

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

D.N.I.
D.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.O.I.
D.D.M.I.

Serial No. DS/63

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

1/8/41

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Q. Melb.
0843/31Z
0740/31Z

1. CONVOY U.S. 11B - Outer anti-submarine patrols were established yesterday (31/7) ahead of Convoy U.S. 11B by aircraft from Laverton and a clearing search was also carried out. Results in each case were negative.

A.C.H. Townsville
1205/31Z

2. AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS - Transit flights were completed by a Catalina, Rabaul-Moresby and an Empire Flying Boat, Moresby - Rabaul. In both cases nil sightings were reported.

N.C.S. 0642Z/30
S.O. (I) Sydney
0545Z/31

3. JAPANESE MERCHANT SHIPS - "CANBERRA MARU" arrived Sydney 1440K/29/7 (30 hours overdue) and departed on 31/7 for Brisbane. "CHINA MARU" due Sydney 31/7 has not yet been reported. "YAMAGIKU MARU" due Auckland 28/7 and Noumea 10/8 has not yet been reported at Auckland.

Most Secret
Sources

"KASIMA MARU" due Townsville 27/7 with new Japanese Consul General aboard was last reported off the N.W. extreme of New Guinea, south of Palau on 29/7. It is now believed she is again steering south.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

C.O.I.S. 1005Z/30

4. JAPANESE - Special intelligence from Singapore reports the presence of the Japanese Cruiser "ASIGARA" (10,000 tons, 10-8") in the Saigon area on 30/7/41.

Comment - The "ASIGARA" is the flagship of the South China Fleet. She has recently been in the Hainan-Formosa area.

C.O.I.S. 0925Z/29

5. A report from Singapore states that the main landing of Japanese forces in French Indo-China was expected to commence on 29/7, some 40,000 to 50,000 troops being expected.

The agreement with Vichy includes Saigon and Camranh Bay as naval bases for occupation by the Japanese, and Tourane, Nhatrang, Saigon, Soctrang, Phnom-Penh and Siemreap as air bases. Two Japanese bomber squadrons are stated to have arrived at Saigon.

DS/59 Para. B.5
Miltel 27/7
DS/51 Para. C.3.
C.I.C. China 0940Z/15

Comment - The number of troops corresponds with the number foreshadowed in previous advices.

The air bases comprise the more important of the eight referred to in C. in C. China's report on 15th July of Japanese demands made on Vichy.

C.O.I.S. 0925Z/29

With the exception of Tourane, these air bases are located in the Southern extremity of Indo-China. C.O.I.S. anticipates that the incoming Japanese troops will probably be located in the same areas and that thus they will form no threat to Yunan or the Burma Road. Previous intelligence has indicated such a disposition of troops would be made.

Miltel 27/7

C.O.I.S. 0925Z/29

6. It is reported that an anti-Thailand press campaign has been launched in Japan.

Comment - This is the typical Axis prelude to political or military pressure.

C.O.I.S.0925Z/29

- 7. The mobilization of the Japanese Army continues and there is considerable movement of troops in the direction of Manchukuo.
- 8. It is the view of C.O.I.S. that Japan will consolidate herself in French Indo-China and continue to exert pressure on Thailand. Simultaneously she will make all preparations for attacking the U.S.S.R. if a favourable opportunity should occur.

do.

WEST of Australia Station

C.I.C. Sth. Atl. 2357N/30

- 9. The Italian merchant ship "AFRICANA" departed Pernambuco on 30/7. The Italian ship "STELLA" also at Pernambuco, applied for clearance on the same day.

Comment - These ships already had permits to sail and an air reconnaissance was carried out, presumably for them, by Italian aircraft on 24/7.

Rowley (N)

Gray (M)

AS Bradshaw (A)

C.O.I.C.

1/8/41

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2/8/41

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.R.O. Burnie
0401Z/1, 1005Z/1
Airtel Melb.
2245K/1.

1. Table Cape, Tasmania - Two almost simultaneous explosions due north from Table Cape were heard at about 1000K by two workmen from a height of approx 400 ft. above sea level. Owing to haze and distance visibility was poor. In the area no shipping is overdue, and no fishing vessels or other craft were observed or known to be about at the time.

The A.R.O. Burnie has this morning reported that an R.A.A.F. plane was flying around Burnie during the time of the report also that investigation has shown there were no local blastings carried out in the area during the day.

Airtel are checking with Western Junction to ascertain if the aircraft mentioned heard or sighted any explosions in the area at the time.

Comment - Table Cape is on the N.W. Coast of Tasmania about 12 miles west from Burnie. It is possible that the explosions were caused by mines that have broken adrift from the Otway field striking and discharging one another in the area mentioned.

D.N.O. W.A.
0814Z/1
DS/63 Para.A.3.

2. JAPANESE MERCHANT SHIPS - R.A.A.F. Pearce reports obtaining D/F bearings of "KASIMA MARU" 30/7 036° and 31/7 041°, placing the vessel west of Cape York Peninsula.

Comment - "KASIMA MARU" which has been due Townsville since 27/7 with new Japanese Consul General aboard, was last reported steering south again after having been off N.W. extreme of New Guinea on 29/7. If the bearings are accurate it would appear that the vessel is continuing its schedule to Australian ports.

N.I.O. Rabaul
0705Z/1
A.C.H. Townsville
1010Z/1

3. Unidentified Ship - Serial No.82 - District Officer Wewak reports large steamer sighted 1100K/1 at other side of Kaipiru, travelling N.E. Graded B.3. The vessel is described as 2 masts (1 forward of bridge 1 aft of funnel) funnel just aft of bridge and forward of superstructure; space between ~~mx~~ bridge and superstructure, two well decks, bow and stern orthodox shape. The N.I.O. Rabaul reports vessel is similar to "YUNNAN" and as much larger than "MATAFELE" which departed Wewak at 1200K/31/7 for Aitape. A.C.H. Townsville is ordering a search this morning 2/8.

Comment - Kaipiru is on the north coast of New Guinea about 10 miles N.W. from Wewak. There has been no recent intelligence to suggest the possible presence of an enemy unit in this area.

A.C.H. Townsville
1210Z/31

4. A clearing search was carried out ahead of ss "ZEALANDIA" from Townsville. All sightings were identified.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station -

S.O.(I) Wellington
2255M/1
DS/63 Para.A.3.

5. Japanese Merchant Ships - "YAMAGIKU MARU" due at Auckland since 28/7, arrived yesterday 1/8/41.

WEST of Australia Station

6. RAIDER ACTIVITY

S.O.(f) Capetown
M.M.S.1100K/2/8

a) The "CROMARTY" reported overdue since 16/7 arrived Cape-town on 23/7.

D.N.O. W.A.
0158Z/1
DS/62 Para.B.5.

b) The Norwegian vessel "EIDSVOLD" (4,184 tons - 12 knots) due since 28/7 at Rottneest Island from Aden has not yet arrived.

Comment - If this vessel has been intercepted by the Indian Ocean raider last reported in the Kerguelen - Amsterdam Is. area on 25th and 29th July, it would need to have been caught in the vicinity of the Chagos Group about the 18th to 20th of July.

NORTH of Australia Station

C.O.I.S.0912Z/31

7. JAPANESE ACTIVITY - Special intelligence from Singapore reports dispositions of Japanese warships and troopships in French Indo-China areas as follows :-

- (a) Off Nhatrang (on the east coast of F.I.C.) on 28/7 - 1 Aircraft Carrier (probably "SORYU"), 3 destroyers and 8 transports (estimated 8,000 tons each, disembarking troops by ship's boats);
- (b) At Saigon on 30/7 - 3 destroyers (probably of 4th Flotilla), 1 auxiliary ~~auxiliary~~ minelayer (about 5,000 tons) and 6 transports;
- (c) Off Cape St. Jaques (on south coast of F.I.C.) on 30/7 - 8 additional transports;
- (d) In Saigon area - cruisers "ASHIGARA" and "NATORI".

Comment - Both these cruisers have recently been in the area. The "ASHIGARA" is the Flagship of the South China Fleet.

(e) Off Cape Padaran - Seaplane Carrier "KAMIKAWA MARU" and Cruiser "SUZUYA".

Comment - Cape Padaran is on the east coast of F.I.C., a few miles south of Nhatrang. "SUZUYA" (15-6") belongs to the 7th Cruiser Squadron.

(f) In Paracel Islands area - Cruiser "NAGARA" and submarine depot ship "CHOGEI".

Comment - Paracel Islands are about 200 miles S.E. from Hainan.

GENERAL COMMENT

All warships mentioned have previously been reported in the Hainan Formosa area.

Rowland (N)

Percival (M)

St. J. Powell (A)

C.O.I.C.

2/8/41

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

3/8/41.

Submitted.

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

- I.O. Western Junction L/L 1200/2K
D.N.O. Tas. 0141Z/2.
1. Table Cape, Tasmania - It has now been ascertained that the aircraft thought to be in the vicinity of the explosions heard at 1000/1K, did not take off from Western Junction until 1040K and only reached the area about 1200K. No further intelligence is therefore available from this source. D.N.O. Tasmania reports that no ship is overdue.
- S.O.(I) Sydney 0720Z/2.
2. Sydney - The Japanese merchant ship "China Maru" intends to close Sydney Heads without entering the three mile limit in order to land two Australian carpenters and one sick Japanese. It is understood that she will then depart direct for Japan.
- Airintel N.A. 0115/2Z
3. Roper River (N.T.) - With reference to the native report of an aircraft sighting in the vicinity of Roper River on the evening of 27/7, investigations have been completed by Airintel Northern Area and the aircraft remains unidentified. The report, however, has been graded E.5.
- Airintel Darwin 0710/2Z
4. Japanese Fishing Craft in Northern Australian Waters -
(a) Bathurst Island - A naval report is to the effect that on 31/7 there were 22 Japanese luggers and two mother-ships on grounds four miles West of Rocky Point Bathurst Island.
Comment - On July ^{25th} it was reported that there were 11 luggers and one mother ship, the "New Guinea Maru" operating in this area; 19 LUGGERS HAVING RECENTLY LEFT THE AREA FOR THURSDAY ISLAND grounds.
- SO(1) Darwin.
- (b) Drysdale and Truant Islands (N.T.) - It was reported by natives that more than five Japanese "boats" were observed in channels North and South of Drysdale Island ostensibly pearling, and probably also at Truant Island.
Comment - These fishing grounds are adjacent to those of the Wessel Islands off Cape Arnhem.
- Chaseling, Yirrkalla. 2/8/41
5. Kairiru Island (N.G.) Air searches for the unidentified ship (Serial No. 82) sighted off Kairiru Island were conducted 2/8 by Flying-Boats from Rabaul in two areas, one being North of Manus Island and the other approximately S.S.E. In each case nil sightings were reported.
A.C.H. Townsville states that these searches were commenced 23 hours after sighting of the unidentified ship, and were based on an enemy speed of between 10 and 12½ knots. No further search is proposed unless further information is received.
Comment - ~~There is a possibility of the vessel sighted being the "Kasima Maru", although certain features in the description given do not coincide.~~
- DS/64 Para. A3 ACH Townsville 1030/1Z 0855/2Z 0917/2Z
6. West of Australia Station.
Italian Merchant Ships. The "Himalaya" (6240 tons-14 knots) has obtained a clearance and sailed from Rio de Janeiro. She passed at Santa Cruz at 1900Z/30/7. A later signal reports her to be heading North.
Comment - On 25/4 the "Himalaya" was reported to be receiving 300 tons of Diesel fuel oil. Subsequently her loading was discontinued until July. She has 3 derrick posts close forward of funnel and 3 at aft end midship superstructures, all in athwart ship line.
- NSO(1) Montevideo 1931Z/30
- NSO(1) Montevideo 2108Z/30
- NSO(1) Montevideo 0032Z/1/7

NSO(1)
Mont.
0025Z/

2.
The "Stella" departed Pernambuco ,passing the breakwater at
2305Z/30/7.

AUSTRALIA STATION.

A.N.L.O.
Batavia.
1403Z/2.

7. An aircraft of an U.S. Pacific Fleet Scouting Force at 0335Z/30 reported sighting a suspicious merchant ship in position approx. 500 miles N.W. of New Caledonia setting a course in that direction at a speed of 12 knots. The description given was 5 to 6 thousand tons, about 400 feet long ,black hull with the United States Flag painted amidships. Vessel said to resemble "Regensburg" Darwin ,Townsville, Queensland and N.Z. have been notified.

Comment.

M.M.S. consider the vessel is probably the American "American Leader" which arrived Noumea at 0001Z/2 from Manila.

Handwritten signature

M.

C.O.I.C. 3/8/41.

R. J. Mayne A.

5/8
C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

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5/8/41

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

S.W.A.C.H.0303/3Z
0720/4Z,1015/4Z
1035/3Z,0010/4Z
0331/4Z

1. MOVEMENTS OF AIRCRAFT - An outer anti-submarine patrol and a clearing search ahead of convoy U.S.11B were conducted from Pearce with negative results. In the north the following transit flights took place -
One F/B Thursday Island to Moresby;
One F/B Salamaua to Rabaul.

2. SEARCHLIGHT OFF STEFFEN STRAIT - It has been reported from Kavieng to the N.I.O. Rabaul that a searchlight was seen off Steffen Strait on 23rd, 25th, 29th and 31st July and 3rd August. Graded C.5. N.I.O. Rabaul suggests that it is possibly moonlight effect. Investigations are proceeding and the posting of reliable observers in vicinity for three consecutive nights has been requested.

Comment - Steffen Strait is about 15 miles S.W. of Kavieng, and it is considered likely that the presence of any strange vessel for so long a period would have been reported before now. However, in view of the strategic importance of this area with regard to the Japanese Mandates and the fact that Japanese aircraft and naval units are known to have been active in the vicinity in the past, the possibility of Japanese activity being responsible cannot be entirely overlooked.

3. JAPANESE MERCHANT SHIPS - The "KASIMA MARU" is due to arrive in Sydney on 10/8.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

4. VICHY FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS - The French ship "DUPLIEX", which left Saigon 27/7, is believed to be proceeding to France via Haiphong.

Comment - The "DUPLIEX" (7,100 tons, 1914) recently came to Saigon from Marseilles, carrying troops. It is reported in the Press (5/8) that this ship has now been seized by a Dutch warship.

5. JAPANESE MERCHANT SHIPS - It has been observed that Japanese merchant ships when calling Japanese stations, are not using their international call letters, but are using their names or part of their names transmitted in Kana characters.

WEST of Australia Station

6. ENEMY RAIDERS - (i) At 2054/3(?Z) Esperance Bay Radio heard "Lifeboat down our" and transmission then ceased. (ii) Admiralty report an incomplete distress message received 0744/4Z indicating a merchant vessel probably attacked by a raider in unknown longitude, possibly north latitude.

Comment - So far as is known, one raider is operating in North Atlantic and one in the Indian Ocean.

N.I.O. Rabaul
0801Z/4

N.B.0602Z/4

C.S.Singapore
0502Z/2

C.OPS.
2125Z/31

D.N.O. W.A.1515Z/4

Admty.1316Z/4

WS/12 4/8/41

C. JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

F.E.C.B.
0640/2Z

War Advices
4/8/41

do.

7. JAPANESE AIR FORCE ORDER OF BATTLE - The latest Order of Battle at 1/8/41 shows an increase in the total number of aircraft of 180, of which 128 are Naval Air Service. The Army Air Service shows an increase of 55 Heavy Bombers of which 40 are in North and Central China. The only major changes in distribution are the increase of 72 in the numbers of Light Bombers in the South China, Hainan and Indo-China area and the transfer of 30 Army Heavy Bombers from Formosa to the mainland.
8. JAPANESE SITUATION - H.M. Ambassador at Tokyo considers that the Japanese Press reaction to British treatment of commercial treaties and the freezing of Japanese assets by U.S.A., N.E.I. and ourselves, are severe but less violent than might have been expected. He also considers that this prompt action has had some salutary effect. The arrival of Japanese troops, and preparations for Japanese occupation, in Indo-China, are reported as having increased pro-British sympathy among the French population.
9. THAILAND - The Thai Government has been showing grave anxiety lest the Japanese, having established themselves in Indo-China, should increase or offer Indo-Chinese territory as a bribe to bring Thailand completely under their economic and military control. Some Thai officials have urged British action and also U.S. action -
 - (i) to warn Japan off Thailand, and
 - (ii) to meet Thailand's economic requirements.

Lawrence (N)

George B. ...

W. D. ... of Malacca (A)

C.O.I.C.

5/8/41

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C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

D.N.I.
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D.O.I.
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Serial No.DS/67

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Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

S.W.A.C.H.0520/4Z
0555/5Z,1058/5Z

1. Aircraft Movements - An outer anti-submarine patrol and
a) a clearing search ahead of Convoy U.S.11B were conducted
from Pearce with negative results.

A.C.H.Townsville
1205/4Z,2314/4Z
0345/5Z,0705/5Z
0720/5Z

b) Nil sightings were reported on the following transit
flights by Flying Boats -
Tulagi - Rabaul
Moresby - Townsville
Rabaul - Tulagi

I.O.Thursday Is.

2. It is reported from Thursday Island that the "menacing"
sampans have now left for Japan.

DS/45 Para.A.1

Comment - This report apparently refers to the 2 sampans
stated on 9/7 to be working off Merkara Shoal
and the 15 sampans working Cook Shoal on 25/7.
The arrival of these craft on patches worked by
Thursday Is. boats was regarded as a severe
setback to local industry.

DS/58 Para.A.4.

It would accordingly appear that the
Japanese have now entirely vacated this, the
most eastward, of the four grounds customarily
worked by them.

WS/12 Para.A.6(d)

A.C.H.Townsville
0600/5Z
N.B.1758/4Z

3. U.S. Warships in Australian Waters - The United States
Cruisers "SALT LAKE CITY" (9,100 tons, 10-8") and
"NORTHAMPTON" (9,050 tons, 9-8") arrived at Brisbane
yesterday (5/8). They will depart on 10th August.

WS/12 Para.1.
A.N.L.O.Batavia
1403/2Z

Comment - The aircraft of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Scouting
Force which reported sighting a suspicious
vessel 500 miles N.W. of New Caledonia on 30/7
were from these warships.

Report from ss.
"Canopus" 2/8/41

4. Light and Rocket Sightings off South Eastern Australian
Coast - A further reports has been received of bright
lights or rockets, being sighted in a S.E. direction by
the Master of a coastal vessel when off Bermagui (N.S.W.)
at 0608K on 2nd August.

It has now been ascertained from the Melbourne
Observatory that sightings of lights or rockets etc. in
the early morning in a S.E. direction or in the early
evening in a N.W. direction could be attributed at the
present time to certain natural phenomena.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

Airintel Darwin
1217/5Z

5. Palau - Dilli Seventh Test Flight - The Seventh Test
Flight from Palau to Dilli scheduled for 8/8 has now been
postponed until 15/8.

The Flying Boat "ISONAMI", (markings J-BGOA) is
expected to leave Palau at 0530 hours and arrive Dilli at
1400 hours (Dilli time), on 15th August.

The Japanese have asked for a radio watch between the
50 and 60 minutes each hour, the aircraft transmitting on
1110 kcs. and Dilli replying on 6540 kcs.

The tender "NABIRE MARU" is expected on 15/8, but
will probably arrive during the afternoon of 14th and lie
outside Portuguese waters.

The Flying Boat will return to Palau on 18th August.

Comment - No reason has been given for this postponement, but judging by the details given it seems likely that the flight will be carried out. Following the previous practice of using a different aircraft and tender each trip, probably in order to give experience to as many crews as possible, a different flying boat "ISONAMI" is to make this flight using another tender "NABIRE MARU".

The possibility of a subsidiary or combined flight to Helen Reef en route cannot be overlooked.

Romney (N)

Perival (M)

C.O.I.C.

ngwesche Fb (A)

6/8/41

P.S. Japanese Shipping Movement - Australia Station

6. ✓ "Kasima Maru" - It has now been learned that this vessel is to proceed to Brisbane. Last sighted Cape Cleveland at 0415Z/5 and at its normal speed this ship would be off Brisbane at approx midnight tomorrow 7/8. Previous advice was that this vessel was proceeding to Sydney direct where it was due A.M. 10/8.

"Canberra Maru" - It has been learned that this vessel was instructed to omit Brisbane by the owners. Last reported off Sandy Cape at 0610Z/2 steering 45°.

"China Maru" - There have been no further sightings or intelligence of this vessel since it was last sighted steering north from Sydney Heads at 0120Z/3.

D. 6/8.

~~SECRET~~ 7/8
C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

Serial No. DS/68

D.N.I.

D.S.D.

D.C.N.S.

D.O.I.

D.D.M.I.

A.C.H. - Submitted.

S.E. Area

(Portions marked with marginal red line
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7/8/41

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION:

S.W.A.C.H. 0900/5Z
1330/5Z, 0410/6Z
1012/6Z

1. Convoy U.S. 11B - Anti-submarine patrols were established yesterday (6/8) for Convoy U.S. 11B by aircraft from Pearce.

2. Japanese luggers in Northern Australian Waters -

(a) A cable sent from Palau to the Japanese Association Thursday Is. and intercepted by censorship seeks information as to the number of Japanese luggers in fishing positions.

Comment - This enquiry tends to confirm that these fishing craft are based on Palau and probably fore-shadows a withdrawal from other areas as well as the Thursday Is. grounds now vacated by all Japanese luggers and sampans. The fact that this is the most remote Japanese fishing area from Palau has no doubt prompted the present enquiry.

S.O. (I) Brisbane
0100/5Z

F.E.C.B. 1402
2nd Ed. A.

N.B. 0427/6Z

(b) With regard to the reported dissatisfaction of Thursday Is. Japanese owing to the freezing of accounts with a possible threat to the safety of local Islanders, the Treasury has now advised -

- (i) that individual Japanese may draw on their personal accounts within stated limits for current expenses, and
- (ii) that trading companies may only draw with the Bank's approval in respect of wages and other items of current expenditure.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

C. in C. China
0508/5

WS 21Z/4

3. French Merchant Ships - It is reported that the French ship "COMPIEGNE" left Saigon on 4/8 bound for Madagascar. The French ship "FRANCOIS L.D." is reported to be loading 6,900 tons of rubber at Saigon for an unknown destination. It is requested that a lookout be kept for her in case the rubber is destined for France.

Comment - The "FRANCOIS L.D." must be added to the list of five French ships thought to be in the region of F.I.C. which was given in WS/12, para. 9. It may be expected that the N.E.I. will intercept these ships, unless, as has been suggested, the Japanese seize them for their own use.

Negotiations for the disposal of F.I.C.'s rubber have been going on for some time. Total production was 6,000 tons per month, of which 2,000 tons was formally allotted to Japan, 2000 tons was to be held in reserve for France on instructions from Vichy, and 2000 tons was available for the U.S.A.

WS/12 Para. 9.

F.E.C.B. 1948 (37)

F.E.C.B. 1948 (34)

The U.S.A. have, however, had difficulty in getting as much as 1000 tons per month. Early in July Admiral Decoux suggested that Japan and America should share production until the end of October and the November/December production should be kept for France. It is possible that

F.E.C.B.1948(37)

the French are now trying to get their rubber stocks out of the reach of Japan.

C.O.I.S.0401Z/6

- 4. It is reported that the German ship "RAMSES" (8,000 tons, 1926) has arrived at Yokohama. She is painted grey all over.

Comment - The "RAMSES" sailed from Kobe on 8/5/41 and has not been reported since.

EAST of Australia Station

Admty.0105B/5/8

- 5. It is reported that "LE TRIOMPHANT" Free French light cruiser, has left Great Britain for Tahiti on a special mission. "LE TRIOMPHANT" has been instructed that if war breaks out in the Far East after her arrival within the limits of the N.Z. Station she is to make for Wellington and place herself under immediate operational service control of the N.Z.N.B. and under the strategic control of the C. in C. China.

Comment - No warship is at present stationed at Tahiti or in its vicinity and it is known that the French there feel that their defence has been neglected and that they have certain fears of a Vichy French coup assisted by the "AMIRAL CHARNER" (sloop) stationed at Saigon or the "DUMONT D'URVILLE (Sloop) now at Madagascar. The visit of "LE TRIOMPHANT" may help to make more stable a very unstable political situation.

N.Z.C.I.B.
Intelligence Summary
No.22

WEST of Australia Station

Admty.1620B/5/8

- 6. Indian Ocean Raider - There are indications that a raider unit was in the Indian Ocean, probably in the Kerguelen - Crozet Island area on 31/7 and 1/8.

Comment - If this is the same unit as that thought to be in St. Paul - Kerguelen Island area on 25/7 and 29/7, it would appear to be moving westward away from the Australia Station.

1658B/29/7

D.N.O. W.A.0627Z/6

- 7. Distress Signals heard by "Piri" - The steamship "Piri" has reported through the A.R.O. at Bunbury that at (a) 1620Z/4/8 the following weak signal was picked up on 600 metres: "Lower your lifeboats, do not use your..... if you disobey I will fire".

(b) D.N.O. W.A.1515Z/4

- 8. A somewhat similar message was received at Esperance at 2054/3/8 the words received being "lifeboat down our"...

Comment - The "Piri" is a small coastal vessel and if the message ^{is} ~~is~~ genuine it is difficult to understand why none of the more powerful W/T shore stations at either Esperance, Geraldton or Broome picked up the message. It is furthermore contrary to the usual practice for a raider to use its W/T when within striking distance of its prey.

However, as a raider is known to be operating in the Southern Indian Ocean and a distress message of this type would need to have been within a radius of approx 1500 miles for the "Piri" to have picked it up, the possibility of the report resulting from a genuine raider attack in the southern Indian Ocean cannot be overlooked.

C. in C. E.I.
1240Z/4/8

- 8. Signal received at Mombasa - The following was read by Mombasa radio on 500 k/cs at 0744Z/4/8 "TTT - RARSK - RRRR - 666 N". Transmission stopped for a short period and then proceeded with "VR - VRT - AVRR - VR9".

Comment - It is considered probable that this message is the result of Japanese W/T communication, probably from some homeward bound Japanese ship in the Indian Ocean. The repetition of the letter R is common practice with Japanese commercial W/T messages.

C. JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

F.E.C.B.
0640/2Z
1925/2Z

- 9. Japanese Air Force Order of Battle - Receipt of the complete Order of Battle as at 1/8 now enables a comparison to be made with that of 27/6. Total strength appears as 2814 aircraft representing an increase of 300, allocated as follows:-

Army Air Service.....52
 Naval Air Service (shore-based)....180
 " " " (sea-borne).....67

There is a substantial increase, (221, principally Naval shore-based) in the number of aircraft in Japan, indicating the probability of or provision for operations against U.S.S.R.

The air strength in French Indo-China is 128 of which 108 are Naval Air Service Fighters, light bombers and Heavy Bombers. These would appear to have been flown in from Hainan during the general occupation of French Indo-China.

C.O.I.S.0911/5Z

Most secret sources
5/8
C.O.I.S.0911/5Z

- 10. Japanese Situation - Japan's mobilisation is reported to be continuing. About 700,000 reservists have been called up, the majority being sent to Korea or Manchukuo. It is estimated that 500,000 men have been called up in Japan during June and July for eventual service in Manchukuo. Preparations, possibly to attack U.S.S.R., should be completed this month.

do.

- 11. Indo-China - Approximately 12,000 Japanese troops with equipment of good quality have arrived and disembarkation continues. Camranh Bay was occupied on 30/7. Japanese warships dispositions comprise 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers and 3 submarine-chasers off Cap St. Jacques and 6 large destroyers at Saigon. Occupation of air bases is proceeding according to schedule. It is stated that the Air strength involved is uncertain but is believed to include 2 3 Squadrons of fighters and 2 Squadrons of Heavy Bombers at Saigon.

WS/12 Para.E.21

" " E.17

Comment - The Japanese garrison strength is expected to amount to approx 44,000.

The cruisers and destroyers known to be in the Saigon area were -

"ASHIGARA" (Flagship, 10,000 tons, 10-8")
 "NATORI" (5,170 tons, 7 - 5.5")
 5th Destroyer Flotilla
 23rd Destroyer Flotilla

C.O.I.S.0912/31Z

The above report does not refer to the Seaplane Carrier "KAMIKAWA MARU" (24 A/C) thought to be in the area. It does, however, disclose the presence of 2 additional destroyers and 3 submarine-chasers. The former are probably from the Hainan area where there are the 11th and 22nd Flotilla, or they may be from the Destroyer Flotilla (possibly the 8 7th) reported on 29/7 to be in the Mandates and possibly moving west; the latter are probably also from

the Hainan area, or they may be from the 56th Submarine Chaser Squadron located in the Mandates on 29/7 and 30/7 and possibly moving west.

The Air Forces in French Indo-China on 1/8 were reported as a total of 11 Squadrons (128 aircraft) which can now be identified as follows -

Saigon - 2 Squadrons Heavy Bombers (Naval) (Army Air S)
" 3 Squadrons Fighters (Naval Air Service)

Other Bases - 2 Squadrons Heavy Bombers (Army A.S.)
4 Squadrons Light Bombers (N.A.S.)

F.E.C.B.0640/2Z
1925/2Z

C.O.I.S.0911/5Z

12. Thailand - The Thailand Government is apprehensive of Japanese aggression. Certain Thai Ministers have asked the British Minister for a public declaration of British and U.S. support. The U.S. have not received any reply to their suggestion to Japan that Thailand should be neutralised by general consent.

Most secret advices
5/8

The language of the Japanese Press indicates that someone in authority is trying to manufacture a case for Japanese interference in Thailand and the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs has been warned that such action would produce a serious situation and that we should strenuously resist any power establishing a predominant position in Thailand at our expense.

The offer by Thai Banks of 10 million Ticals credit to the Specie Bank was rejected by the Japanese who insist on adoption of their plan whereby the Tical and the Yen would be interchangeable. An agreement on the part of Thai Banks to grant credit to the extent of 16 million yen has been announced in Tokyo.

C.O.I.S.0911/5Z

13. N.E.I. - Dutch regulations for the freezing of Japanese credits have caused a stoppage of all trade with Japan.

Glenn (N)

AS Bradshaw (M)
(A)

C.O.I.C.

7/8/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

D.N.I.
D.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.O.I.

SERIAL NO.DS/69

D.D.M.I. (Portions marked with marginal red line
A.C.H. S.E.Area are not to be reproduced).

8th AUGUST, 1941

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

WS/12 4/8
N.B.0721Z/7

1. N.W. of New Caledonia - It is now confirmed that the U.S. ship "American Leader" was in the position of the merchant ship reported sighted by U.S. aircraft on 30/7 approx 500 miles N.W. of New Caledonia.

Comment - It will be recalled that confirmation of this identity with the "American Leader" was being obtained from Noumea.

2. Unidentified Ship (Serial No.83) - At 2100/6Z a trans-Tasman Flying Boat reported the sighting of a 6,000 ton steamer with one funnel and two masts, grey in colour, on a S.W. course in position 34°09'S, 152°07'E (about 40 miles E.S.E. of Sydney). This vessel remains unidentified and M.M.S. advise that the only possibility would appear to be the Yugo-Slav vessel "ZVIR" bound from Newcastle to Whyalla. The colour, however, does not agree and the "Zvir" should have been well south of the position.

Comment - There is no intelligence to suggest a raider being in the area. It is also difficult to reconcile the course and position of the vessel at the time of sighting (0700K/7) with an enemy raider attempting to lay mines off Sydney.

3. Japanese Merchant Ships on Australia Station - The sighting at 0815/7Z of a Japanese passenger vessel off Cape Moreton heading south is considered from the description to be the "KASIMA MARU".

Comment - The "KASIMA MARU" was last reported to be calling at Brisbane but it is now learnt that the vessel is proceeding to Sydney direct where she is due tomorrow 9/8.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

4. Marshall Islands - The Japanese survey vessel "KATSURIKI" (or "Katuriki") after being reported as far north as 17°12' on 14/7, has consistently been reported in the Marshalls since 19/7. Since 25/7 she has covered the west and south coasts of Mili and Narik Islands at distances varying between 25 and 40 miles, being on 6/8 some 200 miles E.S.E. of Jaluit and about 125 miles north of Makin

Most secret sources

D.N.O. Qld.
1230/7Z

N.O.I.C.Sydney
0107/7Z

Island, the northernmost of the Gilbert Islands.

S.O.(I) Singapore
1051/6Z

7. Japanese Luggers - It was reliably reported from Dobo in the Aru Islands on 4/8 that Japanese pearl luggers were being recalled to Palau.

Comment - Dobo is approx 450 miles N.E. of the Darwin pearling grounds. It will be recalled that the sampans and luggers from Thursday Island grounds were recently reported to have returned to Dobo.

EAST of Australia Station

8. Nil Report.

C. JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

Most secret sources
3/8/41

8. Thailand's key Cabinet has decided to resist forcibly any attempt by Japan to violate Thai neutrality. To enable any such resistance to be effective, the Thai Prime Minister has urgently asked for material aid from Great Britain and the U.S. (in particular a squadron of pursuit planes) and a joint declaration in effect guaranteeing the neutrality of Thailand. Press reports announce that a warning to the effect that further Japanese expansion may mean war with U.S. is being conveyed by air to Tokyo. Meanwhile Japanese pressure is intense and Thailand has been forced to recognise Manchukuo. Japan is also demanding 35,000 tons of rubber and 60 - 70% of the total output of tin. It was stated on 2nd August that no demand had then been made for bases or a military agreement but that it might come at any moment.

Comment - In considering the likelihood of Japan pressing her southward advance to the point of war, the above evidence must be viewed in the light of -
(a) the obvious advantage to Thailand in putting the position in as bad a light as possible;
(b) the preparations by Japan for a move to the north as indicated in movements of aircraft and mobilisation plans referred to in DS/68 of 7/8.

DS/68

Rawns (N)

(M)

C.O.I.C.

St. J. O. v. w. (A)

8/8/41

9/16
C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL - INTELLIGENCE

D.N.I.
D.C.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.O.I.
D.M.I.
A.C.H. S. Area Submitted.

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

SERIAL NO. DS/70

9th AUGUST, 1941

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville
2320/7Z, 0138/8Z

1. Aircraft Movements - A Flying Boat on a transit flight (a) from Samarai to Moresby reported nil sightings.

A.C.H. Townsville
2320/7Z, 0037/8Z

(b) A search conducted by aircraft from Townsville for the purpose of identifying a ship sighted 12 to 15 miles N.E. of Cape Cleveland on a south-easterly course at 0800/8K resulted in the sighting of the Dutch "SOMMELS-DIJK" at 0935/8K on a course of 130°.

N.B. 1226/6Z
D.N.O. W.A. 0952/7Z
DS/68 Para. 7.

2. Distress signal heard by "Piri" - It has now been ascertained that none of the W.A. coastal radio stations heard the previously reported transmission, but Esperance reports that similar signals have been heard from Singapore and Hong Kong during the last few months, and Geraldton reports that Macassar (N.E.I.) was heard on 10th June making a similar signal to all ~~stations~~.

Comment - It would appear likely that the N.E.I. authorities are issuing these instructions to all shipping in the area with a view to offset the possibility of Vichy merchant ships passing through N.E.I. waters scuttling themselves when intercepted by Dutch patrols. It will be recalled that when the first Vichy ship was stopped and searched on 5/6 it was reported that the French Naval Authorities at Saigon had instructed the vessel to scuttle herself if necessary. As the Vichy ship "COMPIEGNE" was reported as having left Saigon for Madagascar on 4/8 and the two intercepted messages ("Piri" and "Esperance") were on the 4th and 6th respectively it would appear that these instructions are being issued by the Dutch authorities whenever they receive advice of the departure of a Vichy ship from Saigon.

F.E.C.B. 1948(34)

3. Japanese Luggers - Thursday Island - N.O.I.C. Thursday (a) Island now reports that the whole community is very upset over the restrictions on Japanese trade. Pearlring is dependent on the labour of Japanese, and their inability to support their dependents at home and the present restrictions are expected to result in the four principal merchants closing down and in a refusal to man local luggers.

N.O.I.C. Thurs. Is.
0439/7Z

(b) Wessel Island - Japanese luggers were reported watering in Larges Bay in south west centre of Wessel Is. on 8/8.

Chaseling
Yirrakala 8/8

4. Japanese Intelligence - From the answer to an attempt to get into private radio communication with the "KASIMA MARU" on 8/8, it appears that the Japanese Government has, as from 22/7, prohibited any radiograms except -
(1) Government messages written in plain language in Japanese, English or German;
(2) Radiograms from or to the Captain, of which the text is necessary to navigation.

S.O. (I) Sydney
1207/8Z

B. ADJACENT AREAS

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

5. Japanese Warships - The 7th Cruiser Squadron ("Mogami" class cruisers) the "HIRYU" (A/C Carrier) and the "KASUGA" (coast defence vessel) which left the South China area on 1/8 are shown by D/F and W/T intelligence to have arrived in Japan 5/8.

The disposition of the main South China Unit on 6/8 was as follows -

Saigon Area - "ASHIGARA" and "NATORI" (Cruisers) and at least one destroyer.

Camranh Bay - "KINU" (Senior Officer Auxiliary). (CRUISER)

Hong Kong area - "CHOGEI" (submarine depot ship) and "KAMIKAWA MARU" (seaplane carrier).

Swatow & Amoy area: - "ITSOKUSHIMA" (Mining vessel).

Paracel Is. Area - "NAGARA" (Cruiser). ~~Then "Chogei"~~

Comment - The "Chogei" was previously reported in the Paracel Islands area; and the "Kamikawa Maru" off Cape Padaran.

6. French Merchant Ship - The French ship "Compiègne" previously reported as having left Saigon on 4/8 bound for Madagascar, is now reported as having possibly left Saigon.

7. Danish Ship "GRETA MAERSK" - Darwin radio reports that the Danish ship "GRETA MAERSK" called Manila continuously from 1030Z/ to 1155Z on the 7th and passed message begins "Bound S.E. from Bugo".

The "Greta Maersk" 6,576 tons, built 1937, was formerly on the America - Philippines Trade but from July 20, 1940 until the U.S. took over Danish vessels in U.S. ports recently this vessel has been lying up at Manila according to Lloyds. It would now appear likely she is sailing under charter to the United States. BUGO IS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

WEST of Australia Station

8. Atlantic Ocean - The German steamer "Frankfurt" (5,522 tons) has been intercepted 600 miles S.W of the Azores. She scuttled herself.

Comment - She sailed Rio de Janeiro 27/6 and was apparently making for a European port.

C.C.I.S. 0737/7Z
(1888)

DS/68 Para.3.
I.C.China 0926/8Z

D.N.O. N.T.
8/8/41

War Advices from
Admty. 8/8/41

S.O.(I) Freetown
1524/26/6

Rowley (N)

Perival (M)

Wesche (A)

C.O.I.C.
9/8/41

G.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO. DS/71.

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

10th AUGUST, 1941.

ONE
D.C.
OUT
D.S.I.
A.S.S.E.
Submitted.

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

- A.C.H. Townsville. Aircraft movements. A Flying-Boat on a transit flight from Rabaul to Moresby reported nil sightings.
0210/9Z
0715/9Z
- Airintel Darwin 2. Japanese Luggers. 7 Japanese luggers including the mother-ship "New Guinea Maru" were sighted in the vicinity of Boucant Bay - Liverpool River, Arnhem Land, on 9/8.
1015/9Z
Comment - This is a regular pearl fishing ground. Japanese luggers have recently been reported in the vicinity of Drysdale, Truant and Wessel Islands in the same area.
The "New Guinea Maru" was operating with 11 luggers off Bathurst Island on 25/7, and on 31/7 22 luggers and 2 mother ships were sighted there. The recent movement of this mother ship Eastward to the only other fishing area in Northern Australian Waters now being worked by Japanese is probably in connection with the reported recall of all luggers to Palau.
- DS/65 Para.A4(b)
DS/70 Para.A3(b)
- DS/69 Para.B7.
- N.C.S. Sydney 3. Japanese Merchantships in Australasian Waters. The "Kasima Maru" arrived Sydney at 0150/9Z.
0151/9Z
Investigate Sydney
Censorship.
The "Yamagiku Maru" arrived Wellington from Auckland on 8/8. She is to leave Wellington on 10/8 to arrive at Lyttleton on 12/8.
- WS/12 Para.18(ii). Comment - This ship arrived at Auckland on 1/8 and was then scheduled to arrive at Wellington on 8/8 and at Lyttleton on 11/8.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

- C.O.I.S. 4. NORTH of Australia Station.
0858/9Z. Enemy Merchant Ships. The "Mosel" (German, 8,000 tons, 1927, 15 knots) and the "Fusijama" (Italian, 6,000 tons, 1929, 14 knots), which have been at Bangkok since the beginning of the war, left from Koh Sichang Island in the Bight of Bangkok on the night of 8th August.
P.N.I.O. 1020. Comment - Last advice of the "Mosel" was that she discharged her cargo at the end of 1939 and had a heavily fouled bottom. The "Fusijama" discharged a certain amount of cargo and for some time there was a good deal of unexplained activity of workmen on her. Both vessels had their wirelesses sealed by Thai officials. Their departure is probably due to Japanese pressure and the fear of possible action in Thailand in the near future. In view of the condition of these vessels it would seem likely that they are going to Japan to be taken over for use in the local coastal trade. Three Italian merchant ships, "Sumatra", "Volpi", and XXVIII Ottobre", are still at Puket on the West coast of Thailand, having been there since the outbreak of war.
- P.N.I.O. 1102
2nd A.
- N.I.D. 460/13.
- 5. Japanese Activity in the Mandates. A review of special (a) intelligence shows that whereas at the end of July and the beginning of August the general trend of Japanese auxiliary naval units in the Mandates was towards Japan, more recently there has been a fairly general return towards the Southern Mandates.
Comment - The period of their movement North coincided with the occupation of Indo-China.

Most Secret Sources.

Most Secret Sources.

(b) The Maru Auxiliary, previously thought to be associated with the transport or maintenance of a special landing party from Kure (Japan) at Truk, ~~on 31st July~~, was again in communication with "Kure Special Landing Party" and with "O.C. Truk Stores" and "C.O.S. Yokosuka". She is now known to have arrived at Truk, in company with a tug, on 4th August, being one day overdue. She was carrying 2 passengers, making a total of 147 on board.

Comment - This unit departed Japan on 19/7 for Saipan and Truk. Apart from short calls at intermediate islands, and delay on one occasion owing to bad weather, she has kept a straight course. As the vessel has been in constant communication with Kure Special Landing Party, C.O.S. Yokosuka, and Truk, it would appear she is either carrying the advance personnel of a special landing party (marines), or reinforcements, including stores, for a force that is already established at Truk.

It is remarked that many of the Maru Auxiliaries that have been operating in the Southern Mandates from Japan over the past few months have been unloading buildings materials and army coolies for constructional work on several of the islands. This suggests development and new construction of army and naval barracks etc. in these areas.

Rowley (N)

(M)

C.O.I.C.

(A)

10/8/41.

D.N.I.
D.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
A.G.H. S.E.Area
D.O.I.
D.M.I.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/72

12th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Townsville
1212/10Z,0920/11Z

1. Flying Boats from Port Moresby completed transit flights yesterday (11/8) Moresby - Townsville and Moresby - Salamaua - Rabaul. Nil sightings except for one ship which was identified.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

S.O.(I) Wellington
2251/11Z

2. A report was received from Nukufetau in the Ellice Is. that a large ship approached the island from the west at 1215M on 11th August. The vessel stopped off the south-east of the island for 20 minutes, then proceeded round to the north-east and made off to the north-east having acted in a suspicious manner. Description - 2 masts, low bridge, high funnel in the centre of the ship. The vessel cannot be identified.

Comment - In view of the reconnaissance of the Ellice Group, including Nukufetau, which was carried out by United States in June, it is suggested that this unit may be a U.S. Naval auxiliary. It is remarked that one of the vessels used for the reconnaissance operations last June was the auxiliary Aircraft Tender "WRIGHT" which is of merchant ship type, 8,600 tons, with a comparatively low bridge and a high funnel amidships.

S.O.(I) Wellington makes no mention as to whether this possibility has been considered.

Subject to the above suggestion the following possibilities are submitted.

- 1) A Japanese Maru or auxiliary carrying out reconnaissance of the Ellice Group. In this connection it is significant that a Japanese warship was thought to have been in the area between the Ellice Islands and the Santa Cruz Group on 27/7. Her presence was later confirmed in the vicinity of the Gilberts steering in a northerly direction. Several Japanese Naval auxiliaries including the survey ship "KATSURIKI" have been operating in and south of the Marshalls recently. The majority have a low bridge structure with a thin high funnel amidships. It is remarked that the vessel practically encircled the island apart from stopping for 20 minutes off the S.E. Coast and acting suspiciously.
- 2) There has been no intelligence to suggest the presence of an enemy raider in the area apart from the report of a disabled raider at Easter Island on 29/7. A suspicious vessel resembling a raider was reported at Yokohama on 7/7 while the supply ship "ANNALIESE ESSBERGER" which could fit the description has been missing from Japan since 12/6. There has been no further intelligence on either of these units.
- 3) Either the unidentified vessel sighted off

Most secret
sources

modified

Norfolk Is. on 15/7 or the large unidentified steamer reported off Kairiru (New Guinea) travelling N.E. on 1/8 could have been in the area.

Of the above 3 possibilities (1) is considered the most probable.

NORTH of Australia Station

EASFAR 0830/11Z

3. American, British, Dutch arrangements - The following progress report of joint British, U.S. and Dutch arrangements which have previously been agreed upon has been received. The Governor-General N.E.I. has approved periodical visits by British and Australian aircraft to Dutch aerodromes which they may occupy in war and similar visits by N.E.I. aircraft to our aerodromes. Publicity is to be avoided.

The Governor-General has also approved flights by British aircraft over Rhio in order to exercise linkage between Dutch and British observer systems. One such exercise has already been carried out.

Reconnaissances in operational areas laid down previously were carried out by American, Dutch and British aircraft during 23-25 July when the object of the Japanese southward move was uncertain.

British and Dutch striking forces also prepared to move to operational aerodromes. These operations had been prepared during conferences in Java in the middle of July. Combined reconnaissance was established rapidly and this operational experience is valuable for the detailed planning which is now continuing.

R.A.F. Heads of Medical and Repair and Maintenance departments, visited Kendari 2 and Samarinda 2, while fuel for British Flying Boats will be stored at Sabang for emergency use.

At Thursday Island 2 6" and 1 4.7" guns have been mounted and the defences manned. Building of W.S.S. is also in progress.

Lawrence (N)

(M)

C.O.I.C.

AS Bradshaw

(A)

12/8/41

D.N.I.
B.C.D.
D.F.N.S.
A.C.H.E.E:Area
D.O.I.
D.M.I.

13/8
C.C.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/73

13th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - The following movements of aircraft took place in the N.E. Area on 12/8:-
 - (1) One Empire Flying Boat proceeded from Townsville to Cairns, thence to a position near Osprey Reef to patrol a line joining Osprey Reef to Moresby. Nil sightings reported.
 - (2) One Flying Boat proceeded from Townsville to investigate the general disposition of luggers in the vicinity of Thursday Island. 17 luggers were sighted 60 miles west of Thursday Island - all Australian.
2. Unidentified Aircraft - Bass Strait - On arrival at Hobart on 12/8 the master of the "Koranui" reported that when in position 40°31'S, 146°40'E at 2000/10 he had seen about a mile astern an aircraft, with navigation lights showing, flying in a S.E direction at about 4000 ft.
The aircraft has been identified as a Service machine.
3. Unidentified Aircraft - New Ireland - It was reported by D.O. Kavieng to the I.O. Rabaul, that an aircraft had been sighted at 0900/11K off Djaul Island, too distant to identify. A later report stated that the plane was not sighted but heard loudly and distinctly by Captain Fraser, two privates and natives when in the bush near Kaut. It sounded like a large plane and appeared to disappear in an east-north-east direction. Captain Fraser is considered to be reliable.
4. Explosion off Kingscote - H.M.A.S. "COOLEBAR" (M/S) at Kingscote reported hearing a distant explosion in the direction of Marsden Point at 1435Z/11/8. The "Coolebar" subsequently searched the area from Marsden Point to 20 miles north but without result.

Comment - Marsden Point is 4½ miles north of Kingscote on the north coast of Kangaroo Island. It is possible that a floating mine striking a rock was responsible for the explosion as mines are known to have been laid in this area in November 1940 and, besides 6 recently washed up in the neighbourhood of Robe, one was sunk 14 miles south of Cape Willoughby on

A.C.H.Townsville
1210/12K

Airintel Western
Junction 1705K/12

Airintel N.A.0707/12Z
A.C.H.Townsville
0727/12Z
Airintel N.A.
2218/12K

WS/5

N.I.O.Rabaul
0810Z/4/8

D.N.O. S.A.
0033Z/12, 0311Z/12

WS/11:7

D.N.O. S.A.0332Z/24/7
0211Z/7/6, 1530Z/5/6

24/7, another was ashore on Wedge Island in Spencer Gulf on 7/6, and a third was sunk off Cape Catastrophe on 5/6.

WS/12 A.1.

5. Kairiru Island: Unidentified Ship - Serial No.82. This has now been identified as the United States ship "Gateway City" from Philippine Islands ports and the Serial Number has been cancelled.

Airintel Darwin
0615/12Z

6. Japanese Luggers - Northern Australian Waters - A Hudson aircraft sighted 16 Japanese luggers, including the mothership "NEW GUINEA MARU" at 0330Z/12 in a position between Rocky Point and Cape Helvetius on Bathurst Is.

1015Z/9

Comment - The last report from the Bathurst Island pearling grounds was dated 31/7 when 22 luggers and 2 mother ships were sighted 4 miles west of Rocky Point.

The mothership "NEW GUINEA MARU" was later sighted on the Wessel Is.- Boucaut Bay grounds on 9/8.

The reduction of numbers in the Bathurst Island area, the recent return of all luggers and sampans from the Thursday Is. grounds to Palau, and the recent visit of "New Guinea Maru" (which appears to be organising operations to the only other ground in Australia where Japanese luggers are operating), suggests that all fields are in process of being abandoned.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

Nil Report

Randall (M)

Perivai (M)

ASBshaw (A)

C.O.I.C.

13/8/41

1418
D.N.I.
D.O.I.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.
D.Q.I.
A.C.H. S.E.Area
Submitted.

C.O.I.S. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/74

14th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

MOST SECRET A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Townsville
1025/12Z

1. Aircraft Movements - The following movements of aircraft took place on 13/8 -
(i) One Flying Boat Rabaul - Salamaua - Moresby
(ii) One Flying Boat Moresby - Rabaul;
(iii) One Hudson Horn Island - Karumba - Townsville to report any luggers sighted.
In all cases nil sightings were reported.

N.I.O.Rabaul
0619/13Z
Airintel Moresby
1234/13Z

2. Aircraft over Gasmata - An aircraft was reported as seen flying over Gasmata at 1030K yesterday. Inquiries later disclosed that the Catalina Flying From Rabaul to Moresby via Salamaua had passed over the locality in question, at that time.
Gasmata is on the southern coast of New Britain some 200 miles east by north of Salamaua.

N.O.I.C.Pt.Moresby
0620Z/13

3. U.S. Warships - The U.S. Cruisers "NORTHAMPTON" and "SALT LAKE CITY" departed from Port Moresby at 1549K/13/8 for Rabaul E.T.A. 16/8.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

C.O.I.S.0307Z/13

4. French Warships - The Vichy French Sloop "AMIRAL CHARNER" departed Saigon 11/8.

C.O.I.S.0301Z/21/7

Comment - "AMIRAL CHARNER" has been at Saigon since 19/7. This is the first French Warship to leave Saigon since the Japanese occupation.

F.E.C.B.1948(40)

Admty.2255B/27/7

It will be recalled that Admiral Decoux gave assurances to the British Acting Consul General last month that no unit of the French Navy would be handed over to the Japanese. Although instructions were issued on 27/7 to intercept Vichy French merchant ships bound eastwards and passing through Sunda Straits owing to the possibility of them being taken over by the Japanese, there was no reference made to French warships.

It is possible this unit may be proceeding to join the "DUMONT D'URVILLE" at Madagascar.

C.O.I.S.0234/13Z

5. Japanese Luggers - Batavia reports that Japanese pearlers in the Aru Islands have been ordered to discharge native crews and return to Palau.

DS/73 Para.6
DS/69 Para.B.7

Comment - It has previously been suggested that the Japanese are abandoning their pearling in Australian waters and returning to Palau via Dobo (Aru Islands). This message from Batavian sources confirms the earlier similar report from the Aru Islands themselves.

S.O.(I) Singapore
1051/6Z

EAST of Australia Station

S.O.(I) Wellington
1020M/12

6. Japanese Nationals Leaving New Zealand - Eight Japanese nationals have applied for permits to leave Dunedin next week for return by the "YAMAGIKU MARU" to Japan. They

comprise 4 Bank employees, the manager and an employee of Mitsui, a director of Kanematsu and an official Government sheep buyer.

Comment - This evidence of Japanese nationals vacating New Zealand is in conformity with the departure of Japanese residents from Australia x in "KASIMA MARU" following the recent "freezing" of Japanese business in British territory.

WEST of Australia Station

Most secret
Sources

7. Japanese Merchant Ships in Cape Area - The "BELGIUM MARU" has been instructed by the Japanese Admiralty to proceed into Capetown immediately and later to call at Mombasa.

F.E.C.B.1948(41)

Comment - Recent advices indicated that all Japanese merchant ships in this area were proceeding home via the Horn and that the O.S.K. offices in Capetown were closing down and all other Japanese were leaving South Africa.

It would appear likely that this vessel is proceeding into port to evacuate nationals in similar manner to "KASIMA MARU" from Australia and "YAMAGIKU MARU" from New Zealand.

(N) *John Stokes*
(M) *[Signature]*
C.O.I.C.
(A) *[Signature]* 14/8/41

15/8

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

D.N.
D.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.
D.O.I.
A.C.H.
S.E. Area

SERIAL NO.DS/75

15th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).
Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

- A.C.H. Townsville 1155/13Z, 0911/14Z
Airintel N. Area 1900/14Z
A.C.H. Darwin 0113/14Z
Airintel N. Area 1715/14Z
1. The following movements of aircraft took place yesterday (14/8) -
Two Empire Flying Boats proceeded from Townsville to Darwin en route to N.E.I. Nil sightings reported.
2. Port Moresby - A report was received from a white woman resident near the new seven mile aerodrome Port Moresby that an aircraft had been seen by herself and 3 natives flying at a great height at 1200Z on 14th August.
The woman stated that the aircraft came from the North-east, circled the aerodrome for approximately five minutes, and then departed in a north-easterly direction with a green light visible. She heard a faint noise like an engine and saw two white flashes.
Two white guards on the aerodrome were interrogated and stated they had neither seen nor heard anything.
- Comment - The report is graded D.4 and no civil aircraft were known to be in the vicinity. In view of the lack of corroboration by the aerodrome guards, the report is not considered significant.
The possibility of hostile reconnaissance would appear to be ruled out by the time of sighting.
3. Peterborough, (Vic) - A mine has been reported washed ashore at Peterborough, Victoria and a naval party has been despatched. Peterborough is approx 35 miles west of Cape Otway.
4. Japanese Intelligence
The departure of "KASIMA MARU" from Sydney has been postponed until 1200K today (15/8). She is taking on board about 20 Japanese from Melbourne and 80 from Sydney including the wife and family of the Consul-General (Mr. Goto).
It is understood that the Japanese Minister (Mr. Kawai) is very anxious to see the ship out of port. It is considered extremely unlikely that the ship will call at Brisbane.
5. It is reported that Mr. Taheti Tauti who is at present stationed in Tokyo has been made "secretary of legation" and has been appointed to Australia.
Mr. Otabe, a member of the legation in Australia, has been instructed to return to Japan.
Tauti is to proceed to Australia with his family in "HUSHIMI MARU" which is reported to be leaving Japan on August 23rd.
- Comment - This is the first indication received that further ships were to sail for Australia following the Japanese Admiralty's instructions to shipping on 28th July to remain outside territorial waters unless specially instructed to proceed into British or U.S. Ports.
6. It is reported that the Noumea Sud-Pacifique Company has been applying for a Japanese shipping agency. This

D.N.O. Vic.
1031/14Z

S/L Hilary Taylor
1925/14K by
telephone

1030/15K

Most secret
sources

Most ret
sources

company formerly held the Messageries Maritime Agency.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

- 7. Catalina Flight "I" departed from San Diego, California, at 1500 hours local time, 10th August.

Comment - This is the ninth delivery flight of Catalina aircraft from the U.S. to Australia.

NORTH of Australia Station

- 8. From intercepted correspondence it is expected that the French Sloop "AMIRAL CHARNER" will return to France this autumn.

Comment - She was yesterday reported departed Saigon 11/8.

C.O.I.S 0131/14Z

An Appendix on the Japanese Lugger Situation in Australian waters, is attached.

Shannon (N)
Brown (M)
Wesche (A)

C.O.I.C.
15/8/41

Reference Aircraft report - Port Moresby

N.O.I.C. Pt. Moresby
1759Z/14

N.O.I.C. Port Moresby advises that a reflection on cloud of signal projection from H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE" which was in use about 1200Z/14 was mistaken for the sighting.

Comment - This apparently refers to the reference of lights flashing on the aerodrome.

D.N.I.
D.O.D.
D.C.V.
D.M.
D.S.I.

16/8
C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO. DS/76

16th AUGUST, 1941

A.C.H. S.E. Area

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
0157/15Z, 0610/15Z

1. Movements of Aircraft - Two Empire Flying Boats proceeded from Darwin to Koepang en route to N.E.I. Nil sightings reported.

Airintel N. Area
0709/15Z

2. Port Moresby - Further information amplifies the report of an aircraft seen by a woman and 3 natives over the seven mile aerodrome, Port Moresby, at 1200Z on 14th August.

Telegraphist McEachern reported that whilst on watch at Navy W/T Station Moresby, he heard a droning noise between 1130 and 1200/14Z. He thought the cause was a fan bearing running hot and switched it off, but the droning continued. He thought it sounded like an aircraft and listened from outside the W/T hut. The noise appeared to come from the sky from direction E.N.E. McEachern is considered to be reliable.

Northern Area
1825/18K

Northern Area have requested that enquiries be made at Rabaul on arrival of American cruisers to ascertain if any of their aircraft could be connected with this report.

Comment - The time of observation and the direction of the sound tend to corroborate the previous report but it is still suggested that the time of sighting and the fact that the 2 guards on the aerodrome neither heard nor saw anything, discounts the probability that an aircraft was responsible.

S.O.(I) Sydney
0926Z/15
Censorship
L/L 16/8

3. Japanese Intelligence
The "KASIMA MARU" which arrived at Sydney on 9/8, departed yesterday bound for Davao and then direct for Japan. A later advice from Tokyo which was radioed to the ship requested that she was to proceed to Brisbane to load.

Nineteen leading Japanese merchants and Mrs. Goto, the wife of the new Japanese Consul-General cancelled their passages before the liner sailed yesterday.

DS/75 15/8/41

Comment - This would tend to confirm the earlier report that the "HUSHIMI MARU" is to leave Japan on 23/8 for Australia with a Japanese consular official aboard.

C.O.I.S. 0649/15Z

4. Japanese Evacuation from Australian Ports - A special Consular Intelligence report of 2/8 contains the information for the Japanese Minister at Melbourne from the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs that orders for general evacuation are unnecessary and that it is still too early to make arrangements for the sending of an evacuation ship.

Comment - It will be noted that the date of this report (2/8) corresponds with the period following the early uncertainty which arose pursuant to the U.S.A. and British action in retaliation for the Japanese - F.I.C. agreement. It was between 26/7 and 29/7 that the "KASIMA MARU" which had turned back towards Japan between 21/7 and 24/7

DS/61 Para. A.2.
DS/63 Para. A.3.
DS/64 Para. A.2.

was again located as making for Australian ports on an amended schedule.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

C.S. Singapore
0919/15Z

5. Japanese Warships - The following dispositions of the Japanese South China Fleet on 14/8 are to hand:-
- (i) The cruiser "ASIGARA" and the 11th destroyer flotilla are in the Saigon area;
 - (ii) The remainder of the South China Fleet, together with the new 3rd Fleet and possibly the Cruiser "KUMA" are concentrated in the Hong Kong area, the majority being near Amoy.

Comment - All these units have previously been reported in the South China area and do not reveal any significant changes. The new 3rd Fleet is believed to be comprised chiefly of auxiliaries with the light cruiser "NAGARA" as Flagship. It would appear that these units have been drawn from the Base Defence Force and other Fleets, and regrouped into a newly formed 3rd Fleet, which was sent to augment the South China Fleet prior to the move into Indo-China.

7. The following points summarise the present position in the Far East.

- (i) Thailand: Insurrectionary, economic and political pressure by Japan continues, but no demands for military concessions have yet been made. Backed by the British and American warning to Japan the Thai Government is showing signs of stiffer resistance. British help is being required to relieve an acute oil shortage.
- (ii) Indo-China: Further Japanese troops are arriving. Four bomber squadrons and four fighter squadrons are now possibly in F.I.C. The French Governor ~~ant~~ Decoux, is anxious for the current agreement with Britain to stand in force.

Comment - The Order of Battle received from F.E.C.B. 2/8 gave 11 Squadrons in F.I.C. -
4 Squadrons Heavy Bombers
4 Squadrons Light Bombers
3 Squadrons Fighters

F.E.C.B.1948(41)

The F.E.C.B. Summary dated 5/8 referred to wild rumours of large concentrations of Japanese aircraft which were not confirmed or denied by the French. It was considered that 3 fighter squadrons and one H/B Squadron were at Saigon, with possibly another Heavy Bomber Squadron somewhere in the south.

(iii) Japan: There are further reductions in Japanese shipping services and many Japanese nationals are leaving allied countries. Military preparations continue in Manchukuo.

From 1st to 15th August all Japanese merchant ships and warships within the area bounded by longitude 122° and 136° East and latitude 24° and 36° North were instructed to transmit weather reports at 0000, 0300 and 2100 daily.

Comment - This would appear to have been a precautionary action in connection with the move into F.I.C. The area referred to is from the China coast to approx the longitude of Osaka, and from Formosa to approx the latitude of Tokyo.

8. Palau - Dilli Flight: The seventh Japanese test flight from Palau to Dilli has been again postponed. The Flying Boat is now expected to arrive at Dilli on 18/8 instead of 15/8

Comment - This flight was originally scheduled for 8/8.

WEST of Australia Station

(9) Enemy Merchant Ships - It is reported in the Press that the Argentine Government has decided to take over German and Italian ships in Argentine ports.

Comment - The Argentine Government hitherto has been inclined to oppose the U.S. lead and even to seek the favour of the dictatorships. There are 3 German and 15 Italian ships in Argentine ports. On the South American coast from Venezuela to Paraguay there are 17 Italian and 5 German ships.

Randy (N)

Percival (M)

AS Bradshaw (A)

C.O.I.C.

16/8/41

Most secret sources

Darwin
2335Z/14

WS/13 Para.25.

Press 15/8

D.N.I. *1718*
D.C.I.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.
D.O.P.
C.H. S.E. Area.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Serial No. DS/76.

17th August, 1941.

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced.)

MOST SECRET. Submitted.

A. AUSTRALIA STATION.

A.C.H. Darwin.
1028/16z.

1. Movements of Aircraft: A Hudson returned to Darwin from No. 1 Standard Patrol, reported sighting only Broome luggers and one Broome schooner.

Comment - This patrol does not cover the Bathurst Island area and throws no new light on recent movements of Japanese luggers.

Airintel Msby.
0350/16z.

2. Unidentified Aircraft, Port Moresby. Enquiries from the U.S. warships have established that none of their aircraft was near the seven mile aerodrome on the night in question. (See D/S.76, 16/8, para. 2.)

3. Japanese Merchant Ships: Intercepted radio messages reveal the following communications between the Japanese Consul-General, the "KASIMA MARU", her owners and their agents, Burns Philp & Co. -

N.O.C.S.
0241z/16.

- (a) The agents in Sydney were advised by the "KASIMA MARU" that the ship cannot proceed to Brisbane, and that "our views" had been telegraphed to Head Office.

N.O.C.S.
0455z/16.

- (b) The Japanese Consul-General was told by the ship that the Master cannot comply with the Consul's "desire".

S/L. Taylor.
No. T.O.O.

- (c) Ship was told by agents that loading at Brisbane is "absolutely necessary as advised repeatedly".

Milcommand
Sydney 1650K/16.

- (d) Reply from ship to agents stating "cannot proceed Brisbane".

N.O.C.S.
1110z/16.

- (e) Agents were advised by owners of instructions to Master as to calling at Brisbane to load some 8,000 bales of wool, and requested by the owners to do all possible for securing co-operation of shipper concerned.

N.B. 0954/16z.

Comment: The "KASIMA MARU" left Sydney on the evening of the 15th, due Thursday Island a.m. 21st, thence Davao. The above signals show direct conflict between the wishes of the owners and those of the captain, resulting in the abandoning of a large and valuable cargo in Brisbane. It is possible that the captain has the support of higher authority for his action in taking his ship direct to Thursday Island.

4. U.S. Cruisers in Australian Waters. The U.S. Cruisers "NORTHAMPTON" and "SALT LAKE CITY" arrived at 2320z/15 at Rabaul, and departed at 0530z/16, proceeding eastward south of New Ireland ^{south} ~~en route~~ to Nauru.

Landon
M
C01C
17/8/41
A. R. *Roman*

D.N.I.
D.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.
D.O.I.
A.C.H. S.E.Area

2/19/41
C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/77

19th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Townsville 0454/18Z
Airintel N.Area 0503/18Z, 1200/18Z
A.C.H.Townsville 1215/18Z

1. Unidentified Aircraft - Cape York (Qld) - It was reported from Cape York, through Naval Channels, that two aircraft were sighted 1730/17K at Cowal Creek, which is 18 miles south of Cape York. Course and height unknown. Sighting made by a coloured teacher; graded C by N.O.I.C. Thursday Island. A.C.H. Townsville is unable to identify the aircraft and further enquiries are proceeding.

Comment - In the absence of any descriptive details of the aircraft, it is difficult to assess its significance.

Other recent reports of unidentified aircraft in this area have been:

- a) off Djaul Island, New Ireland, 0900/11K;
b) Port Moresby 2200/14K (Graded D.4).

WS/14 Para.4.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

Naval Attache
Rio de Janeiro
1541Z/16

2. The British Ambassador at Rio de Janeiro has been assured by the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs that in future no enemy refugee ships will be permitted to sail from Brazilian ports.

Comment - Most of the recent departures of enemy ships from South American ports have been from Brazil. There are at present 11 Italian and 3 German ships still in Brazilian ports. Of these, two Italian ships, "ANTONIO LIMONCELLI" and "TEBRO" have recently shown signs of preparing for departure.

N.S.O.I.Montevideo
1946Z/2/8
1759Z/7/8

WEST of Australia Station

C. in C. E.I.
0728Z/16

3. Raider Activity Indian Ocean - In view of reports that Crozet and Kerguelen Islands are used as raider bases, H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" is to visit them from Durban later this month.

Bannon (N)

Bannon (M)

A.S. Bradshaw (A)

C.O.I.C.
19/8/41

D.C.N.S.

D.M.I.

D.O.I.

A.C.H. S.E. Area

SERIAL NO. DS/78

20th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

WS/14 Para.7. 1. MINES - The mine washed ashore at Peterborough (Vic) on
D.N.O. Vic.1026Z/ (a) 14/8 is now reported to be "Y" Star type and 10 - 11
18 months old.

Comment - This confirms the view that the mine belonged to the old field.

D.N.O. Vic.
0255Z/19

(b) A further mine is reported by military authorities as having been found in prohibited area $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Darby River in vicinity of Wilson's Promontory. This mine is stated to be in a rusty condition with all horns bent, and approximately 12 months old. It is now ascertained by telephone from the Duty Staff Officer, Port Melbourne, that the mine is under guard and that a demolition party has set out from Flinders Naval Depot.

Comment - This mine presumably also belonged to the old field.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

2. JAPANESE - A Japanese ship, considered to be probably a naval auxiliary, which was off the south of the Philippines on 1st July and moved to a position north of the Celebes between 5th July and 8th July, after returning to the area of Palau has passed between the Celebes and Philippines and was on 18/8 in position $3^{\circ}00'N$, $120^{\circ}00'E$ about 130 miles off Tarakan in Borneo. C.Z.M. has been informed and asked if possible, to identify this ship.

Comment - To reach its present position this ship must have passed through the area of the Dutch daily patrol between Mindanao, Talaud, Morotai and Sorong.

3. INDO-CHINA - It is reported that, while personal relations in Indo-China with British representatives remain friendly and anti-Japanese sentiment has increased, French authorities are leaning more towards collaboration with Germany and that the Governor-General is now entirely pro-Vichy.

4. German Merchant Ships - The unidentified new Glen type (a) ship returned to Yokohama on 16/8.

(b) The German "MUNSTERLAND" (6,408 tons, 1922) sailed from Kobe on 17/8.

Comment - The unidentified ship has been absent from Yokohama for about one week. - It is possible she has just visited a naval dock for repairs

Most secret
sources

C. in C. China
0820Z/22/7

Most secret
sources
16/8/41

C.O.I.S.
0446Z/19

for repairs or scraping as it has previously been suggested this vessel may be a raider.

"MUNSTERLAND" is considered to have been exchanged in Japanese ports from time to time with other German ships which she resembles. Either she or a "double" has been in Japanese waters since 7/9/39, and the "MUNSTERLAND" herself has apparently been in Kobe from 9/6/41 to 17/8/41. She has not been reported as operating in the Japanese coastal trade and has previously been regarded as a likely supply ship for raiders.

7. Japanese Merchant Ships - It has been reported ^{by} ~~to~~ U.S. Naval Authorities in San Francisco that four Japanese ships in the Behring Sea are trans-Atlantic, that Japanese ships have been ordered to withdraw from all world trade routes, that they have all cancelled their sailings except in Japanese home waters and that most Japanese ships out of an estimated total of 48 in American waters are now returning to Japan.

Comment - Although there have been substantial reductions in Japanese shipping services and the general movement of Japanese ships on the high seas and in territorial waters outside Japanese home waters has been in the direction of Japan, there has also been recent evidence of certain Japanese ships already in British waters, continuing their normal schedules before returning home.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa
2044Z/18

WS/14 Para. 21.

John Stiles (N) 

George Brant (M)

R. J. Mayne (A)

C.O.I.C.

20/8/41

21/8

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

D.N.I.
D.C.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I. D.Ops.
D.O.I. Def I.
A.C.H. S.E. Area

SERIAL NO.DS/79

21st AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville
0625/20Z

1. The following movements of aircraft took place yesterday (20/8) -
(i) One Catalina proceeded from Vanikoro to Tulagi;
(ii) One Catalina Moresby - Rabaul.
In both cases nil sightings were reported.

O.I.C. Archer Point
1730/19Z

2. ARCHER POINT (Qld) - Serial No.84 - A report was received from Archer Point that the visual signal watchkeeper had seen two dull white lights moving northward at 1620Z/19. The lights then disappeared and when called by flash lamp no answer was received.

A.C.H. Townsville
0846/20Z
N.B. 0543/20Z

Comment - The sighting cannot be identified but A.C.H. Townsville are taking no action in the matter, and it has been suggested that the vessel was a lugger.

In this connection it is known that luggers from Thursday Island come down the coast past Cooktown. They do not usually carry lights. Such a lugger would not normally carry signalling apparatus and would probably ignore anyone signalling to it.

During the past ten days there have been three reports of aircraft sightings in the North Eastern area:

- (a) Off Djaul Island, New Ireland, 11/8;
- (b) Port Moresby 14/8 (Graded D.4);
- (c) Cowal Creek, Cape York 17/8 (Graded C).

Townsville advises that of these reports (a) may be classed as sound; (b) is discounted, as the source is regarded as unreliable; and (c) is still being investigated, difficulty being caused by the lack of communication.

It would appear therefore that there is no strong evidence to support any theory that reconnaissance is being carried out in this area, nor is there any intelligence to suggest the presence of a raider in these waters.

The unidentified ship which acted suspiciously at Nukufetau in the Ellice Islands on 11/8 could have reached Archer Point by 20/8 at 10 knots, but there is no reason to suggest her presence in this area.

WS/14 Para.4
Para.2
DS/77 Para.1

By telephone 20/8

DS/72 Para.B.2

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

C.O.I.S. 0751Z/20
DS/54 Para.B.1.
C.S. Singapore
1401Z/20/7

3. German Merchant Ships under Japanese Colours - "ODENWALD" departed Tokyo Bay on 18/8, with the same markings as she had when she departed Yokohama on 19/7.

Comment - This is the first intelligence received of her since her departure on 19/7. She is one of the ships for which Chinese crews were recently engaged and was previously reported to be flying the Japanese flag and painted with Japanese

C.O.I.S. 0140Z/26/6

ship markings. It is considered she is probably engaged in the Japanese coastal trade.

Most secret
intelligence

4. Japanese Mandated Islands - It is known that a Japanese merchant vessel which departed Truk this week for Saipan carried a party of dockyard workers as well as several army ordnance and naval officers.

Comment - This information merely confirms the view held that a main base for combined operations is being developed at Truk.

Rowdy (N)

Perival (M)

Wesche (A)

C.O.I.C.

21/8/41

D.N.I.
D.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.
D.of I.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/80

22nd AUGUST, 1941

D.Ops (Portions marked with marginal red line are
A.C.H.S.E.Area not to be reproduced).
Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Townsville
0939/20Z
2206/20Z

1. The following transit flights took place yesterday (21/8):-
(a) One Catalina Moresby to Darwin - six luggers sighted;
(b) One Catalina Rabaul to Tulagi - negative result;
(c) One Catalina Tulagi to Moresby - negative result.

N.B.0512/21Z
Airtel N.Area
0715/21Z

2. Bustard Head (Qld) - An unidentified vessel described as passenger type of 3/5,000 tons was reported off Bustard Head at 0250/21Z bearing north east 15 to 20 miles on a south-easterly course. (Serial No.85).

Comment - Subsequently identified as H.M.A.S."ADELE"
AND Serial No. cancelled.

By telephone
Duty Officer S.C.
0005/22K

3. Unidentified Aircraft - Hobart - A military intelligence officer at Hobart reported having sighted a single aircraft flying over Bellerive (Hobart) between 2235K and 2240K/21 in a north easterly direction at a height of about 3000 feet. Visibility good. The aircraft showed a palish green light and a yellow light. The report was graded A.3. Western Junction report that no service aircraft were concerned and that no civil aircraft are known to have been in the area. Further enquiries made by Intelligence officers Southern and Western Junction discount the report considerably as it has not been possible to obtain confirmation from any other source while the observer now states he did not see nor hear the aircraft but merely saw a pale green moving light which appeared to change to yellow.

Comment - Although there have been 5 previous reports of unidentified aircraft in this area this year and some of these have coincided with the movement of a major transport to or from the area, none have been considered ^{reliable} nor has there ever been any subsequent ^{convincing} intelligence to suggest that an enemy unit was responsible.

In connection with the present report it is remarked that the Indian Ocean raider which was last reported to be in the Crozet Is. area on 1/8 has had time to reach the Hobart area but there has been no previous intelligence to suggest that the vessel has followed this course nor is the present report considered sufficiently significant to warrant the suggestion.

S.W.A.C.H.
1702Z/21

4. Unidentified Vessel off Rottneest Is. - An unidentified ship was reported by an A/S vessel approx 19 miles W.N.W. from Rottneest Is. at 1245Z/21. A search was carried out by one Hudson early this morning with negative result. S.W.A.C.H. advised that investigation was continuing and that an air search to seaward would be carried out if necessary.

A later report from Airtel Pearce suggests that the vessel is the "STORVIKEN" ^{but} and that the investigation was proceeding.

NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE IDENTITY OF THE VESSEL HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM S.W.A.C.H.

Airtel Pearce
1730/21Z

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

Airintel W. Area
0734/20Z
0200/21Z

5. Airintel ~~Mark~~ Western Area reported heavy traffic in Japanese Code as follows -
0844/19Z B1 calling D2, 8180 kcs, bearing 035° True
0858/19Z D2 calling B1, 8180 kcs, bearing 025° True
1002/19Z JMLJ " B2, - bearing 027° True
18/8 ~~B2~~ 8200 kcs, bearing 027° True

Comment - The frequency given is that of Japanese merchant ships and Tokyo Broadcasts to merchant shipping.

JMLJ is the call-sign of the tender "ASAHI MARU" thought to be in the vicinity of Halmahera (N.E.I.) probably for the purpose of giving weather reports and bearings in connection with the Seventh Japanese Test Flight Palau to Dilli. This tender serviced the Flying Boat used on the Sixth experimental flight, on its arrival at Dilli.

Airintel Darwin
1050/21Z

6. Seventh Japanese Test Flight to Dilli - It is now reported that the Japanese Flying Boat is to arrive at Dilli on 22nd August instead of 20th August.

Comment - Originally scheduled for 8/8 this flight has been successively postponed to 15/8, 18/8 and 20/8.

DS/78 Para.4.
C.O.I.S.0241Z/21

7. The German ship "MUNSTERLAND" which sailed from Kobe on 17/8 arrived at Yokohama on 19/8.

Most secret
sources

WS/13: 23

8. Mandates - The Japanese naval auxiliary previously recorded as having sailed from Japan via Saipan for Truk in connection with the Kure special landing party, is now returning to Japan with 139 passengers. On the southward trip there were 147 people on board but only 2 passengers.

Comment - It is possible that this unit has either been replacing naval personnel at Truk or is taking a party of workman back to Japan.

C.O.I.S.1919Z/19

9. Japanese Navy - The Combined Fleet is reported to be in Japanese waters. The South China and 3rd Fleets are in the Hong Kong - Amoy area except for a few small units in French Indo-China waters.

Comment - The disposition of the Japanese Fleet ~~by~~ has now almost returned to the position held by it before the occupation of F.I.C., as apparently the cruiser "ASIGARA" and the 11th Destroyer Flotilla have now left the Saigon area where they were reported on 14/8.

C.O.I.S.0919Z/15

10. Troops in French Indo-China - From a corrupt signal from Singapore it would appear that 23,000 Japanese troops have now arrived in F.I.C.

Comment - The number of troops originally expected was between 40,000 and 50,000. By 5th August 12,000 troops had been disembarked.

WS/12: 21

WS/13:22B

C.O.I.S.1919Z/19

11. Thailand - The situation in Thailand is tense. ~~The Thais appear to have been informed of our agreements in~~

~~the Far East (corrupt groups).~~ The attitude of the Thais depends largely on the degree of help which the U.S. is willing to give. The Thai Prime Minister is playing for time and pressing for the supply of oil and munitions from the U.S. and ourselves. The British Ambassador at Tokyo considers Japan will increase her economic pressure but has no immediately intention of attacking Thailand.

Comment - This report confirms the general picture of the situation previously received. The insistence on definite aid from the U.S. and criticism of a ~~niggling~~ policy of quid pro quo have come to the fore.

C.O.I.S.1919Z/19

11. Japan - Mobilization and troop movements are now less in evidence.

WS/14:26

Comment - This was to be expected once the main annual call-up of fresh age groups was completed in July.

C.O.I.S.1919Z/19

12. Hong Kong - The Japanese have closed the frontier to all Chinese villagers in order to stop smuggling.

Press 20/7

Comment - A press report stated that Chinese were leaving Hong Kong owing to a food shortage. It is known that there has been some difficulty in getting supplies of rice for Hong Kong. It would appear that the Japanese are trying to embarrass the British in Hong Kong.

F.E.C.B.1948(38)

Raunoy (N)

Mullaly (M)

A. Quersche (A)

C.O.I.C.

22/8/41

23/8

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

D.N.
D.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.

SERIAL NO.DS/81

D.Ops (Portions marked with marginal red line are not
D. of I. to be reproduced).

23rd AUGUST, 1941

A.C.H. Submitted.
S.E.Area

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Airintel N.A.
0205/22Z
1010/22Z

1. Groote Eylandt (N.T) - A white resident of Groote Eylandt reported that he and an aboriginal heard sounds resembling machine gun fire in a position south east from the Air Base at 1155/21. The sounds were described as being a long way off and consisting of 3 or 4 bursts of 2 seconds duration. However, nothing was heard at the Base 2½ miles away. Darwin has graded the report C.5.

Further enquiries from the local Mission indicated that 4 large explosions were heard followed by several bursts like machine-gun fire and a native reported seeing a land plane very low about this time (Graded C.5 also).

Comment - Previous reports from this area have been -

WS/8 Para.A.1

(i) Sighting by natives of "seaplane and upright stick moving in the water off Bickerton Is. early in May";

WS/11 Para.A.10

(ii) Native report of Japanese overseas pearler having established a ~~fuel~~ fuel dump between Cape Stewart and Blythe River;

WS/12 Para.A.3

(iii) Sighting by natives at Roper River Mission of aircraft going towards Groote Eylandt on evening of 27/7 (Graded E.5).

do

As previously observed, the possibility of Japanese activity in the area is regarded as remote by reason of -

- (a) its inaccessibility to foreign aircraft;
(b) the existence at Groote Eylandt of R.A.A.F. Advanced Operational Bases for both land planes and Flying Boats;
(c) The absence of reconnaissance objectives, apart from the A.O.B.s mentioned.

Airintel Northern Area considers that the aircraft referred to in the latest sighting report may have been the Catalina Flying Boat proceeding from Moresby to Darwin on 21/8. This aircraft with its floats retracted could be mistaken by a native for a land plane.

The possibility is suggested that the Flying Boat may have engaged in bombing and gunnery practice when in the vicinity of Groote Eylandt.

G.H.Q. Bandoeng
0630/22Z

2. Portuguese Timor - G.H.Q. Bandoeng has advised receipt of a report dated 22/8 from the Territorial Commander, Koepang stating -

- (a) that according to "uncontrolled" information dated 18/19th August, 3 submarines were seen near Dilli, their nationality and direction not being established as they submerged soon after being seen;
(b) that on the same dates a Japanese schooner was reported as sailing from Dilli after dawn and returning next day;
(c) that according to information "not yet controlled" Germany has asked the Dilli Government permission for the Japanese to enter there;
(d) that the Japanese will wait until 28th August when 3 warships with 7 aircraft will be stationed outside Dilli harbour and if the Dilli Government agrees to

the German proposal the Japanese will then enter the harbour;

(e) that the Chinese population in Portuguese Timor are afraid and wish to enter Dutch territory before 28th August.

Comment - The reference to the reaction of these reports on the Chinese population of Portuguese Timor suggests that they have their origin in some ~~km~~ local sighting or incident which has given rise to a highly coloured rumour.

Although Japan has displayed marked interest in Portuguese Timor and sought concessions as a preliminary to more effective economic and industrial penetration it is difficult to conceive that her strategy at this stage would include such a move as that now reported, particularly in view of her ~~apparent~~ intention to consolidate her position in French Indo-China before engaging in ~~km~~ further Southward adventures. The absence of other and higher intelligence on this subject is also significant.

There has been no indication from the regular C.Z.M. signal giving dispositions of Dutch naval forces that any Dutch submarines have recently been operating in this area.

The Japanese schooner mentioned may possibly refer to the tender "NABIRE MARU" which was expected to service the Japanese Flying Boat undertaking the seventh flight Palau - Dilli. Although it was anticipated that the tender would lie outside Portuguese waters, the several postponements of the flight could have resulted in her entering harbour.

These postponements may have contributed to the currency of the present report. As it is possible that they have a different significance, it is suggested -

- (a) that C.Z.M. be signalled for confirmation that no Dutch submarines have been in the vicinity, and generally,
- (b) that Dilli agents be signalled for confirmation or denial of the reports, although it is improbable that well-founded intelligence would not have been passed.

DS/67 Para.B.5
DS/80 Para.A.4.
S.W.A.C.H.
0454/22Z

3. Vessel off Rottneest Is. - The vessel sighted off Rottneest Is. (W.A) and suggested as possibly being "STORVIKEN" is, after further investigation, considered by S.W.A.C.H. probably to be that vessel.

D.N.O. Qld.
2253Z/21

4. Japanese Merchant Ships - The "KASIMA MARU" left Brisbane at 2250Z/21/8 for Davao E.T.A. 2/9.

R.O. Noumea
0430Z/22

5. Reported Sighting of Submarine off Noumea - It is reported that a native of Lifou Island claims to have sighted a submarine (which submerged immediately) at 0730K local time on 15/8 about 200 yards off Cape des Pins. Neither verification of the native's statement nor any information ~~is~~ on the subject is forthcoming from local residents.

Comment - Cap des Pins (Cape Pine) is on the eastern side of Lifou Is. (Loyalty Group) and is approx 90 miles N.N.E. of Noumea. The only enemy or potential enemy submarines known to be in the Pacific area other than Japanese, are the two Vichy French submarines "PEGASE" and "MONGE"

based at Saigon and at least one Italian and possibly one German submarine in Japanese waters. The "PEGASE" was reported having probably departed Saigon on 11/8 with the sloop "AMIRAL CHARNER" in which case it could not have reached the area, while ~~thisxxx~~ there has been no intelligence to suggest that any of the other submarines are operating in the Pacific for the past 5 months.

In view of the distance from any known base the only possibility if the sighting was a submarine would appear to be Japanese. In this connection it is remarked that an intelligence report on Lifou dated 9/6 confirmed that no Japanese had been in the area for 18 months. This, plus the fact that the report comes from an inexperienced observer and has not been confirmed in any way since 15/8, discounts the probability of the sighting being a submarine.

Airintel Moresby
2214/9/5

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

6. Japanese Warships in Mandates - The Flagship of the 8th Cruiser Squadron in the 1st Fleet, "KAKO", was in the East Carolines on 21/8.

Comment - The First Fleet which forms part of the Combined Fleet was reported to be in Japanese Home Waters on 19th. "KAKO" is an 8" gun Cruiser of 7,100 tons and it is the first time that the vessel has been reported in the Mandates area.

EAST of Australia Station

7. Japanese Merchant Ships - "YAMAGIKU MARU" arrived Noumea at 2200Z/21 and is loading nickel ore.

Comment - This is in accordance with her schedule when leaving Lyttleton. She is next to proceed to Rabaul to load copra and thence to Japan.

Most secret
sources

C.O I.S.0919Z/19

A.R.O. Noumea
2230Z/21

Randall (N)
W. M. M. M. M. (M)
A. J. J. J. (A)

C.O.I.C.
23/8/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

SERIAL NO.DS/82

24th AUGUST, 1941

Submitted.

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville
0620/23Z.

1. Transit Flight - A transit flight took place yesterday (23/8) from Moresby to Tulagi. Nil sightings reported.

D.N.O. S.A.
0405Z/23.

2. Mine on South Australian coast - A mine has been washed ashore 18 miles West of Port MacDonnell.

WS/11 Para.A.7.

Comment - Port MacDonnell is about 12 miles from the Victorian border, and the location of the mine is approx. 50 miles on the Victorian side of Robe. This mine is the 10th discovered on the South Australian coast since 4/6, and it presumably comes from the old field. Confirmation is awaited.

Airintel Darwin
0700/23Z

3. Japanese Luggers - The Malay Captain of a Darwin lugger reports that all Japanese luggers operating in the Bathurst Is. area received orders from Japan to proceed to Palau and lay up there, and in consequence 12 luggers accompanied by the mothership "New Guinea Maru" left the area on 20/8. Four luggers are reported to have remained on account of shortage of fuel which they have been instructed to replenish from Darwin luggers. The report is graded B.2., and a check is being made over the area in question by aircraft from Darwin on 24/8.

WS/14 Para.A9(a)

Comment - This report refers to the group of luggers reported on 12/8 as 15 luggers and one mother ship off Bathurst Is. It is becoming apparent that all the Japanese luggers are being withdrawn to Palau. The Thursday Is. group have already left Australian waters for Palau via Dobo. Consequently there now could only remain the 7 luggers and mother ship in the Wessel Is. area sighted on 9/8. It is considered probable that these also have moved North since that date.

WS/14 Para.A9(b)

D.N.I. Melbourne
0729Z/23

4. Japanese Merchant Ship - "Yamagiku Maru", which arrived Noumea 2200Z/21 to load nickel ore, was later ordered instead to proceed to Cebu to load hemp, sailing A.M. 23/8. However, these instructions also were subsequently changed and she sailed for Kua, New Caledonia, to load 5,000 tons of nickel ore as previously expected. She was expected to arrive there on the afternoon of 23/8.

A.R.O. Noumea
2340Z/22

B. ADJACENT AREAS

North of Australia Station.

C.O.I.S. Singapore
0201Z/23.
0858Z/9.

5. Italian Merchant Ship. "FUSIJAMA", (6,244 G.T. - 14 kts) which departed Bangkok on the evening of 8/8, arrived Kobe on 22/8.

C.O.I.S.
0919Z/19
DS/80 Para.B.10.

6. French Indo-China - A re-check of corrupt groups in a previously received signal shows that on 19/8 the 23,000 Japanese troops then disembarked were divided between the Saigon and Phnom-Penh areas, and that another division was expected immediately, accompanied by medium tanks and guns.

East of Australia Station.

Enemy raider in Pacific. - It is reported from the naval authorities N.E.I. that on the 17/8 the Netherlands cargo ship "KOTA KOPAN" (7322 tons 1931) was sunk by a raider in position 001° 22' South 089° 10' West. A distress signal was heard which ended suddenly on the third transmission. No word has been heard of the crew.

Comment.

The "Kota Kapan" departed Thursday Island on 21/7 for Balboa where she was due on 21/8. The position of the sinking as given is in the vicinity of the Galapagos Islands. The only recent report suggesting the presence of a raider in this area was the report arising from a conversation with an engineer on the "Heiyō Maru" that that ship was loading spare parts for a disabled German raider at Easter Island D4. H.M.C.S. "Prince Robert" which was sent to investigate was due at Easter Is. on 8/8. but no report on the visit has yet been received. A D/F fix was obtained on a German unit early in February, some 2400 miles N.W. of Easter Is. This was later associated with reports of a German submarine which was later reported in Japan.

None of the German merchant ships that have been absent from Japanese ports for sufficient time to have reached the area are considered to be raiders nor has there been any intelligence to suggest they have been operating as supply ships to raiders in the Pacific. The only likely raiders known to be in the Pacific namely, Rambll. and the Unidentified Glen line type ship are both considered to be in Japan. In view of the arrangements made early last month to route more ships via Panama instead of the Cape it is probable that a German raider has been sent to this area with a view to covering the approaches to the Panama canal

Lawson N.

M.

C.O.I.C.
24/8/41.

W. J. Owen A.

NL
BATAVIA
18152/23

D.O.D.

D.C.N.S.

D.M.I.

D.Ops

D. of I.

A.C.H. S.E. Area Submitted.

SERIAL NO. DS/83

26th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

H.M.A.S. "Orara"
0640Z/25

- 1. Italian Activities - It is reported that observation was made at 1330K/21 at Conran Point near Cape Everard of two Italians who had erected a mast with W/T aerials kindling a large fire.

This report has now been passed on to Military Intelligence authorities who are conducting investigations.

Comment - Cape Everard is on the Victorian coast about 30 miles west of the N.S.W. border.

Naval Intelligence Officer, Rabaul
0715Z/25

- 2. Volcanic Activity at Rabaul - Owing to continuous dust from volcano it has been decided ^{is proposed} to move the New Guinea seat of Government from Rabaul to Lae ^{and provide accommodation} outside the affected area for officers required to remain in Rabaul. Owing to the time required for the erection of buildings elsewhere it is unlikely that the central administration will leave Rabaul for another 3 or 4 months, unless a dangerous eruption compels evacuation.

WS/15 Para.4(b)
Airtel Darwin
0115/25Z

- 3. Unidentified Aircraft - Millingimbi - A further report from Darwin is to the effect that the guard that reported hearing an aircraft at 0030/23Z stated that it sounded like a Qantas Flying Boat. The report is now graded C.4.

Comment - Airtel Darwin has stated that no service or civil aircraft should have been in the area. The only unusual movement indicated by Northern Area's daily signal was a special KNILM aircraft eastbound departing on the morning of 23/8. The normal course of this aircraft would have been further south but enquiries are being made to ascertain the possibility of it being responsible.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa
1558Z/24

- 4. Japanese Trade and Evacuation - It is reported from San Francisco that Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Mitsubishi and Mitsui in Japan are to notify all employees except a few Kobe-America(?) that employment will cease as from 30/9. The Nippon Trade Agency "Propaganda Outlet" is to close on the same date. It is a known fact that Nippon Yusen Kaisha expect one liner before 30/9 for removal of about 900 passengers on booking list. Graded A.3.

Comment - These steps are in conformity with recent restrictions imposed in British territory, U.S.A. and N.E.I. on trade with Japan and with the withdrawal of Japanese merchant ships from world trade routes and with the evacuation of Japanese nationals from overseas countries.

WS/15
Paras.18, 21

Randy (N)

(M)

Prof Davis (A)

27/8

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

D.N.I.
D.C.D.
D.C.S.
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D.of I.
A.C.H.S.E. Areato be reproduced).

SERIAL NO.DS/84
27th AUGUST, 1941

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Townsville
1244/25Z, 0040/26Z

1. Transit Flight - One Catalina and one Empire Flying Boat made a transit flight from Rabaul to Kavieng. Nil sightings.

N.O.I.C.Thursday Is.
0517Z/26
0711Z/26

2. Japanese Luggers at Thursday Is. Area - The Protector of Islanders reported the presence of 6 Japanese luggers cleaning bottoms on the west side of Badu Island, with the intention then of proceeding to Palau. One lugger had already left. The Protector first reported that he feared for the safety of the islanders among the crew and was withdrawing them. Later he modified his report and asked for no further action at present.

Comment - Badu Is. is the native name for Mulgrave Is. which is situated about 25 miles north of Thursday Is.

It was previously reported that all Japanese luggers had vacated this area as no Japanese craft were sighted during the searches of the 3/8 and 12/8 while it has been reported that they had all departed for the Aru Is.

N.O.I.C. Darwin
1201Z/24
D.N.O. N.T. 0335Z/23
N.O.I.C. Darwin
1201Z/24

This report raises the question as to whether there are any other Japanese luggers that may have been beached along the northern coastline for repairs. If not, these would appear to be the only Japanese craft remaining in Northern Australian waters as the four remaining behind in the Bathurst Is. area on 23/8 had apparently departed by 24/8.

3. Unidentified Aircraft, Millingimbi - This ^{REPORT} ~~sighting~~ remains unidentified, it having now been definitely ascertained that the KNILM aircraft which departed Darwin on 23/8 could not have been in the area.

Darwin
0855Z/26, 1056Z/26

4. Submarine off Darwin - The captain of a southbound KNILM reported a submarine 95 miles approx W.N.W. from Darwin at 0720Z/26. Three Hudsons which were despatched with instructions to attack reported a visibility of 10 miles, but nil sightings. No further action is proposed. C.Z.M. has been informed.

N.B. 1019Z/26
1239Z/26

Comment - The report was originally ungraded but later was graded B.3 by Navy and C.4 by Air.

N.O.I C. Darwin
1425Z/26

D.N.O. N.T. 0335Z/23
G.H.Q. Bandoeng 0630/22Z

Four possibilities present themselves:-
a) A Japanese submarine reconnoitring, possibly in conjunction with Japanese luggers operating between Darwin and the Aru Is. There may be some connection with the report of 3 submarines off Dilli on 18/8 and 19/8.
b) The Vichy French submarine "PEGASE" which possibly left Saigon with the "AMIRAL CHARNER" on 11/8. It could have reached the position round either side of Borneo at 8 knots. If these vessels were endeavouring to pass through the Indian Ocean en route to Madagascar, it is likely they would follow the route round the east coast

C.O.I.S. 0307Z/13
0239Z/17

of Timor to avoid possible interception by Dutch patrols but the position of sighting is too close to Darwin for a unit endeavouring to escape in this manner.

c) A German submarine reported present (but uncorroborated in any respect) in Yokohama on 15/7.

E.E.C.B.1948(35)
WS/10 Para.C.1.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

- 5. Pacific Ocean Raider - It has been ascertained that the noon position of the "MONTEVIDEO MARU" on Sunday 24/8 was 01°49'N, 166°16'W or E.

Comment - This position rules out the possibility of the ship sighted by the Dutch "BRASTAGI" on 15/8 being the "MONTEVIDEO MARU". It is probable that the ship sighted on 15/8 was either the raider itself or a supply ship resembling the "MONTEVIDEO MARU". There is no intelligence to suggest the present whereabouts of the raider. It may be significant however that the M/V "YAMAKAZE MARU" (6,000 tons, 15 knots) returning to Japan from South America when in position 21S, 140W, approx midway between Pitcairn and Tahiti on 23/8 announced that she was suspending wireless communication for about seven days.

WEST of Australia Station

- 6. The enemy merchant ships in Iranian Persian Gulf Ports are -
 - a) German - "HOHENFELS" "MARIENFELS" "STURMFELS" "WEISSENFELS" "WILDENFELS"
 - b) Italian - "BARBARA" "BRONTE" "CABOTO" "HILDA"

NORTH of Australia Station

- 7. Projected visit of Japanese "HUSHIMI MARU" to Australia - The departure of the "HUSHIMI MARU" for Australia has been postponed.

Comment - Previous advice of this vessel departing for Australia with a consular official ~~aboard~~ aboard on 23/8 was the only indication received that further Japanese ships were coming to Australia.

8. Portuguese Timor

- (a) Japanese Flying Boat - It is reported from Dilli that the flying boat and tender which arrived from Palau on 22/8 left again on 25/8. The tender is described as a special ship not of the usual type and it was noted that though plenty of cargo was waiting she took none on board.

Comment - This is a usual period for a flying boat on one of these flights to remain at Dilli. With regard to the cargo if such were destined for Japan it might well be unreasonable to expect the tender to load same.

- (b) Submarine Report - It has been ascertained that the report of 3 submarines off Dilli came third hand from a native and that at the time the tender was absent.

Most secret sources

Most secret sources

Most secret sources
WS/14 Para.21(b)

Airintel Darwin
1405/26Z

DS/81 Para.2.

C.Z.M.0507/25Z

Comment - According to dispositions of Dutch naval units in the N.E.I. recently received there were no Dutch submarines in the area at that time. Of itself the report must be graded very low but some support is provided by the reported sighting by a KNILM pilot of a submarine some 95 miles west of Darwin on 26/8.

Rowe (N)

Stamm (M)

C.O.I C

L. J. O'Connell (A)

27/8/41

D.N.I.
D.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.
D.Ops
D.of I.
A.C.H.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/85

28th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not
to be reproduced).
S.E.Area
Submitted.

MOST SECRET

Airintel Darwin
0312/27Z

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Submarine off Darwin - Particulars have been received of the report made at Darwin at 0800/26Z by the KNILM Captain following his sighting of a submarine at 0720/26Z. The captain who is an ex-American Army pilot stated that at the time of the sighting he was flying at a height of approximately 12,000 feet and there was slight haze. He first thought the disturbance of the water was due to a launch but then considered it could be due to a submarine. The pilot could not tell if its course was north or south and did not alter his own course or speed to investigate.

Comment - These details tend to discount rather than authenticate the report of the sighting.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

Airintel Darwin
1230/27Z

2. Portuguese Timor - A further report from agents in Dilli states:-
(a) that a rumour is current that Japanese warships will be there in the near future;
(b) there is no support for a rumour that Chinese are migrating to Dutch territory, but a few Chinese women and children have gone from the town to homes in the hills of Portuguese Timor;
(c) many rumours are reaching the Dutch intelligence via Atoeboea by medium of Chinese and natives;
(d) the Governor has heard nothing from Lisbon.

Comment - The source of intelligence appears to be confined to a large number of rumours circulated by Chinese and natives, and there is still a significant absence of higher intelligence indicating any proposed move such as is suggested.

All subsequent intelligence has tended to discount rather than substantiate the original claims and not one fact has been put forward to confirm or even support the original report:-

- (a) that 3 submarines were seen near Dilli;
(b) that the Chinese are evacuating by the 28th.

Press 27/8

3. Enemy Merchant Ships in Persian Gulf - The 5 German ships and 3 Italian ships which were at Bandar Shahpur are now reported to have been seized by British forces. One ship is reported scuttled, 2 are undamaged and the remainder can be repaired.

C.O.I.S. 0729Z/26/
0307Z/13

4. Indo-China - The "AMIRAL CHARNER" French sloop, returned to Saigon on 24/8, having left that port on 11/8.

0131Z/14/8
0239Z/17/8

Comment - It was reported that the "AMIRAL CHARNER" might be returning to France this autumn. It is thought that the French submarine "PEGASE" may have left Saigon with her on 11/8.

EAST of Australia Station

C. in C. A & W.I.
1019Q/25

5. Raider in Pacific Ocean - The British ship "HALIZONES" (a) reports that at 2235Z/19/8 when she was in position 005°50'S, 091°20'W, she heard start a "Q" signal, which however was jammed by a powerful spark set transmitting a British call-sign, rendering the signal unintelligible. From the strength of the signal it was thought to be 50 miles distant.

Comment - This confirms the report of a "Q" signal heard by "New Zealand Star" at approximately the same time (2228Z/19/8) when she was 340 miles to the eastward. The positions of "Halizones" and "New Zealand Star" at the time mentioned were approximately 300 miles S.E. and S.S.W. of the point where the Dutch "KOTA NOPAN" was attacked on 17/8. It would appear that the attack on 19/8 occurred somewhere within the triangle formed by these 3 points.

Admty.1825A/26

- (b) The ship which transmitted QQQQ on 19/8 is thought to be "AUSTRALIND" 6 days overdue at Balbao from Adelaide. It is remarked that the description of the suspicious ship sighted on 15/6 fits Raider A, "NARVIK". This raider's number is now reported to be 36. Admiralty advise that she is probably the raider that was responsible for attacking the "MAREEBA" and "VELEBIT" off Ceylon about the 26/6. A report graded B.3 from prisoners of war stated that a raider which they named No.45 was in the Indian Ocean at that time but in view of its lack of success would proceed to south ~~via~~ Australia, New Zealand, Panama and back to South Atlantic via Capetown.
- (c) A report from S.O.(I) Wellington was received that unreliable D/F bearings from Bulawayo and Durban suggested the possible presence of a German unit in 10°N, 160°W at 1720Z/25/8.

1745B/15/7

Comment - Apart from the fact that no Pacific W/T Stations have reported any bearings near this position, the frequency employed by the German unit was that allocated for U-boats working south of Gibraltar and would be unsuitable for communication to Germany from the position mentioned. It would appear that the position given is incorrect and that the bearings were probably from a U-boat in the Atlantic.

N.B.0806Z/26/

6. "YAMAGIKU MARU" - It is reported that the "YAMAGIKU MARU" now loading nickel at Kua, New Caledonia, will leave shortly for Japan, calling at Cebu (Philippines) en route.

Comment - It was previously reported that "YAMAGIKU MARU" was to call at Rabaul to load copra after it had left New Caledonia.

WS/15: 18(c)

Ramsey (N)

George Brumby (M)

H. Wersche (A)

C.O.I.C.

28/8/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/86

29th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

DS/81 Para.A.4
D.N.I. Melb.
0617Z/28
N.B.0735Z/28

1. "KASIMA MARU" - The "KASIMA MARU" which departed Brisbane on 22/8 and was due at Thursday Is. on 27/8 en route to Davao and Japan has not yet arrived and has not been reported as having been sighted inside the Barrier Reef.

Comment - It would appear that the vessel is proceeding round the north of New Guinea instead of through Torres Strait.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

DS/85 Para.2.
Airtel Darwin
1110/28Z
1555/28Z

2. Portuguese Timor - An additional report from Dilli states that it now appears the recent report as to an imminent Japanese move in Portuguese Timor originated from a pilot in "D.I.W.T." Service and may be attributed to Asiatic gossip and the credulity of the O.C. Koepang. It is added that these sources are not reliable.

Comment - The original report passed by the Territorial Commander, Koepang, was unconfirmed, was not given any grading, and is now shown to be substantially unfounded.

3. Japanese Warships and Auxiliaries -

(a) Mandated Islands

(i) The light cruiser "YUBARI" Flagship of the 6th Destroyer Squadron (29th and 30th Destroyer Flotilla) has returned with the squadron to the Mandated Is. from Japan and was believed to have been in the Palau Area (West Carolines) on 26th August.

Comment - The 6th Destroyer Squadron which is the normal Mandates Destroyer force was originally comprised of the 23rd and 30th Flotillas. It would appear that the 29th Flotilla has replaced the 23rd. The squadron returned to Japan at the end of July.

(ii) It is now learned that the "KASIMA" (Flagship of 4th Fleet) was between Truk and the Admiralty Islands on 16th August probably proceeding to Palau.

- (b) N.E.I. Waters - The Japanese vessel considered to be a naval auxiliary, which was reported on several occasions to be operating south of the Philippines and in Dutch waters, ~~in the Celebes Sea off Tarakan~~ from Palau, and has recently been operating in the Celebes Sea off Tarakan, is now thought to be possibly the Japanese schooner "ASAHI MARU". C.Z.M. ^{were} advised of her position on the 18th and 25th, ~~near~~ off the N.E. coast of Borneo have now advised that the schooner "ASAHI MARU" was reported on the 25th in the same position as given, while 2 small Japanese motor craft were sighted in the vicinity.

Comment - There are 4 Japanese vessels of under 300 tons bearing the name "ASAHI MARU". One of these is

F.E.C.B.1948(44)
Most secret sources

F.E.C.B.1948(43)

do.

Most secret sources

C.Z.M.0435Z/27

the lugger mothership that has operated in the past in the Northern Australian waters while another has acted as tender on the Palau - Dilli Flights.

An "ASAHI MARU" has been reported in the Halmahera area since the 17/8 and on the 25/8 was considered to be north of Ambon en route to Dobo.

This latter vessel is likely to be the known mothership and is probably proceeding to Dobo in connection with the withdrawal of Japanese luggers to Palau.

There would appear to be two "ASAHI MARU's" operating in N.E.I. waters at present and the fact that one is known to have been continually in communication with the Chief Naval Staff Officer in the Mandated Is. merely confirms the fact that certain of these Japanese fishing craft are being used as auxiliaries by the Japanese Navy. They are all known to carry powerful W/T equipment.

EAST of Australia Station

F.E.C.B.1948(44) 4.

Enemy Raiders - H.M.C.S. "PRINCE ROBERT" failed to find any evidence of a raider having been at Easter Island.

WS/12 Para.11.

Comment - It will be recalled that H.M.C.S. "PRINCE ROBERT" sailed to Easter Island early in August to investigate the report of a raider being there.

Lawrence (N)

W. Mullaly (M)

R. J. Mair (A)

C.O.I.C.

29/8/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/87

30th AUGUST, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
0925/28Z
0153/29Z

Brit.Consul Noumea
0703Z/29

1. One Catalina proceeded Moresby to Townsville on a transit flight. Nil sighting reported.
2. New Caledonia - A native from the Isle of Pines (60 miles S.E. of Noumea) reports that on 26/8 heavy gun fire was heard off the island and that a local priest sighted a cruiser firing in the distance. The British Consul Noumea, who made the report advises that the information cannot be checked.

Comment - The only ships known to be near the area at the time of sighting are -

- a) "YAMAGIKU MARU" which departed Noumea at a.m. 23/8 for Kua on the centre of the east coast of New Caledonia. This vessel should have passed near the Isle of Pines late on the 23rd.
- b) H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" departed Suva for Sydney at 1406Z/24 and arrived at 2045Z/27. She could have been off the area of sighting at approx 0900 hours on the 26th at an average speed of approx 20 knots. Isle of Pines is however, approx 90 miles off the direct route from Suva to Sydney. A check is being made to ascertain if H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" was firing in the area.

M.M.S.29/8

3. Sighting off Gabo - Gabo Is. reported smoke bearing 050° course West at 0340Z yesterday 29th. The ship was given a Serial No. 86, but this has since been cancelled as the ship's course has been amended to North and the vessel identified as the "COLAC".

B. ADJACENT AREAS

WEST of Australia Station

C.in C. E.I.
0728/28Z

4. Enemy Merchant Ships - In connection with the recent move (a) against Persia H.M.A.S. "YARRA" proceeded to the harbour of Bandar Abbas on 27/8 and captured the Italian cargo vessel "HILDA". The "HILDA" was reported to have been set on fire and it was considered unlikely that the fire would be got under control.

Comment - M/V "HILDA" was a 4,900 ton cargo vessel.

DS/85 Para.3

- (b) Of the 7 enemy merchant ships captured at Bandar Shahpur, the two undamaged ships are now reported to be "HOHENFELS" and "STURMFELS".

Comment - The former is of 7,862 gross tonnage built 1938, with a service speed of 16-18 knots. The latter is 6,288 tons, built 1920.

NORTH of Australia Station

C.S.Singapore
0407/29Z

5. Enemy Warships - The Italian sloop "ERITREA" is reported to have arrived at Shanghai on 29/8.

Comment - This vessel was last heard of on 17/5/41 as

under repairs at Mitsubishi Dockyard in Kobe. She was built in 1937, is fitted for mine laying (100 mines) and has a speed of 20 knots. Other Italian ships in Shanghai are the Mine-layer "LEPANTO" (80 mines) and "ERMANN0 CARLOTTA" (gun boat, 180 tons).

Lauro (M)

(M)

C.O.I.C.

U. J. Jona (A)

30/8/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

SERIAL NO.DS/88

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced) 31st AUGUST, 1941

Submitted.

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

DS/87:Para.A2.
S.O.(I) Sydney
30/8/41. ✓

1. New Caledonia - With reference to the native report of a cruiser being sighted and gunfire heard on 26/8 off the Isle of Pines, it has been ascertained that the H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" could not have been responsible for the report.

To
N.B. 30/8/41,
from Melville Is.

2. Japanese Lugger Activities - It is reported from Melville Island that a dump of Japanese food supplies was found at Piper Head.
Comment - Piper Head is 6 miles South of Cape Van Diemen. It is known that crews of Japanese luggers often make dumps of supplies on shore.
All Japanese luggers from the area are believed to have returned to Northern waters.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

3. Japanese Auxiliaries in N.E.I. Waters -

C.in C. N.E.I.
0807Z/29/8.

- (a) A further signal has been received from C.Z.M. concerning the Japanese Naval Auxiliary recently operating in the Celebes Sea.

C.Z.M. now advises that the correct position for the "ASAHI MARU" on 24/8 was 001° 53' S. 128° 32' E., instead of as previously given.

Comment - This position fits in with the course of the known lugger mothership which is en route to Dobo from the Halmahera area, and leaves the vessel in the Celebes unidentified.

C.in C. N.E.I.
0807Z/29/8.

- (b) A belated report states that a suspicious ship was sighted on 20/8 in position 004° S. 119° E. The vessel was stationary, about 2,500 tons, with Japanese characters on its stern. It was fitted with a range-finder and was releasing balloons. C.Z.M. is continuing efforts to identify.

Comment - This position fits in with the position of the unidentified unit, so the vessel would appear to be the one in question. Her last known position on 28/7 was approx. 150 miles due North of Halmahera when she appeared to be on an Easterly course.

Most secret sources.

Rawns (N)

(M)

C.O.I.C.

AS Bradshaw (A)

31/8/41.

D.K.I.
D.A.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.
D.Ops
D.of I.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/89

2nd SEPTEMBER, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are
not to be reproduced).
Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville
1245/31Z
0630/1Z
1110/1Z

1. Movement of Aircraft - The following movements of aircraft took place yesterday (1/9) -
 - (i) One Catalina transit flight Moresby to Kavieng via Salamaua;
 - (ii) One Catalina transit flight Townsville to Rathmines;
 - (iii) One Empire F/B transit flight Townsville to Rose Bay.
 In all cases nil sightings were reported.

N.I.C. Rabaul
2355Z/31/8

2. New Ireland - A loud explosion and vibrations are reported at the S.E. of Namanne Is. on 30/8 at 11 a.m. Military and aircraft investigation gave no solution. Two possibilities were suggested locally - a floating mine exploding against a reef owing to a strong S.E. wind blowing, and seismic disturbance. The report was graded B.3.

Comment - Namanne Is. is one of several islands at the N.W. end of New Ireland. There are two channels giving access to it from the South, Albatross Channel to the S.E. being used only by small craft, Steffen Strait to the west being used by larger vessels. There is no shipping route near the position of this explosion, and it is unlikely that mines would be laid in the area or that a mine would have drifted down from the Japanese Mandates as the currents are against this. The report of vibrations rather points to seismic disturbance, especially considering the recent unsettled volcanic condition at Rabaul.

A.I. Moresby
1145Z/22/8

N.I.C. Rabaul
0801Z/4/8
0330Z/12/8

There have been many sightings in this vicinity however - a searchlight seen in Steffen Strait several times at the end of July and the beginning of August, and an aircraft over Djaul Is. (some 15 miles to the S.E.) on 11/8 being the most recent. It seems unlikely that the present report bears any connection with these earlier ones.

AI. N.A. 1130Z/12/8

3. Japanese Merchant Ship at New Caledonia - The "YAMAGIRU MARU" sailed Kua 1900Z/30/8 direct for Yokohama.

Comment - Previous advice had said that she was scheduled to proceed to Cebu in the Philippines after finishing her loading of nickel. This is the last Japanese merchant ship to leave the Australia N.Z. area.

D.N.I. Melb.
1057Z/1/9

WS/16 Para. 21(b)

[Handwritten signature] (N)

[Handwritten signature] (M)

[Handwritten signature] (A)

C.O.I.C.
2/9/41

① 3/1
C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

D.N.I.
D.O.D.
D.C.I.
D.M.I.
D.Ops
D.of I.
A.C.H.S. E. Area
Submitted.

SERIAL NO.DS/90

3rd SEPTEMBER, 1941

(Wednesday)

(Portions marked with marginal red line
are not to be reproduced).

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville |
0457/2Z

1. Movement of Aircraft - A Catalina was flown from Kavieng to Lorengau and thence to Rabaul. Nil sightings.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

S.O.(I) Wellington
0950M/2

2. APAIANG IS. (Gilbert Group) Unidentified Aircraft - It was reported that an aircraft was heard over Apaiang Is. at 1710Z/31 but was not seen owing to low clouds. The aircraft is stated to have appeared from the North circled at about 2,000 feet and departed West.

Comment - Apaiang or Abaiang Is. is one of the northern islands of the Gilbert Group. No naval unit is known to be in the vicinity and assuming the report to be reliable (no grade or source is indicated), it is considered that this is another example of Japanese air activity similar to that carried out in these parts in early July. The aircraft was probably based on Jaluit some 300 miles to the ~~N.E.~~ N.W. There has been considerable activity by small craft including the survey vessel "KATSURIKI" in the East Marshalls ~~and~~ area including south of Jaluit for several weeks past.

WEST of Australia Station

DS/87 Para.4(a) |
C. in C. E.I.
0708Z/30

3. Enemy Merchant Ships - The fire on the Italian merchant vessel "HILDA" which was captured by H.M.A.S. "YARRA" has not prevented her being towed to Karachi.

NORTH of Australia Station

WS/16 Para.22(c)
C.Q.I.S.0932Z/26

4. Indo-China - The report that disembarkation of Japanese troops at "Alipur" ceased after one division had been landed has been corrected to read Saigon.

Harvey (N)

McMullaly (M)

ASBradshaw (A)

C.O.I.C.

3/9/41

D. A. I.
D. S. I.
D. C. N.
D. M. I.
D. Ops
D. of I.

C.O.I.C DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTLLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/91

Thursday, 4th SEPTEMBER, 1941

A.C.H.S.E.Area (Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movement of Aircraft - The following transit flights took place yesterday (3/9) -
 - (i) One Catalina Townsville - Moresby;
 - (ii) One Catalina Vila - Noumea;
 - (iii) One Catalina Rabaul - Buka - Kieta - Gizo - Gayutu.
 In all cases nil sightings were reported.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

2. Pacific Ocean - Overdue Shipping - The British ship "AUSTRALIND" is still overdue since 20/8 at Balboa from Adelaide.

Comment - This was thought to be the ship which transmitted QQQQ on 19/8 and is the last known attack made by the raider operating in the Pacific.

The raider could have reached the eastern extremity of the Australia Station by this date at an average speed of 15 knots.

A.C.H.Townsville
1052/2Z
1235/2Z
0625/3Z

Admty.1705A/2/9

WS/16 Para.11(c)

Launce (N)

Long Beach (N)

W. J. Dooi (A)

C.O.I.C.
4/9/41

D.N.
D.
D.C.
D.K.I.
D.Ops
D.of I.
A.C.H.S.E.Area
Submitted.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/92

5th SEPTEMBER, 1941

(Friday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Townsville
1045/3Z
2253/3Z

1. Movement of Aircraft - A reconnaissance of Chesterfield Reef was carried out by a Catalina Flying Boat from Noumea with the object of determining its suitability as a Flying Boat base.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

2. Recent Withdrawal of Japanese Luggers to Palau - It is reported that the reason for the withdrawal of the Japanese pearling luggers to Palau was the freezing of Japanese credits in allied countries. The order for recall created two almost insurmountable difficulties for the owners of the luggers, - one, the inability to procure the necessary fuel, lubricating oils and provisions outside Japan, the other the lack of a market for the pearl shell except in Japan, where it was of little value.

EAST of Australia Station

3. Ex-Italian ships "VITTORIO VENETO", "INES CORRADO" "AMABILITAS" "FORTUNSTELLA" "MARISTELLA" and "VOLUNTAS" arrived at Buenos Aires on 2/9.

Comment - On 1/5/41 the first three of these ships were known to be at Bahia blanca, and the remainder at Necochea. These two ports are both in Argentine Necochea about 200 miles south and Bahia Blanca about 300 miles south of Buenos Aires. It would appear that all six ships have been moved to Buenos Aires by the Argentine authorities following recent reports of their intent to seize and use Axis Shipping.

S.O.(I) Darwin
N.T.I.85/14
30/8/41

M.S.O.(I)
Montevideo
1114Z/3/9

NS/16: 16

R. Conroy (N)

J. Muller (M)

G. J. O'Connell (A)

C.O.I.C.
5/9/41

D.Ops (Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

6th SEPTEMBER, 1941

D.of I.
A.C.H. Submitted.
S.E. Area

(Saturday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - Negative results were

reported by Flying Boats on the following transit flights yesterday (5/9) -
(i) Rabaul - Kavieng
(ii) Noumea - Vila
(iii) Kavieng - Rabaul
(iv) Gavutu - Vanikoro

A.C.H. Townsville
0958/4Z
2320Z/4
0425Z/5
0727Z/5

2. Unidentified Vessel Cape Cleveland (near Townsville)

Cleveland Point Lighthouse reported having sighted at 1840K 20 miles to the north a steamer steering S.E. which later altered course to South S.E. On being rung up the light house keeper confirmed the report and added that the vessel was called by lamp but did not reply. She was described as having one funnel amidships, 2 masts, 2 sets sampson posts and in size about 5000 to 7000 tons. A.C.H. Townsville were unable to identify the vessel and at 2147K an aircraft was sent to search from the position of sighting southward along the shipping lane for 60 miles. The aircraft returned at 0125K/6 with a negative report. A further search is taking place this morning (3 aircraft airborne at 0538K) covering an area to the north and east of Flinders Passage, an opening in the Great Barrier Reef some 50 miles east of the position of sighting and the only navigable entrance for some hundreds of miles south. M.M.S. are not able to identify the ship and Serial No.87 has been issued.

A.C.H. Townsville
1207Z/5

1540Z/5
1940Z/5

Comment - It is considered unlikely that a hostile vessel should venture into such waters. On the other hand it is difficult to understand why a strange but friendly vessel, e.g. a Russian, steering S.E., should not have been sighted in the ordinary shipping lane by last night's search if it had maintained its course.

The only raider known to have been in the Pacific recently is the vessel responsible for the sinkings in the Galapagos Is. area but this ship could not have reached the area in the time available.

There are several enemy merchant ships ex Japanese and Thai ports that have had time to reach the area. It is remarked that the vessel could have escaped the area of last night's search by keeping to its course at a speed of 17 knots from the point of sighting which would place it outside the area of this morning's search. This, however, would imply the vessel keeping inside the Reef which would appear an unlikely course for an enemy unit to follow.

B. ADJACENT AREAS - Nil

Lowery (N)
McDonald (M)
AS Bradshaw (A)

C.O.I.C.
6/9/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/94

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced)

Sunday, 7th September, 1941.

Submitted.

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - Nil sightings were reported by aircraft on the following transit flights undertaken yesterday (6/9):-
(i) One Catalina Vila - Noumea
(ii) One Catalina Rabaul - Tulagi
(iii) One Hudson Richmond - Archerfield (along sea route).

2. Unidentified Vessel Cape Cleveland (near Townsville) - Aircraft searches conducted on the morning and afternoon of 6/9 produced negative results and this ship remains unidentified. However, it is considered probable that the Dutch vessel "NOESA NIWI", which is proceeding North and was two hours late passing Archer Point, may have turned about and so have been temporarily on a Southward course. Thursday Island has been asked to investigate on the arrival of the "NOESA NIWI"; which is due there on 8/9.

AI.N.A.
0730Z/6/9.

3. Archerfield (Queensland) - Unidentified Aircraft - A meteorological officer at Archerfield Aerodrome reported that at 0612Z/6 while following the movements of a pilot balloon he sighted through his theodolite an aircraft flying between 15,000 and 20,000 feet on a N.E. course. The aircraft, which could not be seen with the naked eye, was kept in view for two or three minutes. The observer stated at first that there was some resemblance to a twin-engined flying boat of the Catalina type, but further enquiries indicated that the only definite features of the description were that the aircraft was a monoplane and greyish in colour.

AI.Archer-
field, 0715Z/6
L/L Air I.O.
Archerfield
Northern Area
Richmond 6/9/41.

Movements of civil and service aircraft have been checked and the report is graded C.2.

Comment - Two possibilities present themselves:-

- (a) A civil or service aircraft whose movements have not been reported.
(b) A reconnaissance aircraft from a raider off the Queensland coast. In this connection the raider known to have been operating in the Pacific Ocean in the vicinity of the Galapagos Islands as late as 19/8 could have reached the area at an average speed of approx. 16 knots, although the maintenance of this speed in a direct run to the Australian coast would appear improbable. Again, if the vessel sighted off Cape Cleveland at 1840K/5 were hostile and had proceeded on her original course, she could have been within aircraft range of Archerfield at the time of sighting.

It is remarked that the prominent floats on a reconnaissance seaplane could give an observer in the circumstances mentioned the impression of seeing twin engines. This factor, the time of sighting, and the height of the aircraft all suggest that the possibility of reconnaissance from an enemy raider must be borne in mind.

A.C.H. Townsville does not propose to institute an air search. This would be of doubtful utility in view of the area required to be covered, even if begun at dawn 7/9.

3. Report of mine North of Launceston (Tasmania) - The master of the "TAROONA" has reported sighting an object which the "TAROONA" passed very closely, in brilliant moonlight, at 0355K/6/9 in 40°14'S. 146°12'E., and which he ascertained was a mine. ~~No action has been taken.~~

D.N.O. Tasmania,
Telephone to
Duty Commander
1200K/6/9.

Comment - The position given is 75 miles N.N.W. of Launceston.

The set of the current might carry a mine there from Cape Otway or possibly Wilson's Promontory where fields are known to exist.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

COIS 0713Z/5/9.5. Japanese Warships - From most secret sources it is known that the Japanese 6" Cruiser "NAGARA" and the 11th Destroyer Flotilla left South China for Japan on the 4th September.

Comment - The "NAGARA" was last thought to be in the Hong Kong-Amoy area. "NAGARA" is flagship of the "new" 3rd Fleet, which, it is believed, is comprised chiefly of auxiliaries, and which was sent to South China prior to the Japanese occupation of Indo-China.

COIS 0802Z/29/8.

On 29/8 it was reported that a group of ships belonging to the 3rd Fleet was returning to Japan. The return of the "NAGARA" may be connected with this movement. On the other hand the South China Fleet has recently been augmented by the 6" Cruiser "KISO", sister ship to the "KUMA" recently in South China, and both from the Combined Fleet. The "KISO" is a similar unit to the "NAGARA" and may be intended to replace her. The 11th Destroyer Flotilla belongs to the South China Fleet and appears to have played a leading part in the recent operations off French Indo-China.

FECB. 1948(45)

Rooney (N)

(M)

Wesche (A)

C.O.I.C.
7/9/41.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/95

9th SEPTEMBER, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are
not to be reproduced).

(Tuesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
1115Z/7
0655Z/8

1. Movements of Aircraft - The following flights over northern waters took place yesterday 8/9. All sightings were identified:

1 F/B Tulagi to Moresby
1 Catalina Tulagi to Vila
1 Catalina Tulagi to Samarai
1 F/B Townsville to Moresby

Darwin monthly patrol to Broome and back was completed. Only local luggers were sighted.

2. ARCHERFIELD - Unidentified Aircraft - The report of the sighting over Archerfield has been further investigated and is now graded A.4 by the Air Intelligence Officer, Northern Area. A check on all aircraft gave no clue to the identity of the sighting and the evidence of the Meteorological officer concerned is not cut down except that he is now stated to have actually had the machine under observation for a few seconds only.

Comment - While present intelligence suggests the possibility that the aircraft was on reconnaissance from a raider off the coast, the probabilities appear to be against such a conclusion.

3. ADELAIDE - Unidentified Aircraft - An A.R.P. warden in Adelaide reported that at 0200K on 8/9 he heard an aircraft and on getting out of bed he saw one circling overhead. It was bright moonlight and the aircraft had no lights.

Comment - It has not been possible to obtain any confirmation of this sighting and a check has been made on the movements of all service and civil aircraft.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

4. The suggestions in Para.17(b)(1) of WS/16 that the report from Koepang of impending Japanese moves against Portuguese Timor would prove to be without foundation has been confirmed by the receipt of a signal from the same source "Dilli quiet".

EAST of Australia Station

5. EASTER IS. - Warship sighting - The British Naval Attache Santiago states that Easter Is. reported to Chilean naval authorities that 3 warships were sighted from the island at 2200 hours on 3/9. British Admiralty Delegation, Washington, confirms that these were not U.S. vessels and that U.S. C. in C. has been informed.

Comment - The Channels through which this message has been passed indicate that the vessel sighted could not have been either U.S., Chilean or British. The following possibilities are suggested -

- (a) GERMAN - The only major German unit that could have

WS/17: 3

L/L from A.I.O.
Southern Area

G.H.Q. Bandoeng
0630Z/5

C. in C. A & W. I.
Admty. 1753Q/7

reached the area in the time is the 6" Cruiser "EMDEN" which has not been sighted in Home Ports since 24/7. There is, however, no intelligence to suggest that this vessel has left Home Waters. The enemy cruiser (possibly the 6" "NURNBERG" and/or "LEIPZIG") was reported as sighted off the W.I. on the 27 and 28/8 by 2 different sources. It is possible that the "EMDEN" and these vessels have come out to operate on the trade routes and that the "EMDEN" has proceeded direct to the Pacific Ocean area along.

If this were so it would appear that the other two units were merchant ships.

The only enemy raider known to be operating in the Pacific recently is the raider last reported off the Galapagos on 19/8. The German supply ship "MOSEL" which has not been reported since departing Bangkok on 8/8 could have reached the area while there are several other German supply ships that have been missing for sufficient time to have reached the area.

If the sightings were merchant ships therefore it is suggested they could possibly be the Galapagos raider with 2 supply ships. Although there has been no intelligence ^{suggest} more than one raider operating in the Galapagos area the fact that 2 raiders and a supply ship were operating ^{together} in the Pacific area last year shows that the possibility of more than one raider ~~in~~ being in the area cannot be overlooked. It will be recalled that a disabled raider was reported at Easter Is. in July but an investigation made by H.M.C.S. "PRINCE ROBERT" on 14/8 revealed no evidence ~~of~~ to substantiate this.

- (b) JAPANESE - There has been no indication that any Japanese warships have ventured so far from Home Waters during the recent crisis but it is remarked that the majority of Japanese ships that are still outside Home Waters are along the South American coast and that a big proportion of these are following the direct course from ^{the} Horn to Japan which takes them through the vicinity of Easter Is. It is suggested that Japanese warships may have been used to patrol this route as a precautionary measure until their merchant ships have been withdrawn.
- (c) VICHY FRENCH - It is remarked that from last information received that 2 6" Cruisers and an Escort vessel were stationed in the French West Indies colonies. It is suggested ~~as~~ a possibility that these vessels may be moving under German pressure to Tahiti in view of the unstable political situation in this area at the moment to support a pro-Vichy coup.

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature (M)

C.O.I.C.

Handwritten signature (A)

9/9/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/96

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

10th SEPTEMBER, 1941

Submitted.

(Wednesday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

- A.C.H.Townsville
1115/8Z
0012/9Z
0645/9Z
- N.B.1139Z/8
Airintel 1230/7
1. Movements of Aircraft - Negative results were reported by aircraft on the following transit flights undertaken yesterday (9/9).
 - (i) One Catalina Vila - Tulagi
 - (ii) One Catalina Vila - Noumea
 - (iii) One Catalina Samarai - Moresby
 2. U.S. AIRCRAFT - Nine Boeing 17 (Flying Fortress~~s~~) aircraft arrived at Port Moresby on September 8th from Wake Island, en route to Darwin and Manila. Close secrecy is being observed regarding the movements of these aircraft.

Comment - It is of interest to note that the direct route from Wake Is. to Port Moresby passes through the Japanese Mandates (Marshall Is.) and over Ponape, one of the main bases of that group.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

- A.I.Darwin
1200Z/9/9
- DS/67 : B.5
DS/84 : B.8(a)
DS/95 : B.4
WS/16 : 17(b)(1)
- C.O.I.S.0509Z/9
- C.O.I.S.0344Z/4
0303Z/6
0309/17
0339Z/20
3. PORTUGUESE TIMOR - Japanese tender - The "NABIRE MARU" is reported to have arrived at Dilli for cargo on 9/9.

Comment - The "NABIRE MARU" was the tender used for the 7th Palau - Dilli Flight, arriving at Dilli on 22/8 and departing 25/8. It will be recalled that on that occasion though plenty of cargo was waiting for her, she took none on board. The present report, following the more recent indications of the peaceful state of Portuguese Timor, indicates that the Japanese are continuing with their normal activities in the area.
 4. SAIGON - Vichy French Cruiser - The French Cruiser "LAMOTTE PICQUET" left Saigon on 9/9 and it is thought that she is going to Japan to dry dock.

Comment - "LAMOTTE PICQUET" was last absent from Saigon between 22nd - 26th June and had previously been out between 5th and 17th May and between 20th March and 15th April. It is known that she is much in need of a refit.

EAST of Australia Station

5. EASTER ISLAND - Warships - Further to the report of 3 warships at Easter Island on 3/9 it would appear probable that the units involved were merchant ships and not warships. Of the possibilities presenting themselves the two following are considered most likely -
 - (a) German raider or raiders with supply units;
 - (b) Japanese Merchant Ships returning home.It is known that the Vichy warships at Martinique are kept under strict surveillance by the U.S. authorities and it is considered unlikely that they could reach the area of sighting without their absence being reported.
Easter Is. is approx 5,000 miles from the nearest Japanese controlled waters and there have been no previous

reports of any Japanese warships venturing outside Japanese waters for the purpose of safeguarding their shipping returning home. However, as several Japanese merchant ships are known to have been returning home from the Horn direct over the past few weeks it is possible that 3 of these may have passed close to Easter Island within a short period of one another.

There has been no intelligence to suggest that the "EMDEN" or any other major units have entered the Pacific or would visit Easter Is. On the other hand, H.M.C.S. "PRINCE ROBERT" recently visited the island and as she must have been known to be a warship but had the appearance of a merchant ship it is possible that the term warship has been expanded to include any units sighted.

If the 3 units are enemy merchant ships two main possibilities suggest themselves:-

- 1) that the raider off the Galapagos Is. captured both the "KOTA NOPAN" and the "AUSTRALIND" and conducted them to Easter Is. Easter Is. is the nearest lee west of the Galapagos and it is furthermore outside the area covered by the ~~present~~ recently instituted U.S. Naval patrols;
- 2) that the raider has proceeded to Easter Is. and made a rendezvous with 2 supply ships; in this connection there are several ships which have departed from Japanese ports in recent months and are unaccounted for.
- 3) A third possibility is that a raider from the South Atlantic has proceeded to Easter Island to meet the Galapagos raider.

On the other hand, it is remarked that

- a) Easter Is. is barren and offers very few facilities;
- b) that in the past raiders appear to have made their rendezvous at sea and only resorted to an island on rare occasions and then usually for repairs;
- c) A previous report of a raider "laying up" at Easter Is. has been received and proved false; this most recent report may have emanated from the same source or be deliberately put about in Chile by German agents.

However, in the absence of any intelligence as to the grading of the report it is considered that these latter points should not be allowed to discount the probability of a German raider or raiders being responsible.

Rann... (N)

W. A. ... (M)

W. W. ... (A)

C.O.I.C.
10/9/41

D.N.I.
D.C.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.
D.Ops
D.of I.
A.G.H.
S.E.AREA

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/97

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

11th SEPTEMBER, 1941

Submitted.

(Thursday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Townsville
1215/9Z
0703/10 Z
0513/10Z

1. MOVEMENTS OF AIRCRAFT - Nil sightings were recorded on the following flights:-
1 Empire Flying Boat - Moresby to Townsville;
1 Catalina - Rabaul to Kavieng
This latter movement was necessitated by the deterioration of conditions at Rabaul.

Ref.DS/96
para.2.
Air Board
1255/10K
N.O.I.C.Thursday
Is. 0250/10Z

2. U.S. AIRCRAFT - The 9 U.S. Boeing B-17 Flying Fortresses which arrived at Moresby on 8/9, departed for Darwin yesterday (10/9) en route for Manila.
A report from Thursday Island stated that five of these aircraft passed over the island at between 0100Z and 0122Z yesterday.

Censorship

3. JAPANESE INTELLIGENCE - A censorship intercept of a cable to Banno Brothers, Sydney, on 6th September reads as follows:-

"Accept shipment October "YAMAGIKU MARU" - telegraph licence number".

The message originated from Bannokeitei, Osaka.

Comment - While this message may indicate future Japanese sailings to Australia and a continuation of commercial relations, it is not improbable that it was deliberately sent in the knowledge that it would be intercepted and with a view to allaying suspicions of any possibly warlike move by Japan in the near future.

R.H. Renowden (N)

G.J. ... (M)

C.O.I.C.

R.J. ... (A) 11/9/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/98

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

12th SEPTEMBER, 1941

Submitted.

(Friday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Townsville
2050/10Z
0510/11Z

1. MOVEMENT OF AIRCRAFT - One Catalina proceeded from Noumea to Vila. Nil sightings. One Empire Flying Boat went from Townsville to Moresby and reported one identified sighting.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

N.Z.N.B.
2146M/11

2. DISTRESS MESSAGE FROM "SILVAPLANA" - A raider distress message was picked up by New Zealand W/T Stations at 0805Z/11 from the Norwegian vessel "SILVAPLANA" (bound from Thursday Island to Panama). Her position was 26°16' South, 164°25' West (approx 400 miles S.W. of Raratonga), and the "Q" message was followed by "suspicious vessel bearing 050°".

A later message was picked up by Wellington ~~at~~ ~~0805Z/11~~ and relayed as follows - "Cancel my QQQQ from "SILVAPLANA" at 0805Z/11 Vessel friendly". Confirmation of this cancellation from N.Z.N.B. is awaited.

S.O.(I) Kingston
0934R/9

3. SUSPICIOUS SIGHTING FROM U.S. SHIP "McKEESPORT" - A report was received from Squadron-Leader Kennett passenger on the U.S. ship "McKeesport" on arrival Balboa that at 0530 local time on the 2nd September in position approx 250 miles south of Galapagos the ship was stopped by a ship and questioned in good English through an amplifier. All officers and men visible were dressed in civilian clothes. The ship finally hoisted the white ensign and departed on a southerly course. Description - Passenger ship of about 18,000 tons, dark grey, 20 knots, 2 masts, cruiser stern, straight stem, 2 funnels foremost fat other thin. Three large guns each side 2 pairs aft 1 pair forward machine guns round passenger deck.

Comment - The "McKeesport" departed Sydney on the 6th August for Panama and New York. As it is known that Kennett who joined the ship in Sydney is an imposter with a long criminal record apart from having suffered from insanity, the report is not being given full consideration until confirmation from some more reliable source is received. It is probable however that the report is not entirely without foundation. It is not unlikely that the British A.M.C. "PRINCE HENRY", known to be in the area, was responsible and that Kennett's description of this vessel is inaccurate.

Admty 1920A/9

4. EAST PACIFIC RAIDER - As Admiralty have received a report graded B.2 that the Raider A ("NARVIK") has recently arrived in Germany the previous reference to the probability of this vessel being the Galapagos raider has been cancelled. Admiralty signal of 9/9 states that nothing more is known of the raider recently active in the Galapagos Is. area and that she may have moved to Australian or South Atlantic Waters.

Comment - It is significant that Admiralty apparently does not regard the Easter Is. report of warships (see DS/96 Para.5) as any substantial indication of

C. IN C. A & W.I.
1753Q/7

the whereabouts of the Galapagos raider. This may be due to information as to the reliability of the report not shared by the Australian or New Zealand authorities. A further report that the Norwegian "RIO BRANCO" which left Singapore for Los Angeles is apparently overdue may indicate that the raider proceeded to the north rather than to the South of the Galapagos area.

WEST of Australia Station

5. RAIDER ACTIVITY - The Norwegian vessel "TROPIC SEA" was 6 days overdue at Lorenzo Marques from Basra on 9/9 and no confirmation as to her arrival has been received since.

Comment - The last report of raider activity from the Indian Ocean was the D/F indication of an enemy unit in the Crozet - Kerguelen area on 1/8.

Admty.1920A/9

Rowley (M)
Muller (M)
A.S. Bradshaw (A)

C.O.I.C.
12/9/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/99

13th SEPTEMBER, 1941

(Saturday)

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - The following movements of aircraft took place yesterday (12/9):-
 - (i) One Empire F/B proceeded Moreby - Samarai - Tonalai to carry out reconnaissance of Tonalai. The aircraft anchored at Faisi and reported nil sightings;
 - (ii) One Catalina Vila - Tulagi. Nil sightings.
 - (iii) One Empire F/B Townsville - Moresby reported sighting "MACDHUI" approximately 37 miles north of Osprey Reef.
2. ROBE (South Australia) Mine - The police have reported a mine floating just off shore near Robe. An R.M.S. party has been despatched, to investigate and report.

A.C.H. Townsville
1155Z/11/9
0753Z/12/9

D.N.O. S.A.
0532Z/12

B. ADJACENT AREAS

WEST of Australia Station

Admty. 1252A/11
DS/98 : B.5

3. Raider Activity - The Norwegian vessel yesterday reported overdue at Lorenzo Marques from Basra has now arrived. Her name is "KONGSDAL" not "TROPIC SEA".

EAST of Australia Station

N.Z.N.B. 1025M/12

4. Distress Message from "SILVAPLANA" - A message from N.Z.N.B. states that a plain language cancellation of QQQQ was received on a different note and frequency from the first signal and that the "SILVAPLANA" was being instructed to break W/T silence and cancel the distress message in code.

Comment - No further information has been received from N.Z.N.B. In view of the known practice of raiders to issue bogus cancellations of their victims' distress message this latest intelligence suggests the possibility that a raider has attacked the "SILVAPLANA".

If this is correct she could have been one of the 3 warships reported as sighted at Easter Is. on 3rd September by averaging a speed of just over 16 knots. Apart from the fact that Admiralty have not mentioned this report in their latest raider signal, it is not usual for a raider to maintain such a speed, for a period of 8 days. It would appear likely however that if a raider has been responsible it is the unit that was operating off the Galapagos Is. on the 17th and 19th August. On a westerly course such a vessel could reach the Australia Station (New Caledonia or New Hebrides area) in 4½ days, i.e. by the 16th September (Australian Time).

Canter (M)

(M)

H. Wesche

(A)

C.O.I.C.
13/9/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO. DS/100

14th SEPTEMBER, 1941
(SUNDAY)

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

MOST SECRET. A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T'ville
1215z/12
0110z/13
Moresby 1004z/13.

Airintel/W.A.
0200z/13
0440z/13

1. Movements of Aircraft - One Catalina proceeded Tulagi-Tonalei - Sofaken, and reported nil sightings.
2. GERALDTON (W.A.) - Unidentified aircraft. - A report (graded C 3) was received from the Air Intelligence Officer, Western Area, that an unknown aircraft had been sighted near Geraldton (R.A.A.F.) aerodrome at 0430H on 11th September.

Evidence of a yellowish light which approached from the S.W., turned, rose and returned in the same direction was given by two R.A.A.F. guards at the aerodrome. The light was under observation for four minutes.

A Sergeant Pilot reported he had heard an engine at approximately the same time, and a local civilian, who claimed to be used to the sound of R.A.A.F. aircraft, stated that the engine had a high note, and the aircraft appeared to be travelling at high speed.

A fairly heavy N.E. wind was blowing, and no known aircraft was in the air at the time.

Comment - Western Area Intelligence can suggest no reasonable appreciation other than the presence of a reconnaissance aircraft from a ship at sea. No British warship carrying aircraft was in the vicinity.

If, therefore, the report is to be considered reliable, it suggests the presence of a hostile unit.

As clearing searches were conducted in connection with the departure of Convoy U.S.12A from Fremantle on 10/9, it seems unlikely that a possible Indian Ocean raider could have been in the area at that time.

To support this, there has been no intelligence since the 1/8 to suggest an enemy unit being in the Indian Ocean. On the other hand there has been a comparative lack of surface raider activity in the Atlantic over the past 2 months, and as at least one enemy raider is known to be in the Pacific and possibly near the Australia Station, the possibility of another unit working from the Indian Ocean cannot be entirely overlooked.

DS/99 para.A.2
D.N.O. S.A.
0714z/13/9

3. ROBE (South Australia) - Mine. - The investigation of the mine report near Robe showed it to have been in approx. 6 fathoms, and with all wires attached. It was considered to have been laid about 8 months ago, and was similar in type and mechanism to those previously recovered in this area.

B. ADJACENT AREAS.

EAST of Australia Station.

Montreal
0652/12/9

4. Society Islands - Raider Report. - According to an intercepted Beam Wireless message from Montreal Shanghai reports that a raider attacked two British supply vessels at Murea in the Society Islands, seriously damaging docking facilities, and warehouses.

An armed British supply ship is stated to have arrived during the bombardment, but the raider, using superior speed, escaped.

4. Society Islands - Raider Report (Contd.)

Comment - In the absence of any confirmation of this report from N.Z.N.B. or any other official source, the report is considered unfounded.

5. Pacific Ocean Raider. - As no further information has come to hand from N.Z.N.B. following their signal of 1025M/12, advising that the Silvaplane was being instructed to break W/T silence and cancel the distress message in code, it would appear likely that this vessel has been the victim of enemy raider activity.

Comment - This unit, by proceeding on a Westerly course, could reach the line between Noumea (New Caledonia) and the North Western tip of New Zealand by tomorrow evening, 15th September, at an average speed of 15 knots.

Glenn (N)

J. C. ... (M)

R. J. ... (A)

C.O.I.C.
14/9/41.

1112 *PP/10/14*

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/101

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

16th SEPTEMBER, 1941

Submitted.

(Tuesday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville
1230Z/14
0702Z/15

1. Movements of Aircraft - Negative results were reported on transit flights by Flying Boats: Rabaul - Kavieng - Rabaul and Samarai - Moresby.

DS/100 : 2
WS/18 : 6
Airintel Melb.
0605Z/15
Airintel W. Area
0725Z/15

2. GERALDTON (W.A.) - Unidentified Aircraft - The report ((previously graded C.3) of an unidentified aircraft over Geraldton Aerodrome (R.A.A.F) at 0430H/11 has after further consideration been graded C.4 by the Air Intelligence Section, Western Area.

Comment - This re-grading, by the local Investigating Officer, tends to discount the possibility of reconnaissance by a raider-borne aircraft having been responsible for the report.

N.C.S.O. Hobart
L/L 0001Z/15

3. FLINDERS IS. (Bass Strait) - Unidentified Vessel - The Master of the Ketch "Jane Moorehead" reported through the Admiralty Reporting Officer, Launceston that at 1630K/13 he sighted a large tramp steamer of about 2000 tons gross apparently at anchor 2 to 3 miles north of Babel Island on the east side of Flinders Island. The vessel was described as having 2masts, small funnel and being very high amidships, but in the conditions of visibility, cloudy with slight haze, the "Jane Moorehead" was too far off to note the outline of hull or colours. M.M.S. are unable to identify and Serial No.88 has been issued.

Comment - There has been no intelligence to suggest the presence of a hostile unit in these waters and the probabilities are strongly against such a conclusion in the case of the vessel reported. In view of the description, it is considered that a minesweeper may have been responsible and investigations on this aspect are proceeding.

Metber S.O. (I)
(Adelaide) 10/9

4. ALDINGA (S.A.) - Alleged Submarine - A report was received from two youths aged 16 that at 1800K/9 they observed an object which they took to be a submarine in a position estimated to be 5 miles S.W. of Aldinga and standing approx 2 miles from shore, apparently stationary. It was under observation for about two minutes and then disappeared. The object appeared to be about 30 ft. long and described as "cigar shaped with a lump in the middle" dark grey or black in colour with about one foot showing above surface of water. No grading is given to the report.

Comment - Whales have been sighted in the vicinity and as the object seen was under observation for less than two minutes it is considered that the object sighted was, in all probability, a whale.

N.I.O. Rabaul
0535Z/15

5. ABLINGI ISLAND - Searchlights - District Officer at Gasmata reports watch observation of searchlights from sea flashing twice to Ablingi at 2100K/14/9. Graded E.5.

Comment - Ablingi is about 13 miles west of Gasmatta. Both are in the middle of the south coast of New Britain on the air route from Rabaul to Moresby. In view of the low grading of the report and

as no vessels or aircraft are ~~known~~ known to have been in the vicinity, moonlight effect or other natural phenomena are suggested as an explanation.

There have been similar reports in the past from the New Britain area which have been attributed to natural phenomena.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

6. Pacific Raider - Ship Overdue - It is now reported that the British ship "THORNLEA" is overdue and probably was attacked in the Galapagos area between 19/8 and 21/8.

Comment - This brings the list of overdue ships apart from the "KOTA NOPAN" to four, namely "AUSTRALIND", "DEVON", "THORNLEA" and "RIO BRANCO".

From "SILVAPLANA's" position the raider could by now have reached the Eastern limits of the Australia Station at 15 knots.

N.Z.N.B.
2015Z/14

Rennell (N)

(M)

C.O.I.C.

A.S. Bradshaw

(A)

16/9/41

5-19

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/102

(Portions marked with marginal red line are (Wednesday)
not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville
1105/15Z
0200/16Z
0416/16Z

1. Movements of Aircraft
One Empire F/B Rabaul - Moresby
One Catalina Moresby - Rabaul.
Nil sightings.
2. FLINDERS IS. - Unidentified Vessel (Serial No.88) - It has now been ascertained that the minesweeper H.M.A.S. "ORARA" which it was thought may have been responsible, could have been off the east coast of Flinders Is. at 1630K/13 and the vessel sighted remains unidentified.

DS/101 :3
D.N.O. Vic.16/9

A.C.H. Melbourne
1516K/16
1710K/16
1720K/16
1730K/16

In this connection it is remarked that clearing searches for Convoy U.S.12B are being conducted today from Barrenjoey Head (N.S.W.) southwards by aircraft from Richmond and Laverton and tomorrow (18/9) in the Bass Strait by aircraft from Laverton.

N.O.I.C. Newcastle
1145Z/16

3. NEWCASTLE (N.S.W) - Unidentified Vessel - The "CAP TARIFA" (French) while en route from Noumea to Newcastle reported sighting a suspicious vessel at 0100Z/16 in position 32° 57'S, 152° 57'E. The vessel was described as a tanker with one funnel aft (buff), hull grey, counter stern, masts 2, superstructure grey. When sighted she was steering west, then for approximately 25 minutes and at a distance of 8 miles she steered parallel to "Cap Tarifa's" course (245°), afterwards altering her course to north east and increasing speed to an estimated 15 knots.
M.M.S. cannot identify and Serial No.89 has been issued.

Comment - A more detailed description obtained from S.O.(I) Newcastle fits the Dutch tanker "GENOTA" proceeding Sydney - Thursday Island, although this vessel has a cruiser stern and her position should have been 120 miles further north. Further enquiries as to this possible identification are proceeding.

The only intelligence concerning a suspicious unit which conforms in any way with this description of the sighting is the unknown tanker of 3,000 tons which departed from Yokohama on 5/7. The fact that nothing has been heard of this unit since rather discounts any possibility of it having been responsible.

The raider responsible for the "SILVAPLANA" could only have reached the position by maintaining an average speed of 20 knots. The unidentified vessel (Serial No.88) sighted off Babel Is. (Bass Strait) at 1630K/13 would have had ample time to reach the area but the descriptions given do not coincide. Having regard to the position of sighting, time of day, course and description it is considered improbable that the vessel sighted off Newcastle was a hostile unit.

A.C.H. Southern Area does not propose to institute an air search.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

4. Vichy French Merchant Ships and Warships - It was reported in the latest F.E.C.B. dated Sept. 9 that the French

F.E.C.B.1948(47)

merchant ships "COMPIEGNE" "LE CONTE DE LISLE" "CAP TOURANE" and "SIKIANG" left Saigon on 7th September, believed for Madagascar and possibly escorted by the sloop "AMIRAL CHARNER" and the submarine "MONGE".

N.Z.N.B.
1441Z/15

Advice has now been received through N.Z.N.B. that the sloop and submarine mentioned passed Sunda Straits on 12 September escorting three merchant ships to Madagascar. There is no further intelligence as to the movements of the fourth merchant ship.

S.O.(I) Capetown
1043B/15

Information has also been received that "VILLE DE VERDUN" "PIERRE L.D." "CAP VARELLA" and "CAP PADARAN" will leave shortly from Diego Suarez (Madagascar) for Indo-China escorted by the sloop "D'IBERVILLE" (2,000 tons, 3 - 5.5"). The report is graded A.2.

Comment - It would appear that in view of the warship escort that the N.E.I. Naval authorities have allowed these units to pass through Dutch waters without interference.

Most secret
sources

5. SOUTHERN MANDATED IS. - Japanese Activity - A fast Japanese Naval auxiliary, which left the Bonin Is. for Ponape area last month and returned by 30/8, has in the last few days taken, apart from a small quantity of cargo, 195 labourers to Majuro or near vicinity in the South Eastern Marshalls and 415 military labourers to another destination within a day's run. She is now proceeding west at a latitude of 5° North.

Comment - This unit is apparently engaged in the transport of workmen who are developing the operational facilities in the Ponape area (S.E. Carolines). It is probable that the auxiliary's recent movements are associated with the operations of the survey vessel "KATSURIKI" which has been at and near Majuro since 8/9.

*Seems following should have been included:-
"and in the Majuro-Jaluit area (S.E. Marshalls)"*

This developmental activity is significant in view of -

- (a) Japanese aerial reconnaissance of the Bismarck Archipelago in June and the Gilberts in July; and
- (b) the recent indication that a Japanese warship has again been operating in the vicinity of Kapingamarangi.

WS/18 :20(c)(iii)

Pennington (N)
Long D. ... (M)
R. ... (A)

C.O.I.C.
17/9/41

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not (Thursday)
to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.Townsville 1. Movements of Aircraft - One Catalina Rabaul - Kavieng.
1225/16Z, 1335/17Z Nil sightings.

DS/102 Para.3.

N.O.C.S.0940/17Z

2. NEWCASTLE (N.S.W) - Unidentified Ship (Serial No.89) -
It has now been reported that the Norwegian tanker "New
Zealand" was stopped for engine repairs in position
33°05'S, 153°39'E from 0810K to 1130K on 16/9. The
position and time of sighting corresponds to that of the
vessel reported by "Cap Tarifa" and it is considered that
"New Zealand" was the ship in question. Serial No.89
has accordingly been cancelled.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

Nil.

[Handwritten signature] (N)
[Handwritten signature] (M)
[Handwritten signature] (A)

C.O.I.C.
18/9/41

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced). (Friday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville / 1. Movements of Aircraft - One Flying Boat Rabaul - Kavieng
1055Z/17, 0135Z / 18 Nil sightings.

2. EDDYSTONE LIGHTHOUSE (N.E. Tasmania) - Mine - It is reported by the Master of the "NGAKUTA" that a floating mine was seen and sunk by rifle fire at 0930K/16/9 6 miles off Eddystone Lighthouse on a bearing of 030°. The mine was stated to have been rusty and partly covered with bird deposit but with clean bottom. Black horns were clearly visible from a distance of 300 ft. In the Master's opinion, the mine had been in the water for 3 months.

D.N.O. Vic.
0215Z/17/9

Comment - It is considered that the Master's statement as to the age of the mine is an underestimate and that the mine has broken away from one of the old fields.

B.R.C. New Hebrides
0721Z/18/9

3. VILA - High Power W/T Transmission - The R.A.A.F. Wireless operator at the A.O.B. Vila at 2230Z/17/9 heard a transmitter tuning up on approximately 11595 kc/s. From the strength of the signal he placed it within 2 miles and at first thought Vila was responsible. This was incorrect. If a high power transmitter was responsible he estimated that it must have been at a maximum distance of 600 miles.

Comment - This is not considered very significant as several high power stations working on approx this frequency could have been heard up to almost any distance at the time in question. The interception could have been made because 11595 kc/s is a fixed R.A.A.F. frequency from Vila.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

N.B. 1043Z/18/9 4. An interruption in the cable between Cocos Is. and Batavia is reported.

WS/11 . 12

Comment - This cable was interrupted previously between 2/7 and 12/7. The break was then considered to have been due to seismic disturbance.

N.O.I.C. Pt. Moresby
0345Z/18/9

5. Japanese Motor Vessel in Celebes Sea - "MANGOLA" reports that on 10/9 at 0900 local time it sighted a typical Japanese auxiliary motor fishing vessel in position 2°50'N 123°36'E. The vessel was stationary and line fishing. It is described as having a very high bridge, 2 masts, small funnel, grey hull and wireless aerial.

C in C N.E.I.
0435Z/27/8

Comment - The position indicated is south of Mindanao in the Celebes Sea. There has been no recent intelligence of Japanese units in this area, although several small Japanese motor craft were sighted in the North East Netherlands Indies in the latter part of August and a 2,500 ton vessel carried out considerable observations in the Celebes Sea. It is known that the Japanese use small motor auxiliaries for reconnaissance and that these vessels carry powerful wireless transmitters.

0807Z/29/8

EAST of Australia Station

Admty.1801A/16/9
S.O.(I) Wellington
1440M/16/9
C.O.I.S.0139Z/17
D.N.I. Melb.
0746Z/17

6. Pacific Raider - The "RIO BRANCO" previously reported overdue at Los Angeles, has arrived safely. It appears that N.Z.N.B.'s signal of 1211M/14/9 reported "Thornlea" as overdue and probably having been attacked was incorrect; the code groups for "Thornlea" having been confused with that of "AUSTRALIND". "THORNLEA" therefore is not overdue and is not known to be in the area. The list of ships now apparently attacked in the Pacific since mid August includes -

DS/101: 6

"KOTA NOPAN" "AUSTRALIND" "DEVON" and probably "SILVAPLANA". A W/T bearing of 328° from Singapore at 1658Z/15/9 on 12700 kc/s may have originated from a Pacific Ocean raider.

Admty.1801A/16/9

Comment - This bearing passes close to Easter Is. and up towards Ecuador approx 700 miles south of the Galapagos. If from an enemy unit in the Pacific it would appear to have come either from a second raider or a captured supply ship in view of the "SILVAPLANA's" QQQQ position on the 11/9.

Handwritten signature (N)
Handwritten signature (M)
A S Bradshaw. (A)

C.O.I.C.
19/9/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE.

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced.)

SERIAL NO.DS/105
(Sunday)

Submitted.

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft -

A.C.H. Townsville
1336/19Z
2235/19Z
0835/19Z.

One Empire F/B Kavieng - Rabaul - Moresby
One Catalina Moresby - Tulagi
One Empire F/B Moresby - Cairns - Moresby.

Nil sightings.

DS/104 Para.A3.2.
AI.N.A.0146/20Z.

VILA - High Power W/T Transmission - With reference to the W/T transmission heard at Vila on 2230Z/17/9, investigation discloses that Moresby was testing at the time and on the frequency quoted by Vila. In view of the prevalent atmospheric conditions it is considered by Northern Area that Vila heard the Moresby signals.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

AI. Darwin
0500/20Z

3. PORTUGUESE TIMOR- Japanese Palau-Dilli Flight - Information has been received that another flight (the eighth) from Palau to Dilli will be made by the Japanese on 11/10.

C. JAPANESE INTELLIGENCE

AI. Darwin
0500/20Z

4. DILLI (PORTUGUESE TIMOR) - Japanese Consulate - Radiograms from Japan show that a Japanese Consulate is to be established at Dilli. The Consul is to arrive in the middle of October, and nine of his officials are to arrive by the flying-boat on the eighth Palau-Dilli flight on 11/10.

Censorship
17/9/41.

Comment - It seems probable that the nine officials will act as an advance party, and that the consul with the remainder of his staff will arrive ^{EITHER BY AIRCRAFT OR BY FLYING BOAT OR} by the Yamagiku Maru, which it is believed will visit the Australia Station in mid October.

Handwritten signature (N)

(M)

C.O.I.C.
21/9/41.

AS Bradshaw. (A)

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/106

(Portions marked with marginal red line are (Tuesday)
not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Nil.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

WEST of Australia Station

1. Singapore has received a report from Direction Is. (Keeling-Cocos Is.) that a German mobile transmission was picked up on a bearing of 318° on the 20th Sept. The sense was determined.

Singapore
0347/21

Comment - This single bearing passes approx through Colombo, Arabian Sea, Germany, to the North Atlantic. The reciprocal passes through the south west of the Australia Station and up towards Panama.

In the absence of any cross bearing on this unit, it is impossible to gauge its location which in any case, from the sense would appear to be well away from this Station and either in the vicinity of Colombo or in the Atlantic.

[Handwritten signature] (N)

[Handwritten signature] (M)

[Handwritten signature] (A)

C.O.I.C.

23/9/41

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced). (Wednesday)

Submitted.

24th SEPTEMBER, 1941

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Nil.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

- 1. SOUTHERN CAROLINES - Japanese Survey Activity - It is learned that the Japanese warship previously mentioned as having been patrolling north of Kapingamarangi has been identified as the Survey Vessel "KOSYU".

Comment - The presence of a survey vessel in this area following the knowledge of the survey vessel "KATURIKI" operating continually in and south of the East Marshalls Group over recent months is further confirmation of a probable course of action by Japan in the event of war in the Pacific.

Other ~~fx~~ known facts which support this view are:-

- (a) Aerial reconnaissance of the Bismarck Archipelago and Gilberts and Ellice Is. by Japanese aircraft;
- (b) Continued activity by large numbers of auxiliaries between the Mariannes and the focal points in the East Carolines and Marshalls.
- (c) Continued evidence of the movement of large numbers of military labourers to the East Marshalls where several first class anchorages are known to exist and where developmental work is believed to be rapidly proceeding.

EAST of Australia Station

- 2. PACIFIC OCEAN Raider Activity - New Zealand Station - On 20/9 between 1800 and 1900M a transmission on a wave length of 150 c~~ms~~ was intercepted by H.M.S. "ACHILLES" when in position 33° 55' S, 171° E, indicating the possibility of a raider in this area.

Comment - This position is about 70 miles north of west of the Three Kings Is. which are off the Northern point of New Zealand.

From its nature, there seems little doubt that the transmission has emanated from an enemy raider operating within 20 miles of H.M.S. "Achilles" position at the time. ~~Such~~ raider could now be well on to the Australia Station and anywhere along the Eastern Coast.

C. ENEMY WARSHIPS

- 3. GERMAN - Further intelligence from Admiralty giving recent dispositions of German main units does away with several possibilities mentioned in connection therewith in para.13 of Weekly Summary No.19.

"ADMIRAL SCHEER" is reported near Swinemund on 19/9 and still in Western Baltic on 22/9. "NURNBERG" was reported in the Western Baltic on 21/9 and "KOLN" on 18/9. "SEYDLITZ" is still fitting out at Bremen and "GRAF ZEPPELIN" was at Stettin on 8/9.

Most secret sources

do.

do.

Navy Office Wellington 1002M/22 N.Z.N.B.2312M/23

D.S.C. 23/9

Admty.1031A/22

This latest signal accounts for all main units being
in German Home Ports.

Pennington (N)
Mullaly (M)
Quinn (A)

C.O.I.C.

24/9/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/108

25th SEPTEMBER, 1941

(Thursday)

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).
Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - One F/B Moresby - Salamaua - nil sightings. One Hudson Standard Patrol - Darwin - results negative. Search for "Montoro" - all sightings identified.

Northern Area
2130/24/9

2. BUKA - BOUGAINVILLE - Suspicious Ship & Reports of Explosion
An Army Representative at Buka reported the suspicious movements of a ship moving N.N.W. course on the Eastern horizon yesterday 24th September. Also a report of explosions being seen and heard from Bougainville and Buka coast at 1930K 24th Sept. The "MALAITA" last reported leaving Kieta en route to Rabaul via Bougainville ports, is the only vessel known to be in the area and she is overdue at Leveretau (believed to be a corruption for one of the Bougainville ports or else a village attached to one of these ports, possibly Soraken), since last night.

One Catalina departed Kavieng at 0700K/25 for Buka, Soraken, Teopasino, Numa Numa, Aregua and Kieta, to search for the "MALAITA". Two Catalina aircraft departed Gavutu at 0845K/25 for Buka to investigate the report and stand by. H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" reported at Port Moresby yesterday, has been informed.

In the event of the "MALAITA" not being found this morning, an extensive raider search has been arranged and will be put into operation immediately the present searches are completed. (This is expected before noon).

Comment - If "MALAITA" has been attacked by a raider it would appear likely that the attack has taken place off the east coast of Buka, possibly off the Buka Passage. A raider would have to have averaged 19 knots to have reached the area from the position of H.M.S. "ACHILLES" report off New Zealand on 20th September.

A raider could have comfortably reached the area from the position of the "Silvaplane" QQQQ message on the 11th September.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

3. The "DENBIGHSHIRE" sighted a suspicious motor ship in position 14°52'S, 129°11' West at 1400Z/23 September.

Comment - This position is approximately 1200 miles east of Tahiti.

Admty.1341A/24

[Signature] (N)

[Signature] (M)

[Signature] (A)

C.O.I.C.

25/9/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/109

26th SEPTEMBER, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

(Friday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - The following operations were carried out by Flying Boats 25/9:
- 1 Empire F/B Moresby - Thursday Is., with view to checking number and disposition of pearling luggers in Thursday Is. area;
 - 1 Empire F/B Salamaua - Lorengau;
 - 1 Catalina Thursday Is. - Moresby;
 - 1 Catalina Kavieng - Soraken;
 - 2 Catalinas Tulagi - Buka;
 - 1 Catalina Moresby - Kavieng.
- In all cases nil sightings were reported.

A.C.H. Townsville
1228Z/24
2116Z/24
2355Z/24
0534Z/25
0850Z/25

2. BUKA - BOUGAINVILLE - Suspicious Ship & Reports of Explosions - It was learned later yesterday that the "MALAITA" which arrived Rabaul at 0400K was responsible for the suspicious reports off Buka on the 24th as she was engaged in gunnery practice east of Buka Passage at the time. The proposed raider air search was accordingly cancelled.

N.I.O. Rabaul
2330Z/25
A.R.O. Rabaul
0001Z/25

3. BUKA (Solomons) - Unidentified Aircraft - An aircraft was reported flying high in a position 45 miles west of Cape Henpan at 1740K 24/9, the course of the aircraft being unknown. Conditions were cloudy at the time. The report which was made by M.V. "MALAITA's" surgeon is graded C.3 by N.I.O. Rabaul. A.C.H. Townsville does not propose any action ~~and tend to discount the report.~~

N.I.O. RABAU
2330Z/24
Airintel N. Area
0452Z/25

Comment - Cape Henpan is the Northern extremity of Buka Island. No civil or service aircraft is known to have been in the vicinity at the time stated, and the aircraft is unidentified.

In the absence of a description of the aircraft, course, height &c., it is difficult to assess the significance of the report but the possibilities are:-

- (a) unreported civil aircraft;
- (b) reconnaissance aircraft from enemy surface unit;
- (c) Japanese reconnaissance aircraft.

~~In~~ The fact that the aircraft was not actually seen may discount the reliability of the report.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

4. W/T Intercept of German Naval Mobile Transmission - Singapore reported having intercepted a transmission on 23/9 by a German naval mobile unit on a 3rd class bearing of 296°.

Singapore 2132Z/23

Comment - The bearing given passes through the Northern Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean. The reciprocal passes through the Coral Sea and South of New Caledonia, reaches a southernmost latitude of approx 25°S at 166°W and thence curves up to the Coast of Ecuador.

Without a cross bearing it is not possible to determine the location of the unit responsible for the transmission but a position on the reciprocal bearing is consistent with recent intelligence as to raider activity in the Pacific.

FEVB.1948(48)

5. YOKOHAMA - Italian Merchant Ship Movement - The "FUSIJAMA"
(6,244 tons) arrived at Yokohama 10/9.

C.O.I.S.0858Z/9/8
0201Z/23/8

Comment - Leaving Bangkok 8/8, where she had been since the beginning of the war, she arrived Kobe 22/8, arrived Yokohama between 22/8 and 31/8 whence she departed about this latter date. She has probably been having some refitting or repairing done after her long stay in Bangkok or she may have been engaged in Japanese coastal trade.

C.S.Singapore
0390Z/7/9

Ranudo (N)

John L. Deane (M)

R. J. Marnie (A)

C.O.I.C.

26/9/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/110

27th SEPTEMBER, 1941

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

(Saturday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft -

A.C.H.Townsville
1335/25Z
2110/25Z
0155/26Z

One Empire F/B Lorengau - Kavieng - Rabaul
Two Catalinas Buka - Tulagi
One Catalina Soraken - Kavieng
One Empire F/B Thursday Is. - Moresby
One Catalina Kavieng - Rabaul
One Hudson - security patrol for "Montoro" Darwin - Millingimbi

A.C.H.Darwin
2150/25Z

0235/27Z

D.N.O.Hobart
L/L 1815/26K.

2. BRUNY ISLAND (TAS.) - Unidentified Aircraft - It was reported that a naval rating, reputed to be very dependable, at Bruny Is. Coast Watching Station sighted an aircraft, bearing South from the lighthouse, at 1730K/26. The aircraft at first seen with the naked eye and later with glasses and telescope, was considered by the observer to be a seaplane on account of its long wings described as "double" (bâplané). His first reports mentioned floats projecting but he later stated this to be a mistake and that no floats or wheels were visible. The aircraft was first heading towards the Lighthouse and then turned East. When originally observed it was flying high but later came down to a low altitude. The observer stated that the aircraft was in view for a total time of four minutes, and although reluctant to estimate the distance considered it would be twenty miles. The weather was clear, clouds high and visibility good. No engine noise was heard.

No civil or service aircraft are known to have been in the vicinity at the time.

Airintel Western
Junction 0700/26Z.

The report is now graded C3.

Comment - Although there are contradictions in the report and the distance of sighting is given as twenty miles, the following factors support the conclusion that the object sighted was an aircraft:

- (a) The source is graded as reliable;
- (b) The observer was at first disinclined to estimate the distance;
- (c) The sighting was made first with the naked eye and then with glasses;
- (d) The duration of sighting was approx. four minutes.

WS/15 Para A5.

There have been several reports of unidentified aircraft from this area, the majority of which have been unreliable, and there has been no subsequent intelligence to confirm that they were suspicious. However, in view of -

- (1) the hour of sighting,
 - (2) the course of the aircraft,
 - (3) the descriptive details suggesting a seaplane,
 - (4) the circumstance that Hobart is a focal point for shipping and has been used in the past in connection with major transport movements, and
 - (5) the fact that at least one raider is known to be operating in the Pacific and could be anywhere on the Eastern section of the Australia Station at 15 knots from the positions indicated by the SILVAPLANA and H.M.S. "ACHILLES" reports, (11/9 and 20/9 respectively) -
- the possibility of this aircraft being from an enemy raider should be given due consideration.

DS/3: Para B2.
DS/107: Para B2.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/111

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

30TH SEPTEMBER, 1941

Submitted.

(Tuesday)

MOST SECRET

Navy Office
Wellington
1658M/29

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. S.S. "KUROU" - Reported Reception of Cancellation of Distress Message - It is reported that S.S. "KUROU's" W/T log shows a partly received cancellation of a QQQQ message at 2117Z/6. "KUROU" was then in the Bass Strait area, having departed from Melbourne at 1226Z/6 for Auckland. The call sign logged as having been received is G (blank) URY.

Comment - It would appear that the QQQQ cancellation heard by "KUROU" was a plain language transmission made at 2112Z/6 by "City of Johannesburg" upon docking, cancelling a QQQQ which she had sent out 2014Z/6 from Mozambique Channel.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

2. OSAKA - Departure of "LAMOTTE PICQUET" - The Vichy ~~French~~ French Cruiser "LAMOTTE PICQUET" departed from Osaka on 27/9 for Saigon.

Comment - This cruiser previously arrived at Osaka on 15/9 from Saigon for refitting which was then expected to take one month.

C.O.I.S.
1616Z/29

WS/18 : 7(c)

Alouard (N)

(M)

W. J. O'Neil (A)

C.O.I.C.
30/9/41

17/10/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/112

(Portions marked with marginal red line are 1st OCTOBER, 1941
not to be reproduced).
Submitted. (Wednesday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Nil

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

1. Suspicious Japanese Auxiliary Operating in N.E.I. Waters
In reply to a signal from A.C.N.B. to C.Z.M. on 29/9 giving the positions of a Japanese naval auxiliary operating in the vicinity of Halmahera on 26th and 28th September, it is reported that an N.E.I. reconnaissance plane sighted a Japanese motorship in 002°10'S, 126°54'E at 0545Z/28. She is described as of 4,000 tons, name unknown, black hull, light blue superstructure, two masts. She was not further identified on account of nightfall.

Comment - The position is 120 miles N.N.W. of Ambon and coincides with most secret intelligence of a Japanese unit operating in approximately that position at noon on 28/9. This unit has since 24/9 proceeded from a position north of the N.W. tip of New Guinea, past Halmahera and then north of Ceram.

A unit using the same call-sign was previously fixed in the first and last week of July and again early in August operating north of Helen Reef. Between 18th and 28th August it was again fixed in the Celebes Sea.

On 20th August an N.E.I. ship sighted a Japanese ship whose position coincided with the fixing on that date of the above unit. The description given was: mayer bow, cruiser stern, two holds in fore part of the ship, one in after part, black hull, blue green superstructure and mast. Mainmast black, funnel black, two samson posts forward of the bridge. Japanese characters on stern, range-finder, no gun, flying a balloon. About 2,500 tons.

This description coincides with that of the vessel sighted on 28th September N.N.W. of Ambon.

It is clear therefore, that corresponding with surveys being carried out at present by Kosju ~~was~~ south of Truk and by "Katsuriki" south of Jaluit a full survey is being carried out in the area between New Guinea and Borneo.

It is remarked that the new Australian A.O.B. at Namlea is approx 65 miles from the position of this survey vessel on 28/9; also that an N.E.I. flying boat squadron is based at Ambon.

A signal has been despatched to C.Z.M. suggesting that photographs of this unit might be obtained at the next opportunity.

Handwritten signatures:
L. ... (N)
S. ... (M)
K. ... (A)

C.O.I.C.
1/10/41

C in C N.E.I.
0803Z/30/9

Most secret
sources

WS/16 : 8

WS/18 : 20(c)

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/113

(Portions marked with marginal red line
are not to be reproduced).

2nd OCTOBER, 1941

Submitted.

(Thursday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville 1. | Movements of Aircraft - One F/B Noumea - Aneityum -
1055/29Z, 1135/30Z | Tulagi. One sighting identified.
0624/1Z

B. ADJACENT AREAS

Letter from 2. RODRIGUEZ - MAURITIUS - DURBAN - Cable Interruptions -
Eastern Extension | Interruptions in the cable service between Rodriguez
Cable 25/9/41 | and Mauritius and Durban have been detected.

Comment - This is the third cable interruption in recent
months, the two earlier interruptions both
having occurred in the Cocos Is. - Batavia
cable between 2/7 and 12/7 (considered due to
seismic disturbance) and then again before 18/9.

B.R.C. New
Hebrides 1417Z/1

3. VILA (New Hebrides) - Suspension of Japanese Shipping in
South Pacific - A telegram sent on 30/9 by Nanya
Boeki Kaisha in Tokyo to its Vila Branch, and intercepted
and ~~isak~~ delayed by the Vila censor, stated "Nothing at
all owing to "TAKACHIHO MARU" suspending voyage to Pacific
Ocean". This was in reply to an enquiry as to the quantity
of a cargo shipped to Vila.

Comment - There has been no intelligence as to the
scheduled sailing of "TAKACHIHO MARU" to the
Australia Station or adjacent areas since the
withdrawal of Japanese shipping began in recent
months. The only indications of any Japanese
sailings for Australia since the general with-
drawal was "HUSIMI MARU" in August (subsequently
cancelled) and "YAMAGIKU MARU" for mid October.

Censorship 17/9

Ronney (N)
Mullaly (M)
Doyle (A)

C.O.I.C.

2/10/41

3/10
C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/114

(Portions marked with marginal red line are 3rd OCTOBER, 1941
not to be reproduced).
Submitted. (Friday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Nil

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

1. Suspicious Japanese Vessel operating in N.E.I. waters -
A Japanese ship which is considered to be probably the suspicious auxiliary that has been sighted several times in N.E.I. waters recently was searched by the Dutch destroyer "PIET HEIN" at 1030/2 in position 4°26'S, 125°09'E. It was identified as the "YOKO MARU" of 1050 tons gross with a crew of 49 which left Paladan (unable to identify but probably in Palew Is.) on 23/9 and will be staying in the Banda Sea for fishing research until 13/10 when it will return to Palao. The description given is "black hull, blue grey superstructure, 2 masts, one goalpost before bridge, raked stem, cruiser stern, short forecastle, ship seems to be equipped for hydrographic survey". The vessel departed steering 015° speed 10 knots.

Comment - This latest position is approx 180 miles S.W. from the position of sighting on the 28th and approx 180 miles west of Ambon.

Although there are certain discrepancies in the descriptions from the 3 sighting reports now available, it is considered that they are all sufficiently identical to have probably been the same ship, "YOKO MARU" which has been using the call sign HO MO 3.

It would appear that this vessel is a Japanese survey vessel based on Palao which is engaged in carrying out surveys in the northern approaches to the N.E.I. between Borneo and Dutch New Guinea.

C.Z.M.
0745Z/2

Handwritten signatures:
R. L. ...
J. H. ...
W. J. ... (A)

C.O.I.C.

3/10/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/115

4th OCTOBER, 1941

(Saturday)

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MGST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - One Empire Flying Boat Moresby - Townsville. Nil sightings.
One Hudson Archerfield - Richmond reporting shipping en route. All sightings identified.
2. CAPE OTWAY (Vic) - Unidentified Ship Serial No.90 - W.S.A. Station at Cape Otway reported an unknown vessel at 0655K in a position Cape Otway 210° Cape Otway 20 miles.
The vessel which was steering a course of 270° appeared to be a large cargo vessel with one tall funnel amidships and two masts.
The visibility was poor and no colours were visible.
One Hudson from Laverton left to search at 0844 hours.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

3. Unidentified Aircraft - NUKUFETAU (Ellice Is.) - It is reported from Nukufetau in the Ellice Is. that:
(a) at 2030Z/1/10 an aircraft engine was heard;
(b) at 0630Z/2/10 2 biplanes approached from the south, circled once and disappeared towards the N.W.

Comment - S.O.(I) Wellington states that further information is being sought and suggests that (a) might possibly have been the Pan-Air Clipper although the times do not coincide satisfactorily.

With regard to (b), no Japanese aircraft of this description could have reached Nukufetau unless sea-borne. There is no intelligence to suggest the presence of a Japanese seaplane carrier or other naval unit in this area.

It also appears unlikely that the aircraft came from an enemy raider, as two machines would hardly be sent out on reconnaissance together.

On the other hand, in view of the known interest of the United States in these islands which lie S.W. of Canton Is. and N.W. of the U.S. Naval base at Pango, it is possible that U.S. sea-borne aircraft are responsible for these sightings.

It will be recalled that the U.S. seaplane tender "McFARLAND" and a U.S. Flying Boat Squadron carried out reconnaissance of the Ellice Group at the beginning of July. The aircraft used on that occasion were biplanes.

A.C.H. Townsville
0315Z/3

A.C.H. Melb.
0755/4K

S.O.(I) Wellington
1543/3M

NS/9 E. of Aust. Stn.
Para. 1.

Handwritten signature (M)

Handwritten signature (M)

Handwritten signature (A)

C.O.I.C.
4/10/41

I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/116

7th OCTOBER, 1941

(Tuesday)

(Portions marked with marginal red line
are not to be reproduced).
Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
1045Z/5
0705Z/6
DS/115:A2
A.C.H.Q.Melb.
0138Z/4

1. Movements of Aircraft - 1 Catalina Tulagi - Moresby.
Nil sightings.

2. CAPE OTWAY (Vic). Unidentified Ship Serial No.90 -
This vessel reported on 4/10 was, following an air
search, identified as the lighthouse vessel "CAPE
YORK" and the Serial No. has been cancelled.

3. ROTTNEST IS. (W.A) - Unidentified Ship - A ship was
sighted by the A/S vessel "YANDRA" at 1415Z/5 295°
8 miles from Rottneest Is. light. She was inwards
bound and signalled her name "SALLAND" (Dutch) from
Calcutta. The vessel did not arrive Fremantle and
has not been seen since.

Another Dutch ship "SAIDJA" arrived Fremantle
yesterday morning from N.E.I. and established the
fact that she did not signal nor was she in the
vicinity.

An air search was being carried out yesterday (6/10)
in connection with the arrival of "QUEEN MARY" and an
additional search was accordingly instituted to identify
the vessel. Both these searches, however, proved
negative.

Subsequently H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" signalled that the
vessel in question could not have been "SALLAND" as she
had been sighted by "SYDNEY" in an approximate position
14°23'South 107°06'East at 0405Z on 4th October, which
would not permit her to reach Fremantle before 8th
October at the earliest.

Comment - The report is difficult to assess and there
appears to be some contradiction in the known
facts.

"SALLAND" is a Dutch vessel which left
Calcutta on 24/9 for Fremantle. She has a
trading speed of 13 knots and at this speed
could have reached Fremantle in 11 days i.e.
about 5/10.

On this assumption, it was at first believ-
ed that the "SALLAND" had been either captured
or sunk by an enemy raider and that the vessel
sighted by "YANDRA" was either "SALLAND" her-
self with a prize crew on board, or the ship
which had sunk her after obtaining her code
books. In view of the arrival of "QUEEN MARY"
it was thought that the ship might have been
engaged in laying mines off Rottneest Island.

However, since the report from H.M.A.S.
"SYDNEY" it is apparent that "SALLAND" was not
the ship sighted, as she could not have reached
Fremantle from her position on 4/10, a distance
of 1100 miles in 36 hours.

S.W.A.C.H.
0717Z/6
A.I.Western
Area 0625Z/6

S.W.A.C.H.
1220Z/6

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"
1316Z/6

A.I.W.A.
0625Z/6

In view of this fact and also as two air searches failed to locate any unidentified ship in the area it is possible that in spite of "SAIDJA's" denial that she signalled or had been in a position to do so she was in fact the ship sighted by "YANDRA".

On the other hand it was possible for a raider to have escaped the area of search by maintaining a westerly course at a speed of 12 knots. A possible explanation for such a theory is that a raider, knowing of "SALLAND's" movements, and that Fremantle is a focal area for convoys, went in to lay mines using "SALLAND" as an alibi if challenged.

Minesweepers are to operate ahead of "QUEEN MARY" and "SYDNEY", while an anti-submarine patrol will be maintained in Gage Roads during daylight hours.

S.W.A.C.H.
~~1416/27~~
0840Z/6

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

S.O.(I) Jamaica 4. Overdue Ship (Pacific Ocean) - The Panamanian ship "NORSELAND", due at Balboa from Noumea on 28/9, has not yet arrived.

Comment - This ship is a motor vessel of 4349 gross tons, built in 1915 and of mean speed 9 knots. It left Noumea on 28/9. If it has been attacked by the raider which attacked "SILVAPLANA" on 11/9 it would appear that this happened about 8/9 in the vicinity of the Society Islands. On the other hand, it is possible she was attacked further east by a second raider.

Alkenowda (N)

Group Orasimbor (M)

Agulesche (A)

C.O.I.C.

7/10/41

APB 8/10

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO. DS/117

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

8th OCTOBER, 1941

Submitted.

(Wednesday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville 1. Movements of Aircraft - One Flying Boat Rabaul - Moresby.
1059Z/6 Nil sightings.
0525Z/7

Airintel Archer- 2. ARCHERFIELD (QLD) - Unidentified Aircraft - A member of
field 2325Z/6 a R.A.A.F. duty fire party at Archerfield Aerodrome
0150Z/7 reported that at 22 2300Z/6 he observed an aircraft
travelling west at high speed. As the visibility was
poor, he could only describe the plane as having silver
wings. The aircraft was not seen by other members of
the fire party but was heard by them and the duty pilot.
Air intelligence officer, Archerfield, is unable to
identify.

Comment - Without a more complete check of the movement
of civil (e.g. privately owned) aircraft it is
not considered that the sighting is significant.
The details of the report do not in themselves
arouse suspicion.

HMAS "SYDNEY" 3. ROTTN EST IS. (W.A) - Unidentified Ship - Regarding the
0643Z/7 ship reported yesterday as sighted by H.M.A.S. "YANDRA"
0906Z/7 off Rottne Is., H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" after investigation
DS/116: para.3 now states:-

- (1) Fresh evidence makes it extremely doubtful whether an unknown ship was in fact present at the time and place of the reported sighting;
- (2) The lights seen by H.M.A.S. "YANDRA" are considered to be those of s.s. "ARMADALE" (British);
- (3) In view of the ~~reasons~~ above, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" does not intend proceeding to sea to act as a cover to incoming shipping as was intended;
- (4) The searched channel was partially swept on 7/10 and will be swept again on 8/10;
- (5) An air mail report on the matter will follow.

A further air search is to be carried out today 8/10 to a depth of 300 miles.

Comment - The "ARMADALE" departed Fremantle at 1035Z/5 for Abadan. The "SALLAND" which was sighted by H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" on 4/10 in a position 1100 miles from Rottne Is. is due at Fremantle today.

The facts upon which H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" came to conclusions (1) and (2) above have not been disclosed and pending receipt of the air mail report it would appear likely that the original report of the sighting was inaccurate.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

S.O.(I) Wellington 4. NUKUFETAU (Ellice Islands) - Unidentified Aircraft - With
1601M/7 regard to the report of unidentified aircraft over Nukufetau on 2/10 it is now reported that natives state that the aircraft concerned was a small flying boat. No further information is available and the report is graded C.3.

Comment - The original report referred to "two biplanes" whereas the latest reference is to a single aircraft. The description now given could fit a U.S. seaborne aircraft or perhaps a P.B.Y. (Catalina) type as to which suggestion further comment by S.O.(I) Wellington and R.N.Z.A.F. is awaited.

NORTH of Australia Station

F.E.C.B.
1948(50)

- 5. MARSHALL IS. - Presence of Japanese Aircraft Carrier -
The latest F.E.C.B. Summary(30/9/41) reports that the aircraft carrier "KAGA" (28,000 tons) is in the Wotje area, Marshall Is. with the target ship "SETTU" in company.

Comment - The "KAGA" is Japan's largest aircraft carrier, ~~It~~ carries 60 aircraft, has a speed of 25 knots and is armed with 16 - 5" H.A. in twin mountings and 28-1" guns in twin mountings.

Wotje is considered to be possibly the strongest Naval base in the Marshalls. Apart from possessing an A class anchorage and it is reported to be extensively used as a submarine base and has good landing grounds for aircraft, seaplane base, powerful W/T Station, considerable fuel supplies, has guns mounted, and is garrisoned. It will be recalled that there ~~was~~ ^{has} been evidence of considerable activity by auxiliaries and the use of considerable labour forces in this area over recent months, suggesting rapid development of operational bases.

Rowan (N)
W. Murray (M)
AS Bradshaw (A)

C.O.I.C.
8/10/41

(Portions marked with marginal red line are 9th OCTOBER, 1941
 not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

(Thursday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - One Catalina Moresby - Tulagi.
 A.C.H. Townsville 1130Z/7, 0738Z/8
 One sighting identified.
2. ARCHERFIELD (Qld) - Unidentified Aircraft - Northern Area
 DS/117 : 2
 A.I. N. Area
 0538Z/8
 advises that no further information has come to light regarding this sighting. The report has been graded C.3.
3. GUADALCANAL IS. (Solomons) - Aircraft Reports - The District Officer, Aola (Guadalcanal Is.) reported native sightings of aircraft at 2300Z 30/9 and 0400Z 1/10.
 AzR
 N.L.O. Tulagi
 1400Z/7
 Comment - These have been identified as R.A.A.F. aircraft engaged in normal operations.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

4. Pacific Raider Intelligence
 - a) Tasman Sea - D/F Enemy Unit on 5/10 - With regard to D/F fixed reported by N.Z.N.B. and N.B. on 5/10 suggesting the presence of an enemy unit in the Tasman Sea, it is possible that both reports were based on the same facts. Although it was thought likely that they originated from the antipodal area in the Atlantic, it is now considered by Admiralty that the transmission was probably from a surface ship in the Pacific. This still further confirms the view already expressed that at least one enemy unit is at present in the S.W. Pacific and that such a unit was off the South Is. of New Zealand, possibly in the Tasman on 5/10.
 N.Z.N.B. 1059M/5
 0919M/8
 N.B. 0211Z/5
 0726Z/5
 Admty. 1810A/7
 C.W.R. 0424Z/6
 - b) H.M.S. "ACHILLES" - R.D.F. Interceptions - With regard to the intercept by H.M.S. "ACHILLES" on 20/9 it is suggested from Singapore that this transmission may have originated from one of H.M. Ships and that its reception as reported may have been due to freak propagation conditions. No reply to Singapore has yet been received from New Zealand. As far as the Australia Station is concerned H.M.A. Ships are not yet fitted with R.D.F., although the frequency of 200 megacycles is used in army coast defence sets. The possibility of a defect in "ACHILLES" equipment being responsible has been suggested by A.C.N.B. to C.O.I.S. for consideration.
 Navy Office
 Wellington
 1002M/22
 C.O.S. Singapore
 0748Z/7
 A.C.N.B. 0541Z/8

Handwritten signatures:
 (N)
 (M)
 (A)

C.O.I.C.
 9/10/41

10/10

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO. DS/119

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced). 10th OCTOBER, 1941
(Friday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

DS/117 : 3
S.W.A.C.H.
0643Z/8
0913Z/8
1180Z/8
1410Z/8

1. ROTTNEST IS. (W.A) - Unidentified Ship - With reference to the sighting by H.M.A.S. "YANDRA" off Rottneest Is. 5/10, it is now reported that -
(a) The "SALLAND" arrived Fremantle 2230Z/8;
(b) The air searches carried out to a depth of 300 miles from Fremantle on Wednesday 8/10 were completed with negative result.

Southern Command
I.S.G.S. 8/10

2. CAPE WOOLAMAI (Vic). - Searchlight & Oil - Further investigation of the reports of searchlight observed from San Remo (4/10) and patch of oil discovered off Cape Woolamai (5/10) indicate that -
(a) The light was not as powerful as a searchlight and it disappeared gradually over a period of approximately 8 minutes;
(b) the source was a point either on the mainland immediately south of San Remo or out to sea off Cape Woolamai;
(c) the oil was probably sump oil thrown overboard alongside San Remo jetty on 4/10 and carried out to sea.

Comment - This information suggests that the two incidents were given an undue significance by reason of being associated and confirms the probability of their having an innocent explanation.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

3. OSAKA - "LAMOTTE PICQUET" - It is now reported that, owing to Japanese demanding payment in rubber instead of yen, the Vichy French light cruiser "LAMOTTE PICQUET" stayed only 12 days in ~~Osaka~~ Osaka and left without repairing.

Comment - It was earlier reported that this cruiser which arrived in Osaka on 15/9 from Saigon for refitting expected to take one month, departed from Osaka on 27/9 after repairing.

EAST of Australia Station

DS/118 : 4(B)
C.W.R. Melb.
0513Z/7
C.W.R. Wellington
1233M/9

4. H.M.S. "ACHILLES" Interception of 20/9 - It is now reported that H.M.S. "ACHILLES" is the only ship on the New Zealand Station fitted with R.D.F. N.Z.N.B. suggests two possible explanations -
(1) Probably from R.D.F. Station at Moko-Hinou (Is. in approaches to Auckland);
(2) Possibly interference from electrical equipment on board H.M.S. "ACHILLES".

Comment - In view of this latest signal from N.Z.N.B. the possibility of an enemy unit having been responsible must now be regarded as improbable.

R. J. M. (N)
J. L. (M)
R. J. M. (A)

C.O.I.C.
10/10/41

D.N.I.
D.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.
C.A.S.
D.Ops
D.of I.

11110
C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL No.DS/120

A.C.F. (Portions marked with marginal red line are
S.E.Area not to be reproduced).
Submitted.

11th OCTOBER, 1941
(Saturday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
1135Z/9
0613Z/10

1. Movements of Aircraft - # 1 Catalina Tulagi - Vila. Nil sightings.

P.M. Portland
L.T.10/10/41

2. PORTLAND (Vic.) - Mine - The police report a mine washed ashore at Mt. Richmond beach approx 25 miles west of Portland.

An R.M.S. party from Flinders has been despatched to investigate the report.

S.O.(I) Port Melbourne reported this morning that on further interrogating the Constable by a telephone, he described the object as being approx 13' long 2'6" in diameter and tapering off at one end.

Comment - It would appear more likely that the object is an Oropesa float. The R.M.S. party's report is expected later this morning.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

WEST of Australia Station

B.B.1204Z/10
C.W.R.10/10

3. CHESTERFIELD REEF - D/F Bearings of Enemy Mobile Unit - Third class D/F bearings from Awarua, Waipakauri and Auckland, New Zealand indicate the possibility of a German mobile unit at 0756Z/10 within approx 300 miles of position 20°S 160°E.

Comment - This position is just off Chesterfield Reef, about 300 miles west of New Caledonia.

In view of Admiralty's recent signal confirming N.Z.N.B.'s previous D/F's of 5/10 as probably being in the Pacific it would appear likely that this is the same unit which has moved north probably from the Southern Tasman.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

"Le Triomphant" 4.
1720M/9

- SUVA - "LE TRIOMPHANT" - The Free French Light Cruiser "LE TRIOMPHANT" is expected to arrive in Suva at 0600M/15/10.

Comment - This cruiser, which is expected to be in the neighbourhood of Tahiti until 9/10, was last known to be in Papeete on 23/9.

WS/20 : 7(a)

WEST of Australia Station

Admty.2053A/7/10

Admty.1857A/30/9

5. INDIAN OCEAN - Possible Raider Activity - The Greek cargo vessel, "STAMATIOS G. EMBIRICOS" (3,900 tons) which is overdue at Colombo since 28/9, may possibly have made the series of R's intercepted by Trincomalee at 1549(corrupt)Z/26/9. She should then have been in the vicinity of the Maldive Islands.

Comment - There has been no other intelligence (apart from Geraldton aircraft report of 11/9) since the 1/8 to suggest the presence of a raider in the Indian Ocean. The "Silvaplana" raider could not have been responsible. If the "EMBIRICOS" has been attacked the raider could have been off Fremantle

by 5/10 at 15 knots.

Boone (N)
Muller (M)
A. S. Swadlow (A)

C.O.I.C.
11/10/41

Director P.O.S.
12/23

D.N.I.
B.O.D.
D.C.N.S.
D.M.I.
C.A.S.
D.Ops.
D.of I.
A.C.H.
S.E. Area.

12/10

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

SERIAL NO. DS/121.

12th October, 1941.
(Sunday)

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced.)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET.

A. AUSTRALIA STATION:

(A.C.H.
Townsville
1135/10z
0234/11z
A.C.H.)
Townsville)
0450/11z)
0557/11z)

1. Movements of Aircraft:

(i) One Empire F/B on reconnaissance from Port Moresby to obtain photographs of "TEESBANK". One sighting "TEESBANK".
(ii) Two Catalinas were ordered to proceed from Vila to Noumea in connection with the proposed concentration of aircraft in the Solomons/New Hebrides area. This order was subsequently countermanded and the aircraft returned to Vila.

DS/120
para. 2.
D.N.O. Vic
0530z/11.

2. PORTLAND (Vic.) - Mine Report: The object reported as a mine washed up near Portland was found by the R.M.S. party to be a P/V ~~Mark VII Star Number 4865~~ (PARAVANE)

B. ADJACENT AREAS:

EAST of Australia Station:

3. PACIFIC OCEAN - Raider Activity:

Navy Office
Wellington
2102M/11.

(a) A series of dashes and V's was heard by an Auckland naval W/T station on 341 kc/s strength nine at 2003M/11. This frequency was thought to be used by raiders for communication with and D/F homing of supply ships.

Comment - While this is a possible explanation, it may well be that one of the several American shore stations or a local New Zealand station using this frequency was testing in the manner indicated and was responsible.

N.Z.N.B.
1530M/11.

(b) H.M.S. "ACHILLES" when in position 38°S. 167°31'E. at 0414M/7 read on 500 kc/s as follows: "Stop your vessel instantly. Heave to or I will open fire on you". The signal was not heard by any N.Z. shore station and was too faint to be D/F'd.

Comment - This order is typical of that given by a surface raider to a vessel being overtaken. At the time of reception such a signal under certain conditions may have had almost unlimited range. The fact that none of the shore stations in the N.Z.-Australia ^{area} heard the transmission indicates that a freak reception by "ACHILLES" of a transmission originating from a great distance was probably responsible.

Ranney
12/10
M.

Director C.O.I.C.
12/10/41.

Ray D. A.

N.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/122

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

14th OCTOBER, 1941
(Tuesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. CORAL SEA - Air Searches - Further patrols of an area north of New Hebrides extending 600 miles west into the Coral Sea were carried out by two Catalinas, one operating from and returning to Tulagi, the other operating from Noumea and returning to Vila. One ship was sighted and identified.

Comment - These operations were based on D/F intelligence suggesting that the transmission on 10/10 by an enemy unit was from the Chesterfield Reef area. However, as previously reported, Admiralty considers the source to have been a U-Boat in the Atlantic.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

2. PACIFIC OCEAN RAIDER ACTIVITY - D/F Intelligence

- (a) Further to the D/F bearings at 0140K/13 indicating the probability of an enemy unit approx 400 miles N.W. of Pitcairn Is., N.Z. have advised a further fix within 300 miles of position 24°S 125°W on the same day - 13th.

Comment - This position is approx 600 miles S.E. of the other position and approx 300 miles east of Pitcairn Is. It is highly probable that both fixes relate to the same unit.

- (b) (i) Admiralty advised that an enemy unit transmitting on 5595 k/cs at 0242Z/13 was in approx position 45°S, 164°W but later stated that on further investigation it was thought to have originated from a U-boat in the European area, possibly Mediterranean.
(ii) N.Z.N.B. reported the fixing by D/F of a German surface unit at the same time in approx position 42°south 162°West.

Comment - As both times coincide exactly it would appear that the fixes relate to the same unit which Admiralty considers to be a U-boat in the European area.

GENERAL COMMENT - The position remains the same as set out in yesterday's Weekly Summary, namely that there would appear to be two enemy units operating one of which is in the mid-Pacific, and one in the S.W. Pacific, the latter being probably off the South Is. of N.Z. on 5/10.

3. SAMOA & NIUAFOOU IS. - Unidentified Ship - An unidentified large vessel was sighted by coast watching stations in North West Samoa at 0430Z/4 and by Nuafoou Island 375 miles north east of Suva, Fiji at 0040Z/9. Description - 2 squat funnels, 2 masts, straight bows, cruiser stern, cross trees, funnel painted black, hull dirty white. Graded B.3.

Air search from Fiji was unsuccessful. C in C U.S. Pacific Fleet stated no U.S. auxiliary or merchant shipping were in the area.

WS/22 : 4 & 5
A.C.H. Townsville
1157Z/12
0914Z/13
2012Z/13

WS/22: Addendum
C.O.I.S. 0231Z/13

N.O.I.C. Wellington
1733M/13

Admty. 4753A/13
0854A/13

N.Z.N.B. 2346M/13

D.N.I. Wellington
1725M/13

Comment - ~~These~~ This sighting cannot be identified with any trans-Pacific sailings of British or allied shipping. The following possible explanations are submitted:-

- (a) Raider - In view of the known presence of at least one raider in the Pacific, it is possible that the vessel is a raider which considering Fiji-Samoa to be a focal point for the routeing of shipping across the Pacific, was patrolling in the area when sighted. It is known that some raiders have masqueraded as 2 funnel ships. However, it seems unlikely that an enemy unit would risk itself so close to known British and American operational bases during daylight hours over so long a period.
- (b) Japanese ~~Merchant~~ Merchant Ship returning to Japan direct from Cape Horn. Although there is no evidence to suggest that any particular Japanese merchant ship was near the area at the time several Japanese merchant ships are known to have passed within 250 miles of Samoa last month en route to Japan direct from the Horn. There are still several Japanese ships on the South American coast and it is possible that one has passed through this area undetected.
- (c) Japanese auxiliary from Mandates (Marshalls). In this connection it is remarked that the aircraft sightings from Nukufetau on 1/10 and 2/10 are still unidentified. These latest sightings are approx 450 miles south east from Nukufetau and it is possible in view of the known presence of several Japanese aircraft carriers and auxiliaries in the Marshalls that an air auxiliary has been responsible for all sightings. However, the objection mentioned in (a) might also apply here.

Rawson (N)

(M)

C.O.I.C.
14/10/41

A S Bradshaw (A)

D.N.I.
DOD, DCNS
DMI
D.of I.
D.Ops
CAS
A.C.H.
SE.Area

11/15/10

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/123

15th OCTOBER, 1941
(Wednesday)

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).
Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville
1408Z/13
2221Z/13
0840Z/14

1. Movements of Aircraft - One Catalina Noumea - Tulagi. One Empire F/B Moresby - Cairns - Townsville. Nil sightings. A further patrol of shipping lane in the New Hebrides area was carried out by one Catalina operating from Vila.
2. SOUTH HEAD (SYDNEY) - Alleged Aircraft - Observers at two battery lookouts at South Head reported that at 0330K/14 a white light was observed for 10 minutes appearing intermittently in the sky at about 30° elevation, bearing 80° to 100° from South Head. It moved rapidly from left to right and finally disappeared. Before, during and 20 minutes after the light, these observers and others of the same battery heard a sound they believed to be that of an aircraft engine. The sound waxed and waned several times as though an aircraft were circling over the sea, and was audible throughout. Thorough interrogation of the observers failed to shake their story. The report is graded C4 to C5. There were no service or civil aircraft in the area at the time.

Comment - A patrol motor boat was outside Sydney Heads at the time which might explain the sound heard.

The light sighting is not considered significant for the following reasons:-

- (a) Only a white light was seen and at a very low elevation and this did not appear to approach Sydney Harbour although seen for 10 minutes;
- (b) The light seen was probably a star and moving clouds might have given the impression of a moving light;
- (c) Generally it has been noted that reports of this nature have coincided with the arrival or departure of major transports;
- (d) A ~~sent~~ similar unconfirmed report from the same source on 2/6 was graded D.5.

S.O. 20th M.S.F.
0611Z/14

3. HOBART - Approach Channel - Floating Mine - A Floating mine was sunk by H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW" on 14/10 while sweeping the Hobart approach channel. The position of the mine was 4½ miles S.W. of the Tasman Island light-house.

Comment - It will be recalled that a mine was swept up in this area last January when a channel was cleared for shipping following raider activity on this Station. It would appear likely that this latest mine belonged to the same field.

B. ADJACENT AREAS - Nil

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
(N)
(M)
(A)

C.O.I.C.
15/10/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/124

(Portions marked with marginal red line are 17th OCTOBER, 1941
not to be reproduced.)
(Friday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. WATERFALL BAY (New Britain) - Explosions - N.I.O.Rabaul reports that three explosions were heard in Waterfall Bay on 16/10 between 0600K and 0715K. They were stated to have originated from the direction of the South end of the Bay and to have been close together. The report is graded C.3, with the suggestion that the explosions were possibly due to seismic disturbance or to fishermen using dynamite.

Comment - The location which is 85 miles south of Rabaul on the S.E. coast of New Britain is in a well-known volcanic area. This fact and the recent eruptions at Rabaul could support the first of the above explanations. However, the alternative indicated by N.I.O.Rabaul is the more likely explanation and tends to negative the possibility of the report having any hostile significance.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

2. PACIFIC OCEAN RAIDER ACTIVITY

- a) With reference to the supposed R.D.F. transmission reported by H.M.S."ACHILLES" on 20/9, investigation now shows that the transmission was due to local interference on board.
- b) In reply to N.Z.N.B.'s query whether the transmission "Stop your ship immediately - heave to or I will open fire" heard by H.M.S."ACHILLES" on 7/10 could have come from the N.E.I., A.N.L.O. Batavia has reported that the transmission was probably part of a notice to mariners being broadcast from Sourabaya.

NORTH of Australia Station

3. JAPANESE PALAU - DILLI FLIGHT - The 8th Flight which was expected to arrive in Dilli on 11/10 has not yet taken place. The vessel "NANYEI or ("NANEI") MARU" which acted as tender to the 7th experimental flight at the end of August was located on 10/10 50 miles north of the N.W. tip of New Guinea. Since then she has moved at a leisurely speed southwards between Halmahera Is. and New Guinea, passing west of Ceram Is. and Amboina. At 1800K on 14/10 her position was at or very close to Dilli.

In addition to this vessel, the following Japanese ships have been located in the vicinity -

- (i) "ASAHI MARU" - close to Mapia Is. (N. of New Guinea) on 13/10. A vessel by this name acted as tender to the 6th experimental flight at the end of June and the vessel now located is presumed to be the same one.
- (ii) "NABIRE MARU" - located 200 miles West of Palao on 9/10. This vessel visited Dilli for cargo almost immediately after the 7th Flight.
- (iii) "SEIKAI MARU" - 3,100 tons. Located 150 miles west of south from Palao on 11/10. Has moved southwards slowly and was last located on 14/10 off the eastern-most tip of Halmahera Is.

N.I.O.Rabaul
0120Z/16

DS/107 : 2
DNI.Wellington
1636M/15

N.Z.N.B.
0302Z/15
DS/118 : 4(b)
A.N.L.O.Batavia
0325Z/15

Airintel Darwin
0500Z/20/9

Most secret
sources

Most secret
sources

DS/105 : 4

It is thought probable that these vessels are in the locality in connection with the expected 8th experimental flight. It is anticipated that the new Consul for Dilli who was expected in mid-October will be on the plane with his staff and it is presumed that the ships are stationed along the route to make weather reports and to offer extra safety for the flight.

S/W Intercept
16/10

- 4. JAPAN - Resignation of Cabinet - It is reported that the Konoye Cabinet resigned at 5 p.m. yesterday, 16/10, because of lack of agreement on measures to pursue Imperial policy.

Comment - As suggested in C.O.I.C. Appreciation of 6/10 on the Japanese situation, the fall of the Konoye Administration is one of the factors increasing the risk of war with the democracies, the danger being that the moderates under Prince Konoye will be replaced by extremists supported in their aggressive policy by German influence.

[Handwritten signature] M
 M
[Handwritten signature] A

Director C.O.I.C.
17/10/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO. NS/125

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

18th OCTOBER, 1941
(Saturday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
1258Z/16
0406Z/17
0515Z/17

1. Movements of Aircraft -

- (i) One Empire F/B Moresby - Townsville
 - (ii) One Catalina Kavieng - Rabaul - Moresby
 - (iii) One Catalina Tulagi - Rabaul.
- Nil sightings.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

S.O.I. Welling-
ton 1532M/17

2. It is reported from Butaritari that searchlight beams were seen by natives to southward for several minutes at 0730Z/15/10. No vessels are known to have been in the vicinity. The report is graded C.3.

Comment - Butaritari is one of the northernmost islands of the Gilbert Group. It will be recalled that there was evidence of a general reconnaissance being carried out by Japanese shore-based aircraft of the Heavy Bomber type over the northern islands of the Gilberts including Butaritari last July. Since then, there have been other reports of unidentified aircraft in the area as follows -

- 31/8 Aircraft heard over Apiaing;
- 2/10 small flying boat (biplane?) sighted from Nukufetau. Graded C.3.

Nukufetau is too far away from the Marshalls to be reached by shore based aircraft. However, as a Japanese aircraft carrier "KAGA" and seaplane carrier "KAMO I" were known to be in the Marshalls early this month and as ~~for~~ N.Z. have so far been unable to identify the sighting with any U.S. aircraft, it is possible an aircraft from one of the carriers mentioned was responsible for the sighting of the 2/10.

In view of the known interest of the Japanese in the Gilberts and the fact that numerous small craft including naval auxiliaries are at present operating in the area it is suggested that this latest searchlight report is probably due to some Japanese auxiliary operating in the vicinity.

Director C.O.I.C.
18/10/41

Ramsey (N)
W. J. O'Connell (A)

MOST SECRET

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced)

SERIAL NO. DS/126.

Submitted.

19th OCTOBER, 1941
(Sunday)

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Nil.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

1. PORTUGUESE TIMOR - (a) Palau-Dilli Air Service - The Japanese Flying Boat arrived at Dilli yesterday (18/10) carrying 21 men and one woman.

Comment - This flight, which was originally scheduled as the 8th Test Flight, inaugurates the regular air service which the Japanese have obtained permission to operate from Palau to Dilli. It also marks the opening of the Japanese Consulate at Dilli. It is not known how many consular officials or aviation "experts" were on board, but it is assumed the "21 men" includes the crew of the flying boat. Originally nine consular officials were reported to be coming by this flight.

(b) Movements of Japanese Auxiliaries in connection with the flight - Four Japanese vessels appear definitely to be connected with the latest Japanese activities in Portuguese Timor, viz.,

- (i) "NABIRE MARU", which on 9/10 was located West of Palau, was reported to have left Dilli on 16/9. This vessel visited Dilli for cargo almost immediately after the 7th Experimental Flight. It is not known for what purpose this present visit has been made.
- (ii) "NANEI MARU" arrived at Dilli on 14/10 and was still there on 17/10. This vessel was tender to the 7th Flight and is probably acting in that capacity again.
- (iii) "ASAHI MARU", which on 13/10 was North of the N.W. tip of New Guinea, was by 16/10 Southbound in the passage between Serang and Buru, slightly to the N.W. of Amboina.
- (iv) "SEIKAI MARU" (3,200 tons) between 15/10 and 17/10 moved 70 miles Southward, being last located 45 miles off the Southernmost point of Halmahera.

Comment - The activities of these ships is much more than is necessary for the normal operation of a flying boat flight. Previously only one tender has assisted, though in connection with the 7th Test Flight a second tender, "ASAHI MARU", is thought to have been off Halmahera giving weather reports. It is clear that the Japanese intend to take every advantage of their new privilege, making the fullest reconnaissance possible of Jalolo Strait, between New Guinea and Halmahera and of the waters in the vicinity of Ambon. Although it would appear that extra precautions have been taken with this flight because of its political significance, it is remarked that the total Japanese personnel from the ships in the vicinity could possibly comprise a sufficient force to carry out a coup at Dilli if desired. There is, however, no intelligence to suggest that such an event is imminent.

A.I. Darwin
1215Z/18.

WS/19-Para.25

A.I. Darwin
0500Z/20/9

Most secret
sources

DS/124 Para.3

A.I. Melbourne
0745Z/21/8

Director C.O.I.C.
19/10/41.

Penney 19/10

R.J.B. Macne 19/10

SUMMARY OF JAPANESE LUGGER SITUATION IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS

Latest intelligence concerning the three areas in Northern Australian waters where Japanese fishing craft are known to have been operating this season is as follows -

- 1) THURSDAY IS. AREA - There were as many as 15 Japanese sampans and 30 luggers reported operating around the Cook and Merkara Shoals off Thursday Island last month. A reconnaissance carried out by aircraft on 3/8 east of 140° (which takes in all pearling grounds) revealed no Japanese craft to be in the area. It has also been confirmed from other sources that all craft have returned to Dobo (Aru Islands) en route to Palau.
- 2) BOUCAUT BAY - WESSEL IS. AREA - An air reconnaissance carried out on 9/8 revealed 7 luggers and one mothership "New Guinea Maru 1" to be in the area.
- 3) BATHURST IS. AREA - An air reconnaissance on 31/7 revealed 22 luggers and 2 motherships "New Guinea Maru 1" and "New Guinea Maru 2" to be operating in the area. A reconnaissance on 12/8 revealed 15 luggers and "New Guinea Maru 1" to be in the area.

Comment - This shows that the 7 luggers and "New Guinea Maru 1" sighted off Boucaut Bay area on 9/8 had proceeded round to that area from Bathurst Is. between 31/7 and 9/8

On 13/8 C.O.I.S. advised having received a report from Batavia that Japanese pearlers in the Aru Is. had been ordered to discharge native crews and return to Palau.

CONCLUSION - It would appear -

- (a) that all Japanese fishing craft from Thursday Is. area have returned to the Aru Is. en route to Palau;
- (b) that there are possibly 2 mother-ships and 22 luggers still operating in the Bathurst Is. and Boucaut Bay areas;
- (c) that these craft are also possibly returning to Palau via Aru Is.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/127

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

21st OCTOBER, 1941
(Tuesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville
1322Z/19
0920Z/20

1. Movements of Aircraft -
(i) One Catalina Townsville - Moresby via Thursday Is.
One sighting identified;
(ii) One Empire F/B Rabaul - Kavieng - Buka, Rabaul.
nil sightings.

A.R.O. Burnie
20/10/41
S.O.(I) Melb.
L/L 1340k/20
D.N.O. (Vic)
0512Z/20

2. BURNIE (TAS.) - Unidentified Submarine - It is reported from Burnie that the periscope of a submarine moving through the water at a fairly fast rate in a N.W. direction was seen at a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 mile by two men from separate points at 0915K/20. The duration of the sighting was $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. Before the submarine moved 6 feet of its mast was visible. A green eggshaped ball was on the mast below the yardarm and a wire was stretched from the truck to the yardarm. The wake left by the mast was observed. The sea was choppy. Both men claim that the object was not a launch.

It is stated that the original informant is regarded as unreliable and that his discussions with the second observer before interrogation probably reduce the worth of the latter's confirmation of the sighting. On the facts available the report is tentatively graded E.5.

Comment - It has been suggested by A.R.O. Burnie that, in view of the choppy sea and the numerous wave crests which could give the appearance of a wake, a large sea-bird skimming the water at an angle could have been responsible for the report.

Owing to the unconvincing source and details of the report and the improbability of a submarine being in the ~~position~~ ^{position given} at the time stated, no significance is attached to the report.

WS/23 : 5
A.I.N. Area
17Z/20

3. RUSSELL IS. (Solomons) - Unidentified Ship Serial No.91
The master of the steamer "BALUS" who reported the sighting of a vessel east of the Russell Islands at 0430L/17 later said that the vessel sighted was the mission ship "MELANESIA". The serial number has been cancelled.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

N.B. 2034Z/20

4. PACIFIC OCEAN - D/F of German Naval Unit - Third class bearings of 121° from Coonewarra (Darwin) and 009° from Waipap (N.Z) indicate that a German naval unit was possibly within 200 miles of 29° S, 175° E at 1440Z/20.

Comment - This position is approx 500 miles north of Auckland and being on the crossing of trade routes is a likely position for a surface raider. However, the antipodal position, after investigation is considered more probable. This would place the unit in the vicinity of Northern Africa but in view of the possible margin of error in the bearings given this could be in the Eastern Atlantic or Mediterranean areas.

NORTH of Australia Station

C/S Singapore
0817Z/20

- 5. JAPAN - Mobilisation of Navy - The Naval Attache, Tokyo has reported that there are various indications showing that all units of the Japanese Navy are mobilised and on a complete war footing.

Comment - This intelligence further confirms that the expected aggressive policy of Japan's new Administration is being implemented and all preparations made for war.

Handwritten:
 20/10 (N)
 [Signature] (M)
 [Signature] (A)

Director C.O.I.C.
21/10/41

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

22nd OCTOBER, 1941
(Wednesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
1440Z/20, 0645Z/21

1. Movements of Aircraft - 1 Empire Flying Boat Rabaul - Tulagi. Nil sightings.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

WS/23 : 19(c)

2. Movements of Japanese Auxiliaries - It now appears that "ASAHI MARU" which has been proceeding leisurely southward in the direction of Portuguese Timor, has reached the vicinity of Dilli, if it has not actually arrived there. On 19/10 she was only some 50 miles north of Dilli skirting the island of Wetar.

Most secret sources

Of the other three ships thought to have been connected with the recent flight from Palao to Dilli
(i) "NANEI MARU" is still at Dilli as far as is known;
(ii) "NABIRE MARU" has departed from Dilli for Palau;
(iii) "SEIKAI MARU" on 19/10 appeared to be still in the vicinity of Halmahera about 30 miles north of her last reported position on 17/10.

3. Correction to Weekly Summary No.WS/23 Page 9 - For Bako (Baikkai Hokkaido) read Bako (Pescadores).

3. Japanese Warships in Pescadores - Further to the report of the new Japanese aircraft carrier "ZUIKAKU" being off Bako (Pescadores) it is now known that the aircraft carrier "SORYU" (10,000 tons - 42 A/C) with the 23rd Destroyer Flotilla and the anti-submarine netlayer "NASAMI" were in the same area on 20/10.

WS/23 : 20(a)
C.O.I.S. 0507Z/20

Comment - These movements are possibly in connection with the Combined Fleet manoeuvres which began late last month. On the other hand in view of the latest concentration of aircraft in Formosa (see Para.4) it may indicate the decision to strengthen this area with a view to offsetting the increasing U.S. air strength in the Philippines. The "SORYU" and "HIRYU" make up the 2nd aircraft carrier squadron of the 2nd Fleet. It will be recalled that this squadron took part in the operations off F.I.C. last July. The 23rd Destroyer Flotilla is attached to the 2nd Aircraft Carrier Squadron and also took part in the Indo-China operations.

C.O.I.S.
0507Z/20

4. Japanese Aircraft in Formosa - It is reported that the Hayakurihara and Yokosuka air squadrons are in Formosa.

O.O.B. 25/8/41

Comment - It is known that there were 4 squadrons of the Naval Air Service at Yokosuka on 25/8/41, comprising one squadron each of fighters and torpedo bombers and 2 squadrons of heavy bombers. (A squadron consists of 12 aircraft).

There has been no previous mention of aircraft stationed at Hayakurihara and it is thought that this is possibly a new aerodrome and that the aircraft probably also belong to the Naval Air Service.

It would therefore appear that seven or eight squadrons have been moved recently from Japan to Formosa and gives the first indication of a movement of Japanese aircraft to the mainland, possibly on their way south.

EAST of Australia Station

5. PACIFIC OCEAN - D/F Intelligence -

DS/127 : B4

a) With regard to the D/F bearings given 20/10, which indicated the possibility of a German naval unit approx 500 miles north of Auckland, it is now advised that one of the bearings was incorrectly reported. The fix arrived at on the basis of the report is accordingly cancelled and no other position can be determined from the data available.

DNI. Wellington
1547Z/20

b) It is reported from Wellington that by D/F fix at 1547Z/20 a German surface unit was probably within 300 miles of 32°S 139°W.

WS/22 : Stop Press
Adnty. 0437A/13/10

Comment - This position is approx 630 miles S.W. of Pitcairn Island and some 760 miles from the fix on 13/10, which placed an enemy unit about 400 miles N.W. of Pitcairn Island. It would appear likely that this is the same unit which for some reason is remaining in an area comparatively unfrequented by Pacific shipping. This may indicate that the unit in question is a supply or prison ship which is keeping out of the way for the time being while a raider operates further westward.

DNI. Wellington
1502M/21

6. SAMOA - Unidentified Ship - An unidentified ship was sighted at 0500Z/19 sailing by Cape Felialupo, Samoa; description 2 masts, 1 squat funnel, white funnel. The report is graded C.3. D.N.I. Wellington is trying to ascertain the reliability of this report.

WS/23 : 7

Comment - Cape Felialupo is the westernmost point of Savaii, the westernmost island of the Samoa group.

There was a report of an unidentified large vessel in north-west Samoa on 4/10 and by Niuafoo Is. (375 miles N.E. of Suva) on 9/10. This unit was described - 2 squat funnels, 2 masts, straight bows, cruiser stern, cross trees, funnel painted black, hull dirty white. Graded B.3.

It has previously been suggested that the early reports may have been a raider or supply ship with a dummy funnel in which case this latest sighting could be the same vessel without its dummy funnel. Apart from the funnel colouring other descriptive details available are reasonably identical. The other possibility is that it is a Japanese auxiliary carrying out reconnaissance in the Samoa area but in this connection it would seem unlikely that a large unit as described in the earlier reports of 4/10 and 9/10 would be used for such a purpose. However, as this area is immediately adjacent to the Gilbert and Ellice Groups where we have already had evidence of Japanese reconnaissance from the Marshalls it is possible that this reconnaissance is now being extended further south.

Several Japanese auxiliaries are known to be painted grey.

DNI. Wellington
1502M/21/10

7. ABAIANG - Unidentified Aircraft - An unidentified aircraft was heard over Abaiang in the Gilbert Islands at 0530Z/18, and again distinctly at 1000Z/20. In both cases the aircraft was travelling from east to west and was not seen on account of low clouds. The report is graded C.3.

S.O. (I) Wellington
0950M/2/9

DS/125 : 2

Comment - Abaiang is the second most northerly island of the Gilbert Group. An aircraft was previously reported from there on 31/8.

Following on the report of searchlight beams seen at Butaritari on 15/10 and the known presence of the aircraft carrier "KAGA" and seaplane carrier "KAMO I" in the Marshalls early this month, it appears possible that one or other of these units may be carrying out reconnaissance in the Gilbert Group. Evidence of renewed reconnaissance in this area may be significant in view of the present situation in the Pacific and the Japanese preparations in the Marshalls, an appreciation of which was set out in Appendix to C.O.I.C. WS/22.

WEST of Australia Station

War Advises
17/10

- 8. ENEMY MERCHANT SHIP - The former German steamer "HOHENFELS" which was beached in Bandar Gulf (Persian Gulf) on 28th August, has been salvaged.

Round 29/10 N
Muller M
Apparatus A

Director C.O.I.C.
22/10/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

Serial NO.DS/129

23rd OCTOBER, 1941
(Thursday)

(Portions marked with marginal red line
are not to be reproduced).

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. EDITHBURGH (S.A) - Unidentified Aircraft - The Coastwatcher at Edithburgh reports that an aircraft was sighted at 0015Z 22nd which approached from the N.N.W., circled Troubridge Light and returned to the N.N.W. The aircraft was described as flying high and fast but the observer could give no other details of height, speed or description.

It was at first considered that the aircraft was probably a Hudson which proceeded from Laverton to Pearce via Ceduna yesterday, but interrogation of the pilot on arrival at Pearce indicated that his course was considerably further northward and that he could not have been responsible.

No other service or civil aircraft are known to have been in the position at the time stated and the sighting is unidentified.

Comment - Edithburgh is on the east coast of Yorke Peninsula approx 45 miles W.S.W. of Adelaide across the Gulf of St. Vincent.

The report is not graded but in view of the time of sighting, the course given and the absence of any related or confirmatory intelligence ~~is~~ no hostile significance is attributed to the report. It is suggested that an unofficial movement of local aircraft was ^{probably} responsible.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

2. PACIFIC OCEAN - Raider Activity - The Panamanian ship "VINELAND" which departed Brisbane on 15/9 has been reported overdue three days at Balboa.

Comment - Her course took her on 28/9 fairly close to the D/F fix of an enemy unit within 300 miles of 40°S, 155°W at that time. Therefore, if she has been the victim of a raider - and it is too early to consider her as such - her interception is likely to have been in the vicinity at about that time.

NORTH of Australia Station

3. Japanese Naval Manoeuvres - With regard to the manoeuvres being carried out by the Combined Fleet, it is known that communication exercises commenced on 18/10, and ceased at a.m. 21/10. Only three Mandated Is. units appear to have taken part - probably the 4th Fleet Flag and two Shore Stations.

Comment - These exercises are probably in conjunction with the annual combined Fleet manoeuvres which began late last month and which last year lasted for about three weeks.

S.O.I. Adelaide
1245K/22
D.N.O. S.A.
0408Z/22
Airintel Pearce
1145Z/22

S.O.I. Jamaica
1245R/21/10

N.Z.N.B. 2233Z/28/9

Most secret
sources
WS/23 : 20(a)

C.O.I.C.
10132/21

- 4. BOCCA TIGRIS - Japanese Troops in China - Recent Japanese troop arrivals in Bocca Tigris comprised approximately one division.

Comment - Bocca Tigris is at the mouth of the Canton River behind Hong Kong. It was reported last week that 5,000 additional Japanese troops had arrived at Bocca Tigris and that further reinforcements had reached Japanese G.H.Q. in China.

WS/23 : 22(B)

Rounds 23/10

N.
M.
A.

AS Bradshaw

Director C.O.I.C.
23/10/41

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

24th OCTOBER, 1941
(Friday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
1150Z/22, 2143Z/22
0645Z/23

1. Movements of Aircraft
1 Empire Flying Boat Tulagi - Vila. Nil sightings.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

Admty. 2342A/21

2. PACIFIC OCEAN - Raider Activity - A D/F fix has been received from Admiralty of either a raider or supply ship within 300 miles of 30°S, 122°W at 1443Z/20/10.

Comment - This is within 900 miles of the fix of a German surface unit by N.Z. on the same day. It would appear likely that both D/F fixes cover different interpretations of bearings on the same unit.

DNI. Wellington
0942M/21

NORTH of Australia Station

F.E.C.B.
1948(52)

3. Movements of Japanese Aircraft Carrier "KAGA" - The latest F.E.C.B. Summary No.52 dated 14/10/41 advises that the "KAGA" was at Yokosuka on 3rd October.

Comment - F.E.C.B.1948(50) dated 30/9/41 reported the "KAGA" as being in the Wotje Area, Marshalls, presumably as at that date which would necessitate a speed of approx 30 knots for her to have been in both positions. It is possible therefore that "KAGA" was not in the Marshalls as previously reported and confirmation of the fact has been requested from C.O.I.S. It will be recalled that "KAGA" and "KAMOI" were suggested as possibly being associated with the unidentified aircraft sightings from Nukufetau (Ellice) on 1st October and Apaiang (Gilberts) on 18th and 20th October.

4. Large Transport Operating in Marshalls and Carolines - A large transport whose movements in the Mandates have been followed over recent months and at times associated with the transport of large numbers of military labourers to the Marshalls is now considered to be probably the 17,500 ton N.Y.K. liner "KAMAKURA MARU" (21 knots). She is reported in the latest F.E.C.B.(52) as arriving at Yokohama on 30/9 and leaving within 24 hours for an unknown destination with 2000 coolies including convicts on board. If this deduction is correct, as would seem most likely in view of the coincidence of movements, this vessel has proceeded to the Marshalls and was mid way between Wotje and Jaluit, proceeding towards Jaluit on the 11/10. In her last visit to the Mandates she left Yokohama on the 4/9 with no passengers but deeply laden and first visited the Marshalls where she discharged military labourers at at least two destinations including Majuro and then proceeded to Truk (Carolines) and Saipan before returning to Japan. Her average speed during these movements has been 16 - 17 knots.

Comment - The use of one of Japan's largest passenger liners as a transport between the Marshalls and Carolines is further evidence of the importance and scale of the activity being carried out in these areas.

F.E.C.B.
1948(52)

Most Secret Sources

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/131

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

25th OCTOBER, 1941
(Saturday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. SIMBERI IS. (Bismarck Archipelago) - Report of Aircraft
An aircraft was reported to have flown over Simberi on a N.N.E. course between 0200 - 0500K/24 when it was too dark to observe details.

N.I.O. Rabaul considers that the report, which is graded D.4, is based on native information and that a Service aircraft was responsible.

Comment - Simberi Is. is the northernmost island of the Tabar Group, north of New Ireland.

The time and course reported coincide approximately with the known movements of a Service aircraft. As there is only approx one hour difference between the time of this reported sighting and the estimated time the Service aircraft would have been over the area, it is considered likely in view of the grading of the native report that the time given is probably inaccurate and that the Service aircraft was responsible.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

Nil.

Raunor 25/10.

Director C.O.I.C.
25/10/41

N.I.O. Rabaul
2349Z/23
08,20Z/24

(Portions marked with marginal red line are not to be reproduced).

29th OCTOBER, 1941
(Wednesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. T .
1335Z/27
0830Z/28

1. Movements of Aircraft -

- (i) One Empire F/B Brisbane - Townsville
- (ii) One Catalina ~~ff~~ from Thursday Island co-operating with H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE". Nil sightings.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

S.O.I. Jamaica
1237R/21, 1501R/24
DS/129 : 2

- 2. PANAMA - Overdue Shipping - The Panamanian ship "VINELAND" reported overdue since 17/10, arrived Balboa on 22/10.

NORTH of Australia Station

Press 28/10

- 3. German Merchant Ship ex Japanese Ports - A Press report dated 28/10 from Shanghai advises that the German "QUITO" (1230 tons) manned by a German crew, flying the Japanese merchant and military flags, camouflaged and with her name painted out has arrived at Shanghai from Yokohama.

It is further reported she is believed to have been used as a supply ship for raiders in the Southern Pacific.

Comment - There is no official confirmation to hand of this vessel having departed Yokohama where she arrived on 3/7/41 with her sister ship "BOGATA" from South America. Both units are considered to have powerful W/T installation and might be used to transport ammunition.

Most secret sources.

- 4. Japanese Transports operating in the Mandates - Following the report last week of the large N.Y.K. passenger liner "KAMAKURA MARU" (17,500 tons) operating as a transport over the past two months between Japan and the Carolines and Marshalls, it is now known that the N.Y.K. liner "HEIYO MARU" (9,816 tons, 17 knots, 1930) is similarly engaged.

This passenger liner, which was previously employed on the Japan - America run, is now located between Japan and the Southern Mandates probably en route to Ponape. She normally carries a crew of 200 and a complement of 620 passengers as well as large cargo space.

The identification of this further unit indicates that several of the large passenger liners formally occupied on the trade routes are now being employed as transports probably for labourers or service personnel between Japan and the Southern Mandates.

This still further confirms the significance of these areas to Japan and suggests a recent speeding up of activity.

5. Japanese Warship Movements:

C.O.I.S.0511Z/27

- (a) Formosa - Pescadores - Further to the recent advice that the aircraft carriers "ZUIKAKU" "SORYU" and the 23rd Destroyer Flotilla of the Combined Fleet were in the Pescadores on 20/10 it is now reported that the "ZUIKAKU" and "RYUJO" and the 11th and 23rd Destroyer Flotillas were at Hozan (Formosa) on the 27/10 and that the "SORYU" and "HIRYU" may be joining them. The C-in-C Combined Air Force and the Senior Staff Officer of the Combined aircraft squadrons are also reported at Hozan.

Comment - Hozan which is apparently the naval air headquarters in Formosa is inland from Takao the

main naval base in Formosa.

~~This concentration of aircraft~~

The normal capacity of these 4 aircraft carriers mentioned is as follows:

Name	Aircraft
"ZUIKAKU"	48
"SORYU"	42
"HIRYU"	42
"RYUJO"	30
	<u>162</u>

This concentration of aircraft carriers from the Combined Fleet together with the arrival of the C-in-C Combined Air Force and Senior Staff Officer of Aircraft Squadrons is the first indication of a major naval concentration outside of home waters since the rise of the Tojo Government. As previously suggested this may be connected with known recent manoeuvres by the Combined Fleet but in view of the recent report of ~~two~~ additional shore-based air squadrons arriving in the area from Japan it may also be a counter to increasing American air strength in the Philippines.

(b) South China - It is also reported that the Japanese 8" Cruise "ASHIGARA" (Flagship), the 6th Aircraft Squadron ("KAMIKAWA MARU" and "NOTORO"), the 3rd Fleet Submarine Force and Number 2 Base Force may be in the South China area.

C.O.I.S.0511Z/27

Comment - This is the first indication that these main units of the South China Force have returned to this area following their return to Japan early last month. It was then reported that the object of their return may have been to embark reservists.

(c) Recent Visit of Aircraft Carrier "KAGA" to Mandates - C.O.I.S. has confirmed the suggestion made in the last Weekly Summary No.24 that this unit may have been ferrying aircraft to the Mandates.

C.O.I.S.0511Z/27

[Handwritten signature] (N)

[Handwritten signature] 29/10 (M)

[Handwritten signature] (A)

Director C.O.I.C.
29/10/41

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced).

30th OCTOBER, 1941
(Thursday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
1335Z/28
0445Z/29

1. Movements of Aircraft - 1 Catalina Townsville to Moresby. Nil sightings.

A.I.Darwin
0240Z/29
0955Z/29
N.B.0849Z/29
D.N.O. N.T.
1218Z/29

2. DARWIN AREA - Arrival of Japanese Luggers & Mothership - The Japanese mothership "KOKOKU MARU" (87 tons nett, 161 tons gross) arrived Darwin a.m. 29th October. Her master stated that he departed Palau on the 3/10, proceeded through Dampier Strait to the Banda Sea (signalling weather reports for the last Palau-Dilli flight on 18/10) and then proceeded to Bathurst Is. where he stated 5 Japanese luggers from Palau have been fishing since the 17/10. He further claimed that the purpose of his visit was for water and that he intended returning to Bathurst on 31/10. N.O.I.C. Darwin has been informed of N.B.'s wishes that all possible restrictions be applied to control the movements of "KOKOKU MARU's" personnel. It is not anticipated that the crew will land before 0030Z/30. The M/V "KURU" which is in the vicinity of Croker Is. has been informed of the presence of the Japanese ship and luggers. An air search departed this morning to cover the Bathurst Island area with a view to locating the above mentioned luggers.

A.C.H.Darwin
0032Z/30

Comment - This is the first indication of Japanese fishing craft returning to Northern Australian waters following the recall of all such craft from these waters last August. The "KOKOKU MARU" has previously acted as a mothership to luggers operating in these waters and was last reported at Darwin on the 28th July this year. The crew at that time numbered 16 and the purpose of the visit on that occasion was to contact ^{the} local agent.

With reference to her signalling weather reports for the last Palau-Dilli flight on 18/10 there has been no record of any such messages from her being intercepted but it is known that a similar vessel "ASAHI MARU" which usually works with "KOKOKU MARU" followed approximately the same course from Palau as that claimed by "KOKOKU MARU" and was obviously employed in connection with the flight on 18/10. "ASAHI MARU" is similar to "KOKOKU MARU" and is known to have powerful W/T transmitter. It would appear likely therefore either that -

- (a) "KOKOKU MARU" having no short wave transmitter has been working with "ASAHI MARU" in ~~connection~~ conjunction with the flight and feeding her with weather reports which have in turn been passed on by "ASAHI MARU" because of her possessing a short wave transmitter; or,
- (b) "KOKOKU MARU", being a member of the "ASAHI MARU" group of motherships (which she has been in the past) has been using the call-sign of the Senior member of the group ("Asahi Maru") when relaying reports.

The first suggestion is probably more likely as ~~in~~ there has been no evidence in the past to suggest that "KOKOKU MARU" possesses a short wave transmitter.

GENERAL COMMENT - In view of the fact ^{THAT} no Japanese fishing craft are known to have been in Northern Australian waters since the sudden withdrawal last August and that normally luggers are beginning to lay up for the wet season at this time of the year, it would appear that, apart from the possible need for clearing up any outstanding business in Darwin, the prime purpose of this visit must be reconnaissance.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

- 3. ENEMY MERCHANT SHIPS - German "QUITO" at Shanghai - C.O.I.S. have confirmed that the German vessel "QUITO" (1230 tons, 1938) arrived at Shanghai on the 27/10. She was renamed "TENCHITU MARU" and was flying the Japanese mercantile flag with military flag at the mainmast. She had European officers and crew.

C.O.I.S.
0211Z/29

Comment - In the absence of any departure date from Yokohama where she arrived on 3/8 it is not possible to comment on the suggestion that she is believed to have been used as a supply ship for raiders in the South Pacific.

However, as she has apparently retained her German crew she must be regarded as a potential supply ship for raiders.

- 4. Japanese Aircraft Dispositions in Mandated Is. - Latest advices indicate certain redistribution of aircraft since the previous Order of Battle of 25/8/41. The most significant movement refers to the Mandates where the forces now comprise 6 squadrons including 1 Fighter and 1 Heavy Bomber Squadron of the Chitose unit and one Flying Boat squadron of the Yokohama (Tomioka) unit. It is considered unlikely that these figures include the aircraft which the large aircraft carrier "KAGA" is thought to have been ferrying to the Mandates during recent weeks.

F.E.C.B.
26/10/41

~~It would appear from the latest F.E.C.B. that the two main aircraft bases in the Southern Mandates are at Palau and Jaluit.~~

Handwritten signature: G. H. ... 30/10.

Handwritten signature: R. H. Campbell

Handwritten signature: J. H. ... 30/10

Director C.O.I.C.
30/10/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/134

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced).

31st OCTOBER, 1941
(Friday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - 2 R.N.Z.A.F. Singapore Flying Boats, which are proceeding to Fiji, flew from Thursday Island to Moresby yesterday (30/10).
2. DARWIN AREA - Japanese Luggers - The air search sent out from Darwin yesterday (30/10) to locate Japanese luggers reported 3 luggers off Bathurst Island.

The search covered a triangular area with sides of approximately 45 - 50 miles by Cape Fourcroy, Cape Van Diemen and Parry Shoal.

Comment - The Master of the mothership "KOKOKU MARU" on arrival Darwin 29/10 advised that 5 Japanese luggers had been fishing off Bathurst Island since 17/10.

3. D/F Intelligence - D/F bearings indicate that an enemy unit was within 200 miles of either $50^{\circ}\text{S } 147^{\circ}\text{E}$ or the antipodal point $50^{\circ}\text{N } 33^{\circ}\text{W}$ at 0330K/31.

It is considered that the antipodal area is more probable.

Comment - The former position is approx 425 miles south of Hobart and the latter in the North Atlantic.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

(i) NORTH of Australia Station

4. Japanese Transports Operating in the Mandates - The 10,000 ton Japanese passenger liner "HEIYO MARU" which was reported on Wednesday as proceeding towards Ponape is now steering towards Kwajalein in the East Marshalls. It would also appear that another merchant ship (possibly another transport) is accompanying this vessel. These two vessels have been following a fairly steady course together at an average speed of approx 13 - 15 knots.

Comment - Although the exact nature of the present duties of these vessels is not known, in view of C.O.I.S.'s recent signal stating that "sea transport movements are considerably above average but that the destinations of convoys have not yet been determined" it is quite possible that both these vessels are transporting service personnel or labourers to the Southern Mandates.

(ii) EAST of Australia Station

5. Raider Activity - Admiralty advise that the only ship known to be in the area of the distress message picked up by the "IDOMENEUS" on 6/10 east of New Zealand was the "EMPIRE STARLIGHT" due Panama on the 28th October.

Comment - There has been no advice concerning the arrival of this vessel.

(iii) WEST of Australia Station

6. Raider Activity - The Swedish ship "PACIFIC" which was reported overdue Colombo from Aden since 9/10 has now arrived.

DS/133 : 2
A.C.H.Darwin
0037Z/30
0445Z/30

D.S.C.
31/10

Most secret
sources

Admty.2142A/28

There is still no further news of the Greek "S.G. EMBIRICOS" due Colombo 28/9 which was apparently attacked by a raider in the Maldives area on 26/9.

The Dutch ship "OLIVIA" made an unspecified raider distress message on the 20/10 from position 1°N 55°E (approx 250 miles north of Seychelles).

Admiralty state that there has been no other evidence to confirm a raider being in the Indian Ocean.

Comment - On the facts available it is suggested that the "S.G. EMBIRICOS" must now be regarded as a raider victim and that it would appear likely this same raider attacked the "OLIVIA" north of the Seychelles on 20th October.

Admiralty. 1827A/15
2142A/20

R. H. Campbell

(M)

(A)

R. H. Campbell
for Director C.O.I.C.
31/10/4

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without express permission of D/C.O.I.C.) (Saturday)
Submitted.

MOST SECRETA. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H.T.
1210Z/30
2155Z/30

1. Movement of Aircraft - One Catalina Rabaul - Buka - Soraken - Rabaul.
One Empire F/B Townsville - Groote Eylandt - Darwin.
Nil sightings.

N.O.C.S.
0420Z/31
1118Z/31

2. North of BROKEN BAY - Mine - A fisherman reported sighting a circular object with projections resembling a mine floating on the surface $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles due east of Mourawing or Second Point (North of Broken Bay) at 1200K/31/10. H.M.A.S. "BINGERA" which was sent to investigate, later confirmed that this object was a mine and that it was eventually sunk by rifle fire. It had 5 horns showing above the water; it was corroded and heavily encrusted with barnacle and weed. The mooring wire had parted approx 8 feet from the mine.

WS/2 : 5
WS/3 : 1

Comment - This position is only about 12 miles south of Norah Head and is in the area where several mines were swept up by the 20th M/S Flotilla last May. The age of this mine, as indicated by its description, suggests that it broke loose from the original "Nimbin" field laid October 1940.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

WEST of Australia Station

F.E.C.B.
1948(53)

3. MADAGASCAR - SAIGON - Vichy French Convoy - The latest F.E.C.B. Summary advises that a Vichy French convoy consisting of the "CAP VARELLA" "VILLE DE VERDUN" and possibly the "CAP TOURANE" "COMPIEGNE" "SAGITTAIRE" and others escorted by a French warship left Madagascar for Saigon on some date prior to 13th October.

Comment - It will be recalled that a similar convoy which sailed from Saigon on 6/9 escorted by the sloop "AMIRAL CHARNER" and the submarine "MONGE" after passing through Sunda Strait on 12/9 arrived Madagascar (probably between 25th and 30th Sept), although arrangements had been made by C in C East Indies to intercept the vessels. It was considered that the convoy must have proceeded a considerable distance south after passing Sunda Strait to have evaded the searching force.

This present convoy should have reached the Sunda Strait by the 30th Oct. at a speed of 8 knots on a direct course but in view of the previous detour and the fact that the convoy probably anticipates interference the possibility of these ships taking an alternate route via the Timor Sea cannot be overlooked.

Director C.O.I.C.
1/11/41

R. H. Campbell
11/10/41
M
A

S.R.A.C.R. 3.
20452/3
07022/4
Aircraft W. Area
21352/3
25302/4
CGIC. Fremantle
L/L 4/11

GERALDTON (S.A.) - Unidentified Aircraft - It was reported that at 18402/3 a light considered to be from the cabin of an unidentified aircraft was seen three miles to seaward of Geraldton at a height of 2000-3000 feet. The sighting was made by a night flying instructor in one aircraft and a pilot in another. No corroboration is available from the lighthouse keeper who was on watch but the report has been graded B.3.

An air search to a depth of 500 miles commencing at 06302/4 was ordered by S.R.A.C.R. and completed with negative results. Investigations have been undertaken at Geraldton and a full report is stated to be following.

Comment - This report recalls that made of a possible aircraft heard S.A. of Geraldton and apparently some distance out to sea at 18402/1/11 (Graded B.4); also a similar report made from Geraldton Aerodrome on 11/9 (Graded C.4).

On the assumption that an aircraft was responsible for the latest sighting and that this aircraft was raider-based, the Indian Ocean raider could have reached the area at 12 knots from the position given by the Dutch "OLIFIA" on 29/10. One of the Pacific Ocean units would also have had time to reach the vicinity of Geraldton.

A.C.N. Townsville
02252/3
08522/3
03372/3
06302/3
09472/3
14022/3

4. WHITSUNDAY PASSAGE - Unidentified Ship - Possible Mines - The military reporting Officer Whitsunday Passage reported a ship coming from the north towards West Malle Island on 1/11. When opposite Pioneer Point it turned and headed back north. No description of the ship and no precise time of sighting were given and these cannot be ascertained as there is no R/T or telephone contact with the military Reporting Officer.

In view of this report two Hudsons searched Whitsunday Passage area on 5/11 with the object of locating possible mines. The search revealed three objects beneath the surface, two yellow and one black, which were thought to be possible mines.

The pilots of the Hudsons are very definite that what they saw were not rocks. A.C.N. Townsville, however, considers they were rocks. In view of the inconclusiveness of the first survey one Hudson is to make a further examination of the area today.

A.C.N.Q. Townsville
14252/3
14302/3
02302/4

5. NEW HERRINGS - Suspicious Distress Message from "MAYTHEW PLINDERS" - Chatham Island heard the following report relayed (probably from S.S. "VITO") at 00232/3/11. "Latitude 015°55'South, 165°58'East, Course 030°, Speed 10 knots - "MAYTHEW PLINDERS" 2311 S.E.T. Suspicious".

The position and course given corresponded fairly accurately with the estimated position of the "MAYTHEW PLINDERS" en route from Soussa to Vanikoro.

An air search located the "MAYTHEW PLINDERS" en route to Vanikoro at 23102/3.

As the "FINNA" should have been in the approx position of "MAYTHEW PLINDERS" en route to Vila at the time of the suspicious report, it was considered by A.C.N. Townsville that "MAYTHEW PLINDERS" had sighted "FINNA" and mistaken her for the suspicious vessel.

Subsequently on arrival at Vila the "FINNA" reported sighting a vessel similar to "MAYTHEW PLINDERS" at approx the time the distress message was given. (reported that

S.07142/4

On further interrogation the Master of the "FINNA" at 00272/3 he intercepted the following "0000 Lat. 5°36'S, 165°58'E course 30 speed 10 knots." The remainder of the message including the name of the vessel sending it, was not heard, being blanked out by a mutilated message as follows - "Cancel distress sent 2300 S.E.T. "MAYTHEW PLINDERS". (In view of the times corresponding it would appear that

"FINNA" heard the relay from the "VITO" the end of which was blanked out by the cancellation message from the "MATTEN FLINDERS".) Wireless operator of "FINNA" estimates that the distress message if transmitted on full power and tuned to 14.8 originated about 150 miles from "FINNA".

The message was very rapid and accompanied by heavy static.

The cancellation was on an entirely different transmission on a different signal strength, its lat. being possibly 15°36'S and not 8°36'S. (This confirms the theory that the cancellation came from "MATTEN FLINDERS" direct and the early distress signal was relayed probably from "VITO").

A signal has been sent from Townsville asking the reporting officer at Vanikoro to interrogate the Master of "MATTEN FLINDERS" to confirm if distress message and cancellation were transmitted.

An aircraft is to be despatched early tomorrow morning 6th to interrogate "MATTEN FLINDERS" likewise.

Result of this should be available 0900/8.

Comment - Although it is possible, in view of the recent S/P of a German unit ^{probably} being in the Ellice Islands on 4th Nov., that both "FINNA" and "MATTEN FLINDERS" sighted a third ship possibly a German supply ship, the result of the interrogation of "MATTEN FLINDERS" tomorrow morning 6th, should determine whether the distress message and cancellation were genuine or otherwise.

N.O.I.C.Pt.
Heresby
08211/5

- 6. MISIMA IS. Unidentified Ship - A European reports sighting a ship on a S.E. course off the east end of Misima Island at 0130/8. The vessel later changed course to S.W. It is described as having one funnel, two masts.

Comment - Misima Is. is 130 miles east of Samarai, the eastern tip of New Guinea. It is considered possible that the ship sighted was the Russian "MINSK", bound from East Russia to Sydney, although she would be 24 days behind her schedule to be in position given. On the other hand the Russians give very little notification of their intentions. It will be recalled that the first Russian ship to come on the station "ASHKABAD" arrived without warning and was first sighted off air on 24/7. No action is intended by Northern Area.

N.O.I.C.Townsville
12302/5

N.I.C.Habs
02152/24/7

- 7. DARWIN - Departure Japanese Mother Ship - The Japanese mother ship "KOKORO MARU" departed Darwin on 4/11 for Palau via the Bathurst Island Pearing Grounds.

Comment - "KOKORO MARU" arrived at Darwin on 29/10, ostensibly to water, and stated that she intended to depart 31/10 for Bathurst Island.

D.S.O. H.S.
08302/4/11
11002/29/10

- 8. ALJABERT AREA

- (1) HEATH of Australia Station

S.O.I.S.
03022/3

- 6. RUSS - Heavy Ships - The Italian ship "CONTELLAZZO" (8,202 tons) arrived at Kobe on 25/10, painted grey all over except for a black funnel. On 26/10 she was alongside the German ship "WISHTOU" (8,00 tons). The Italian ship "NAVO II" (3685 tons) was alongside the "WISHTOU" at Kobe on 30/10, and has not been sighted since. The Italian ship "PIETRO GREGOLO" (6,600 tons) was alongside the "WISHTOU" at Kobe on 2/11. All three Italian ships were considered to be bunkering.

03/25 : 13

Comment - The "CONTELLAZZO" departed Kobe about 22/10. The

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/136

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of D/C.O.I.C.) 5th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Wednesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. SOUTHERN AUSTRALIAN COAST - Mines

- WS/25 : 3(b)
- (a) The mine sighted by S.S. "BURWAH" at 0700Z/2/11 about 100 miles east of Wilsons Promontory has been located and exploded by H.M.A.S. "MILDURA" which reported the mine as very old.

Comment - This report as to age confirms the suggestion that the mine came from one of the Bass Strait fields.

- "Kowhai"
1320/3
- (b) S.S. "KOWHAI" has reported sighting a mine in position 39°40'S 144°30'E at 2022Z/1/11. This mine was floating awash and was heavily covered with growing seaweed.

Comment - This position is at the western approach to Bass Strait about 30 miles due east of King Island. The age of the mine, as indicated by its description, suggests that it also came from one of the Bass Strait fields.

- (c) The mine reported off Barwon Heads on 3/11 has been destroyed.

- HMAS "Sydney"
0717Z/3
WS/25 : 3(e)
- (d). The mine found buried in the sand in King George's Sound last week has been excavated by H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" and found to be type Y number 6604. The mine appeared to have been laid many months ago and to have been beached for less than one week. Local authorities incline to the view, based on wind and currents, that the mine broke loose from inside King George's Sound.

Comment - There have been no reports of suspicious sightings in the vicinity of King George's Sound in recent months, nor have any other mines been found in this area.

Type Y Number 6604 is German and is similar to other mines located from the known fields. If the local appreciation is correct it suggests that there is a previously undetected field in the King George's Sound area.

2. WILSONS PROMONTORY - Suspicious Sighting - The Master of the "GOULBURN" reports sighting an object in position 38° 55½' S, 147°10½'E (40 miles E.N.E. of Wilsons Promontory) at 0918K/3/10. The object was seen from a distance of 1½ miles. It is described as black, 3 feet out of the water, no horns visible, with a second smaller object 20 to 30 feet away which may have been a small buoy or oil drum. It was thought to be too high ~~am~~ out of the water to be a mine. Seven fishing vessels were in the vicinity and one about half a mile from the object.

D.N.O. Vic.
0235Z/4

Comment - As all fishing craft now have instructions to float an identifying buoy as a warning to mine-sweepers it appears probable that the object sighted was such a buoy.

"HARB II" was last reported at Kobe on 1/3/41. She had already been armed and must be considered a potential raider. The "VINTRO ORSEOLO" was last reported on 27/3/41 at Kobe whereas she had been at anchorage for several months. The "WINNETOU" which operated as a supply ship to Raider "A" ("HARVIK") in the Pacific last year, has been at Kobe since December, 1940. This may indicate early action by these units in view of the present tense Pacific situation.

C.I.S.
0641R/4/11

- 9. JAPANESE MARSHAL GOVERNMENTS - SOUTH CHINA - It has been reported (graded B.3) that 4 Japanese cruisers were sighted in approx position 022°E 115°E early on 1/11. The ships were stationary and darkened.

Comment - This position is off Hong Kong. It is known that some of the Combined Fleet were in South Formosan area and possibly the ships sighted were the Japanese cruisers "SATSEI" "HASHIGARA" "HAGARA" and "KUMA", although these did not previously operate as a squadron. There is no indication that any other cruisers have left Japan.

Most secret
sources

- 10. Japanese Shipping Movements - Evacuation - An intercepted cable indicates that in addition to "HISSEO HANU" another Japanese ship, "TAKACHINO HANU", will be evacuating Japanese from the N.E.I. and that there will be accommodation for 12 people altogether from Australia. "HISSEO HANU" is due to leave Sourabaya on 8/11 and "TAKACHINO HANU" is to leave Batavia on 10/11.

(11) EAST of Australia Station

French M/S
"Chevreuil"
0660Z/4/11

- 11. MARQUESES - TUAMOTU ISLANDS (Pacific Ocean) AREA - Suspicious vessel - From the French minesweeper "CHEVREUIL" comes the report that at 0830Z/30/10 a large vessel (apparently a M/V) with the appearance of a heavily laden cargo ship was sighted on a course between the Iles Marquises and the Iles Tuamotu. A description was given, and it was stated that the M/V, after approaching within 500 yards of the vessel which sighted her, put about and, when last seen, was proceeding S.E..

Comment - S.E.S.B. consider vessel was Dutch "SCHEERBOEC" which is similar in description but which was routed on a more northerly course. The "CAPE NEW HORN" and "PORT BERTIN" both passed through the area and S.E.S.B. consider the former is more likely.

12. D/P Intelligence - Enemy Raider Activity

S.E.S.B.
0660Z/4/11

- (a) Ellice Is. Area - D/P bearings indicated a German unit within 100 miles of 9°S, 177°E at 2030Z/3/11. It was considered that this position was more probable than the antipodal position.

Comment - This position is approx 100 miles S.E. of Funafuti in Ellice Group.

S.E.S.B.
1945(34)

- (b) East of New Zealand - Latest S.E.S.B. Summary reports there were D/P bearings which fixed a raider or supply ship in position 40°S, 167°W on 25th October.

Comment - This position is 850 miles east of Wellington.

GENERAL COMMENT - From the area of the D/F fix of 20/10 (further eastward) a unit could have reached the position of October 25th at from 12 - 15 knots, and could have reached the area of the 4/11 at less than 10 knots. Although this unit could be either a raider or supply unit it appears possible that the latest D/F is from a supply ship which after meeting a raider further east is now returning northward to the Japanese Mandates.

F.I.C.S.
1948(54)

13.
DNI. Wellington
0916M/4/11

NEW ZEALAND WEST COAST - Mines - Two mines, both considered by Wellington to be from Australian fields, were found during October on the west coast near Auckland. The first was on the Keturu Beach on 23/10 and the second on the Muriwai Beach on 3/11. (Its type is not yet reported).

Comment - The type of the latter mine and the drift and current could support Wellington's opinion of the mines drifting from Australian fields.

R. N. Campbell Jr
for Director C.I.C.S.
6/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/137

(No portion of this Summary is to be reprod- 6th NOVEMBER, 1941
uced without personal permission of D/C.O.I.C) (Thursday)
Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Nil

B. ADJACENT AREAS

(i) NORTH of Australia Station

1. JAPANESE MANDATED IS. - Aircraft Reinforcements - There are indications that a part of the Chitose Naval Air Unit has been moved to the Mandated Islands. It is thought that the reinforcements amount to at least half a squadron of Fighters and half a Squadron of Heavy Bombers, each at Truk and Saipan. There may also be some Torpedo Bombers but there is no confirmation of this.

It is believed that one Squadron of Flying Boats from Tomioka (Yokohama) has been moved to Wotje.

F.E.C.B.
1948(53)

WS/25 : 19(d)

Comment - This report amplifies previous intelligence indicating a total of 6 Squadrons in the Mandates, apart from aircraft which may have been ferried there recently by the "KAGA". Subject to this qualification, dispositions in the Mandates can accordingly now be given as follows:-

Navy Air Force - Shore-based

Marianas

		Type	No.
Saipan	$\frac{1}{2}$ Squadron	96 F	6
	$\frac{1}{2}$ Squadron	96 H.B	6

Carolines

Palau	1 Squadron	97 F.B.	8
Truk	$\frac{1}{2}$ Squadron	96 F	6
	$\frac{1}{2}$ Squadron	96 H.B.	6

Marshalls

Jaluit	1 Squadron	91 F.B.	8
	1 Squadron	95 F.P.	12
Wotje	1 Squadron	97 F.B.	8
Total			<u>60</u>

WS/5 : A.1

It will be recalled that certain of the aircraft sighted during reconnaissance of the Bismarck Archipelago in June last were considered to have been Japanese Naval Type 96 Heavy Bombers operating from Truk and confirmation is now provided that this type is based there.

The reference to Torpedo Bombers suggests that these may be from the squadron of Type 97 T/B representing the balance of the Chitose unit.

While the figures given are probably an underestimate of present air strength in the Mandates, they serve to provide further evidence of the substantial development taking place in these areas and to indicate the strategic plan involved, now extended to threaten the U.S. islands of Guam and Wake in the Pacific, also

lines of communication between the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippine Islands.

2. SOUTHERN CHINA - Japanese Convoy Troop and Air Movements -
 It is now advised that the convoys reported last week as being numerically above average and of undetermined destination, have been mainly identified in the Canton area. The purpose of the reinforcement is not definitely established but the indications now point to a possible attack on Chinese troops in Kwangsi from the Canton area, supported by an attack on Nanning from Langson (Tongking). Such a movement would be a useful preliminary to an attack on Kunming for which the Japanese force in Tongking still appears to be inadequate.
 Three Japanese Naval Bomber Squadrons have moved from Formosa to Hainan.

C.O.I.S.
0941Z/4
WS/25 : 16(i)

WS/25 : 14(a)

Comment - It was previously suggested that a move was probable against Kunming to cut the Burma Road. Advices up to 27/10 placed the Japanese strength in North Indo-China at 26,500 troops.

It is estimated that a force of 5 divisions (90,000 men) would be necessary for an attack on the Kunming area. Such a force could be concentrated within a month. The difficulties of this campaign are great but not insuperable.

Naval Bomber Squadrons are frequently used for long distance bombing operations in support of the Army. The movement of three ~~Sx~~ Squadrons from Formosa to Hainan is consistent with an offensive in Southern China, the bombers operating from Tongking aerodromes which were earlier reported as in ~~XXXX~~ course of development and improvement.

M.I.
3/11/41

(ii) WEST of Australia Station

3. VICHY FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS - A convoy of 5 ships which left Tamatave (East coast of Madagascar) on 24th Oct., has been intercepted by British cruisers off the coast of South Africa. (Press - 200 miles south of Durban).
 Press reports give the names of the ships as follows:-
 "BANGKOK" (8,056 tons), "CAP PADARAN" (8,097 tons)
 "COMPIEGNE" (9,986 tons), "CAP TOURANE" (8009 "
 "COMMANDANT DORISE" (5,529 tons)
 Escort - Sloop "D'IBERVILLE"
 "COMPIEGNE" and "CAP TOURANE" left Saigon for Madagascar on 7/9 with the convoy of 4 escorted by Sloop "AMIRAL CHARNER" and submarine "MONGE".
 It was reported (graded A.2) on 15th Sept. that "CAP PADARAN" with 3 others (names given) escorted by sloop "D'IBERVILLE" would soon leave Diego Suarez for Indo-China and further by F.E.C.B. that a convoy possibly including "CAP TOURANE" and "COMPIEGNE" escorted by a French warship left Madagascar for Saigon on some date prior to 13th Oct.

Natel
1907A/3/11

Press 5/11/41

WS/19 : 7(a)

SOI.Capetown
1043B/15/9
WS/19 : 7(b)
F.E.C.B.
194B (53)

Comment - It would now appear probable that the Capetown and F.E.C.B. reports were inaccurate and that the convoy did not sail for Indo-China before 13th Oct. but for Tamatave and thence for France. Thus the possibility of the expected convoy passing through Timor Sea is now regarded as most unlikely as it is considered that there is at present no convoy east bound from Madagascar.

C.W.R.0514Z/1/11
WS/25 : 8

Ranner 9/10

A. N. Campbell
fr. Director C.O.I.C.
6/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/138

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of the D/C.O.I.C.)

7th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Friday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft - One Catalina Tulagi - Graciosa Bay - Utupua Is. - Vanikoro.
 One Catalina searched an area of 40 miles radius from Nissan Is. in connection with the report of gunfire heard from that island. Nil sightings.
 One Hudson Townsville - Armit Island. Search negative.

A.C.H. Townsville
 1402Z/5
 1050Z/6
 2345Z/5
 2300Z/5
 0214Z/6
 0645Z/6

L/L from COIC.
Townsville
1330K/6/11

2. NEW HEBRIDES - Suspicious Distress Message from "MATTHEW FLINDERS" - As a result of the interview with the Master of the "PINNA", the situation is now cleared up. It appears -

- (a) that the "MATTHEW FLINDERS" sighted the "PINNA" (formerly German "BIRKENFELS") mistook her for her sister-ship "DRACHENFELS", despatched a distress message and forthwith, recognising her mistake, cancelled it;
- (b) that the "VITO" - call-sign LJIU and not LJU as erroneously picked up - heard the distress message of the "MATTHEW FLINDERS" and promptly rebroadcast it; (this rebroadcast was picked up by Chatham Is. radio);
- (c) that the "PINNA" heard the "VITO's" rebroadcast and the "MATTHEW FLINDERS'" cancellation of her own signal (the latter to some extent jamming the former) and recognised the difference in the types of transmission.

3. MISIMA ISLAND (LOUISTADE ARCHIPELAGO) - Unidentified Ship - M.M.S. are now satisfied that the vessel sighted off the east end of Misima Is. at 0130/5 was not the "MINSK" and are unable to identify the sighting. Serial No. 92 has been issued. "MINSK" is expected to arrive Sydney on 9/11.

DS/136 : 6

N.B.1041Z/6

A further report has been received from Misima stating that the vessel was sighted at 0130 hours on 5/11 and lost to view at 0215 hours. She was observed from a distance of between 12 and 15 miles, colour black or green and when last seen was travelling at high speed emitting heavy black smoke from funnels.

N.O.I.C.
Moresby
0427Z/6

4. TROUBRIANDS IS. - Unidentified Ship - A native of Troubriand Is. reports having sighted a large vessel with one mast, 2 yellow funnels and a black hull. The vessel passed Kaibola about 5^{1/2} p.m. on 4/11, making towards Kitana. N.O.I.C. considers that this vessel is possibly the same as that referred to in Para. (3) above, allowing for difference in description of native report. M.M.S. is unable to identify the vessel and has issued Serial No.93.

N.O.I.C.
Pt.Moresby
0429Z/6

Comment - Kaibola is in Troubriands Is. about ~~100~~ 100 miles north of Samarai and about 160 miles N.W. of Misima Is. which is about 130 miles East of Samarai. Kitana is about 20 miles from Kaibola, on the route to Misima Is. No ships are known to have been recently in any of these areas which are unusual for navigation. A vessel could have covered the distance between Misima Is. and Troubriands Is. by maintaining an average speed of 9¹/₂ knots on a south-easterly course.

It will be recalled that suspicious vessels

considered to be Raider "A" ("NARVIK") and a tanker were sighted by an aircraft in this same area last February. The area covers the Eastern approaches to Torres Strait which is now a focal point for trans-Pacific shipping.

5. NISSAN - Reported Gunfire - N.I.O. Rabaul reports that two rounds of gunfire were heard at Nissan in rapid succession from the S.W. at noon on 5/11. An air search of the area took place yesterday afternoon with negative results. No further action is intended by A.C.H.Townsville.

Comment - Nissan is about 40 miles N.W. of Buka between Buka and New Ireland. It is possible that the sounds heard were due to seismic or atmospheric disturbances which are frequent in the area. A.C.H. Townsville suggests thunder might have been responsible.

L/L Lt.Cmdr.Feldt
2330K/6

6. PEARCE (W.A) - Unidentified Aircraft - A report received from Pearce states that a guard (at the D/F Station) saw a light moving straight across the sky at an even height in a westerly direction at 0300H this morning (7/11). The intermittent drone of an engine was heard for one minute. Another guard was called and both saw the same light pass across a star. The total time of sighting was 3 to 4 minutes. The report is graded D.5.

Comment - Although the report has received a low grading this is the third report of a possible unidentified aircraft sighting in Western Area within the last week.

Previous reports were -

- (i) 2/11 - A possible aircraft heard S.W. of Geraldton (Graded D.4);
- (ii) 4/11 - The light of an aircraft sighted by a night flying instructor and corroborated by another pilot (Graded B.3).

Following this latter report an air search was conducted with negative results.

In view of the low grading of two out of three of these reports, it is difficult to attach much significance to them.

7. WHITSUNDAY PASSAGE - Possible Mines - Further aerial examination of Whitsunday Passage area, where it was thought that mines might have been laid, was negative in result.

A.C.H.T.
0845Z/6

R. N. Campbell
for Director C.O.I.C.
7/11/41

Rennet (N) 7/11

(M)

(A)

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO. DS/139

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of the D/C.O.I.C.) 8th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Saturday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville 1.
1456Z/6
2230Z/6
2245Z/6
0640Z/7

Movements of Aircraft - One Empire F/B Townsville - Grafton Passage - Moresby. Two Hudsons Evans Head - Archerfield. Nil sightings.

N.O.I.C. Port Moresby 0351Z/7

- 2. MISIMA IS. (Louisiade Archipelago) - Unidentified Ship - A further amplifying report from Misima has been sent on by Moresby. The vessel sighted was about 6000 tons; there was a row of square windows on the deck above two rows of port holes. A native corporal stated that the vessel flew the Japanese flag but this latter information is graded D.5.

Comment - It seems evident that the vessel sighted was a fair size merchant ship and not a small island steamer or auxiliary. The position and course is such that only a local vessel which knew the area well might be expected to follow. Although it is possible the vessel is an unreported neutral; in view of the above and also the fact that the area covers the approaches to Torres Strait and that a raider was considered to have been sighted in that area last February, it is also possible this vessel is a raider flying the Japanese flag.

D.N.O. W.A. 0912Z/6

- 3. KING GEORGE'S SOUND - Possible Minefield - Further to the report of 2/11 that a mine had been located buried in the sand in King George's Sound it has been further reported that a paravane from S.S. "KATOOMBA" struck a heavy object and was badly damaged when the vessel was entering Albany Approaches on 2/11.

Arrangements have been made by D.N.O. W.A. to sweep the area.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

Most secret sources

- 4. PORTUGUESE TIMOR - Departure of Japanese Mothership - The Japanese mothership "ASAHI MARU" left Dilli on 5/11, but there is no indication as yet of the date of departure of the Palau - Dilli flying boat and the guard ship.

Comment - It will be recalled that the flying boat of the last flight to Dilli arrived on 18/10. No direct report was received as to which vessel was acting as tender but it was pointed out that four seemed closely connected with the flight.

WS/23 : 19(c)
WS/24 : 19(ii)

5. JAPANESE INTELLIGENCE - Merchant Ships

Most secret sources

- (i) The "TAIYO MARU" (14,500 tons - 1911), which was earlier scheduled to sail for U.S.A. "Sometime after 15/10", left Yokohama for Honolulu on 22/10, ~~XXXX~~ arriving about 4/11, but departed on 6/11 en route for Yokohama.

WS/25 : 16

- (ii) The "HEIYO MARU" (9,816 tons - 17 knots - 1930), after several calls in the Marshalls between 27/10 and 4/11, is now returning towards Yokohama.

Roundy

(M)
(A)

R. N. Campbell
for Director C.O.I.C. 8/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE.

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO. DS/139

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9TH NOVEMBER, 1941 (Sunday)

MOST SECRET. AUSTRALIA STATION.

1. MISIMA IS. (LOUISIADE ARCHIPELAGO) - Unidentified Ship.

S.O.(I) Townsville
2308Z/7/11

The report, amplifying the original report of an unidentified ship off Misima Island on 5/11, is graded by S.O. (I) Townsville E.5.

Comment - The amplifying report stated that the ship sighted was of 6,000 tons, with a row of square windows above two rows of portholes and flying a Japanese flag. N.O.I.C. Port Moresby graded the report concerning the Japanese Flag D.5

2. BATHURST ISLAND: JAPANESE MOTHERSHIP AND LUGGERS.

A.C.H. Darwin
0345Z/8/11

A Darwin air patrol on 8/11 sighted the Japanese Mothership "KOBORU MARU" and 6 Japanese luggers off the west coast of Bathurst Island.

D.N.O. N.T.
0830Z/4/11
0200Z/29/10
1106Z/29/10
1204Z/30/10

Comment - This is a normal pearl-fishing ground. "KOBORU MARU" left Darwin on 4/11. She had stated on her arrival there on 29/10 that she was in company with 5 luggers. Three Japanese luggers were sighted off Bathurst Island on 30/10.

3. SOUTH OF SYDNEY: S.O.S. INTERCEPTED.

N.O.I.C.
Newcastle
0229Z/8

S.S. "BAROSSA", when south of Sydney at 0548 on 7/11, intercepted a weak spark signal transmitting S.O.S. Sydney radio was heard asking identification and the unknown ship replied with S.O.S. and S.S.S.S. The signal appeared to emanate from a considerable distance.

L.I. from Garden
Island to C.O.I.C.
2308K/8/11

On enquiry from Sydney radio by S.O.(I) Garden Island it was reported that a ship had been testing in Sydney Harbour. She had sent S.O.S. S.S.S.S. and several V's and H's. Sydney radio were unable to find out what ship was responsible.

N.O.C.S.
1314Z/8

4. NORTH OF AUSTRALIA STATION. - , Enemy Merchant Ship Movements

C.O.I.S.
0221Z/7

The Italian ship "RAMB II" has returned to Kobe.

C.O.I.S.
0302Z/3

Comment - "RAMB II" (a potential raider) fuelled from the German "WIHNETON" at Kobe on 30/10 and appears to have left the same day. The recent activities of enemy ships at Kobe appear somewhat suspicious. It is observed that the Italian "Costellazzo" departed Kobe 22/10 and returned 25/10, when she fuelled from "WIHNETON". The Italian "PIETRO ORSEOLO" also fuelled from "WIHNETON" 2/11

WS/25:13

5. WEST OF AUSTRALIA STATION. - East London & Port Elizabeth Vichy French Ships.

N.O.I.C.
Simonstown
1557B/7/11.

It is confirmed that 5 Vichy French Ships intercepted by H.M. Cruisers were "BONGBOB", "COMMANDANT DORISE", "COMPIEGNE", "CAP TOURANE" and "CAP PADARAN".

War Advices
7/11/41

The French sloops which were escorting the convoy refused the British order to instruct the convoy to proceed to Port Elizabeth and as scuttling was attempted the ships were boarded. Two ships had their engines damaged but all have now arrived at South African ports, the first 3 mentioned above at East London and the others at Port Elizabeth.

6. EAST OF AUSTRALIA STATION.

C.in C. S.A.S.
1845N/6
British Adty.
Delegation
Washington
2039R/6

Atlantic Ocean: German Ship ex Japan.

The German ship "ODENWALD" (5,098 tons) was intercepted in 000° 35' N: 027° 45' W at 0845Z/6/11. She attempted to scuttle herself but later was proceeding at 9 knots to Trinidad.

Adty. 2142A/28/10

Comment - Two U.S. ships sighted a possible supply ship on 22/10 in 6° 44' S: 34° 25' W. The "ODENWALD" may have been the ship in question, there is no description of the sighting of 22/10 available.

FECB 1000: 6th Ed.A
FECB 1948(37)
C.O.I.S. 0718Z/16/7

The "ODENWALD" was reported to have departed Yokohama on 6/9. Earlier (in July) Melchers were reported to have recruited a Chinese crew for her. After docking in July she left Yokohama on 19/7 with a Japanese flag and an unknown name in characters on her side.

Although the "ODENWALD" was thought to be under the Japanese flag this appears to have been simply a subterfuge. At least five other German ships were reported operating under the Japanese flag, viz.

"ANGSBURG" (Chingwangtao, 12/4/41)
"SAARLAND" (ex Shanghai 22/6/41)
"R.C. RICKMERS" (renamed "TEIJUKU MARU")
(Ex Kobe 14/7/41)
"BREMERHAVEN" (renamed "TEIUN MARU")
(Ex Dairen 15/8/41)
"FULDA" (ex Tsingtao 16/6/41)

Besides these and several which have not moved from their Japanese ports since early in the war, there are eight German ships which are believed to be trading in Japanese waters, but which in view of "ODENWALD'S" activity may also be acting as raider supply ships.

Lawrence 29/11

G.W.R.0830Z/
Pearl Harbour
0313Z/7

EAST of Australia Station

Pearl Harbour reported that the U.S. Ship "CAPELLO" reported sighting a vessel acting suspiciously in position $003^{\circ}20'$ South $177^{\circ}32'$ East on November 6th at 1900 G.M.T.

Further details have been requested by C.O.I.S.

Comment - This position ^{is}/between the Gilbert and Phoenix Is. Group approx 330 miles north of the position of the D/F fix at 2030Z/3rd November, and 650 miles E.S.E. of Nauruu

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/140

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of the D/C.O.I.C.)

11th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Tuesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

"Wear"
10/11/41

1. BASS STRAIT - Mine - A floating mine was sighted in position 38°34'S, 148°22'E at 0700Z/10/11.

Comment - This position is in Bass Strait on the Melbourne - Sydney shipping route about 100 miles N.E. of Wilson's Promontory. No further details of the mine are yet available.

2. MISIMA ISLAND (LOUISIADE ARCHIPELAGO) - Unidentified Ship - Advice has been received that the Russian "MINSK" (5,700 tons) will berth at Sydney a.m. 11/11. Working back at her approximate average speed, she could have been in the position of the Misima Island sighting at 0130/5. A report is awaited as to her position at that time.

Mer/ship

DS/138 : 3

Handwritten signature

R. N. Campbell
for Director C.O.I.C.
11/11/41

S.W.A.C.H.
2045Z/3
0702Z/4
Airintel W.Area
2135Z/3
0830Z.4
COIC Fremantle
L/L 4/11
Airintel Pearce
2043Z/6

3. W.A. - Unidentified Aircraft - A full report has been received from Western Area in reference to the reports of a light (considered to be from the cabin of an aircraft) observed at 1430Z/3 at Geraldton and a light moving across the sky near RAAF Station Pearce (W.A) at 0300H/7. After full examination of the reports it is extremely doubtful in either case if the light observed was from an aircraft.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTRELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/141

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12th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Wednesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville 1. Movements of Aircraft - 1 Empire Flying Boat Moresby -
1120Z/10, 2185Z/10 Tulagi.
0345Z/11, 0453Z/11 1 Catalina Moresby - Rabaul. Nil sightings.

WS/26 : 10 & 11 2. MISIMA IS. TROUBRIANDS IS. - Unidentified Ships Now
N.C.S.O. Sydney Identified - The Russian ship "MINSK" arrived Sydney
0355Z/11 yesterday (11th) at 0355Z. On interrogation by
L/L S.O.(I) Sydney S.O.(I) Sydney it was ascertained that her positions
0850Z/11 on 4/11 and 5/11 were as follows:-
8°22'S, 151°12'E (0600Z/4/11)
9°42'S, 151°29'E (1400Z/4/11)
10°17'S, 153°07'E (0130Z/5/11)

The course plotted from these positions fixes "MINSK" in the vicinity of the Troubriands Island at 0700KZ/4/11 and off Misima Island at 0130/5/11. It is therefore considered that "MINSK" was responsible for the sightings from both places and Serial Nos. 92 and 93 have been cancelled accordingly.

N.B.1216Z/11

B. ADJACENT AREAS

(i) NORTH of Australia Station

COIS.0334Z/11 3. KOBE - Enemy Tanker "QUITO" - A German tanker which arrived at Kobe on 7/11 is believed to be the "QUITO" (1,230 tons).

Comment - This ship is not a tanker but has a funnel aft which gives her the appearance of one. She was last reported at Shanghai on 27/10 departing on 31/10. She had been renamed "TENCHITU MARU" and was wearing Japanese flags but still had German officers and crew. Her upper bridge was carefully screened with a light green and white canvas screen, obviously a temporary fitting. She was loaded with general cargo, including copper, lead, motor tyres and drums of paint and oil.

WS/25 : 6

FECB.1000 6th Ed A
WS/25 : 6

(ii) WEST of Australia Station

Admty.1915A/4/11 4. INDIAN OCEAN - Distress Message from "OLIVIA" - It is now
2142A/28/10 known that "OLIVIA" (Swedish) had no reason for signalling a distress message on 20/10 when in 1°N 55°E. Admiralty state that there is now no evidence of a raider being in the Indian Ocean.

Comment - The only outstanding report is that of "S.G.EMBIRICOS" (Greek) which has been overdue at Colombo since 28/9 and which it was suggested may have made R's (presumably from the Maldive Is. area) heard by Trincomalee on 26/9.

2053A/7/10

(N)
(M)
(A)

R. N. Campbell
Director C.O.I.C.
12/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/142

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(Thursday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.C.H. Townsville 1.
1335Z/11, 2140Z/11
0050Z/12, 0302Z/12
0440Z/12, 0531Z/12

Movements of Aircraft -
One Empire F/B Rabaul - Tulagi
Two Hudsons Bundaberg - Archerfield
One Empire F/B Tulagi - Moresby.
All sightings identified.

N.O.C.S.
0031Z/12

2. TUROS HEAD - Ship Sighting - A vessel has been reported as being approximately 1 1/2 miles off Tuross Head between 1100Z/11 and 1110Z/11 and making signals shoreward with a very bright flashing light. The vessel's signals were apparently answered. H.M.A.S. "TOOWOOMBA" has gone to the area to investigate.

Comment - Tuross Head is about 60 miles south of Jervis Bay. The only known vessels in the area at the time are "BERGALIA", which arrived at Meruya on 8/11 and a trawler. It is possible that one of the many fishing craft that operate in this area was responsible.

"Narani"
0945Z/11
DS/140 : 1

3. BASS STRAIT - Floating Mine - H.M.A.S. "NARANI" reports having searched to nightfall on 11/11 with negative results the position in which the floating mine was sighted in Bass Strait at 2100Z/9. There was a moderate S.W. gale making conditions unfavourable.

NOIC.PT.Moresby
0859Z/12

4. MUNDI MUNDI (SOLOMON IS.) - Unidentified Ship Serial No.94
A sighting is reported by one Campbell from Mundi Mundi of a vessel travelling north east at 0700Z/11 with one funnel and superstructure amidships. M.M.S. cannot identify. A.C.H. Townsville ordered a search to locate and report the position as at 0700Z of M/V "MALAITA" (a Burns Philp vessel of 3,000 tons with one funnel and superstructure amidships) which departed Tulagi at 1115Z/11 and will be in the Solomons area until 15/11.

Comment - Mundi Mundi is in the Solomon Islands about 50 miles N.W. of Gizo. "MALAITA" was located at Gizo at 2135Z/12 and a further report will follow later.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

(1) NORTH of Australia Station

C/S Singapore
0946Z/11

5. INDO-CHINA - Japanese Army Moves - More definite information is now available that the main Japanese troop movement is towards Tongking with some to Saigon. The latest arrivals consist mostly of labour corps. Preparations of lines of communication and aerodromes in North and South Indo-China continues. The present estimated strengths less labour corps are:-
Tongking 2 1/2 divisions and South Indo-China 1 1/2 divisions. Recent large increases of transport movements indicate a desire by Japan to complete preparations as soon as possible.

Comment - These dispositions conform with the view that a move against the Burma Road through Yunnan via Tongking is ~~imminent~~.
Probable.

- b) Warships - The Combined Fleet including all aircraft

carriers remain in Japanese Home Waters.

6. SAIGON - Vichy French Ships

FEB. 1948(55)

- a) F.E.C.B.1948 dated 4th November reports that the convoy comprised of "SIKIANG" "PIERRE LD" "CAP MARELLA" "VILLE DE VERDUN" and Naval tanker "NIVOSE" escorted by the Sloop "AMIRAL CHARNER" from Madagascar passed Sunda Strait on 28th October and arrived Saigon on November 2nd. All ships were reported light but troops were on board two of them.

Comment - This is the first intelligence received concerning the movements of these ships following F.E.C.B.'s report of 21/10 that an escorted convey had departed Madagascar for Saigon prior to 13th October.

- b) The "FRANCOIS L.D" which sailed Saigon on August 15th with 7,000 tons of rubber ostensibly for Kobe is now reported to have arrived at Casablanca without calling at intermediate ports.

Comment - This vessel was reported to have proceeded from Saigon via Cape Horn.

(ii) EAST of Australia Station -

S.O.(I) Wellington
0354Z/12

- 7. NIUATOBATABU - Cruiser Sighting - The Coast Watching Station at Niutobatabu reports sighting at 1940Z/10 a light cruiser bearing S.S.W. on a N.N.W. course at a distance of 20 miles. The ship had two funnels and two masts with the mainmast the shorter of the two, a raked bow, a cruiser stern, a long low hull and a dark grey colour. Graded B.2 and confirmed at 0025Z/12. The C in C of the U.S. Pacific Fleet has been asked if this was a U.S. warship.

Comment - Niutobatabu is about 200 miles north of Tonga and about 300 miles East of Suva. There is so far no intelligence of any warships having been in the area at the time, but in view of the wide range of U.S. Naval operations at present in the Pacific, it appears likely that a U.S. Warship was responsible. The Netherlands cruiser "JAVA" departed Suva on 10/11 for Sourabaya and would not have ~~passed within~~ been in the area on that course. Niutobatabu is approximately on the route of the Free French sloop "CHEVREUIL" which departed from Papeete on 8/11 but this vessel could not have got near the area in the time.

NZNB.1616M/10
0805M/12

S.O.(I) Wellington
0354Z/12

- 8. NIUATOBATABU - Tanker Sighting - The Coast Watching Station at Niutobatabu also reports sighting a tanker at 1740Z/9 with 3 old type masts of equal height, a single funnel and upper work all aft. M.M.S. cannot identify.

Comment - Recent intelligence of possible hostile shipping in adjacent localities comprises D/F bearings of a German unit at 2030Z/3/11 in the Ellice Group and a report by U.S. ship "CAPELLO" of a vessel acting suspiciously between the Gilbert and Phoenix Groups at 1900Z/6/11. Either of these vessels could have reached Niutobatabu in the time. Alternatively the Niutobatabu sighting may be a supply ship acting in concert with a Pacific raider.

WS/26 : 15(a)

WS/26 : 16

Lawson

A. N. Campbell
Director C.O.I.C.
13/11/41

APPENDIX TO DS/143 - 14/11/41

N. E. I.

The following American types of aircraft have been delivered or are expected to be delivered to the Naval Air Service of the Netherlands Navy in N.E.I.

2. FLYING BOATS

- (a) 18 Catalina's have been flown to Soerabaya
- (b) 3 Catalinas left San Diego on the 27th October for Soerabaya.
- (c) 3 Catalinas are expected to leave San Diego on the 31st October for Soerabaya.
- (d) It is expected that a total of 36 Catalinas will have been delivered to the N.E.I. by the end of 1941.

3. TORPEDO BOMBERS

48 Douglas Bombers, which can be used also for torpedo bombing are on order in America and delivery of them is expected by the Spring of 1942.

U. S. A.

HAWAIIAN AIR FORCE

The following is the approximate strength of aircraft in the Hawaiian Air Force as at 16/10/41 -

B17	Heavy Bombers	22
B18	Medium Bombers	35
	(obsolescent)	
A20	Attack Bombers	15-20
P40	Fighters	140
P36	C. Fighters	15
C33	Cargo and Transport	8-10

Sixty-five P38 twin-engined interceptor fighters are reported to be on the way out to Honolulu.

B17 Squadron have a normal establishment of 15 aircraft.

Pursuit Squadrons have a normal establishment of 25 aircraft.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/143

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14th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Friday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET A. AUSTRALIA STATION

- ACH.Townsville 1. Movements of Aircraft
0410Z/12 One Catalina Rabaul - Moresby
1332Z/12 One Catalina Tulagi - Vila
2247Z/12 One Catalina Rabaul - Lorengau
0855Z/13 One Empire F/B Moresby - Tulagi.
Nil sightings.
- DS/142 : 2
S.O.(I) Sydney
L/L 1040K/13/11
2. TUROS HEAD - Ship Sighting - The pilot at Narooma who reported this sighting had seen nothing further at 0930K/13 and was continuing to keep a watch. The investigations of H.M.A.S. "TOOWOOMBA" have also proved negative. It is reported that the light signalling, although very bright, was too far away to be read, and further that the reply came from an entirely uninhabited part of the shore.
S.O.(I) Sydney graded the report B3, and considers that the signalling may have come from a fishing craft, communication being perhaps with another fishing craft close in shore.
- DS/142 : 4
COIC.Townsville
L/L 13/11
AHC.Townsville
2357Z/12, 0753Z/13
NLO.Tulagi
0830Z/13
ACH.Townsville
1325Z/13
3. MUNDI MUNDI (Solomon Is.) - Unidentified Ship Serial 94 - The locating of the "MALAITA" by aircraft at Gizo at 2135Z/12 established the fact that this vessel could not have been responsible for the Mundi Mundi sighting. A.C.H. Townsville then ordered a further air search covering the N.E. approaches to Bougainville Strait which was carried out with negative results. A further description from Mundi Mundi giving additional details states that the vessel sighted was bigger than the "MALAITA" - which is 3,300 G.T. - has a high funnel, no masts, four derricks which are shorter than the funnel, two being forward and two aft and of each of these pairs one derrick is sloping and one straight. There is a very small house aft. Colour grey. Natives reported having seen an aircraft accompanying the vessel. A.C.H. Townsville suggest that the ship sighted was either a raider or supply ship.
- Comment - The reference to an aircraft and the sloping derrick and the fact that an enemy unit was considered to have been operating in the Ellice - Phoenix Is. area early this month and has had ample time to reach the position of this latest sighting all confirm A.C.H.Townsville's suggestion that the vessel was an enemy raider. The use of telescopic masts and funnel (a recognised practice by raiders) could account for the description given.
- Operations Room
Richmond 2035Z/13
4. SYDNEY - Unidentified Aircraft - It was reported from Richmond Operations Room that an unidentified aircraft was heard but not seen flying over Sydney between 1615Z and 1626Z/13. The Duty Pilot at Mascot, reported hearing the sound of an aircraft engine to seaward over Botany Bay. No navigation lights were seen or identification signal given. The sound was described as short, staccato, single-engined and was seaward during the whole period. An N.C.O. of the A.A. Battery Dover Heights considered to be a sound observer, heard the sound of an aircraft engine at 1626Z/13 moving to seaward from the direction of Cremorne. The report is graded B2. An air search to seaward is being conducted from Richmond commencing at 2100Z/13.

Comment - In view of the fact that only the sound of an engine is reported it would appear in the absence of further evidence that the grading of the report is unduly high.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

5. NIUATOBATABU - Cruiser Sighting - Wellington has confirmed that the French sloop "CHEVREUIL" was not responsible for this sighting. No reply has yet been received from the C in C U.S. Pacific Fleet, and the vessel sighted remains unidentified.

NORTH of Australia Station

6. DIELI - Japanese Flying Boat - Present indications are that the Japanese Flying Boat will leave Dilli on 15/11.

An Appendix setting out particulars concerning the strength of the N.E.I. Naval Air Service and the Hawaiian Air Force is attached.

Round

R. V. Campbell
Director C.O.I.C.
14/11/41

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Submitted.

(Saturday)

MOST SECRETA. AUSTRALIA STATION

DS/143 : 4

Airintel Sydney
1355Z/14

1. SYDNEY - Unidentified Aircraft & Searchlights - Upon interviewing the personnel at A.A. Battery, Dover Heights on the report of their hearing an aircraft at 1626Z/13, they advised having attempted to engage the said aircraft with their searchlight but without success. They further reported having seen searchlights at sea to the S.E. of Bondi at 1515Z/13 and later at 1700Z/13. No naval units were responsible.

Comment - A vessel could have reached this position at the time from Turoos Head where signalling was reported on the night of 11/11.

However, as an air search to seaward was conducted from Richmond at 2100Z/13 to a depth of 300 miles, and an aircraft from Coffs Harbour searched to the eastward as far as Middleton Reef, both with negative results and it is highly improbable that an enemy unit would show searchlights within range of a fortress, the likelihood of an enemy unit having been responsible must be somewhat discounted.

A.C.H. Darwin
1205Z/13

2. MORNINGTON IS. - Seaplane Sighting - A native reports having sighted a seaplane circling low and alighting 30 miles from Mornington Island on 7/11. This report has been graded D5.

Comment - Mornington Island is approximately 80 miles N.W. of Karumba in the Gulf of Carpentaria, and is directly on the Qantas air route; as a Qantas flying boat flew over Mornington Is. on 7/11, it is considered that this report refers to the flying boat.

"Toowoomba"
0700Z/14
DS/143 : 2

3. TUROS HEAD - Vessel reported signalling on 11/11 - A signal from H.M.A.S. "TOOWOOMBA" confirms that she observed nothing suspicious off Turoos Head on 12/11 where she had been sent in view of a report of signalling on the night of 11/11.

N.I.O. Rabaul
0237Z/14/11

4. VICINITY RABAU - Unidentified Aircraft - An aircraft was seen and heard by a civil engineer and 2 natives 16 miles south of Rabaul at 0830K/14/11. The aircraft was flying in a westerly direction at about 8000 feet, but at too great a distance for description. The aircraft disappeared quickly.

This report was passed to the Naval Intelligence Officer at Rabaul by reliable army truck drivers. The report is graded B2.

N.I.O. Rabaul and R.A.A.F. at Port Moresby state that they cannot identify this aircraft.

NOIC. Pt. Moresby
0609Z/14/11

Comment - In view of the fact that the ship sighted off Mundi Mundi on 12/11 is reported by natives to have had an aircraft accompanying her it is possible that the aircraft sighted at Rabaul was from the same ship which could have been within air range at the time. The course of the aircraft (westerly) tends to strengthen this view as previous reports of aircraft from Truk have given courses mainly north and south.

If the ship and aircraft are associated there are 2 possible explanations:-

N.L.O. Tulagi
0830Z/13/11

WS/6 : Appendix

- (a) An enemy raider
- (b) A Japanese auxiliary carrying out further reconnaissance by means of aircraft.

In this connection it is pointed out that Rabaul is not a focal centre for shipping while it is known to be of considerable interest to the Japanese. The Japanese have previously carried out reconnaissance in this area and it is considered likely that during October they were carrying out reconnaissance in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands both by ship and by ship-borne aircraft.

Apart from the possibilities already outlined it is known that there are Japanese T96 heavy bombers at present based at Truk and that these have previously been used for reconnaissance over the Bismarck Archipelago including Rabaul.

WS/6 : Appendix
 WS/26 : 20
 WS/24 : Appendix A.

WS/26 : 33(e)

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

5. INDO-CHINA - Vichy French Merchant Ships - In view of Admiralty's request that all possible steps should be taken to intercept Vichy shipping from Indo-China the following disposition is given of "L.D" vessels.
- "FRANCOIS L.D" arrived Casablanca 20/10 from Saigon probably via Cape Horn;
 - "PIERRE L.D" - arrived Saigon 2/11 and is expected to sail shortly for Casablanca with 7,000 tons of rubber by the same route as "FRANCOIS L.D";
 - "LEOPOLD L.D" - was at Casablanca 7/11.
 - "LOUIS DREYFUS" - renamed "FORMALHAUY" left Dakar 26/10 for Madagascar in convoy.
 - "CHARLES L.D" and "JEAN L.D" - are in British hands.

The success of "FRANCOIS L.D" and the route it appears to have taken make the movements of these "Louis Dreyfus" ships of particular importance. Other ships known to be at Saigon are "VILLE DE VILLA" "CAP VARELLA" and "SIKIANG" recently arrived in convoy from Madagascar.

EAST of Australia Station

6. NIUATOBUTABU - Cruiser sighting - C in C U.S. Pacific Fleet reports that no U.S. warship was in the vicinity of Niuatobutabu on 11/11 (1940Z/10).

S.O.(I) Wellington
 0230Z/14/11

Comment - In view of the high grading of this report (B2) it is possible that the vessel was a Japanese destroyer from the Fourth Fleet operating in the Mandates. It will be recalled there were several unidentified ship sightings in the Samoa - Fiji area last month.

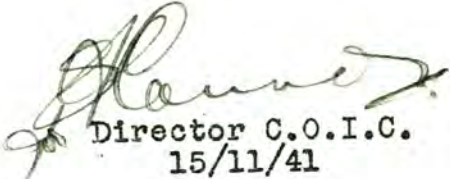
SECRET
 11

JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

7. INDO-CHINA - Warship Movements - C.O.I.S. reported yesterday (13th) that the Seventh Squadron has left Japan probably for Saigon.

C.O.I.S.
0859Z/13

Comment - The Seventh Cruiser Squadron (Combined Fleet) is comprised of the ~~six~~ 4 new "Mogami" class cruisers - "MOGAMI" "KUMANO" "SUZUYA" and "MIKUMA" (8,500 tons, 15-6.1" 33 knots). It will be recalled that this squadron was sent to South China last July prior to the Japanese occupation of Indo-China.


Director C.O.I.C.
15/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/145

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18th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Tuesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

ACH. Townsville
1100Z/16, 2145Z/16
0430Z/17

1. Movements of Aircraft
I Catalina Vila - Noumea. Nil sightings.

A.C.H. Darwin
0830Z/17
DS/144 : 2

2. MORNINGTON ISLAND - Seaplane Sighting - The native report of a seaplane circling low and alighting 30 miles from Mornington Island on 7/11 is corroborated by natives of another tribe who state that the seaplane remained in the area most of the day, and also that a second aircraft landed on the plain, remaining only a short time. No communication was observed between the aircraft. The report is now graded C.3.

NOCs. 2129Z/16
0301Z/17
2255Z/16

3. MONTAGUE ISLAND - Floating Mine - It is now reported that the Government launch "WARREEN" after standing by for some time lost contact with this mine during the night and eventually proceeded on its course.

A.C.H. Darwin
0835Z/17

4. BATHURST ISLAND - Japanese Luggers & Motherships - A telegram intercepted at Darwin, to the Japanese Consul General at Sydney from Nakashiba who has returned to Darwin from the Mother-ship "KOKOKU MARU" states that the "KOKOKU MARU" will await the arrival of "NEW GUINEA MARU" and "ARAFURA MARU" off Bathurst Island where 6 Japanese luggers are operating. Aircraft are to search the Bathurst Is. area today to investigate the movements of these craft.

WS/26 : 9

Comment - Nakashiba is a leader of the Japanese community at Darwin and has been closely connected with the activities of Japanese luggers. Apparently Nakashiba left Darwin on 4/11 when "KOKOKU MARU" left that port and has since returned on some other lugger after having visited the fishing grounds off Bathurst Island. When "KOKOKU MARU" left Darwin she said she would visit Bathurst Island and would then proceed to Palau, the lugger base. The arrival of two more mother-ships seems entirely superfluous on commercial grounds especially in view of the fact that the pearl fishing season is over. Both "NEW GUINEA MARU" and "ARAFURA MARU" have operated previously in the Bathurst Island area. Six Japanese luggers in company with "KOKOKU MARU" were sighted off Bathurst Island on 8/11. It is possible that they intend evacuating Japanese residents (principally lugger crews) from Darwin and possibly Broome, but at the same time taking the advantage of observing the movements of U.S. aircraft and the volume of shipping passing through the Arafura Sea area.

5. ARCHER POINT - White Light Flashing - A bright white light was seen flashing irregularly north of Archer Point for 15 minutes from 0900Z/17/11 at a distance of approx 10 miles. The American ship "SEA WITCH" was 18 miles north of Archer Point Station at the time.

Comment - Archer Point is 10 miles from Cooktown. The light therefore appears to have come from the vicinity of the town. If the light did not

originate from "SEAWITCH" the most likely explanation is that one of the many fishing craft in the area was leaving Cooktown and burning a light which was bobbing up and down. The fact that the light was flashing irregularly discounts the likelihood of signalling. It is observed that a similar report was made from Archer Point on 20/8. In this case 2 dull white lights were seen moving northward and then disappeared and did not answer when called by flash lamp. A fishing vessel or lugger was considered to have been responsible.

N.L.O.Tulagi
2230Z/16
A.C.H.Townsville
0425Z/17

6. BOUGAINVILLE STRAIT - 2 Bright Lights - A native reports having seen two bright lights proceeding from Ouna Island to Ashapa at 1330Z/16/11. On its way the supposed ship stopped at Awa Island for 4 hours. Later it disappeared at slow speed. One of the lights sighted was a mast light, while the other was lower down. No ship is known to have been in the area. A.C.H. Townsville intend taking no action.

Comment - The places mentioned are in the southern approaches to Bougainville Strait between Bougainville and Choiseul Is. The vessel would have been proceeding north. It is possible that a local native craft was responsible.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

Most secret
sources

7. DILLI - Movement of Tenders - From most secret sources it is known that the Japanese "NABIRE MARU" is due again at Dilli on 18/11; also that "NANEI MARU" which left Dilli on 13/11 has been proceeding northward.

Comment - The movement of these two ships is clearly connected with the return flight of the Japanese Flying Boat which left Dilli on 15/11 and with future flights.

NABIRE MARU was at Dilli loading cargo shortly after the 7th Experimental Flight in September and returned again about 9/10. departing after one week. It would appear that she is to take the place at Dilli of "NANEI MARU"

EAST of Australia Station

BRC.New Hebrides
0416Z/17

8. ANEITYUM - Unidentified Ship Serial No.96 - It has now been established that the ship sighted off Aneityum at 0900Z/15/11 was the "MORINDA" and Serial No.96 is cancelled.

Randy 18/11
R. N. Campbell
Director C.O.I.C.
18/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/146

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced) 19th NOVEMBER, 1941
without permission of the D/C.O.I.C.) (Wednesday)
Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. BASS STRAIT - Mine - The 2nd Officer on the "WEAR" stated that he sighted a mine at 0500K/16/11 in position Lat. 38°27'S, Long.148°22'E but owing to weather conditions the Master was unable to verify the sighting.

Comment - This position is 6 miles north of the floating mine sighted on 10/11, which owing to unfavourable conditions was unable to be located by H.M.A.S."NARANI" by nightfall on 11/11. Presumably this is the same mine.

DS/140 : 1

2. BATHURST ISLAND - Japanese Luggers and Motherships - The air search over the Bathurst Is. pearling grounds yesterday (18/11) revealed 6 Japanese luggers, the mothership "KOKOKU MARU" and one other mothership, probably "NEW GUINEA MARU".

Comment - This search was initiated by Darwin following upon receipt of intelligence that the two motherships "NEW GUINEA MARU" and "ARAFURA MARU" were expected to join the "KOKOKU MARU" off Bathurst Island.

ACH.Darwin
0316Z/18
0322Z/18
0527Z/18

DS/145 : 4

B. ADJACENT AREAS

(1) EAST of Australia Station

3. PACIFIC OCEAN - Raider Activity - An unconfirmed report from Montreal credits the Commandant of the U.S. 15th Naval District as having announced that the Yugo-Slav Freighter "OLGA TOPIC" (4,375 tons) had been attacked and was believed sunk, probably by a raider in the Pacific.

Comment - This vessel was engaged on the New York - West Coast South American trade and her last known movements were that she departed Balboa on 7/9 for Iquique (Gulf of Peru - Chile). If the latest report is accurate it would appear likely that the vessel was attacked on a subsequent and recent voyage between Panama and Chile.

Montreal
P.W.W.S. 18/11

4. MARQUESAS - TUAMOTU IS. (Pacific Ocean) Area - Suspicious Vessels - Following the report by the French sloop "~~CHEVREUIL~~" "CHEVREUIL" of the suspicious M/V in this area a report was received originating from the Master of the S/S "PORT DUNEDIN". The sighting was of a similar vessel in the same area on the same day (30/10), and it is presumed that the one vessel was responsible for both sightings. As a result of the added details available it is considered that the British M/V "TEESBANK" (Thursday Is. - Balboa - arrived 14/11) was ~~the~~ probably the vessel sighted.

5. GILBERT IS. - Unidentified Aircraft

- a) A further report has been received that an unidentified aircraft was sighted at Butaritari in the Northern Gilberts at 2215Z/16 flying N.N.E. at 15,000 feet. It was described as a monoplane flying boat, the number of engines could not be distinguished. Graded B.2.

- b) In connection with the sighting of unidentified aircraft over various points in the Gilbert Islands between 2200Z/15

DS/26 : 14
S.O.(I) Queensland
14/11/41

DNI.Wellington
2321Z/17

WS/27: 15

DNI. Wellington
21272

and 2345Z/15, one and two reports conflicted as to the colour, one describing the aircraft as black the other greenish. No camouflage or markings were distinguishable.

Comment - From the most recent Japanese Order of Battle (26.10.41), it is known that one squadron of the Yokohama (Tomioaka) Unit (Type 97 Flying Boats) is at Wotje. If, therefore, the description of this latest sighting at Butaritari (Para. a) is correct, it is considered that the reconnaissance was carried out by a flying boat of this unit from Wotje.

It is also possible that the full reconnaissance of the Gilbert Group on the previous day was conducted by this Squadron, conceivably with a view to giving the pilots operational experience.

In view, however, of the reported height of sighting (15,000 ft.), it is not thought that the description of the aircraft over Butaritari is necessarily accurate.

C. JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

FECB. 1948(56)
1805,

6. ECONOMIC - Japanese Oil Supplies. F.E.C.B. dated 6/11/41 includes a review of Japan's economic position as at September 1941 in which the following comments concerning oil supplies are given:-

"Oil is the most important raw material in which Japan is vulnerable. Domestic production, including synthetic and shale oil does not amount to more than 1,000,000 out of 7 million tons per annum required on a full war basis.

It is estimated that stocks exist sufficient for 10 to 12 months requirement on a full war basis; but diesel and fuel oil stocks may be as low as eight months."

FECB. 1948(56)

7. POLITICAL - F.E.C.B. Summary dated 11/11/41 reports that in certain well-informed circles, the opinion is held that the Japanese are now in desperate mood and their first object of attack will be Borneo. F.E.C.B. however, is still of the opinion that Japan's first move will be to liquidate the China incident, and her preparations in French Indo-China are consistent with this view.

WS/27 : 25(B)
FECB. 1832Z/16/11

8. AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS -
a) South China - F.E.C.B. advises the following changes in the most recent Japanese Order of Battle -
(i) 12 Naval aircraft from Kanoya (Japan) to Takao (Formosa) may be type "O" Fighters;
(ii) 12 Army Light Bombers from Sanchaw Island to Canton
(iii) 12 Naval Heavy Bombers from Hainan to Hanoi.
(iv) The Naval air unit based at Thakhek is assumed to consist of 12 Light Bombers from Hainan.

Comment - This is further evidence of increased Japanese air strength (principally of operational types) in the South China - Hanoi area.

FECB. 1948(56)

- B) MANDATED ISLANDS - There are indications that about 100 Fighters are to be sent to storage depots in the Mandated Islands. Of these, it is believed that 24 are for Palau 18 for Truk, and 6 for Saipan.

Handwritten signature

R. N. Campbell
Director C.O.I.C.
19/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/147

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Submitted.

20th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Thursday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Nil

B. ADJACENT AREAS

(1) EAST of Australia Station

1. GILBERT ISLANDS - Unidentified Aircraft - In reply to C.O.I.S's request as to whether the aircraft flew over British territory or territorial waters on 16/11, D.N.I. Wellington advises that the aircraft flew directly over Government Station, Apamama, circled first the Southern then the northern end, passed over Tarawa once and Kuria once. No markings were visible through binoculars.
2. GILBERTS - PHOENIX IS. AREA - Report by "CAPILLO" of Suspicious Ship - In response to the request to Thursday Island for further particulars of this sighting from the "CAPILLO"; "It is now learned that the suspicious vessel gave no call-sign and did not attempt to identify herself beyond hoisting the "blue ensign". Her description was - 12,000 tons, cargo apparently M/V; grey hull; buff superstructure, one short and broad buff funnel amidships; miler bow; cruiser stern; 2 masts; 3 sets of samson posts (2 forward of bridge, one set aft of superstructure); apparently a new ship; flush deck; poop house surmounting one 6" and 2 smaller guns; fitted for paravanes similar to "REICHENFELS" type.

Comment - This description does not fit the "SUVA" which is the only vessel known to be in the area and from her actions and description the vessel must now be regarded as being most suspicious and possibly a raider.

(ii) NORTH of Australia Station

3. Conversion of Merchant Ships - Three Japanese merchant ships - the "ATUTASAN MARU" (8,660 tons) and 2 others - have been converted to anti-aircraft ships and were present at Shanghai on 6/11.

Comment - "ATUTASAN MARU" is known to have been stiffened for guns and is a potential raider. This intelligence merely confirms the view that many suitable merchant vessels are being or have been prepared for war.

D.N.I.
Wellington
2353Z/18

WS/27 : 14
N.O.I.C.
Thursday Is.
1035Z/18

C.O.I.S.
0858Z/18

Lawson
20/11
He

A. N. Campbell
Director C.O.I.C.
20/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO. DS/148

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of the D/C.O.I.C.)

21st NOVEMBER, 1941
(Friday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

D.N.O.
Tasmania
0800Z/20

L/L Duty Officer
Hobart 2245K/20

WS/27 : 14
WS/27 : 4

N.B.1131Z/20

A.C.H. Melbourne
1305Z/20
1330Z/20

N.I.O. Rabaul
0101Z/20/11

N.B.0645Z/20
ACH. Townsville
0502Z/20

"Uki" 0600Z/19

NOCS.0301Z/17

1. STORM BAY (Tasmania) - Unidentified Ship Serial No.97 -
A report was received from D.N.O. Tasmania that a reliable signalman at Mount Nelson Signal Station (approx 3 miles south of Hobart) sighted the smoke of a vessel due south of Storm Bay and crossing the entrance from East to West at 1730K yesterday (20/11).

The visibility was excellent and the distance of sighting estimated at about 40 miles. The vessel was hull down and the mast not visible. A further report at 1800K stated that smoke could still be seen. Graded A.1. No minesweeper or other known vessel was in the area and M.M.S. cannot identify.

Comment - Mt. Nelson is 1100 ft. above sea level which may account for the fact that neither Bruny Island nor Port War S.S. sighted the smoke.

Either the suspicious ship sighted by "CAPILLO" between the Gilbert and Phoenix Is. on 7/11 or the unidentified single-funnelled ship off Mundi Mundi on 12/11 (Serial No.94) could have reached this position, the former at 10 and the latter at 12 knots.

Naval Board appreciates that the vessel seen by "CAPILLO" may be connected with this sighting, possibly either a raider or supply ship changing station from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean.

Five Hudsons from Laverton carried out a parallel course search of the area west and south west of Tasmania this morning (21/11), the eastern aircraft being 45 miles from the coast. Visibility was bad and the result negative. H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" is proceeding to the area at 25 knots and should reach a given point at 1100K.

2. TABAR IS. - Unidentified Ship - At 0940 (local time) on 20/11 a ship was sighted in the distance east of Tabar Island steering a northerly course. The report is graded B2.

M.M.S. consider the vessel sighted was the "GLENAPP". However, in view of recent reports from the area two Catalinas are to conduct searches today east of Manus Is. and west of Kapingamarangi.

Comment - Tabar Island is the most northerly of the islands off the east coast of New Ireland. Recent reports from the area are -

- (i) Unidentified vessel off Mundi Mundi (340 miles S.E. of Tabar Is.) on 12/11;
- (ii) Aircraft over Rabaul on 14/11;
- (iii) Lights of a vessel (probably a native craft) in Bougainville Strait on 16/11.

The suspicious vessel sighted by "CAPILLO" north of the Ellice Islands on 6/11 could also have reached this area.

3. MONTAGUE ISLAND (N.S.W) - Mine - H.M.A.S. "UKI" reports having located a floating mine off Montague Island on 19/11 and having taken it on board.

Comment - It would appear that this is the mine sighted by "WAREEN" on 16/11

4. NORTHERN AUSTRALIA - Evacuation of Japanese -

RAAF N.Area
Summary 9.
Nov.1941

- (i) Censorship reveals that despite a recent increase in the prosperity of the Thursday Island fisheries, groups of Japanese have taken co-operate action to approach various authorities in Japan seeking to enlist their support to have an evacuation vessel made available.
- (ii) A cable intercepted on 18/11 from Nakashiba, President of the Japanese Society, Darwin, to an address in Tokyo (probably the code address of a shipping company) asks if the addressee would be agreeable to a request that his "schooner" should pick up Japanese at Semarang (Java) on or after 20/12 and repatriate them to Palao.

Mildistrict
Darwin
M.I.1740

Comment - It would appear that Nakashiba is organising the evacuation of Japanese residents from Northern Australia, Java and possibly other Dutch islands.

A.C.H. Darwin
0835Z/17

The word "schooner" may refer to one of the Japanese mother-ships, two of which ("KOKOKU MARU" and "NEW GUINEA MARU") were off Bathurst Island on 18/11, a third ("ARAFURA MARU") being expected in the same area in the near future.

0527Z/18
0835Z/17

The fact that evacuation from Semarang is not proposed till after 20/12 suggests that the mother-ships may first be used to evacuate Japanese from Australia.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

Nil

C. JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

5. JAPANESE MERCHANT SHIPS - Withdrawal from South America - Information graded A2 states that no more Japanese merchant ships will leave Japan for the west coast of South America. Japanese vessels in layover ports are expediting loading to clear the west coast as soon as possible. Complete abandonment of the South American trade is thus indicated.

N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa
1859Z/16

Comment - From most secret intelligence it would appear that only one Japanese merchant ship "TERUKAWA MARU" is in a South American port, all other shipping from both north and South American coasts being now homeward bound. "TERUKAWA MARU" arrived Callao from Japan on 20/10. It is observed that after the imposition of economic sanctions Japan for some time maintained considerable trade with Chile, more particularly in non-ferrous metals and in fertilisers and chemical raw materials.

F.E.C.B.
1805
1st Ed.B

6. Preparations @ C.O.I.S. Singapore states that information received during the past week is mainly confined to reports of preparations for bases and lines of communication in Southern F.I.C. being accelerated and expanded. Similar preparations in Tongking have either been completed or temporarily suspended.

C.O.I.S.
0946Z/18

There has been no considerable arrival of troops reported in Indo-China.

Japanese preparations in F.I.C. are apparently designed to cover alternative plans of attack either against China or Thailand, although it is as yet impossible to assess the relative probability.

It seems likely that the Japanese themselves are still undecided pending the outcome of the latest Washington negotiations, and anxiety is apparent in Tokio for an early and favourable outcome of these talks.

Evacuation of Japanese - See Para.4.

R. N. Campbell
fn. Director C.O.I.C.
21/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/149

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of D/C.O.I.C.) 22nd NOVEMBER, 1941
(Saturday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

ACH.Townsville
1235Z/20

1. Movements of Aircraft - One Empire F/B Moresby - Townsville via Grafton Passage.
Nil sightings.

DS/148 : 2
ACH.Townsville
0523Z/21
0810Z/21

2. TABAR ISLAND - Unidentified Ship - The two searches conducted yesterday by Catalinas from Kavieng (a) East of Manus Is. and (b) West of Kapingamarangi in connection with this sighting both proved negative.

ACH.Darwin
0435Z/21
DS/146 : 2
ACH.Darwin
0905Z/21

3. ~~XXXX~~ BATHURST IS. PEARLING GROUNDS - Japanese Luggers and Motherships - In an air search carried out by Darwin on 21/11, the mother ships "KOKOKU MARU" and "NEW GUINEA MARU" and 2 Japanese luggers were sighted and identified on the Bathurst Is. pearling grounds. The four Japanese luggers previously seen in this area on 18/11 were not located. In order to locate the latter and also the mothership "ARAFURA MARU" A.C.H. Darwin proposes to make a further search today (22/11) in the vicinity of Bathurst Is.

DS/145 : 4

Comment - It will be recalled that the "ARAFURA MARU" was, with the "NEW GUINEA MARU" expected to join the "KOKOKU MARU" off Bathurst Is.

DNI.Melbourne
1251Z/21

- b) Approximately 25 luggers are now to sail from Palao for North Australian waters. They will work in three groups in Bathurst Is., Arnhem Land and Thursday Is. areas and will return about 20/12 via Aru Island, arriving at Palao about March. Classification B2.

DS/148 : 4

Comment - As these operations are completely out of season for pearling and in view of recent reports of Japanese residents on Thursday Is. seeking support from Japan to arrange evacuation and also of the intercepted cable of 18/11 from the President of the Japanese Society in Darwin, requesting a Tokyo addressee to use his "schooner" for picking up Japanese at Samarang on or after 20/12, the purpose of these luggers appears to be evacuation of Japanese nationals.

DNO.Vic.
0735Z/21

4. TASMAN SEA - Mine - The Master of the "IRON KING" reports having ~~sighted~~ sunk a mine approx 75 miles south east of Gabo Island.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

C in C N.E.I.
0345Z/20

5. WAIKELO (N.E.I) - Unidentified Ship - A fully lighted unknown ship was sighted eastbound near Waikelo (N.W. Soemba) at 1145 Z/18/11. As the ship passed Ilis Point all lights were extinguished. The sighting remains unidentified.

Comment - ~~In view of the late receipt of the report no action is feasible.~~ The vessel could now be well on to the Australia Station.

EAST of Australia Station

6. GILBERTS - PHOENIX IS. AREA - Report by "CAPILLO" of Suspicious Ship - Further to the report of "CAPILLO" (U.S.) sighting a suspicious ship on 6/11 between the

COIS.0417/21
WS/26 :
WS/27 : -

DS/147 : 2

Gilbert and Phoenix Groups, C.O.I.S. suggests that if the bow description already given is correct the ship sighted was probably the German "FREIENFELS" (7,500 tons with a maierform bow) or a new sister ship; that otherwise she may be Raider "C" (GOLDENFELS - No.16 - 8,000 - 9,000 tons with a raked bow); and states that she is not considered Japanese.

Comment - This supports the comment recently made as to the possibility of this vessel being a raider. It will be recalled that this sighting was suggested as ^{possibly} being the same vessel responsible for the report of Storm Bay of 20/11, en route to the Indian Ocean.

C. JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

7. WARSHIPS -

COIS.0751Z/20

- a) The 7th Cruiser Squadron - "MOGAMI" "MUMAN O" "SUZUYA" and "MIKUMA" (8,500 tons, 15 - 16.1" guns, 33 knots) - is believed to be at Cap Saint Jacques.

Comment - This Cape is off Saigon, where C.O.I.S. originally thought the squadron was going.

do.

- b) The battleship "HYUGA" (1918, 30,000 tons, 23 knots, 12 - 14.2" guns) is in the vicinity of Naha (Liu Kiu Is.)

Comment - This position is approx midway between Formosa and South Japan, east of the northern end of the former.

do.

- c) The 4th Aircraft Squadron is in the vicinity of Jaluit.

Comment - The 4th Aircraft Carrier Squadron is the aircraft Squadron attached to the 4th Fleet (Mandates) and is composed of the S/P Carrier "KAMOI" (17,000 tons, 9 aircraft) and a converted "MARU". The "KAMOI" was previously reported in the Marshalls area 7/10.

Most secret
sources

8. SUBMARINE ACTIVITY - The following instances are given indicating Japanese submarine activity

COIC.0501Z/20

- (a) Three submarines were reported in the Pearl River Delta (Canton) on 9/10 (ungraded & unconfirmed);
- (b) A ship, probably the submarine Depot ship "KARASAKI" was sighted approx 200 miles east of Saigon on 21/10.

Comment - The "KARASAKI" (9,570 tons) is the depot ship of the 10th Submarine Squadron consisting of submarines I.53 - 58 inclusive (1925-28; 1635, -2,100 tons; 19 knots, reported cruising radius of 16,000 miles) and 2 other not identified. It is not known what fleet the 10th submarine Squadron is attached to.

- c) An object, apparently a submarine was sighted on a westerly course off shore from the west coast of Burma on 14/11.
- d) It is reported (ungraded) that submarines I.31, I.32 and I.33 (all laid down 1939: ?1500 tons, ? 17 knots; 2-5.5" guns, 6-21" torpedo tubes) arrived Takas (probably corrupt for Takao in Formosa) on 23/10 and left after refuelling.

Comment - It is significant to note that practically all these reports cover large ocean going submarines with a long cruising range, suggesting an intensification of reconnaissance by Japanese submarines in the South China Sea area.

Handwritten signature 22/10

C.O.I.C. DAIEY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.DS/150

C.O.I.C.

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26th NOVEMBER 1941
(Wednesday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. SARANG (NEW GUINEA) - Unidentified Aircraft - A native police coast watcher has reported having heard an aircraft at 1330Z/24, he stated that it was to seaward proceeding to the N.W. This report has been graded D.4. No service or civil aircraft are known to have been in the vicinity at the time of the report.

Comment - Sarang Harbour is situated 30 miles N.W. of Madang and 20 miles N.W. of Alexishafen where a large German Mission is established. As this aircraft was heard and not seen the grading of the report is low and in view of the time it would seem unlikely that a Japanese aircraft was responsible.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

2. FRENCH INDO CHINA - Vichy French Ships - The Vichy French ship "PIERRE L.D" (5,580 tons, 1936, 14 knots) arrived at Saigon on 24/11.

Comment - She was reported to have left Haiphong a.m. 22/11 for Saigon and is suspected of being about to sail for Casablanca probably via Cape Horn with a cargo of rubber.

3. SAIGON AREA - Japanese Warships - It ~~may~~ was reported from Saigon on 21/11 that one cruiser presumed to be "KASII" was present and that no cruisers were present at Cap St. Jacques.

Comment - The "KASII" which has been acting as flagship in Indo-China was last reported off the Indoe China coast with the mining sloop "SIMUSU" on 7/11 and 8/11. On 20/11 the 7th Cruiser Squadron (4 "MOGAMI'S") which had left Japan by 13/11 was located off Cap St. Jacques (near Saigon). It would appear either that the first report was inaccurate or that the squadron departed Cap St. Jacques on 20th or 21st.

4. YOKOHAMA - Identification of German Merchant Ship - The new Glen line type ship which was at Yokohama on 16/8, has been identified as the German cargo and passenger M/V "OSORNO" (6,951 tons, 1938). Her name and port registry on the stern are painted over. Her forward boat davits from both sides have been removed. She has just been docked for repairs which are not yet complete. Her deck space is being covered with temporary wooden shelters which are believed to be additional passenger accommodation.

Comment - "OSORNO" was last reported departing Talcahuano South America on 2nd April. In view of the recent F.E.C.B. report of the German Consul General Kobe instructing all Germans who were able to do so to return to Germany and that a German ship was to leave Yokohama later this month and one ship per month thereafter it is quite possible that the "OSORNO" may be used for this purpose.

N.O.I.C.
Rabaul
0145Z/25

C.O.I.S.
1332Z/24

0237Z/24

WS/28 : 22(b)

WS/28 : 22(a)

C.O.I.S.
0457Z/24

FECEB.1948(56)

*R. V. Campbell
for D. C.O.I.C.*

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O. [redacted]

SERIAL NO.DS/151

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without permission of D/C.O.I.C.)

27th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Thursday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. NORTHERN AREA - QQQQ Heard - The following was heard by Northern Area signals on approximately 10260 kilocycles at 1309 and 1310Z/26 "preliminary VE barred" followed by 7 Q's. At 1327Z/26 the same station made her preliminary call sign followed by 4 Q's and a long dash. No call-signs were used; the signal had a rough note and broad and was received at good strength.

Airintel
N.Area
1355Z/26

Comment - This is a high frequency not normally used by ships and it is considered that some Japanese Station was probably responsible.

A/D.S.C.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

(i) EAST of Australia Station

2. S.S.E. of FIJI - Distress Message from "MAPIA" - The Dutch ship "MAPIA" (9,389 tons) sent distress messages in positions - 24° 40' S, 172° 02' E at 2320Z/25
24° 47' S, 171° 52' E at 2350Z/25
24° 56' S, 171° 40' E at 0040Z/26
and subsequently cancelled them, at first in plain language but finally correct cancellation procedure was followed. It was revealed that "MIRRABOOKA" was the vessel sighted.
- NZNB.0332Z/26
ARO.Noumea
0100Z/26
Brit.Con.Noumea
0230Z/26
NZNB.0332Z/26
Brit.Con.Noumea
0230Z/26
Sydney Radio
1159K/26
NZNB.1628Z/26

Comment - The position from which "MAPIA" first cancelled is 430 miles S.S.E. of Fiji. "MAPIA" was eastbound but when she sighted "MIRRABOOKA" (westbound) she appears to have turned about on her course and signalled distress messages.

(ii) NORTH of Australia Station

3. SAIGON - Vichy French Ship - Admiralty state that the Vichy French "PIERRE L.D" is expected to sail from Saigon for Europe or North Africa between 25 and 27 November.
- Admty.2305A/25

DS/150 : 2

Comment - "PIERRE L.D" left Haiphong 22/11, arriving Saigon 24/11. C in C China has made arrangements to endeavour to intercept the vessel which is expected to carry a cargo of rubber to Europe.

4. KOBE - German Ships - Admiralty state that one German ship at Kobe is believed to be preparing to leave for Europe about 1/12. It is believed that she will carry rubber and German nationals. The Germans have been reported to be planning to send a ship to Europe.
- Admty.2305A/25

Comment - In view of the preparations being made on the German passenger liner "OSORNO" at Yokohama reported in yesterday's summary, it would appear likely that this is the vessel referred to. She is a modern passenger cargo motorship built 1938, 7,000 tons, service speed 15 knots.

C.O.I.S.0457Z/24

5. YOKOHAMA - Departure Italian "FUSIJAMA" - The Italian ship "FUSIJAMA" departed Yokohama Nov. 24th, deeply laden.
- C.O.I.S.0803Z/26

Comment - This is the 3rd Italian ship to depart from Far Eastern ports ~~xxx~~ this month. The other two being -

- 2 -

6/11 "CORTELLAZZO" (5,300 tons, 1931) departed
Kobe;
19/11 "TOMISLAV" (5,400 tons, 1928) departed
Shanghai (believed under
Italian flag).

It is possible they are trading locally under Japanese charter but in view of the serious shortage of Axis shipping in Europe and their known need of rubber supplies, it is also quite possible these vessels are endeavouring to run the blockade probably via Cape Horn with cargoes of rubber ex Japan.

R. H. Campbell
Director C.O.I.C.
27/11/41

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/152

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of the D/C.O.I.C.)

29th NOVEMBER, 1941
(Saturday)

Submitted.

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Airintel
Richmond
0755Z/28

1. WILLIAMSTOWN (30 miles N.E. of Newcastle N.S.W) - Unidentified Aircraft - A woman reported seeing an aircraft at 1300K/28/11 flying east to seaward at a very high altitude. No Service or civil aircraft are known to have been in the area. The report is graded E.5.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

DNI.Wellington 2.
2247Z/26/11

2. SAMOA - ELLICE IS. AREA - Unidentified 3 Mast Vessel - An H.M. Auxiliary vessel sighted a large unidentified ship between rain squalls in position 10°34'S, 177°19'W steering course 270°. Description 3 masts, funnel aft, flush deck apparently a tanker.

Comment - This position is approx 330 miles N.W. of Samoa and the course is westward. This is the third report of a 3 masted vessel possibly a tanker being sighted from this area, the other two being:

- (a) 1740Z/9th Nov. - Unidentified vessel probably tanker sighted off Niuatobutabu, 3 old type masts of equal height, single funnel, bridge and upper work all aft. Graded B.2
- (b) ~~11~~ 1311Z/12th Nov. - 3 masted vessel, no funnel proceeding north. Graded C.2. *Sighted off Butaritari (Gilberts)*

As a vessel would have needed to average over 19 knots to be in both positions it would seem unlikely that the same vessel was responsible unless the time and date of sightings are inaccurate. However, this latest sighting could well be the same vessel as reported in either of the above reports and in view of another suspicious vessel described as a "cruiser" being reported off Niuatobatabu on the 10th (the day after sighting (a)) and the suspicious vessel possibly a raider reported by "CAPILLO" in the Gilberts - Phoenix area on 6/11, it is suggested these sightings are possibly from a raider and supply ship (3 masted tanker) that have been operating in the Fiji-Samoa-Gilbert Is. area.

(11) NORTH of Australia Station

A.I.Darwin
0125Z/28

3. PORTUGUESE TIMOR - Palau - Dilli Flight - The Japanese F/B arrived at Dilli on 25/11 from Palau and left 27/11. No Japanese ships were present at Dilli on 28/11.

WS/28 : 20(e)

Comment - This is the flight which was expected to take place at this time. The "ASAHI MARU" which has figured as a tender in connection with previous flights again appears to be taking some part, being located just north of Serang on 25/11.

Most Secret sources.

do.

4. JAPANESE MANDATED IS. - Traffic with Japan - One auxiliary vessel which left Truk on 1/11 and was expected to arrive at Yokosuka about 7/11, was carrying - apart from 94 passengers - military stores, 1000 empty tins and drums

and three torpedoes. On 24/11 she was back in the Mariannes area.

Comment - The mention of empty drums and tins suggests the transportation of fuel supplies to the Mandates.

5. SOUTH CHINA, FORMOSA, HAINAN - Japanese Fleet Movements -
Third Fleet units are believed to be moving in the direction of Takao (Formosa) and Bako (Pescadores).
(a) It appears that the Seventh Cruiser Division and the 3rd Destroyer Squadron are in advance unit and may be en route for South China;
(b) The Combined Air Force has assembled in Takao and portion of it seems already to have moved on to Hainan Island (See next Para.).
(c) It seems that the Second Base Force is transporting Air Force equipment to Formosa.
(d) The South China Fleet, the French Indo-China Force, and the Naval Stations at Sama (Hainan), Bako (Pescadores) and Takao (Formosa) have all been active in connection with the above movements.

Comment - These movements are consistent with an impending move against Southern China or Thailand. The Third Fleet and Seventh Cruiser Squadron are both known to have been in the South China area.

6. INDO-CHINA - Japanese Preparations Towards War
(a) Six aerodromes in South F.I.C. Are reported ready for use;
(b) There has been a noticeable movement of aircraft to F.I.C. and Hainan, the strength at present being approx 200 in each place.
(c) The Japanese have requested the use of four additional landing grounds in North F.I.C. with permission to effect improvements;
(d) There has been abnormal transport activity at Saigon, and, it seems, also at Haiphong.
In addition it is estimated that 10,000 men, some in tropical kit, have been withdrawn from Central China during the week, but there is no indication as to their destination. Withdrawals of Military Landing Craft from Central China since 1/10 now total 330.
It is suggested by C.O.I.S. that the arrival of aircraft indicates the near-completion or preparations for operations based on Indo-China should Japanese policy so require.

Most secret
sources

C/S Singapore
1007Z/25

Howard
29/11

Director C.O.I.C.
29/11/41

C.O.I.C.
E.A.S.

C.O.I.C. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO. DS/153

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of the D/C.O.I.C.)

30th NOVEMBER, 1941.
(Sunday)

Submitted.

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

C.W.R.
07122/29.

- CORAL SEA - Possible D/F Fix of Enemy Mobile Unit - D/F bearings indicated the presence of a German mobile unit in position 15°N. 30°W. or 15°S. 150°E. at 2000Z/28/11. The Atlantic position is considered the more probable of the two. Comment - Position 15°S. 150°E. is approximately 300 miles N.E. of Townsville. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~. The Atlantic position is in an area much frequented by enemy raiders but the frequency used was one usually used by enemy raiders when further away from home waters. The last D/F of an enemy unit in the Pacific was on 25/10 in the area 850 miles East of Wellington, although another on 3/11 may have come from the Ellice Is. area. If there was a unit off Townsville on 28/11 it could not also have been responsible for the reported sightings in the Gilbert Islands on 26/11 and 27/11 recorded below, which in any case are considered more likely to be Japanese. On the other hand, the vessel sighted by the "CAPILLO" on 6/11 or the unidentified vessel of Mundi Mundi on 12/11 (both very suspicious ^{and possibly a raider}) could clearly have been in the area. At 15 knots the tanker sighted on 23/11 N.W. of Samoa could also have reached the area, although it is unlikely that a supply ship would be brought so close to our air operational bases. It is noted that the position lies between the two main shipping lanes from Thursday Island and from the East coast of Australia.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

EAST of Australia Station

- GILBERT ISLANDS - Unidentified Ship Sightings - A further series of unidentified sightings is reported from the Gilberts:-
 - At 0715 Z/26/11 from Little Makin a flashing light was seen for two minutes to North Eastward. Graded B.3.
 - At 2000Z/26 a vessel stopped outside Maiana Reef and departed to Eastward after 2½ hours. Description - 2 masts, one funnel amidships, well decks, straight stem, cruiser stern, coal burner. Graded C.3.
 - At 0300Z/27 from Abaiang the bow only of a vessel was seen proceeding N.E.; the remainder was obscured by smoke. Graded C.3.

WS/27 Para.13

Comment - A similar series of unidentified ship sightings was reported by R.Z. between 20/10 and 12/11. It was then suggested that the vessels were Japanese craft operating from the Marshalls and probably carrying out a naval reconnaissance of the area. These sightings corresponded with a number of a/c sightings in the Gilberts.

WS/27 Para.15

The these sightings reported above could all refer to the same ship which, as suggested by the time of sightings, has probably proceeded South from the Marshalls, passed Makin Is. to Maiana, and has then returned North via Abaiang. It is considered likely that the vessel is Japanese and that it is further evidence of Japanese activity in this area.

WEST of Australia Station.

- INDIAN OCEAN - Halder Activity - The Greek cargo vessel "MARY LIVANOS" (4771 G.T.; 1938) which was due Lourenco Marques on 25/11 made a Q distress message at 1230/22 when South of Madagascar. At 2013/22 she made an R distress message. Both messages were cancelled but it is not yet known whether the cancellation was genuine

Admty.2229A/25

J. W. Campbell Jr. for Director C.O.I.C. 30/11/41

CWC

C.W.R. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.W.R.

SERIAL NO.DS/154

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of C.W.R./I.C.I.C.)
Submitted. 2nd DECEMBER, 1941
(Tuesday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

A.R.O.Noumea
0010Z/1/12

- 1. PAGOUMENE (NEW CALEDONIA) - Unidentified Ship - It has been reported by letter that on 21/11 between 0500 and 0600Z a small light-coloured craft which appeared to be very fast was sighted patrolling up and down outside the reef opposite Pagoumene Bay.

Comment - Pagoumene is at the north west end of New Caledonia. It is not possible, in view of the lapse of time, the absence of grading and the lack of further details, to assess the report with any assured accuracy. However, if the sighting is not a local craft it is possible it is a fast Japanese fishing craft carrying out a reconnaissance of the area which is the important nickel and chrome mining district of New Caledonia. There have been other sightings of this type from the islands in the past and it is known that the Japanese fishing craft usually frequent the D'Entrecasteux Reef area. The Japanese also have a concession in the Belek Is. (50 miles N.W. of Pagoumene). This sighting together with the many recent ship and aircraft sightings from the Gilberts ~~and~~ *in the Samoa-Fiji area* ~~of the same type~~ may indicate a co-ordinated southward reconnaissance by the Japanese.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

(i) NORTH of Australia Station

A.L.O.Bandoeng
1130Z/1/12

- 2. N.E.I. - Army Air Force - It is reported from Bandoeng that mobilisation has been ordered in the N.E.I. for the Army Air Force.

Comment - This is N.E.I.'s special reaction to Japan's recent concentration of aircraft and naval units in F.I.C. and Southern China areas and to the tense general situation in the Far East.

(ii) EAST of Australia Station

S.O.(I)
Jamaica
1515R/30/11

- 3. PACIFIC OCEAN - Overdue Shipping - The Norwegian M/V "~~THALATTA~~" (5,671 tons, 1922) due Balboa on 26/11 from Thursday Is. was reported overdue on 30/11.

Comment - As this vessel called at Cairns after leaving Thursday Is. and M.M.S. consider she was not due Balboa until 28/11, it is too early to regard her delay as significant.

(iii) WEST of Australia Station

S.O.(I)
Capetown
1112B/29/11

- 4. DIEGO SUAREZ - Departure of German Ships - It is reported (Graded A3) that a German ship, thought by S.O.(I) Capetown to refer to the cargo vessel "WARTENFELS" (1921; 6,181 tons) which was previously incorrectly reported as forming part of the "Bellringer" convoy, has sailed from Diego Suarez for an unknown destination. No date is given.

Comment - "Bellringer" convoy probably refers to the recent Vichy French convoy which departed Madagascar for Europe and was intercepted off the South African

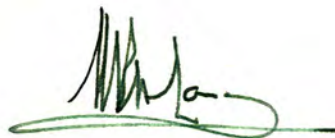
coast by H.M. Ships.

"WARTENFELS" is one of the German ships that escaped from Massawa in March and was reported to have arrived Diego Suarez on 28/3/41.

It would appear that this unit either intends operating as a raider supply ship or to endeavour to run the blockade to Europe.

Launer

2/12
1



Director of Intelligence (C.W.R.)
2/12/41

C.W.R. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.O.I.C.

SERIAL NO.DS/155

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Submitted.

3rd DECEMBER, 1941
(Wednesday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

Papua

1. KEVOTO (N.E.Coast of ~~New Guinea~~) - Possible Cruiser or Warship - A native reports on 30th November having seen a large vessel thought to be a cruiser, approaching Kevoto village from the south east. When some distance from the shore the vessel turned and disappeared in a north east direction over the horizon. No merchant or other ship is known to have been in the area.

Comment - Kevoto is on the north coast of ~~New Guinea~~ Papua about 150 miles from its easternmost extremity and only approx 90 miles directly overland from Port Moresby. If this report is correct 2 possible explanations may be given -

- (i) A Japanese naval unit carrying out a reconnaissance similar to that in the Gilberts and Samoa-Fiji area and possibly off New Caledonia. In this connection a vessel described as a cruiser was sighted off Niuatobutabu (200 miles north of Tonga) on 10/11. There are at least four cruisers and 2 destroyer flotillas based in the Mandates (4th Fleet) and most of this fleet was centred at Truk on 8/12.
- (ii) An Enemy Raider - It seems unlikely that a raider would run inshore in an area so unfrequented by shipping and in such close proximity to the A.O.B. at Port Moresby. However, there have been several suspicious sightings from the New Guinea-Solomons area since the Mundi Mundi ship and aircraft sighting on 11/11 (considered a likely raider sighting) which may have been either German or Japanese.
- 14/11 - A/C south of Rabaul
 - 16/11-21/11 - lights of a vessel in Bougainville area;
 - 24/11 - aircraft heard over Serang
 - 29/11 - Possible D/F fix of ~~enemy~~ ^{GERMAN} unit in Coral Sea.

2. SOUTH OF FREMANTLE (W.A) - Suspicious Light Sighting - The navigation officer of the auxiliary vessel "COOLEBAR" reports sighting at 3,000 feet, a white navigation light of an aircraft in position 33°S, 115°E. The sighting was observed through glasses from the bridge at 1425Z/1/12 and again at 1450Z/1 for a period of ten minutes. No sound of an aircraft was heard on account of the "COOLEBAR's" engines. A strong wind was blowing and there were scudding clouds at the time of sighting. ~~The~~ report is graded C.4 and S.W.A.C.H. propose taking no action.

Comment - The position mentioned is approximately 30 miles off Cape Bouvard which is 50 miles south of Fremantle. The fact of the report of scudding clouds and strong wind makes the sighting of a star a very likely explanation, but in view of the sighting of smoke from a westbound unidentified vessel off Storm Bay on 20/11 the possibility of a raider or supply ship seeking rendezvous with the raider "KORMORAN" cannot be overlooked.

N.O.I.C.
Pt.Moresby
0629Z/2

S.O.(I)
Wellington
0354Z/12/11

Airintel
W.Area
0740Z/2
S.W.A.C.H.
0943Z/2

3. BATHURST IS. & THURSDAY IS. - Japanese Luggers

DNO. N.T.
2345Z/1/12
ASH. Darwin
0810Z/2/12
N.O.I.C.
Thursday Is.
0043Z/2/12

- (i) "KOTAHIRA MARU" (Lugger) departed Darwin for the pearling grounds at 0845Z/1/12.
- (ii) Reconnaissance aircraft from Darwin sighted 4 luggers south of Bathurst Island on 2/12.
- (iii) A Japanese diver who previously reported a dozen sampans at Cook Shoal (near Thursday Island) now says that they will remain in the vicinity of Cook Shoal till January regardless of the N.W. monsoons now in season. Local rumour further states that some sampans are fitted with W/T and that local Thursday Island Japanese will desert to them.

Comment - (i) Arrival of "KOTAHIRA MARU" at Darwin was not reported. She appears to have proceeded to the Bathurst Is. area.

(ii) On 21/11 two luggers and 2 motherships were sighted off Bathurst Island. In addition "KOTOTIURA MARU" was at Darwin and 3 luggers were thought to be off Wessel Island. It is possible that the motherships have moved round to the Wessel Is. or even the Thursday Is. fields.

(iii) It is known that many Japanese fishing craft carry powerful W/T equipment and are used as reporting craft for the Japanese Navy. The location of such vessels at present in the focal Thursday Is. area would give them an excellent opportunity to obtain & report on the volume and type of traffic passing through Torres Strait. It would appear likely that the sampans reported off Thursday Is. are some of the "25 luggers" reported last month as due to sail from Palau for Northern Australian waters, and as due to leave Australian waters about 20/12 for Palau via the Aru Islands. Evacuation of Japanese residents from Northern Australian waters is considered to be one likely reason for these out of season visits and the reference to local Thursday Is. Japanese possibly deserting to them lends support to this view.

C. JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

Most secret sources

- 4. Changes of Japanese Naval Call-Signs - All Japanese naval call-signs were changed on 1st November and some call signs (both ship and shore stations) were ~~xxxx~~ changed again on 1st December. This second change is a most unusual procedure as normally the interval between changes is 6 months.

Comment - As changes in call-signs are made to conceal identity and as only one month has elapsed since the last change instead of the ~~xxxx~~ normal six months, it can be assumed that this change is made in preparation for an operation.

Admiralty War Advices
1/12/41

- 5. INDO-CHINA - Troop Reinforcements - Further reinforcements to Japanese troops in northern Indo-China have been reported. Japanese troops in Southern Indo-China are now estimated to total 60,000.

Most secret sources

- 6. SAIPAN - Call by "HEIYO MARU" - The Japanese passenger liner "HEIYO MARU" (10,000 tons - ex South American trade) which previously took troops or labourers to the Marshalls and returned to Japan has recently visited Saipan (26/11) and is returning to Japan.

Comment - This vessel is obviously operating as a transport

between Japan and the Mandates.

C in C China
0345Z/2/12

- 7, FAR EASTERN WATERS - Withdrawal of British and Allied Shipping - The following orders have been given for British and Allied ships under British control on the China Station-
- (a) The withdrawal of all ships north of Hong Kong to be expedited;
 - (b) Ships over 4,000 tons are to leave Hong Kong and proceed southward;
 - (c) No ships are to leave Singapore to the north eastward without special permission, except to ports in Malaya or Borneo. In addition C in C N.E.I. has instructed that no Dutch ship is to sail northward from the N.E.I. without his permission.

WS/12 : 10(b)

Comment - Since 15/7 British and British controlled ships of over 4,000 tons have not been allowed north of Hong Kong and in general have been instructed to avoid Japanese controlled waters.

Director of Intelligence (C.W.R)
3/12/41

(M) *Raund*
(M) *Byhall*
(A) *J. V. Campbell*

C.W.R. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.W.R.

SERIAL NO.DS/156

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced
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Submitted.

4th DECEMBER, 1941
(Thursday)

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. CAPE LISBURN (NEW HEBRIDES) Unidentified Aircraft - A coast watcher at Cape Lisburn has reported having sighted an aircraft at 0200Z/24/11, the course is not stated, but it is said to have disappeared inland. The aircraft is described as having an open cockpit with a dark coloured fuselage unlike a Catalina or Empire Boat. This report has been graded D4. A request has been made for further information. No service aircraft are known to have been in the area. (S.I.O. Townsville ^{now} grades the report C2. No action is being taken owing to lapse of time.)

Comment - Cape Lisburn is situated on the S.W. Coast of Esperitu Santo the largest island in the New Hebrides Group. In view of the low grading and in the absence of further information it is difficult to assess this report. It has been reported that the Arade raider reconnaissance aircraft are painted blue for sea ~~REX~~ camouflage.

The small fast vessel sighted off Pagoumene (North West coast of New Caledonia) on 21/11 and the native report of a large unidentified vessel thought to be a "cruiser" off Kevote (N.E. coast of Papua) on 30/11 could both be linked with this sighting as to time. A.C.H. Townsville has been requested for further details and remarks.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

Nil.

C. JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

2. GENERAL & POLITICAL - In spite of an apparent deadlock the Japanese Cabinet decided on Dec. 1st to continue the Washington conversations.
3. INDO-CHINA & SOUTH CHINA - Japanese preparations continue

- (a) NAVY - The majority of the 2nd Fleet comprising 12 modern cruiser and 28 destroyers are now in the Formosa - South China area.

9 submarines were sighted approximately 100 miles north of Camranh Bay and 3 submarines of the I-61 class were sighted approx 60 miles south of Camranh Bay on 2/12/41 by U.S. reconnaissance aircraft. The course in both cases was south.

Comment - It has already been reported that the above units of the 2nd Fleet together with the 3rd Fleet and normal South China Fleet make a total force in South China - Formosa waters of

- 8 8" gun Cruisers
- 11 6" gun Cruisers
- 4 Aircraft Carriers
- 2 Seaplane Carriers
- 12? Destroyer Flotillas
- 6 Submarine Flotillas

Numerous auxiliary craft of Base Defence Forces including Mining Vessels, Minsweeping Flotillas and submarine chaser flotillas.

A.R.O.
Vila
0693Z/2/12

S.I.O. Townsville
0211Z/3

COIS.0951Z/2

The 5th Submarine Squadron (details not available) was reported in this area last month in addition to the submarine units of the 3rd Fleet (~~3~~ ⁴ - 4 flotillas - ~~3~~ ⁴ minelaying). The 3 submarines of the I-61 class form the 295th Flotilla which presumably forms part of the 5th submarine Squadron. They are of 1635 tons, standard displacement, completed 1929-30, range 8,700 miles at 12 knots, armament 1-4.7" and 6-21" torpedo tubes.

- 4. ARMY - It is assumed that the minimum number of troops at present in Indo-China comprised
 - North Indo-China - 2 possibly 3 divisions
 - South Indo-China - 2 divisions & a mechanised formation

- 5. AIR FORCE - Air craft in French Indo-China are approx 120 in the North, and 180 including 90 Heavy Bombers in the South.

Comment - It was previously reported that approx 200 ~~aircraft~~ aircraft were in F.I.C. and 200 in Hainan.

- 5. MANDATED IS. (Fourth Fleet) - The U.S. Naval Intelligence estimates Japanese Naval forces at present in the Marshalls and Carolines Is. as follows -

- 4 Light Cruisers
- 2 Aircraft Carriers
- 1 Seaplane Tender
- 1 Converted Seaplane Tender
- 8 Destroyers
- 26 Submarines
- 1 Submarine Tender

Comment - This report indicates an increase of 2 aircraft carriers and 6 submarine flotillas in excess of the normal 4th Fleet establishment. No confirmation of this increase has yet been received from C.O.I.S. P/S. FECS. HAVE NOW ADVISED THAT THE NEWLY FORMED 4th SQUADRON COMPRISING THE NEW A/C CARRIERS "ZUIKAKU" & "SYOKAKU" WERE AT JALUIT (MARSHALLS) ON 25/11.

P/S - EAST of Australia Station

- 6. XXXXX BALBOA - Overdue Ship - "THALATTA" (Norwegian M/V) reported overdue Balboa 26/11 from Thursday Is. arrived 1/12

Most secret sources

FECS . 1948 (58)

DS/154 : 3
S.O.I. Jamel ca
2054R/1/12

Director of Intelligence (C.W.R)
4/12/41

Planner (N.)
W. Hall, Capt. M.
P. H. Campbell Jr. 17.

F.E.C.B.
1948(58)
25/11/41

P.S/
MANDATED IS. - Fourth Fleet Reinforcements - The latest F.E.C.B. Summary indicates that Japanese aircraft carriers have been reorganised and that the newly formed Fourth Squadron comprising the newest carriers "ZUIKAKU" and "SYOKAKU" (15,000 tons - 48 aircraft) was at Jaluit on 25/11. Subsequent intelligence showed that this squadron was in the Truk area on 1/12.

Comment - This would appear to account for the ^{additional} two aircraft carriers reported by U.S. Naval Intelligence . It is significant to note that these two latest aircraft carriers have been sent to the Southern Mandates area where we have already had indications of increased air strength.

C.W.R. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.W.R.

SERIAL NO.DS/157

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of C.W.R.) 5th DECEMBER, 1941
(Friday)

Submitted:

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

1. Movements of Aircraft

A.C.H. Townsville
1410Z/3, 1428Z/3
2215Z/3, 0230Z/4
0428Z/4, 0805Z/4

(i) One Catalina Brisbane - Vila
(ii) One Catalina Townsville - Moresby. Nil sightings.
(iii) One Catalina Rabaul - Rathmines via Townsville.
(iv) One Empire F/B Tulagi - Darwin via Moresby
(v) Two Empire F/B Moresby - Darwin

DS/155 : 1
ACH. Townsville
0439Z/4

2. KEVOTO (N.E.Coast of Papua) - Possible Cruiser or Warship -
Townsville reports that this sighting has been graded D5 and that no action is intended.

Local R.O.
Noumea
0659Z/4

3. NEW CALEDONIA - Unidentified Aircraft - The local R.O. at Noumea reports that an aircraft flew over Pume (N.W. New Caledonia) at 0515Z/4/12 in a N.W.-S.E. direction.

Comment - It is considered that the aircraft was a Catalina on a flight from Brisbane to Vila and confirmation is being sought.

4. RAIDER "KORMORAN" (G) No.41 ex "STEIERMARK" - In reporting on the activities of this raider Admiralty refer to a rendezvous with the supply ship "NORDMARK" in the Atlantic before attacking the "Craftsman" on 9th May and later a rendezvous with Raider (C) No.16 and the supply ship "ALSTERUFER" (2729 tons) about May 19th in the South Atlantic. It has now been ascertained from the interrogation of survivors that the raider made another rendezvous with the "ALSTERUFER" in the Indian Ocean about 8 weeks before the action with H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" when 200 British prisoners and bags of mail were transferred and the "ALSTERUFER" sailed for Germany. Some prisoners claim the "ALSTERUFER" came from Japan and this is supported by the report that Japanese milkbottles were found in the lifeboats.

Comment - "ALSTERUFER" and "ALSTERTOR" were two sister supply ships which were to operate as supply ships for the "BISMARCK" and were considered to have left Germany at approx that time. The "ALSTERTOR" was intercepted and scuttled 220 miles south west of Cape Kallundborg on June 23rd. The "ALSTERUFER" was not reported on again until the mention of the rendezvous with No.16 and "KORMORAN" in South Atlantic on May 19. There has been no other intelligence to confirm that this vessel has visited Japan although she may have been the unidentified 3,000 ton vessel which departed Yokohama on 5th July and which therefore could fit in as regards time but which was described as a tanker type. ("ALSTERUFER" is not tanker type but ~~max~~ the tonnage is approximately correct.) Alternatively the "ALSTERUFER" may have provisioned from
(a) A Japanese ship at sea;
(b) In the Japanese Mandates.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

(1) NORTH of Australia Station

5. VICHY FRENCH WARSHIPS - F.E.C.B. states that the "AMIRAL

F.E.C.B.
1948(58)

CHARNER" is expected to leave Saigon on 5th December. No reason nor destination is given.

The submarine "PEGASE" is in dock at Saigon and Censorship indicates that the submarine "MONGE" may be at Haiphong.

Comment - No word has been heard of "MONGE" since she escorted a convoy to Madagascar from Saigon in September. She was not seen with the return convoy to Saigon in October, and this is the first indication that she may have returned to Indo-China.

(ii) WEST of Australia Station

Admty.1925A/2

- 6. ARABIAN SEA - Raider Activity - An unknown ship made a Q distress message west of Karachi about 0850Z/28/11, but no ship is yet known overdue. Admiralty consider that there is possibly one raider still operating in the Indian Ocean.

Comment - From west of Karachi on 28/11 a raider could reach the Australia Station by 8/12 at 12 knots.

do.

- 7. The "MARY LIVANOS" which made a distress signal on 22/11 when south of Madagascar and subsequently cancelled same is now reported to have arrived.

(iii) EAST of Australia Station

- 8. RAIDER ACTIVITY - Admiralty appreciate that one raider is still in the Pacific.

This supports the view that the "CAPILLO" sighting in the Gilberts - Phoenix area on 6/11 and the Mundi Mundi sighting off Bougainville Strait on 11/11 was probably this raider.

C. JAPANESE SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

F.E.C.B.
1948(58)

- 9. According to F.E.C.B. Japanese activities are reported from the following areas -

ALO.Bandoeng
0330Z/4

- a) Palau - A report, through the Admiralty from Dutch sources states that the Japanese are concentrating an expeditionary force at Palau. No confirmation has yet been reported by F.E.C.B. but a report from ~~Bandoeng~~ Bandoeng based on information received at 1800Z/3/12 from a reliable Dutch source in Manado (Celebes) states that light transports and 20 naval vessels had left Palau and were proceeding towards N.E.I. From the same source it is reported that the Japanese in Manado anticipate movement into that area on 7/12/41.

Comment - It is known that Japanese in the N.E.I. have on previous occasions indicated their expectance of a Japanese move into Tarakan from Palau and have actually given approximate dates for such a move which has never eventuated. This latest report from Bandoeng has been passed to C.O.I.S. for comment, and in the absence of further confirmation from either C in C N.E.I. or C.O.I.S. it is considered that the report should be discounted.

F.E.C.B.
1948(58)

- b) Camranh Bay. A reliable report states that Camranh Bay is fortified and that the Japanese are working at high ~~pressure~~ pressure ~~improving~~ improving the port and defences. Intense building activity has been observed there, and recently many freight vessels were discharging machinery.

do

- c) Saipan. W/T traffic indicates that there is a considerable fleet of merchant ships in Naval service in the neighbour-

hood of Saipan.

F.E.C.B.
1948(58)

- do
- do
- do
- d) Yokohama. About 3,000 labourers, thought to be a working party for the Mandated area, have been seen marching to the wharves. A large tanker was alongside on 14/11 filling up with aviation spirit, also presumably for the Mandates.
- e) Canton. The Japanese are said to be erecting defence works.
- f) Hainan. The approaches are reported to have been mined.
- g) Burma. With reference to the submarine reported off the west coast of ~~Malaya~~ Burma in the Bay of Bengal on 14/11, although the report is not thought to be reliable, there is a possibility that it is linked up with the 10th Japanese Submarine Squadron which includes the longest ranged boats. The Siamese Naval Attache in Tokyo is reported to have remarked that two new Japanese 45,000 ton battleships are nearing completion. This accords with F.E.C.B.'s views.



Director of Intelligence C.W.R.

5th December, 1941.

Co/C.

C.W.R. DAILY SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL-INTELLIGENCE

C.W.R.

SERIAL NO.DS/158

(No portion of this Summary is to be reproduced without permission of C.W.R.) 6th DECEMBER, 1941
(Saturday)

Submitted:

MOST SECRET

A. AUSTRALIA STATION

DS/157 : 3
Airintel N/Area
0818Z/5

1. NEW CALEDONIA - Unidentified Aircraft - The Captain of the Catalina en route from Brisbane to Vila reports having been in approximately the given position at the time of sighting, although on an almost exactly reciprocal course to that reported.

Northern Area consider that this aircraft was responsible for the sighting.

DNO. Vic.
0624Z/5

2. JOANNA near C.OTWAY - Explosion - W.S.S. Cape Otway reports an explosion thought to be a mine, at Johanna. Investigation is proceeding and a report is being forwarded by D.N.O. Vic.

Comment - The ~~mouth~~ mouth of Joanna River is 16 miles N.W. of Cape Otway. As numerous mines have been found in this area and in view of the recent gale it is possible that a mine from the Otway field may have washed inshore and struck a rock.

B. ADJACENT AREAS

NORTH of Australia Station

C in C China
0233Z/4

3. FRENCH INDO-CHINA - Departure "SIKIANG" - The French ship "SIKIANG" left Saigon 26/11 for Manila but on 4/12 it had not arrived at that port. "SIKIANG" is a Messageries Line vessel of 7,000 tons, built 1914).

Comment - It is possible that this vessel is endeavouring to run the blockade to either Madagascar or to Europe via Cape Hong. It was earlier expected that "PIERRE L.D" (a Louis Dreyfus cargo ship, 5,800 tons, 1936, of very long range) would sail from Saigon for Europe direct carrying supplies of rubber between 25th and 27th November.

WS/29 : 8

C. JAPAN'S SOUTHWARD ADVANCE

C.O.I.S.
0221Z/5

4. PALAU - N.E.I. - Invasion Report - C.O.I.S. has advised
 - a) having no information regarding the report from Bandoeng yesterday of light transports and naval vessels leaving Palau for the N.E.I. nor of the report of an expected move into the Menado area on 7/12.

- b) It is reported from most secret sources
 - (i) Landing craft including a landing craft carrier have been detected at Palau during the last three months. This vessel was armoured about the superstructure and had a sloping chute at the stern and her sides were fitted with large doors.
 - (ii) There has been no evidence of parachute exercises at Palau or Saipan;
 - (iii) Many tankers have been observed at Palau during the period August - October.

Comment - This intelligence confirms the view that preparations have been made at Palau for an offensive action.

DNI.Melb.
1018Z/5

5. WEST COAST OF AMERICA - Japanese Ships - It is stated that there are now no Japanese ships on the west coast of South

S.O.(I) Jamaica
1520R/3/12

South and Central America and that "NARUTO MARU" was the last ship to sail.

Comment - This completes the evacuation of Japanese merchant shipping from the American coast and practically completes the evacuation of all such shipping from outside Japanese controlled waters.

United Press
Mexico City
4/12

- 6. MEXICO - Evacuation of Japanese - A press report from Mexico City states that the Japanese Minister Yoshiaki Maure and portion of his staff have been recalled to Tokio to report. 100 Japanese families in Mexico have asked the Embassy to assist their evacuation.

DNI.Melb.
0006Z/5

- 7. JAPAN - Survey Vessels in Southern Mandates - The Japanese survey vessel "KATSURIKI" is considered probably to be on passage to Japan from the Marshalls.

Comment - This vessel has been surveying in the east Marshalls at least since the middle of July. Another surveying vessel "KOSYU" has similarly been reported on numerous occasions during the year in and south of the Truk area (Central Carolines). This vessel has on several occasions been detected operating as far south as Kapingamarangi. She was last reported in the Saipan area early last month. It will be recalled that F.E.C.B. in "Notes on Combined Operations June 1941" remarked -

F.E.C.B.913

" Surveying Activities - The Japanese are great surveyors, particularly as some of their operations have taken place in almost uncharted areas. The appearance of a surveying ship, and in particular "KATSURIKI", in an area where her presence would otherwise be unnecessary, has been in the past a sound indication that something was brewing".

(A) *Rourke* 6/12
T.H. *Byhall* Capt.
(A) *L.H. Campbell* 9/12

Director of Intelligence (C.W.R)
6/12/41

PS. DS/158

DARWIN - Japanese Evacuation - The following message dated 5/12 was addressed to the Japanese Society at Darwin from the Japanese Consul-General Sydney:-

Airintel 2357Z/5

"Advise how many pearlers (indentured labour) can leave immediately".

Comment - It has previously been suggested that one of the reasons for the recent unexpected visit of Japanese luggers and mother ships to Northern Australian waters was probably to evacuate Japanese residents.