

Notes used by Admiral Spruance
for his talk before Rhode Island
Society of the Order of the
Founders and Patriots of America
at the Hope Club, Providence,
on 5 May, 1947.

GEOGRAPHY OF MARIANAS

ISLANDS LIE IN N AND S LINE FROM GUAM, THE SOUTHERNMOST IN LAT. 13°-30'N TO THE NORTHERNMOST IN LAT. 20°-30'N, A DISTANCE OF OVER 400 MILES.

GUAM	26 MI. LONG, 7 MI. WIDE	2 AIRFIELDS, 2 UNDER CONSTRUCTION
ROTA	35 MI. N OF GUAM	1 AIRFIELD
TINIAN	90 MI. N OF GUAM	1 AIRFIELD, 2 UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 11 MI. LONG, 5 MI. WIDE
SAIPAN	3 MI. FROM TINIAN	1 AIRFIELD, 2 UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 13 MI. LONG, 3 TO 5 MI. WIDE
PAGAU	180 MI. N OF SAIPAN	1 AIRFIELD

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NOTES FROM WAR DIARY

- 5 JUNE - JAP PLANE RECONNOITERED MAJURO AND SAW T.F. 58 THERE.
- 6 " - T.F. 58 LEFT MAJURO FOR FUELING RENDEZVOUS NW OF ENIWETOK.
- 9 " - JAP PLANE RECONNOITERED MAJURO.
- 10 " - NAVY SEARCH PLANES FROM ENIWETOK SCREENING ADVANCE OF T.F. 58 SHOT DOWN TWO BETTY'S, DROVE OFF 2 OTHER JAP PLANES.
- 11 " - AFTERNOON VF SWEEP. SURPRISE. ESTIMATE OVER 100
D-4 JAP PLANES DESTROYED ON SAIPAN, TINIAN, GUAM;
- JAP NIGHT SNOOPERS AFTER MIDNIGHT. NO ATTACKS.
- 12 JUNE - OUR AIR ATTACKS CONTINUE. ESTIMATE JAPS LOST 124
D-3

AIRCRAFT ON 11TH AND 12TH, 75% IN AIR COMBAT. OUR
LOSSES 11 VF, 8 VB COMBAT, 1 VF OPERATIONAL. JAP
CONVOY APPROACHING SAIPAN FROM NW ATTACKED. 10 SHIPS
SUNK, 10 DAMAGED.

13 JUNE - BOMBARDMENT OF SAIPAN AND TINIAN BY FAST BBs.
D-2

MINESWEEPING.

BOWFIN OFF TAWI TAWI AT 2200 SIGHTED JAP FORCE OF
4 BBs, 6 CVs, 8 CRUISERS, 6 DDs HEADED NORTH INTO SULU
SEA.

14 JUNE - BOMBARDMENT BY OBBs, CRUISERS, DDs of J.E.F.
D-1

U.D.T. CLEAR LANDING APPROACHES. 4 SHIPS HIT BY SHORE
GUNFIRE.

TGs 58.1 & 58.4 OF FAST CARRIER TASK FORCE ORDERED TO
CARRY OUT SCHEDULED STRIKES ON IWO JIMA AND CHICHIJIMA.
ALL T.F.s OF 5TH FLEET ADVISED THAT ENEMY FORCES MAY
ASSEMBLE AND BE WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF MARIANAS BY
17 JUNE.

FUELING IS SCHEDULED FOR 16 JUNE.

PATROL PLANE TENDER ORDERED FORWARD FROM ENIWETOK.

PATROL PLANE SQUADRON ALERTED TO FOLLOW.

COMSUBPAC ADJUSTED STATIONS OF SUBMARINE PATROLS TO
PERMIT OBSERVATION AND ATTACK IN CASE ENEMY FLEET MOVED
TOWARD MARIANAS.

15 JUNE - BOMBARDMENT CONTINUED FROM 0530. H HOUR FOR LANDINGS
D day

IS 0840. HEAVY ENEMY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE ON
REEFS AND BEACHES. 20,000 TROOPS LANDED DURING DAY.

NIGHT AIR ATTACKS ON TROOPS AND SHIPS. NO DAMAGE.
TENN. HIT BY 4 6" SHELLS FROM TINIAN. 6 KILLED, 17
WOUNDED. T.G. 58.1 AND 58.4 STRIKE IWO JIMA AND
CHICHIJIMA. LANDINGS ON GUAM ARE SCHEDULED FOR 18
JUNE. FLYING FISH REPORTED LARGE ENEMY T.F. OF AT
LEAST 3 BBs, 3 CVs, CRUISERS AND DDs LEFT SAN BER-
NARDINO STRAIT AT 1900 ON COURSE 080°, SPEED 20.
CINCPAC DISPOSED SUBMARINES BETWEEN PHILIPPINES AND
MARIANAS FOR OBSERVATION AND ATTACK.

16 JUNE - BOMBARDMENT OF SAIPAN CONTINUED. 1 R.C.T. 27TH INF.
DIV. LANDED.

SEA HORSE REPORTED AN ENEMY T.F. 300 MI. E OF LEYTE ON
COURSE 044°, SPEED 16.5.

GUAM LANDINGS ON 18 JUNE ARE CANCELED.

HELD CONFERENCE WITH ADM. TURNER AND GEN. HOLLAND
SMITH.

6 VPs ORDERED FROM ENIWETOK TO SAIPAN PREPARED TO CON-
DUCT NIGHT RADAR SEARCH, MAXIMUM FRONT, TO 600 MILES,
MEDIAN BEARING OF 270° FROM SAIPAN. LAID BUOYS.
T.F. 58 ORDERED TO CONDUCT MINIMUM AIR OPERATIONS ON
17 JUNE; TO DISCONTINUE AIR SUPPORT AT SAIPAN; TO
NEUTRALIZE ROTA GUAM; TO CONDUCT MORNING AND AFTERNOON
SEARCHES TO WESTWARD.

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CASUALTIES ASHORE IN MARIANAS

	U.S.			JAP		
	DEAD	WOUNDED	MISSING	DEAD	CIVILIAN PRISONERS	POW
SAIPAN 20 JULY	2958	12,765	406	20,188	14,295	1665
GUAM 18 AUG.	1214	5,704	329	14,067	-	119
TINIAN 7 AUG.	291	1,520	24	5,527	10,537	136