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SRNS 0079-0170

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 1, 1942

I. North and Northwest Pacific -

(a) No further evidence has arisen of a southerly movement by units of the forces in the Northwest Pacific. Although a few individual ships may have moved south of Ominato no general trend is apparent in this direction.

(b) The approximate patrol area of the patrol ships of the Northern Detachment of the 5th Fleet is revealed by the following locations of two of these vessels:

(a) Lat. 38° N. (b) Lat. 39° N.
 Long. 147° E. Long. 151° E.

The following submarine positions have been reported:

(a) Lat. 54° N. (b) Lat. 44° N. (c) Lat. 53° N. (d) Lat. 44° N.
 Long. 149° W. Long. 140° E. Long. 165° W. Long. 174° W.

(c) There are indications that the various home defense forces which formerly were composed principally of obsolete and armed merchant types have now been augmented by a few destroyers taken from units in the active fleets.

(d) It is reported that Army units are now stationed at Kiska and Attu and that a few destroyers of Desron 1 are at each island.

II. Southwest Pacific -

Four heavy cruisers of Crudiv 6 are all now believed to be in the Truk area. It is thought probable that these units, together with two or three light cruisers of Crudiv 13, may move down to the Rabaul area.

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SRNS 0080

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 2, 1942I. North Pacific

(a) Very few signs of activity are apparent by any units other than submarines of which a comparatively large number is reported in various positions between latitudes 40°-55°N., and longitudes 145°W - 180°.

(b) The KAMIKAWA MARU (XAV) which has been believed to be in the Kiska area in connection with a seaplane unit, is now thought to have departed for Japan. Indications, however, of seaplane movements to the Northwestern Pacific continue.

(c) An analysis of radio traffic suggests that ZUIKAKU of Cardiv 5 is now at sea, but there is no definite indication of her location or mission.

II. Home waters

Once again the target ship SETTSU appears to be engaged in air training operations, this time with carrier plane groups operating from the Misawa Air Station (Eastern Honshu). These exercises may be merely familiarization exercises for new carrier units.

III. Southwest Pacific

Tulagi, Florida Island, Solomon Group, a recently acquired Japanese base, has in the past day or two been unusually active, but this activity very possibly is concerned in the recent allied air attacks in this area.

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SRNS 0081

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 3, 1942

I. Aleutians

(a) A detachment of the Yokosuka Special Landing Force which some time ago was reported as probably destined for Aleutian waters after its return from the abortive Midway operations is now believed finally to have arrived somewhere in the North Pacific, and may possibly be used in further landing force operations in this theatre.

(b) Cardiv 5 appears somewhat separated from other units of the Aleutian Force, and it receives radio intelligence information of U.S. forces from Jaluit,

(c) Continued association with air activities in Japan Proper suggests that JUNYO (CV) either has or will soon return to a home port, possibly to pick up a fresh consignment of planes.

II. General

(a) Recently it was reported that heavy units of the 1st Fleet appeared to have departed from the Inland Sea, and that indications were that they went to the vicinity of Tokyo Bay. Now, again, there is evidence of a detachment of battleships screened by destroyers and planes leaving Kure for operations in which KASUGA MARU (ACV) appears to be involved.

(b) Convoy movements between Japan and points in the S.W. Pacific seem now to be increasing. On June 23 and 26 there were indications of convoys moving from Japan to Formosa and the East Indies, and again on June 29 southerly movements to Formosa and/or the Philippines were noted. The present movements, however, appear to engage a considerably increased force of destroyers as escorts.

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SRNS 0082

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 4, 1942

I. North Pacific:

(a) Reported positions of Japanese submarines indicate a slow, gradual westerly movement. The CinC, U. S. Pacific Fleet, has estimated Japanese fleet units in Aleutian waters to be HACHI (CA), believed flying the flag of CinC, Fifth Fleet, possibly ABUKUMA (CL) with a portion of Desron 1, and Subron 2. Indications continue that JUNYO (CV) is now in home waters, but associations suggest that she may soon return north.

(b) A merchant type repair ship, KAMISIU MARU, is reported to be in the vicinity of Kiska.

II. Southwest Pacific:

The Commander and part of the Tulagi Base Force are indicated at present to be at Kavieng, New Ireland, but an army detachment of unknown strength gives evidence of being at Tulagi.

III. General:

(a) Incident to the convoy movements reported in this supplement of July 3, there was an indication also of a possible movement from Formosa to Port Arthur.

(b) On July 5 warnings were sent out in various home areas, including Kure, Sasebo, Yokosuka, and Chinkai. In apparent connection therewith, instructions seem to have been sent out to various guard and defense units in these areas.

The ship, which on May 10 reported having sunk an enemy SS, appears to be the same one which on June 30 reported moving to Lat. 30° 40' N., Long. 161° E. Evidence points to this vessel being in the 5th Fleet Patrol. If such be correct, the above position appears farther south than the normal patrol areas of these ships.

(c) For several months Japan has given evidence of her desire to resume trade relations with Chile and Argentina. Pointing out that Chile's maintenance of neutrality is dependent in large measure on her economic requirements, the Japanese Government has instructed the Japanese Minister to Santiago to attempt

to reach an agreement whereby Chile's requirements would be supplied by Japan in return for commodities, especially copper and nitre, needed by Japan. The Japanese Government naturally prefers the use of Chilean bottoms for this trade, and points out that any number of secret bases in the Western Pacific could be used by Chilean ships. However, if Japanese ships are to be employed, secret bases must be provided, such as the Isle of Pasqua or the Isle of Fernandes. The Japanese Minister is cautioned by his government that no information on this plan must reach the United States.

(d) The Japanese Minister at Santiago, Chile, also has been instructed to ascertain whether a certain transport which recently passed through the Panama Canal with troops and equipment for Australia actually called at Talara, Peru. Information was also desired on whether this vessel was a bona fide U.S. ship or had assumed Chilean registry.

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SRNS 0083

~~SECRET SUPPLEMENT~~Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 5, 1942I. General

Continued activity does not seem to disclose any well-defined new trends. The following minor points are noted as of possible interest.

(a) There is some slight evidence that the CinC of the Combined Fleet may have shifted his flagship.

(b) There are indications that the Commander of the 1st Air Fleet is now flying his flag on the KIRISHIMA (BB).

II. Carriers

Very little has been heard from the Japanese carriers since about 28 June. Based on shore stations, through which radio traffic is being relayed, the following appears possible:

(a) North of Tokyo probably near the Kurile Islands:
ZUIKAKU, RYUJO and ZUIHO

(b) In the Empire repairs nearing completion:
SHOKAKU

(c) At Kure
JUNYO

(d) This leaves unaccounted for
HIYO, HOSHO, KASUGA MARU.

(e) The situation is such, however, that the foregoing cannot be considered to be positive locations.

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III. Aleutians

(a) Kiska made urgent enemy contact reports at 0310I/5 to 0330I/5. As these times are early forenoon 4th Zone / 11 time, it appears probable that they refer to attack by the USS GROWLER.

IV. Increased activity on the 4th was noted in the Mandate Island area and in the Rabaul area.

(a) On the 4th Aircraft and Southseas forces were directed to attack an enemy (presumably U.S.) force consisting of 1 carrier and 2 cruisers located within 400 miles of Jaluit.

(b) There appears to be much activity between Army detachments located at Rabaul, Davao and points in New Guinea and the Netherlands East Indies.

V. Submarine positions located by DF are as follows:

40 N - 178 E
40 N - 175 E
36-31 N - 179-30 W (??)
36 N - 175 W
35 N - 179 W

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SRNS 0084

~~SECRET SUPPLEMENT~~Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 6, 1942I. North Pacific:

(a) A recent research into the organization of the Fifth Fleet Northern Patrol has uncovered a total of 42 small merchant ships, the majority of which are auxiliary powered sailing vessels of 70-100 tons. This organization is believed to have been made soon after the U.S. air attack on Japan in April.

The administrative organization of these small armed craft appears to consist of five units of eight or more ships in each. The principal base is at Kushiro in Hokkaido.

(b) There is an indication that seaplane units at Kiska are transporting by air men who were probably wounded in the recent U.S. air attack which was reported to have sunk 2 DD and left another on fire.

II. Southwest Pacific:

(a) Persistent despatches being sent by the C-in-C, 2nd Fleet to merchant type vessels suggest that logistic preparations are possibly being made for future operations. Recent information received indicates that this commander whose identity has heretofore been unknown, may be Vice-Admiral Shigeyoshi Inouye.

(b) There is considerable evidence that a Japanese force of 4 CA, constituting CruDiv 6, were reported by Japanese air patrols as an enemy force. Possibly the contact reported in this supplement of July 5 referred to the same force. In any case it apparently was not until after 1200, July 5 that these cruisers were finally identified as friendly when they were bearing 108° T, distant about 250 miles from a base which is believed to have been Rabaul. At that time this unit was reported on course 180°, speed 20.

III. Germany and Japan continue to make plans for mutually beneficial merchant ship sailing routes which are hoped to become regular by mid-July. Shipments desired from Germany are to consist principally of various kinds of machinery and precision instruments, whereas Japan is to provide chiefly rubber, tin and tungsten. Some interchange of trade of this nature is already believed to have been made. By April, 1943 Germany has expressed her intention to send

14 or 15 ships to Japan and has suggested that Japan employ seven of her own ships during July and August of this year.

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SRNS 0085

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 7, 1942

I. Aleutians:

(a) In this secret supplement of July 6 in par. I(b) at the end of the second line "air" should be changed to "submarine". The attacks referred to are the attacks made by U.S. submarines described in the Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of this date.

(b) Concern appears to have been expressed over the possible penetration of patrols by U. S. submarines.

II. Southwest Pacific:

Directives seem to have been issued by naval units in the Truk area and in the Marshalls to search for and destroy U. S. submarines which appear to have given some indication of their presence to the Japanese.

III. SHORAKU (CV), which has been under repairs in a home yard due to damages incurred in the Coral Sea engagement, appears now to be almost, if not entirely, ready to resume operations.

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SRNS 0086

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 8, 1942I. Aleutians:

(a) The Commander Aleutian Sector has reported that the volume of Japanese radio traffic involving destroyers, submarines and air units indicates increased activity in the Western Aleutians. Although there have been reports of cruisers sighted in this area there is no sound evidence of the presence of battleships or carriers in these waters. There is an indication now which suggests that the Batdiv 3 units which were believed to have been in the N.W. Pacific may have moved south to the Yokosuka area. The C-in-C, U.S. Pacific Fleet reports that they appear to be in the vicinity of Northern Honshu.

(b) The U.S.S. FINBACK report of sighting a CHIYODA class AV appears to confirm the suspected recent northerly movement of a portion of Airon 11, probably CHITOSE and CHIYODA.

(c) The C-in-C, Fifth Fleet, commanding naval forces in northern waters, is indicated to have been at Paramushiro, K. Kuriles on July 7.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Recent air reconnaissance reports seem to support radio traffic indications that units of Crudivs 6 and 18 and Desron 6 may have moved down to the New Britain-Solomons area, but it is not yet definitely known whether all ships of these units are included.

(b) The C-in-C, U.S. Pacific Fleet has reported indications of a Japanese offensive against Ocean and Mairu Islands shortly. It will be recalled that immediately following the engagement in the Coral Sea there was strong evidence pointing to a movement against these two islands, but that the plans were postponed probably due to the suspected proximity of a U.S. naval task force. The recent recurrence of Japanese air reconnaissance flights over Mairu and Ocean tends to support the possibility of a renewed attempt at their occupation.

III. The C-in-C, U.S. Pacific Fleet has reported that an increased number of Japanese light forces on escort duty indicates a greater activity in anti-submarine operations. Recent evidence points to a considerable increase in convoy movements.

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IV. Genota, a Dutch tanker which appeared to have been captured by AIKOKU MARU, a Japanese raider, on May 9 is now believed to be enroute to Japan. There are indications that she will thereafter be converted by the Japanese Navy into a special transport type.

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~~SECRET~~ SUPPLEMENTSummary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 9, 1942I. Southwest Pacific:

In the past few days there have been several reports of what appears to be false contacts made by the Japanese. The first such case seemed to report their own units of Crudiv 6 as an enemy force. Two subsequent ones apparently were of suspicious aircraft in locations in which shore-based allied aircraft could not be expected; one of these locations was reported as Lat. 3°-40' N., Long. 171° E. This is a situation which has not been previously encountered, and in the past Japanese forces always gave the impression of being well-informed on their own dispositions.

Although there is nothing concrete to support it, there are some very vague indications which continue to be received of the possibility of a movement on Ocean and Kauru Islands in which Desron 6 and Mindiv 16 may possibly participate.

II. Further study has cast a little additional light on the original Japanese report of the casualties inflicted during the Coral Sea action in early May. Although the following reported casualties to allied forces may have been subsequently corrected, it is of interest to note the exaggerations which appear to have been claimed in good faith on May 11, a few days subsequent to the action.

May 7

- (a) 1 medium BB and 1 CL sunk or damaged.
- (b) 1 BB of the California class sunk by shore-based aircraft.
- (c) 1 BB of Warspite type and 1 medium cruiser set afire by shore based aircraft.

May 8

- (a) 1 Saratoga class CV sunk.
- (b) 1 Yorktown class CV sunk.
- (c) 1 BB received direct hits from aircraft
- (d) 1 cruiser was struck on its side by a torpedo plane carrying a torpedo.

A total of 98 allied planes were claimed destroyed, 23 of them shot down in the air.

Japanese casualties were listed as follows:

- (a) Shoho (ICV) sunk, but the CO, a number of officers, 902 men and 132 aviators were rescued.
- (b) Shokaku (CV) was damaged.
- (c) Kikuzuki (DD), damaged at Gavutu on May 4, sank at 2220 I, May 5.
- (d) A merchant type vessel, hit by torpedoes and bombs on May 4, finally sank at 0450 I, May 6.
- (e) Kamikawa Maru (XAV) and one other ship were slightly damaged.

This report may have been supplemented by others and in itself cannot be termed complete, but it does appear to show not only great exaggeration on allied losses but ignorance of the composition of our task forces.

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SRNS 0088

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 10, 1942

I. Northwest Pacific:

Indications continue that units of Batdiv 3 are withdrawing from this area, probably for Yokosuka. A Fifth Fleet patrol vessel appears to have sent out a notification that two friendly battleships and one tanker in company with a destroyer squadron would pass through the patrol lines on a westerly course on July 8 and 9.

There is some evidence that a part of the Fifth Fleet northern patrol forces may return to Yokosuka. Likewise units of Subron 1 appear to have moved south from the North Pacific, and possibly may be enroute to the Marshall Islands. One unit of this squadron was reported by D/F to be in about Lat. 33° N., Long. 176° E. Subron 2, however, is believed to remain in the northern area.

II. Southwest Pacific:

(a) There have been a number of indications of close association between the Rabaul - New Guinea forces and the 5th Special Landing Force which now appears to be preparing to move from Truk to Rabaul, or possibly to Salamoa, New Guinea.

III. China

A Japanese report states that at 1440 I, July 6, five medium bombers of the North American type attacked Canton, approaching from the north. Bombs were reported to have been dropped in the vicinity of the medical supply depot and the Army Administration Offices. Japanese planes pursued the U.S. planes after the attack but were unable to overhaul them, and the statement was made that the Japanese had no planes in that area which could match the U.S. planes.

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SRNS 0089

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 11, 1942

I. Aleutians

(a) No especially noteworthy activity seems to be indicated in this area. The CinC 5th Fleet in command of the Northern operations is inferred to be in the vicinity of Horomushiro. 2 ships of Batdiv 3, probably HARUMA and HIYEI, are thought to have been withdrawn from the northern area and to have returned to Yokosuka. The KIRISHIMA (BB) of this division is probably still at sea and may be flying the flag of Commander 1st Air Fleet.

II. General

(a) The impression is gained that there is much activity dealing with the escort of convoys and the maintenance of intensified defensive patrols. This situation suggests the possibility that, for the present, logistic problems of replenishing normal supplies or accumulating supplies and personnel for future operations is possibly the chief concern of Japanese naval forces in the mid-Pacific and Mandate Islands area.

(b) There is some indication that on 9 July the flag of CinC Combined Fleet was shifted. It will be recalled that on 5 July it was thought possible that CinC Combined Fleet had shifted his flag. This second shift of flagships may therefore indicate his return to his former flagship YAMATO.

III. Southwest Pacific

(a) Documents recently captured in New Guinea indicate that the 12th Billeting Detachment shortly will proceed from Truk to Kavieng, New Ireland and that the 11th and 13th Billeting Detachments will proceed to Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons; while the 14th Billeting Detachment accompanied by the 5th Special Landing Force will proceed from Truk to the East coast of New Guinea possibly Salamaoa.

(b) There seems to be much traffic association between Army detachments at Palao, Davao and Rabaul with the 8th Base Force at Rabaul including despatches to officers in charge of anchorages at Palao, Davao and Rabaul.

(c) At 0700 on the 10th one instance was noted where Truk routed radio traffic to Rabaul for delivery to CinC 4th Fleet

(d) Comment

It will be recalled that just prior to the battle of Midway

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there were strong indications which pointed towards plans for an offensive operation to the southward from Truk to follow closely upon the expected Japanese success at Midway. Recently CinC 4th Fleet has seemed to be much concerned in preparations of some sort apparently taking place in the Truk area.

The "Billeting Detachments" mentioned in subparagraph (a) are probably garrison troops in contra-distinction to combat or assault troops relieving these latter for offensive operations. Attention is particularly invited to the inclusion of the 5th Special Landing Force in the units being sent to Eastern New Guinea. These landing force specialists have in the past invariably formed the spear head of amphibious operations. The Army detachments mentioned do not appear to be large enough to support a theory of large scale attack on Australia nor does the apparent size of the naval forces involved seem to indicate a major effort.

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SRNS 0090

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 12, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific:

Certain somewhat vague indications continue to point to the early commencement of operations from the New Britain - Solomons - New Guinea area.

The Billiting Detachments mentioned in this supplement of July 11 are now reported to be translated more accurately as Pioneers. Further information from the captured documents indicate dates on which these detachments were to arrive at their destinations, the latest of which was July 4 at Guadalcanal. They also show that the two desdivs of Desron 6 were organized into two escort forces in order to take the various transports and cargo ships to their destinations. Crudivs 6 and 18 were made into a Support Force which was prepared to render aid in case of allied attack on these movements.

Associations indicate that a division of Subron 3 has been assigned to the Rabaul-New Guinea area to augment submarines in this area, possibly as an SS screen in anticipated forthcoming operations.

It appears possible that the two remaining CA of Crudiv 7 which was battered in the Midway Action have received orders to strengthen the Third Fleet in NEI waters, perhaps to strengthen this relatively weak force which radio association indicates may cooperate in offensive operations initiated by the Fourth Fleet in the New Britain area.

II. Northwest Pacific:

Evidence now appears sufficient to note a southward withdrawal of a number of units not originally included in the Fifth Fleet. Only 1 BB (KIRISHIMA, carrying flag of Comdr. 1st Air Fleet) is believed to remain in northern waters. The remaining carrier strength is uncertain, but RYUJO of Cardiv 4 and Concardiv 5 have given indications of moving south. In addition to the above, Crudivs 5 and 8 likewise may be withdrawing to the southward. The above movements are not yet believed sufficiently definitive to hazard an opinion on whether the withdrawal is permanent.

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SRNS 0091

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 13, 1942

I. Northwest Pacific:

(a) Further evidence points to the southward withdrawal of several major units from this northwesterly area. Units of Batdiv 3, possibly with a screen of DD of Desron 10, appears to have reached Yokosuka. Remaining carriers of Cardivs 4 and 5 seem to be heading south with Crudiv 8, whereas Crudiv 5 with a Desdiv gives indication of being separated from other groups, but likewise on a southerly course. There is one slight indication from a single traffic association that ZUIKAKU may have moved into the Japan Sea but at present it does not seem probable.

(b) The radio station at Kiska has recently been found to be transmitting radio intelligence.

(c) A salvage unit is indicated enroute to Kiska.

II. Southwest Pacific:

(a) Indications continue of the strengthening of forces in the New Britain-Solomons-New Guinea area and preparations for future operations. Radio traffic associations suggest that Desron 3 and two other Desdivs have been slated to escort a large force from Kyushu. Although the destination of this possible force is indefinite,

The first slight indication of an association between the First Air Fleet comprising Cardivs 4 and 5, Batdiv 3 and Crudiv 8 with the 4th Fleet has been noted. Although it is too early to make any definite statement, there do appear some grounds to support the possibility that the above-mentioned units, or a portion of them, may move south in support of operations on a larger scale than have heretofore been expected.

In the past few days there have been several allusions made to an Eighth Fleet which appears now to be under organization, and a prospective chief-of-staff of this force has been referred to. There is no information at present on the possible composition of this force and very little on its prospective mission. Based on little more than a guess, it would appear likely that if and when this fleet comes into being it may operate in the Southern Mandates-New Britain area.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 14, 1942

Northwest Pacific

I. There is some evidence now that the armed merchantman patrol of the 5th Fleet which recently appeared to have been extended some distance to the eastward, has now been called back to areas which are not believed to extend further east than 155° E, and some units of these patrol forces are indicated to have returned to their base. On July 12 the noon position of one of these vessels on patrol was given as Lat. 43° - 56 N., Long. 147° 46 E. It appears that the large number of small types operate to the westward closer inshore than the larger ships.

II. Fleet Organizations

There are some indications that a number of fleet units are now being regrouped into several task forces of which 3 or 4 have been noted to date. This reorganization suggests that the units which are now returning or have returned to home waters from the northern area will be given only a short recon-
ditioning period before being sent out again on new missions.

The 8th Fleet, previously reported as being organized, now appears to have a C-in-C or prospective C-in-C aboard a heavy cruiser, possibly CHOKAI, at Yokosuka on July 13.

III. Southwest Pacific

Further indications have been received of the movements of convoys from Yokosuka to the Rabaul area, but there is still no definite information of naval units being ordered south. Traffic association, however, suggests the possibility that JUNYO (CV) may have been ordered to the Marshalls.

The Sasebo No. 5 Special Landing Force previously reported as probably headed for New Guinea is now indicated to have sailed from Truk for the Salamo-Lae area on July 10.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 15, 1942

I. Northwest Pacific

Although specific locations of units withdrawn from the northern area to home waters are in most cases uncertain, the fact that a general southerly movement has occurred seems to be fairly well established. It also appears to be reasonably certain that none of these units have moved into the Japan Sea. Doubt with respect to present locations is greatest in the case of Crudiv 4 and 5; there is some indication that MYOKO of Crudiv 5 may have moved down to the Mandates.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Radio traffic continues to associate the new 8th Fleet with the southern theatre. It appears probable that this force may be composed principally of air units of the Combined Air Force; that is seaplane tenders and aircraft supply vessels.

(b) Although based on meager and somewhat conflicting information, there is some evidence tending to indicate that naval units in the New Britain-Solomons area are disposed approximately as follows:

- (1) 4 CA of Crudiv 6 and Desdiv 30 of Desron 6 in the general Rabaul area.
- (2) 3 CL of Crudiv 18 and Desdiv 29 of Desron 6 in the Southern Solomons.

III. A Japanese merchant vessel reported as ROSHIA MARU is said to have run aground at 2030 I, July 12 off the eastern tip of Mongelap. Refloating operations are underway.

IV. It is now reported that at the outset of the abortive operations to take Nauru and Ocean Islands in early May, 1942 a series of mishaps occurred near Queen Carola Island from which operations were to have started.

At 0347 I, May 11 Okinooshina (CM of 4,400 tons displacement) was attacked by a submarine in a position bearing 315°, distant 32 miles from Queen Carola Island. Two torpedo hits were received, one of which struck in the vicinity of # 1 fire room, causing way to be lost.

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At 0945 the flagship of Desron 6, which at the time was believed to have been YUBARI (CL), and another ship attempted to take the disabled vessel in tow. During these operations a serious explosion of unknown origin occurred aboard the YUBARI which subsequently sank about 3 miles off Queen Cecelia Island after being unable to extinguish the fire which was started by the explosion. The second unidentified ship succeeded in taking Okinoshima in tow, but ran aground at 1830 I. She was refloated at 2020 I, but in the meanwhile yet another ship appears to have taken over the towing duty. At 0730 May 12 Okinoshima in turn went aground, and was refloated at 0045, May 13.

Although the flagship of Desron 6 was at the time believed to have been YUBARI, there is a possibility that in fact it was a different light cruiser.

7 return
MATSUEI MARU, apparently ordered to this area to assist, left Rabaul May 11 and was enroute when YUBARI sank. On her return she was hit by a torpedo and sank about 9 miles from Cape St. George.

As a result of this series of accidents the occupation attempt was delayed first until May 17, and later postponed indefinitely.

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~~SECRET~~ SUPPLEMENTSummary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 16, 1942I. Southwest Pacific

(a) Radio traffic association continues to link the C-in-C, 8th Fleet with forces in the New Britain-Solomons area. There is also association between this commander and Desron 4 and 2 CA's of Crudiv 4.

(b) There are indications that there is an aircraft assembly plant at Kavieng, New Ireland.

II. Northwest Pacific

There appear to be a number of merchant type vessels of unidentified types on logistic duties in the North Pacific. Desron 1 seems to be furnishing the escorts for these movements.

III. (a) Indications are still received of Japanese convoy movements from home ports. Specific destinations are unknown, but movements appear to be in the direction of the Philippines and Malaya, and others directly south to the Southern Mandates and probably Melanesia. Desron 3, possibly augmented by one or two other Desdivs, has been reported a number of times as escorting these convoys from Japanese ports.

(b) A measure of increase in air activity in the Malaya-Andaman Islands area has been noted.

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SRNS 0095

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 17, 1942

I. Northwest Pacific

The only activity noted has been the movements of merchant type ships to the Western Aleutians under destroyer escort.

II. Southwest Pacific

There is no indication yet of any aircraft carriers moving south from home waters. All known ships of this type are indicated to be either in or near home waters. The only additional surface ship strength which appears enroute to the New Britain area is composed of three warships of unidentified types.

III. General

A Japanese report to Tokyo from Madrid, from which a large amount of misinformation has been noted to emanate, has stated that on about July 14 forty five ships assembled at San Francisco and departed for Australia loaded with troops and tanks.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 18, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) Of some possible significance are the strong indications received that Zuikaku (CV) departed from home waters, probably Yokosuka, on July 17 for an indefinite destination off S.E. Asia. Her southerly route appears to take her within the communication zones of Takao and Singapore.

In addition to the above, there have been several recent indications that Crudiv 7 was scheduled to move down to the H.E.I.-Malay area, but there is no certain evidence of an association between Crudiv 7 and Zuikaku. Desron 3 units appear to be accompanying Crudiv 7, but possibly only as screens for the sortie.

It is believed too early yet to draw any conclusions from this apparent movement. Possibly Zuikaku is only on a plane ferrying trip and Crudiv 7 merely reinforcing the comparatively weak Third Fleet. However, in view of recent reports of convoy movements to S.E. Asia, close study of this incipient movement appears warranted.

(b) The C-in-C, 8th Fleet, now gives evidence of being en-route to the New Britain area, and seems to be kept informed of developments in that area by the C-in-C, 4th Fleet. The impression has been gathered that this so-called 8th Fleet on arrival will take command over naval forces in the Melanesian area, including the 8th Base Force at Rabaul. In view of recent unmistakable evidence that the Japanese are strengthening the defenses of this area and increasing the numbers of the occupation forces, it appears not unlikely that the primary mission of this force may be defensive, even though some further occupations may be contemplated to strengthen the Japanese strategic position.

The status of the C-in-C 4th Fleet in the immediate future is in some doubt. Possibly he will be concerned hereafter only in the defense of the Mandates, but this situation should be clarified to some extent within the next week.

II. Carriers

(a) At the time that Junyo and Hiyo first made their appearances it was explained that the characters denoting their names might be

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read Junyo or Hayataka and Miyo or Tobitaka, depending on whether the Japanese or Chinese readings had been adopted. It now appears definite that in the first case Hayataka is the correct reading. In the case of the Miyo (Tobitaka) there still remains some doubt. Recently there has come evidence of a carrier named Hitaka or Hidaka which definitely is the ship previously referred to as Miyo. If Hitaka is indeed its correct name it appears that the reading applied to its two characters is in one case the Chinese and in the other the Japanese, a very unusual occurrence. In any case, it now seems reasonably well established that this carrier has not to date joined in any fleet operations, and now is probably only just shaking down at sea, having her plane groups at an air station.

(b) A D/F bearing and radio traffic association now place Hayataka (Junyo) in the Marshalls. However, since her mission may be to transport planes down to this area, it does not necessarily follow that she will be employed in operations in the South Pacific.

III. Northwest Pacific

The Fifth Fleet which remains in this area to support the occupation forces in the Western Aleutians presents a picture of consolidation and reinforcement rather than concentration for further offensive operations. Most of the high precedence radio traffic in this area appears to be concerned with U.S. submarine and air attacks on Japanese forces in the Western Aleutians.

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SRNS 0097

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 19, 1942

I. Southeast Asia

(a) Based on a study of the volume and type of radio traffic the general Malaya, Netherlands East Indies, New Guinea-Solomon Islands areas seem to be receiving much attention on the part of the Japanese high command. Information of this type presently available tends to indicate Rabaul as the focal point of preparations for a possible offensive move which will very likely not develop until arrival of the 8th Fleet command thought to be in process of organization.

(b) There is further evidence that the CinC of the 8th Fleet will fly his flag in the CHOKAI (CA).

(c) Commander Cruiser Division 6 is thought to have arrived at Kavieng on the 18th.

(d) Crudiv 7 plus about 2 divisions of DD is indicated to be enroute to Java with Sourabaya as the most likely destination.

(e) The Singapore area, long relatively quiet, appears more active with some slight indications that additional naval strength may be sent there.

(f) So far as can be determined none of the carriers have gone south from Japan although ZUIKAKU may be under orders to proceed to Singapore via Takeo.

II. Alcutians

(a) The northern area appears relatively inactive from which it may be assumed that operations are proceeding as planned with no changes in immediate prospect.

III. General

(a) Considerable reorganization and regrouping of units would seem to be taking place. There are indications that Cardiv 2, sunk at Midway, will be reconstituted with HITAKA (CV) probably, and one other carrier possibly,

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assigned. The KASUGA MARU hitherto used as an aircraft transport may emerge as a combat carrier in the near future.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 20, 1942

SRNS 0098

I. Southwest Pacific:

Indications continue of movements of naval and merchant ships to southern areas. Confirmatory evidence shows that ZUIKAKU (CV) was heading southwest in the vicinity of the Loochoo Isls., and by now is probably in Formosan waters. It is possible that other Cardiv 4 and 5 units may also go south to the Singapore area, but at present this remains uncertain. A large number of radio despatches between the HEI-Malay area and Cradiv 7 units increases the probability that they, together with two or three desdivs, are now enroute south in company with a number of merchant vessels.

Army units at Davao appear in close association with forces in the Rabaul area, and it is indicated that further convoys to the New Britain area from Davao are contemplated. It also appears that a convoy is being formed at Tokosuka for Rabaul.

II. Northwest Pacific:

Locations given for patrol vessels of the 5th Fleet follow:

Lat.	34° N.	28° - 30'	35° N.
Long.	138 - 30 E.	148° E.	143° E.

III. General:

(a) The Japanese Ambassador at Berlin on July 2 counseled his home government to take more positive steps in India. He pointed out that commonplace platitudes were ineffective as propaganda without armed force, and that military activity should pave the way for serious internal disturbances further to weaken Britain's position in India. More specifically, he urged that after establishing a base at Chittagong or some other suitable location the Japanese should cooperate with the revolutionary faction in India, a step which should parallel the present Axis drive and be carried out without delay in order to effect juncture through the Indian Ocean.

(b) Japanese information emanating from Madrid given not only to Tokyo, but also to Berlin and Rome purports to state as of July 13 that escorting vessels of convoys enroute to Australia had been equipped with some kind of square net which was dropped over the side to stop torpedoes from striking convoyed vessel. This net, it continued, has been found to give satisfactory

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results in actual tests made on it, and a convoy underway at that time had 5 of them ready to protect its 20 vessels. The report pointed out that the use of these nets required a closely assembled convoy.

(c) Further information was alleged to have been received from an American officer recently in Australia. It was to the effect that unless landings are made very soon on Australia and New Zealand the present vast defensive preparations will make them nearly impossible. These defenses are described somewhat as follows: A strip of land mines are located about one mile from the coast backed by strong tank forces and flame throwers. Back of them is another mine field beyond which are barbed wire entanglements, trenches, machine guns, pill boxes and reinforced gun emplacements. Gas throwers are probably also equipped in case of gas warfare.

(d) Torpedo boats are said to be under construction at New Orleans for use in California waters.

(e) Another report from Tokyo to Hsingking gives a detailed report of naval and merchant shipping at Vladivostok in early July.

(f) A destroyer of Desron 2 appears to have reported that she had sunk an enemy SS which had attacked a Japanese merchantman.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 21, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific:

(a) The predominant activity of the Japanese Navy at present appears to be concerned in the movements of convoys southward, apparently both to the New Britain area and to S.E. Asia. In the latter case mention made of Singapore, Penang and Rangoon suggests reinforcements to Burma, possibly for operations against India. The comparatively large numbers of destroyers involved in escort duties suggests that these movements include a larger number of merchantmen than might be expected for normal replacements.

In spite of the above situation, however, there is as yet no indication of any really strong naval force moving south, although CinC, 8th Fleet appears to be bringing some increased strength to the Rabaul area and others, including ZUIKARU (CV), give evidence of heading for Malay-Indies waters. This situation may be changed in the next few days.

(b) At a time when shipping appears to be increasing in the Salamoalae area, there seems to be good evidence that Crudiv 18 of 3 CL has moved to this area.

(c) There is some indication that the Kure No. 5 Special Landing Force may be included in the convoy which appears to be preparing to depart from Yokosuka for Rabaul.

(d) In Par. IV of this ~~secret~~ supplement of July 15 which describes a sequence of mishaps on May 11 near Queen Carola Island, including a submarine attack on OKINOSHIMA, it was stated that YUBARI was believed to have been the ship which was described as suffering an internal explosion which subsequently caused her to sink. It is now learned that instead of YUBARI this ship was probably the flagship of the 19th Division whose identity is not known at present.

II. General:

(a) A school to train merchant crews in AA fire appears to have been established at Ujina (near Kure Naval Station).

(b) Three U. S. submarine torpedoes apparently fired at some Japanese ship on July 8 were recovered by the Japanese near Olang Cape, Amboina Bay.

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SRNS 0100

SECRET SUPPLEMENTSummary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 22, 1942I. Northwest Pacific

Indications continue of merchant ships moving up to the Aleutians under destroyer escorts.

There is some evidence that subchasers are being sent up to the Aleutians.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Indications point to the possibility that KASHIMA, believed to have been the flagship of C-in-C, 4th Fleet is enroute to Kure via Saipan and Chichijima. If this is true there remain only two light cruisers of Crudiv 18 in the Malanesia-New Guinea area

(b) A Japanese merchantman believed to be the Kihuku Maru, 5,866 tons, went aground in the Marshalls some days ago. Salvage operations have failed and it is probable that the ship will be a total loss. She was reported as having a 15° starboard list and all compartments filled with water.

(c) There has been some indication that Crudiv 7 which consisted of the HOGAMI class of CA, now has more than the two remaining ships of this class in its composition. Since HOGAMI and MIKUMA are reasonably well established to have sunk in the Midway engagement, it is thought probable that if this report is correct some new ship or ships have been assigned to Crudiv 7.

III. Carriers

(a) It appears that on July 20 the flag of the Comdr., 1st Air Fleet was again shifted from ZUIKARU to SHOKAKU.

(b) About 3 carriers, possibly SHOKAKU, HAYATAKA and ZUIHO give some evidence of being engaged in exercises off southern Kyushu.

(c) It is now indicated that possibly a reorganization of carriers has been effected whereby RYUJO and HITAKA have been assigned to Cardiv 2, leaving only HAYATAKA and ZUIHO in Cardiv 4. Cardiv 2 was formerly composed of SORYU and HIRYU, both of which are believed to have been sunk in the Midway engagement.

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SRNS 0101

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 23, 1942I. Southwest Pacific

In connection with the Japanese occupation near Buna (S.E. New Guinea), the Rabaul Radio Station at 0600 I, July 22 reported that enemy planes had transmitted a contact report of sighting one cruiser, 2 DD, 2 AP at Buna at 0530 I. At 0810 I of this date Comcrudiv 18, who appeared to be in command, reported an enemy (allied) bombing at 0710 I by five planes which had attacked vessels present.

II. North Pacific

Very little activity is noted by the remaining naval forces in the Aleutians. D/F positions obtained on units of Subron 2, which had been present in this area, indicate a southerly movement. Comsubron 2 was placed in Lat. 40° N., Long. 160° W, and another unit in Lat. 40° N., Long. 172° W. Others appeared in this same general area.

III. General

(a) It now appears that ZUIKAKU (CV), which previously was indicated to be enroute south to Singapore, has probably not departed from home waters yet.

(b) Japanese plans of starting secret trade relations with Chile have been reported previously. Now the Japanese Minister at Buenos Aires is instructed to canvass the possibility of starting trade relations with Argentine. If the Argentine Government appears to favor the general plan the Japanese Minister has been instructed to attempt to have Argentine ships sent to Japan, and if possible to have them also take on Chilean exports.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 24, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) The present locations of the principal naval units in the
Melanesia-New Guinea area are estimated as follows:

Crudiv 6 of 4 CA

- (1) ^{CA} AOBA (F) and ^{CA} KAKO were believed at Kavieng, New Ireland 17-19 July, and no information has been received of their departure.
- (2) KINUGASA and FURUTAKA are indicated to be in the Rabaul area.

CA's (7,100)

Crudiv 18 of 3 CL

- (1) Either or both ^{CL} TENRYU and ^{CL} TATSUTA appear to have supported the landings made in the Buna area, S.E. New Guinea.
- (2) KASHIMA, which was flagship of Crudiv 18, seems to have moved north to Truk.

Desron 6

- (1) YUBARI, believed to be the flagship of Desron 6, was reported by the S.O.I.C., Port Moresby to have been in the vicinity of Buna with one Crudiv 18 unit.
- (2) The 4 DD repeatedly reported with the landing force near Buna are very probably from Desdiv 29 which apparently was at sea on July 18.
- (3) 3-4 DD of Desdiv 30, insofar as known, remain in the Rabaul area.

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It is probable that 2-3 XAV are in this general area.

Submarines

The total number of SS in this area is unknown. A total of 6 Subdivs are believed to be in the Southern Pacific, of which at least one is probably off New South Wales. Probably about 6 SS are now in this area.

19th Division

2 or 3 CM, possibly including OKINOSHIMA, last appeared to be at sea in this general area.

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Summary

4 CA
3 CL
7-8 DD
2-3 XAV
About 6 SS
2-3 CM

Although the composition of the so-called 8th Fleet, which appears to be enroute to the Rabaul area, is far from being definitely ascertained, indications are that it may include 4-5 CA's as follows: CHOKAI, flagship; Crudiv 8 of 2 CA (TONE and CHIKUMA); 1 CA of Crudiv 7 (possibly SUZUYA) and possibly 1 CA of Crudiv 4 (MAYA).

There is as yet no evidence of any carriers moving down to this area. Insofar as known, they are now all in Japanese home waters, and several of them appear to be exercising in waters south of Kyushu.

(b) There is an indication of yet another convoy departing from Kure whose route appears to include Davao, Macassar and Soerabaja. Desron 10 may provide the escort, but very likely not for the entire trip.

Northwest Pacific

II. (a) It appears that a picket boat force may soon arrive at Attu. It is expected to be employed in guarding SHIKANO MARU which seems scheduled to arrive on July 28. The Japanese seem to believe that one or more enemy (allied) SS is/are operating in Attu waters.

(b) Jap Submarine positions reported:

Lat. 39° N. 52° N.
Long. 174° W. 177° E.

III. General

The Japanese Government appears to continue to allay Chile's doubts and press for a secret trade agreement. It is stated that Japan will, as in the past, respect the neutrality of Chile's ships, but that Chile could hardly expect Japan either to state categorically that no attack on the South American coast between Panama and Chile will be made, or that enemy ships will not be harmed even though of South American. With respect to the trade agreement, Japan very understandably appears to disfavor some suggestion which Chile seems to have made favoring imports into that country without providing for exports to Japan.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 25, 1942

I. General

The general trend of events seems to be unchanged. That is to say that the major interest remains centered in the southern area, particularly in the New Guinea-Solomon Islands and the Singapore-Penang area, although no very considerable naval forces have as yet arrived or can be said to be enroute with reasonable certainty.

The principal elements of the Combined Fleet as well as the carriers still appear to be in waters close to Japan proper and the Kurile-Aleutian area is apparently quiet. Matters of replenishment of supply and personnel seem to be of main interest in the Mandate Island area.

II. Northern Area

(a) There is evidence that tends to indicate that one or two divisions of Subron 7 will replace two divisions of Subron 2 in the Aleutian sector. These latter two divisions and Comsubron 2 are thought to be moving slowly southward and possibly homeward.

(b) Radio alarms issued by Japanese stations indicate that the Japanese believed they had contacted a hostile submarine in the vicinity of Etorofu Island (Southern part of Kurile Islands) at 1800 I/24th.

(c) Information tends to indicate that a patrol boat force was expected at Attu (called Atsuta by the Japanese) and instructions were issued for the escort into port of the steamer Shikano Maru due to arrive on the 28th. Mentions was also made of the expected arrival on the 27th of a Tsumikata flying boat. Judging by the name this would indicate a large freight carrying flying boat.

III. Central Pacific

(a) A heavy cruiser of Crudiv 7 thought to be the SUZUYA is apparently still at Truk. This ship may move to the Empire shortly instead of towards Sourabaya.

(b) CinC 8th Fleet considered to be enroute to take command in the Rabaul area is thought to be enroute Saipan to Truk in his flagship CHOKAI (CA). It is indicated that he will then proceed from Truk to Rabaul. He does not seem to be accompanied by any considerable force.

IV. Southern Area

(a) Commander 1st Air Fleet is apparently evincing an interest in the Singapore-Malaya area while the Base at Penang is showing an active interest in Subron 8.

(b) Comcrudiv 6 is still thought to be at Kaviang while two cruisers of this division probably KINUGASA and FUKUTAKA were apparently at Rabaul on the 22nd.

V. Miscellaneous

A careful check of available information tends to indicate that the Japanese Navy has today about 50 to 60 submarines. At the start of the war Japan was estimated to have 73 submarines in commission with 10 more nearing completion and now considered completed. Out of this total of 83 it was estimated that by June 22, 1942 19 had been sunk leaving a net total of 64. Therefore the two estimates arrived at by independent and different methods tend to confirm each other.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 26, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific:

(a) The Cinc, 8th Fleet, is now convincingly shown to have arrived at Truk, probably enroute to the Rabaul area. The units accompanying him in CHOKAI (CA) are not yet reliably known, but, as previously stated, are not thought to be of great strength.

(b) Subron 3 appears to have two divisions in the South Pacific with several submarines off the Australian coast. This increased activity is reflected in recent reports of submarine attacks on allied shipping off New South Wales.

(c) A seaplane unit, probably of the Kawanishi Type 97 VLR, is now shown to be at Salamoia, S. E. New Guinea. The only surface forces in this area which have supported the landings in the vicinity of Buna are believed to have been CruDiv 18 and Desron 6 units.

II. Aircraft Carriers:

Although all carriers are believed still to remain in home waters some of their specific locations are uncertain. There is an indication that HITAKA may by now have completed her fitting out, and is probably in Kyushu waters. ZUIKAKU may, judging from one indication, be in the Sasebo area receiving aircraft. There appears to be a possibility that ZUIHO may be employed to transport planes to the Marshall Islands. Others may still be conducting exercises in southern Kyushu waters.

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SRNS 0107

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 29, 1942

I. Northwest Pacific:

At 1530 I, July 29, an unidentified Japanese unit, probably of the 5th Fleet Patrol Forces, reported being under attack. At 1625 I of this date Ominato broadcast the information that an enemy unit was sighted in Lat. 48-45 N., Long. 152-30 E.

*off
Kac...*

II. Southwest Pacific:

The C-in-C, 8th Fleet now appears to have departed Truk, and to be enroute or in the Rabaul area. Indications are that he has taken over command of forces south of the Mandates, including those in the Melanesia-New Guinea area while C-in-C 4th Fleet has retained command only of forces based in the Mandated Islands. Previously it was reported that several cruisers appeared to be accompanying CinC, 8th Fleet to Rabaul, but now it seems more probable that no CA's other than CHOKAI, his flagship, actually left home waters.

III. New Construction

Recent research into the basic organization of the First Fleet indicates the possibility of the existence of two battleship divisions, each composed of 4 BB's. If this is the case, it appears that possibly two new BB's may have been added to the Japanese Navy, making a total of 13 in commission. However, at present this information is most tenuous and subject to later correction. For this reason no change will be made to the estimated battleship strength pending receipt of further intelligence.

IV. Carriers

The principal carriers of the First Air Fleet, three or four in number, appear still to be carrying out exercises in Kyushu waters, probably employing the target ship SETTSU. It appears possible that a number of additional combatant surface units are likewise engaged in these exercises, which give every indication of being similar in nature to those carried out prior to the advance on Midway.

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SRNS 0106

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 23, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

Various indications point to further troop movements in the New Britain-Solomons-New Guinea area, but there is nothing definite to show whether these movements are in reinforcement of landings in the Buna-Gona Mission area or whether other landings are contemplated. At the same time a recent unusually large volume of Army traffic between Rabaul and Davao suggests yet further transfer of troops to this area from the Southern Philippines.

Radio traffic analysis indicates that the Commander of an unknown occupation force may be aboard YUBARI (CL), flagship of Desron 6.

There is an indication that JINTSU (CL) and possibly one destroyer division of Desron 2 may have arrived in the Rabaul area on an escort mission.

II. It appears that the sailing of merchantmen from French Indo-China is to some extent being held up due to the reported presence of a large number of allied submarines in the Camranh Bay area.

III. Locations reported of Japanese submarines by D/F:

(1) Lat. 35° N

(2) Lat. 24°S

Long. 174°E.

Long. 166°E.

R. A. Boone.

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SRNS 0105

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 27, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) A strong indication has been received that the C-in-C 8th Fleet relieved the C-in-C 4th Fleet of command over forces in the Melanesia-New Guinea area on July 25 at Truk.

(b) Strong evidence which arises almost daily leaves little room for doubt of the fact that army forces are steadily being brought into the New Britain-Solomon and New Guinea areas. It is evident that the Army strength here is being increased to a greater extent than is the Navy's.

(c) Fragmentary information which was apparently originated by the Commander of the Occupation Force in the Buna (S.E. New Guinea) area indicates that some operations are scheduled for July 29. Although the nature of these operations is unknown, convoys appear to be involved. There are indications that reinforcements for this Occupation Force may be sent in, but it is not clear what connection, if any, this may have with the reported July 29 operations. Up to the present it is noted that only about 2 CL and 4 DD appear to have supported these landings. Within the past five or six days Crudiv 6 of 4 CA and Division 19, believed to be composed of CM's, have remained quiet, a possible indication that they may be engaged in some task of which no information has been received.

(d) The Commander of Subron 3 appears to have become an active task force commander of apparently all submarines in the South Pacific, which now may include about six divisions. Recent reports of attacks on allied shipping in the Australian theater indicates that a concerted attempt is being made to intercept allied shipping into Australia and other South Pacific bases.

II. Northwest Pacific

Indications are strong that a number of Japanese submarines are departing from waters off Southeast Hokkaido on the evening of July 27 and in the morning of July 28, and will proceed on northerly courses via an island believed to be Etorofu (in the southern portion of the Kurile Islands) to the Northern Kuriles to Okitaki Island, which may be garbled since its location cannot be found.

III. General

Recently Japanese radio intelligence traffic has increased to unusually large proportions. The implication is evident that every effort is being made to locate U.S. task forces.

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SRNS 0108

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 30, 1942

I. Northwest Pacific

Evidence continues of the shipping of considerable supplies from Japanese home ports to Kiska and Attu, Aleutian Islands. Air reconnaissance has shown marked increased defenses in these areas.

What appears to be a new destroyer seems to be joining Desron 1 in Aleutian waters. Recent losses apparently have seriously depleted this squadron.

II. Southwest Pacific

The C-in-C, 8th Fleet now definitely appears to have arrived in the Rabaul area in CHOKAI (CA), accompanied probably by one desdiv. Another desdiv possibly is enroute or may have arrived in this area. The impression is gained that these additional DD's are probably to be employed in escorting merchant type vessels to the S.E. New Guinea area. Army units are thought to be aboard ships enroute to Rabaul from Palau, and there is an indication of the possible existence of yet another occupation force for a S.E. New Guinea point, apparently not far from Buna. It is not known whether this force is in any way connected with the previously reported anticipated movement on July 29.

Kavieng, New Ireland has recently been indicated as a control point for shipping from Truk to Rabaul.

A.H. McCollum.

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SRNS 0109

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of July 31, 1942

I. Northwest Pacific

The recent relative tranquility which has settled over Japanese forces in the Aleutians is punctuated by an indication that the C-in-C, 5th Fleet who has been in command of this area, may have returned to Yokosuka.

II. Southwest Pacific

Much activity continues in connection with bringing a number of transports under destroyer escort into the Buna-Gona area of S.E. New Guinea. Comcradiv 18 appears to be in command of these landing operations, but his radio traffic emanates from Rabaul.

Close liaison is noted between Japanese forces to the northwest and northeast of Australia,

III. Malaya

There has been no indication whatever of any TAKAO class CA's having moved down to this area to confirm the Dutch submarine contact of 2 CA's of this class and 4 DD's not far from Penang. The only CA's believed to be in N.E.I.-Malay waters are ASHIGARA of the NACHI class and KUMANO of the KOGAMI class, which may have been mistaken for the TAKAO class. Much activity has been noted in the base forces at Rangoon, Penang and Singapore recently. This fact added to the Dutch submarine's report and the possibility that ZUIKAKU (CV) may yet move down to Malay waters suggests that some limited operations in the Indian Ocean may have been decided upon.

IV. New Construction

A new minelayer named the Oshima appears to be operating in the Southwest Pacific, possibly as a unit of the 19th Division.

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SRNS 0110

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 1, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific:

(a) Light naval forces continue on their mission of escorting and supporting landing forces on the east coast of New Guinea. Individual convoys arriving in this area appear to be relatively small, but a number of them in separated groups seem to be sent across from Rabaul in a fairly steady stream of which there is no present indication of stoppage.

(b) A communication plan sent out by the CinC, 4th Fleet on July 25 appears to mention Namru and Ocean, the two islands to the westward of the Gilberts which so often in the past have been mentioned as prospective Japanese objectives.

(c) The Japanese CL reported attacked south of Amboina on July 30-31 was probably the ISUZU.

II. Indian Ocean:

Crudiv 7 less SUZUYA continues in close association with Desrons 3 and 5, the 1st Air Attack Force in the Malay area, the Southern Expeditionary Force in these waters, and submarines. Radio traffic between these elements and Penang tend to confirm the sighting report of the Dutch submarine

The CinC, Pacific Fleet, estimates that this Crudiv 7 force is composed of two CA's and units of Desron 3. Although one of these CA's is probably KUMANO, the second one appears to be a ship just recently assigned to this division, name at present unknown.

III. General:

At 0900 I, August 1, Wake Island reported one B-17 in the air, and that 7 Zero fighters were attacking the enemy bomber.

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SRNS 0111

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 2, 1942

I. General Comment

The Southern front still appears to be the theater of operations of principal interest to the Japanese, and signs increasingly indicate the imminence of more active operations in this theater. With the exception of a number of plane contact reports from scattered patrol craft (probably reporting Japanese planes mistaken for enemy aircraft) and the continuance of supply activities in the Mandates all areas other than the southern theater appear to be quiet.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) CinC 8th Fleet has been most active in addressing many subordinate commands in the Rabaul area as well as army units at Davao and Palau.

(b) Much radio traffic is noted between the 5th Special Landing Force probably at Lae or Salamoa and army units in New Guinea, Rabaul, Davao and Palau.

(c) The Army transport base at Hiroshima (near Kure, Japan) is seemingly actively interested in the situation at Rabaul.

(d) There is rather strong evidence that seems to indicate that air reinforcements soon will be sent to Rabaul from Japan along the route Bonin-Saipan-Truk-Rabaul.

(e) The possibility is growing stronger that HAYATAKA (CV) with her carrier group is at or near Palau.

(f) The emergence of a "D" operations force commander is noted ("D" is thought to be the designating letter for Australia).

(g) The 2nd Army commander is indicated to be at Palau.

III. Singapore-Indian Ocean

(a) The probable presence of CruDiv 7 (estimated 2 CA) Desron 3 and the Toko Air Group in the Penang-Andaman Islands area lends color to the belief that active naval operations may be resumed in this theater in the near future. It seems more probable however that these naval forces may be intended as covering forces for vessels running the allied blockade to German held ports in Europe.

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(b) There are indications that the 1st Air Fleet and ZUIKAKU (CV) are also concerned with the Malayan situation and this may mean that this carrier will be sent into the Singapore area in the near future. The ZUIKAKU (CV) is at present thought to be at Kure.

IV. Miscellaneous

(a) It is believed that the new carrier HITAKA has completed fitting out and is ready for sea.

(b) Attempts to salvage the EIFUKU MARU, (5,866 gross tons) which grounded on a reef in the northern Marshalls, have been abandoned.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 3, 1942

I. Bay of Bengal.

It is indicated that some unidentified Japanese force in the Bay of Bengal sighted near Trincomalee, Ceylon, a British force which they reported as composed of 1 BB of the Warspite class, 2 CV, and number of cruisers and destroyers. Apparently an additional 2 DD and some other types were also sighted 18 miles east of Trincomalee. As a result of these contacts the Japanese force appears to anticipate a possible attack. There is no definite indication of what the Japanese force consists. A force of 2 CA and 4 DD previously reported not far from Penang could have arrived near Ceylon, but it does not seem logical to have so small a force approach Trincomalee without support, of which there is no indication.

II. Southwest Pacific.

(a) Considerable activity continues in the New Britain-Solomons-East New Guinea area among the various naval units in these areas in connection with the escort of a number of merchant types which still appear to be bringing in Army forces from Davao and Palau. The CinC 4th Fleet now also appears quite active in the Mandates, suggesting the possibility of some minor movement from there.

(b) D/F positions of submarines: (a) Lat. 33° S. 19°S 38°S
Long. 155°E. 176°E 149°E

III. Northwest Pacific.

The only operational activity noted in the Aleutian area appears to be concerned with submarines. There is an indication that torpedo boats are now based on Etorofu Island, Kuriles at Hitokappu Bay.

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Japanese Naval Activities of August 4, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific:

(a) In the East Indies there is an indication of a convoy, including KENJO MARU (XAV), escorted by units of Desdiv 22 of Desron 5 arriving from Camranh Bay, French Indo-China. This convoy movement appears to be related to the recently reported landing of Japanese forces on islands in the Banda Sea.

(b) In the Malay area unusual activity is noted between the various base forces at Penang, Singapore, Kota Bharu, etc. but there is still no definite lead to the nature of this activity.

(c) No marked change is noted in the Melanesia-East New Guinea area. In the past few days mention has been made of one or two unidentified new combatant units apparently enroute to the Rabaul area, but it is believed probable that they are light craft.

The C-in-C 4th fleet now appears concerned solely in the operations of the various base forces in the Mandates. The apparent arrival in the Jaluit area of Comairon 11 under the escort of a desdiv again suggests the possibility of a possible advance on Nauru and Ocean Islands.

II. Carriers

It now appears that the carrier exercises which have been held in Kyushu waters for some time may now be completed, and carriers returning to port in the Inland Sea area via Bungo Channel. However Shokaku (CV) continues association with the target vessel Settsu and several air groups in North Japan,

There is no indication that she may have returned to operate in the high north.

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SRNS 0114

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 5, 1942

I. South Pacific

An almost daily Japanese air reconnaissance over Ocean Island has been noted during the past few days, and the Commander of the 4th Air Attack Force, based in the Marshall Islands, appears to have directed an air search for allied submarines in the vicinity of Ocean. This seems to suggest strongly that the area around Ocean is being prepared for an incursion. 4th Fleet units from Jaluit appear to be concerned in this possible operation rather than ones from the 8th Fleet in the Rabaul area.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Additional air strength is reported again to be moving toward Rabaul from the Mandates. Indications still continue of troop movements to this area from Palau.

(b) SUZUYA (CA) of Crudiv 7, which appears to have been under emergency repairs at Truk by the repair ship AKASHI since her return from the Midway action, is now thought to be returning to Sasebo, probably for further repairs. It seems apparent that this ship must have been seriously damaged at Midway, since she now appears to be returning to a navy yard after about two months of emergency repairs.

III. Malaya - Indian Ocean

(a) Heightened activity continues in this area marked by increased air and submarine operations. Bases at Singapore and Penang appear to be concerned with providing air protection for convoys, but the direction of movements of these convoys remains obscure.

(b) There is strong evidence that a Japanese prize crew was scheduled to bring the captured New Zealand motorship, HAURAKI, 7,113 tons, into Singapore in the morning of August 3. No further information on this capture has been received.

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SRNS 0115

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 6, 1942

I. General

(a) The situation remains about the same with no very definite new developments in prospect.

II. Miscellaneous

(a) There is some evidence indicating that the CinC 1st Air Fleet is the active commander of a possible task force or striking group composed as follows:

Cardiv 1 & 2	(Newly organized composition unknown but possibly 4 CV)
Crudiv 7	2 CA
Crudiv 8	2 CA
Units of desrons 2 and 10	10-12 DD's (estimate)

Crudiv seven less SUZUYA was last thought to be in the Singapore-Penang area. Other units are probably in empire waters. There does not seem to be sufficient evidence to warrant an assumption that any offensive action is planned for this force in the near future.

(b) It is thought that SUZUYA (damaged CA of Crudiv 7 repairing at Truk) left Truk on August 4 for Japan accompanied by the repair ship AKASHI and escorted by destroyers.

(c) There are indications that TAMA (CL) is headed north to relieve NACHI (CA) as flag of the 5th Fleet. This is indicative of a reduction of strength in the northern area with the possibility that an additional CA may be needed for duty elsewhere.

(d) It is reported that radio telephone communications are being established between Tokyo and Corregidor.

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SRNS 0116

~~SECRET~~ SUPPLEMENTSummary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 7, 1942I. Northern Pacific

(a) This area continues to show normal activity with evidence of convoys presumably of supplies moving from Japan to Horomushiro in the Kurile Islands.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Evidence continues to accumulate pointing towards the gathering in this area of additional army forces and aircraft, indicating the possibility that extensions of occupations are planned for the near future.

(b) Shipping activity appears to be heavy between Marshalls-Truk-Rabaul with the inference strong that forces and equipment are being moved towards Rabaul.

(c) A new Army detachment was noted at Palso with indications of a possible move towards Rabaul.

(d) There is some slight evidence that a large convoy, probably involving considerable army forces, is being formed at Yokohama with probable destination Rabaul.

III. Indian Ocean

(a)

Commander Submarine Fleet is enroute towards the Malaya area from Jaluit in the Marshalls where he has maintained his headquarters almost constantly since the start of the war.

(b) Attention is invited to a report indicating that heavy bombers of the Takao Air Group are thought to have arrived at Sabang (Northwestern tip of Sumatra). This would seem to presage start of air bombing operations in the Indian Ocean area.

IV. Action Report

(a) Apparently Japanese forces in the Southern Solomons were placed under heavy sea-borne attack on the early morning of August 7. Available details seem to be as follows:

0435I/7
(1535/6 EWT)0450I/7
(1550/6 EWT)

Base force at Tulagi made a contact report indicating that they were being attacked and reporting a force of 20 enemy ships
Tulagi reported being under heavy air attack.

0721I/7
(1821/6 EWT)
0830I/7
(1930/6 EWT)

Tulagi reported under heavy bombardment from ships and landings started. 17 Type 1 bombers of 5th Air Attack Force at Rabaul reported taking off to attack the invading fleet. These are apparently all the bombers immediately available as Comdr. 5th Air Attack Force had been ordered to attack with all available bombers.

(b) Tulagi radio went off the air about 0800 I/7

(c) CinC 4th and 8th Fleets and CinC 11th Air Fleet are apparently involved in any counter moves with indications strong that rather wide initial dispersal of their forces renders doubtful any immediate counter action.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 8, 1942

I. Northern Pacific

(a) Japanese forces at Kiska reported being under bombardment by surface forces consisting of five cruisers and three destroyers. It is indicated that the bombardment lasted for about 30 minutes from 1500I/8 to 1530I/8 (0200-0230/8 EWT) and that only plane losses were incurred. One enemy (US) plane is said to have been shot down.

(b) CinC 5th Fleet, in command of operations in the northern area, is thought to have been at Kiska on the 7th.

(c) There are indications that units of Subron 2 may be at or near the Kiska operating area.

(d) Hitokappa Bay on the eastern side of Yedorofu Island, Kuriles is indicated as a patrol plane operating base.

II. Mid-Pacific

(a) It will be noted that elsewhere it is stated that the USS GREENLING reports having sunk the 13,000 ton AP BRAZIL MARU near Truk. On August 7 this ship was thought to be headed north in the general vicinity of Saipan. The two reports do not necessarily conflict but pending further clarification the GREENLING's report must be accepted with reserve.

(b) Much movement of auxiliary vessels is noted in the Mandated Islands area with the general trend apparently to the westward, seemingly directed towards Rabaul.

(c) There is some evidence that tends to indicate that at least three destroyer divisions and Crudiv 5 have been hurriedly ordered to proceed south from Empire waters.

III. Southwest Pacific


(a) Comsubron 3 has apparently assumed command of all submarines in the Solomon Islands area and is designated as Commander of Southeastern Submarine Force. It is thought that at present this force consists of 2 divisions of Subron 3 and 1 division of Subron 7, a total of about 8 subs (estimated). Strenuous efforts seemingly are being made to concentrate this force for attacks on US forces attacking Florida Island.

(b) There are indications that a unit of the 6th Air Attack Force arrived in Rabaul on the 7th or early 8th. The strength of this unit is unknown.

IV. Action Report

(a) A U.S. task force attacking the Solomons reports that at 1910Z/6 (1510/6 EWT) surface and air bombardment of Florida Island was started, opposition was quickly silenced and landing completed against light opposition at

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2040Z/6 (1640/6 EWT). Guadalcanal Island was occupied without opposition at 2210Z/6 (1810/6 EWT). During the operation U.S. forces destroyed 18 seaplanes on the water and one small schooner at Florida Island. No other enemy surface forces seen. U.S. forces were attacked by 25 type 97 bombers, 10 type 99 dive bombers. Another attack was delivered by 40 type 99 twin-engine torpedo planes and 8 high altitude bombers. 2 bombers, 2 dive bombers, 12 torpedo planes, and 2 other planes were shot down. 2 bombers damaged with probability strong that other enemy planes were destroyed in the air fighting.

(b) The situation at 0900Z/7 (0500/7 EWT)

(1) Guadalcanal occupied. Not in contact with enemy ground forces.

(2) Florida Island occupied - fighting still continuing in eastern end of Tulagi. Tanabogo Island (in Gavutu harbor) still in enemy hands.

V. Miscellaneous

(a) HITAKA, a new carrier, may be scheduled to proceed to the southern area.

(b) CinC 1st Air Fleet is probably flying his flag in the SHOKAKU (CV).

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SRNS 0119

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 10, 1942I. Northern Pacific

(a) It is indicated that Japanese air and submarine forces only were involved in operations incident to the U.S. bombardment of Kiska.

(b) The Commander of the 3rd Air Attack Force appears to have assumed command of all shore based air forces in the northern area. It is thought that the command headquarters is in the Kurile Islands, probably in the vicinity of Paramushiro.

II. Mid Pacific

(a) The Japanese naval command appears to be apprehensive of a raid in force on Japan proper. Starting on the 6th of August what appear to be repeated warnings to be on the lookout for a U.S. striking force were issued and the patrol lines covering approaches to Japan apparently have been strengthened. It is thought that the normal station of the patrol line is probably along the parallel of 149° E.

(b) There is some slight indication that a heavy convoy escorted by a large contingent of combat ships may be forming in Japan. The possibility exists that these heavy forces may be destined for operations in the Southern area. It is thought possible that the part of Crudiv 7 now thought to be in Malaya and battleships may form a part of this force.

III. Southwest Pacific

(a) Air reinforcements seemingly continue to be sent to the Rabaul area. It appears that while some of these forces might have been enroute when the U.S. task force struck Tulagi, the movement has since been accelerated with evidence that strenuous efforts are being made to concentrate a formidable air striking force.

(b) It is thought that the Commander of the 11th Air Fleet has arrived at Rabaul with the probable objective of assuming the air command as it is indicated that he was hurriedly flown there subsequent to the U.S. attack on the Solomon Islands.

(c) About 17 heavy bombers and three other planes of the Misawa Air Group are thought to have arrived at the Vunakamu Airfield, near Rabaul.

(d) With the possible exception of two unidentified men-of-war surface units in the Rabaul area do not seem to have been as yet materially reinforced.

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SRNS 0120

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 11, 1942

I. Northern Area

(a) The WACHI (CA) which has been in the general vicinity of Kiska is thought to be returning to the Empire, probably via the Kuriles. It is not known whether or not she is still flying the flag of CinC 5th Fleet.

(b) It is indicated that seaplane reinforcements are probably being sent to Kiska.

II. Mid Pacific

(a) There are rather strong indications that the CinC 2nd Fleet has been directed to form a striking force for operations against U.S. forces in the Solomon Islands area and that this striking force will probably depart home waters about August 11. From information presently available, it is thought that the forces forming in Home waters for this purpose are as follows:

KONGO)	2 BB of Batdiv 3
HARUNA)	
ATAGO)	3 CA of Crudiv 4
TAKAO)	
KAYA)	
MYOKO)	2 CA of Crudiv 5
HAGURO)	
1 Desdiv		of Desron 4
1 Desdiv		" " 2

In addition to the foregoing Crudiv 7 and Desdiv 2 (2 CA, 4 BB) are apparently in N.E.I. waters headed for Rabaul and will probably join the striking force. It will be noted that no carriers are listed in the foregoing forces. It is thought that undoubtedly a carrier group will be included in this force as soon as available but there is no information at present to indicate that any carriers are included in this force.

III. Southwest Pacific

(a) All indications point to strenuous efforts being made by the Japanese to increase shore-based air strength in the New Britain-Solomon Islands area.

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(b) 22 bombers and 2 transport planes of the Kisarazu Air Group are reported to have arrived at Tenian and apparently will depart for Rabaul on the 11th. It is indicated that these planes are to be ferried to Rabaul as soon as possible. Apparently personnel of the 6th Air Attack Force lately arrived at Rabaul are to do the ferrying.

(c) It is thought that units of Airon 11 believed to be in Japan are under orders to proceed to Rabaul area via the KAMIKAWA MARU (AV)

(d) Airon 23 stationed in the Ambon area is possibly under orders to move air reinforcements to the Rabaul area.

(e) It is indicated that units of the Kure, Sasebo and Maizuru Special Landing Forces apparently originally intended to serve as defense forces at Guadal canal are being loaded on two transports which it is thought are now under orders to proceed to Rabaul.

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SRNS 0121

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 12, 1942

I. General

(a) The principal concern of the Japanese command seems to be centered on the situation in the Solomon Islands. There are rather strong indications that forces are being rushed towards Rabaul and that particularly strenuous efforts are being made to add to shore-based air strength in that area. It is indicated that in order to accomplish this concentration other areas, particularly N.E.I., Philippines and Mandate Islands are being denuded of considerable force while other forces are probably being rushed south from Japan.

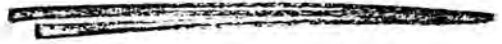
(b) In addition to the striking force mentioned in yesterday's supplement, it appears to be probable that the CinC 1st Air Fleet is forming a Task Force composed of the following units:

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| KIRISHIMA |) | 2 BB's of Batdiv 3 |
| HIYEI |) | |
| SHOKAKU |) | 4 CV's of 1st Air Fleet |
| ZUIKAKU |) | |
| RYUJO |) | |
| HOSHO |) | |
| TOKE |) | 2 CA of Crudiv 8 |
| CHIKUMA |) | |

Several unidentified units.

Such a force, with the addition of an appropriate number of destroyers, is typical of a heavy air striking force as hitherto employed by the Japanese. It is thought to be worthy of note that, with the possible exception of HOSHO (CV), the units mentioned have often operated together in the past as a Task Force. So far there is no indication of the mission or probable direction of movement of this force.

(c) There is some evidence to indicate that the carriers, SHOKAKU, ZUIKAKU and ZUINO are receiving aboard their plane complements with the inference that these 3 CV are being prepared for combat operations at sea.



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II. Northern Area

(a) A submarine warning was issued on the 11th, placing the supposed contact at Lat. 41-00 N., Long. 142-37 E.

III. Southwest Pacific

(a) Japanese Forces in the N.E.I. area reported an enemy force of 1 CL, 7 DD and 4 SS 50 miles east of Ambon and units of the 2nd Air Attack Force at Ambon were subsequently ordered to attack these forces.

(b) An unidentified AP loaded with troops of a Special Landing Force detachment is indicated to have been sunk by an allied submarine in the general vicinity of Rabaul.

(c) It is thought that a convoy consisting of ASUNA MARU (AP or AK) SATA (AO) and 1 XAV, escorted by destroyers, is nearing its destination, believed to be Kavieng.

(d) Units of Crudiv 6 are apparently in need of fuel and will probably fuel in the general vicinity of Kavieng.

(e) An embarked army force is apparently expected to arrive at Truk in the near future.

(f) Units of Airon 11 are evidently expected to proceed to Rabaul via Bonins and Truk. It is probable that these units are on board tenders of this Airon which, it is believed, may have sailed from Yokosuka about August 11.

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SRNS 0122

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 13, 1942I. General

(a) There does not seem to be any change from the general situation as previously reported. There is evidence that another alert was sent to patrol vessels guarding the approaches to Japan proper, indicating that the Japanese naval command is still apprehensive of an attack on Japan by a U.S. striking force.

(b) There does not seem to be any additional evidence to indicate that either one of the possible task forces previously noted as possibly forming in Japan have as yet initiated a movement south. So far as can be determined, all known carriers, with the possible exception of HOSHO and KASUGA MARU, are thought to be in home waters. There are rather strong indications, however, that except for KASUGA MARU, the other carriers are being prepared for sea. The KASUGA MARU is thought to be enroute home and the HOSHO is thought to be in home waters.

II. Northern Area

No significant change.

III. Mid Pacific

(a) A Japanese merchant type vessel reported sighting a hostile (probably US) submarine about 150 miles northwest of the Bonin Islands.

(b) An enemy (US) seaplane was reported down at sea to the eastward of the patrol line which is thought to extend along the meridian of 149° E.

(c) A single merchant type ship reported an unsuccessful attack by a submarine, probably in this area as the vessel reported proceeding to Kure.

(d) It is thought that the CinC Combined Fleet is probably in the vicinity of Kure.

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IV. Southwest Pacific

(a) The situation appears to be relatively unchanged.

(b) There is some evidence to indicate that Comairon 25 in the Rabaul area has sent urgent requests for air reinforcements, indicating that the Japanese may have incurred very heavy air losses.

(c) Signs continue that heavy air forces withdrawn from other areas are being rushed to bolster shore-based air forces in the Rabaul-Solomons area.

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SRNS 0123

~~SECRET~~ SUPPLEMENTSummary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 14, 1942I. General

(a) There is rather strong evidence to indicate that carrier plane strengths are undergoing a readjustment with considerable shifting of carrier type planes between carriers and between carriers and shore stations. It is believed that this is an added indication that carriers are being prepared for specific missions at sea. The impression is gained that these are hurried preparations in contradistinction to long planned arrangements.

(b) All known carriers are thought to be in Home waters or headed for Home waters. The SHOKAKU and ZUIKAKU left an unidentified location and headed for Kure on the 13th. It is indicated that they may be fully occupied with preparations until the 16th.

(c) Six of the known carriers seem to be arranged into two groups, viz:

Cardiv 1
SHOKAKU
ZUIKAKU
ZUHO

Cardiv 2
HITAKA (F)
HAYATAKA
RYUJO

KASUGA MARU and HOSHO unassigned. There is still much doubt as to precise divisional assignments and RYUJO may be temporarily replacing ZUHO in Cardiv 1 and vice versa.

(d) The Japanese command still seems to be concerned with the situation near the patrol line covering Japan.

II. Northern Area

There are signs that seaplane replacements are being sent to Kiska. Otherwise this area appears quiet.

III. Mid Pacific

(a) A part of the Mid-Pacific Patrol line is thought to have been ordered to search for a capsized U.S. plane in Lat. 37-12 N., Long. 149-50 E. This position was stated to be 40 miles east of the position of a ship of the patrol line.

(b) It appears that some heavy bomber replacements have been sent from Tenian to Marcus, possibly to attack the U.S. striking force thought to be in that area.

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(c) A contact report was made at 1312I/13 by a ship giving her position as Lat. 8-57 N., Long., 167-35 E. At the same time an unidentified unit reported that she was sinking in Lat. 8-47 N., Long. 167-45 E.

IV. Southwest Pacific

(a) This area was again relatively quiet with indications that shore and tender based air is continuing to move towards Rabaul.

(b) The KANO MARU (an AF or AK) in the general vicinity of Rabaul reported that she was being attacked by planes.

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~~Secret~~ Supplement

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 15, 1942

I. General

(a) There appears to be no significant change in the general situation. Plans reinforcements for the Rabaul area still seem to be the major concern with some slight indication that the Japanese are in pressing need of material. In this connection Yokosuka Aircraft Factory apparently has been ordered to expedite work on all planes under repair there and send them to Rabaul as soon as possible, and there are strong indications that the 14th Air Group may soon move from the Marshalls to the Rabaul area.

(b) CinC 2nd Fleet is thought to be moving south towards Truk and is probably near Saipan. There is increasing evidence that Truk may be the concentration point for forces to be commanded by CinC 2nd Fleet.

(c) Preparation for action of carrier plane groups appear to be continuing and it is thought that all known carriers are in or near home waters.

II. Northern Area

(a) No significant change. Operations appear to be routine.

III. Mid Pacific

(a) A submarine patrol of four subs has apparently been established in approximate position Lat. 35 N., Long. 146 E.

(b) It is thought that ten heavy bombers were sent from Tenian to Marcus Island on the 13th.

(c) A vessel of the Truk Base Force reported being attacked by two torpedoes from a submarine with no damage resulting.

IV. Southwest Pacific

(a) Activity seemed to be centered in the Buna and Lae areas with efforts seemingly being made to improve air fields and shore installations.

(b) There is slight evidence tending to indicate that Kako (C) of Crudiv 6 has been sunk.

(c) Destroyer reinforcements represented by Desdiv 17 (estimated 3DD) are thought to have arrived near Rabaul.

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V. Miscellaneous

(a) Reliable information has been received that extensive damage was inflicted by the bombing attack on Haiphong made by U. S. planes operating from bases in China on 9 August.

The following damage was reported:

Casualties of 100-200 (presumably general populace) and 83 Japanese troops. Decks and fuel storage (presumably in the dock area) were hit and have been burned or seriously damaged. Number 3 fuel storage area set afire. The complaint is made that local French authorities were slow in giving the alarm.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 16, 1942

I. General

(a) The note of urgency which has seemed to characterize Japanese naval movements and dispositions for the past ten days is apparently abating,

(b) There is still much uncertainty as to the movement of any Japanese task forces. There are indications, however, that a task force under command of CinC, 2nd Fleet may be moving south with Truk indicated as the probable rendezvous of this force, preliminary to initiation of operations in the Bismarck-Solomons area. It has been estimated that such a force could arrive in the vicinity of Rabaul about 21 August.

II. Northern Area

(a) There are indications that an unidentified battleship may be moving towards the northern area from Yokosuka.

(b) Other than as noted above, this area appears quiet with routine movements of auxiliary vessels taking place.

III. Mid Pacific

(a) There are strong indications that Cardiv 2 (HITAKA, HAYATAKA and HYUJO or ZUIHO) will operate in the vicinity of Marcus Island in the near future. It is indicated that each ship will have on board 15 to 18 each of fighters, dive bombers and torpedo planes.

(b) It is thought that the Commander, 11th Air Fleet, who has recently been in the Rabaul area, has returned to his normal base at Tenian.

(c) A total of 7 AV and Desdiv 34 were apparently in the Marshall Islands area on the 15th. These ships may be involved in a movement of Air Group 14 which recent information indicated might move to the Rabaul area. On the 15th the commander of this Air Group reported 9 seaplanes and 3 transport planes available for duty out of a total of 15 planes assigned.

(d) Comment: The movement of the Commander, 11th Air Fleet back to Tenian and the prospective operation of Cardiv 2 in the Marcus area is counter to the general southward trend

IV. Southwest Pacific

(a) Very little apparent change is noted in this area.

(b) CinC 8th Fleet is apparently ashore at Rabaul.

(c) There are indications that an unidentified cruiser departed Rabaul 15th for Yokosuka. Such a movement at this time seems to lend color to the presumption that the cruiser is damaged to such an extent as to be unfit for action and is proceeding home for repairs.

V. Miscellaneous

At 1730L/30 July an unidentified Japanese vessel in Lat. 7-21 N., Long. 151-15 E reported herself sinking as a result of two torpedo hits.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Aug. 17, 1942

I. General

(a) A marked scarcity of radio traffic involving the 1st Air Fleet and carriers is probably indicative that these units may have put to sea.

(b) The CinC 2nd Fleet is apparently at or near Saipan where some of his forces are thought to be assembling. With the exception of Comdesron 2 there is as yet no very definite information as to the composition of these forces but, judging from the importance of the commander, forces under his command will probably be large.

II. Northern Area

(a) Little noted except routine movements of supply vessels to and from the Kiska area.

III. Mid Pacific

(a) The KINAI MARU, with a detachment of the Kure # 5 Landing Force, is thought to be near Saipan, probably enroute to Rabaul.

(b) The number of enemy contacts being reported by Japanese forces in the Mandates area appears to be increasing. The GOJUN MARU, KAV, made a contact report at 1030I/16 in Longitude 156 E and probably near Truk. It is indicated that the ship may have been attacked by a submarine.

(c) Air units, mostly fighters, are being flown from the Takao air station to China, presumably to strengthen defensive air forces probably necessitated by operations of U.S. Air Forces in China.

IV. Southwest Pacific

(a) There are indications that some increased air strength has arrived in the New Britain area in that it is thought that most of the 14th Air Group and the Yokohama Air Group have arrived at Gasmata.

(b) It was noted that at 1900-2100I/16 a Japanese radio station, known as Air Base Guadalcanal, originated several despatches. This is the first such instance noted since our occupation of Guadalcanal on August 7 and indicates that Japanese forces in the interior of the island have succeeded in opening radio communication with their forces.

(c) Fragmentary information indicates that the Japanese plan a landing attack on a place thought to be Guadalcanal to start probably about August 18. (Note this is August 17 (today) Washington date). It is indicated that

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the Ikki Detachment will probably deliver the attack escorted by about 10 DD and supported by cruisers of CruDiv 6 which are to attack U.S. surface ships. Reconnaissance is to be provided by seaplanes operating from Gizo Island.

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New Zealand

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 18, 1942

WNT

I. General:

(a) There is strong evidence that the Commander in Chief, 2nd Fleet, is at or near Truk. It seems fairly clear that forces under his command will be involved in future operations in the Rabaul area. There is still very little data of a definite nature to indicate the composition of these forces. It seems to be a reasonable assumption, however, that he probably has with him now or soon will have a powerful striking group. On admittedly fragmentary and rather tenuous information, the following estimate of a 2nd Fleet striking force estimated to be near Truk is made.

HARUNA)	2 BB of
KONGO)	Batdiv 3
Crudiv 4	3 CA
Crudiv 5	2 CA
Units of	
Desron 10	1 CL
plus other	
DLs	12 DD

The above are forces in addition to 4th and 6th Fleet units already operating in the Mandates-Rabaul area. Crudiv 7 (2 CA) plus 3 DD are now thought to be enroute to Truk and may operate with the above force or with the 1st Air Fleet now thought to be at sea probably near home waters.

(b) The Commander of the 1st Air Fleet is thought to be forming an air striking force. Again there is a paucity of information, but the following estimate does not seem to be unreasonable.

Cardiv 1	3 CV
Cardiv 3	
(doubtful)	Composition unknown
MIRISHIMA)	2 BB of
HIYEI)	Batdiv 3
Crudiv 8	2 CA
Destroyers	8 - 10 DD
Auxiliaries	2 (possibly AO or AV)

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Crudiv 7 (2 CA) may operate with these forces. Commander of the 1st Air Fleet was thought to be near Japan on the 16th, but he may have sailed since. There is still no clue as to any direction of movement.

II. Northern Area:

No significant change.

III. Mid-Pacific:

(a) So far as can be determined, it is thought that all known carriers are at or near Japan although most of these units appear to be in an advanced stage of readiness for operations.

(b) Again it was noted that frequent contact reports are apparently being made by Japanese patrols in the mid-Pacific and Mandate Islands areas.

(c) Available evidence continues to suggest that a powerful concentration of force is building up in the Truk area.

IV. Southwest Pacific:

(a) No further evidence has been noted of Japanese radio transmissions from Guadalcanal Island.

(b) It is indicated that an air port at Buna was reported available for use for Japanese forces on 16 August.

(c) The Commander 11th Air Fleet has apparently returned to Rabaul probably to resume command of shore based air operations in that area.

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SRNS 0128

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 19, 1942I. General

(a) The impression is gained that the situation in the Solomon Islands area and the Mandates is absorbing the attention of the Japanese naval command. It is indicated that plane reinforcements are moving to Truk from the Marshalls and from Japan with the probable destination the Rabaul area. Forces continue to move toward Truk as a center of general mobilization.

II. Northern Area

No significant change.

III. Mid Pacific

(a) Indications continue to point to the belief that all known carriers are still in the vicinity of Japan proper. It is believed, however, that these units are in a high state of readiness for action.

IV. Southwest Pacific

(a) Some active operations seem to be taking place in the Solomon Islands area but any information as to details is lacking. It is possible that the activity may be principally reconnaissance.

(b) It is indicated that the KAMOI (AV), enroute from Marshalls to Rabaul, was in trouble at 0930/18. It would seem to be indicated that she had been attacked by U.S. forces.

V. Miscellaneous

There are indications that the KOBE MARU (7,800 tons) may have been attacked by a submarine. When last noted that ship was thought to be in home waters in the vicinity of Kure.

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SRNS 0129

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 20, 1942

I. General:

(a) It is noted that increased security measures recently adopted by the enemy have very materially added to the difficulties of obtaining information.

(b) The situation in the Northern Pacific and the Central Pacific, north of Mandate Islands area, appears to be quiet with little except routine activity apparently taking place.

II. Mid-Pacific:

(a) Defense forces in the general vicinity of Jaluit seem to have been alerted. There are indications that steps are being taken to relieve a situation in the vicinity of Makin Island of the Northern Gilberts.

III. S. W. Pacific:

(a) Indications still point to the movement of heavy forces towards the vicinity of Truk for eventual operations in the Rabaul - Solomon Islands area.

(b) The KAMOI (AV), which was thought to be in trouble yesterday, had apparently arrived at her destination near Rabaul.

(c) There is further slight evidence tending to confirm the suggestion that the KAKO (CA) of Crudiv 6 has been sunk.

(d) It is thought that Crudiv 7 (2 CA) has probably arrived in the vicinity of Rabaul and is taking active part in Japanese operations in the Solomon Island area.

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SRNS 0130

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 21, 1942

I. Northern Area:

(a) There are indications that a Commander of a seaplane unit is aboard the KAMITSU MARU (XAV) thought to be underway in the general vicinity of Kiska. The general direction of movement is apparently uncertain.

(b) There are indications that plane flights are taking place between Kiska and Attu with the obvious suggestion that air forces at Kiska are possibly being strengthened.

II. Mid-Pacific:

(a) While there are many indications to justify the presumption that most of the known carriers are engaged in tactical exercises in the vicinity of Japan, there is slight indication that CarDiv 2 (3 CV) may have departed home waters in the direction of Palau.

(b) It is indicated that a patrol vessel reported an apparent submarine contact in Lat. 31 - 33 N., Long. 123 - 03 E.

(c) It is thought that the Commander-in-Chief, 6th Fleet, in KATORI, is probably underway in the vicinity of Yokosuka. It is possible that he may be en route to his usual station at Jaluit.

III. S. W. Pacific:

(a) There are strong indications that a constant stream of supplies and material are continuing to move in the direction of Truk with the possibility strong that this material is intended for use in the Rabaul-Solomon area.

(b) There are no indications that battleships or carriers are in the vicinity of Truk. It is believed, nevertheless, that the presence of such ships in this area is still a distinct possibility.

(c) There are strong indications of active combat operations in the Solomon Islands area. Any clues as to the details of these operations are still lacking.

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SRNS 0131

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 22, 1942I. General

The general situation remains about the same as previously reported with little activity noted in areas other than the southwest Pacific area.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) There are slight indications that the CinC, 2nd Fleet in ATAGO (CA) may be headed south from Truk. Information is not sufficiently definitive to indicate whether or not he may be accompanied by any considerable force.

(b) Much urgent type traffic is noted from the Guadalcanal area, in all probability reflecting Japanese landing attempts on that island.

(c) There are indications that a convoy may be forming at Palao to transport units of the 17th Army to the Rabaul area.

(d) The Japanese make rather extravagant claims as to losses inflicted on our forces in the Solomon Islands but admit the loss of 21 planes and 2 cruisers. This tends to confirm the possible loss of the IAKO (CA) of Crudiv 6 and it seems highly possible that the other cruiser admitted lost would also be a CA of Crudiv 6.

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SRNS 0132

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 23, 1942

I. General

There is no significant change in the general situation as previously reported.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Indications continue that a powerful striking force is building up at Truk, probably for a counter-attack on the Solomon Islands. The CA CHIKUMA and possibly 2 battleships of Batdiv 3 are in the vicinity of Truk. The CV's ZUIKAKU and SHOKAKU are enroute from Japan to Truk. The KASUGA MARU (XCV) is ferrying planes from Japan to Truk. The three carriers ZUIHO, HITAKA and HAYATAKA may soon leave Japanese waters for Truk. The IAV KAKU MARU, it is believed, will soon depart Truk for Rabaul. The IAV FUJIEAWA MARU is enroute south from Japan. The Commander of submarine forces has been located in Truk area.

(b) The staff of the 1st Air Fleet has moved to Rabaul. A detachment of Kisaratsu Air is at Kavieng.

(c) On August 21st several destroyers appeared in contact with enemy forces in the Solomon area. Japanese units in the interior of Guadalcanal Island are still operating what is believed to be a portable radio. Bougainville Air picks up these messages and relays them to Rabaul.

(d) The commanding officer KAKO on August 19 was aboard a Maru enroute to Japan, thus further indicating that the KAKO was sunk.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 9, 1942

I. Northern Pacific

The ABUKUMA (CL), TAMA (CL) and KISO (CL) as well as one or two units of Subron 2 are believed to be in the Kiska area.

II. Mid-Pacific

Numerous contact reports indicate that the Japanese have sighted an enemy unit in the vicinity of Guan. *Frank?*

Movement of auxiliaries from Mid-Pacific areas to the southward continues.

III. Southwest Pacific

Plane reinforcements believed to consist of one squadron of torpedo bombers from the 4th Airon arrived at Rabaul on August 8. On the same day 17 heavy bombers and 3 other planes are thought to have left Empire for Rabaul.

Desdiv 17 is reported en route to Rabaul.

There are indications that Japanese planes after leaving Rabaul, rendezvous at the airfield on Buka Island before proceeding to attack our forces.

The AKIKAZE has arrived at Bougainville and it now seems to be associated with the 5 Air Attack Force in operations against our units in the Solomons.

Two Japanese submarines were within a 100 mile radius of 05° S., 166° E. at 0409Z on August 8. Every effort continues to be made to concentrate submarines for an attack on our forces in the Solomons.

Desron 6 appears to have one division in the Rabaul area and another in the vicinity of Truk.

IV. Indian Ocean

Desdiv 14 is believed to be operating out of Penang.

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SRNS 0134

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 25, 1942

I. General

(a) Every indication continues to point towards the presumption that the Japanese naval command is preoccupied with the situation in the Southwest Pacific. Ships, planes, men and supplies apparently continue to move in a steady stream from Japan and the East Indies towards Truk with final destination probably the Solomon Islands area.

(b) Location of Cardiv 2 (3CV) is not very positive and there is a slight indication that this unit may be moving south from Japan.

(c) So far as can be determined 7BB of the 1st Fleet are still at or near home waters but recently little has been seen or heard of these units therefore their location must be considered uncertain.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Clandestine Japanese radio stations apparently continue to operate on Guadalcanal Island.

(b) It is indicated that the Japanese are operating sea-planes from Ekata Bay, Santa Isabel Island.

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SRNS 0135

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 26, 1942

I. General

(a) General distribution of forces apparently remains about the same as previously reported thus indicating that the Southwest Pacific is still considered the major theater of operations.

(b) DF bearings as well as other information continue to indicate that Cardiv 2 (3CV) is near Japan. The Hosho is thought to be in port in Japan and the Kasuga Maru is probably proceeding south for eventual service in the New-Britain Solomons area. This latter carrier has not hitherto been used as a combat carrier and may be carrying plane replacements only. Of the known carriers then only 3, viz; Shokaku, Zuikaku and Ryūjo were available for operations in the Solomons. Ryūjo is either destroyed or badly damaged and one of the two remaining CV's may be damaged.

(c) There is increasing evidence that the CinC Combined Fleet is moving south towards Truk. It is presumed that he is in his flagship Yamato (BB). There is no information as to any other force he may have with him.

II. Northern Area

(a) A weather reporting ship apparently has taken station near Kiska and there are signs of undetermined tactical activity between Attu and Kiska.

III. Southwest Pacific

(a) A base apparently for aircraft, probably seaplanes, has apparently been established at Gizo, New Georgia Islands.

(b) Extensive scouting activity apparently is being carried out by submarines in the Solomons Islands area.

(c) A salvage unit is thought to have arrived at Sabaul indicating that the Japanese may be able to save many ships that otherwise might be lost.

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SRNS 0133

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Japanese Naval Activities of August 24, 1942

I. General

(a) The general situation remains about the same with evidence accumulating that Japanese preparations for action in the Solomon Islands area are nearing completion.

(b) No very definite information recently has been obtained concerning the precise location of Japanese carrier groups but it seems probable that 2 to 4 carriers may be available for operations in the Solomons area.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) It has been estimated that approximately 20 Japanese submarines are active in the Solomon Islands area and Japanese reconnaissance destroyers and aircraft appear active in this region.

(b) It seems fairly sure that SHOKAKU and ZUIKAKU (CVs of Cardiv 1) are in the Truk area and may be further south.

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SRNS 0137

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Aug. 28, 1942I. General

There is some indication that possibly one Batdiv may have departed Kure via the Bungo Channel with planes providing an anti-submarine patrol. It also appears that MUIHO (KCV) may have made a sortie either in company with the battleships, or at nearly the same time. As yet there is no definite indication that these units will join the Japanese forces in the Melanesia area.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) The C-in-C, Combined Fleet is now reported by the C-in-C, U.S. Pacific Fleet to have moved down in his flagship to the Rabaul area, but as yet there is no report of further action by surface units. An allied plane reported sighting an enemy force of 1 BB, 6 CA, 1 CL, 6 DD on August 27 in Lat. 2°-20 S., Long. 161°-45 E.

(b) It is reported that most of the air attack groups of the SHO-KAKU and ZUIKAKU probably were shot down during recent attacks on U.S. forces. RYUJO is stated to have been hit by one torpedo and 4-1000 lb. bombs at 0440Z of August 24.

(c) A search conducted on Rekata Bay, Santa Isabel Island, showed it to be clear of enemy forces. However, it appears that a seaplane base has been established at Gizo, and KIYOKAWA MARU (KAV) is believed acting as tender for these seaplanes at this island.

(d) There is a slight indication that a Japanese surface patrol is watching the eastern approaches to the Solomon Islands, but it is not known of what types this possible patrol consists.

(e) HAGARA (CL) is believed to be in the vicinity of Ocean Island on which it appears that a Japanese force has landed, and it must be considered likely that further occupations in the Gilberts are contemplated. The C-in-C, U.S. Pacific Fleet has expressed the belief that Abemama Island in this group will soon be occupied.

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SRNS 0138

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of August 29, 1942

I. General

It appears that the three carriers, Hitaka, Hayataka, Zuiho and probably one Batdiv of the First Fleet of 3 or 4 BB have very likely started south from Kyushu waters. Their probable immediate destination is Truk.

It may be assumed that a number of light forces are in company with these heavy units.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) There is considerable evidence that aircraft and aviation supplies are enroute down to the New Britain-Marshalls areas. Vessels which appear to be so involved include Kasuga Maru (XCV), Kamikawa Maru (XAV), Hitcho Maru (XAV), and at least one other which appears to be transporting fighter plane replacements to Rabaul.

(b) Although the fate of the Ryujo (CV) remains uncertain, it is indicated that Zuikaku, probably flying the flag of the Comdr., First Air Fleet, and Shokaku are in the northern Solomons in the general vicinity of Buka Is., but probably not in company. This island appears to be assuming increased importance as a base for carrier planes as well as shore-based planes.

III. Northwest Pacific

(a) It is indicated that activities in and around Kiska are declining. At least some of the VPB flying boats formerly based on this island now seem to have been diverted to other areas; there is an indication that some of these planes may have been sent down to the New Guinea theatre of operations, probably as replacements. However, it is reported that at least six RO type submarines of Subron 7 remain in Aleutian waters.

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SRNS 0139

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Aug. 30, 1942I. General

(a) So far as can be determined it seems likely that CarDiv 2 (3 CV) has not yet left the general vicinity of Japan. M

(b) The general situation remains apparently unchanged, with the chief emphasis still placed on operations in the Southwest Pacific. Carriers, cruisers and battleships, thought to be operating in the Southwest Pacific, are still not definitely located.

(c) A newly commissioned submarine apparently has been assigned to Subron 1 and is thought to be in the Truk area.

II. Northwest Pacific

(a) On the 29th, 4 enemy bombers bombed our aircraft at Nazan Bay. Results unreported.

III. Southwest Pacific

(a) On the 28th, 2 large and 1 small destroyer were sighted heading for Guadalcanal and about 70 miles away. The sighting planes immediately attacked and scored hits on the small DD. At 1800L/28 this group of ships was attacked again by our dive bombers. Results: 1 large DD blew up and sank, the other was left heavily afire and is probably destroyed. The small DD hit in the first attack appeared to be badly hurt and low in the water. All three ships appeared to be carrying gear for landing parties or for parties already ashore.

(b) At 0440L/29 6 enemy planes bombed our positions at Guadalcanal. No damage resulted. Again at 1145L/29 Guadalcanal was bombed by 12 2-engine bombers. Minor damage was incurred. 5 bombers and 4 zero fighters of the enemy were destroyed by our fighters and AA fire.

(c) Late data indicates that the RYUJO (CV) may not have been destroyed but is probably badly damaged. ||

(d) It is indicated that enemy army forces are continuing to be assembled at Davao and Palao and are probably being moved to the Rabaul area under escort.

(e) It is indicated that Makin Island and Abemama, both in the Gilberts, are possibly slated for occupation by forces now at Kille and Taroa in the Marshalls. It is thought that a unit of the 14th Air Corps is probably operating from Makin.

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SANS 0136

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Aug. 27, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) In amplification of previous reports on damage inflicted on the enemy forces which attacked our positions in the Solomon Islands:

(1) A Japanese bulletin has admitted the loss of a small aircraft carrier. Since RYUJO was reported very badly damaged, it appears that this carrier must have been the one which was admitted lost.

(2) One BB was reported struck by a 1,000 lb. bomb, probably either HIYEI or KIRISHIMA of Batdiv 3. This damage was not previously reported.

(3) It was estimated that more than 50 Japanese planes were destroyed in comparison to only 7 of our planes lost.

(4) On Aug. 25 a 500 lb. bomb was reported to have hit a Japanese submarine abaft her conning tower in Lat. 12°-30 S., Long. 164°-15 E. This submarine was thought to have sunk, but a second one in this position which was strafed on the same day was probably only slightly damaged. Another submarine was depth charged by two of our destroyers in Lat. 12°-58' S., Long 163°-36 E, and two other SS were sighted in Lat. 8°-30 S., Long. 162°E. The locations of these subs suggests that an attempt is being made to intercept our lines of communications between the Solomons and New Caledonia.

(b) The CinC, Combined Fleet is now more definitely located in the general Truk area directing operations in the Solomon Islands.

II. Northwest Pacific

One of the patrol lines of the Fifth Fleet covering approaches to Japan appears to have moved to the 148th E. meridian.

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SRNS 0140

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Aug. 31, 1942

I. General

Recently there have been repeated indications of a converted carrier believed to be similar to KASUGA MARU (equipped with flight deck but used exclusively for transportation of aircraft and aviation supplies). This ship appears to be enroute south, possibly with Buka as destination, and is now probably in Mandated Islands waters.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Radio traffic association suggests that Crudiv 18 with one Desdiv is operating in support of landing operations in conjunction with shore-based aircraft of the Tainan Air Group in eastern New Guinea waters. In the New Britain-Solomons area Crudiv 6 appears to be operating with three Desdivs as an integral unit, probably at present in provisioning landing forces in the Solomons. A task group of two or three DD similar to that recently attacked off Guadalcanal, and with probably a similar mission, now appears to be operating in the southern Solomons. The heavier units of CV, BB and CA's remain quiet, and hence are now not accurately located.

(b) About 20 SS are estimated to be in the New Britain-Solomons area. There is some indication that this number may be increased by eight others. If this materializes approximately one-half of the Japanese Navy submarine strength will be concentrated in this area.

(c) There is an indication that the Gizo Seaplane Base is being strengthened.

(d) A U.S. destroyer reports sinking a submarine of the I-56 class in Lat. 9-20 S., Long. 160-55 E.

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SRNS 0141

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 2, 1942

I. Home waters of Japan

(a) No further information has been received with regard to the recently reported sortie of heavy units from the Inland Sea, which might constitute one Batch of the First Fleet. However, it is now indicated that the three carriers of Carrier 2 have within the past few days been exercising in home waters with the target ship, SETSU. These exercises, may by now have been completed, but as yet there is no definite evidence on the prospective employment of these carriers.

(b) On Aug. 25 a large floating mine was reported drifting S.S.E. in a position about 5 miles off the village of Iaro, Iwate Prefecture, Honshu.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Solomon Islands

Good evidence exists that a small number of Japanese troops were landed at Taivo Point, on the northeast coast of Guadalcanal Island at 1400Z, Aug. 29. This landing appears to have been supported by 2 cruisers, of which one was a CL of the JINTSU class, and 2 DD which were observed close inshore 2 miles west of Taivo Point. Allied planes attacked this force, but results were unobserved. More recently, it appears that Japanese forces on Guadalcanal have sent out intelligence on the composition of U.S. forces on this island, including the fact that 30-40 P-40's and 60-70 pilots were based here. Shortly thereafter information was gained indicating that a new landing supported by units of Desron 3 would be attempted on the night of Sept. 1, local time.

Preceding the above action a Japanese air attack was carried out over Guadalcanal Island. In the resulting engagement 13 zero landplanes were destroyed.

Daka continues to be the focal point of Japanese air operations in the Solomons.

(b) New Guinea

Comradiv 18 appears active in relief operations on Milne Bay. He seems to be informed through air reconnaissance that allied forces are located in a position some distance to the northwest of Sako, and west of Giligili and an airfield referred to as Kuha. It is probably this field which recent press

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reports have learned a secret field from which allied planes have operated. There is strong evidence that Comradiv 18 intends to carry out a night attack on September 1 with the objective of capturing this airfield. Details of this planned attack are lacking but the use of aircraft is indicated, and there is mention made to the effect that one DP at 2100 would provide covering fire and establish contact.

Fannist Island in the DeBeyne Group, abandoned after the Coral Sea engagement, now appears once again active as an air base, probably for VPB.

There is considerable evidence of convoy activity between Japanese home ports and the main bases in the Mandates down to Rabaul.

Activity of the 8th Base Force at Jaluit has decreased.

definitely appears to have been reoccupied, and repairs underway. Makin

III. General

Japanese intelligence emanating from Madrid reports that landing forces, including 12,000 picked parachute troops equipped with light rifles and flame throwers, have departed from a west coast port, probably Los Angeles, for Australia. It reports that the air ferry service from the U.S. to New Zealand is functioning extremely well, and that soon this route will be extended to other distant points in the Pacific. It states that a convoy of about 40,000 U.S. troops and heavy tanks have arrived at Aden for service in Egypt.

It also summarizes information on U.S. convoys as follows:

- (1) On Aug. 24 a total of 24 tankers sailed from New York to Panama.
- (2) On Aug. 22, 43 ships arrived in New York from the South Pacific.
- (3) On Aug. 23, 19 ships arrived in New York from Great Britain.
- (4) Two convoys departed New Orleans for Brazilian ports with aircraft parts. In this connection, it states that the U.S. is establishing many air bases in Brazil.

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SRNS 0142

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 2, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) Solomons

On August 23 Japanese forces remaining on Guadalcanal Island sent information on allied forces on this island to the effect that their numerical strength was estimated at 2,000 disposed in the general vicinity of the airfield on the northern coast. These forces were reported to be equipped with about 20 light A. guns, many machine guns and not over 10 tanks. Only fighters were stated to be operating from the airfield. On August 19, it was reported, an allied detachment of about 800 attacked the Japanese naval establishment which was shelled from positions at Lunga. It reported that on August 21 an allied advance force was engaged to the eastward and heavy firing was heard. Since that time no attacks have been made but the allied forces were said to be receiving additional stores and personnel from destroyers and transports.

On August 30 a Japanese group remaining on Florida Island, referred to as the "Eastern Lookout Post", reported that after engaging a superior allied force on August 18 they withdrew into a thick jungle from which neither sky nor sea could be seen. No food had been obtained since the attack, and they stated that they merely awaited death. In spite of this anticipation they inquired whether any means of communication with naval vessels could be arranged.

The prominence of destroyer task groups in the southern Solomons indicates probable further attempts at landings on islands occupied by U.S. forces.

A coast watcher reports that in the U.S.D. attack at 1700 L, Aug. 28, three large Japanese ships were sunk outside Meringe Lagoon, Santa Isabel Island. Another apparently on fire disappeared in the rain.

Tokyo Naval Intelligence appears to have informed Japanese forces afloat of an eyewitness account of the sinking of U.S.S. CAMBERRA.

One L-17, while on patrol, attacked a Japanese force of 1 CA, 3 CL in Lat. 8-39 N., Long. 159 E. at 0925 L, Aug. 30. A direct hit or near miss was made on the stern of the CA.

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(b) Gilbert Islands

The C-in-C, U.S. Pacific Fleet has reported that Apamama Island was probably occupied by the Japanese on September 1.

Confirmation of the recent seizure of Nauru by the Japanese is seen in the apparent broadcasting of weather data from this island by the enemy.

II. Mid-Pacific

A radio station which is believed to be on Wake Island now appears to be equipped with a direction finder which can be used in tracking U.S. fleet units.

R.H. McCallum.

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SRNS 0143

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 3, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) New Guinea

Information on Japanese naval operations in the Milne Bay area, although fragmentary and therefore liable to misinterpretation, indicates the following:

On September 1 there were about 400 men remaining. They had been severely harassed, had lost all their heavy equipment, and were steadily withdrawing toward the sea on the north coast of Milne Bay in bad physical condition. Under Comcrudiv 18 a relief expedition was planned. A small naval detachment moved in to attack, but was driven off by heavy allied fire which claimed many casualties. This failure appeared to have been explained by the fact that an expected reserve force failed to arrive at daybreak of September 1, and the detachment, after withdrawing about 1,000 meters, awaited reinforcements.

On September 2 Comcrudiv 18 was informed of the entry into Milne Bay of two allied vessels described as a cruiser and a transport. They were reported to have moved into the Inner Bay and toward the north shore.

A new attempt to relieve the situation in Milne Bay was then planned for the night of September 3. Comdesdiv 4, operating in Comcrudiv 18's task force, moved in to contact ground forces, arriving at about 1930 I, Sept. 3. At about 2030 he appeared still to be attempting to make contact, and requested an activity, presumably ashore, to show a light.

There is some indication that allied surface craft, possibly those reported to have entered Milne Bay, were to be bombed in the afternoon, probably Sept. 4.

(b) Solomon

Japanese forces remaining on Guadalcanal Island have sent out considerable information on allied forces on this island. Apparently all air operations from the captured airfield are reported by radio. It was also reported that at about 1630, August 23, it was observed that the allied destroyer which had been torpedoed had apparently sunk. On the same day allied transports landing supplies

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together with escorting destroyers were described as hurriedly standing out after appearing to have sighted one or more Japanese submarines. Another report expressed the suspicion that the area west of Lunga Point and for a distance of about 2,000 meters to seaward had been mined.

(c) Australian waters

CARDED The I 121 and I 122, Japanese minelaying submarines, are reported to be off the east coast of Australia, possibly to conduct offensive mining operations.

(d) General

Although it is fairly well established that the C-in-C, Combined Fleet is in the Truk area in his flagship, YAMATO, location of Batdiv 1 of 1st Fleet is still uncertain, although it is thought to have departed the Inland Sea on about Aug. 30. The C-in-C, U.S. Pacific Fleet has expressed the opinion that Batdiv 1 may have arrived in the Truk area. Although HAYATAKA and HITAKA of Cardiv 2 are still believed in home waters, there is a possibility that ZUIHO (XCV) may now be enroute to the Truk area.

II. Japan waters

At 0750 I, Sept. 2, a Japanese vessel, TRIKINU MARU (unlisted) was reported struck by a torpedo and sunk about 13 miles southeast of Chikyu Misaki (Cape Chikyu - Lat. 42-30 N., Long. 141° E. on northern tip of Honshu). Although not definitely known, it is believed that this vessel was probably an armed merchant type used as a patrol ship.

A.H. McCallum.

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SRNS 0144

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 4, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) New Guinea

It is apparent that the relief operations in Milne Bay under the command of Concrudiv 13 are at present on only a small scale. It is estimated that naval forces in this general area do not exceed 2 CL, 6-8 DD, small patrol ships, and a number of small craft, including subchasers or motor torpedo boats. In addition it appears that Desdiv 30 may be escorting a landing force to this area, and possibly an XCV and/or IAV may be scheduled to deliver planes to the Buna area.

Concrudiv 13 appears to have instructed ground forces near Milne Bay to secure an encampment in a safe location in the jungle to await what is indicated to be a large number of troop reinforcements scheduled to arrive on Sept. 12. This date probably cannot be strongly relied upon, but it does indicate that reinforcements on a scale considerably larger than the present relief operations are planned for the near future. In the meanwhile attempts to give at least temporary assistance to these surviving troops seemed to have been made during the early night of Sept. 3 near Rabi, on the north coast of Milne Bay. At about this time the bay was reported to be clear of allied vessels.

(b) Solomons

The Japanese submarine concentration between the Solomons and New Hebrides is still in evidence.

II. Northwest Pacific

Traffic association now indicates that the only naval units in this area comprise 1 CA, 1 CL, 6-7 DD, 5-6 SS.

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SRNS 0145

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 5, 1942

I. General

(a) The emphasis still seems to be placed on operations in the Southwest Pacific area. The Japanese need for additional aircraft still appears to be pressing. While aircraft replacements and reinforcements seem to be flowing south from Japan, there are indications that units of the 1st Air Attack Force based Malaya and the 21st Air Group based Sabang, Sumatra are also being ordered towards the Rabaul area.

(b) Carrier locations remain virtually unchanged so far as can be determined but MIKO of Cariv 2 may be enroute towards Truk. A new carrier or more probably an aircraft transport named MIKA is apparently scheduled to operate with the 11th Air Fleet in the Rabaul - New Guinea area.

(c) No definite location has been obtained of the 1st and 2nd Fleets for the past several days.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) New Guinea

It is indicated that the CinC 8th Fleet is still in command of the naval forces in the vicinity of Milne Bay. The main elements of these forces are thought to be:-

Crudiv 18	2 CL
Submarine Group	6 SS (estimate) commanded by Comsubron 3.
Desdiv 30)	7 DD
Lesdiv 4)	

It appears that the commander of the Landing Force ashore in the Milne Bay region has been directed to establish himself in a strong position and has been told that reinforcements will be landed to support him. He has been informed that 200 men will be landed on the 5th, and about 2 battalions on the 10th and that he should hold out until the arrival of large land forces on the 12th. The small reinforcements are apparently from the Wave 5 Special landing force

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and are probably being landed at night at a place on Milne Bay known as Rabi. About midnight the commander of the Jap landing force in the Milne Bay area reported that his forces had been surrounded and he momentarily expected an attack.

Attention is invited to the fact that there is no evidence tending to indicate a withdrawal of forces but on the contrary there are strong indications that reinforcements and a final landing in force are planned.

(b) Solomons

For the first time in almost three weeks the Japanese radio set on Guadalcanal was silent. It is not known whether or not this indicates its capture.

At 0200L/3, 5 Japanese ships, probably destroyers, shelled our ships and shore positions at Guadalcanal.

(c) Gilberts

It is believed that the 19th Air Group and about one division of destroyers are operating in the Gilberts.

III. North Pacific

(a) On the 3rd U.S. Army aircraft bombed and strafed Japanese ships and shore installations at Kiska. Damage was inflicted on 1 transport, 1 small tender, 1, 4-engine flying boat and ground installations.

(b) Observing aircraft noted that on 3 September there was 1 large and 3 medium AK in Kiska harbor and that the harbor entrance had been closed by an anti-submarine net.

(c) At 2302L/3 3 Japanese DD and 1 transport were sighted in Lat. 52-22 N., Long. 176 E.

IV. Miscellaneous

(a) It is indicated that at 1645L/4 2 Japanese merchant vessels were sunk near the Bonin Islands, presumably by a U.S. submarine.

(b) There are indications that the ISHIMO, CA of Crudiv 7 has been damaged.

(c) The repair ship AKASHI is apparently enroute to or at Rabaul for the purpose of repairing damaged vessels.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of September 6, 1942

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I. Southwest Pacific:

(a) New Britain

There are several indications of aircraft reinforcements being sent to the Rabaul area. Both the KASUGA MARU and YAMATA MARU and possibly also OTAKA appear to be transporting planes to Rabaul, and KEMJO MARU likewise may be transporting to this area equipment of Airon 21 from Sabang, Sumatra.

(b) Solomons

GAARDED
FE

U.S. Planes attacked 15 large Japanese landing boats, with about 75 men in each, on approaching the northwest coast of Guadalcanal Island on September 5. Three of these boats were sunk. F-40's attacked with both bombs and machine guns causing many casualties. SBD's strafed and bombed the beached boats, destroying several.

GAARDED
FE

At 1245L, September 5, twenty-six Japanese twin-engine bombers and twenty Zero fighters attempted an attack on our installations on Guadalcanal. Two bombers and one fighter were shot down in spite of the fact that our fighters had insufficient time to reach the proper altitude. The enemy bombers apparently jettisoned their bombs 10 miles west of Lunga Point on being intercepted.

GAARDED
FE

On September 3, thirteen Japanese boats on the southeast coast of Santa Isabel and 30 landing craft on the southwest coast of San Jorge were strafed and bombed. Most of them were sunk or left burning.

(c) New Guinea

Apparently in view of the dangerous situation with which the surviving Japanese forces in the Milne Bay area are confronted, Comcrudiv 16 decided to attempt to evacuate them the night of September 5. TUNWU (CL) was expected to arrive in a position near Rabi for this purpose at about 1830, local time. Using several power and pulling boats, it was planned first to take off the wounded, then the pioneers, and finally the remainder of the landing force. Two parties were to be put ashore, the first as a covering force and the second to assist the evacuation. In view of the previous reports of reinforcements arriving in the near future, it must be considered that this evacuation is only a temporary measure to save the small landing force from annihilation, and that renewed landing operations will be attempted. The one scheduled for September 12 is

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apparently of considerable strength, and there are indications that the two carriers, SHOKAKU and ZUIKAKU, may move into this area very shortly to provide the necessary air coverage.

It is apparent that one of the light cruisers sighted by allied planes at 1300, September 5, in Lat. 9° - 45' S., Long. 151° - 25' E. (near the D'Entrecasteaux Islands) carried Comcradv 18, who is in tactical command of operations in Milne Bay.

(5) Gilbert Islands

CARD *DE* No communication has been made with Koruti Island since September 4, and its capture by the Japanese is therefore believed probable.

II. General:

CARD *DE* (a) The sinking of the BRAZIL MARU on August 7 off Truk by a U. S. submarine has been verified by Korean survivors.

(b) It is now learned that following the initial U.S. air attacks on the Japanese carriers of their Striking Force in the Midway action the CirC, 1st Air Fleet, made a report in which he stated that the carriers SORYU and KAGA had been sunk. The AMAGI, he reported, was heavily damaged and unable to retrieve her planes or to proceed under her own power. Two DD's were standing by her. Although the HIYU also was damaged, he, at the time, expressed the hope that she might be able to reach safety. Since survivors of the HIYU, who admitted the loss of this carrier, were taken as prisoners, the AMAGI remains the only one of the four on which even a shadow of doubt can remain in regard to her fate. However, it does not appear probable that she could have remained undetected by our planes had she been actually towed back.

CARD *DE* (c) TRISSE MARU, 2251 tons, the former Vichy French Tai Sean Hong turned over to the Japanese Navy, which leased her to the Toa Kaiun shipping company, was sunk at 0700, August 26 by a submarine torpedo in Lat. 27° N., Long. 121 E. while enroute Keelung, Formosa to Shanghai.

A. H. McCollum.

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SRNS 0747

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of September 7, 1942

I. Battleships

(a) A new battleship, MIYASHI, health ship of this type in the Japanese Navy, is now reportedly well established as being in active condition. No characteristics are known, but her displacement is carried tentatively at 45,000 tons.

(b) It is now estimated that 3 BB are in the Truk area: YAMATO (Flying Flag of 1st, Combined Fleet), MIYAMA and KIRISHIMA, and none to the southwest of the Carolines. All other BB are believed in home waters, including HARUNA and KINUGI, and also vessels of Battle 1 which some days ago were indicated as being out of the Inland Sea.

II. General

(a) A Japanese vessel, possibly a tanker whose name may be KOYO MAHI, was reported under submarine attack at 0500L, September 6 in Lat 7°-45' N, Long 157°-15' E.

(b) AKITSUKI is reported to be a new seaplane tender of the CHIKAZA type. She appears to have been completed in about April, 1942, and is now operating actively in the Rabaul area.

III. Southeast Pacific

(a) Operational type of radio traffic now appears confined to the Milne Bay - Buna area.

(b) Gilbert Islands

GUARDED

It is now reported that Nonouti Island has apparently not yet been captured by the Japanese, but further enemy activity in the Gilberts is anticipated.

(c) New Zealand

GUARDED

450 Japanese prisoners have been sent to New Zealand. 20 of these have been wounded, 2 seriously.

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SRNS 0153

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 13, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) On the 10th our forces in Guadalcanal reported that they were in contact with strong enemy forces along the Malimbu river about 5 miles east of our position. At 0230⁰⁰/11 about 50 Japanese aircraft were reported over Guadalcanal and on this same date a coast watcher at Buka reported a "huge ship", possibly a CV, and 2 CA heading south at high speed. At 1340⁰⁰/12 it was reported that a Japanese surface force of at least 1 cruiser and 4 DD were shelling our positions on Guadalcanal. There are other indications that the Japanese are making a serious attempt to recapture Guadalcanal and it is probable that a good sized land, air and naval engagement is in progress. It is strongly indicated that the primary Japanese objective is the capture of the airfield on Guadalcanal. The CinC 8th Fleet is probably in command of the Japanese forces as on the 13th he was making repeated inquiry as to whether or not the airfield on Guadalcanal had been captured. No reply to his queries has been noted.

(b) There is evidence that a strong attempt to storm allied positions in the Milne Bay region is now in progress or is scheduled for the near future. Apparently nearby island positions are to be occupied, followed by an assault in force on the beaches.

(c) It is indicated that Japanese forces plan to continue their advance through the Gilbert Islands as additional troop laden transports are apparently moving from Jaluit southward towards the Gilberts.

(d) On the 11th the Japanese tried a bombing attack on Guadalcanal with 26 bombers escorted by fighters. 6 bombers and 1 fighter were shot down. An Army B-17 over Guadalcanal shot down 4 zero fighters on the 12th.

II. Northwest Pacific

CinC Pac estimates the maximum Japanese force in the Kiska area to be:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Desdiv 21 | 3 to 4 DD |
| | 4 AK or AF |
| Survey ship | 1 AG |
| | 3 AM |
| | 3 Subchasers |
| RO class submarines | 6 SS |
| I-2 | 1 SS |
| TAMA | |
| KISO | 2 CS |

by Director, NSA/Chief, CSS
Date: 12/19/49
AND MR

III. General

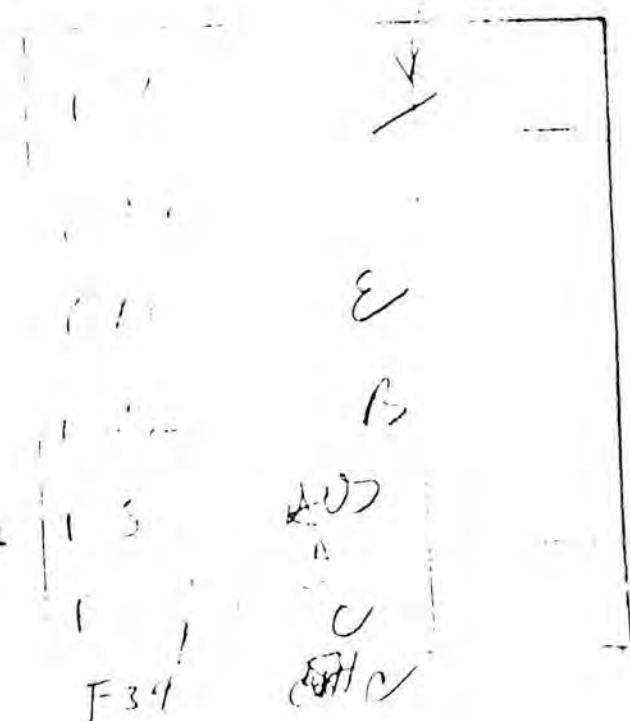
(a) The Southwest Pacific continues to be the area towards which major Japanese forces are moving, lending additional support to the presumption that a major effort is to be made in this area.

(b) The USS TAUTOG, back from patrol in the South China sea, reports sinking a 7,000 ton Japanese naval auxiliary on August 6 in Lat. 13-51 N., Long. 113-15 E.

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SRNS 0153

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 13, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) On the 10th our forces in Guadalcanal reported that they were in contact with strong enemy forces along the Malimbu river about 5 miles east of our position. At 0230Z/11 about 50 Japanese aircraft were reported over Guadalcanal and on this same date a coast watcher at Buka reported a "huge ship", possibly a CV, and 2 CA heading south at high speed. At 1340Z/12 it was reported that a Japanese surface force of at least 1 cruiser and 4 DD were shelling our positions on Guadalcanal. There are other indications that the Japanese are making a serious attempt to recapture Guadalcanal and it is probable that a good sized land, air and naval engagement is in progress. It is strongly indicated that the primary Japanese objective is the capture of the airfield on Guadalcanal. The CinC 8th Fleet is probably in command of the Japanese forces as on the 13th he was making repeated inquiry as to whether or not the airfield on Guadalcanal had been captured. No reply to his queries has been noted.

(b) There is evidence that a strong attempt to storm allied positions in the Milne Bay region is now in progress or is scheduled for the near future. Apparently nearby island positions are to be occupied, followed by an assault in force on the beaches.

(c) It is indicated that Japanese forces plan to continue their advance through the Gilbert Islands as additional troop laden transports are apparently moving from Jaluit southward towards the Gilberts.

(d) On the 11th the Japanese tried a bombing attack on Guadalcanal with 26 bombers escorted by fighters. 6 bombers and 1 fighter were shot down. An Army B-17 over Guadalcanal shot down 4 zero fighters on the 12th.

II. Northwest Pacific

CinC Pac estimates the maximum Japanese force in the Kiska area to be:

Desdiv 21	3 to 4 DD
	4 AK or AF
Survey ship	1 AG
	3 AM
	3 Subchasers
RO class submarines	6 SS
I-2	1 SS
TAMA	
KISO	2 CL

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III. General

(a) The Southwest Pacific continues to be the area towards which major Japanese forces are moving, lending additional support to the presumption that a major effort is to be made in this area.

(b) The USS TAUTOG, back from patrol in the South China sea, reports sinking a 7,000 ton Japanese naval auxiliary on August 6 in Lat. 13-51 N., Long. 113-15 E.

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F2		
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F3		AD
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F31		C
F34		EDC

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SRNS 0154

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 14, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific (all times noted are L.C.T.)

(a) Solomons

The Japanese land, air and sea operations to recapture Guadalcanal is in progress, and from latest reports on the night of Sept. 13, it appears that our defense is proceeding satisfactorily.

At about 2100, Sept. 12, a hostile plane dropped flares over the airfield on Guadalcanal.

At about 2130 a destroyer bombarded the beach to the east of our area for 20 minutes from a position off Kola Point. This firing appears to have covered a landing, as the sound of boats operating to the east and north-east was noted over a period of three hours.

At about 2140 enemy patrols operating in our rear were contacted on both sides of the Lunga River. Our position remained secure, and mopping up started at daylight of Sept. 13 on small groups which had infiltrated.

At about 0005, Sept. 13 one cruiser and 4 DD bombarded the shore for 45 minutes. Their fire was returned and one ship was believed hit. At 0300 a similar bombardment of Tulagi was carried out.

From 0100 to daylight the Japanese maintained an air patrol over our area. At 0510 our planes took off to intercept approaching enemy planes which were driven off. At 1020 26 zero fighters were engaged by our fighters as they came over, and at 1345 28 twin-engine bombers supported by zero fighters were intercepted by 20 Grumans. They jettisoned their bombs 15 miles away. At 1730, in another air attack, 4 zero fighters, and 4 bombers were shot down. At this time it was stated that our forces had killed over 40 Japanese that day.

At 1953 a report was sent out that a large group of Japanese carriers and destroyers had been sighted on the afternoon of the 13th some 200 miles NE of Makita by an allied reconnaissance plane.

The action described above is apparently the initial phase, and a determined effort to recapture the airfield may be expected soon.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 14, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific (all times noted are L.C.T.)

(a) Solomons

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At about 2140 enemy patrols operating in our rear were contacted on both sides of the Lunga River. Our position remained secure, and mopping up started at daylight of Sept. 13 on small groups which had infiltrated.

At about 0305, Sept. 13 one cruiser and 4 DD bombarded the shore for 45 minutes. Their fire was returned and one ship was believed hit. At 0300 a similar bombardment of Tulagi was carried out.

From 0100 to daylight the Japanese maintained an air patrol over our area. At 0510 our planes took off to intercept approaching enemy planes which were driven off. At 1020 26 zero fighters were engaged by our fighters as they came over, and at 1345 23 twin-engine bombers supported by zero fighters were intercepted by 20 Grumanns. They jettisoned their bombs 15 miles away. At 1730, in another air attack, 4 zero fighters, and 4 bombers were shot down. At this time it was stated that our forces had killed over 40 Japanese that day.

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The Japanese appear to have reported a contact on a U.S. task force of 1 CV, 2 cruisers and 2 DD in the morning of the 13th proceeding at speed 20, but the location was not recovered. However, another Japanese report stated that an unidentified force had arrived off Lunga at 2100, Sept. 13. If this force is indeed ours, then it may be assumed that an attack which seemed to be planned by the Japanese destroyer squadron 3 for 2200 on scattered shore objectives would encounter material opposition.

Up to the present the only surface vessels which have been involved in these Guadalcanal operations have been those of CruDiv 6 (3 CA), about four Destroyers, and Subdiv 11. However, there are indications, as previously reported, of approaching carriers and possibly some additional heavy units may be assembling in the Southern Solomons.

In connection with a possible paratroop attack on the landing field the Cinc, U.S. Pacific Fleet stated that smoke screens may be expected to cover paratroop landings.

(b) New Guinea

Evidence is strong that attacks on the Milne Bay area are being or will be launched nearly simultaneously to those on Guadalcanal. The general Japanese plan of attack seems to be first to land about 150 men on the shores of Milne Bay under aircraft protection, then to effect occupation of Samarai and neighboring islands, mention being made in particular of Sariba and Hogeia. After completion of this operation and leaving about 100 men, a communication unit, and a weather observation party on these islands, a return into Milne Bay is planned with remaining forces.

(c) Gilbert - Ellice Islands

The Cinc, U.S. Pacific Fleet reports that the Yokosuka # 6 Special Landing Force is believed to have departed Jaluit on Sept. 13 for further landings in this area, and that Kuria was occupied on Sept. 12.

Indications here are that a Japanese force of about 3 merchant types escorted by 1 DD and 2 auxiliaries is expected to arrive at Tarawa at 0600, Sept. 15. On arrival a searcher division, it is indicated, will assign anchorages and take necessary anti-submarine measures.

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SRNS 0155

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 15, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) Solomons

Throughout the night of Sept. 13-14 enemy forces, reinforced by landings made the previous night, attacked our forces on Guadalcanal Isl., hitting both flanks and the rear. They were repulsed after severe fighting in which over 500 of the enemy were killed. Mopping up continues. At 2000 L.C.T., Sept. 13 one cruiser and 2 DD bombarded our positions, but no damage was sustained.

At 1035 L.C.T., Sept. 14 Allied planes sighted a Japanese task force of 3 BB, 4 CA, several DD, and 1 or 2 AP in Lat. 7°-50' S, Long. 164° E on course 140°, speed 17 knots. (About 250 miles N.E. of Guadalcanal). This force was bombed, and two direct hits and 4 near misses were scored causing the formation to withdraw on course 005°, speed 20. When last seen at 1555 L.C.T. they were in approximate position Lat. 7°-30' S, Long. 164° - 55' E on about the same retiring course and speed. At this time they were again bombed and 3 possible hits were made. Indications are that the C-in-C, 2nd Fleet, was in command of this task force.

STARTED

At 1140 L.C.T., Sept. 14 another force of 1 CV, 3 cruisers and 4 DD were sighted in Lat. 6°-50' S, Long. 164°-17' E on course 160°, speed 25. The contacting Allied plane, after reporting being chased by enemy aircraft, has not been again heard from, and no further contacts on this force have been made. It is believed that the Comdr., 1st Air Fleet, probably in Shokaku (CV), commands this force.

STARTED

One B-17 on patrol over Rakata Bay, Malaita Isl. attacked three Japanese flying boats on the water. One was burned, one damaged. When attacked in the air by two of these VFB one was believed shot down.

It is noted that from about noon, Sept. 14 operational type radio traffic in the Solomon Is. area took a sharp increase, but no details are yet known. Indications, however, suggest considerable air activity.

At 0430 L.C.T., Sept. 14 contact appears to have been made by a Japanese activity on an Allied transport escorted by 2 DD, but this report as yet must be considered uncertain.

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(b) Truk area

Higashikuma Maru appears to have been attacked, probably by a U. S. submarine on Sept. 13 in this area.

(c) Gilbert - Ellice Isls.

There is further strong evidence that additional landings are being or will be made in this area in the near future.

II. Carriers

Although as yet uncertain, a study of radio traffic in connection with Kyufo (CV) gives strong indications that this carrier actually was lost as a result of the air attack made on her on Aug. 24.

Evidence points to Hitaka and Hayataka of Carrier 2 having departed the Sasebo area on about Sept. 15, bound apparently for Truk.

III. Northwest Pacific

On Sept. 15 a U. S. photo plane was attacked at the entrance into Kiska Harbor by 2 or 3 fighter seaplanes. One of these was shot down. 4 Japanese SS and 2 AK were sighted at Kiska, and 1 DD, 1 AM, and 1 SS off Chichigoff Harbor, Attu.

A. H. McCollum.

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SRNS 0156

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 16, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) Solomons

Japanese units of the 17th Army on Guadalcanal Isl. appear to have requested that on the night of Sept. 14 no bombardment by war-ships be carried out on Lunga. This appears to confirm the report of our forces that previous shelling on U. S. installations had been ineffective.

On Sept. 15 it was indicated that a fresh Japanese army detachment was to have been landed on Guadalcanal from 7 DD's, possibly at Lamimo, on the western side. Forces ashore were instructed to send out all available motor landing boats on the arrival of the destroyers. However, our reports on operations for this day make no mention of this possible Japanese reinforcement.

Parts from Zero fighters and type 97 bombers shot down over Guadalcanal indicate that these planes are just off the assembly lines, and the opinion was expressed that Zero fighter pilots in this area had been found to be neither bold nor skilful. This is further evidence to show that the Japanese aircraft strength in this area has received some hard blows, and that every effort is being made to replace losses at the expense of other theatres.

Further details received on the air attack on the Japanese task force northeast of the Solomons on Sept. 14 recounted in this secret supplement of Sept. 15 follow:

CAED
Stake

7 B-17's made the attack and dropped 23 500-lb. bombs. Three possible hits were made on the DD's. The AA fire was very heavy and accurate.

The Cinc, 2nd Fleet gives evidence of now taking tactical control over naval action against Guadalcanal Isl., and the Cinc, Combined Fleet appears to have moved south of Ponape, and is showing great interest in the operations.

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II. Japanese submarine dispositions:

The latest analysis of dispositions of Japanese submarines follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Japan home waters	12
Northwest Pacific	7
Melanesia	15
Saigon area	6
Carolines	6
Marshalls	3
Marianas	2

III. U. S. submarine activities:

At 1400I, Sept. 14, the Shinkai Maru reported sighting a periscope in Lat. 7°-15' N, Long. 151°-30' E. Planes and subchasers in this area were directed to take appropriate action.

A. H. McCollum.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of September 17, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific:

(a) Solomon:

The Japanese attacks on US forces on Guadalcanal Island appear to have subsided. The only report of Japanese action on September 16 states that 57 land-planes approached within 100 miles of Guadalcanal on bearing 200°, but turned back.

On September 16 15 SBD's and 5 TB's attacked a Japanese force of 3 CL and 4 ID in lat 7°-57' S, Long 150°-55' E. One torpedo hit was scored on one CL, and one bomb hit and two near misses on a second CL. On the same day 2 B-17's bombed and started fires on the Japanese base on Palota Bay. Only light A. fire was encountered.

(b) Gilbert - Ellice Islands:

Although no further occupations in these islands are yet indicated, there is evidence that a surface ship patrol of 4 or 5 merchant types extending from the Gilberts down to the Ellice Islands has been established.

(c) New Guinea:

No noteworthy new developments have been noted.

II. General:

The Tokyo radio has sent out in German detailed instructions to a German merchantman (name unrecovered) on how to proceed in approaching Tokyo Bay. It is noted that the ship is to proceed north along the Izu Peninsula to off its apex where it is to rendezvous with a Japanese navy escort which will take her to Tokyo Bay, at the eastern entrance to Tokyo Bay. Under no circumstances is the German to enter any Japanese port except in Tokyo or Ise Bay. The implication of these instructions is that the German ship is arriving for the first time from Europe.

III. Battleships and Carriers:

Indications continue to show that at least 2 additional BB's (ISE and MATSU) are now in waters in the Truk area or south of it, having recently arrived from Japan. The total number in the southwest Pacific is still uncertain, but is believed to be between five and seven.

Although Gandy 2 has shown several recent indications of coming south, HIYAMA and HAYABUSA are still not believed to have arrived in the Truk area from the north. Thus there are believed to be three combatant carriers in this theatre (ZUIKANU, SHOKAKU and SUIBO) in an operational status. (SUIBO is believed either sunk or very badly damaged). The others in this area reported several times recently are all believed to be non-combatant aircraft transports (HAYASHI MARU, OYAMA, YAMAZAKI MARU, and one other, now tentatively identified as UNIO). The location of, MOGHO, an old slow carrier, is not known definitely, and possibly she may constitute the fourth of this type in the south.

A. H. McCallum

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 14, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific
(a) General

Indications are again strong that Japanese aircraft in some quantity are being transferred to the Melanesia area. Considerable army movements also have been noted converging on the Rabaul area from the Philippines and Palao.

Although by no means certain, a slight indication has been received that MOIRAKU (CV) is no longer in the Melanesia-New Guinea area.

(b) Solomon

During Sept. 16 the Japanese ground forces on Guadalcanal Island appeared to be awaiting reinforcements. Only one light contact was made as a result of U.S. patrolling activity.

At 1750 L, Sept. 16, 14 S.S.B.'s bombed one Japanese CA, believed to have been of the KMS class, and 2 DD in Lat. 8°-07' S., longitude uncertain. Several near misses but no hits were claimed, and the ships continued on course 120°

On the same day 2 B-17's bombed the dock area at Gizo, but found no ships present. One B-17 also strafed shore installations at Rekata Bay. Only one plane was seen on the beach.

There is no information yet of activities on Sept. 17, but in the early morning of Sept. 18 (L.C.T.) there were indications that Japanese forces on Guadalcanal reported the presence near Lunga of several allied surface vessels. Although information on this is fragmentary, mention was made of six transports and various men-o-war.

There are indications that a Japanese surface patrol is being maintained to the eastward of the Solomon Islands. Neuron 4 appears to be involved in this duty.

(c) Gilbert-Ellice Islands

No definite information has yet been received of any Japanese extension of occupations in this area, and present activity appears to be more in the nature of consolidation of previous seizures, and defense against possible allied attacks on these occupied islands. With few exceptions the naval units engaged in present operations in this area appear to be armed merchant types,

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and in fact some destroyer units gave indications of having been transferred back to Melanesia from the Gilberts. Although this does not imply that further seizures will not be undertaken it does appear to suggest that no large-scale operations are contemplated.

II. General

It appears that KANJU MARU (7267 tons gross) which sailed from Kobe for Indo-China on August 15 at some time shortly prior to Sept. 9 was subjected to attack, presumably from an allied submarine. Although there is no certain evidence that this ship sank it appears likely that the ship was destroyed.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 19, 1942

I. General

(a) The disposition of Japanese naval forces remains approximately unchanged with by far the major force apparently centered in the Southwest Pacific, presumably for more extended operations in this theater or as a preventive against a possible offensive by U.S. naval forces.

(b) Other areas remain static with some slight indication that the CinC 1st Fleet may be slated for operations to the north of Japan. This trend is not sufficiently definitive as yet to justify a guess as to possible objective but it should be noted and its development carefully watched.

(c) There is growing evidence that the 3rd Fleet no longer exists as an Administrative or Combat command entity. This Fleet may have been given a new name or more probably has been absorbed by other organizations.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) There are indications that the CinC Combined Fleet is taking a more direct interest in operations in the Solomon Islands than heretofore. At 1900 I/17 DF bearings indicated that CinC Combined Fleet was in Lat. 04 S., Long. 156 E. Additional data also points towards the conclusion that the following major commanders are in the general vicinity of Rabaul, viz:-

- CinC Combined Fleet
- CinC 2nd Fleet
- CinC 4th Fleet
- CinC 1st Air Fleet
- CinC 11th Air Fleet

(b) It is believed that current operations directed against our position in the Solomon Islands are being directed by Commander 3 and that the forces under his immediate command are:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| CruDiv 6 | 3 CA |
| Desron 3 | 1 CL |
| | 15 DD |
| Desdiv 4 | 4 DD |
| Desdiv 24 | 4 DD |
| SHIRATAMA | 1 SS |
| Airon 11 | |
| KUSUNO | 1 AV (estimate) |

(c) The general impression is gained that the Japanese do not have available for operations in the Solomons their full carrier force. SHOKAKU and possibly HIRYO are thought to be in this general area, but other carriers do not appear to be actively engaged in these operations.

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(d) Japanese radio facilities ashore on Guadalcanal Island appear to have been improved and a heavy volume of urgent type traffic has been noted during the last three days.

(e) 4 unidentified Japanese ships shelled U.S. positions on Guadalcanal Island during the night of 19 September.

(f) A patrol of four or 5 KPG has apparently been established along the meridian of 176° E. between Lat. 3° - 20' S. and Lat. 5° - 20' S.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of September 20, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific:

(a) Solomons:

At 0903 LCT, Sept. 19, an unidentified Japanese commander appeared to send out orders to a certain air unit to guide a flight to an allied capital ship, and to attack this force whose course was given as 240°. This same despatch stated that 3 planes, apparently of the U.S., were in sight and that torpedoes had been fired.

(b) New Ireland:

The Cinc, U. S. Pacific Fleet, has reported that the Japanese are strengthening their outposts on this island at Namatani and Muliama Point.

(c) Netherlands East Indies:

Some increased activity has been noted which possibly may forecast renewed operations in this theatre. Army forces appear to be transferring from Batavia to Ambon under escort of units of Crudiv 16 and Desdiv 5.

II. General:

There is strong evidence that the radio intelligence center of the Japanese Navy has been transferred from Tokyo to Truk which now appears to have become the controlling station in the Southwest Pacific.

III. North Pacific:

A Russian vessel has reported a Japanese submarine on the surface in Lat. 55° - 01' N., Long 167 - 25 W. at 0835Z, Sept. 19.

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SRNS 0161

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 21, 1942

1. Southwest Pacific

(a) General

A study of Japanese radio traffic gives the general impression that operations in Melanesia are awaiting the arrival of further reinforcements of aircraft, ground forces and naval units. The present emphasis is on concentration of all practicable strength in this theatre, and there is no indication that any of the Japanese Navy's missions in either the Solomons or New Guinea has been abandoned. A number of various types of vessels are transporting planes from the north and west, and there are indications pointing to some surface ship reinforcements from the U.S.I.-Malay area. Although offensive seizures in the Gilbert Islands have been cautious and slow, every present indication suggests the intent to extend occupations through the Gilberts, and possibly down to the Ellice Islands. There is also considerable evidence to show that after occupation the Japanese industriously build up the island defenses to prevent a possible allied foothold.

(b) Solomons

Japanese forces on Guadalcanal Island appear to have reported that reinforcements of more than 2,000 U.S. troops and about 20 AA field guns had been landed on the island.

The four unidentified Japanese ships which were reported previously to have shelled U.S. positions on Guadalcanal on the night of Sept. 19 are now believed to have been destroyers. On this same day U.S. forces succeeded in wiping out a ground patrol of which seven Japanese were killed. At this time mopping up also continued on Florida Island.

B-40's bombed and strafed Japanese installations on Cape Esperance, Guadalcanal. Indications were that a large quantity of enemy stores had been destroyed there by strafing on Sept. 17.

On Sept. 20 6 B-24's and 6 Grumans attacked Japanese shore installations in Rakata Bay, but no ships or planes were found there.

There is some evidence indicating that the Baseco 6th Landing Force embarked in LSTs may be attempting to land further Japanese reinforcements on Guadalcanal.

(c) New Ireland

Confirmation has been received of a report noted some time ago that convoys coming to Rabaul from the U.S.I. and Malaya invariably are first funneled through Haviang.

0252

nrd *dlm* Date: 12/19/79

II. General

(a) There is now confirmation of a previous report that CHIYODA (AV) was at some recent time damaged. This ship now appears to have reached a home yard, probably Kure, for repairs to which she was believed to have been towed from the southwestern theatre.

(b) KOKIT-Y MARU appears to have made a contact report on Sept. 19 or 20 in Lat. 7° -49 N., Long. 150° -31 E. Although uncertain, it is believed the contact was on a U.S. submarine.

A.H. McCollum.

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SRNS 0162

~~SECRET~~ SUBJECT

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 22, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) Solomons

During daylight of Sept. 20 our ground forces on Guadalcanal made only one patrol contact along the Lunga River during which 19 Japanese were killed. At about 2100L of that night the enemy commenced a nuisance raid against our forward strong point. Contacts were made throughout the night after which many Japanese dead were found entangled in our wires.

The same day 2 SBW's bombed Gizo Island, and at 1735L 10 SBW's attacked an enemy cruiser 150 miles northwest of Guadalcanal. Some damage is believed to have been inflicted from 4 near misses.

Evidence has been received that Japanese reinforcements are scheduled to arrive off Tassafarangu (NE coast of Guadalcanal) at 1600L, Sept. 22. Another landing is also indicated to be attempted at 2300L of an unknown date at Visala (a Catholic Mission on the northern tip of Guadalcanal).

At least two minelayers show evidence of conducting mining operations in the Solomons, but it is not known whether these are offensive or defensive.

(b) Gilbert Islands

A force of five armed merchantmen and one destroyer appear to have been formed into two groups to carry out offensive operations in this area. Instructions given these groups do not specifically refer to permanent occupation, and the principal mission is indicated to be the destruction of allied communications. The first group is composed of two merchantmen, one DD, one large motor boat and a portion of a company of a Special Landing Force. This group is expected to conduct operations on Boru Island on Sept. 26, and on Tanama and Onotca on Sept. 27. The second group of the remaining units of the force plus two platoons of the Special Landing Force have a similar schedule, but with probably different unknown objectives. After these operations have been concluded the single destroyer, Yuzuki, has been directed to proceed to Wake Island to arrive by October 2.

A preliminary survey of Coean Island as the projected site of an airfield is reflected in a Japanese report which appears to state that two runways of 1200 metres length can be built in E-W and N-S directions, and that a third one of 800 metres can extend NE-SW. The width of these runways are in each case given as 100 metres. Since the survey was to have been completed by Sept. 4 it is quite probable that by now construction work has been started.

(c) General

The Cinc, U.S. Pacific Fleet has stated that an Informer has suggested

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that Japanese raiding parties may be landed from submarines. The possibility of some such plan has been suggested recently, but no details have been recovered.

II. U.S. submarine operations

(a) The #3 Kanko Maru sent out an urgent contact at 1950I, Sept. 21 in lat. 35° N, Long. 150° E, but no further details are known except that the following morning this vessel appeared to be still afloat.

(b) The Okinawa Radio Station broadcast that at 0430I, Sept. 21 the Saka 7 Maru was torpedoed by an enemy submarine somewhere off the northeast coast of Honshu. Aircraft in this area were ordered to sink the submarine and maintain a more vigilant patrol.

A. H. McCallum.

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SRNS 0163

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 23, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific
(a) General

The concentration of forces, both army and navy, continues to increase in the Truk-Rabaul area. The movements of battleships, carriers and heavy cruisers have been for some time shrouded by radio silence.

However, the unmistakable evidence of an almost continual flow of reinforcements in ships, planes and troops makes it increasingly apparent that major operations in this theatre may be anticipated in the near future.

(b) Gilbert Islands

Further details received on the anticipated Japanese raids on various of the Gilbert Islands reported in this ~~earliest~~ summary of yesterday, Sept. 22, follow:

The schedule of raids of the 2nd raiding force appears to include Makana on Sept. 25, Nonouti on Sept. 26, Kuria on Sept. 27, and Apiang on Sept. 28.

The operations of both the 1st and 2nd forces will be supported by air coverage and by anti-submarine patrols. Apparently the principal mission of these forces will be to wipe out our coast watchers and cut off all allied radio communications from these islands.

The most recent information states that the Commander, 6th Base Force at Jaluit, who is commanding these operations, has informed his forces in the Gilberts that communication intelligence has shown allied aircraft activity in the Palmyra area on Sept. 20, and that since Sept. 21 aircraft activity has also been noted in the Canton Island area. From these indications he suspected that some allied operations in that area have been planned, and warned all lookouts and patrols to keep the closest vigilance.

(c) Solomons

Some of the locations on which the reinforced Japanese troops on Guadalcanal are believed to be include the vicinity of Marovovo (at the N.W. end), Visale, and near the Katarikau River whose mouth lies about 4 miles west of Lunga Point.

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Although patrolling was continued on Guadalcanal on Sept. 21, no hostile contacts were made. That night at about 2345, 3 SB's bombed and strafed 4 Japanese DD's and landing boats in the vicinity of Cape Esperance. No hits were made on the destroyers which departed on northwesterly courses.

Three times one single B-17 bombed installations on Maketa Bay, and the dock area at same was also bombed, but no hits were made. Near Feral a Japanese CI was seen to be trailing oil at a slow speed; this may have been the cruiser on which 4 near misses were scored the previous day.

A.H. McCollum.

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SRNS 0164

~~Secret~~ Supplement
Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of September 24, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific

(a) General

A series of operational type despatches sent out by a major commander to most of his subordinate commands suggests the possibility that operations on a large scale have been ordered, or, on the other hand, that an extensive change of plans was disseminated.

The Commander, 6th Base Force based at Jaluit appears to have notified other commands that communication intelligence has indicated that U.S. forces were planning operations from allied islands in the Pacific and from Midway to parallel their present activities in the Solomon Islands. He advised that lookouts and patrols in his area, the Marshalls, Gilberts and Wake, had been placed on the alert. The alerting of his own units was reported in this secret supplement of yesterday, Sept. 23.

(b) Solomons

On Sept. 24 Japanese forces on Guadalcanal appeared to report that one allied transport and one destroyer were departing from that island, probably out of Lunga Channel.

On Sept. 23 again no hostile contacts were reported by the U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal, although the range of their land operations were being extended westward. Visale, the location of a Japanese force, was bombed and strafed throughout the day. Buildings were burned down, several large fires started, and one big explosion heard.

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A. H. McCallum

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Supplement

Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of September 25, 1942

SRNS 0165

I. Southwest Pacific.

(a) General

Indications continue of Japanese convoy movements from Borneo-Davao-Ialao to Truk, and also of one to Wake Island.

(b) Solomons

Although Marine forces on Guadalcanal Island extended their patrols westward on Sept. 23 no Japanese except stragglers were encountered. Air strafing of Japanese positions from Tassafaronga to Lapuru was continued.

On Sept. 23 a B-17 shot down one of five seaplanes at Manning Strait. Makata Bay was also bombed with incendiaries and 100 lb. bombs.

Four Japanese DD's were attacked by 6 SBD's 150 miles northwest of Guadalcanal, but no damage was inflicted.

At 1215L, Sept. 24, B-17's bombed enemy AF's off Shortland Island and in Tonohei Harbor. Twenty-two ships including one GL were sighted. Three hits and 6 near misses were scored. Of 20 enemy fighters which intercepted one was certainly shot down, and three others possibly.

The heavy volume of radio traffic between Japanese forces on Guadalcanal and various naval units in the Solomons suggests that constant reinforcements and supplies are being brought in to the island in small numbers by night landings from patrol craft, and possibly submarines.

II. U.S. Submarine Action.

USS Growler, on returning from patrol south of Honshu, reported sinking one 10,000 ton tanker and two 5,000 ton AF's.

A. H. MacCollum.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of September 26, 1942

I. Southwest Pacific.

(a) Solomons

Although incomplete, there is believed to be one Japanese force to the west of Kaminbo on Guadalcanal Island, another between Kaminbo and Visale, and one battalion about 5 km southeast of Cape Esperance. There are also two large motor boats at Kaminbo which are used in making landings.

The Sasebo No. 6 Special Landing Force and the 10th Pioneers are believed embarked in the Shortland - Gizo area, and it is indicated that they are destined for landing on Guadalcanal.

The Japanese forces on Guadalcanal again appear to have sent out a report of sighting allied surface ships off the island, probably transports and destroyers.

The importance placed on Japanese operations to drive U.S. forces off Guadalcanal is reflected in the strong evidence that a portion of the C-in-C, Combined Fleet's staff has been placed aboard Senkai (SL), Flagship of Condoreen 3, who appears to be in present tactical command in that area.

II. Northwest Pacific.

Very little traffic with Attu has been noted recently. This suggests the possible conclusion that Japanese forces may have withdrawn from this island and Agattu, but no confirmation of this possibility has been received.

III. Carriers.

The Cinc, U.S. Pacific Fleet reports a slight indication that Otaka is the new name for Kasuga Maru, and Unyo for Yamata Maru. Heretofore it was believed that these were four separate ships, but at present it is impossible to confirm or deny this statement.

IV. Cruisers.

There has been considerable uncertainty and confusion with respect to the present status of the Mogami class of heavy cruisers which constitute Crudiv 7 and which participated in the Japanese attack on Midway in early June. At first it was thought that both Mogami and Mikuma were sunk and Suzuya badly damaged. It is now reliably shown that Mikuma only was sunk and Mogami was badly damaged, temporarily repaired at Truk by the repair ship Akashi, and subsequently sent back to a home yard for further repairs, where she still is. Mikuma may have been damaged more recently in operations in the Solomons while Suzuya is now believed to remain operative. In summary, present status follows:

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- Koyani - under repairs, base yard
- Mikawa - sunk
- Namano - possibly damaged, and under repairs
- Suzuya - operative

A. H. McCallum.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of September 27, 1942

I. General

(a) The situation remains seemingly unchanged. Emphasis is placed on movements of planes and supplies to the Mandates and thence to the Solomon area. The 1st Air Fleet and 2nd Fleet has not been noted recently and it seems possible that the Japanese, while continuing minor operations against our forces on Guadalcanal, are preparing a larger offensive effort or are finding difficulty in bringing adequate force to bear due to inability to build up a sufficient air superiority.

(b) The ACV's ZUHO and UNYO are apparently being used to ferry planes from Japan to Truk and possibly as far as Rabaul.

II. Northwest Pacific

(a) On the morning of 25 September 9 B-24's accompanied by 11 P-39's, 17 P-40's, 1 B-17 and 1 P-24 bombed and strafed Japanese ships and shore installations at Kiska. Hits were scored on 1 AP or AK, 2 submarines were strafed, 1 seaplane fighter was shot down while 5 to 8 more were destroyed on the water. Shore installations and supply dumps were bombed and strafed. Photographs showed 2 Linelayers, 2 AK or AP, 8 smaller vessels and many motor launches in Kiska harbor.

(b) Increased enemy activity at Kiska has been noted. The cause is not immediately apparent, but from the type of ships involved and the lack of any increase in combat units, it seems possible that some withdrawal of force from this area may be contemplated.

III. Southwest Pacific

(a) On the 25th a B-17 claimed a hit on the stern of a CA at Venolet harbor while another B-17 claimed a hit on an AV about 15 miles S.W. of the Suka passage. Also on this day a B-17 sighted a dozen float biplanes and zero fighters, shot 3 down in flames and probably destroyed another.

(b) At 2100L/24 4 DD towing landing barges were attacked by our SB's. The ships finally turned about and withdrew at 0130L/25 when about 8 miles from the northern tip of Guadalcanal.

(c) Marine patrols were extended and during the night of 24-25 September contacted an enemy patrol about 4 miles south of our position and forced them to withdraw.

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(d) Information from enemy sources indicates that our Air Forces continued to press attacks on Japanese shipping in the Shortlands Islands area throughout the 27th. Forces operating against Guadalcanal still appear to be under the direction of Comdesron 3 and are based in the Shortland Islands. Major elements of these forces appear to be as follows:

Desron 3	1 CL
	15 ED
Desdiv 19	4 ED
URAMAMI	1 ED
OHITOSE	1 AV
SANJO MARU	1 KAV
SHIMIZUKA	1 CM (small)
SAKATAKA	1 CM (small)

It will be noted that no CA or CL, except flag of Desron 3, are listed but these types are undoubtedly available within supporting distance of the light forces noted.

J.M. McCollum.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 28, 1942

I. North Pacific

Apparently based on air reconnaissance made over the Kiska area following the air bombing attack of Sept. 25, one AP was found listing and beached south of Kiska in Lat. 51°-55' N., Long. 177°-33' W. 2 or 3 SS's, 1 or 2 DD's, and a medium sized AP were seen nearby.

There is an indication that the 5th Defense Force at Kiska is either scheduled to depart or has left Kiska for the Adakul area.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Solomons

On Sept. 27 8 B-17's attacked Japanese shipping in the Faisi area. One large transport was hit heavily, left burning, and probably sank. One heavy cruiser was also hit on her stern and left afire. Three zero seaplane fighters and three biplane seaplanes were shot down.

A small Japanese force on Guadalcanal Island which was contacted on Sept 26 west of the Matanikeu River were being surrounded on the morning of Sept. 27.

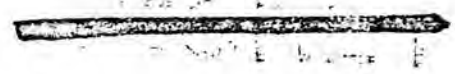
At 1355L, Sept. 27 13 Japanese bombers escorted by 13 fighters were engaged by our fighters over Guadalcanal. Four of the enemy bombers and five of their fighters were shot down. All our planes returned, but 1 JED was destroyed on the ground.

At 1345 L, Sept. 28 the 49th Japanese air raid over Guadalcanal was made by 25 bombers escorted by 13 zero fighters. When intercepted the Japanese planes jettisoned their bombs. A total of 23 bombers and 1 zero fighter were shot down. We lost no pilots, no planes, and suffered no damages.

U.S. Marine patrols on Florida Island are reported to have killed 9 Japanese and captured 3 others.

It appears that the Japanese unit at Maninbo, Guadalcanal have succeeded in stretching a cable over which their wounded in stretchers are hauled out to nearby ships. This unit appears to have reported that it had staples for five days and some auxiliary food stores. However, another unit on the island reported becoming short of provisions and malaria cases on the increase.

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On Sept. 27 Japanese on Guadalcanal reported U.S. forces had landed at the mouth of the Matanikau River in landing boats early in the morning. The U.S. ships quickly withdrew, according to the report, and since 1350 the Japanese have been under attack.

Indications point to Japanese submarines being employed to bring in food and provisions to ground forces on Guadalcanal.

Although the location is not given a Japanese contact on an allied force of 1 BB and 1 DD or one destroyer division appears to have been reported. Possibly based on this contact a defense force somewhere in the Solomons, probably Bougainville Island, sent out a despatch purporting to report that an allied striking force was expected to attack early on Sept. 28.

A.H. McCollum.

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of September 29, 1942

I. Northwest Pacific

Although the U.S. Army Commander, Fort Richardson, was reported in the summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 28 to have expressed the belief that the Japanese were either withdrawing from Kiska or moving to Architka Island, the Japanese radio station at Kiska on Sept. 28 appears to have broadcast a contact report on 12 U.S. planes at 0315 in Lat. 53° N., Long. 177° E. The following day a number of additional contacts, apparently on U.S. planes, were also sent out.

At about 2210 I, Sept. 28 a Japanese report was transmitted reporting that the #6 TAIHAN MARK had been pursued and shelled by an allied SS in some location about 15 miles off the northeastern coast of Honshu, not far from Ominato.

In further amplification of the air attack on Kiska on Sept. 25 which has been previously reported, it is now stated that a Canadian squadron leader who participated in the attack had shot down one zero seaplane fighter. Its pilot jumped just before the plane crashed.

II. Southwest Pacific

(a) Solomons

Reports from our Marine forces on Guadalcanal state that since the Japanese in the vicinity of the Matanikau River were reinforced on the night of Sept. 26-27 they had not succeeded on Sept. 27 in dislodging them from that area. The Japanese strength here is uncertain, but considered to exceed 1,000, with others within supporting distance.

B-17 air patrols were active on Sept. 27 in the Solomons; one shot down a single float seaplane 35 miles south of Gizo, and another brought down a Japanese fighter and a seaplane somewhere in the Central Solomons.

(b) U.S. submarine action

The carrier, OMAKA, proceeding from Kavieng, New Ireland to Truk reported sighting an allied SS at 1321, Sept. 28 some distance south of Truk. The CincPac, U.S. Pacific Fleet has stated that a U.S. submarine reported putting two torpedoes into a large carrier near Truk. The carrier was seen to be on fire, but her final fate is unknown.

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III. Midway Engagement:

The battle report of the Japanese 1st Air Fleet Commander sent out on June 5, fragments of which have been previously reported, is now believed to be completely understood as a result of continued research. A summary of its translation follows:

"In our air attack on Midway on June 5 considerable damage was inflicted on shore installations, and about 30 planes were shot down. However, it appears that the enemy has been able to continue using the airfield.

"Between 0400 - 0730 more than 100 enemy planes attacked us, of which over 50 were shot down. We succeeded in avoiding their torpedoes but were hit by the dive bombers. Resulting heavy fires caused the decision to withdraw, and the flag was transferred to the NAKAMA (CL), accompanied by 6 DD's.

"Our air groups launched an attack on the enemy striking force, and damaged one carrier of the Hornet class with two torpedoes. This force consisted of three CV's of the Hornet class, of which one was left listing, burning and out of control, and two other CV's of an unknown type. There were 6 SA's and a number of DD's also in company.

"At about 1430 we were subjected to very heavy enemy air attacks in successive waves, lasting until about 1600. Heavy damage was sustained as we retired on course 320°, speed 20. SOBYU and KAGA have sunk. Although fires on HIRYU have abated somewhat they remain uncontrollable, and the ship lies in the enemy's track. She is headed northwest accompanied by 2 DD's, and possibly might get clear if her fires could be extinguished. ANAGI is heavily on fire, and it is not believed that her fires can be controlled; moreover she is unable to proceed. 2 DD's are standing by her."

A. R. McCollum

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Summary of Japanese Naval Activities of Sept. 30, 1942

I. Northwest Pacific

On Sept. 27 Japanese ships in the harbor at Kiska were bombed. One zero seaplane was shot down. Most of the AA fire encountered was from ships in the harbor. The same day 3 bombers attacked a group of transports escorted by destroyers 100 miles north of Sanichi Island. A near miss was scored on one transport which stopped.

On Sept. 28 two separate air attacks were delivered on Kiska. In the first 8 B-24's and 17 VF's shot down 5 zero seaplanes, reportedly sank 1 SS with a 500 lb. bomb, and scored hits and near misses on 1 AP which was considered to have been badly damaged and sinking. AA fire appeared heavier than on the previous day. No reports have yet been received of the second air attack of this day. Also on Sept. 28 a FBY dropped two depth charges close aboard a small freighter 50 miles north of Muldir, causing possible damage.

On Sept. 28 our bombers flew over Attu. They burned and photographed Attu and Chichagof villages. They reported that Attu and Agattu Islands have both been abandoned.

Japanese reports indicate that allied air activity over the Western Aleutians has continued beyond the dates described above, and there is evidence of a Japanese plane making a contact report on a force including one, or more cruisers and a destroyer squadron in Lat. 52° - 30 N., Long. 176° - 30 E.

Although the Japanese radio stations at Paramushiro and Kiska have remained active, there has recently been no radio traffic noted from Attu. This appears to confirm the reported abandonment of Attu and Agattu.

II. South West Pacific

No further reports have been received from our Marine forces on Guadalcanal Island, but in general it appears that the extent of Japanese activity in this area has diminished a little. One Japanese unit appears to have reported her provisions exhausted and malaria spreading alarmingly. Apparently in response to this report efforts have been made to send a submarine with supplies to contact this force at Korombusu, at the mouth of the Gurabusu River, but some difficulty appears to have been encountered in effecting a rendezvous.

The area around Bougainville Island has of late assumed increased importance to the Japanese, and now there is noted a considerable amount of patrol activity in this area. It is indicated also that these waters are being or have been mined.

The U.S. supply ship "Alhena" was torpedoed, presumably by a Japanese submarine, in Lat. 10° - 47 S., Long. 161° - 16 E., off S.W. Guadalcanal Island.

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(b) Gilbert Islands

There is strong evidence that Japanese aggressions in the Gilberts have not yet been completed. After Sept. 30 a new organization of two raiding parties, very similar to those which have operated within the past week, appear to have been ordered to continue mopping up operations. The first party is to land on Abaiang, and the second on Kuria and Nonnuti. As before air coverage and anti-submarine measures are provided.

(c) U.S. Submarine Operations

Although the identification is not certain, there is an indication that four torpedoes may have been fired at KOTORO (AV) at 0630 I, Sept. 28 probably while this ship was enroute Truk to Rabaul.

A. H. McCollum

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