



Lt. C. W. Weaver, USNR  
Staff, Commander So. Pacific  
U.S.S. Argonne (Temp. Flagship)  
Noumea, New Caledonia  
August, 1942  
to  
November, 1942

50174

Manufactured by  
U. S. Government Printing Office

"WATCH TOWER"

Log - Operations Pestilence and  
Aug. 1, 1942: -

Comsopac and operational staff arrived Noumea, New Caledonia at 0350 Z / 1 AUG in PB 24-2 NO. 13 from Auckland, N.Z. Staff members with Vice Admiral R. L. Ghormley included:

Rear Admiral D. J. Callaghan, Chief of Staff.  
Col. DeWitt Peck, USMC, Director Plans.  
Comdr. John Roper, Operations officer  
Lt. Comdr. Louis Le Hardy, Communications  
Lt. Comdr. M. C. Cheek, Intelligence  
Lt. Comdr. Jack Whittle, Flag Lieut.  
Lt. Comdr. E. O'Brien, Air officer  
Major Wayne Adams, USMC, Plans.  
Lt. P. W. Weaver, Plotting officer.

Administration remained in Auckland and Comsopac adopted shore-based call NXZ on fixed command circuit.

Aug. 2:-

Comsopac established  
Aug. 7 as "Dog Day" for start  
of Guadalcanal TUGAZI operations.

Word received that a B-17  
made full load take-off from  
new field at Espirito Santo  
(Buttón) on July 31. Field was  
constructed in record time for  
the forthcoming operation.

Destroyer LAFFEY grounded  
entering Suva harbor and  
damaged her propeller. Was  
refloated quickly.

Aug. 3:-

U.S.S. Roamer, Free French  
ships, Cap des Palmes and Chevillon,  
and HMNZS Noa arrived this  
port today.

HMS BISHOPDALE alongside  
ARGONNE port-side-to, for  
fueling.

At 1900Z/3 MACKINAC, seaplane  
tender, requested permission to get  
underway and proceed on duties  
assigned. (She is to go to  
MARAMASIKE ESTUARY, MALAITA ISLAND,  
to establish a VP force there as  
part of the forthcoming operation.)

Aug. 4 :-

Radio Efate reported U.S. Destroyer in distress, south of Malo Island, New Hebrides. Survivors were being rescued by tuna boat and early reports indicated 25 casualties. It was learned later that the Tucker was the victim, having run onto one of our recently laid mine fields near the entrance to Pekoa or Second Channel, Espiritu Santo Island. The Tucker was last reported as beached on the west side of Malo Island.

Gen. MILLARD Harmon, Commanding General of Army forces in the Pacific Area, visited the flagship today.

HMS Bishopdale on leaving Noumea early today, reported she had been torpedoed inside the reef. Five picket boats were sent to the scene (near Dumbea passage) and were the CHEVRIEUL (Free French) and HMNZS GALE. Suspected sub

did not materialize. It was later decided that the Bishopdale had run over our mine field near Amedee light and subsequent examination of her underwater body proved this to be true. She was en route Sydney when stricken.

Aug. 5 :-

An amphibian plane was reported down, bearing 180° from Amedee light, 58 miles out. Hudson was standing by. Catalina ordered to rescue.

Most of the Catalinas based at the Rod left for patrol work to the north. They were scheduled to move on D-2 Day under the operation plan.

Partly cloudy weather predicted for Dog Day Aug. 7 in the Tulagi-Quadalcan area. This report from Comairsofac.

USS Cummings sank enemy sub two miles off Fila Harbor at 0156Z/5 as it was maneuvering to get shot at the Pres. TYLER.

Aug. 6

Commaron and Aaron Ward (AO + DD respectively) in port today reported three subs 80 miles, 260 degrees from Amedee, also sound contacts 30 miles south of Amedee. Both contacts were heavily depth-charged by the Aaron Ward.

SS Anthony Wayne departed for Sydney HMNZS GALE was notified of the sub contacts as she was en route to the downed amphibian plane reported yesterday. The Catalina 14P4, standing by was ordered to search for the sub after the GALE reached the plane. Late in the afternoon the plane was towed into port.

The Army was asked by Comsopac today to maintain an A/S patrol over the approaches to Noumea.

At 1035 L tonight the Amphibious force turned to course NE to round Guadalcanal Island to be in position to attack at daylight tomorrow.

Two B-17s dropped 28 - 300 pound bombs on A/A positions at KUKOOM, Guadalcanal on 6<sup>th</sup>. One plane missing due to navigational error on return.

Comsopac sent this message at 2140:  
"We look to you to electrify the world with news of a real offensive x Allied ships planes and fighting men carry on from Midway x Sock 'em in the Solomons x This message sent to task forces 61, 62, 63.

DD Laffey was ordered to proceed to Pearl from Suva.

Said Gen. MacArthur to Comsopac 0925/6. "Sock them x We hit Rabaul early dog day with our heavy bombers."

Tulagi and Guadalcanal installations bombed heavily for past several days by planes of Comsopac. Many fires started. Several zero V8 floatplanes shot down. One of our bombers lost Aug. 4 when it exploded after being rammed by a burning zero.

Aug. 7:  
Dog Day!

Extensive search by HMNZS MOA  
for subs off Amedee Light with  
negative results.

U.S.S. Solace, hospital ship  
arrived this port today.

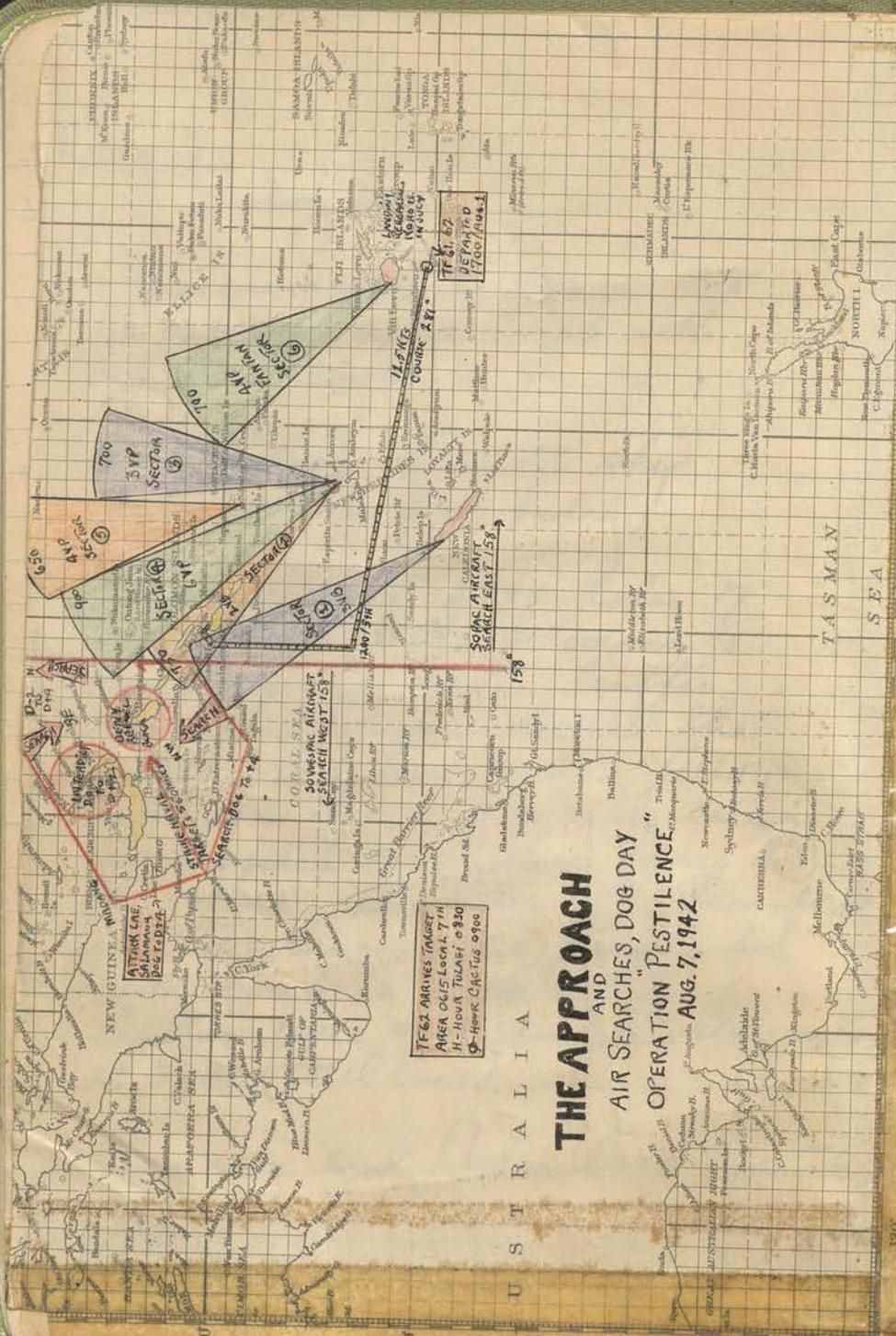
No report up to 2345 today of  
our forces in the Solomons.  
Some Japanese radio traffic  
intercepted which indicated the  
landings had been made. TULAGI  
radio was heard frantically calling  
for dispatch of surface forces to  
the scene, also designating transports  
and two carriers as targets for  
heavy bombers. Reports of the  
landings were sent in plain language  
at 0700 (local time).

Ammaron and Aaron Ward departed.

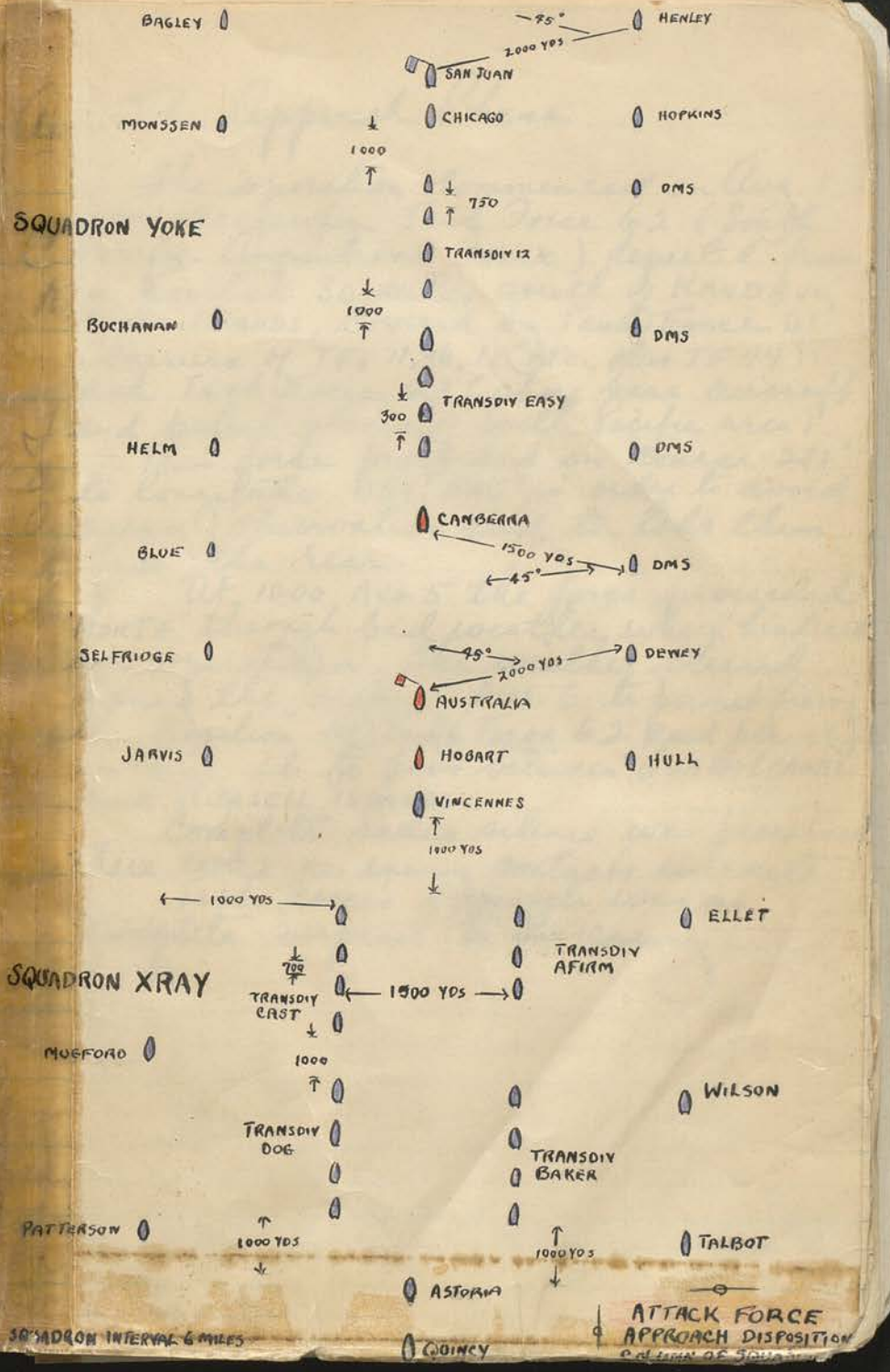
VIA AIR MAIL  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
VIA AIR MAIL

1942 AUG 7 11 21 AM





**THE APPROACH AND AIR SEARCHES, DOG DAY OPERATION PESTILENCE, AUG. 7, 1942**





## The Approach Phase.

The operation commenced on Aug. 1 at 1800 when Task Force 62 (South Pacific Amphibious Force) departed from a position 30 miles south of KANDAVU, FIJI ISLANDS, covered by Task Force 61 (Carriers of TFs 11, 16, 18 (ETC., plus TF 44) and Task Force 63 (shore base aircraft and patrol planes of South Pacific area).

This force proceeded on course 281° to longitude 159° EAST in order to avoid enemy observation and to take them from the rear.

At 1200 AUG. 5 the force proceeded NORTH through bad weather which hindered air operations. The weather cleared during the night of AUG. 6 to permit fixing the position of Task Force 62 and permitting it to pass between GUADALCANAL and RUSSELL ISLANDS.

Complete radio silence was preserved. There were no enemy contacts en route.

Task Force's approach was a complete surprise to the enemy.



Aug. 8

Arrival Naumea today: Destroyers  
Clark, Perkins. Auxiliaries  
Kaschka, Blatte, Ramier and Aleyone.

Departure: Rosmer for Efate, N. Heb.

The situation summary finally  
arrived from WATCH TOWER (TULAGI)  
Operation Area. Our attack was  
successful and losses are believed to  
be light, save for the action near  
GAVATI.

Here are the highlights:-

The approach was a complete  
surprise.

Eighteen enemy seaplanes were  
destroyed on the water, as was one  
small schooner.

No enemy ships were present.

In both areas (Tulagi and  
Guadalcanal) our forces opened  
shore bombardment at 1900 Z-1644  
with ships and planes. Light gun  
opposition was encountered but  
this was soon silenced.

Landings began in the FLORIDA area at 2040 Z/7 (0740 local time on the 7<sup>th</sup>). Initial opposition was light.

Landings began 2220 in Guadalcanal area. There was no opposition.

At 0220 Z/7 about 25 enemy TYPE 97 bombers passed overhead and dropped several bombs. No damage resulted. These planes proceeded toward the Capriens (which were disposed to the southward of the island). Two enemy bombers were shot down and two damaged.

At 0400 Z/7 about ten enemy TYPE 99 dive bombers made one 250-lb. bomb hit on aft deck house of destroyer MUSTFORD, causing considerable damage. Two guns were put out of commission. The engines were reported "O.K." 15 crew members reported missing, five dead and nine seriously injured. Two enemy dive bombers were shot down out of this group.

The situation at 0900 Z/7<sup>th</sup> (8 p.m.): All troops ashore on Guadalcanal island side, occupying on the west the line of the TENARU RIVER and on the east a security line about longitude 160°-06'. At neither place are they in contact with the enemy. 10,900 troops landed on this island.

On the FLORIDA ISLAND side HALAVO was occupied with no opposition.

TUNABI was occupied, except the east end, where fighting continues.

GAVATA was captured, but only after we suffered heavy casualties.

TANANBOGO ISLAND (joined with GAVATA by a causeway) was still in the hands of the enemy. An attack was underway by the Marines when this report was made.

Comamphibopac (Rear Adm. R. K. Turner) requested that on the 8<sup>th</sup> maximum fighter cover be provided and that two VSB squadrons be continuously in the area. He also requested

scouting against the approach of enemy surface forces from the westward.

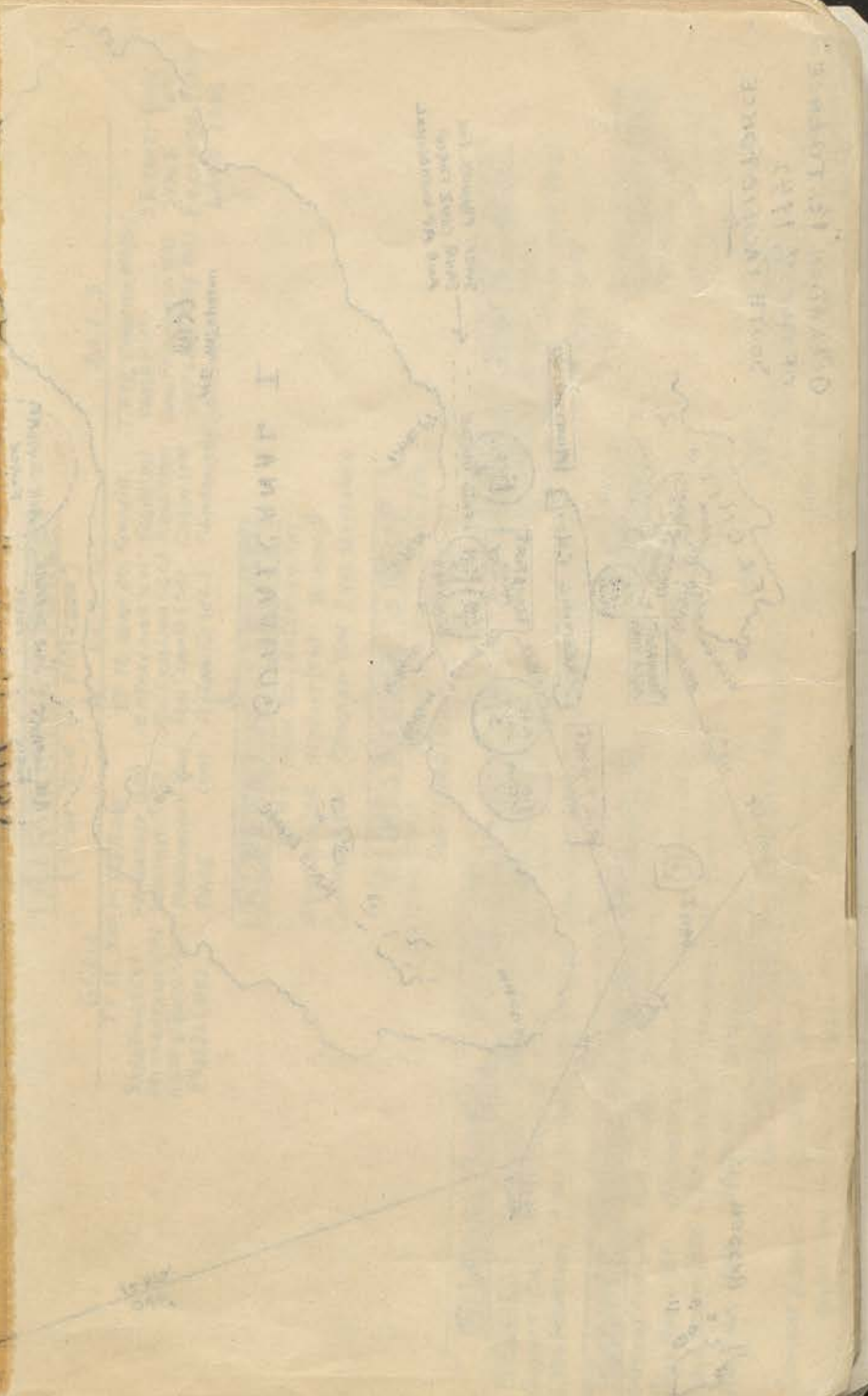
On the early morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> he expected to send off the SANTA CRUZ occupation force less the PRES. JACKSON and WILSON and the following ships McCawley, Fuller, Heywood, Trever and Muford, possibly some other APs later in the day.

At night on the 7<sup>th</sup> two DMS were searching for a fighter pilot down near Russell Island.

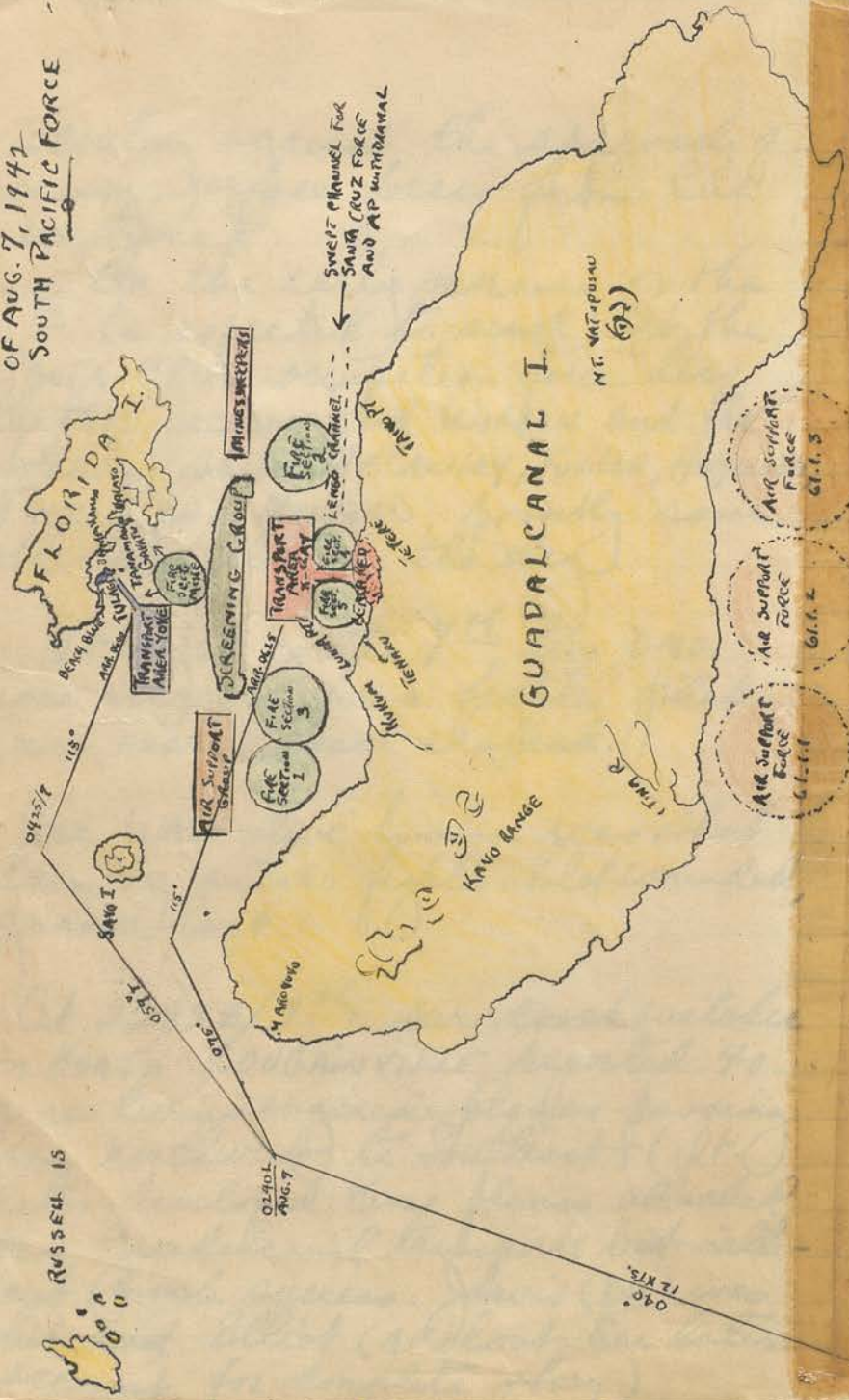
One WASP dive bomber was shot down by a zero fighter. Pilot wounded, gunner lost.

At 2242Z/7<sup>th</sup> our coast watcher on NORTH BOUGAINVILLE reported 40 large twin engine planes passing from northwest to southeast (it later developed these planes attacked the Guadalcanal transports but without much success. Jarvis (DD) was hit and Elliot (AP) lost. See later account for complete story).

COMPOSITION OF FORCES FOR OPERATION



“LITTLE TROOP”  
**OPERATION PESTILENCE**  
 OF AUG. 7, 1942  
 SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE



**COMPOSITION OF FORCES FOR OPERATION**

**AIR SUPPORT FORCE**  
 (TFGI VICE AD. FLETCHER)

- 61.1.1  
 SARATOGA (CV) FARGUT (DD)  
 MINNEAPOLIS (CA) MORDEN (DD)  
 NEW ORLEANS (CA) MACDONOUGH (DD)  
 PHELPS (DD)
- 61.1.2  
 TF 16, REAR AD. KUROKI  
 ENTERPRISE (CV) BALCH (DD)  
 NO. CAROLINA (SS) MAURY (DD)  
 PORTLAND (CA) GWIN (DD)  
 ATLANTA (CL) BENHAM (DD) GRAYSON (DD)
- 61.1.3  
 TFI 8, REAR AD. NOTES  
 WASP (CV)  
 SAN FRANCISCO (CA)  
 SALT LAKE CITY (CA)  
 FARENHOLT (DD)  
 LANG (DD)

**SCREENING GROUP**

- TF 44, REAR AD. CRUTCHLEY (RN)  
 AUSTRALIA (CA) HOBART (CA) DESRON 4  
 CANBERRA (CL) CHICAGO (CA) 2 VOS SEAPLANES
- MINESWEEPER GROUP**  
 HOPKINS (DMS) TREVER (DMS) ZANE (DMS)  
 SOUTHARD (DMS) HOVEY (DMS)

**GUADALCANAL FORCES (A. ADM. TURNER)**

- FINE SECT. 1 QUINCY (CA) 2 VOS SEAPLANES  
 FINE SECT. 2 ASTORIA (CA) ELLET (DD) VINCENTES (CA)  
 2 VOS SEAPLANES  
 WILSON (DD) BENNY (DD) 2 VOS SEAPLANES

- TRANSDIV D** CRESCENT CITY (AP) McKNOLLY (AP) Hunter LUCETT (AP)  
**TRANSDIV C** PAGES HAYES (AP) BARNETT (AP) ALEJISA (AK)  
**TRANSDIV A** PRES. ADAMS (AP) G.F. ELLIOTT (AP) FORDALHAUT (AK) BELLATIN (AK)  
 ALHENA (AK) LIBRA (AK) BETAJEUC (AK)

- LANDING FORCE** (MAJ. GEN. VANDERGRIFT)  
 COMBAT GROUP A COMBAT GROUP B SUPPORT GROUP  
 DIVISION RESERVE, U.S. MARINES, 6 VOS SEAPLANES

**TULAGI FORCES**

- FINE SUPPORT GROUP "MIKE"  
 SAN JUAN (CL) MONSON (DD)  
 BUCHANAN (DD)

**TRANSIVE**

- NEVILLE (AP)  
 ZEILIN (AP)  
 McYUWOOD (AP)  
 PRES. JACKSON (AP)

**LANDING FORCE**

- TULAGI: 1ST AVIATOR BN, COMBAT TEAM #4, 3<sup>RD</sup> DECOY BATT.  
 FLORIDA: COMBAT TEAM A; GAVATHY; 1ST TANGA CLUBS (Bn).

**TRANSDIV 10**

- COLHOUN (APD)  
 GREGORY (APD)  
 LITTLE (APD)  
 MCKEAN (APD)

Aug. 9:-

From despatches originating in Task Force 8: operating (Area North Pacific) we learn that an air and naval attack was launched on the Japanese-held island of KISKA in the ALEUTIANS simultaneously with our attack in the Sotomots. Ten cargo ships and two submarines were in the harbor prior to the bombardment. No reports of enemy losses have been received.

Admiral Fletcher reported his total fighter plane strength reduced from 99 to 78. Because of the large number of Jap torpedos and Bomber planes in the area he recommended immediate withdrawal of the Carriers and requested Taskers be sent immediately for a rendezvous to be decided by Comsopac. Admiral Ghormley has concurred, sending out the oilers Blatte and Kappaskia, with the destroyers Clark and Perkins as escorts, early this morning. Perkins later returned to port because of engine trouble.

Comairsopac reports patrol plane down  
posit:  $11^{\circ}51'S, 162^{\circ}53'E$  and requests  
destroyer from NDENI occupation force  
be detailed to rescue the crew.

Desdiv 24 (less McCalla) has been  
ordered to depart Balboa 14 Aug. to  
proceed to Bora Bora thence to join  
Desron 12 in Task Force 18. (The  
Laffey, damaged at Suva, and the  
Carson Ward, on escort duty, were  
originally part of Desron 12 and their  
absence leaves the task force short  
of necessary destroyers.

Contact for 62 (Admiral Turner) on  
Aug. 8 told Com Sopac "Owing to need  
for reinforcements Florida area will  
not commence retirement as planned."

Our radio intelligence indicates that at  
0550 on the 7<sup>th</sup> CINCPAC 4<sup>th</sup> FLEET (JAP) broadcast  
an alert, reporting attack on Tulagi to  
South Seas Force. At 0530 7<sup>th</sup> Desron 24  
told 4<sup>th</sup> Air Attack Group to attack enemy  
shipping in Tulagi area. Tulagi radio  
was not heard after 0730, 7<sup>th</sup> Aug.

Aug. 10:

11th Army Air group Command post  
shifted from Fila Efate Is., to Espiritu  
Santo effective noon today.

CTG 61.2 reported on 0100 Z/8  
that Squadron X-Ray was attacked  
by about 40 twin-engine torpedoes  
planes and 8 high altitude bombers.  
The destroyer JARVIS was hit in the  
forward part of the ship by a  
torpedo and was disabled. She was  
towed into shallow water. The  
G. F. Elliott, transport was on fire  
amidships from a bomb hit. It was  
not known whether or not the ships  
could be saved. At least 12 enemy  
planes were shot down, probably more  
by ships and fighters.

Comdr. Task Force 62 on Aug. 8  
reported several pilots from FITRON 5  
were forced down in action with the  
enemy in the SAVO ISLAND - CAPE ESPERANCE  
area about 1200 (local time). This was  
probably the force mentioned by CTG 61.2.  
Two destroyers were sent to the rescue  
and planes were keeping a lookout.

The movement of Jap vessels from RABAU, NEW BRITAIN to the Solomons today indicates possible occupation of BOUGAINVILLE and BUKA ISLANDS in strength. This coupled with movements of seaplanes indicates possible use of KIETA airdromes.

Cincpac on Aug. 9. sent this message to Admiral Ghormley and his forces:  
"Your shipmates in Pacific Ocean areas are watching your progress with great admiration."

The withdrawal of the empty transports and some of the supporting forces has begun. On 0730Z, 9<sup>th</sup> these vessels departed GUADALCANAL for NOUMEA via the LENGO CHANNEL and north SAN CRISTOBAL IS. speed 12:

7 APs  
1 AT  
SAN JUAN  
AUSTRALIA  
HO BART  
4 APDS  
10 DDS

Rear Admiral Turner was in the McCawley, one of the APs.

Also ordered back from advance positions were the seaplane tender Machinae and minelayer TRACY which were in MARIMASIKE ESTUARY, MALAITA ISLAND. They were ordered to proceed to ESPIRITU SANTO.

The 2nd Marines did not land at NDENI, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND as planned because of need for them in the main theater. The seaplane tender MacFarland, the Breeze and Aldrich were accordingly ordered to withdraw, the MACFARLAND proceeding to the vicinity of INDISPENSABLE REEF to rescue the crew of a patrol plane.

The New Zealand army is planning to provide a reinforced division, as requested by Admiral Ghormley, of a total strength of 20,000 men. This division would be employed in the TULAGI - GUADALCANAL area to relieve the Marines for further offensive action. Prime Minister Fraser must give final approval and he plans to come to NOUMEA by plane.



to confer with Admiral Ghormley  
on or about 14 August.

The Navy has been informed  
that all Army air forces assigned  
to the South Pacific Area are  
available for movement as directed  
by Comsopac. General Harmon  
has been asked to expedite the  
movement through the South  
Pacific area of planes destined  
for Australia unless by their  
diversion they could be used  
more effectively in the South  
Pacific Area.

Aug. 11

Cominch has directed that the  
battleship South Dakota escorted by  
a minimum of three destroyers  
proceed at earliest practicable date  
to Panama and report for duty in  
Baldwin 6 thence to augment  
Ghormley's forces.

HMNZS ARCHILLES arrived today  
escorting the SS BOSCH FORTIEN and  
the transport PRES. GRANT. The  
ARCHILLES came alongside the ARGONNE  
at 0530 local time to fuel and  
remained alongside during the night.

The destroyer STACK has picked up  
10 survivors of patrol plane H-13  
and placed them aboard a tanker  
headed for this port. The SARATOGA  
also has two survivors found  
adrift in a rubber boat. They were  
forced down Aug. 4 LAT 16° 49' S; L 163° 10' E.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> Comsopac to Commanding  
General U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal  
"A grand job well done."

Aug. 12:-

Prime Minister Fraser and U.S. Minister to New Zealand Hurley arrived with their party aboard the Tasman plane this morning. They are traveling to U.S. but stopped here to arrange for the employment of New Zealand troops to relieve our Marines in the newly-captured areas.

Gen. Vandegrift on the 10<sup>th</sup> reported that TULAGI, GABUJU, TANAMBORO were entirely in our hands and that mopping up operations were continuing on MAKAMBO. He said that there had been bitter fighting in this area (Florida Island) and he estimated the Marines suffered 450 casualties. The Japanese casualties were 100 per cent running over 1,000 men. 15,000 Marines are holding this area.

In the GUNDALCANAL area the Marines hold the line KUKUM to KOLI POINT and are digging in to defend the beaches. They are patrolling to mop up the garrison of 300 troops and 2,000 pioneers

who have withdrawn to the bush. The air field the Japs had so speedily and laboriously constructed, was reported reported ready to take our fighters and dive bombers today. On the 11<sup>th</sup> gen. Vandegrift reported his position secure. He is preparing to defend 9,000 yards of beach with perimeter defense. Hostile detachments fade into the jungle before our patrols.

First reports have come in on the night attack by surface forces against our transports the night of Aug. 8.

Our screening group was dispersed in two groups as follows:

(1.) Outer Screen (2 Divisions)

ONE N.E. SAVO ISLAND

ASTORIA  
VINCENNES  
QUINCY  
3 DLS  
1 DD RADAR OUTPOST

ONE SOUTH OF SAVO

CHICAGO  
CANBERRA  
4 DDS  
1 DD RADAR OUTPOST

all were patrolling.

(2.) INNER SCREEN (2 Divisions)

ONE WITH YOKE GROUP

SAN JUAN  
APDS

ONE WITH X-RAY GROUP

AUSTRALIA  
HOBART  
DDS

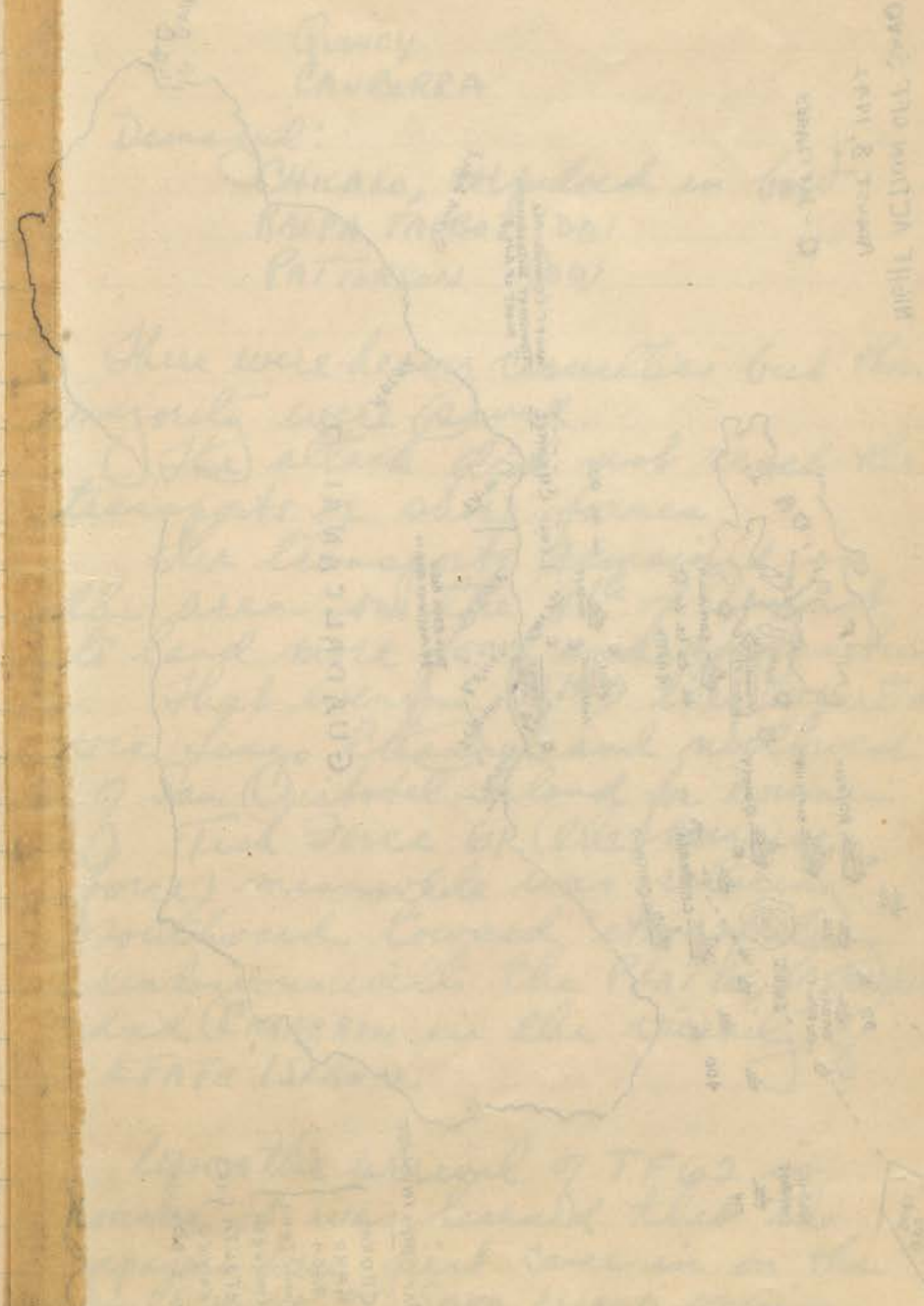
At 0145 L aircraft flares, probably from Japanese Cruiser planes were accurately dropped through the clouds to silhouette Transport Group X-RAY. The flares continued regularly for about one-half hour.

At the same time enemy CAS, DDs or torpedo boats, and probably some submarines were intercepted by our screening force north and south of SAVO ISLAND.

A heavy running action commenced and continued about 40 minutes. No knowledge of damage to enemy ships except one submarine probably sunk. (A Cruiser was sighted off Bougainville Aug. 11, course 015, speed 8 knots which may indicate damage).

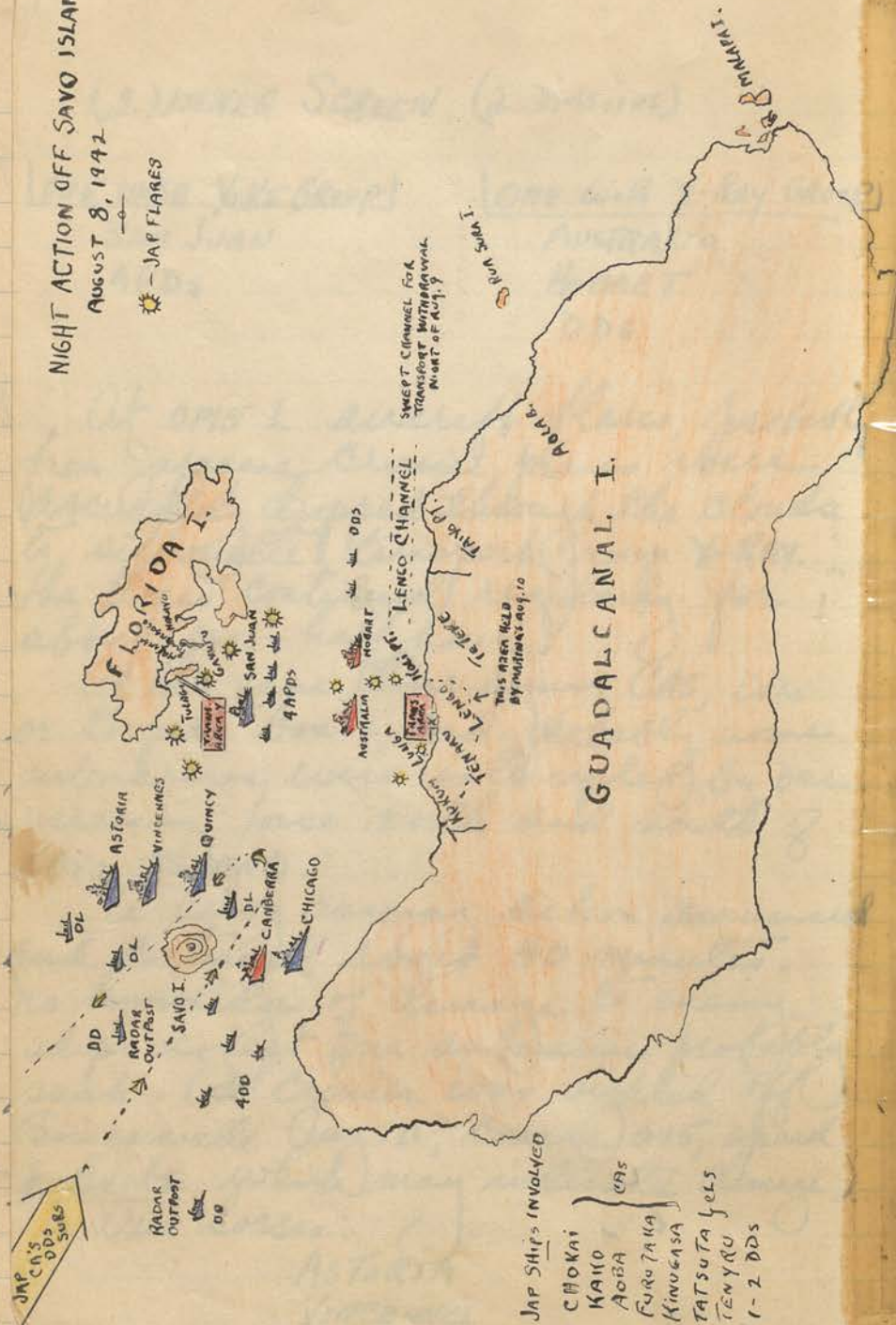
Our losses:

ASTORIA  
VINCENTES



NIGHT ACTION OFF SAVO ISLAND  
AUGUST 8, 1942

☀ - JAP FLARES



QUINCY  
CANBERRA

Damaged:

CHICAGO, torpedoed in bow  
RALPH TALBOT (DD)  
PATERSON (DD)

There were heavy casualties but the majority were saved.

The attack did not reach the transports or shore forces.

The transports remained in the area on the 9th of August to land more food and ammunition.

That evening (9th) they departed via Lengo Channel and northwest of San Cristobel Island for Noumea. Task Force 61 (the carrier force) meanwhile was retiring southward toward its rendezvous with the PLATE, KASKASKIA and CIMARRON in the vicinity of EFATE ISLAND.

Upon the arrival of TF 62 in Noumea it was learned that the Japanese force first came in on the south side of SAVO ISLAND opening

fire on the CHICAGO and CANBERRA at 4,000 yards range. The Japs then turned northwest to pass SAVO ISLAND to port and engaged the ASTORIA, VINCENTES and KEENEY, retiring after this engagement.

ASTORIA survivors (one the captain) indicated that after the first few minutes of action the gasoline in the cruiser planes and other inflammables in the hangar area ignited and as a result the after funnroom, engine room and fire control station became untenable. A 50 p.c. reduction in speed resulted immediately and fire power was crippled. This was true of at least two other cruisers, survivors said.

The enemy force believed involved in the attack was sighted off NIETA at 0001Z/8th and comprised at least 5 cruisers, several smaller ships. However the information was not sent out by COMSOWESPAC until 0947Z/8th. This was a lag of 9 hrs. 46 minutes. Message was not received here until 1035Z/8th. The attack took place 1445Z/8th.

AUG. 13:-

Admiral R. H. Turner, Com Amphib, Sopaac arrived at NOUMEA today with Task Force 62 (less some transports and escort vessels sent to BUTION) The ships arriving were:

AUSTRALIA	SOUTHARD	MC CAWLEY	HUNTER LIGGETT
HOBART	HOVEY	BARNETT	AMER. LEGION
SAN JUAN	HOPKINS	KEYWOOD	BELLATRIX
SELFRIEGE	ZANE	NEVILLE	FORMAL HAVT
HENLY	TREVER	FULLER	ALCHIBA
BLUE BENHAM	BAGLEY HOWE	LIBRA RALPH TALBOT	BETELGUESE ZEILIN

Aboard these ships were 721 hospital cases, most of which were transferred to the hospital ship SOLACE, the remainder being retained on the AMERICAN LEGION. There were 110 casualties in TRANSDIV TWO at BUTION (ESPIRITU SANTO).

Commanding general Marines, Guadalcanal, reported that a PB45A landed on the airfield there on the 12th. He said the field was 3600 ft. long now and that 800 feet would be added in three days.

Aug. 14:-

Commanding General Cactus, on the 13<sup>th</sup> reported that enemy submarines fired into the Marines' position at 0505, 1030 and 1620. There was no damage. 75 mm fire drove off the last two attacks.

An inspection party returned from TUTAHI and reported the position there as "excellent".

Patrolling continues on GONDAL CANAL. The Marines killed or captured over 50 Japs on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Our casualties are mounting because of the guerilla-type warfare in the dense jungles. The men are on two meals daily and have 10 days rations on that basis, including captured food, local beef.

Prime Minister Fraser and party departed midnight of the 13<sup>th</sup> for Auckland.

Arrivals, Noumea 14<sup>th</sup>: heavy cruiser CHICAGO at reduced speed because of torpedo hit in bow. Destroyers Patterson, Muzford, Quinn and Clark. Tankers Platt and Kaskaskia. The CHICAGO tied up alongside ARBONNE to port.

39 Japanese prisoners, six of them wounded, were brought here by the transport force. Two Japanese privately stationed here with U. S. Army forces have been aboard several days to examine captured documents, diaries etc, taken in the operations.

Wounded present here (revised figure) including short term wounded (number):

American	841
Australian	92
Total	933

There were 733 survivors from CAUBORRA. Ten of her crew died of exposure, 74 are missing. These survivors will be taken to SYDNEY on the PRES. GRANT sailing from here tomorrow. Escort vessel USS HOPKINS.

Transit 12 (4APDS) departed KSPHITA SANTS for Guadalcanal today with aviation ground crews, etc., to be unloaded during night of 15<sup>th</sup> off LUNGA. Transports to retire before daylight. Other ships with planes food etc, to follow soon.

Aug. 15

No change in situation at CACTUS, commanding general reports. Three Japanese bombers at a height of 2200 feet dropped 12 bombs at 1445 (local time) Aug. 14. One of the bombers was hit by 90mm fire and is believed to have crashed.

An enemy submarine fired into the position at 1600 (local time), no damage was sustained. One hit was scored on the sub.

Rear Admiral F. W. Rockwell, former Commander Task Force 42 reported to Comamphib for Sopa Aug. 13 for duty in that force.

At 1225 (local) an enemy raid was in progress at TULAGI.

Buller's garrison reinforced by 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines landed from TRANSDIV 2.

Submarine bombed and strafed by planes from TF 61 position 17-30 S. 163-50 E. Believed destroyed. This on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Aug. 16:

USS ALDEBARAN with stores arrived NOUMEA today. Departed for WELLINGTON were U.S.S. HEYWOOD, FULLER AND LIBRA with escorts ZANE and SOUTHARD. This force will embark the 5<sup>th</sup> Defense Battalion U.S. Marines and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Barrage Balloon Squadron.

Submarine believed sighted off ANUDEE Light, NOUMEA, by Army AAA lookout. 3 destroyers sent out. Reports were negative indicating only visual contact was a blackfish.

Search plane sighted gun flashes near southern end SOLOMONS at 0400 L/15. (May have been TULAGI raid mentioned in Aug. 15 notes).

Six Orange bombers over CACTUS 1155 L/15th dropped at least six parachutes. Four recovered. They carried drop cases containing rations and ammunition.

Admiral Rockwell departed by plane for SUVA at 2120 Z/15.

Other arrivals at Noumea today were the EASTERN SUN and TABINTA. Other departures were the SOLACE for Auckland. BISHOPDATE escorted by MILDURA for SYDNEY and the Dilers PLATON and KASHASKIT escorted by CLARK, GWIN and SAN JUAN.

Guadalcanal forces report that the Japanese at SAPORI (Cape Esperance) have retreated into the bush behind the village. They have a machine gun and six automatic rifles.

Reports indicate the main body of Japanese has retreated up the Matanikau River area west of LUNGA POINT.

Aug. 17:

The situation at CACTUS yesterday: 11,000 Marines hold the North Coast of GUADALCANAL to a depth of five miles from KOLA POINT to POINT CRUZ including the airfield. They are now engaged in constructing a perimeter defense, improving the air field and patrolling against guerrillas.

There are a few casualties daily. Total casualties to date probably 4 or 500.

6,000 Marines hold TULABI, GAVUTU, TANAMBONO, MBANGAI, MOHAMBO and spots on adjacent FLORIDA Coast line. The Marines now have only approximately five units of fire and three days rations due to the early forced withdrawal of the transports and storeships.

Four APDs sent into the area the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> with avgas, avlat, spare parts and some ground crews. No planes have been flown in.

Unidentified Cruiser type float plane passed over CACTUS at 1100 LOVE today.



Aug. 18

Our intelligence has warned us that the Japanese have started an operation the objective of which is the recapture of Cactus. Forces being set in motion for this operation include:

- (1) **STRIKING FORCE** { 3 Aoba class CAS under CRUDIV 6 with DD screen. Task to attack BLUE surface forces in TULAGI-GUADALCANAL area. CRUDIV 6 departed KAVIENG 1400 hours later 16<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) **AMPHIB. FORCE** { 6 transports carrying Jap marines in convoy with destroyers and JINTSU, OCH. plus TENRYUS (CLs) proceeding TRUK to GUADALCANAL AREA.
- (3) **AMPHIB. FORCE** { Another escorted convoy carrying Army shock troops originally destined for MIDWAY left June, departed TRUK 0900 later 17<sup>th</sup> destined CACTUS. May rendezvous with the first group vicinity GREENWICH ISLAND on Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>.
- (4) { Above movements indicated to have a covering force, probably

(4) CONT'D

**COVERING FORCE** { CAS possibly two HAGUROs, one or two ATAGOs (CAS) and DDs.

**AIR SEARCH GROUP** { Reconnaissance of Solomon areas to be conducted by four seaplanes of KIYOKAWA MARU based on GIZO ISLAND.

Dog day could be as early as 20<sup>th</sup>.

Commanding general Cactus reports refueling of patrol planes possible in LONGA ROKOS from T-Boats. He requests assignment of an amphibian plane for inter island Command functions. Eight Serial 97 twin engine Jap bombers dropped 16 bombs at CACTUS at 1300 today local time. Scored 4 direct hits on runway. Several drums of gasoline were burned and there were five personnel casualties. The runway will be repaired by the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Cactus airfield has been named in honor of Major L.R. Henderson, USMC.

Dutch steamship Blom Fontein reports being gunned by submarine LAT. 33-40'S; 164°W, 0545 Z/18<sup>th</sup>.  
Departed: Pan American for San Pedro; Mercury for Efate.

Aug. 19

Task Force 44 (R. Ad. Crutchley R.N.)  
sortied from Noumea this morning  
enroute to join T.F. 61 to northward.

Three destroyers SELFRIDGE, BAGLEY, PATTERSON  
conducted an A/S search to seaward of  
BULARI PASSAGE for Cruisers AUSTRALIA and  
HO BART emerging at 0815 local, then  
formed an anti-submarine screen.

CHICAGO remained alongside ARGONNE  
where salvage vessel NAVASO doing some  
underwater repairs on damaged bow.  
PHOENIX (CL) will join TF 44 shortly.

Motor vessel LAKATOI, manned by a  
Navy crew departed this port at 0800  
local to arrive TULAGI 1930Z Aug. 24.

Sector 6 air search scheduled to originate  
here starting today was cancelled and  
the two Catalinas sent to Espiritu Santo  
this afternoon.

A plain language dispatch at 0815  
said "Hostile vessels bombarding TULAGI"  
Comairsopec at 0815 reported his  
planes had sighted two miles south of  
TULAGI: 3 enemy DDS, 1 enemy submarine.

Later it developed that there were two  
groups of enemy vessels off TULAGI:

1 CA } 25 miles Southeast.  
1 CL }

3 DDS, 7 miles north LUNGA ROADS.

Two B-17s of the South Pacific force  
attacked the CA in the former group  
at 1210 local time and made a  
direct hit on the stern. The ship  
was left on fire. Explosion seen later.

1 seaplane tender was sighted in  
REHATA BAY at 1115 local. This in  
SANTA ISABEL ISLAND. This proved later to  
be a cruiser which left after plane sighted her.

Two of Comairsopec's submarines S-41  
and S-37 have been ordered to take  
station near SAVO ISLAND to operate  
north and west of a line joining  
SANDFLY PASSAGE and CAPE ESPERANCE.

Commanding General Cactus in his  
report today said that a submarine  
fired into his position 2215 local Aug 18.  
Three destroyers entered the area

at 0600 today. Two destroyers inter-  
mittently bombarded Ringlet and  
Cactus this morning. At 1210 local  
a B-17 scored a hit on a destroyer  
which was last seen after moving  
eastward at 1400 local. The other  
destroyer remained in the area.

Nine Navy and Marine personnel missing  
in two boats. Were doing patrol work.

A Marine patrol mopped up MATANIKAU.  
Counted 60 Japs killed. Our casualties  
4 killed, one missing. Fresh graves and  
equipment found appears to confirm  
annihilation of 25 who were on patrol with  
Goeltze on 12 Aug. (He was Lt. Col. USMC).

Two Cruiser-type planes apparently  
basing SAVO ISLAND attacked boats and  
patrols throughout the day.

A Marine patrol hit a Jap group  
landing in rubber boats near TAVU Point.  
Of the 30 in the group including 4 officers,  
18 were killed. Our casualties 2 killed,  
3 wounded. These Japs carried considerable  
radio equipment. Examination of documents landed  
by destroyer which left Truk 16 Aug. in company  
with 5 others: Mimeographed sheet abbreviated  
code for landing operations found. Map showing our  
operations 7-11 Aug, secret locations small Jap detachments.

Aug. 20

The following is the complete  
report of events subsequent to the  
surprise landings in the Guadalcanal-  
Tulagi area on Aug. 7.

10,900 Marines were landed on  
Guadalcanal by 2000/17th. 6,100 were  
put ashore in the Florida area.

— TORPEDO PLANE ATTACK —

On the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> (about noon)  
40 Type-97 twin engine torpedo planes  
approached from behind FLORIDA ISLANDS  
and attacked the GUADALCANAL transports  
and screen. A timely warning from  
the BOUGAINVILLE COAST WATCHER about  
40 minutes earlier enabled all ships  
to get under way at best speed in  
defense formation between GUADALCANAL  
and FLORIDA. The plane attack was  
pushed through the disposition at  
low altitude & torpedoes being dropped  
at heights from 20 feet to 100 feet.  
Our disposition was maneuvered and  
avoided all torpedoes except the  
destroyer JARVIS which was hit in the  
forward part of the ship, destroying  
communications but not motive power.

One torpedo plane crashed into the transport G. F. ELLIOT starting a bad fire and causing final loss of the ship. Attempts were made to salvage it without success. The ship was torpedoed by our own forces but drifted in shore. Still burning when last reported.

At least 12 enemy planes were shot down in the transport area and two by the landing boats when these were attacked at the landing beach. Part of the enemy planes were shot down by fighter planes and additional ones were believed shot down to westward. About seven of our VF lost.

- JAPANESE NIGHT ATTACK AUG. 8-9 -  
(LATER VERSION)

Our forces were disposed as follows:

RALPH TALBOT, Radar patrol 5 mi north SAVO I.  
BLUE " " " WEST " "

5 to 8 miles behind the radar patrol in the northern half of the area were:

VINCENNES

QUINCY

ASTORIA

WILSON } DD SCREEN

HELM

in the Southern half of the area were:

CHICAGO (10 miles SW OF BLUE)

CANBERRA

BAGLEY } DD SCREEN

PATTERSON }

SCREEN in TRANSPORT AREA X-RAY:

AUSTRALIA

HOBART

SEVERAL DD

5 DMS sound screen across west end LENGU CHANNEL.

SCREEN in TRANSPORT AREA YOKE

4 APD

Several DD

SAN JUAN (5 miles to Westward).

About 0145 local time, 9 Aug. flares were dropped by Jap Cruiser planes to southwest of the GUADALCANAL transports. The transports got under way and departed North and East. Task Force 44, the inner screen, AUSTRALIA etc., concentrated north of LUNGA Point and ordered a concentration of the screening destroyers.

BAGLEY, right hand screen destroyer at 0140 local, 9<sup>th</sup>, course 315 saw several enemy vessels approaching at high speed close to the south coast of SAVO ISLAND. Gave warning, fired torpedoes. CHICAGO and CANBERRA had just reversed patrol course and were heading 115° T. The enemy, probably three cruisers and four destroyers headed east passing our cruisers about 4,000 yards, firing guns and torpedoes. Our cruisers returned the gunfire. CHICAGO was hit in the bow by one torpedo and also was hit by some projectiles. CANBERRA was heavily hit by gunfire and torpedoes, was on fire and almost immediately out of action. She sank at 0830 / 9th.

The enemy turned northeast and at 0155 opened fire on our northern cruiser division then bearing 010, distant 5,000 to 6,000 yards. Our cruisers then on 315 speed 10 kts. A heavy gun duel ensued until all three of our cruisers were heavily hit by torpedoes and shells. VINCENNES and QUINCY were out of action

within 15 minutes. (QUINCY sank at 0240 and VINCENNES at 0245 after explosions.)

The enemy circled the rear of the northern Cruiser Division, headed northwest again and fired heavily on the three U.S. cruisers beginning at 0210. ASTORIA was put out of action, sinking during daylight (at 1215).

The WILSON and HELM were engaged but not damaged.

The RALPH TARBOT which headed South at high speed about 0215 was illuminated and fired on by our vessels, possibly the destroyers, and hit once. The TARBOT fired 4 torpedoes at 0218 and believed at least one hit scored. TARBOT badly damaged but got beyond range at 0230 and later was able to retire to NOUMEA with the transports.

Following is a tentative list of survivors:

QUINCY	618
VINCENNES	690
ASTORIA	650
CANBERRA	736

Aug. 20: (Log of today's events)

Tulagi was shelled by a destroyer at 0650 Z/20. There were four casualties. The DD disappeared at 0800 Z. A Japanese cruiser plane (probably one of two based on SAVO ISLAND) was seen searching the area at 1400 local probably looking for the landing party which our patrol wiped out yesterday.

19 fighters and 12 dive bombers were flown off the carrier LONG ISLAND at a point southeast of SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND and landed on the captured airfield at CACTUS 1600 local time/20th. 5 Army P-400s are on the way flying to CACTUS from NOUMEA via EFATE. Two additional flights of 5 each are due to leave NOUMEA the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Delayed action bombs used by the Japs in bombing the Cactus field on the 18<sup>th</sup>. One exploded in one hour, another in seven hours after being dropped.

Arrived here today: U.S.S. COMMINGS.

Aug. 21

The special searches for the damaged destroyer JARVIS have been unsuccessful. She apparently foundered while making her way south from the battle area.

At 1905 Z/20th a search plane reported the enemy making a "strong raid on CACTUS east of the TENARU RIVER. At least two ships in the harbor. Comgen CACTUS further reports the enemy forces are well equipped with mortars and machine guns. They landed east of our position and attacked along the TENARU RIVER, at 0300 local time 21<sup>st</sup>. Only two vessels seen, type uncertain, which withdrew before they broke. Strength of the enemy force is unknown.

The U.S. seaplane tender MACKINAC at NDENI, SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS reports being attacked at 2130 Z/20th. It later developed that one of our dive-bombers from Task Force 61 dropped one bomb 30 yards ahead. Some damage received. The plane answered the challenge correctly.

Cincpac reported that on the 17<sup>th</sup> local date 215 Marines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RAIDER BATTALION landed at MAKIN, GILBERT ISLANDS from the submarines NARWHAL and ARBONAUT. Results 83 Japs known dead, Radio, avgas and two sea-planes destroyed. Submarines sank 3,500 ton AP and one gunboat by gunfire & Jap aircraft, probably from MARSHALLS attacked their own forces & Marine losses: 34 dead or missing, 18 wounded.

Com Gen Cactus reports the hostile forces attacking our position along the TENARU RIVER fled eastward at 0900 local time today to avoid our bombing attack just launched. Documentary evidence places the Jap landing place 30 kilometers east of LUNGA Point. Gen. Vandegrift plans to move a battalion from Tulagi to Cactus before the withdrawal of the APDs which are due to arrive with vital food supplies tonight.

Aug. 22.

At 0200 local time a well-equipped Japanese force of about 700 men attempted to break through at the mouth of the TENARU RIVER. Hand to hand fighting was carried on until 0900 local when the enemy attempted withdrawal.

A battalion crossing the upper TENARU outflanked them but the flanking battalion was trapped with the men's backs to the beach. Fighting continued until 1700 when infantry supported by tanks completed destruction of the enemy.

Marine casualties were 28 killed, 72 wounded. Japanese 670 dead, several prisoners, one of whom confirms evidence that this group sailed from TRUK Aug. 16 in six destroyers and landed Aug. 19, 30 kilometers east of LUNGA.

No change at TUTAGI.

Four of the newly-arrived MARINE fighter planes engaged six zero fighters over Cactus at 14000 ft at 1207 local, 21st. One zero crashed. All Marine pilots returned to the base. The four planes were damaged by shell fire. One

made a crash landing being unable to extend his wheels. Other planes are repairable. No injuries to personnel other than slight abrasions sustained by the pilot involved in the landing crash.

Five Army P-400s are due to arrive at Cactus 1030L/22nd.

The destroyer BLUE was torpedoed by a motor torpedo boat 5 miles north of LUNGA POINT at 0400 local time. The stern was blown off abaft gun #4. The ship is seaworthy. Healey plans to take it in tow after daylight. CTF 62 has ordered the BLUE towed to BUTTON by FOMATHAUI after completion unloading.

The ALHENA arrives TUTAUI today with food and ammunition escorted by three DDG.

A submarine fired a torpedo at the seaplane tender McFarland, which passed astern. LAT. 09-305; λ 161-03 at 0255Z/21.

USS. PHOENIX; HMAS ARCHILLET arrived here.

AUG. 23:-

Com Gen Cactus reported a patrol got 5 more Japs to eastward of JENARU RIVER yesterday. 1 B-17 (Flying Fortress) landed on the field there the 22nd. 5 Army P-400s arrived 1045. The ALHENA successfully unloaded supplies at TUTAUI and departed 2230L/22 escorted by the HELM.

At sea the carrier force shot down a big 4-engine flying boat. Had two submarine contacts 22nd. One torpedo passed ahead of the PORTLAND.

The Japanese attempt to retake Cactus apparently is underway. These events occurred today:

- (1.) Search plane sighted eight enemy ships LAT 05-00; λ 160-25.
- (2.) Developed contact to report 2 enemy cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 transports. Course 190, Speed 17x 0412/23.
- (3.) At 2313Z/22 Plane 5 of Flight 37 reported sighting an enemy



two-foot seaplane, LAT. 05-45.  $\lambda$  162-10.  
Contact was lost x

- (4) At 0040Z/23 plane from Southwestpac  
sighted two destroyers, 2 cargo  
ships posit. 07-05S; 155-55E x
- (5) At 23/0333Z plane 51 of Flight 37  
operating from the MACKINAC dropped  
4 depth bombs on a sub at LAT.  
07-41S;  $\lambda$  162-05. All proved duds.
- (6) At 23/0458Z plane 55 of Flight 37  
sighted a sub at 06-12S; 163-40E  
Course 215°T. Dropped two bombs.  
Results negative x
- (7) At 23/0230 Consowespac reported 2 APs,  
2 PGs, 1 cruiser at position 04-10'S;  
150-20E (off RABAU).
- (8) Consopac at 23/0315Z requested LARRY  
to "HIT THEM NOW" (Force in (4) above)
- (9) Commanding General CACTUS dispatched  
9 VSB, 1 TBF, 13 F4F to intercept enemy  
force in (2) above. These planes failed  
to locate the enemy because of weather.

(10) Consowespac dispatched 5 Catalinas  
armed with torpedoes to attack  
the enemy transports in (2). Moon-  
light should favor the attack and  
contact was being maintained by  
a shadowing Catalina by all indications.

(11) Deadier 7 Commander reported from  
CACTUS that the crippled destroyer  
BLUE was drifting down toward  
SAVO ISLAND with MANLEY unable  
to control her movements. Asked  
authority to scuttle her which  
was granted by Consowespac amphib.

Official count of enemy planes  
shot down by our forces  
7-8 August in TULAGI area:

47 by Carrier planes  
13 by ships.

Aug. 24: -

At 1640 local time Admiral Fletcher (TF 61) reported being attacked by carrier planes. Another message revealed that the carrier ENTERPRISE has a steering casualty from a bomb hit. It was believed the Japanese carrier RYUJO was badly damaged and left burning.

A bombing attack at 1440 local time on GUADALCANAL was intercepted by our fighters. Enemy losses were verified as:

5 TWIN-ENGINE 97-TYPE BOMBERS.  
5 SINGLE-ENGINE V13, (BELIEVED CARRIER BASED  
MITSUBISHI 97)

11 LAND ZEROS.  
21 TOTAL

Our losses:

3 F4Fs,  
3 PILOTS.  
3 PLANE TOTAL

An enemy force of 3 CAs, 2 DDs and 1 small CV was attacked by our B-17s. It is believed one 300 lb bomb hit was scored on the carrier. The B-17s were attacked by ZERO

fighters but were undamaged.

August 25: -

Operations today. Preliminary reports indicate that the enemy forces yesterday and today consisted of at least four groups. One consisting of 1 battleship, some cruisers attached by our carrier air groups. Some hits were reported.

One group consisting of 2 large CVs, four CAs, 6 CLs and 8 DDs was discovered too late for attack. Planes of this group were believed those which attacked our carriers resulting in damage to the ENTERPRISE.

One group consisting of the RYUJO, one CA, 2 DD attached by our B-17s and SARATOGA air groups, set on fire and badly damaged by our carrier air group.

The group including the battleship at 1100 local time today appeared to be retiring to the Northwest at LAT. 04-18; 162-40.

During last night (24th) the ENTERPRISE and SARATOGA task forces

retired to southward to fuel.

The WASP was ordered to support GUADALCANAL. Some ENTERPRISE planes were sent to GUADALCANAL.

During the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> enemy destroyers estimated at seven shelled positions on GUADALCANAL and strafed by 3 dive bombers but no bomb hits were obtained.

One enemy force consisting of an unknown number of APs escorted by cruisers and destroyers approached GUADALCANAL from the North this morning and was hit by planes from the island at 0835 local time. One large transport was hit and left burning. One heavy cruiser was reported hit and burning fiercely.

Later the same force was seen retiring to the north. The burning transport had been abandoned.

Guadalcanal had an air raid at 0623  $\pm$  / 25<sup>th</sup>. No report of results.

Aug. 26: -

No activity in the area north-eastward of the Solomons today. Combat ships sighted there the 25<sup>th</sup> included at least 8 cruisers, one probable BB and 10 destroyers. A convoy headed for TULAGI area was turned back yesterday when a large AP was burned and abandoned. Other ships were hit, possibly sunk but exact results and types at present unconfirmed. Guadalcanal was bombed, shelled and strafed yesterday. There were few casualties and no material damage. Two enemy planes were shot down.

Today at noon 16 bombers and 17 land ZEROS over Cactus were met by F4F fighters. Seven bombers and five ZEROS were shot down. Our loss one pilot, one plane.

A Jap force is reported to have landed at WILHE BAY last night.

An additional report from Guadalcanal states that one hit was made on a destroyer by a dive bomber at 0300 local 25<sup>th</sup>. Large oil patches seen on the water in the area of contact after

Daybreak.

At 1150 local 25<sup>th</sup> 21 twin engine bombers dropped over 40 bombs on the Guadalcanal position from 27000 feet. Our losses: 4 killed, 5 wounded.

During the attack on the convoy morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> a second transport suffered a hit or near miss under the stern with a 1,000 lb. bomb.

2 25-type seaplanes shot down.

The B-17 (Army) striking force reports an enemy heavy cruiser or light cruiser bombed with 500 pounders at 1000 L/25. Hits not seen but fires started. Also same time 3 500-lb bomb hits obtained on cruiser. Ship broke in two. B-17s which bombed carrier 24<sup>th</sup> attacked by 7 Zeros, shot down 5.

Patrol plane (U.S.) reports being attacked by carrier-type plane at 2314 Z/25 at lat. 03-34 S;  $\lambda$  160-06 E. Somewhat garbled message leaves doubt if carrier actually present.

Aug. 27: -

Operations today: Our surface forces had no contact with the enemy today. Several reports from our own patrol planes show an enemy force of one battleship, six heavy cruisers, one light cruiser, six destroyers on various courses throughout today in vicinity LAT. 02-20 S, LONG. 161-45 E.

There was no report of enemy activity in Cactus-Ping Point area. Nine P-400s arrived Guadalcanal 1140 local time today.

Admiral Fletcher believes his carrier force inflicted the following damage on the enemy on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>:

- (1) RYUDO (CV) badly damaged.
- (2) 2 Cruisers torpedoed.
- (3) 1 BB hit by 1,000 lb. bomb.
- (4) 50 enemy planes lost to our
- (5) carrier group and A/A fire.
- (5) Jap submarine #425 hit by 500-lb. bomb while diving. Scored direct hit abaft conning tower, believed sunk.
- (6) Another sub #417 straggled same point  $\lambda$  164-15 E. LAT. 13-30 S.

Aug. 28

Operations today: No sighting of enemy surface vessels.

Our forces engaged in air reconnaissance to limit of range.

Movement of aviation supplies, food and ammunition to Guadalcanal-Tulagi area continues. Protection of this movement is responsibility of Task forces.

Admiral Turner's amphibious force plans to destroy Jap outposts on the nearby islands during the period 1-3 Sept.

The evening patrol of two dive bombers contacted three large and one small destroyers bearing 350 miles from our course 180°. The patrol attacked and hit the small destroyer. 11 dive bombers then took off and attacked the ships at 1800 LOVE which were then 15 miles north of RAMOS ISLAND. Two large destroyers were hit, one blew up and sank, other hit amidships burning fiercely. One escaped damage. The small destroyer was low in the water trailing oil, smoking and in distress. One of our planes failed to return.

Aug. 29

U.S.S. GAMBLE sank a Japanese submarine similar to CLASS I-56 in LAT. 09-20 S; 160-45 E. Also picked up a naval aviator and crew of 3 stranded on an island five days in the battle area.

The Marines' position at Guadalcanal was bombed by 6 planes at 0940. Two Marines killed, five wounded. No material damage.

At 1155 local time 18 twin-engine bombers attacked the position. One man killed, four wounded.

Some ammunition and two hangars with aviation material including 2 F4F planes were destroyed. At least four Jap ZEROS and 3 bombers shot down by our fighters and one bomber by anti-aircraft fire. All of our planes returned but two had major damage due to gunfire.

It has been found by aviators operating at Guadalcanal that the F4Fs are the only planes which can operate against hostile craft at the altitudes they approach.

Aug. 30:-

Coast watcher reports that three large vessels were sunk outside MERINGE LAGOON, ISABEL ISLAND, in our dive bomber attacks of 1700 local 28<sup>th</sup>.

Our B-17 patrol at 0920 local today sighted and attacked one heavy cruiser (three light cruisers at LAT. 08° 30' South, LONG. 159 EAST. A hit or close miss astern of the heavy cruiser was reported.

The W.M. WARD Burrows, carrying aviation supplies went aground night of Aug. 29 on SYLVIA REEF (at TUTA'I).

18 bombers attacked the U.S. ships at KUKUM, GUADALCANAL at 1505 local. The U.S.S. CALHOUN (APD) was sunk two miles off LUNGA while screening the KOPARA (communication ship).

All officers and 87 enlisted men have been transferred to the Burrows. 9 of these enlisted men seriously wounded. 45 enlisted survivors at CAETUS. 45 enlisted men unaccounted for.

Three bombs (estimated) hit the after part of the ship. It is believed that 6 bomb salvos of about ten bombs each dropped from 18 bombers

at 15000 feet which approached from the northwest.

Salvos straddled the KOPARA, <sup>and LITTLE (APD)</sup> only additional ships present. No damage to latter ship.

At 1630 local the LITTLE dropped depth charges on a submarine and is believed to have sunk it.

In the first of two air raids on Guadalcanal (at 1145 local time) eight enemy planes were shot down.

Our losses were 4 P-400's and three pilots missing. The P-400's accounted for five ZEROS.

Under Secretary of Navy Forrestal who has been on inspection tour conferred with Admiral Ghormley on flagship today.

Evening patrol sighted two cruisers and destroyer 20 miles north of RUSSELL ISLANDS, Course 090 at 1745 LOCAL. 5 SBD sent out.

19 F4Fs, 12 SBDs arrived CAETUS at 1440 local.

SARATOGA reports being torpedoed at 10°-25'S; 164°-26'W. No further report. NADASO sent to assist.

Aug. 31: -

An Army B-17 on patrol shot down a Jap serial (4)3 (4 engine patrol plane) at 08-40S; 159-20E.

Comgen Cactus reports 3 F4F failed to return from fighter patrol today in response to an air raid alarm.

Also at Guadalcanal: An enemy force of at least two cruisers, 2 destroyers were located by our dive bomber patrol two miles west of TAIVU POINT, GUADALCANAL at 0050 local time. One cruiser of JINTSU CLASS. The ships were lying close to shore as if to discharge troops and cargo.

Our planes attacked. Results unobserved. 10 dive bombers were unable to reestablish contact except one near miss on a cruiser. The enemy is believed to have dispersed after first contact and withdrawn. The search is continuing.

Task Force 44 has been detached from the SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE and operational control reverts to Commander So. West Pacific Force today. The force consisting of cruisers AUSTRALIA, HOBART and PHOENIX and 4 destroyers is now proceeding to BRISBANE.

- SEPTEMBER -

SEPT. 1: -

It has been confirmed that an enemy Army unit of unknown strength completed a landing on the northeast side of TAIVU POINT, GUADALCANAL at 1500 Z / 29 AUG.

Comairsofac reports that reinforcements 17 F4F-12 SB0 arrived Guadalcanal just in time p.m. Aug. 30. Pilots are very tired. Of 19 F4F put in on Aug. 20 only 5 flyable, an attrition rate of 17 in 10 days.

He says against enemy power thus far shown 40 high altitude fighting planes are necessary to protect. The Army P-400s see no good at altitude and disheartening to the brave men who fly them. The F4F more successful due in part to belly tanks the ZERO is encumbered with, and also in part to cool maneuvering and expert gunnery. He concludes "The situation admits of no delay whatever. No help should be expected of carrier VF unless based ashore. With substantially the reinforcement requested Cactus can be a sinkhole for enemy air power and can be consolidated, expanded and applied to enemy's mortal hurt. Reverse is true if we lose CACTUS."

Sept. 2: -

A PB4 rescued crew of 4 of "Rep 5" shot down 26 August. Pilot Lt. Clark reports attack by 8 ZEROS of which 2 shot down. 1 member of crew killed, 1 wounded. Picked up at ONTONG JAVA.

C.O., USS MONSSON reports he believes the sub which torpedoed SARATOGA was sunk by his attack at 1000/31.

Three enemy destroyers were observed at 0130Z/Sept 2 debarking troops and supplies vicinity TAIVU POINT. Our planes from Cactus field dive bombed them and they dispersed. Planes continued search. Results are not known and later the planes reported no further contact made.

Commanding General (Vandergriff) at Cactus declares it is "absolutely essential" that TRANS Div's 11 and 12 be placed at my disposal in order to conduct operations against TAIVU.

He states that it appears the enemy is building up a striking force by continuous small landings during darkness. Due to

difficult terrain areas are beyond range of land operations except at the expense of weakening defense of the airfield. We do not have a balanced force and the following measures should be taken:

- " (A) Base planes here capable of searching beyond steaming range during darkness.
- " (B) Provide surface craft, SD, or motor-torpedo boats for night patrolling.
- " (C) Provide proper striking force for active defense by transferring 7<sup>th</sup> Marines to Cactus.

A B-17 on patrol at 1035 local time dropped four 500-lb. bombs on an enemy tanker or seaplane tender at 07-16 S; 158-33 E. The ship was on a course for PENATA BAY. One bomb hit was scored and the ship was seen to stop. Dense smoke from a fire forward was seen; also a large oil slick.

A PB4 reported a near miss on a destroyer possibly escorting a submarine at 2-40 S; 166-18 E.



SEPT. 3

Guadalcanal reports that several hostile planes dropped bombs on the position at 0500 local time Sept. 2. One man killed, one wounded. No material damage. At 1140 local 18 twin-engine bombers attacked. One killed, five wounded. One dive bomber destroyed also some Av gas and ammunition. Three enemy bombers and four ZEROs were shot down; anti-aircraft fire also accounting for a bomber. All 7 our planes returned.

Effective planes now on hand: 19 F4F; 19 SB, 4 P-400.

The GAMBLER and a VP pulled the Burrows off the reef at TULAGI and unloading is expected to be completed today.

An enemy submarine fired a torpedo after sunset Sept. 2 at U.S. 8. Little off TULAGI and missed. Results of our depth charge attacks were undetermined.

4 F4F, 1B-17, 1 CATALINA arrived CACTUS today.

Arrivals at NOUMEA today: (TASK FORCE 18)

WASP	AARON WARD	LANG
SAN FRANCISCO	STERRETT	STACK
SALT LAKE CITY	FARENHOLT	BUCHANAN

SEPT. 4:

A submarine shelled Guadalcanal at 0200 local 3rd. Our planes strafed several boats and barges on and near beaches southeast of TAIVU POINT.

The motorship LANATOI which was sent from here with supplies for CACTUS foundered in heavy weather Aug. 22. 29 survivors were in life boats for 9 days with little food and water finally landing on northeast coast of New Caledonia. Survivors are now in the Army hospital at KUMAC. One crew member has died from exposure.

Our Marine raiders returned from SAVO ISLAND where they were unable to establish contact. Natives stated that no Japanese detachment has ever been there.

Sept. 5

On the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> our patrol planes picked up two small boats and several landing craft apparently putting troops ashore on ISABEL ISLAND at LAT. 08-20,  $\lambda$  159-20. The planes dropped bombs and strafed the boats. It later developed that 13 boats about 40 feet in length, well camouflaged, were present between MURU POINT and SAN JORGE ISLAND. These were bombed and sunk or left burning. About 30 landing craft, half of which were thought to be 70 feet in length were then observed in a cove on the west side of SAN JORGE ISLAND. Three groups of planes bombed and strafed these boats destroying a large number of them. No personnel observed but planes received AA fire.

At 0200 local time 5<sup>th</sup> five enemy ships shelled Guadalcanal. After shelling the MARINES position the enemy attacked and sunk two of our APDs GREGORY and LITTLE. 12 officers and 226 crew members of the two ships were reported rescued. The enemy force consisted 3

at least one cruiser, two destroyers later reports indicated.

After the shelling our morning patrols sighted 15 large Jap landing boats each carrying about 75 men approaching the northwest coast of Guadalcanal. The planes strafed the boats, sunk three. The P-400s attacked them with bombs and light machine guns and appeared to cause many personnel casualties. The dive bombers strafed and bombed the boats on the beach and it is believed several of them were destroyed. One boat was destroyed by bombing.

26 twin engine bombers covered by 20 ZEROS approached the MARINES position at 1245 local time. This was the second alert and only several fighters reached the proper altitude. These intercepted planes dropped bombs 10 miles westward of LUNGA POINT. Two bombers, 1 ZERO shot down. One of our F4F4s missing, three damaged. One pilot wounded. One additional F4F4 and pilot lost during boat strafing operations.

SEPT. 6:

Lieut. F. C. Riley on patrol in PBY at 1310 local 5<sup>th</sup> shot down one KAWANISHI type 4-engined patrol boat in LAT. 05°-35'S. Long. 163°-02'E. This was confirmed by a second plane which saw the Jap plane burning in the water.

Two PBYs attacked a Jap 4-engined flying boat (Serial 43 as above) at LAT. 05°-00'S; Long. 163°-50'E. Got some hits but no visible damage apparent. One of the PBY plane Captains killed and this plane landed out of gas 65 miles bearing 275° from Ndeni. Ballard was sent out on rescue mission, and PBYs are searching the area where plane last seen by second PBY which had to return to base because fuel was running low.

An Army B-17 attacked a Jap Serial 43 today at LAT. 07°-30'S. A 157°-40'E. Scored many hits but the Jap escaped in a heavy rain squall.

The new battleship So. Dakota en route to join our forces hit a pinnacle while entering TONGATABU. May be sent back to PEARL.

11 Dive bombers escorted by six fighters from the Guadalcanal base bombed installations and buildings on the south side of Bizo Harbor today. Serious damage was caused. No ships or planes were seen. No anti-aircraft fire opposed the attack. Two Dive bombers on the return trip became lost in a storm and have failed to return.

Reconnaissance shows that 36 Jap landing boats were sunk off San Jorge Island and Cape Esperance in attacks previously reported.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Task Force 17 (HORNET, NORTH CAROLINA ETC.) attacked three submarines. Results of two of the attacks promising, third negative.

New Task Force 64 organized as screening and attack force under general control CTF 62 (Admiral Turner) and under immediate command Rear Adm. WRIGHT. This force consists of: MINNEAPOLIS, BOISE, HMNZS LEANDER + DESDIV 22, FARRAGUT, McDONOUGH

Sept. 7

Arrived at GUADALCANAL today:  
4 F4Fs and 1 B-17 escort.

A PBY sighted an enemy sub on the surface at LAT. 7-12'S;  $\lambda$  163-14'E, course 320, speed 15. The submarine did not submerge when attacked with depth bombs and machine gun fire. It returned anti-aircraft fire. No damage.

The B-17 which attacked the Jap Serial 43 had one engine and upper turret put out of commission but continued search on three engines and strafed the enemy landing boats discovered on the south end of SANTA ISABEL Island.

Commanding General GUADALCANAL reports that casualties to date exceed 600 and recommends replacement battalion be made available at an early date. He also reports that the men have, 'by necessity' been placed on three meals per day 'after subsisting on two for a month under trying conditions in the field.

SEPT. 8:

Task Force 18 sortied from NOUMEA at 0800 local time for rendezvous to northward with T.F. 17. With WASP, SAN FRANCISCO, SALT LAKE CITY and destroyers were USS McCawley (Admiral Turner's flagship) and HMNZS LEANDER which is enroute to join up with newly formed TF 64.

The evening patrol out of GUADALCANAL reported sighting at 0500 local time 1 cruiser and 10 destroyers about 50 miles south of BOUGAINVILLE on course 133, speed 15. On receipt of this warning the FULLER and BELLATRIX were directed to stop unloading in CACTUS area and proceed to the eastward through LENOX CHANNEL.

Prior to getting clear the convoy and other shipping were bombed at 1915 local time by two planes with lights on and under 1,000 feet. There was no damage. Due to bad runway conditions at GUADALCANAL our losses amounted to six fighters totally destroyed and one damaged in opposing this attack.

Marine raiders and para troops

landed at TAIVU POINT, GURDALCANAL about  
daybreak today and struck at the enemy  
position which faced west. After  
some skirmishing the Japs withdrew  
to the south west.

A large amount of food and ammuni-  
tion was found, most of which was  
destroyed. Four 75 mm guns, several  
machine guns, one 37 mm gun and  
considerable radio equipment was  
destroyed. The village of TASIMBONO was  
burned.

Marine Casualties: 2 killed, 4 wounded.  
At least 37 Japs killed.

Our planes supported operations through-  
out the day by bombing and strafing the  
enemy area. Our troops withdrew before  
dark. It is estimated that there is  
present in the area a reinforced battalion  
of not less than 1,000 men.

The crew of 11P-5 were rescued by the  
BALLARD today and were in good shape. The  
plane, riddled with bullet holes, sank. While  
in rubber boats the crew sighted a Jap sub  
100 yds away at 0230 local. Lt. Silak Willis  
reports bow and waist gunners of his Serial 43 oppon-  
ent killed, and 9 ac streaming from wings last seen.

SEPT. 9:

At 0030 local time today a  
Jap vessel bombarded the TUKAGI area.  
One of our YPs was hit and later was  
grounded. Two men wounded, one missing.

The Fuller and Bellatrix, which had  
left the area the previous night, approached  
to unload again but were forced to  
withdraw when an air raid warning was  
sounded. At 1130 local time 26 Jap  
bombers attacked these ships while they  
were entering LENO CHANNOZ. Near  
misses were reported but no damage.

In this attack five of the enemy  
bombers were shot down by our  
fighters from GURDALCANAL. Four Zeros  
of the Jap escort group were also  
shot down. Our losses were two  
planes missing and two badly damaged.

It is estimated that about 1,000  
men were put ashore by the Japanese  
three miles west of Cape Esperance,  
Guadalcanal on Sept. 5. Gen. Vandegrift  
believes that movement against this force  
by trail is not feasible and any  
action must await water transportation  
for our Marines.

SEPT. 10

Between 0015 and 0130 local time an enemy destroyer shelled Tulagi harbor. The YP which had been damaged by shelling the previous night was again hit and destroyed. Our dive bombers strafed and bombed villages in the vicinity of VISALE, GUNDAICANAL ISLAND, where Japs were recently reported.

At 1225 local 27 Jap twin engine bombers covered by 30 ZEROS dropped bombs on the MARINES' position. 10 men were killed, 14 wounded. One track was destroyed. The enemy force was attacked by 11 of our F4F4 planes. Four Jap bombers shot down. One of our fighters missing and one badly damaged. Effective planes now on hand: 11 F4F4, 22 SBDS, 3 P400s.

The Japs on the west end of the island are spreading out from VISALE to LAURO plantation. Two large subs were sighted in Coughtan HSR. near there Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>.

A U.S. plane believed to be a dive bomber returning from the first GIZO raid crashed on RENOVIA Island Sept. 8. Three airmen were killed. They were buried by a missionary on the island.

Admiral McCain and Turner visit CAETUS tomorrow.

SEPT. 11

26 Jap bombers covered by ZEROS bombed GUNDAICANAL at 1245 local time. 6 killed, two wounded. One P400 burned, one F4F4 badly damaged on ground. Six bombers, one ZERO shot down. One F4F4 lost, pilot recovered.

Information late 10<sup>th</sup> indicated enemy had moved in strength to area 5 miles east of the MARINES' position. Natives estimated that there were several thousand in this force, possibly the outfit which was hit by EDSON's raiders, plus troops landed the last two nights, if any.

Our patrols in contact discovered enemy cutting through the jungle toward the rear of the position. Steps are being taken to counter this move and determine hostile locations.

At 1200 local Marine dive bombers attacked GIZO, demolishing buildings there. They strafed and sank a small boat near GIZO on their return. 11 scout bombers out to attack a cruiser and two destroyers distant about 180 miles made contact but got no hits due to low ceiling.

Evening patrol sighted 15 landing barges loaded with supplies on beach west of VISALE.

A B-17 on photo reconnaissance shot down four ZEROS in the above-mentioned raid on CAETUS.

Planes available: 35 VF, 14 SBDS, 5 P400s.

SEPT. 12:

A B-17 on patrol today shot down two of five black float planes off the northwest end of ISABEL ISLAND. Four of the five were twin-float torpedo type one a single V-O.

At 1150 local time 26 twin engine bombers covered by ZEROS bombed the GUADALCANAL positions. Four of our men killed, twenty-five wounded.

Other B-17s on patrol strafed installations at G-120, encountering light anti aircraft fire.

At 0217 local time the seaplane tender MACKINAC in GRACIOSA BAY, NDONI, was shelled by presumed submarine. 6 shots fired no damage.

One of our submarines returning from patrol off SAVO ISLAND reports that on SEPT. 2 it made two torpedo hits on targets of two ships believed a light cruiser 5 miles bearing 045 from SAVO at 2218Z. Three Sept. at 0212 large oil slick with strong smell of fuel oil in same position. It is believed the cruiser was sunk.

a B-17 on a photo mission sighted the formation of planes which attacked Cactus today. while climbing was attacked by 8 or more fighters. Engagement lasted 5 to 6 minutes. 4 planes were positively knocked down with no damage to the B-17.

At 2100 local time a hostile plane dropped flares on Cactus landing field. At 2130 local one enemy destroyer bombarded the beach to the east of our area for 20 minutes from a position off Koli Pt., the shelling accompanied by the sound of a boat or boats moving to east and northeast which continued for three hours.

At 2140 local time the Marines were in contact with enemy patrols moving in on the rear of our area on both sides of the LUNDON RIVER. Contacts continued throughout the night. All positions were secure but probable infiltration was accomplished by small groups. Mopping up operations were initiated at daybreak.

Sept. 13:-

At 0040 local time CACTOS underwent a shore bombardment for 45 minutes by 1 enemy cruiser and 4 destroyers. The fire was returned by our 5" batteries and one ship was believed hit.

At 0100 local the enemy bombarded TUTAOI, the shelling continuing until dawn. The enemy maintained a continuous air patrol over the area.

It was believed that the enemy had planned to take the Cactus Airfield the night of 12-13<sup>th</sup> Sept, the ground troops to notify the air patrol over the area of their success.

At 0410 a formation of unidentified aircraft was detected approaching from the northwest. Our planes took off but the approaching aircraft turned back. All clear at 0700 local. Some casualties and light damage from the naval gunnery.

At 1020 local time 26 ZEROS came over the position and were engaged by 28 Gruman fighters.

At 1345 local 28 twin-engine bombers covered by ZEROS were

intercepted by 20 Gruman fighters. Their bombs were jettisoned 15 miles away.

At 1730 local two single float fighter planes shot down one of our dive bombers approaching the field. 4 ZEROS and 4 bombers were shot down today out of the enemy forces. Two of our F4F4 crashed and two are missing.

Our patrols operated against the enemy throughout the day. Our casualties: 4 killed, 12 wounded. Jap casualties exceed 40.

A contact report of two ships bearing 011, distance 320 from Espiritu Santo at 0852Z, 12<sup>th</sup> gave rise to the belief that a possible carrier would attack Espiritu this morning. The pilot of a night teaching plane reports sighting the two ships under his glare at 1952 local 12<sup>th</sup>. I identify one as a DD but not certain about the other except that it was not a carrier. These ships were sighted at 06-30, 166-40 today.

At 0100Z/13<sup>th</sup> our search planes sighted 13 enemy ships course 160, speed 20 knots. Two cruisers in column with 2 destroyers and three other cruisers in column with six destroyers.



Sept. 14:

Three B-17's of the striking force sent out after the two ships bearing #11 from Santo Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> were wrecked north of New Caledonia. The striking force could not find the target due to the weather.

At GUADALCANAL today fighting was heavy; the enemy attacked through the night striking at both flanks and rear. The attacks on the rear were made in strength and were repulsed only after severe fighting. Contact and mopping up operations continued during the day. Our casualties were approximately 35 dead, 130 wounded. The enemy dead exceeded 500.

At 2300 local the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> a cruiser and two destroyers bombarded the Kukum area. There was little damage and no casualties.

The Third Battalion of the Second Marines were shifted from TUKABI to GUADALCANAL today.

At 0930 local time four ZEROS on floats approached the CAET'S airfield and were

destroyed by VF 5 pilots. 25 land ZEROS and 3 FOLKEWULFF bombers were over the field at 1340 local. One ZERO and one bomber were shot down.

12 single engine land planes delivered a bombing attack at 1830 local 14<sup>th</sup>. As the usual bombing raid is by 26 twin engine bombers the attack today is believed to indicate the Japanese are saving their heavy bombers for a special mission.

At sea today: An enemy force consisting of three battleships, four cruisers, four destroyers and one transport was sighted at 1036 local time. LAT. 07-40 S; LONG. 163-50 East, on course 140. This force was attacked at 1515 local by 9 B-17s. The first report indicates two hits, four near misses.

Another enemy force consisting of one carrier, three cruisers, four destroyers was reported LAT. 06-30 S; LONG. 164-17 E at 1140 local, course 160.

SEPT. 15: -

A later report re yesterday's attack on the battleship force states that seven B-17s contacted 3 BBs, 4 CA, 9 DD, 2 AP or AK in LAT. 7-40 S;  $\lambda$  164-30 E, Course 330, speed 18 at 1545 local 14<sup>th</sup>. The B-17s dropped 28 500-lb bombs and scored three possible hits on two BBs. Anti-aircraft fire was very heavy and accurate. Two planes slightly damaged, one missing.

Guadalcanal reported at 1856 Love today that only light attacks were made the night of Sept. 14-15. The Marines are patrolling actively, the only contacts being with snipers within the position. The main attack yesterday was made along a narrow ridge in the rear of the position. It was stopped by 400 raiders and para troops under EDSON supported by intense artillery fire but only after ten hours hard to hand fighting during which our troops suffered over 30 p.c. casualties. We have lost three tanks. Our casualties to date 363 of which some are only slightly wounded.

Parts of enemy Zeros and 97s shot down over Cactus. Indicated planes just off assembly lines.

SEPT. 16: -

USS Wasp torpedoed by sub at LAT. 12-32 S;  $\lambda$  164-15 on 15<sup>th</sup>. Wasp burning fiercely and was abandoned. 120 officers, more than 1,800 men saved. Some of the planes were flown off to ESPIRITO SANTO. Time of the torpedoing was 1450 local 15<sup>th</sup>. At about same time, the North Carolina and the destroyer O'BRIEN each received a hit. The former is being sent into TONGATABU for repairs prior to returning to PEARL, the latter going to SANTO.

At 1000 local 16<sup>th</sup> 13 dive bombers and five torpedo planes from Cactus attacked three enemy heavy cruisers, four destroyers at LAT. 07-37 S;  $\lambda$  156-55 E. One torpedo hit was scored on one cruiser; one bomb hit and two near misses on a second.

37 enemy land planes approached to within 100 miles of GUNDAKAL, bearing 290 but turned back at 1200 local 16<sup>th</sup>.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> 2 B-17s bombed the enemy base at REKATA BAY, Santa Isabel Island and started fires. Light anti-aircraft fire was encountered.

SEPT. 17: -

On the 16<sup>th</sup> two B-17s bombed the dock area at GIZO. No ships were present. One B-17 strafed the shore installations at Rekata Bay. One enemy plane was sighted on the beach.

On GUADALCANAL today and on the 16<sup>th</sup> active patrolling is being continued by the Marines. Only one light contact yesterday. The enemy troops appear to be awaiting reinforcements.

4 dive bombers bombed one heavy cruiser, believed of the KAKO class and two destroyers at 1750 local 16<sup>th</sup> LAT. 08-07 South;  $\lambda$  150 EMT. No hits, several near misses. Ships continued on course 120.

26 planes sent to bomb enemy ships at GIZO today were unable to deliver the attack because of the weather. At 1810 local 17<sup>th</sup> 4 planes from CACTUS made an ineffective attack on two heavy cruisers proceeding East at LAT. 7-50 S,  $\lambda$  157-30 E.

Arrived at Noumea:

FRANCIS LEWIS

ESSO LITTLE ROCK

H M STOREY

WM. ELLERY

DEPARTED: JAPARA, FOR ESPIRITO SANTO.

SEPT. 18:

Active patrolling continues by Marines on GUADALCANAL. Several contacts were made with enemy patrols to the south of the position today.

Admiral Turner's Task Force 65 began landing the 7<sup>th</sup> Marines reinforced at 0600 local 18<sup>th</sup> at GUADALCANAL. No hostile activity air or ground up to 1835 local 18<sup>th</sup>.

Arrival at Noumea today were these ships of Task Force 18 with 140 officers, 800 men, survivors of the WASP torpedoing:

HELENA

SALT LAKE CITY

LAFFEY

LANS DOWNE

The survivors were transferred here to the transports PRES. POLK and FULLER where they were provided with clothing. Admiral NOYES, Com TASKFOR 18, and CAPT. F. Sherman, WASP commanding officer are aboard the HELENA.

SEPT. 19: -

An estimated four hostile destroyers bombarded GUADALCANAL from 2400 to 0600 local 19<sup>th</sup>. Two killed, two wounded by shell fire.

A Jap patrol was wiped out in the only contact today. Extended patrolling will begin tomorrow.

The evening air search from the island reports one seaplane tender, three transports one heavy cruiser, three destroyers, ten other surface vessels, 12 patrol planes and four float planes in vicinity of Gizo. One of our dive bombers damaged by float plane was lost returning from the search. The crew is safe, however.

After landing the 7<sup>th</sup> Marines yesterday Task Force 65 embarked the Parachute Battalion for WHITE POPPY. The task force departed GUADALCANAL 2000/18<sup>th</sup> without having had an enemy contact.

A B-17 bombed the Aoco area at Gizo today. Another Fortress strafed the enemy installations at REKATA BAY.

SEPT. 20: -

Seven Japanese were killed in mopping up operations on FLORIDA ISLAND. Prep Four Hundred's bombed and strafed the enemy near CAPE ESPERANCE GUADALCANAL. Indications there that considerable enemy stores were destroyed in strafing of Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>.

Six dive bombers, six fighters attacked the shore installations at REKATA BAY. No A-A fire, no ships, no planes encountered. All planes returned.

Our search planes at 1440 local time today sighted one light cruiser and three destroyers at 07-33 S, 157-04 E on course 120, speed 20. The cruiser in this force was attacked at 1735 local time at LAT. 08-00 S; Long. 158 E, Course 120. Ten 1,000 lb. bombs were dropped. Four near misses were reported by our dive bombers. Damage caused is unknown.

No contacts at GUADALCANAL during daylight except along LUNGA where the patrol killed 19 with loss of two wounded. At 2100 the enemy launched a nuisance raid against our forward strong point on ridge to south. Contacts there at night. Our losses: 2 killed, 7 wounded. Many Jap dead left in wire.

SEPT. 21: -

Two dive bombers on the evening search yesterday bombed GIZO. Both were forced down by bad weather on the return trip. It is believed that they can be located.

At GUADALCANAL the Marines continue their patrolling but there were no hostile contacts during the day.

At 2345 local time three sail BAKER DOGS bombed and strafed four destroyers and landing boats vicinity of CAPE ESPERANCE. No hits were scored on the destroyers which left on a northwest course.

Our coast watcher at GIZO reports that the Japs are transporting weapons and baggage to ships in the harbor. Our patrol believes the Japs are evacuating this seaplane base northwest of NEW GOODRAID.

SEPT. 22: -

On the 21<sup>st</sup> installations at REKATA BAY were bombed and strafed three times by single B-17s. The dock area at GIZO was bombed by a B-17. Near misses on buildings were reported.

A pilot of a B-17 search plane reported sighting 1 heavy cruiser, three light cruisers near FAISI at 0815 local time today. One CT proceeding slowly with long oil slick to the southeast indicated it may have been damaged in the dive bombing attack on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

General Arnold, U.S. Army Air Corps Chief a visitor aboard the flagship today. Also Rear Admiral McCain and Cominsopac who is returning to U.S.

Continued patrolling on GUADALCANAL without hostile contact. Extensive aerial reconnaissance on evening search with negative result. Visibility very limited. Area at and to west of VISAGE bombed and strafed during day. Buildings and enemy stores at VISAGE destroyed.

SEPT. 23:-

The morning search from GUADALCANAL disclosed no indication of new enemy activity or landings.

Planes available at CAETUS FIELD  
30 F4F4; 22 SBD; 7 TBF; 5 P-400

Intensive reconnaissance and ground strafing in VISALE region continuing. Change of action of our ground forces being extended to the West. Indications point to a change in the hostile situation. Comgen Marines has recommended that the plan for a counter movement by water similar to the TAIVU p.T. raid be held temporarily in abeyance in order to determine whether strong counter action or merely a mopping-up operation required.

At 1045 local 22nd a plane on patrol attacked an enemy submarine at LAT. 05-12E; LONG. 164-53 with negative results.

Plane 90V35 (PBY) arriving at BUTON from CAETUS at 1700 local 23rd reports picking up ENSIGN TAURMAN and his plane crew off SAN CRISTOBAL.

SEPT. 24:-

Four enemy destroyers were attacked by 8 of our Dive Bombers 150 miles north-west of GUADALCANAL at 1730 local time, course 920, speed 25. No damage. The destroyers continued on their course despite repeated attacks by our Dive Bombers. They retired when within eight miles of ESPERANCE. Contact was lost 90 miles from GUADALCANAL at 0130L 25<sup>th</sup>. Damage from later attacks is unknown. There were no plane losses.

A Marine Battalion on extended patrol made contact at sunset on big small 4 miles to south of position. Fighting continued into the night when the enemy withdrew. Our losses 7 dead, 25 wounded. Enemy losses not yet reported.

At 1215 local time our B-17s bombed enemy transports at SHORTLAND ISLAND and TOMOLEI HARBOR. 27 enemy vessels including a light cruiser sighted. Three hits, six near hits reported. 20 enemy fighting planes defended. One sure, three possibly shot down. Ceiling was 15,000 feet.

SEPT. 25:

Marine planes at CACTUS continue  
air strafing from TASSAFARONGA to SAPURU.

On 23rd one of 5 single engine  
float planes at MANAWING STRAIT attacked  
a B-17 and was shot down. REKATA  
installations bombed with incendiaries  
and 100-lb bombs.

Comdgen. Marine at GUADALCANAL reports  
that patrol activity indicates area from  
KOLI POINT to MATANIKAU RIVER is free of  
the enemy. An intensive air search  
from 1500 today until 0130, 26<sup>th</sup> local  
covered all approaches and the entire  
coast line of GUADALCANAL. No contacts.  
The VISALE area was bombed.

Planes available F4F4-41; SBD-21; TBF-8.  
P-400-5.

At REKATA Bay a B-17 strafed the beach  
silencing 2 m.g. emplacements and damaging  
1 single engine float bi-plane in the water.  
Two single float bi-planes north end of  
Santa Isabel did not attack.

Our coastwatcher today reports southwest  
Coast of Isabel clear of Japs. Wreckage of 11  
motor barges found along same coast.

SEPT. 26: -

Jap infiltration in GILBERTS is  
continuing. Observers report almost daily  
renewal of unoccupied islands and sightings  
of merchant and warships. These islands  
have been occupied:

ABEMAMA	ON SEPT. 2
TARAWA	" SEPT. 3
MAIANA	" SEPT. 24
BERU	" SEPT. 25

Eight attacking force B-17s landed at  
GUADALCANAL 1430 local time after bombing  
Jap shipping near the SHORTLAND ISLAND area.  
One large transport was hit heavily  
and left burning and probably sunk.  
One large cruiser was hit on the stern  
and left burning. Three float ZEROS  
and three float biplanes shot down.  
Our planes suffered only minor damage  
and there were no personnel casualties.

A small enemy force was contacted  
today west of the MATANIKAU RIVER. It was  
being encircled the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Patrols on FLORIDA ISLAND killed nine Japs,  
Captured three. A search plane from CACTUS  
scored a hit on A-A emplacement at REKATA.

SEPT. 27: -

At GUADALCANAL the JAPANESE attacked at 1355 local time with 18 bombers and 15 fighters. Our fighters destroyed four bombers and five fighters. All our planes returned but six were slightly damaged and two pilots wounded. On the ground we lost one dive bomber destroyed, four others damaged, including two torpedos planes. Some personnel injured, several trucks demolished.

The enemy was reinforced in the vicinity of MATANIKAU the night of 26-27<sup>th</sup>. Our operations today did not succeed in dislodging him from that area. Our casualties Sept. 26-27 were 42 killed, 129 wounded. The hostile strength is uncertain but is believed to exceed one thousand with additional numbers within supporting distance.

While on patrol one of our planes shot down a single float Jap biplane 35 miles South of GIZO. Also today a B-17 near BANONGGA ISLAND was attacked by a Jap pursuit plane which was knocked down. Another B-17 shot down a Jap seaplane in the same place.

SEPT. 28:

Conferring aboard the flagship today were Admiral NIMITZ, GEN. ARNOLD, GEN. HARMON, ADMIRAL GORMLEY.

Today GUADALCANAL had its 49<sup>th</sup> air raid and its defending fleet set an all-time record. 25 Jap bombers and 13 ZEROS were intercepted by our fighters at 1345 local time. The Japs jettisoned their bombs. Our planes shot down 23 bombers and one ZERO. Our losses no pilots, no planes, no damage! Said Comgen First Marine Division in reporting this raid "How's that for a record?"

Continued patrol activity no contact. The enemy remains in occupation of MATANIKAU - KAKUM, BONO AREA. On FLORIDA ISLAND our patrol killed 5 Japs at HALOVO. No casualties suffered by our forces. Air searches including the night search were negative.

The Jap CV HIRASUGA MARU Renamed OTAKA was torpedoed by a sub of Task Unit 2.7 today while enroute Kavieng to Truk. She was burning when last seen.



SEPT. 29: -

At 1400 local time about 12 ZEROS followed by a small group of bombers approached from the Northwest. One squadron of fighters from GUADALCANAL intercepted the ZEROS. The bombers jettisoned their loads north of SAVO and fled. Four probably six ZEROS shot down. Our losses one plane and pilot.

Opnav now considers the carrier RYUJO, crippled by our forces Aug. 24, is lost.

Our planned B-17 strike at slipping in TONOLEI Harbor today frustrated by bad weather. One light cruiser was bombed 50 miles west of SHORTLAND ISLAND. No hits were scored. B-17 NO. 616 destroyed by anti-aircraft fire and the crew was lost. Nine remaining B-17s landed at CRETUS field 1530 local time. This force reported shooting down eight land plane ZERO fighters.

Because of a weather front in the area our search planes have been badly hampered the past few days being forced to return to their bases.

SEPT. 30: -

The ALHENA (AK) returning from GUADALCANAL to ESPIRITU SANTO reported that she had been torpedoed early today in position LAT. 10°-47' S. LONG. 160°-16' E. She said her shaft was sprung but she was "floating nicely". The tug NAVASO and additional escort were sent to her.

The usual patrol activity was reported by Marins on GUADALCANAL on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There were no hostile ground contacts. Our search planes destroyed two float biplanes and bombed AJA installations at PEKATA BAY. The evening search attacked four boats landing supplies at VISALE. These boats were also attacked by P-400s and SBDs sent out at sunset. The P-400s bombed and strafed enemy trucks and troops near KOKUMBONA.

The BREESE (DMS) collided with the cruiser SAN FRANCISCO 35 miles southeast of ESPIRITU SANTO at 1312 Z/130. The BREESE, badly damaged was taken in tow by the FARRAGUT. The SAN FRANCISCO suffered only minor leaks.



Oct 2: -

Five torpedo planes and five dive bombers attacked four enemy destroyers at LAT. 09-05 S; Long. 158-05 EAST at 1900 LOU. One destroyer was damaged, left dead in water and was seen receiving aid from another. Three TBF planes had not returned to CVTs at 011102. One prisoner was taken by a patrol. There was no other contact by land forces.

Our P-400s strafed small hostile groups from HOKUM BONA to VISALE. One hostile plane was over the position at 2133, more at 0405/3rd. They dropped a few bombs igniting a gasoline dump. One minor casualty.

Admiral Nimitz (Cincpac) returned to the flag ship today from his inspection visit of ESPIR.TU and GUNDALCANAL. While there he decorated some personnel, and also gave some awards here today.

Today we occupied FUNA FUTI in the ELlice Group. Vessels involved were the BALLARD (AUD) CHESTER, MINNEAPOLIS, DESRON 12, transports HEYWOOD, CRESCENT CITY AND Cargo ship LIBRA. 5 PBYS used in Search 2 marine rifle companies, part of DEFENSE BN. Landed.

Oct. 3: -

Task Force 17 (HORNET, ETC.) left here about 1200 L yesterday for operations against shipping south of BOUGAINVILLE.

Two dive bombers searching water at RENATA BAY, NEW GEORGIA and SANTA ISABEL to distance of 250 miles from GUADALCANAL failed to return last night. They were believed shot down.

Air reports indicate the principal hostile activity is centered at KOKUMBONA and SAPURU.

30 ZEROS followed by a small group of bombers were over the area at 1310 L/2nd. No bombs dropped. Four ZEROS shot down. Our losses 6 fighters, four pilots. One SBD landed in the water. The pilot was killed, the gunner rescued. Crews of the 3 TBF lost Oct. 1 reported rescued. The morning search disclosed a large group of enemy landing boats well camouflaged inside VIRU HARBOR on the south coast of NEW GEORGIA.

Total of 9 enemy destroyers, 1 heavy cruiser sighted by search planes this afternoon. Seven SBD, 3 TBF attacked cruiser and 2 SBDs LAT 08-325, 158-15 at 1715 local time with no apparent damage. Three ships continued on course 120, sp. 30 until 1800 L.

Oct. 4: -

No ground contact at GUADALCANAL 3<sup>rd</sup>. 15 Jap landing boats were attacked at VIRU Harbor and all destroyed or damaged. 30 ZEROS over the position at 1300 LOCAL. SEVEN GRUMMANS made contact shooting down nine certain, one probable. Anti-aircraft shot down two certain, one probable when three ZEROS attempted to strafe the field. Our losses one GRUMMAN; pilot saved. Jap bombers following the ZEROS turned back 85 miles from CACTUS.

9 destroyers and one heavy cruiser were sighted at 1500 local by the evening search at LAT 08-305,  $\lambda$  158-20 E. This force was protected by more than 20 ZERO land planes. Our striking force attacking at 1715 was opposed only by a float biplane. No hits. The enemy ships were again attacked during the night. One hit was made on the CA near SAVO ISLAND.

Three destroyers unloaded troops and supplies at VISALE, three at TASSAFORANGA and three at MARAVOVO. All were attacked but damage unknown. One dive bomber failed to return. It is estimated that the enemy landed 750 troops in TASSAFORANGA Area and 600 in VISALE area. Infiltration growing in spite air effort.

Oct. 5: -

There was scattered bombing night of 3-4<sup>th</sup> at CAETUS. Single float sea planes were used by the enemy for this purpose. Hostile groups totaling 7 destroyers, 1 heavy cruiser picked up by morning search Oct. 4, 120 miles from CAETUS. Speed 20. The cruiser was smoking at the stern.

There were two small contacts along the MATANIKAU on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Jap losses were two killed, three wounded, one prisoner. No Marine casualties.

Five bombers and P-400s attacked JAP installations at WEST CAPE and TOOURA PT.

Our striking force got two torpedo hits on the cruiser mentioned above. The ceiling was too low for a bomb attack on the retreating hostile force which was covered by 23 planes. The crew of an SBD reported lost on the 4<sup>th</sup> was rescued and returned. The evening search on the 4<sup>th</sup> was negative.

Eight planes attacked PERATA at day-light today. One small plane and motor launch destroyed in water. Two of six enemy small planes shot down. Beach bombed and strafed. One SBD forced down on east coast of SANTA ISABEL.

Oct. 6: -

There was the usual patrol activity at GUNDALCANAL yesterday. Several small contacts in the MATANIKAU RIVER area. Our casualties one killed six wounded. Jap losses exceed 10 killed.

Our P-400s attacked boats and installations at TASSAFARONGA and MAROVOVO during the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Enemy force of six destroyers approaching from the Northwest during the night were attacked several times. One Jap destroyer was sunk and one damaged in the first attack. Two torpedo planes failed to return from the night search.

One of our search planes depth-bombed a submarine at LAT. 11°-22' S, 162°-20' E as it was diving on course 210. Oil and bubbles appeared indicating a probable kill.

Many Jap warships and auxiliaries sighted off Bougainville Island today on course for BUIN - SHORTLAND ISLAND area.

Oct. 7: -

On Oct. 5 Task Force 17, Rear Admiral Murray in HORNET with Cruisers NORTHAMPTON, SAN DIEGO, PENSACOLA AND JUNEAU and DESRON 2 attacked the BUIN, FAISI, TONOLEI area. 16 fighters, 18 dive bombers and 15 torpedo planes were used. They dropped eight 1,000 lb bombs, 32 500-lb. bombs. Extremely unfavorable weather prevented the remainder from attacking.

Hits were scored as follows: one thousand pounders on one heavy cruiser and one transport; five hundred pounders on a 10,000 ton cargo ship, one seaplane tender and one cargo ship. Near misses were claimed as follows: one 1000-lb and three 500-lb bombs on a heavy cruiser. The remainder were unobserved. In addition the force put three 1,000 lb. bombs on the runway and buildings at KIETA field. Shot down one ZERO seaplane and one float type seaplane in target area. Strafing 10 4-engine seaplanes on the water at FAISI, believe four sunk.

Strafed one cruiser and one destroyer in SHORTLAND HARBOR. During the Task Force Retirement the fighter combat patrol destroyed two twin-engine type 97 MITSUBISHI bombers. All 7 our aircraft recovered. No damages, no losses to force.

Oct. 8: -

On the 6<sup>th</sup> there was active patrolling of the GUADALCANAL area from KOKI POINT to MATANIKAU RIVER. No contacts. The striking force located three returning hostile destroyers 275 miles northwest of CACTUS on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>. They had heavy fighter coverage and our planes did not attack. Our P-400's bombed and strafed probable hostile installations in the vicinity of KOKUMBONO.

The enemy continued reinforcement of GUADALCANAL the night of Oct. 7-8. The morning air search today from CACTUS sighted 5 enemy destroyers retiring to the northwest. The air striking force sent after them found the ships protected by a strong fighter escort and did not attack. A search plane at 1340 Local 8<sup>th</sup> reported a large cruiser or battleship on fire escorted by 5 destroyers southeast of FAISI.

On GUADALCANAL yesterday there were three small contacts. Nine Japs were killed. No Marine casualties. Developed hostile positions along the MATANIKAU preparatory to a general attack today. There was fighting during the night as the Japs attempted to penetrate our night positions. Some casualties.

Oct. 9: -

Seven dive bombers, four torpedo planes accompanied by 11 GRUMANNs attacked a CA of the KINUGASA class and 5 destroyers in LAT. 08-45 S. 158-30 E at 1800 local time Oct. 8. They scored one sure torpedo hit, one probable bomb hit, four near misses on the cruiser. Three of 10 float biplanes were shot down, one other probable. One dive bomber, one F4F4 failed to return. Two search planes which made original contact shot down one float biplane, one probable. Both pilots wounded but returned to base.

The attack continued on the 8<sup>th</sup> west of the MATANIKAU RIVER. A heavy downpour impeded operations and reduced the opportunity for air support. The weather improved this morning and all of our units advanced rapidly. It was feared that the main enemy forces in contact were withdrawn during the night from PT. CRUZ to escape envelopment. Our casualties are estimated at less than 100; the Jap losses were heavy.

Single Jap planes were over GUADALCANAL in relays from 2200 to 0215 (Oct 8-9). Radar indicated they operate from THOUSAND SHIPS BAY.

Oct. 10: -

Our attack west of the MATANIKAU RIVER reached its objectives early on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The attack was supported by P-400's. The area MATANIKAU VILLAGE - PT. CRUZ was thoroughly mopped up. Our troops were withdrawn to the main position except a strong force holding the east bank of the MATANIKAU. No hostile activity in the other sectors.

A striking force with fighter cover attacked one heavy cruiser, five destroyers retiring 150 miles from CAETUS A.M. of the 9<sup>th</sup>. The cruiser was smoking badly. Several near misses caused additional fires. One destroyer was seriously damaged by a hit or near miss. A B-17 sighted this force later near BUI with the cruiser burning and only four destroyers accompanying. At 1145 local 9<sup>th</sup> an enemy flight was turned back 145 miles from CAETUS. Our search planes strafed 5 biplanes and bombed 9A positions at REKATA BAY with results unknown.

At 1500 local 9<sup>th</sup> our search planes located two light cruisers and four destroyers bearing 305 distance 80. Course 120. We had insufficient planes available for strike. At 0430 L, 10<sup>th</sup> our striking force was out to attack targets of opportunity.

Oct. 11: -

AT 0640 local 10<sup>th</sup> our air striking force attacked 2 CL, 4DD in LAT. 07-50S;  $\lambda$  157-40 and scored one hit on a cruiser with a bomb and also seven near misses on the same ship leaving it down by the bow. A probable hit was made on the second CL but the damage is unknown. 15 Jap sea-planes were over the ships and three float biplanes were shot down.

At 1120 local 10<sup>th</sup> two destroyers were attacked by 9 SBDs escorted by 12 F4F4 LAT. 07-55S;  $\lambda$  157-50E. No hits. No enemy planes sighted. The enemy was last seen on course 330.

In the first attack (on the 2CL, 4DD) later reports indicated 10 Jap planes shot down. We lost one SBD and one P-39. The dive bomber pilot was rescued.

In the third striking mission on the 10<sup>th</sup> our planes found no ships but attacked PEKATA BAY installations.

One pilot lost Oct. 9 returned from BURAKU ISLAND. Three unarmed Japs there. He saw a cruiser catapult three planes from a position southeast of BURAKU.

Oct. 12: -

The last bank of the MATANIKAU is being organized as a forward battle position under cover of patrols operating west of the river. No hostile ground contacts on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Our casualties in the three-day operation: 65 killed in action, 125 wounded. Jap dead listed as 253.

P-400's bombed and strafed Jap installations from PT. CRUZ to WEST CAPE on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

About 35 bombers and 30 ZEROS were over GUADALCANAL Oct. 11 in four waves from 1335 to 1430 local time. Bombs were dropped in an open field. The Japs lost eight bombers, four ZEROS. One of our P-39s missing, one F4F4 landed in the water. The pilot was believed to have been rescued.

Due to this protected air raid our air striking force was unable to hit two cruisers and six destroyers approaching CRETUS. Admiral Scott in T.G. 64.2 has been ordered to intercept and attack this force.



Oct. 13: -

On GUADALCANAL, the 11<sup>th</sup>, there were no contacts. Our patrol found two 75 mm guns and equipment in abandoned battery position to east.

Task Force 64 (Rear Admiral Scott) engaged 2 heavy cruisers, six destroyers west of Savo ISLAND midnight of the 11<sup>th</sup>. At least 4 enemy destroyers were seen burning, probably one CA also. We lost the DUNCAN (DD) sunk. The destroyer FARENHOLT was holed twice above the water line but is seaworthy and proceeding to the base. Damage to the other ships is not known. The force is retiring to ESPANIO SANTO.

The destroyer McCALLA, sent to aid the DUNCAN and FARENHOLT, found the DUNCAN abandoned. She later reported that the DUNCAN sank at 1242 local 12<sup>th</sup>, and that she had picked up nine officers including the Captain and crew and 183 enlisted men survivors. Four were badly wounded. The McCALLA also located about 50 Jap survivors in the water; picked up three and

requested Comgen CRETUS to capture the remainder.

Planes from CRETUS proceeded at daylight to attack the retreating enemy. Several cruisers and destroyers were sighted to northwestward of SAVO ISLAND, apparently some later arrivals which had been sent to cover the retreat and pick up survivors. A heavy cruiser was left dead in the water and burning after a torpedo hit and near missed by bombs at 1020 local 12<sup>th</sup> in LAT. 09-00 S.  $\lambda$  157-15 East. A single destroyer bearing 303, distance 150 from CRETUS was attacked and missed by SBDS at 0700. At 0730, 2 destroyers bearing 290 distance 105 miles were attacked by our dive bombers resulting in damage to one, but when seen later they were headed northwest.

At 1500 local 12<sup>th</sup> two cruisers were sighted, one low in the water. Four destroyers were making circles about the stricken ship at LAT. 08-58'  $\lambda$  157-47. A direct hit was scored on the damaged CA also two near misses; direct hit on DD at 1600 L. The CA was abandoned and the DD reported sinking

OCT. 14: -

T.G. 62.4 (Admiral TURNER) ZEILIN, McCAWLEY and escort arrived at GUADALCANAL at 0515 local 13<sup>th</sup> with more than 7,000 U.S. Army reinforcements for the MARINES. This force was covered by T.G. 17.8 (Admiral Lee) WASHINGTON, ATLANTA, WALKER and BENHAM.

There were two air raids at CAETUS 13<sup>th</sup>. 22 bombers, and a few ZEROS came in at 1200 L. The runway was damaged but in operation except for large planes. One ZERO shot down, one of our fighters lost but the pilot was saved. 15 bombers came over at 1400 L. Slight additional damage was caused on the runway.

Turner's debarcation was interrupted two and one half hours by these raids. The landing beach and transports were shelled by enemy shore artillery at sunset from two positions west of the MATANI KAU RIVER. The MARINES fired Counter Battery and the destroyers assisted. There was no damage to the ships. Several enemy planes dropped flames on their departure at 1915 local 13<sup>th</sup>. All ships were completely unloaded. ETA BUTON 16<sup>th</sup>

While at CAETUS Admiral Turner on the 13<sup>th</sup> reported that two destroyer mine sweepers assisted by planes continued search for survivors of the night action 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. No sign wreckage or survivors of our ships. 6 enemy officers, 100 enlisted men were rescued. A draft of eight Japs refusing to surrender were destroyed.

Our air search on the 13<sup>th</sup> sighted two large oil slicks, empty life boats and rafts together with much debris in LAT. 08-49S. N 157-14E.

There were no ground contacts on GUADALCANAL Oct. 12. A Marine patrol on FLORIDA IS. killed four Japs at M BOLI. On the 11<sup>th</sup> one TOKAGI Battalion landed at AOLA (ON GUADALCANAL) and attacked enemy forces at GURABUSO and KOILIO TOMARI. Thirty-two of the 53 Japs at GURABUSO were killed and a 3-inch A/A gun and two large radio sets, supplies and ammunition were destroyed. At KOILIO TOMARI the Japs escaped into the bushes, leaving 3 dead. The operation is continuing in the vicinity of GERENDE. One hundred Japs there. Our losses 2 killed, one wounded. During the night one of our landing boats overturned. 17 are missing.

OCT. 15:-

On the 12<sup>th</sup> our B-17s dropped 12 1000 lb. bombs on BUNYA airfield. The runways were hit and photos showed eight fighters two bombers destroyed, others probably damaged. One cargo ship was left burning and near misses were scored on another in BWIN Harbor. 6 B-17s were damaged by fighters and A/A fire. Six Zeros were shot down. One gunner wounded, one navigator killed.

The night of 13-14<sup>th</sup> CONDALCAVAL was shelled for 1 hour, 20 minutes by battleships, cruisers and destroyers. Our 5-inch scored hits on three DD Cruiser planes were overhead all night with resultant bombing. Occasional land battery shelling during night. The air raids of the 12<sup>th</sup> damaged both runways, destroyed 1 B-17 and 5,000 gallons of gasoline. 12 planes were slightly damaged. Two Zeros one bomber shot down for corrected total.

The naval gunfire caused damage to our planes and 13 holes in runway. Only seven live bombers were left in commission, 24 F4F4s and 2 P39s. A call was sent out to send 20 SBDs immediately.

### ADMIRAL SCOTT'S REPORT OF NIGHT ACTION

"We intercepted the Japs enroute for a landing by surprise attacks six miles due west of SAVO. 1DD encountered was of the AMIGIRI class, others smaller. One CA was of the ATAGO or NACHI class, the other indefinite. May have been a SENDAI class Ck." (In the encounter reported under Oct. 13 date Scott claimed at least 4 enemy DDs left burning, probably one CA hit badly, one transport sunk.)

"Upon completion of the second phase when the remaining Japs retired, and the identity and location of some of our ships were unknown or doubtful, we retired. The Jap heavy fire was quite accurate. There was very little light fire. Only two enemy torpedoes were reported so far, both misses. The BUCHANAN hit one cruiser with two torpedoes. This cruiser sank." (This was a later report and this cruiser is in addition to the one damaged by gunfire).

"The pilot of a BOISE plane on the water at 0200 local 12<sup>th</sup> close to the westward side of SAVO ISLAND was passed by three enemy ships. One with Diesels identified as the ITSUKUSHIMA.

The second was perhaps an old Cruiser  
(light) and the third was a destroyer.  
Course northwest, speed 20. The pilot  
of a SAN FRANCISCO plane previously  
reported three ships one mile off shore  
north of CACTUS 15 miles SE of SALVO. We  
had intended to attack this group when  
we intercepted the main enemy force."

TASK GROUP 64.2 UNITS INVOLVED  
AND DAMAGE SUSTAINED

HELENA: NONE

SAN FRANCISCO: NONE

BOISE: HIT BY 4 SALVOS. 3 FORWARD TURRETS  
OUT. MAIN BOILERS UNIMPAIRED. MANY  
UNDER WATER HOLES. 100 DEAD, FEW  
WOUNDED.

SALT LAKE CITY: HIT BY ONE SALVO. FORWARD  
FIREROOM AND ONE MAGAZINE  
FLOODED. 5 DEAD.

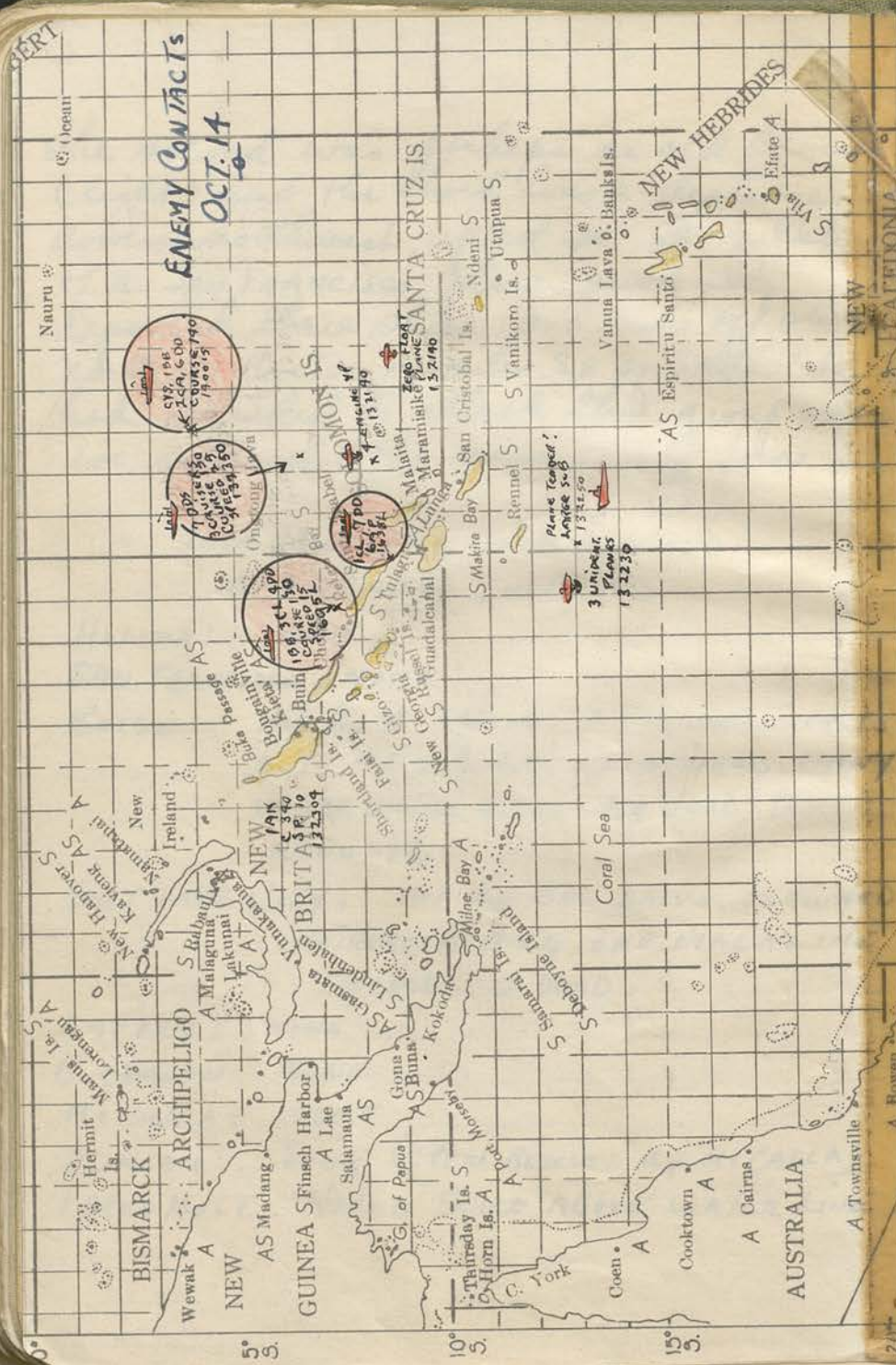
LAFFEY: NONE

BUCHANAN: NONE

MCCALLA: NONE

DUNCAN: SUNK (CREW RESCUED BY MCCALLA)

FARENHOLT: HOLED TWICE ABOVE WATER LINE.



ENEMY LOSSES: (AFTER CONFERENCE OF C.O.s)

- 4 POSSIBLY 5 DESTROYERS SUNK OR DAMAGED.
- ONE NACHI CLASS HEAVY CRUISER SUNK
- ONE SENDAI CLASS LIGHT CRUISER DAMAGED
- \* ONE TRANSPORT (4000-5000 TONS) SUNK. (NOW BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN OLD LIGHT CRUISER TYPE)
- ONE KINUGASA CLASS HEAVY CRUISER SUNK.
- ONE ATAGO CLASS HEAVY CRUISER SUNK.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> at GUNDAL CANAL 25 Jap bombers supported by ZEROS came over at 1210 local. Our fighters lacked the time to reach the altitude to intercept them. About 10 ZEROS escorting 15 bombers came over at 1305 L. Nine bombers and three ZEROS were victims. One of our fighters missing. One JTF burned and one damaged during the first raid.

During the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup> enemy forces were sighted approaching GUNDAL CANAL in strength. These forces consisted of the following ships (approx.):

- (1.) LANDING FORCE: 1CL, 7DD, 6AP  
South of SANTA ISABEL AT 1638 local time 14<sup>th</sup>
- (2.) SUPPORT FORCE: 1BB, 3CL, 4DD  
On course 130 SPEED 15 at 1605 and sighted off PEKAITA Bay at that time.
- (3.) COVERING FORCE: CVS, 1BB, 5 CRUISERS, 13 DDS  
Northwest of ONGTONG JAVA at 1100 L on course SE.

At 1600+ and again at 1820 L 14<sup>th</sup>  
The enemy landing force was attacked  
by our dive bombers. Near misses only  
were reported. One GRUMMAN was missing.

GUADALCANAL was shelled again the night  
of the 14-15<sup>th</sup>. The shelling ceased at 0305 L  
15<sup>th</sup>

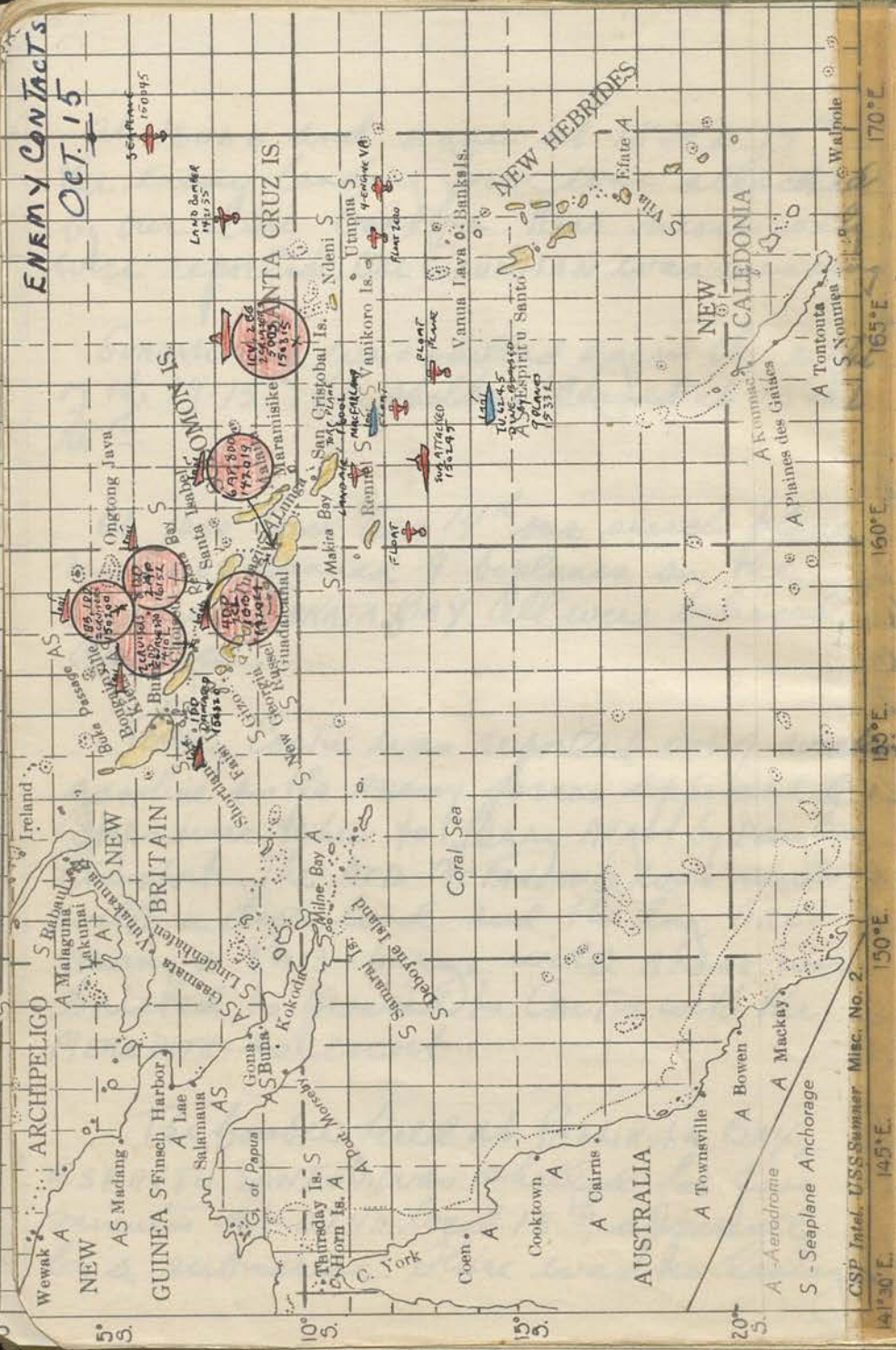
At 1040 local time 14<sup>th</sup> our search plane  
machine-gunned 9 biplanes on the  
beach at REXATA BAY. All were believed  
damaged.

Today CACTUS was reported out of aviation  
gasoline as the enemy forces approached.  
Steps were taken to ferry AVGAS by Douglas  
transports. The AVD McFARLAND was sent  
with a deck load and the tug VIREO  
towing a PAB barge with AVGAS was  
directed to proceed to CACTUS with the  
MERE DITH as escort.

The bomber field at PALLIKUHA BAY,  
ESPIRITU SANTO was shelled for five  
minutes at 0140 local 15<sup>th</sup>, apparently  
by a submarine. There was no damage.

ENEMY CONTACTS

OCT. 15



At 0300 local 15<sup>th</sup> a force of cruisers and destroyers were attacked by four motor torpedo boats (first to arrive in area) in vicinity of SANDFLY PASSAGE. One probable hit was made on a cruiser. Only two of the four MTB got in the attack. They also rapped the bridge and put out a searchlight on one destroyer. One PT was chased by two DDs and used FOX SAIL smoke and depth charges to escape. It struck a coral reef and was towed to the base, badly damaged. Two torpedoes failed to leave the tubes due to faulty impulse charges.

At 0624 local 15<sup>th</sup> GUADALCANAL reported the enemy landing force in 5 APs and 1 AK (or AP) supported by one BB, 2 CTs, 4 DDs, 15 miles northwest of SAVO ISLANDS. Shortly afterwards the enemy began landing troops to the westward of KOKUMDONA, between TASSAFARONGA and CAPE ESPERANCE. CACTUS in a later report indicated that only 5 transports were sighted unloading which indicates possible loss of one during the night approach. Cactus also reported that

ENEMY CONTACTS

the transports had support of 11 combatant vessels with constant fighter support. Our air made repeated attacks, setting fire to three transports two of which sunk and the other was burning fiercely. The remaining two were hit but got off with their escort. 11 B-17s from ESPIRITO SANTO also attacked the Jap transports and got three direct hits on one, and some near misses on a large warship probably a heavy cruiser or battleship. Notable damage was caused. The B-17s reported A/A fire very heavy and accurate from the Jap ships. They were also attacked by at least 15 land ZEROS, shooting down an estimated eight, damaging three. 3 bombardiers wounded.

27 twin-engined bombers attacked the positions at 1245 local 15<sup>th</sup>. Three Jap VB planes were shot down. Some damage to our planes and runway resulted. 5 ZEROs bi-planes were shot down in air fighting by CACTUS planes. Our combat losses were 3 F4F4s, 3 SBDS, 1P-39

Other Jap screening forces were at sea on the 15<sup>th</sup>: two groups to the eastward of CHOISEUL AND SANTA ISABEL and a screening force consisting of 1 CV,

2 BB, 2 cruisers and 5 DDS operating to Northwest of NDENI ISLAND. This carrier force attacked our line of communication between CACTUS and BUTTON sending in two attacks against our task groups. T.U. 62.4.5 BETATRIX, JAMESTOWN, ETC. Diverted from CACTUS to BUTTON, reported being dive-bombed by 9 planes at 1533 L 115 in LAT. 13-18;  $\lambda$  163-30, escaping damage. At 1330L a B-17 pilot saw in distance three ships being attacked by dive bombers position 11-53 S. 163-20 E. He believes one ship sunk. His photos later showed VIREO towing PAB barge. No other ship in the photo which indicates the destroyer escort, MEREDITH, was sunk.

At 0525 local 15<sup>th</sup> CTF 64 (Admiral SCOTT) put to sea from ESPIRITO SANTO with cruisers HELENA, CHESTER, SAN FRANCISCO and the destroyers LANDSDOWNE, LARDNER, LAFFEY, BUCHANAN and MCCALLA to rendezvous with T.G. 17.8 (Admiral LEE) in WASHINGTON with ATLANTA, WALKER and BENHAM. This joint force to be known as TFG 4 under the tactical command of Admiral LEE.

Ireland

S. B.

ARCHIPELIGO

Wewak





Oct. 16:

Concentration of 38 ships including two carriers reported in TONOTEI Harbor today with possibly two other carriers at sea, one off KIEIA, one to eastward of the Solomon group.

GUNDALCANAL reported its morning air searches negative today. Our air groups are striking at the enemy troop concentrations along the coast between KOKUMTORA and CAPE ESPERANCE. Carrier planes from TF 17 (adm. MURRAY) strafed and silenced A-A positions and fired landing barges also bombing enemy tents and supply dumps with 500 and 1000 lb. bombs. They found two transports beached and made four direct hits on them breaking their backs and setting fire to supplies. TF 17 also hit the Jap air base at RENATA BAY strafing and burning 12 float seaplanes and destroying fuel dump and A-A positions.

Two Jap transports and 7 destroyers at LAT. 08-40S.  $\lambda$  159-10 on course 120, speed 20 were attacked by our dive bombers at 0832Z 16. One transport was hit and

left burning and a near miss was scored on the second.

The (AVD) MacFARLAND which was resched to CACTUS with a deck load of AVGAS to relieve the critical shortage was attacked off GUNDALCANAL by 8 TYPE 99 two place dive bombers at 1745 L today. Four Japs were shot down. The stern of the MacFARLAND was blown off aft of the after deck house. Six enlisted men are missing and five are dead. Many missing. The same bomb blew up a barge with 20000 gallons of gasoline. The commanding officer later reported that the entire ship was missing aft of Frame 164. The bomb apparently exploded one or more depth charges. The propellers were undamaged and the ship was secured alongside a bank in the TUTAOI back channel and camouflaged while repair work is carried on.

The VIREO and PAR barge were sighted at 0720 L/16 dead in water at 11-55 S. 161-25 E. The GRAYSON, GWINN and SEMINOLE were to be sent a. m., 17<sup>th</sup> to pick up the barge and tow to CACTUS and save the tug later



Oct. 17:-

Two of our destroyers bombarded the enemy position early today. Each ship fired about a thousand rounds. At least two ammunition dumps set off and many other fires started.

14 TYPE AICHI - 99 dive bombers, eight ZEROS over GUADALCANAL 0745 local time today. Eight bombers, two ZEROS downed by our planes. Several others by A-A fire. No damage. Our losses one plane missing, 15 twin-engine bombers accompanied by many ZEROS bombed our position again at 1315 L. Our planes unable to gain altitude in time to intercept. One bomber probably shot down. Our losses none.

CTF 17 in a belated report states that his carrier planes on the 15<sup>th</sup> shot down a 4-engine flying boat and on the 16<sup>th</sup> bagged a MATSUUBISHI TYPE 97 land bomber.

Our afternoon searches were negative. Our search planes were attacked by six float biplanes, one float ZERO at REKATA BAY. One of our dive bombers is missing and one of the enemy planes were shot down.

Oct. 18:-

About 20 heavy bombers and an equal number of ZEROS attacked our position at GUADALCANAL at 1250 L/18<sup>th</sup>. Eight bombers and eleven ZEROS were victims. We lost two Grummans.

Admiral Turner's Task Group, ZEILIN and McCAWLEY together with three of TF 64's damaged ships arrived at NOUMEA 0930 17 Oct. The SALT LAKE CITY and FARENHOLT were assigned berths inside the net in GREAT STONDS. The BOISE was moored starboard side to the ARBONNE for repairs to the bow and to take out deadwood from the forward part of the ship.

There was no hostile ground activity on GUADALCANAL today. In the air raid mentioned above the Jap bombers were forced to jettison their bombs in the vicinity of our lines. 7 were killed, 18 wounded as the result.

At 2000-2300 maintained an SBD patrol over the Jap position bombing and strafing at intervals. A PBY continued same mission 2300 to 0100, setting one fire.

Oct. 19: -

Our intelligence indicated today that 4 cruisers and 4 destroyers would approach LUNGA from the usual direction tonight to shell the air field. As Task Force 17 (HORNET) was last reported east of NEW HEBRIDES and Task Force 64 (WASHINGTON, ETC.) was fueling about 150 west of KASPIRITU SADO we sent in air strikes timed to reach the probable positions of the enemy as predicted.

6 B-17s at 1700 local time reported contact with 3 heavy cruisers covered by a fighter escort in LAT 07-40, LONG 157-20. 8 bombs were dropped; no hits reported.

The SBDs bombed 3 destroyers which were covered by 10 float planes. One of the destroyers appeared damaged but the three continued on course 120°. One enemy plane was destroyed. All the SBDs returned.

One of our PB4s attacked a cruiser in LAT. 09-24S, LONG. 159E and scored one hit, one near miss. The cruiser was reported as smoking badly and was dead in the water. Said the pilot in his contact report: "The entire Jap

Navy is firing at us. Enemy biplane on our tail. We are returning to base scared stiff."

Another PB4 reported attacking two destroyers in the vicinity of SAVO ISLANDS at 191530, course 300, SPEED 25. He attacked the enemy with negative results and was forced to retire because of bad weather.

The SOUTHARD arrived at CACTUS with AVGAS at 0545 local time. At 1740 local the VICE's PAB barge in tow of the SEMINOLE arrived at TULNOI escorted by the DDs GWINN and GRAYSON. More AVGAS in barge.

At 1150 local time B-17s dropped 41 100-lb. bombs in the vicinity of PASSATARONGA. No evidence of damage. One B-17 dropped 10 100-lb bombs on RUKATA beach and started a large fire at 1050 L.

Vice Admiral W. F. Halsey relieved Vice Admiral P. L. Gormanley as Commander South Pacific Area and South Pacific force today.

Oct. 20: -

The destroyer O'Brien which was hit by a torpedo Sept. 15 and received temporary repairs alongside the ARGONNE reported, while on homeward voyage that she had developed cracks in the forward engine room shell plating keel and one deep longitudinal and was taking water. At 182340 she reported the condition accelerating and that she was proceeding to SAMOA. At 1858Z/19 Oct. the O'BRIEN broke in two and sank at 13°30'S. 171-18W. All hands were reported aboard the CIMARRON.

The destroyer MEREDITH was sunk by an air attack 15 Oct. Survivors report 3 torpedos, 2 bomb hits. The VIKO and her barge were not damaged. The rescue force, BRWINN, GRAYSON and SEMINOLE, rescued 7 officers, 66 men from the MEREDITH from the VIKO 3 officers and 12 men. Confidential and secret matter recovered from the VIKO. Captain Hubbard of the MEREDITH lost. Capt. HEGG of the VIKO saved. The GRAYSON captured 1 Jap aviator. The VIKO personnel were on the MEREDITH at the time of attack in effort to escape superior forces.

At 0800 local 19<sup>th</sup> a PBY picked up ENS. HAIBLE with 5 enlisted survivors from the MEREDITH who were in a small boat in position 14-50S; 166E.

The "CA" bombed by the B-17s yesterday are now believed to have been Destroyers. Negative hits. Heavy AA. Three of eight float fighter escorts were shot down.

There was no important ground activity on GONDALCANAL Oct. 19. Occasional artillery fire from the enemy. Our ammunition too short to warrant expenditure for counter battery fire. A continuous air patrol was maintained during the night harassing enemy positions with intermittent bombing.

At 1700 local time today our Marines repulsed a small hostile force attempting to cross the MATANIKAU. The enemy losses included one tank or armoured vehicle.

30 ZEROS at 1045 local followed by 16 bombers and 18 ZEROS at 1145 attacked the position. The bombs were jettisoned. The Japs lost 3 bombers, 7 ZEROS and one probable. Two of our planes lost, one pilot rescued. Total of 6 assorted enemy planes bombed position at intervals 2000-2200. AA shot down one bomber.

Oct. 21: -

The Cruiser CHESTER was torpedoed at about 2120 local time Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> being hit by one torpedo of four fired at the formation which included HELENA and SAN FRANCISCO screened by four destroyers. The CHESTER reported her forward engine room and #3 fire room was flooded and that she was able to make 6 knots steaming on #4 fire room. The other torpedoes were apparently self destructive and exploded in the immediate vicinity of the formation two remaining on the surface close to the HELENA and SAN FRANCISCO. The 4 DDs were zigzagging at 19 knots at the time. The moon was up but visibility was only fair.

Seven bombers, 15 to 20 ZEROS were over the field at GUNDALCANAL at 1115 local 21. Six ZEROS were destroyed by our GRUMMANS, one bomber by A/A fire. Two bombers left smoking, two GRUMMANS missing. Others damaged by enemy fire. In the bombing nine of our ground troops were killed, 44 wounded.

From prisoners' statements and de-briefs we learn that CHUKAI, KAKO, AOKA, KINUGASA, FURUTAKA, TATSUTA, TENRYU and one or two destroyers took part in the attack on our forces the night of Aug. 8-9 off SAVO ISLAND. This force came around the west side of SAVO ISLAND and veered continually left until it retired. Firing was initially to starboard. No Jap ships were sunk or hit by torpedoes. The AOKA had damage to her forward turret, and the KAKO was damaged. Route of approach and retirement not known. The KAKO received 3 torpedo hits and sunk about 0700 L, Aug. 10. A diary says 651 men were rescued. The diary states that the transport KIRYU MARU and destroyer MUTUKI were sunk Aug. 25.

Of the recent night action (Oct. 11-12) these reports indicate that the Jap force engaged off SAVO were proceeding to bombard the PACIFIC AIRFIELD. Rear Admiral ZONJI GOJO on the AOKA commanded the force. Indication from the prisoners that AOKA, KINUGASA, FURUTAKA and accompanying three destroyers were joined by two light cruisers and other destroyers. An ensign from the FURUTAKA states he saw another cruiser sinking while his ship was going down. FURUTAKA sank stern first.



Weaver

After dinner bring me  
despatch from Cummins  
which says she "definitely sank  
Submarine" also Info Bulletin  
sent from Auckland which says  
~~she~~ that — sank submarine —  
RV

Weaver

Bring your plot of  
subs for today -

R V

There was a small hostile contact at MATANIKAU today with the enemy using several 9-ton tanks which with drew under artillery fire. We received light Jap artillery fire at 1700 L. There was extensive patrolling with no contacts. All searches were negative. Our planes conducted harassing missions against the enemy ground forces. Two A/A guns were believed destroyed by our P-400s. A village on Russell Island was bombed and strafed by three dive bombers. One dive bomber was lost on the evening search.

\* Note: Daily entries discontinued soon after Admiral Gormley was relieved by Admiral Halsey. Gormley requested that this log be forwarded to him at his new command, Headquarters, Hawaiian Sea Frontier, as he had use for it in upcoming hearings (probably the HOBURN inquiry). He had it copied and returned to SOPHE's Flag Plot Officer, LCDR Charles W. Weaver, Jr. USNR.

Nov. 13: -

At 0200 today Rear Admiral Callaghan commanding T.G. 67.4 in the SAN FRANCISCO was killed by a shell from a KONO class Jap battleship. Also killed were this Flag Lieutenant Wittle, Flag Secretary Cummings, Communication Officer Le Hardy, all lieutenant commanders. Seriously wounded was Lieut. Comdr. Emmett O'Brien aviation officer. Slightly wounded was Ensign Hillis, coding officer. Ensign Graydon, CWO, was the only member of this staff unhurt. The burials were at sea as the San Francisco returned to ESPIRITU SANTO after the night action of the 12-13<sup>th</sup> Nov.

These officers were all former members of Admiral Gormley's staff. All others were retained on Admiral Halsey's staff.

This night action was the opening phase of our glorious victory of the 14-15<sup>th</sup>. 12 Jap transports such numerous other vessels and planes destroyed.

