron about 10 miles North of BOGADJIM on shore. Weather at target, broken to overcast with scattered cumulus above 12000 feet. Visibility unlimited. (Only PRELIMINARY REPORTS received).

10 B-25's of the 2nd Squadron and 10 B-25's of the 408th Squadron (362 B-2) bombed target 12 B (A/A positions at West edge of MADANG TOWNSHIP) and target 3 B (A/A positions on South tip of BELIAU ISLAND) from 1215/L to 1220/L. 408th Squadron reported bombing (of 12 B) excellent. 50% of bombs hit within 1000 feet of the target. Nil hits were scored on A/A positions. Several buildings were destroyed in Township and fires were started. 2nd Squadron reported bombing satisfactory of (3 B). One small fire was seen, with white smoke in center of BELIAU ISLAND. 1 A/A gun was still firing after bombing. Nil other results were observed. Both Squadrons took photos of bombing. 408th Squadron reported moderate, heavy, accurate A/A fire with some of their airplanes damaged. 2nd Squadron reported slight, heavy, inaccurate A/A fire. A probable crashed airplane was observed in MADANG HARBOR just Northeast of MUTTON ISLAND. Weather, Enroute, scattered cumulus and strato-cumulus in Valley at 3000 feet, scattered cumulus covering mountains, occasional layers of stratus at 11000 feet with scattered broken stratus at 15000 feet. Weather on return, same as enroute to target. (Only PRELIMINARY REPORTS received).

B. Ground Forces.

HUON PENINSULA:

Our advance along the coast has temporarily halted to allow supplies to be brought up and during this time our patrols have worked forward North of RUA and West to GA and KARAKA without making contact with the enemy. Our troops found evidence of the accurate bombing of the Jap dump South of KANOMI.

RAMU VALLEY:

Our troops are consolidating their positions on SHAGGY RIDGE South of KANKIRYO. Our mortars inflicted casualties on enemy digging-in further North, who have been identified as elements of the 78th Regiment.

Our patrols are in contact with an enemy pocket of resistance which is still in occupation on the FARIA RIVER.

CAPE GLOUCESTER (NEW BRITAIN):

Our attack against the airdromes was launched at 1200/29/L from a line approximately 1800 yards Southeast of strip No. 2. At 1300/29/L, the strip itself was under fire. No further information of our progress has been reported.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Our forces continue to improve defensive positions. Patrols have reconnoitered 1000 yards in front of our main line of resistance in the direction of [illegible]. A patrol has reached AUSAK ISLAND and reports nil enemy contact.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

CAPE GLOUCESTER (NEW BRITAIN):

Enemy attacks continue along the South perimeter of our beachhead Northwest of SILIMATI POINT. Total Jap dead in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area to date is 500. Three prisoners have been captured. An unverified report states that 500 Japs have been located in an area from SAG SAG to a point 4000 yards North of SAG SAG.

ARAWE (NEW BRITAIN):

Light enemy contact on our main line of resistance was reported on the night of 28 December. A Jap platoon armed with automatic weapons has been located 600 yards North of our main line of resistance. 4 Japs were killed by a patrol reconnoitering towards MESELIA VILLAGE.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
30 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	F/B	F/P	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
NEW GUINEA:								
BUT	11	1	6				18	0
DAGUA	16	2	11				29	0
WEWAK	8	6				6	20	0
BORAM	19						19	0
NUBIA and AWAR	4	2					6	0
ALEXISHAFEN		6					6	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	68	78	40			6	192	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	27	17	11	23		7	85	#9
VUNAKANAU	26	9	13	1			49	0
LAKUNAI	46	23		11			80	0
RAPOPO	11	7					18	0
HARBOR					2	18	20	0
TOBERA	19			3			22	0
Total	129	56	24	38	2	25	274	0
SOLOMONS:								
Total						6	6	#6
						6	6	#6

COMMENTS:

1. No enemy interception or sightings of enemy airplanes took place in the area today. Reinforcements may be expected to appear in enemy fighter strength in the near future. Floatplanes known to be active in the SOLOMONS and probably based there have been included in today's count.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

WEWAK: 29/12/43. (362 X)

Fair verticals cover WEWAK runway and township.

8 SSF
4 L/B

New piles of supplies are present along the coast by WIRIWI PLANTATION. There is still large quantities of supplies stacked at the base of the township jetty and the two other jetties 800 yards South.

Considerable activity around all the A/A positions indicate they are being well maintained.

The road leading from the coast to the mission building still shows considerable use. All other roads show heavy activity. Work continues on fill-in at West end of runway.

At least 15 barge-pairs are in the harbor, an increase since last coverage. Numerous unserviceable barges are scattered along the coast just Southeast of WEWAK TOWNSHIP.

BORAM: 29/12/43. (362 X)

Blurred verticals cover the BORAM DROME and CAPE MOEM.

There are 19 SSF of which 11 are on the runway and eight in the dispersal area. Ground activity is heavy. There appears to be an increase in motor vehicle traffic to CAPE MOEM. A new road leads East into the woods from the heavy A/A battery 900 feet East of the runway. The road to BRANDI PLANTATION is heavily used, and from which 5 well used roads lead South into the woods. There is good tree cover on each side of the road to BRANDI PLANTATION, which is coastal track 201, along which there is evidence of supplies and personnel.

BUT: 29/12/43. (362 X)

Good verticals covering drome area and vicinity.

11 SSF
6 L/B
1 M/B

All airplanes are well dispersed, the majority being in revetments and on the South side of the runway.

Continued maintenance is in evidence on the airdrome.

No ground changes in defenses.

Ground activity remains normally heavy.

DAGUA: 29/12/43. (362 X)

Photos blurred.

16 SSF
3 M/B
10 L/B.

3 M/B and 1 L/B are at East end of runway, and remaining planes dispersed along each side of runway with SSF on North side, L/B on South. Continued heavy activity in area along motor road running from coastal point 1 mile West of runway into area approximately 1 mile South of runway.

-/-

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 25/12/43. (358 AA)

Good obliques cover Northeast corner of GLOUCESTER drome and into kunai hills East of drome.

Entire area well covered with bomb craters. A few bombs are exploding in kunai grass hills with damage not visible. No installations or ground activity were in evidence.

BORGEN BAY: 29/12/43. (362 C)

Good quality obliques covering area along North coast of NEW BRITAIN from NATAMO POINT East to SAHRE VILLAGE, also around village approximately 1 mile West of NAMURAMUNGA.

A train of bombs bursting in a strip approximately one quarter of a mile from the beach inland along the area as mentioned above. Numerous bursts along edge of beach, large bursts noted about one mile and about one and one-half miles Southeast of NATAMO POINT, several other bursts in and near the village approximately one mile West of NAMURAMUNGA. Damage not assessable.

No shipping, barges, or installtions were visible on review of these photographs.

ROTTOCK—REITBECK BAY: 28/12/43. (361 AA)

Good low obliques cover parts of shore line from NATAMO POINT to NUTANAVUA ISLAND.

There are numerous bomb bursts from shore to 1200 feet inland in BORGEN BAY. Also three bursts in NUTANAVUA VILLAGE. Damage is not visible in photos.

No shipping, barges, installations or ground activity were in evidence.

HOSKINS' DROME: 28/12/43. (361 FF)

Five hazy photos of bombing mission show bombs bursting along West side of South end of runway.

There are 2 SSF in revetments at South end of runway.
Runway being repaired but is unserviceable.

ANGILA BAY to IKU VILLAGE: 29/12/43. (362 X)

Excellent verticals partially cloud obscured cover the area from ANGILA BAY to IKU VILLAGE including the Southern part of POTSDAM HARBOR and touching on HANSA BAY.

There is nil shipping in the area covered. Photos show presence of the enemy to be indicated only by use of road and trails and occupation of villages.

The road along the coast from BOGIA HARBOR to POTSDAM HARBOR is well used. There is much ground activity in all villages along the coast. The inland trails are used, villages occupied, and gardens well kept. There are three unidentified villages along the SAKULA RIVER and recent clearings in the river area. The road South of HANSA BAY along the coast is well used as well as the road which leads South near SAKULA RIVER and branches into trails.

ALEXISHAFEN: 28/12/43. (361 GG)

Very good vertical photographs cover area from MILITAT HARBOR Northward to VITAR PLANTATION and from South tip of MEGAS ISLAND Westward to DANIP PLANTATION.

No serviceable airplanes on either dromo. Runways rough but serviceable. Photos show bombs bursting on 6 gun heavy A/A position on Peninsula and in water nearby in POSTRUM BAY. Due to smoke and bomb burst damage cannot be assessed, but it is thought that this position was probably destroyed. Other bombs are seen bursting between heavy and medium A/A positions South-West of No. 2 runway, probably completely destroying previously unserviceable light bomber. Several bombs are seen bursting at Northeast end of No. 2 runway just West of 6 gun heavy A/A position.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

363 B. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25G, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF SEARCH: 0515/30/L to 0820/30/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: Base to KEREMA, FINSCHHAFEN, GUSAP, WAU and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Base to KEREMA, stratus ceiling from 5000 to 16000 feet. Ranges, clear, rain squalls coming in from sea towards PORT MORESBY.

363 F. STRIKE - 6 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0830/30/L to 0840/30/L.

STRIKE: NAMBARIWA.

RESULTS: 24 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped in the SIO-NAMBARIWA area. Of these, 7 fell around SIO LAGOON and 17 at mouth of and along banks of NAMBARIWA RIVER. Bombing was excellent. Results were unobserved due to heavy foliage. 124 X 75 mm were fired into target with each airplane making 3 passes over the target. 2 small fires were started near the mouth of the NAMBARIWA RIVER. The area was thoroughly strafed with 2656 X .50 cal. and 1350 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the attack. Japanese propaganda leaflets were dropped.

A/A: One white puff was seen by one crew in front of airplane and at same level over NAMBARIWA RIVER, believed to be 20 mm.

SIGHTINGS: A rusty midget submarine, approximately 10 feet longer than wrecked barges, was seen beached with one end awash in Cove just East of GHNEISENAU POINT. One crew member reported a possible Jap cemetery between the NAMBARIWA RIVER and NAMBARIWA VILLAGE consisting of approximately 20 white rocks outlined by smaller rocks. Cable was observed across NAMBARIWA RIVER approximately 1 mile from river mouth at tree top level. At 0900/L, 3 explosions were seen on shore between AGO and WANDOKAI—thought to have been under artillery fire.

GENERAL: Fighter cover was observed.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 4/10 alto-cumulus with bases at 9000 feet, clear directly over target with 6/10 strato-cumulus off coast, bases at 3000 feet. On return over Ranges, 3/10 towering cumulus to 17000 feet, 9/10 strato-cumulus at 13000 feet.

363 F. STRIKE - 6 B-25G's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 0845/30/L to 0900/30/L.

TARGET: NAMBARIWA.

124/10/2

RESULTS: 21 X 500 lb. 8/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped as follows: 2 at SIO, dropping at edge of water and doing nil damage; 1 at river mouth near GNEISENAU POINT; 16 in target along NAMBARIWA RIVER from mouth to 1 mile inland and 2 between NAMBARIWA and SIO. Results were generally unobserved. 107 X 75 mm were fired with the following results: 1 direct hit was scored on a serviceable barge on North tip of SIO ISLAND blowing stern off barge. The entire area was thoroughly strafed, including bivouac area South of SIO LAGOON, unserviceable midget submarine at GNEISENAU POINT and a camouflaged probable supply dump on North tip of SIO ISLAND. 4620 X .50 cal. and 1720 X .30 cal. were expended in strafing. Japanese propaganda leaflets were dropped over the target. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: 1 puff of blue smoke was seen over the target 1000 yards ahead of lead airplane before first bombing run was made. A fresh bomb crater was observed at 630412 (Ref. SIO Provisional 1 inch to 1 mile) surrounded by several scattered and broken boxes. Friendly barge activity was observed between BLUCHER POINT and CAPE KING WILLIAM. An unserviceable very rusty midget submarine, 25 or 30 feet long, was seen on reef in mouth of river at GNEISENAU POINT. Tail planes were clearly visible but no conning tower was reported, indicating that it was possibly on its back or side. 3 P-47's were seen flying West at 3000 feet over our formation just after our attack. 2 camouflaged, probably serviceable, barges were seen pulled up to bank of NAMBARIWA RIVER at 531412 (Ref: SIO Provisional 1 inch to 1 mile).

GENERAL: Generator of 1 airplane caught fire during first run over target, forcing pilot to circle over the sea and salvo his remaining bombs while putting out the fire before rejoining formation. This airplane made only one run. All others made two runs.

WEATHER: Same as 822nd Squadron.

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

TIME OF MISSION: 0700/30/L to 1542/30/L.

AREA OF MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA, NADZAB, GUSAP, LAE, FINSCHHAFEN and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges, 5/10 cumulus, tops 8000 feet. NADZAB and GUSAP, scattered cumulus at 13000 feet. LAE and FINSCHHAFEN, 5/10 cumulus, base 3000 feet. On return over Ranges, 8/10 towering cumulus at 2000 feet.

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

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) Nil. (2) 0945/30/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) FINSCHHAFEN. (3) RORONA.

RESULTS: FINSCHHAFEN area was not photoed due to weather. Photos were taken of bombing experiment at RORONA drome as requested from 4500 feet. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: FINSCHHAFEN, stratus overcast, 14000 feet, Ranges, overcast at 15000 feet.

363 Y. PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, and 1 F-4, 8th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: (1) 1000/30/L. (2) 1015/30/L to 1020/30/L.

AREA OF PHOTO: (1) CAPE BUSHING. (2) GASMATA area.

RESULTS: Photos were taken from LINDEN HARBOR to FULLERBORN HARBOR and from LINDEN HARBOR to GASMATA including the airdrome. Nil photos were taken of CAPE BUSHING due to weather. There were nil sightings.

GENERAL: F-4 was seen to turn back with one engine smoking 20 miles off CAPE WARD HUNT on course to CAPE BUSHING. No word on whereabouts of F-4 has as yet been received.

WEATHER: South coast of NEW BRITAIN, 6/10 to 8/10 cumulus to 23000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, 4/10 to 6/10 cumulus to 23000 feet, overcast at 23000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

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

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.

GROUND SITUATION
AS OF 1800 29 DEC.

CAPE GLOUCESTER
SAG SAG BAY TO BORGEN BA
1 1/2 0 1
SCALE IN MILES
V-BOMBER COMMAND

ARTILLERY FIRE REGISTERED ON DROME AREA 27 DEC.

STRAIT

O C E A N

STORES & PERSONNEL

CAPE GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES

M/T ROAD

DUMPS

DUMPS & BIVOUACS

FORWARD ELEMENTS USING AIR SUPPORT & ARTILLERY FIRE HAVE ADVANCED TO THIS POSITION.

TANKS USED TO DESTROY PILL BOXES IN THIS AREA.

INITIAL LANDINGS MET ONLY SLIGHT RESISTANCE.

REINFORCEMENTS LANDED MORNING 29 DEC

COUNTER-ATTACKS BY ENEMY 28-29 DEC. BEATEN OFF.

JAPS COUNTER-ATTACKED ON DEC. 28 WI BATTALION. ACTION CONTINUED ON DEC.

BEACHEAD

SILINATI PT.

CAPTURED DOCUMENTS CONFIRM REPORT THAT 5000-6000 JAPS ARE IN HEAVILY DEFENDED AREA IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING STRIPS.

DAMPIER

PATROL

BEACHEAD

INITIAL LANDING MET NO RESISTANCE

PATROL

MT. TALAWE 6600'

HEAVILY TRAVELLED TRACK

LAGOON PT.

REPORTED 3 INCH GUNS

OCCUPIED BY ENEMY

SAG SAG BAY

B O R G E N

B A Y

STORES

ENEMY TROOPS LANDED DEC. 24.

M/T BRIDGE

POSSIBLE ARTILLERY

NATAMO PT.

M/T BRIDGES

BIVOUAC

ITALY:

The roar of battle lifted from the ruined town of Ortona Wednesday as Canadian troops who captured it in a savage 8 day battle pushed on up the Adriatic coast of Italy toward the port of Pescara, in the face of snow, sleet, piercing winds and stubborn Nazi resistance. Ortona, once a neat town of 9000, resembled a tomb. The street was piled high with debris and the dead still lay in the streets and doorways. Other Allied forces made limited gains further inland. Meanwhile, United States twin engine Mitchell and Marauder bombers struck hard at 3 Nazi airdromes on the outskirts of Rome Tuesday. Marauders attacked the Guidonia and Centocelle airfields East of Rome while Mitchells hit the Ciampino field South of the Capital. More than 5 German planes were destroyed and the Allied Communique described the bombing as accurate.

LONDON:

The Red Army has recaptured the important North Ukraine railway highway junction of Korosten in its resumed offensive West of Kiev, Moscow announced Wednesday night. Korosten, 80 miles East and slightly North of Kiev, and is astride important North-South and East-West railways of strategic value to the retreating Germans. The Germans had captured Korosten November 28th, leaving it a few days after it had fallen to the Russians at the high water mark of their first drive West from Kiev. The Red Army took the city this time only 6 days after starting the new push toward the old Polish border, approximately 60 miles away. The Russians also are closing in upon Zhitomir to the South. They captured Chernyakhov, 12 miles to the North of Zhitomir and on the same railway line and also to the town of Skvira. More than 250 populated places including 30 large centers were taken Tuesday, the announcement said.

British Naval and Air Forces have intercepted a German Naval Force in the Bay of Biscay and sunk 3 Nazi destroyers and damaged others, it was announced Wednesday, in a violent sea-air battle that apparently was still raging Wednesday night as the British sought to plug a leak in the ever tightening blockade of Germany. The British said significantly, further details are awaited. British Communiques also disclosed a German blockade runner heavily laden with sisal, rubber, tin, quinine, edible oils and tungsten was sunk almost within sight of her home port by British coastal bombers. Admiralty circles in London were jubilant at the good news coming on the heels of the sinking in the arctic of the 26000 ton German battleship Scharnhorst last Sunday.

With the hour of the Allied invasion of Europe approaching, the Germans sounded double invasion alarms Wednesday reporting a series of British Commando thrusts on the Channel Islands, within 22 miles of French Normandy in the North and a big scale massing of Allied ships at Gibraltar in the South. D.N.B., the German news agency, asserted the British Commandoes had stabbed twice at the Nazi occupied island of Sark, within the last 3 days, presumably in quest of information on German preparations to counter the coming blow. At the same time, the German radio reported the heaviest shipping movements at Gibraltar since the Sicilian invasion. It said a convoy of 77 ships, mostly 10000 ton vessels, had arrived from the Atlantic. The Swiss radio said considerable German troop movements took place in France over the Christmas weekend.

PEARL HARBOR:

An ammunition dump was destroyed and fires started at the heavily fortified Japanese base of Nauru Island, 400 miles West of the Gilbert Islands, by Navy bombers which attacked there Tuesday, Admiral Nimitz announced Wednesday. Several of the planes were damaged. It was also announced that a Navy Liberator near the Marshall Islands Monday spotted an enemy tanker and damaged it. The Japanese have a long airfield at Nauru, capable of handling bombers as well as various installations in connection with the phosphate plant there. The Island was last attacked Christmas Eve.

LONDON:

Two Britons were appointed Wednesday to complete the top invasion command headed by General Eisenhower. Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, will be Commander in Chief of the Allied Navies and Air Marshall Trafford Leigh Mallory, will be Commander in Chief of Allied Air Forces. Both Ramsay w o is 60 and Mallory 51, are improvisers and both represent the most aggressive traditions of the British military forces. It was Admiral Ramsay who brought the British home from Dunkerque and helped plan the greatest Naval operations in history; the invasion of North Africa. Marshall Mallory, now heads the R.A.F. fighter command and formerly headed Britain's service of Army cooperation.

ITALY:

Two Russian soldiers captured on the Russian front in 1941 and brought to Italy as German Army laborers, have escaped to the Allied lines here. The first thing they wanted to know was how to get back to the Russian Army.

LONDON:

Prime Minister Churchill in a buoyant and jocular personal note issued through number #10 Downing Street, early Thursday announced to the Allied Nations that he has recovered from his bout with pneumonia and that all along he has been able to discharge fully his official duties. He said he now felt better than at any time since leaving England although he would need a few weeks in sunshine to restore his strength and jacked censorship by saying "I am now leaving the place where I have been staying for an unknown destination".

NEW YORK:

Hip flasks, gathering dust since the death of prohibition, are coming out of the attic. There is plenty of money and plenty of places to spend New Years Eve but a shortage of liquor. Several restaurants and hotels with dwindling stocks have urged customers to bring their own "cheer", hence the return of the flasks.

LONDON:

A Madrid dispatch to the Daily Mail quoted a diplomatic source Wednesday saying that Benito Mussolini died 10 days ago in a German hospital from long standing stomach trouble, complicated by acute mental derangement.

NEW YORK:

Gilbert Dodds, the running parson from Boston Wednesday, was named winner of the James E. Sullivan memorial trophy, the award annually given by the amateur athletic union to the athlete who was judged to have done the most to advance the cause of sportsmanship during the season. The national 1500 meter champion polled 880 votes in balloting by 600 sports leaders of the Nation.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY SECRET

TO : COMAFADVCN FIVE RPT COMBOMCOM FIVE RPT

FROM : CO SATF

CITE : DOG EIGHT ONE TWO DOG

MISSION THREE SIX FOUR ABLE DASH TWO THREE ONE DECEMBER PD FOUR EIGHT EIGHT BOMB SQUADRON MEDIUM CMA SEVEN ROGERS DOG STRIKE VAULA VILLAGE AREA AND TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY ON BOGADJIM ROAD PD TIME OF ATTACK COLON NOUGHT NINE FIVE FIVE LOVE TO ONE NOUGHT ONE NOUGHT LOVE AT ALTITUDE OF EIGHT THOUSAND TO EIGHT SEVEN HUNDRED FEET PD ALL AIRPLANES ON INDIVIDUAL COURSES PD RESULTS OF BOMBING COLON EXCELLENT IN RESPECT TO FIVE NOUGHT PERCENT OR OVER OF OUR BOMBS FALLING IN TARGET AREA PD THREE DIRECT HITS ON VAULA VILLAGE PD OTHER HITS ON BOGADJIM ROAD FALLING IN TARGET ROAD AND WOODED AREAS SURROUNDING VILLAGE PD FOUR BOMBS BRACKETING NUMBER ONE NINE BRIDGE PD TWO BOMBS BETWEEN BRIDGE TWO ONE ABLE AND DAUMOINA PD NIL ENEMY AIRPLANE LOSSES PD NIL ALLIED AIRPLANE LOSSES PD ONE MIKE PHOTO TAKEN OVER TARGET AREA AT NOUGHT NINE FIVE FIVE LOVE TO ONE NOUGHT ONE NOUGHT LOVE PD ROUTE FLOWN COLONE NADZAB UP MARKHAM AND RAMU VALLEYS TO DUMPU CMA THENOVER BOGADJIM PLANTATION AND DOWN THE IOMORO RIVER AND ON TO THE TARGET PD SIX TENTHS COVERAGE PD SIGHTINGS COLON BRIDGE TWO TWO AND TWO ONE ABLE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION CMA VERY PLAINLY SEEN DASH WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT TARGET ALONG WITH DAUMOINA VILLAGE PD WEATHER COLON LOVE SCUD OVER NADZAB AREA ONE FIVE HUNDRED FEET PD BIG BROKEN OVERCAST AT ONE FIVE THOUSAND FEET PD DUMPU AND TARGET AREA EIGHT TENTHS COVERAGE CUMULOUS TOPS SIX THOUSAND FEET PD

ONE TENTH COVERAGE OVER IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF TARGET PD TAKE OFF NOUGHT EIGHT FOUR FIVE LOVE LANDED ONE ONE ONE FIVE LOVE EACH AIRPLANE MAKING INDIVIDUAL SOUBING RUNS IN STRING FORMATION PD EACH AIRPLANE MADE FROM THREE TO FOUR RUNS PD TWO EIGHT SPRAY FIVE HUNDRED POUND INSTANTEOUS DEMOLITION BOMBS DROPPED OVER TARGET AREA PD NIL AMMUNITION EXPENDED

TOO 311438/L
TOR 311742/L
CS/CMD/WSL

XR 4781

COPIES	DIST
1	CG
1	C/S
1	A-3
1	A-2
1	K-1

Report. No. 365.

A-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Aust AIR LIASON GROUP
SECRET
AUTH: C.C.
UNITS:
DATE: 31/12/43
FROM: 1800/30/12/43/L.
TO : 1800/31/12/43/L.
V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 929

JAN 1944

I. ALLIED OPERATIONS.

A. Air Forces.

BOGADJIM: 24 B-25C and D-1's and B-25G's of the 38th Group (364 E) bombed and strafed BOGADJIM VILLAGE and Plantation from 1000/L to 1005/L. 84 X 300 lb. and 48 X 500 lb. bombs were dropped on the target. Target was strafed with 20090 X .50 cal, 3025 X .30 cal. and 126 X 75 mm. 2 small fires were started in target and one large fire which emitted brown and black smoke were started in the target. One direct hit was scored on the GOGOL RIVER bridge by 75 mm fire. 3 hits were scored in village causing flying debris. Target was covered by smoke and dust following attack. Bombing and strafing were excellent. Results were generally unobserved due to heavy foliage and low altitude of attack. Propaganda leaflets were dropped. Slight, inaccurate M/G fire was encountered over the target. Nil enemy airplanes were seen airborne. Bomb craters were seen throughout the target. Nil evidence of stores or supplies was observed in the target. 3 fires were seen at MADANG with white smoke rising to 100 feet. A pall of grey smoke was hanging over MADANG. 2 small fires were seen in ERIMA PLANTATION. 6 or 7 possible pill boxes were observed on top of 300/400 feet hill just South of BAU-AK VILLAGE.

MOEWE HARBOR-CAPE BUSHING: 1 F-5 of the 8th Photo Squadron (3/4 X) took off at 0815/L to photograph MOEWE HARBOR and CAPE BUSHING. Nil photos were taken due to weather. Airplane was between CAPE BUSHING and ARARE at 0930/L at 20000 feet. There were nil sightings.

DUMPU: 1 F-4 of the 8th Photo Squadron (364 W) took off at 0805/L to take photos of the DUMPU area. Nil photos were taken due to weather. Airplane was over target area at 0915/L at 12000 feet. At 0940/L, 12 unidentified single-engine airplanes were observed flying due South from SAIDOR at 21000 feet. The 12 airplanes were seen to turn back towards MADANG.

NADZAB-GUSAP: 1 B-25G of the 823rd Squadron (90th A) completed 100% a Courier Mission to DOROBUKA, HUSCHUFEN, LAE, NADZAB and GUSAP. Airplane took off at 0700/L and landed at 1555/L. There were nil sightings.

1 B-25D-1 of the 71st Squadron (38th B) completed 75% of a weather recce to LAE, FINSCHHAFEN, MARKHAM VALLEY. Airplane could not contact ground station to report weather. Airplane turned back from LAE at 0800/L. There were nil sightings.

MORESBY-GOODENOUGH ISLAND: 1 B-25D-1 of the 405th Squadron (38th C) completed 100% a Courier Mission to GOODENOUGH ISLAND and return. Airplane took off at 0628/L and landed at 1108/L. There were nil sightings.

ARAWE: In combat over ARAWE at 1313/L, Fighter Squadrons make following claims: (PRELIMINARY REPORTS ONLY).

35th Squadron—2 OSCARS definite, 1 OSCAR probable.
340th Squadron—2 VALS definite.
342nd Squadron—6 VALS, 2 ZEKES destroyed, 2 ZEKES probable.

****

Summary of Missions carried out by FATF, 30/12/43.

ALEXISHAFEN-MADANG: 1 B-25 of the 33rd Squadron (363 CG) completed 100% a weather recce to MADANG. Airplane took off at 0440/L, was over MADANG at 0655/L at 10000 feet and landed at base at 0836/L. There were nil sightings.

24 B-24's of the 64th, 65th, 403rd and 529th Squadrons (368 BD), bombed A/A positions at ALEXISHAFEN as follows: 64th Squadron—Target 9 B (On South side at Southwest end of No. 2 strip), 65th Squadron—Target 15 B (West of West end of No. 2 strip), 403rd Squadron—Target 7 B (At West edge of Township), 529th Squadron—Target 6 C and 8 B (At East edge of Township), from 0916/L to 0930/L. 64th Squadron dropped 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs from 12200 feet at target. 60 bombs hit in target. A/A position (Target No.) B) was probably destroyed. 2 separate explosions were seen in target as if from timed shells and A/A shells exploding. Bombing was excellent. 65th Squadron dropped 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs from 13000 feet at target (Target No. 15 B). 6 bombs hit in target; 55 fell within 1000 feet of target, generally short. (Course 250/270 degrees). Bombing was excellent. Dark bursts were only observation of damage. 403rd Squadron dropped 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs from 12100/12600 feet at target (Target No. 7 B). Bombing was good. 12 bombs hit through target and A/A guns ceased firing. 11 bombs were salvoed on the target No. 1 B (A/A positions in Northeast end of No. 2 strip). Position ceased firing. A large explosion with a column of smoke to 4000 feet was observed. A large fire was started at East side of ALEXISHAFEN TOWNSITE. The 529th Squadron dropped 72 X 500 lb. inst. demo. bombs from 12000/12500 feet at target No. 6 C and No. 8 B. 24 bombs exploded across target No. 6 B. 21 bombs exploded Southwest of target No. 8 B and 12 bombs were salvoed Northeast of target. 3 large fires were seen after the bombing. Moderate to light, inaccurate and heavy, accurate to inaccurate A/A fire was encountered over the target. Photos were taken of the bombing. Approximately 8 twin-engine airplanes were observed under trees on North side of Southwest end of No. 2 strip. Airplanes appeared serviceable. 3 airplanes on South side at Southwest end of No. 2 strip consisted of 2 twin-engine and 1 single engine airplanes. The single and one of the twin engine airplanes appeared unserviceable. A/A position on Northeast end of No. 2 strip appeared demolished by other squadron's bombing. Fires were observed by 529th Squadron on approach to target at 0930/L evidently caused by previous bombing. At 0906/L, an apparently new jetty was under construction off village at SOGANJIN. At 0757/L, 2 red flares fired 30 seconds apart were seen coming from reef 10 miles East-Southeast of LAE. Weather at target, 6/10 to 9/10 alto-stratus at 15000 feet. 10 B-24's of the 530th Squadron took off on this mission but failed to effect rendezvous and returned to base without attacking any target. 2 B-24's of the 529th Squadron failed to

effect rendezvous and returned to base without attacking any target and 1 B-24 of the 529th Squadron lost one engine before reaching target and returned to base.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 22 A-20's of the 89th and 90th Squadrons (363 HH) bombed and strafed enemy troop concentrations 2200 yards Southwest of SILIMATI POINT from 1026/L to 1055/L. Specific target bounded by 712904, 722898, 717895, 709899 (MT. LANGLA, 1/20000). 72 X 100 lb. and 46 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. 113 bombs hit in designated target thoroughly covering the area. White smoke and flying debris were observed. Target was thoroughly strafed with 30100 X .50 cal. After first pass, a small column of black smoke which lasted until airplanes left the area was seen in the target. Photos were taken of the attack. Slight, inaccurate M/G fire came from approximately 716898 and 713901 (Same Map reference). 2 Japs were seen running into brush at 717897. Area West of kunai patch at 717896 was partially cleared of underbrush. A wrecked airplane with wheels down was pulled up in the woods at either 713901 or 719897. Boxes were seen around it. Bridge at 744872 was destroyed. Bridges at 765864 and 767862 were in good condition. From a distance, 3 possible trucks were observed at 655967 and 2 possible trucks at 657959 (These last were believed probably wrecked airplanes). Weather, CAVU over target, storm 40 miles off CAPE GLOUCESTER. (All map references to MT. LANGLA, SILIMATI POINT and GLOUCESTER AIRDROMES, 1/20000 Series).

SAG SAG: 12 A-20's of the 8th Squadron (363 JJ) bombed gun position at LAGOON POINT and strafed coastal track from SAG SAG to 2½ miles North of SAG SAG from 1649/L to 1710/L. 43 X 250 lb. 4/5 second delay demo. bombs were dropped. 33 bombs hit in target. 19150 X .50 cal. were expended in strafing. Quick flash and smoke were observed over trees at 537854 (SAG SAG, 1/20000). Bombing was excellent. Results were generally unobserved. Moderate, light, accurate M/G fire was received from 530855. This position was strafed by 1 A-20. Photos were taken of the attack. Nil huts or enemy installations were seen in target. 5 to 6 battered huts were observed at SAG SAG. Nil track was observed South of start of straffing run at 543874. Weather, enroute at target and on return, scattered cumulus, 1500 feet and high scattered clouds at an unknown height. Visibility 10 to 12 miles reducing to 8 miles on return.

SEA SEARCHES: 1 B-24 of the 321st Squadron (363 AA) completed 100% an armed recce of the Western BISMARCK SEA. 2 x 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at 1607/L from 10000 feet at a Sugar-Baker 1 mile South of NDRILO. Bombs missed with nil damage. Ship was anchored and a motor launch was observed travelling between the ship and the Island. At 1500/L from 1000 feet, 2 rows of white rectangular tents were observed on the South side of MUSSAU ISLAND. A total of 18 to 20 tents were seen. Tents were strafed with 600 X .50 cal. Nil damage was observed. At 1622/L, LORENGAU strip appeared serviceable. 5 barges and approximately 2 other harbor craft were seen in the harbor. At 1555/L, MOMOTE strip appeared serviceable from 10000 feet. 1 SSF was seen to land on the airdrome. At 1550/L from 10500 feet, a jetty was observed on the North side of PAK ISLAND (East of LOS NEGROS ISLAND).

Possible stores were seen piled on the end of the jetty. Photos were taken of MOLOTE and LORENGAU airdromes and of the Sugar-Baker. Weather, frontal activity between MUSSAU ISLAND and MANUS ISLAND as well as East-West front along 0430S, 7/10 cumulus from 1000 to 9000 feet, alto-stratus at 12000 feet in Northern BISMARCK SEA, Visibility averaged, 10 to 25 miles throughout recce.

1 B-24 of the 319th Squadron (363 BB) completed 100% an armed recce of the BISMARCK SEA. 2 X 1000 lb. 1/10 second delay demo. bombs were dropped at 1730/L from 6500 feet on SIO VILLAGE. 4 or 5 native huts were destroyed. Photos were taken of the bombing. There were nil sightings throughout search. Weather, 4/10 covered with tops at 2500 feet over the HUON GULF. 4/10 to 6/10 covered throughout entire search with rain at Easternmost point. HUON GULF, showers on return and complete overcast.

1 B-24 of the 320th Squadron (363 CC) completed 90% of an armed recce of the SOLOMON SEA and the Eastern BISMARCK SEA. Northern 10% was not covered because of weather. Airplane took off at 0632/L and landed at 1556/L. Nil activity was seen in WIDE BAY or ST. GEORGES CHANNEL at 0924/L. Nil activity was observed at TALASEA at 1119/L. Weather, frontal activity oriented Northwest-Southeast off North NEW GUINEA coast, solid to 15000 feet. SOLOMON SEA, 1/10 scattered cumulus, tops 5000 feet. NEW BRITAIN, 5/10 cumulus, tops to 12000 feet. Frontal activity in BISMARCK SEA, solid to 30000 feet. Visibility generally poor.

Summary of Missions carried out by SAPF, 30/12/43.

BILI BILI: 17 B-25's of the 2nd and 408th Squadrons (363 A-2) bombed BILI BILI VILLAGE from 0845/L to 0855/L. 28 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs were dropped. 2nd Squadron reported bombing excellent. 14 bombs hit in Village and area to North of Village. One building in BILI BILI VILLAGE was demolished. Nil other results observed. 408th Squadron reported "A" flight bombing excellent. 4 bombs hit in Headquarters building and 1 bomb West of Headquarters in target area. "B" flight bombing was poor. Photos were taken by both Squadrons of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was reported. Nil sightings were reported. Weather over target, slight drizzle over area with overcast at 10500 feet, visibility unlimited.

16 B-25's of the 2nd and 408th Squadrons (363 B-2) took off from 1030/L to 1040/L to bomb BILI BILI. 408th Squadron dropped 12 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs at the target at 1140/L from 8500/9000 feet. Bombing was excellent. 50% of bombs hit in target. 2nd Squadron reported target was difficult to locate due to clouds. Nil bombs hit in target area. Bombing was unsatisfactory. 8 X 1000 lb. inst. demo. bombs hit in vicinity of WAGUK. Photos were taken by both Squadrons of the bombing. Nil A/A fire was reported. Nil sightings were reported. Weather, low cumulus partly obscured target area.

B. Ground Forces.

HUON PENINSULA: A few small enemy positions which engaged our patrols moving North of BUA toward NANDA were worked over by our artillery, and it is not anticipated that they will impede our progress when our advance recom...

RAMU VALLEY: Enemy troops on SHAGGY RIDGE are carrying reconnaissance and [illegible] activity noted in the area before two [illegible] patrols being carried out.

Enemy patrols have increased on the high ground South of the BOGADJIM ROAD between KOKOPI and KANKIRYO while an enemy position was also located in the vicinity of ONGORUMA.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: Our troops occupied both of CAPE GLOUCESTER strips at 1900/30/L. The consolidation of defensive positions has begun.

ARAWE: No change.

II. ENEMY OPERATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS.

A. Ground Forces.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: Counterattacks continue against the center of our perimeter in defense above BORGEN BAY. An enemy company attacked our position near TAMALI from the East at 01 5/30/L. Attack was repulsed with enemy casualties reported as 6 officers and 83 men killed. Indications are that this force had moved from the CAPE GLOUCESTER area area with the mission of defending TAMALI.

ARAWE: No change in enemy situation.

B. Air Forces.

DAILY ESTIMATE OF ENEMY LAND BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN AREA
31 December, 1943.

Estimate by A-2, V Bomber Command:

NEW GUINEA:	F	M/B	L/B	D/B	P/B	R/C	TOTAL	STATUS CHANGE
BUT	11	1	6				18	0
DAGUA	16	2	11				29	0
WEWAK	8	6				6	20	0
BOEAM	19						19	0
NUBIA and AMBR	4	2					6	0
MADISHMEN		6					6	0
HOLLANDIA	10	48	23				81	0
WAKDE		13					13	0
Total	68	78	40			6	192	0
N. IRELAND & N. BRITAIN:								
KAVIENG	27	17	11	23		7	85	0
VUNAKANAU	26	9	13	1			49	0
LAKUNAI	46	23		11			80	0
RAPOPO	11	7					18	0
KAILOR					2	18	20	0
TOBERA	19			3			22	0
Total	129	56	24	38	2	25	274	0
SOLOMONS:								
Total						6	6	0
						6	6	0

COMMENTS:

1. Mil photos of any areas have been received today.

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATIONS.

CAPE GLOUCESTER: 29/12/43. (362 CC)

Poor to good verticals and obliques covering No. 2 strip, area East of strip to beach, and area South of strip covering fortified village and vicinity.

Many bomb craters seen in whole area. Several defence positions or A/G circles on and fortified village show dispersals and gun pits.

Nil other activities or installations are visible.

SIO ISLAND—SAMARINDA RIVER: 30/12/43. (363-F)

Excellent low oblique photos show SIO ISLAND without evidence of life. There are three huts remaining on the Island and two unserviceable barges beached nearby.

Good low oblique photos show numerous views of N. SAMARINDA RIVER area. Banks are steep, bursting through or the wooded area and at the mouth of the river. Barge is unserviceable. Heavily used foot paths through the kunai grass lead to wooded areas.

Palm covered area surrounding SIO LAGOON shows scattered native type huts.

ANNEK RIVER to Northwest of ARUEN RIVER: 30/12/43. (363 I)

Blurred verticals, partially cloud obscured, cover from ANNEK RIVER to point Northwest of ARUEN RIVER. Road from just West of ANNEK RIVER to KING KING PLANTATION shows considerable use, with all bridges along route appearing intact. Coastal track continuing to ARUEN RIVER shows constant use. No unusual ground activity is in evidence at KING KING and LUNDENHAVEN PLANTATIONS.

Two unidentified small craft approximately 65 feet in length, motor like boats then canoes, are on reefs East of BOTONGA ISLAND.

Nil other activities or installations were observed in review of these photographs.

JULUN ISLAND and LUF ISLAND (HERMIT GROUP) and MUSSAU ISLAND (ST. MATTHIAS GROUP): 29/12/43. (362 AA)

Cloudy K-16 obliques cover LUF ISLAND and JULUN ISLAND in HERMIT ISLAND GROUP. Nil unusual activity visible.

Good K-18 obliques and verticals of MUSSAU ISLAND in ST. MATTHIAS GROUP cover Southwest coast from EPALAKAU VILLAGE and inlet Northwest to coastal point immediately South of ELALIK VILLAGE and section of East coast of Island including 4 unidentified villages. Possible target sub, 75 to 80 feet in length, in shallow water of inlet North of EPALAKAU VILLAGE. Dense jungle road around perimeter of Island well marked, showing frequent use. Many tracks leading inland.

IV. FINAL MISSION REPORTS.

304 S. WEATHER RECCO - 1 B-25D-1, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF DEPARTURE: 0530/31/L to 0930/31/L.

AREA OF SEARCH: YULE ISLAND, FINSCHHAFEN, MARKHAM VALLEY.

RESULTS: Mission was 75% completed. Airplane could not contact ground station, 54th Troop Carrier Wing to report weather. Turned back from LAE at 0800/L.

WEATHER: Enroute, thunderstorm just North of YULE ISLAND. FINSCHHAFEN, overcast at 4000 feet. On return, broken cumulus built up over Bunges to 12500 feet.

364 G. SPECIAL COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25D-1, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0628/31/L to 1108/31/L.

MISSION: Special Courier Mission to GOODENOUGH ISLAND and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as assigned.

WEATHER: Enroute, scattered cumulus over Buna at 7000 feet, 6/10 alto-stratus at 17000 feet. On return, cumulus building up.

364 E. STRIKE - 6 B-25D's, 823rd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1002/31/L.

TARGET: Ficus rubber grove (BOGADJIM).

RESULTS: 37 X 300 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs were dropped on the target. 5 X 300 lb. S/11 second delay demo. bombs fell 200 yards South of the GOHI RIVER bridge up to the bridge. Results of bombing were generally unobserved due to low level of attack and heavy foliage. Bombing was excellent. 52 X 75 mm shells were fired into the target with unobserved results. Area was thoroughly strafed. Photos were taken of the attack. Area was thoroughly strafed with 3650 X .50 cal. and 500 X .30 cal. Propaganda leaflets were dropped approximately 15 miles South of the target.

A/A: Slight, inaccurate A/C fire was received from East end of GOHI RIVER bridge in vicinity of the town BOGADJIM VILLAGE. Intermittent A/A fire was thought to be mortar fire was seen arising from (BOGADJIM Provisional, 1 inch to the mile).

SIGHTINGS: At 0950/L, at position 05[illegible]S-141[illegible]E, two colonal columns of white smoke approximately 100 feet in length, were seen at about 5000 feet, and [illegible] examined. 4 small fires were seen in SOUTHERN PLANTATION as results of previous attack.

WEATHER: Same as reported by 405th Squadron.

364 E. STRIKE - 6 B-25D-1's, 71st Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1000/31/L to 1003/31/L.

TARGET: BOGADJIM VILLAGE.

RESULTS: 24 X 500 lb. S/11 second delay [illegible] Dropped. 5 bombs brought back [illegible] number. 19 bombs fell in target. Results were unobserved. Area was covered by smoke and dust. Pilots [illegible] attack. Area was thoroughly strafed with 1365 X .50 cal. and 1850 X .30 cal. Photos were taken of the attack. Propaganda leaflets were dropped just South of the target.

A/A: Slight, A/C fire was received from creek bank South-west of KUKALI MISSION. 4 mortar shells burst 100 yards off left wing and slightly above No. 3 airplane in first flight. Burst was white. Position was approximately same as A/C.

SIGHTINGS: 2 or 3 heavy smoke fires were seen in the MADANG area. 2 small fires were seen in BUSH Plantation just North of the GORI RIVER. 2 or 3 camouflaged dugouts were observed 1 mile inland along left side of road leading from MADANG. Roads appeared well used and in good condition. 6 or 7 possible pill-boxes were seen on top/300 to 400 foot hill just South of BAU-AK VILLAGE.

WEATHER: Same as reported by 69th Squadron.

364 E STRIKE - 6 B-25G's, 822nd Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1000/31/L to 1005/31/L.

TARGET: Supply area in BOGADJIM PLANTATION.

RESULTS: 42 x 300 lb. 8/11 sec. delay demo. bombs were dropped in Ficus rubber grove supply area on South side of GORI RIVER bridge starting one large fire with brown and black smoke of short duration. Bombing was excellent. 73 x 75 IB were fired new on BOGADJIM PLANTATION from target to shore line with one flight of 3 airplanes making a second run. One direct hit was scored on West end of GORI RIVER bridge, damaging it. 2 or 3 small fires were started in BOGADJIM PLANTATION. Target was strafed with 2650 x 50 cal.. 3 bundles of Japanese propaganda leaflets were dropped on the target. Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Nil.

SIGHTINGS: Bomb craters were seen throughout entire target area. Nil evidence of stores or supplies were seen. One crew member reported two or three objects along road North of the GORI RIVER bridge, believed to be vehicles. 3 fires were seen at MADANG before and after our attack with white smoke to 100 ft.

GENERAL: Our formation circled once South of the target while the 22nd Group finished bombing and attacked immediately afterwards.

WEATHER: Same as reported by 405th Squadron.

364 E STRIKE - 6 B-25G-1's, 405th Squadron.

TIME OF ATTACK: 1001/31/L to 1005/31/L.

TARGET: BOGADJIM VILLAGE AND PLANTATION.

RESULTS: 24 x 500 lb. 8/11 sec. delay demo. bombs were dropped in BOGADJIM VILLAGE AND PLANTATION, along and on both sides of roads leading to village. 3 hits were observed in village causing flying debris. 4 bombs were seen to burst in the water. Other results were unobserved. The entire area was thoroughly strafed with 10,115 x 50 cal. and 675 x 30 cal.. 3 bundles of Japanese propaganda leaflets were dropped over target. Bombing was excellent Photos were taken of the attack.

A/A: Slight, inaccurate, M/G fire from JAJAK VILLAGE and from a position near BOGADJIM VILLAGE.

SIGHTINGS: Ball of grey smoke hanging over MADANG. 3 or 4 miles Northwest of DUMPU several white streamers, possibly phosphorous, were seen falling from above our formation

Nil airplanes were sighted. Our formation was at 7,000 ft. indicated, approximately 3,500 ft. above mountain tops at this time. No M/T were seen on the BOGADJIM ROAD. Villages and tracks Southeast of MINNJIM RIVER appeared well used.

WEATHER: Enroute over Ranges: alto-stratus overcast at 17,000 ft. 8/10 strato-cumulus at 13,000 ft.. MARI-KANKAM VALLEY: strato-cumulus overcast at 14,000 ft., 5/10 strato-cumulus at 5,000/8,000 ft.. Target: strato-cumulus over coast at 14,000 ft.. On return over Ranges: alto-stratus overcast at 16,000 ft. and strato-cumulus overcast at 12,000 ft..

364 W PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-4, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: DUMPU.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to weather. Airplane was over target area at 0915/L at 12,000 ft..

SIGHTINGS: At 0915/L, twelve unidentified single (radial) engine airplanes were observed flying due South from SAIDOR at 10,000 ft. in elements of two, flights of four. Twelve airplanes were seen turning back toward MADANG.

WEATHER: North side of Ranges: low broken clouds at 5,000 ft. with a solid overcast at 12,000 ft..

364 X PHOTO RECCO - 1 F-5, 6th Photo Squadron.

TIME OF PHOTO: Nil.

AREA OF PHOTO: MOSWE HARBOR and CAPE BUSHING.

RESULTS: Nil photos were taken due to weather. Airplane was between CAPE BUSHING and MOSWE at 0930/L at 20,000 ft.. There were nil sightings.

WEATHER: SOLOMON Sea: storm center along NEW BRITAIN South coast with low clouds at 10,000 ft. and a higher thin alto-stratus at 20,000 ft.. Storm center in middle of NEW BRITAIN.

364 A. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 82nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 0700/31/L to 1555/31/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA, FINSCHHAFEN, LAE, MOMOTE, GUSAP and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, clear over Ranges, on return, building up rapidly over Ranges.

364 I. COURIER MISSION - 1 B-25G, 82nd Squadron.

TIME OF MISSION: 1550/31/L to 1900/31/L.

MISSION: Courier Mission to DOBODURA, NADZAB and return.

RESULTS: Mission was 100% completed as ordered.

WEATHER: Enroute, overcast with 9/10 coverage, bases 2000 feet, tops 11000 feet. Over sea, 10/10 coverage, 2000 feet. On return, overcast over sea. Over Ranges, 9/10 coverage, tops to 13000 feet.

V. FIGHTER COMMAND REPORTS.

At 1313/L in combat over ARAWE, our fighters report the following results:

35th Squadron--2 OSCARS definite, 1 OSCAR probable.
340th Squadron--2 VALS definite.
342nd Squadron--6 VALS, 2 ZEKES, definite, 2 ZEKES probable.

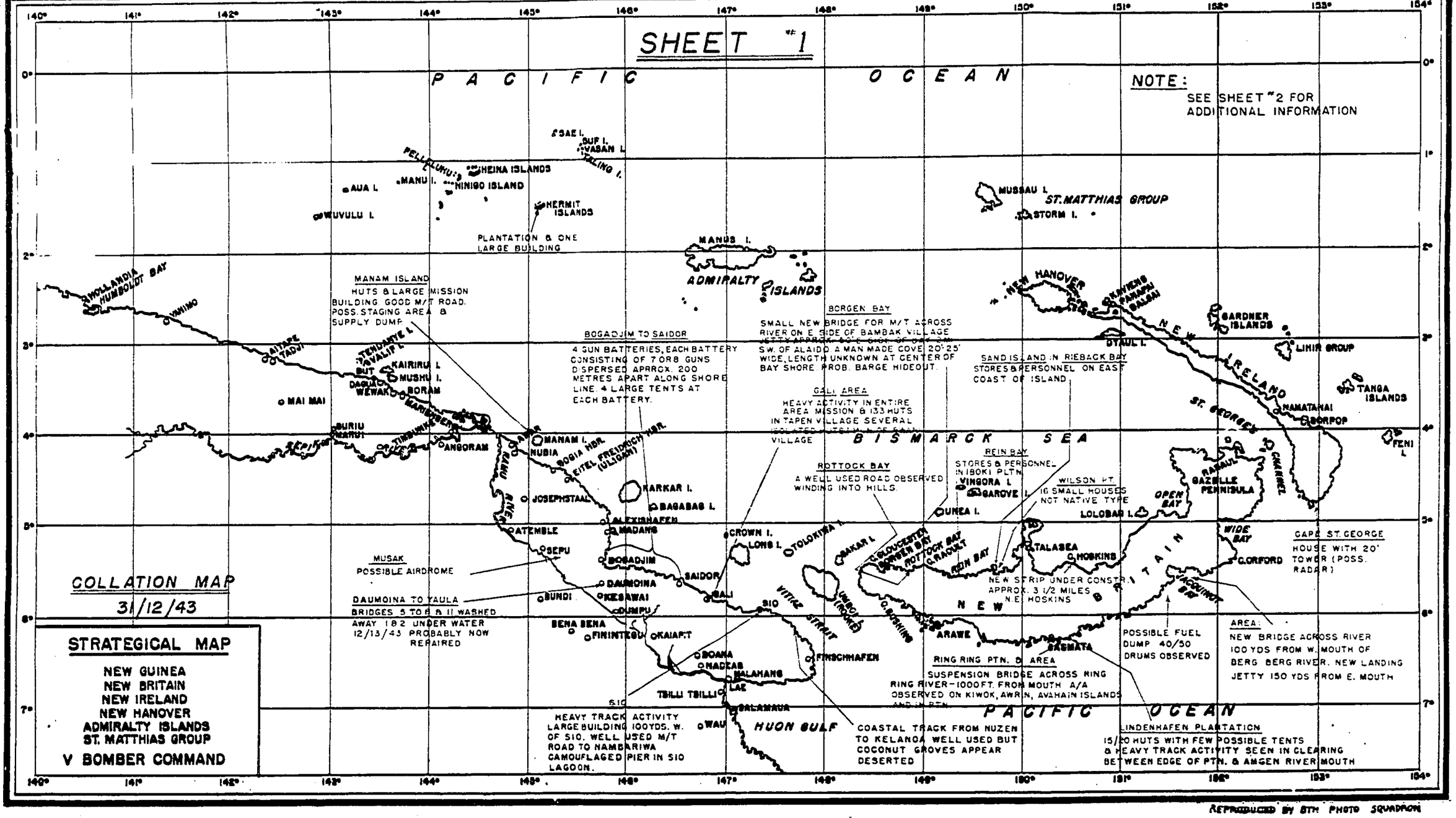
PRELIMINARY REPORTS ONLY.

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

OFFICIAL:

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

SHEET #1



REPRODUCED BY 8TH PHOTO SQUADRON

SHEET #2

P A C I F I C O C E A N

M/T ROAD ON E. SIDE EXTENDING FROM LUGATAN PTN. ON S. COAST TO A POINT OPPOSITE MOSSUANG I. ON N. COAST VIA KULINGE, KULPETAU & LITMUS VILLAGES
A ROAD FROM VICINITY OF KULPETAU N.E. TO YSABEL PASSAGE M/T ROAD OF MODERATE LENGTH ON TSALUI & KAWULIKIAU ISLANDS ON E. SIDE OF YSABEL PASSAGE

SAE I.
SUF I.
VASAN I.
TALING I.
HEINA ISLANDS
NINIGO ISLAND
MANU I.
AUA I.
WUVULU I.
HERMIT ISLANDS
KAIRIRU MISSION
HEAVY ACTIVITY A/A POSITIONS BEING STRENGTHENED NEW DUMP IN SMALL VALLEY E. OF MISSION. 5 TUNNELS DUG IN HILLSIDE NEAR DUMP. HEAVY TRACK ACTIVITY
MANUS I.
ADMIRALTY ISLANDS
TABAR ISLAND
LISTENING POST
MUSSAU I.
ST. MATTHIAS GROUP
STORM I.
MANY GUN POSITIONS ALONG BEACH FROM NAMATANIA TO KAVIENG
NEW HANOVER
KAVIENG
PANAPAI
BALBAI
GARDNER ISLANDS
LISTENING POSTS
LIHIR GROUP
DYAUL I.
LAMBAN BAY
ENEMY POST
NEW IRELAND
TANGA ISLANDS
NAMATANAI
BORPOP
FENI I.
HOLLANDIA
HUMBOLDT BAY
YANIMO
AITAPE
TADJI
TENDANYE I.
TAVALIP
BUT
DAGUA
WEWAK
KAIRIRU I.
MUSHU I.
BORAM
HEAVY COASTAL ACTIVITY
SUMUP
POSSIBLE BIVOUAC AREA
MAI MAI
FOROK
POSSIBLE BIVOUAC AREA
100 FT. BUILDING SIGHTED
MUNDA ISLAND
NEW BUILDING PROBABLE CAMP
BCM
ENEMY POST
ST. GEORGE'S CHANNEL
DUKE OF YORK ISLAND
3 A/A & PERSONNEL
NEW ACTIVITY POSSIBLE F/P BASE
BISMARCK SEA
SURIU
MARUI
SEPIK
ANGORAM
BANAN I.
NUBIA
BOGIA HBR.
(TEL. FREDRICH HBR. (ULIGAM)
KAUP
POSSIBLE BIVOUAC AREA BRIDGES ACROSS INLET AND KAUP RIVER
URU
4 LARGE BUILDINGS
KARKAR I.
BAGABAG I.
AISEGA
BARGE STAGING AREA SUPPLY DUMP COASTAL GUNS BETWEEN VILLAGE & COAST
VINGORA I.
GARROVE I.
NEW BUILDINGS CAMOUFLAGED STORES ON NE SHORE BETWEEN NORTH CAPE & CAPE BODOBOGO
GUNEA I.
RAMU
JOSEPHSTAAL
ALEXISHAFEN
MADANG
AWANDUM
POSSIBLE STRIP IN THIS VICINITY APPROX. 6000 FEET LONG PROB. JOSEPHSTAL STRIP.
ATEMBLE
SEPU
MURIK
POSSIBLE BIVOUAC AREA SUITABLE FOR M.L.C. 53 HOUSES
BOGADJIM
SAIDOR
RUNWAY REMAINS UNSERV. NIL SIGNS OF ACTIVITY BRIDGE OVER NANKINA R. REMAINS INTACT
BUNDI
BARIGUNA
KESAWAI
DUMPU
SALI
SIO
VITIAZ STRAIT
CROWN I.
LONG I.
TOLOKIWA
DAKAR I.
C. GLOUCESTER
BORDER BAY
ROTTOCK BAY
C. RAOULT
REIN BAY
TALASEA
C. HOSKINS
LOLOBAU I.
OPEN BAY
RABAUL
GAZELLE PENNISULA
WIDE BAY
C. ORFORD
LAMBOM ISLAND
2 A/A ON GOWER HILLSIDE
AMBITLE ISLAND
NEW HUTS NEAR A POSSIBLE AIR STRIP CLEARING
SURALIL
RADIO & RADAR STATION
ENEMY POST
IWAI
2 RADIO TOWERS
NEW BRITAIN
UMBOI (CROOKER)
I.
G. BUSHING
JACQUINOT BAY
ESIS RIVER
A LANDING STAGE 150 YDS INLAND FROM MOUTH OF RIVER
ARAWE
SASMATA
MENINGA VILLAGE
PERSONNEL & STORES
NAMBARIWA
POSSIBLE STORES AREA IN MANGROVE AREA W. OF NAMBARIWA RIVER AT MOUTH. BIVOUAC AREA, FIELD HOSPITAL.
SENA SENA
FININTEGU
KAIAPIT
SOANA
NADZAB
MALAHANG
LAE
FINSCHHAFEN
ROOKE ISLAND
ACTIVITY IN VILLAGE SOUTHERN MOST POINT
KALASA AREA
ROADS IN AREA WELL USED
3 BUILDINGS ON HILL IN USE.
2 POSSIBLE RADIO TOWERS
7-8 HUTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN A VILLAGE IN WOODED AREA
TSILLI TSILLI
SALAMAUA
WAU
HUON GULF
PACIFIC OCEAN
CAPE ORFORD
POSSIBLE RADAR

COLLATION MAP
31/12/43

STRATEGICAL MAP

NEW GUINEA
NEW BRITAIN
NEW IRELAND
NEW HANOVER
ADMIRALTY ISLANDS
ST. MATTHIAS GROUP

V BOMBER COMMAND

REPRODUCED BY 8TH PHOTO SQUADRON

LONDON:

A RAMPANT RED ARMY STREAMING THROUGH THE GREATEST BREACH EVER SMASHED IN A NAZI DEFENSE WALL HAS ROUTED EIGHT GERMAN TANK DIVISIONS AND 14 INFANTRY DIVISIONS PERHAPS 300,000 MEN AND ADVANCED FROM 30 TO 60 MILES ALONG A 185 MILE FRONT IN A GREAT STRATEGIC VICTORY WEST OF KIEV, PREMIER STALIN ANNOUNCED THURSDAY NIGHT. STALIN IN A SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY COVERING THE FIRST SIX DAYS OF THE RUSSIAN OFFEN[illegible] ALSO REVEALED THE CAPTURE OF KAZATIN, A STATION ON THE IMPORTANT KIEV VINNITSA RAILWAY 15 MILES SOUTH EAST OF BERDICHEV AND ONLY 100 MILES FROM THE BORDER OF RUMANIA. STALIN SAID THAT MORE THAN 1000 INHABITED PLACES HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN THE ADVANCE WHICH THREATENED TO SMASH THROUGH WESTWARD TO POLAND AS WELL AS SOUTH EASTWARD TO RUMANIA. AMONG THE GERMAN TANKS DIVISIONS ROUTED WERE THE CRACK ELITE GUARD DIVISIONS "ADOLPH HITLER"

THE ROYAL NAVY WHICH BROUGHT ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL WAR YEAR TO A CLIMAX WITH THE SINKING OF THE GERMAN BATTLESHIP SCHARNHORST AND THREE NAZI DESTROYERS IS BEING EMPLOYED IN INCREASING FORCE IN THE PACIFIC BECAUSE OF THE HEARTENING TURN IN THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC, THE ADMIRALTY SAID THURSDAY NIGHT IN A REVIEW OF 1943 OPERATIONS. THE ADMIRALTY SAID, "BRITAIN'S WORLDWISE COMMITMENTS EXTEND TO THE PACIFIC" AND SAID THAT "THE STRENGTH OF THE ROYAL NAVY IS BEING BROUGHT INCREASINGLY TO BEAR IN THE THEATER AS A RESULT OF THE IMPROVING SITUATION IN EUROPEAN WATERS."

CHUNGKING:

IN CHUNGKING IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT WARPLANES OF THE U. S. 14TH AIR FORCE HAVE BEEN POUNDING THE JAPS ALL THE WAY FROM THE RICE BOWL AREA OF CENTRAL CHINA TO BURMA AND FRENCH INDO CHINA TO BURMA AND FRENCH INDO CHINA. THE OPERATIONS EXTENDING OVER THREE DAYS WERE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT LOSS. HEAVY DAMAGE WAS REPORTED INFLICTED ON ENEMY SHIPPING AND INSTALLATIONS. OPEN TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS AND NOT AT ALL CLEAR WAS THE BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE BERLIN RADIO THAT FUMAO MIYAKAWA, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE JAPAN EMBASSY IN RUSSIA HAD BEEN RECALLED. THE TOKYO DISPATCH QUOTED BY BERLIN GAVE NO HINT OF ANY DETERIORATION IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND JAPAN NOR WAS THE REASON FOR THE REPORT STATED.

LONDON:

SPORADIC REPORTS OF BULGARIAN TROOPS SWITCHING OVER TO JOIN THE YUGOSLAV ARMY OF LIBERATION WERE FOLLOWED THURSDAY BY A PARTISAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MARSHAL JOSIP BROZ TITO HAD ORGANIZED A BRIGADE OF BULGARIANS. THE DAILY COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST BY THE FREE YUGOSLAV RADIO SAID THAT A NEW CONTINGENT OF ONE OFFICER AND 65 BULGARIAN SOLDIERS WITH EQUIPMENT HAD COME OVER TO THE PARTISANS AND THAT TOGETHER WITH OTHER BULGARIANS WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD SWITCHED ALLEGIANCE HAD BEEN FORMED INTO A BRIGADE OF THEIR OWN. SOME OF THE HEAVIEST BATTLES STILL WERE IN PROGRESS IN EASTERN BOSNIA WHERE GERMAN FORCES HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO BREAK THROUGH THE COMMUNIQUE SAID. THE PARTISANS DECLARED THEY HAD SWEPT TWO PROVINCES OF CROATIA BANIVA AND KORDUN CLEAR OF THE ENEMY.

LIEUT. GEN. JACOB L. DEVERS, WHO IS BEING SHIFTED FROM COMMAND OF THE AMERICAN FORCES IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER TO BECOME DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE ALLIED FORCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA TOLD NEW BRITISH OFFICERS THURSDAY NIGHT THAT THE ALLIES ARE CLOSING IN UPON THE ENEMY, AND HE DECLARED THAT 1944 GAVE EVERY PROMISE OF BEING A YEAR OF DELIVERANCE.

WASHINGTON:

THE FIRST NEGRO PARACHUTE UNIT IN THE AMERICAN ARMY IS TO BE ACTIVATED AT FORT BENNING, GA., SERVING UNDER BRIG. GEN. LEO DONOVAN, COMMANDING THE AIRBORNE COMMAND. THE UNIT IS DESIGNATED AS THE 555TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY COMPANY.

GLENDALE, CAL.:

HOBART BOSWORTH, 76 YEAR OLD DEAN OF THE HOLLYWOOD MOVIE COLONY, DIED TODAY OF PNEUMONIA. THE FORMER BROADWAY IDOL WAS ONE OF MOVIEDOMS REAL PIONEER ACTORS AT THE VERY INCEPTION OF THE SILENT FILMS. HE HAD PLAYED IN 526 PICTURES UP TO THE TIME OF HIS RETIREMENT IN 1942.

NEW YORK:

MAYOR LA GUARDIA FACED WITH REPORTS OF JEWISH BOYS BEING BEATEN AND SYNAGOGUES DESECRATED BY CHILDREN HERE SAID THURSDAY NIGHT "IT APPEARS THAT THE CHILDREN WERE INSTIGATED BY VICIOUS PEOPLES." IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT A PROTESTANT CHURCH WAS DAUBED WITH SWASTIKAS.

SPORTS
BASKET BALL
***

ILLINOIS	64	GREAT LAKES	51
OKLAHOMA	31	OKLAHOMA NAVY	27
TCU	33	PHILLIPS	20
RICE	60	TEXAS	37
COLUMBIA	49	YALE	42
CORNELL	64	CONNECTICUT	35
DENVER	47	OMAHA	45
MISSOURI	29	WASHBURN	28
N.C.PRE FLIGHT	46	FT.BRAGG	33
PRINCETON	53	BROOKLYN POLY	31
TUFTS	62	BOSTON NAVY	48