

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Allied and Enemy Activity

No. 672

Date: 1st December, 1943.

P A R T I.

A. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/1.

- (1) "STELLA" surveying vicinity Morobe.
- (2) "GILMER" (APD) departed Milne Bay 1200/28 to RV with "MAUI" in position 18°30'S 158°08'E at 0700/30 and escort to Milne Bay.
- (3) "SC.738" departed Milne Bay 1500/29 to RV with "NORMACDALE" in position 12°15'S 152°20'E at 1200/30. ETA Milne Bay 1800/1.
- (4) "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" "GLADSTONE" "LITGOW" escorting Convoy TN184. "GLADSTONE" escorts portion A ("MONTORO") to Port Moresby. Others escort portion B ("CAPE ANNE, "J.CARROL" "J.EARL" "GANNYMEDE" "MERKUR" "J.PALMER" "A.THOMAS") to Milne Bay ETA both portions 1100/3.
- (5) "WARREGO" escorting "CANBERRA" from Port Moresby to mainland.
- (6) "PC1124" escorting "NEW ZEALAND" dep. Port Moresby 1040/30 en route Milne Bay. ETA 1430/1.
- (7) "MIZAR" (AF) departed Brisbane 0215/28 for Milne Bay ETA 0900/1 Dec.
- (8) "WESTRALIA" departed Cairns 0620/23 for Milne Bay ETA 1800/1.
- (9) "ARARAT" departed Milne Bay 1612/29 ETA Grafton Passage 0400/1 Dec.
- (10) "YMS.71" departed Cairns 0851/27 for Thursday Island ETA 1200/1 Dec. to tow dry dock to Milne Bay.
- (11) "WHYALLA" "SC.741" escorting Convoy LQ33 ("GOLDSTAR (A.G.)") departed Gladstone 1930/30. ETA 0600/2.
- (12) "YP.291" departed Thursday Island 0832/28 for Palm Island ETA 0600/1 Dec. thence to proceed Cairns ETA 0800/2 Dec.
- (13) "KURUMBA" (AO) departed Thursday Island 0827/28 for Townsville ETA 2100/30.
- (14) "WILCANNIA" "BALLARAT" escorting Convoy PG87 (2 MV) were to depart Caloundra 1200/1 Dec. for Sydney.
- (15) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AG) Merchant Vessels: "LORINNA"
Lae	- Warships & Aux. - SC's 732, 746, YMS's 72. Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "C.KING" "NORAB" "SIBIGO" "A.BURLINGHAME"
Morobe	- Warships & Aux. - ML.427 "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna	- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 425, ML's 801, 806, 816, 819, "TRINITY" (AO) "BENALIA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" (Survey Vessels) Merchant Vessels: "S.CRANE" "ADM. HALSTEAD" "MULCRA".

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC. 734 SC. 744 ML.818 PC.1122
 Merchant Vessels: "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBIQUE"
 "J.W.MACKAY" "WM.FROUSE" "T.CORWIN" "J.ROSS"
 "VAN DEN BOSCH" "WM.HUME" "THOS.JEFFERSON"
 "KOORAKA" "CHAS.E.SMITH" "GREY LAG" "E.D.BAKER"
 "E.M.WESTCOTT" "G.V.L.MEYER"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 745, 749 PC.1121
 Merchant Vessels: "ALAMO" "CALEDONIAN SALVOR"

Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC.747 YMS.313
 Merchant Vessels: "JOSEPH LANE"

Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - ML.431
 Merchant Vessels: "HANYANG"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
 "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA" "HELM"
 "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "CONYNGHAM"
 "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER"
 (DD) "BROOKS" "SANDS" (APD) "GYMPIE" "WAGGA" (AMS)
 SC's 648, 698, 699, 703, 731, 737, 742, 743, 748
 SC's 750, 981, 982 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 53, 52, 70
 YMS's 73, 314, 334, 335, 336 YP's 233, 236, 278
 YP's 283, ML'S 428, 430 PC's 476, 479, 1119,
 PC.1120 25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's "YUNNAN"
 (ASIS) "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "CEUS" "FULTON"
 (AS) "HALF MOON" (AVP) "BISHOPDALE" "ESSO BALBOA"
 "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS"
 (ARL) "COUCAL" (ASR) "CARTER HALL" (LSC)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "BALIKPAPAN" "W.
 BEAUMONT" "F.P.BLAIR" "BORGFRED" "BOTH" "J.G.BRADY"
 "CEFALU" "H.DODGE" "JAPARA" "F.A.EILERS" "G.H.
 FLANDERS" "F.J.IRWIN" "KARSIK" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES"
 "MACTAN" "F.G.NEWLANDS" "F.OLDER" "B.OSBORNE"
 "PATRAS" "W.H.POINT" "THOS.C.POWER" "RING LARDNER"
 "A.ROVALLI" "STAGEN" "H.STANBURY" "M.M.STEWART"
 "SWARTENHONDT" "TJISADANE" "TRIANGULUM" "TECUMSEH"
 "VAN HEUTSZ" "VAQUERO" "WEST CACTUS"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "HUMPHREYS" (APD) "WARREGO" (AMS)
 YMS'S 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
 Merchant Vessels: "D.F.BARRY" "MURADA" "MULIAMA"
 "PT.SAN PEDRO" "SEAGERAK" "CANBERRA" "W.S.LADD"

Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" "FREMANTLE" (AMS)
 ML.805 "KURUMBA" (AO)

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "STAWELL" "COLAC" (AMS) PC's 477,
 PC.1124 SC.736 YP.280 ML's 803, 804, 820 Y.6
 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANOORA" (APA)

Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (APV)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "HERON" (AVP) "AASE MAERSK" (AO)
 Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "ALTAMAHA" (CVE) "VENDETTA" "STUART"
 "DRAYTON" (DD) "SWAN" "GEELONG" "BOWEN" "COWRA"
 (AMS) SC's 650, 735 PC's 1123, 1131, 1132
 ML's 808, 826 YMS's 9, 10 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA"
 (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO)
 "MANUNDA" "TASMAN" (AH) "POLLUX" (AKS)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "GEELONG" "PC.1131" SC's 650, 735 and "CASTLEMAINE" (ex Convoy GP.87) detailed to escort Convoy QL.34 departing Caloundra 1600/1 December. YMS.9 to proceed in company with SC.650 for docking at Cairns: PC.1131 to proceed Cairns independently, "CASTLEMAINE" to Townsville.
- (2) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" to depart Thursday Is. 1930/1 December for Darwin ETA 1430/4 December.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Choiseul - It is reliably reported November 29 that estimated total 5000 Japanese still remain N.W. end Choiseul between Choiseul Bay and Warrior River where they are apparently digging in.

- (1) Choiseul (Contd) - Twenty three allied fighters strafed enemy concentrations N.W. tip Choiseul November 30 with unobserved results. Six Mitchells attacked Choiseul Bay area at 1320/30.
- (2) Treasury Island - Unstated number enemy aircraft raided this area at 0541/29.
- (3) Buin-Shortlands - Photos November 30 show Kara and Kahili and Ballale all unserviceable. Some evidence of repair on Ballale which now needs only grading to make it serviceable. Shipping included approximately 20 barges including at least seven damaged.

During night November 28-29 our PT boats assisted by Catalina flares damaged or destroyed at least one loaded enemy barge 20 miles W. of Kahili.

Four Aircobras made fighter sweep this area forenoon November 30 scoring hits on four barges, two boats and three A/A positions. Four Kittyhawks also strafed S. coast of Ballale. Five Aircobras attacked Tonolei during afternoon, strafing one barge and silencing one A/A position.

- (4) Kieta - Photos November 30 show five barges and one 70 foot vessel.
- (5) Empress Augusta Bay - At 0855/29, 40 barges or landing boats were reported off the beach E. of Cape Torokina. This report is based on an intercept and it is not clear as yet as to whether these craft are enemy.

Soupac aircraft reported November 30, sighting forty barges in a lagoon near the mouth of Atsinuma River (12 miles N.W. Cape Torokina).

The beach between the Jaba River (14 miles S.E. Torokina) and southern end Jaba Village is reported to be roped off and possibly mined. There have been several reports of continued enemy activity in this area recently.

Two tanks were reported at Monoitu (25 miles S.E. Gazelle Harbour) on the southern extremity of Empress Augusta Bay.

Ten Dauntless, 12 Avengers escorted by four fighters attacked enemy positions S.E. end Empress Augusta Bay destroying several buildings.

Our destroyers shelled Japanese positions vicinity Torokina on November 30 under fighter cover.

- (6) Bougainville - Fifty Dauntless, 22 Avengers escorted by 31 fighters attacked enemy positions S.W. coast Bougainville forenoon November 30.

Eight Lightnings strafed enemy positions between Numa Numa and Kieta afternoon November 30 starting fires.

- (7) Bismarcks - A further enemy convoy comprising 6-8 vessels was observed S. of Kavieng last night November 30, apparently heading away from Rabaul towards the Mandates. First sighting was at 2135/30 when one of our aircraft attacked what was described as a 6-ship convoy in a position 15 miles S.S.E. Kavieng on course 300°. Several bombs were dropped on a 10,000 ton transport forming part of this convoy.

At 2155/30 another aircraft reported sighting what would appear to be the same convoy but now described as including eight vessels in a position 30 miles S. by W. of Kavieng on course 270°.

- (8) New Britain -

(a) Cape Hoskins - Four enemy barges reported arrived mouth Kapiura River (12 miles S.E. Cape Hoskins) dawn November 30. These may well have been connected with the destroyer transportation run indicated along New Britain coast the previous night, November 29-30.

(b) Gasmata - Night November 29-30, four allied destroyers successfully bombarded this area without encountering any enemy opposition.

(c) Ubili - Three concealed barges were observed in this area a.m. November 30.

(8) New Britain (Contd)

(d) Borgen Bay - Eight Mitchells escorted by eight Lightnings made barge sweep from Reibeck to Borgen Bay afternoon November 30, silencing several light A/A positions at Rein Bay and scoring several hits on barges this area.

Several enemy barges were observed along the East coast Willaumez Peninsula in addition to N.W. New Britain coast indicating constant supply activity by this means along this coast.

(e) Cape Gloucester - At 1200/30 a possible sea truck was observed in a cove near Cape Gloucester.

Eight Liberators attacked No. 2 strip this area forenoon same day.

(9) Alexishafen - Forenoon November 30, twenty Liberators attacked this area. Six probable barges were observed in Bostrem Bay.

(10) Madang - Night November 29-30, four allied destroyers bombarded targets this area.

(11) N. Coast Huon Peninsula - Eighteen Mitchells attacked enemy positions Kalasa area forenoon November 30.

(12) Satelberg Area - Our ground forces advancing northwards reached Bonga at 0925/29.

At 0800/30, 11 Bostons were involved in attacks on enemy positions along Buzuluc-Lakoma track.

(13) Coral Sea - At 1940/28 an enemy submarine was reported in a position 100 miles S. of Port Moresby.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/30:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting Convoy TD.38 ("MANGOLA" "CARDROSS" departed Thursday Is. 0030/28 for Darwin ETA 1530/2 December.
- (2) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "ML's 429, 814, 815"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Kaukenau - At 200/29, three probable barges were reported on a westerly course 55 miles S.W. Timoeke.
- (2) Manokwari - Photos of shipping November 29 reveal one small escort vessel, two small coasters, 7 large and 50 small barges.
- (3) Kai Islands - Photos Kai Island airfields November 30 reveal: Langgoer, 6 F, 4 t/e B. of which two unserviceable; Nil aircraft at Faan but runway probably serviceable; Nil aircraft at Doelah and Doerca but incomplete coverage and runways probably serviceable.
- (4) Langgoer - Two Catalinas bombed Langgoer night November 30 - Dec.1.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/1:

- (1) "YP.286" departed Exmouth Gulf 1330/30 ETA Fremantle 2330/3.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK" (CL)
"VAN GALEN" "TJERK HIDDES" (DD) "GHILDS"
(AV) "HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "FELIAS" (AS)
"CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739
YP.288

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/1:

- (1) "WILCANNIA" "BALLARAT" "CASTLEMAINE" ML.809 ML.821 escorting Convoy GP.87 (7 MV) departed Sydney 0749/28 for Brisbane were due 1100/1 December.
- (2) "BUNGAREE" (CM) departed Cairns 2259/26 for Sydney ETA p.m. 1 December.
- (3) "YANDRA" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy OC.147 (6 MV) en route Newcastle and Port Kembla were to depart Melbourne 0001/1 December.
- (4) "WANGANELLA" (AH) departed Sydney 1513/27 for Fremantle ETA 3 December thence to proceed Suez.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens	- Warships & Aux. - "TULSA" (PG)
Newcastle	- Warships & Aux. - "ML.807"
Sydney	- Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" (APD) "GOULBURN" "DELORAIN" "WARRNAMBOOL" "MORESEY" "BROOME" "BUNDABERG" "PIRIE" "GLENELG" "TOWNSVILLE" "ROCKHAMPTON" "CHUCA" "A.B.CRIJNSSEN" (AMS) "HILO" (PG) "KYBRA" (A/S Vessel) ML's 430, 817, 802, ML.822.
Melbourne	(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "PHILIP" (DD) - Warships & Aux. - "TROMP" (CL) "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL" "KAPUNDA" (AMS) "DDOMBA" (A/S Vessel)
Westernport	- Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

B. SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

ENEMY FORCES

Nauru - At 1200/28, 11 Liberators bombed Nauru.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH WEST & SOUTH PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

Southwest Pacific
(Eastern Section)

South Pacific

Bismarcks
Solomons

Carolines
Marshalls

<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	X ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	ZUIHO (en route Japan)
<u>CV(E)</u>	ALTAMAHA	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON	-	CHUYO) enrout UNYO) Japan X CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOCAMI * MAYA (en route Japan)
<u>CL</u>	NASHVILLE TROMP * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SAN JUAN SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	YUBARI (damaged)	NAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO NAKA ISUZU AMAKUSA * MAGANO
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID PHILIP	Approx 40	6-10 (1-2 damaged)	25 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	ALBACORE) BLACK FISH) GATO) RAY) PETO) RATON)		20	20
	GUARDFISH) SCAMP) S.51)	At Brisbane		
	K.9 BALAO	At Sydney At Milne Bay		
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALJA RD CHANDELIER	-	■ NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>PI</u>	35	Approx 30	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T. ALLEN MANDORA WESTRALIA KANINBEA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS	10 APA 11 APD 6 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		-	?
<u>AD</u>	■ DOBBIN ■ DIXIE		1	1
<u>RR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		
<u>AIR CRAFT</u> (N.W. AREA only)				
Fighters (incl. 19 twin-eng.)	259			
Light & M/Bombers	151			
SE/Bombers	41			
Flying Boats	2			
Floatplanes	50			
Transport & Obsn. A/C	13			

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CA</u>	LOUISVILLE	-
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKOMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx. 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

■ Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB NORTH CAROLINA
INDIANA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO (Poss. Mandates)
HYUGA (Being modernised)

CV ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

CV(T) -

HOSHO

CV(T) COWPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

HITAKA) en route Malaya
RYUHO)
HAYATAKA

CV(E) SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
GOPAHEE
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

OTAKA

CA BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
MINNEAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
PENSACOLA
INDIANAPOLIS
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
LOUISVILLE

NACHI
TONE
AOBA
HAGURO
MYOKO
ATAGO
TAKAO

OCA -

6

CL PHOENIX
OAKLAND
HONOLULU
RENO
CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
KISO
NATORI

EL(T) -
COL -
IV/CVS POCOMOKE
XCVS -
Approx. 35
Approx. 50
?

KASHIMA
6 - 7
CHIYODA (under conversion
3 to AGV)
25 (some repairing)
Approx. 30
2 (1 repairing)

Non-effective

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Allied and Enemy Activity

No. 673

Date: 2nd December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/2:

- (1) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "GILMER" (APD) departed Milne Bay 1200/28 to RV with "MAUI" in position 18°30'S 158°08'E at 0700/30 and escort to Milne Bay.
- (3) "HUMPHREYS" escorting 1 LST departed Port Moresby 0830/1 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/2.
- (4) "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" "GLADSTONE" "LITHGOW" escorting Convoy TN.184. "GLADSTONE" escorts Portion A ("MONTORO") to Port Moresby. Others escort Portion B ("CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "J.EARL" "GANNYMEDE" "MERKUR" "J.PALMER" "A.THOMAS") to Milne Bay ETA both Portions 1100/3.
- (5) "GYMPIE" and "WAGGA" escorting Convoy FT.44 (2 MV) departed Milne Bay 1600/30 for Townsville. ETA 1800/3.
- (6) "GEELONG" PC.1131 SC.735 and "CASTLEMAINE" escorting Convoy QL.34 (10 ships including YMS.9) were to depart Caloundra 1600/1. PC.1131 to proceed Cairns independently ETA 0800/5. "CASTLEMAINE" to Townsville ETA 1800/4.
- (7) "SC.650" departed Caloundra 0203/2 to overtake YMS.9 (ex Convoy QL.34) vicinity Bustard Head at 0300/3 and escort to Cairns for docking.
- (8) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" departed Thursday Is. 1931/1 for Darwin ETA 1430/4.
- (9) "WARREGO" escorting "CANBERRA" from Port Moresby was due Cairns 1100/2.
- (10) "POLLUX" (AKS) was to depart Brisbane 0930/2 for Milne Bay ETA 1600/6.
- (11) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AG) Merchant Vessels: "LORINNA"
Lae	- Warships & Aux. - SC's 732, 746 YMS.72 Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "C.KING" "NORAB" "SIBIGO" "A.BURLINGHAME"
Morobe Buna	- Warships & Aux. - ML.427 "PORTUNUS" (AGP) - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 425 ML's 801, 806, 816, 819 "TRINITY" (AO) Merchant Vessels: "S.CRANE" "ADM.HALSTEAD"
Oro Bay	- Warships & Aux. - "TASMAN" (AH) SC.734 Merchant Vessels: "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBIQUE" "J.W.MACKAY" "WM.PROUSE" "T.CORWIN" "J.ROSS" "VAN DEN BOSCH" "THOS.JEFFERSON" "CHAS.E. SMITH" "GREY LAG" "E.D.BAKER" "E.M.WESTCOTT" "G.V.L.MEYER"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 745, 749 PC.1121
 "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS)
 Merchant Vessels: "ALAMO"
 Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC.747 YMS.818
 Merchant Vessels: "JOSEPH LANE"
 Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "HANYANG"
 Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHERPESHIRE" (CA)
 "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA" "HELM"
 "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "CONYNGHAM"
 "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON" "SEAW" "REID" "PLUSSE"
 (DD) "WESTRALIA" (APA) SC's 648, 698, 699, 703,
 SC's 731, 737, 738, 742, 743, 744, 748, 750, 981
 SC.982 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 53, 52, 70, 73, 314,
 YMS's 334, 335, 336 YP's 233, 236, 278, 283
 ML's 428, 430, 431, 818 PC's 476, 479, 1119
 PC's 1120, 1122, 1124 25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's
 "YUNWAN" (ASIS) "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OPUS"
 "FULTON" (AS) "HALF MOON" (AVP) "BISHOPDALE"
 "ESSO BALBOA" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG)
 "AMYCUS" (ARL) "COUCAL" (ASR) "CARTER HALL" (LSD)
 "WIZAR" (AF)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS
OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "BALIKPAPAN"
 "W.BEAUMONT" "P.P.BLAIR" "BORGFRED" "BOTH" "J.G.
 BRADY" "CEPALU" "H.DODGE" "P.A.BILERS" "G.H.
 FLANDERS" "F.J.IRWIN" "JAPARA" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES"
 "MACTAN" "MORMACDALE" "P.G.HEWLANDS" "NEW ZEALAND"
 "F.OLDER" "B.OSBORNE" "W.H.POINT" "THOS.C.POWER"
 "RING LARDNER" "A.ROVALLI" "STAGEN" "H.STANBURY"
 "M.W.STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT" "TJISADANE"
 "TRIANGULUM" "BECUMSEH" "VAN HEUTSZ" "VAQUERO"
 "WEST CACTUS"
 Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "BROOKS" "SANDS" (APD) YMS's 8,46
 YMS's 47,48 ML.426
 Merchant Vessels: "D.F.BARRY" "MURADA" "MULIAMA"
 "SKAGERAK" "W.S.LADD"
 Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) YMS.71 ML.805
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" "STAWELL" "COLAC" (AMS)
 PC's 477, 1124 SC.736 YP's 280, 291
 ML's 803, 804, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANOORA" (APA)
 Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (APV)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "HERON" (AVP) "AASE MAERSK" "KURUMBA"
 (AO)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "ALTAMANA" (CVE) "VENDETTA" "STUART"
 "DRAYTON" (DD) "SWAN" "BOWEN" "COWRA" "WEYALLA"
 (AMS) SC.741 PC's 1123, 1132 ML's 808, 826
 YMS.10 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBAL" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA)
 "VICTORIA" "SHIKELAMY" (AO) "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
 "MANUNDA" (AH)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "DRAYTON" to depart Caloundra 1430/2 to RV with "KLIPFONTEIN" in position 18°30'S 159°00'E at 0500/4 and escort to Milne Bay.
- (2) "PC.1123" is to depart Caloundra 1800/2 to RV with "DAY STAR" in position 24°25'S, 157°58'E at 1500/3 and escort her to Lady Elliott Is. PC.1123 then proceeds Gladstone for further escort duties departing Gladstone 1700/6.
- (3) "VENDETTA" is to depart Caloundra 2100/3 to RV with "CAPE MENDOCINO" in position 27°01'S 156°56'E at 1100/4 and escort to Brisbane.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Empress Augusta Bay - Further details of the allied landing night November 28 between the Reini and Sau Rivers, indicate that one paratroop Battalion together with one

company of marine raiders landed against minor opposition half a mile N.W. of Koiaris (9 miles E. by S. of Cape Torokina), early morning November 29 for the purpose of reconnaissance and raids.

The landing was apparently made in an enemy ammunition and medical supply area. It is estimated 1000 Japanese launched a strong daybreak counter attack and the size of the enemy force increased during the day. They used most effective mortar and piper fire. Our forces were effectively supported by aircraft and 155 mm. battery. LCI's and gunboats bombarded enemy positions while at least one destroyer arrived at 1800/29 to assist in this bombardment. Our combined land, surface and artillery fire practically silenced Jap mortars while waves of boats landed, loaded and withdrew under some fire without suffering casualties or damage. This evacuation was completed about 2130/29.

Casualties resulting from the raid were Japanese - 200 known dead and probably more killed by bombing and artillery fire: Allies - approximately 15 killed, 71 wounded. Enemy artillery dumps, rifles, stores and medical supplies were destroyed during the raid and enemy documents captured.

- (2) Treasury Island - Our ground forces reported clearing of a strip is progressing satisfactorily despite heavy rains.
- (3) Solomons - Nil enemy aircraft were contacted in the Solomons area from a.m. November 22 until November 30. No subsequent reports have yet been received.
- (4) Bismarcks - (a) At 1030/1 our aircraft reported sighting 14 life boats (7 two-masters) 90 miles W. New Hanover, while at 1500/1 a Liberator reported sighting one motor launch and approximately 20 large white life boats in the same area, approx 65 miles W.S.W. New Hanover. This aircraft strafed these boats from 200 feet and Japs were seen jumping in the water until few remained in the boats. Enemy casualties were undetermined, but believed heavy.
(b) At 1440/1 a Liberator sighted an enemy convoy described as four medium sized freighters with one gun boat escorting, 12 miles W. by S. of the western tip New Hanover heading East, suggesting convoy heading into Rabaul.
(c) Further details of the enemy 6-8 ship convoy reported outward bound from Rabaul in the area S. of Kavieng night November 30, indicate that the force was described as two destroyers, one large 8-10000 ton transport, one whaling factory ship and two unidentified vessels. One Liberator dropped six 1000 pounders on the transport, scoring two possible hits causing a big explosion and towering red flames which slowly died down. The vessel was claimed as seriously damaged and possibly sunk.
A Catalina reported sighting probably the same convoy W. of Gazelle Channel at 0130/1, still heading on a westerly course. This Catalina dropped 4 x 500 pounders scoring a direct hit amidship on one destroyer and a direct hit on the stern of what was described as another destroyer.
(d) At 0130/1 another Catalina reported sighting a convoy described as 10-12 large vessels in the same general area 45 miles W.S.W. Kavieng, but states the force was on an easterly course. This Catalina dropped two x 1000 pounders causing a large fire visible 50 miles distant. The increased number of vessels suggests the possibility of another force in the area proceeding into Rabaul, but as no aircraft reported sighting more than one group of ships, it is possible this is the same force which may have been heading for Kavieng following damage suffered by the previous attacks.
- (5) Garove - At 2356/1 one of our aircraft attacked an unidentified enemy vessel 20 miles E.S.E. of Garove Island.
Early hours December 1, one Catalina bombed shore installations this area.
- (6) New Britain - Delayed report indicates two Beaufighters on barge sweep November 29 attacked unstated number of barges and a small coaster near Cape Hoskins. The barges were believed destroyed.

- (7) Borgen Bay - Forenoon December 1, 29 Mitchells escorted by 18 Lightnings attacked Borgen Bay area.
- (8) Manus Island - At 0940/1 a Liberator unsuccessfully attacked a small enemy freighter 60 miles E. Lorengau on a westerly course.
- (9) Wewak - At 1015/1, 2 Lightnings reported sighting one medium and two small ships off Wewak.
Twenty Liberators escorted by Thunderbolts attacked this area early afternoon December 1. Interception by at least 44 enemy fighters, but final results not yet assessed.
- (10) Hansa Bay - At 1340/1 a small enemy merchant ship was reported anchored S. of Kandover Island (35 miles N.N.W. Hansa Bay).
- (11) Ulingan - Forenoon November 30 four Kittyhawks attacked landing craft this area.
- (12) Madang - During the destroyer bombardment of Madang night November 29-30, a small vessel was sunk by gunfire. In this connection a 500 ton vessel was observed at Madang wharf forenoon November 27. Our destroyers were strafed by enemy aircraft vicinity of Sio, but no casualties or damage were sustained.
- (13) Finschhafen - At 0922/1 enemy submarine was reported 30 miles E.N.E. Finschhafen heading N.W.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/2:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting Convoy TD.38 ("MANGOLA" "CARDROSS") departed Thursday Is. 0030/28 for Darwin ETA 1530/2.
- (2) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/2:

- (1) "YP.286" departed Exmouth Gulf 1330/30 ETA Fremantle 2330/3.
- (2) "WANGANILLA" (AH) departed Sydney 1513/27 for Fremantle ETA 3 Dec. thence proceed Suez.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK" (CL)
"VAN CALEN" "TJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV)
"HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"SHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "CHANTICLEER"
(ASR) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.288

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/2:

- (1) "WILCANNIA" "BALLARAT" escorting Convoy PG.87 (2 MV) departed Caloundra 1155/1 en route Sydney ETA 1200/3.
- (2) "WARRNAMBOOL" "TOWNSVILLE" "BROOME" escorting Convoy GP.88 (2 MV) were to depart Sydney 0800/2 for Caloundra.
- (3) "ML.809" escorting Newcastle portion of Convoy CG.148 (9MV) was to depart Newcastle 1100/2 to RV with escorts "ROCKHAMPTON" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSEN" off Sydney p.m. 2 December.

(4) "YANDRA" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy CC.147 (5 MV) departed Melbourne 0230/1 ETA Port Kembla 0300/4, Newcastle 1700/4.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens	- Warships & Aux. - "TULSA" (PG)
Newcastle	- Warships & Aux. - ML's 807, 822
Sydney	- Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" (APD) "GOULBURN" "DELOIRINE" "MORESBY" "PIRIE" "BUNDABERG" "GLENELG" "ROCKHAMPTON" "ECHUCA" "AB.CRIJNSSEN" (AMS) "HILO" (PG) "BUNGAREE" (CM) "KYBRA" (A/S Vessel) ML's 430, 817, 802, 821
(Repairing, Refitting)	- "HOBART" (CL) "PHILIP" (DD)
Melbourne	- Warships & Aux. - "TROMP" (CL) "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL" "KAPUNDA" (AMS) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel)
Westernport	- Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

B. INDIAN OCEAN

Cocos Islands - At 1030/1 an enemy reconnaissance bomber was over Cocos Islands.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	South Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	ALPAMAHA	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	NASHVILLE TROMP * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SAN JUAN SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	YUBARI (damaged)	NAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO NAKA ISUZU AMAKUSA * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID PHILIP	Approx 40	6-10 (1-2 damaged)	25 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

SOUTHWEST Pacific (Eastern Section)		South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshall's
<u>SS</u>	ALBACORE BLACKFISH GATO RAY PETO RATON	On Patrol	20	20
	GUARDFISH SCAMP S.31	At Brisbane		
	K.9 BALAO	At Sydney At Milne Bay		
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELIER	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>PT</u>	35	Approx 30	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T.ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS	10 APA 11 APD 6 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		-	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN * DIXIE		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)

Fighters (incl. 19 twin-eng.)	259
Light & M/Bombers	151
SE/Bombers	41
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C	13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CA</u>	LOUISVILLE	-
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

* Non-effective

MOST SECRET
2 December, 1943

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO (Poss. Mandates) HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	ZUIHO HITAKA) en route RYUHO) Malaya * HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO UNYO
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	* NACHI * TONE * AOKA * HAGURO * MYOKO * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u> <u>CL</u>	- PHOENIX OAKLAND * HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	6 TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u> <u>XCL</u> <u>AV/CVS</u> <u>DD</u>	- - POCOMOKE Approx 35	KASHIMA 6 - 7 CHIYODA (under conversion 25 to ACV) (Some repairing) 3
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> <u>SS</u> <u>AS</u>	- Approx 50 ?	Approx 30 2 (1 repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

5. EAST INDIES- INDIAN OCEAN

Southwest Pacific (Western Section) Eastern Fleet Area East Indies-Philippines

BB - RAMILLIES -

CV (E) - BATTLE -

CA - SUFFOLK ASHIGARA
SUSSEX
HAWKINS
FROBISHER

CL ADELAIDE KENYA KUMA
VAN HEEMSKERK NEWCASTLE OI
MANCHESTER KITAGAMI
DANAE KINU
EMERALD

CL (T) - - KASHII

XCL - CANTON -
CHITRAL
CARTHAGE

AV/CVS CHILDS ALBATROSS KAMOI
W.B. PRESTON

XAV/XCVS - ? 1

DD VAN GALEN Approx 27 10
TJERK HIDDIS

SS BILLFISH) ? 6
BONEFISH)
BOWFIN)
CAPELIN)
COD) On Patrol
GREVALLE)
MARWHAL)
POMPOM)
PUFFER)
TUNA)

K.12)
BLUEFISH)
CABRILLA) At Fremantle
KINGFISH)
RASHER)

AS PELIAS ?

AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.) 168
Light & M/Bombers 55
SE/Bombers 16
Flying Boats 12
Floatplanes 49
Transport & Obsn. A/C 39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Allied and Enemy Activity

No. 674

Date: 3rd December, 1943

PART I.

A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/3:

- X (1) "ARUNTA" "HELM" departed Milne Bay 1500/2 to RV with "PHOENIX" (CL) at 0700/3 in position 12°47'S 153°20'E and escort to Milne Bay ETA 1800/3.
- (2) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (3) "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" "GLADSTONE" "LITHGOW" escorting Convoy TN.184. "GLADSTONE" escorts Portion A ("MONTORO") to Port Moresby. Others escort Portion B ("CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "J.EARL" "GANNYMEDE" "MERKUR" "J.PALMER" "A.THOMAS") to Milne Bay ETA both Portions 1100/3.
- (4) "DRAYTON" departed Caloundra 1409/2 to RV with "KLIPFONTEIN" in position 18°30'S 159°00'E at 0500/4 and escort to Milne Bay.
- (5) "WARREGO" escorting Convoy TN.185 ("CAPE MEARES") was to depart Fitzroy Island at approx 0600/3 for Milne Bay ETA 1800/4.
- (6) "POLLUX" (AKS) en route Brisbane to Milne Bay ETA 1600/6.
- (7) "PC.1131" (ex Convoy QL.34) en route Cairns ETA 0800/5.
- (8) "SC.650" in company with "YMS.9" (ex Convoy QL.34) en route Cairns for decking.
- (9) "CASTLEMAINE" (ex Convoy QL.34) en route Townsville ETA 1800/4.
- (10) "KURUMBA" departed Townsville 1705/2 for Gladstone ETA 1400/4 for convoy to Brisbane.
- (11) "PC.1123" departed Caloundra 1823/2 to RV with "DAY STAR" in position 24°25'S 157°58'E at 1500/3 and escort to Lady Elliott Is. PC.1123 then to RV with "PYRO" in position 26°48'S 157°45'E at 1100/5 and escort to Brisbane.
- (12) "WARRNAMBOOL" "TOWNSVILLE" "BROOME" "ML.822" escorting Convoy GP.88 (2 MV) to Caloundra ETA 0730/4. "BROOME" to be sailed subsequently to Townsville.
- (13) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AG) Merchant Vessels: "LORINNA"
Lao	- Warships & Aux. - SC's 732, 746 YMS.72 Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "C.KING" "NORAB" "SIBIGO" "A.BURLINGHAME"
Morobe	- Warships & Aux. - ML.427 "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna	- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 425 ML's 801, 806, 816, 819 "TRINITY" (AO) Merchant Vessels: "S.CRANE" "ADM.HALSTEAD"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - "TASMAN" (AR) SC.734
 Merchant Vessels: "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBIQUO" "J.W. MACKAY" "WM. PROUSE" "T. CORWIN" "J. ROSS" "VAN DEN BOSCH" "THOS. JEFFERSON" "CHAS. E. SMITH" "GREY LAG" "E.D. BAKER" "E.M. WESTCOTT" "G.V.L. MEYER" "HANYANG"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 745, 749
 Merchant Vessels: Nil

Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 747, 727, 750 YMS.313
 Merchant Vessels: "JOSEPH LANE" "TRIANGULUM"

Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "ALAMO"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "BROOKS" "SANDS" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) "WESTRALIA" (APA) SC's 648, 698, 799, 703, 731, 738, 742, SC's 743, 744, 748, 981, 982 YMS's 11, 49, 50 YMS's 52, 53, 70, 73, 314, 334, 335, 336 YP's 233, 236, 278, 283, ML's 428, 430, 431, 818 PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1124 25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "HALF MOON" (AVP) "BISHOPDALE" "ESSO BALBOA" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) "COUGAL" (ASR) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "MIZAR" (AF)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "BALIKPAPAN" "W. BEAUMONT" "BORGERED" "BOTH" "J.G. BRADY" "CEFALU" "H. DODGE" "F.A. RILERS" "G.H. FLANDERS" "F.J. IRWIN" "JAPARA" "T.C. IOWE" "J. LYKES" "MACTAN" "MAUI" "NORMACDALE" "F.G. NEWLANDS" "NEW ZEALAND" "B. OSBORNE" "W.N. POINT" "THOS. C. POWER" "RING LARDNER" "A. ROVALLI" "STAGEN" "H. STANBURY" "M.M. STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT" "TJISADANE" "TECUMSEH" "VAN HEUTSZ" "VAQUERO"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS'S 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
 Merchant Vessels: "D.F. BARRY" "MURADA" "MULIAMA" "SKAGERAK" "W.S. LADD"

Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) YMS.71 ML.805
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "GYMPIE" "WAGGA" "STAWELL" "COLAC" (AMS) PC's 477, 1124 SC.736 YP's 280, 291 ML's 803, 804, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANGORA" (APA)

Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (APV)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" (AMS) "HERON" (AVP) "AASE MAERSK" (AO)

Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - SC.735
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "ALTAMAHA" (GVE) "VENDETTA" "STUART" (DD) "KILTY" "CROSBY" (APD) "SWAN" "BOWEN" "COWRA" "WHYALLA" (AMS) SC.741 PC.1132 ML's 808, 826 YMS.10 "H.T. ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIRELLAMY" (AO) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) "MANUNDA" (AH)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "VENDETTA" is to depart Caloundra 2100/3 to RV with "CAPE MENDOCINO" in position 27°01'S 156°56'E at 1100/4 and escort to Brisbane.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Buin Base - At 1146/30, Maliai (on Margusiai Island - Shortland Group) was attacked by 17 Mitchells. At 1233/1, the same target was again attacked by 19 escorted Mitchells. At 1106/2 the same target was attacked for a third time by 14 Mitchells. Photos 2 December show a minimum of

- (1) Buin Base (Contd) - eight buildings destroyed in Malaia Village. Kara and Ballale aerodromes were attacked at 1310/1 by 51 Dauntless, 26 Avengers and 32 fighters escorting. These two airfields are shown as unserviceable in photos 2 Dec. At 0700/1, Tonolei Harbour was strafed by 4 Aircobras.
- (2) Empress Augusta Bay - Enemy gun positions south of the Torokina perimeter were attacked 1 Dec. by 10 Dauntless, 12 Avengers escorted by 8 Aircobras.
- (3) W. Coast Bougainville - At 1030/1, Sarima Plantation (18 miles south of Chabai) was attacked by 6 Mitchells.
- (4) Bougainville Aircraft - On 1 Dec. for the ninth day in succession no enemy aircraft were encountered over Bougainville.
- (5) Kavieng - At 1145/2 a Soupac aircraft observed 12 freighters varying from 3-7500 tons each and totalling approximately 64,000 tons in Kavieng Harbour. In addition a 500 ton craft was patrolling the area.
- (6) Mandates-Bismarcks - At 1101/2 a Liberator reported a 7-ship convoy 100 miles N.W. New Hanover on course 260°, speed 15 knots. The convoy was described as 2 destroyers and five merchant vessels of 5-9000 tons each.
- (7) Gasmata - At 1940-2145/1 dump areas around Gasmata were effectively bombed by 11 Beauforts.
- (8) W. New Britain - As reported in yesterday's Summary (No. 673) Borgen Bay was attacked forenoon 1 Dec. by 29 escorted Mitchells. In addition, dumps in the same area were bombed by 7 Marauders at the same time co-ordinated with 16 Bostons which bombed and strafed targets around the coast from Rottock Bay to Cape Bushing. At 1115-1140/2, Borgen Bay was again attacked by 59 escorted Mitchells. The target area was well covered with 421-300 lb. bombs, 175-75 mm. shells, 79,630 rounds .50 cal and 18,735 rounds of .30 cal. At 2130/30, U.S. motor torpedo boats encountered fire from a fast speed boat - possibly a 70 ft. motor torpedo boat off Sag Sag (11 miles S.W. of Cape Gloucester).
- (9) Garove Island - Further to the report of an unidentified vessel in this area at 2356/1, further details give the vessel as a small tanker type ship 20 miles E. of Garove Island on S.E. course at 6-8 knots.
- (10) Bismarck Sea - During the night 1-2 Dec. Navy Catalinas reported:
 (a) A hospital ship 15 miles S.S.W. Kavieng.
 (b) Two destroyers or escort vessels 80 miles S.S.W. New Hanover.
- The course was not given in either instance.
- (11) Vitiaz Straits - Regular enemy reconnaissance is apparently being carried out over Northern Vitiaz Straits. At 0808/1 a probable enemy reconnaissance plane was sighted by a Liberator over Rooke Island. At 1202/2 a single reconnaissance aircraft was over Long Island.
- (12) Wewak - Photos 28 November show:-

Boram: 20 F.
 Dagua: - 7 L/B
 But : 1 F. 2 L/B 2 M/B
 Wewak: - - -

Total 32 aircraft whereof 21 F, 9 L/B, 2 M/B. These figures show a reduction of 31 aircraft, comprising 17 F, 12 L/B, 2 M/B from photographs taken previous day, 27 Nov. (not previously reported), and compare with a total of 109 aircraft (87 F, 19 L/B, 3 M/B) on the three airfields (excluding But) on 25 November.

Photos 1 Dec. show:-

Wewak: 20F. 6 L/B 2 M/B
 Boram: 19 F. - 1 M/B
 Dagua: 17 F. 11 L/B 9 M/B
 But : 9 F. 2 L/B 9 M/B

Total 105 aircraft whereof 65 F, 19 L/B, 21 M/B. The report does not state if the photos were taken before, during or after the Liberator strike, reported below, but

(12) Wewak (Contd) -

a photographic mission was over the area before noon indicating that the photos were taken prior to the strike.

A full report of the strike on Wewak airfield and neighbouring supply dumps indicates that 46 Liberators escorted by 32 Thunderbolts participated. Heavy damage is believed to have been inflicted, although fires and smoke prevented correct assessment. Approximately 40 enemy fighters intercepted vigorously and 10 fighters were shot down by the bombers and fighters combined and one more probably. Two Liberators were lost in combat and another crash-landed after being damaged by A/A.

(13) Alexishafen-Madang Area - Enemy installations in this area were strafed a.m. 1 Dec. by 2 Thunderbolts. At the same time, 20 barges were seen in Ulingan Harbour and another 10 in Bunabun Bay (46 and 54 miles respectively N.N.W. Madang).

(14) Finschhafen Area - Our ground forces continued to advance 1 Dec. and occupied additional enemy positions. Contact with the enemy is being maintained.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/3:

- (1) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" departed Thursday Is. 1931/1 for Darwin ETA 1430/4.
- (2) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" (AMS) ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "MANGOLA" "CARDROSS"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

Kai Islands - At 2230/1-0015/2, Toeal was attacked by four Catalinas. Several fires and explosions were caused on the waterfront.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/3:

- (1) "YP.286" departed Exmouth Gulf 1330/30 ETA Fremantle 2330/3.
- (2) "WANGANEILA" (AH) departed Sydney 1513/27 for Fremantle ETA 3 Dec. thence proceed Suez.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK" (CL)
"VAN GALEN" "TJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AM)
"HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS)
"CHANFICLEER" (ASR) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739
YP.288

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - ".W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/3:

- (1) "WILCANNIA" "BALLARAT" "escorting Convoy PG.87 (2 MV) departed Caloundra 1156/1 en route Sydney ETA 1200/3.
- (2) "WARD" (APD) due Sydney 5 Dec. from S.P.A.
- (3) "KAPUNDA" (AMS) departed Melbourne 1743/2 for Sydney ETA 1330/4.
- (4) "YANDRA" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy OC.147 (5 MV) departed Melbourne 0230/1 ETA Port Kembla 1300/3, Newcastle 2330/3.
- (5) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ABRAHAM BRYSSEN" escorting Convoy 80.148 (11 MV) for Melbourne ETA 2300/5.
- (6) "TROMP" (CL) departed Melbourne 0700/2 for Fremantle ETA 0600/17, thence to proceed out of S.W.P.A.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens	- Warships & Aux. - "TULSA" (PG)
Newcastle	- Warships & Aux. - ML.807
Sydney	- Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" (APD) "GOULBURN" "DELOIRINE" "MORESBY" "PIRIE" "BUNDABERG" "GLENELG" "ECHUCA" (AMS) "HILO" (PG) "BUNGAREE" (CM) "KYBRA" (A/S Vessel) ML's 430, 817, 802, 809, 821 (Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "PHILIP" (DD)
Melbourne	- Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL" (AMS) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel)
Westernport	- Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

B. SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

Ocean Island - On 2 Dec. 2 reconnaissance Liberators bombed A/A positions and buildings along shore of Ocean Island. One aircraft circled the island for 30 minutes at 8000 feet and reported that the whole island appeared deserted with the harbour area containing considerable floating debris.

C. INDIAN OCEAN

Cocos Island - A possible submarine was reported by aircraft 230 miles N.W. Cocos Island at 1755/1.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH WEST & SOUTH PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	<u>South Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Caroline Marshall</u>
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	* PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	ALTAMAHA	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE TROMP * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SAN JUAN SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	YUBARI (damaged)	NAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO NAKA ISUZU AMAKUSA * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCV</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>aV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELIER	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * PHILIP	Approx 40	8-10 (1-2 damaged)	25 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	ALBACORE) BLACKFISH) CORVINA) GATO) RAY) PETO) RATON)	On Patrol	20	20
	GUARDFISH) SCAMP) S.31)	At Brisbane		
	K.9 BALAO	At Sydney At Milne Bay		
<u>PT</u>	35	Approx 30	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T.ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSEY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 11 APD 6 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		-	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN * DIXIE		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E.Area Only)

Fighters (incl. 19 twin-eng/)	243
Light & M/Bombers	140
SE/Bombers	48
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/c	13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

CL

DETROIT
HALEIGH
RICHMOND

ABUKUMA

AV/CVS

-
22
10
-

AKITSUSHIMA
5
Approx 4
1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

NORTH CAROLINA
INDIANA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLCRADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO (Poss. Mandates)
HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

-

CV(T)

-

HOSHO

CV(L)

COWPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

ZUIHO
* HAYATAKA

CV(E)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
COPAHEE
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA
CHUYO
UNYO

GA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
MINNEAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
PENSACOLA
INDIANAPOLIS
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

* NACHI
* TONE
* AOKA
* HAGURO
* MYOKO
* ATAGO
* TAKAO
* MAYA

OCA

CL

-
OAKLAND
* HONOLULU
* RENO
* CONCORD

6
TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* NATORI

CL(T)

XCL

AV/CVS

XAV/XCVS

DD

SS

AS

-
-
POCONOKE
-
Approx 35
Approx 50
?

KASHIMA
6-7
CHIYODA (under conversion
3 to ACV)
25 (some repairing)
Approx 30
2 (1 repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON
DD 2

5. EAST INDIES-INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV (L)</u>	-	-	X HITAKA RYUHO
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS FROBISHER	ASHIGARA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE VAN HEEMSKERK	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL (T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W. B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMO I
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDES	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH) BONEFISH) BOWFIN) CAPELIN) COD) GREVALLE) MARWHAL) POMPOM) PUFFER) TUNA) K.12) BLUEFISH) CABRILLA) KINGFISH) RASHER)	? On Patrol At Fremantle	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS	?	
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>			
	Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)	168	
	Light & M. Bombers	55	
	SE/Bombers	16	
	Flying Boats	12	
	Floatplanes	49	
	Transport & Obsn. A/C	39	

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Allied and Enemy Activity

No. 675

Date: 4th December, 1943

PART I.

A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/4:

- (1) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "WARREGO" escorting Convoy TN.185 ("CAPE MEARES") departed Fitzroy Island at approx. 0600/3 for Milne Bay ETA 1800/4.
- (3) "DRAYTON" departed Caloundra 1409/2 to RV with "KLIPFONTEIN" in position 18°30'S 159°00'E at 0500/4 for Milne Bay.
- (4) "GYMPIE" "STAWELL" "WAGGA" escorting Convoy TN.186. "WAGGA" escorts Portion A ("EMPIRE SILVER" "MATTHEW FLINDERS") to Port Moresby, others escort Portion B ("AASE MAERSK" "H.L.ABBOTT" "S.BANBURGER" "S.CRANE" "R.P. WARNER" 2 LCIs). ETA both Portions 1300/6.
- (5) "POLLUX" (AKS) en route Brisbane to Milne Bay ETA 1600/6.
- (6) "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" "LITHGOW" departed Milne Bay 1730/3 ETA Grafton Passage 0900/5.
- (7) "PC.1124" escorting 1 MV en route Milne Bay To Townsville ETA 2300/5.
- (8) "GLADSTONE" escorting 1 MV departed Port Moresby 1110/3 for Cairns ETA 2115/15.
- (9) "YMS.71" towing floating dock departed Thursday Is. 1130/3 for Milne Bay ETA p.m. 9 Dec.
- (10) "PC.1131" (ex Convoy QL.34) en route Cairns ETA 0800/5.
- (11) "SC.650" in company with "YMS.9" (ex Convoy QL.34) en route Cairns for docking.
- (12) "CASTLEMAINE" (ex Convoy QL.34) en route Townsville ETA 1800/4.
- (13) "HERON" en route Townsville to Brisbane.
- (14) "GEEB LONG" escorting Convoy LQ.34 (3 ships)
- (15) "KURUMBA" departed Townsville 1705/2 for Gladstone ETA 1400/4 for convoy to Brisbane.
- (16) "PC.1123" departed Caloundra 1823/2 to RV with "DAY STAR" in position 24°25'S 157°58'E at 1500/3 and escort to Lady Elliott Island. PC.1123 then to RV with "PYRO" in position 26°48'S 157°45'E at 1100/5 and escort to Brisbane.
- (17) "VENDETTA" departed Caloundra 2030/3 to RV with "CAPE MENDOCINO" in position 27°01'S 156°56'E at 1100/4 and escort to Brisbane.
- (18) "YMS.315" escorting "GULF MARACAIBO" "STANVAC CAPETOWN" to Brisbane from S.P.A.
- (19) "WARRNAMBOOL" "TOWNSVILLE" "BROOME" "ML.822" escorting Convoy GP.88 (2 MV) to Caloundra was due 0730/4. "BROOME" to be sailed subsequently to Townsville.
- (20) 7 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AG)
Merchant Vessels: "LORINNA" "MELINGA" "MULGRA"
Lae - Warships & Aux. - SC.746 YMS.72
Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "C.KING" "NORAB"
"SIBIGO" "A.BURLINGHAME"
Morobe
Buna - Warships & Aux. - ML.427 "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 425
ML's 801, 806, 816, 819 "TRINITY" (AO)
Merchant Vessels: "S.CRANE" "ADM.HALSTEAD"
Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.634
Merchant Vessels: "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBIQUE"
"J.W.MACKAY" "WM.PROUSE" "T.CORWIN" "J.ROSS"
"VAN DEN BOSCH" "THOS.JEFFERSON" "CHAS.E.
SMITH" "E.D.BAKER" "E.M.WESTCOTT"
"G.V.L.MEYER" "HANYANG"
Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 645, 749
Woodlark Island - Warships & Aux. - SC's 747, 727, 750 YMS.313
Merchant Vessels: "JOSEPH LANE" "TRIANGULUM"
Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "GREY LAG"
Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA"
"ARUNTA" "HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD"
"BAGLEY" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON"
"SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "BROCKS"
"SANDS" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) "WESTRAILIA"
(APA) SC's 648, 698, 799, 703, 731, 732, 738
SC's 742, 743, 744, 748, 981, 982
YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 53, 70, 73, 314, 334,
YMS's 335, 336 YP's 233, 236, 278, 283
ML's 428, 430, 431, 818 PC's 476, 479
PC's 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122 "RIGEL" (AR)
25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's "YUNNAN" (ASIS)
"DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "HALF
MOON" (AVP) "BISHOPDALE" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO)
"SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL)
"CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) "COUCAL" (ASR)
"CARTER HALL" (LSD) "MIZAR" "MERKUR" (AF)
"TASMAN" (AH)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "ALAMO"
"BALIKPAPAN" "W.BEAUMONT" "BORGFRED" "BOTH"
"J.G.BRADY" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL"
"CEPALU" "H.DODGE" "J.EARL" "ESSO BALBAO"
"F.A.EILERS" "G.H.FLANDERS" "GANNYMEDE"
"F.J.IRWIN" "JAPARA" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES"
"MACTAN" "MAUI" "MORMACDALE" "F.G.NEWLANDS"
"NEW ZEALAND" "B.OSBORNE" "J.PA.MER"
"W.H.POINT" "THOS.C.POWER" "RAMO" "A.ROVALLI"
"STAGEN" "H.STANBURY" "M.M.STEWART"
"SWARTENHONDT" "TJISADANE" "J.THOMAS"
"TECUMSER" "VAN HEUTSZ" "VAQUERO"
Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
Merchant Vessels: "D.F.BARRY" "MONTORO" "MULIAMA"
"SKAGERAK" "W.S.LADD"
Thursday Is.
Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML.805
- Warships & Aux. - "COLAC" (AMS) PC's 477 SC.736
YP's 280, 281 ML's 803, 804, 820 "PLATYPUS"
(AR) "MANCOORA" (APA)
Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (APV)
Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" (AMS)
Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - Nil
Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "ALTAMAHA" (CVE) "STUART" (DD)
"KILTY" "CROSBY" (APD) "SWAN" "BOWEN" "COWRA"
"WHYALLA" (AMS) SC's 735, 741 PC.1152
ML's 808, 826 YMS.10 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA"
(APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY"
(AO) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) "MANUNDA" (AH)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "COLAC" to RV with "KATOOMBA" (intended for Milne Bay in Convoy TN.186 but departure delayed) off Fitzroy Is. at 1600/4 and proceed to overtake Convoy TN.186.
- (2) "VENDETTA" to depart Caloundra 0600/5 escorting "ALTAMAHA" (CVE) until 2100/5, then to return Brisbane.
- (3) "WARRNAMBOOL" "TOWNSVILLE" are detailed to escort Convoy PG.88 (6 ships) departing Brisbane a.m. 5 Dec.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Treasury Island - At 2130/1, two Japs attempting to escape in a canoe from N. coast Treasury Island were intercepted by PT boats and killed.
- (2) Empress Augusta Bay - Ground forces in the N.E. Sector of the Torokina perimeter report that the enemy has broken contact.
- X (3) Cape St. George - Buka Area - At 1200/2, four barges were observed by aircraft 25 miles S.E. by S. of Cape St. George on course 100°, apparently heading for Buka.
- (4) New Hanover Area - A preliminary intercept reports 11 ships, possibly a convoy, 30 miles S. of Cape Matanalem sighted by aircraft at 2320/3.
- (5) Garove Island - At 1520/3, a Liberator destroyed by bombs 5 of 6 barges seen at John Albert Harbour. Three floatplanes were reported on the water probably in Papua Bay, Mundua Island.
- (6) Bismarck Sea - At 2147/3, an unidentified vessel was reported by aircraft 50 miles W.N.W. Cape Pomas (N.W. Gazelle Channel) heading E. possibly returning from a mission to Garove Island.
- (7) Central Solomon Sea - At 1048/3, aircraft reported a small submarine 55 miles S.S.E. Gasmata.
- (8) Cape Gloucester - At 0950-1038/3, dumps and A/A positions at Cape Gloucester were attacked by at least 40 Liberators, 29 Mitchells, 6 Marauders with substantial Thunderbolt cover. Reports not yet complete, but the target area was apparently well covered.
One squadron reported a surfacing submarine 400 yards off-shore.
- (9) N.Coast New Guinea - Photos 1 Dec. show continued activity on two of the 3 potential strips at Aitape, one as a fighter strip (4,500 ft.) and the other as a bomber strip (8,000 ft.) The strips are apparently still under construction with 40 revetments completed and more under construction together with dispersal lanes.
- (10) Wewak - At 1050-1115/3, four Thunderbolts on a fighter sweep encountered 24 enemy fighters and shot down four without loss. Another six fighters were seen taking off Wewak strip.
- (11) Finschhafen Area - At 0813-0822/2 stores and supplies at Kamlagidu Pt. (1½ miles N. of Bonga) were attacked by 10 Marauders, 9 Mitchells.
Next morning at 0845-0900/3, the coastal track from Masaweng River (6 miles N. of Bonga) to Wandokai (2½ miles further N.) was attacked by 11 Bostons.
Our forces are closing on Wareo from the East, South and West. On the southern approach, Peak Hill (400 yards S. Wareo) has been captured.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/4:

- (1) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" departed Thursday Is. 1931/1 for Darwin ETA 1430/4.
- (2) 11 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" (AMS) ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "MANGOLA" "CARDROSS"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

Soemba - At 1045/3 Waingapoe was attacked by 24 Liberators.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/4:

- (1) "TJERK HIDDERS" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Fremantle 1650/3 for Broome ETA 13 Dec. (via Geraldton ETA 0900/4).
- (2) "WANGANELLA" (AH) departed Sydney 1513/27 for Fremantle ETA 3 Dec. thence proceed Suez.

(b) In Harbour

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK"
(CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV)
"HORSHAM" "DUBCO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS)
"CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ISABEL" (PY) SC. 739
YP's 286, 288

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B. PRESTON" (AVD)
"LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/4:

- (1) "KAPUNDA" (AMS) departed Melbourne 1743/2 for Sydney ETA 1330/4 thence to proceed Townsville.
- (2) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ABRAHAM CRYSSEN" escorting Convoy CO.148 (11 MV) for Melbourne ETA 2300/5.
- (3) "TROMP" (CL) departed Melbourne 0700/2 for Fremantle ETA 0600/7, thence to proceed out of S.W.P.A.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens - Warships & Aux. - "TULSA" (PG)
Newcastle - Warships & Aux. - ML. 807
Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM"
"WARD" (APD) "WILCANNIA" "BALLARAT"
"GOULBURN" "DELORAIN" "MORESBY" "PIRIE"
"KALGOORLIE" "BUNDABERG" "GLENELG"
"ECHUCA" (AMS) "HILO" (PG) "BUNGAREE"
(CM) "KYBRA" "YANDRA" (A/S Vessels)
ML's 430, 802, 809, 817, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "PHILIP" (DD)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO"
"IVERELL" (AMS) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

B. INDIAN OCEAN

ENEMY FORCES

X Aden - At 0100/4, a British merchant ship reported being torpedoed by an enemy submarine in position 110 miles S.E. by S. of Aden.

NAVAL INCIDENTS

X Mandates-Bismarcks - Further success of U.S. submarine attacks is reported in the sinking of a loaded 7500 ton cargo vessel in a convoy of two merchant ships and 2-3 escorts 180 miles north of Admiralty Islands on course 165° at 0907/1.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTHWEST & SOUTH PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	South Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MITSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	ALBATROSS	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE TROMP * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SAN JUAN SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	YUBARI (damaged)	NAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO NAKA ISUZU AMAKUSA * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1 - 2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELIER	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * PHILIP	Approx 40	6-10 (1-2 damaged)	25 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismacks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	ALBACORE) BLACKFISH) CORVINA) GATO) RAY) PETO) RATON)	On Patrol	20	20
	GUARDFISH) SCAMP) S.31)	At Brisbane		
	K.9 BALAO	At Sydney At Milne Bay		
<u>PT</u>	35	Approx 30	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>				
	H.T.ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 11 APD 6 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		-	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN * DIXIE		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (NE. Area Only)</u>				
	Fighters (incl. 19 twin-eng/)	242		
	Light & M/Bombers	140		
	SE/Bombers	48		
	Flying Boats	2		
	Floatplanes	50		
	Transport & Obsn. A/C	13		
<u>2. NORTHERN PACIFIC</u>				
	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>			<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND			ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-			AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22			5
<u>SS</u>	10			Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-			1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO (Poss. Mandates) HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	ZUIHO * HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO UNYO
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE * NACHI * AOBA * HAGURO * MYOKO * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	<u>6</u>
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion to 3 ACV)
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	25 (some repairing)
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	2 (1 repairing)
<u>AS</u>	?	

* Non-effective

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Allied and Enemy Activity

No. 676

Date: 5th December, 1943

PART I.

A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/5:

- (1) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "SC.744" YMS's 53, 336 escorting "BALIKPAPAN" "BORGFRED" "BOTH" departed Milne Bay 0400/3 for Lae ETA 1200/5.
- (3) "SC.748" escorting "BULIAMBA" departed Milne Bay 0400/3 for Lae ETA 0500/7.
- (4) "SC.732" escorting "Y.14" departed Lae 1800/3 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/5.
- (5) "DRAYTON" departed Caloundra 1409/2 to RV with "KLIPPONTEIN" in position 18°30'S 159°00'E at 0500/4 for Milne Bay ETA 6 Dec.
- (6) "GYMPIE" "STAWELL" "WAGGA" escorting Convoy TN.186. "WAGGA" escorts Portion A ("EMPIRE SILVER" "MATTHEW FLINDERS") to Port Moresby, others escort Portion B ("H.L.ABBOTT" "S.BANBURGER" "S.CRANE" "R.P.WARNER" 2 LCI's).ETA both portions 1300/6.
- (7) "COLAC" departed Cairns 1335/4 to RV with "KATOOMBA" vicinity Fitzroy Is. to overtake and join Convoy TN.186.
- (8) "POILUX" (AKS) en route Brisbane to Milne Bay ETA 1600/6.
- (9) "YMS.71" towing floating dock departed Thursday Is. 1130/3 for Milne Bay ETA p.m. 9 Dec.
- (10) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Milne Bay 1600/3 for Brisbane ETA a.m. 7 Dec.
- (11) "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" "LITHGOW" departed Milne Bay 1730/3 ETA Grafton Passage 0900/5.
- (12) "GLADSTONE" escorting 1 MV departed Port Moresby 1110/3 for Cairns ETA 2115/5.
- (13) "SC.650" in company with "YMS.9" (ex Convoy QL.34) en route Cairns for docking.
- (14) "HERON" en route Townsville to Brisbane ETA 0700/7.
- (15) "STUART" departed Caloundra 1128/4 to overtake and escort "CONTESSA" (bound for Townsville) to Lady Elliott Is. Thence to RV with "DUNTROON" (ex Gladstone bound for Sydney) same vicinity at 0730/5 and escort southwards parting company as necessary to RV with "WILLARD A.HOLBROOK" in position 27°12'S 155°13'E at 0900/6 and escort to Brisbane.
- (16) "PC.1123", having completed escort duties "DAY STAR" to Lady Elliott Is. proceeding to RV with "PYRO" in position 26°48'S 157°45'E at 1100/5 and escort to Brisbane.
- (17) "YMS.315" escorting "GULF MARACAIBO" "STANVAC CAPE TOWN" to Brisbane from S.P.A. due 5 December.
- X (18) "VENDETTA" escorting "ALTAMAHA" (CVE) was to depart Caloundra 0600/5 for duty until 2100/5 and then return Brisbane.
- (19) "WARRNAMBOOL" "TOWNSVILLE" escorting Convoy PG.88 (4 MV) were to depart Caloundra 1200/5 for Sydney.
- (20) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) IN Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AG)
Merchant Vessels: "LORINNA" "MELINGA" "MULCRA"
Lae - Warships & Aux. - SC.746 YMS.72
Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "C.KING" "NORAB"
"SIBIGO" "A.BURLINGHAME"
Morobe - Warships & Aux. - ML.427, 819 "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 425
ML's 801, 806, 816 "TRINITY" (AO)
Merchant Vessels: "S.CRANE" "ADM.HALSTEAD"
Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.634
Merchant Vessels: "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBIQUE"
"J.W.MACKAY" "W.M.PROUSE" "T.CORWIN" "J.ROSS"
"VAN DEN BOSCH" "THOS.JEFFERSON" "CHAS.E.
SMITH" "E.D.BAKER" "E.M.WESTCOTT"
"G.V.L.MEYER" "HANYANG"
Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 645, 749
Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 747, 727, 750 YMS.313
Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM" "JOSEPH LANE"
Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL"
(LSD)
Merchant Vessels: "J.EARL"
Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA"
"ARUNTA" "HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD"
"BAGLEY" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON"
"SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "BROOKS" "SANDS"
"GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) "WARREGO" (AMS)
SC's 648, 698, 799, 703, 731, 738, 742, 743
SC's 981, 982 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 70, 73,
YMS's 314, 334, 335 YP's 233, 236, 278, 285
ML's 428, 430, 431, 818 PC's 476, 479, 1119
PC's 1120, 1121, 1122 25 LST's 15 APC's
29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "YUNNAN" (ASIS)
"DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "HALF
MOON" (AVP) "BISHOPDALE" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO)
"SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL)
"CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) "COUCAL" (ASR)
"MIZAR" "MERKUR" (AP)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT
OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "ALAMO"
"W.BEAUMONT" "J.G.BRADY" "CAPE ANNE" "CAPE
MEARES" "J.CARROLL" "CEFALU" "H.DODGE"
"ESSO BALBAO" "F.A.EILERS" "G.H.FLANDERS"
"GANNYMEDE" "F.J.IRWIN" "JAPARA" "T.C.LOWE"
"J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MAUI" "MORMACDALE"
"F.G.NEWLANDS" "NEW ZEALAND" "B.OSBORNE"
"J.PALMER" "W.H.POINT" "THOS.C.POWER" "RAMO"
"A.ROVALLI" "SPAGEN" "H.STANBURY" "M.M.
STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT" "TJISADANE"
"J.THOMAS" "TECUMSEH" "VAN HEUTSZ" "VAQUERO"
Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
Merchant Vessels: "D.F.BARRY" "MONTORO" "MULIAMA"
"SKAGERAK" "W.S.LADD"
Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "PREMANTLE" (AMS) ML.805
Cairns - Warships & Aux. - PC's 477, 1124, 1131 SC.736
YP's 280, 281 ML's 803, 804, 820 "PLATYPUS"
(AR) "MANOORA" (APA)
Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "CASTLEMAINE" "ARARAT" (AMS)
"AASE MAERSK" (AO)
Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - "KURUMBA" (AO)
Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "ALAMAMA" (CVE) "KILTY" "CROSEY"
(APD) "SWAN" "BOWEN" "COWRA" "GEELONG" "BROOME"
"WHYALLA" (AMS) SC's 735, 741 PC.1132 ML.808
ML.826 YMS.10 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMELA" (APA)
"ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO)
"GOLDSTAR" (AG) "MANUNDA" (AH)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "WHYAILLA" SC.741 are detailed to escort Convoy QL.35 departing Caloundra 1600/5. Both escorts detailed for Convoy LQ.35
- (2) "BROOME" (ex Convoy PG.88) to sail with QL. convoy departing Brisbane 8 Dec.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Buin Base - In addition to the Mitchell raids on Maliai (on Morgusiai Is.) on successive days 30 Nov., 1 and 2 Dec. (as reported in Summary No.675), Korovo on S.E. coast Shortland Is. was raided 1142/2 by 24 Liberators.
At 1530/4 a large camouflaged seaplane was observed in Tuka Channel (between Shortland and Poporang Is.)
Photos 4 Dec. show Kahili, Kara and Ballale runways all unserviceable.
- (2) Kieta - At 1130/3, supply and bivouac areas at Kieta were successfully attacked by 23 Mitchells. Five large and numerous small fires were started.
- (3) S.W. Bougainville - The enemy's supply line between Buin and southern Empress Augusta Bay was attacked throughout 3 Dec.
At 45 minute intervals, six-plane formations involving 36 Avengers, 58 Dauntless, attacked positions on the trail from Aku on Pairo River (11 miles W. of Kahili) to Motupina. Thirty to forty buildings were destroyed also a 250 ft. bridge over Pairo River at Aku.
At 2000-2045/3, 20-25 enemy torpedo and dive bombers attacked a transportation echelon escorted by destroyers en route Torokina, about 28 miles S.S.W. of Motupina Point. At least 6 torpedoes passed close to the escorting destroyers and there were several bomb near-misses but no actual damage is reported. Three enemy planes were shot down for certain and another 2 or 3 probably. No further attacks were made during the night although several enemy aircraft were located and fired on by the echelon.
- (4) Buka Passage Area - Photos 4 Dec. show Buka airfield unserviceable but bomb craters are being filled. Bonis was obscured by cloud but photos 3 Dec. showed this field unserviceable.
At 1106/4, a possible submarine was reported by aircraft 20 miles S. of Buka Passage.
- (5) N.E. Solomon Sea - At 1203/4, a submarine was reported by aircraft 27 miles S.E. of Cape St. George also a half-sunk unidentified vessel 5 miles further S.E.
During the night 3-4 Dec. a Catalina reported a number of patrol vessels strung out across S. entrance to St. George's Chanel.
- (6) Bismarck Sea - During the night 3-4 Dec. a Catalina unsuccessfully attacked two patrol vessels and a destroyer in the Bismarck Sea. No further details are reported.
At 2333/3, three unidentified vessels were reported by Liberators in Kimbe Bay 16 miles N. by E. of Talasea.
At 0003/4, two probable barges were observed off Rangamboi Pt. (20 miles S.S.E. of Cape Pomas) heading N.
- (7) Mandates-Bismarcks - Further to the report of 11 ships possibly in convoy sighted night 3 Dec. S. of New Hanover (refer Summary No. 675), further details give the sighting as 4 naval vessels, 2 transports of 7-9000 tons each and 5 unidentified vessels at 2235/3, 30 miles S. of Cape Matanalem. The two large ships were attacked by 3 Liberators patrolling the area and one was believed to have been sunk. The course of the convoy was undetermined but in view of the considerable shipping seen in Kavieng anchorage on 2 Dec., it is thought likely that the convoy was outward bound.
- (8) Rein Bay - At 1110-1130/4, installations, dumps and barges were attacked by 18 Mitchells and 6 Liberators. A considerably larger escorted force was scheduled but was turned back by unfavourable weather.

- (9) Rottock Bay - At about 1100/3 Liberators reported a two-masted schooner off-shore approx. midway between Borgen Bay and Rein Bay. This vessel may be responsible for two unconfirmed reports -
 (a) 0945/3 a 4-5000 ton freighter close in-shore Eastern Borgen Bay.
 (b) 1130/4 a 1000 ton cargo vessel lying off Rottock Bay.
- (10) Rooke Island - At 1010/3, aircraft reported 6-9 barges off S.E. Rooke Island. An unconfirmed report gives two probable sea trucks off the S. coast Rooke Island at 0820/3.
- (11) Long Island - At 1850/2 an enemy aircraft ineffectually bombed a PT boat 15 miles S. of Long Island.
- (12) Sio Area - At 0953/4 Sio area was attacked by 10 Mitchells.
- (13) Bogadjim Area - At 0730/4 an important bridge on the Bogadjim road was bombed by 16 Kittyhawks, led in by Boomerangs. A direct hit completely demolished the western half of the bridge creating an effective road block.
- (14) Finschhafen Area - 0825-0900/4 the coastal track from Wandokai to Blucher Pt. and dumps in the area were attacked by 16 Bostons.
 At 2030/3 two enemy barges passed Busika heading S. and were later observed retiring northwards.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

- (a) At Sea to 1200/5:
 (1) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" "LATROB" (AMS)
 ML'S 429, 814, 815
 Merchant Vessels: "MANGOLA" "CARDROSS" "WANAKA"

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/5:

- (1) "TJERK HIDEES" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome ETA 13 Dec. (via Carnarvon ETA 1100/5)
 (2) "CHANTICLEER" departed Fremantle 0900/4 for Exmouth Gulf.
 (3) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1345/4 for Exmouth Gulf.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK"
 (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV)
 "HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
 "WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL"
 (PY) SC.739 YP.286 "WANGANELLA" (AH)

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD)
 "LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/5:

- (1) "BUCHANAN" (DD) ex S.P.A. due Sydney 5 Dec. for overhaul and recreation.
 (2) "BALLARAT" "ML.807" escorting Newcastle portion of Convoy CO.149 (5 MV) were to depart Newcastle at 0600/5 to RV with "WILCANNIA" off Sydney and remainder of convoy (2 MV) and proceed Melbourne.

- (3) "BUNDABERG" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy G.p.89 were to depart Sydney 0800/5 for Brisbane.
- (4) "KAPUNDA" (AMS) departed Melbourne 1743/2 for Sydney ETA 1330/4 thence to proceed Townsville.
- (5) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ABRAHAM CRYSSEW" escorting Convoy CO.148 (11 MV) for Melbourne ETA 0900/6.
- (6) "DOOMBA" escorting Convoy OC.148 (6 MV)- ETA Port Kembla 2100/7, Sydney 0100/8 and Newcastle 1100/8) departed Melbourne 2010/4 to RV vicinity Wilsons Promontory with Convoy CO.148.
- (7) "TROMP" (CL) departed Melbourne 0700/2 for Fremantle ETA 0600/7, thence to proceed out of S.W.P.A.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens	- Warships & Aux. - "TULSA" (PG)
Newcastle	- Warships & Aux. - Nil.
Sydney	- Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" (AFD) "WILCANNIA" "GOULBURN" "DELORAIN" "MORESBY" "PIRIE" "GLENELG" "ECHUCA" (AMS) "HILO" (PG) "BUNGARKE" (CM) "KYBRA" "YANDRA" (A/S Vessels) ML's 430, 802, 809, 817, 821 (Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "PHILIP" (DD)
Melbourne	- Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL" (AMS)
Westernport	- Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

After the sailing of Convoy OC.149, CO and OC convoys are to be discontinued. Ships sailing between N.S.W. ports south of 32°50'E and Victorian and Tasmanian ports will proceed independently except off certain focal points (e.g. Gabo Island and approaches to Sydney and Newcastle) and in the case of certain special ships.

B. INDIAN OCEAN

ENEMY FORCES

Further evidence of enemy submarine activity is disclosed in the reported torpedoing of SS "SCOTIA" in the area S.W. of Maldiva Is. at 1640/27 Nov. CinC.E.F. estimates that four or five Japanese submarines are operating in the area, Gulf of Aden-Arabian Sea-S.W.coast India-W.Indian Ocean.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTHWEST & SOUTH PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>	
<u>South Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u> -	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u> -	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u> -	* PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u> ALTAMAHA	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u> AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u> PHOENIX NASHVILLE TROMP * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SAN JUAN SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO NAKA ISUZU AMAKUSA * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u> -	-	-	KATORI
<u>YCL</u> -	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u> HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELIER	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> -	3	-	3
<u>DD</u> WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * PHILIP	Approx 40	6-10 (1-2 damaged)	25 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	ALBACORE) BLACKFISH) CORVINA) GATO) GUARDFISH) RAY) PETO) RATON) GUARDFISH) SCAMP) S.31)	On Patrol	20	20
	K.9) BALAO) BLACKFISH)	At Sydney At Milne Bay		
<u>PT</u>	35	Approx 30	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T.ALLEN MANOCORA WESTRALIA KAWIMELA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 11 APD 6 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		-	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN * DIXIE		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E.Area Only)	
Fighters (incl. 19 twin-eng.)	242
Light & M/Bombers	140
SE/Bombers	48
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C	13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO (Poss. Mandates) HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV (T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV (L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEKEY	ZUIHO * HAYATAKA
<u>CV (E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHKE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO UNYO
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	* MYOKO * HAGURO AOBA TONE * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL (T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion to 3 ACV)
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	25 (some repairing)
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>TS</u>	Approx 50	2 (1 repairing)
<u>AS</u>	?	

* Non-effective.

C.O.I.C.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle

No. 677

Date: 6th December, 1943.

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/6:

- (1) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) SC.748" escorting "BULIMBA" departed Milne Bay 0400/3 for Lae
ETA 0500/7.
- (3) "DRAYTON" departed Caloundra 1409/2 to RV with "KLIPFONTEIN" in
position 18°30'S 159°00' E at 0500/4 for Milne Bay
ETA 6 Dec.
- (4) "GYMPIE" "WAGGA" "COLAC" escorting Convoy TN.186. "WAGGA"
escorts Portion A ("EMPIRE SILVER" "MATTHEW FLINDERS")
to Port Moresby, others escort Portion B ("H.L.ABBOTT"
"S.BANBURGER" "S.CRANE" "KATOOMBA" "R.P.WARNER" 2 LCI's).
ETA both portion 1225/6.
- (5) "STAWELL" (detached from Convoy TN.186) was to join "AASE WAERSK",
proceeding 40 miles astern of Convoy TN.186, and escort
to Milne Bay.
- (6) "POLLUX" (AKS) en route Brisbane to Milne Bay ETA 1600/6.
- (7) "YMS.71" towing floating dock departed Thursday Is. 1130/3 for
Milne Bay ETA p.m. 9 Dec.
- (8) "WARREGO" departed Milne Bay 0600/5 ETA Grafton Passage 1900/6.
- (9) "TASMAN" (AM) departed Milne Bay 1600/3 for Sydney.
- (10) "WHYALLA" "SC.741" escorting Convoy QL.35 (6 MV) departed Caloundra
1625/5 ETA Bustard Head 2230/6. Both escorts detailed for
Convoy LQ.35.
- (11) "HERON" en route Townsville to Brisbane ETA 0700/7.
- (12) "VENDETTA" escorting "ALTAMAHA" (CVE) departed Brisbane 0808/5
for duty until 2100/5 and then return Brisbane.
- (13) "STUART", after escorting "DUNTROON" (bound for Sydney) from Lady
Elliott Is. southwards, was to RV with "WILLARD A.HOLBROOK"
in position 27°12'S 155°13'E at 0900/6 and escort to Brisbane.
- (14) "PC.1123", after RV with "PYRO" in position 26°48'S 157°45'E at
1100/5, escorting to Brisbane.
- (15) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AG)
Merchant Vessels: -
Lae - Warships & Aux. - SC.744, YMS's.55, 336
Merchant Vessels: "CAFE SANDY" "C.KING" "NORAB"
"A.BURLINGHAME" "BALIKPAPAN" "BORGFRED" "BOTH"

- Morobe - Warships & Aux. - ML.427, 819 "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
- Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's.424, 801, ML's.806, 816 "TRINITY" (AO)
Merchant Vessels: "A.THOMAS"
- Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC's.734, 746
Merchant Vessels: "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBUQUE" "J.W.MACKAY" "W.M. PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "VAN DEN BOSCH" "THOS. JEFFERSON" "CHAS.E.SMITH" "E.M.WESTCOTT" "SIBIGO" "G.V.L.MEYER" "HANYANG"
- Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's.745, 749
- Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's.747, 737, 750 YMS.313
Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM" "JOSEPH LANE"
- Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD)
Merchant Vessels: "J.EARL"
- Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA" "HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "BROOKS" "SANDS" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) SC's.648, 698, 799, 703, 731, 732, 738, 742, 743, 981, 982 YMS's.11, 49, 50, YMS's.52, 70, 72, 73, 314, 334, 335 YP's.233, YP's.236, 278, 283 ML's.425, 428, 430, 431, 818 PC's.476, 479, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122 25 LST's. 15 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "HALF MOON" (AVP) "BISHOPDALE" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) "COUCAL" (ASR) "MERKUR" (AF)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "ALAMO" "J.G.BRADY" "CAPE ANNE" "CAPE MEARES" "J.CARROLL" "H.DODGE" "ESSO BALBAO" "F.A.EILERS" "G.H.PLANDERS" "GANNYMEDE" "F.J.IRWIN" "JAPARA" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MAUI" "MORMACDALE" "B.OSBORNE" "J.PALMER" "W.H.POINT" "THOS.C.POWER" "RAMO" "A.ROVALLI" "STAGEN" "H.STANBURY" "M.M.STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT" "TJISADANE" "TEXAS SUN" "TECUMSEH" "VAQUERO"

- Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's.8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
"MIZAR" (AF)
Merchant Vessels: "D.F.BARRY" "MONTORO" "MULIAMA" "W.S.LADD" "ALAGNA"
- Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML.805
- Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" "GLADSTONE" "LITHGOW" (AMS) PC's.477, 1124, 1131 SC's.650 SC.736 YP's.280, 281, YMS.9 ML's.803, 804, ML.820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANOORA" (APA)
- Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
- Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "CASTLEMAINE" "ARARAT" (AMS) "AASE MAERSK" (AO)
- Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - "KURUMBA" (AO)
- Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "ALTAMAHA" (CVE) "KILTY" "CROSEY" (APD) "SWAN" "BOWEN" "COWRA" "GEELONG" "BROOME" (AMS) SC's 735 PC.1132 ML.808, 826 YMS.10 YMS.315 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "MANUNDA" (AH)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "BROOME" (ex Convoy PG.88) to sail with QL.convoy departing Brisbane 8 Dec.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Choiseul - Latest intelligence from Local sources, reported 2 Dec., indicates that there are no Japs now south of Vurulatu River (adjacent Luti Plantation) but that there may be some N. of the river.

The same source reports 4 Dec that the Islands in Manning Strait are free of Japs.

At 0900/5, Choiseul Bay area, where between 2,000 and 5,000 Japs are believed present, was bombarded by U.S. destroyers (See Naval Incidents).

- (2) Treasury Island - Enemy aircraft were over during the night 3-4 Dec and 2 were possibly shot down by anti aircraft fire. There is no report of bombs being dropped.

- (3) S.W. Bougainville - On 3 Dec no enemy contacts were made by patrols from all fronts on the Torokina perimeter but our artillery has been active destroying a gun and an ammunition dump near Mavavia (4 miles E. of Cape Torokina).

At 1415/3 Aitara Mission (16 miles S.E. of Mutupina) was raided by 6 Mitchells. Throughout 4 Dec separate flights of our aircraft, at 45 minute intervals involving 58 Dauntless, 41 Avengers, attacked the lines of communication from Buin to S.W. Empress Augusta Bay. Thirty to forty buildings were destroyed also a bridge over the Silibai River.

Next day, between 0800 and 1215/5, the same targets were attacked for the third successive day by 23 Mitchells 12 Avengers, 10 Daungless in 8 flights.

Shipping off Torokina was ineffectually raided by a few odd enemy planes before dawn 4 Dec.

- (4) Numa Numa - At 0830/4, an enemy submarine was observed off Numa Numa. This is the second such report in 2 days as a submarine was reported in the same vicinity at 0700/2 possibly indicating supplies being brought in by submarine.

- (5) Buka Passage Area - Local sources report 4 Dec that many casualties and much damage has been inflicted by our air attacks in the Tinutz, Teop and Teopasino area. Fires started 27 Nov at Teopasino were still burning on 29 Nov and natives, formerly friendly towards the Japs, have deserted the area.

At 1236/3 Bonis airfield was raided by 21 Liberators, 17 Mitchells. The target areas were well covered. One Liberator was lost to phosphorous type A/A on 4 Dec and the Mitchells were attacked by aerial bombs from a high flying plane.

During the night 3-4 Dec U.S. motor torpedo boats operating W. of Buka Passage were illuminated and strafed.

Photographs 4 Dec show 10 barges at Buka Passage and 14 barges plus 1 small boat at Chabai.

- (6) Rabaul - At 1940/4, shipping in the outer part of Blanche Bay was attacked by 6 torpedo carrying Beauforts but results have not yet been assessed.

At 2040-2130/4 Lakunai aerodrome and dispersal areas were well covered by bombs from 22 Beauforts.

- X (7) Mandates-Bismarcks - At 1325/5 a Liberator reported one heavy cruiser one light cruiser and 2 destroyers 95 miles N.E. of Mussau Island on course 210°. Probably this same force was sighted by a Navy Catalina shortly before 0300/6 60 miles S.E. of Cape Matanalem (New Hanover) when it was described as one light cruiser and 3 destroyers. No course was reported at this time but the reports indicate a small movement of warship reinforcements from Truk to Rabaul.

At 1310/5, a single freighter transport of 1000-1500 tons was located and thoroughly strafed by a Liberator 135 miles N.E. of Wewak on course 180°. The vessel was carrying a motor truck on deck and had A/A guns on bow and stern.

- X (8) Cape Hoskins Area - At 1545-1740/4, 7 barges probably loaded with fuel and 1 small boat in the Cape Hoskins area were strafed by 2 Beaufighters. Five barges were burned and destroyed; the other craft were damaged.

- (9) Cape Gloucester - At 1145-1205/5 supply dumps and A/A positions at Cape Gloucester were raided by 40 Liberators with substantial Thunderbolt escort. One possible sea truck was observed off Cape Gauffre.
- (10) Bogadjim Road - Following the successful strike by 16 Kittyhawks on 4 Dec, the road and bridges were again attacked 1020-1055/5 by 19 Kittyhawks 10 Mitchells with 12 Lightnings escorting. The bridge demolished 4 Dec was about 6 miles S. of Bogadjim and on 5 Dec another bridge about 1 mile further up the Ioworo River was hit by the Kittyhawks and partially destroyed.
- X (11) Saidor Area - At 2315/3, 4 barges around an unidentified craft 1,000 feet off the coast 4 miles up from Lepsius Point were attacked by 2 PT boats. One barge was sunk, another probably and the other two probably damaged. The unidentified craft was probably hit by a torpedo. Intense fire was encountered from the shore and from the barges.
- (12) Bonga Area - At 0800/5 defence positions near Labona (4 1/4 miles N.W. of Bonga) were attacked by 6 Bostons.
- (13) Finschhafen Area - At 2050/4, 1 enemy plane bombed Langemak Bay causing some casualties and another at 2105/4 when there was no damage inflicted.
- (14) Morobe - A possible submarine was sighted off Maiama (10 miles N.N.W. of Morobe) at 1155/5.
- (15) Kiriwina - A probable enemy reconnaissance plane was over Kiriwina at 1145/5.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/6:

12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" "LATROBE" (AMS)
 ML's 429, 814, 815
 Merchant Vessels: "MANGOLA" "CARDROSS" "WANAKA"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Kaimana - Was attacked 2254/4-0004/5 by 3 Catalinas starting small fires in the jetty area.
- (2) Tanimbar Island - A harassing sweep was conducted 0830-0921/5 by 9 Beaufighters.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/6:

- (1) "TJERK HIDDEN" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome ETA 13 Dec. (via Carnarvon ETA 1100/5)
- (2) "CHANTICLEER" departed Fremantle 0900/4 for Exmouth Gulf.
- (3) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1345/4 for Exmouth Gulf.
- (4) "WANGANELLA" (AH) departed Fremantle 0700/5 for Suez ETA 23 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK" (CL)
 "VAN GAIEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV) "HORSHAM"
 "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOORWILL" (AM)
 "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.286

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/6:

- (1) "WARRNAMBOOL" "TOWNSVILLE" escorting Convoy PG.88 (5 MV including "GOLDSTAR") departed Caloundra approx 1200/5 for Sydney ETA 1400/7.
- (2) "BUNDABERG" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy GP.89 (1 MV) departed Sydney 0751/5 for Caloundra ETA 1830/7.
- (3) "WILCANNIA" "BALLARAT" escorting Convoy CO.149 (5 MV) to Melbourne ETA 2100/8.
- (4) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ABRAHAM CRYNSEN" escorting Convoy OC.148 (6 MV) ETA Port Kembla 2100/7, Sydney 0100/8 and Newcastle 1100/8.
- (5) "TROMP" (CL) departed Melbourne 0700/2 for Fremantle ETA 0600/7, thence to proceed out of S.W.P.A.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens - Warships & Aux. - "TULSA" (PG)
Newcastle - Warships & Aux. - Nil
Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" (APD)
"KAPUNDA" "GOULBURN" "DELORAINIE" "MORESEY"
"PIRIE" "GLENELG" "ECHUCA" (AMS) "HILO" (PG)
"BUNGAREE" (CM) "KYBRA" "YANDRA" (A/S Vessels)
ML's 430, 802, 807, 809, 817, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "PHILIP" "BUCHANAN" (DD)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL"
(AMS) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

After the sailing of Convoy OC.149, CO and OC convoys are to be discontinued. Ships sailing between N.S.W. ports south of 32° 50'E and Victorian and Tasmanian ports will proceed independently except in the case of certain special ships. Air and surface patrols will be provided at certain focal points (e.g., Gabo Island and approaches to Sydney and Newcastle) and striking forces made immediately available if required.

B. SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

ENEMY FORCES

Tarawa - At 1920/4, 9 enemy bombers raided Tarawa.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

---oCo---

NAVAL INCIDENTS

Choiseul Bay - At 0900/5, for approximately one hour, 3 U.S. destroyers bombarded enemy positions and concentrations at Choiseul Bay. Three Avengers spotting reported excellent coverage by the bombardment, and then added their bomb load on to the target.

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTHWEST & SOUTH PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>	
<u>South Pacific</u> (Eastern Section)	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks</u> <u>Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines</u> <u>Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u> -	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u> -	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV (L)</u> -	* INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV (E)</u> ALTAMAHA	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u> AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u> PHOENIX NASHVILLE TROMP * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SAN JUAN SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO NAKA ISUZU AMAKUSA * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL (T)</u> -	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u> -	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u> HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELIER	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> -	3	-	3
<u>DD</u> WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * PHILIP * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	6-10 (1-2 damaged)	25 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO (Poss. Mandates) HYUGA (being modernised)-
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV (T)</u>	-	HOSNO
<u>CV (L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	ZUIHO * HAYATAKA
<u>CV (E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO UNYO
<u>GA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE AOBA * MYOKO * HAGURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL (T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	2 -	6 - 7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	PCCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion to ACV)
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3
<u>AD</u>	Approx 35	25 (some repairing)
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON
DD 2

5. EAST INDIES-INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	-	HITAKA RYUHO
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS FROBISHER	ASFIGARA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE VAN HEEMSKERK	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOJ
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDUS	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH) BONEFISH) BOWFIN) CABRILLA) CAPELIN) COD) GREVILLE) MARWHALE) POMPOM) PUFFER) TUNA) TINOSA) K.12) BLUEFISH) KINGFISH) RASHER)	? On Patrol	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS	?	
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>			
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)		168	
Light & M/Bombers		55	
SE/Bombers		16	
Flying Boats		12	
Floatplanes		49	
Transport & Obsn. A/C		39	

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Allied and Enemy Activity

No. 678

Date: 7th December, 1943

PART I.

A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/7:

- (1) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "SC.731" "YMS.314" escorting "H.STANBURY" "Y.13" departed Milne Bay 0400/6 to Lae ETA 1800/7.
- X (3) "WARRAMUNGA" "HELM" to RV with "WEST POINT" in position 21°06'S 156°29'E at 1500/8 and escort to Milne Bay ETA 9 Dec.
- (4) "NOA" (APD) escorting "A.LINDBERG" Noumea to Milne Bay ETA 9 Dec.
- (5) "YMS.71" towing floating dock departed Thursday Is. 1130/3 for Milne Bay ETA p.m. 9 Dec.
- (6) "ML.426" departed Port Moresby 1601/6 to RV with "Y.6" vicinity Stephens Is. at 0700/8 and escort to Milne Bay ETA 12 Dec.
- (7) "CASTLEMAINE" escorting Convoy TN.187 departed Townsville 1910/6 to RV with other escorts (see Proposed Movements) off Fitzroy Is. at 1500/7 for Port Moresby and Milne Bay ETA both portions 1100/10.
- (8) "COLAC" escorting Convoy MV.46 ("ALAMO") departed Milne Bay 1500/6 for Townsville ETA 0400/10.
- (9) "GYMPIE" escorting "SUSQUEHANNA" was to depart Milne Bay 0400/7 for Townsville.
- (10) "MIZAR" (AF) en route Port Moresby to Townsville ETA 1800/8.
- (11) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Milne Bay 1600/3 for Sydney.
- (12) "BROOME" escorting "S.BOLIVAR" departed Caloundra 0715/7. Parts company vicinity Bustard Head and proceeds independently to Townsville.
- (13) "WATERS" (DD) escorting "AMY LOWELL" "J.CABRILLO" from Noumea to Townsville.
- (14) "VENDETTA" departed Caloundra 2300/6 to RV with "CAPE FLATTERY" in position 26°18'S 157°58'E at 1600/7 and escort to Brisbane.
- (15) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen

Lae

- Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AG)
- Warships & Aux. - SC's 744, 748 YMS's 53, 336
Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "C.KING" "NORAB"
"A.BURLINGHAME" "BALIKPAPAN" "BORGFRED"
"BOTH"

Morobe

Buna

- Warships & Aux. - ML.427, 819 "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 801
ML's 806, 816 "TRINITY" (AO)
Merchant Vessels: "A.THOMAS" "KATOOMBA" "R.P.
WARNER"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC's 734, 736 ML.431
 Merchant Vessels: "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBUQUE" "J.W. MACKAY" "WM. PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "VAN DEN BOSCH" "THOS. JEFFERSON" "CHAS. E. SMITH" "E.M. WESTCOTT" "SIBIGO" "G.V.L. MEYER" "HANYANG"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 738, 745, 749 YMS.334
 Merchant Vessels: "G.E. FLANDERS"

Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 737, 747, 750 YMS.313
 Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM" "JOSEPH LANE"

Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD)
 Merchant Vessels: "J. EARL"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA" "HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "BROOKS" "SANDS" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD)
 SC's 648, 698, 799, 703, 732, 742, 743, 981, 982
 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 70, 72, 73, 335
 YP's 233, 236, 278, 283 ML's 425, 428, 430, 818
 PC's 476, 579, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122
 25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "HALF MOON" (AVP) "AASE MAERSK" "BISHOP-DALE" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) "COUCAL" (ASR) "MERKUR" (AF) "POLLUX" (AKS)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "S.BANBURGER" "J.G.BRADY" "CAPE ANNE" "CAPE MEARES" "J.CARROLL" "H.DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "S.CRANE" "F.A.EILERS" "GANNYMEDE" "P.J.IRWIN" "JAPARA" "KLIPFONTEIN" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MAUI" "MORMACDALE" "B.OSBORNE" "J.PALMER" "W.H.POINT" "THOS.C.POWER" "RAMO" "A.ROBALLI" "STAGEN" "M.M.STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT" "TJISADANE" "TEXAS SUN" "TECUMSEH" "VAQUERO"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" (AMS) "EMPIRE SILVER" (AO) YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48
 Merchant Vessels: "D.F.BARRY" "MONTORO" "MULIAMA" "W.S.LADD" "ALAGNA" "MATTHEW FLINDERS"

Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML.805
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" "GLADSTONE" "STAWELL" "WARREGO" "LITHGOW" (AMS) PC's 477
 PC's 1124, 1131 SC's 650, 736 YP's 280, 281
 YMS.9 ML's 803, 304, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANOORA" (APA)

Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" (AMS)
 Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - "WHYALLA" SC.741 "KURUMBA" (AO)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "KILTY" "CROSEY" (APD) "SWAN" "BOWEN" "COWRA" "GEELONG" (AMS) "HERON" (AVP) SC's 635 PC's 1123, 1132 ML's 808, 826 YMS.10, 315 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "MANUNDA" (AH)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- "PC.1132" to depart Caloundra 1200/3 to RV with "BRASTAGI" in position 24°26'S 157°27'E at 1100/9 and escort to Lady Elliott
- "KATOOMBA" "LITHGOW" PC's 1124, 1131 SC.736 to depart Cairns Is. to RV with Convoy TN.187 off Fitzroy Is. at 1500/7. "KATOOMBA" "LITHGOW" escort Portion A ("BONTEKOE" "CANBERRA" "GORGON" "A.D.WHITE") to Port Moresby: Others escort Portion B ("J.ALLEN" "S.BENSON" "CHARON" "ETAMIN" "MAGNOLIA" "OZARK" "J.S.SARGENT" 1 APC) to Milne Bay EPA both Portions 1100/10.

- (3) "STUART" to depart Caloundra 1600/7 to RV with "SEA SNIPE" in position 27°05'S 157°28'E at 0800/8 and escort to Brisbane.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Buin-Shortlands - Photos December 6 show all fields - Kahili, Kara and Ballale - unserviceable. Ten damaged barges and two boats were visible in Tonolei Harbour.
- (2) Bougainville -
(a) Kieta - At 1115/5, 51 Dauntless, 28 Avengers escorted by 16 fighters bombed and strafed the harbour area destroying 21 buildings and heavily damaging 13 others, starting numerous fires. At 2115/5 a patrol aircraft strafed five barges Kieta.
(b) Empress Augusta Bay - On Dec. 4, two allied destroyers bombarded Empress Augusta Bay. Enemy gun positions, supply dumps, bivouac areas Southern side of Bay were attacked. Our ground troops reported improving our positions Dec.4 and no enemy contacts were made during the day.
(c) At 0930/6 an enemy submarine was sighted off Numa Numa.
- (3) Buka Passage Area - On Dec.5 24 Mitchells escorted by fighters heavily attacked Tarlena village area causing numerous fires. At 1123/5, 20 Liberators escorted by nine fighters attacked Bonis starting three large fires. Noon December 5 16 Lightnings also strafed West coast Buka. Forenoon Dec.5 our patrols strafed Chabai and Numa Numa.
- (4) Mandates-Bismarcks - At 1025/6 an enemy convoy described as three medium and two small freighters was observed 20 miles off western tip New Hanover on course 300°. At 1413/6 another aircraft reported sighting probably the same convoy in a position 70 miles W.N.W. New Hanover still heading on course 300°. The force was covered by two Zeros, and was described to include one 7-8500 ton freighter and four small freighters. This would appear to be an outward bound convoy from Rabaul returning to Mandate bases.
At 1100/6 a reconnaissance Lightning reported sighting one light cruiser 40 miles N.W. by N. of Rabaul on course 350°. At 1150/6 the same aircraft reported "normal" shipping in Simpsons Harbour.
- (5) New Britain - Dawn Dec.6, 4 barges were reported to have arrived Cape Hoskins area. A similar report was made on Nov.30 indicating the constant movement of barges in this area.
- (6) Borgen Bay - Forenoon Dec.6, 17 Mitchells attacked this area.
- (7) Cape Gloucester - Forenoon Dec.6, 6 Liberators attacked this area.
- (8) Garove Island - Forenoon Dec.5, a reconnaissance Liberator reported an unstated number of possible barges off Garove Island.
- (9) Vitiaz Strait - At 1030/6, 3 probably barges were reported north of Marien Harbour (Rooke Island).
At 2230/4 our PT boats reported destroying seven or eight loaded rafts 6 miles S.E. of Sio. The rafts were loaded with rice, beef extract and Soya flour and had approximately 150-200 tons on each of five rafts, while the other three had 3 x 50 gallon drums and several heavy boxes on each. These supplies may have been loaded on these rafts from enemy submarines which have been regularly reported in this area apparently maintaining a supply line from Rabaul.
At 0300/5 one PT boat reported firing two torpedoes on an object 150-200 feet in length five miles S.E. Marien Harbour. The torpedoes failed to explode and the object disappeared - possibly an enemy supply submarine.
- (10) Hansa Bay - Forenoon Dec.4, 8 Kittyhawks strafed one lugger, two loaded barges in Dogamur Bay (25 miles S.E. Hansa Bay). The lugger was destroyed and the barges beached.
- (11) Bogadjim Road - In addition to air attacks on bridges this area already reported Dec.5, 7 Marauders attacked same targets at 1035/5 while 8 Aircobras also attacked bridges this area forenoon Dec.6.

- (12) Finschhafen - At 2020/5 one enemy aircraft dropped bombs over Finschhafen.
At 0750/6, 9 Bostons attacked enemy positions Lakona area (13 miles N. Finschhafen).
- (13) Lae - At 2100/5 one enemy aircraft dropped bombs near Malahang strip without effect.
-

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/7:

12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" "LATROBE" (AMS)
ML's 429, 814, 815.
Merchant Vessels: "MANGOLA" "CARDROSS" "WANAKA"

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Dutch New Guinea - At 1047/6, three Liberators bombed enemy small shipping near Kokas without visible results. One small coaster and several barges are reported in the area.
- (2) Kaimana - Night Dec. 5, two Catalinas attacked small schooner supply ship probably destroying same. The vessel was last reported beached 70 miles S.E. Kaimana. One small coaster was reported off Utarom strip and three or four small craft in Kaimana Bay.
- (3) Ceram - Noon December 6, three Liberators engaged on strike on Kokas, also bombed Boela.
-

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/7:

- (1) "TJERK HIDDIES" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome ETA 13 Dec. (via Carnarvon ETA 1100/5).
- (2) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1345/4 for Exmouth Gulf.

(b) IN Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK"
"TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV)
"HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (GM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "CHANTICLEER"
(ASR) "ISABEL" (FY) SC.739 YP.288

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/7:

- (1) "PHILIP" (DD) departed ~~Sydney~~ Sydney 1132/6 for Noumea ETA 0800/8.
- (2) "WARRNAMBOOL" "TOWNSVILLE" escorting Convoy PG.88 (5 MV including "GOLDSTAR") departed Caloundra approx 1200/5 for Sydney ETA 1700/7.
- (3) "BUNDABERG" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy GP.89 (1 MV) departed Sydney 0751/5 for Caloundra ETA 1430/7.
- (4) "BUNGAREE" departed Sydney 0944/6 for Melbourne ETA 1700/8.
- (5) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ABRAHAM CRYESSEN" escorting Convoy OC.148 (6 MV) ETA Port Kembla 2100/7, Sydney 0100/8 and Newcastle 1100/8.
- (6) "WILCANNIA" "BALLARAT" escorting Convoy CO.149 (5 MV) to Melbourne ETA 2100/8.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens - Warships & Aux. - "TULSA" (PG)
Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" "WARD"
(APD) "KAPUNDA" "GOULBURN" "DELORAINE"
"MORESBY" "PIRIE" "GLENELG" "ECHUCAW"
(AMS) "HILO" (PG) "KYBRA" "YANDRA"
(A/S Vessels) ML's 430, 802, 807, 809
ML's 817, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "BUCHANAN" (DD)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO"
"INVERELL" (AMS) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

After the sailing of Convoy OC.149, GO and OC convoys are to be discontinued. Ships sailing between N.S.W. ports south of 32°50'E and Victorian and Tasmanian ports will proceed independently except in the case of certain special ships. Air and surface patrols will be provided at certain focal points (e.g. Gabo Island and approaches to Sydney and Newcastle) and striking forces made immediately available if required.

B. SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

- (1) Ocean Island - Noon Dec.5, Soupac aircraft reported one unidentified seaplane, one barge and three other small craft at anchor Ocean Island.
- (2) Nauru - Forenoon Dec.5, 8 Liberators attacked Nauru causing large fires in the fuel storage area. Three enemy aircraft were observed taking off.

NAVAL INCIDENTS

- (1) Guadalcanal - Tulagi - During Dec.5 several attacks were carried out against a submerged enemy submarine in this area. At 0700/5, contact was made with an enemy submarine 3 miles S.W. of Florida - six depth charges were dropped causing heavy oil slick. At 1640/5, an allied minesweeper attacked the same submarine causing a further heavy oil slick and bubbles. At 1800/5 an allied destroyer attacked same submarine with nine depth charges causing large amount of black oil. The submarine is believed stationary on the bottom in 35 fathoms of water.
- (2) U.S. Submarine Successes - Forenoon Dec.4, one U.S. submarine reported sinking a "ZUIHO" Class CV(L) between the Bonins and Japan. Another submarine reports sinking two small merchantmen in the Eastern Carolines on Nov.24 and Dec.4 respectively.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian oceans.

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE.

1. SOUTHWEST & SOUTH PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>	
<u>South Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u> -	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u> -	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u> -	PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u> -	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u> AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u> PHOENIX NASHVILLE * NOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SAN JUAN SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	1	NAKA ISUZU NAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO)1 prob. AMAKUSA) Bismarck * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u> -	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u> -	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u> HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELIER	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> -	3	-	3
<u>DD</u> WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * PHILIP * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	10 (1 or 2 damaged)	20-25 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	CORVINA) GATC) RAY) PETO) On Patrol RATON) S.31) ALBACORE) GUARDFISH) SCAMP) At Brisbane K.9 At Sydney BALAO) BLACKFISH) At Milne Bay		20	20
<u>PT</u>	52	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/AED/AKA</u>	H. T. ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSEY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 9 AED 6 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		-	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN * DIXIE		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)	
Fighters (incl. 19 twin-eng.)	242
Light & M/Bombers	140
SE/Bombers	45
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C	13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BE</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO (Poss. Mandates) HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COMPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	ZUIHO (possibly sunk) * HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO UNYO
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE AOBA * MYOKO * HAGURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * HONOLULU * HONO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion
<u>SAV/XCVS</u>	-	3 to ACV)
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	25 (some repairing)
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Allied and Enemy Activity

No. 679

Date: 8th December, 1943

PART I.

A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/8:

- (1) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morebe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "PC.1121" escorting "STAGEN" departed Milne Bay 0420/7 for Port Moresby ETA 1600/8.
- (3) "WARRAMUNGA" "HELM" to RV with "WEST POINT" in position 21° 06' S 159° 26' E at 1500/8 and escort to Milne Bay ETA 9 Dec.
- (4) "NOA" (APD) escorting "A.LINDBERG" Noumea to Milne Bay ETA 9 Dec.
- (5) "YMS.71" towing floating dock departed Thursday Is. 1130/3 for Milne Bay ETA p.m. 9 Dec.
- (6) "ML.426" departed Port Moresby 1601/6 to RV with "Y.6" vicinity Stephens Is. at 0700/8 and escort to Milne Bay ETA 12 Dec
- (7) "KATOOMBA" "LITHGOW" "CASTLEMAINE" PCs.1124, 1131 SC.736 escorting Convoy TN.187 (11 MV 1 APC) departed Fitzroy Is. approx 1500/7. "KATOOMBA" "LITHGOW" escort Portion A ("BONTEKOE" "CANBERRA" "GORGON" "A.D.WHITE") to Port Moresby; others escort portion B ("J.ALDEN" "S.BENSON" "CHARON" "MAGNOLIA" "OZARK" "J.S.SARGENT" 1 APC) to Milne Bay ETA both portions 1100/10.
- (8) "COLAC" escorting Convoy MV.46 ("ALAMO") departed Milne Bay 1500/6 for Townsville ETA 0400/10.
- (9) "GYMPIE" escorting "SUSQUEHANNA" departed Milne Bay 0400/7 for Townsville.
- (10) "MIZAR" (AP) en route Port Moresby to Townsville ETA 1800/8.
- (11) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Milne Bay 1600/3 for Sydney.
- (12) "WAGGA" escorting "MONTORO" departed Port Moresby 1730/7 for Cairns ETA 1830/9.
- (13) "BROOME" escorting "S.BOLIVAR" departed Caloundra 0715/7. Parts company vicinity Bustard Head and proceeds independently to Townsville ETA 0900/10.
- (14) "PC.1132" departed Caloundra 0130/8 to RV with "BRASTAGI" in position 24° 22' S 156° 21' E at 1101/9 and escort to Brisbane.
- (15) "WHYALLA" "SC.741" escorting Convoy LQ.35 (4 MV) were to depart Gladstone 2000/7 for Caloundra ETA 0615/9.
- (16) "STUART" departed Caloundra 1552/7 to RV with "SEA SNIPE" in position 27° 05' S, 157° 28' E at 0800/8 and escort to Brisbane.
- (17) "WATERS" (APD) escorting "AMY LOWELL" "J.CABRILLO" from Noumea to Townsville.
- (18) "VENDETTA" departed Caloundra 2300/6 to RV with "CAPE FLATTERY" in position 26° 18' S 157° 58' E at 1600/7 and escort to Brisbane.
- (19) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AG)

Lae - Warships & Aux. - SC's 731, 744, 748 YMS's 53, 314
 YMS.336
 Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "C.KING" "NORAB"
 "A.BURLINGHAME" "BALIKPAPAN" "BORGFRED" "BOTH"
 "STANBURY" Y.13

Morobe - Warships & Aux. - ML.427, 819 "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
 Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 801, 80B,
 ML.816 "TRINITY" (AO)
 Merchant Vessels: "A.THOMAS" "KATOOMBA" "R.P.WARNER"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. : "SC's 734, 736 ML.431
 Merchant Vessels: "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBUQUE" "J.W.MACKAY"
 "WM.FROUSE" "J.ROSS" "VAN DEN BOSCH" "SIBIGO"
 "G.V.L.MEYER" "HANYANG"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 738, 745, 749 YMS.334
 Merchant Vessels: "G.H.FLANDERS"

Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 737, 747, 750 YMS.313
 Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM" "JOSEPH LANE"

Goodneough Is. - Warships & Aux. - "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD)
 Merchant Vessels: "J.EARL" "ED.N.WESTCOTT" "RAMO"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
 "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA"
 "HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "DRAYTON"
 "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID"
 "FLUSSER" (DD) "BROOKS" "SANDS" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS"
 (APD) SC's 648, 698, 799, 703, 732, 742, 743, 981
 SC.982 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 70, 72, 73, 335
 YP's 233, 236, 278, 283 ML's 425, 428, 430, 818
 PC's 476, 579, 1119, 1120, 1122 25 LST's 15 APC's
 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBIN" (AD)
 "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "HALF MOON" (AVP) "AASE MAERSK"
 "BISHOPDALE" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG)
 "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CALLEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) "COUCAL"
 (ASR) "MERKUR" (AF) "POLLUX" (AKS)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
 MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
 "S.BANBURGER" "J.G.BRADY" "CAPE ANNE" "CAPE MEARES"
 "J.CARROLL" "H.DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "S.CRANE"
 "F.A.EILERS" "GANNYMEDE" "F.J.IRTWIN" "JAPARA"
 "KLIPPONFEIN" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MAUI"
 "NORMACDALE" "E.OSBORNE" "J.PALMER" "W.H.POINT"
 "THOS.C.POWER" "A.ROVALLI" "M.M.STEWART" "SWARTEN-
 HONDT" "TJISADANE" "TEXAS SUN" "TEGUMSEH" "VAQUERO"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "EMPIRE SILVER" (AO) YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48
 Merchant Vessels: "E.F.BARRY" "MULIAMA" "W.S.LADD"
 "MATTHEW FLINDERS"

Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML.805
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BUNBURY" "GLADSTONE" "STAWELL" "WARREGO"
 (AMS) PC.477 SC.650 YP's 280, 281 YMS.9
 ML's 803, 804, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANOORA" (APA)

Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" (AMS)
 Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - "KURUMBA" (AO)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "KILTY" "CROSEY" (APD) "BUNDABERG"
 "KALGOORLIE" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "COWRA" "GEEELONG" (AMS)
 "HERON" (AVP) SC.635 PC.1123 ML.808, 826 YMS.10, 315
 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA)
 "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "MANUNDA" (AH)

(c) Proposed Movements:

(1) "COWRA" and SC.735 escorting Convoy QL.36 (7 MV) to depart Caloundra
 1600/8. After arrival Port Curtis SC.735 to join LQ.36.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Bougainville - (a) Extremely bad weather conditions cancelled most air operations Bougainville- Buka area during Dec.7 and prevented photo reconnaissance this area.
(b) Night Dec.6-7 several enemy aircraft were over Torokina area and during interception by two night fighters one enemy aircraft was shot down.
Our ground forces Torokina area advanced to occupy high ground on final perimeter in N.E. sector during Dec.5. Our patrols made some contact outside the perimeter killing two Japs. During night Dec. 4- 5, 142 Torokina natives moved over to allied lines. Our casualties for November this area now total 254 killed, 962 wounded and 73 missing.
(c) Thirteen Mitchells prevented from attacking Kahili due weather, bombed Kieta Harbour at 1035/7. At 1025/7 five other Mitchells bombed Kahili from 11,000 ft but with unobserved results due clouds.
- (2) Buka - Photos Dec. 6 show 13 barges in Buka Passage and approximately 10 off Chabai (Matchin Bay).
- (3) New Ireland - At 2120/6 Beauforts reported receiving indications of four medium sized vessels 25 miles N.E. of East Cape. This may possibly be an enemy convoy proceeding into or away from Rabaul via east coast New Ireland.
At 2207/6 26 Beauforts attacked Borpop airfield and dispersal areas (N.E. New Ireland).
- (4) New Britain - Night Dec. 6 Beauforts reported receiving indications of one vessel off Cape Orford at 2150 and one possible vessel vicinity Cape Beechey. These may well be barges operating along the coast during night hours.
- (5) Cape Hoskins - At 0915/6, 21 Kittyhawks attacked Wulai Island (near Cape Hoskins.)
- (6) Rein Bay -At 1520/6 one Liberator/attacked barges Rein Bay destroying one and probably damaging another.
- (7) Arawe - Eighteen Mitchells unable to hit Borgen Bay due weather, attacked Arawe area Dec.6.
- (8) Borgen Bay - Thirty Mitchells escorted by 15 Thunderbolts attacked Borgen Bay forenoon Dec.6. The Thunderbolts also strafed A/A positions this area.
Thirty two Mitchells again struck Borgen Bay area forenoon Dec.7 destroying villages and generally strafing the area.
At 1030/7 approximately 40 barges of unknown serviceability were reported along the shore of Borgen Bay.
- (9) Cape Gloucester - Forenoon Dec. 6, 30 Liberators escorted by 11 Thunderbolts attacked village and mission area.
Forenoon Dec.7, another 24 Liberators attacked A/A positions this area.
At 0900/6, a small vessel was reported 85 miles N.W. Cape Gloucester on course 185° while forenoon Dec.7 an unidentified vessel, possibly the same unit, was reported stationary near Cape Gloucester.
- (10) Garove Island - Forenoon Dec.6, two Beaufighters and three Bostons attacked installations and barges this area.
- (11) Huon Peninsula - Eight Kittyhawks strafed coastal area between Madang and Alexishafen forenoon Dec.6.
At 0815/6, twelve Mitchells attacked dumps Lakona area. Our ground troops continue pressure to the N. and N.W. and further slight advances have been made.
- (12) Ramu Valley - At 0940/6 two enemy aircraft bombed Bumpu without effect.
- (13) Milne Bay - At 1003/6 one enemy reconnaissance aircraft was over this area.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/8:

- (1) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" "LATROBE" (AMS)
ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "MANGOLA" "CARDROSS" "WANAKA"

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting "KARANGI" "CARDROSS" "MANGOLA" is to depart Darwin 0630/10 for Thursday Is.
- (2) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" is to depart Darwin 0630/9 for Thursday Is. via Melville Bay.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Dutch New Guinea - Three enemy floatplanes are reported to call daily at Timoeka.
Photos taken by Liberator over Kokas Dec.6 reveal one small naval escort, 10 barges and 3 praus.
- (2) Ceram - Thirteen Liberators attacked village on Haroekoe Is. (near Amboina) forenoon Dec.7. Two enemy aircraft were observed airborne but no interception. One possible 4-engined floatplane was observed anchored in the area and one twin-engined aircraft and three unidentified fighters observed in dispersal area near Pelauw strip.
- (3) Laha - Two unidentified vessels reported stationary off Laha on Dec.7.
- (4) Babar Is. - (Banda Sea) - On Dec.7, two unidentified vessels were reported in this area.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/8:

- (1) "TJERK HIDDEN" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome ETA 13 Dec. (via Carnarvon ETA 1100/5).
- (2) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1345/4 for Exmouth Gulf.
- (3) "WANGANELLA" (AH) was to dep. Fremantle 1905/7 for Suez. ETA 25 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK"
"TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV)
"HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "CHANTICLEER"
(ASR) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.286
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B. PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/8:

- (1) "PHILIP" (DD) departed Sydney 1132/6 for Noumea ETA 0800/8.
- (2) "BUNGAREE" departed Sydney 0944/6 for Melbourne ETA 1700/8.
- (3) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ABRAHAM CRYNSEN" escorting Convoy OC.148 (6 MV) ETA Port Kembla 2100/7, Sydney 0100/8 and Newcastle 1100/8.
- (4) "WILCANNIA" "BALLARAT" escorting Convoy OC.149 (7 MV) were to depart Melbourne 2300/7. ETA Port Kembla 2400/10, Sydney 0500/11 and Newcastle 1400/11.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens - Warships & Aux. - "TULSA" (PG)
Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" (APD)
"KAPUNDA" "GOULBURN" "DELORAINE" "MORESEY"
"PIRIE" "GLENELG" "ECHUCA" "WARRNAMBOOL"
"TOWNSVILLE" (AMS) "HILO" (PG) "KYBRA" "YANDRA"
(A/S Vessels) ML's 430, 808, 807, 809, 817
ML.821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "BUCHANAN" (DD)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL"
(AMS) "DCOMBA" (A/S Vessel)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "KAPUNDA" "ML.809" "ML.821" are to depart Sydney 9 Dec. with Convoy G.P.90. On arrival Brisbane "KAPUNDA" is to be sailed to Townsville and ML.809 to Darwin.
- (2) After the sailing of Convoy OC.149, CO and OC convoys are to be discontinued. Ships sailing between N.S.W. ports south of 32°50'E and Victorian and Tasmanian ports will proceed independently except in the case of certain special ships. Air and surface patrols will be provided at certain focal points (e.g. Gabo Island and approaches to Sydney and Newcastle) and striking forces made immediately available if required.

B. CENTRAL PACIFIC

Marshalls - Forty seven Liberators attacked Mille on Dec.5 causing several large fires and destroying one grounded aircraft. The same day one aircraft strafed and sank a 4-engined flying boat at Jaluit.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in General Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTHWEST & SOUTH PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>	
<u>South Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u> -	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u> -	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u> -	PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u> -	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u> AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u> PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTEPELIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	1	NAKA ISUZU NAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO) 1 prob. AMAKUSA) Bismarck * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>L(T)</u> -	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u> -	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AE/CVS</u> HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> -	3	-	3
<u>DD</u> WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	10 (1 or 2 damaged)	20-25 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshall's
<u>SS</u>	CERO CORVINA GATO RAY PETO S.31	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE GUARDFISH SCAMP	At Brisbane		
	K.9	At Sydney		
	BALAO BLACKFISH RATON	At Milne Bay		

<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>				
	H.T. ALLEN	10 APA		
	MANOORA	9 APD		
	WESTRALIA	6 AKA		
	KANIMBLA			
	ALGORAB			
	GILMER			
	SANDS			
	HUMPHREYS			
	BROOKS			
	KILTY			
	CROSBY			
	DENT			
	STRINGHAM			
	WARD			
	WATERS			
	NOA			

<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		-	?
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<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN DIXIE		1	1
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<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		
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<u>AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)</u>	
Fighters (incl. 19 twin-eng.)	242
Light & M/Bombers	140
SE/Bombers	45
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C	13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

NORTH CAROLINA
INDIANA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO (Poss. Mandates)
HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

-

CV (T)

-

HOSHO

CV (L)

COWPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTREY

ZUIHO (possibly sunk)
* SHAYATAKA

CV (E)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
COPAHEE
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA
CHUYO
UNYO

CA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
MINNEAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
PENSACOLA
INDIANAPOLIS
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

TONE
AOBA
* MYOKO
* HAGURO
* NACHI
* ATAGO
* TAKAO
* MAYA

OCA

-

6

CL

OAKLAND
* HONOLULU
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* NATORI

CL (T)

-

KASHIMA

XCL

-

6 - 7

AV/CVS

POCOMOKE

CHIYODA (under conversion
3 to ACV)

XAV/XCVS

-

25 (some repairing)

DD

Approx 35

Approx 30

SS

Approx 50

2 (one repairing)

AS

?

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

Southwest Pacific
(Western Section) Eastern Fleet Area East Indies-Philippines

<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV (L)</u>	-	-	HITAKA RYUHO
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS FROBISHER	ASHIGARA

<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE VAN HEEMSKERK TROMP	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
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<u>CL (T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
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<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CARTHAGE CHITRAL	-
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<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
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<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
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<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDÉS	approx 27	10
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<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH) BONEFISH) BOWFIN) CABRILLA) CAPELIN) COD) GREVAILE) MARWHALE) POMPOM) PUFFER) TUNA) TINOSA)	?	6
	K.12) BLUEFISH) KINGFISH) RASHER)	At Fremantle	

<u>AS</u>	PELIAS	?
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>		
Fighters (inc. 27 twin-eng.)		168
Light & M/Bombers		55
SE/Bombers		16
Flying Boats		12
Floatplanes		49
Transport & Obsn. A/C		39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Allied and Enemy Activity

No. 680

Date: 9th December, 1943

PART I.

A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/8:

- (1) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "SC.746" departed Finschhafen 1330/8 ETA Milne Bay 0900/10.
- (3) "WARRAMUNGA" "HELM" to RV with "WEST POINT" in position 21°06'S 159°28'E at 1500/8 and escort to Milne Bay ETA 9 Dec.
- (4) "NOA" (APD) escorting "A.LINDBERG" Noumea to Milne Bay ETA 9 Dec.
- (5) "ML.426" departed Port Moresby 1601/6 to RV with "Y.6" vicinity Stephens Is. at 0700/8 and escort to Milne Bay ETA 12 Dec.
- (6) "KATOOMBA" "LITHGOW" "CASTLEMAINE" PC's 1124, 1131 SC.736 escorting Convoy TN.187 (11 MV, 1 APC) departed Fitzroy Is. approx 1500/7. "KATOOMBA" "LITHGOW" escort Portion A ("BONTEKOE" "CANBERRA" "G ORGON" "A.D.WHITE") to Port Moresby; others escort portion B ("JALDEN" "S.BENSON" "CHARON" "MAGNOLIA" "OZARK" "J.S.SARGENT" 1 APC) to Milne Bay ETA both portions 1100/10.
- (7) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Milne Bay 1600/3 for Sydney.
- (8) "WAGGA" escorting "MONTORO" departed Port Moresby 1730/7 for Cairns ETA 1830/9.
- (9) "BROOME" en route Bustard Head to Townsville ETA 0900/10.
- (10) "COWRA" "SC.735" escorting Convoy QL.36 (7 MV's) departed Brisbane 1600/8, ETA Bustard Head 2300/9.
- (11) "YP.291" was to dep. Cairns 0830/9 for Brisbane ETA 1200/12.
- (12) "WATERS" (APD) en route Sydney after escort duties with "AMY LOWELL" "J.CABRILLO" to Lady Elliott Island.
- (13) "PC.1132" departed Caloundra 0130/8 to RV with "BRASTAGI" in position 24°22'S 156°21'E at 1100/9 and escort to Brisbane.
- (14) "BUNDABERG" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy PG.89 departed Brisbane 1255/8 ETA Sydney 0500/10.
- (15) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AG) Merchant Vessels: "MULCRA" "LORINNA"
Lae	- Warships & Aux. - SC's 731, 744 YMS's 53,314 YMS.336 Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "C.KING" "NORAB" "BALIKPAPAN" "BORGFRED" "BOTH" "STANBURY" Y.13 "BULIMBA"
Morobe	- Warships & Aux. - ML's 427, 819 "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna	- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424,801 ML's 806, 816 "TRINITY" (AO) Merchant Vessels: "KATOOMBA" "R.P.WARNER"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734 ML. 431
 Merchant Vessels: "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBUQUE" "J.W. MACKAY" "J.EARL" "CAPE MEARES" "WM. PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "SIBIGO" "A.THOMAS" "G.V.L.MEYER" "C.E.SMITH" "

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 738, 745, 749 YMS.334
 Merchant Vessels: ".G.H.FLANDERS"

Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 737, 750
 Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"

Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD)
 Merchant Vessels: "ED.N.WESTCOTT" "RAMO"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHEROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA" "HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "SANDS" "BROOKS" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD)
 SC's 648, 698, 699, 703, 731, 732, 742, 743, 748
 SC's 747, 981, 982 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 70,
 YMS's 71, 72, 73, 335, 314, 313 YP's 233, 236
 YP's 278, 283 ML's 425, 428, 430, 818
 PC's 476, 579, 1119, 1120, 1122 25 LST's
 15 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "HALF MOON" (AVP) "AASE MAERSK" "BISHOPDALE" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) "COUCAL" (ASR) "MERKUR" (AF) "POULUX" (AKS)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

- Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "S.BANBURGER" "J.G.BRADY" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "H.DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A. EILERS" "HANYANG" "F.J.IRWIN" "JAPARA" "S.GIRARD" "KLIPFONTEIN" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MORMACDALE" "B.OSBORNE" "J.PALMER" "W.H.POINT" "THOS.C.POWER" "A.ROVALLI" "M.M.STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT" "VAN DEN BOSCH" "TJISADANE" "TEXAS SUN" "TECUMSEH" "VAQUERO"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "EMPIRE SILVER" (AO) YMS's 8, 46
 YMS's 47, 48
 Merchant Vessels: "CONTESSA" "MATTHEW FLINDERS" "MULIAMA" "STAGEN"

Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML.805
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BUNBURY" "COLAC" "GLADSTONE" "GYMPIE" "STAWELL" "WARREGO" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) PC.477 SC.650 YP.280 YMS.9
 ML's 803, 804, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANOORA" (APA)

Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" (AMS) "MIZAR" (AF)
 Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - "KURUMBA" (AO)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "KILTY" "CROSBY" (APD) "BUNDABERG" "WHYALLA" "KALGOORLIE" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "COWRA" "GEELONG" (AMS) "VENDETTA" "STUART" (DD) "HERON" (AVP) SC.635, 741 PC.1123 ML's 808, ML.826 YMS's 10, 315 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "MANUNDA" (AH)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "PC.1121" escorting Convoy MF.14 ("DAVID F.BARRY" for Lae and "W.S.LADD" to depart Port Moresby 1230/9 for Milne Bay.
- (2) "KILTY" "CROSBY" (APD) to depart Caloundra 1800/9 for Milne Bay.
- (3) "MANOORA" to depart Cairns at 1730/9 for Sydney ETA 1700/13. Escort requested from Lady Elliott Is.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Choiseul - At 0630/8 a submarine was sighted off Sasa Point (W.Coast Choiseul). It was later seen on course S.W.
- (2) Buin Base - At 1027/7 Kahili was attacked by five Mitchells with unobserved results. Photos 8 Dec. show Kahili still u/s.
- (3) S.E. Bougainville - On 7 Dec, PT boats engaged four loaded barges in Torau Bay. The barges returned fire and made for the beach.
- (4) W.Coast Bougainville - At 2215/7, a submarine was seen by aircraft 54 miles off Cape Motupina.
- (5) Mandates-Bismarcks - At 1425/8, six barges or fishing boats were sighted by a Liberator 180 miles N.E. of Mussau Island, course 160°. An attack was made but details not yet received.

This is the first definite evidence of the enemy using small craft for transportation from the Mandates to the Bismarcks, following our successful air and submarine attacks on shipping in this area.

- (6) Kavieng - At 1330/8 a Liberator observed the following shipping at Kavieng:-

1 destroyer
2 merchant ships (1 large, 1 small)
7 small auxiliaries

- (7) Rabaul - Photos noon 6 Dec. show:-

Shipping
1 destroyer tender
2 submarines
2 patrol craft
1 tanker (14,000 tons)
12 merchant ships (55,000 tons total)
18 ships

<u>Aircraft</u>	Lakunai	65 F.	3 M/B	-
Tobera	22	-	-	-
Rapopo	-	5	-	2 L/B
Vunakanau	4	23	-	4
Harbour	-	-	-	17 F/P
Total 145 a/c whereof	91 F.	31 M/B	6 L/B	17 F/P

- (8) Cape Orford - An enemy submarine was reported by aircraft 32 miles S. of Cape Orford at noon 8 Dec.
- (9) Gasmata - At 1700/7 dump areas Gasmata were bombed by 12 Kittyhawks and 50 Thunderbolts, carrying 1 x 500 lb. bomb apiece, with good coverage of the target.
- (10) Arawe - At 0230/7, an enemy MTB was sunk by our PT boats, 3 miles N.E. of Arawe.
- (11) N.W. New Britain - Complete reports of the air strikes a.m. 7 Dec. show that 51 Mitchells attacked Borgen Bay area and 43 Liberators A/A positions at Cape Gloucester.
- (12) Long Island - An observer reports a considerable number of enemy aircraft proceeding eastwards from the direction of Madang during the night 7-8 Dec.
- (13) Wewak - Four Thunderbolts on a fighter sweep over Wewak at 1200/7 encountered about 20 enemy fighters, destroying at least one and probably destroying one other.
- (14) Saidor - At 0325/7, our PT boats encountered and destroyed four barges at Singei (14 miles W x N of Saidor).
- (15) Huon Peninsula - At 0815-0850/7, coastal track between Wald Bay and Fortification Point was bombed and strafed by ten Bostons.

At 1100/8, camp and supply areas near Kalasa (4 miles inland from Wald Bay) were attacked by 11 Mitchells, and half an hour later similar targets near Wandokai (8 miles N. of Bonga) were bombed by 10 Marauders. Our ground forces continue to advance slowly northward from Gusika, despite powerful land mines.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/9:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting Convoy DT.39 (2 MV) departed Darwin 1235/8 for Thursday Is. ETA 1930/12.
- (2) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" departed Darwin 1250/8 eta Melville Bay 0929/10 thence to proceed Thursday Is.
- (3) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 815, 814
Merchant Vessels: "WANAKA"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

Ambon Area - Photos 7 Dec. of the new airfields show:

- (a) Pelauw on Haroekoe Island: 4 twin-engined bombers in new revetments and continued development.
- (b) Amahai (Central South coast Ceram): 6 probable bombers in dispersal area and five bomber revetments. Runway serviceable for 5,200 feet, probably being extended another 1,800 feet.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/9:

- (1) "TJERK HIDDES" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome ETA 13 Dec. (via Carnarvon ETA 1100/5)
- (2) "WANGANILLA" (AH) was to depart Fremantle 1905/7 for Suez ETA 25 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK"
"TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV)
"HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELLIAS" (AS)
"CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ISABEL" (FY) SC.739
YP.286

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK"
(AM) "YP.288"

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/9:

- (1) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ECHUCA" "KAPUNDA" ML's 809, 821 escorting Convoy GP.90 (4 MV) were to depart Sydney 0800/9 for Caloundra. On arrival Brisbane "KAPUNDA" is to be sailed to Townsville and ML.809 to Darwin.
- (2) "WILCANNIA" "BALLARAT" escorting Convoy OC.149 (7 MV) ETA Port Kembla 2400/10, Sydney 0500/11 and Newcastle 1400/11.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens - Warships & Aux. - "TULSA" (PG)
Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" "WARD"
(APD) "GOULBURN" "DELOIRINE" "MORESEY"
"PIRIE" "GLENELG" "WARRNAMBOOL"
"TOWNSVILLE" (AMS) "HILO" (PG) "KYBRA"
"YANDRA" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" (A/S Vessels
ML's 430, 802, 807, 809, 817, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "BUCHANAN" (DD)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO"
"INVERELL" (AMS) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel)
"BUNGAREE" (CM)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

After the sailing of Convoy CO.149, CO and OC convoys are to be discontinued. Ships sailing between N.S.W. ports south of 32°50'E and Victorian and Tasmanian ports will proceed independently except in the case of certain special ships. Air and surface patrols will be provided at certain focal points (e.g. Gabo Island and approaches to Sydney and Newcastle) and striking forces made immediately available if required.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH WEST & SOUTH PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>	
<u>South Pacific</u> <u>(Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks</u> <u>Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines</u> <u>Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u> -	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u> -	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u> -	PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u> -	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u> AUSTRALIA SHEROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA PIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u> PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA ISUZU HAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO) 1 prob. AMAKUSA) Bismarcks * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u> -	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u> -	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/GVS</u> HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> -	3	-	3
<u>DD</u> WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	10 (1 or 2 damaged)	20-25 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Caroline Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	CERO) CORVINA) GATO) On Patrol RAY) PETO) S.31)	20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH) At Brisbane SCAMP)		
	K.9	At Sydney	
	BALAO) BLACKFISH) At Milne Bay RATON)		
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T.ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS NOA	10 APA 9 APD 6 AKA	
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS	-	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN # DIXIE	1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS	

AIRCRAFT (NE Area Only)
 Fighters (incl. 19 twin-eng.) 242
 Light & M/Bombers 140
 SE/Bombers 45
 Flying Boats 2
 Floatplanes 50
 Transport & Obsn. A/C 13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALPHIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AE</u>	-	1

Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA *OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO (Poss. Mandates) HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	ZUIHO (Possibly sunk) * HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO UNYO
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO PENSACOLA INDIANA POLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE AOBA * MYOKO * HAGURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion to 3 ACV)
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	25 (some repairing)
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 681

Date: 10th December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/10:

- (1) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morebe-Ruon Gulf area.
- (2) "ML.818" departed Milne Bay 1500/9 for Normanby Island.
- (3) "PC.1121" escorting Convoy 47.14 ("DAVID F. HARRY") for Lae, WEA 1735/11, "S.S. LADD" for Milne Bay, ETA 1500/10) departed Fort Moresby 1545/9.
- (4) "KATOONBA" "LITHGOW" "CASTLEMAINE" PC's 1124, 1131 SC.738 escorting Convoy TB.187 (11 RV 1 APC) departed Fitzroy Is. approx 1500/7. "KATOONBA" "LITHGOW" escort Portion A ("BOSTERON" "CANNERRA" "GOSRON" "A.D. WHITE") to Fort Moresby; others escort Portion B ("J. ALLEN" "S. BENSON" "CHAREN" "MAGNOLIA" "UZARK" "J.S. SARGENT" 1 APC) to Milne Bay. Both portions were due 1100/10.
- (5) "ML.426" departed Fort Moresby 1601/8 to RV with "Y.8" vicinity Stephens Is. at 0700/8 and escort to Milne Bay ETA 12 Dec.
- (6) "KILTY" "CROSSY" (APC) departed Caloundra 1725/9 for Milne Bay ETA 1500/12.
- (7) "WAKOORA" departed Cairns 1726/9 for Sydney ETA 1700/13. "VENDETTA" to RV at Lady Elliott Is. and escort to destination.
- (8) "VENDETTA" departed Caloundra 1000/10 escorting "CAPE MENDOCINO" till approximately 2000/10; then to proceed Lady Elliott Is., RV with "WAKOORA" and escort to Sydney.
- (9) "PC.1132" departed Caloundra 0130/8 to RV with "BRASACI" in position 24°22'S 156°21'E at 1100/9 and escort to Brisbane. "BRASACI" not met, and "PC.1132" proceeding with "PAUL REVERE" to Lady Elliott Is. and to proceed thence to Cairns.
- (10) "YP.291" departed Cairns 1345/9 for Brisbane ETA 1200/12.
- (11) "WATERS" (APC) en route Sydney after escort duties with "AMY LORELL" "J. CASHILL" to Lady Elliott Is.
- (12) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Wenschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - "LOOKOUT" (AO)
	Merchant Vessels: "MULGRA" "LORINNA"
Lae	- Warships & Aux. - "YMS's 53, 335" SC.731 YMS.314
	Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "O.KING" "NORAB"
	"H. STANBURY" Y.13.
Morebe	- Warships & Aux. - ML's 427, 819 "FORTUNUS" (ASP)
Ruon	- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.81 ML's 426, 801
	ML's 806, 816 "TRINITY" (AO)
	Merchant Vessels: "R.P. WARKER"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC's 732, 734
 Merchant Vessels: "J.J. ASTOR" "J. DUBOIS" "JOSEPH
 LANE" "J.S. MACKAY" "J. EARL" "CAPE BRARES"
 "W.M. USL" "J. ROSS" "SIBICO" "A. THOMAS"
 "O.V.L. MEYER" "O.E. SMITH"
 Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 733, 745, 749 YMS. 334
 Merchant Vessels: "O.H. FLANDERS"
 Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 737, 750
 Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"
 Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - "WESTRADIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL"
 (LSD)
 Milne Bay - Merchant Vessels: "ED. H. RESCOTT" "S.H. POINT"
 - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHERPESHIRE" (CA)
 "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CI) "SARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA"
 "HELA" "RALPH TALBOT" "EGGFRED" "BAGLEY" "DRAYTON"
 "COKYNOHAN" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LANSON" "SHAW"
 "SEID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "SAYDS" "BOA" "BRACKS"
 "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APC) SC's 848, 698, 699
 SC's 703, 731, 742, 743, 744, 746, 747, 981, 982
 SC. 746 YMS.'s 11, 49, 50, 52, 70, 71, 72, 73
 YMS.'s. 335, 336 313, 314 YP's 233, 236
 PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1120, 1122 23 LST's
 11 APC's 29 FT's "RIEGL" (AR) "YUNHAI" (ASIS)
 "DORWIN" (AD) "OTUS" "SULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE"
 (YDG) "AYNCOR" (ARL) "CALLEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS)
 "CANGAL" (ASR) "MERKUR" (AF) "POLAUX" (AMS)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L. ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
 "BALIKPAPAN" "S. BAMBENGER" "BOGGFRED" "BOTH"
 "J.C. SHADY" "BOLINGHA" "CAPE ANNE" "J. GARROLL"
 "H. DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "P.A. MILERS" "GARYWIDE"
 "KATYANG" "P.J. IRWIN" "JAPARA" "S. GIRARD"
 "KATOOMBA" "KATCOORA" "KLIPPONTEIN" "A.P. LINDBERGH"
 "T.C. LORE" "J. LYERS" "NACTAN" "MONMADALE"
 "E. BISHOP" "J. PALMER" "THOS. C. POWER" "A. RAVALLI"
 "BAHO" "M.M. STEWART" "SWARTERMOND" "VAN DEN
 BOSCH" "TJISADIAN" "TEXAS SUN" "TROMSEN"
 "VAQUERO" "WEST POINT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "EMPIRE SILVER" (AO) YMS's 3, 46
 YMS's 47, 48

Merchant Vessels: "CONTESSA" "KATHERINE FLINDERS"
 "MULIARA" "STAGER"

Thursday Island - Warships & Aux. - "PRESENTLE" (AMS)

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BURBURY" "COLLAG" "GLADSTONE"
 "STAVELL" "SAGUA" "SARRIAC" (ARS) "SUSQUEHANNA"
 (AO) PC. 477 SC. 650 YP. 230 YMS. 9
 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
 "MANGORA" (APA)

Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)

Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" "SYNDIA" "TROORE" (AMS)
 "MIZAN" (AF)

Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - "CONKA" (AMS) SC. 735

Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "MILTY" "CROSSBY"
 (APD) "MNYALLA" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "GHELONG" (AMS)
 "WENDY" (AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO) SC. 741 PC. 1123
 ML's 808, 826 YMS's 10, 315 "H.T. ALLEN"
 "KANINELA" (APA) "ALACRAB" (AMA) "VICTORIA"
 "SHIKILLAKY" (AO) "KANUNDA" (AR)

(11) MIKEY FORCE

(1) Peni Islands - On 9 Dec., two huts and two barges at Ambitta Island were strafed by a patrolling Scout fighter.

This may be evidence of use of barges to run supplies from Kavieng to the Northern Solomons via the chain of islands off E. coast of New Ireland.

(2) Rabaul - (a) Further study of photos taken 9 Dec. reveals a total of 168 aircraft as against 145 previously reported.

An additional three submarines, making a total of five are also reported.

(B) Sabaul (Contd)-

- (b) At 0030/10, 5 vessels were reported by aircraft 50 miles W.N.W. of Sabaul. The time and position of this convoy sighting suggest small convoy returning from Sabaul to the Mandates.
- (3) Cape Orford - The submarine sighted by aircraft 30 miles S. of Cape Orford at noon 8 Dec. is further reported to have sustained a good hit from one of three bombs dropped by the aircraft.
- (4) N.W. New Britain - Incomplete reports indicate that the Borgen Bay area was attacked a.m. 9 Dec. by approximately 50 Mitchells with Thunderbolt escort.
- (5) Long Island - At 2031/8, a motor vessel on a N.W. course was heard due East of Long Island.
- (6) Hansa Bay - Between 0720 and 0820/9, one lugger and eight or nine small craft were sighted by aircraft in Hansa Bay.
- (7) Ulinan Harbour - Between 0800 and 0810/9, a large lugger and three fully loaded barges were heavily strafed and left smoking by eight Kittyhawks.
- (8) Huon Peninsula -
(a) At 0132/8, one empty type "B" barge was sunk and one beached empty type "A" barge was destroyed off Reins Point (20 miles W. of Sio) by our PT boats. When intercepted the barges were northbound.
(b) At 0800/8, numerous lights including possible vehicle lights were observed by our PT boats near Gauss Point (15 miles S.W. by E. of Saidur).
(c) a.m. 8 Dec., one of two loaded type "A" barges proceeding W. from Wandokai, 3 miles N. of Masaweng River, was strafed by four Airobras.
(d) At 1000/8, our artillery force captured Wareo. Steady progress is being made by our ground forces advancing against persistent enemy opposition N. of the Kalueng River.
- (9) Upper Ramu Valley - a.m. 9 Dec., enemy positions at Kesawai and Lamocina were bombed and strafed by twenty Kittyhawks and eight Airobras in support of our ground forces.

9. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1800/10:

- (1) "LATROCK" escorting Convoy DP.39 (3 MV) departed Darwin 1838/8 for Thursday Is. ETA 1930/12.
(2) "COOTAMUNERA" escorting "BARAKA" departed Darwin 1830/8 ETA Melville Bay 0920/10 thence to proceed Thursday Is.
(3) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - SL's 439, 614, 615
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAH"

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Dutch New Guinea - (a) Singel Lakes Area: a.m. 9 Dec., villages and canoes in the area were bombed and strafed by one Mitchell.
(b) Kaimana: About 0100/9, three Catalinas bombed and strafed Kaimana. one shot of heavy A/A was fired from a vessel 6 miles S. of Kaimana.
- (2) Timor - At 1830/8, Koepong and Penfoei aerodromes were bombed by four Mitchells, starting fires visible 90 minutes after leaving area.
Nil shipping was seen in Koepong Harbour.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/10:

- (1) "TJERK RIDDERS" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome ETA 13 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADKLAIDE" "VAN REEMERSKERE"
"TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV)
"HOKSHAN" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATHEUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "FELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL"
(PY) 30.739 YP.286

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B. PRAXTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)
YP.288 "CHAFFICLER" (ASP)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/10:

- (1) "ROCKHAMPTON" "BOHICA" "KAPUNDA" ML's 809, 821 escorting Convoy GP.90 (4 MV) departed Sydney 0850/9 for Caloundra ETA 0600/12. On arrival Brisbane "KAPUNDA" is to be sailed to Townsville and ML.809 to Darwin.
- (2) "HUNDABERG" "BALGOONLIE" escorting Convoy PG.89 departed Brisbane 1255/8 ETA Sydney 0500/10.
- (3) "WILCANNIA" "SAILANAT" escorting Convoy CC.149 (7 MV) ETA Port Kembla 2400/10, Sydney 0500/11 and Newcastle 1400/11.
- (4) "TASMAN" (AM) departed Milne Bay 1600/3 for Sydney.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens - Warships & Aux. - -
Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGSAN" "WARD"
(APD) "SOULBURN" "LOLORAIN" "MORSEBY"
"PIRIK" "GLENELG" "WARRNAMBOOL"
"TOWNVILLE" (AMS) "HILON" "TULSA" (FC)
"KYERA" "YARRA" "ABRAHAM CRIJSSSEN"
(A/S Vessels) "SCUDSTAR" (AG)
ML's 430, 812, 837, 806, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HEBART" (CL) "SUCHANAN" (DD)

Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO"
"INVERMIL" (AMS) "DUMBA" (A/S Vessel)
"BUNGAREE" (CM)

Geelongport - Warships & Aux. - "RIBERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

After the sailing of Convoy CC.149, CC and PG convoys are to be discontinued. Ships sailing between E.S.S. ports south of 32°30'E and Victorian and Tasmanian ports will proceed independently except in the case of certain special ships. Air and surface patrols will be provided at certain focal points (e.g. Gabo Island and approaches to Sydney and Newcastle) and striking forces made immediately available if required.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Ocean.

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>		
<u>South Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines Marshalls</u>	
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO MARUHA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALABAMA	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA BROOKSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA ISUZU HAGARA KOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATCHI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVE</u>	HEWON SAN PABLO HALP MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDIEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>YAV/XCVB</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYERSHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAWSON MAHAN REID * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	5-10	25-30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDaho CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUJIO (Poss. Mandates) MYUGA (being modernized)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHIO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COMPENS DELLAU WOOD MONTEREY	ZUIHO (Possibly sunk) * HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHERANGO BARNES COPANEE CORAL SEA CORNEGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO UNYO
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO MEMPHIS INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE AOBA * NYOKO * HAGURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * HAYA
<u>CCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHASI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>CVL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>CV/CVS</u>	POCONOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion to 3 acv)
<u>AV/XCVS</u>	-	25 (some repairing)
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	2 (one repairing)
<u>SS</u>	?	

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

SL TRENTON
DD 2

5. EAST INDIES-INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILIERS	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	-	BITAKA RYUNO
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLEH	-
<u>GA</u>	-	SUPPOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROMISER	ASHIGARA
<u>SI</u>	ADELAIDE VAN HEEMSKERK TROPIC	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DARAE EMERALD	KUMA SI KITAGAMI KIRU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XOL</u>	-	CANTON CARTEAGE CHITRAL	-
<u>AV/CVE</u>	CHILDS W.B. PUNSTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN CALEN TJERK KIDDES	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BILLYFISH BONEYFISH BOSPIN CARRILLA CAPBLIN GREVILLE KARWAL POMPOK PUFFER TUNA TINOSA	?	6
	K.13 BLUEFISH KINGFISH RASHER	On Patrol	
	COD	At Fremantle	
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS	At Darwin	
<u>BINGRAPE</u> (EW Area Only)			
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)		168	
Light & W/Bombers		55	
OB/Bombers		16	
Flying Boats		12	
Floatplanes		48	
Transport & obsn/ a/c		39	

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARYPart I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 682

Date: 11 th December,
1943.PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/11:

- (1) "STELLA" "SHEPPARTON" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "PC.1121" escorting Convoy MF.14 ("DAVID F.BARRY" for Lae, ETA 1735/11, "W.S.LADD" for Milne Bay was due 1500/10) departed Port Moresby 1645/9.
- (3) YMS's 53 and 335 escorting "C.KING" and "Y.13" departed Lae 1800/9 ETA Milne Bay 1506/11.
- (4) "ML.426" departed Port Moresby 1601/6 to RV with "Y.6" vicinity Stephens Is. at 0700/8 and escort to Milne Bay ETA 12 Dec.
- (5) "GLADSTONE" (AMS) escorting "ETAMIN" departed Cairns 1750/10 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/12.
- (6) "KILTY" "CROSEY" (APD) departed Caloundra 1726/9 for Milne Bay ETA 1500/12.
- (7) "SC.732" escorting Convoy MV.47 (4 MV's including "BOTH" "BORGFRED" "VAN DEN BOSCH") departed Milne Bay 1600/10 ETA Townsville 1700/13.
- (8) "CASTLEMAINE" escorting "KATOOMBA" departed Milne Bay 1700/10 for Townsville ETA 1300/12.
- (9) "MANOORA" departed Cairns 1726/9 for Sydney ETA 1700/13. "VENDETTA" to RV at Lady Elliott Is. and escort to destination.
- (10) "WAGGA" departed Townsville 1130/10 for Sydney ETA 1900/14; thence to proceed Melbourne arriving not later than 17 Dec.
- (11) "MIZAR" (AF) departed Townsville 1956/10 for Brisbane ETA Caloundra 1100/12.
- (12) "YP.291" departed Cairns 1349/9 for Brisbane ETA 1200/12.
- (13) "COWRA" "SC.735" escorting Convoy LQ.36 (3 MV) departed Gladstone 1900/10, ETA Brisbane 0500/11.
- (14) "PC.1132" departed Caloundra 0130/8 to RV with "BRASTAGI" in position 24°22'S 156°21'E at 1100/9 and escort to Brisbane. "BRASTAGI" not met, and "PC.1132" proceeding with "PAUL REVERE" to Lady Elliott Is. and to proceed thence to Cairns.
- (15) "VENDETTA" departed Caloundra 1000/10 escorting "CAPE MENDOCINA" till approximately 2000/10; then to proceed Lady Elliott Is., RV with "MANOORA" and escort to Sydney.
- (16) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - -
	Merchant Vessels: "MULORA" "LORINNA"
Lae	- Warships & Aux. - SC.731 YMS.314 ML.431
	Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "NORAB" "H.STANBURY"
Morobe	- Warships & Aux. - ML's 427, 819 "PORTUNUS" (AGP)

Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 801
ML's 806, 816 "TRINITY" (AO)
Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSON" "R.P.WARNER"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734
Merchant Vessels: "J.ALDEN" "J.J.ASTOR" "J.DUBUQUE"
"JOSEPH LANE" "J.W.MACKAY" "J.BARL" "CAPE
MEARES" "OZARK" "WM. PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "SIBIGO"
"A.THOMAS" "G.V.L.MEYER" "C.E. SMITH"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 738, 745, 749 YMS.334
Merchant Vessels: "G.H.FLANDERS"

Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 737, 750
Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"

Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - -
Merchant Vessels: "ED.N.WESTCOTT" "W.H.POINT"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA"
"HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY"
"DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON"
"SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA"
"EROCKS" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) SC's 648, 698
SC's 699, 703, 731, 736, 742, 743, 744, 748, 747
SC's 981, 982, 746 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 70, 71
YMS's 72, 73, 335, 336, 314, 313 YP's 233, 236
ML. 818 PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1131
25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR)
"YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS)
"SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CALEDONIAN
SALVOR" (ARS) "COUCAL" (ASR) "MERKUR" (AF)
"POLLUX" (AKS) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
"BALIKPAPAN" "S.BAMBERGER" "BLOOMFIELD" "J.G.
BRADY" "BULIMBA" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "CHARON"
"H.DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A.EILERS" "GANYMEDE"
"HANYANG" "F.J.IRWIN" "JAPARA" "S.GIRARD"
"KATOORA" "KLIPFONTEIN" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "T.C.LOWE"
"J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MAGNOLIA" "MORMACDALE"
"B.OSBORNE" "PAHUB" "J.PALMER" "THCS.C.POWER"
"A.RAVALLI" "RAMO" "J.S.SARGENT" "M.M.STEWART"
"SWARTENHONDT" "TJISADANE" "TEXAS SUN" "TECUMSEH"
"GENERAL VERSPIJCK" "WEST POINT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "KATOOMBA" "LITHGOW" (AMS) "EMPIRE
SILVER" (AO) YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48
Merchant Vessels: "BONTEKOE" "CANBERRA" "CONTESSA"
"MATTHEW FLINDERS" "GORGON" "MULIAMA" "STAGEN"
"A.D.WHITE"

Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "PREMANTLE" (AMS)
Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BUNBURY" "COLAC" "STAWELL" "WARREGO"
(AMS) "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) PC. 477 SC.650 YP.280
Y.9 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
"MANOORA" (APA)

Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" "GYMPIE" "BROOME" (AMS)
Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "KILTY" "CROSEY" (APD)
"WHYALLA" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "GEELONG" (AMS) "HERON"
(AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO) SC.741 PC.1123 ML's 808, 826
YMS's 10, 315 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMELA" (APA)
"ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO)
"MANUNDA" (AH)

(c) Proposed Movements:

(1) "BROOME" (ex Townsville) "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" "COLAC" (ex Cairns)
escorting Convoy Tn.188 to RV off Fitzroy Is. at 1500/11.
"COLAC" to escort Portion A ("REIJNST") to Port Moresby;
"BROOME" "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" to escort Portion B ("SIMON
BOLIVAR" "CAPE CLEARS" "N.HAPGOOD" "ISOLATOR" "F.B.OLSON"
"N.J.SIMNOTT" "VAN SPILBERGEN" to Milne Bay. ETA both Portions
1100/14.

- (2) "GEEELONG" "WHYALLA" "SC.741" escorting Convoy QL.37 (7 MV) to depart Brisbane 1600/12. After arrival Lady Elliott Is. "GEEELONG" returns to Brisbane, remaining escorts are detailed to escort Convoy LQ.37.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Buin Base - On 10 Dec., supply area south of the Kahli strip was bombed by 10 Mitchells and supply houses, two A/A positions and four barges in the Tonolei area were bombed and strafed by eight Aircobras.
- (2) Empress Augusta Bay -
(a) On the night 7-8 Dec., two barges were strafed by aircraft 10 miles S.E. of Cape Torokina, and am. 8 Dec., a beached enemy barge was destroyed by PT boats in the same area.
(b) Patrol activity continues around the perimeter of our bridgehead.
- (3) East Coast Bougainville - On 10 Dec., warehouses at Arigua Plantation (8 miles S.E. of Numa Numa) were bombed by six Venturas, causing dense smoke and demolishing buildings.
- (4) Kavieng Area - Early a.m. 10 Dec., a large freighter transport heading towards the coast of Dyaul Island was attacked by a Navy Catalina which scored three direct hits in a glide attack sinking the vessel within five minutes. No lifeboats were seen and it is considered there were few survivors.
- (5) St. George's Channel - Night 8-9 Dec., one patrol boat was observed by aircraft in St. George's Channel.
- (6) Rabaul Area - At 2345/9, five vessels were sighted by aircraft 50 miles W.N.W. of Rabaul. It is now reported the vessels were headed for Rabaul.
- (7) Cape Gloucester -
(a) At 1356/10, A/A positions at Cape Gloucester were attacked by 13 Liberators with Lightning escort. Three of four T/E aircraft were observed on S. side of No. 2 strip.
(b) At 0900/10, a submarine heading on course 085° was sighted by aircraft 100 miles N. of Cape Gloucester.
- (8) Vitiaz Strait -
(a) At 1345/10, four or five possible barges were sighted by aircraft in a cove on Southern tip of Rooke Island.
(b) At 0440/10, motor vessels were heard N. of Long Island. It is recalled that a similar report was made on the night 8-9 Dec.
- (9) Upper Ramu Valley Area -
(a) At 1000/10, bridges on the Bogadjim-Yaula road and camps and supply dumps in the Daumoina area were bombed by 34 Mitchells and one squadron of Marauders with Kittyhawk escort with generally good results on the latter target.
Five or six barges were seen near Bogadjim.
(b) At 0545/10, a single enemy aircraft dropped four or five bombs on allied positions 6 miles N.W. of Dumpu, causing damage and casualties.
- (10) Huon Peninsula Area -
(a) A.m. 9 Dec., 14 Aircobras strafed targets of opportunity from Saidor to Fortification Point.
(b) At 0842/9, a barge unloading in area E. of Hübika (2 miles N.W. of Fortification Point) was bombed by 10 Mitchells, causing heavy clouds of smoke. Three barges were observed in the area.
At the same time, the coastal track between the Masaweng River and Wandokai was bombed and strafed by 9 Bostons.
(c) At 1414/10, personnel and barge staging areas in the Nambariwa areas (4 miles S.E. of Sio) were bombed by 14 Liberators with Lightning escort. At least one fire was started and one barge was destroyed.

(10) Huon Peninsula Area (Contd) -

(d) Our ground forces continue to advance slowly N. of the Kalueng River and in the Wareo area have occupied Bazuluo, where a large, recently evacuated hospital was found.

(e) At 1840/9, two enemy aircraft ineffectually dive-bombed and strafed the Pino Hill area.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/11:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting Convoy DT.39 (2 MV) departed Darwin 1235/8 for Thursday Is. ETA 1930/12.
- (2) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" departed Darwin 1250/8 was due Melville Bay 0929/10 thence to proceed Thursday Is.
- (3) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

(1i) ENEMY FORCES

Timor - Photos 10 Dec. of Dilli show fourteen barges in the Harbour and new buildings near the hills S. of the town.

No activity is shown on the aerodrome, and there are no aircraft visible.

3. SOUTHWESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/11:

- (1) "TJERK HIDDIES" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome ETA 13 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK"
"TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS"
(AV) "HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL"
(FY) SC.739 YP.286

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B. PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK"
(AM) YP.288 "CHANTICLEER" (ASR)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/11:

- (1) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ECHUCA" "KAPUNDA" ML's 809, 821 escorting Convoy GP.90 (4 MV) departed Sydney 0850/9 for Caloundra ETA 0600/12. On arrival Brisbane "KAPUNDA" is to be sailed to Townsville and ML.809 to Darwin.
- (2) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Milne Bay 1600/3 for Sydney.

(b) In Harbour:

Port Stephens - Warships & Aux. - -
Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" "WARD"
"WATERS" (APD) "BALLARAT" "BUNDABERG"
"DELOIRINE" "GOULEURN" "KALGOORLIE"
"MORESBY" "PIRIE" "GLENELG" "WILCANNIA"
(AMS) "TOWNSVILLE" (AMS) "HILO" "FULSA"
(PG) "KYBRA" "YANDRA" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN"
(A/S Vessels) "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
ML's 430, 802, 807, 809, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "BUCHANAN" (DD)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO"
"INVERELL" (AMS) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel)
"BUNGAREE" (CM)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "INVERELL" (AMS) after completion of trials, to depart Port Phillip p.m. 12 Dec. for Brisbane.

B. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ENEMY FORCES

Nauru Island - On 8 Dec., Nauru Is. was successfully attacked by carrier-based aircraft and bombed by surface vessels.

C. INDIAN OCEAN

ENEMY FORCES

Cocos Island - Between 1035/10 and 1055/10, an enemy aircraft carried out a reconnaissance of Cocos Island from a height of 7000 to 8000 feet.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	South Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTEPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA ISUZU NAGARA NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>CL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XOVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN NOA REID * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	5 - 10	25-30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) CERO) CORVINA) GATO) FETO) S.31)	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH) SCAMP)	At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH) RATON) RAY)	At Milne Bay		
	REDFIN) S.38)	On Passage		
<u>BT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T.ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALBORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS	-	?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN * DIXIE		1	1
<u>R</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (NE Area Only)
 Fighters (incl. 14 twin-eng.) 248
 Light & M/Bombers 145
 SE/Bombers 45
 Flying Boats 2
 Floatplanes 50
 Transport & Obsn. A/C 13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	25
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

NORTH CAROLINA
INDIANA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
*OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO (Poss. Mandates)
HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

CV (T)

-

HOSHO

CV (L)

COWPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

ZUIHO (Possibly sunk)
* HAYATAKA

CV (E)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
COPAHEE
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA
CHUYO
UNYO

CA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
MINNEAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
PENSACOLA
INDIANAPOLIS
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

TONE
AGEA
* MYOKO
* HAGURO
* NACHI
* ATAGO
* TAKAO
* MAYA

OCA

-

6

CL

OAKLAND
HONOLULU
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* NATORI

CL (T)

-

KASHIMA

6 - 7

CL

-

POCOMOKE

CHIYODA (under conversion
3 to ACV)

AE/CVS

-

Approx 35

25 (some repairing)

XAV/XCVS

-

Approx 50

Approx 30

OD

-

?

2 (one repairing)

SS

AS

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON
DD 2

5. EAST INDIES-INDIAN OCEAN

Southwest Pacific
(Western Section) Eastern Fleet Area East Indies-Philippines

<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	-	HITAKA RYUHO
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE VAN HEEMSKERK TROMP	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CARTHAGE CHITRAL	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOJ
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDES	Approx 27	10
<u>BS</u>	BILLFISH BONFISH BOWFIN CABRILLA CAPELIN GREVALLE MARWHAL POMPOM PUFFER TUNA TINOSA	} ? On Patrol	6
<u>BS</u>	K.12 BLUEFISH KINGFISH RASHER	} At Fremantle	
<u>BS</u>	PELIAS	COD ? At Darwin	

AIRCRAFT (NW.Area Only)
Fighters (inc. 27 twin-eng.) 168
Light & M/Bombers 55
SE/Bombers 16
Flying Boats 12
Floatplanes 49
Transport & Obsn/ A/c 39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 683

Date: 12th December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/12:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "PC.1121" "SC.982" "YMS.73" escorting "DAVID F.BARRY" to Lae were due 2230/11.
- (3) "YMS.313" "SC.746" escorting "STEPHEN GIRARD" departed Milne Bay 0600/10 for Lae ETA 1800/12.
- (4) "YMS.336" escorting "MOAMOA" departed Milne Bay 0600/11 for Lae ETA 0200/13.
- (5) "YMS's 53 and 335" escorting "C.KING" and "Y.13" departed Lae 1800/9 were due Milne Bay 1506/11.
- (6) "ML.426" departed Port Moresby 1601/8 to RV with "Y.6" vicinity Stephens Is. at 0700/8 and escort to Milne Bay ETA 12 Dec.
- (7) "BROOME" (ex Townsville) "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" "COLAC" (ex Cairns) escorting Convoy TN.188 departed Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/11. "COLAC" to escort Portion A ("REIJNST") to Port Moresby; "BROOME" "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" to escort Portion B ("SIMON BOLIVAR" "CAPE CLEAR" "N.HAPGOOD" "ISOLATOR" "F.B.OLSON" "N.J.SINNOTT" "VAN SPILBERGEN") to Milne Bay. ETA Both Portions 1100/14.
- (8) "GLADSTONE" (AMS) escorting "ETAMIN" departed Cairns 1750/10 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/12.
- (9) "KILTY" "CROSBY" (APD) departed Caloundra 1726/9 for Milne Bay ETA 1500/12.
- (10) "SC.732" escorting Convoy MV.47 ("RAMO" "BOTH" "BORGFRED" "VAN DEN BOSCH") departed Milne Bay 1600/10 ETA Townsville 1700/13.
- (11) "LITHGOW" departed Port Moresby 1330/10 for Cairns ETA 1900/13 in company with "BIRCHGROVE PARK" for Townsville ETA 1130/14.
- (12) "CASTLEMAINE" escorting "KATOOMBA" departed Milne Bay 1700/10 for Townsville ETA 1300/12.
- (13) "KATOOMBA" escorting "CONVOY NT.67" ("CANBERRA" "EMPIRE SILVER" "GORGON") was to depart Port Moresby 0630/12 for Townsville.
- (14) "SC.741" escorting "PYRO" (AE) was to depart Caloundra 1100/12. "SC.741" to escort to vicinity Bustard Head thence proceed to Gladstone. "PYRO" to proceed independently to Townsville.
- (15) "YP.291" departed Cairns 1349/9 for Brisbane ETA 1200/12.
- (16) "WIZAR" (AF) departed Townsville 1956/10 for Brisbane was due Caloundra 1100/12.
- (17) "PC.1132" departed Caloundra 0130/8 to RV with "BRASLAGI" in position 24°22'S 156°21'E at 1100/9 and escort to Brisbane. "BRASLAGI" not met, and "PC.1132" proceeding with "PAUL REVERE" to Lady Elliott Is. and to proceed thence to Cairns.
- (18) "ROCKHAMPTON" escorting Convoy PG.90 (7 MV) was to depart Brisbane 1200/12. "WAGGA" to overtake Convoy 1300/12 and provide additional escort to Sydney, thence to proceed Melbourne arriving not later than 17 Dec.
- (19) 6 submarines on patrol.

(h) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Merchant Vessels: "MULCRA" "LORINNA" "KOORAKA"
"DESIKOKO"
Lae - Warships & Aux. - SC.731" YMS.314 ML.431
Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "NORAB" "H.STANBURY"
Morebe - Warships & Aux. - "PCHTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 801
"TRINITY" (AO)
Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSON" "R.P.WARNER"
Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734
Merchant Vessels: "J.ALDEN" "J.DUBUQUE" "JOSEPH LANE"
"J.W.MACKAY" "J.EARL" "CAPE MEARES" "OZARK"
"PAHUD" "WM.PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "SIBIGO"
"A.THOMAS" "G.V.L.MEYER" "C.E.SMITH"
Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 738, 745, 749 YMS.334
Merchant Vessels: "G.H.FLANDERS"
Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 737, 750
Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"
Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "ED.N.WESTGOTT" "W.H.POINT"
Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (G)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (GL) "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA"
"HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY"
"DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON"
"SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA"
"BROOKS" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) SC's 648
SC's 698, 699, 703, 731, 736, 742, 743, 744
SC's 747, 748, 981 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 70
YMS's 71, 72, 514, 335 YP's 233, 236
ML's 425, 427, 806, 816, 818, 819
PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1131
25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR)
"YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON"
(AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL)
"CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) "COUCAL" (ASR) "MERKER"
(AF) "POLLUX" (AKS) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER"
HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
"BALIKPAPAN" "S.BAMBERGER" "BLOOMFIELD"
"J.G.BRADY" "BULIMBA" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL"
"CHARON" "H.DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A.EILERS"
"GARYMEDE" "HANYANG" "P.J.IRWIN" "JAPARA"
"KATOORA" "KLIPFONTEIN" "W.S.LADD" "A.F.
LINDBERGH" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES" "MAGTAN"
"MAGNOLIA" "MORMACDALE" "J.PALMER" "A.RAVALLI"
"J.S.SARGENT" "M.M.STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT"
"TJISADANE" "TEGUMSEH" "GENERAL VERSPIJCK"
"WEST POINT"
Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "KATOOMBA" (AMS) "EMPIRE SILVER"
(AO) YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48
Merchant Vessels: "BONTEKOE" "CANBERRA" "MATTHEW"
FLINDERS" "GORGON" "MULIAMA" "STAGEN"
"A.D.WHITE"
Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS)
Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BUNBURY" "COLAC" "STAWELL"
"WARREGO" (AMS) "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) PC.477
SC.650 YP.280 Y.9 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820
"PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANOORA" (APA)
Palm Island - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" "GYMPIE" "BROOME" (AMS)
Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "ROCKHAMPTON"
"KAFUNDA" "WHYALLA" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "BEELONG"
(AMS) "HERON" (AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO) SC.741
PC.1123 ML's 808, 826 YMS's 10, 315
"H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA)
"VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "MANUNDA" (AH)
ML's 809, 821

(c) Proposed Movements

- (1) "GEE LONG" "WHYALLA" escorting Convoy QL.37 (7 MV) to depart Brisbane 1600/12. After arrival Lady Elliott Is. "GEE LONG" returns to Brisbane, remaining escorts are detailed to escort Convoy LQ.37.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Bougainville Island -
(a) Photos 11 Dec. show:-
(i) All airfields unserviceable.
(ii) Twenty barges in Buka Passage - Matchin Bay area; no seaworthy craft in Tonolei Harbour.
(iii) Increased A/A defences at Chabai.
(b) A reliable report on 11 Dec. states that a large concentration of enemy troops is now at Wakunai near Numa Numa and that they are reinforcements from Buka. It is also reported that 2 officers and 22 men have deserted from the Numa Numa area and are asking the natives to hide them.
- (2) Empress Augusta Bay Area -
(a) At 1730/11, an enemy submarine 75 miles S.W. by W. of Cape Mutupina was bombed by a patrolling aircraft and possibly sunk. A large oil slick and debris were observed after the attack.
- (3) Kilinailau Group - On 11 Dec., one camouflaged hut and possible camouflaged barge were sighted by aircraft on E. side of the atoll.
This is further evidence of the use of this chain of islands for staging barges to the Solomons from Kavieng.
- X (4) Kavieng - On 11 Dec., a Liberator observed the following shipping at Kavieng:-
1 destroyer
1 motor torpedo boat
2 cargo vessels
3 barges
No opposition from A/A or aircraft was encountered. Practically the same shipping as on 8 Dec.
- (5) Rabaul Area - On the night 10-11 Dec., an enemy hospital ship was sighted by a Navy Catalina 17 miles N.W. of Rabaul. The course is not reported.
- X (6) Bismarcks-Mandates - At 1136/11, a patrolling Liberator unsuccessfully attacked a convoy of two freighter transports (one large, one small) escorted by one destroyer or gunboat on course 300°, 70 miles W. of New Hanover.
This is probably a small convoy returning to the Mandates from Rabaul.
- (7) Wide Bay - At 0845/10, two Bostons strafed points in the Henry Reid Bay area.
- (8) Open Bay - At 0910/11, a formation of aircraft was heard flying on course S.W. over Open Bay.
- (9) Gasmata Area - At 1835/10, a Beaufort attacked and claimed to have destroyed a probable submarine 30 miles S. by E. of Gasmata. A dummy periscope was observed 300 yards from the scene of the attack.
- (10) Borgen Bay - At noon 11 Dec., 26 Mitchells with Thunderbolt escort heavily bombed and strafed targets in the Borgen Bay area. The entire target area was well covered with 25 tons of bombs.
- (11) Madang Area -
(a) At 0830/9, eight Kittyhawks were ineffectively intercepted off Madang by six enemy fighters.
(b) At 0920/10, eight Kittyhawks shot down three of fifteen enemy fighters between Madang and Alexishafen.
- (12) Dumpu Area - At 0845/10, eight Kittyhawks damaged one of 35-40 enemy fighters in the Dumpu area.
- (13) Huon Peninsula -
(a) At 0900/10, four Aircobras strafed Sio Village.
(b) On the night of 9-10 Dec., allied PT boats destroyed five empty northbound barges off Reiss Point (20 miles W. of Sio) and an additional 5 off Hardenberg Point (25 miles S.E. of Sio).

(13) Huon Peninsula (Contd) -

Opposition was encountered from the barges and shore positions.

- (c) A.M. 11 Dec., five Aircobras strafed and probably destroyed two barges and a launch on the beach at Lepsius Point. The Reiss Point area was also strafed.
- (d) At 0835/11, eight Mitchells bombed a barge unloading in area near Fortification Point with unsatisfactory results.

At the same time eight Marauders bombed a bivouac area at Fortification Point, blanketing the entire area; the target is considered destroyed.

Six partially loaded barges were observed in the area N. of Fortification Point.

- (e) Our forward troops supported by tanks and artillery have reached Kiligia and are continuing pressure on enemy positions N.E. of Wareo.

(14) Vitiaz Strait - On 10 Dec. and 12 Dec. enemy patrols from Madang over Vitiaz Strait to Rooke Island were reported.

(15) Morobe Area - At 0816/11, a possible submarine was sighted by aircraft stationary 50 miles N.E. of Morobe.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/12:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting Convoy DT.39 (2 MV) departed Darwin 1235/8 for Thursday Is. ETA 1930/12.
- (2) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" departed Darwin 1250/8 was due Melville Bay 0929/10 thence to proceed Thursday Is.
- (3) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Makassar - At 0007/11, five Liberators bombed targets along the waterfront at Makassar starting several large fires.
One u/i vessel was anchored at Wilhelmina dock.
- (2) Balikpapan - At 2330/10, four Liberators bombed the oil refinery at Balikpapan causing huge explosions and fires in the area of the cracking plant and bulk storage tanks.
One u/i twin engine a/c was sighted over the area.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/12:

- (1) "TJERK HIDDEN" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome ETA 13 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK"
"TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV)
"HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "FELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL"
(PY) SC.739 YP.286
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B. PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK"
(AM) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) YP.288

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/12:

- (1) "WARRNAMBOOL" "YANDRA" escorting Convoy GP.91 (2 MV) were to depart Sydney 0800/12 for Brisbane.
- (2) "VENDETTA" escorting "MANOORA" to Sydney ETA 1700/13
- (3) "ECHUCA" detached from Convoy GP.90, towing two barges to Brisbane ETA 2359/14.
- (4) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Milne Bay 1600/3 for Sydney.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" "WARD"
"WATERS" (AFD) "BALLARAT" "BUNDABERG"
"DELORAIN" "GOULBURN" "KALGOORLIE" "MORESEY"
"PIRIE" "GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" (AMS) "TOWNSVILLE"
(AMS) "HILO" "TULSA" (PG) "KYBRA" "ABRAHAM"
"CRIJNSSSEN" (A/S Vessels) "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
ML's 430, 802, 807, 809, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "BUCHANAN" (DD)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL"
(AMS) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel) "BUNGAREE" (CM)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "INVERELL" (AMS) after completion of trials, to depart Port Phillip p.m. 12 Dec. for Brisbane.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II
ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE
1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	South Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Caroline's Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON * INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAMA	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) 2 ISUZU) possibly NAGARA) sunk NOSHIRO CYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI .
<u>CL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELIER	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN NOA REID * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	5-10	25-30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Caroline Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO } GATO } PETO }	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE } GUARDFISH } SCAMP }	At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH } RATON } RAY }	At Milne Bay		
	REDFIN }	On Passage		
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T.ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS	-	?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN * DIXIE		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)	
Fighters (incl. 14 twin-eng)	248
Light & M/Bombers	145
SE/Bombers	45
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C.	13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
	-	1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

NORTH CAROLINA
INDIANA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO (Poss. Mandates)
HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

-

CV(T)

-

HOSHO

CV(L)

COMPENS
BELLEREAU WOOD
MONETREY

ZUIHO (Possibly sunk)
* HAYATAKA

CV(E)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
COPAHEE
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA
CHUYO
UNYO

CA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WECHITA
NEW ORLEANS
MINNEAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
PENSACOLA
INDIANAPOLIS
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

TONE
AOBA
* MYOKO
* HAGURO
* NACHI
* ATAGO
* TAKAO
* MAYA

DCA

-

6

CL

OAKLAND
HONOLULU
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* NATORI

CL(T)

-

KASHIMA

XCL

-

6 - 7

AV/CVS

POCOMOKE

CHIYODA (under conversion
3 to ACV)

W/XCVS

-

25 (some repairing)

DD

Approx 35

Approx 30

SS

Approx 50

2 (one repairing)

AS

?

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

TRENTON
2

CL
DD

5. EAST INDIES-INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	-	HITAKA RYUHO
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTIER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE VAN HEEMSKERK TROMP	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CARTHAGE CHITRAL	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDUS	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH) BONFISH) CABRILLA) CAPELIN) COD) MARWHALE) POMPOM) PUFFER) TUNA) TINOSA) K.12) BLUEFISH) BOWPIN) GREVALLE) KINGFISH) RASHER)	?) On Patrol At Fremantle	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>			
	Fighters (inc. 27 twin-eng)	168	
	Light & M/Bombers	55	
	SE/Bombers	16	
	Flying Boats	12	
	Floatplanes	49	
	Transport & Obsn. A/C.	39	

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 684

Date: 13th December, 1943.

PART I.

A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/13:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morebe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "BROOME" (ex Townsville) "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" "COLAC" (ex Cairns) escorting Convoy TN.188 departed Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/11. "COLAC" to escort Portion A ("REIJNST") to Port Moresby; "BROOME" "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" to escort Portion B ("SIMON BOLIVAR" "CAPE CLEARE" "N.HAPGOOD" "ISOLATOR" "F.B. OLSON" "N.J. SINNOTT" "VAN SPILBERGEN") to Milne Bay. ETA both Portions 1100/14.
- (3) "SC.732" escorting Convoy MV.47 ("RAMO" "BOTH" "BORGFRED" "VAN DEN BOSCH") departed Milne Bay 1600/10 ETA Townsville 1700/13.
- (4) "PC.476" and "COUGAL" escorting U.S. Subs. "RATON" and "RAY" from Milne Bay to Darwin. ETA Darwin 1031/18. "COUGAL" then returns to Milne Bay escorted as far as Thursday Is. by "PC.476"
- (5) "LITHGOW" departed Port Moresby 1530/10 for Cairns ETA 1900/13 in company with "BIRCHGROVE PARK" for Townsville ETA 1130/14.
- (6) "KATOOMBA" escorting Convoy NT.67 ("CANBERRA" "EMPIRE SILVER" "GORGON") departed Port Moresby 0815/12 for Townsville.
- (7) "STUART" departed Brisbane 1530/12 to RV at 1100/14 with "PENNANT" in position 24°27'S. 157°17'E. and at 0700/15 with "BOSCHFONTEIN" in position 24°20'S. 155°45'E. "STUART" to escort "BOSCHFONTEIN" to Brisbane and "PENNANT" to Lady Elliott Is., returning to Brisbane on completion.
- (8) "KAFUNDA" escorting Convoy QL.37A (2 MV's, each with tow) was to depart Caloundra 1200/13 for Bustard Head.
- (9) "GLADSTONE" departed Milne Bay 1700/12 en route Grafton Passage. ETA 0900/14.
- (10) "GEELONG" "WHYALLA" escorting Convoy QL.37 (5 MV towing 6 PTs) departed Brisbane 1521/12. After arrival Lady Elliott Is. "GEELONG" returns to Brisbane; remaining escorts are detailed to escort Convoy LQ.37.
- (11) "SUSQUEHANNA" was to depart Cairns 0600/13 for Brisbane via Palm Is. and Townsville. ETA Palm Is. 1700/13, Brisbane P.M. 17 Dec.
- (12) "SC.741" escorting "PYRO" (AE) departed Caloundra 1140/12. "SC.741" to escort to vicinity Bustard Head thence proceed to Gladstone. "PYRO" to proceed independently to Townsville, ETA 0600/15.
- (13) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "MULGRA" "LORINNA" "KOORAKA"
"DESIKOKO" "MELINGA" "SPRIGETLY"

Lao

- Warships & Aux. - SC's 731, 985 YMS's 73, 314, 336
PC.1181

Merchant Vessels: "CAPE SANDY" "NORAB" "H. STANBURY"
"MOAMOA" "D. BARRY"

Morobe
Buna

- Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 801
"TRINITY" (AO) "WINTER"

Merchant Vessels: "S. BENSON"

Oro Bay

- Warships & Aux. - SC.734
Merchant Vessels: "J. ALDEN" "J. DUBUQUE" "JOSEPH LANE"
"J.W. MACKAY" "J. EARL" "CAPE KEARES" "OZARK"
"PAHOD" "WM. PROUSE" "J. ROSS" "SIBIGO" "A. THOMAS"
"G.V.L. MEYER" "C.E. SMITH" "R.F. WARNER"

Kiriwina

- Warships & Aux. - SC's 733, 745, 749 YMS.534
Merchant Vessels: "G.H. FLANDERS"

Woodlark Is.

- Warships & Aux. - SC's 737, 750
Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"

Goodenough Is.

- Merchant Vessels: "ED. N. WESTCOTT" "W.H. POINT" "
"PULCANBAR"

Milne Bay

- Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA"
"HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY"
"DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON"
"SNOW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA"
"BROOKS" "CROSEY" "KILTY" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS"
(APD) SC's 648, 698, 699, 703, 731, 736, 742,
743, 744, 747, 748, 981 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 53,
YMS's 70, 71, 72, 314, 335 YP's 233, 236
ML's 425, 427, 431, 806, 816, 818, 819
PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1181
25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR)
"YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS)
"SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CALEDONIAN
SALVOR" (ARS) "COUGAL" (ASR) "MERKER" (AF)
"PCELLUX" (AKS) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL"
(LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L. ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
"BALIKPAPAN" "S. BAMBERGER" "BLOOMFIELD"
"J.G. ERADY" "BULIMBA" "CAPE ANNE" "J. CARROLL"
"CHARON" "H. DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A. EILERS"
"ETAMIN" "CANYMEDE" "HANYANG" "P.J. IRWIN" "JAPARA"
"KATOORA" "KLIPPONTEIN" "W.S. LADD" "A.F. LINDBERGH"
"T.C. LOWE" "J. LYKES" "MACTAN" "MAGNOLIA"
"MORMACDALE" "J. PALMER" "A. RAVALLI" "J.S. SARGENT"
"M.M. STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT" "TJISADANE"
"TECUMSEH" "GENERAL VERSPIJCK" "WEST POINT"

Port Moresby

- Warships & Aux. - YMS's 3, 46, 47, 48, 72 ML.426
Merchant Vessels: "BONTEKOE" "MATTHEW FLINDERS"
"MULIAMA" "STAGEN" "CHARON" "A.D. WHITE"

Thursday Is.

- Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" "FREMANTLE" (AMS)
Merchant Vessels: "ISLANDER"

Cairns

- Warships & Aux. - "BUNBURY" "CCLAC" "STAWELL"
"CASTLEMAINE" "WARREGO" (AMS) "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO)
PC.477, 1132 SC.650 YP.280 Y.9 ML's 803, 804,
ML's 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANOORA" (APA)

Palm Island
Townsville
Brisbane

- Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
- Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" "GYMPIE" "BROOME" (AMS)
- Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "ROCKHAMPTON" "COWRA"
"WHYALLA" "SWAN" "BCWEN" "GEBELONG" (AMS) "HERON"
(AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO) SC's 735, 741 PC.1123
ML's 808, 826 YMS's 10, 315 "H.T. ALLEN"
"KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA"
"SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "MANUNDA" (AH) "MIZAR" (AF)
ML's 809, 821 YP.291

(11) ENEMY FORCES

1. South Bougainville - (a) Photographs Dec 12 show all enemy airfields unserviceable.
(b) Night Dec 10/11 nightfighters bombed Faisi.
(c) 16 Mitchells unescorted, forenoon Dec 11, attacked Kahili.
(d) P.M. Dec 11 54 Dauntless 28 Avengers 13 fighters escort attacked supply areas, installations, vicinity Kahili.
(e) P.M. Dec 11, 8 Aircobras bombed Tonolei.
2. Kieta - Dec 11, 3 Kittyhawks, some Mitchells and 2 Venturas attacked this area.
3. Empress Augusta Bay - Only minor patrol contacts reported Dec 10.
An allied vessel bombarded enemy positions southern section of bay Dec 10.
Night Dec 11/12, single enemy bomber attacked allied landing craft vicinity Torokina damaging one vessel which is believed to have shot down enemy aircraft.
4. Buka Passage Area - P.M. Dec 11, 24 Liberators attacked enemy positions Matchin Bay area. Allied P.T. boats operating off this area night Dec 11/12 made no contacts but reported aircraft landing on Bonis.
5. Nissan Island - Dec 11, 4 Venturas attacked huts and buildings.
Indications were received of a Radar beacon on this island.
6. Solomon Sea - At 1415/12, 2 stationary submarines were reported on surface 90 miles north of Woodlark Island. Both crash dived on approach of aircraft.
7. New Ireland -
(a) Kavieng - On Dec 11, 30/40 barges were observed in the anchorages near Kavieng in addition to the shipping already reported, namely 1 destroyer, 1 motor torpedo boat, 2 cargo vessels and 3 barges.
This concentration of barges is further evidence of the enemy now using Kavieng as a staging-in base for supplying the Bismarcks and probably N. Solomons areas by means of barges.
(b) Further shipping was reported in the vicinity of Dyaul Is. yesterday, Dec 12. At 1110/12 a four-ship convoy was reported 15 miles SSE of Dyaul Is., while at 1320/12 three other vessels were observed close inshore to the New Ireland coast approximately 50 miles ESE of Dyaul Is. This later sighting may well be barges or small craft moving along the New Ireland coast between Kavieng and Rabaul.
(c) A late intercept timed 0135/13 indicates our aircraft attacking a four-ship convoy approximately 20 miles SE of Dyaul Island and scoring a hit on one medium merchantman.
8. Wide Bay - Aircraft sightings to Dec 11 indicate new construction Henry Reid Bay area including a new jetty, bridge and several new huts.
9. Gasmata - Afternoon Dec 12, 37 Kittyhawks attacked Gasmata strip.
10. Huon Peninsula - Forenoon Dec 12, 7 Kittyhawks dive bombed enemy positions at Erima.
Forenoon Dec 11, 12 Kittyhawks dive bombed a bridge on the Bogadjim-Yaula Road.
Forenoon Dec 11, 5 Aircobras attacked barges between Saidor and Fortification Point destroying and damaging several.
Night Dec 10/11 our PT boats sank five large barges vicinity Fortification Point, two of which were northbound. They also damaged 3 empty barges and 1 large barge armed with a 20 m.m. gun.
Three possible rubber supply rafts were seen apparently being towed by one barge.
Heavy fire up to 3" was accounted in the area.
Our ground troops penetrated the enemy positions at the road junction near Wareo inflicting casualties and capturing ammunition.
11. Dutch New Guinea-Ceram-Tanimbar Is. - Forenoon Dec 12, 3 Liberators attacked Kokas (Dutch New Guinea), Boela (Ceram) and Jandona (Tanimbar Is.).
Ten barges were observed anchored at Kokas, 2 small craft near Boela and 2 small craft near Jandona.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/13:

- (1) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" departed Darwin 1250/8 was due Melville Bay 0929/10 thence to proceed Thursday Is.
- (2) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Dutch New Guinea-Ceram-Tanimbar Is. - Forenoon Dec 12, 3 Liberators attacked Kokas (Dutch New Guinea), Boela (Ceram), and Jamdena (Tanimbar Is.).
Ten barges were observed anchored at Kokas, 2 small craft near Boela and 2 small craft near Jamdena.
- - - -

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/13:

- (1) "TJERK HIDDERS" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome ETA 13 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK"
"TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" "AV"
"HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL"
(PY) SC.739 YP.286
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B. PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)
"CHANTICLEER" (ASR) YP.288

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/13:

- (1) "WARRNAMBOOL" "YANDRA" escorting Convoy GP.91 (2 MV) departed Sydney 0805/12 for Brisbane ETA 2330/14.
- (2) "VENDETTA" escorting "MANOORA" to Sydney ETA 1700/13.
- (3) "ECHUCA" detached from Convoy GP.90, towing a barge to Goffs Harbour ETA 0500/13.
- (4) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Milne Bay 1600/3 for Sydney.
- (5) "ROCKHAMPTON" escorting Convoy PG.90 (7 MV) departed Brisbane 1230/12 ETA Sydney 2359/14. "WAGGA" was to overtake convoy at 1600/12 and provide additional escort to Sydney, thence to proceed Melbourne arriving not later than 17 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "DENT" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "WATERS"
(APD) "BALLARAT" "BUNDABERG" "DELORAINÉ" "
"GOULBURN" "KALGOORLIE" "MORESBY" "PIRIE"
"GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" (AMS) "TOWNSVILLE" (AMS)
"HILO" "TULSA" (PG) "KYBRA" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN"
(A/S Vessels) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) ML's 430, 802,
ML's 807, 809, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL) "BUCHANAN" (DD)

Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL"
(AMS) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel) "BUNGAREE" (CM)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "INVERELL" (AMS) after completion of trials, to depart Port Phillip p.m. 12 Dec for Brisbane.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

	South West Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO GATC PETC	) On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE GUARDFISH SCAMP	) At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH	At Milne Bay		
	REDFIN RATON RAY	) On Passage		
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H. T. ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANTIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSEY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS	-	?	?
<u>AD</u>	* DOBBIN DIXIE		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PFD METHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)

Fighters (incl. 14 twin-eng/)	254
Light & M/Bombers	145
SE/Bombers	45
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C	13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RICHMOND RALEIGH	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

NORTH CAROLINA
INDIANA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO (Poss. Mandates)
HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

CV (T)

-

HOSHIO

CV (L)

COWPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

ZUIHO (Poss. sunk)
* HAYATAKA

CV (E)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
COPAHEE
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA
CHUYO
UNYO

CA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
MINNEAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
PENSACOLA
INDIANAPOLIS
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

TONS
AOBA
* HYOKO
* HAGURO
* NACHI
* ATAGO
* TAKAO
* MAYA

OCA

-

6

CL

OAKLAND
HONOLULU
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* NATORI

CL (T)

XCL

-

KASHIMA
6 - 7

AV/CVS

POCOMOKE

CHIYODA (under conversion
3 to ACV)

AV/XCVS

-

25 (some repairing)

DD

Approx 35

Approx 30

SS

Approx 50

2 (one repairing)

AS

?

* Non-effective

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 685

Date 14th December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/14:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morebe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "BROOME" (ex Townsville) "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" "COLAC" (ex Cairns) escorting Convoy TN.188 departed Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/11. "COLAC" to escort Portion A ("REIJNST") to Port Moresby; "BROOME" "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" to escort Portion B ("SIMON BOLIVAR" "CAPE CLEAR" "N.HAPGOOD" "ISOLATOR" "F.B.OLSON" "N.J.SINNOTT" "VAN SPILBERGEN") to Milne Bay. Both portions were due 1100/14.
- (3) "LITHGOW" escorting Convoy TN.189 ("SUVA") departed Townsville 1812/13 for Port Moresby ETA 1300/16.
- (4) "PC.476" and "COUCAL" escorting U.S. Subs. "RATON" and "RAY" from Milne Bay to Darwin. ETA Darwin 1031/18. "COUCAL" then returns to Milne Bay escorted as far as Thursday Is. by "PC.476"
- (5) "YMS.9" was to depart Cairns a.m. 13 Dec. for Brisbane.
- (6) "KAPUNDA" escorting Convoy QL.37A (3 MV), two with tow) departed Caloundra 1550/13 for Bustard Head ETA 0400/15; on arrival Bustard Head "KAPUNDA" to proceed independently to Townsville.
- (7) "GLADSTONE" departed Milne Bay 1700/12 en route Grafton Passage, was due 0900/14.
- (8) "GEELONG" "WHYALLA" escorting Convoy QL.37 (5 MV towing 6 FT's) departed Brisbane 1521/12. "GEELONG" detached at Lady Elliott Is. was due Brisbane 0700/14.
- (9) "YMS.71" departed Milne Bay 1150/13 towing a floating dock to Finschhafen area ETA 0400/16.
- (10) "SUSQUEHANNA" departed Cairns 0615/13 for Brisbane via Palm Island and Townsville. ETAPalm Is. 1700/13, Brisbane p.m. 17 Dec.
- (11) "STUART" was to depart Brisbane, so as to, RV with "PENNANT" at 0700/14 in position 24 20'S 155 45'E and escort to Townsville.
- (12) "SC.741" escorting "PYRO" (AE) departed Caloundra 1140/12. "SC.741" to escort to vicinity Bustard Head thence proceed to Gladstone. "PYRO" to proceed independently to Townsville, ETA 0800/15.
- (13) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Merchant Vessels: "KOORAKA" "DESIKOKO" "MELINGA"
"VAQUERO"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - SC.982 YMS's 73, 314, 336 PC.1121
Merchant Vessels: "NORAB" "MOAMOA" "D.BARRY" "SIBIGO"

Morebe
 Buna - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
 - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 ML's 424, 501
 "TRINITY" (AO) "WINTER"
 Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSON" "OZARK" "COMARA"
 "MULORA"
 Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734 PC.1124
 Merchant Vessels: "J.ALLEN" "J.DUBUQUE" "J.LANE"
 "LORINNA" "J.W.MACKAY" "J.EARL" "CAFE HEARES"
 "PAHUI" "WM. PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "A.THOMAS"
 "G.V.L.MEYER" "C.E.SMITH" "R.F.WARNER" "TJISIDANI"
 Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC.745, 749
 Merchant Vessels: "PULGANBAR"
 Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 737, 750
 Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"
 Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "W.H.POINT"
 Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
 "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "WARRAMUNGA"
 "ARUNTA" "HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" "MUGFORD"
 "BAGLEY" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN"
 "LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "SANDS"
 "MOA" "BROOKS" "CROSEY" "KILTY" "GILMER"
 "HUMPHREYS" (APD) SC's 648, 698, 699, 703
 SC's 731, 736, 738, 742, 743, 744, 747, 748, 981
 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 53, 70, 71, 334, 335
 YP's 233, 236 ML's 425, 427, 431, 806, 816
 ML's 818, 819 PC's 479, 1119, 1120, 1122, 1131
 25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR)
 "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON"
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 "CALDEONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) "MERKUR" (AF)
 "POLLUX" (AKS) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL"
 (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
 "BALIKPAPAN" "S.BAMBERGER" "BLOOMFIELD"
 "J.G.BRADY" "BULIMBA" "CAPE ANNE" "CAPE SANDY"
 "J.CARROLL" "CHARON" "H.DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA"
 "P.A.EILERS" "ETAMIN" "G.H.FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE"
 "HANYANG" "F.J.IRWIN" "JAPARA" "KATOORA"
 "ELIFFONTEIN" "W.S.LADDE" "A.F.LINDBERGH"
 "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MAGNOLIA"
 "MORMACDALE" "J.PALMER" "A.RAVALLI" "J.S.
 SARGENT" "M.M.STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT" "TECUMSEH"
 "GENERAL VERSPIJCK" "Ed.N.WESTCOTT" "WEST POINT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48, 72 ML.426
 Merchant Vessels: "BONTEKOE" "MATTHEW FLINDERS"
 "MULIAMA" "STAGEN" "CHARON" "A.D.WHITE"
 Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" "FREMANTLE" (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "ISLANDER"
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "CASTLEMAINE" "KATOOMBA" "WARREGO"
 (AMS) PC.477, 1132 SC's 650, 732 YP.280 Yp
 Y.9 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
 "MANCOORA" (APA)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" "GYMPIE" "BROOME" (AMS)
 "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "ROCKHAMPTON" "COWRA"
 "SWAN" "BOWEN" (AMS) "HERON" (AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO)
 SC's 735, 741 PC.1123 ML's 808, 826
 YMS's 10, 315 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA)
 "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SEIKELLAMY" (AO)
 "MANUNDA" (AE) "MIZAR" (AF) ML's 809, 821 YP.291

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "YMS.72" to be sailed from Port Moresby to Cairns for docking ETA 1800/13.
- (2) "CASTLEMAINE" "ARARAT" "SC.650" escorting Convoy TN.190 ("J.CABRILLO" "ANHUI" "MIDWEST FARMER" "W.E.CHANNING" "CHAS.P.STEINMETZ") to depart Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/14 for Milne Bay ETA 1200/16.
- (3) "MIZAR" to depart Caloundra 1430/14 for Sydney.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Bougainville Island - Dec.13, photos show Buka, Bonis, Kara and Kahili runways unserviceable. Ballale appears partly serviceable for 2700 x 110 feet.

Barges: 22 in Buka-Matchin Bay area
7 at Ballale-Shortland Is.

A/A Positions: Four new positions under construction S.W. of top plateau of Sohana Island, Matchin Bay.
Three gun battery 750 yards N. of Kara.
Five heavy A/A revetments in clearing W. of Ebery's Lease, Kahili, a 6th under construction.

- (2) Kieta Area - During 12 Dec., Arigua Plantation, Tenekau and Kieta Harbour area were bombed and strafed by 15 Mitchells, 20 Dauntless, 8 Corsairs, 16 Avengers, 2 Venturas and 40 fighters, destroying buildings and starting many fires.

- (3) Buka Passage Area -

(a) 1040/12, 46 Dauntless, 27 Avengers and 48 escorting fighters dropped nearly 50 tons of bombs on gun emplacements and huts in the Matchin Bay area, destroying the targets and demolishing a pier at Soraken.

(b) 1100/12, 8 Mitchells with 16 escorting fighters bombed the supply area at Bonis with good coverage of target area.

(c) Dec. 13, a reliable report states the enemy has left Tarlena (on Matchin Bay) for the East coast of Bougainville as a result of recent bombing in which 60 were killed. Many of the enemy are reported to be unarmed.

(d) Night Dec.11-12, PT boats pursued a 50 foot schooner into Queen Carola Harbour and wrecked it.

- (4) Feni Island - 0345/12, a westbound enemy submarine was attacked by a patrolling aircraft 15 miles E. of Feni Island.

- (5) Mussau Island - 1122/13, a 50 foot wooden fuel barge was reported by aircraft 40 miles E.N.E. of Cape Siemens on course N.W. The aircraft scored a direct hit with a 500 lb. bomb and heavily strafed it, leaving it burning and dead in the water, probably sinking. Heavy oil slicks were observed nearby to the N.W.

- (6) Kavieng - (a) 0110/14, a damaged heavy cruiser was reported by a U.S.N. Catalina to be anchored in Steffen Strait. The extent of the damage is unknown.

(b) Further reports reveal that at 0315/13, a U.S.N. Catalina attacked a convoy consisting of -
2 medium vessels
1 very small tanker
1 destroyer

20 miles E. by S. of Dyaul Island, heading for Rabaul.

A direct hit was scored on a 4000 ton cargo vessel which sank within 20 minutes.

A few miles further north the same Catalina sighted one very large and two small vessels heading towards Kavieng.

These two were the only convoys reported in the area on the night of Dec.12-13.

- (7) Cape Hoskins - Morning Dec.13, two Beauforts strafed and damaged three camouflaged barges off Cape Hoskins.

- (8) Gasmata - 1025-1335/13, the heaviest attack on Gasmata yet reported was carried out by 60 Liberators and 50 Mitchells, which dropped nearly 250 tons of bombs. Lightnings escorted the bombers.

Eight enemy fighters attempted interception, at least two being shot down.

The entire target area was heavily covered with a concentration of effort at Ring Ring and Lindenhafen Plantations.

- (9) Upper Ramu Valley -

(a) Dec.12, 17 Kittyhawks attacked Kisa Mission (8 miles W. of Daumoina) and 32 Bostons bombed positions in the Yaula - Daumoina areas.

(b) Dec.12, three determined attacks by the enemy in estimated ~~xxxxxx~~ strength of 400 were beaten off in the Kesawai area, the enemy losing an estimated 100 men. Our fighting patrols are maintaining contact in the forward area.

(9) Upper Ramu Valley (Contd) -

(c) Further reports reveal a total of two enemy bombers and one fighter were definitely destroyed and one bomber and one fighter probably destroyed over Gusap on Dec.12.

(10) Huon Peninsula -

(a) Night Dec.12-13, PT boats sank nine stationary barges 4 miles S. of Sio.

(b) Our ground troops have cleared Kiligia of the enemy and formed a bridgehead nearby.

(c) The road junction one mile N.E. of Wareo has now been cleared of the enemy and our troops are in contact 500 yards beyond this point from which the enemy withdrew leaving 25 dead and much equipment.

(11) Milne Bay-Kiriwina-Goodenough - Between 0133 and 0153/14, air raid warnings were sounded at Milne Bay, Kiriwina and Goodenough Island.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/14:

- (1) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "WANAKA" departed Melville Bay 1700/13 thence to proceed Thursday Is. ETA 2130/14.
(2) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

(1) Dutch New Guinea -

(a) At 2330/12, two Catalinas bombed Babo, starting fires. Two enemy aircraft attempted interception.

(b) At 2350/12, two Catalinas bombed Kaimana with unobserved results.

(2) Kai Islands - At 0157/13, one Catalina bombed Paan, Tocai and Doelah, starting two small fires.

(3) Timor - (a) At 2159/12, five U.S.N. Catalinas bombed the warehouse area at Koepang starting fires. Two twin-engined night fighters attempted interception, One was possibly damaged.

(b) At 2315/12, three Mitchells bombed Koepang.

(c) At 2246/12 one of the U.S.N. Catalinas observed at Tenau (3 1/2 miles S.W. of Koepang):

1 large vessel (possibly 5000 tons)
3 small vessels

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/14:

- (1) "TJERK HIDDERS" escorting "COOLINDA" departed Geraldton 1400/4 for Broome was due 13 Dec.
(2) "CHANTICLEER" departed Exmouth Gulf 0800/13 ETA Fremantle 1200/15.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle

- Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "VAN HEEMSKERK"
"TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV)
"HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL"
(PY) SC.739 YP.286

Exmouth Gulf

- Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK"
(AM) YP.288

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/14:

- X (1) "STRINGHAM" "DENT" "WARD" (APD) departed Sydney 1240/13 for Milne Bay ETA daylight 17 Dec.
(2) "WARRNAMBOOL" "YANDRA" escorting Convoy GP.91 (2 MV) departed Sydney 0805/12 for Brisbane ETA 2330/14.
(3) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ECHUCA" escorting Convoy PG.90 (7 MV) departed Brisbane 1230/12 ETA Sydney 2359/14. "WAGGA" was to overtake convoy at 1800/12 and provide additional escort to Sydney, thence proceed Melbourne arriving not later than 17 Dec.
(4) "BUCHANAN" (DD) departed Sydney 1846/13 for Bulari (New Caledonia) ETA 1330/15.
(5) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel) departed Port Melbourne 1200/13 for Sydney ETA 1400/15.
(6) "BUNGAREE" (CM) departed Port Phillip 1510/13 for Sydney ETA 1900/16.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "WATERS" (APD) "VENDETTA" (DD)
"BALLARAT" "BUNDABERG" "DELORAINÉ"
"GOULBURN" "KALGOORLIE" "MORESEY" "PIRIE"
"GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" "TOWNSVILLE" (AMS)
"MANCORA" (APA) "HILO" "TULSA" (PG) "KYBRA"
"ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" (A/S Vessels)
"TASMAN" (AH) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) ML's 430, 802
ML's 807, 809, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (GL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL"
(AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "INVERELL" (AMS) after completion of trials, to depart Port Phillip 14 Dec. for Brisbane.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE.

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
(2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
(3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ night transportation runs to forward areas.
(4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>	
<u>Southwest Pacific</u> <u>(Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks</u> <u>Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines</u> <u>Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u> -	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u> -	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u> -	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u> -	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMANA	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u> AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u> PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) 2 ISUZU) poss. NAGARA) sunk NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u> -	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u> -	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u> HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELIER	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> -	3	-	3
<u>DD</u> WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	5-10	25-30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) GATO) PETO)	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH) SCAMP)	At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH	At Milne Bay		
	REDFIN) RATON) RAY)	On Passage		
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T. ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS	-	?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area only)	
Engines (incl. 14 twin-eng)	251
Light & M/Bombers	145
SE/Bombers	45
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C	13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RICHMOND RALEIGH	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/SVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DM</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	ZUIHO (Poss. sunk) * HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO UNYO
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE AOBA * MYOKO * HAGURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YANAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>OL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XGL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	PCCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion 3 to ACV)
<u>AV/XCVS</u>	-	25 (some repairing)
<u>LD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	2 (one repairing)
<u>AS</u>	?	

* Non-effective

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 686

Date: 15 December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/15:

- (1) "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA" "HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" at sea.
- (2) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morebe-Huon Gulf area.
- (3) "PC.1131" "SC.744" "YMS.53" escorting "JOHN G. BRADY" departed Milne Bay 1600/13 were due Finschhafen 0900/15.
- (4) "YMS.71" departed Milne Bay 1150/13 towing a floating dock to Finschhafen area ETA 0400/16.
- (5) "LITHGOW" escorting Convoy TN.189 ("SUVA") departed Townsville 1812/13 for Port Moresby ETA 1300/16.
- (6) "PC.476" and "COUCAL" escorting US. Subs "RATON" and "RAY" from Milne Bay to Darwin. ETA Darwin 1031/18. "COUCAL" then returns to Milne Bay escorted as far as Thursday Is. by "PC.476".
- (7) "CASTLEMAINE" "ARARAT" "SC.650" escorting Convoy TN.190 ("J. CABRILLO" "ANHUI" "MIDWEST FARMER" "W.E. CHANNING" "CHAS. P. STEINMETZ") departed Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/14 for Milne Bay ETA 1200/16.
- (8) "YMS.72" departed Port Moresby 1826/14 for Cairns for docking ETA Grafton Passage 0800/16.
- (9) "KAPUNDA" escorting Convoy QL.37A (3 MV, two with tow) departed Caloundra 1550/13 for Bustard Head was due 0400/15; on arrival Bustard Head "KAPUNDA" to proceed independently to Townsville.
- (10) "SUSQUEHANNA" departed Cairns 0615/13 for Brisbane via Palm Island and Townsville. ETA Palm Is. 1700/13, Brisbane p.m. 17 Dec.
- (11) "WHYALLA" "SC.741" escorting Convoy LQ.37 (3 MV) departed Gladstone at 2200/14 for Brisbane ETA 0615/16.
- (12) "WARRNAMBOOL" "SC.735" "YMS.315" escorting Convoy QL.38 (10 MV) to depart Brisbane at 1600/15.
- (13) "GEEELONG" "YANDRA" escorting Convoy PG.91 (2 MV) were to depart Caloundra 1200/15 for Sydney.
- (14) "STUART" departed Brisbane 1637/14 to RV with "PENNANT" at 0700/15 in position 24°20'S 155°45'E and escort to Townsville.
- (15) "MIZAR" to depart Caloundra 1430/14 for Sydney.
- (16) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "DEISISOKO" "MELINGA" "VAQUERO"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - SC's 746, 982 YMS's 73, 314, 336
PC.'s 1121, 1124 ML.431
Merchant Vessels: "STEPHEN GIRARD" "NORAB" "KOORAKA" "J.W. MACKAY" "MOAMO" "D. BARRY" "SIBIGO"

Morebe
Buna - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
- Warships & Aux. - SC.537 YMS.51 "TRINITY" (AO)
"WINTER"
Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSON" "OZARK" "MULGRA"
Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734 PC.1124 YMS.313
Merchant Vessels: "J.ALDEN" "J.DUBUQUE" "J.LANE"
"LORINNA" "J.W.MACKAY" "J.EARL" "PAHUD"
"WM.FROUSE" "J.ROSS" "A.THOMAS" "G.V.L.MEYER"
"C.E.SMITH" "R.P.WARNER" "TJISIDANE"
Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC.745, 749
Merchant Vessels: "PULGANBAR"
Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 737, 750 ML's 427, 819
Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"
Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "W.H.POINT"
Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL)
"HUFFORD" "BAGLEY" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM"
"SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID"
"FLUSSER" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS"
"CROSSBY" "KILTY" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD)
"BROOME" "BUNBURY" "STAWELL" (AMS)
SC's 648, 698, 699, 703, 731, 736, 738, 742
SC's 743, 747, 748, 981 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52
YMS's 70, 334, 335 YP's 233, 236 ML's 424,
ML's 426, 431, 801, 806, 816, 818 PC.479
PC's 1119, 1120, 1122 25 LST's 15 APC's
29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBIN"
(AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG)
"AMYCUS" (ARL) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS)
"MERKUR" (AF) "POLLUX" (AKS) "WESTRALIA" (APA)
"CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
"BALIKPAPAN" "S.BAMBERGER" "SIMON BOLIVAR"
"CAPE CLARE" "CAPE NEARES" "CAPE ANNE"
"J.CARROLL" "CHARON" "H.DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA"
"F.A.EILERS" "ETAMIN" "G.H.FLANDERS"
"GANYMEDE" "HANYANG" "N.HAPGOOD" "F.J.IRWIN"
"ISOLATOR" "JAPARA" "KLIPFONTEIN" "W.S.LADD"
"A.F.LINDBERGH" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN"
"MAGNOLIA" "MORMACDALE" "P.E.OLSON" "J.PALMER"
"A.RAVALLI" "J.S.SARGENT" "N.J.SIENOTT"
"M.M.STEWART" "SWARTENHONDT" "TECUMSER"
"GENERAL VERSPICK" "VAN SPILBERGEN" "ED.N.
WESTCOFF"
Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "CCLAC" (AMS) YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48
ML.426
Merchant Vessels: "BONTEKOE" "MATTHEW FLINDERS"
"MULIAMA" "REIJNST" "STAGEN" "CHARON"
"A.D.WHITE"
Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" "FREMANTLE" "COOTAMUNDRA"
(AMS)
Merchant Vessels: "ISLANDER"
Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "CASTLEMAINE" "GLADSTONE"
"KATOOMBA" "WARREGO" (AMS) PC.477, 1132
SC's 650, 732 YP.280 Yp9 ML's 803, 804
ML's 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANORA" (APA)
Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" "GYMPIE" "BROOME" (AMS)
"SAN PABLO" (AVP)
Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "WARRNAMBOOL"
"ROCKHAMPTON" "GOWRA" "SWAN" "BOWEN" (AMS)
"HERON" (AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO) SC.735 PC.1123
ML's 808, 826 YMS's 10, 315 "H.T.ALLEN"
"KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA"
"SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "MANUNDA" (AH) "MIZAR" (AF)
ML's 809, 821 YP.291

(c) Proposed Movements:

(1) "WARRNAMBOOL" "SC.735" "YMS.315" escorting Convoy QL.38 to depart Brisbane 1600/15.

- (2) "PC.1123" to depart Caloundra at 0300/16 to RV with "BLUE RIDGE" at 0900/16 in position 27°03'S 154°51'E and escort to Brisbane.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Buin Faisi Area -
- (a) Probably night 12-13 Dec. PT's attacked three south-bound barges 4 miles S. of Luluai Pt. (18 miles N.E. of Kahili sinking one and forcing another to beach.
 - (b) Night 13-14 Dec. PT's strafed two beached barges in Torau Bay (15 miles N.E. of Kahili).
 - (c) Morning Dec.14., 4 Kittyhawks attacked a bridge near Shishigatero (15 miles W. by N. of Kahili) damaging and possibly destroying the bridge.
- (2) Empress Augusta Bay -
- (a) Dec.13, four Avengers and some fighters attacked targets in the Monoitu Mission and Mosigetta areas and positions N.E. of Cape Torokina.
 - (b) Night Dec.12-13, PT's sighted two barges leaving the At sinima River (11 miles N.W. of Cape Torokina). The barges withdrew.
 - (c) Night Dec.13-14, PT's attacked one barge at Jaba River. Heavy gunfire from shore prevented the attack from being pressed home.
 - (d) 1015/14, 16 Avengers in support of our ground forces dropped 60 x 100 lb. bombs on enemy positions in N.E. sector of our perimeter.
- (3) Kieta - Dec.13, at least 55 fighters and 6 Mitchells bombed and strafed targets in the Kieta area.
- (4) Numa Numa -
- (a) Dec.14, fighters returning from Chabai strike started fires in the Numa Numa area.
 - (b) Morning Dec.14, six Mitchells bombed and strafed the area from Numa Numa to Arigua, destroying huts and buildings.
- (5) Buka Passage -
- (a) Night Dec.12-13, two night fighters strafed and set on fire a barge filled with enemy troops off Sorum (N. tip of Bougainville Is.). The barge was left in a sinking condition.
 - (b) Noon Dec.13, 45 Dauntless and 22 Avengers with 47 covering fighters, 17 Mitchells with 8 covering fighters and 24 Liberators with fighter escort heavily bombed targets in the Matchin Bay and Buka Passage areas. Photographs show damage to A/A positions and buildings.
 - (c) 1100/14, 51 Dauntless, 23 Avengers and 36 escorting fighters attacked the Chabai area with 10 x 2000 lb, 51 x 1000 lb, 52 x 250 lb. and 100 x 1000 lb. bombs. Photos show destruction and damage to A/A positions and buildings in the area.
 - (d) At the same time 18 Mitchells escorted by eight fighters bombed Manob village (N. tip Bougainville). Photos confirm destruction of six buildings.
 - (e) 1053/14, 18 Liberators with four Lightnings escorting bombed Sohana Island causing many explosions and one large fire.
 - (f) Photos Dec.14 show 28 barges in the Buka-Chabai area.
- (6) Kavieng Area - 0110/14, a reported heavy cruiser at anchor in Staffen Strait was attacked by a U.S.N. Catalina. It is further reported that 2 x 1000 lb. bomb hits were obtained on the stern of the vessel; the extent of the damage is not reported.
- Fighters pursued the Catalina for three hours. There is no other evidence to indicate the presence of a heavy cruiser in this area and it is thought more likely to have been a smaller vessel possibly a large destroyer.
- (7) Borpop Area - 1020/12, of four enemy fighters which attacked a Soupac reconnaissance plane, one was shot down.

- (8) Rabaul - 2242-2328/13, 28 Beauforts bombed Lakunai aerodrome starting fires.
- (9) Cape Archway - 2309/14, an enemy submarine was attacked by a Soupac aircraft 13 miles E.S.E. of Cape Archway. The submarine was reported to have been left in a sinking conditions.
- (10) Henry Reid Bay - 0845/13, two Bostons bombed and strafed the camp area at Kailai and Waitevalo.
- (11) Ubili Area - 1020-1040/14, many unidentified aircraft were reported on generally S.W. courses over Open Bay-Ubili area.
- (12) Jacquinet Bay - 0008/14, indications of two probable vessels were received by aircraft over Jacquinet Bay.
- (13) Gasmata -
 (a) A final report shows the heavy attack on Gasmata between 1025 and 1358/13 was carried out by 145 aircraft including 60 Liberators, 48 Mitchells and 37 Lightnings. 248 tons of bombs were dropped.
 (b) 0845/14, Mitchells and Marauders with Lightning escort again attacked Gasmata. Full reports are not yet to hand.
- (14) Arawe - 0955/14, eight squadrons of Mitchells, nine squadrons of Liberators and three squadrons of Bostons attacked the Arawe Area. Preliminary reports indicate that the strike was successfully carried out.
- (15) Vitiaz Strait - 0430/14, a PT boat sank a fast 30-40 foot barge at Marien Harbour. The PT boat also reported six unidentified 500-1000 ton ships 2 miles S.W. of Marien Harbour. It is considered more probable that these were Upper barges.
- (16) Ramu Valley - 0920/13, 11 Bostons bombed and strafed targets on the Bogadjim-Yaula road, while seven out of sixteen escorting Thunderbolts strafed enemy camps along the shore of Rigny Point (19 miles E. of Bogadjim).
- (17) Huon Peninsula -
 (a) 0950/13, 4 Aircobras on a barge sweep between Saidor and Fortification Point strafed and probably damaged 10 empty barges dispersed along the coast.
 (b) About 0900/14, 5 Aircobras on a similar mission strafed two barges and enemy supply dumps.
 (c) 0730/14, an enemy submarine was reported by aircraft 10 miles N.E. of Finschhafen.
 (d) Our ground forces advancing beyond Kiligia are continuing their advance on Lakona.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/15:

(1) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
 Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/15:

(1) "VAN HEEMSKERK" escorting "HERMITAGE" departed Fremantle 1000/14. "VAN HEEMSKERK" to escort till 1800/18 and return to Fremantle.

(2) "CHANTICLEER" departed Exmouth Gulf 0800/13 was due Fremantle 1200/15.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL)
"VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV) "HORSHAM"
"DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS)
"ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.286

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - ".W.B.PRESTON" (AVD)
"LARK" (AM) YP.288

Broome - Warships & Aux. - "TJERK HIDDES" (DD)

4. EASTERN & SCUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/15:

- (1) "STRINGHAM" "DENT" "WARD" (APD) departed Sydney 1240/13 for Milne Bay ETA daylight 17 Dec.
- (2) "BUCHANAN" (DD) departed Sydney 1846/13 for Bulari (New Caledonia) ETA 1530/15.
- (3) "BUNDABERG" departed Sydney 1629/14 for Brisbane.
- (4) "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessel) departed Port Melbourne 1200/13 for Sydney ETA 1400/15.
- (5) "BUNGAREE" (CM) departed Port Phillip 1510/13 for Sydney ETA 1900/16.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "WATERS" (APD) "VENDETTA" (DD)
"BALLARAT" "DELORAINNE" "GOULBURN" "MORESEY"
"KALGOORLIE" "PIRIE" "GLENELG" "WILCANNIA"
"TOWNSVILLE" "ROCKHAMPTON" "WAGGA" (AMS)
"MANOORA" (APA) "HILO" "TULSA" (PG) "KYBRA"
"ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" "YANDRA" (A/S Vessels)
"TASMAN" (AH) "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
ML's 43C, 802, 807, 809, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)

Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL"
(AMS)

Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "INVERELL" (AMS) after completion of ~~xxx~~ trials, to depart Port Phillip 14 Dec. for Brisbane.
- (2) "DELORAINNE" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" "TOWNSVILLE" "BALLARAT" escorting Convoy GP.92 to depart Sydney at 0800/16. "BALLARAT" to be detached off Cape Moreton and proceed to Townsville.

NAVAL INCIDENTS

Sourabaya - A further U.S.N. submarine success is reported. On Nov.21, a medium sized freighter was sunk in the Sourabaya area.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH WEST & SOUTH PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>	
<u>Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u> -	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u> -	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u> -	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>(E)</u> -	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA	-	CHITOSE
<u>GA</u> AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>GL</u> PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) 2 poss. ISUZU) sunk NAGARA) NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>GL(T)</u> -	-	-	KATORI
<u>XGL</u> -	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u> HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELIER	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> -	3	-	3
<u>DD</u> WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA COBYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	5 - 10	25-30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshall's
<u>SS</u>	BALAO GATO PETO	) On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE GUARDFISH SCAMP	) At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH REDFIN RATON RAY	) At Milne Bay) On Passage		
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>				
	H. T. ALLEN MANOCORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	PULTON OTUS	-	?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)

Fighters (incl. 14 twin-eng.)	256
Light & M/Bombers	143
SE/Bombers	45
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C	13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RICHMOND RALEIGH	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>SS</u>	22	5
<u>AS</u>	10	Approx 4
	-	1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>GV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS HELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	ZUIHO (poss. sunk) * HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO) UNYO) en route Mandates
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE AOBA * MYOKO * HAGURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>CCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>V/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion to AC
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	5
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 587

Date: 16 December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/16:

- (1) "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" "WARRAMUNGA" "ARUNTA" "HELM" "RALPH TALBOT" at sea.
- (2) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morobe-Buon Gulf area.
- (3) "PC.1131" "SC.744" "YMS.53" escorting "JOHN G. BRADY" departed Milne Bay 1600/13 were due Finschhafen 0900/15.
- (4) "YMS.71" departed Milne Bay 1150/13 towing a floating dock to Finschhafen area were due 0400/16.
- (5) "YMS.334" escorting "Y.14" departed Milne Bay 1000/15 for Lae ETA 0400/18.
- (6) "SC.746" "YMS.335" escorting "MAGNOLIA" departed Milne Bay 0720/15 were due Port Moresby 0730/16.
- (7) "LITHGOW" escorting Convoy TN.189 ("SUVA"), departed Townsville 1812/13 for Port Moresby ETA 1300/18.
- (8) "STRINGHAM" "DENT" "WARD" (APD) departed Sydney 1240/13 for Milne Bay ETA daylight 17 Dec.
- (9) "PC.476" departed Thursday Is. 0800/15 for Milne Bay ETA 1800/17.
- (10) "BROOME" "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" escorting Convoy MV.48 ("SWARTENHONDT" "HANYANG" "JAPARA") departed Milne Bay 1630/14 for Townsville ETA 1800/17.
- (11) "CASTLEMAINE" "ARARAT" "SC.650" escorting Convoy TN.190 ("J.CABRILLO" "ANHUI" "MIDWEST FARMER" "W.E.CHANNING" "CHAS.P.STEINMETZ") departed Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/14 for Milne Bay ETA 1200/16.
- (12) "PC.1132" escorting Convoy TN.191 ("AMY LOWELL" was to depart vicinity of Fitzroy Is. at approx 1000/16 ETA Milne Bay 1100/18.
- (13) "COUCAL" escorting US. Subs "RATON" and "RAY" from Milne Bay to Darwin. ETA Darwin 1031/18. "COUCAL" then returns to Milne Bay escorted as far as Thursday Is. by "PC.476".
- (14) "COLAC" having completed repairs was to depart Port Moresby 0600/16 for Townsville.
- (15) "YMS.72" departed Port Moresby 1826/14 for Cairns for docking ETA Grafton Passage 0800/16.
- (16) "KAPUNDA" escorting Convoy QL.37A (3 MV, two with tow) departed Caloundra 1550/13 for Bustard Head was due 0400/15; on arrival Bustard Head "KAPUNDA" to proceed independently to Townsville.
- (17) "YP.291" was to depart Brisbane Dec.16 for Mackay, Palm Island, Townsville, Cairns, Thursday Is. and Port Moresby.
- (18) "SUSQUEHANNA" departed Townsville 1527/15 ETA Brisbane 1930/18.
- (19) "WARRNAMBOOL" "SC.735" "YMS.315" escorting Convoy QL.38 (10 MV) departed Brisbane 1750/15 ETA Bustard Head 0300/17 where "YMS.315" proceeds independently to Cairns.

- (20) "GEELONG" "YANDRA" escorting Convoy PG.91 (2) departed Caloundra 1240/15 for Sydney ETA 1700/17.
- (21) "STUART" departed Brisbane 1637/14 to RV with "PENNANT" at 0700/15 in positions 24°20'S 155°45'E and escort to Townsville.
- (22) "BUNDABERG" departed Sydney 1629/14 for Brisbane.
- (23) "MIZAR" (AF) departed Caloundra 1520/15 for Sydney ETA 0500/17.
- (24) "PC.1123" departed Caloundra 0230/16 to RV with "BLUE RIDGE" at 0900/16 in position 27°03'S 154°51'E and escort to Brisbane. "BUNDABERG" was to consort westbound at approx 0900/16.
- (25) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "MELINGA" "MOAMOA" "KORAKA" "VAQUERO"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - SC.982 YMS's 73, 314, 336 PC's 1121, 1124 ML.431
Merchant Vessels: "D.BARRY" "STEPHEN GIRARD" "J.W.MACKAY" "NORAB" "OZARK" "SIBIGO"

Morobe - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 "TRINITY" (AO) "PING WO" "WINTER"
Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSON" "CANONBAR"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734 YMS.313
Merchant Vessels: "W.S.LADD" "J.LANE" "LORINNA" "J.W.MACKAY" "MULCRA" "J.EARL" "PAHUD" "WM. PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "A.THOMAS" "G.V.L. MEYER" "W.H.POINT" "C.E.SMITH" "R.P.WARNER" "ESISIDANE" "VAN SPIELBERGEN"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC's 745, 749
Merchant Vessels: -

Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC's 727, 750 ML's 427, 819
Merchant Vessels: "PULGANBAR" "TRIANGULUM"

Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "ISGLATOR"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (OL) "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSEY" "KILTY" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (AFD) SC's 648, 698, 699, 703, 731, 736, 738, 742 SC's 743, 747, 748, 981 YMS's 11, 49, 50 YMS's 52, 70 YP's 233, 236 ML's 424, 425 ML's 431, 801, 806, 816, 818 PC.479, 1119 PC's 1120, 1122 25 LST's 15 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "DOBBS" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "MERKUR" (AF) "POLLUX" (AKS) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (BSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "J.ALDEN" "BALIKPAPAN" "S.BAMBERGER" "SIMON BOLIVAR" "CAPE GLEARE" "CAPE MEARES" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "H.DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A.EILERS" "ETAMIN" "G.H.FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE" "N.HAPGOOD" "F.J.IRWIN" "T.C.LOWE" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "NORMACDALE" "F.B.OLSON" "J.PALMER" "A.RAVALLI" "J.S.SARGENT" "N.J.SINNOTT" "N.M.STEWART" "TEGUMSEH" "GENERAL VERSPIJCK" "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
Merchant Vessels: "BONTEKOE" "MATTHEW FLINDERS" "MULIAMA" "REIJEST" "STAGEN" "A.D.WHITE"

Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "LAPROBE" "PREMANTLE" "COOTAMUNDRA" (AMS)
Merchant Vessels: "ISLANDER" "DARVEL"

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "CASTELMORINE" "GLADSTONE"
 "WARREGO" "KATOOMBA" (AMS) PC.477
 SC's 650, 732 YP.280 Y.9 ML's 803, 804
 ML's 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANOORA" (APA)

Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" "GYMPIE" "BROOME" (AMS)
 "SAN PABLO" (AVP)

Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "ROCKHAMPTON"
 "COWRA" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "WHYALLA" (AMS)
 "HERON" (AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO) SC.741
 ML's 808, 826 YMS.10 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA"
 (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY"
 (AO) "MANUNDA" (AH) ML's 809, 821

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "WARREGO" escorting "PYRO" (AE) to depart Vicinity Fitzroy Is. at approx. 1800/16 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/18.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Bougainville Island -
 (a) Night Dec.14-15, enemy floatplanes ineffectively bombed and strafed PT boats off N.W. coast of Bougainville.
 (b) Photos Dec.15 show all runways unserviceable except Ballae.
- (2) Numa Numa-Kieta Area -
 (a) Fighters returning from Buka strike at 1050/15 strafed Tenekau and Kieta and set fire to 5 or 6 huts at Lagururai.
 (b) Fighters returning from the Buka strike at 1030/15 struck Kieta and Tenekau.
 (c) 1440/15, a patrolling aircraft scored a single 500 lb. bomb hit on a main road bridge 3 miles S. of Kieta, completely demolishing it.
- (3) Buka Passage -
 (a) 1050/15, 65 Dauntless, 21 Avengers with 43 escorting fighters attacked A/A positions at Buka and Bonis with 130 x 100 lb., 44 x 500 lb., 65 x 1000 lb. and 10 x 2000 lb bombs, destroying three heavy A/A positions and damaging three heavy and three automatic.
 (b) 1000/15, 21 Liberators dropped 252 x 500 lb. bombs on Sohana Island, causing much smoke and numerous fires. Photos show 4 guns probably damaged, one possibly.
 (c) 1030/15, 23 Mitchells with 15 escorting fighters dropped 110 x 500 lb. bombs on the Chinatown area at Buka causing numerous fires and a terrific explosion, with flames shooting to 400 feet and clouds of black smoke rising to 10,000 feet and visible 60 miles. Photos confirm large fires.
- (4) Nissan Island - 1345/14, seven empty barge slipways were sighted on a lagoon beach on N. end of Nissan Island. There were no signs of life.
- (5) Kavieng -
 (a) 1100/15, the following shipping was sighted by aircraft probably at Kavieng:-
 2 cargo ships
 2 destroyers
 2 barges
 A barrage balloon at 300 feet was attached to one cargo vessel.
- (6) New Hanover - 1440/15 a Liberator attacked the following convoy:
 1 medium freighter 15 miles SW Course
 transport New Hanover 120°
 1 sea truck
 6 unidentified vessels
 A near hit on the freighter transport was reported, and interception by five enemy aircraft.
 In view of recent enemy losses it seems likely that the six unidentified vessels were smaller craft.
 The convoy is apparently proceeding to Rabaul from the Mandates.

- (7) Rabaul - (a) 2326/14, 13 Beauforts bombed Vunakanau with generally unobserved results.
 (b) 1000/15, 4 Lightnings reported the following shipping in the Rabaul area:
 1 possible aircraft carrier
 1 destroyer
 10 small ships of unidentified type.
 There has been no evidence to suggest the presence of an aircraft carrier and it seems unlikely that such a unit would venture into Rabaul Harbour at this stage. The vessel may be a large tanker, whaling ship or some similar vessel.
 Fires and smoke were also observed.
- (8) New Britain - On the morning of Dec. 15, various formations of aircraft proceeding in the general direction of the south west coast of New Britain were reported. These are probably connected with enemy offensive activity against allied operations in the Arawe Area.
 (a) 0800/15, a formation of unidentified aircraft on course S.W. over Open Bay.
 (b) 0803/15, 48 fighters on course 280° then 215° flew over Ubili.
 (c) 0815/15, 30 unidentified aircraft flew over the Cape Hoskins area on course 225°.
 (d) 0820/15, a large formation of unidentified aircraft on course S.W. flew over Wide Bay.
 (e) 0915/15, 20 divebombers and 6 fighters on course 040° flew over Cape Hoskins.
- (9) Jacquinet Bay - 0940/15, a possible westbound merchant ship was sighted by aircraft off Jacquinet Bay.
- (10) Talasea: 1015/15, 3 unidentified aircraft headed for Rabaul were sighted by 4 Lightnings in the Tala sea area.
- (11) Cape Orford-Cape Archway area -
 (a) 0004/15, indications of 15 possible medium to large vessels off Cape Orford were received by aircraft.
 (b) 0045/15, indications of four possible ships on course 226°.
 If the report is accurate the vessels may have been barges.
- (12) Gasmata Area -
 (a) 0130/16, two enemy patrol boats on course 270° off Gasmata were reported by aircraft.
 This may indicate a possible transportation run to Gasmata.
 (b) Final reports show that 31 Mitchells and 9 Marauders took part on the attack on Gasmata at 0840/14.
- (13) Arawe Area -
 (a) Between 0754 and 1507/14, a total of 280 aircraft dropped 510 tons of bombs on targets in the Arawe area. The aircraft involved were:
 99 Liberators
 60 Mitchells
 72 Bostons
 35 Lightnings
 14 Thunderbolts
 Some squadrons were over the target on two separate occasions.
 An additional 15 Mitchells had already attacked the area between 0717 and 0825/13.
 (b) Preliminary reports show that our forces effected a landing in the Arawe area on the morning of Dec. 15 and that our shore positions and vessels were attacked at approximately 0900/15 by 30-40 enemy divebombers.
- (14) Borgen Bay - 0932-0958/15, 23 Liberators attacked Target Hill near Silimati Point with 92 tons of bombs.
- (15) Long Island area -
 (a) Approx. 1730/12, a stationary tug like object was sighted by aircraft one mile S.E. of Long Island.
 (b) 2241/15 a surfaced submarine on course 010°, 13 miles SE of Long Island, was attacked by USN. Catalina which reported having damaged or sunk the submarine.

- (16) Hansa Bay - 1440/14, a 60 foot barge moving between Manam Island and Hansa Bay was strafed and damaged by a Liberator.
- (17) Bogadjim-Yaula Road - Tactical reconnaissance on 12 Dec. and again on 15 Dec. reveals that bridges 1-13 have been washed away and that the road is blocked by 15 landslides at another point.
- (18) Huon Peninsula -
 (a) 1425-1925/14, 10 barges of which 7 contained personnel and supplies were strafed by a Mitchell between Saidor and Sio.
 (b) 1635-1832/14, two Boomerangs strafed Kelanca, Walingai and Nambariwa setting fires to huts and damaging two barges.
 (c) 1730-1755/12, Delayed report shows that seven Aircobras strafed targets in the Sio area, setting one barge on fire.
 (d) Our ground forces continue to advance towards Lakona and beyond Wareo.
- (19) Kiriwina Island - At 0128/14, an enemy bomber dropped two bombs S. of the strip. No damage or casualties were sustained.
-

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/16:

(1) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
 Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Dutch New Guinea-Sorong - 2315-2336/14, two Catalinas bombed targets in the Sorong area starting fires. Four to five enemy fighters ineffectively attempted interception. A large possibly 10,000 ship which seemed white in colour ~~was~~ and one smaller ship were observed.
- (2) Timor - (a) 1715/15, five Mitchells attacked the following shipping:
 2 medium freighters
 1 small destroyer
 at anchor 3 miles N.E. of Cape Laivai. Five direct hits and six near misses were scored on one freighter which was left burning fiercely. Two direct hits were scored on the other which was also left burning.
- (b) Earlier on 15 Dec. eight Beaufighters carried out a harassing attack on Timor heavily damaging two 4,000 ton transports and one destroyer, sinking one 550 ton ship at Vila de Liquica. Two barges and six schooners were attacked at Manatuto - both barges were sunk and the schooners heavily damaged.
 The two transports and destroyer were near Dilli and were crowded with troops and equipment including M/T and field guns. Many troops and crew were killed aboard all ~~three~~ three vessels.
- (c) 2307/14-0035/15, five Catalinas bombed Koepang starting fires. Several enemy aircraft attempted interception.
-

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/16:

- (1) "VAN HEEMSKERK" escorting "HERMITAGE" departed Fremantle 1000/14. "VAN HEEMSKERK" to escort till 1800/18 and return to Fremantle.
- (2) "CHANTICLEER" departed Exmouth Gulf 0800/13 was due Fremantle 1200/15.
- (3) "YP.283" departed Exmouth Gulf 1300/15 ETA Fremantle 0900/19.
- (4) "YP.286" departed Fremantle 1150/15 ETA Exmouth Gulf p.m. Dec.18.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL)
"VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV) "HORSHAM"
"DUBBO" (AMS) "ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOORWILL"
(AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)
Broome - Warships & Aux. - "TJERK HIDDES" (DD)

4. EASTERN & SCUTHERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/16:

- (1) "DELORAIN" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" "TOWNSVILLE" "BALLARAT" escorting Convoy CP.92 were to depart Sydney at 0800/16. "BALLARAT" to be detached off Cape Moreton and proceed to Townsville.
- (2) "INVERELL" (AMS) after completion of trials was to depart Port Phillip 14 Dec. for Brisbane.
- (3) "WAGGA" departed Sydney 0944/15 for Melbourne ETA 1400/17.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "WATERS" (APD) "VENDETTA" (DD)
"BALLARAT" "DELORAIN" "GOULBURN" "MORESBY"
"KALGOORLIE" "PIRIE" "GLENELG" "WILCANNIA"
"TOWNSVILLE" "ROCKHAMPTON" (AMS) "MANCOORA"
(APA) "HILO" "TULSA" (PG) "KYBRA" "ABRAHAM
CRIJNSSEN" "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessels) "BUNGAREE"
(CM) "TASMAN" (AH) "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
ML's 430, 802, 807, 809, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" "INVERELL"
(AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
	<u>Southwest Pacific (Western Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA MAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) 2 poss. ISUZU) sunk NAGARA) NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KAPORI
<u>SCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>ED</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	5-10	25-30 (Some repairing)

* Non-effective

10 December, 1943

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Caroline Marshall
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) GATO) PETO) On Patrol REEFIN) RAFON) RAY) ALBACORE) GUARDFISH) At Brisbane SCAMP) BLACKFISH At Milne Bay		20	20
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T. ALLEN MANORRA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BFO OKS KILTY CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS	-	?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (NE Area Only)</u>				
Fighters (incl. 14 twin-eng.)		254		
Light & M/Bombers		142		
SE/Bombers		45		
Flying Boats		2		
Floatplanes		50		
Transport & Obsn. A/C		13		

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	2. <u>NORTHERN PACIFIC</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALPHIGH RICHMOND		ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-		AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22		5
<u>SS</u>	10		Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-		1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHIO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	ZUIHO (poss. sunk) * HAYATAKA
<u>CV(B)</u>	SUNANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO EARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO) en route UNYO) Mandates
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE AOBA * MYOKO * HABURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3 to ACV)
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON
MD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

Southwest Pacific (Western Section)		Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	-	HITAKA) In route RYUHO) Mandates
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA
<u>GL</u>	VAN HEEMSKERK ADELAIDE	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XGL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS N.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDES	Approx 27	10
<u>CS</u>	BILFISH) BONFISH) CABRILLA) CAPELIN) COD) MARWHALE) POMPOM) PUPPER) TUNA) TINOSA) K.12) BLUEFISH) BOWFIN) GREVILLE) KINGFISH) RASHER)	? On patrol At Fremantle	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (NW. Area Only)</u>			
Fighters (inc. 27 twin-eng.)		168	
Light & M/Bombers		55	
SE/Bombers		16	
Flying Boats		12	
Floatplanes		49	
Transport & Obsn. A/C		39	

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARYPart I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 688

Date: 17 December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/17:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morebe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "YMS.334" escorting "Y.14" departed Milne Bay 1000/15 for Lae ETA 0400/18.
- (3) "YMS.335" "SC.746" escorting "BONTEKOE" were to depart Port Moresby a.m. 17 Dec. for Lae thence Buna.
- (4) "SC.982" escorting "SIBIGO" departed Lae 2200/15 for Milne Bay ETA 1500/17.
- (5) "SC.698" "ML.998" escorting "FLOYD B.OLSON" departed Milne Bay 0600/16 for Kiriwina, were due 1930/16.
- (6) "SC.647" escorting "NAVIGATOR" departed Lae 2100/15 for Milne Bay was due 0800/17.
- (7) "STRINGHAM" "DEW" "WARD" (APD) departed Sydney 1240/13 for Milne Bay ETA daylight 17 Dec.
- (8) "WARREGO" escorting "PYRO" (AE) was to depart vicinity of Fitzroy Is. at approx 1800/16 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/18.
- (9) "PC.476" departed Thursday Is. 0800/15 for Milne Bay ETA 1800/17.
- (10) "BROOME" "STAWELL" "BUNBURY" escorting Convoy MV.48 ("SWARTENHONDT" "HANYANG" "JAPARA") departed Milne Bay 1630/14 for Townsville ETA 1800/17.
- (11) "PC.1132" escorting Convoy TN.191 ("AMY LOWELL") departed vicinity of Fitzroy Is. at approx 1000/16 ETA Milne Bay 1100/18.
- (12) "COUCAL" escorting US. Subs "RATON" and "RAY" from Milne Bay to Darwin ETA Darwin 1031/18. "COUCAL" then returns to Milne Bay escorted as far as Thursday Is. by "PC.476".
- (13) "COLAC" departed Port Moresby 0656/16 for Townsville ETA Grafton Passage 1800/17.
- (14) "KATOOMBA" "WARREGO" departed Cairns 1114/16 to render assistance to "JULIEN DUBUQUE" reported aground at Baines Patches near Grafton Passage. "WARREGO" returned Fitzroy Is. at 1715/16 to RV with "PYRO"; "KATOOMBA" proceeding to Gibson Reef to continue search.
- (15) "YP.291" was to depart Brisbane Dec.16 for Mackay, Palm Island, Townsville, Cairns, Thursday Is. and Port Moresby.
- (16) "SUSQUEHANNA" departed Townsville 1527/15 ETA Brisbane 1930/18.
- (17) "WARRNAMBOOL" "SC.735" "YMS.315" escorting Convoy QL.38 (10 MV) departed Brisbane 1750/15 ETA Bustard Head 0300/17 where "YMS.315" proceeds independently to Cairns.
- (18) "GEELONG" "YANDRA" escorting Convoy PG.91 (2 MV) departed Caloundra 1240/15 for Sydney ETA 1700/17.
- (19) "BUNDABERG" departed Sydney 1629/14 for Brisbane.
- (20) "MIZAR" (AP) departed Caloundra 1520/15 for Sydney ETA 0500/17.
- (21) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PC.1131 SC.744 YMS's 53, 71
Merchant Vessels: "JOHN G. BRADY" "COMARA"
"MOAMO" "JANE MOOREHEAD" "KOORAKA"
"VAQUERO"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 73, 314, 336
PC's 1121, 1124 ML.431
Merchant Vessels: "D. BARRY" "STEPHEN GIRARD"
"J.W. MACKAY" "NORAB" "OZARK"

Morobe
Buna - Warships & Aux. - "FORTUNUS" (AGP)
- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 "YUNNAN" (ASIS)
"TRINITY" (AO) "PING WO" "POLLOX" (AKS)
"MERKUR" (AF)
Merchant Vessels: "S. BENSON"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734
Merchant Vessels: "W.S. LADD" "J. LANE" "J. EARL"
"PAHUD" "WM. PROUSE" "J. ROSS" "A. THOMAS"
"G.V.L. MEYER" "W.H. POINT" "G.E. SMITH"
"R.P. WARNER" "TJISILANE" "VAN SPILBERGEN"

Woodlark Is. - Warships & Aux. - -
Merchant Vessels: "PULGANBAR" "TRIANGULUM"

Goodenough Is.
Milne Bay - Merchant Vessels: "ISOLATOR"
- Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY"
"DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN"
"LAMSON" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA"
"WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD)
"SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSBY" "KILTY"
"GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" "CASTLEMAINE" "ARARAT"
(AMS) (APD) SC's 648, 650, 699, 703, 731, 736, 737
SC's 738, 742, 743, 748, 750, 745, 749, 981
YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 70, 313 YP's 233, 236
ML's 424, 425, 427, 430, 801, 806, 816, 818
ML.819 PC's 479, 1119, 1120, 1122 25 LST's
15 APC's 29 FT's "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD)
"OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG)
"AMYCUS" (ARL) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER
HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L. ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
"J. ALLEN" "ANHUI" "BALIKPAPAN" "S. BAMBERGER"
"SIMON BOLIVAR" "J. CABRILLO" "CAPE CLEAR" "CAPE ANNE"
"J. CARROLL" "W.E. CHANNING"
"ESSO BALBOA" "F.A. EILERS" "ETAMIN"
"G.H. FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE" "N. HAPGOOD"
"F.J. IRWIN" "T.C. LOWE" "A.F. LINDBERGH"
"J. LYEE" "MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER"
"MORMACDALE" "J. PALMER" "A. RAVALLI" "J.S.
SARGENT" "N.J. SINNOTT" "M.M. STEWART"
"CHAS. P. STEINMETZ" "TECUMSEH" "GENERAL
VERSPIJCK" "E.W. WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "LITHGOW" (AMS) YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48
ML.426
Merchant Vessels: "MATTHEW FLINDERS" "MAGNOLIA"
"MULIANA" "REIJNST" "STAGEN" "SUVA"
"A.D. WHITE"

Thursday Island - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" "FREMANTLE" "COOTAMUN-
DRA" (AMS)
Merchant Vessels: "ISLANDER" "DARVEL"

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "GLADSTONE" (AMS) PC.477 YMS.72
SC.732 YP.280 Y.9 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820
"PLATYPUS" (AR) "MANUWA" (APA)

Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "KAPUNDA" "GYMPIE" "BROOK" (AMS)
"SAN PABLO" (AVP)

Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "ROCKHAMPTON"
"COWRA" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "WHYALLA" (AMS) "HERON"
(AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO) SC.741 PC.1123 ML.808
ML's 809, 826, 821 YMS.10 "H.T. ALLEN" "KANIMELA"
(APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO)
"MANUNDA" (AR) "BLIND BIRD" (AGC)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "STUART" to depart Caloundra at 2000/19 to RV at 1600/20 with "SEA PIKE" in position 24°18'S 158°22'E and escort to Lady Elliott Island whence "STUART" returns to Brisbane.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Choiseul - 0340/16 one unidentified vessel was bombed by aircraft 20 miles N.W. of Choiseul Island. This would appear to be a barge.
- (2) Bougainville - Photos Dec.14 show Kahili, Buka and Bonis runways unserviceable. Kara and Ballale were not covered.
- (3) Empress Augusta Bay -
- (a) Dec.14, with air and artillery support our troops launched an attack in N.E. sector meeting opposition from increased enemy artillery and mortar fire.
 - (b) 1200/15, 16 Avengers in support of our forces bombed enemy positions in N.E. sector.
 - (c) Dec.15, 8 Kittyhawks destroyed a bridge 18 miles S.E. of Cape Motupena.
- (4) Buka Area - 1144/16, an eastbound submarine was attacked by aircraft 45 miles W. of Cape Henpan. An oil slick and bubbles were observed. This indicates a possible supply run from Rabaul to the Solomons.
- (5) Kapingamarangi Island Area - Dec.15, a derelict landing barge was possibly sunk 90 miles S.S.E. of Kapingamarangi Is.
- (6) Mussau Island -
- (a) 1430/16, a Liberator sighted 60 miles E. of Mussau Island:-

1 light cruiser	Course	Speed
1 destroyer or gunboat	360°	20 knots.
 - (b) 1315/15, 6 unidentified aircraft on course 340° were sighted by a Liberator 95 miles N.E. of Mussau Island.
- (7) New Hanover Area - 1135/16, a Liberator sighted the following convoy:-
- | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| 3 freighter transports (3,500-8000 tons) | 95 miles W. New Hanover | Course 330° |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|
- This convoy is apparently returning to the Mandates from the Bismarcks.
- (8) New Ireland - 0614/15, seven Beaufighters strafed Borpop, causing an explosion in a revetment. No aircraft were seen on the strip or in revetments.
- (9) New Britain -
- (a) 1115/15, one single engined fighter was shot down over Central New Britain by four Lightnings.
 - (b) On Dec.16, unidentified aircraft were reported as follows:-
 - 1535/16, a very large flight of fighters or divebombers over Ubili on course 220°.
 - 1750/16, a large unidentified formation of aircraft over Wide Bay on course W.S.W.
- (10) Arawe - (a) After successful landing on the morning of Dec.15, consolidation and mopping up continues. Enemy losses are estimated at 60 dead.
- (b) 1645-1715/16: Three separate enemy air raids were made on the Arawe area by 12 divebombers with a very large fighter cover. No report of damage or casualties has been received.
 - (c) 1345-1500/16, sixteen Lightnings patrolling over Arawe encountered a force of 6 or 7 bombers escorted by 15-20 fighters shooting down 5 bombers and two fighters.
- (11) Cape Gloucester -
- (a) 1428-1450/15, 33 Liberators bombed targets in the Cape Gloucester area, starting fires.
 - (b) 1410/16, approximately 30 Liberators again effectively bombed the area.
- (12) Hermit Islands - 1150/16, a Liberator attacked 2 large sea trucks on course 220°, 20 miles N.W. by N. of the Hermit Group. A direct hit sank one vessel which carried numerous crates on deck; lifeboats and survivors were strafed.

(13) Huon Peninsula -

- (a) Night Dec.14-15, an 80-100 foot barge was damaged by PT boats 15 miles S.E. of Saidor.
- (b) 1010-1200/15, five barges were probably destroyed by five Aircobras between Reiss Point and Sic.
- (c) 1240/16, 9 Marauders bombed the Kelanoa Harbour area, blanketing the entire target and probably causing much damage.
- (d) 1242/16, 10 Mitchells bombed supply dumps and camp areas W. of Sic. Several barges were sighted in the area.
- (e) 1700/15, our ground forces captured Lakona and are advancing beyond while our artillery is shelling the enemy's lines of communication S. of Fortification Point.
An enemy pocket of resistance 70 strong one mile W. of Kiligia has been cleared, 20 Japanese being killed while the remainder retreated.
- (f) 1800/15, 12 enemy bombers and 30 fighters were intercepted by four Lightnings 20 miles E. of Sic. No losses were inflicted or suffered.

(14) Cape Ward Hunt -

- (a) 1110/14, a possible SS contact off Cape Ward Hunt was reported by an allied vessel.
- (b) 1528/16, an Eastbound submarine 25 miles N. by W. of Cape Ward Hunt was sighted by aircraft.

(15) Kiriwina - 0321-0355/17, an air raid warning was sounded at Kiriwina.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/17:

(1) 12 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

(1) Dutch New Guinea -

- (a) Timika: 0700/16, 12 Kittyhawks bombed and strafed Aika and Japero villages, starting fires.
- (b) Utarom: 0150/16, several aircraft were observed in the E. dispersal area by a Catalina which dropped flares.
One probable 1000 ton ship was sighted anchored off S. end of the strip.
- (c) Macleur Gulf:-0030/15 an 80 foot schooner was strafed 6 miles N.E. of Kokas by a Catalina which also strafed some barges off Tapas near the N. entrance to the Gulf.
- (d) Sorong: 2255/14: two Catalinas (additional to the two previously reported) bombed targets at Sorong and Jefman Island. Four of eight grounded ~~an~~ reconnaissance aircraft were strafed at Jefman Island.
One possible 6000 ton white ship was seen off Jefman Is.

Three possible 1000 ton ships were seen at Sorong.

- (2) Timor - (a) 0643-0704/16 eight Beaufighters attacked a troop transport and five barges off Lautem, leaving the transport a total loss. As a result of this and two attacks on Dec.15 by Beaufighters and Mitchells, both transports are considered destroyed.
- (b) 0042/16, three Mitchells attacked Penfoei.
- (3) Makassar: 2215/15, five Liberators bombed Makassar with unobserved results. One unidentified 5000 ton ship was observed in Harbour. Five small ships on a S.W. course were sighted off the S.W. tip of the Celebes.
- (4) Balikpapan - 2320/16, four Liberators bombed the refinery area at Balikpapan with unobserved results.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/17:

- (1) "VAN HEEMSKERK" escorting "HERMITAGE" departed Fremantle 1000/14.
"VAN HEEMSKERK" to escort till 1800/18.
- (2) "YP.288" departed Exmouth Gulf 1300/15 ETA Fremantle 0900/19.
- (3) "YP.286" departed Fremantle 1150/15 ETA Exmouth Gulf p.m. Dec.18.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL)
"VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV) "HORSHAM"
"DUBBO" (AMS) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS"
(CM) "WEIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS)
"ISABEL" (PY) SC.739

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)

Broome - Warships & Aux. - "TJERK HIDDEN" (DD)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/17:

- (1) "DELORAIN" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" "TOWNSVILLE" "BALLARAT" escorting
Convoy GP.92 (3 MV) departed Sydney at 0755/16 ETA
Caloundra 1930/18. "BALLARAT" to be detached off Cape
Moreton and proceed to Townsville.
- (2) "INVERELL" (AMS) departed Port Phillip 1440/16 for Brisbane ETA
0700/20.
- (3) "WAGGA" departed Sydney 0944/15 for Melbourne ETA 1400/17.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "WATERS" (APD) "VENDETTA" (DD)
"GOULBURN" "MORSEBY" "KALGOORLIE" "PIRIE"
"GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" "ROCKHAMPTON" (AMS)
"MANCOORA" (APA) "HILO" "TULSA" (PG) "KYBRA"
"DOOMBA" (A/S Vessels) "BUNGAREE" (CM)
"TASMAN" (AH) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) ML's 430, 802
ML's 807, 809, 821
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)

Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)

Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines, and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMARA	-	CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	WAKA) 2 poss. ISUZU) sunk NAGARA) NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID * BUCHANAN	Approx 40	5-10	25-30 (some repairing)
		* Non-effective		

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) GATO) PETO) REDFIN) RATON) RAY)	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH) SCAMP)	At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH	At Milne Bay		
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T.ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS BLUE RIDGE	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u> <u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS	-	?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)
 Fighters (incl. 14 twin-eng.) 254
 Light & M/Bombers 142
 SE/Bombers 45
 Flying Boats 2
 Floatplanes 50
 Transport & Obsn. A/C 13

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	AEUKUMA
<u>V/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

NORTH CAROLINA
INDIANA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO
* HYUGA (being modernised)

CV ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

CV(E)

HOSHO

CV(L) COPPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

ZUIHO (~~poss. sunk~~)
* HAYATAKA

CV(E) SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
GHENANGO
BARNES
GOPAHEE
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA
CHUYO) en route
UNYO) Mandates

CA BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
MINNEAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
PENSACOLA
INDIANAPOLIS
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

TONE
AOBA
* MYOKO
* HAGURO
* NACHI
* ATAGO
* TAKAO
* MAYA

OCA

6

CL OAKLAND
HONOLULU
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* MATORI

CV(E)
XGL
AV/CVS
XAV/XCVS
DB
SS
AS

POCOMOKE
-
Approx 35
Approx 50
?

KASHIMA
6-7
CHIYODA (under conversion to
3 ACV)
Approx 30
Approx 30
2 (one repairing)

* Noneffective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON
EP 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
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<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV (L)</u>	-	-	HITAKA) en route RYUHO) Mandates
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	BATTLE	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS FROBISHER	ASHIGARA

<u>CL</u>	VAN HELMSKERK ADELAIDE	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
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<u>CL (T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
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<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
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<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOJ
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<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
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<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDUS	Approx 27	10
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<u>S</u>	BILDFISH BONEFISH CABRILLA CAPELIN COD MARWHALE POMPOM PUFFER TUNA TINOSA	} } } } } } On Patrol } } } }	? 6
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<u>S</u>	K.12 BLUEFISH BOWFIN GREVALLE KINGFISH RASHER	} } } } } } At Fremantle }	
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<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>			
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)		168	
Light & M/Bombers		55	
SE/Bombers		16	
Flying Boats		12	
Floatplanes		49	
Transport & Obsn. A/C		39	

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARYPart I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 689

Date: 18 December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(i) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/18:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "SC.731" escorting "APC.1" departed Milne Bay 1600/16 for Townsville ETA Grafton Passage 2000/18.
- (3) "CASTLEMAINE" departed Milne Bay p.m. 17 Dec. to investigate submarine report received from "CAPE MEARES". ETA Grafton Passage 0700/19.
- (4) "LITHGOW" escorting Convoy NT.68 ("REIJNST" for Townsville; "MATTHEW FLINDERS" for Cairns.) departed Port Moresby 1730/17 ETA Townsville 1130/20.
- (5) "YMS.335" SC.746 escorting "BONTEKOE" departed Port Moresby 1030/17 en route Lae and Buna. ETA Lae 1700/19.
- (6) "YMS.315" en route Cairns.
- (7) "COLAC" departed Cairns 1937/17 to render assistance to survivors of "WANAKA" at Stanley Is., to search for 10 missing and assist "MANGOLA" ashore on Corbett Reef.
- (8) "GYMPIE" "KATOOMBA" "GLADSTONE" escorting Convoy TN.192 (9 MV with 7 PT's in tow) dep. Townsville 1454/17. ETA destination 1400/20.
- (9) "YP.291" was to depart Caloundra 1600/17 for Mackay ETA 1300/19 thence Townsville ETA 0900/21 thence Cairns, Thursday Is. and Port Moresby.
- (10) "WARRNAMBOOL" "SC.735" escorting Convoy LQ.38 (6 MV's) departed Port Curtis 1902/17 for Brisbane ETA 0415/19.
- (11) "WARREGO" escorting "PYRO" (AE) was to depart vicinity of Fitzroy Is. at approx 1800/16 ETA Milne Bay 1100/18.
- (12) "PC.1132" escorting Convoy TN.191 ("AMY LOWELL") departed vicinity of Fitzroy Is. at approx 1000/16 ETA Milne Bay 1100/18.
- (13) "SUSQUEHANNA" departed Townsville 1527/15 ETA Brisbane 1930/18.
- (14) "COUCAL" escorting US. Subs "RATON" and "RAY" from Milne Bay to Darwin ETA Darwin 1031/18. "COUCAL" then returns to Milne Bay escorted as far as Thursday Is. by "PC.476"
- (15) "BUNDABERG" departed Sydney 1629/14 for Brisbane.
- (16) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PC.1131 SC.744 YMS's 53, 71
Merchant Vessels: "JOHN G. BRADY" "COMARA" "JANE
MOOREHEAD" "KOORAKA" "VAQUERO"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 73, 313, 334, 336 PC.1121
PC.1124 ML.431 SC.745 "ARARAT" (AMS)
Merchant Vessels: "D.BARRY" "J.W.MACKAY" "NORAB"
"OZARK" "WM.E.CHANNING"

- Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC.698 ML.816
Merchant Vessels: "F.B.OLSON"
- Morobe - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
- Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 "YUNNAN" (ASIS)
"TRINITY" (AO) "PING WO" "POLLOX" (AKS)
"MERKUR" (AF)
Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSON"
- Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734
Merchant Vessels: "S.LADD" "J.EARL" "MOAMOA"
"PAHUD" "WM. PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "A.THOMAS"
"G.V.L.MEYER" "W.H.POINT" "C.E.SMITH"
"R.P.WARNER" "TJISIDANE" "VAN SPILBERGEN"
- Woodlark Is. - Merchant Vessels: "FULGARBAR" "TRIANGULUM"
- Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "ISOLATOR"
- Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY"
"LAMSON" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN"
"SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA"
"RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA"
"BROOKS" "CROSBY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD"
"DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD)
SC's 648, 650, 699, 703, 736, 737, 738, 742
SC's 745, 747, 748, 750, 749, 981, 647, 982
YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 70, 314 YP's 233, 236
ML's 424, 425, 427, 430, 431, 801, 806, 816
ML's 818, 819 PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1120, 1122
25 LST's 14 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR)
"DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS)
"SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "WESTRALIA"
(APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

- Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
"J.ALDEN" "ANHUI" "BALIKPAPAN" "S.BAMBERGER"
"D.F.BARRY" "SIMON BOLIVAR" "BOSWORTH"
"J.CABRILLO" "CAPE CLEARE" "CAPE ANNIE" "J.
CARROLL" "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A.BILERS" "ETAMIN"
"F.H.FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE" "N.HAPGOOD" "S.GIRARD"
"F.J.IRWIN" "T.C.LOWE" "A.F.LINDBERGH"
"J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER" "MORMACDALE"
"NAVIGATOR" "J.PALMER" "A.RAVALLI" "J.S.
SARGENT" "SIBIGO" "N.J.SINNOTT" "M.M.STEWART"
"CHAS.P.STEINMETZ" "TECUMSEH" "GENERAL
VERSPIJCK" "E.N.WESTCOTT"
- Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
Merchant Vessels: "MAGNOLIA" "MULIAMA" "STAGEN"
"SUVA" "A.D.WHITE"
- Thursday Island - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" "FREMANTLE"
"COOTAMUNDRA" (AMS)
Merchant Vessels: "ISLANDER" "DARVEL"
- Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BROOME" "BUNBURY" "KAPUNDA"
"STAWELL" (AMS) PC.477 YMS.72 SC.732 YP.280
YMS.9 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
- Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
- Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "ROCKHAMPTON"
"COWRA" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "WHYALLA" (AMS) "HERON"
(AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO) "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA"
(APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY"
(AO) "MANUNDA" (AH) "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) SC.741
PC.1123 ML.808, 809, 821 YMS.10

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "STUART" to depart Caloundra at 2000/19 to RV at 1600/20 with "SEA PIKE" in position 24°18'S 158°22'E and escort to Lady Elliott Island whence "STUART" returns to Brisbane.

- (2) "COWRA" "BALLARAT" "SC.741" escorting Convoy QL.39 (15 ships) to depart Caloundra 1600/19. After arrival Bustard Head "BALLARAT" proceeds Townsville; "COWRA" "SC.741" detailed as escorts for Convoy LQ.39.
- (3) "MANUNDA" ETD Brisbane about 20 Dec. for Thursday Island and Port Moresby.
- (4) "PC.1123" escorting "SEA SNIPE" to depart Brisbane 1000/19.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

(1) Buka-Bougainville -

- (a) Photos Dec.17 show Buka, Bonis and Ballale strips unserviceable. Kara and Kahili were unserviceable on Dec.16 but no coverage was made by photos Dec.17. Ten barges visible Buka Passage Dec.17 and another nine in Matchin Bay area.
- (b) Dec.16, sixty Dauntless, 28 Avengers with 34 fighters escorting attacked A/A positions at Bonis and Sohana Island destroying two heavy and several automatic gun positions. The escorting fighters also strafed Tenekau and Kieta. Three Dauntless were lost but several of the crew were rescued.
- (c) Fourteen unescorted Liberators and five Mitchells escorted by eight fighters, also attacked Buka Passage area forenoon Dec.16 while three attacked Bonis and Sohana Island. Photos Dec.16 show considerable damage to Buildings in Chinatown.
- (d) It was reliably reported Dec.16 that the overland evacuation of enemy troops from South Bougainville was believed to be commencing.

(2) New Ireland -

- (a) At 1233/17 a Soupac aircraft reported three large, three medium and two small u/i vessels in Kavieng Harbour. One fighter was airborne and another observed taking off but no attack was made.
- (b) The same aircraft sighted an 80 foot barge loaded with troops at 1345/17 off the N. coast of New Ireland vicinity of Namatanai heading N.W. The barge was set on fire and many passengers killed by strafing.

(3) Mussau Island - At 1208/17 a large southbound merchantman was reported 130 miles N. of Mussau Island on course 110°.

(4) New Britain -

- (a) Arawe - Further details of the initial allied landing operations at Arawe are to hand and set out in chronological form (see Naval Incidents attached).

No further report has been received concerning ground activity since Dec.16 when mopping up and consolidation was in progress.

At 1645/16, 8 Thunderbolts intercepted 12-15 enemy fighters strafing allied ground positions at Arawe and destroyed four enemy aircraft and probable another one.

At 0815/17, 8 Thunderbolts encountered 20-25 enemy dive bombers escorted by 15 fighters also bound to attack allied ground positions. Our aircraft destroyed 7 dive bombers and 2 fighters.

At 1430/17 an enemy reconnaissance aircraft in the vicinity of Arawe was shot down by four of our patrolling Thunderbolts.

- (b) At 0700/17 a large formation of u/i aircraft was reported over Open Bay heading S.W. Probably the same formation described as including more than 48 aircraft was reported shortly after passing Ubili area still on south westerly course.

At 0803/17 a smaller flight of enemy aircraft was reported in Ubili area on a similar course.

- (c) Two Bostons and three Beaufighters made a barge sweeps along north and south coasts New Britain afternoon Dec.16. Several barges were destroyed and damaged vicinity Cape Hoskins; at least two others were attacked vicinity Cape Dampier.

(4) New Britain (Contd) -

(d) Borgen Bay - Between 1355 and 1420/16 nine Lightnings engaged a force of nine medium bombers and 20-30 fighters 4 miles S. of Borgen Bay, destroying three medium bombers and probably another one. The enemy aircraft remained entirely on the defensive during our attack.

(5) Cape Gloucester - The force of 34 Liberators attacking Cape Gloucester afternoon Dec.16 reported approximately 7 small vessels (probably barges) vicinity Natamo.

At 1205/17, 20 Liberators escorted by 14 Thunderbolts again attacked A/A positions Cape Gloucester while 10 Mitchells also attacked targets this area. Details of attack are not yet to hand.

Sixteen patrolling Lightnings reported observing an enemy fighter taking off No. 2 strip at Cape Gloucester at 1705/17 and shot this aircraft down at 500 ft.

(6) Solomon Sea - Early hours Dec.16 our PT boats shot down a possible four-engined enemy flying boat S. of Gasmata.

(7) Wewak - At 1150/16 four patrolling Thunderbolts reported six enemy medium bombers taking off from Boran strip.

(8) Hansa Bay - At 0800/17, 20 barges and seven luggers were reported in Hansa Bay.

(9) Uligan - At 0800/17, ten barges were reported in Harbour.

X (10) Huon Peninsula -

(a) At 0114/17 a Navy Catalina attacked a large enemy surfaced submarine 85 miles N. of Sio heading N.W. One bomb exploded 10 feet from the port quarter and a second scored a direct hit amidships. The submarine was probably destroyed and was last observed disappearing by the stern in a large area of oil.

(b) Between 1255 and 1310/16 one Liberator strafed twelve empty barges vicinity of Sio.

(c) Dec.16, heavy fighting was reported in progress by our ground troops between Lakona and Sanga River.

(11) Coral Sea - At 1130/17 an allied vessel reported being attacked by a submarine 205 miles E.N.E. of Cooktown.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/18:

(1) 10 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 815, 814
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/18:

(1) "VAN HEEMSKERK" escorting "HERMITAGE" departed Fremantle 1000/14. "VAN HEEMSKERK" to escort till 1800/18.

(2) "YP.288" departed Exmouth Gulf 1300/16 ETA Fremantle 0900/19.

(3) "YP.286" departed Fremantle 1150/15 ETA Exmouth Gulf p.m. Dec.18.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL)
"VAN GALEN" (DD) "CHILDS" (AV) "HORSHAM"
"DUBBO" (AMS) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS"
(CM) "WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS)
"ISABEL" (FY) SC.739
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/18:

- (1) "DELORAINÉ" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" "TOWNSVILLE" "BALLARAT" escorting Convoy GP.92 (3 MV) departed Sydney at 0755/16 ETA Caloundra 1930/18. "BALLARAT" to be detached off Cape Moreton and proceed to Townsville.
(2) "INVERELL" (AMS) departed Port Phillip 1440/16 for Brisbane ETA 0700/20.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "WATERS" (APD) "VENDETTA" (DD)
"GOULBURN" "MORESBY" "KALGOORLIE" "PIRIE"
"GEELONG" "ECHUCA" "GLENEEG" "WILCANNIA"
"ROCKHAMPTON" (AMS) "MANOORA" (APA) "HILO"
"TULSA" (PG) "KYBRA" "YANDRA" "DOOMBA"
(A/S Vessels) "BUNGAREE" (CM) "TASMAN" (AH)
"GOLDSTAR" (AG) "MIZAR" (AF) ML's 430, 802
ML's 807, 817, 822, 823
(Repairing, Refitting) - "ROBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

NAVAL INCIDENTS

Arawe - A detailed summary of the initial landing operations at Arawe during the first day, December 15, is set out in chronological form as follows:-

15 December, 1943

- 0620 - Aircraft in flight report saw landing party at ARAWE, 4 destroyers shelling beach at jetty at Amaut Plantation from 3 miles off shore, also Tilalo and Kaumluan being shelled. Twelve barges moving towards shore sighted 10 miles off shore. Three unidentified merchant vessels and three large transports, two destroyers and one cruiser heading 180 degrees and Angup being shelled. Troops being landed at Hamlet Village.
- 0625 - Six B.25s arrived Arawe. Naval gunfire commenced prior to this hour.
- 0644 - Naval gunfire lifted. Leading Buffaloes just North of Pilelo. Close supporting fire from rocket boats accurate and rapid.
- 0645 - One advance party lost equipment and supplies landing from rubber boats and became non-effective as combat unit. Encountered some opposition. Rocket boats led initial waves in. One destroyer opened fire with A/A against unseen aerial target.
- 0700 - Leading echelon of main body of task force preceded by air naval bombardment supported by rocket boats landed orange beach.
- 0716) - Six B.25s bombed and strafed peninsula; accurate results.
0722)
- 0720 - Four P.38s appeared over Arawe, then proceeded East. All waves landing craft maintained good formation in approach.

- 0724 - First wave arrived beach (Alligators and Buffaloes)
- 0730 - Second squad of B.25s arrived.
- 0736 - Second wave arrived beach (Alligators and Buffaloes)
- 0744 - Third wave arrived beach (Alligators and Buffaloes)
- 0756 - Fourth wave arrived beach (Alligators and Buffaloes)
- 0808 - First LCV arrived)
- 0820 - Remaining LCVs still landing. Destroyer-escorted LCVs and LCMs arrived off Pilelo. These ships still slowly steaming southeast of Pilelo awaiting signal to land. No opposition of any sort observed. Crew members reported they thought one destroyer was fired upon. All Alligators and Buffaloes got safely ashore. All ships and landing craft presented exceedingly vulnerable target to air attack from first light to 0820. Unoccupied rubber boats observed on east beach and at northwest tip Pilelo, indicating landings accomplished as planned. Sea calm. Weather 4/10 overcast. Visibility 15 miles.
- 0845 - Ten Betty's and 15 Oscars coming towards Arawe from direction of Rein Bay at 25,000 feet. They flew over Arawe Is. on southerly course and then went East. Our planes patrolled shipping at all times and were not drawn away by enemy fighters.
- 0905 - Blue beach and harbour area bombed by 33 Jap aircraft. Allied warship which remained behind to cover small craft was attacked but received no damage. Other vessels were not attacked.
- 1148 - Final objective reached. Nil indication of opposition or casualties.
Director area broken to overcast, middle cloud with broken low cloud, light rain during early morning and late afternoon. Visibility fair. Wind calm to light northerly. Slight sea. Flying conditions fair. Total of 2395 troops landed in director area.
- 1745 - Consolidating on final objective. Casualties estimated one officer 28 EM missing, 3 officers 10 EM dead, 25 wounded. Sixty Japs dead. Ground troops shot down two enemy planes.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Ocean.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	<u>Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	ZUICHO RYUHO HITAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA	-	CHITOSE UNYO
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHEPPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) 2 poss ISUZU) sunk NAGARA) NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/SVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID	Approx 40	5-10	25-30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COW PENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	* HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAKE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO (Poss. sunk)
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS PENSACOLA SAN FRANCISCO INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE AOBA * MYOKO * HAGURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND HONOLULU * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>ACVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion to ACV)
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON
DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLE	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>KCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMO I
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDUS	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH BONFISH CABRILLA CAPELIN COD MARWHAL POMPOM PUFFER TUNA TINOSA K.12 BLUEFISH BOWFIN GREVALLE KINGFISH RASHER	On Patrol At Fremantle	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		
<u>AIRCRAFT</u> (N.W. Area Only)			
Floaters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)		168	
Light & M/Bombers		55	
SE/Bombers		16	
Flying Boats		12	
Floatplanes		49	
Transport & Obsn. A/C		39	

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARYPart I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 690

Date: 19 December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/19:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "YMS.335" "SC.746" escorting "BONTEKOE" departed Port Moresby 1030/17 en route Lae and Buna ETA Lae 1700/19.
- (3) "YMS.11" "SC.75C" escorting "BALIKPAPAN" departed Milne Bay 1200/17 for Lae ETA 1200/19.
- (4) "ML.428" departed Milne Bay 0630/18 for Port Moresby was due 0630/19.
- (5) "COLAC" departed Cairns 1937/17 to render assistance to survivors of "WANAKA" at Stanley Is., to search for 10 missing and assist "MANGOLA" ashore on Corbett reef.
- (6) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) rendering assistance to "MANGOLA" ashore on Corbett Reef.
- (7) "ML.802" departed Cairns 0743/18 to RV with "KAPUNDA" rendering assistance to "JULIEN DUBUQUE" aground vicinity Gibson Reef.
- (8) "GYMPIE" "GLADSTONE" "STAWELL" escorting Convoy TN.192 ("CITY OF FORT WORTH" "J.M.CLEMENTS" "COLORADO" "P.DESNET" "LUDDINGTON" "AMBROSE PIERCE" "C.M.RUSSELL" "G.STIRLING" "WILLIS VAN DEVENTER" and 7 PTs in tow) dep. Townsville 1454/17. ETA destination 1400/20 (see Naval Incidents).
- (9) "SC.731" escorting "APC.1" departed Milne Bay 1600/16 for Townsville were due Grafton Passage 2000/18.
- (10) "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" escorting Convoy TN.193 ("ANSON BURLINGAME" "CANBERRA" "VAN OUTBORN") were to depart vicinity Fitzroy Is. at 1500/18 for Port Moresby ETA 1800/21.
- (11) "YP.291" was to depart Caloundra 1600/17 for Mackay ETA 1300/19 thence Townsville ETA 0900/21 thence Cairns, Thursday Is. and Port Moresby.
- (12) "COUCAL" escorting US. Subs "RATON" and "RAY" from Milne Bay to Darwin were due Darwin 1031/18. "COUCAL" then returns to Milne Bay escorted as far as Thursday Is. by "PC.476".
- (13) "BUNDABERG" departed Sydney 1629/14 for Townsville ETA 1400/19.
- (14) "YMS.315" en route Cairns.
- (15) "PC.1123" escorting "SEA SNIPE" was to depart Brisbane at 0630/19.
- (16) "INVERELL" (AMS) departed Port Phillip 1440/16 for Brisbane ETA 0700/20.
- (17) "WARRNAMBOOL" "DELORAIN" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" escorting Convoy PG.92 (3 MV) were to depart Brisbane 1200/19 for Sydney.
- (18) 6 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PC.1131 SC.744 YMS's 53, 71
Merchant Vessels: "JOHN G. BRADY" "COMARA" "JANE
MOOREHEAD" "KOORAKA" "VAQUERO"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 73, 313, 334, 336 PC.1121
 PC.1124 ML.431 SC.745 "ARARAT" (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "D.BARRY" "J.W.MACKAY" "NORAB"
 "OZARK" "W.M.E.CHANNING"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC.69B ML.816 "UKI"
 Merchant Vessels: "F.B.OLSON"

Morebe - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)

Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 "YUNNAN" (ASIS)
 "TRINITY" (AO) "PING WO" "POLLUX" (AKS)
 "MERKUR" (AF)
 Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSON"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734.
 Merchant Vessels: "W.S.LADD" "J.EARL" "MOAMOA"
 "PAHOD" "WM.PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "A.THOMAS"
 "C.V.L.MEYER" "W.H.POINT" "C.E.SMITH" "R.P.
 WARNER" "TJISIDANE" "VAN SPELBERGEN"

Woodlark Is. - Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"

Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "ISOLATOR"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
 "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY"
 "AMMER" "BEALE" "BUSH" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY"
 "LAMSON" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN"
 "SHAW" "REID" "PLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA"
 "RALPH TALBOT" "HELE" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS"
 "GROSEY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "DENT"
 "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) SC's 648, 650, 647
 SC's 703, 736, 737, 738, 742, 743, 747, 748, 749
 SC's 981, 982 YMS's 49, 50, 52, 70, 314
 YP's 233, 236 ML's 818, 819, 424, 425, 427, 430
 ML's 431, 801, 806, 816 PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1122
 PC.1132 25 LSTs 14 APCs 29 PTs "RIGEL" (AR)
 "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE"
 (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "WESTRALIA" (APA)
 "GARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG) "PYRO" (AE)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
 MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
 "J.ALLEN" "ANHUI" "S.BAMBERGER" "D.F.BARRY"
 "SIMON BOLIVAR" "BOSWORTH" "J.CABRILLO" "CAPE
 CLEAR" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "ESSO BALBOA"
 "F.A.EILERS" "ETAMIN" "G.H.FLANDERS" "GANYMEDAE"
 "N.HAPGOOD" "S.GIRARD" "F.J.IRWIN" "T.C.LOWE"
 "AMY LOWELL" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN"
 "MIDWEST FARMER" "MORMACDALE" "NAVIGATOR"
 "J.PALMER" "PULGANBAR" "A.RAVALLI" "J.S.SARGENT"
 "SIBIGO" "N.J.SINNOTT" "STAGEN" "M.M.STEWART"
 "CHAS.P.STEINMETZ" "TECUMSER" "GENERAL VERSPIJCK"
 "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
 Merchant Vessels: "MAGNOLIA" "MULIANA" "STAGEN" "SUVA"
 "A.D.WHITE"

Thursday Island - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" "FREMANTLE" "COOTAMUNDRA"
 (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "DARVEL" "DUNDULA" "TULAGI"

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BROOME" (AMS) PC.477 YMS.72, 9
 SC.732 YP.280 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820
 "PLATYPUS" (AR)

Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)

Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "BALLARAT" "TOWNSVILLE"
 "ROCKHAMPTON" "COWRA" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "WHYALLA"
 (AMS) "HERON" (AVP) "KURUMBA" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO)
 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMELA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA)
 "VICTORIA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "MANUNDA" (AH)
 "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) SC's 735, 741 PC.1123
 ML's 808, 809, 821 YMS.10

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "STUART" to depart Caloundra at 2000/19 to RV at 1600/20 with "SEA PIKE" in position 24°18'S 158°22'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is. whence "STUART" returns to Brisbane.
- (2) "COWRA" "BALLARAT" "SC.741" escorting Convoy QL.39 (17 ships including "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) "VICTORIA" (AO)) to depart Caloundra 1600/19. After arrival Bustard Head "BALLARAT" proceeds Townsville; "COWRA" "SC.741" detailed as escorts for Convoy LQ.39.
- (3) "BOWEN" escorting "KURUMBA" (AD) to depart Caloundra 1800/21 for Townsville. On arrival Lady Elliott Island, ships proceed independently.
- (4) "LATROBE" escorting "TULAGI" to depart Thursday Island 1900/19 for Darwin ETA 1430/22.
- (5) "FREMANTLE" escorting "DILGA" "Y.4" "DUNDULA" to depart Thursday Is 1500/19 for Darwin ETA 1730/24.
- (6) "MANUNDA" ETD Brisbane about 20 Dec. for Thursday Island and Port Moresby.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Choiseul - 1500/17, 5 Venturas bombed and strafed enemy concentrations at Poro Poro and Terykukure (N.W. Choiseul).
- (2) Buin Base -
 - (a) 1030/17, 18 Mitchells bombed Maliai on Shortland, starting four small fires.
 - (b) 1200/17, 54 Dauntless and 28 Avengers dropped 60 tons of bombs on Ballale runway and A/A positions, starting two small fires in bivouac area, probably damaging three A/A guns. Photos show 31 new craters on the runway.
- (3) Empress Augusta Bay -
 - (a) 1200/17, 6 Mitchells) bombed and strafed
1500/17, 6 Dauntless) Matupena Point.
and 3 Avengers)
 - Thirteen native type huts were destroyed.
 - (b) Dec.17, allied infantry advanced 500 yards in an attack E. of the Torokina River, and found numerous dead Japanese claimed killed by preliminary artillery bombardment. 40-60 foxholes, believed evacuated during the preceding 24 hours, were found.
The attack is continuing in the N.E. sector of the bridgehead, where the enemy is surrounded on three sides.
 - (c) Reliable reports on Dec.17 state that small parties of Japanese in poor condition have attempted to escape from the Torokina area by way of the Numa Numa track and that the majority have been killed.
 - (d) Night Dec.17/18 PT boats strafed and bombarded with mortar fire the Jaba River mouth.
 - (e) Dec.18, two enemy aircraft bombed an anchorage at Torokina Point, causing minor damage and casualties.
- (4) Buka -
 - (a) Dec.17, four Corsairs strafed and fired numerous huts along the E. coast of Buka Island.
 - (b) Night Dec.17/18, two barges 6 miles W. of Buka Passage were attacked by PTs which sank one and set the other on fire. After burning for half an hour it exploded.
Fire from Automatic weapons and a larger gun was encountered from the shore, and a floatplane ineffectually bombed the PTs.
 - (c) 0005/18, a Beaufort received indications of six vessels 10 miles W. of Buka Passage. These may have been barges.
 - (d) 1220/18, three fighters ineffectually attacked a Soupac Liberators 52 miles W.S.W. of Buka Passage.
 - (e) 0600/19, one unidentified ship 15 miles S.W. of Buka Passage was sighted by aircraft.
- (5) New Ireland -
 - (a) 0305/19, an enemy submarine on course 140° was attacked by a Soupac aircraft 15 miles N.E. of East Cape. The target disappeared.

- (5) New Ireland (Contd) -
 (b) 1310/17, a patrolling aircraft dropped 2 x 500lb. bombs on the runway at Namatanai. No aircraft were sighted.
- (6) Mussau Island - 1208/17, one unidentified enemy vessel, probably a destroyer, on course 110°, 130 miles N. of Cape Siemens, was unsuccessfully attacked by a patrolling Liberator.
 This vessel was previously reported to be a large merchantman.
- (7) Cape Hoskins - 0940-0950/18, Cape Hoskins runway was bombed by 37 Liberators escorted by 24 Lightnings causing explosions and fires in dispersal areas.
- (8) Arawe - (a) Dec.17, allied forces supported by artillery fire occupied Arawe and despatched patrols towards Arawe strip.
 The enemy dead to date totals 71 dead.
 A quantity of arms, food and clothing were abandoned in a dump by the enemy driven from Arawe.
 (b) 0100-0315/17, 12 bombing and strafing runs over allied positions at Arawe were made by enemy aircraft.
 (c) 0815/17, a total of ten enemy aircraft were destroyed by eight Thunderbolts (9 only were previously reported).
 (d) 1145/18, 16 Lightnings destroyed 3 of 30-40 fighters.
 (e) 0935/18, five enemy aircraft on course S.E. were sighted 30 miles N.N.W. of Arawe.
 (f) Enemy losses in the interception by 16 Lightnings 25 miles S. of Eleanora Bay have been re-assessed as six aircraft.
- (9) Ubili - 1420/17 and 0905/18 small flights of unidentified aircraft flew S.W. over Ubili.
- (10) Cape Busching - Dec.18, a small boat was sighted by aircraft $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the mouth of the Itni River.
- (11) Cape Gloucester-Borgen Bay -
 (a) 1555/17, 10 Mitchells bombed Target Hill.
 (b) Dec.18, preliminary reports show that 25 Liberators, 49 Mitchells, and 12 Marauders dropped 247 tons of bombs on Cape Gloucester aerodrome especially No. 2 runway, gun positions and on Borgen Bay barge hideouts and coastal tracks, with excellent results. The main runway was left unserviceable, stores were destroyed and fires were started with billowing clouds of black smoke.
 (c) 2336/17, a Liberator attacked:
 2 unidentified vessels Course East
 2 sea trucks 50 miles N. of Cape Gloucester.
- A direct hit with a 1000 lb. bomb was scored on one sea truck which is claimed sunk.
- (12) Vitiaz Strait -
 (a) 1341/17, an Eastbound Dinah flew over Long Island.
 (b) 0205/18, a flight of aircraft, course 130°, flew over the island.
 (c) 1116/18, a large eastbound flight of aircraft was sighted over Long Island.
- (13) Hansa Bay - 0800/17, Kittyhawks reported two flights of four or five unidentified aircraft heading N.W. from Hansa Bay.
- (14) Muon Peninsula -
 (a) 0710/17, a well camouflaged barge was strafed by three Aircobras at Reiss Point (20 miles W. of Sio).
 (b) 1147/17, 9 Mitchells bombed and strafed Sio village and Bambariwa River mouth.
 (c) 1710/17, 4 Aircobras strafed and destroyed 4 barges at Reiss Point and 4 at Kelaua Harbour (10 miles S.E. of Sio).
 (d) 2015/17, a possible submarine on course 135° was indicated 5 miles off Gneissenau Point.
 (e) Night Dec.17/18, a southbound submarine was sighted 3 miles E. of Tolokiwa Island.
 (f) 0840-0910/18, 23 Bostons bombed and strafed camp and dump areas at Blucher Point causing widespread destruction.
 (g) 0910/17, a submarine which submerged on course 90° was sighted by aircraft 45 miles S.E. by S. of Finschhafen.
 (h) An allied force has crossed the Sanga River and is advancing northwards.

(15) Woodlark Island - 0530/17 - an air raid warning was sounded.
0550/17 - all clear.

An unidentified aircraft approached from the north and then proceeded towards Milne Bay.

(16) Prince of Wales Island - 1035/16, a floating mine, antennae type, was found on Prince of Wales Island (S. of Thursday Is.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/19:

(1) 10 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

(11) ENEMY FORCES

(1) Dutch New Guinea -

(a) Kaimana: At 1053/17 one small coaster and two other small vessels were reported this area.

(b) Utarom: Two Liberators attacked Utarom strip forenoon Dec.17. The runway was reported serviceable and 13 heavy A/A guns located near the strip.

(c) Efman Island: Three Catalinas attacked the air strip night Dec.17/18.

(2) Aroe Islands - Three Liberators attacked Trangan Island noon Dec.17. The runways were reported unserviceable. One small vessel was sighted E. coast Wokam Island.

(3) Taberfane - Two Catalinas attacked this area night Dec.17.

(4) Tanimbar - Photos Selaru airfield Dec.17 reveal nil aircraft but four active A/A positions E. of runway.

(5) Timor - Two Hudsons attacked Manatuto night Dec.17 starting fires. Nil shipping was reported.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/19:

(1) "VAN HEEMSKERK" escorting "HERMITAGE" departed Fremantle 1000/14. "VAN HEEMSKERK" to escort till 1800/18 and then proceed Colombo.

(2) "YP.288" departed Exmouth Gulf 1300/16 was due Fremantle 0900/19.

(3) "YP.286" departed Fremantle 1150/15 was due Exmouth Gulf p.m. Dec.19.

(4) "CHILDS" (AV) departed Fremantle 1825/17 for Exmouth Gulf.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" (DD) "HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739.

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/19:

- (1) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ECHUCA" "PIRIE" "BUNGAREE" escorting Convoy GP.93 (5 MV) were to depart Sydney 0800/19 for Brisbane. On arrival Cape Moreton "BUNGAREE" and "PIRIE" to detach: "PIRIE" to escort "BUNGAREE" to Lady Elliott Is. thence proceeding independently to Townsville.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "WATERS" (APD) "VENDETTA" (DD)
"GOULBURN" "MORESBY" "KALGOORLIE" "GEEELONG"
"GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" (AMS) "MANOORA" (APA)
"HILO" "TULSA" (PG) "KYBRA" "YANDRA" "DOOMBA"
(A/S Vessels) "TASMAN" (AH) "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
"MIZAR" (AF) ML's 430, 802, 807, 817, 822, 823
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

NAVAL INCIDENTS

Bougainville Reef - "GLADSTONE" "AMBROSE PIERCE" "CITY OF FORT WORTH" "COLORADO" ex Convoy TN.192 ran aground on Bougainville Reef. "CASTLEMAINE" "LITHGOW" "WARREGO" despatched to render assistance. At 0640/19 "GLADSTONE" and the three MVs were reported to have been refloated and despatched to Cairns.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Ocean.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU SHOKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	ZUIHO RYUHO HITAKA
<u>CV(H)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA	-	CHITOSE UNYO
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHRÖPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONT PELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) ISUZU) 2 poss. NAGARA) sunk NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XGL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	HUTCHINS DALY AMMEN BEALE BUSH	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID	Approx 40 5	30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) GATO) PETO) REDFIN) RATON) RAY) SCAMP)	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH)	At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH	At Milne Bay		
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T. ALLEN MANDORA WESTRALIA KANIMELA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u>	BLUE RIDGE			
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)</u>				
	Fighters (incl. 14 twin-eng)	254		
	Light & M/Bombers	142		
	SE/Bombers	45		
	Flying Boats	2		
	Floatplanes	50		
	Transport & Obsn. A/C	13		

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

CL
DETROIT
RALEIGH
RICHMOND

ABUKUMA

A/CVS

-

AKITSUSHIMA

DD

22

5

SE

10

Approx 4

AS

-

1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	-
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COMPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	* HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO (Poss. sunk)
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS PENSACOLA SAN FRANCISCO INDIANA OLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE AOBA * MYOKO * HAGURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA (under conversion 3 to ACV)
<u>AV/XCVS</u>	-	3
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	BATELER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS FROBISHER	ASHIGARA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL (T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDUS	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH) BONFISH) CABRILLA) CAPELIN) On Patrol MARWHALE) POMPOM) PUFFER) KINGFISH) K.12) BLUEFISH) BOWFIN) COD) At Fremantle GREVALLE) RASHER) TINOSA)	?	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>			
	Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)	168	
	Light & M/Bombers	55	
	SE/Bombers	16	
	Flying Boats	12	
	Floatplanes	49	
	Transport & Obsn. A/C	39	

C.O.I.C.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 691

Date: 20 December, 1943.

PART I.

A. SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/20:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "YMS.335" "SC.746" escorting "BONTEKOE" departed Port Moresby 1030/17 en route Lae and Buna. Were due Lae 1700/19.
- (3) "YMS.11" "SC.750" escorting "BALIKPAPAN" departed Milne Bay 1200/17 for Lae ETA 1200/19.
- (4) "SC.650" "SC.748" escorting "Y.6" "J.SARGENT" departed Milne Bay 0530/18. ETA "Y.6" Lae 2330/19, "J.SARGENT" Finschhafen 0700/20.
- (5) "SC.744" and "YMS.53" escorting "J.G.BEADY" departed Finschhafen 1735/17 for Milne Bay. Were due 0700/19.
- (6) "SC.749" escorting "MULCRA" departed Buna 1045/18 for Finschhafen. Were due 0900/19.
- (7) "ARARAT" departed Lae 0001/19 ETA Milne Bay 1200/20.
- (8) "ML.428" escorting "ANDREW D. WHITE" departed Port Moresby 1245/19 ETA Milne Bay 1230/21.
- (9) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) departed Thursday Is. 0725/19.
- (10) "COUCAL" (ASR) en route Darwin to Milne Bay.
- (11) "LATROBE" escorting "TULAGI" departed Thursday Island 1700/19 for Darwin ETA 1530/22.
- (12) "FREMANTLE" escorting Convoy TD.39 ("DILGA" "DUNDULA") was to depart Thursday Is. 1500/19 for Darwin ETA 1730/24.
- (13) "GYMPIE" "GLADSTONE" "STAWELL" escorting Convoy TN.102 ("CITY OF FORT WORTH" "J.M.CLEMENTS" "COLORADO" "P.DESNET" "LUDDINGTON" "AMBEROSE PIERCE" "C.M.RUSSELL" "G.STIRLING" "WILLIS VAN DEVENTER" and 7 Pts in tow) dep. Townsville 1454/17. ETA destination 1400/20 (see Naval Incidents).
- (14) "COLAC" after rendering assistance to "WANAKA" and "MANGOLA" departed Eden Reef 1615/19 ETA Cairns 1200/20. "MANGOLA" proceeding Cairns ETA 1800/20.
- (15) "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" escorting Convoy TN.193 ("ANSON BURLINGAME" "CANBERRA" "VAN OUTHORN") departed vicinity Fitzroy Is. at 1500/19 for Port Moresby ETA 1800/21.
- (16) "WARREGO" escorting Convoy MV.49 ("GENERAL VERSPIJCK" "SIBIGO") departed Milne Bay 1510/18 ETA Townsville 1300/21.
- (17) "SC.731" departed Townsville 1845/19 for Cairns for docking. Was due 1030/20.
- (18) "COWRA" "BALLARAT" "SC.741" escorting Convoy QL.39 (15 ships including "BLUE RIDGE" (ASG) "VICTORIA" (AO)) departed Caloundra 1830/19. ETA 0200/21 at Bustard Head where "VICTORIA" and "BALLARAT" proceed independently to Townsville. ETA "BALLARAT" 1600/22, "VICTORIA" Dec.23, "COWRA" "SC.741" detailed as escorts for Convoy LQ.39.

- (19) "YP.291" was to depart Caloundra 1600/17 for Mackay ETA 1300/19 thence
Townsville ETA 0900/21 thence Cairns, Thursday Is. and Pt.
Moresby.
- (20) "ROCKHAMPTON" "EGHUCA" "PIRIE" "BUNGAREE" escorting Convoy GP.93
(4 MV) departed Sydney 0912/19 for Brisbane ETA 1900/21.
On arrival Cape Moreton "BUNGAREE" and "PIRIE" to detach:
"PIRIE" to escort "BUNGAREE" to Lady Elliott Is. thence
proceeding independently to Townsville.
- (21) "INVERELL" (AMS) departed Port Phillip 1440/16 for Brisbane ETA
0700/20.
- (22) 4 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PG.1131 YMS.71
Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "JANE MOOREHEAD" "KOORAKA"
"VAQUERO"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 73, 334, 336 PC'S 1121, 1124
ML.431 SC.745
Merchant Vessels: "D.BARRY" "J.W.MACKAY" "OZARK"
"WM.E.CHANNING"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - SC.698 ML.816 "UKI"
Merchant Vessels: "P.B.OLSON" "E.FANNING"

Morobe - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)

Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 "YUNMAN" (ASIS)
"TRINITY" (AO) "MERKUR" (AF)
Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSON"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734
Merchant Vessels: "W.S.LADD" "J.BARL" "MOAMOA" "PAHUD"
"WM.PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "A.THOMAS" "G.V.L.MEYER"
"W.H.POINT" "C.E.SMITH" "R.P.WARNER" "TJISIDANE"
"VAN SPILBERGEN"

Woodlark Is. - Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"

Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "ISOLATOR"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY"
"AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "MUGFORD" "EAGLEY"
"LAMSON" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN"
"SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA"
"RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS"
"CROSEY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "DENT"
"GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) SC's 647, 648, 703,
SC's 736, 737, 738, 742, 743, 747, 981, 982
YMS's 49, 50, 52, 70, 313, 314 YP's 233, 236
ML's 424, 425, 427, 430, 431, 801, 806, 818, 819,
PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1122, 1132 25 LSTs 14 APCs
29 Pts "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON"
(AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "WESTRALIA"
(APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOCKOUT" (AG) "PYRO"
(AE) "POLLUX" (AKS).

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
"J.ALDEN" "ANHUI" "S.BAMBERGER" "D.F.BARRY"
"SIMON BOLIVAR" "BOSWORTH" "J.CABRILLO" "CAPE
CLEARE" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "ESSO BALBOA"
"P.A.BILERS" "ETAMIN" "G.H.FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE"
"E.NAPGOOD" "STEPHEN GIRARD" "P.J.IRWIN"
"T.C.LOWE" "AMY LOWELL" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "J.LYKES"
"MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER" "NORMACDALE" "JOHN MUIR"
"NAVIGATOR" "J.PALMER" "A.RAVALLI" "NORAS"
"N.J.SINNOTT" "STEINMETZ" "W.M.STEWART" "CHAS.P.
"TECUMSEH" "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
Merchant Vessels: "MAGNOLIA" "MULIAMA" "STAGEN" "SUVA"

Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" "COOTAMUNDRA" (AMS)
Merchant Vessels: "BABINDA" "DUNDULA" "SARPENS"

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "KAPUNDA" "GLADSTONE" "BROOME" (AMS)
PG.477 YMS's 72, 315 SC.732 YP.280 ML's 803,
ML's 804 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)

Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PAOLO" (AVP) "BUNDABERG" (AMS)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "TOWNSVILLE" "
 "ROCKHAMPTON" "SWAN" "BOWEN" "WEYALLA" (AMS)
 "HERON" (AVP) "KURUMBA" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO)
 "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA)
 "ALGORAB" (AKA) "MANUNDA" (AB) ML's 308, 309, 321
 YNS's 9, 10 HDWL 1325.

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "OTUS" (AS) to depart Milne Bay approx Dec 20 for Brisbane and Fremantle
- (2) "PC.1123" escorting "POINT SAN PEDRO" to depart Caloundra 1600/20.
 "PC.1123" escorts to Lady Elliott Is. thence proceeds Gladstone to fuel, departing Port Curtis so as to RV with "PRESIDENT GRANT" at 0900/23 in position 26°56'S 155°51'E and escort to Brisbane.
- (3) "STUART" to depart Caloundra at 1430/20 to RV with "SEA PIKE" in position 24°18'S 158°22'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is. whence "STUART" returns to Brisbane.
- (4) "BOWEN" escorting "KURUMBA" (AD) to depart Caloundra 1800/21 for Townsville. On arrival Lady Elliott Is., ships proceed independently.
- (5) "MANUNDA" ETD Brisbane about 20 Dec. for Thursday Island and Port Moresby.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Choiseul - 0950/18, 6 Mitchells bombed Poro Poro on N.W.Choiseul.
- (2) Buin Base -
 - (a) 1112/18, 11 Mitchells bombed docks at Korevo on Shortland Is.
 - (b) Dec 18, 10 Liberators bombed Kahili.
 - (c) Dec 18, 22 Corsairs strafed Shortland Is.
 - (d) Dec 19, 24 Mitchells bombed bivouac and supply areas at Moisuru (3 miles N.E. of Kahili).
 - (e) Photos, Dec 18, show Kara Ballale and Kahili runways unserviceable. Five barges are shown at Ballale, Shortland Is. 17 of 31 automatic A/A gun positions appear empty.
 - (f) Photos, Dec 19, show Kara and Kahili runways unserviceable and nil shipping in Tonolei.
- (3) Kieta area -
 - (a) Dec 18, 3 Liberators bombed Kieta.
 - (b) Dec 18, fighters strafed 5 barges at Numa Numa and Cape Pui Pui (5 miles W. by N. of Kieta).
 - (c) 1130/19, 52 Dauntless and 18 Avengers bombed personnel, supply dumps and A/A positions at Kieta.
 - (d) 1245/19, 17 Avengers bombed similar targets.
 As a result of both attacks the Rigu Mission bridge, storehouses and numerous huts were destroyed.
- (4) Empress Augusta Bay -
 - (a) Dec 18, allied forces occupied enemy positions in the N.E. sector of the Torokina perimeter after preparatory aerial and mortar bombardment.
 An allied patrol beyond Cape Moltke (19 miles N.W. of Cape Torokina) was in contact with the enemy who later withdrew.
 - (b) 0745/18, 59 Dauntless and 42 Avengers dropped 75 tons of bombs on Monoitu Mission, Mosigetta and Hongorai River areas, destroying two bridges and numerous buildings and causing one large explosion, probably an ammunition dump.
 - (c) 1510/19, 3 Aircobras divebombed the enemy at Reini River (8 miles E. of Cape Torokina) and 2 Aircobras strafed Koiaris in the same area.
- (5) Buka Passage area -
 - (a) 1150/18, 19 Liberators bombed Chabai and Porton.
 - (b) Dec 18, 5 Liberators bombed Bonis supply area.
 - (c) Dec 18, 22 Corsairs strafed and destroyed a barge at Buka Passage.
 - (d) Dec 18, 20 fighters strafed Kessa Point (N.W.Buka Island).
- (6) Nissan Island - Dec 18, one camouflaged barge in a lagoon was sighted by aircraft over Nissan Island.

(7) Cape St. George - Dec 19, a house with a new 100 foot tower, possibly radar, was sighted by aircraft on the tip of Cape St. George.

(8) Kavieng - Photos 19 Dec show the following:

Aircraft:	F.	RP	B.	Total
Kavieng	9	2	30	41
Panapai	11 (camouflaged)	-	-	11
	20	2	30	52

At Kavieng the runway is serviceable.

On Nov 9, 57 aircraft including 16 F, 19 LB, 15 MB and 7 FP were photographed at Kavieng.

Shipping: 1020/19, a photographic Lightning sighted -

3 or 4 large vessels
 11 or 12 medium merchant vessels
 15 vessels in all

Three fighters took off from the Kavieng aerodrome.

(9) New Hanover-Kavieng area - Afternoon and night Dec 19-20, what appear to have been two inbound convoys, one of 4 ships, the other of 7 to 8 ships, were sighted by aircraft in the N. Bismarck Sea:

(a) 1504/19 2 cruisers Course 85°
 1 large freighter transport 87 miles W. of
 1 medium freighter New Hanover.

This convoy was shadowed and unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft till 2245/19, when it was 25 miles S.W. of Cape Matanalem.

The composition of the convoy is variously described as above and as consisting of 1 light cruiser and 3 unidentified vessels.

It is more probable that 2 merchant ships accompanied by 2 destroyers or escort vessels were present.

(b) 1539/19 2 destroyers Course 160°
 3 transports 30 miles S.W.
 1 freighter of Kavieng.
 1 transport (6000 tons)

This convoy was shadowed till midnight when it was reported 80 miles S. by E. of Kavieng and was attacked at 1630/19, probable damage being caused to the 6,000 ton transport.

One of 4 intercepting Zekes was probably damaged.

(c) Between 2316/19 and 0130/20 an eight ship convoy on course 30° was reported in the area 55 to 70 miles S.E. of Kavieng. It is considered probable that this is the same convoy as in (b).

(10) Rabaul -

(a) Photos Dec 18 reveal the following:

Aircraft:	F.	D/B	L/B	F/P	M/B	W/B	Total
Vunakanau	17	1	13	-	20	-	51
Lakunai	38	21	-	-	5	-	64
Rapopo	11	-	-	-	10	-	21
Rabaul Harbour	-	-	-	18	-	3	21
	66	22	13	18	35	3	157

Shipping:

2 destroyers
 2 patrol craft
 3 submarines
 12 merchant ships
 3 tankers
 4 auxiliaries
 9 small craft
 345 barges
 1 unidentified vessel.

In addition 6 merchant vessels were sunk or beached. The considerable concentration of barges indicated the increasing use of this type of vessel probably between Kavieng and Rabaul and between the Bismarcks and Solomons.

- (10) Rabaul (Contd.)
- (b) Dec 17, 83 Soupac fighters engaged 30 to 40 enemy fighters over Rabaul shot down six fighters and one floatplane.
 - (c) 1255/19, 16 Liberators escorted by 50 fighters bombed Rabaul township and Simpson Harbour. One cargo vessel of transport exploded, one was left burning and another smoking. 40 to 50 enemy fighter intercepted, 4 of which were shot down.
- (11) Gasmata area -
- (a) 0528/19, 7 Beauforts bombed the Anwek River dump area.
 - (b) 1030/19, 10 Vengeances escorted by 37 Kittyhawks bombed and strafed a bridge over the Anwek River and Gasmata strip.
- (12) Arawe area -
- (a) 0212/18, 8 enemy aircraft dropped 29 bombs on allied positions near Arawe causing nil apparent damage.
 - (b) 2055/19, 7 Japanese barges were reported in the harbour.
 - (c) 1200/18, allied fighters intercepted enemy aircraft and drove them off, nil damage having resulted. "All clear" sounded 1230/18.
 - (d) Dec 18, allied aircraft destroyed one enemy barge at the mouth of Puli River (2 miles E. of Arawe).
- (13) Cape Bushing area -
- Dec 18, 5 or 6 stationary barges just W. of Cape Busching were sighted by our aircraft.
- (14) Borgen Bay - 0912/18 a small gunboat was sighted in Borgen Bay by our aircraft.
- (15) Cape Gloucester - 0857/19, 62 Liberators, 24 Mitchells and 13 Lightnings dropped 240 tons of bombs on Cape Gloucester and New Britain coast to the southwest.
- (16) Vitiaz Strait -
- (a) 1259/18, 9 fighter aircraft flew northwest over Long Island.
 - (b) 0001/19, a Catalina bombed a submarine 15 miles E. of Long Island without success.
 - (c) 0340/19, a number of our aircraft flew on course 130° over Long Island.
- (17) Madang -
- (a) 0930/19, 6 to 8 barges and 2 luggers were observed by our aircraft in the harbour.
 - (b) 0930/19, 30 Mitchells, covered by 15 Liberators, bombed Madang runway.
- (18) Huon Peninsula -
- (a) 0730/18, 7 Aircobras strafed 4 barges in the Vincke Point-Sio area.
 - (b) 1715/18, 7 Aircobras strafed the coast from Saidor to Fortification Point.
 - (c) 0900/19, 12 Bostons bombed and strafed the bivouac area and track in the Cape King William area.
 - (d) 0910/19, 9 Mitchells bombed and strafed a barge unloading point and store area, 2 miles S.E. Wald Bay.
 - (e) 0910/19, 4 Aircobras strafed barges and beach from Fortification Point to Glucher Point.
 - (f) By 0900/19 allied forces had crossed the Masaweng River and were advancing beyond.
 - (g) Night Dec 18/19, enemy aircraft bombed positions near Bonga and Kiligia.
- (19) Kiriwina - 0338/20, Air raid warning was sounded.
- (20) N.E. Sector - Night Dec 18/19, 3 submarines were indicated in the North Solomon Sea.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

- (a) At Sea to 1200/20:
- (1) 9 submarines on patrol.

(o) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/20:

- (1) "VAN HEEMSKERK" escorting "HERMITAGE" departed Fremantle 1000/14.
"VAN HEEMSKERK" to escort till 1800/18 and then proceed
Colombo.
- (2) "CHILDS" (AV) departed Fremantle 1825/17 for Exmouth Gulf.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN"
(DD) "HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR)
"ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS)
"ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.288
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK" (AM) YP.286

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/20:

- (1) "WARRNAMBOOL" "DELORAINIE" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" escorting Convoy PG.92
(6 MV) departed Brisbane 1306/19 for Sydney ETA 1800/21.
- (2) "PATROLLER" (CVE) en route Port Phillip Dec 24 from San Francisco.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "WATERS" (APD) "VENDETTA" (DD)
"GOULBURN" "MORESBY" "KALGOORLIE" "GEELONG"
"GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" (AMS) "MANOORA" (APA)
"HILO" "TULSA" (PG) "KYBERA" "YANDRA" "DOOMBA"
(A/S Vessels) "TASMAN" (AH) "GRANJE" (AH)
"GOLDSTAR" (AG) "MIZAR" (AF) ML's 430, 802, 807,
ML's 817, 822, 823
Repairing, Refitting - "HOBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "MILDURA" "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "TULSA" (PG) was to depart Sydney approx Dec 19 for Port Moresby.
-

NAVAL INCIDENTS

Bougainville Reef - Convoy TN.192 ran aground on Bougainville Reef.
Latest reports indicate that "GLADSTONE" "COLORADO" and
"AMBROSE PIERCE" were refloated and proceeded to Cairns.
"CITY OF PORT WORTH" escorted by "KAPUNDA" and "GLADSTONE"
arrived Cairns 0035/20. "LUDDINGTON" refloated and proceeding
to Cairns escorted by "STAWELL".
"JAMES CLEMENTS" and "GEORGE M. STERLING", both damaged, ordered
to Cairns with "CHARLES M. RUSSELL" escorted by "LITHGOW".
A combined attempt by "GYMPIE" "CASTLEMAINE" "DESNET" and two
further attempts by "GYMPIE" and two by "CASTLEMAINE" on "WILLIS
VAN DEVENTER" proved unsuccessful.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Ocean.

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PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>		<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>		
	<u>Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	ZUIHO RYUHO HITAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA PATROLLER	-	CHITOSE UNYO
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOCAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONT PELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) 2 ISUZU) poss. NAGARA) sunk NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO * YUBARI
<u>GL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XGL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (one damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID HUTCHINS DALY AMMEN BEALE BUSH	Approx 40	5	30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) GATO) PETO) SCAMP)	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH)	At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH) REDFIN)	At Milne Bay		
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	4	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T.ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSEY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u>	BLUE RIDGE			
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)
 Fighters (incl. 14 twin-eng) 248
 Light & M/Bombers 143
 SE/Bombers 37
 Flying Boats 1
 Floatplanes 50
 Transport & Obsn. A/c 12

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>OL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>J/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	SHOKAKU
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPER BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	* HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAREE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO (Poss. sunk)
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS PENSACOLA SAN FRANCISCO INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	TONE * MYOKO * HAGURO * NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA
<u>DD</u>	-	3
<u>SS</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BE</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	BATTLE	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOEA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL (T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W. L. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDES	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BILL FISH BONFISH CABRILLA CAPELIN POMPOM PUFFER KINGFISH RATON RAY K.12 BLUEFISH BOWFIN COD GREVALLE RASHER TINOSA NARWEAL	On Patrol	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS	At Fremantle	

AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)	
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)	168
Light & M/Bombers	55
SE/Bombers	16
Flying Boats	12
Floatplanes	49
Transport & Obsn. A/C	39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 692

Date: 21 December, 1943

PART IA. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/21:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "YMS.335" "SC.746" escorting "BONTEKOE" departed Port Moresby 1030/17 en route Lae and Buna. Were due Lae 1700/19.
- (3) "SC.737" "PC.1132" escorting "JUAN CABRILLO" departed Milne Bay 1315/19 were due Buna 1000/20.
- (4) "YMS.11" "SC.750" escorting "BALIKPAPAN" departed Lae 1200/19 were due Finschhafen 1800/19.
- (5) "SC.650" "SC.748" escorting "Y.6" "J.SARGENT" departed Milne Bay 0530/18. "Y.6" was due Lae 2330/19, "J.SARGENT" Finschhafen 0700/20.
- (6) "ARARAT" departed Lae 0001/19 ETA Milne Bay 1200/20.
- (7) "YMS.73" escorting "OZARK" departed Lae 2000/18 for Milne Bay was due 2100/20.
- (8) "ML.428" escorting "ANDREW.D.WHITE" departed Port Moresby 1245/19 ETA Milne Bay 1230/21.
- (9) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) departed Thursday Is. 0725/19.
- (10) "CCUCAL" (ASR) en route Darwin to Milne Bay.
- (11) "PREMANTLE" escorting Convoy TD.39 ("DILGA" "DUNDUIA") was to depart Thursday Island 1500/19 for Darwin ETA 1730/24.
- (12) "KATOOMBA" "BUNBURY" escorting Convoy TN.193 ("ANSON BURLINGAME" "CANBERRA" "VAN OUTHORN") departed vicinity Fitzroy Is. at 1500/19 for Port Moresby ETA 1800/21.
- (13) "KAPUNDA" escorting Convoy TN.194 ("HELGA MOLLER") departed Townsville 1922/20 for Port Moresby ETA 0800/24.
- (14) "WARREGO" escorting Convoy MV.49 ("GENERAL VERSPIJCK" "SIBIGO") departed Milne Bay 1510/18 ETA Townsville 1300/21.
- (15) "SC.731" departed Townsville 1845/19 for Cairns for docking. Was due 1030/20.
- (16) "COLAC" departed Cairns 1703/20 for Townsville was due 0530/21.
- (17) "GLADSTONE" damaged on Bougainville Reef departed Cairns 2021/20 for Brisbane for repairs ETA Caloundra 2000/24.
- (18) "COWRA" "BALLARAT" "SC.741" escorting Convoy QL.39 (14 ships including "VICTORIA" (AO)) departed Caloundra 1830/19. ETA 0200/21 at Bustard Head were "VICTORIA" and "BALLARAT" proceed independently to Townsville. ETA "BALLARAT" 1600/22, "VICTORIA" Dec.23, "COWRA" "SC.741" detailed as escorts for Convoy LQ.39.
- (19) "YP.291" departed Mackay 0600/20 for Townsville ETA 0900/21 thence Cairns, Thursday Island and Pt. Moresby.
- (20) "MANUNDA" (AH) departed Brisbane 1240/20 for Thursday Island ETA a.m. Dec.24.

- (21) "PC.1123" escorting "POINT SAN PEDRO" departed Brisbane 1312/20. "PC.1123" detaches at Lady Elliott Island and proceeds Gladstone to fuel, departing Port Curtis so as to RV with "PRESIDENT GRANT" at 0900/23 in position 26°56'S 155°51'E and escort to Brisbane.
- (22) "STUART" departed Caloundra 1445/20 escorting "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) to vicinity of Lady Elliott Is. whence "BLUE RIDGE" proceeds independently to Townsville ETA 1700/22. On completion "STUART" to RV with "SEA PIKE" in position 24°13'S 158°22'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is. whence "STUART" returns to Brisbane.
- (23) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ECHUCA" "PIRIE" "BUNGAREE" escorting Convoy GP.93 (4 MV) departed Sydney 0912/19 for Brisbane ETA 1900/21. On arrival Cape Moreton "BUNGAREE" and "PIRIE" to detach: "PIRIE" to escort "BUNGAREE" to Lady Elliott Is. thence proceeding independently to Townsville.
- (24) 4 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - PC.1131 SC.749 Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "JANE MOOREHEAD" "KOORAKA" "MULCRA" "YAQUERO"
Lae	- Warships & Aux. - YMS.334 PC's 1121, 1124 ML.431 SC's 741, 745 Merchant Vessels: "D.BARRY" "J.W.MACKAY" "WM.E. CHANNING"
Kiriwina	- Warships & Aux. - SC.698 ML.816 Merchant Vessels: "F.B.OLSON" "E.FANNING"
Morobe	- Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna	- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 "TRINITY" (AO) "MERKUR" (AF) Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSON"
Oro Bay	- Warships & Aux. - SC.734 Merchant Vessels: "W.S.LADD" "H.DODGE" "J.EARL" "MOAMOA" "WM.ROUSE" "J.ROSS" "G.V.L.MEYER" "W.H.POINT" "CE.SMITH" "R.P.WARNER" "TJISIDANE" "VAN SPILBERGEN"
Woodlark Is.	- Merchant Vessels: "TRIANGULUM"
Goodenough Is.	- Merchant Vessels: "ISOLATOR"
Milne Bay	- Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY" "AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "LAMSON" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSBY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) SC's 647, 648, 703 SC's 736, 738, 742, 743, 744, 747, 981, 982 YMS's 49, 50, 52, 53, 70, 71, 313, 314, 336 YP's 233, 236 ML's 424, 425, 427, 430, 431, 801 ML's 806, 818, 819 PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1122 25 LST's 14 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG) "PYRO" (AR) "POLLUX" (AKS) "YUNNAN" (ASIS)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
"J.ALDEN" "ANHUI" "S.BAMBERGER" "D.F.BARRY"
"SIMON BOLIVAR" "BOSWORTH" "J.G.BRADY" "CAPE
CLEAR" "CAPE ANE" "J.CARROLL" "ESSO BALBOA"
"F.A.EILERS" "ETAMIN" "G.H.FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE"
"N.HAPGOOD" "STEPHEN GIRARD" "F.J.IRWIN"
"T.C.LOWE" "AMY LOWELL" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "J.LYKES"
"MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER" "MORMACDALE" "JOHN
MUIR" "NAVIGATOR" "J.PALMER" "A.RAVALLI" "NORAB"
"N.J.SINNOTT" "M.M.STEWART" "CHAS.P.STEINMETZ"
"TECUMSEH" "A.THOMAS" "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
 Merchant Vessels: "MULIAMA" "STAGEN" "SUVA"
 Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" "COOTAMUNDA" (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "BABINDA" "SARPENS"
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "WARREGO" "STAWELL" "LITHGOW"
 "CASTLEMAINE" "BROOME" "GYMPIE" (AMS) Po.477
 YMS's 72, 315 SC.732 YP.230 ML's 803, 804, 805
 ML1820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP) "BUNDABERG" (AMS)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "TOWNSVILLE" "INVERELL" "ROCKHAMPTON"
 "SWAN" "BOWEN" "WHYALLA" (AMS) "HERON" (AVP)
 "KURUMBA" "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) "SHIKELLAMY" (AO)
 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMELA" (APA) "ALGORAE" (AKA)
 ML's 808, 809, 821 YMS's 9,10 HDML 1325 SC.735

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "OTUS" (AS) to depart Milne Bay approx Dec.20 for Brisbane and Fremantle.
- (2) "BUNDABERG" "GYMPIE" "STAWELL" escorting Convoy TN.195 ("GORGON" "DONALD McLEAY" "W.BEAUMONT" "VAN HEUTSZ" "ALAMAO" "THOMAS CORWIN" "R.STUART" "A.PIERCE" "COLORADO" "J.M. CLEMENTS" "1 LST 1 MI 1 APC and 4 PTs) were to depart vicinity Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/21 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/24.
- (3) "BOWEN" escorting "WILLIAM BURNHAM" to depart Brisbane 1800/21 for Lady Elliott Is., whence both ships proceed independently to Townsville.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Buin Base - At 1045/20, 13 Mitchells and 8 fighters bombed Korovo and one Mitchell bombed Kahili.
- (2) Empress Augusta Bay →
 - (a) Night Dec.18-19, 10-15 enemy aircraft dropped 25-30 bombs on allied positions in the Torokina area.
 - (b) Dec.19, our lines were extended in the N.E.Sector.
 - (c) 1550/20, a submarine periscope was sighted by aircraft 45 miles W.S.W. of Cape Motupena.
- (3) Kieta-Tenekau Area - Dec.20, 8 Hellcats strafed Tenekau and Kieta and later 8 fighters strafed the same targets.
- (4) Buka - (a) Dec.20, 59 Dauntless, 28 Avengers with 31 escorting fighters bombed gun positions W. of Bonis and Sohana Island. One hit was scored among a group of barges and numerous hits on gun positions and buildings.
 (b) Dec.20, 8 Mitchells bombed targets at Buka.
- (5) Nissan Island - 1530/19, four barges were sighted by aircraft at Nissan Island; two were bombed and strafed.
- (6) N. Bismarck Sea - A considerable amount of shipping has been reported from 19-21 Dec. in this area. It appears to have consisted of two in-bound convoys, one of four vessels, the other of nine.

(a) 1440/19	1 heavy cruiser 1 light cruiser 1 medium merchant vessel 1 large freighter transport	90 miles W. Cape Matanalem	Course 85°
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The convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft.

(b) 1520/19	2 small destroyers 2 large transports 1 large freighter transport 2 small freighter transports 2 small freighters	40 miles S.S.E. Kavieng	Course 160°
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One freighter transport was attacked, one 1000 lb. bomb falling within 50 feet causing probable damage. Four fighters and one floatplane intercepted, one fighter being probably destroyed. The aircraft were possibly catapulted from the convoy.

- (6) N. Bismarck Sea (Contd) -
- (c) 2306/19, 8 ship convoy 56 miles S.S.E. Kavieng, unstated course. One transport was claimed sunk by a Soupac Liberator.
 - (d) Night 19-20 Dec., 15 ship convoy heading for Rabaul was attacked by three Catalinas 30 miles off the New Ireland coast.
 - (i) One 6000 ton ship was hit and set on fire.
 - (ii) One 8000 ton ship was hit with a 500 lb. bomb.
 - (iii) One 6000 ton ship was hit with a 1000 lb. bomb causing a heavy explosion and causing A/A fire. The ship is claimed sunk.
 - (e) 0025/21, 2 large merchant ships 35 miles N.N.W. Rabaul.
- It appears that a minimum of 13 ships were in the area of which two were probably sunk and two or three damaged.
- (7) Rabaul - 0420/20, 19 Beauforts attacked Vunakanau and Rapopo dispersal areas causing fires visible for 50 miles.
- (8) Wide Bay - (a) 1649-1750/19, 2 Beaufighters strafed and destroyed a small boat at the mouth of the Mavelo River and strafed Kailai Plantation.
- (b) 1250/19, a large formation of aircraft was heard to the E. of Wide Bay.
 - (c) 1450/20, an unidentified fighter aircraft, course 190°, flew over Ubili.
- (9) Cape Orford -
- (a) 1525-1616/19, 2 Bostons bombed and strafed a 50 ft. launch and two barges 10 miles S.W. of Cape Orford. One of the barges blew up and the other craft was set on fire.
 - (b) 0036/21, 2 barges were attacked by aircraft 4 miles N.N.E. of Cape Orford.
- (10) Jacquinet Bay -
- (a) 1344/19, 4 barges were strafed by aircraft 12 miles E. of Jacquinet Bay.
 - (b) At 0342/20, the lights of three vessels were sighted by aircraft 12 miles E. of Jacquinet Bay and indications of ships were received in the same area. These ships are probably barges.
- (11) Arawe Area -
- (a) Dec. 17, 40-50 enemy aircraft attacked allied convoy returning from Arawe. Fourteen of the enemy aircraft were destroyed by A/A. Some damage was caused by the attack.
 - (b) 1540-1650/19, 20 Bostons bombed and strafed the track from Sigul River to Kulie River.
 - (c) 2055/19, 7 enemy barges were reported in Arawe Harbour.
 - (d) 0835/20, an enemy reconnaissance plane was shot down by 8 Thunderbolts 50 miles N.E. Arawe.
- (12) Cape Gloucester -
- (a) 1533-1610/19, 38 Liberators, 21 Mitchells and 9 Marauders dropped nearly 160 tons of bombs on personnel and dump areas at Cape Gloucester.
 - (b) Dec. 20, 57 Liberators and 34 medium bombers bombed and strafed stores and dump areas at Cape Gloucester and W. coast of Borgen Bay, dropping 226 tons of bombs.
 - (c) Dec. 20, 12 Bostons bombed and strafed Asegai Village (20 miles S.S.W. Cape Gloucester) starting fires, destroying huts and silencing coastal guns.
- (13) Alexishafen - 1154/20, 33 Mitchells bombed Alexishafen runway and dumps starting fires and explosions. Very accurate A/A fire was encountered.
- (14) Huon Peninsula -
- (a) 0305/19 PTs attacked two u/i aircraft 25 miles W.N.W. Saidor.
 - (b) 1620-1820/19, six camouflaged barges were strafed by four Airbobras setting them on fire.
 - (c) 0917/20, 5 Marauders bombed Walingai bivouac area.
 - (d) 1100/20, a small naval type vessel on course 10° was sighted by aircraft 20 miles E.N.E. Fortification Point.

- (14) Huon Peninsula (Contd) -
 (e) Dec.19, our ground forces advanced one mile beyond the mouth of the Masaweng River overcoming stubborn resistance and capturing enemy equipment.
 (f) 1615-1805/18, suspected dump area near Lakona was bombed and strafed by 8 Aircobras and 2 Boomerangs.
 (g) 0340-0430/19, four enemy aircraft bombed allied coastal positions near Lakona and Scarlet Beach.
- (15) Milne Bay - 0430/20, air raid warning sounded at Milne Bay.
- (16) East Cape - 1920/19, an enemy submarine was sighted 25 miles N.W.W. East Cape.
- (17) Goodenough Is. - 0323/20, enemy air raid No. 8 was made by approximately 15 aircraft, causing slight casualties.
- (18) Kiriwina - (a) 0329/20, approximately 20 enemy aircraft attacked in four waves causing some damage.
 (b) 0956/20, air raid warning was sounded on the approach of an unidentified aircraft.
- X (19) Gulf of Carpentaria - 1133/20, 10 enemy aircraft attacked an allied escort vessel 150 miles E.N.E. of Cape Wessel. No damage resulted.

NORTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/21:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting "TULAGI" departed Thursday Island 1700/19 for Darwin ETA 1530/22.
 (2) 8 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
 Merchant Vessels: "GOOLEBAR"

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/21:

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL)
 "VAN GALEN" (DD) "HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS)
 "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM)
 "WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL"
 (PY) SC.739 YP.288

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - ".W.B.PRESTON" (AVD) "LARK"
 (AM) YP.286 "CHILDS" (AV)

Carnarvon - Warships & Aux. - "TJERK HIDDERS" (DD)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/21:

- (1) "TULSA" (PG) departed Sydney 1244/20 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/27.
 (2) "WARRNAMEBOOL" "DELORAINNE" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" escorting Convoy PG.92 (6 ME) departed Brisbane 1306/19 for Sydney ETA 1800/21.
 (3) "PATROLLER" (CVE) en route Port Phillip ETA Dec.24 from San Francisco.
 (4) "MILDURA" (AMS) departed Port Phillip 1921/20 for Brisbane ETA 1600/24.
 (5) "WATERS" (AFD) departed Sydney 1316/20 for Noumea ETA noon Dec.23.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "VENDETTA" "STACK" (DD)
"GOULBURN" "MORESEY" "KALGOORLIE" "GEEELONG"
"GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" (AMS) "MANOORA" (APA)
"HILO" (PG) "KYBRA" "YANDRA" "DOOMBA" (A/S
Vessels) "TASMAN" (AH) "ORANJE" (AH) "GOLDSTAR"
(AG) "MIZAR" (AF) ML's 430, 802, 807, 817, 822
ML.823
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

NAVAL INCIDENTS

X
All ships of Convoy TN.192 which ran aground on Bougainville Reef have now been refloated and returned to Cairns, some departing again in Convoy TN.195.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Ocean.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY
PART II
ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE
1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	ZUIKAKU ✓
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	ZUIHO RYUHO HITAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA PATROLLER	-	CHITOSE UNYO
<u>OA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	HAGURO MYOKO TONE CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYO TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) 2 ISUZU) poss. NAGARA) sunk NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (one damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN. PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID	Approx 40	5	30 (some repairing)
HUTCHINS DALY AMMEN BEALE BUSH				

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) GATO) PETO) SCAMP)	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH)	At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH) REDFIN)	At Milne Bay		
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T.ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD WATERS	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u>	BLUE RIDGE			
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.W.Area Only)
 Fighters (incl.14 twin-eng) 248
 Light & M/Bombers 143
 SE/Bombers 46
 Flying Boats 1
 Floatplanes 50
 Transport & Obsn.A/C 12

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>GL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>D</u>	22	5
<u>ES</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (Being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	SHOKAKU
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	* HAYATAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO (Poss. sunk)
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS PENSACOLA SAN FRANCISCO INDIANAPOLIS SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	* NACHI * ATAGO * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>CL</u>	-	6 - 7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN.

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS FROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOBA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B.PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOJ
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDUS	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH CABRILLA POMPOM PUFFER KINGFISH RASHER RATON RAY K.12 BLUEFISH BONFISH BOWFIN COD GREVALLE TINOSA MARWHAL	On Patrol At Fremantle	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		

AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)

Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)	168
Light & M/Bombers	55
SE/Bombers	16
Flying Boats	12
Floatplanes	49
Transport & Obsn. A/C	39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARYPart I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 693

Date: 22 December 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/22:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" "SHEPPARTON" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "SC.749" escorting "MELINGA" departed Buna 1101/20 for Finschhafen ETA 0600/21.
- (3) "COUCAL" (ASR) en route Darwin to Milne Bay.
- (4) "KAPUNDA" escorting Convoy TN.194 ("HELGA MOLLER") departed Cairns 1351/21 for Port Moresby ETA 0800/24.
- (5) "BUNDABERG" "GYMPIE" "STAWELL" escorting Convoy TN.195 ("GORGON" "DONALD MCLEAY" "W.BEAUMONT" "VAN HEUTSZ" "ALAMO" "G.M.RUSSEL" "THOMAS CORWIN" "R.STUART" "A.PIERCE" "COLORADO" "J.M.CLEMENTS" 1 LST, 1 LCI, 1 APC and 4 PTs) departed Vicinity Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/21 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/24.
- (6) "BROOME" "YMS.72" "YMS.315" "SC.732" escorting Convoy TN.196 ("S.K.BARLOW" "F.N.BLANCHET" "M.DALY" "PG.HEWITT" "PONCE") proceeding to RV vicinity Fitzroy Is. departing thence 1400/22 for Milne Bay ETA 1800/25.
- (7) "WARREGO" escorting Convoy MV.49 ("GENERAL VERSPIJCK" "SIBIGO") departed Milne Bay 1510/18 ETA Townsville 1300/21.
- (8) "TULSA" (PG) departed Sydney 1244/20 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/27.
- (9) "BALLARAT" "VICTORIA" proceeding independently to Townsville ETA "BALLARAT" 1600/22, "VICTORIA" Dec.23.
- (10) "MANUNDA" (AH) departed Brisbane 1240/20 for Thursday Island ETA a.m. Dec.24.
- (11) "YF.291" departed Townsville 1205/21 for Cairns ETA p.m. Dec.22, thence to Thursday Island and Pt. Moresby.
- (12) "COLAC" departed Cairns 1703/20 for Townsville was due 0530/21.
- (13) "GLADSTONE" damaged on Bougainville Reef departed Cairns 2021/20 for Brisbane for repairs ETA Caloundra 2000/24.
- (14) "COWRA" "SC.741" escorting Convoy LQ.39 (3 MVs) departed Gladstone 1830/21, ETA Brisbane 0100/23.
- (15) "PIRIE" escorting "BUNGAREE" to Lady Elliott Island thence proceeding independently to Townsville, ETA "BUNGAREE" 0800/24.
- (16) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ECHUCA" escorting Convoy PG.93 (2 MVs) were to depart Caloundra at 1200/22.
- (17) "BOWEN" escorting "WILLIAM BURNHAM" departed Brisbane 1800/21 for Lady Elliott Is., whence both ships proceed independently to Townsville, ETA "BOWEN" 0900/24.

- (18) "PC.1123" escorting "POINT SAN PEDRO" departed Brisbane 1312/20. "PC.1123" detaches at Lady Elliott Is. and proceeds Gladstone to fuel, departing Port Curtis so as to RV with "PRESIDENT GRANT" at 0600/23 in position 27°03'S 155°05'E and escort to Brisbane.
- (19) "STUART" departed Caloundra 1445/20 escorting "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) to vicinity Lady Elliott Is. whence "BLUE RIDGE" proceeds independently to Townsville ETA 1700/22. On completion "STUART" to RV with "SEA PIKE" in position 24°18'S 156°22'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is. "SEA PIKE" not met and "STUART" returning to Brisbane.
- (20) 5 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - "PC.1131" SC's 650, 748, 750 YMS.11 Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "JANE MOOREHEAD" "BALIKPAPAN" "KOORAKA" "MULGRA" "YAQUERO" "J. S. SARGENT"
Lae	- Warships & Aux. - YMS's 334, 335 PC's 1121, 1124 ML.431 SC's 741, 745, 746 Merchant Vessels: "J.W.MACKAY" "WM.E.CHANNING" "BONTEKOE"
Kiriwina	- Warships & Aux. - - Merchant Vessels: "E.PANNING"
Morobe	- Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna	- Warships & Aux. - SC's 637, 737 YMS.51 PC.1132 "TRINITY" (AO) "MERKUR" (AF) Merchant Vessels: "S.BENSCH" "J.CABRILLO"
Oro Bay	- Warships & Aux. - SC.734 Merchant Vessels: "W.S.LAED" "H.DODGE" "MOAMOA" "WM.PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "G.V.L.MEYER" "W.H.POINT" "C.E.SMITH" "R.P.WARNER" "VAN SPILBERGEN" "STAGEN"
Woodlark Is.	- Merchant Vessels: "UKI"
Goodenough Is.	- Merchant Vessels: -
Milne Bay	- Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY" "AMMEN" "BEALE" "HUSH" "BACHE" "BROWNSON" "MULLANY" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "LAMSON" "DRAYTON" "DORINGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "MOA" "BROOKS" "CROSEY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) "ARARAT" (AMS) SC's 647, 648 SC's 698, 703, 736, 738, 742, 743, 744, 747 SC's 981, 982 YMS's 49, 50, 52, 53, 70, 71, 73 YMS's 313, 314, 336 YP's 233, 236 ML's 424 ML's 425, 427, 428, 430, 431, 801, 806, 816 ML's 818, 819 PC's 475, 479, 1119, 1120, 1122 25 LST's 14 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG) "PYRO" (AE) "POLLUX" (AKS) "YUNNAN" (ASIS)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "E.L.ABBOTT" "ABIGAIL ADAMS"
"J.ALDEN" "ANHUI" "SABAMBERGER" "D.F.BARRY"
"SIMON BOLIVAR" "BOSWORTH" "J.G.BRADY" "CAPE
CLEAR" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "ESSO BALBOA"
"F.A.BILERS" "J.EARL" "ETAMIN" "G.H.FLANDERS"
"GANYMEDE" "N.HAPGOOD" "P.J.IRWIN" "ISOLATOR"
"T.C.IOWE" "AMY LOWELL" "A.F.LINDBERGH"
"J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER" "MORMACDALL"
"JOHN MUIR" "NAVIGATOR" "F.B.OLSON" "OZARK"
"PAHOD" "J.PALMER" "A.RAVALLI" "NORAB" "N.J.
SINNOTT" "M.M.STEWART" "CHAS.P.STEINMETZ"
"TECUMSEH" "A.THOMAS" "TJISADANE" "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "BUNBURY" "KATOOMBA" (AMS)
 YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
 Merchant Vessels: "MULIAMA" "SUVA" "VAN OUTHOORN"
 "CANBERRA" "A. BURLINGHAME"

Thursday Island - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" "COOTAMUNDRA" (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "BABINDA" "SARPENS"

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "WARREGO" "LITHGOW" (AMS)
 PC.477 YP.280 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820
 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS)

Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP)
 "CASTLEMAINE" (AMS)

Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "TOWNSVILLE" "INVERELL" "SWAN"
 "WHYALLA" (AMS) "HERON" (AVP) "KURUMBA"
 "SUSQUEHANNA" (AO) "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "H.T.
 ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA)
 ML's 808, 809, 821 YMS's 9,10 HDML 1325
 SC.735

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "WHYALLA" "SC.735" escorting Convoy QL.40 (5 MVs) to depart Caloundra 1600/22. "WHYALLA" and "SC.735" detailed for Convoy LQ.40.
- (2) "INVERELL" escorting "KURUMBA" (AO) to depart Caloundra 1300/22 for Lady Elliott Is. whence vessels proceed independently to Townsville, where onward escort of "KURUMBA" to Milne Bay will be arranged.
- (3) "ML.808" "ML.821" escorting "NORLAGO" with barge in tow to depart Caloundra 1600/23 for Lady Elliott Is. whence "ML.808" "ML.821" return to Brisbane.
- (4) "STUART" to escort "BOSCHFONTEIN" departing Caloundra 0930/23. "STUART" escorts for approx. 200 miles.
- (5) "STUART" to RV early a.m. Dec.24 with "ORION" (AS) in approximate position 25°58'S 159°E and escort to Brisbane.
- (6) "VENDETTA" to depart Brisbane to RV with "FRED AINSWORTH" at 0900/27 in position 24°18'S 155°01'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Solomons - Dec.21, bad weather hindered air operations.
- (2) Buin - Dec.19, 6 Liberators returning from Rabaul strike, bombed Poporang, Kahili and Kara.
- (3) Empress Augusta Bay - 1400/21, 6 Mitchells bombed and strafed Monoitu mission.
- (4) Buka - (a) Dec.19, 3 Liberators returning from Rabaul bombed targets in the area.
 (b) 2255/21, 4 boats were sighted 13 miles W.S.W. of Buka Passage.
 (c) 0430/22, 3 southbound barges were sighted by aircraft 35 miles W. by N. of Buka Passage.
- (5) Feni Islands - 1315/21, 6 well-camouflaged barges were strafed by aircraft on the S.W. coast of Ambitle Island.
- (6) Cape St. George - 0240/22, a small craft was attacked by aircraft 20 miles N.W. of Cape St. George.
- (7) Mussau Island - 1335/21, a northbound submarine was sighted by aircraft 100 miles N. of Cape Siemens.
- (8) Kavieng - 2307/20, 4 Catalinas bombed Kavieng aerodrome starting fires.
- (9) Wide Bay -
 (a) 0200/21 a formation of westbound aircraft flew over Wide Bay.
 (b) 1240-1405/20, 3 Beaufighters strafed 14 small boats on the south coast of Wide Bay.
- (10) Cape Hoskins - Photos 21 Dec. show the aerodrome unserviceable and two fighter aircraft in revetments.
- (11) Gasmata - 1435-1600/20, 12 Kittyhawks strafed targets between Cormoran and Roebuck Point.

- (12) Arawe- (a) 0900/20, 18 Bostons bombed and strafed the coast between Sigul River and Hela Point (11½ miles E. by N. of Kuli River).
 (b) Dec. 20, 2 enemy barges were sunk off Awang Island by allied artillery.
 (c) 0310-0445/21, three enemy aircraft dropped 17 bombs with undetermined results.
 (d) 1200/21, 15-20 dive bombers with fighter cover attacked allied shipping in the area.
 (e) 1500/21, over 100 enemy aircraft attacked. No details are to hand as yet.
 (f) Dec. 19-20, an allied patrol reached the Sigul River (9 miles N. by E. of Cape Merkur).
- (13) Cape Gloucester - 0800/21, preliminary reports indicate that several squadrons of Mitchells with Lightnings escorting attacked the area.
- (14) Bismarck Sea -
 (a) 2320/20, a large ship 30 miles N. of Cape Pomas was attacked and set on fire by a Catalina.
 (b) 0010/21, two ships 37 miles N.E. of Cape Pomas were attacked by a second Catalina.
 (c) 0207/21, a stationary large merchant ship 20 miles S. of Dyaul Island was attacked by a third Catalina.
- (14) Long Island - Aircraft sightings Dec. 20-21:-
 0408/20 flight of aircraft Course 90°.
 0920/21 " " u/1 " " 130°-230°.
 1620/21 " " aircraft " 160°.
 1755/21 8 Bombers 12 fighters " N.W.
 1800/21 8 Bombers " 200°.
- (15) Hansa Bay -
 (a) 1004/20, 12 barges were bombed by aircraft on the west side of Manam Island and three barges were sighted off Aris Island (13 miles N.W.E. of Hansa Bay). Several small luggers were observed in Hansa Bay itself.
 (b) 1015/21, three small harbour craft in Hansa Bay.
16. Madang - Dec. 21, preliminary reports indicate that several squadrons of Mitchells bombed the area.
17. Huon Peninsula -
 (a) 0845-1120/19, 7 Aircobras and two Boomerangs strafed enemy troops and five barges along the beach near Fortification Point.
 (b) 0915/20, 12 Mitchells bombed targets near Hubika village and Wandokai.
 (c) 1515-1545/20, 8 Aircobras strafed two beached barges and two other targets near Walingai.
 (d) Our forward patrols are advancing towards Fortification Point. Large numbers of enemy were observed moving to the north from Fortification Point and were engaged by our artillery.
18. Upper Ramu Valley -
 (a) 1025/20, 4 Kittyhawks dive bombed targets on Shaggy Ridge (7 miles N. of Dumpu) in support of our ground troops which ~~have~~ then made a raid and inflicted casualties on the enemy.
- (19) Cape Ward Hunt - 1110/20, a very large underwater explosion with debris flying 400 feet in the air was observed by aircraft 35 miles N. by E. of Cape Ward Hunt.
- (20) Goodenough-Kiriwina - 0359-0610/20, further details show that the air raids on both Goodenough and Kiriwina were made by one force consisting of a maximum of twenty aircraft.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/22:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting "TULAGI" departed Thursday Is. 1700/19 for Darwin ETA 1530/22.
 (2) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "ML's 429, 814, 815"
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Kaukenau Area - 0700/21, 8 Kittyhawks bombed Japero and Koeperapoka (20 miles N.W. of Japero).
- (2) Banda Sea - Dec. 21, jetties apparently under construction were observed at Nila Island in the Damar Group.
- (3) Ceram - 0930/21, 11 Liberators bombed Amahai Village (S. Central coast of Ceram). Three unidentified aircraft were sighted. Approximately 6 sea-trucks were observed at anchor 30 miles E. of Amahai.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1800/22:

- (1) "PRESTON" (AVD) departed Heron Haven 1300/20 ETA Fremantle dawn 23 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL)
"VAN GAIEN" "TJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "HORSHAM"
"DUBBO" (AMS) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY)
SC. 739 YP. 288
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILDS" (AV) YP. 286
Carnarvon - Warships & Aux. - -

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

Geraldton Area - 1830/20, a torpedo track was sighted 135 miles N.W. by W. of Geraldton.

EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/22:

- (1) "PATROLLER" (CVE) en route Port Phillip ETA 2100/23 from San Francisco.
- (2) "MILDURA" (AMS) departed Port Phillip 1921/20 for Brisbane ETA 1600/24.
- (3) "WATERS" (APD) departed Sydney 1316/20 for Noumea ETA noon Dec. 23.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "VENDETTA" "CONVERSE" "STACK" (DD)
"WARRNAMBOOL" "DELORAIN" "GOULBURN" "MORESEY"
"KALGOORLIE" "GEELONG" "GLENELG" "WILCANNIA"
(AMS) "MANOORA" (APA) "HILO" (PG) "ABRAHAM"
CRIJNSSEN" "KYBRA" "YANDRA" "DOOMBA" (A/S
Vessels) "TASMAN" (AH) "ORANJE" (AH) "GOLDSTAR"
(AG) "MIZAR" (AF) ML's 430, 802, 807, 817, 822, 823
M (Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

B. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ENEMY FORCES

Kapingamarangi Is. Area - 1245/21, one destroyer on course
30° was sighted by aircraft 230 miles N.N.W. of
Kapingamarangi Island.

C. SOUTH PACIFIC

ENEMY FORCES

New Hebrides - 0225/21, indications were received of
an enemy submarine 240 miles E.N.E. of Vila.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks,
North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in
general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas
to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation
runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive
patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and
Indian Ocean.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE
I. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV (L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	ZUIHO RYUHO HITAKA
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA PATROLLER	-	CHITOSE UNYO
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	HAGURO MYOKO TONE CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) Two ISUZU)possibly NAGARA) sunk NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO
<u>CL (T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (one damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	5	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID HUTCHINS	BACHE BROWNSON MULLANY DALY AMMEN BEALE BUSH	5	30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
SS	BALAO) GATO) PETO) SCAMP)	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH)	At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH) REDFIN)	At Milne Bay		
PT	62	Approx 80	?	?
APA/APD/AKA	H.T. ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
ACC	BLUE RIDGE			
S	FULTON OTUS		?	?
AD	DOBBIN		1	1
AR	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)

Fighters (incl. 16 twin-eng.)	246
Light & M/Bombers	157
SE/Bombers	45
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/c	12

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
CL	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
AV/CVS	-	AKITSUSHIMA
SS	22	5
AS	10	Approx 4
	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>B</u>	NORTH CAROLINA INDIANA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	SHOKAKU ZUIKAKU
<u>V(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	* HAYATAKA
<u>CV(B)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHUYO (poss. sunk)
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	ATAGO * NACHI * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI * YUBARI
<u>L(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6-7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA
<u>XAV/CVS</u>	-	3
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON
DD 2

5. EAST INDIES-INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS FROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOBA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	2	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDES	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH) CABRILLA) POMPOM) PUFFER) KINGFISH) RASHER) RATON) RAY) K.12) BLUEFISH) BONEFISH) BOWFIN) COD) GREVALLE) TINOSA) MARWHAL)	? On Patrol	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>			
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)		168	
Light & M/Bombers		55	
SE/Bombers		16	
Flying Boats		12	
Floatplanes		54	
Transport & Obsn/ A/C		39	

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARYPart I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 694

Date: 23 December 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/23:

- (1) "STELLA" "POLARIS" surveying Morobe-Huon Gulf area.
- (2) "SC.747" "YMS.314" escorting "HENRY L.ABBOTT" departed Milne Bay 0530/21 ETA Finschhafen 0100/23.
- (3) "PC.1132" "SC.737" escorting "JUAN CABRILLO" departed Buna 1210/21 for Langemak were due 0700/22.
- (4) "WARREGO" escorting "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) was to depart vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 2200/22 for Milne Bay ETA 0600/24.
- (5) "KAPUNDA" escorting Convoy TN.194 ("HELGA MOLLER") departed Cairns 1331/21 for Port Moresby ETA 0300/24.
- (6) "BUNDABERG" "GYMPIE" "STAWELL" escorting Convoy TN.195 ("GORGON" "DONALD McLEAY" "W.BEAUMONT" "VAN HEUTSZ" "ALAMO" "C.M.RUSSELL" "THOMAS CORWIN" "R.STUART" "A.PIERCE" "COLORADO" "J.M.CLEMENTS" 1 LST, 1 LCI, 1 APC and 4 PT's) departed vicinity Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/21 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/24.
- (7) "BROOME" "YMS.72" "YMS.315" "SC.732" escorting Convoy TN.196 ("S.K.BARLOW" "F.N.BLANCHET" "M.DALY" "P.C.HEWITT" "PONCE") proceeding to RV vicinity Fitzroy Is. departing thence 1400/22 for Milne Bay ETA 1800/25.
- (8) "TULSA" (PG) departed Sydney 1244/20 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/27.
- (9) "MANUNDA" (AH) departed Brisbane 1240/20 for Thursday Is. ETA a.m. Dec.24.
- (10) "ARARAT" escorting Convoy MV.50 ("AASE MAERSK" "PAHUD") departed Milne Bay 1200/22 for Townsville ETA 0400/24.
- (11) "BUNBURY" escorting "CANBERRA" departed Port Moresby 1115/22 for Cairns ETA 0330/23.
- (12) "WHYALLA" "SC.735" escorting Convoy QL.40 (5 MVs) departed Caloundra 1449/22 for Bustard Head ETA 0200/24. "WHYALLA" and "SC.735" detailed for Convoy IQ.40.
- (13) "INVERELL" escorting "KURUMBA" (AO) departed Caloundra 1631/22 for Townsville. On arrival Lady Elliott Is., vessels proceed independently, ETA "KURUMBA" 1500/25, "INVERELL" 1100/25. "KURUMBA" for onward routing to Milne Bay.
- (14) "COLAC" departed Townsville 0700/22 for Sydney ETA 0600/26.
- (15) "GLADSTONE" damaged on Bougainville Reef departed Cairns 2021/20 for Brisbane for repairs ETA Caloundra 0500/24.
- (16) "PIRIE" escorting "BUNGAREE" to Lady Elliott Is. thence proceeding independently to Townsville. ETA "BUNGAREE" 0800/24.

- (17) "BOWEN" escorting "WILLIAM BURNHAM" departed Brisbane 1800/21 for Lady Elliott Is., whence both ships proceed independently to Townsville, ETA "BOWEN" 0900/24.
- (18) "COWRA" "SC.741" escorting Convoy LQ.39 (3 MVs) departed Gladstone 1830/21 was due Brisbane 0100/23.
- (19) "PC.1123" escorting "POINT SAN PEDRO" departed Brisbane 1312/20. "PC.1123" detaches at Lady Elliott Is. and proceeds Gladstone to fuel, departing Port Curtis so as to RV with "PRESIDENT GRANT" at 0600/23 in position 27°03'S 155°05'E and escort to Brisbane.
- (20) "TOWNSVILLE" escorting "BOSCHFONTEIN" was to depart Caloundra 0930/23 and escort till 1800/23, then returning Brisbane.
- (21) "MILDURA" (AMS) departed Port Phillip 1921/20 for Brisbane ETA 1600/24.
- (22) 5 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - PC.1131 SC's 650, 748, 749, 750 YMS.11 Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "JANE MOOREHEAD" "BALIKPAPAN" "KOORAKA" "MULCRA" "YAQUERO" "J.S.SARGENT" "MELINGA"
Lae	- Warships & Aux. - YMS's 334, 335 PC's 1121, 1124 SC's 745, 746 Merchant Vessels: "J.W.MACKAY" "WM.E.CHANNING" "BONTEKOE"
Morobe	- Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna	- Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 "TRINITY" (AO) "MERKUR" (AF)
Oro Bay	- Warships & Aux. - SC.734 Merchant Vessels: "W.S.LADD" "WM.PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "G.V.L.MEYER" "C.E.SMITH" "R.P.WARNER" "STAGEN"
Woodlark Island	- Merchant Vessels: "UKI"
Goodenough Island	- Merchant Vessels: "A.D.WHITE"
Milne Bay	- Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY" "AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "BACHE" "BROWNSON" "MULLANY" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "LAMSON" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "MOA" "BROOKS" "CROSEY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) SC's 647, 648, 698, 703, 736 SC's 738, 742, 743, 744, 981, 982 YMS's 49, 50 YMS's 52, 53, 70, 71, 73, 313, 336 YP's 233, 236 ML's 424, 425, 427, 428, 430, 431, 801, 806 ML's 816, 818, 819 PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1120 PC.1122 25 LST's 14 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG) "PYRO" (AE) "POLLUX" (AKS) "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "COUCAL" (ASR) "SHEPPARTON" (AMS)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "J.ALDEN" "ANHUI"
"S.BAMBERGER" "D.F.BARRY" "SIMON BOLIVAR"
"J.G.BRADY" "CEPALU" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL"
"HENRY DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A.EILERS"
"J.EARL" "ETAMIN" "G.H.FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE"
"N.HAPGOOD" "F.J.IRWIN" "ISOLATOR" "T.C.LOWE"
"AMY LOWELL" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN"
"MIDWEST FARMER" "MORMACDALE" "JOHN MUIR"
"F.B.OLSON" "OZARK" "J.PALMER" "W.H.POINT"
"A.RAVALLI" "NORAB" "N.J.SINNOTT" "M.M.STEWART"
"CHAS.P.STEINMETZ" "TECUMSEH" "A.THOMAS"
"TJISADANE" "VAN SPILBERGEN" "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby	- Warships & Aux. - "KATOOMBA" (AMS) YMS's 8, 46, 47 YMS.48 ML.426 Merchant Vessels: "MULIAMA" "SUVA" "VAN OUTHOORN" "A.BURLINGHAME"
Thursday Island	- Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" (AMS) Merchant Vessels: "BABINDA" "SARPENS"
Cairns	- Warships & Aux. - "LITHGOW" (AMS) SC.731 PC.477 YP's 280, 291 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR) "GALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS)
Townsville	- Warships & Aux. - "SAN PABLO" (AVP) "BALLARAT" (AMS) "CASTLEMAINE" (AMS) "VICTORIA" (AO)
Brisbane	- Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "SWAN" (AMS) "HERON" (AVP) "SUSQUEHANNA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) ML's 808, 809, 821 YMS's 9, 10 HDML 1325

(c) Proposed Movements

- (1) "ML.808" "ML.821" escorting "NORLAGO" with barge in tow to depart Caloundra 1600/23 for Lady Elliott Is. whence "ML.808" "ML.821" proceed Gladstone ETA 0800/25.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

(1) Bougainville -

- (a) Photos Dec.22 show all runways unserviceable.
Kara : 4 gun heavy A/A battery completed.
Kieta :36 buildings destroyed by air strike on 19 Dec.
(b) 0300/22, PT boats sank one barge 3 miles S. of Otua Island (off S.E. coast Bougainville).

(2) Empress Augusta Bay -

- (a) 1305/22, a submarine was reported 30 miles S. by E. of Cape Motupena.
(b) 1416/22, an enemy submarine was sighted 9 miles W. by S. of Cape Moltke.

(3) Tiniputz Harbour - Dec.20, allied destroyers bombarded the Tiniputz-Papas areas (N. coast Bougainville) destroying buildings and causing several fires.

(4) Mussau Island -

- (a) 1230/21, further reports show that the northbound destroyer attacked was possibly damaged by a 20 ft. near miss.
(b) 0950/22, a hospital ship 20 miles S.W. by S. of Cape Siemens on course 170° was sighted by aircraft.

(5) New Hanover - 1150/22 one small freighter transport, 2 unidentified vessels 53 miles S. of Cape Matanalem on course 30° were sighted by aircraft.

(6) Kavieng -

- (a) 2319/21, 5 Catalinas bombed Kavieng starting fires and explosions.
(b) The following shipping was reported by the Catalinas:-
1 large and 2 small vessels anchored off Kavieng.
A/A was encountered from two ships in the area.
The lights of a vessel were sighted 30 miles S.S.E. Kavieng.
(c) Night Dec.21, one hospital ship on course 160° was sighted off the West Central coast of New Ireland.

(7) Bismarck Sea -

- (a) 0200/21, one large freighter, one transport 80 miles S.E. by E. of Kavieng on course 90°. The transport was ablaze from funnel to bow.
(b) 0220/21, a large freighter was bombed by two Liberators 80 miles S.E. by S. of Kavieng. Two direct hits were scored and the vessel was left slowly sinking and is claimed destroyed. The aircraft when returning sighted a number of lifeboats around the capsized vessel.
(c) 0138/21, one unidentified ship 25 miles N.N.E. of Talasea course 190° was sighted by aircraft. This might well be a destroyer on a transportation mission from Rabaul to Garve Island or north New Britain coast.
(d) 0530/21, 4 unidentified ships, one unidentified boat 50 miles S. by E. of Cape Matanalem course 22° were sighted by aircraft.

- (15) Borgen Bay -
 (a) 0300/21, an unidentified vessel with lights was sighted by aircraft 100 yards off shore in Borgen Bay.
 (b) 1555/21, 7-15 barges were sighted by aircraft 1½ miles S. of Natamo Point.
- (16) Cape Gloucester -
 (a) 0807-1610/21, 34 Mitchells, 64 Liberators, 24 Bostons with 41 escorting Lightnings dropped over 200 tons of bombs on A/A positions on Target Hill and dumps and personnel areas at Cape Gloucester.
 (b) 0842/21, a small northbound submarine was sighted 4 miles N.E. of Cape Gloucester.
 (c) 0905/21, two stationary barges were sighted 7 miles W. by S. of Dorf Point.
- (17) Dampier Straits - 0230/22, PT boats attacked three heavily armed 120 foot barges 6 miles S.E. of Sakar Island. An enemy aircraft ineffectively bombed our craft which also encountered gun fire from the shore.
- (18) Vitiaz Strait - Aircraft sightings Dec.22:
 0840/22, one u/i aircraft course 150°.
 1406/22, an u/i flight of aircraft course South.
- (19) Wewak - (a) 0947/22, preliminary reports show at least 17 Mitchells bombed targets in the Wewak area. Interception from approximately 30 fighters was encountered, reports to date showing that two enemy fighters were destroyed, two probably destroyed and three damaged.
 (b) 0947/22, the following shipping was reported by Mitchells:
 1 corvette
 1 sea truck
 1 small freighter transport
 1 or 2 larger freighters or freighter transports.
 Two destroyers 2 miles N. of Wewak on an easterly course were also reported.
- (20) Madang - 0843/21, 23 Mitchells escorted by 11 Kittyhawks bombed and strafed the area.
- (21) Huon Peninsula -
 (a) 1730-1830/20, 5 Aircobras strafed targets in the Saidor area.
 (b) 0910-0950/21, 6 Lightnings strafed two serviceable barges at Kiari in Schlangen Harbour (10 miles W. of Sio).
 (c) Dec.22, PT's sank two and damaged one of three southbound barges 1 mile S. of Walingai.
 (d) 1445-1630/20, 2 Boomerangs escorted by four Aircobras strafed targets in the Walingai area.
 (e) 1640/21, our troops with tank support reached Hubiki. Sniping was the only opposition encountered.
 (f) 1130/21, 11 Bostons bombed and strafed the camp area and defence positions E. of Wandokai.
- (22) Kiriwina - 1200/22, a submarine 50 miles N.E. by E. of Kiriwina was sighted by aircraft.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/23:

- (1) "PREMANTLE" escorting "DUNDULA" "DILGA" Y.4" departed Thursday Is. 1500/19 for Darwin ETA 1730/24.
 (2) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" (AMS) ML's 429, 814, 815.
 Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR" "TULAGI"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

Dutch New Guinea -0819/22, an unidentified aircraft was indicated off Cape Valsch.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/23:

- (1) "PRESTON" (AVD) departed Heron Haven 1300/20 ETA Fremantle dawn 23 Dec.
- (2) "YP.286" departed Exmouth Gulf 1915/21 ETA Fremantle 1000/25.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN"
"FJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS)
"CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOORWILL"
(AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.288

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILDS" (AV)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/23:

- (1) "GEELONG" "YANDRA" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy GP.94 (3 MVs) were to depart Sydney 0800/23 for Caloundra, whence "KALGOORLIE" proceeds Townsville.
- (2) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ECHUCA" escorting Convoy PG.93 (3 MVs) departed Brisbane 1143/22 ETA Sydney 2000/24.
- (3) "PATROLLER" (GVE) en route Port Phillip ETA 2100/23 from San Francisco.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "VENDETTA" "CONVERSE" "STACK"
(DD) "WARNAMEBOOL" "DELORAIN" "GOULBURN"
"MORESEY" "GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" (AMS)
"MANCORA" (APA) "HILO" (PG) "ABRAHAM
CRIJNSSEN" "KYBRA" "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessels)
"TASMAN" (AH) "ORANJE" (AH) "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
"MIZAR" (AF) ML's 430, 802, 807, 817, 822, 823
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)

Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)

Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "MIZAR" (AF) to depart Sydney a.m. Dec.24 for Brisbane.
 - (2) "VENDETTA" (DD) to depart Sydney 1900/25 to RV with "FRED AINSWORTH" at 0900/27 in position 24°18'S 155°01'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is. thence proceeding Caloundra 0700/28 ETA.
-

B. SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

ENEMY FORCES

San Cristobal Island - Two submarines have been reported:

- (a) 1145/22, 112 miles S.E. of Cape Surville.
 - (b) 1430/22, 75 miles S.E. by E. of Cape Surville.
-

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Ocean.

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE
I. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV (L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	ZUIHO RYUHO HITAKA
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA PATROLLER	-	CHITOSE UNYO
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHEROPSHIRE	-	-	HAGURO MYOKO TONE CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * NOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NARA) Two ISUZU) poss. NAGARA) sunk NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO
<u>CL (T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID HUTCHINS BEALE	Approx 40 BACHE BROWNSON MULLANY DALY AMMEN BUSH	8	30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) CERO) GATO) PETO) SCAMP)	On Patrol	20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH)	At Brisbane		
	BLACKFISH) REDFIN)	At Milne Bay		
<u>PT</u>	52	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T. ALLEN MANOCORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NCA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD BLUE RIDGE	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u>				
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)

Fighters (incl. 16 twin-eng.)	246
Light & M/Bombers	157
SE/Bombers	45
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C	12

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALBIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

INDIANA
NORTH CAROLINA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO
* HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

SHOKAKU
ZUIKAKU

CV (T)

-

HOSHO

CV (L)

COWPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

* HAYATAKA

CV (B)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
COPAHEE
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA

CA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
MINNEAPOLIS
PENSACOLA
INDIANAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

ATAGO
* NACHI
* TAKAO
* MAYA

OCA

-

6

CL

OKLAND
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* NATORI
* YUBARI

CL (T)

-

KASHIMA

XCL

-

6-7

AV/CVS

POCOMOKE

CHIYODA

XAV/XCVS.

-

3

DD

Approx 35

Approx 30

SS

Approx 50

Approx 30

AS

?

2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARYPart I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 695

Date: 24 December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/24:

- (1) "YMS.53" "SC.744" departed Milne Bay 0600/23 ETA Finschhafen 2000/24.
- (2) "YMS.71" escorting "Y.19" departed Milne Bay 1200/22 for Lae were due 1000/24.
- (3) "SC.745" "SC.746" escorting "BONTEKOE" departed Lae 2200/23 were due Buna 1200/23.
- (4) "SC.750" "YMS.11" escorting "BALIKPAPAN" departed Finschhafen 0700/23 were due Oro Bay 0700/24.
- (5) "WARREGO" escorting "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) was to depart vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 2200/22 for Milne Bay was due 0600/24.
- (6) "KAPUNDA" escorting Convoy TN.194 ("HELGA MOLLER") departed Cairns 1331/21 for Port Moresby was due 0800/24.
- (7) "BUNDABERG" "GYMPIE" "STAWELL" escorting Convoy TN.195 ("GORGON" "DONALD McLEAY" "W.BEAUMONT" "VAN HEUTSZ" "ALAMO" "C.M.RUSSELL" "THOMAS GORWIN" "R.STUART" "A.PIERCE" "COLORADO" "J.M.CLEMENTS" 1 LST, 1 LCI, 1 APC and 4 PTs) departed vicinity Fitzroy Is. at approx 1500/21 for Milne Bay were due 1100/24.
- (8) "BROOME" "YMS.72" "YMS.315" "SC.732" escorting Convoy TN.196 ("S.K.BARLOW" "F.N.BLANCHET" "M.DALY" "PC.HEWITT" "PONCE") proceeding to RV vicinity Fitzroy Is. departing thence 1400/22 for Milne Bay ETA 1800/25.
- (9) "TULSA" (PC) departed Sydney 1244/20 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/27.
- (10) "MANUNDA" (AH) departed Brisbane 1240/20 for Thursday Is. was due a.m. Dec.24.
- (11) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) departed Cairns 1621/23 to salvage "MANGOLA" on Corbett Reef ETA 1200/24.
- (12) "ARARAT" escorting Convoy MV.50 ("AASE MAERSK" "PAHUD") departed Milne Bay 1200/22 for Townsville was due 0400/24.
- (13) "INVERELL" escorting "KURUMBA" (AO) departed Caloundra 1631/22 for Townsville. On arrival Lady Elliott Is., vessels proceed independently, ETA "KURUMBA" 1500/25, "INVERELL" 1100/25. "KURUMBA" for onward routeing to Milne Bay.
- (14) "COLAC" departed Townsville 0700/22 for Sydney ETA 0600/26.
- (15) "BOWEN" escorting "WILLIAM BURNHAM" departed Brisbane 1800/21 for Lady Elliott Is. whence both ships proceed independently to Townsville. "BOWEN" due 0500/24.
- (16) "WHYALLA" "SC.735" escorting Convoy QL.40 (5 MVs) departed Caloundra 1449/22 for Bustard Head were due 0200/24. "WHYALLA" and "SC.735" detailed for Convoy LQ.40.

- (17) "SC.731" departed Cairns 1200/23 ETA Caloundra 0600/26.
 (18) "ML.808" "ML.821" escorting "NORLAGO" towing two barges departed Caloundra 1625/23 for Lady Elliott Island whence "NORLAGO" proceeds independently to Townsville ETA 1225/28 and "ML.808" "ML.821" proceed Gladstone ETA 0800/25.
 (19) "TOWNSVILLE" escorting "BOSCHFONTEIN" departed Caloundra 1044/23; to escort till 2100/23, then returning Brisbane due 1100/24.
 (20) "MILDURA" (AMS) departed Port Phillip 1921/20 for Brisbane ETA 1600/24.
 (21) 5 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PC's 1131, 1132 SC's 650, 737
 SC's 747, 748 YMS.314
 Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "JANE MOOREHEAD"
 "MOA MOA" "H.L.ABBOTT" "KOORAKA" "YAQUERO"
 "DESIKOKO" "J.S.SARGENT" "MELINGA" "JUAN CABRILLO"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 334, 335 PC's 1121, 1124
 Merchant Vessels: "J.W.MACKAY" "WM.E.CHANNING"
 "LORINNA"

Morobe - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
 Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC.637 YMS.51 "TRINITY" (AO)
 "MERKUR" (AF) "STELLA" "POLARIS" (AGS)

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734
 Merchant Vessels: "WM.PROUSE" "J.ROSS"
 "G.V.L.MEYER" "C.E.SMITH" "R.P.WARNER"
 "STAGEN"

Kiriwina - Merchant Vessels: "MARGARET THWAITES"
 Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "ANHUI"
 Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
 "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY"
 "AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "BACHE" "BROWNSON"
 "MULLANY" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "LAMSON"
 "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SHAW"
 "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA"
 "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA"
 "BROOKS" "CROSBY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD"
 "DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD)
 SC's 647, 648, 693, 703, 736, 738, 742, 743
 SC's 749, 981, 982 YMS's 49, 50, 52, 70, 73
 YMS's 313, 336 YP's 233, 236 ML's 424, 425
 ML's 427, 428, 430, 431, 801, 806, 816, 818
 ML.819 PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1120, 1122
 25 LST's 12 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR)
 "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE"
 (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "WESTRALIA" (APA)
 "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG) "PYRO"
 (AE) "POLLUX" (AKS) "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "COUCAL"
 (ASR) "SHEPPARTON" (AMS) "SAN PABLO" "HALF MOON" (AVP)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "J.ALDEN"
 "S.BAMBERGER" "D.F.BARRY" "SIMON BOLIVAR"
 "J.G.BRADY" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "HENRY DODGE"
 "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A.EILERS" "ETAMIN"
 "G.H.FLANDERS" "GANYMED" "N.HAPGOOD"
 "F.J.IRWIN" "ISOLATOR" "T.C.LOWE" "AMY LOWELL"
 "A.F.LINDBERGH" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER"
 "MORMACDALE" "JOHN MUIR" "F.B.OLSON"
 "OZARK" "J.PALMER" "W.H.POINT" "A.RAVALLI"
 "NORAB" "N.J.SIMOTT" "MM.STEWART" "CHAS.P. STEINMETZ"
 "TECUMSEH" "A.THOMAS" "VAN SPILBERGEN" "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "KATOOMBA" (AMS) YMS's 8, 46
 YMS's 47, 48 ML.426
 Merchant Vessels: "MULIAMA" "VAN OUTHOORN"
 Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "BABINDA" "SARPENS" "THEDENS"
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "LITHGOW" (AMS) PC.477
 "BUNBURY" (AMS) YP's 280, 291
 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "BALLARAT" "CASTLEMAINE" (AMS)
 "VICTORIA" (AO)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "SWAN" "COWRA"
 "GLADSTONE" (AMS) "HERON" (AVP) "SUSQUEHANNA"
 "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "ORION" (AS) "H.T.ALLEN"
 "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) SC.741
 PC.1123 ML.809 YMS's 9,10 HDML 1325

(c) Proposed Movements:

(1) "BOWEN" "PIRIE" "BALLARAT" "ARARAT" escorting Convoy TN.197 (18 MVs) to depart vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 1400/25 ETA Milne Bay 1100/28.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Buin Base - (a) 1920/21-0530/22, two Venturas bombed Faisi.
 (b) 1200/23, 9 Mitchells bombed supply area at Kahili and Shortland Island.
- (2) Kieta - (a) 1055/22, 5 Mitchells bombed and strafed Numa Numa Mission destroying huts and starting fires.
 (b) 1200/22, four Fighters bombed a barge hideout 5 miles W.N.W. of Kieta.
 (c) 1725/22, 20 fighters bombed Numa Numa. Four fighters dropped belly tanks and set them on fire.
 (d) 1500/22, four fighters bombed a fuel dump at Raua Bay, setting the dump on fire.
 (e) Eight fighters attacked Tiaraka, four miles N.W. of Numa Numa, starting fires.
- (3) Bougainville Island -
 (a) 2045/20-0530/21, two Liberators made a harassing tour around Bougainville Island. The attack was repeated the following night.
 (b) Dec.22, fighters strafed targets in the East and South of Bougainville Island.
- (4) Buka Passage -
 (a) 1110/22, 58 Dauntless, 26 Avengers with 33 escorting fighters dropped 60 tons of bombs on A/A positions at Bonis and Sohana Island and a barge hideout at Sohana Island. Fighters strafed nine barges at Chabai and Porton.
 (b) 1200/22, 9 Mitchells bombed Chinatown, Buka.
- (5) Nissan Island - Dec.22, a number of loaded barges beached on north shore of Nissan Island were strafed by aircraft.
- (6) Feni Islands -
 (a) 1230/22, 6 barges were bombed and strafed at Feni Islands, four being set on fire by 6 Venturas with 8 escorting Lightnings.
 (b) Dec.22, 3 barges were attacked later in the day by a patrolling aircraft.
- (7) Mussau Island -
 (a) 0915/23 4 large freighter 43 miles W. Course
 transports Mussau Is. 100°
 3 gunboats
 Four fighters intercepted the allied aircraft which unsuccessfully attacked the convoy.
8. New Hanover - 1520/23 2 destroyers 30 miles Course
 W.New Hanover 230°
9. Kavieng - 2310/22, 2 Catalinas bombed Kavieng causing explosions and fires. A/A was encountered from ships in the Harbour.

- (10) St. George's Channel - Night Dec.22-23, 3 enemy night fighters attacked a Catalina S. of St. George's Channel.
- (11) Bismarck Sea -
- | | | | | |
|-----|--|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) | 2330/22 | 2 destroyers
1 transport | 23 miles WNE
Cape Pomas | Course
105° |
| | | Two near misses with a 1000 lb. and a 500 lb. bomb were scored. | | |
| (b) | 1145/23 | 1 destroyer
5 small cargo vessels
(2 large, 3 small) | 50 miles NNW
Rabaul | Course
300° |
| (c) | 0001/24, | preliminary reports indicate the sighting of - | | |
| | | 1 destroyer or
light cruiser | 50 miles SSW
New Hanover | Unstated
course |
| (d) | 0130/24 | 7-8 ship convoy
including
3 large transports | 70 miles SW
Kavieng | Course
120°-160° |
| | | The convoy was attacked by aircraft, hits being scored. | | |
| (e) | 0350/24 | 3 sea trucks | 40 miles SW
Kavieng | |
| (f) | (i) 2215/23 | 2 destroyers | 40 miles NNW
Talasea | Course
200° |
| | | Two probable hits were obtained on one destroyer. | | |
| | (ii) 0330/24 | 2-4 vessels | off Garove Is. | |
| | | These sightings would indicate a probable destroyer run Rabaul to Garove Island. | | |
| (a) | Photos Dec.18 (3rd phase) reveal a new strip under construction 3½ miles N.E. of Hoskins aerodrome. The strip will be known as Kassia strip. | | | |
| (b) | 0955/22, 22 Kittyhawks with an escort of 8 other Kittyhawks bombed and strafed the Cape Hoskins strip. | | | |
| (a) | 0222-0525/23, one fighter and five medium bombers dropped 34 bombs on Arawe. No damage was caused. | | | |
| (b) | 1900-17-1700/21, a native member of an allied patrol reports 2 LCVs encountered six loaded Japanese barges near Cape Peiho (30 miles W.N.W. of Arawe). Both LCVs were reported destroyed and 14 members of the patrol were killed. | | | |
| (c) | 1000-1030/23, 6 Aircobras on a barge sweep from Aisega to Sauren strafed and sank two large serviceable barges in Marjie Bay (off Cape Peiho). | | | |
| (d) | Some enemy barges were reported on Dec.24 between Cape Busching and Arawe also enemy concentration between Runglo and Omoi (respectively 40 miles W.N.W. and 9 miles N.W. of Arawe air strip). | | | |
| (a) | 0800/21, 11 Bostons bombed and strafed the coastal area near Sag Sag. | | | |
| (b) | 0800-1556/22, 76 Liberators, 26 Bostons, 9 Mitchells dropped nearly 270 tons of bombs on targets in Cape Gloucester-Borgen Bay area. | | | |
| (c) | 0913/23, preliminary reports indicate that several squadrons of Liberators bombed targets in the same area. | | | |
| (a) | 0945-0956/22, 30 Mitchells escorted by 42 Lightnings bombed and strafed aerodrome and installations at Boram and Wewak. | | | |

- (17) Wewak (Contd) -
- (b) 1000/23, more than 20 Mitchells bombed and strafed Wewak strip and township.
20-25 barges or small boats were sighted along the E. shore of the Peninsula with stores piled on the beach nearby.
 - (c) 1533/23, 2 large freighter transports 70 miles NW Wewak Course 240°
1 sea truck
2 gun boats
- These vessels may be departing from Wewak although the course is not conclusive.
- (d) 1045/23, small craft were observed in Wewak Harbour.
- (18) Hansa Bay - 1021/23, 5 Mitchells bombed Awar Plantation.
- (19) Alexishafen - 1120/23, 12 Mitchells and 9 Marauders bombed the dump area at Alexishafen starting fires.
- (20) Huon Peninsula -
- (a) Dec.22, our advance on the coastal track beyond Hubika continues in difficult terrain.
 - (b) 0909/22, 6 Marauders bombed personnel and dump areas near Hubika and Wandokai.
 - (c) 0915/22, 12 Bostons bombed and strafed bivouac and supply areas near Hubika.
- (21) Port Moresby - 0930/23, possible enemy submarine was reported by aircraft 40 miles S. of Port Moresby.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/24:

- (1) "FREMANTLE" escorting "DUNDULA" "DILGA" "Y.4" departed Thursday Is. 1500/19 for Darwin ETA 1730/24.
- (2) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" (AMS) ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR" "TULAGI"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

(1) Dutch New Guinea -

- (a) Dec.23, a small allied vessel encountered two enemy vessels 200 miles N. of Cape Valsch. One of the vessels was set on fire and the other was damaged.
- (b) 1336/22 and 0810/23, enemy aircraft were indicated off Cape Valsch.
- (c) 1229/23, 4 Liberators bombed the barracks area at Nabire. One sea truck on course 340° was sighted just north of Nabire.

(2) Ceram -

Photos Dec.21 reveal that the greater part of the village of Amahai was destroyed by the Liberators' attack.
Photos of the aerodrome show the runway is 5000 ft. long; there are 12 bomber revetments and at least two medium bombers.

SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/24:

- (1) "YP.286" departed Exmouth Gulf 1915/21 ETA Fremantle 1000/25.
- (2) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1325/23 for Exmouth Gulf.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN"
"TJERK HIDDERS" (DD) "HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS)
"PRESTON" (AVD) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY)
SC.739
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILDS" (AV)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/24:

- (1) "GEELONG" "YANDRA" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy GP.94 (4 MVs) departed Sydney 0737/23 for Caloundra ETA 1058/26, whence "KALGOORLIE" proceeds Townsville.
- (2) "ROCKHAMPTON" "ECHUCA" escorting Convoy PG.93 (3 MVs) departed Brisbane 1143/22 ETA Sydney 2000/24.
- (3) "MIZAR" (AF) was to depart Sydney 1100/24 for Brisbane.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "TALBOT" (APD) "VENDETTA"
"CONVERSE" "STACK" (DD) "WARRENAMBOOL" "DELORAINÉ"
"GOULBURN" "MORESEY" "GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" (AMS)
"MANOORA" (APA) "PATROLLER" (CV(E)) "HILO" (PG)
"ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" "KYBRA" "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessels)
"TASMAN" (AN) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) ML's 802, 807
ML's 817, 822, 823
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "VENDETTA" (DD) to depart Sydney 1900/25 to RV with "FRED AINSWORTH" at 0900/27 in position 24°18'S 155°01'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is. thence to proceed Caloundra 0700/28 Dec. ETA.

CENTRAL PACIFIC

ENEMY FORCES

(a) 1640/23	1 light cruiser	200 miles N.W. of Kapingamarangi	Course 350°.
(b) 1915/23	2 destroyers	290 miles W.N.W. of Kapingamarangi	Course 230°.
(c) 0700/23	2 destroyers ("SHINONOME" class)	180 miles S.by W. of Truk	Course 170°.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA HAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	ZUIHO (en route RYUHO Empire) HITAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALFAMAHA PATROLLER	-	CHITOSE UNYO
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	HAGURO HYOKO TONE CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) Two ISUZU) poss. NAGARA) sunk NOSHIRO CYODO * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u> <u>XCL</u> <u>AV/CVS</u>	- - HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	- - WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	- - -	KATORI 1-2 (1 damaged) * NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> <u>DD</u>	- WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID HUTCHINS BEALE BUSH	3 Approx 40	- 8	3 30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	INDIANA NORTH CAROLINA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	SHOKAKU ZUIKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	* HAYATAKA
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHEWANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS MINNEAPOLIS PENSACOLA INDIANAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	ATAGO * NACHI * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) TAMA * KISO * NATORI * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6-7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCCMOKE	CHIYODA
<u>XAV/XGV</u>	-	3
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

C.O.I.C.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 696

Date: 25 December, 1943

PART I.

A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

1. NORTH EASTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/25:

- (1) "KAPUNDA" escorting "VAN OUTHOORN" departed Port Moresby 1245/24
ETA Cairns 1345/26.
- (2) "BUNGAREE" and "LITHGOW" escorting Convoy TN.198 (Incl. "MOBILCOIL")
were to depart Townsville 0200/25 from Port Moresby. ETA 0900/27.
- (3) "BROOME" "YMS.72" "YMS.315" "SC.732" escorting Convoy TN.196
("S.K.BARLOW" "F.N.BLANCHET" "M.DALY" "P.C.HEWITT" "PONCE")
Proceeding to RV vicinity Fitzroy Is. departing thence 1400/22
for Milne Bay ETA 1800/25.
- (4) "TULSA" (PG) departed Sydney 1244/20 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/27.
- (5) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) departed Cairns 1621/23 to salvage
"MANGOLA" on Corbett Reef ETA 1200/24.
- (6) "INVERELL" escorting "KURUMBA" (AO) departed Caloundra 1631/22
for Townsville. On arrival Lady Elliott Is., vessels proceed
independently, ETA "KURUMBA" 1500/25, "INVERELL" 1600/25.
"KURUMBA" for onward routing to Milne Bay.
- (7) "COLAC" departed Townsville 0700/22 for Sydney ETA 0600/26.
- (8) "WHYALLA" "SC.735" escorting Convoy LQ.40 (2 MVs with tows) departed
Gladstone 1800/24 for Caloundra ETA 0715/26.
- (9) "BUNBURY" departed Cairns 1600/24 for Sydney. ETA a.m. 29 Dec.
On arrival Sydney to be sailed so as to arrive Melbourne not
later than 4th January.
- (10) "SC.731" departed Cairns 1200/23 ETA Caloundra 0600/26.
- (11) "ML.808" "ML.821" escorting "NORLAGO" towing two barges departed
Caloundra 1625/23 for Lady Elliott Island whence "NORLAGO"
proceeds independently to Townsville ETA 1225/28 and "ML.808"
"ML.821" proceed Gladstone ETA 0800/25.
- (12) 5 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PC's.1131, 1132 SC's.650, 737,
SC's.744, 747, 748 YMS.53, 314.
Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "JANE MOOREHEAD"
"MOA MOA" "H.L.ABBOTT" "KOORAKA" "VAQUERO"
"DESIKOKO" "J.S.SARGENT" "MELINGA" "JUAN
CABRILLO" "J.EARLE"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS's.71, 334, 335 PC's.1121,1124
Merchant Vessels: "J.W.MACKAY" "WM.E.CHANNING"
"LORINNA".

Morobe	- Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Buna	- Warships & Aux. - SC.637, 745, 746 YMS.51 "TRINITY" (AO) "MERKUR" (AF) "STELLA" "POLARIS" (AGS) "RESERVE"
Oro Bay	- Warships & Aux. - SC's.734, 750 YMS.11 Merchant Vessels: "WM. PROUSE" "J. ROSS" "G.V.L. MEYER" "C.E. SMITH" "R.P. WARNER" "STAGEN" "ALAMO" "VAN HEUTSZ" "J. MCLEMENTS" "BALIKPAPAN"
Kiriwina	- Merchant Vessels: "MARGARET THWAITES"
Goodenough Is.	- Merchant Vessels: "ANHUI" "WM. BEAUMONT"
Milne Bay	- Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY" "AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "BACHE" "BROWNSON" "MULLANY" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "LAMSON" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSBY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) "BUNDABERG" "WARREGO" "GYMPE" "STAWELL" "SHEPPARTON" (AMS) SC's 647, 648, 698, SC's 703, 736, 738, 742, 743, 749, 981, 982 YMS's 49, 50, 52, 70, 73, 313, 336 YP's 233, 236 ML's 424, 425, 427, 428, 430, 431, 801, 806, 816, ML's 818, 819 PC's 476, 479, 1119, 1120, 1122 25 LST's 12 APC's 29 PT's "RIHEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "WESTRALIA" (APA) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG) "PYRO" (AE) "POLLUX" (AKS) "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "COUCAL" (ASR) "SAN PABLO" (AVP)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "JALDEN" "S. BAMBERGER" "SIMON BOLIVAR" "A. BIERCE" "COLORADO" "P. CORWIN" "CAPE ANNE" "J. CARROLL" "HENRY DODGE" "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A. EILERS" "ETAMIN" "GORGON" "G.H. FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE" "N. HAPGOOD" "P.J. IRWIN" "ISOLATOR" "T.C. LOWE" "AMY LOWELL" "A.F. LINDBERGH" "J. LYKES" "MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER" "D. MACLEAY" "MORMACDALE" "JOHN MUIR" "P.B. OLSON" "OZARK" "J. APLMER" "W.H. POINT" "A. RAVALLI" "C.M. RUSSELL" "NORAB" "N.J. SINNOTT" "M.M. STEWART" "CHAS. P. STEINMETZ" "R. STEWART" "TECUMSEH" "A. THOMAS" "VAN SPILBERGEN" "E.N. WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby	- Warships & Aux. "KATOOMBA" (AMS) YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426 Merchant Vessels: "MULIAMA" "HELGA MOLLER"
Thursday Is.	- Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" (AMS) "MANUNDA" (AH) Merchant Vessels: "BABINDA" "SARPENS" "THEDENS"
Cairns	- Warships & Aux. - "ARARAT" (AMS) PC.477 YP's 280, 291 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
Townsville	- Warships & Aux. - "BALLARAT" "CASTLEMAINE" "BOWEN" "PIRIE" (AMS) "VICTORIA" (AO)
Brisbane	- Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "SWAB" "COWRA" "TOWNSVILLE" "MILDURA" "GLADSTONE" (AMS) "HERON" (AVP) "SUSQUEHANNA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "ORION" (AS) "H.T. ALLEN" "HALF MOON" (AVP) "KANIMBLA" (APA) "ALGORAB" (AKA) SC.741 PC.1123 ML.809 YMS's 9, 10 HDML 1325

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "BOWEN" "PIRIE" "BALLARAT" "ARARAT" escorting Convoy TN.197 (21 MVs) to depart vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 1400/25 ETA Milne Bay 1100/28.
- (2) "MILDURA" "COWRA" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy QL.41 (9 MVs) to depart Caloundra 1600/26 for Gladstone. After arrival Bustard Head "KALGOORLIE" "MILDURA" Proceed independently to Townsville. "COWRA" detailed for Convoy LQ.41.

- (3) "HDML 1325" to depart Caloundra 1300/25 ETA Townsville 1200/28.
 (4) "SC.741" is to depart Caloundra 1000/26 escorting "D.CHAMBERS" with barges in tow. On arrival Bustard Head "SC.741" proceeds Gladstone to escort Convoy LQ.41.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES.

- (1) Shortlands - Dec.23, 16 Aircobras attacked this area.
- (2) Empress Augusta Bay -
 (a) Enemy mortars and artillery were active on Dec 21. Our forward patrol contacted a small enemy party in the N.E.Sector on Dec 21.
 (b) A.M.Dec 23, 47 Dauntless, 28 Avengers attacked enemy ground position southern part of Bay. One Avenger lost.
- (3) Buka Passage -
 (a) Photos Dec 23 reveal both strips unserviceable. 15 barges visible.
 (b) P.M.Dec 22, 21 Liberators involved in series of attacks enemy positions.
 (c) 1215/23, 17 Mitchells attacked Sohana Is.
- (4) Feni Islands - Dec 23, 2 camouflaged barges were strafed. At 0824/24 an enemy submarine was reported in this area.
- (5) Nuguria Islands - (N.E.of Feni Group) - Dec 23, an enemy sloop towing barges was strafed in this area and the sloop left sinking. A seaplane ramp and piers were visible at the southern end of the island.
- (6) Cape St. George -
 (a) Dec 24, 2 Venturas escorting Soupac Liberators were intercepted by 9 enemy fighters in this area. Three enemy fighters were destroyed and 3 others damaged without loss to our aircraft.
 (b) P.M.Dec 23, 6 Soupac Venturas attacked the lighthouse and possible Radar station at Cape St. George.
- (7) Bismarck Sea -
 (a) Further details of the 7-ship convoy sighted west of Mussau Is., forenoon Dec 23, and later S. of Kavieng heading Rabaul during early hours Dec 24, indicate that one of the transports were carrying 5 barges on deck, indicating still further the enemy's policy of building up considerable barge strength in the Bsmarcks area at the present time.
 This convoy was attacked by a patrolling aircraft when 45 miles S. of Kavieng and a 500 lb. bomb hit was scored on one large transport. The force was then reported to include 3 large transports, 1 cruiser and 1 destroyer and several unidentified craft, and was on course 150° still heading Rabaul.
 (b) Further details of the Soupac sighting Dec 23, indicate another enemy convoy including 9 vessels was observed 50 miles NNW of Rabaul during forenoon, apparently heading away from the area. This force was reported to have included 4 destroyers, 2 large and 3 small merchant vessels.
 (c) At 0745/23 Soupac aircraft reported a surfaced submarine 105 miles NE Mussau Is.on course 200°.
 (d) At 0825/24 one destroyer was observed 165 miles NNW Mussau Is. heading W. This same vessel was again reported during the afternoon still proceeding on a northerly course.
 (e) At 0215/24 an enemy light cruiser was unsuccessfully attacked by a patrol aircraft in the area to the south of New Hanover, course unstated.
- (8) Kavieng - Night Dec 23/24, 4 Catalinas bombed Panapai airstrip.
- (9) Rabaul -
 (a) Soupac photos Rabaul, Dec 23, reveal 6 destroyers, 1 submarine, 3 sub-chasers, 11 merchant vessels, 5 small craft and 200 barges in harbour. Vunakanau and Lakunai airfields were not covered but Tobera and Rapopo showed a total of 40 aircraft including 28 fighters. 18 float planes and 1 flying boat were also in harbour.
 (b) At 1315/24 a Soupac aircraft also reported a cruiser outside Simpson Harbour.
 (c) At 1327/23, 18 Soupac Liberators attacked Lakunai. During interception by enemy fighters our fighters are reported to have destroyed 24 enemy aircraft and probably destroyed another six.

- (10) Cape Hoskins - Forenoon Dec 23, 24 Kittyhawks strafed the airfield. Two probable dive bombers were destroyed on the ground and A/A positions silenced.
- (11) Gasmata - Forenoon Dec 23, 10 Kittyhawks attacked this area.
- (12) Cape Gloucester - Forenoon Dec 23, 60 Liberators attacked this area dropping 175 tons of bombs. Approximately 40/50 barges and small craft, many apparently unserviceable, were observed around Borgen Bay. At 0900/24, 5 barges were reported at Lagunen Pt., 8 miles SW of Cape Gloucester. Forenoon Dec 24, another strong force of Liberators again attacked this area.
- (13) Garove Island - At 2145/23, 2 destroyers were reported 8 miles E. of Garove Island heading in that direction at high speed. The patrolling Catalina claimed one hit on the destroyer and reported the force changing course to East. This would appear to be a transportation run to this area from Rabaul.
- (14) Alexishafen - Forenoon Dec 23, 31 Mitchells, 9 Marauders, escorted by 16 Aircobras, attacked this area. Several unidentified aircraft, including 3 medium bombers and 2 fighters, were observed on these strips. Both strips were reported in good condition the following morning, Dec 24.
- (15) Bogadjim - At 1055/23 a small vessel was reported this area.
- (16) Huon Peninsula - Forenoon Dec 23, 12 Bostons attacked barge hideout and unloading point, Sic area. Four barges were apparently destroyed. At 0935/24 a partly submerged submarine was reported 48 miles SE of Finschhafen.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/25:

- (1) "FREMANTLE" escorting "DUNDULA" "DILGA" "Y.4" departed Thursday Is. 1500/19 for Darwin ETA 1730/24.
- (2) "LATROBE" escorting "TULAGI" was to depart Darwin 0800/25 for Thursday Is.
- (3) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" (AMS) ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR" "TULAGI"

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/25:

- (1) "YP.286" departed Exmouth Gulf 1915/21 ETA Fremantle 1000/25.
- (2) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1325/23 for Exmouth Gulf.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN"
"TJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "HORSHAM" "DUBBO" (AMS)
"PRESTON" (AVD) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM)
"WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY)
SC.739.

Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILDS" (AV)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/25:

- (1) "GEELONG" "YANDRA" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy GP.94 (4 MVs) departed Sydney 0737/23 for Caloundra ETA 1058/26, whence "KALGOORLIE" proceeds Townsville.
- (2) "MIZAR" (AF) departed Sydney 1200/24 for Brisbane ETA 0400/26.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "TALBOT" (APD) "VENDETTA" "CONVERSE"
"STACK" (DD) "WARRNAMBOOL" "DELORRAINE" "ECHUCA"
"ROCKHAMPTON" "GOULBURN" "MORESEY" "GLENELG" "
"WILCANNIA" (AMS) "MANOORA" (APA) "PATROLLER" (CV(E))
"HILO" (PG) "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" "KYBRA" "DOOMBA"
(A/S Vessels) "TASMAN" (AH) "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
ML's 802, 807, 817, 822, 823.
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "VENDETTA" (DD) to depart Sydney 1900/25 to RV with "FRED AINSWORTH" at 0900/27 in position 24°18'S 155°01'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is. thence to proceed Caloundra 0700/28 Dec ETA.
- (2) "MORESEY" to depart Sydney 27 Dec for Milne Bay.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

--oOo--

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU <i>Fuso</i>
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV (L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	RYUHO HITAKA
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA PATROLLER	-	CHITOSE (poss. UNYO Empire)
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	HAGURO MYOKO TONE CHOKAI KUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) Two ISUZU) poss. NAGARA) sunk NOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO
<u>CL (T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/CVS</u>	-	5	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT STUART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID HUTCHINS BEALE BUSH	BACHE BROWNSON MULLANY DALY AMMEN	Approx 40 10	25-30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO CERO GATO PETO SCAMP ALBACORE GUARDFISH BLACKFISH REDFIN	) ) ) On Patrol)))) At Brisbane)) At Milne Bay	20	20
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H. T. ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALBORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u>	BLUE RIDGE			
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS ORION		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)

Fighters (incl. 16 twin-eng.)	245
Light & M/Bombers	157
SE/Bombers	33
Flying Boats	2
Floatplanes	50
Transport & Obsn. A/C	12

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>L</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>V/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

INDIANA
NORTH CAROLINA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO
* HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

SHOKAKU
ZUIKAKU

CV (L)

COWPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

* HAYATAKA
ZUIHO

CV (T)

-

HOSHO

CV (E)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
COPAHEE
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA

CA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
PENSACOLA
MINNEAPOLIS
INDIANAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

ATAGO
* NACHI
* TAKAO
* MAYA

OCA

-

6

CL

OAKLAND
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* NATORI
* YUBARI

CL (T)

-

KASHIMA

CL

-

6-7

AV/CVS

POCOMOKE

CHIYODA

AV/XCVS

-

3

DD

Approx 35

Approx 30

DD

Approx 50

Approx 30

DD

?

2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

S outhwest Pacific
(Western Section) Eastern Fleet Area East Indies-Philippines

<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOBA

<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
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<u>CL (T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
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<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
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<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
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<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
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<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDOS	Approx 27	10
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<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH) BLUEFISH) CABRILLA) POMPOM) PUFFER) KINGFISH) RASHER) RATON) RAY)	?) ?) ?) On Patrol ?) ?) ?) ?) ?)	6
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	K/12) BONEFISH) BOWFIN) COD) GREVALLE) TINOSA) MARWHAL)))) At Fremantle)))	
--	--	--	--

AS PELIAS

<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>	
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)	168
Light & M/Bombers	55
SE/Bombers	16
Flying Boats	12
Floatplanes	54
Transport & Obsn. A/C	39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle.

No. 697

Date: 26 December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/26:

- (1) "STAWELL" "SC.749" "YMS.335" escorting Convoy BG.3 ("WESTRALIA" (APA) "HENRY DODGE" "AUGUSTUS THOMAS" "JOEL PALMER") departed Milne Bay 2000/24 were due Oro Bay 0100/26.
- (2) "YMS.50" escorting Convoy BG.5 ("PINNA" "YUNNAN") departed Milne Bay 1620/24 were due Buna 1430/25.
- (3) "PC.476" "YMS.73" "YMS.313" escorting Convoy BG.4 ("GORGON" "AMBROSE PIERCE" "THOMAS CORWIN") departed Milne Bay 1025/24 were due 1800/25 Oro Bay.
- (4) "BOWEN" "BALLARAT" "PIRIE" "ARARAT" escorting Convoy TN.197 (21 MVs including "VICTORIA (AO) and 7 PTs) departed vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 1400/25 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/28.
- (5) "WARREGO" escorting "KURUMBA" (AO) was to depart vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 1000/26 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/28.
- (6) "BROOME" "YMS.72" "YMS.315" "SC.732" escorting Convoy TN.196 ("S.K.BARLOW" "F.N.BLANCHET" "M.DALY" "P.C.HEWITT" "PONCE") proceeding to RV vicinity Fitzroy Is. departing thence 1400/22 for Milne Bay were due 1800/25.
- (7) "TULSA" (PG) departed Sydney 1244/20 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/27.
- (8) "BUNGAREE" and "LITHGOW" escorting Convoy TN.198 departed Townsville 0250/25 for Port Moresby. ETA 0900/27.
- (9) "MANUNDA" (AH) departed Thursday Is. 0715/25 was due Port Moresby 0900/26.
- (10) "WARREGO" departed Milne Bay 1715/24 was due Grafton Passage 0600/26.
- (11) "KAPUNDA" escorting "VAN OUTHOORN" departed Port Moresby 1245/24 ETA Cairns 1345/26.
- (12) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) departed Cairns 1621/23 to salvage "MANGOLA" on Corbett Reef was due 1200/24.
- (13) "GYMPIE" "BUNDABERG" escorting Convoy MV.51 ("OZARK" "Y.15") departed Milne Bay 1520/24 ETA Grafton Passage 0230/26.
- (14) "HDML.1325" was to depart Caloundra 1300/25 for Townsville ETA 1200/28.
- (15) "MILDURA" "COWRA" "KALGOURLIE" escorting Convoy QL.41 (9 MVs, 1 LST, 2 LCIs) were to depart Caloundra 0900/26 for Gladstone. On arrival Bustard Head "KALGOURLIE" "MILDURA" proceed independently to Townsville. "COWRA" detailed for Convoy LQ.41.

- (16) "SC.741" escorting "EDWARD CHAMBERS" towing 2 barges was to depart Caloundra 1000/25 for Gladstone. On arrival Bustard Head "SC.741" proceeds Gladstone to escort Convoy LA.41.
- (17) "YP.291" departed Cairns 0625/25 for Thursday Is. ETA 0900/29.
- (18) "COLAC" departed Townsville 0700/22 for Sydney ETA 0600/26.
- (19) "BUNBURY" departed Townsville 2000/25 for Sydney. ETA 1500/29. On arrival Sydney to be sailed so as to arrive Melbourne not later than 4 Jan.
- (20) 5 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

- Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PG's.1131, 1132 SC's.650, 737, 747, SC.748 YMS.314
Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "JANE MOOREHEAD" "MOA MOA" "H.L.ABBOTT" "KOORAEA" "VAQUERO" "J.S.SARGENT" "JUAN CABRILLO" "J.EARLE"
- Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS's.71, 334.
Merchant Vessels: "WM.E.CHANNING" "LORINNA"
- Morobe - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AG)
- Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC's.637, 744, 745, 746 YMS's.51, 53
"TRINITY" (AO) "MERCUR" (AF) "STELLA" "POLARIS" (AGS) "RESERVE"
- o Bay - Merchant Vessels: "M.B.BRADY" "BONBEKOE"
- Warships & Aux. - SC's.734, 750
Merchant Vessels: "WM.PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "G.V.L.MEYER" "C.E.SMITH" "R.P.WARNER" "STAGEN" "ALAMO" "VAN HEUTSZ" "J.M.CLEMENTS"
- Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. - ML.818
Merchant Vessels: "MARGARET THWAITES" "A.D.WHITE"
- Goodenough Is. - Merchant Vessels: "ANHUI" "WM.BEAUMONT"
- Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY" "AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "BACHE" "BROWNSON" "MULLANY" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "LAMSON" "ERAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSEY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREY" (APD) "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) "SHEPPARTON" (AMS) SC's.647, 648, 698, 705, 736, 738, 742, 743, 745, 746 SC's.981, 982 YMS's.11, 48, 52, 70, 336 YP's.233, YP.236 ML's.424, 425, 427, 428, 430, 431, 801, 806, ML's.816, 819 PC's.479, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1124 25 LST's 12 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG) "PYRO" (AE) "POLLUX" (AKS) "COUCAL" (ASR) "SAN PABLO" (AVP)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

- Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "J.ALDEN" "BALIKPEAN" "S.BAMBERGER" "SIMON BOLIVAR" "COLGRADO" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "ESSO BALBOA" "F.A.EILERS" "ETAMIN" "G.E.FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE" "N.EAPGOOD" "F.J.IRWIN" "ISGLATOR" "T.C.LOWE" "AMY LOWELL" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER" "D.MACLEAY" "MORMACDALE" "JOHN MUIR" "F.B.OLSON" "W.H.POINT" "A.RAVALLI" "C.M.RUSSELL" "NORAB" "N.J.SINNOTT" "M.M.STEWART" "CHAS.F.STEINMETZ" "R.STEWART" "TEGUMSEH" "VAN SPIELBERGEN" "E.N.WESTCOTT"
- Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "KATCOMBA" (AMS) YMS's.8. 46, 47, 48 ML.426
Merchant Vessels: "MULIANA" "HELGA MOLLER"
- Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" (AMS)
Merchant Vessels: "THEDENS" "ISLANDER"
- Cairns - Warships & Aux. - PC.477 YP.280 ML's.803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
- Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "CASTLEMAINE" "INVERELL" (AMS) "AASE MAERSK" (AO)
- Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - ML's.808, 821

Brisbane

- Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "SWAN" "COWRA"
"KALGOURLIE" "WHYABLA" "GEELONG" "TOWNSVILLE"
"MILDURA" (AMS) "YANDRA" (A/S) "SUSQUEHANNA"
"SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "ORION" (AS) "H.T.ALLEN" (APA)
"HERON" "HALF MOON" (AVP) "KANIMBLA" (APA) "MIZAR"
(AF) "ALGORAB" (AKA) PC.1123 ML.809 YMS's 9, 10
HDML 1325 SC's 731, 735.

(Repairing, Refitting: "GLADSTONE" (AMS)).

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "GEELONG" "YANDRA" escorting Convoy PG.94 (4 MVs) to depart Caloundra 1200/26 for Sydney.
- (2) "STUART" escorting "ORION" (AS) to depart Caloundra 1430/28. "STUART" parts company vicinity Sydney and proceeds thither, "ORION" proceeding to Melbourne and Fremantle.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Choiseul - 1645/23, 6 Mitchells bombed a reported W/T station at Nalevoli (N.W.Choiseul).
- (2) Buin Base -
 - (a) Night 22/23 Dec, PT's observed Verrey lights being fired on their arrival and departure Torau Bay.
 - (b) Night 23/24 Dec, PT's were bombarded by large calibre shore batteries S. of Poporang.
 - (c) Photos Dec 25 show Kara and Ballale runways unserviceable. The 4-gun heavy A/A battery 800 yards S. of the runway appears a dummy.
- (3) Empress Augusta Bay:
 - (a) Dec 23, our artillery shelled an enemy force in contact with our patrol 600 yards E. of the Torokina river.
 - (b) 1440/23, our troops occupied a hill in N.E.sector. The position was found evacuated, probably as a result of the 24-hour artillery bombardment which preceded the attack.
 - (c) 0045/23, PT's bombarded House Klapé (15 miles N.W. of Cape Torokina) and Jaba with guns and mortar fire, also Atsinima River and lagoon in the same area.
- (4) Buka Passage area:
 - (a) Early a.m. Dec 24, an allied light cruiser and destroyer Task Force heavily bombarded the Buka and Bonis areas, starting one large and many small fires. Long after the bombardment ceased one large ammunition or fuel dump continued to explode.
 - (b) 1045/24, 24 Mitchells bombed Bonis seaplane anchorage.
 - (c) Photos Dec 24 show both Buka and Bonis runways unserviceable. Six barges are shown at Buka (15 on Dec 23).
- (5) Nissan Island: 1340/24, an eastbound submarine was sighted 25 miles NE by E. of Nissan Is. It is recalled that a similar report was made at 0824/24.
- (6) Kavieng:
 - (a) 2335/24, 4 Catalinas bombed Kavieng.
 - (b) 2330/24, a Catalina received indications of shipping off the East coast New Ireland, between Kavieng and Panapei.
 - (c) Photos Dec 25 show:

<u>Aircraft:</u> 9 fighters (1/2 runway only covered)	Photos Dec.23 - 12 fighters 13 medium bombers 25 aircraft ----- 1 large cargo vessel 85 small craft 19 barges
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- (7) Rabaul:
 - (a) 1327/23, further reports revise enemy losses over Rabaul to read 30 fighters destroyed, 6 probably destroyed.
 - (b) Dec 24: A preliminary report of an attack on Vunakanau by Soupac Liberators reveals that 26 fighters were destroyed and 5 probably destroyed. We lost 3 fighters.

(7) Rabaul (Contd.)

(c) Soupac photos Dec 24 show:

Aircraft:	F.	D/B.	M/B.	L/B.	F/P.	F/B.
Tobera	17	-	-	-	-	-
Vunakanau	3	16	25	-	-	-
Lakunai	25	11	2	-	-	-
Rapopo	10	2	7	3	-	-
Rabaul Harbr.	-	-	-	-	18	1
	55	29	34	3	18	1

A total of 140 aircraft.

Shipping:

	Dec.24	Dec.23
2 destroyers		6 destroyers
1 submarine		1 submarine
3 sub chasers		3 sub chasers
3 tankers		11 merchant ships
14 merchant ships		
<u>23 ships</u>		<u>21 ships</u>
180 barges		200 barges
11 small craft		5 small craft

(d) Incomplete Soupac photos Dec 25 show the runway serviceable at Tobera with 26 fighters, 14 floatplanes in Harbour. Rapopo is cloud covered.

Shipping: (Outer harbour only covered):

4 destroyers
2 sub chasers
2 tankers
4 merchant ships
<u>12 vessels</u>
16 barges.

(8) Bismarck Sea:

(a) A preliminary report indicates that a seven ship convoy was sighted at noonday yesterday proceeding possibly from Rabaul to Palau as follows:

1200/25	2 destroyers	40 miles	Course
	3 large freighters	NNW of	270°
	2 large freighter transports	Lorengau	

(b) A further report on the seven ship convoy bound for Rabaul which was attacked on the night Dec 23/24 reveals that one of the escorting gunboats was possibly damaged by 3 near misses with 1000 lb. bombs 50 to 100 feet off the starboard beam.

(c) A six ship convoy off the W. central coast of New Ireland proceeding probably from Rabaul to the Mandates was sighted yesterday morning as follows:

1045/25	2 large cargo vessels	25 miles	Course
	4 destroyers	SE x S. of	305°
		Katherine	
		Harbour	

(d) 1940/24, a destroyer, probably on a transportation run between Rabaul and Garove Island, was sighted 19 miles NE by N. of Talasea.

0118/25, a vessel was indicated 25 miles N. of Cape Hoskins. This may be the same or another destroyer on a similar mission.

(9) Cape Hoskins: Dec 24, 2 Beaufighters strafed 2 barges off C. Hoskins.

(10) Gasmata:

(a) 0730/24, 2 Bostons bombed and strafed a 20 foot boat containing 20 Japanese 10 miles W. of Gasmata.

(b) 0135/25, 2 Catalinas bombed Gasmata.

(11) Arawe:

(a) 0207/25, 2 bombs were dropped on Pilelo Is.; all clear 0330/25.

(b) Dec 25, our forces evacuated Umtingalu, where there are an estimated 110 Japanese.

(c) Dec 25, an enemy reconnaissance plane was shot down.

(d) Dec 25, parties of Japs 75 and 40 strong infiltrated our positions near Arawe airstrip.

(e) 0458-0615/25, 7 bombs were dropped by enemy aircraft - no damage reported.

(f) 1735/24, 6 Bostons bombed and strafed Sauren village (20 miles WNW of Arawe).

- (12) Cape Raoult-Rein Bay Sea:
 (a) 0915/24, five Mitchells bombed and strafed the area.
 (b) 1125/24, six Mitchells bombed and strafed the area.
- (13) Cape Gloucester:
 (a) 0628-1647/24: 40 Mitchells, 34 Bostons, 7 Marauders, 95 Liberators, totalling 176 aircraft, with 12 Lightnings and 16 Thunderbolts, dropped nearly 350 tons of bombs on Cape Gloucester and adjoining areas.
 (b) 0813/25, 9 Bostons bombed and strafed Tauli (7 miles SW of Cape Gloucester).
 (c) 0900/25, several squadrons of Liberators bombed the Cape Gloucester-Borgen Bay area.
- (14) Rooke Island: Night 24/25, 10 unidentified vessels were sighted by aircraft off the S. tip of Rooke Island.
- (15) Wewak: 1315/22, a submarine was sighted off Boram strip and 4 large transports reported over 10,000 tons were sighted in Wewak Harbour. This may be the convoy attacked that morning.
- (16) Huon Peninsula:
 (a) 1539/24, 9 Bostons bombed and strafed the Nambariwa area.
 1600/24, 11 Bostons attacked the same target.
 (b) 0630/24, PT's attacked a submarine and forced it on to a reef between Scharnhorst and Gneisenau Pt., and also destroyed 1 barge and 1 picket boat in the same area.
~~1700/24, our ground forces occupied Wandokai and are advancing~~
 1700/24, Thunderbolts strafed the submarine.
 (c) 1100/24, our ground forces occupied Wandokai and are advancing beyond.
 (d) 1320/24, a SW bound submarine was sighted 60 miles SSE of Pinschhafen.
- (17) Cerai Sea: 0735/25, a possible submarine was sighted 85 miles ENE of Cooktown.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/26:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting "TULAGI" was to depart Darwin 0800/25 for Thursday Is.
 (2) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML's. 429, 814, 815
 Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR" "DUNDULA" "DILGA".

(1) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Dutch New Guinea: Photos 1229/23 show two large revetted dispersal areas and 3 aircraft revetments constructed at SE end of strip. No aircraft. Six huts are shown destroyed and 3 damaged in the barracks area.
 (2) Portugese Timor: 1810/24, 5 Mitchells escorted by 2 Beaufighters bombed and strafed Atamboea.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/26:

- (1) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1325/23 for Exmouth Gulf.
 (2) "HORSHAM" escorting "COLINA" departed Fremantle 1040/24 for Geraldton and Onslow. On return escorting "ONDINA" Exmouth to Fremantle.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL)
"VAN GALEN" "TJERK HIDDES" (DD) "DUBBO" (AMS)
"PRESTON" (AVD) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS"
(CM) "WHIPPOORWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS)
"ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.286
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILDS" (AV)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/26:

- (1) "VENDETTA" (DD) departed Sydney 2200/25 to RV with "FRED AINSWORTH" at 0900/27 in position 24°18'S 155°01'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is. thence to proceed Caloundra ETA 0700/28 Dec.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "TALBOT" (APD) "VENDETTA" "COMBER" "STACK" (DD) "WARRNAMBOOL" "DELORAINÉ" "ECHUCA" "ROCKHAMPTON" "GOULBURN" "MORESBY" "GLENELG" "WILCANNIA" (AMS) "MANOORA" (APA) "PATROLLER" (CV(E)) "HILO" (PG) "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" "KYBRA" "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessels) "TASMAN" (AH) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) ML's.802, 807, 817, 822, 823.
(Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movement:

- (1) "MORESBY" to depart Sydney 27 Dec for Milne Bay.

B. SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

- (1) Guadalcanal: 1015/24, a submarine was attacked off Koli Point. 1332/24, a periscope was attacked with depth charges causing much oil and air bubbles to appear and an unexplained underwater explosion.
(2) Nauru: 1200/24, Nauru appeared deserted to a reconnaissance Liberator 5 miles off and at 500 feet.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
(2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
(3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
(4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operation areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

I. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA? Engine NAGATO MUTSU FUSO be sunk
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	RYUHO HITAKA
<u>(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAMA PATROLLER	-	UNYO
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	HAGURO } Not yet MYOKO } assigned TONE } Tank CHOKAI } KUMANO } SUZUYA } TIKUMA } * MOGAMI } Poss. proceeds } S from Tank } after 25/12 } * AGANO } Two ISUZU } poss, HAGARA } sunk NOSHIRO } OYODO } * AGANO }
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA } ISUZU } HAGARA } NOSHIRO } OYODO } * AGANO }
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELLEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	WARRAMUNGA ARUNTA HELM RALPH TALBOT SEART VENDETTA CONYNGHAM BAGLEY DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MAHAN REID HUTCHINS BUSH	Approx 40	10	25-30 (some repairing)
	BACHE BROWNSON MULLANY DAIX AMMEN			

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solemons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) CERO) GATO) On Patrol PETO) SCAMP)		20	20
	ALBACORE) GUARDFISH) At Brisbane			
	BLACKFISH) REDFIN) At Milne Bay			
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H. T. ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMELA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u>	BLUE RIDGE			
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS ORION		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		

AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)
 Fighters (incl. 16 twin-eng.) 241
 Light & M/Bombers 157
 SB/Bombers 33
 Flying Boats 2
 Floatplanes 50
 Transport & Obsn. A/C 12

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	INDIANA NORTH CAROLINA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	SHOKAKU ZUIKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	COMPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	* HAYATAKA ZUIHO
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHEMANGO BARNES COPAHEE CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS PENSACOLA MINNEAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	ATAGO * NACHI * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>CCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * REHO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) FAMA * KISO * NATORI * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>KCL</u>	↓	6-7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

Southwest Pacific (Western Section) Eastern Fleet Area East Indies-Philippines

<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOBA

<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA CI KITAGAMI KINU
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<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
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<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
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<u>AW/CVS</u>	CHILDS W. B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOJ
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<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
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<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDUS	Approx 27	10
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<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH) BLUEFISH) CABRILLA) POMPOM) PUPPER) KINGFISH) RASHER) RATON) RAY)	?	6
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On Patrol

K.12) BONEFISH) BOWFIN) COD) GREVILLE) TINOSA) MARWEAL)	At Fremantle
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PELIAS

<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>	
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng.)	168
Light & M/Bombers	55
SE/Bombers	16
Flying Boats	12
Floatplanes	54
Transport & Obsn. A/C	39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle

No. 671

Date 27 December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/27:

- (1) "SC.732" departed Milne Bay 1700/26 was due Goodenough 0300/27.
- (2) "PG.476" escorting "WILLIAM E.CHANNING" departed Lae 0400/25 was due Goodenough 1000/27.
- (3) "YMS.71" escorting "Y.19" departed Lae 1940/25 ETA Milne Bay 1400/27.
- (4) "YMS.53" "SC.744" escorting "JOSIAH EARL" departed Finschhafen 0600/26 ETA Milne Bay 1700/27.
- (5) "MIZAR" (AF) was to depart Caloundra 0300/27 for Milne Bay ETA 0900/30.
- (6) "WARREGO" escorting "KURUMBA" (AO) was to depart vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 1000/26 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/28.
- (7) "TULSA" (PG) departed Sydney 1244/20 for Milne Bay ETA 1300/27.
- (8) "BOWEN" "BALLARAT" "PIRIE" "ARARAT" escorting Convoy TN.197 ("VICTORIA" (AO) "E.D.BAKER" "BOTH" "W.D.BURNHAM" "W.N.BYERS" "S.CRANE" "CITY OF PHILADELPHIA" "J.D.DOTY" "G.EASTMAN" "D.D.FIELD" "W.HUME" "T.JEFFERSON" "F.OLDER" "PENNANT" "W.L.SUBJETTE" "VAN DER LIJN" "WILLIS VAN DEVENTER" "WEST CACTUS" and 7 PT's) departed vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 1400/25 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/28.
- (9) "BUNGAREE" and "LITHGOW" escorting Convoy TN.198 departed Townsville 0250/25 for Port Moresby were due 0900/27.
- (10) "INVERELL" (AMS) departed Townsville 1058/26 for Thursday Is., ETA 1800/29. "INVERELL" to anchor Flinders Is. 1800/27 till 0700/28 and off Cape Grenville 1900/28 till 0700/29.
- (11) "MANUNDA" (AH) departed Port Moresby 1515/26 for Brisbane ETA 0700/30.
- (12) "WARREGO" departed Milne Bay 1715/24 was due Grafton Passage 0600/26.
- (13) "GYMPIE" "BUNDABERG" escorting Convoy MW.51 ("OZARK" "Y.15") departed Milne Bay 1520/24 ETA Grafton Passage 0230/26.
- (14) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) departed Cairns 1621/23 to salvage "MANGOLA" on Corbett Reef was due 1200/24.
- (15) "HDML.1325" was to depart Caloundra 1300/25 for Townsville ETA 1200/28.
- (16) "MILDURA" "COWRA" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy QL.41 (9 MVs, 1 LST, 2 LCIs) departed Caloundra 1611/26 for Gladstone. ETA Bustard Head 1930/27, whence "KALGOORLIE" "MILDURA" proceed independently to Townsville. "COWRA" detailed for Convoy LQ.41.
- (17) "SC.741" escorting "EDWARD CHAMBERS" towing 2 barges departed Caloundra 1030/26 for Gladstone. On arrival Bustard Head "SC.741" proceeds Gladstone to escort Convoy LQ.41.

- (18) "YP.291" departed Cairns 0625/25 for Thursday Is. ETA 0900/29.
 (19) "GEELONG" "YANDRA" escorting Convoy PG.94 (4 MVs) departed Brisbane 1310/26 for Sydney ETA 1700/28.
 (20) "BUNBURY" departed Townsville 2000/25 for Sydney. ETA 1500/29.
 On arrival Sydney to be sailed so as to arrive Melbourne not later than 4 Jan.
 (21) 5 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PC's.1131, 1132 SC's.650, 737, 747
 SC.748 YMS.314
 Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "JANE MOOREHEAD" "MOA MOA"
 "H.L.ABBOTT" "KOORAKA" "VAQUERO" "J.S.SARGENT"
 "JUAN GABRILLO" "LORINNA"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS's.73, 313, 334.
 Merchant Vessels: "GORGON" "A.PIERCE" "T.CORWIN"

Morebe - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
 Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC's.637, 745, 746 YMS's.51
 "TRINITY" (AG) "MERKUR" (AF) "STELLA" "POLARIS"
 (AGS) "RESERVE" "YUNNAN" (ASIS)
 Merchant Vessels: "M.B.BRADY" "ESSO BALBOA"

Bo Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC's.734, 749, 750 YMS.335 "STAWELL"
 (AMS) "WESTRALIA" (APA)
 Merchant Vessels: "WM.PROUSE" "J.ROSS" "G.V.L.MEYER"
 "H.DODGE" "A.THOMAS" "J.PALMER" "C.E.SMITH"
 "R.P.WARNER" "STAGEN" "ALAMO" "VAN HEUTSZ"
 "J.M.CLEMENTS" "M.DALY" "P.HEWITT"

Kiriwina - Merchant Vessels: "MARGARET THWAITES"
 Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - ML.818
 Merchant Vessels: "ANHUI" "WM.BEAUMONT" "A.D.WHITE"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
 "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY"
 "AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "BACHE" "BROWNSON" "MULLANY"
 "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "LAMSON" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM"
 "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA"
 "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS"
 "NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSBY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD"
 "DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREY" (AFD) "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC)
 "BROOME" "SHEPPARTON" (AMS) SC's.647, 648, 698,
 703, 736, 738, 742, 743, 745, 746, 981, 982
 YMS's.11, 49, 50, 52, 70, 72, 315, 336 YP.233
 YP.236 ML's.424, 425, 427, 428, 430, 431, 801,
 806, 816, 819 PC's.479, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122,
 1124 25 LST's 12 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR)
 "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE"
 (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT"
 (AG) "PYRO" (AE) "POLLUX" (AKS) "COUGAL" (ASR)
 "SAN PABLO" (AVP) "TRIANGULUM" (AK)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
 MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "J.ALDEN"
 "BALIKPAPAN" "S.BAMBERGER" "F.N.BLANCHET" "SIMON
 BOLIVAR" "BONTEKOE" "COLORADO" "CAPE ANNE"
 "J.CARROLL" "CORINTH" "F.A.EILERS" "EATMIN"
 "G.E.FLANDERS" "GANIMEDE" "N.HAPGOOD" "ISOLATOR"
 "T.C.LOWE" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN"
 "MIDWEST FARMER" "D.MACLEAY" "MORMACDALE" "JOHN
 MUIR" "F.B.OLSON" "W.H.POINT" "A.RAVALLI"
 "C.M.RUSSELL" "NORAB" "N.J.SINNOTT" "M.M.STEWART"
 "CHAS.P.STEINMETZ" "R.STEWART" "TECUMSEH" "VAN
 SPILBERGEN" "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "KATCOMBA" (AMS) YMS's.8, 46, 47, 48
 ML.426
 Merchant Vessels: "MULIAMA" "HELGA MOLLER"

Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "COOZAMUNDRA" (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "THELENS"

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "KAPUNDA" (AMS) PC.477 YP.280
 ML's.803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)

Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "CASTLEMAINE" (AMS) "BASE MAERSK" (AO)
 Merchant Vessels: -
 Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - ML's. 808, 821
 Merchant Vessels: -
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "SWAN" "COWRA" "KAL-
 GOORLIE" "WHYALLA" "TOWNSVILLE" "MILDURA" (AMS)
 "SUSQUEHANNA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "ORION" (AS)
 "H.T.AILEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "HERON" "HALF MOON"
 (AVP) "ALGORAB" (AKA) "TASMAN" (AH) PC.1123
 ML.80(YMS's.9, 10 HDML.1325 SC's.731, 735.
 (Repairing, Refitting: "GLADSTONE" (AMS)).

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "STUART" escorting "ORION" (AS) to depart Caloundra 1430/28. "STUART" parts company vicinity Sydney and proceeds thither, "ORION" proceeding to Melbourne and Fremantle.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Gatukai Is.: 1526/26, a possible submerged submarine was sighted 13 miles E x S. of Gatukai Island.
- (2) Buin Base:
 (a) 2310/24 and 2310/25, single Liberators carried out harassing attacks on Kahili, while 3 Venturas likewise harassed Faisi.
 (b) 1240/25, 3 Avengers and 26 Dauntless bombed A/A positions on Kangu Hill.
 (c) 1100/26, 18 Mitchells bombed Kahili bivouac and supply areas.
- (3) Kieta area:
 (a) Dec 25, 11 Corsairs in two flights strafed the area from Tinputz Harbour to Arawa Bay.
 (b) Dec 26, 2 Venturas bombed a bridge and huts at Chivaroi (17 miles S.E. Kieta). No barges were sighted between Kieta and Tonolei.
 (c) 0800-1550/26, 53 Dauntless and 24 Avengers in 6 plane elements bombed and strafed Kieta Harbour at 45 minute intervals, destroying 30-40 buildings and numerous huts.
- (4) Empress Augusta Bay:
 (a) 0400/24, 2 enemy aircraft strafed and bombed the fighter strip on Puruata Island causing no material damage.
 (b) Dec 25, the following attacks were made in support of our ground forces:
 1000/25, 12 Avengers bombed the N.E. sector.
 1240/25, 16 Dauntless bombed the Mutupina Pt. area.
 1700/25, 13 Avengers bombed the N.E. sector.
 (c) Dec 24-25, allied patrols in the Torokina sector located about 25 occupied covered emplacements 400-600 yards N. of the hill previously attacked. The Japanese appear to be establishing a defence line at that point. An allied patrol contacted some enemy 200 yards E. of the Torokina River mouth. Four battalions of allied artillery bombarded Japanese positions.
- (5) Buka Passage area:
 (a) 1155/25, 20 Avengers bombed A/A positions at Buka, Bonis and Sohana Island.
 (b) 0400-0530/26, night fighters bombed Ruri, Chabai and Tsirogei.
- (6) Cape Saint George: 1100/26, 7 Mitchells escorted by 34 fighters bombed and strafed the radar station at Cape St. George. One Mitchell was lost but some of the crew were rescued.
- (7) East Cape: 2330/26, 3 small craft were attacked by aircraft off East Cape.
 This is still further evidence of the staging of barges down the East coast of New Ireland during the night hours.
- (8) Kavieng:
 (a) Dec 25: On Christmas morning allied carrier-based aircraft executed a successful attack on shipping at Kavieng. The target consisted of:
 2 destroyers
 2 large cargo vessels
 1 medium cargo vessel
 8 small cargo vessels
 13 ships
 and 20-30 barges.

(8) Kavieng (Contd):

Photos reveal the following estimated results:

Sunk: 1 destroyer
2 large cargo vessels
3 barges

Heavily damaged and possibly sunk:

1 destroyer
Several small cargo vessels and barges
1 PT boat.

Damaged by strafing:

8 - 10 floatplanes at anchor.

In addition, 1 flying boat and two medium bombers were destroyed during the day by escorting fighters.

Allied losses were 1 damaged torpedo bomber which made a water landing, heavy A/A damage to 2 torpedo bombers and slight damage to 9 other aircraft. One man was killed, one wounded and 3 are missing.

At dusk, the allied Task Force was heavily attacked by 18 medium bombers without damage to our ships.

(b) 2345/25, 5 Catalinas bombed Kavieng strip and dispersal areas, causing explosions and fires.

A small ship was observed off Kaut (15 miles S. of Kavieng) also floating lights here, at Balgai and eastwards.

(9) Rabaul:

(a) 1840/25, a landing barge loaded with troops 30 miles ENE of Rabaul was heavily strafed and sunk.

(b) 1200/25, Liberators bombed Rabaul. Incomplete reports from 63 escorting fighters show that 50-60 enemy fighters which attempted interception, 13 were shot down and 7 probably destroyed. We lost 2 fighters and 2 are missing.

(10) Manus Island area: A convoy proceeding probably from the Bismarcks to the Mandates was reported as follows:

1300/26	1 light cruiser	60 miles	Course
	1 destroyer	E. by N.	310°
	2 freighters	Lorengau	

(11) Open Bay: 0745/26, a formation of unidentified aircraft was heard to the South West of Open Bay.

(12) Cape Hoskins:

(a) 1030/25, 2 Kittyhawks bombed and strafed unserviceable barges and other targets in the area.

(b) 0655/26, 2 destroyers crowded with troops were reported off Cape Hoskins on a North Easterly course.

(13) Arawe:

(a) 1650/21, a revised estimate of enemy losses when 7 Thunderbolts intercepted 40-50 divebombers and fighters over Arawe claims 7 divebombers definitely destroyed and 3 divebombers and 1 fighter probably destroyed.

(b) 0930/25-0430/26: Four raids were made by enemy aircraft.

(c) 0845/26, 25 to 30 planes raided Arawe, one of which was shot down.

(d) 1400/25, 9 Bostons bombed and strafed Utingalu and Didmop village areas.

(e) 1415/25, 9 Bostons bombed and strafed a track along the East bank of the Pulie River and the Pulie River mouth.

(14) Cape Gloucester:

(a) Dec 26, following naval bombardment and air attacks our troops landed in the Cape Gloucester area.

0900/26, an enemy air attack force was turned back by our air cover.

1200/26, all landings were completed according to plan.

No opposition was encountered at the landing points.

(b) 0813-1513/25, 61 Liberators, 53 Mitchells, 8 Marauders, 39 Bostons with 32 escorting Thunderbolts, dropped 262 tons of bombs on the Cape Gloucester area.

(c) Dec 26, further heavy attacks by Liberators, Mitchells and Bostons were carried out.

(d) 0840/26, 25-30 unidentified aircraft flew towards Madang, 30 miles N. of Cape Gloucester.

(15) Long Island: 0950/25, a reconnaissance plane was reported flying south over Long Island.

- (16) Wewak: 1320/22, 3 fighters were destroyed and 1 probably destroyed by 4 Thunderbolts over Wewak.
- (17) Hansa Bay-Uligan Harbour:
 (a) 0740/25, the following shipping was sighted in Hansa Bay:
 1 sea truck
 2 luggers
 4-6 barges
 (b) 0740/25, 2 large luggers and at least 12 barges, also 2 large piles of stores, were observed around Uligan Harbour (45 miles SE of Hansa Bay).
- (18) Alexishafen:
 (a) 1600/24, 6 Thunderbolts strafed targets in the area.
 (b) 1015/25, 10 Mitchells bombed No.2 strip at Alexishafen.
 (c) 0935/25, 6 Thunderbolts strafed 2 barges at Sic, where an additional 3 barges were sighted.
 (d) Night Dec 25-26, PT's destroyed 2 southbound empty barges off Nambariwa.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/27:

- (1) "LATROBE" escorting "TULAGI" was to depart Darwin 0800/25 for Thursday Island.
 (2) 8 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML's.429, 814, 815
 Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR" "DUNDULA" "DILGA".

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/27:

- (1) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1325/23 for Exmouth Gulf.
 (2) "HORSHAM" escorting "COLINA" departed Fremantle 1040/24 for Geraldton and Onslow. On return escorting "ONDINA" Exmouth to Fremantle.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN"
 "TJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "DUBBO" (AMS) "PRESTON" (AVD)
 "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOORWILL"
 (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (FY) SC.739 YP.286
 Merchant Vessels: -
 Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILDS" (AV)
 Merchant Vessels: -

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/27:

- (1) "VENDETTA" (DD) departed Sydney 2200/25 to RV with "FRED AINSWORTH" at 0900/27 in position 24°18'S 155°01'E and escort to Lady Elliott Is. thence to proceed Caloundra ETA 0700/28 Dec.
 (2) "WILCANNIA" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" "ML.811" escorting Convoy GP.95 (3 MVs) departed Sydney 0745/26 for Caloundra ETA 1500/28.
 (3) "MORESBY" was to depart Sydney 1130/27 for Cairns ETA 2000/31. "MORESBY" to proceed later to Milne Bay.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "TALBOT" (APD) "VENDETTA" "CONVERSE"
"STACK" (DD) "WARRNAMBOOL" "DELORAINÉ" "ECHUCA"
"ROCKHAMPTON" "GOULBURN" "GLENELG" "COLAC" (AMS)
"MANOORA" (APA) "HILO" (PG) "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN"
"KYBRA" "DOOMBA" (A/S Vessels) "GOLDSTAR" (AG)
ML's. 802, 807, 817, 822, 823.
(Repairing, Refitting - "HOBART" (CL)).
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS) "PATROLLER"
(CV(E)).
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

B. CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Truk: Early Dec 27 enemy force was sighted proceeding from the Mandates towards the Bismarcks as follows:
- | | | | |
|---------|------------------|-----------|--------|
| 0920/27 | 1 battleship | 180 miles | Course |
| | ("Nagato" Class) | South of | 210° |
| | 1 heavy cruiser | Truk | |
| | 2 destroyers | | |

This force may well consist of 2 heavy cruisers and 2 destroyers proceeding to the Bismarcks with reinforcements or for offensive action in view of recent allied forward moves in New Britain.

NAVAL INCIDENTS

- (1) Milne Bay:
- (i) "SAMUEL K. BARLOW" aground in Raven Channel. "STAWELL" to proceed with despatch and render all assistance possible.
 - (ii) "PUEBLO" (AO) aground on Dorasi Shoal S.E. of North Foreland, China Strait. Tug "SPRIGHTLY" ordered to detach from Convoy TN.197 and proceed with all despatch to render assistance.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operation areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

---00c---

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

I. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	<u>Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Caroline Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV///</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	RYUHO HITAKA
<u>(E)</u>	PATROLLER	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA COPAHEE	-	UNYO
<u>GA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	HAGURO MYOKO TONE CHOKAI EUMANO SUZUYA TIKUMA * NOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBA I CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA)Two ISUZU)poss. NAGARA)sunk HOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	AMMEN ARUNTA BUSH HELM MULLANY RALPH TALBOT WARRAMUNGA MUGFORD BAGLEY CONYNGHAM DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON REID SHAW SMITH	Approx 40	10	25-30 (some repairing)
		BACHE BEALE BROWNSON DALY HUTCHINS STUART VENDETTA		

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO CERO GATO PETO SCAMP ALBACORE GUARDFISH BLACKFISH REDFIN	} } } On Patrol } } At Brisbane } At Milne Bay	20	20
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T. ALLEN MANCORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u>	BLUE RIDGE			
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS ORION		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)</u>				
Fighters (incl. 16 twin-eng.)		198		
Light & M/Bombers		155		
SE/Bombers		45		
Flying Boats		2		
Floatplanes		50		
Transport & Obsn. A/C		12		

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>OL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA
<u>CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>SS</u>	22	5
<u>AS</u>	10	Approx 4
	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

INDIANA
NORTH CAROLINA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO
* HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

SHOKAKU
ZUIKAKU

CV(L)

COWPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

* HAYATAKA
ZUIHO

CV(T)

-

HOSHO

CV(E)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA
CHITOSE

CA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
PENSACOLA
MINNEAPOLIS
INDIANAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

ATAGO
* NACHI
* TAKAO
* MAYA

OCA

-

6

CL

OAKLAND
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YANAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* NATORI
* YUBARI

CL(T)

-

KASHIMA

XCL

-

6-7

AV/CVS

PCCOMOKE

CHIYODA

AV/XCVS

-

3

SS

Approx 35

Approx 30

AS

Approx 50

Approx 30

?

2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

Southwest Pacific (Western Section) Eastern Fleet Area East Indies-Philippines

<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLE	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOBA

<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE TROMP	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
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<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
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<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
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<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOJ
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<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
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<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDERS	Approx 27	10
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<u>SS</u>	BILLFISH) BLUEFISH) CABRILLA) POMPOM) PUFFER) KINGFISH) RASHER) RATON) RAY)	?	6
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On Patrol

K.12) BONEFISH) BOWFIN) COD) GREVILLE) TINOSA) MARWHEAL)	At Fremantle
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AAS PELIAS

<u>AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)</u>	
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng)	168
Light & M/Bombers	55
SE/Bombers	16
Flying Boats	12
Floatplanes	54
Transport & Obsn. A/C	39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle

No. 699 Date 28 December, 1943

PART I.

A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

NORTH EASTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/28:

- (1) "PC.1124" "SC.745" "SC.982" escorting Convoy BG.6 ("F.J.IRWIN" "AMY LOWELL") departed Milne Bay 1300/26. ETA Lae "F.J.IRWIN" escorted by "SC.745" "SC.98" 2200/27; ETA Finschhafen "AMY LOWELL" escorted by "PC.1124" 0600/28.
- (2) "PC.476" escorting "WILLIAM E.CHANNING" departed Lae 0400/25 was due Goodenough 1000/27.
- (3) "YMS.53" "SC.744" escorting "JOSIAH EARL" departed Finschhafen 0630/26 ETA Milne Bay 1700/27.
- (4) "MIZAR" (AF) was to depart Caloundra 0300/27 for Milne Bay ETA 0900/30.
- (5) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Brisbane 0400/28 for Milne Bay ETA p.m. Dec.31.
- (6) "WARREGO" escorting "KURUMBA" (AO) was to depart vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 1000/26 for Milne Bay ETA 1100/28.
- (7) "BOWEN" "BALLARAT" "PIRIE" "ARARAT" escorting Convoy TN.197 ("VICTORIA" "MOBIL OIL" (AO) "E.D.BAKER" "BOTH" "W.D.BURNHAM" "W.N.BYERS" "S.CRANE" "CITY OF PHILADELPHIA" "J.D.DOTY" "G.EASTMAN" "D.D.FIELD" "W.HUME" "T.JEFFERSON" "F.OLDER" "PENNANT" "W.L.SUBJETTE" "VAN DER LIJN" "WILLIS VAN DEVENTER" "WEST CACTUS" and 7 PT's) departed vicinity Fitzroy Island at approx 1400/25 for Milne Bay, were due 1100/28.
- (8) "KAPUNDA" escorting Convoy TN.199 ("PETER DESMET" "GEORGE STIRLING") departed Cairns 0700/27 for Milne Bay ETA 2000/29.
- (9) "BUNDABERG" "GYMPIE" "CASTLEMAINE" escorting Convoy TN.200 ("PATRAS" "CORIO" for Port Moresby, "FRANCIS G.NEWLAND" "WEST TEXAS" "FLOYD BENNETT" for Milne Bay) sailed to RV off Fitzroy Is. at 1400/28. "BUNDABERG" "GYMPIE" escort Portion "B" to Milne Bay ETA 1100/31; "CASTLEMAINE" escorts Portion "A" to Port Moresby ETA 1000/31.
- (10) "BROOME" escorting Convoy MV.52 ("BONTEKOE" "BALIKPAPAN" "W.H.POINT" "VAN SPILBERGEN") departed Milne Bay 1430/26 for Townsville ETA 1930/29.
- (11) "INVERELL" (AMS) departed Townsville 1058/26 for Thursday Is., ETA 1800/29. "INVERELL" to anchor Flinders Is. 1800/27 till 0700/28 and off Cape Grenville 1900/28 till 0700/29.
- (12) "MANUNDA" (AH) departed Port Moresby 1515/26 for Brisbane ETA 0700/30.
- (13) "WARREGO" departed Milne Bay 1715/24 was due Grafton Passage 0600/26.
- (14) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) departed Cairns 1621/23 to salvage "MANGOLA" on Corbett Reef was due 1200/24.
- (15) "HDML.1325" was to depart Caloundra 1300/25 for Townsville ETA 1200/28.
- (16) "MILDURA" "COWRA" "KALGOORLIE" escorting Convoy QL.41 (9 MVs, 1 LST, 2 LCIs) departed Caloundra 1611/26 for Gladstone, ETA Bustard Head 1930/27, whence "KALGOORLIE" "MILDURA" proceed independently to Townsville. "COWRA" detailed for Convoy IQ.41.

- (17) "SC.741" escorting "EDWARD CHAMBERS" towing 2 barges departed Caloundra 1030/26 for Gladstone. "EDWARD CHAMBERS" broke down and proceeding at 2 knots to Lady Elliott Island escorted by "SC.741".
- (18) "YP.291" departed Cairns 0625/25 for Thursday Is. ETA 0900/29.
- (19) "WILCANNIA" "ABRAHAM GRIJNSSEN" "ML.811" escorting Convoy GP.95 (3 MVs) departed Sydney 0745/26 for Caloundra ETA 1300/28. "ML.811" detached to escort one straggling MV.
- (20) "VENDETTA" (DD) departed Sydney 2200/25 to RV at 1400/27 with "FRED AINSWORTH" in position 24°18'S 155°01'E and escort to Lady Elliott Island whence "VENDETTA" proceeds Caloundra, was due 0700/28.
- (21) "BUNBURY" departed Townsville 2000/25 for Sydney. ETA 1500/29. On arrival Sydney to be sailed so as to arrive Melbourne not later than 4 Jan.
- (22) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen	- Warships & Aux. - PC.1132 SC's.650, 737, 747, 748, 750 YMS.314 Merchant Vessels: "COMARA" "JANE MOOREHEAD" "MOA MOA" "H.L.ABBOTT" "KOORAKA" "VAQUERO" "J.S.SARGENT" "JUAN CABRILLO" "LORINNA" "KOONDOOLOO"
Lae	- Warships & Aux. - YMS.313 Merchant Vessels: "A.PIERCE" "T.CORWIN" "ARGOSY LEMAL"
Morobe	- Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP) Merchant Vessels: -
Buna	- Warships & Aux. - SC's.637, 745, 746 YMS's.51, 73 "TRINITY" (AO) "MERKUR" (AF) "STELLA" "POLARIS" (AGS) "RESERVE" "YUNNAN" "PING WO" (ASIS) Merchant Vessels: "M.B.BRADY" "ESSO BALBOA" "GORGON"
Oro Bay	- Warships & Aux. - SC.734 "WESTRALIA" (APA) Merchant Vessels: "WM.PROUSE" "J.ROSE" "G.V.L.MEYER" "H.DODGE" "A.THOMAS" "J.PALMER" "C.E.SMITH" "R.P.WARNER" "STAGEN" "ALAMO" "VAN HEUTSZ" "J.M.CLEMENTS" "M.DALY" "P.HEWITT"
Kiriwina	- Warships & Aux. - - Merchant Vessels: "MARGARET THWAITES"
Goodenough Is.	- Warships & Aux. - ML.818 SC.732 Merchant Vessels: "ANHUI" "WM.BEAUMONT" "A.D.WHITE"
Milne Bay	- Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (OL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY" "AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "BACHE" "MULLANY" "MUGFORD" "BAGIE Y" "LAWSON" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SAHW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNPA" "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSBY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREY" (APD) "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) "STAWELL" "SHEPPARTON" (AMS) "TULSA" (PG) SC's.647, 648, 698, SC's.705, 736, 738, 742, 743, 746, 749, 981 YMS's.11, 49, 50, 52, 70, 71, 72, 315, 334, 335, 336 YP's.233, 236 ML's.424, 425, 427, 428, 430, 431, ML's.801, 806, 816, 819 PC's.479, 1119, 1120, PC's.1121, 1122, 1131 25 LST's 12 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "CARTER HALL" (LSD) "LOOKOUT" (AG) "PYRO" (AE) "POLLUX" (AKS) "COUCAL" (ASR) "SAN PABLO" (AVP)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "J.ALDEN"
"S.BAMBERGER" "F.N.BLANCHET" "SIMON BOLIVAR"
"COLORADO" "CAPE ANNE" "J.CARROLL" "CORINTH"
"F.A.EILERS" "ETAMIN" "G.H.FLANDERS" "GANYMEDE"
"N.HAPGOOD" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MIDWEST
FARMER" "D.MACLEAY" "MORMACDALE" "JOHN MUIR"
"F.B.OLSON" "A.RAVALLI" "C.M.RUSSELL" "NORAB"
"N.J.SINNOTT" "M.M.STEWART" "CHAS.P.STEINMETZ"
"R.STEWART" "TECUMSEH" "TRIANGULUM" "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - "KATOOMBA" "LITHGOW" (AMS)
 YMS's. 8, 46, 47, 48 ML. 426 "BUNGAREE" (CM)
 Merchant Vessels: "MULIAMA" "HELGA MOLLER" "CONTESSA"
 Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "COOTAMUNDRA" "LATROBE" (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "TULAGI" "SCHWEDAGON" "ALAGNA"
 "ADMIRAL CHASE"
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "GYMPIE" "BUNDABERG" (AMS) PC. 477
 YP. 280 ML's. 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "CASTLEMAINE" (AMS) "AASE MAERSK" (AO)
 Merchant Vessels: -
 Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - ML's. 808, 821
 Merchant Vessels: -
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "STUART" (DD) "SWAN" "TOWNSVILLE"
 "MILDURA" (AMS) "SUSQUEHANNA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO)
 "ORION" (AS) "H.T. ALLEN" "KANIMBLA" (APA) "HERON"
 "HALF MOON" (AVP) "ALGORAB" (AKA) PC. 1123 ML. 809
 YMS's. 9, 10 SC's. 731, 735.
 (Repairing, Refitting: "GLADSTONE" (AMS))

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "STUART" escorting "ORION" (AS) to depart Caloundra 1430/28. "STUART" parts company vicinity Sydney and proceeds thither, "ORION" proceeding to Fremantle.
- (2) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting "ALAGNA" "SCHWEDAGON" "ADMIRAL CHASE" to depart Thursday Island 1500/28 for Darwin ETA 1730/2.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Bougainville-Buka:
 - (a) Night Dec 26-27, harassing attacks were carried out by one aircraft on Buka, Bonis, Wuma Numa and Kahili.
 - (b) Photos Dec 26 show all Solomons runways unserviceable.
- (2) Kahili:
 - (a) Photos Dec 26 show 4 new automatic A/A positions, making a total of 5.
 - (b) Dec 27, 3 Mitchells bombed supply dumps at Kahili.
- (3) Buka:
 - (a) Photos Dec 26 show 9 barges in Matchin Bay.
 - (b) 1033/27, 14 Mitchells bombed Buka floatplane anchorage and Ramandata.
Two barges were sighted in an inlet West of Buka.
 - (c) 1055-1105/27, 54 Dauntless, 22 Avengers, escorted by 16 Lightnings bombed A/A positions at Buka. 2 Dauntless were slightly damaged.
- (4) Kieta: 1002/27, 6 Mitchells bombed bivouac area and Chinatown.
- (5) Feni Islands: Dec 27, 3 Venturas bombed several, mostly unserviceable, barges in the group.
- (6) Kavieng:
 - (a) 0002-0310/27, 5 Catalinas bombed and strafed Kavieng aerodrome, causing many fires. A/A engaged and shot down a probable enemy aircraft.
 - (b) 0420/28, 7 barges on course 140° were sighted by aircraft 9 miles NW of Kavieng.
- (7) Rabaul:

Dec 26, Soupac photos reveal:

Aircraft:	F.	LB.	MB.	DB.	FP.	FE.	
Tobera	12	-	-	-	-	-	
Vunakanau	-	3	10	-	-	-	
Keravat	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rapopo	9	2	7	1	-	-	
Lakunai	74	-	6	16	-	-	
Harbour	-	-	-	-	17	1	Total Aircraft
	95	5	23	17	17	1	158

Tobera and Lakunai are serviceable; Vunakanau is serviceable for the NW 2/3 of the strip; and Keravat is serviceable but rough.

Shipping: Dec. 26
 Rabaul 7 destroyers
 3 submarines
 2 sub-chasers
 14 MVs (medium)
 14 MVs (small)
 40 vessels

Dec. 25 (Incomplete)
 4 destroyers
 2 sub-chasers
 2 tankers
 3 MVs
 Total 11 vessels

(7) Rabaul (Contd.)
Shipping: (Contd)

	Dec.26	Dec.25 (Incomplete)
Vunapope	2 MVs 25 barges (approx)	1 MV 3 barges

Two of the 7 destroyers were off Watom Island, headed for Rabaul, at 1236/26. It is recalled that 0655/26 two destroyers loaded with troops were reported off Cape Hoskins on a North-easterly course. These might well be those off Watom Is. at noonday, returning to Rabaul without having completed their transportation mission, probably to the Cape Hoskins area.

The 425 barges are the largest concentration yet reported in this area and indicate further the enemy's intention of using these craft in operations in New Britain and possibly the N.Solomons.

Installations:

Two dual purpose 4.7" naval guns on a ridge 1 mile SW of Keravia with 6 automatic A/A guns and a rotating centre control radar installation 1,000 feet away.

- (8) Ubili: The following aircraft sightings have been reported:
- | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| (a) 0725/27 | 52 bombers and 30 fighters with 115 fighters as top cover | Course 240° |
| (b) 1000/27 | A large number of aircraft was heard in the Ubili area. | Course N.E. |
| (c) 1900/27 | An unidentified flight of aircraft was heard S.W. of Ubili | No course. |
- (9) Wide Bay: 1720/27 A large formation of aircraft was heard NW of Wide Bay, flying West.
- (10) Cape Hoskins:
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| (a) 0740/27 | 20 unidentified aircraft flew West over Cape Hoskins. |
| (b) 1826/27 | 2 bombers flew SW over Cape Hoskins. |
- (11) Talasea area: 0330/26, a small unidentified vessel was sighted by aircraft 60 miles NE by N of Talasea. This may indicate a possible destroyer transportation run to Garove Is. or north New Britain coast.
- (12) Arawe:
- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) Dec 25/27, the following air raids were reported: | |
| 2150-2237/25 | 7 bombs were dropped without damage by an unknown number of aircraft. |
| 0321-0423/26 | 3 bombs were dropped without damage. |
| 0847-0912/26 | 20 divebombers escorted by 12 fighters attacked shipping without damage. Two divebombers were shot down. |
| 2154-2240/26 | One plane flew over the area - no bombs. |
| 0029-0122/27 | Red alert. |
| 0225-0347/27 | Red alert. |
| 0410-0445/27 | 21 bombs were dropped near Bilelo Is. A/A shot down 3 aircraft. |
| 0841-0937/27 | Approx 50 enemy aircraft were intercepted, 4 being definitely, 1 probably, shot down. The enemy jettisoned their bombs without damage. |
| (b) Dec 25, our troops repulsed three enemy attacks on the right flank whereupon the enemy withdrew. A patrol at Meselia encountered enemy with booby traps and machine guns, killing 10 and wounding many others before withdrawing to Utingalu. | |
| (c) 1637/26, 6 barges were sighted by aircraft off Cape Beiho. Serviceability undetermined. | |
| (d) 0830/27, PT's shot down 4 divebombers of a force of 25-30 divebombers and fighters which attacked them 15 miles W. of Arawe. | |
- (13) Cape Gloucester: See Naval Incidents.
- (14) Long Island: Dec 26-27, aircraft sightings were reported as follows:
- | | | |
|---------|--|--------------|
| 1216/26 | A number of aircraft over Long Is. | Course 120° |
| 1032/27 | A flight unidentified aircraft 10 miles N. of Long Island. | Course East. |
- (15) Manus Island area: 1300/27, a southbound enemy submarine was attacked 120 miles N. of Lorengau.

(16) Huon Peninsula:

- (a) Dec 27, our ground forces have captured Ago and Walingai.
(b) 1017/27, 18 Mitchells bombed and strafed Kanomi (10 miles WNW of Fortification Point).

(17) Goodenough Island: 0305-0355/26, three unidentified aircraft approached the Island from the North, causing a Red warning to be sounded.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/28:

- (1) 8 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML's.429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR" "DUNDULA" "DILGA".

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Celebes: On Dec 27, a small enemy convoy bound possibly for Timor or Ambon was sighted by aircraft off the SE tip of Celebes.
1326/27 1 escort vessel or Near entrance Course
minelayer to Boetoeng 95°
1 freighter transport (med.) Strait
1 freighter (large)

The convoy was attacked, one near miss with 500 lb. bombs being scored on each of the merchant ships, the freighter transport being observed listing after the attack.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/28:

- (1) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1325/23 for Exmouth Gulf.
(2) "MORSHAM" escorting "COLINA" departed Geraldton 1445/27 ETA Onslow 1300/29. On return escorting "ONDINA" Exmouth to Fremantle.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN"
"TJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "DUBBO" (AMS) "PRESTON" (AVD)
"CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOORWILL"
(AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.286
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILDS" (AV)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/28:

- (1) "MORESBY" departed Sydney 1130/27 for Cairns ETA 2000/31. "MORESBY" to proceed later to Milne Bay.
(2) "GEELONG" "YANDRA" escorting Convoy PG.94 (4 MVs) departed Brisbane 1310/26 for Sydney ETA 1700/28.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "TALBOT" (APD) "CONVERSE" "STACK"
(DD) "WARRNAMBOOL" "DELORAIN" "ECHUCA"
"ROCKHAMPTON" "GOULBURN" "GLENEELG" "COLAC" (AMS)
"MANDORA" (APA) "HELO" (PG) "KYBRA" "DOOMBA" (A/S
Vessels) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) ML's.802, 807, 817, 822
ML.823.
(Repairing, Refitting - "HOBART" (CL)).

Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS) "PATROLLER"
(CV(E)).
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

(c) Proposed Movement:

- (1) "PATROLLER" (CV(E)) to depart Port Phillip 1230/28 for Fremantle.

B. CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

- (1) Carolines: Dec 26, a serviceable runway 3,600 feet long with revetments, taxiways and dispersal areas, was sighted by aircraft on an island in the Nomoi Group (150 miles SE of Truk). No aircraft and no A/A were observed.
One 1,500 ton cargo vessel was moored alongside a 150 foot pier on the North side of the island.

NAVAL INCIDENTS

- (1) Cape Gloucester: At dawn on Dec 26, United States Marines landed in strength at points 7 miles South of Cape Gloucester and on the Western shore of Borgen Bay.

Prior to the landing, an allied cruiser and destroyer Task Force bombarded both beaches for nearly one hour, while beaches and gun positions inland were bombed and heavily strafed by 42 Liberators and 52 Mitchells with fighter escort. They dropped over 140 tons of bombs, including 1,000 lb. bombs and phosphorous bombs which laid an effective smoke screen.

The original landings were made almost without opposition, but a small formation of enemy aircraft attacked our landing craft in Borgen Bay two hours later.

Throughout the day our air attacks were continued, 265 ^{TONS of} bombs being dropped in addition to strafing attacks, by an additional 64 Liberators, 51 Mitchells and 32 Bostons with fighter escort.

In the afternoon 40 divebombers, 20 medium bombers and 60 fighters attacked our beachheads and ships offshore. We lost one destroyer by a direct hit and three others were damaged. Our operations were not affected by the attacks.

The enemy's total losses were 61 aircraft including 36 bombers and 25 fighters, and others probable.

We lost 7 of our aircraft and others were damaged.

- (2) Milne Bay:

- (1) "SAMUEL K. BARLOW" aground in Raven Channel. "STAWELL" to proceed with despatch and render all assistance possible.
(11) "PUEBLO" (AO) aground on Dorasi Shoal S.E. of North Foreland, China Strait. Tug "SPRIGHTLY" ordered to detach from Convoy TN.197 and proceed with all despatch to render assistance.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
(2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
(3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
(4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operation areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

--oOo--

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	<u>Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	--	RYUHO HITAKA
<u>CV(E)</u>	PATROLLER	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA COPAHEE	-	UNYO
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	KUMANO SUZUYA	HAGURO MYOKO TONE CHOKAI TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA)Two ISUZU)poss. NAGARA)sunk HOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/CVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	AMMEN ARUNTA BUSH HELM MULLANY RALPH TALBOT WARRAMUNGA BAGLEY CONYNGHAM DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MUGFORD REID SHAW SMITH	Approx 40	10	25-30 (some repairing)
		BACHE BEALE BROWNSON DALY HUTCHINS STUART VENDETTA		

* Non-effective

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

INDIANA
NORTH CAROLINA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO
* HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

SHOKAKU
ZUIKAKU

CV(L)

COMPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

* HAYATAKA
ZUIHO

CV(T)

-

HOSHO

CV(E)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA
CHITOSE

CA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
PENSACOLA
MINNEAPOLIS
INDIANAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

ATAGO
* NACHI
* TAKAO
* MAYA

OCA

-

6

CL

OAKLAND
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
TAMA
* KISO
* NATORI
* YUBARI

CL(T)

-

KASHIMA

XCL

-

6-7

V/CVS

POCOMOKE

CHIYODA

XAV/XCVS

-

3

DD

Approx 35

Approx 30

SS

Approx 50

Approx 30

AS

?

2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

D 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BB</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOBA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE TROMP	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XGL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDES	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BLUEFISH) CABRILLA) POMPOM) PUFFER) KINGFISH) RASHER) RATON) RAY) K.12) BILLFISH) BONEFISH) BOWFIN) COD) GREVALLE) TIN OSA) MARWHAL)	? On Patrol At Fremantle	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		

AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)	
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng)	168
Light & M/Bombers	55
SE/Bombers	16
Flying Boats	12
Floatplanes	54
Transport & Obsn. A/C	39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA
Combined Operational Intelligence Centre
DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.
Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle

No. 700

Date 29 December, 1943.

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(a) At Sea to 1200/29:

- (1) "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) with "CARTER HALL" (LSD) departed Milne Bay 0430/28 for Buna ETA 1800/28.
- (2) "ML.431" departed Milne Bay 1650/28 for Buna.
- (3) "YMS.335" escorting "Y.19" departed Milne Bay 1000/28 for Lae ETA 0700/30.
- (4) "ML.424" escorting "G.H.FLANDERS" departed Milne Bay 1030/28 ETA Woodlark 0900/29.
- (5) "MIZAR" (AF) departed Caloundra 0300/27 ETA Milne Bay 0900/30.
- (6) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Brisbane 0400/28 for Milne Bay ETA p.m. Dec.31.
- (7) "KAPUNDA" escorting Convoy TN.199 ("PETER DESMET" "GEORGE STIRLING") departed Cairns 0700/27 for Milne Bay ETA 2000/29.
- (8) "BUNDABERG" "GYMPIE" "CASTLEMAINE" escorting Convoy TN.200 ("PATRAS" "CORIO" for Port Moresby, "FRANCIS G.NEWLAND" "WEST TEXAS" for Milne Bay) sailed to RV off Fitzroy Is. at 1400/28. "BUNDABERG" "GYMPIE" escort Portion "B" to Milne Bay ETA 1100/31; "CASTLEMAINE" escorts Portion "A" to Port Moresby ETA 1000/31.
- (9) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting Convoy TD.40 ("ALAGNA" "ADMIRAL CHASE" "SCHWEDAGON") departed Thursday Island 1500/28 for Darwin ETA 1630/2 Jan.
- (10) "INVERELL" (AMS) departed Townsville 1058/26 for Thursday Is., ETA 1800/29. "INVERELL" to anchor Flinders Is. 1800/27 till 0700/28 and off Cape Grenville 1900/28 till 0700/29.
- (11) "MANUNDA" (AH) departed Port Moresby 1515/26 for Brisbane ETA 0700/30.
- (12) "WARREGO" departed Milne Bay 1000/28 ETA Grafton Passage 0600/30.
- (13) "PIRIE" departed Milne Bay 1815/28 ETA Grafton Passage 1300/30.
- (14) "MILDURA" "KALGOORLIE" proceeding Townsville were due 1100/29.
- (15) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) departed Cairns 1621/23 to salvage "MANGOLA" on Corbett Reef was due 1200/24.
- (16) "HDML.1325" was to depart Caloundra 1300/25 for Townsville ETA 1200/28.
- (17) "MORESEY" departed Sydney 1130/27 for Townsville. "MORESEY" to proceed Cairns and later to Milne Bay.
- (18) "COWRA" escorting "MAGNOLIA" for Sydney departed Gladstone 1900/28. "COWRA" to detach in position 26°08'S 154°41'E and return to Sydney ETA 0900/31.
- (19) "ML.808" "ML.821" escorting Convoy LQ.41 (1 MV) departed Gladstone 1900/28 ETA Brisbane 0845/30.
- (20) "AASE MAERSK" (AO) departed Townsville 1830/28 ETA Gladstone 1230/30.

(21) "STUART" escorting "ORION" (AS) departed Brisbane 1100/28. "STUART" to detach off Sydney and proceed thither, "ORION" proceeding independently to Fremantle ETA 1630/5 Jan.

(22) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PC's.1124, 1132 SC's.650, 737, 747, SC's.748, 750 YMS.314
Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "JUAN CABRILLO" "AMY LOWELL" "YAQUERO" "J.S.SARGENT" "COMARA" "KOONDOOLOO" "LORINNA" "MOA MOA" "JANE MOOREHEAD"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS.313 SC's.745, 982
Merchant Vessels: "A.PIERCE" "T.CORWIN" "F.J.IRWIN"

Morobe - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Merchant Vessels:

Buna - Warships & Aux. - SC's.637, 745, 746 YMS's.51, 73
"TRINITY" (AO) "HERKUR" (AF) "STELLA" "POLARIS" (AGS) "RESERVE" "YUNNAN" "PING WO" (ASIS)
Merchant Vessels: "M.B.BRADY" "ESSO BALBOA" "GORGON"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734
Merchant Vessels: "WM.PROUSE" "J.ORSS" "G.V.L.MEYER" "H.DODGE" "A.THOMAS" "J.PALMER" "PONCE" "R.P.WARNER" "STAGEN" "ALAMO" "VAN HEUTSZ" "J.M.CLEMENTS" "H.DALY" "P.HEWITT" "A.F.LINDBERGH"

Kiriwina - Warships & Aux. -
Merchant Vessels: "MARGARET THWAITES"

Woodlark - Warships & Aux. -
Merchant Vessels:

Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - ML.318 SC.732
Merchant Vessels: "ANHUI" "WM.BEAUMONT" "ISOLATOR" "A.D.WHITE"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA) "PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY" "AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "BACHE" "MULLANY" "MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "LAMSON" "DRAYTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSSBY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "DENT" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) "ARRARAT" "BOWEN" "BALLARAT" "STAWELL" "SHEPPARTON" (AMS) "TULSA" (PG) SC.647 SC's.648, 698, 703, 736, 738, 742, 743, 744, 746, SC's.749, 981 YMS's.11, 49, 50, 52, 53, 70, 71, YMS's.72, 315, 334, 336 YP's.233, 235, 291 ML's.425, 427, 428, 430, 801, 806, 816, 819 PC's.479, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1131 25 LST's 12 APC's 29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "LOOKOUT" (AG) "PYRO" (AE) "POLLUX" (AKS) "COUGAL" (ASR) "SAN PABLO" (AVP) "KURUMBA" "VICTORIA" "MOBILOIL" (AO) "WESTRALIA" (APA)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "J.ALDEN" "E.D.BAKER" "S.BAMBERGER" "F.N.BLANCHET" "SIMON BOLIVAR" "BOTH" "W.D.BURNHAM" "W.N.BYERS" "COLORADO" "CAPE ANNE" "S.CRANE" "CITY OF PHILADELPHIA" "CORINTH" "DAY STAR" "J.D.DOTY" "G.EASTMAN" "F.A.EILERS" "ETAMIN" "D.D.FIELD" "GANYMEDE" "N.HAPGOOD" "W.HUME" "T.JEFFERSON" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYKES" "MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER" "D.MACLEAY" "MORMACDALE" "JOHN MUIR" "NORAB" "F.OLDER" "F.B.OLSON" "PENNANT" "A.RAVALLI" "N.J.SINNOTT" "M.M.STEWART" "CHAS.P.STEINMETZ" "R.STEWART" "W.L.SUBJETTE" "TECUMSEH" "TRIANGULUM" "VAN DER LIJN" "W.VAN DEVENTER" "WEST CACTUS" "E.N.WESTCOTT"

Fort Moresby Warships & Aux. - "KATCOMBA" "LIWEGOW" (AMS) YMS's.8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426 "BUNGARIE" (CM)
Merchant Vessels: "MULLAMA" "HELGA MOLLER" "CONTESSA"

Thursday Is. Warships & Aux. - "LATROBE" (AMS)
Merchant Vessels: "TULAGI"

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BROOME" (AMS) PC.477 YP.280
 ML's.803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)

Townsville - Warships & Aux.

Gladstone - Warships & Aux.

Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "VENDETTA" (DD) "SWAN" "TOWNSVILLE"
 "WILCANNIA" (AMS) "ABRHAM CRIJNSSEN" (A/S Vessel)
 "SUSQUEHANNA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO) "H.T.ALLEN"
 "KANIMELA" (APA) "HERON" "HALF MOON" (AVP)
 "ALGORAB" (AKA) PC.1123 ML's.809, 811
 YMS's.9,10, SC's.731, 735, 741.
 (Repairing, Refitting: "GLADSTONE" (AMS)).

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "VENDETTA" to RV with "COPANEE" (CV(E)) at 1700/31 in position 26°53'S. 158°09'E and escort to Brisbane.
- (2) "PC.1123" escorting "PRESIDENT GRANT" to depart Caloundra 1000/30 and escort till 2100/30, thence proceeding to RV with "STEPHEN GIRARD", departing Caloundra 0800/31, and escort to North of Lady Elliott Island, whence "PC.1123" returns to Brisbane.
- (3) "WHYALLA" "SC.735" escorting Convoy QL.42 to depart Caloundra 1600/29.

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Bougainville-Buka: Photos Dec 28 show all Solomons airfield still unserviceable.
- (2) Buin Base: Photos Dec 28 show 7 barges in the area.
- (3) Empress Augusta Bay:
 - (a) 1130/26, 12 Avengers bombed enemy positions in the N.E.Sector.
 - (b) To 1500/27, artillery exchanges were active, the enemy's fire being ineffective.
- (4) Kieta: 1600-1730/27, a cruiser and destroyer Task Force thoroughly bombarded objectives in the Kieta area.
- (5) Buka:
 - (a) Photos Dec 28 show 13 barges in the Buka-Matchin Bay area.
 - (b) Dec 28, a reliable report states that all islands in Matchin Bay are occupied by the enemy. Barges take enemy from the islands to Soraken each night at dusk.
- (6) Kavieng area: 2355/27, 5 Catalinas bombed Panapei aerodrome.
- (7) Rabaul:
 - (a) 1200/27, a reported cruiser was sighted by aircraft leaving Rabaul Harbour.
 - (b) 1200/27 Of 50-60 enemy fighters encountered over Rabaul, 8 were destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 1 damaged by 40 Soupac fighters. We lost 1 fighter, the pilot of which was rescued.
 - (c) 0930/28, the following shipping was sighted by aircraft:

Simpson Harbour	1 aircraft carrier
	6 destroyers
Outside the Harbour	1 destroyer

 The "carrier" is estimated to be a landing craft carrier, or possibly a large tanker.
- (8) Lorengau area:
 - (a) 1600/27, 4 small boats of PT boat size were observed at Lorengau by patrolling Liberator which bombed the airfield.
 - (b) Dec 28, a seven ship convoy, outward bound, proceeding probably from Rabaul to the Mandates, was sighted by aircraft:

1400/28	3 large freighters	70 miles	Course
	1 medium freighter	E. by S.	310°
	1 U/I vessel	Lorengau	Speed
	2 destroyer escorts		10 knots
- (9) Open Bay: 1850/28, a flight of aircraft on course WSW was heard over Open Bay.
- (10) Cape Hoskins:
 - (a) 0850/28, a formation of unidentified aircraft on course 220° was reported over Cape Hoskins.
 - (b) 1010/28, Liberators with Lightning escort bombed Cape Hoskins aerodrome.
 - (c) 2245/28, two destroyers probably on a transportation run from Rabaul to Cape Hoskins area, were attacked by aircraft 7 miles NNW of Cape Hoskins.

(11) Arawe area:

- (a) Reports from fighter squadrons received to date show that 28 enemy aircraft including 8 divebombers and 20 fighters were shot down in air combats over Arawe on Dec 27. One fighter was probably destroyed.
- (b) 1515/27, 9 Bostons bombed and strafed a clearing on the East bank of the Pulie River and Did-mop village.
- (c) 0715/28, two probably serviceable empty barges were bombed and strafed by allied aircraft 3 miles off Cape Peiho.
- (d) Dec 27-28, the following air raids were reported:
1945-2030/27 2 planes dropped 6 bombs, killing 2 and wounding 6.
0245-0350/28 1 plane dropped 2 bombs with no damage.
- (e) Early a.m. Dec 28, our forces counter-attacked in the Umtingalu area, killing 18 enemy.
- (f) 1830/27, an enemy submarine was sighted off Meselia Point (1 mile S. of Arawe airstrip).

(12) Rottock-Riebeck Bay area:

- (a) 0945/28, a small submarine was reported by aircraft in Rottock Bay.
- (b) 0840/28, 12 Mitchells bombed and strafed targets in the Rottock-Riebeck Bay areas.

(13) Cape Gloucester:

- (a) Dec 28, our ground forces destroyed 3 machine gun positions South of N.2 strip. Marines reached a position 1 mile SE of No.2 strip.

Four enemy counter-attacks were repulsed but pressure is very strong along the E. sector of the perimeter. The enemy is using heavy mortar fire, and constant pressure is being encountered from the Bay area.

- (b) 0917/28, at least 20 Bostons bombed and strafed targets in the Cape Gloucester area in support of our ground forces.

(14) Hansa Bay - Bogia Harbour:

1015/27	5 harbour craft	Bogia Harbour
0945/28	14 barges and	
	4 unidentified craft	Hansa Bay

(15) Alexishafen-Madang:

- (a) 0906/27 18 Liberators, 16 Aircobras and 8 Kittynawks attacked Alexishafen and 10 Marauders and 11 Mitchells attacked Madang.
- (b) 1045/27 A line of trucks 2 miles long was observed by aircraft in a gully 16 miles WNW of Madang.
- (c) 0910/28 Liberators and Mitchells again bombed Madang.

(16) Bogadjim:

- (a) 0930/27 22 Mitchells bombed Erima plantation.
- (b) 1045/28 6 barges 3 miles off Bogadjim were sighted by aircraft heading towards the shore.

(17) Huon Peninsula:

- (a) 0920/27 12 Bostons bombed and strafed a coastal defence position at Walingai and 11 Aircobras attacked the coastal track at Blucher Point.
- (b) 1010/27 8 Aircobras strafed barges and targets of opportunity between Bogadjim and Reiss Point.
- (c) 0820/28 6 Mitchells bombed and strafed similar targets from Bogadjim to Saidor.
- (d) 0845/28 6 Mitchells bombed and strafed similar targets between Saidor and Reiss Point.
- (e) 1511/28 A possible small submarine was sighted by aircraft 18 miles W. of Sio.
- (f) Dec 27, 12 barges were found at Walingai which, with Ago, seemed to have been hurriedly evacuated.

By 1900/27 our forces had reached the Tewai River (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles SSE of Blucher Point).

(18) Upper Ramu Valley area:

- (a) Dec 27, with heavy air and artillery support our forces captured the Pimple on Shaggy Ridge (4 miles NW by N. of Kumbarum)
- (b) Dec 28, our forces are consolidating, having repulsed an enemy counter-attack.

(19) Kiriwina: 2055/28, indications were received by an allied aircraft of about 25 enemy aircraft flying East 100 miles N. of Kiriwina.

(20) Fort Moresby: 1940/28, a possible submarine was sighted by aircraft 230 miles SSE of Fort Moresby.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/29:

(1) 8 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML's. 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR" "DUNDULA" "DILGA"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

(1) Dutch New Guinea:

- (a) 0946/28, an aircraft was indicated approximately 30 miles SE of Cape Valsch.
(b) 0822/28, one Mitchell bombed and strafed Enarotali and Ourena villages in the Wissel Lakes area.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/29:

- (1) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1325/23 for Exmouth Gulf.
(2) "HORSHAM" escorting "COLINA" departed Geraldton 1445/27 ETA Onslow 1300/29. On return escorting "ONDINA" Exmouth to Fremantle.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN"
"TJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "DUBBO" (AMS) "PRESTON" (AVD)
"CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOORWILL"
(AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.286
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILDS" (AV)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/29:

- (1) "STACK" (DD) departed Sydney 1150/28 ETA Bulari 0700/30.
(2) "BUNBURY" departed Townsville 2000/25 for Sydney ETA 1500/29, whence "BUNBURY" to be sailed so as to arrive Melbourne not later than Jan. 4.
(3) "PATROLLER" (CV(E)) was to depart Port Phillip 1230/28 for Fremantle.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "TALBOT" (APD) "CONVERSE" (DD)
"WARRNAMBOOL" "DELORAIN" "ECHUCHA" "GEELONG"
"ROCKHAMPTON" "GOULBURN" "GEENELG" "COLAC" (AMS)
"MANOORA" (APA) "HILO" (PG) "KYBRA" "DOOMBA"
"YANDRA" (A/S Vessels) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) ML.802
ML's. 807, 817, 822, 823.
(Repairing, Refitting - "HOBART" (CL)).
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

B. CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

(1) Truk: Dec 27 An allied submarine reports an unsuccessful attack on the enemy task force which was sighted by aircraft heading for the Bismarcks on the morning of Dec 27.

The submarine described the force as consisting of 2 heavy cruisers ("MOGAMI" Class) and 2 destroyers, on course 10°, speed 20/25 knots, approximately 210 miles JSW of Truk.

It would appear that the force had abandoned its run to the Bismarcks area.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operation areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

I. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	RYUHO HITAKA
<u>(E)</u>	PATROLLER	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAHAMA COPAHEE	-	UNYO 7-11-40
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHEROPSHIRE	-	KUMANO SUZUYA	HAGURO MYOKO TONE CHOKAI TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DINGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA ISUZU NAGARA HOSHIRO CYODO * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u> <u>XCL</u> <u>AV/CVS</u>	- HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	- WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	- - -	KATORI 1-2 (1 damaged) * NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> <u>DD</u>	- AMMEN ARUNTA BUSH HELM MULLANY RALPH TALBOT WARRAMUNGA BAGLEY CONYNGHAM DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MUGFORD REID * SHAW SMITH	3 Approx 40 BACHE BEALE DALY HUTCHINS STUART VENDETTA	- - - 10	3 25-30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolinea Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) CERO) GATO) PETO) SCAMP) ALBACORE) GUARDFISH) BLACKFISH) REDFIN)	On Patrol	15	25
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.T. ALLEN MANOCRA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u>	ELUE RIDGE			
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS ORION		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)</u>				
	Fighters (incl. 16 twin-eng)	198		
	Light & M/Bombers	155		
	SE/Bombers	45		
	Flying Boats	2		
	Floatplanes	50		
	Transport & Obsn. A/C	12		

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA TAMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	- 22	AKITSUSHIMA 5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

5. CENTRAL PACIFIC - EMPIRE

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

BB

INDIANA
NORTH CAROLINA
WEST VIRGINIA
COLORADO
MARYLAND
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
NEW MEXICO
IDAHO
CALIFORNIA
PENNSYLVANIA
* OKLAHOMA

ISE
YAMASHIRO
FUSO
* HYUGA (being modernised)

CV

ENTERPRISE
YORKTOWN
LEXINGTON

SHOKAKU
ZUIKAKU
UNRYU

CV (L)

COWPENS
BELLEAU WOOD
MONTEREY

* HAYATAKA
ZUIHO

CV (T)

-

HOSHO

CV (E)

SUWANNEE
SANGAMON
CHENANGO
BARNES
CORAL SEA
CORREGIDOR
LONG ISLAND
MISSION BAY
NASSAU

* OTAKA
CHITOSE
PAIYO
JINYO

CA

BALTIMORE
BOSTON
CHESTER
WICHITA
NEW ORLEANS
PENSACOLA
MINNEAPOLIS
INDIANAPOLIS
SAN FRANCISCO
SALT LAKE CITY
PORTLAND
* LOUISVILLE

ATAGO
* NACHI
* TAKAO
* MAYA

CCA

-

6

CL

OAKLAND
* RENO
* CONCORD

TATSUTA
YAHAGI (on trials)
* KISO
* NATORI
* YUBARI

CL (T)

-

KASHIMA

XCL

-

6-7

AV/CVS

POCOMOKE

CHIYODA

YAV/XCVS

-

3

SS

Approx 35

Approx 30

AS

Approx 50

Approx 30

?

2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BE</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV (E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOBA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE TROMP	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KIMU
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOI
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDES	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BLUEFISH) CABRILLA) POMPOM) PUFFER) KINGFISH) RASHER) RATON) RAY) K.12) BILLFISH) BONEFISH) BOWPIN) COD) GREVALLE) TINOSA) MARWEAL)	On Patrol	6
<u>AS</u>	FELIAS	At Fremantle	

AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)
 Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng) 168
 Light & M/Bombers 55
 SE/Bombers 16
 Flying Boats 12
 Floatplanes 84
 Transport & Obsn. A/C 39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle

No. 701

Date 30 December, 1943.

PART I.SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/30:

- (1) "YMS.315" "SC.698" "SC.749" escorting Convoy BG.7 (Portion 'A': "VICTORIA" (AO) "W.D.BURNHAM" for Buna, ETA 1130/29; Portion 'B': "BOTH" "F.OLDER" "D.D.FIELD" "ROBERT STUART" "R.P.WARNER" (ex Oro Bay) for Lae, ETA 0330/30; Portion 'C': "W.N.BYERS" for Finschhafen, ETA 0830/30) departed Milne Bay 1450/28.
- (2) "SC.732" "PC.476" escorting "ANHUI" departed Goodenough 0600/28 were due Lae 1900/29.
- (3) "ML.431" departed Milne Bay 1650/28 for Buna.
- (4) "YMS.335" escorting "Y.19" departed Milne Bay 1000/28 for Lae ETA 0700/30.
- (5) "ML.424" escorting "G.H.FLANDERS" departed Milne Bay 1030/28 ETA Woodlark 0900/29.
- (6) "MIZAR" (AF) departed Caloundra 0300/27 ETA Milne Bay 0900/30.
- (7) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Brisbane 0400/28 for Milne Bay ETA p.m. Dec.31.
- (8) "BUNDABERG" "CASTLEMAINE" escorting Convoy TN.200 ("PATRAS" "CORIO" for Port Moresby, "FRANCIS G. NEWLAND" "WEST TEXAS" for Milne Bay) sailed to RV off Fitzroy Is. at 1400/28. "BUNDABERG" escorts Portion 'B' to Milne Bay ETA 1100/31; "CASTLEMAINE" escorts Portion 'A' to Port Moresby ETA 1000/31.
- (9) "BOWEN" "BALLARAT" "SC.746" escorting "DENT" (APD) departed Milne Bay 1400/28 for Townsville, whence "DENT" proceeds Brisbane. "SC.746" to proceed Cairns for docking, ETA Grafton Passage 1300/31.
- (10) "KAPUNDA" (AMS) departed Milne Bay 1400/29 ETA Grafton Passage 0400/31.
- (11) "LITHGOW" escorting "HELGA MOLLER" departed Port Moresby 1430/29 ETA Cairns 2030/31.
- (12) "KATOOMBA" (AMS) departed Port Moresby 1803/29 ETA Grafton Passage 0600/31.
- (13) "MANUNDA" (AH) departed Port Moresby 1515/26 for Brisbane ETA 0700/30.
- (14) "WARREGO" departed Milne Bay 1000/28 was due Grafton Passage 0600/30.
- (15) "PIRIE" departed Milne Bay 1815/28 ETA Grafton Passage 0130/31.
- (16) "YP.291" departed Thursday Is. 1210/29 ETA Port Moresby 1200/31.
- (17) "CALEDONIAN SLAVOR" (ARS) departed Cairns 1621/23 to salvage "MANGOLA" on Corbett Reef was due 1200/24.
- (18) "HDML.1325" was to depart Caloundra 1300/25 for Townsville was due 1200/28.
- (19) "MORESEY" departed Sydney 1130/27 for Townsville. "MORESEY" to proceed Cairns and later to Milne Bay.

- (20) "WHYALLA" "SC.735" escorting Convoy QL.42 (2 Mvs) departed Caloundra 2130/29 ETA Bustard Head 1059/31.
- (21) "ML.808" "ML.821" escorting Convoy LQ.41 (1 MV) departed Gladstone 1900/28 ETA Brisbane 1845/30
- (22) "COWRA" was to escort "DAVID HOWES" and "FREDERICK BILLINGS" departing Caloundra 0600/30, to vicinity North of Lady Elliott Is. and return thence to Brisbane.
- (23) "AASE MAERSK" (AO) departed Townsville 1830/28 ETA Gladstone 1230/30.
- (24) "WILCANNIA" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" comprising Convoy PG.95 (no consorts) departed Brisbane 1207/29 ETA Sydney 1201/31.
- (25) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen - Warships & Aux. - PC's.1124, 1132 SC's.650, 737, 747
SC's.748 YMS.314
Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "JUAN CABRILLO"
"AMY LOWELL" "J.S.SARGENT" "YAQUERO" "COMARA"
"LORINNA" "MOA MOA" "JANE MOORBHEAD" "MULGRA"

Lae - Warships & Aux. - YMS.313 SC's.745, 982
Merchant Vessels: "A.PIERCE" "T.CORWIN" "F.J.IRWIN"

Morobe - Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
Merchant Vessels:

Maiana - Warships & Aux. - "BLUE RIDGE" (AGC) SC's.637, 745,
SC.746 YMS's.51, 73, "TRINITY" (AO) "MERKUR"
(AF) "STELLA" "POLARIS" (AGS) "RESERVE" "PING WO"
(ASIS) "CARTER HALL" (LSD)
Merchant Vessels: "M.B.BRADY"

Oro Bay - Warships & Aux. - SC.734
Merchant Vessels: "ALAMO" "S.K.BARLOW" "J.CARROLL"
"J.M.CLEMENTS" "W.DALY" "H.DODGE" "J.D.DOTY"
"P.HEWITT" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "G.V.L.MEYER" "PONCE"
"WM.PROUSE" "STAGEN" "VAN HEUTSZ"

Kriwina - Warships & Aux. -
Merchant Vessels: "MARGARET THWAITES"

Woodlark - Warships & Aux. -
Merchant Vessels: -

Goodenough Is. - Warships & Aux. - SC.750
Merchant Vessels: "Wm.BEAUMONT" "ISOLATOR" "VAN DER LIND"

Milne Bay - Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SEROPSHIRE" (CA)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" (CL) "HUTCHINS" "DALY"
"ANMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "BACHE" "MULLANY" "MUGFORD"
"BAGLEY" "LAMSON" "DRAVTON" "CONYNGHAM" "SMITH"
"MAHAN" "SHAW" "REID" "FLUSSER" "ARUNTA"
"WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT" "HELM" (DD) "SANDS"
"NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSBY" "KILTY" "STRINGHAM"
"WARD" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS" (APD) "ARARAT"
"SPAWELL" "SHEPPARTON" (AMS) "TULSA" (PG) SC.647
SC's.648, 703, 736, 738, 742, 743, 744, 981
YMS's.11, 49, 50, 52, 53, 70, 71, 72, 334, 336
YP's.233, 236, 291 ML's.425, 427, 428, 430, 801,
ML's.806, 816, 818, 819 PC's.479, 1119, 1120,
PC's.1121, 1122, 1131, 25 LST's 12 APC's
29 PT's "RIGEL" (AR) "DOBBIN" (AD) "JUS" "FULTON"
(AS) "SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "ANYCUS" (ARL) "LOOKOUT"
(AG) "POLLUX" (AKS) "GOUCAL" (ASR) "SAN PABLO"
(AVP) "KURUMBA" "MOBILCOIL" (AO) "WESTRALIA" (APA)
"YUNNAN" (ASIS)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "J.ALLEN"
"S.BAMBERGER" "F.N.BLANCHET" "SIMON BOLIVAR"
"W.E.CHANNING" "COLORADO" "CAPE ANNE" "CITY OF
PHILADELPHIA" "CORINTH" "DAY STAR" "P.DESMET"
"F.A.EILERS" "ESSO BALBOA" "ETAMIN" "GANYMEDS"
"N.HAPGOOD" "T.C.LOWE" "J.LYNES" "MACARTHUR"
"MACTAN" "MIDWEST FARMER" "D.MACLEAY" "MORMACDALE"
"JOHN MUIR" "NORAB" "PENNANT" "A.RAVALLI"
"N.J.SINNOTT" "C.L.SMITH" "M.M.STEWART" "CHAS.P.
STEINMETZ" "W.L.SUBJETTE" "ABEL TASMAN" "G.STIRLING"
"TECUMSEH" "A.THOMAS" "WEST CACTUS" "E.N.WESTCOTT"
"A.D.WHITE"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's. 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
 "BUNGAREE" (CM)
 Merchant Vessels: "MULIAMA"
 Thursday Is. - Warships & Aux. - "INVERELL" "LATROBE" (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "TULAGI"
 Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BROOME" "GYMPIE" (AMS) PC.477
 YP.280 ML's. 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
 Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "KALGOORLIE" "MILDURA" (AMS)
 Gladstone - Warships & Aux. -
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "VENDETTA" (DD) "SWAN" "TOWNSVILLE"
 (AMS) "SUSQUEHANNA" "SHIKELAMMY" (AO) "H.T.ALLEN"
 "KANIMBLA" (APA) "HERON" "HALF MOON" (AVP)
 "ALGORAB" (AKA) PC.1123 ML's. 809, 811 YMS's. 9, 10.
 SC's. 731, 741
 (Repairing, Refitting: "GLADSTONE" (AMS)).

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "VENDETTA" to RV with "COPAHEE" (CV(E)) at 1700/31 in position 26°53'S 158°09'E and escort to Brisbane.
- (2) "PC.1123" escorting "PRESIDENT GRANT" to depart Caloundra 1400/30 and escort till 2100/30, thence proceeding to RV with "STEPHEN GIRARD", departing Caloundra 0800/31, and escort to North of Lady Elliott Island, whence "PC.1123" returns to Brisbane.
- (3) "STUART" to RV with "ETOLIN" in position 25°45'S 158°51'E at 0900/6 Jan. and escort to Milne Bay.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Buin Base:
 - (a) 1130/28 54 Dauntless, 23 Avengers dropped 55 tons of bombs on A/A and coastal guns at Poporang, Shortland Is. and Faisi.
 - (b) 1210/28 22 Mitchells bombed supply dumps at Kahili.
 - (c) Dec 28 3 Liberators bombed Kahili in the morning.
- (2) S.E. Bougainville: 0030/29 PTs contacted 3 loaded barges in Toraw Bay sinking 2 and forcing the other ashore. Light return fire was encountered.
- (3) Kieta: Dec 28 2 Kittyhawks dropped belly tanks at Numa Numa and strafed them starting fire.
- (4) Empress Augusta Bay:
 - (a) Dec 28 2 Avengers strafed enemy positions S. of Jaba River.
 - (b) Dec 28 An allied destroyer bombarded Japanese defences in the Reni River area (N.E. Empress Augusta Bay).
 - (c) To 1500/28 Paratroopers cleaned out an enemy strong point with an estimated 30 Japs, 600 yards east of Torokina River mouth, killing 10-15 Japs. Our casualties, 1 killed and 4 wounded.
- (5) Buka Passage area:
 - (a) 0730-1030/28 14 Liberators bombed Buka and Bonis supply areas.
 - (b) 0805/28 A number of barges were sighted by aircraft between Buka Passage and Sohana Island.
- (6) Lorengau area: 1400/28 A further report on the 7-ship convoy sighted 70 miles E. by S. of Lorengau amends the composition and course as follows:

2 destroyers	Course
2 large freighter transports	240°
2 small freighter transports	
1 unidentified vessel	

The course was previously reported as 210°.
 The new course suggests the possibility of an inward bound convoy although the position and general direction indicates that it was more probably outward bound.
- (7) Kavieng:
 - (a) 2345/28 4 Catalinas bombed Kavieng airdrome.
 - (b) 1400/29 6 unidentified southbound aircraft were sighted by a patrolling Liberator 115 miles NE of Kavieng apparently on a ferry hop from Truk to Kavieng.
- (8) Rabaul:
 - (a) 1200/27 Further reports of the fighter sweep over Rabaul increase the total of enemy aircraft destroyed to 17 fighters instead of 8.
 - (b) 0730/28 Of 50/60 enemy fighters encountered over Rabaul by Soupac fighter squadrons, 18/26 were definitely destroyed and 7 others probably. 3 Corsairs are missing.

- (8) Rabaul (Contd.)
 (b) (Contd)
 Pilots report 20 large ships in Simpson Harbour.
- (9) Wide Bay-Cape Beechey area: 1515-1610/29 3 Beaufighters strafed targets in the Wide Bay-Cape Beechey area.
- (10) Ubilli area:
 (a) 2247/28 2 or 3 ships were indicated approximately 25 miles NW of Ubilli.
 (b) 1215/29 A small flight of aircraft was heard SW of Ubilli.
 (c) 0055/30 3 destroyers proceeding W. were sighted by aircraft 33 miles WNW of Ubilli. These vessels were probably on a transportation run possibly to the Cape Hoskins area.
- (11) Cape Hoskins:
 (a) 1010/28 17 Liberators with 17 escorting Lightnings bombed the runway and dispersal loops at Cape Hoskins. 10 to 12 barges were sighted in Stettin Bay and 3 jetties were observed at Cape Hoskins.
 (b) 1445/29 2 Kittyhawks strafed targets in the area.
- (12) Gasmata:
 (a) 0955/28 3 small boats and a lugger were sighted in Ayuet Bay (20 miles W. of Gasmata).
 (b) 1125/28 2 Spitfires strafed the Gasmata strip.
- (13) Arawe: Dec 28 It is reported that there are indications that the Japanese are reinforcing the Arawe area both from Gasmata and the Itni River.
- (14) Cape Gloucester:
 (a) 0900/29 Liberators and Mitchells bombed targets in the Cape Gloucester area in support of our ground forces.
 (b) 1000/29 23 Mitchells bombed and strafed the coastal track between Natamo Point and Alaido in Borgen Bay.
- (15) Wewak: 1030/29 2 small sea trucks were sighted by aircraft in Victoria Bay (West coast Muschu Island) and one sea truck and several small harbour craft in Wewak Harbour.
- (16) Hansa Bay:
 (a) 0955/29 24 barges, 14 of which were large, were sighted by aircraft in Hansa Bay.
 (b) Dec 28, P.M. 14 Thunderbolts strafed targets of opportunity from Hansa Bay to Sio.
- (17) Huon Peninsula area:
 (a) Dec 28 Our ground forces with artillery support have advanced to Blucher Point encountering strong opposition.
 (b) 2026-2033/27 8 bombs were dropped near Katika by 2 unidentified bombers one of which was probably destroyed by A/A fire.
 0308-0403/28 1 aircraft dropped bombs in the Langemak Bay area.
 2013-2016/28 21 bombers in 2 separate flights dropped 6 to 10 bombs at Finschhafen and 6 to 10 on Langemak Bay. One bomber was probably destroyed by A/A.
- (18) Upper Ramu Valley area:
 (a) Dec 28 Patrol activity continues in the areas N. of Kesawai.
 (b) Dec 28 Our troops advancing from the Pimple on Shaggy Ridge have repulsed Japanese counter-attacks and are shelling the enemy NW of the Pimple with artillery fire.

2. NORTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/30:

(1) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting Convoy TD.40 ("ALAGNA" "ADMIRAL CHASE" "SCHWEDAGON") departed Thursday Is. 1500/28 for Darwin ETA 1630/2 Jan.

(2) 8 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - "FREMANTLE" (AMS) ML's.429, 814, 815
 Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR" "DUNDULA" "DILGA"

(11) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Merauke Area: 1025/29 "ISLANDER" reported being attacked by enemy aircraft 60 miles south of Merauke.
- (2) Manokwari area: 1150/29 The following shipping was sighted at Manokwari:
 - 1 small freighter transport
 - 2 sea trucks
 - 10 barges.An unsuccessful attack was made.
10 enemy fighters intercepted dropping 3 aerial bombs.
2 floatplane fighters and 1 or more additional fighters were shot down.
- (3) Ceram: 1350/29 4 Liberators bombed and strafed Geser (SE tip of Ceram) and also strafed a sea truck off Ceram-Laut Island (SE of Geser). Explosions were seen on board and the vessel left in flames.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/30:

- (1) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1325/23 for Exmouth Gulf.
- (2) "HORSHAM" escorting "COLINA" departed Geraldton 1445/27 ETA Onslow 1300/29. On return escorting "ONDINA" Exmouth to Fremantle.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN"
"TJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "DUBBO" (AMS) "PRESTON" (AVD)
"CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOORWILL"
(AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (PY) SC.739 YP.286
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILDS" (AV)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(1) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/30:

- (1) "STACK" (DD) departed Sydney 1150/28 ETA Bulari 0700/30.
- (2) "CONVERSE" (DD) departed Sydney 0815/29 ETA Noumea 1000/31.
- (3) "PATROLLER" (CV(E)) departed Port Phillip 1230/28 for Fremantle.
- (4) "WARRNAMBOOL" "DELOIRINE" "ML.802" escorting Convoy GP.96 (2 MVs) were to depart Sydney 0800/30 for Caloundra.
- (5) "STUART" escorting "ORION" (AS) departed Brisbane 1100/28. "STUART" to detach off Sydney and proceed thither, "ORION" proceeding independently to Fremantle, ETA 1630/5 Jan.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "TALBOT" (APD) "WALLER" (DD)
"BUNBURY" "COLAC" "DELOIRINE" "ECHUCA" "GEELONG"
"GLENELG" "GOULBURN" "ROCKHAMPTON" "WARRNAMBOOL"
(AMS) "MANCOORA" (APA) "HILO" (PG) "KYBRA" "DOOMBA"
"YANDRA" (A/S Vessels) "GOLDSEAR" (AG) ML.802
ML's.807, 817, 822, 823.
(Repairing, Refitting - "HOBART" (CL)).
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

B. SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

- (1) Nauru: 1130/29 Soupac aircraft reported both runways serviceable with 5 twin-engined aircraft in revetments.

C. CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA

- (1) Nomoi Island: Dec 27 Photos reveal that the Satawan Is. strip is not yet serviceable but grading of the strip progresses. The coral runway is 4,150 feet long and 210 feet wide with 440 feet of dispersal loops. 6 barges are shown offshore.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines; Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operation areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

--oOo--

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

PART II

ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

1. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	HYUHO) One HITAKA) possibly) damaged
<u>CV(E)</u>	PATROLLER	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA GOPAHHE	-	UNYO)
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	KUMANO SUZUYA HAGURO MYOKO TONE CHOKAI TIKUMA * HOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA) Two ISUZU) poss. HAGARA) sunk HOSHIRO OYODO * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	-	KATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	-	-	1-2 (1 damaged)
<u>AV/OVS</u>	HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	-	* NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3	-	3
<u>DD</u>	AMMEN ARUNTA BUSH HELM MULLANY RALPH TALBOT WARRAMUNGA BAGLEY CONYNGHAM DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MUGFORD REID * SHAW SMITH	Approx 40	10	25-30 (some repairing)
		BACHE BEALE DALY HUTCHINS STUART VENDETTA		

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Caroline Bismarck
<u>SS</u>	BALAO CERO GATO PETO SCAMP ALBACORE GUARDFISH BLACKFISH REDFIN	On Patrol	15	25
<u>FE</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H.F. ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>AGC</u>	BLUE RIDGE			
<u>AS</u>	FULFON OTUS ORION		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)</u>				
	Fighters (incl. 16 twin-eng)	202		
	Light & M/Bombers	145		
	SE/Bombers	37		
	Flying Boats	2		
	Floatplanes	50		
	Transport & Obsn. A/C	12		

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA TAMA
<u>AV/CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC - EMPIRE

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	INDIANA NORTH CAROLINA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGA (Being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	SHOKAKU ZUIKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	GOWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	* HAYATAKA ZUIHO
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS PENSACOLA MINNEAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	ATAGO * NACHI * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) * KISO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA
<u>XCL</u>	-	6-7
<u>AV/CVS</u>	POCOMOKE	CHIYODA
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	3
<u>AS</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON

DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN.

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BE</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS PROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOBA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE TROMP	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KINU NATORI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	-	KASHII
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMO I
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDES	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BLUEFISH) CABRILLA) POMPOM) PUFFER) On Patrol KINGFISH) RASHER) RATON) RAY) K.12) BILLFISH) BONEFISH) BOWFIN) At Fremantle COD) GREVILLE) TINOSA) HARWHAL)	?	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		

AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)

Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng)	168
Light & M/Bombers	55
SE/Bombers	16
Flying Boats	12
Floatplanes	54
Transport & Obsn. A/C	39

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

Combined Operational Intelligence Centre

DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY

Part I: Allied and Enemy Activity.

Part II: Allied and Enemy Order of Battle

No. 702

Date 31 December, 1943

PART I.A. SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA1. NORTH EASTERN AREA(1) ALLIED FORCES(a) At Sea to 1200/31:

- (1) "YMS.334" escorting "Y.13" departed Milne Bay 0800/30 for Lae ETA 2300/31.
- (2) "YMS.71" escorting "FALIE" departed Milne Bay 0630/30 for Buna, Lae and Langemak ETA Buna 1500/31.
- (3) "ML.818" escorting "MOBILOIL" departed Milne Bay 0900/30 for Port Moresby were due 0700/31.
- (4) "LATROBE" (AMS) departed Thursday Is. 0940/30 for Townsville ETA 0700/2 Jan.
- (5) "TASMAN" (AH) departed Brisbane 0400/28 for Milne Bay ETA p.m. Dec.31.
- (6) "BUNDABERG" "CASTLEMAINE" escorting Convoy TN.200 ("PATRAS" "CORIO" for Port Moresby, "FRANCIS G. NEWLAND" "WEST TEXAS" for Milne Bay) sailed to RV off Fitzroy Is. at 1400/28. "BUNDABERG" escorts Portion 'B' to Milne Bay due 0900/31; "CASTLEMAINE" escorting Portion 'A' to Port Moresby due 1000/31.
- (7) "KAPUNDA" (AMS) departed Milne Bay 1400/29 was due Grafton Passage 0400/31.
- (8) "LITHGOW" escorting "HELGA MOLLER" departed Port Moresby 1430/29 ETA Cairns 2030/31.
- (9) "KATOOMBA" (AMS) departed Port Moresby 1803/29 was due Grafton Passage 0600/31.
- (10) "YP.291" departed Thursday Is. 1210/29 due Port Moresby 1200/31.
- (11) "CALEDONIAN SALVOR" (ARS) engaged in salvage operations on "MANGOLA" on Corbett Reef.
- (12) "BROOME" departed Cairns 1400/30 to carry out A/S patrol off Grafton Passage.
- (13) "BOWEN" escorting "DENT" (APD) proceeding to vicinity Bustard Head ETA 1500/2 Jan. where "BOWEN" detaches and returns Townsville.
- (14) "MORESBY" departed Sydney 1130/27 for Townsville. "MORESBY" to proceed Cairns and later to Milne Bay.
- (15) "COWRA" escorting "DAVID HOWES" and "FREDERICK BILLINGS" departed Caloundra 0800/30, to vicinity north of Lady Elliott Is. and return thence to Brisbane.
- (16) "WHYALLA" "SC.735" escorting Convoy QL.42 (2 MVs) departed Caloundra 2130/29 were due Bustard Head 1059/31.
- (17) "PC.1123" escorting "PRESIDENT GRANT" departed Caloundra 1700/30. "PC.1123" parts company 0900/31 and proceeds as necessary to join Convoy LQ.42 at 0700/1 Jan. near Lady Elliott Is.

(18) "WARRNAMBOOL" "DELORAINÉ" "ML.802" escorting Convoy GP.96 (2 MVs)
departed Sydney 0800/30 for Caloundra ETA 1500/1 Jan.

(19) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Finschhafen

- Warships & Aux. - PC's 1124, 1132 SC's 650, 698
SC's 737, 747, 748, 749 YMS's 314, 315
Merchant Vessels: "H.L.ABBOTT" "W.N.BYERS" "JUAN
CABRILLO" "AMY LOWELL" "J.S.SARGENT"
"YAQUERO" "COMARA" "LORINNA" "MOA MOA" "JANE
MOOREHEAD" "MULCRAW"

Lae

- Warships & Aux. - YMS's 315, 335 SC's 732, 745, 982
PC.476 Y.19
Merchant Vessels: "A.PIERCE" "T.CORWIN" "F.J.IRWIN"
"BOTH" "F.OLDER" "D.D.FIELD" "R.STUART"
"R.P.WARNER" "ANHUI"

Morebe
Buna

- Warships & Aux. - "PORTUNUS" (AGP)
- Warships & Aux. - "BLUE RIDGE" (AGG) SC's 637, 745
SC.746 YMS's 51, 73 ML.431 "TRINITY"
"VICTORIA" (AO) "MERKUR" (AF) "STELLA"
"POLARIS" (AGS) "RESERVE" "CARTER HALL" (LSD)
Merchant Vessels: "M.B.BRADY" "W.D.BURNHAM"

Oro Bay

- Warships & Aux. - SC.734 "STELLA" (AGS)
Merchant Vessels: "ALAMO" "S.K.BARLOW" "J.CARROLL"
"J.M.CLEMENTS" "M.DALY" "H.DODGE" "J.D.DCTY"
"P.HEWITT" "A.F.LINDBERGH" "G.V.L.MEYER"
"PENNANT" "PONCE" "WM.PROUSE" "STAGEN"
"VAN HEUTSZ"

Kiriwina
Woodlark Is.

- Merchant Vessels: "MARGARET THWAITES"

- Warships & Aux. - ML.424

Merchant Vessels: "G.H.FLAINDERS"

Goodenough Island

- Warships & Aux. - SC.750

Merchant Vessels: "WM.BEAUMONT" "ISCIATOR"
"VAN DERLIJN"

Milne Bay

- Warships & Aux. - "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE" (CA)
"PHOENIX" "NASHVILLE" "BOISE" (CL) "HUTCHINS"
"DALY" "AMMEN" "BEALE" "BUSH" "BACHE" "MULLANY"
"MUGFORD" "BAGLEY" "LAMSON" "DRAYTON"
"CONYNGHAM" "SMITH" "MAHAN" "SEAW" "REID"
"FLUSSER" "ARUNTA" "WARRAMUNGA" "RALPH TALBOT"
"HELM" (DD) "SANDS" "NOA" "BROOKS" "CROSBY"
"KILTY" "STRINGHAM" "WARD" "GILMER" "HUMPHREYS"
(APD) "ARARAT" "STAWELL" "SHEPPARTON" (AMS)
"TULSA" (PG) SC's 647, 648, 703, 736, 738, 742
SC's 743, 744, 981 YMS's 11, 49, 50, 52, 53
YMS's 70, 72, 336 YP's 233, 236, 291
ML's 425, 427, 428, 430, 801, 806, 816, 819
PC's 479, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1131
25 LST's 12 APC's 29 FT's "RIGEL" (AR)
"DOBBIN" (AD) "OTUS" "FULTON" (AS)
"SPRINGDALE" (YDG) "AMYCUS" (ARL) "LOOKOUT"
(AG) "POLLUX" (AKS) "COUGAL" (ASR) "SAN
PABLO" (AVP) "KURUMBA" (AO) "WESTRALIA" (APA)
"PING WO" "YUNNAN" (ASIS) "INTERNATIONAL" (AM)
"MIZAR" (AF)

(Note: SPECIAL OPERATIONAL MOVEMENTS OUT OF
MILNE BAY NOT SHOWN.)

Merchant Vessels: "ABIGAIL ADAMS" "J.ALDEN" "S.
BAMBERGER" "F.N.BLANCHET" "SIMON BOLIVAR"
"W.E.CHANNING" "COLORADO" "CAPE ANNE" "CITY OF
PHILADELPHIA" "CORINTH" "DAVY CROCKETT"
"DAY STAR" "F.A.EILERS" "ESSO BALBOA" "ETAMIN"
"GANYMEDÉ" "N.HAPGOOD" "J.H.LANE" "T.C.LOWE"
"J.LYKES" "MACARTEUR" "MACTAN" "MIDWEST
FARMER" "D.MACLEAY" "MCRMACDALE" "JOHN MUIR"
"NORAB" "PUEELO" "A.RAVALLI" "P.T.ROWE"
"N.J.SINNOTT" "C.L.SMITH" "M.M.STEWART" "CHAS.
P. STEINMETZ" "W.L.SUBJETTE" "ABEL TASMAN"
"G.STIRLING" "TECUMSEH" "A.THOMAS" "WEST
CACTUS" "EN.N.WESTCOTT" "A.D.WHITE"

Port Moresby - Warships & Aux. - YMS's 8, 46, 47, 48 ML.426
 "BUNGAREE" (GM)
 Merchant Vessels: "MULIAMA" "J.ROSS" "LUCAS FAIR-CHILD"

Thursday Island - Warships & Aux. - "INVERELL" (AMS)
 Merchant Vessels: "ISLANDER"

Cairns - Warships & Aux. - "BALLARAT" "GYMPIE" "WARREGO"
 "PIRIE" (AMS) PC.477 SC.746 YP.280
 ML's 803, 804, 805, 820 "PLATYPUS" (AR)
 HDML.1325

Townsville - Warships & Aux. - "KALGOORLIE" "MILDURA" (AMS)
 Gladstone - Warships & Aux. - "AASE MAERSK" (AO)
 Brisbane - Warships & Aux. - "VENDETTA" (DD) "SWAN" "TOWNSVILLE"
 "(AMS) "SUSQUEHANNA" "SHIKELLAMY" (AO)
 "H.T.ALLEN" "KANIMELA" (APA) "HERON"
 "HALF MOON" (AVP) "MANUNDA" (AH) "ALGORAB"
 (AKA) ML's 808, 809, 811, 821 YMS's 9,10
 SG's 731, 741
 (Repairing, Refitting) - "GLADSTONE" (AMS)

(c) Proposed Movements:

- (1) "VENDETTA" to RV with "COPAHEE" (CV(E)) at 1700/31 in position 26°53'S 158°09'E and escort to Brisbane.
- (2) "STUART" to RV with "ETOLIN" in position 25°45'S 158°51'E at 0300/4 Jan. and escort to Milne Bay.

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

- (1) Treasury Is. Area - Dec.30, a submarine was reported 5 miles W. of Treasury Island.
- (2) Buin Base -
 - (a) Night Dec.28-29, a Ventura dropped two incendiaries on Shortland Island and a Liberator bombed Kahili.
 - (b) 1113/30, 13 unescorted Mitchells bombed Kahili.
 - (c) 1445/30, 6 Mitchells bombed Korovo and Shortland Is.
- (3) Kieta Area -
 - (a) Night Dec.28-29, a Liberator bombed Kieta.
- (4) Empress Augusta Bay - To 1500/29, allied patrols reported no contact with the enemy to a depth of 2000 yards around the entire Cape Torokina perimeter, but allied troops contacted enemy patrols at Cape Moltke (19 miles N.W. Cape Torokina).
- (5) Kavieng - 2252/29, 3 Catalinas bombed Kavieng. Two lights from probable ships in Balgai Bay were observed.
- (6) Rabaul - 1150/30, incomplete reports indicate that 19 Liberators with fighters escorting bombed Rabaul shipping. At least 30 fighters intercepted, four of which were definitely destroyed, one probably. We lost no fighters.
- (7) Bismarck Sea -
 - (a) Night 29-30 Dec., indications of three ships were received, one 9 miles W.N.W. of Wbili, another 62 miles W.N.W. of Rabaul and the third 33 miles N.E. of Talasea. These might possibly be a destroyer or destroyers on transportation run from Rabaul to Garove Island or positions on the north New Britain coast.
 - (b) 0020/30, a hospital ship on course 120° was sighted 36 miles N.W. of Rabaul, apparently heading for Rabaul. The vessel was covered by one aircraft.
- (8) Wide Bay - 0120/30, an unidentified formation of aircraft was heard on a westerly course N.W. of Wide Bay.
- (9) Montagu Harbour - Dec.29, 2 Kittyhawks strafed a barge N.E. of Montagu Harbour and another at Cape Dampier.
- (10) Cape Hoskins - 1715/30, 2 small ships on N.E. course were sighted 5 miles N.W.E. of Cape Hoskins.
- (11) Gasmata - 2125/29, one Catalina bombed the air strip.
- (12) Rein Bay - 0213/30, indications of approximately 20 vessels were received by aircraft to the westward of Cape Neumayer (Rein Bay). These vessels are probably barges.

(13) Cape Gloucester -

- (a) Dec.30 Cape Gloucester, including the airfields, was captured and completely occupied by noonday. Our ground forces took the positions by assault after intense air preparation.
- (b) 0839-1026/29, further reports indicate that the following aircraft participated in the attack in support of our ground forces: 54 Liberators, 52 Mitchells, 8 Marauders, which dropped 236 tons of bombs on Cape Gloucester aerodrome and coastal track areas Bergen Bay.
- (c) 1028-1055/30, 22 Bostons bombed and strafed enemy troop concentrations in the Cape Gloucester area.

(14) Lorengau Area - 1607/30, a large sea truck was unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft 2 miles N.W. of Lorengau.

(15) Alexishafen-Madang -

- (a) 0915/30, 18 Liberators escorted by Thunderbolts dropped 54 tons of bombs on anti-aircraft positions at Alexishafen airdrome. Approximately eight apparently serviceable aircraft were observed on No.2 strip.
- (b) 0858-and 1215/29, 39 Mitchells bombed targets in the Madang area.
- (c) 1130-1245/30, 7 Kittyhawks carried out a fighter sweep over Alexishafen.
- (d) 1135/30, Mitchells with Aircobras escorting attacked targets in the Madang area.

(16) Huon Peninsula -

- (a) 0940/29, 5 Liberators bombed Sio.
- (b) Dec.30, Kittyhawks strafed four barges in Dorfer Bay and also sighted 4 or 5 barges at Sio.
- (c) 0830/30, 6 Mitchells bombed and strafed Nambariwa (4 miles S.E. by S. of Sio).
- (d) 0845/30, 6 Mitchells bombed and strafed Nambariwa.
- (e) 1445-1545/30, 8 Thunderbolts strafed targets of opportunity from Sio to Bogadjim.
- (f) Dec.29, an allied patrol advanced 1000 yards beyond Blucher Point encountering some opposition and capturing Japanese guns and ammunition. Large quantities of equipment and supplies were captured at Kanomi (2 miles S. of Blucher Point).

NORTH WESTERN SECTOR

(a) At Sea to 1200/31: ALLIED FORCES

- (1) "FREMANTLE" escorting Convoy DT.40 ("DUNDULA" towing "GLORIA" (lugger) "DILGA") departed Port Darwin 1020/30 ETA Thursday Island 1300/3 Jan. "DILGA" for Cape Melville ETA 1030/2 Jan.
- (2) "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting Convoy TD.40 ("ALAGNA" "ADMIRAL CHASE" "SCHWEDAGON") departed Thursday Is. 1500/28 for Darwin ETA 1630/2 Jan.
- (3) 9 submarines on patrol.

(b) In Harbour:

Darwin - Warships & Aux. - ML's 429, 814, 815
Merchant Vessels: "COOLEBAR"

(ii) ENEMY FORCES

(1) Dutch New Guinea -

- (a) Dec.29-30, numerous indications of unidentified aircraft were received in the Cape Valsch area.
- (b) 1150/29, photos reveal the following shipping at Manokwari:

3 fairly large sea trucks (one carrying barges)
4 small sea trucks

Approximately 60 barges are shown in Dore Bay.

(1) Dutch New Guinea (Contd) -

(b) Contd.

This is the largest concentration of barges yet reported in this area and indicates the increased importance of Manokwari as a base for developing and supplying enemy positions along the N.W. Coast of New Guinea. Photos also reveal building and clearing activity at the southern end of the town.

(2)

Timor - Dec. 30, Beaufighters strafed and damaged two praus 10 miles N. of Lautem. Japanese were observed to dive overboard.

3. SOUTH WESTERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/31:

- (1) "YP.288" departed Fremantle 1325/23 for Exmouth Gulf.
(2) "HORSHAM" escorting "COLINA" departed Geraldton 1445/27 ETA Onslow 1300/29. On return escorting "ONDINA" Exmouth to Fremantle.

(b) In Harbour:

Fremantle - Warships & Aux. - "ADELAIDE" "TROMP" (CL) "VAN GALEN" "TJERK HIDDEN" (DD) "DUBBO" (AMS) "PRESTON" (AVB) "CHANTICLEER" (ASR) "ATREUS" (CM) "WHIPPOGRWILL" (AM) "PELIAS" (AS) "ISABEL" (FY) SC.739 YP.286
Exmouth Gulf - Warships & Aux. - "LARK" (AM) "CHILD" (AV)

4. EASTERN & SOUTHERN AREA

(i) ALLIED FORCES

(a) At Sea to 1200/31:

- (1) "WILCANNIA" "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" comprising Convoy PG.95 (no escorts) departed Brisbane 1207/29 ETA Sydney 1700/31.
(2) "ORION" (AS) departed Brisbane 1100/28 for Fremantle ETA 1630/5 Jan.
(3) "PATROLLER" (CV(E)) departed Port Phillip 1230/28 for Fremantle.

(b) In Harbour:

Sydney - Warships & Aux. - "TALBOT" (APD) "STUART" "WALLER" (DD) "BUNBURY" "COLAC" "ECHUCA" "GEELONG" "GLENELG" "GOULBURN" "ROCKHAMPTON" (AMS) "MANOORA" (APA) "HILO" (PG) "KYBRA" "DCOMBA" "YANDRA" (A/S Vessels) "GOLDSTAR" (AG) "CALAMARES" (AF) ML.802, 807, 817, 822, 823 (Repairing, Refitting) - "HOBART" (CL)
Melbourne - Warships & Aux. - "WAGGA" "BENDIGO" (AMS)
Westernport - Warships & Aux. - "BINGERA" (A/S Vessel)

SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

ENEMY FORCES

Florida Is. Area - 0330/30, possibly submarine contact was reported by an allied vessel one mile S.E. of Songonangola Island (S. of Tulagi).

NAVAL INCIDENTS

Merauke Area - 1020/28, further reports reveal that "ISLANDER" was attacked by one enemy bomber 60 miles S. of Merauke. Four 500 lb. bombs were dropped from 6000-10000 feet missing the vessel by 50-150 yards. No damage was caused to the ship or her complement, which engaged the aircraft with A/A for 40 minutes with no apparent result.

ENEMY'S PROBABLE NEXT MOVE

- (1) Consolidation of defences Marshalls, Carolines, Bismarcks, North coast New Guinea, East Indies, Malayan areas.
- (2) Constant effort to maintain maximum air and naval strength in general Carolines, Marshalls, Bismarcks, New Guinea areas to off-set allied forward moves.
- (3) Use of barges, submarines and destroyers for night transportation runs to forward areas.
- (4) Continued use of submarines for reconnaissance and offensive patrol duties in allied operational areas in Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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DAILY NAVAL SUMMARY
PART II
ALLIED & ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE
I. SOUTH & SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

	<u>Southwest Pacific</u> <u>(Eastern Section)</u>	<u>South Pacific</u>	<u>Bismarcks</u> <u>Solomons</u>	<u>Carolines</u> <u>Marshalls</u>
<u>BB</u>	-	WASHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH DAKOTA ALABAMA	-	YAMATO MUSASHI KONGO HARUNA NAGATO MUTSU
<u>CV</u>	-	SARATOGA ESSEX BUNKER HILL	-	-
<u>CV(L)</u>	-	PRINCETON INDEPENDENCE	-	TAIHO RYUHO) En route HITAKA) Empire ("Hitaka" (possibly (damaged
<u>CV(E)</u>	-	PRINCE WILLIAM BRETON ALTAMAHA COPAHBE	-	UNYO
<u>CA</u>	AUSTRALIA SHROPSHIRE	-	-	KUMANO SUZUYA HAGURO MYOKO TONE CHOKAI TIKUMA * MOGAMI
<u>CL</u>	PHOENIX NASHVILLE * HOBART BOISE	COLUMBIA CLEVELAND MONTPELLIER HONOLULU ST. LOUIS SAN DIEGO SANTA FE MOBILE * BIRMINGHAM * DENVER * LEANDER	-	NAKA * ISUZU NAGARA HOSHIRO CYCDO * AGANO
<u>CL(T)</u> <u>XCL</u> <u>AV/CVS</u>	- - HERON SAN PABLO HALF MOON	- - WRIGHT BALLARD CHANDELEUR	- - -	KATORI 1-2 (1 damaged) * NOTORO
<u>XAV/XCVS</u> <u>DD</u>	- AMMEN ARUNTA BUSH HELM MULLANY RALPH TALBOT WARRAMUNGA BAGLEY CONYNCHAM DRAYTON FLUSSER LAMSON MUGFORD REID * SHAW SMITH	3 Approx 40 BACHE BEALE DALY HUTCHINS STUART VENDETTA	- 10	3 25-30 (some repairing)

* Non-effective

	Southwest Pacific (Eastern Section)	South Pacific	Bismarcks Solomons	Carolines Marshalls
<u>SS</u>	BALAO) CERO) GATO) PETO) SCAMP) ALBACORE) GUARDFISH) BLACKFISH) REDFIN)	ON Patrol	15	25
<u>PT</u>	62	Approx 80	?	?
<u>APA/APD/AKA</u>	H. T. ALLEN MANOORA WESTRALIA KANIMBLA ALGORAB GILMER SANDS HUMPHREYS BROOKS KILTY NOA CROSBY DENT STRINGHAM WARD	10 APA 9 APD 5 AKA		
<u>ACC</u>	BLUE RIDGE			
<u>AS</u>	FULTON OTUS ORION		?	?
<u>AD</u>	DOBBIN		1	1
<u>AR</u>	RIGEL PLATYPUS	PROMETHEUS		
<u>AIRCRAFT (N.E. Area Only)</u>				
	Fighters (incl. 16 twin-eng)	189		
	Light & M/Bombers	142		
	SE/Bombers	22		
	Flying Boats	2		
	Floatplanes	50		
	Transport & Obsn. A/C	12		

2. NORTHERN PACIFIC

	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCES</u>
<u>CL</u>	DETROIT RALEIGH RICHMOND	ABUKUMA TAMA
<u>CVS</u>	-	AKITSUSHIMA
<u>DD</u>	22	5
<u>SS</u>	10	Approx 4
<u>AS</u>	-	1

3. CENTRAL PACIFIC - EMPIRE

ALLIED FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

<u>BB</u>	INDIANA NORTH CAROLINA WEST VIRGINIA COLORADO MARYLAND TENNESSEE MISSISSIPPI NEW MEXICO IDAHO CALIFORNIA PENNSYLVANIA * OKLAHOMA	ISE YAMASHIRO FUSO * HYUGO (being modernised)
<u>CV</u>	ENTERPRISE YORKTOWN LEXINGTON	SHOKAKU ZUIKAKU
<u>CV(L)</u>	COWPENS BELLEAU WOOD MONTEREY	* HAYATAKA ZUIHO
<u>CV(T)</u>	-	HOSHO
<u>CV(E)</u>	SUWANNEE SANGAMON CHENANGO BARNES CORAL SEA CORREGIDOR LONG ISLAND MISSION BAY NASSAU	* OTAKA CHITOSE
<u>CA</u>	BALTIMORE BOSTON CHESTER WICHITA NEW ORLEANS PEN SACOLA MINNEAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS SAN FRANCISCO SALT LAKE CITY PORTLAND * LOUISVILLE	ATAGO * NACHI * TAKAO * MAYA
<u>OCA</u>	-	6
<u>CL</u>	OAKLAND * RENO * CONCORD	TATSUTA YAHAGI (on trials) * KISO * YUBARI
<u>CL(T)</u>	-	KASHIMA KASHII
<u>AV/CVS</u> <u>XAV/XCVS</u>	POCOMOKE -	6-7 CHIYODA 3
<u>DD</u>	Approx 35	Approx 30
<u>SS</u>	Approx 50	Approx 30
<u>AS</u>	?	2 (one repairing)

* Non-effective

4. SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC

CL TRENTON
DD 2

5. EAST INDIES - INDIAN OCEAN.

	Southwest Pacific (Western Section)	Eastern Fleet Area	East Indies-Philippines
<u>BE</u>	-	RAMILLIES	-
<u>CV (E)</u>	PATROLLER	BATTLER	-
<u>CA</u>	-	SUFFOLK SUSSEX HAWKINS FROBISHER	ASHIGARA AOBA
<u>CL</u>	ADELAIDE TRUMP	KENYA NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER CEYLON DANAE EMERALD	KUMA OI KITAGAMI KIMU NATORI
<u>XCL</u>	-	CANTON CHITRAL CARTHAGE	-
<u>AV/CVS</u>	CHILDS W.B. PRESTON	ALBATROSS	KAMOJ
<u>XAV/XCVS</u>	-	?	1
<u>DD</u>	VAN GALEN TJERK HIDDUS	Approx 27	10
<u>SS</u>	BLUEFISH ✓) CABRILLA ✓) HADDO ✓) KINGFISH ✓) POMPOM ✓) PUFFER ✓) RASHER ✓) RATON ✓) RAY ✓) K.12 ✓) BILLFISH ✓) BONEFISH ✓) BOWFEN ✓) COD ✓) NARWEAL ✓) GREVALLE ✓) TIMOSA ✓)	On Patrol Ab Fremantle	6
<u>AS</u>	PELIAS		

AIRCRAFT (N.W. Area Only)
Fighters (incl. 27 twin-eng) 168
Light & M/Bombers 55
SE/Bombers 16
Flying Boats 12
Floatplanes 54
Transport & Obsn. A/C 39